

## **Understanding Gender Equity in Water Resource Management**

### **An Agenda for Research and Programmatic Activities**

#### **Phase Two Progress Report**

**Reporting Period: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2001 to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

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## **Understanding Gender Equity in Water Resource Management**

### **An Agenda for Research and Programmatic Activities**

#### **Phase Two – Narrative Report (15<sup>th</sup> May 2001 to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002)**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Utthan has been facilitating community-based natural resource management interventions in drought prone regions of Gujarat for the past two decades. Central to Utthan's approach has been a strong focus on gender inequities in resource management, particularly water resource management where rural women's drudgery and lack of control over assets and decision-making are critical. Working at both the micro and macro level, Utthan has tried to mainstream gender concerns in community institution building and supported networking on policy advocacy for decentralized water management. As part of its effort to understand its own work and the processes it has unleashed, Utthan initiated a two-year action research project (May 2000 - April 2002) supported by the Ford Foundation.

The first phase of this project looked at nine villages, three in each of Utthan's operational areas: Amreli, Bhavnagar and Dahod districts. Using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, the research tried to understand the present water distribution system (allocation to various sectors, access of different users) and the role of women in decision making processes. The report of the first phase was submitted to Ford in October 2001. Building on the findings of the first phase, the second phase of the project expanded to look at the impact of various efforts on gender equity in the source created and on basic livelihood issues. Besides information collection on the availability and access of different livelihood issues, the focus was also on exploring the institutional mechanisms that need to be in place at different levels for ensuring gender equity on a sustainable basis. This process was carried out in all fifteen villages selected by Utthan under the research. This report describes the activities and key insights emerging from the second phase which have enabled Utthan to move towards identifying livelihood resource management plans (LMPs) as the next stage proposed in its work.

## **2.0 Strategy**

Following strategy was used during Phase 2:

Maximum effort was made to tap resources from various agencies for water resource development. These include, the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board (GWSSB), the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE), NABARD, DRDA,

Tribal Sub-plan, CAPART, Gujarat Ecology Commission and Sardar Jalsanchay scheme. In Bhavanagar District, GWSSB and RNE have released funds for a water distribution system within the village while the government has invested in the Narmada pipeline, though questions remain on the sustainability of the source. Communities own Water Resource Management (WRM) plans still await approval from the GWSSB. In all the three districts, there are limited funds available for developing drinking water sources from the relevant department, which is the GWSSB. All the other resources available from different agencies are for soil moisture conservation or water availability for improved agricultural production. This has posed a challenge before the team and the village committees whose priorities were different from the gender context.

Utthan team's focus and emphasis on addressing gender issues in all village level institutions and forums has helped to a great extent in highlighting the different gender needs and issues concerning women such as their poor lack of ownership over resources, decision making, etc. This has resulted in articulation of the issues and a thought process at a wider level across the communities. This has also brought along various conflicts within the families or at the community level where the demand for equity would obviously mean sharing of resources with others or giving away power to others.

Utthan consolidated all its efforts on mainstreaming issues of gender equity through various inputs and activities, such as training, exposure visits, discussions, films shows, planning and monitoring exercise, etc. in the villages where resources have already been created or are in the process of being created. This has indeed helped the teams as well as key leaders and community volunteers in the villages not only gain a better understanding of the issues, but also of the ways to address them. Such capacity enhancement has motivated many of them to take on the issues at different levels within the community with more confidence.

### **3.0 Methodology**

The following were the main processes facilitated in Phase 2:

- Focused and frequent meetings with community leaders, both men and women, initially to share findings of Phase 1 research, and then to facilitate a dialogue on equity issues.
- In-depth case studies in five villages in each district focussing on water and livelihood issues (agriculture and food security, fodder and fuel, health and hygiene, employment opportunities) as well as inequalities in community institutions and institutional processes.
- Building capacity of team members to address gender and equity issues at various organizational and programmatic levels.

- Identify through participatory methodologies programme inputs at the household and community level to address equity issues, for example, the need for joint bank accounts.
- Creating sensitivity amongst men and men's groups to support women's participation and leadership roles (e.g. as members of the panchayat).
- Enhancing women's control over natural resources and encouraging their decision-making, through creating opportunities
- Reviewing the programs related to NRM, such as watershed development, looking at the agenda/ programs of panchayats, watershed committees, caste panchayats, existing village groups, PHC, GWSSB, scarcity programs, etc.

#### **4. Activities undertaken during Phase 2**

##### **4.1 Sharing of outcome of Phase 1**

- With village communities (including women's and other groups) through village level meetings
- With resource persons, through specific meetings and reports
- With Utthan team member through meetings and discussion
- With funding agencies through reports

**Outcome:** There was a better understanding and realisation about the gender inequity issues. Some men did get sensitized about patriarchal structures which enforce an unfair distribution of roles and responsibilities between men and women. Utthan team members learnt about the strengths and weakness of the methodology and tools used for gathering the information.

##### **4.2 Finalizing the methodology for Phase 2 and evolving indicators for gender equity issues based on the analysis of Phase 1**

- Organized a one-day workshop with community leaders, resource persons, and Utthan field and support team members.

**Outcome:** Leaders and participants suggested that we needed to collect information on various aspects such as that of ownership, decision making process, access to and distribution of resources /benefit, roles of institutions like panchayats, caste panchayats, government programmes, legal, financial institutions, etc. in the context of all the livelihood issues. On the basis of this, village livelihood management plans need to be developed for the selected villages.

#### **4.3 Developing framework and methodology for case studies**

- A one-day workshop was organized with team members involved in the research, other senior and support members and resource person.

**Outcome:** This resulted in better understanding of the members on the aspects of case studies to be covered, based on the issues identified in the previous workshop with the leaders. It was decided that in each of the villages, members would try and identify families where change could be seen from the various gender aspects and document those along with the factors which influenced the change.

#### **4.4 Sharing of the framework and methodology with village level institutions**

- This was done in all the villages to keep the village institutions informed and involved in the process and take their approval on the methodology and framework.

**Outcome:** This exercise brought in a more active participation of village institutions. They themselves started siting various examples which could be covered under case studies. However, there was skepticism expressed about the response of the families in terms of ownership and rights issues, especially of the women.

#### **4.5 Evolving indicators for gender equity in livelihood issues and framework for gender sensitive Livelihood management plans for each village**

- A two-day workshop was organized of all the members involved, support team and resource team for developing indicators for gender equity, on the basis of which case studies would be analyzed.

**Outcome:** A detailed framework was evolved which included status of livelihood issues such as drinking water, food security, health and hygiene, fodder, fuel and sustainable employment, gender inequalities as identified in each areas (Saurashtra and Tribal region), various interventions or the processes influencing change and the indicators of positive change. This would help in developing LMP for each village, based on the gaps identified from the quantitative and qualitative data to be collected.

**4.6 Identification and documentation of various case studies and data collection for quantitative and qualitative needs for gender equity**

- Each area team documented various case studies covering the impact on different aspects of gender equity and collected relevant data on various livelihood needs.

**Outcome:** The process of documentation itself was quite empowering for many within the community as well as within the team. This was an opportunity to articulate the change and what it implied in real life. It was quite encouraging to see that there were not only women but also men who felt good that women had a better space in the society. Both team and communities could see clearly what and where change had come and where not and why. Thus the process also lead easily to discussion among different community groups as to what kind of institutional mechanism is required to ensure this change on a sustainable basis and on a large scale. A number of meetings with women and men leaders from various village institutions were held for planning of LMPs.

**4.7 Sharing of data analysis and clarification with leaders and community groups**

- A number of village visits were made to all the villages to share the outcome of data collected on LMPs and also for confirmation or clarification on some information collected.

**Outcome:** Almost 20 case studies prepared. LMPs for each village are in the process of preparation.

**4.8 Identification of resource agencies**

- A number of agencies have been approached for supporting the interventions for gender equity in water resources. Besides DRDA, RNE, GWSSB and the Water and Sanitation Management Organisation (WASMO), the Khadi Board, the Friends of Women World Banking, NABARD, Women and Child Welfare Dept., and other local sources have been explored for access to financial support in terms of one time capital grants, loans, revolving funds etc.

**4.9 Participation in different gender training and workshops**

- Various team members involved in the action research, participated in different in-house and outside training on gender sensitivity. A number of team leaders, both women and men, also participated in various gender-training workshops, women's meetings (*melas*) as well as

visited other communities and interacted with leaders who were able to bring about a positive change.

**Outcome:** Increased understanding, information, motivation and capacity to articulate and deal with a range of issues.

*For more information on the above meetings and workshop, please refer Annexure 01, 02 and 03.*

## **05. Outputs of the action research**

### **(a) Tangible outputs**

- Exhaustive data base on various gender equity issues in terms of resources, their availability, control, decision making power, distribution, priorities, existing institutional mechanisms influencing the above etc. have been collected for each of the 15 villages.
- This data has been processed and analyzed and interpreted which has helped communities and Utthan team in the formulation of a future plan of action.
- Proposal for developing full fledged livelihood resource development plans of 15 villages, including gender sensitive institutional mechanisms and development interventions required to ensure gender equity.
- Case studies analyzing various interventions and processes leading to positive social change.
- Resources mobilized from different sources during the year for gender equity issues. For example, in many villages where individual roof water collection tanks have been constructed with women's ownership, women have also been empowered to manage the use of common property resources such as wells.

### **(b) Intangible outputs**

- Increased understanding of the team members and community leaders on gender inequity / equity issues.
- Increased confidence due to improved skills and knowledge for collection of data and its analysis.
- Community leaders both women and men have got motivated in the process and committed to deal with this issue on a long term basis.

