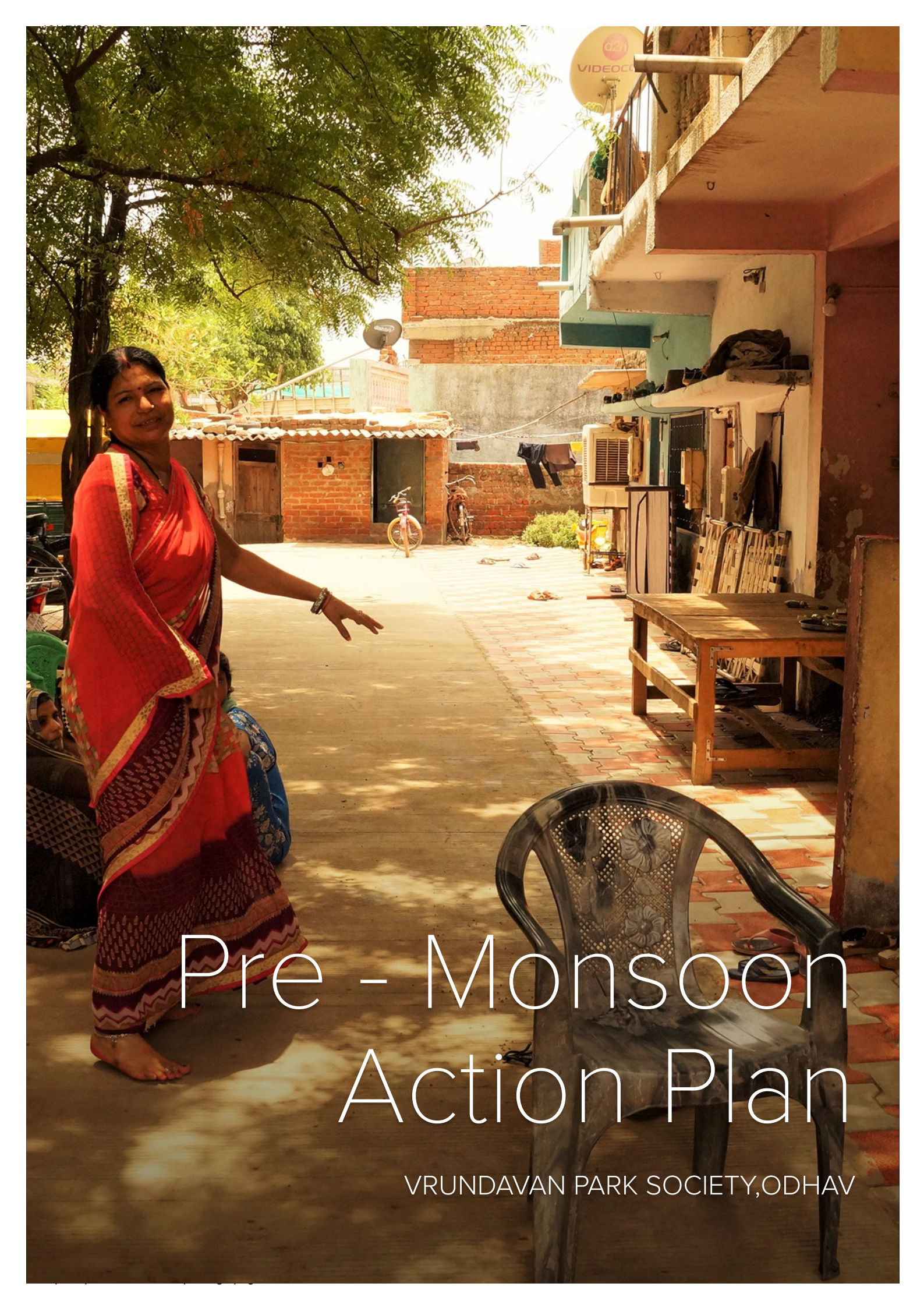




Pre - Monsoon Action Plan

VRUNDAVAN PARK SOCIETY, ODHAV

Description of Radhika Ben

Radhika Ben ,a responsible resident of Vrundavan Park society in Odhav has been living in the area since the past 20 years. Radhika Ben lives with her in laws and her two daughters. Radhika ben is a home maker and is also involved with MHT since four years.She is member of the Community Action Group .She has been working actively with MHT and engaging with the AMC in order to provide access to basic services in her society.

Life in Vrundavan Park Society,Odhav

Vrundavan Park Society, in the past was just a few settlements with few trees and shrubs and some primary infrastructure of sewer lines.The whole area was absolutely unhygienic and barely developed.Kadinath nagar barely had any settlements in an around it.There was no access to basic services and legal connections for water supply ,sewer lines from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Few Wells were the only source of water for the residents .



Engaging with MHT

Four years ago, MHT engaged with the residents of Kadinath nagar and has explained to them the entire process of paperwork for the rightful implementation of the 90:10 scheme or any other scheme. The women of Kadinath nagar was empowered and confidently initiated the work.

Approval of the 90:10 Scheme

Everyday challenges of lack of provision of basic services was a tiresome task for the residents of Vrundavan Park Society, Odhav. Radhika Ben took up the initiative and filled an application to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) describing the situation on ground faced by the residents. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) responded based on the situation on ground and to follow up with the process, Radhika Ben had to submit the data and forms regarding it. Finally, the papers were processed and the 90:10 scheme was implemented in which 90% expense was borne by the ULB and 10% expense by the residents of Vrundavan Park Society.

