



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



**A Quest for  
Justice, Dignity and Hope.**

[www.utthangujarat.org](http://www.utthangujarat.org)



## VISION

Utthan envisions a society that imbibes and ensures the values of gender justice, equality and peace, in practice, resulting in happiness for all.

# index



Our Mission & Vision	05
The Beginnings	09
Thrust Areas	11
• Livelihood Security	
• Gender equity & Women’s rights	
• Conflict transformation towards peace & justice	
• Access to safe water, sanitation & hygiene	
• Institutional Building & Leadership Development	
Utthan’s Board	26
Partners in Transformation	27
Accounts and Transparency	28

Utthan Gujarat

Ahmedabad  
Gujarat





# VISION

Utthan envisions a society that imbibes and ensures the values of gender justice, equality and peace, in practice, resulting in happiness for all.



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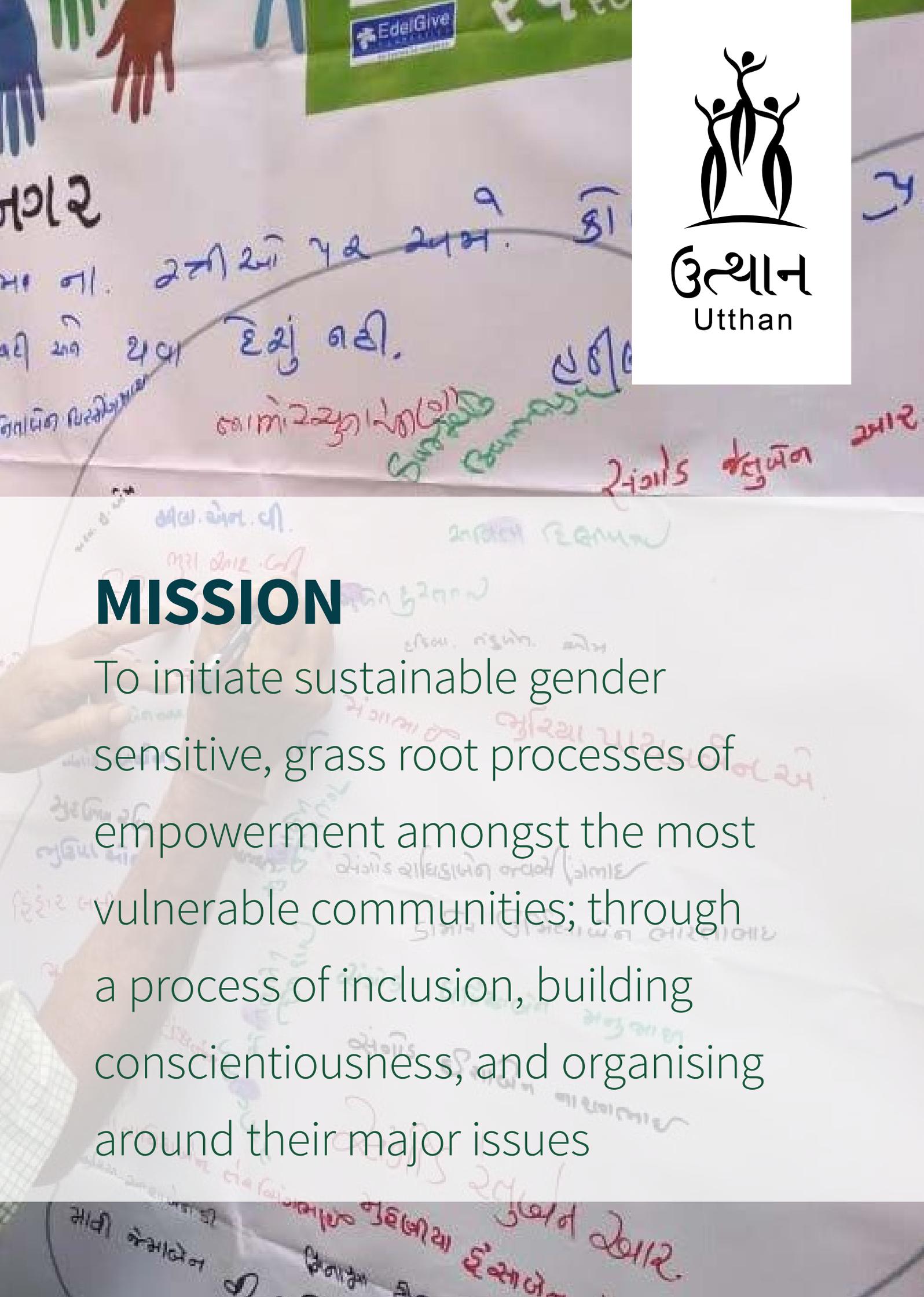
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# MISSION