- There is articulation and increased level of consciousness on the issues in the community.
- A new perspective built in the team and community for dealing with gender equity issues, e.g., considerable discussion on the role of caste panchayats and hence, the need to sensitize them as well as improving local governance to make it more sensitive and supportive of gender issues.
- Government officials especially at the local level have been sensitized in the process and do show much more support for community action, especially by women.

## **06. Key Observations: Water, Gender and Livelihood Issues**

As Utthan is working in three districts each with their own distinct socio-ecological context, it is imperative that we look at the context underlying Utthan's interventions in each district separately. An attempt is made below to summarize key contextual factors from the case studies undertaken in 15 project villages of Dahod, Bhavnagar and Amreli districts.

### **6.1 Amreli district**

Name of the project villages of Rajula Taluka

- 1) Rabhda
- 2) Ningala
- 3) Kathivadar
- 4) Chanch
- 5) Pipavav

**6.1.1 Agriculture and food security:** In the past there was a greater diversity of crops grown in the region, but with the shift to commercial cropping and a decline in soil fertility, crop yields have decreased. Most agriculture is rain fed; landholdings small and a significant percentage of the population are into groundnut cultivation. Saline ingressions has also affected the quality of the soil and water available for irrigation.

Interventions in water conservation have had an impact on soil quality - for example, in the village of Ningala, about 8 kms away from the main taluka town of Rajula; Kaliben got a yield of 200 kgs from her bajra crop because of the check dam nearby constructed with help from Utthan. With the changes in a number of villages owing to people's own efforts and technical guidance from Utthan, farmers have slowly adopted practices which not only increased their present production but also produced good amount of fodder.

**6.1.2 Employment opportunities:** Apart from agricultural work as cultivators and laborers, other sources of employment in this coastal region include, salt panning and diamond cutting (men only). Male seasonal migration puts a double burden on women's time and responsibilities. Wages are rarely equal and sexual

exploitation of women salt workers is quite common. Utthan's interventions have provided income-generating opportunities for both men and women while also stressing on equal wages for equal work.

**6.1.3 Fuel and fodder needs:** Earlier communities used to meet the fodder needs of their cattle either from their own fields or from community common lands or as in Kathivadar people used seaweed as fodder. However, the decrease in soil fertility coupled with three years of drought has had a severe impact on the number of cattle owned, with only better-off families in most villages being able to meet fodder requirements largely through self-cultivation. In Rabhda village the milk co-operative has closed and in other areas people have had to sell off their cattle. Utthan's watershed programs have had an impact on fodder scarcity as wasteland and pastureland have been used to cultivate fodder. Well recharging has also helped and drinking water facilities have been built for cattle too.

Fodder and fuel collection are largely done by women and not only does scarcity affect their time /workload but the deteriorating quality of fuel has an impact on their health. Utthan has begun initiating biogas plants in some of its villages, but otherwise families depend on local shrubs such as babul (acacia), which is in abundance in these semi-arid areas, twigs (e.g. from cotton plants), crop residues and cow dung.

**Even though, Ramjibhai and Kanchaben could have earned more income by growing groundnut, they preferred fodder too!**

Under the Watershed development project, views of the village groups were taken and a check dam on Ramtali river was constructed in village Rabada. Ramjibhai Gajera, is a small farmer, he belongs to general caste and own 50 VIGHA land on the bank of Ram Tali river. 20 VIGHA of his land has irrigation facilities, while 30 VIGHA land does not have any water facilities. While he mostly plough the land and take decisions on buying and selling of products, his wife Kanchanben carries out all other agriculture operations ranging from sowing, weeding, harvesting and storage of seeds. In the past, he grew groundnuts, millets and grass on his land and used to get 300 kilograms of farm produce per 0.16 hectare of land. He would keep about 100 kgs for home consumption and sell of 200 kgs of groundnuts thus would make income for more than Rs. 3000/-.

After the dam construction, the ground water table has gone up and more water for irrigation is available. Today, he gets about 80 to 100 kilograms additional amount of groundnut. 200 kgs Millet and but they also get 10000 kgs grass in same piece of land. Overall, the family get 350 to 400 kilograms of additional yield. The couple could have grown groundnut in the entire land and tap more income, but Ramjibhai says, "Groundnut would have taken much more water, moreover my wife had to walk long distance to collect fodder for animals and we have been eating millets since long, so we retained our original pattern of cropping". With the additional income, the quality of life for Kanchanben has become much better and that can been seen by the time she gets to rest and participate in various village development activities.



**A Check Dam - village Rabhda. Raiula Taluka. Amreli District**

**6.1.4 Water resources:** Population growth and the intensification of commercialized agriculture have had a significant impact on the quantity and quality of available water. Politics of caste and class also play a role in determining access and control to water. For example, in Ningala village, the dominant Ahir community only allows Kolis and Harijans to fill up water from the community stand posts after they have met their needs, as water supply is irregular and unreliable. Through the construction of water harvesting and conservation systems at both the community and household level, Utthan has been working to reduce the drudgery of women's water collection, resolve conflicts and facilitate community institutions for decentralized water management with women's participation and leadership.

In the village of Rabhda, community organizers initiated women's self-help groups (SHGs) and formed mixed groups of women and men (pani samitis) to look at water problems. Because of the strong patriarchal context, women's participation was limited in the beginning and men folk resented their presence at meetings, arguing that they knew nothing about technical matters. The organizers responded by asking the men: "who collects water in your house?" When they replied that it was their wives who did so, the organizers responded by asking, "Should the person who does the task not know about the problems involved?"

Gradually men accepted that women should be involved in community decision-making processes and there is at least 50 percent participation by women in a number of water related areas. Kathivadar village, about 5 kms away from the coast, is divided into two communities - the dominant Ahir community which is mainly into cultivation and the Kalis, saltpan workers and owners. Here, the women's SHG (Samata Mahila Savings Group) played a critical role in

determining the site for the village well, to be built with help from the GWSSB. While the local water committee had identified a site at a distance from the village, the women insisted that the well should be closer and finally suggested that the well should be dug in/near the village pond. A few men have also begun helping in water collection.

Interestingly, while water conservation, harvesting and recharging have improved the quality of water, it has had an impact on salt preparation - reduced salinity has meant a longer time in salt preparation. But the people are not complaining and have begun networking with other villages along the coast to share their ideas and experiences.

**Solving community water problems through women's initiative:**

**The case of Rabhada**

**Under the watershed development program, it was planned to install 100 hand pumps and for this required amount of funding was available. The amount was enough for only 60 hand pumps. Women, who are involved in one or the other village institution and are quite aware of village development activities, met and stressed their point of making efforts for recharging all the 100 wells, instead of only 60 wells, in the watershed committee meeting. This effort was mainly done by women's mandal through the women representatives and the watershed committee though the no of their representation was small. They ensured and took responsibility for collecting Rs. 150/- from each household and labour contribution. With repairs and recharge of all the hand pumps, about 70% of the village's water problem has been solved. The quality of water has improved considerably and to a certain extent, women are happy as they have somewhat more free time now and less drudgery.**



**Hand Pump Recharging through roof top water harvesting in Rabhada  
village of Rajula Taluka**

### **Kaliben and Amardasbhai share their stories**

About 03 women from Ningala village went for an exposure tour to some villages of Bhavnagar to see roof water collection tanks and their impact. During the visit they interacted with a large number of women and learnt about the benefits of RWCTs. They were very surprised to learn that water fights had reduced due to better availability of water and a place to store the water even if outside tankers still come. On their return, they decided to have similar structures in their houses too. Under the village watershed programme, Utthan assisted in construction of various water structures including check dams (5), recharging of 8 wells and gully plugging. Five RWCTs were also constructed, each costing Rs. 15, 000/- . Families contributed about 20% of the total cost either in cash, kind or labour.

**Kaliben and Amardasbhai, who were the first ones to construct a RWCT in their house, say, " Now we get water in summers too and Kaliben does not have to spend much time collecting water. Her health has improved, while overall fights over water have reduced in the village. People use the tank for storing water from outside tankers. In the past they never had this facility and about 20% water used to go waste due to fights and no proper place for storage.**

**6.1.5 Health and sanitation:** None of the villages have any primary health care facilities and visits by government health workers are also limited. Water scarcity affects personal hygiene as well as the availability of food and nutrition needs. Gender discrimination in health care, including nutrition, cut across caste and class differences as women's health needs have the lowest priority and in most cases they eat after men and children. As a result, many women suffer from anemia and bear underweight children. Reliance on local witchdoctors is not uncommon and women are often the victims of wrong diagnosis.

Utthan has initiated work in basic healthcare, hygiene awareness and sanitation, training local health workers, linking them to the PHCs and conducting awareness camps in schools and community centers.

### **Women's SHG takes action for community health**

The women of Bhumika Bachat Mandal of Kathivadar village are aware of the roles of health worker in the village. When jaundice struck, the women together wrote a letter to the PHC asking for immediate help to prevent the spread of the disease. The group took responsibility for spreading right messages to the people to take all kinds of precautionary measures and informed villagers about the referral services. All this helped villagers in not wasting time on superstitious beliefs or visiting unprofessional so-called doctors. Interestingly, some men were seen taking women to the primary health centers rather than to witch doctors, even for other diseases.

## **6.2 Bhavnagar District**

Name of the project villages of Ghogha taluka

- 1) Neswad,
- 2) Mithi Virdi,
- 3) Nathugadh
- 4) Goriyali,
- 5) Valespur

**6.2.1 Agriculture and food security:** In all Utthan's project villages in Bhavnagar district, farming is essentially rain-fed and with the intensification of agriculture, water tables have depleted. This has implications for agricultural productivity, food security and agricultural labor. Consequently, seasonal migration to the diamond polishing industry, the shipyard at Alang and construction work provides alternative sources of employment.

