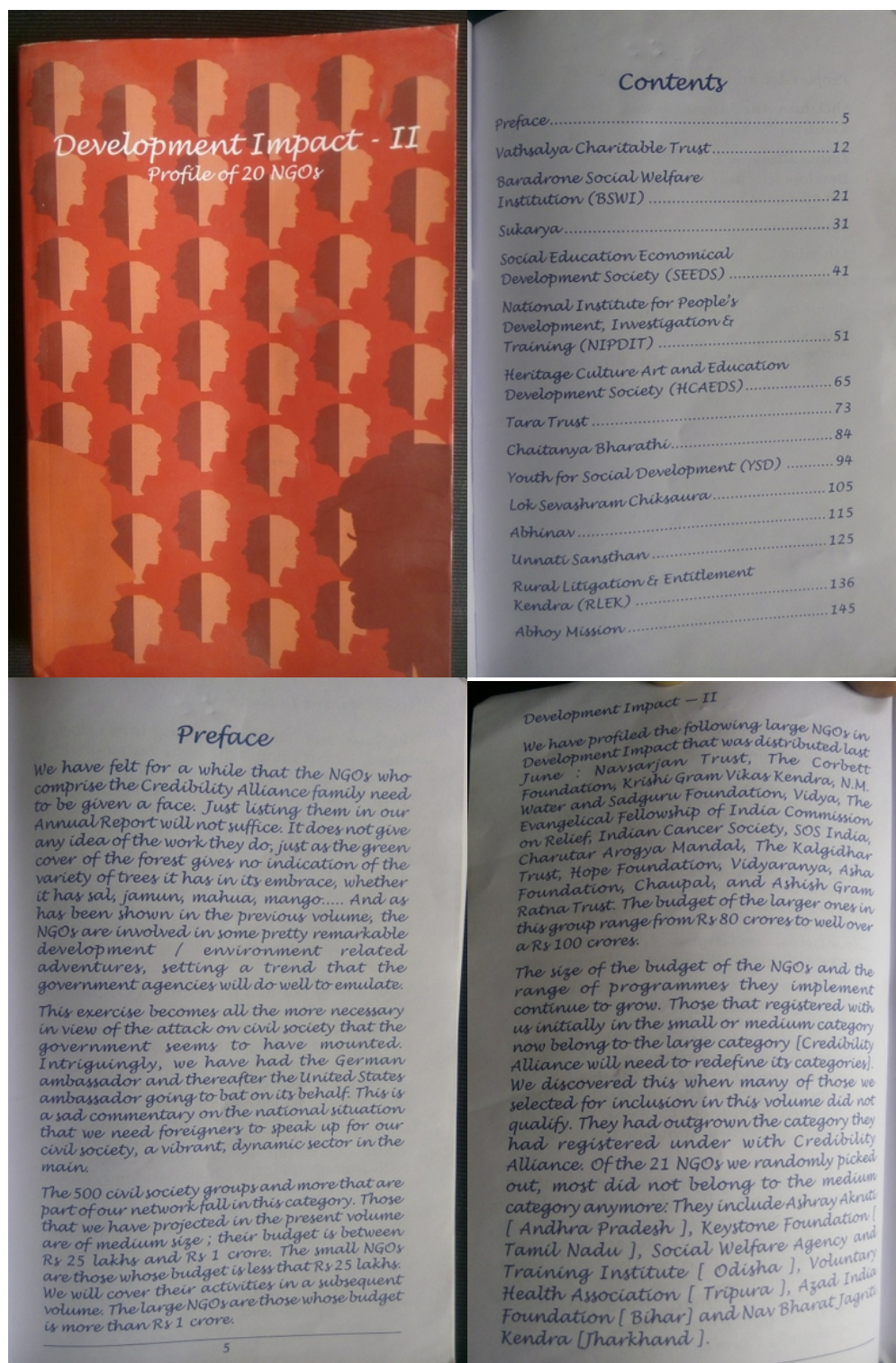


Publication

Unnati Sansthan's Profile

(in Credibility Alliance's Development Impact II)



They were established anytime between 1950 [Blind People's Association, Gujarat], 1969 [AFARM, Maharashtra] and 2007 [Quality Education Support Trust, Maharashtra]. Two of the 21 now have an annual budget of Rs 14 crores and Rs 18 crores. Interestingly, seven and five of the 21 are based in Maharashtra and Delhi respectively, confirming the impression that proximity to funding agencies has its advantages.

As noted in Development Impact, the large NGOs are into the whole gamut of development activities. So are those in the medium category, as you will discover when you turn the pages. They are involved in environmental protection, raising agriculture productivity, tribal uplift. Most are working on issues related to education, health and women's empowerment. One NGO, Abhinav, pre-empted the swachh bharat campaign of the Modi government: It has been providing toilet facilities in remote villages, and slums of Muzaffarnagar district (U.P.).