To initiate sustainable gender sensitive, grass root processes of empowerment amongst the most vulnerable communities; through a process of inclusion, building conscientiousness, and organising around their major issues



ઉત્થાન  
Utthan



# The Beginnings

Utthan's journey began in 1981, when four women chose to work in the desolate Bhal region of Gujarat, helping marginalized communities to self-organise around critical livelihood issues and develop local leadership. Utthan, which means 'upliftment' in Hindi initiated a people's movement comprising a large number of women and youth, to address their rights to regular, safe drinking water, protecting and accessing common land for their livelihood security, challenging patriarchy, feudal exploitation and caste discrimination at local levels. In the process, Utthan facilitated the formation of a community-based organisation known as Mahiti (knowledge), which has been a local force since 1994.

## Utthan's intense work for nearly 40 years

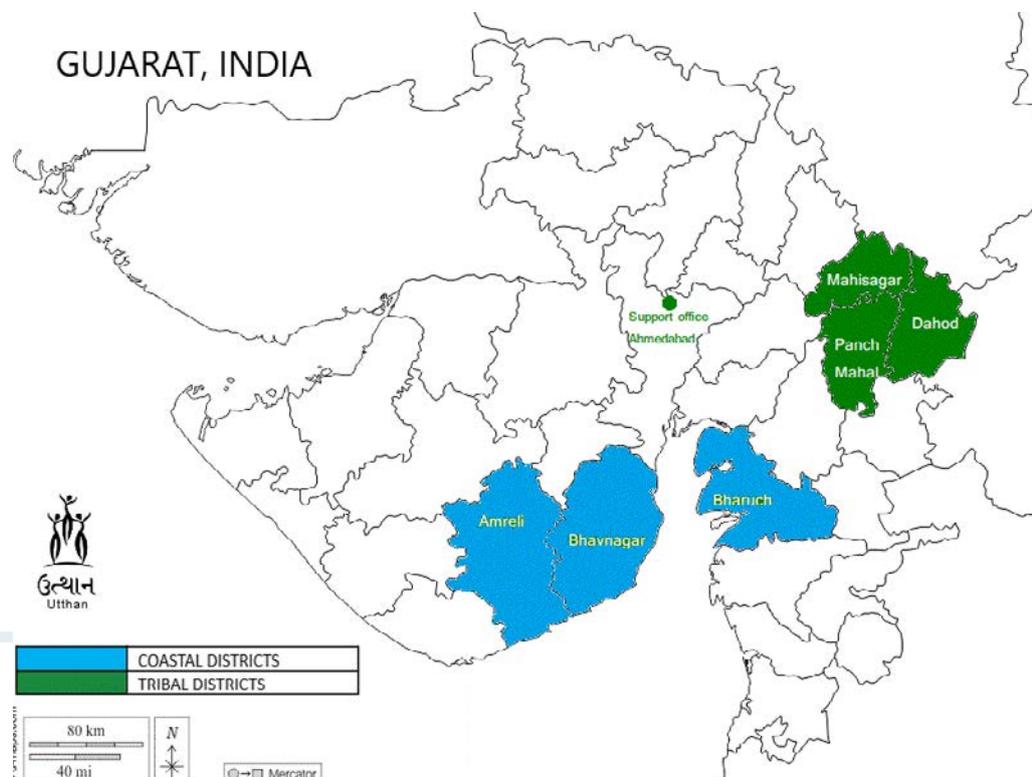
has been in the drought-prone coastal areas of Saurashtra - Amreli, Bhavnagar and Kutch districts and the poverty-stricken tribal districts of Dahod, Panchmahal, and Mahisagar of south Gujarat. Continuing its quest for exploration and sharing of learning's, Utthan's leadership and work has extended to neighbouring districts and to communities in Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha, as well as to movements in South Asia and across the world.