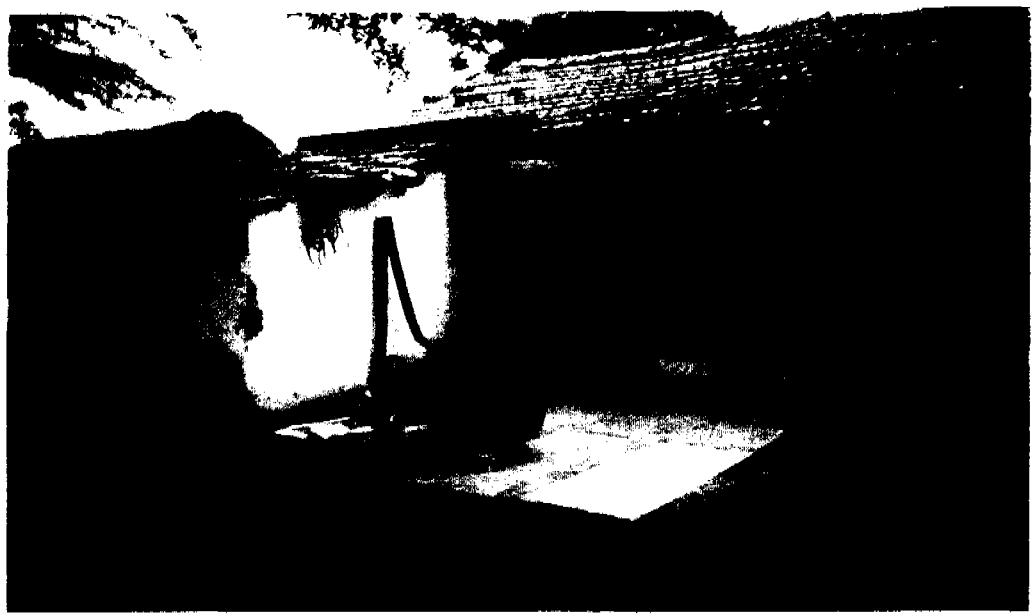
**6.2.2 Water resources:** With the breakdown of the joint family in rural areas and the consequent increase in the number of nuclear families, the number of wells has also increased, as households who can afford to would like to have their own private well. Water extraction has also become mechanized. This has had an impact on the water table and coupled with the lack of rainfall over the past three years, has had an impact on water availability.

Water collection is mainly women's responsibility though in villages where Utthan has been providing rainwater collection tanks these roles are beginning to change. Women are also beginning to have a greater say in decision-making around the construction of water assets such as wells.

#### **Neswad: Monghiben fights to ensure water work for women and her village**

With financial support from the Ghogha regional water supply and sanitation project (sponsored by Royal Netherlands Embassy). Utthan has been providing technical guidance to the villagers of Neswad to tackle their water problems. Interventions included creating structures like roof water collection tanks, bathing place, stand post, cattle trough etc. Since the water crisis was so severe, the people somehow managed to collect and contribute Rs. 3 lakhs for the construction of different structures. They decided that the work would be done through gram panchayat and the villagers would do all the labor work, as part of employment generation. Unfortunately, the Sarpanch decided to initiate all the work using machines. When Monghiben learnt about this, she called a meeting of the members and asked them to react strongly against using the machine. They all contacted Utthan's staff and stopped Sarpanch from using machines. People got work and earned money too!

Monghiben is always seen fighting for people's rights. Initially, when she took initiative in forming the groups, villagers opposed her meeting Utthan's staff, or motivating other women. Fortunately, she has always got support from her husband. She has also traveled to Delhi and made a presentation on the life of women in the conditions of water scarcity for the entire Ghogha area of Bhavnagar district in 2001.



**Roof Top Water Harvesting Structure / Tank – village Neshvad, Bhavnagar  
SECURE WATER AT THE DOOR STEP**



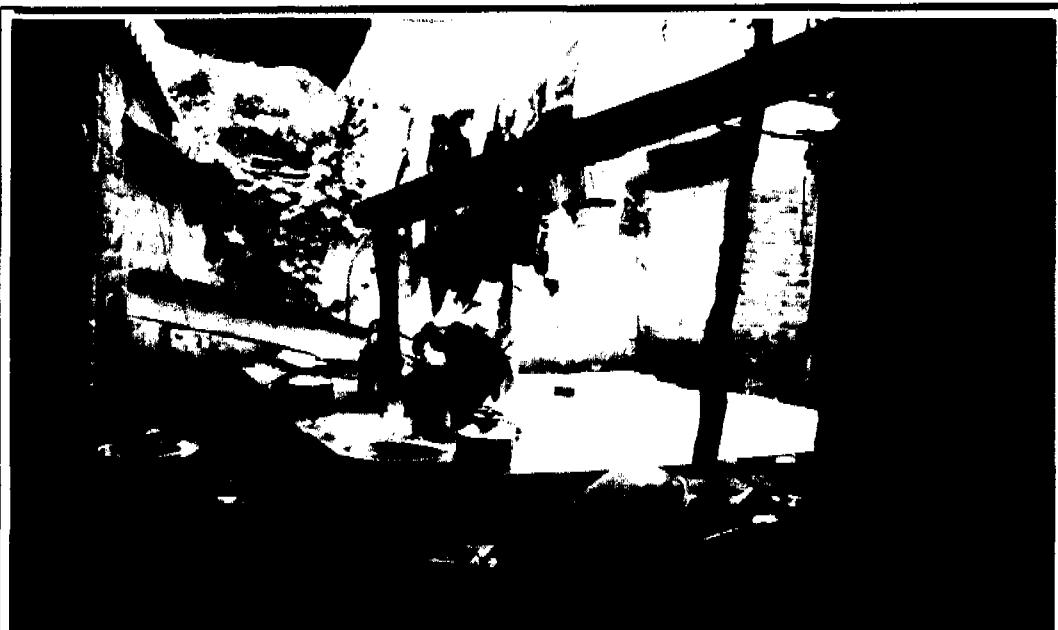
**Pure water harvested from roof top in an underground tank – village  
Neswad, Bhavnagar**

### **Change in gender roles: the case of Mithi Virdi**

**Utthan started working in Mithi Virdi since 1999. Mithi Virdi; 'mithi' means sweet and 'virdi' means a place where water collects. Even though, the village is just two kilometers from the seashore, in the past, as the name indicates, the water in the village was sweet. The village is inhabited by 1714 people belonging to Kolis, Darbars, Brahmins, Bavas, Bharawads, Vagaries, etc. Major occupations in the village are farming and livestock rearing, while some people go for diamond polishing in nearby urban areas. The village has a primary school, transportation services and electricity.**

**In the past, enough sweet water, both for drinking and irrigation was available, but owing to less rains, over exploitation of water resources and increased population, water specially for drinking became scarce. Land is slowly becoming saline and water polluted. Women spent most of their time in fetching water from far off places which affected their health. Children tend to loiter around in the absence of parents. Male adolescents and adults started facing problems getting married as villagers from better off villages would not like to marry their daughters in this village because they felt that their daughters will have to work very hard in the absence of water.**

**Utthan mobilized villagers and two women's group having 31 members, a water committee with equal numbers of men and women has been formed so far. About 112 roof water collection tanks have been constructed in the village, many households had no or less space for RWCT structures, and villagers therefore converted private land into common plot so as to facilitate water access for everyone. Groups take responsibilities for maintaining and solving water problems themselves. RWCTs have led to increase in ground water level and availability of fresh water for drinking. Villagers are sensitive enough to use the water only for drinking and not for irrigation; they are quite aware of the process of sea intrusion. With the time saved from water fetching, women now earn more by taking up available employment generation opportunities. Today, each family is able to afford 2-3 water tankers from outside and use the storage space for storing water to combat crises. The women have taken initiative for sending proposals for recharging of all sources of water. Interestingly, in this village, one can see change in gender roles; men are seen taking up some of women's roles such as men helping women in not only taking water for themselves but also helping in them in other household activities and women are seen meeting officials for troubleshooting.**



**Man is helping women in not only taking water for themselves but also helping them in other household activities – Village Mithi Virdi, Bhavnagar**

**6.2.3 Health and sanitation:** Water scarcity and the increasing use of hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have had an impact on the environment and the quality of life, particularly for women. However, Utthan's programs on health and sanitation have had an impact on personal hygiene - people are using a ladle to draw water out from pots, children comb their hair and cut nails regularly. In the village of Goriyali where garbage used to be dumped near water sources, people are trying to find alternative space for waste disposal. Soak pits outside the houses have made streets look much cleaner in many of the villages. Inclusion of bathing places for women has resulted in better hygienic and health conditions.



**Hygiene & Sanitation Activity: A Soak Pit in village Nesvad, Bhavnagar**

**6.2.4 Fodder and Fuel Resources:** Fodder scarcity in recent years has been acute and most villagers are compelled to purchase fodder from local markets. Men have begun to help women in collecting /purchasing fodder and transporting it by cart or cycle back to their farms for storage. Fuel needs are largely met from the babul tree, crop residues and farmyard manure. This is again mostly women's work.

### **6.3 Dahod district**

Name of the project villages of Dhanpur block

- 1) Pipodara,
- 2) Agaswani,
- 3) Ghodazar,
- 4) Zambu
- 5) Khazuri

**6.3.1 Agriculture and food security:** Unlike the two coastal districts, the terrain in Dahod is more undulating (hilly) and cultivable land is less. In this largely adivasi dominated area, people survived mostly on subsistence agriculture and men were responsible for agriculture decision-making. Migration of both men and women was not uncommon. Utthan's interventions, particularly watershed programs have led to a diversification in crops grown, for example, vegetables and cash crops such as ginger. Soil and water conservation measures, improved agricultural methods and community forestry programs with women's participation have seen an increased role for women in decision-making.

