

## Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

@IITH

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Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education launched in the year 2014 and spearheaded by IIT Delhi as a National Coordinating Institute. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. IITH joined the program as a participating institute and is actively involved in the cause of rural development. In the beginning, the Institute adopted five villages in Medak District, and later, in 2020, two more villages were adopted in the newly formed Sangareddy district. The primary goal of the UBA program is to build connect with the adopted villages and initiate development programs in those villages. The essential aspect of this is to understand the grassroots problems by conducting interactions with the village community, which are known as Grama Sabhas. Grama Sabhas are regularly conducted from time to time with all the stakeholders of the village, like the Gram Panchayat members, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM) workers, Self-Help Groups (SHG) representatives and other residents of the village. The participating institutes also help in supporting Gram Panchayats in preparing Village Development Plans.

The typical process involves conducting a baseline survey to assess the demographic structure of the village and plan interventions based on the capabilities of the participating organizations. Though the UBA program facilitates generic developmental activities in the adopted villages, but it has identified six thematic areas to focus on, which are:

- 1) **Convergence,**
- 2) **Basic amenities,**
- 3) **Artisans, Industries and Livelihood,**
- 4) **Renewable energy,**
- 5) **Water Management, and**
- 6) **Organic Farming**

IIT Hyderabad is helping the villages to excel in the above-mentioned areas by conducting various awareness camps. Artisan training, technical field demonstrations, etc. IIT Hyderabad also supported actively during the pandemic by providing groceries for the migrant population, conducting awareness camps and managing Covid-19-related protocols. IITH is also closely working with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRD-PR) Hyderabad, which is also the Regional Coordination Institute (RCI) for the UBA program to implement some of the best practices of rural development.



To make the rural development as part of the curriculum, a 2-credit course on Rural Development was developed and offered to all the students of the Institute. The course was named "Samagra Gramseva". The concept of "Samagra Gramaseva", proposed by Mahatma Gandhi, envisaged the overall development of the village as an inclusive community activity. Originating from the same thought process, within the scope of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

It was proposed as a course to educate the students about the village environment and rural development aspects. The broad outline of the course was to sensitize the students about the broad aspects of Rural development through a) Classroom activities like lectures, Talks, Discussions, etc. and b) Field Visits

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