

Unnati Sansthan

Unnati Sansthan is a child focused Non-government Organization (NGO) founded in 2000 by a group of social worker from Rajasthan with its mandate of protecting the rights of the children and creating an environment of social and economic empowerment of rural communities living in India with a primary focus on children, women and marginalized groups of society. Unnati Sansthan is registered as NGO under "Rajasthan Societies Registration Act 1958" September 2000 and also applied for registration for Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) dated 24 January 2012 and eligible for foreign donations/aids. In recent years, Unnati Sansthan has developed a credible reputation through its work in the area of child protection through "Khilta Bachpan Program" with a generous support from the UNICEF. This program is being implemented since in 10 Gram Panchayats of 3 Blocks of the of Udaipur district (Rajasthan). In addition to this, Unnati Sansthan has also received grants from GIVE India Foundation and Core Tech Systems Gurgaon for the Pre-school children program and Balwadi Program respectively.

Currently, Unnati Sansthan is active in over 100 villages of the Udaipur District in partnership with Central and State Government run schemes/programs, National and International Organizations, Private Corporate, etc. Unnati is also actively involved with the partners at the national and state level programs and campaigns and advocate for the cause of the children and women. Unnati Sansthan has already strategized for its program as well coverage to other districts of Southern Rajasthan. Unnati Sansthan is an accredited member of the "Credibility Alliance".

Vision Statement

"Our vision is a self-reliant and child focused organization to enable an environment of overall development of communities with respect, justice, equality and sustainability" visions of PEAS Act, Minimum Wages Act, Forest Rights Act, etc.

CHILD, WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

According to a study conducted by Unnati a year (2009), it is clear that that due to poverty, cultural norms and lack of awareness, children in this region are vulnerable for all kinds of abuses and lack of opportunities. The practice of child labour is one of the realities in this area. Many appalling realities like poverty (85 percent), illiteracy(80 percent), unemployment, low wages, ignorance,

social prejudices, regressive traditions, poor standard of living, backwardness, superstition, alcoholism (60 percent of families), low status of women and children, large family size, small land holdings have combined to give birth to the terrible practice of child labor.

Children in the age group of 6- 14 go for labour work, instead of going to schools. Children are not compelled for compulsory education due to their parental ignorance and poor family support. Poverty and big size of families have been identifying as the main cause of child labour in area. Big size of families creates paucity of resources. When there are limited means and more mouths to feed children are driven to commercial activities and not provided their development needs including compulsory education.

In some cases parents are forced to send their small children for labour, in others the network of agents taking children for labour entice and induces the head of the family and sometimes children themselves. Monetary constraints and the need for food, shelter, clothing and indebtedness, pushes the children in the trapped as child labour, losing their childhood denied of their rights. Illiterate and ignorant parents do not understand the need for overall physical, cognitive and emotional development of their children. In these villages mostly parents are uneducated and unexposed, so they don't realize the importance of education for their children and often unaware of the harms of sending children for labour.

It was observed during the survey, that there is a cyclic relationship between out of school/drop out and child labour. When the child is deprived of education (i.e is out of school and forced out of school due to corporal punishment or poor quality of education or accessibility factor), they are easily available as labour pool. Having dropped out of school, the children are pushed into labour to do something productive in their life. Once they enter the labour market, they remain out of school/drop out and thus barred from their right to education.

About 28 percent of children migrate for wage labor and about 54 percent of children are engaged with labor work at the construction sites while 24 percent of children work at the cotton farms in Gujarat. 45 percent of children are forced to work every day and most of the money earned by these children is used to support their families the girl children are forced into labour. The study also shows that most of these children are subjected to sexual abuse, addiction to tobacco and other kind of exploitation. The study also shows that only 59 percent of children in the age group of 6-14 attend schools. 56 percent boys said that

parents don't send their sisters to school. Most of the children who are not going to school end up in going for labour work.

Children in schools face corporal punishments by their teachers and quit from schools. The study shows that in 90 percent of cases children are asked to clean their schools. 44% children reported to experience corporal punishments while about 51 percent children reported to have been hit by their teachers either with a stick or slapping. The children also face emotional abuse by their teachers resulting in low self-esteem. The tribal children are looked down by their teachers and often referred as foolish for not being able to learn or comprehend easily.