Women are involved in promoting horticulture and nursery plantations and have also started home-based industries such as making jute ropes, weaving bamboo.

#### Agaswani village

Lalitaben used to leave her house at about 5 am to collect fodder from nearby forest. The forest guards used to harass her and sometimes they would get into fights. Under the watershed development project, she grew baman grass in hillock of her wasteland and took lot of care. In the first year, she got 14,022 pudas of grass. Second year, she got 16,000 pudas. From the income, she bought cows and buffaloes. Today, she has four buffaloes and two cows. Learning from her, about 53 women initiated this effort and today, these women send about 155 liters of milk to Panchayat milk cooperative, they have thus raised their income by growing fodder and are able to keep healthy cattle.

- 6.3.2 Fodder and Fuel:** As with other forest-dependent communities the Bhils too have had their forest rights curtailed by the Forest Department over the years. Utthan has initiated participatory forest management programs, through which communities are able to meet their fodder and fuel needs. Household biogas plants have also been introduced in some villages. Increase in the availability of fodder has had an impact on milk production and some families have begun selling milk and milk products in the local market through Panchamahal Milk Cooperative.

#### Pipodra village

In the past, the forest was nearby and collecting of wood was easy. Women faced problems and had to walk further to collect fuel wood, which the Forest Department considered as "stealing by them". Utthan initiated the process of formation of groups of both men and women. Women discussed the issue of fuel wood, the groups decided to form a JFM committee three years ago. They have grown grass and other trees; most trees are those that were preferred by women. 91 ha of land have been afforested by the committee and the benefits have been shared by 300 families equitably.

- 6.3.3 Employment:** With the reduction in ground water table in many villages, the on-farm employment opportunities declined forcing men to migrate to other places for earning a living. Women tended to stay behind and look after children and the elderly as well as manage the land. In the scarcity relief work by the government there used to be wage differences amongst men and women even for the equal amount of work. Interventions facilitated by Utthan have led to the diversification of agriculture and allied non-farm activities, and distress migration at least has reduced considerably.

Women have also fought and succeeded in getting equal wages. In the year 2001, women from all project villages got together and presented memoranda to various government offices at the district level, asking for equal wages, social security,

and minimum healthcare facilities. With a view to provide employment to women home based activities in terms of horticulture, vegetable plantation, bamboo products making, nursery raising, poultry raising and so on are promoted. This has helped women to generate income by selling fruits and vegetables in markets.



**Women succeeded in getting equal wages**

Thus inequalities in employment are reduced.

#### **Women trap the Talati - Ghodajar village**

**Since the last five years, the villagers get work within the village due to a number of watershed activities carried out by Utthan. In the year 2001, the government took up drought relief work in the village so as to generate employment of the villagers. The Talati was responsible for making payments. Women observed that he was paying lesser amount by Rs. 50/- to Rs.250/- to the people. At the time of next payment, the women prepared a list of all those people who were eligible for collecting payment. When Talati did the same thing, they got together, made a ring around the Talati, some women took out money from his pocket and started paying the money as per the rules. They took signatures / thumb prints of all, and submitted the list to the higher authorities. The same Talati is now never seen in the village!**

### Agaswani

In 2001, women group in this village felt that it would be more useful if they deepen the pond rather than construct the road under the drought relief work from the Government. They therefore made this point to the MLA of that area. Due to the deepening of well, the pond got filled with water from first rain of 2002 and it is addressing the needs of people. Women groups of the area sent a proposal to Government to give equal wages to men and women, this request has been guaranteed.



Men and Women succeeded in getting the equal wages from government in well deepening and recharging activity

**6.3.4 Water Resources:** Well deepening and water recharging activities through Utthan's watershed programs have had an impact on water availability. Women have played a critical role in these interventions at both the community and household level and have begun to ask for water assets at the household level to be registered in their names.

#### When Maniben changed her attitudes

Maniben residing in the village of Ghodajar used to get just one crop in a year that too depended on rains. She would always say, "What can we grow in this small piece of land?" In 1999, Utthan started facilitating interventions for increasing water tables by constructing a check dam and providing technical guidance on agriculture. Today Maniben is able to grow vegetables in all the three seasons. She herself goes to the market and sells surplus vegetables after keeping some for the household. Food security and health status over the years has increased. Like her, another 47 farmers now get enough water; they too grow vegetables and other cash crops, apart from cereals and pulses to meet their food security needs.



**Vegetable Plot – Village Ghodazar, Dahod district**

**6.3.5 Health and Sanitation:** Prior to Utthan's interventions the health situation in these remote villages was very poor and infant mortality as well as dependence on local witch doctors was high. Women's health needs were given little priority and they often had miscarriages due to far off hospitals. Common ailments like skin allergies, colds and coughs prevailed because of unhygienic conditions. With the training of health workers and basic health awareness the situation is slowly changing. Utthan has facilitated various healthcare activities like health awareness programs, cleanliness campaigns thrice a year, superstitions eradication programs through street plays etc. Moreover, health workers from villages have been trained to carry out basic healthcare activities. Midwives have also been trained. All this has cumulatively improved the healthcare situation in the project villages.

**Villagers monitor the health centers**

In the past, the people of Agaswani village were quite ignorant about health and hygiene related issues. One would see litters all around and people had the habit of storing cow-dung near their homes. As a result, the village would have a bad smell and mosquitoes, flies etc were seen all around. Even though, both men and women groups were there, but they used to function separately. Utthan organized training for both groups on issues of health. Groups got together and they managed to get a small primary health center opened with the help of the Government. The groups regularly monitor the functioning of the center. Those women, who know the work of midwife, give services in this center. One of the doctors from PHC, used to take Rs. 50/- to 100/- from the people as fees, women took out a rally for this and within a week this doctor got transferred. Today, the village has a women extension worker, who works as a change agent and make efforts to prevent varied kinds of diseases.

### Zoriben's case

In the past, the villagers used to get together on seeing any stranger in the village. Utthan staff first met people in Magankaka's house. Zoriben used to take lot of interest in listening to Utthan's style of working and she would spread messages to other women by going personally to each and every hamlet in the village. Gradually women organized themselves into self-help groups; they slowly became mature by holding regular meetings and adhering to group rules. Once, when Zoriben went to Ladia hamlet, she found women were facing severe water problems. She took the help of her husband and prepared a resolution for installing a hand pump under the water resource development project. It so happened that the site for hand pump was more appropriate in the field of Zoriben. Even though, the crop of *tuver* was standing, Zoriben did not mind spoiling some of her crop for the installation of the pump. The pump functioned very well for eight months, but then it broke down and needed to be repaired. Zoriben discussed this issue in the meeting, but no one took any initiative. She sent a proposal for repair to the GWSSB, but for certain parts, she paid Rs. 450/- from her own pocket and later collected the money from members. Learning from this experience, women from each hamlet sent proposals to the Government and they managed to install hand pumps in each hamlet.

## 07. Constraints and achievements:

### 7.1 Constraints

We found that collection of information in the second phase was more complex and required better capabilities to facilitate discussion and data collection. Specifically, the critical issues of ownership, control over resources as well as women's involvement in decision making often created a tense situation in the communities where they saw the exercise as a threat and instigation of those who were dis-empowered.

On the issue of what was desirable, there was little disagreement on priorities to livelihood issues in terms of resource building and resource allocation. However, there was not much enthusiasm, especially amongst men in terms of changing their roles and responsibilities and sharing of entitlements of assets with women. Hence in terms of strengthening mechanisms for gender equity they saw little role for any institution to intervene in this arena. For the team, it was a major learning that gender issues require much sustained efforts and strategic support to change the situation in favor of women.

The Kutch earthquake in January 2001 followed by the communal carnage between late February to April / May 2002 delayed the process of completion. As the head of the organisation, Ms Nafisa Barot and one of the key resource persons Dr. Sara Ahmed both belong to the minority community; they had constraints in meeting with the team or going to the field for several months. This meant that they were not able to provide

direct inputs to the teams during some critical data collection from the communities.

Although, gender equity is high on the agenda of many of the resource agencies there are not many who are willing to invest in Gujarat. Hence, for pursuing the outcome of this exercise we would require much greater efforts and support for mobilizing the required resources especially for the software activities, which would enable institutionalization of gender equity.

In the context of self-governance, it was frustrating to learn that not many present Panchayats were interested in addressing the issues of livelihood from a gender equity point of view.

## 7.2 **Achievements**

Our major achievement could be seen as completing our exercise in understanding gender equity in water resource management, which has equipped the team better in taking up the issue on a large scale. It is not only the team members who were directly involved in this exercise who have benefited, but also rest of the team with whom constant sharing was done have been sensitized and equipped with a better understanding.

Our identity as an organisation pursuing systematically the non-negotiable principle of gender equity both at community level and with other resource agencies has emerged clearly.

We have been able to generate funding for water resource development and use it effectively to have an impact on gender equity. Case studies are good examples to demonstrate the effectiveness of such an approach. In other words we have been able to demonstrate a few successful viable models (both technical and social) to bring about better gender equity.

Both team and communities learnt how they could link gender equity to other issues through inputs in critical areas like water management, if they are clear from the beginning about the principle, approach, methodology and indicators.

An informal community level platform has evolved to facilitate and initiate dialogue between men and women in many villages which are traditionally patriarchal and where women have for long been bound by the practice of *purdah*. Watershed committees in many villages will not take a decision till they have the opinion and consent of the women members of the *mahila mandal*. Or, one has increasingly found communities having extensive discussions on accessing resources for a health center in the village, particularly important for women, and how they could contribute to that.

In many of our village meetings and formal discussion forums, the issue of communal harmony and secular democracy was discussed and was seen as an extremely important and essential component to ensure gender equity.