# THRUST AREAS

- **Livelihood Security**
- **Gender equity & Women’s rights**
- **Conflict transformation towards peace & justice**
- **Access to safe water, sanitation & hygiene**
- **Institutional Building & Leadership Development**





## Livelihood Security

Establishing models demonstrating gender sensitive, ecologically sustainable livelihood security alternatives to enhance incomes, improve food security and quality of life of the most marginalized

”



The Village Development Committees (VDCs) were facilitated in the selection of Demo partners on just indicators and with those showing commitment to share learnings with others. The team with the support of VDCs facilitated several scaleable livelihood demonstrations with 100 women farmer families by providing trainings in sustainable agriculture package of practices and on field support. The VDCs played a role in monitoring of demonstrations. These demonstrations became learning sites for other farmers.

Micro planning & Gram Panchayat Development Planning: Intensive exercises included orientation of hamlet wise leadership, Village Development Committee and Panchayats for preparing Integrated Village Plans was taken up in four villages. Panchayats were involved for the first time in a detailed village needs assessment process. Men and women were facilitated to discuss village needs in various sector through on-site visits and focus group discussions. Discrimination, exclusion, safety of most vulnerable were kept in mind while culling out village needs hamlet wise and for the various common needs.



# Building capacities of 1000 women master farmers in sustainable agriculture

Women Master Farmers spread over 30 villages of 6 blocks: 929 women master trainers gained experience through capacity building & demonstrations in various livelihood practices/innovations. This led to implementing scientific PoPs themselves. They further reached out nearly 1800 other women farmers to spread their learning/for replication. This led to better recognition of women as farmers and holders of technical knowledge by village community



Discussions: Motasharnaya model village

Several scalable livelihood demonstrations keeping in mind safe and sustainable technologies, innovation for better production and improved disposable income were implemented viz. 42 Water & soil conservation related demonstrations done: Well deepening, farm bunding, Drip irrigation, gabion. 201 demonstrations replicated – kitchen garden, creeper vegetables, organic composting, ginger, onion demos, poultry, goatery.



**Drip demonstration with Ramuben Natabhai Dabhi, Kharakdi village (a single woman - widow & OBC)**



**Installation cost for 1 acre = 1,28,000 .**

Project support= Rs. 35000

Contribution = Rs. 24500

GGRC subsidy = Rs. 68000.

**Between March – June (4 months)**

- Increase in lemon production = 4000kg
- Direct Increase in income = 4000 kg. \*  
Rs.20/kg. = Rs. 80000
- 50% reduction in use of electric motor to 3 hrs and reduction in electricity bill @ Rs.500/ mth. = Rs.2000

**“Drip has reduced water use by 75% and doubled my income at the same time.”**

538 people were trained in various agricultural practices



# Watershed Development Initiatives with Climate Change Adoption and Climate Proofing

Two projects covering 3 villages and outreaching 1600 families in Dahod district continued with activities included construction of Gabion, Earthen Dam benefitting 37 families, creating 5747 human days. Kharif and Rabi demonstrations in maize saw replication in 62 acres. Kitchen garden efforts outreached 80 families on 149 gunthas. Horticulture activities (1500 Nos of Mango, Guava, Lemon, Drumstick). 20000 no.'s of Sagvan, Sevan, Kher, Limda plantation were done over 16 Ha.

