

Gram Sabha Meetings as Catalysts for Rural Development: A Study in the Context of Sri Sairam Institute of Technology under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

***Dr. K. Baranidharan¹, J. Jayaganeshan², M. S. Ulaganathan³, R. M. Asha⁴,
Dr. E. Maheswari⁵, B. Divya Sri Dharshini⁶, V. Karthikeyan⁷, V. D. Madhumitha⁸**

Professor in MBA & Sethupattu UBA CAPTAIN¹, Sethupattu UBA ORGANISOR²

Sethupattu UBA PROPAGATOR³, Sethupattu UBA STRATEGIST⁴

Sethupattu UBA Executor⁵, Sethupattu UBA MASTERMIND⁶

Sethupattu UBA ADVOCATE⁷, Sethupattu UBA GUIDE⁸

Sri Sairam Institute of Technology, Sai Leo Nagar, West Tambaram, Chennai. Tamilnadu, India.

Abstract: *This study examines the crucial role of Gram Sabhas as a foundation for grassroots democracy in rural India, particularly in the context of their convergence with the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through a descriptive and analytical approach, the research focuses on the collaborative efforts of Sri Sairam Institute of Technology in its adopted villages. The study reveals that Gram Sabhas serve as vital platforms for participatory governance, where local needs are identified and discussed. The involvement of academic institutions through UBA initiatives, such as introducing sustainable technologies and conducting capacity-building programs, significantly enhances the effectiveness of these meetings. The findings indicate a direct alignment between Gram Sabha deliberations and SDG targets, despite existing challenges like low attendance and insufficient awareness. The study concludes that leveraging academic and institutional support is key to strengthening Gram Sabhas, promoting transparent governance, and accelerating the localization of global sustainable development efforts.*

Keywords: Gram Sabha, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Participatory Governance, Rural Development, Sri Sairam Institute of Technology, Panchayati Raj

