

A RECORD OF MICRO PHILANTHROPY



UNNITI FOUNDATION

1989–2010





ACTION MOTTO

The Unniti Foundation as a grant-giving organization, believes that its support goes far beyond financial assistance. Without interfering in grantees' projects, the Foundation aims to provide technical assistance and guidance to build organizational capability, sustainability, and to encourage local fundraising in the community.



GENEROSITY IS IN YOUR HEART, NOT IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

START SMALL

Depending on the proposed project, Unniti initially provides grants for a period of one to two years. Grants are awarded in twice yearly installments, with progress reports due before each new installment is released. It is hoped that this transparency ultimately helps to strengthen civil society. Consistent reporting allows for follow up not only on implementation, but also on the impact and potential continuity of each project upon its completion.

Ideally, seed funding for one or two years is sufficient for project development and implementation, and for identifying other sources of funding or income generation. Because of the

close relationship Unniti maintains with its grantees, we can assist with this development. When the initial grant period finishes, grantees are encouraged to secure at least partial local funding for the project's budget, and often Unniti is able to provide a matching grant to cover the rest. Even projects that are well planned and managed, and that are having a tremendous positive impact on their communities, sometimes take time in becoming self-sustaining. The Unniti Foundation understands this process, facilitates its progress and, plays multiple roles as advisor, monitor, and evaluator of grantee programs.



THINK BIG

Grant Giving Record 1989-2010: For twenty-one years, Unniti Foundation has provided grants to individuals, projects, and organizations in India and Nepal. To-day our 'micro-philanthropy model' shows that we have extended financial support to over 600 projects and, the core of this effort has gone to individual girls and women. These grants represent a wide range of NGO activity, from vocational training for skill development to income generating initiatives, from workshops to raise health awareness to scholarships for the education and career advancement of women and girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. A Library Programme for girls, started from a mobile library on the back of a camel cart in the desert, expanded to 6 states with 15 full fledged libraries cum resource centers in rural and urban areas. Adapted freely to meet local needs and sensibilities it has shown a promise for training and employing women as librarians, library assistants or vocational instructors.

ACT NOW

Unniti, as a small foundation, endeavors to work in a flexible manner with its grantees. In our grant giving philosophy we focus on their priority needs, encourage local initiatives and help towards attaining self-sufficiency. Towards achieving this goal, Unniti Foundation's giving now encompasses multi-year grants based on feedback that one-year seed money gives limited credibility for local fundraising. As most NGOs subsist on a diet of grants from foreign donors it is important to get local support for sustainability with a measure of independence and good governance.

As a local foundation, we are privileged to have close contact with grantees which allows for a flexible response to their changing needs. And we believe in the power of micro-philanthropists who give not millions of rupees but small amounts as needed to groups and initiatives that are important in strengthening civil society.



GIVE CREDIT TO EVERYONE

A key area of Unniti's intervention is support for organizations that impart skills which enable women and girls to lead economically independent lives in their line of work. Women and girls need opportunities to learn and advance in their careers. Undoubtedly, many constraints, including poverty and the gender bias, limit their chances for a better life. Unniti Foundation supports individual assistance in the form of fellowships/scholarships/awards as a distinct part of its grants philosophy. Organizational sponsorship is pivotal for individuals seeking education or skill oriented training. We encourage feedback and follow-up in order to determine the impact of this small but critical investment in the future of these individuals

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The act of giving is
twice blessed
It blesseth
those that give
And those
that receive



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