"We all became aware of it and that's when we understood, as to what initiatives should be taken for the prevailing issues in the society". (Radhika ben, Odhav)

Services accessed under the 90:10 scheme

After engaging with MHT, Radhika Ben and the women of Kadinath Nagar were empowered and started to confidently file applications for provision of street lights, gutter lines, access to water services and during the course of time, these services were provided by the AMC.

Monsoons in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad witnesses frequent flash floods in monsoons, often because of the lack of proper management and maintenance of the storm water drains. Due to lack of such infrastructure, the low income settlements residing on low lying areas are highly affected. One among these communities is the Kadinath Nagar in Odhav. During rainy seasons, water logging was the primary issue due to the poor condition of the internal roads in the society .



Water logged roads in the Kadrinath Society, Odhav followed by the heavy rainfall that occurred in Ahmedabad.

"I have never stopped trying" said Radhika Ben. So, in addition I also filed an application for the construction of internal roads in our society. AMC asked me to bring a few documents and everyone's signature, before they began the construction of the road. This was also

under the 90-10 scheme. I collected the 10% from everyone here and submitted the money and AMC commenced the work after months. (Radhika Ben, Kadrinath Nagar, Odhav)

The overall budget for the construction of all the lanes in the society ended up to be very costly. Although, only 10% of the total construction cost had to be borne by the residents of Kadrinath Nagar due to the high budget, there was minimal support from the public/residents of Kadrinath Nagar. On seeing this, Radhika Ben requested for the estimate of each line to be done separately.

Few lanes it was Rs 1300/- others 1400/- etc. To this everyone agreed. So, I collected all the money and submitted it. But each line had a different engineer, a different contractor, etc. And we see each road being built – the tar, the dirt, etc.

*And there was one road left
in the middle for which the
corporators agreed to bear
the entire cost themselves.
Currently, Work is still
underway.(Radhika
ben,Odhav)*



The paved roads of Kadrinath Nagar,Odhav being constructed
under the 90:10 scheme

When it Rains, it pours!

In the year 2017,Ahmedabad experienced heavy monsoons, in which Kadinath society was flooded. It started raining heavily at 4 am in the morning. Most of the residents were unaware of the rising water level and was alarmed and helpless when the water started to penetrate/enter into the households. Gutters started to back flow and it was just dirty water everywhere.Since, Radhika ben was working with MHT and was familiar with the officers in AMC and because of her previous accomplishments ,the residents of Kadinath nagar had approached Radhika ben early in the morning as soon as the water level started to rise. Radhika ben then called the main corporators of the Kadinath area and the neighborhood area and informed about the situation.

"I told him that the water has been flooding into everyone's house. I also called other corporators I knew, and many people came to help. Then they called for 3 water pumps – ones which fire-fighters use – which pumped the water

out of people's homes. After the water was drained, they asked me for details regarding our society, so they can bring food, and other things which we would need. So, they made arrangements for our food, both in the day and in the evening".(Radhika ben,Odhav)



Water logged, flooded images of Kadrinath Nagar,Odhav

AMC had also made arrangements for food and shelter at a temple near by. However ,the residents of the society were reluctant to leave their own houses as it was severely damaged.Radhika ben quickly acted on this situation by informing the corporators and asked them to provide a way/solution in distributing the food. The corporators then distributed the food using a tempo and ensured that the food was delivered to all the houses in all the lanes of the society.

Losses due to the Rains

The rains not only caused damages to the physical infrastructure but it also caused lot of damages to livelihoods as well.Important documents were lost ,lot of food supplies such as rice,wheat,etc. electrical appliances like fridge,gas cylinder,etc ,beds,cots ,vehicles on the road and everything else was submerged in water .Few People who lost their documents were not aware of the loss until a year later when they actually had to utilize/produce it.

"Clothes and such things can still be mended, but once documents are lost or damaged it's difficult to

attain them again".(Radhika Ben,Odhav)

An alarm to the rescue.

"But this year an Alarm Rang"(Radhika Ben ,Odhav)

Like every year ,this year also it rained heavily in the morning at 5 am,but unlike last time an alarm rang.The alarm was a prototype designed by MHT.It was an attempt/intervention at a Household level in order to help the residents of Kadinath Nagar to be alert/vigilant/aware when it starts to rain.This time people were more prepared for the rains.people living downstairs shifted all their valuable belongings to the first floor. Radhika Ben called the corporator and they started to pump the water out.There were chaos everywhere,people helped in the whole cleaning process and then by 10 am in the morning everything was in place and nice and tidy.The residents had gone to work unlike last time where they had to take 2-3 days off from work which in turn affected their daily wages/monthly income.



Corporators pumping out water from the water logged area in the Kadinath Society

"There was an advantage this year because of the alarm,we immediately knew and woke up and was prepared for it"(Radhika Ben,Odhav)



Prototype design of the Alarm by MHT



Radhika Ben showcasing the alarm installed by MHT in her house in Odhav.

Scope for Improvement

Radhika Ben and the residents of Kadinath Nagar were pleased for the timely assistance/innovation by the MHT. Although it was a primary attempt ,it certainly did help the residents of Kadinath Nagar from the inconvenience caused during the monsoons.They also suggested changes in the design in order to make it more louder so that people all over the society can act quickly at once.

"If this alarm is louder, so more people will be alerted, and information will be spread quicker, so people will be able to protect against the water better. The more people know, the better"(Radhika Ben,Odhav)

Only we can reverse the
damages that we have
done, and only then can the
world can heal and sustain
itself again- Radhika
ben, Odhav



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