In each area, we found a number of extremely motivated and vibrant leaders from watershed committees, water committees, a couple of men sarpanches, a number of women sarpanches, school teachers, members from the Banks, few members of the caste panchayats, etc. who are enthusiastic to join us in this effort to bring about change on a scale.

#### **08. Future Plan of Action**

Communities in 15 villages and the Utthan team have developed detailed village level Livelihood Management Plans. This includes not only the quantifiable but also the qualitative indicators, along with the institutional mechanism to ensure gender equity on various aspects, as identified during the action research. Utthan would like to help the community based social entrepreneurs in these villages to translate their vision into action. A joint proposal of communities and Utthan would be submitted to Ford Foundation and other potential partners for support.

#### **09. Financial Report**

Enclosed herewith the copy of financial report for:

- (1) Un-audited Last six months and
- (2) Un-audited overall receipts and payments of the project.

We will be sending you soon the audited statement of accounts for the same.

## **Annexure 01**

### **Minutes of the meeting “Discussing on the Livelihood Management Plans under the project “Gender Equity in WRM”**

**Held on** : **January 8, 2002**  
**At** : **Hotel Blue Hill, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India**  
**Participants** : **Village Leaders, Members of Support Team, Ahmedabad, Dr. Sara Ahmed and members of Ford Foundation project team.**

On January 08, 2002 a meeting was held to discuss on the livelihood plans under gender equity project at hotel Blue Hill, Bhavnagar. Village leaders, members of support team (including Ms. Nafisa Barot, Ms. Sejal Dave, & Mr. Kaushik Raval), Dr. Sara Ahmad – Gender Consultant, the ford foundation project team, and few village leaders attended the meeting were participated in the meeting.

The meeting started by briefing about the status of the project on gender equity and the analysis of the data collected of fifteen villages in the working areas of Utthan.

The meeting was planned to discuss further on the gender equity project in terms of finding out the loop holes in the data collected and get the information by involving village leaders and VLIs members, plan the livelihood tactics for managing their lives in severe drought situation.

It was further discussed amongst the group by imagining a gender just society that has equity as far as class and caste are concerned. For planning the phase two activities the below mentioned points were discussed:

#### **Studying gender equity in terms of work and role distribution of men and women for various chores like**

- Managing drinking water
- Forming men's groups who are active for village development activities
- Creating sensitivity amongst men and the cast panchyat regarding gender equity
- Enhancing women's control specifically on the water structures and encouraging their decision making power on the same
- Formation of an equity committee that then has to be linked with other VLIs
- Creating consciousness amongst the villagers to rethink on various customs and traditions
- Encouraging the men and women to have their joint accounts in the banks

## Annexure 02

### **Minutes of the meeting “Discussing on the Livelihood Management Plans under the project “Gender Equity in WRM”**

**Held on** : **May 6, 2002**  
**At** : **Utthan Head Office, Ahmedabad**  
**Participants** : **All the members of gender equity WRM study team, Program coordinators of each team and support team members**

Due to tense situation, Ms Sara Ahmad had to cancel her visit for the purpose.

#### **Objective:**

To assess the status of the program and ensure same level of understanding of process at different levels. The team was also supposed to be evolving Livelihood management plan together with the core gender sensitive leader group of different villages. In that context following was discussed:

01. There is no specific design for livelihood management plan
02. It was decided that information collection for LMP would be done based on the criteria articulated by the various gender sensitive leaders as well as from the context of what is desirable. The information would not only be in terms of quality and quantity of the different issues but the institutional mechanisms and processes which need to be in place to ensure gender equity, through water resource management. In this context identifying existing potential institutions which may help in bringing about this changed would have to be identified and therefor one needs to understand their functioning closely.

Following LMP issues were identified for which qualitative and quantitative information would be collected, in order to help communities make their LMPs from the context of gender equity.

#### **ISSUES TO BE STUDIED:**

01. Water: drinking and other usage
02. Farming
03. Health and hygiene
04. Food security
05. Fodder/ Animal husbandry
06. Fuel
07. Employment

The above issues would be studied for their inequalities in terms of:

- Biodiversity
- Gender
- Caste
- Class
- Land ownership
- Geology

For example checking the control and ownership on water sources like well in the village, decision of planting cash crop or security crop by the male or female? Are women involved in decision making processes proactively?

These inequalities are to be closely studied through various existing institutions such as:

- Religious/ caste groups
- Panchayat
- School
- Bank
- Government schemes
- Economic rights
- Ownership & control
- Decision making
- Information & awareness
- Administration
- Strategies

03. Identifying inequalities in fifteen villages
04. Writing village wise case studies that should have Name of the person, village, existing situation

05.

| No | Activities   |
|----|--|
| 01 | Meeting with villagers to fill up the missing information in the study   |
| 02 | Meetings with the community leaders to share findings of phase 1 research study and facilitate dialogue on equity issues   |
| 03 | Gram Sabhas to share the research findings with the villagers  |
| 04 | Capacity building of the team members to address equity issues focusing gender aspect  |
| 05 | Identification and study of cases in five villages of each area focusing on livelihood issues viz. water, food security, health, employment, fodder and fuel that have brought changes in the attitudes and behavioral pattern of people                                 |
| 06 | Capacity building of the team to prepare village wise livelihood management plans by considering existing quantity and quality of the resource, calculating the actual requirement and further planning interventions to meet the requirements for livelihood management |
| 06 | Planning the livelihood management plans   |

### **Annexure 03**

#### **Minutes of the workshop on "Sharing the outcome of the study – Gender Equity in WRM**

**At :** Bhavanagar at Hotel Blue Hill.  
**Dates :** 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2002  
**Participants :** All the team members involved in Gender equity in WRM from three areas, their team leaders, members from support team Ahmedabad and resource persons Ms. Sara Ahmad and Meena Bilgi – resource persons.

#### **Objective of the workshop:**

To share the outcome of the study carried out in various villages on the Livelihood issues identified in the previous workshop in terms of inequity which existed before the interventions of the organisation and the present status, i.e. after the intervention. As well develop the in depth indicators for case studies to assess the gender equity impact on various livelihood issues, due to intervention.

#### **Process and content:**

After a brief introduction all members shared what they had documented in the above context.

- Laxmanbhai started the session by orienting about the prevailing inequalities in the villages while carrying out livelihood chores, how these inequalities can be reduced and/or eradicated by the organizational interventions. Earlier it was discussed & decided that the team would make LMP with villagers' participation by arranging gramsabha and case study would also be noted down. This could vary with the village, as the villages selected for this project are old/ moderate/ new as far as the duration of work with particular village is concerned.
- The case of Agasvani village of Limkheda was discussed in detail by focusing on issues like water, health, fuel & fodder, food security, animals husbandry, etc. in particular it was decided that inequities in terms of distribution of role/ responsibilities are to be studied and the areas wise team has to write the existing inequities, impacts of interventions on the inequities.
- All the seven issues were discussed area wise to know & study the prevailing inequities.
- After completing the study of inequalities and case studies, livelihood management plans are to be developed. It was decided to influence organizations like school, panchyat, caste panchyat, government etc. it was also decided to include the budgetary details in the LMP.
- The team is asked to illustrate on the issues discussed and write case study and send to the central office by June 20, 2002.

- It was observed that the documentation was quite analytical in nature but still had some gaps as well as not enough case studies were documented to substantiate the analysis. The gaps were identified in terms of what more needed to be documented and then outlining of the issues, aspects of inequalities , process of intervention and the impact /indicators which have been observed, was done to help write case studies.

This outline was as below:

| No | ISSUES             | INEQUALITIES   | INTERVENTION/PROCESS  | Indicators  |
|----|--------------------|--|---|---|
| 1  | Water:<br>Limkheda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender</li> <li>○ Irrigation/Drinking water</li> <li>○ Geology</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water Resource Management (WRM)</li> <li>○ VLIs: Panchyat, School, Bank, Caste group/panch</li> <li>○ Network</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Management</li> <li>○ Decision making</li> <li>○ Priority to DW at the cost of irrigation</li> <li>○ Men take more responsibility</li> <li>○ SHG contribution for well deepening &amp; mobilized contribution</li> <li>○ Converted private property into common</li> <li>○ Interest into new interventions</li> <li>○ Policy influencing for draught management</li> <li>○ Ownership and asset building of women</li> </ul>  |
|    | Bhavnagar          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender</li> <li>○ Caste/ Class</li> <li>○ Irrigation/DW</li> <li>○ Industry/DW</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WRM: Water Shed, RWCT</li> <li>○ Sanitation/ hygiene</li> <li>○ VLIs</li> <li>○ School Program</li> <li>○ Bank</li> <li>○ Decentralized hygiene/sanitation &amp; distribution system</li> <li>○ Religious group</li> <li>○ Policy advocacy</li> <li>○ Govt. liaisoning</li> <li>○ Network</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Management &amp; decision making</li> <li>○ Monitoring &amp; supervision</li> <li>○ Priority to DW</li> <li>○ Responsibility &amp; ownership</li> <li>○ Awareness/information</li> <li>○ People's contribution</li> <li>○ Converting private property into common</li> <li>○ Enhanced girls' education</li> <li>○ Increased opportunities for income generation</li> <li>○ Taking up further initiative for water resources</li> <li>○ Status identity for water committee</li> <li>○ Networking &amp; connection with larger movement</li> <li>○ Increased women's participation in meetings</li> <li>○ Appropriate and adequate usage of DW</li> <li>○ Soakpits/leachpits</li> <li>○ Hygienic environment near the water sources</li> <li>○ Change and acceptance of new roles in male/female</li> </ul> |

