CHAPTER 4
Research Setting
4. Research Setting

Anandi
Cohesion Foundation Trust (CFT)
Gramya Vikas Trust (GVT)
Prayas
Saurashtra Voluntary Actions, Jamnagar (SAVA – Jam)
Swati
Unnati
4. Research Setting

In Gujarat, there are seven organizations working for community based disaster preparedness. All these organizations’ strategy are more or less similar, they are working for rural communities’ disaster preparedness.

On an average these organizations’ are working for 10 to 15 years in Gujarat. Objectives specific to disaster preparedness, of these organizations are as follows:

- To transfer risk and reduce vulnerability in normal (non-emergency) period through enhancing disaster preparedness and more access to information
- To enable individual group members to develop community specific disaster preparedness plans (CBDP)
- To synthesize the learning on CBDP
- To develop linkages with NGOs, networks, government bodies in Gujarat and other partners for the purpose of sharing and policy advocacy.

All 7 organizations are working in different areas with varied communities and socio economic conditions:

Anandi

Anandi is a registered non profit Non Government Organization working with focus on women empowerment since 1996. Anandi started working with tribal population of Devgadh Baria and now also works for marginalized communities in Saurashtra. After earthquake 2001, Anandi was involved in relief and rehabilitation process in more than 30 villages of Saurashtra. The focus areas of Anandi’s work are – Self governance, gender mainstreaming, reproductive and child health, child rights, food security and livelihood promotion. Post earthquake, Anandi collaborated with People’s Science Institute (PSI), Dehradun and Swayam Sikhshan Prayog (SSP), Latur for design and execution of earthquake resistant houses in Maliya block of Rajkot District. Anandi supported more than 1000 temporary shelters and 150 permanent shelters in this region.
Cohesion Foundation Trust (CFT)
Cohesion Foundation, a Public Trust was set up in 1996 by a multidisciplinary team of professionals to contribute to the holistic development endeavors in the areas of natural resource management (water and land resources), sustainable livelihoods, human resource management and capacity building as well as infrastructure development. The mission of the organization is committed to sustainable socio-economic development of the vulnerable in under-serviced areas with a special focus on women. The organization has contributed in rehabilitation after the Gujarat earthquake 2001 in Rapar block of Kachchh district through rehabilitation, reconstruction of houses and livelihood support initiatives.

Gramya Vikas Trust (GVT)
Gramya Vikas Trust (GVT) is a public trust working for rural poor since year 1986. It works mainly in Jamnagar district on water and sanitation; watershed development; women’s empowerment through organization building, employment generation, credit and savings; food security and combating salinity ingress in the coastal blocks. The vision of organization is that adequate and potable water, sufficient nourishing food and safe housing are available to all through equal rights and opportunities. The organization works for community preparedness so that they jointly face natural and man made calamities and disasters with equanimity and are trained and equipped for disaster management.

GVT has actively participated in post earthquake 2001 rehabilitation in Jamnagar district through relief works, trainings and capacity building, housing and infrastructure reconstruction and livelihood support.

Prayas
Prayas is a non-profit charitable trust established in 1997. Prayas works for social and economic upliftment of marginalized communities, tribal development and women
empowerment. After the earthquake 2001, Prayas was involved in relief and rehabilitation process in more than 50 villages of Anjar and Rapar blocks of Kachchh district.

**Saurashtra Voluntary Actions, Jamnagar (SAVA – Jam)**

Saurashtra Voluntary Actions (SAVA), Jamnagar is a public trust formed in July 1995 with a mission to support and established voluntary work in Saurashtra region to address problems causing rural poverty. SAVA visualizes to initiate a process of fighting problems posing rural poverty and backwardness in Saurashtra region through promotion and strengthening of people’s actions. SAVA’s mission is to achieve sustainable rural development through management of natural resource, increase access and supervision over government resources and mobilize internal resources by the communities.

Sava-jam focuses on the issues of education, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and micro credit, drinking water, sanitation, organic farming and disaster preparedness. At present SAVA is working in approximately 162 villages of 4 blocks (Okha, Kalyanpur, Bhanvad, Khabalal) of Jamnagar district. Three local institutions are also promoted to take up field implementation. In future SAVA is inclined to provide support services to these institutions.

**Swati**

SWATI is a not for profit organization having its work base in Surendragar district past 15 years. The organization from its inception works on development of women, specifically in Dhrangadhra, Halvad, Lakhtar and Patdi blocks of Surendranagar Districts. SWATI works for development of women; specifically making them independent through savings and credits, making them aware about education, health, Panchayati Raj, law & regulations, right to information, etc. SWATI has been actively involved in rehabilitation and reconstruction work post earthquake 2001 in these blocks.
Organization has been actively involved in tackling water issues of women. It has worked actively with WASMO for drinking water in villages along with watershed programs like check dams, lakes, rain water harvesting etc.

**Unnati**

Unnati, Organization for Development Education is a support agency and works to promote for social inclusion and democratic governance so that the vulnerable sections of society are empowered for participation and decision making processes. Unnati also works for relief and rehabilitation in Bhachau block of Kachchh after the earthquake 2001.