## Implementing an integrated model by bringing legislations that have a scope of strengthening democratic processes at the village level in coherence to achieve the target of a systematic and procedural governance mechanism in poor rainfed areas

Three Fellows joined a cohort of persons working at the grassroots at the village level in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh in a collective collaboration with Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network and Centre for Social Justice. They attended three learning cohorts to build an understanding in using The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996, Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA), The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAFA) to strengthen democratic processes through establishment of various committees envisaged under these laws to promote and implement themes of rainfed agriculture and preserve natural and biological resources. Efforts to establish and strengthen various committees envisaged under these laws to promote and implement themes of rainfed agriculture and preserve natural and biological resources were taken up in 18 villages of Dahod and Mahisagar districts.

## Linkages with varied stakeholders

# Gender Equity & Women’s Rights

## Support to Strengthen Governance & Leadership within Women’s Sangathans

- Strengthening Federation membership base: Increase in membership by nearly 700 women
- Access to entitlements & rights: Financial inclusion of new women was done and support in availing business loans to 150 women. Linkages with Government Schemes were facilitated for 3950 women
- Improved recognition at village level - as Master Farmers, VDC members, GPDP action committees
- Raising issues in Gram Sabhas
- Leadership in Networks - GWLO Steering Group
- Capacity building of women & men leaders: 83 leaders went through the second phase of Training on gender-sensitive Leadership
- 2 women from Dhanpur, were honoured for their contribution to sustainable agriculture, at the Krishi Mahitosav, block level event at Dhanpur. In coastal area 108 women join the Krishi Mahotsav.



### Samarthan Mahila Sangathan, Bhavnagar - outstanding leadership & visibility

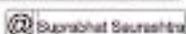
**Shilaben Solanki, President-**

Awarded for her instrumental contribution in leading the Sangathan & women’s issues in Bhavnagar district.

**Shilaben Dabhi, ex-President & current member, SMM**

Awarded for her work on Awareness on women’s issues.

The Sangathan today has over 3000 members.



## મહિલા સશક્તિકરણ ક્ષેત્રે શ્રેષ્ઠ કામગીરી માટે સુશીલા સોલંકીને સન્માનિત કરાય



વિશિષ્ટ સેવા-સિદ્ધિના અનુસંગે સરકાર દ્વારા પુવાન મહિલા ને સુશીલાબેન સોલંકીનું સન્માન કરવા આવ્યું છે. ઉત્ત્યાન સચિનની સંસ્થા સાથે સંકળાપેલા સુશીલાબેન મહિલા જનુમિ અંગેની પ્રવૃત્તિને કા પુવા ઉત્કાહ વેગવંતો બન્યો છે તે સરકારી વહીવટ લોકાભિમુખ બ છે તેમ જાની તેમના જાનન અભિવ્યક્તી કર કરતાં ધોવા પ ઉજવપેલ પ્રજાસભાક પરની ઉજવ દરમ્યાન ભાવનગર કલેક્ટર કે જલ્લા મેજસ્ટ્રેટ ચોરાંન મહા સચિનના આપનુઆવોના ઇસને તે સન્માનપત્ર અર્પણ કરવામાં આ હતું.

ભાવનગર મહિલાસંગઠનનું નેતૃત્વ અને મહિલા કળ્યામાં સહકારકરણ સેવે શ્રેષ્ઠ યોગદાન અને

## Safety & Security of Women & Girls

- Approximately 335 survivors of violence approached the Nyay Samitis run by the Women's Federations and were supported to access justice through individual, family counselling, legal recourse.
- Data collection for an Utthan conceived Study on Safety of women and girls in rural public spaces was initiated. Institute of Social Studies Trust, our knowledge collaborator conducted an orientation to discuss the tools, which were then administered by team and Nyay Samiti members.

