

Report of an orientation workshop

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Education
Government of India



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1. About UBA

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions. The conceptualization of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan started with the initiative of a group of dedicated faculty members of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi working for a long time in the area of rural development and appropriate technology.

2. About an orientation program

On May 21, 2024, we held an orientation program for new participating institutions in the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, organized by the Regional Coordinating Institute at IIT Gandhinagar. The event was attended by eight coordinators from different institutions. The program featured five distinct sessions.

3. Session 1

The first session of our orientation program was chaired by Dr. Soumi Roy Chowdhury. Dr. Chowdhury is currently a Public Financial Management Advisor at the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy. In her role at Janaagraha, she collaborates with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, to recommend practical and actionable solutions for effectively tracking government expenditures in urban local bodies.





During the session, Dr. Chowdhury delivered an informative presentation on village development plans. She covered all aspects of this topic with her extensive expertise, providing valuable insights and guidance. Her discussion included detailed strategies and best practices for creating and implementing effective village development plans. Dr. Chowdhury's experience and knowledge greatly benefited the participants, helping them understand the complexities and importance of planning for village development. She emphasized the need for careful tracking and management of resources to ensure sustainable and effective development in rural areas. The session was highly informative and provided a strong foundation for the coordinators to build upon in their future work with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

4. Session 2

The second session was led by Ms. Snehal Rathod, a Junior Research Fellow at IIT Gandhinagar. She has previously worked as a project assistant for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, so she is very knowledgeable about it. During the session, she gave an informative talk on water management systems for villages in India.

Ms. Rathod shared valuable insights on how to effectively manage water resources in rural areas. She discussed various strategies and techniques that can be implemented to ensure a sustainable water supply for villages. Her experience and expertise in this field made the session engaging and educational for the audience.



Overall, Ms. Rathod's session provided practical solutions and highlighted the importance of proper water management in improving the quality of life in Indian villages. The attendees appreciated her clear and informative presentation, which addressed both the challenges and potential solutions for water management in rural communities.

5. Session 3

The third session was led by Mr. Vivek Barot, a Project Assistant with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. He provided important information about websites relevant to UBA and rural areas. Mr. Barot gave a live demonstration, showing how these websites work and how they can be useful.

During his session, he explained the features and functions of various websites associated with UBA. He demonstrated how to navigate these sites and utilize the resources they offer for rural development. His presentation was practical and interactive, allowing attendees to see firsthand how these online tools can benefit rural communities.



Mr. Barot's session was well-received as it highlighted the significance of digital resources in supporting rural initiatives. By showcasing the practical applications of these websites, he helped the audience understand how technology can be leveraged to improve the lives of people in rural areas. His informative and hands-on approach made the session engaging and useful for everyone present.

6. Session 4

The last session was chaired by Prof. Pranab Mohapatra, a senior professor in the Civil Department at IIT Gandhinagar and the regional coordinator for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. His session focused on employment opportunities for rural youth, where he explained the new vision for rural employment.

Prof. Mohapatra provided a detailed and insightful overview of how employment in rural areas is evolving. He discussed the importance of creating sustainable job opportunities for young people in these communities. His presentation emphasized innovative approaches and programs designed to enhance employment prospects for rural youth, ensuring they have access to meaningful and stable work.





One key aspect of his talk was the relationship between the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MANREGA) and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA). He explained how these two initiatives can complement each other to improve employment conditions in rural areas. MANREGA, which guarantees a certain number of days of paid work for rural households, can be effectively integrated with UBA's developmental projects to create a more robust employment framework.

Prof. Mohapatra shared his extensive experience and expertise throughout the session, making it both informative and engaging. His insights provided valuable guidance on leveraging existing schemes and introducing new strategies to boost rural employment. The attendees appreciated his comprehensive approach and practical suggestions for enhancing job opportunities for rural youth. Overall, his session was a highlight of the event, offering a clear vision for the future of rural employment.

7. Session 5

The last session focused on feedback and experience sharing from the participating institutes. Each institute discussed their issues with the Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI). Dr. Bhavna Pathak, one of our PI coordinators, shared her experiences with the other PIs.



Following the discussions, we concluded the program with a vote of thanks.