

Building a University and Igniting a Workforce in Gujarat, India

Grant Type: **Dollar support**

Dollar Amount: **\$6.5 million to date**

Foundation Name: **Tarsadia Foundation**

What was your objective with the grant or initiative?

The Tarsadia Foundation's objective was to establish an accredited university in the western state of Gujarat, India. The university provides tribal and rural areas surrounding the town of Bardoli, Gujarat, access to higher education and vocational training. In doing so, the initiative would exponentially grow Gujarat and India's workforce and economy.

What were the results of this grant or initiative?

The Maliba campus was nationally accredited after the foundation's initial investment and development. Within 5 years, the student body grew from a few hundred students to 8,000 students and 450 faculty. A full range of master's degree, international exchange, and doctoral programs was established. The impact of the university has accelerated the growth of the local economy and the workforce sector.

Why would you say this grant or initiative had outsized impact?

Across India—specifically in Gujarat—the majority of the population is unable to access higher education due to a lack of primary education, finances, and social mobility. The foundation established an endowment fund that enables the majority of Uka Tarsadia University's student body to attend on a scholarship. In a region where higher education is virtually nonexistent, the university has produced outstanding results as an academic institution. The benefit to society and the local economy has been tremendous for Bardoli and Gujarat's growth and prestige.

What did you learn from this project that other funders should know?

Tarsadia Foundation learned that a steadfast 100% commitment is essential to creating something that does not yet exist. The university's mission was to provide education to India's rural and tribal areas, and this is why the foundation believes its initiative has been successful. Funders should try to be socially conscious and sensitive to the learning curves that arise from new, entrepreneurial initiatives.



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