### 5 Nyay Samitis informal redressal mechanism - supported 335 survivors, building precedents

*One of the firsts in Saurashtra:*

Approval of compensation of Rs. 4 lakhs for rape survivor, recd. Rs. 1 lakh

2 cases involving satta paddati successful resolved, stringly influenced caste panchayat



Witch labelling, an important issue being dealt with in tribal area





## Women's Rights to Resources and Entitlements

- **Land, Property & Forest Rights:** The four paralegal workers of the Swabhoomi Kendras running in Ghogha, Bhavnagar & Dhanpur, Dahod directly reached out to 20 villages through regular interactions with various stakeholders. One paralegal worker on forest rights reached out to 10 villages. 850 individual forest rights and 143 individual claims were facilitated.

### Swabhoomi Kendras - Women's Land, Property & Forest Rights



- Part of Collective Impact Study
- Legal Clinics as a strategy
- 850 IFRs -143 IFR claims passed, 57 in appeal, rest in process
- 16 CFRs

## Empowering Young Girls through Higher Education

- Utthan's collaboration with the Kavita Mehta Foundation (KMF) for the sponsorship of 8 girls to reach the top of the ladder and complete their higher education continued.



# Conflict transformation towards Peace & Justice

Documenting transformative change processes of a model, providing the scope to motivated youth from marginalised communities to become ambassadors of inclusive and peaceful coexistence

## Efforts of 24 Fellows reaching out to 230 villages in coastal and tribal area to create awareness pertaining to Constitutional rights and values

- Improved sensitivity amongst Fellows: More sensitive towards societal issues such as dowry practice, gender discrimination led to initiating change in their own families
- Using RTI as a tool for accountability: In tribal areas fellows used RTI as a tool to hold Gram Panchayat accountable and got hand pumps, road and other development works done
- Strengthening Gram Sabha: Their outreach has increased, leading to increased women participation in Gram Sabhas in about 60 villages of both areas
- Education: Youth groups are being made in Mahuva, who are actively working on School Monitoring Committees furthering importance of Gram Sabhas
- Local platforms: Nagrik Manch is being set up in Bhavnagar and Rajula. Mahuva Nagrik Manch already deals with issues plaguing the society
- Awareness on Ethical voting: Election campaign was carried out in both areas of 220 villages in the May. Action was taken around experienced failing of EVMs in tribal areas to ensure replacement and resumption of casting of votes
- Collaborations: were made with CSJ in coastal area for integration of legal awareness in 30 villages of Rajula. Amreli district. Rapport with 'Nyay Samitis' was built for connecting women facing violence
- Building community leaders: Built a critical mass from within community. Been able to connect values with issues at the grassroots
- Initiated work by involving different type of target groups and use of local folk culture as a media
  - Dayro, Kabirvani group

## Voices of Saathi Fellows



# Access to Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

## Institutional Capacity building for Gender-sensitive and Inclusive WASH in communities

- Monitoring visits & handholding with 10 CSOs in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha for recommendations for future action plans. As the National Resource Agency of Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation to facilitate an appropriate implementation of inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation programs (WASH), the initial months of the year were spent in consolidating experiences. Training modules for CSO trainers were finalized and IEC material in Hindi for CSOs was provided

