

UTTHAN APPEAL

Dear Friends

I am writing to invite your participation in Utthan's continuing efforts to mobilize communities on the key issues of natural resource management, empowerment of the underprivileged, and harmony among all the communities that together create the fabric of our society.

Utthan has completed three decades of service in four districts of Gujarat: Bhavnagar, Amreli, Dahod and Panchmahal. We began our efforts in the Bhal region of Bhavnagar, a parched land in which lives, particularly for women, was a daily struggle for survival in a water-scarce and highly patriarchal environment. From that beginning, issues of safe water, sanitation and the equitable management of all natural resources have been inextricably linked to issues of empowering those who are most deprived and vulnerable. Utthan has sought to secure for them capacities for self-reliant growth. The communities we serve directly are represented by federations in the four districts. These have a membership of over 8,000 women, some 1,500 youth and 20 schools. Through these members and institutions we reach a much larger circle of communities and families with our efforts at safe-water, sanitation, gender equity, sustainable livelihoods and social harmony.

Utthan's work has brought important recognition to the communities we serve as well as to us as an institution. Our voices are heard together at village, district, State, national and international levels. Our strength comes from the grassroots work of about 60 members of Utthan's team, and the fine record of their dedicated service to those most in need. Their struggle --- which is Utthan's struggle --- is for equity and justice within an extraordinarily challenging environment of scarcity and discrimination.

A key challenge for Utthan is mobilizing the resources we need to sustain our work among affected communities. While we have been able over the years to mobilize project resources from donors (including state and central authorities as well as other donor agencies in India and overseas), a critical need has remained. This is the need for a core of financial support that can sustain our team and help us to experiment with solutions that can then be transformed into projects which in turn can attract the support of authorities and donors. It is such core support that can give us the independence we need for innovation and experimentation within rapidly changing conditions. In today's competitive environment, donors demand tested solutions. Yet testing requires the capacity as well as the courage to experiment and to innovate --- and this requires a measure of financial independence.

To build this independence we are seeking the support of those like you who are sensitive to India's current challenges and to the national urge for change and for justice. We are therefore seeking annual contributions from those individuals and institutions who would like to join a network of 'Friends of Utthan'. Your contributions would be tax-free under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act. Your support would be acknowledged in all our publications, on our website and at every opportunity Utthan receives for presenting its work before decision-makers in India and abroad.

To join this network of 'Friends of Utthan', we welcome your contributions of by cheque to **Utthan Trust** or direct transfer to our bank account.([The bank accounts details are given below](#)). The contributions could be made annually or in installments.

Bank details for fund Transfer- Foreign

Account Holder: Utthan

Name of the Bank: State Bank of India

Account No.:10328083685

SWIFT Code: SB ININ BB 135

Branch of the Bank: Polytechnic

City / State/ Country: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Bank details for Fund Transfer- within India

Account Holder: Utthan Trust

Name of the Bank: Bank of Baroda

Account No.: 03420100004735

SWIFT Code: BAR BO INI AHM

Branch of the Bank: University Campus

City / State/ Country: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Please visit our website www.utthangujarat.org for additional information regarding our contributions, progress, activities and other details. Please let us hear from you. Utthan needs your support, on behalf of so many.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely



Nafisa Barot

(Executive Director)

Utthan

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