|   |                            |  |   |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|--|
|   | Rajula                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gender</li> <li>o Caste/ Class</li> <li>o Irrigation/DW</li> <li>o Industry/DW</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o WRM</li> <li>o VLIs</li> <li>o Bank</li> <li>o School program</li> <li>o Religious group</li> <li>o Policy advocacy</li> <li>o Networking</li> <li>o Govt. liaisoning</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Management, decision making, responsibility, supervision</li> <li>o Awareness/information</li> <li>o Local contribution</li> <li>o Increased women's participation</li> <li>o Ownership, control &amp; power</li> <li>o Private source converted into private</li> <li>o Self initiative for alternate water source</li> <li>o Sustainable maintenance of water sources</li> <li>o Skill building</li> <li>o Status identity of water committee</li> <li>o Enhanced girls' education</li> <li>o Increased accessibility &amp; quality of DW</li> <li>o Change &amp; acceptance of new roles in male and female</li> </ul> |
| 2 | Health & hygiene: Limkheda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gender: superstition, health services</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Health awareness: curative &amp; preventive</li> <li>o Awareness of superstition</li> <li>o Capacity building of health workers and mid wives</li> <li>o Primary health services by health workers</li> <li>o Interaction with other organization (CHETANA, GVHO, ETC.)</li> <li>o Linkages with networks</li> <li>o Information/awareness about duties of doctors, PHC, reproductive health, aurvedic medicines and plants</li> <li>o Hygiene promotion training to anganwadi workers</li> <li>o Awareness on personal hygiene &amp; sexual rights over one's body</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Availability of PH services in the village</li> <li>o Major reduction in superstition practices</li> <li>o Immediate access to health care services</li> <li>o Awareness and adoption of better hygiene practices specifically by women &amp; children</li> <li>o Reduction in mortality rate due to availability of mid wives services</li> <li>o Revival of use of traditional medicines &amp; good practices</li> <li>o Improved child care by men and women</li> </ul>  |
|   | Bhavnagar                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gender: nutrition, hygiene related roles &amp; responsibility, overall heavy household responsibility, access to health services</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Health awareness: curative &amp; preventive</li> <li>o Capacity building of health workers &amp; teacher for hygiene promotion</li> <li>o Primary health services by health workers</li> <li>o Interaction with other organization (CHETANA, GVHO, ETC.)</li> <li>o Linkages with networks</li> <li>o Health and sanitation as major campaign through school program</li> <li>o Awareness about personal hygiene</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Availability of PH services in the village</li> <li>o Immediate access to health care services</li> <li>o Awareness and adoption of better hygiene practices</li> <li>o Awareness and adoption of better personal hygiene practices</li> <li>o Hygiene promotion and monitoring by teachers</li> <li>o Increased awareness while the process of child birth</li> <li>o Self initiative on improved hygiene practices</li> <li>o Initiation in reducing inequalities in food distribution</li> <li>o Involvement of children for hygiene promotion at family level</li> </ul>  |

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
|   |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Demonstration and promotion of soakpits/leachpits</li> <li>○ Water quality related training through water testing</li> </ul>  |   |
|   | Rajula   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender: nutrition, hygiene related roles &amp; responsibility, overall heavy household responsibility, access to health services</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Health awareness program</li> <li>○ Training to health workers</li> <li>○ Awareness to reproductive health rights</li> <li>○ Linkages with PHC/CSC &amp; networking with other organization</li> <li>○ Hygiene awareness program through school program</li> <li>○ Primary health services by health workers</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased awareness in the villagers</li> <li>○ Availability of medicines by health workers</li> <li>○ Awareness and adoption of better hygiene practices</li> <li>○ Involvement of children for hygiene promotion at family level</li> </ul>  |
| 3 | Agriculture – food crop, Food security: Limkheda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender: ownership, control, decision making</li> <li>○ Class</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> <li>○ Geology</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WRM</li> <li>○ Improved agricultural practices</li> <li>○ Training of women farmers</li> <li>○ Horticulture plots</li> <li>○ Vegetable garden</li> <li>○ Economic crops – ginger</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased production &amp; crops</li> <li>○ Increased food grains</li> <li>○ Increased nutrition in the family</li> <li>○ Increased income by selling vegetable</li> <li>○ Change in variety and quality of agriculture produce due to better land</li> </ul>  |
|   | Bhavnagar  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Caste/class</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WRM</li> <li>○ Improved agricultural practices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased food crops and variety</li> <li>○ Reduced burden on women for going out &amp; forced migration</li> </ul>  |
|   | Rajula   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender: ownership, control, decision making</li> <li>○ Caste/Class</li> <li>○ Areas</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WRM: farm ponds, bunds, well recharging</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved agricultural practices</li> <li>○ Increased crop production</li> <li>○ Reduced salinity</li> </ul>  |
| 4 | Employment: Limkheda                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender: wages, work/labor, skilled &amp; unskilled workers (women treated as unskilled workers), sexual harassment causing reduced</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Policy advocacy for equal wages</li> <li>○ Enforcing and ensuring equal wages</li> <li>○ Creating equal opportunities in work through training for skill development</li> <li>○ Organizing &amp; awareness about their rights (women)</li> <li>○ New opportunities by linking with resources / markets &amp; building on the traditional occupation</li> <li>○ Feasibility study of exploring market/resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased crop production</li> <li>○ Equal wage distribution</li> <li>○ Information &amp; awareness of rights through organization</li> <li>○ Increased no. of women going for employment &amp; hence increasing income level</li> <li>○ More control of women in spending money</li> <li>○ Increased assets in terms of cattle/savings/agriculture asset</li> <li>○ Increased interest in exploring new employment opportunities though appropriate market/resources</li> </ul> |

|  |           |  |  |  |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|
|  |           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ employment opportunity, different life cycle of women</li> <li>○ Resources between people &amp; govt.</li> <li>○ Class</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> <li>○ Religious group</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WS activities</li> </ul>  |  |
|  | Bhavnagar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender: wages, work/labour, skilled &amp; unskilled workers (women treated as unskilled workers)</li> <li>○ Caste based constraints and class</li> <li>○ Increased domestic burden on women</li> <li>○ Labour on women</li> <li>○ Resources between people &amp; govt. / private companies</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> <li>○ Resource investment due to administrative boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Policy advocacy for equal wages</li> <li>○ Enforcing and ensuring equal wages</li> <li>○ Creating equal opportunities in work through training for skill development</li> <li>○ Organizing &amp; awareness about their rights (women)</li> <li>○ New opportunities by linking with resources / markets</li> <li>○ Feasibility study of exploring market/resources</li> <li>○ WS activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased crop production</li> <li>○ Equal wage distribution</li> <li>○ Information &amp; awareness of rights through organization</li> <li>○ Increased no. of women going for employment &amp; hence increasing income level</li> <li>○ More control of women in spending money</li> <li>○ Increased purchases of agricultural inputs in terms of fertilizers/ seeds</li> <li>○ Increased interest in exploring new employment opportunities through appropriate market/resources</li> </ul> |
|  | Rajula    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender: wages, work/labour, skilled &amp; unskilled workers (women</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Policy advocacy for equal wage</li> <li>○ Watershed activity</li> <li>○ Awareness of women's rights</li> <li>○ Skill building trainings (few)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased crop production</li> <li>○ Information &amp; awareness of rights through organization</li> <li>○ Increased skills</li> <li>○ More control of women in spending money</li> </ul>   |

|   |                |   |  |   |
|---|----------------|---|--|---|
|   |                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ treated as unskilled workers)</li> <li>○ Caste based constraints and class</li> <li>○ Increased domestic burden on women</li> <li>○ Labour on women</li> <li>○ Resources between people &amp; govt. / private companies</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> <li>○ Resource investment due to administrative boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New opportunities by linking with resources / markets (few)</li> <li>○ Feasibility study of exploring market/resources</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased interest in exploring new employment opportunities through appropriate market/resources</li> <li>○ Increased assets in terms of savings</li> </ul>   |
| 5 | Fuel: Limkheda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Formation of Joint Forest Management groups</li> <li>○ WS activity: plantation of fuel</li> <li>○ Few demonstration of bio-gas</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Availability of fuel through JFM/WS</li> <li>○ Reduction in the usage of fuel like fire wood die to bio-gas (few)</li> <li>○ Reduced drudgery on women's health through bio-gas/availability of fuel in nearby areas</li> <li>○ Availability of vegetative fuel &amp; cow dung cake</li> </ul> |
|   | Bhavnagar      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awareness of bio-gas plant &amp; Nirdhum chulhas</li> <li>○ WS: plantation of fuel trees</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Availability of fuel through WS</li> <li>○ Reduced drudgery on women's health through availability of fuel in nearby areas</li> <li>○ Changed roles of men(bring fuel from farm on the way back home)</li> <li>○ Availability of vegetative fuel &amp; cow dung cake</li> </ul>                |
|   | Rajula         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender</li> <li>○ Biodiversity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awareness of bio-gas plant &amp; Nirdhum chulhas</li> <li>○ WS: plantation of fuel trees</li> <li>○ Few demonstration of bio-gas &amp; Nirdhum chulhas</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Availability of fuel through WS</li> <li>○ Reduced drudgery on women's health through availability of fuel in nearby areas</li> <li>○ Changed roles of men(bring fuel from farm on the way back home)</li> <li>○ Availability of vegetative fuel &amp; cow dung cake</li> </ul>                |

|   |                     |  |  |  |
|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
|   |                     |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Reduction in the usage of fuel like fire wood due to bio-gas (few)</li> </ul>   |
| 6 | Fodder:<br>Limkheda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Gender</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Biodiversity</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Quality &amp; quantity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> JFM</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Promotion of grass growing on wasteland (through WS)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Distribution of grass cutter</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Organized improved fodder management through collective efforts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Availability of grass in quality and quantity through JFM/WS</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Reduced drudgery on women</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Promotion of cattle rearing</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Availability of cost effective fodder and reduced corruption</li> </ul> |
|   | Bhavnagar           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Gender</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Biodiversity</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Quality &amp; quantity</li> </ul> | <input type="radio"/> Grass growing in wasteland and seed distribution   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Availability of grass in quality &amp; quantity through WS</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Reduced drudgery on women's health</li> </ul>   |
|   | Rajula              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Gender</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Biodiversity</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Quality &amp; quantity</li> </ul> | <input type="radio"/> Grass growing in wasteland and seed distribution   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Availability of grass in quality &amp; quantity through WS</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Reduced drudgery on women's health</li> </ul>   |