## Sharing Utthan's learnings in gender sensitive WASH mechanisms

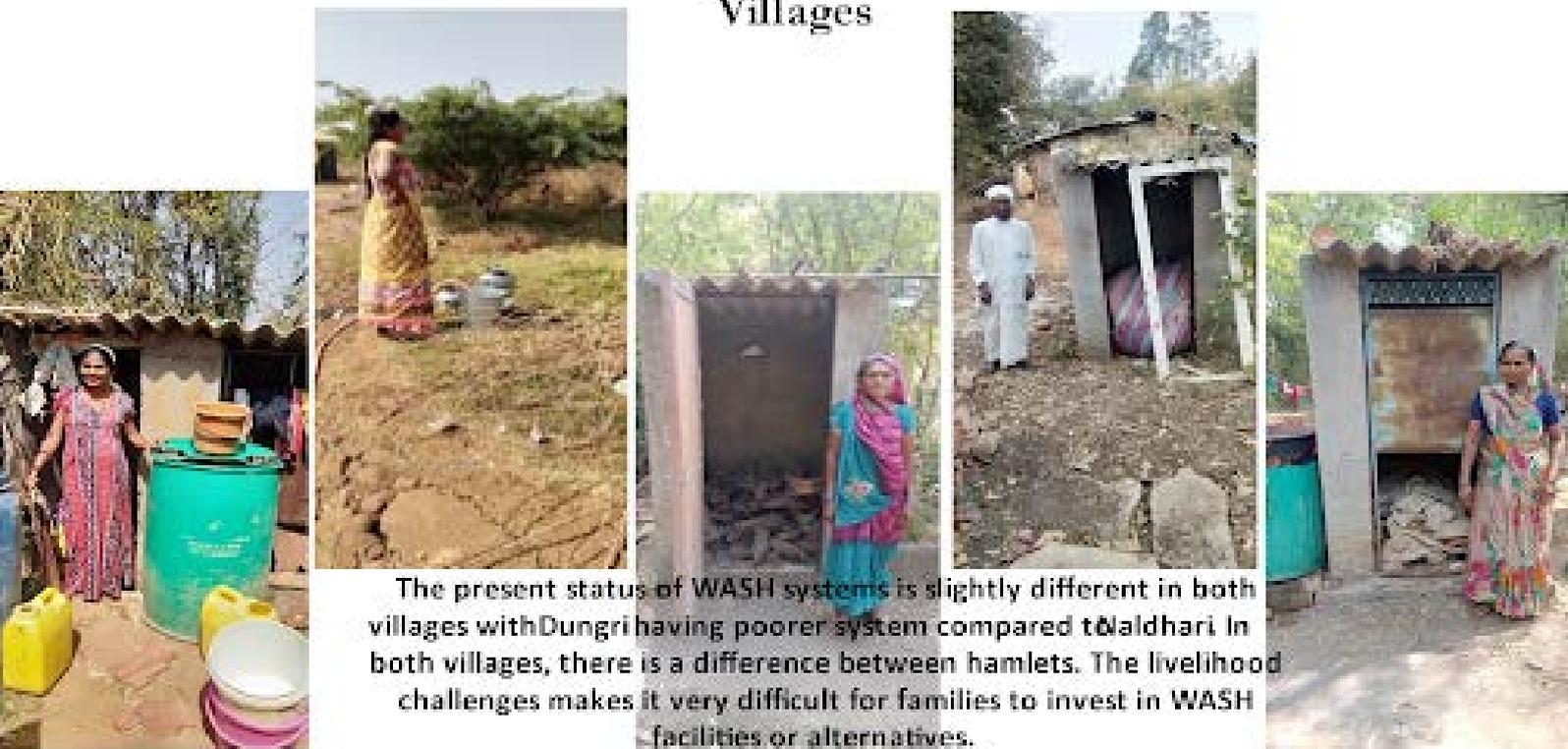
- Utthan developed an action plan to apply its years of learning in gender sensitive WASH community capacities in the work areas of NGOs supported by the Bajaj Foundation. Several discussions were taken up for potential collaborations. Utthan also developed potential for rainwater harvesting solutions in urban Ahmedabad.



Expanding to Bharuch for intensive efforts in Empowering women through securing their rights to access to safe and sufficient drinking water, ODF sanitation and hygiene through gender just community mechanisms.

- This collaboration helps us implement a strategic mission of applying our collated learning’s in the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) Thrust area to create a model in a new location with a new type of stakeholder.
- Community organising & coordination with Panchayat and village institutions
- Quantitative & qualitative data collection & analysis of 2 villages (464 household surveys ,5 Focus Group Discussions)
- Preparation of 3-year Action plan was taken up based on baseline
- Utthan’s new full-time operations were initiated in Valia (Bharuch) on 1st Feb.2020.

