

Societal Contribution (2023 - 24):

Organization of workshops and programs for community engagement has been the culture of IIT Jodhpur. Year 2023-24 made a significant impact on the society through these programs, inside IIT and in the villages. The focus was on education, livelihood, water and health. s

- 1. Community Strengthening Program:** The Community Strengthening Program, is implemented across 11 districts of western Rajasthan under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (Scheme under the MOE), focused on various training sessions on livelihood and education at school level facilitated by Participating Institutions (PIs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Key highlights of the program include:

- **Skill Development:** Training sessions were conducted to enhance the skills of individuals residing in the target communities under the adopted villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan as well as within the pervue of DST STI-hub project (under Scheduled Caste Sub plan of the SEED division) at IIT Jodhpur. This included imparting vocational skills tailored to local needs, thereby empowering community members with valuable expertise as well as teachers in rural government and private schools in rural areas.
- **Rope Making and Products:** Specialized training sessions were held to teach rope making techniques and the utilization of rope-based products. This initiative aimed to promote sustainable livelihoods and economic independence within the communities.



Fig1: Nandi Kalan village (under UBA-RCI IITJ), Jodhpur District workshop glimpses.

- **Clay-Based Water filter Making:** Training sessions were organized to educate community members on clay-based water purification methods and their applications. This initiative sought to address water scarcity challenges prevalent in the region, promoting access to clean and safe drinking water.



Fig. 2: Dr Raj Kumar Satankar (Alumni IITJ) training people at Salawas Village (under UBA-PI JIET) Jodhpur District, Rajasthan

- **Creation of Women Self-Help Groups:** Women empowerment was emphasized through the establishment of self-help groups across the districts. These groups served as platforms for women to collaborate, share resources, and undertake collective initiatives for socio-economic advancement.



Fig. 3: Workshop on Livelihood at Bethwasia village, Osian, Rajasthan

Similar workshops of more than a score were conducted in Barmer, Bikaner, Nagaur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer taken together.

2. **Skill Development and GPDP Interaction** Subject matter experts engaged in spreading awareness on Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) initiatives and facilitated interactions regarding the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Key features of this activity include.

- **Expert Visits to Villages:** Subject experts (from the pool of UBA-RCI Associated faculty members from IIT Jodhpur) visited villages to disseminate information about LSDG programs and foster discussions on village development plans. This initiative aimed to promote community participation in decision-making processes and align development efforts with local needs.



Fig4: Prof Vivek Vijay (UBA-RCI Coordinator) at two locations namely Government College Boari, and GokulBabu College, Pipar City, Jodhpur district Rajasthan

3. Gram Sabha on Republic Day, 26th January 2023 Gram Sabhas were organized by Participating Institutions on Republic Day, providing a platform for discussions among villagers, Sarpanch (village head), and officials. This event aimed to promote grassroots democracy, facilitate dialogue on community issues, and foster collaborative problem-solving.



Fig 5: Gram Sabha at School at Nandia Kalan, Jodhpur and Podar College, Jhunjhun District, Rajasthan.

4. Two-Day Workshop on Leveraging UBA for LSDGs A joint workshop organized by the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IITJ) and UNICEF on 13th-14th October 2023 focused on orientation towards Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and its alignment with Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). The workshop aimed to enhance stakeholders' understanding of UBA's role in fostering sustainable development at the grassroots level. Here participants from Churu, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Sirohi, Pali, Nagaur, Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jhunjhunun and Jodhpur participated in large numbers. Almost more that 150 participants from all of the above district mentored by UBA-RCI IIT Jodhpur participated enthusiastically. This

was first ever national workshop on Localization of SDGS under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (Scheme of MOE, Government of India).



Fig. 6: Glimpses of workshop conducted on 14 Oct 2023.

5. Plastic Free campus campaign : A volunteering program on a clean campus theme was organized by the UBA with the help of service minded volunteers , students and residents of IIT Jodhpur under CETSD.



Fig. 7: Solid Waste Segregation and plastic separation program from forested location of IIT Jodhpur campus was conducted in a participatory mode with campus residents.

6. Doing by Learning : Mathematics Lab has been installed at the Government School in Sultana village, Jaisalmer, through the collaborative efforts of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) under the Centre for Emerging Technology and Sustainable Development (CETSD). This initiative, titled "Doing by Learning," is aimed at enhancing mathematics education within the school.



Fig. 8: Prof Vivek Vijay training teachers of schools in Sultana, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on Mathlab – a toolkit for removing fear for mathematics in school kids,

7. On 16, 17 & 18th December 2023 international conference named ‘ARAVALLI’ CONFERENCES: INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF CONFERENCES ‘ARAVALLI’ was organized by the joint collaboration of UBA RCI IIT Jodhpur and UBA Participating Institute SETH GYANIRAM BANSIDHAR PODAR COLLEGE, Nawalgarh



Fig. 9: IIT Jodhpur UBA-RCI co-organizes an international conference at Podar College, Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunun Rajasthan.