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**Financial Statement for the period 15th November, 2001 to 14th May, 2002.  
for Grant US \$ 50,609, Project No. 1005**

| Particulars   | Amount in Rs. | Amount in Rs. |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| [A] Opening Balance                                       |               | 70,562.14     |
| [B] Funds received from the Foundation during this period |               | 595,339.00    |
| [C] Less : Funds expended during this period              |               |               |
| (1) Salaries  | 426,511.00    |               |
| (2) Research / Travel                                     | 145,727.14    |               |
| (3) Training / Workshop / Publin                          | 54,818.00     |               |
| (4) Administrative costs                                  | 38,845.00     |               |
| Total Expenditure   | 665,901.14    | 665,901.14    |
| [D] Closing Balance (A+B-C)                               |               | NIL           |

For Utthan Trust

K.P.Raval  
(Kaushik Raval)  
Chief Program Coordinator

R.Desai  
(Rajesh Desai)  
Chief Accountant

**Name of the Project : Understanding Gender Equity in Water Resource Management**  
**An Agenda for Research and Program Activities**

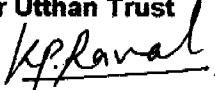
**Grant No. : 1005**

**Submitted to : Ford Foundation , New Delhi, India.**

**Submitted by : Utthan Development Action Planning Team,Ahmedabad,Gujarat,India**

| <b>Receipts &amp; Payments Account for the period from 15th May, 2000 to 14th May, 2002</b> |                      |                               |                      |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>   | <b>Amount in Rs.</b> | <b>Payments</b>               | <b>Amount in Rs.</b> |
| Grant received from Ford Foundation during the period                                       | 2,339,547            | Expenditure incurred          |                      |
|   |                      | - Salaries                    | 1,172,511            |
|   |                      | - Research / Travel           | 736,235              |
|   |                      | - Training / Workshop / Publn | 258,011              |
|   |                      | - Administrative costs        | 172,790              |
| Total Rs.   | <b>2,339,547</b>     | Total Rs.                     | <b>2,339,547</b>     |

**For Utthan Trust**

  
(Kaushik Raval)  
Chief Program Coordinator

  
(Rajesh Desai)  
Chief Accountant

**Even though, Ramjibhai and Kanchanben could have earned more income by growing groundnut, they preferred fodder too!**

**A CASE OF RABHDA VILLAGE OF RAJULA TALUKA, AMRELI DISTRICT, GUJARAT, INDIA**

Under the Watershed development project, views of the village groups were taken and a check dam on Ramtali river was constructed in village Rabada. Ramjibhai Gajera, is a small farmer, he belongs to general caste and own 50 VIGHA land on the bank of Ram Tali river. 20 VIGHA of his land has irrigation facilities, while 30 VIGHA land does not have any water facilities. While he mostly plough the land and take decisions on buying and selling of products, his wife Kanchanben carries out all other agriculture operations ranging from sowing, weeding, harvesting and storage of seeds. In the past, he grew groundnuts, millets and grass on his land and used to get 300 kilograms of farm produce per 0.16 hector of land. He would keep about 100 kgs for home consumption and sell of 200 kgs of groundnuts thus would make income for more than Rs. 3000/-.

After the dam construction, the ground water table has gone up and more water for irrigation is available. Today, he gets about 80 to 100 kilograms additional amount of groundnut. 200 kgs Millet and but they also get 10000 kgs grass in same piece of land. Overall, the family get 350 to 400 kilograms of additional yield. The couple could have grown groundnut in the entire land and tap more income, but Ramjibhai says, "Groundnut would have taken much more water, moreover my wife had to walk long distance to collect fodder for animals and we have been eating millets since long, so we retained our original pattern of cropping". With the additional income, the quality of life for Kanchanben has become much better and that can be seen by the time she gets to rest and participate in various village development activities.



**A Check Dam at Village Rabhda, Rajula Taluka, Amreli District**

### **Solving community water problems through women's initiative:**

#### **THE CASE OF RABHADA VILLAGE, AMRELI DISTRICT, GUJARAT, INDIA**

**Under the watershed development program, it was planned to install 100 hand pumps and for this required amount of funding was available. The amount was enough for only 60 hand pumps. Women, who are involved in one or the other village institution and are quite aware of village development activities, met and stressed their point of making efforts for recharging all the 100 wells, instead of only 60 wells, in the watershed committee meeting. This effort was mainly done by women's mandal through the women representatives and the watershed committee though the no of their representation was small. They ensured and took responsibility for collecting Rs. 150/- from each household and labour contribution. With repairs and recharge of all the hand pumps, about 70% of the village's water problem has been solved. The quality of water has improved considerably and to a certain extent, women are happy as they have somewhat more free time now and less drudgery.**



**Hand Pump Recharging through roof top water harvesting in Rabhda village of Rajula Taluka**

### **Kaliben and Amardasbhai share their stories**

#### **A case of Ningala Village of Rajula Taluka, Amreli District, Gujarat, India**

**About 03 women from Ningala village went for an exposure tour to some villages of Bhavnagar to see roof water collection tanks and their impact. During the visit they interacted with a large number of women and learnt about the benefits of RWCTs. They were very surprised to learn that water fights had reduced due to better availability of water and a place to store the water even if outside tankers still come. On their return, they decided to have similar structures in their houses too. Under the village watershed programme, Utthan assisted in construction of various water structures including check dams (5), recharging of 8 wells and gully plugging. Five RWCTs were also constructed, each costing Rs. 15, 000/-.** Families contributed about 20% of the total cost either in cash, kind or labour.

**Kaliben and Amardasbhai, who were the first ones to construct a RWCT in their house, say, “ Now we get water in summers too and Kaliben does not have to spend much time collecting water. Her health has improved, while overall fights over water have reduced in the village. People use the tank for storing water from outside tankers. In the past they never had this facility and about 20% water used to go waste due to fights and no proper place for storage.**

## ***Health and sanitation***

**None of the villages have any primary health care facilities and visits by government health workers are also limited. Water scarcity affects personal hygiene as well as the availability of food and nutrition needs. Gender discrimination in health care, including nutrition, cut across caste and class differences as women's health needs have the lowest priority and in most cases they eat after men and children. As a result, many women suffer from anemia and bear underweight children. Reliance on local witchdoctors is not uncommon and women are often the victims of wrong diagnosis.**

**Utthan has initiated work in basic healthcare, hygiene awareness and sanitation, training local health workers, linking them to the PHCs and conducting awareness camps in schools and community centers.**

### **Women's SHG takes action for community health**

#### **A Case of Kathivadar village, Rajula Taluka of Amreli District, Gujarat, India**

**The women of Bhumika Bachat Mandal of Kathivadar village are aware of the roles of health worker in the village. When jaundice struck, the women together wrote a letter to the PHC asking for immediate help to prevent the spread of the disease. The group took responsibility for spreading right messages to the people to take all kinds of precautionary measures and informed villagers about the referral services. All this helped villagers in not wasting time on superstitious beliefs or visiting unprofessional so-called doctors. Interestingly, some men were seen taking women to the primary health centers rather than to witch doctors, even for other diseases.**

## **Monghiben fights to ensure water work for women and her village**

### **A CASE OF NESWAD VILLAGE, BAVNAGAR DISTRICT, GUJARAT, INDIA**

With financial support from the Ghogha regional water supply and sanitation project (sponsored by Royal Netherlands Embassy). Utthan has been providing technical guidance to the villagers of Neswad to tackle their water problems. Interventions included creating structures like roof water collection tanks, bathing place, stand post, cattle trough etc. Since the water crisis was so severe, the people somehow managed to collect and contribute Rs.

3 lakhs for the construction of different structures. They decided that the work would be done through gram panchayat and the villagers would do all the labor work, as part of employment generation. Unfortunately, the Sarpanch decided to initiate all the work using machines. When Monghiben learnt about this, she called a meeting of the members and asked them to react strongly against using the machine. They all contacted Utthan's staff and stopped Sarpanch from using machines. People got work and earned money too!

Monghiben is always seen fighting for people's rights. Initially, when she took initiative in forming the groups, villagers opposed her meeting Utthan's staff, or motivating other women. Fortunately, she has always got support from her husband. She has also traveled to Delhi and made a presentation on the life of women in the conditions of water scarcity for the entire Ghogha area of Bhavnagar district in 2001.



**Pure water harvested from  
roof top in an underground  
tank –  
Village Neswad, Bhavnagar**

## **Change in gender roles**

**The case of Mithi Virdi village, Talaja taluka of Bhavnagar district, Gujarat, India**  
Utthan started working in Mithi Virdi since 1999. Mithi Virdi; 'mithi' means sweet and 'virdi' means a place where water collects. Even though, the village is just two kilometers from the seashore, in the past, as the name indicates, the water in the village was sweet. The village is inhabited by 1714 people belonging to Kolis, Darbars, Brahmins, Bavas, Bharawads, Vagaries, etc. Major occupations in the village are farming and livestock rearing, while some people go for diamond polishing in nearby urban areas. The village has a primary school, transportation services and electricity.