### Condition of Drinking Water & Sanitation in Dungri and Naldhari Villages



The present status of WASH systems is slightly different in both villages withDungrihaving poorer system compared tōNaldhari In both villages, there is a difference between hamlets. The livelihood challenges makes it very difficult for families to invest in WASH facilities or alternatives.

# Institutional Building & Leadership Development



## Strengthening Village leaders, Block, District & Area level Institutions

- Efforts were continued to strengthen all kinds of grassroots leadership, the village level institutions, Women's Federations and Farmer Producer Organisations.

## Strengthening Utthan as an institution



- Annual meeting was held and it led to clarity in Utthans aspirations for coming 3 years. Inputs on importance of quality Communication & Clarity of roles within team was discussed through role plays and discussions. Aspirations which emerged included: Building identity as an expert on WASH & Gender in 2 new States, Focusing on strategies having large scale impact and outreach, Strengthening value-based leadership in existing community institutions supported by Utthan, Developing existing work in Gujarat (Programme & Financial mgmt.)
- Training on Evidence based advocacy & linking grassroots issues to policy level was held for 15 members leading to prioritisation of advocacy issues
- Improving monitoring systems of our Livelihood interventions by critical observations by Sachin Oza, DSC.
- Engagement of an MIS professional & deployment of 1 team member for MIS
- Visibility: Utthan's brochure was re-developed and printed, website redesign & conversion to dynamic one was initiated

### **Potential Opportunities under discussion**

- Partnering in a research with ISST on 'Sustaining Power for Women's Rights in South Asia': to analyze the strategies and processes of women's movements in South Asia in the face of backlash from regressive social, political and economic forces.
- Demonstrating Reverse watershed in Bhavnagar with support of NABARD
- Scaling up Forest rights action & advocacy collectively with GWLO (Exploratory stage)
- Expansion of work to Maharashtra on community and institutional capacity building on WASH



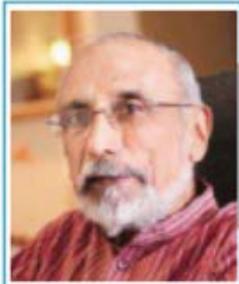
# Utthan's Board



**Mr. Vijay Parmar**  
Chairperson,  
Managing Trustee, Janvikas



**Mr. Binoy Acharya**  
Member,  
Director, UNNATI & President,  
Voluntary Agency Network India (VANI)



**Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee**  
Member,  
Former Director,  
National Institute of Design



**Dr. Sudarshanlyengar**  
Member,  
Former Vice Chancellor,  
Gujarat Vidyapith,  
presently associated with ARCH



**Ms. Nafisa Barot**  
Member,  
Founder & Former Director, Utthan



**Dr. Sara Ahmed**  
Member,  
Adjunct Professor,  
Ahmedabad University



**Ms. Neelima Khetan**  
Member,  
Former Director, Sewa Mandir



**Prof. Alka Parikh**  
Member,  
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of  
Information & Communication  
Technology

# Partners in Transformation



and several individuals...

# Networks and Alliances

- State and National Level
- International Level
- Working Group on Women and Land Ownership
- Sajjata Sangh
- Pravah
- Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch
- Janpath
- India Wash Forum
- Gujarat Mahila Manch
- 
- Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
- Water and Environmental Sanitation Network Water Conflict Forum
- South Asia Consortium for Inter Disciplinary Waters
- Global Water Partnership
- Gender Water Alliance
- Freshwater Action Network South Asia
- Feminist Alliance for Rights
- Capnet