I would like to draw attention in particular to the work of NIPDIT which has become increasingly radical over the years. I did a field study of it in the late eighties of the last century on behalf of one of the agencies, I think the Indian Social Institute, which was making an assessment of civil society intervention in tribal areas. At that time NIPDIT was working in a couple of tribal

But that path to radicalization would have best served the interests of the tribals, there is no doubt in my mind on that score.

DRAG similarly altered course at its women's centre where its initial focus was on advocacy work which later because of the demand of the women it changed to providing them with skills so that they could become wage earners. I emphasize this contrast between DRAG and NIPDIT because it highlights the two main courses of action: to be an NGO that challenges the status quo or one that essentially helps with attaining, albeit in an innovative and novel manner, the development agenda of the State, a dilemma that many NGOs covered in these publications must face.

To be accredited by Credibility Alliance there is a desk review of all the documents which is then checked by the assessors who visit the field base of the NGOs, meet its governing board members, the staff and get an idea of the programmes they are implementing. We have a dedicated team of assessors in all parts of the country; a list is provided in the annexure.

After the assessors visit, the Central Accreditation Committee [CAC] gets into the act. It meets to review the NGOs selected for that month and give its clearance. If it finds that some points need clarification, the queries are sent to the concerned NGO; once satisfactory answers are provided the NGO is accredited.

districts of Odisha. Now it is doing so in four: Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Keonjhar. Its radicalization is evident from the following:

- * Shifted from forest and environment work to natural resource management
- * Graduated from micro finance to micro enterprise
- * Moved from women's development to gender mainstreaming
- * And most significantly, instead of focusing on village level people's committees it has linked them to a federation by aligning the block level and district level committees to the federation. This requires a mammoth amount of mobilizational work. Moreover, NIPDIT is collaborating with other civil society groups at the state level, in order to impact on all policy issues related to tribals. The institutionalization of people's committees has enabled NIPDIT to take to community marketing and cooperative farming.

Our NGO, DRAG began working among tribals of Pentaluka [Maharashtra] in 1988; we were determined that the people's committees of each village [pada / hamlet] would be the sole representatives of the adivasis. We had not even begun thinking of linking them at the block level, let alone at a larger level, when our focus shifted to the north of the country.

We have had a number of members of the CAC over the last decade, and the latest group comprises:

1. Mr. Vijay Sardana, former Regional Director of South Asia in Plan International, has also been former CEO, Aga Khan Foundation. Currently President of Socio Research and Reform Foundation
2. Dr. Richa Chaudhary, Associate Professor, Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi University
3. Ms. Sanghamitra Bose, Founder and CEO of Sshrishti whose mission is to create a literate and empowered India
4. Mr. Mallikarjuna Iyatha, a social entrepreneur and fair trade expert, is President of Fair Trade Forum- India and co-founder, Believe India.
5. Dr. Gautam Vohra, member of MOEF's empowered committees on education and river valley and hydro-electric projects. Currently Chairperson, Development Research and Action Group [DRAG].

As in the case of the previous volume we have extracted the material about the NGO from its annual report or web- site, with the focus on the programmes being implemented with the funds received. The first page draws attention to the sources of funds, foreign and domestic as well as whether the NGO has created a

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corpus over the years, and draws attention to its investments in buildings and other capital assets. The remainder of the pages describe the projects undertaken by the NGO.

To preserve the personality of the NGO little effort was made in the previous volume to edit the annual reports of the large NGOs except for giving the English rather than the American spelling of the word. If there was the occasional bit of editing it was minimal, for the sake of clarity. With the middle order NGOs the editing has been more wide-ranging for large sections of the printed material were either not clear or redundant. But the tone and tenor of the NGO, the way it presents itself, has been maintained.

In this effort, specific responsibilities were shouldered by the Credibility Alliance staff. Cherag Chatwal was put in charge of developing the first page of the NGO, the one that documents its budget and its funding support. Neelam Rawat, Sachin Dhar and Sandhya Rawat focused on providing an idea of the NGOs programmes. As usual Tejinder Kaur ensured the smooth functioning of the administration and Parveen Kumar speedily delivered the manuscript for examination and editing. I am grateful for their support.

