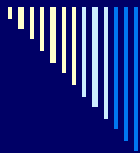


## Grassroots Women's Groups as Communication Intermediaries



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Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)  
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April 6, 2004



## Two Earthquakes India

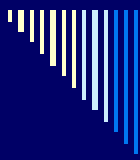
### Latur, 1993

- ❑ Loss of over 7,000 lives and 16,000 injured
- ❑ 200,000 houses damaged or destroyed
- ❑ US\$216 million World Bank loan

### Gujarat, 2001

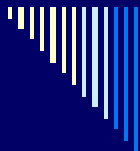
- ❑ Loss of 20,000 lives and 167,000 injured
- ❑ 700,000 houses damaged or destroyed
- ❑ US\$400 million World Bank loan and a second-stage US\$442 million World Bank loan

Community participation policy translated as  
"Owner Driven" program for reconstruction and repair



## SSP's Work Experience After Disasters

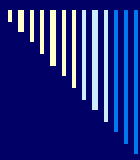
- The reconstruction program was in crisis.
- SSP was called in to design and implement a community action strategy centrally involving grassroots women's groups.
- Post-Gujarat earthquake SSP facilitated community to community exchanges.



## Women's Groups as Communication Intermediaries

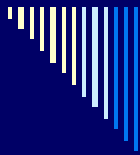
- Motivate house owners
- Build technical capacities
- Demonstrate collective arrangements
- Feedback mechanisms
- Monitor reconstruction





## Women's Groups as Development intermediaries

- Monitor basic services
- Raise women's priorities
- Trigger self-help initiatives
- Facilitate community – state dialogue



## Outcomes

### Communities Master Earthquake Safety:

- Over 250,000 households in Gujarat and Latur

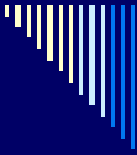
### Livelihood and Assets Stabilized:

- 4,000 women and families take loans
- 1,200 women start enterprises

### Communities Organized for Long-Term Development:

- 800 groups address health, education, water, and sanitation





## Challenges for Community Participation

- ❑ Top-down planning and monitoring
- ❑ 1 to 1 housing replacement program
- ❑ Local governments were bypassed
- ❑ Information and capacity gap
- ❑ Communities and women not consulted