# Accounts & Transparency

## Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2020

PARTICULARS	Annx.	FC	INDIAN	TOTAL (2019-20)	TOTAL (2018-19)
<b>Funds and Liabilities</b>					
Corpus Fund and Asset Funds	1	9,33,553	13,23,417	22,56,970	22,52,858
General and Earmarked Funds	2	3,71,026	17,33,115	21,04,141	20,50,451
Unutilised Grants	3	12,04,470	18,07,330	30,11,800	79,30,567
Current Liabilities	4	-	3,59,221	3,59,221	3,21,895
Income and Expenditure Account	5	3,47,991	12,20,031	15,68,022	10,88,745
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>28,57,040</b>	<b>64,43,114</b>	<b>93,00,154</b>	<b>1,36,44,515</b>
<b>Assets and Properties</b>					
Fixed Assets	6	8,25,554	7,69,983	15,95,537	16,28,667
Investments	7	2,63,460	13,07,792	15,71,252	76,28,994
Current Assets	8	17,68,026	43,65,339	61,33,363	43,86,854
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>28,57,040</b>	<b>64,43,114</b>	<b>93,00,154</b>	<b>1,36,44,515</b>

UDIN: 20030268AAAAFR2863

As per our report attached  
For B C M Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 100808W

For Utthan

Bharat Mehta  
Partner  
Membership No. 030268  
Ahmedabad  
Dated: 05.11.2020

Trustee  
Ahmedabad  
05.11.2020

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Period 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020

PARTICULARS	Annx.	FC	INDIAN	TOTAL (2019-20)	TOTAL (2018-19)
<b>Income</b>					
Grants	9	6,32,820.73	2,8594,428.47	2,92,27,249.20	2,46,82,034.55
Donation	10	2,04,914.00	5,000.00	2,09,914.00	1,05,000.00
Other Income	11	1,97,233.00	7,97,728.00	9,94,961.00	27,80,020.00
Interest Income	12	975.00	1,14,409.00	1,15,384.00	1,38,236.85
Scrap Sale Income		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,35,942.73</b>	<b>2,95,11,565.47</b>	<b>3,05,47,508.20</b>	<b>2,77,05,291.44</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on Objects of the Trust	13&14	6,32,820.43	2,79,06,928.47	2,85,39,748.90	2,48,98,667.58
Establishment Expenses	14	1,518.41	7,03,481.72	2,85,39,748.00	2,48,98,667.58
Contribution to Administrative Fund of the Charity Commissioner	-	-	97,982.00	97,982.00	-
Remuneration to Trustees	-	-	6,00,000.00	6,00,000.00	4,14,000.00
Audit Fees	-	-	87,500.00	87,500.00	1,22,226.00
Depreciation	6	1,31,144.00	1,67,939.00	2,99,083.00	2,94,483.00
Depreciation Recouped	1	1,31,144.00	1,67,939.00	2,99,083.00	2,94,483.00
Project Expenses Absorbed by Utthan		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,34,338.84</b>	<b>2,93,95,892.19</b>	<b>3,00,30,231.03</b>	<b>2,66,04,369.78</b>
Excess of Income over Expenditure		4,01,603.89	1,15,673.28	5,17,277.17	11,00,921.66
Trf to Asset Fund (Capital Purchase)		-	38,000.00	38,000.00	4,200.00
<b>Excess of Income over expenditure/ Excess of Expenditure over Income)</b>		<b>4,01,603.89</b>	<b>77,673.28</b>	<b>4,79,277.17</b>	<b>10,96,721.66</b>

UDIN: 20030268AAAAFR2863

As per our report attached  
For B C M Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 100808W

For Utthan

Bharat Mehta  
Partner  
Membership Np. 030268  
Ahmedabad  
Dated: 05.11.2020

Trustee  
Ahmedabad  
05.11.2020

UTTHAN IS A PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST REGISTERED IN 1981 UNDER THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS, ACT 1950. DONATION TO UTTHAN IS EXEMPT FROM INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 80G OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. FOREIGN DONATIONS ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED AS PER UTTHAN'S REGISTRATION UNDER THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT.



Utthan

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