In the past, enough sweet water, both for drinking and irrigation was available, but owing to less rains, over exploitation of water resources and increased population, water specially for drinking became scarce. Land is slowly becoming saline and water polluted. Women spent most of their time in fetching water from far off places which affected their health. Children tend to loiter around in the absence of parents. Male adolescents and adults started facing problems getting married as villagers from better off villages would not like to marry their daughters in this village because they felt that their daughters will have to work very hard in the absence of water.

Utthan mobilized villagers and two women's group having 31 members, a water committee with equal numbers of men and women has been formed so far. About 112 roof water collection tanks have been constructed in the village, many households had no or less space for RWCT structures, and villagers therefore converted private land into common plot so as to facilitate water access for everyone. Groups take responsibilities for maintaining and solving water problems themselves. RWCTs have led to increase in ground water level and availability of fresh water for drinking. Villagers are sensitive enough to use the water only for drinking and not for irrigation; they are quite aware of the process of sea intrusion. With the time saved from water fetching, women now earn more by taking up available employment generation opportunities. Today, each family is able to afford 2-3 water tankers from outside and use the storage space for storing water to combat crises. The women have taken initiative for sending proposals for recharging of all sources of water. Interestingly, in this village, one can see change in gender roles; men are seen taking up some of women's roles such as men helping women in not only taking water for themselves but also helping in them in other household activities and women are seen meeting officials for troubleshooting.



**Man is helping women in  
not only taking water for  
themselves but also  
helping in them in other  
household activities –  
Village Mithi Virdi,  
Bhavnagar**

## **“Women trap the Talati”**

### **A Case of Ghodajar village, Dhanpur block of Dahod district, Gujarat, India**

**Since the last five years, the villagers get work within the village due to a number of watershed activities carried out by Utthan. In the year 2001, the government took up drought relief work in the village so as to generate employment of the villagers. The Talati was responsible for making payments. Women observed that he was paying lesser amount by Rs. 50/- to Rs.250/- to the people. At the time of next payment, the women prepared a list of all those people who were eligible for collecting payment. When Talati did the same thing, they got together, made a ring around the Talati, some women took out money from his pocket and started paying the money as per the rules. They took signatures / thumb prints of all, and submitted the list to the higher authorities. The same Talati is now never seen in the village!**



**Women succeeded in getting equal wages**

## **Employment**

**With the reduction in ground water table in many villages, the on-farm employment opportunities declined forcing men to migrate to other places for earning a living. Women tended to stay behind and look after children and the elderly as well as manage the land. In the scarcity relief work by the government there used to be wage differences amongst men and women even for the equal amount of work. Interventions facilitated by Utthan have led to the diversification of agriculture and allied non-farm activities, and distress migration at least has reduced considerably.**

**Women have also fought and succeeded in getting equal wages. In the year 2001, women from all project villages got together and presented memoranda to various government offices at the district level, asking for equal wages, social security, and minimum healthcare facilities. With a view to provide employment to women home based activities in terms of horticulture, vegetable plantation, bamboo products making, nursery raising, poultry raising and so on are promoted. This has helped women to generate income by selling fruits and vegetables in markets.**



**Men and Women succeeded in getting the equal wages from government in well deepening and recharging activity**

***Agriculture and food security***  
**Select Cases from Dhanpur block of Dahod district, Gujarat, India**

Unlike the two coastal districts, the terrain in Dahod is more undulating (hilly) and cultivable land is less. In this largely adivasi dominated area, people survived mostly on subsistence agriculture and men were responsible for agriculture decision-making. Migration of both men and women was not uncommon. Utthan's interventions, particularly watershed programs have led to a diversification in crops grown, for example, vegetables and cash crops such as ginger. Soil and water conservation measures, improved agricultural methods and community forestry programs with women's participation have seen an increased role for women in decision-making. Women are involved in promoting horticulture and nursery plantations and have also started home-based industries such as making jute ropes, weaving bamboo.

**A Case of Agaswani village, Dhanpur Block, Dahod district, Gujarat, India**

**litaben used to leave her house at about 5 am to collect fodder from nearby forest. The forest guards used to harass her and sometimes they would get into fights. Under the watershed development project, she grew baman grass in hillock of her wasteland and took lot of care. In the first year, she got 14,022 pudas of grass. Second year, she got 16,000 pudas. From the income, she bought cows and buffaloes. Today, she has four buffaloes and two cows. Learning from her, about 53 women initiated this effort and today, these women send about 155 liters of milk to Panchayat milk cooperative, they have thus raised their income by growing fodder and are able to keep healthy**

***Fodder and Fuel***

As with other forest-dependent communities the Bhils too have had their forest rights curtailed by the Forest Department over the years. Utthan has initiated participatory forest management programs, through which communities are able to meet their fodder and fuel needs. Household biogas plants have also been introduced in some villages. Increase in the availability of fodder has had an impact on milk production and some families have begun selling milk and milk products in the local market through Panchamahal Milk Cooperative.

**Pipodra village**

**In the past, the forest was nearby and collecting of wood was easy. Women faced problems and had to walk further to collect fuel wood, which the Forest Department considered as "stealing by them". Utthan initiated the process of formation of groups of both men and women. Women discussed the issue of fuel wood, the groups decided to form a JFM committee three years ago. They have grown grass and other trees; most trees are those that were preferred by women. 91 ha of land have been afforested by the committee and the benefits have been shared by 300 families equitably.**

## **HEALTH AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES**

### ***A Case of Neswad Village, Ghogha Taluka of Bhavnagar district, Gujarat, India***

Water scarcity and the increasing use of hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have had an impact on the environment and the quality of life, particularly for women. However, Utthan's programs on health and sanitation have had an impact on personal hygiene - people are using a ladle to draw water out from pots, children comb their hair and cut nails regularly. In the village of Goriyali where garbage used to be dumped near water sources, people are trying to find alternative space for waste disposal, Soak pits outside the houses have made streets look much cleaner in many of the villages. Inclusion of bathing places for women has resulted in better hygienic and health conditions.



**Hygiene & Sanitation Activity: A Soak Pit in village Nesvad, Bhavnagar district**

### **A Case of Agaswani Village of Dhapur Block, Dahod district, Gujarat, India**

**In 2001, women group in this village felt that it would be more useful if they deepen the pond rather than construct the road under the drought relief work from the Government. They therefore made this point to the MLA of that area. Due to the deepening of well, the pond got filled with water from first rain of 2002 and it is addressing the needs of people. Women groups of the area sent a proposal to Government to give equal wages to men and women, this request has been guaranteed.**



**Men and Women succeeded in getting the equal wages from government in well deepening and recharging activity**

## **Health and Sanitation**

Prior to Utthan's interventions the health situation in these remote villages was very poor and infant mortality as well as dependence on local witch doctors was high. Women's health needs were given little priority and they often had miscarriages due to far off hospitals. Common ailments like skin allergies, colds and coughs prevailed because of unhygienic conditions. With the training of health workers and basic health awareness the situation is slowly changing. Utthan has facilitated various healthcare activities like health awareness programs, cleanliness campaigns thrice a year, superstitions eradication programs through street plays etc. Moreover, health workers from villages have been trained to carry out basic healthcare activities. Midwives have also been trained. All this has cumulatively improved the healthcare situation in the project villages.

### **Villagers monitor the health centers**

#### **A Case of Agaswani Village, Dhanpur block of Dahod district, Gujarat, India**

In the past, the people of Agaswani village were quite ignorant about health and hygiene related issues. One would see litters all around and people had the habit of storing cow-dung near their homes. As a result, the village would have a bad smell and mosquitoes, flies etc were seen all around. Even though, both men and women groups were there, but they used to function separately. Utthan organized training for both groups on issues of health. Groups got together and they managed to get a small primary health center opened with the help of the Government. The groups regularly monitor the functioning of the center. Those women, who know the work of midwife, give services in this center. One of the doctors from PHC, used to take Rs. 50/- to 100/- from the people as fees, women took out a rally for this and within a week this doctor got transferred. Today, the village has a women extension worker, who works as a change agent and make efforts to prevent varied kinds of diseases.

### **Zoriben's case**

In the past, the villagers used to get together on seeing any stranger in the village. Utthan staff first met people in Magankaka's house. Zoriben used to take lot of interest in listening to Utthan's style of working and she would spread messages to other women by going personally to each and every hamlet in the village. Gradually women organized themselves into self-help groups; they slowly became mature by holding regular meetings and adhering to group rules. Once, when Zoriben went to Ladia hamlet, she found women were facing severe water problems. She took the help of her husband and prepared a resolution for installing a hand pump under the water resource development project. It so happened that the site for hand pump was more appropriate in the field of Zoriben. Even though, the crop of *tuver* was standing, Zoriben did not mind spoiling some of her crop for the installation of the pump. The pump functioned very well for eight months, but then it broke down and needed to be repaired. Zoriben discussed this issue in the meeting, but no one took any initiative. She sent a proposal for repair to the GWSSB, but for certain parts, she paid Rs. 450/- from her own pocket and later collected the money from members. Learning from this experience, women from each hamlet sent proposals to the Government and they managed to install hand pumps in each hamlet.

## **When Maniben changed her attitudes**

### **A Case of Ghodazar Village of Dhapur Block, Dahod district, Gujarat, India**

Maniben residing in the village of Ghodajar used to get just one crop in a year that too depended on rains. She would always say, "What can we grow in this small piece of land?" In 1999, Utthan started facilitating interventions for increasing water tables by constructing a check dam and providing technical guidance on agriculture. Today Maniben is able to grow vegetables in all the three seasons. She herself goes to the market and sells surplus vegetables after keeping some for the household. Food security and health status over the years has increased. Like her, another 47 farmers now get enough water; they too grow vegetables and other cash crops, apart from cereals and pulses to meet their food security needs.



**Vegetable Plot – Village Ghodazar, Dahod district**