In short, socially, traditionally and institutionally, in our region, children have no stake in development and are not regarded as people. Their rights are severely violated; in fact – in most cases, children have no rights at all. There is a need to address the issue by creating an enabling environment where children are prevented from exploitation or abuse in family, school and community at large. In addition, there is also a need to create a support structure to ensure this. After all, these children are the future of our nation.

Women are at risks related to child bearing, while children face threats during the course of their overall development. To address the health needs of women and children, maternal and child health (MCH) services need to be promoted at community level. Malnutrition, infection, and the consequences of unregulated fertility are the key issues affecting MCH. These issues are compounded by social problems such as female foeticide, female infanticide, and neglect of female children, lack of awareness, and the inadequate availability and use of MCH services. Unnati Sansthan is using behavior change communication as a tool to sensitize the communities towards mother and child health issues. Capacity building of grassroots health workers supports the aim of Unnati Sansthan to provide proper health care facilities at local level. Formation of women groups and regular meeting among the groups are significantly improving the mother and child health in the intervening areas.

Adolescence is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood and is marked by rapid physical, physiological and psychological changes. This is a vital period of growth and development and requires special attention. Unnati Sansthan focuses awareness building among adolescents on reproductive sexual health to address the adolescents' health needs. Capacity building at community and school level and promotion of hygiene practices among the adolescents are the activities for wide spread dissemination of health needs of the adolescents to

reduce Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV/ AIDS. Formation of adolescents group at school and village level is also promoted by Unnati Sansthan to create a platform for discussion of problems and getting solution as well.

HIV/AIDS presents a scary challenge to Indian society, as poverty, illiteracy and poor health are widespread in the country. Presently, the epidemic affects all segment of the society and not limited to certain groups or communities. Unnati Sansthan responds to HIV/ AIDS crisis in the districts of Rajasthan, by connecting and sensitizing the key stakeholders together. Unnati Sansthan facilitates communication and collaboration among those who are involved or interested in HIV/ AIDS related issues in the working areas.

PRIMARY FOCUSESS

Sector/Sub-sector	Primary Focuses
Child & Women Development/ Education	UNCRC campaign, child enrolment, child dropout management, pre- school centres, support to Balwadi and Aganwadi Centers, formation of child committees, children clubs, skill and vocational training for youth and women, child friendly spaces or resource centers, support to children with disabilities, Children and adolescent girls education, literacy campaign, Right to Education (RTE), Informal education to special groups, , capacity building of school management committees, rural libraries, etc
Health	Mother/ Child Health/Nutrition, HIV-AIDS, immunization, hygiene promotion, child and women health camps, health campaigns, etc
Water Sanitation and Hygiene	Provision of drinking water, fluoride control measures, hygiene education, total sanitation campaign, construction of water and sanitation facilities
Water Management/ Environment/ NRM	Community level water, environmental, NRM related awareness, participation in major awareness campaigns and advocacy events;
Entrepreneurship Development	Formation of SHGs, Income Generation Programs, skill and vocational training, linkage to microfinance, etc

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Community organization and mobilization;
- Capacity building of local level institutions particularly in the area child rights
- Mother and Child Health
- Adolescent reproductive sexual health
- Child education
- Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development
- Community Volunteer's Capacity Building
- HIV/ AIDS prevention
- Hygiene Education

ASSOCIATIONS

India

- Department of Education
- Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- Department of Women and Child Development
- Deartment of Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Rajasthan State
- Department of Health
- Department of Labour
- Rajasthan Police
- Credibility Alliance
- GIVE India Foundation
- Core Tech Systems

Foreign

- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to "aware, educate and empower poor and marginalized communities by bringing sense of mutual respect, justice, equality and sustainability in their community development missions and programs for the alleviation of poverty among the masses. Our mandate is organize communities, local level institutions to identify the local level issues and raise voices of the children and other marginalized groups of the communities at the appropriate forums and bring solutions for the advancement of the children, poor and marginalized communities".



Contact Details

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Protecting Child Rights
&
Empowering Rural Communities
since 2000