New Delhi, June 2015

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Unnati Sansthan

Year of Establishment : 2007

Located in Udaipur, Rajasthan

> Budget(2013-14)

- ❖ Income : Rs. 27.63 lakhs
- ❖ Expenditure : Rs. 28.50 lakhs

> Funding sources:

- ❖ Foreign : Rs. None
- ❖ Domestic : Rs. 27.63 lakhs

> Domestic sources:

- ❖ Give India Foundation
- ❖ UNICEF
- ❖ Core Tech Systems, Gurgaon
- ❖ Individual donors

> Corpus/General Fund : Rs. 22,000

> Assets created Rs. 1.15 lakhs which include:

- ❖ Printer: Rs. 5,000
- ❖ Laptop and UPS : Rs. 68,000
- ❖ Furniture : Rs. 26,000
- ❖ Games material and resources centre : Rs. 24,000

Background

Unnati Sansthan works in the rural tribal districts of southern Rajasthan. This region is characterised by hilly and arid terrain, lack of water, a large tribal population and poor socioeconomic indicators. The majority of the population survives off subsistence agriculture on small land-holdings. The rural landscape means that there is limited access to education, health care, energy and transportation facilities. Children often have to travel many kilometres to the nearest school and hospitals which normally exist in the larger towns. These factors have created a deeply fragile environment in which families can easily be pushed into starvation. As a result of this, many children are involved in migrant labour in order to provide their families with an additional income. This results in children being unable to gain an education, perpetuating the cycle of poverty for another generation.

Programmes

Child protection

The current situation for many tribal children all over Rajasthan is unfortunate. They are either pressured to work in dangerous jobs away from home or they are forced by their families to work within their homes, cleaning and herding sheep. This makes them vulnerable to all kinds of abuses. When working away from home, they face threats

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and abuse from their bosses and/or they work in hazardous conditions

Their work conditions are such that they can easily become sick or injured. When working at home they risk being captured and sold for flesh trafficking. These children have no knowledge of their own rights and no say in their situation. Many do not even know that education is not only a right, but is mandatory and free for them. Unnati's vision is to use collective action, empowerment and information in order to build people's capacity and confidence so that communities unite to create a force to claim their rights and take control over their own lives. By empowering parents and adults, they can build a protective environment in which children can be shielded from harm and grow into capable adults.

The project "Ensuring protection rights of children in 68 Gram Panchayats of Kherwada and Girwa Blocks", aimed to create and strengthen three structures at the panchayat level that would help build a child-friendly environment in the region. These structures included the formation and strengthening of PLCPCs, School Management Committee (SMCs,) and standing committees on education and social services. The four major objectives of the project were as follows:

- Create and strengthen child protection structures (Panchayat Level Child

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Protection Committees-PLPCs, Village Level Child Protection Committees, School Management committee SMCs, Standing Committees)

- Create awareness among the community on the harms of child labour and the importance of education for their children.
- Keep track and encourage 100% enrolment and retention of all children aged 6-14 years
- Link vulnerable children and families with government social protection schemes

Formation and Strengthening of Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC)

The objective of forming the BLCPC was to create a structure that will facilitate the community to protect its children from harm. The BLCPC must act as the intermediary between panchayat level structures and state level government structures. The Village Level CPC (VLCPC) and the Panchayat Level CPC (PLCPC) bring child protection issues to the BLCPC. If the BLCPC feels that the issue needs to be reported to higher authorities, they will take it to the District Level Child Protection Unit (DLCPU), then, if necessary, to the State Commissioner.

It is the responsibility of the BLCPC to track the children in their region and ensure their protection. Members of BLCPC were taught their roles and responsibilities by Unnati. They were

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instructed how to track vulnerable families and how to link them with social protection schemes. The BEO was told that during the monthly meetings with nodal officers, records must be taken of non-school-going children. Records must also be kept by School Management Committee (SMC). They must then give instructions on what must be done to return the concerning children to school. Members of the BLCPC must also coordinate with block level police officers, ICDS and Health Department (ANM), to ensure that they take responsibility over children that are put in harm's way.

During BLCPC training sessions, Unnati also introduced the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 to the community. It was insisted that if anyone hears about or witnesses a sexual offence, it must be reported. Unnati encouraged the community to take responsibility over their children and create a safe environment for them. Nobody should be silent any longer.

Formation and Strengthening of Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee (PLCPC)

As of December 2013, Unnati has facilitated in the formation and/or strengthening of 68 PLCPCs (62 in Kherwara Block and 6 in Girwa Block). When assessing the needs of the community, Unnati saw that PRIIs were either not fulfilling their responsibilities in regards to the PLCPC, or there was a complete absence

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of the PLCPC. Unnati staff had a meeting with a PRI representative in each panchayat explaining the importance of the PLCPC and how it is such a beneficial structure for the protection of children.

The sarpanch of each panchayat organized a meeting in which members from PRIIs, anganwadi workers, parents, teachers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) workers and two children (one male and one female) attended. Unnati explained that it is the responsibility of the committee to understand the issue of child protection and to map out the record of the children who are abused or their rights violated. These committees are linked with the district level and block level Child Protection Unit.

The PLCPC is also to work closely with the standing committee on education and other members of society in order to create awareness and provide support to ensure child rights and play an intermediary role between the community and the government by linking vulnerable children with welfare schemes.

Education Programme

In collaboration with UNICEF the study on education status in 2008-09 in 8 panchayats of Girwa, Sarada and Kherwada blocks allowed Unnati to gain a deeper insight into the local context of education of the region. According to the study, only 59% of children

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in the age group of 6-14 attend schools. Most children drop out very early. Education is valued by parents and that they want their children to do well in school. Many are aware of the fact that teacher absenteeism exists and it impacts on their children's learning levels. Economically and socially oppressed, these parents often feel powerless to raise their voice against schools and Panchayats.

Unnati, since then, has undertaken an array of activities both in creating an enabling environment for children's education and also investing in developing the capacities of the communities. The overall goal is to build a social structure that is able to support the parents, children and teachers in order to make the existing education system work effectively.

Creating Awareness and lobbying:

Chalo Chalo School Chalo Campaign in July 2014

With an objective to enroll children between 6-14 years of age group in schools, the "chalo chalo school chalo" campaign was implemented in all the panchayats during the reporting period. The campaign focused on creating awareness on children's rights, motivate parents to send their children to school and provide the community with a support structure to encourage children's attendance in schools. Following activities were undertaken

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- Creating awareness and lobbying for education
- Ensuring enrolment for out of school children and
- Ensuring retention for children already in schools.

Unnati participated and hosted a variety of events to encourage enrolment and retention in schools. During meetings with all government mandated bodies, Unnati focused on importance of enrolment and retention. In 30 panchayats, Unnati organized enrolment drives and rallies in which parents and teachers and students marched through the village to promote enrolment. Unnati worked with parents, teachers, PLCPC and School Management Committee (SMC) to collect data on enrolment and track children.

Meeting with Nodal Officers

Every month meetings were conducted with nodal officers, head masters and teachers in each panchayat. These meetings allowed mutual sharing and learning about the issues of education in the region. During the reporting period a total of 408 meetings were conducted with nodal officers to share with them the work done by Unnati.

Strengthening of School Management Committees on School Development

Unnati attended School Management Committee (SMC) meetings in all the schools

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of Kherwara and Girwa Block of Udaipur district. Unnati staff explained the roles and responsibilities of the School Management Committee (SMC) to SMC members. SMCs are a powerful tool in unifying the community and making sure children's rights are being met. They are responsible for the proper functioning and up-keep of school facilities. They appropriately acquire and distribute the resources available from the government and put them to good use and they ensure that each student receives the government grant that is meant for them. The School Management Committee (SMC) must make sure that the schools provide a safe and wholesome environment for the children. They must keep check on teachers and keep track of students. If a child is not coming to school regularly or has dropped out, they must speak with the concerned families to return the child to school.

In Kherwara block, Unnati conducted meetings with the School Management Committee (SMC) to talk specifically about the School Development Plan. The RTE Act stipulates that the School Development Plan (SDP) shall be the basis for the plans and grants to be made by the appropriate government or local authority. A good SDP will reflect an image of a well functioning school complete with resources, infrastructure, knowledgeable children and participatory parents. The creation of a SDP is an organized

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way of planning out the development and improvement of school facilities and ensuring proper functioning. This plan is of utmost importance because the grants that a school will receive by the government will largely be based on it. At the end of every academic year, a report should be made and placed before the Gram Sabha presenting the implementation and achievements of the School Development Plan.

Child Resource Centre (CRC)

This is one of the platforms where we can gather children and make them understand the issues regarding their rights and importance of education and the harm of child labour with special focus on Bt Cotton, field construction work in Udaipur, hotels and mines. The CRC also helps to enhance the capacity of leadership, enhance their participation so that children can realize their worth as children and envision their role in society. The most important objective is to enhance their understanding on child protection.

Achievements

- 570 schools have been trained on School Development Plan
- 51 villages have been declared child-labour free
- 100% enrolment of drop-out children from CTS data

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- 7,300 families have been linked with social protection schemes
- Formation of block level and panchayat level Child Protection Committee (CPC) in 62 panchayats. Regular meetings taking place
- Involvement and functionality of School management Committee (SMC) s has increased. Members are more involved in creation and implementation of School Development Plan (SDP)
- The community has a better understanding of the harm of child labour and is now aware of the legal aspects (consequences and punishments) of child labour
- Child cabinets have been strengthened and children have been practising leadership activities

