OBJECTIVE

Rajasthan, India’s largest state in terms of area is also one of the most diverse in terms of modes of production, customs, folklore and culture. Since its formation on 1st April 1949 the state has achieved tremendous progress in all areas of human development, especially improvements in literacy, decline in poverty, low infant mortality and other social indicators. In spite of this progress there are still several formidable challenges ahead. The task of further improving human development in a scenario of shrinking resources, ensuring sustainable livelihoods in an eco-friendly manner and above all ensuring the participation of the poorest of the poor, especially women.

Offering education and literacy as a panacea for their problems:

- using women’s own knowledge as critical to social development; and affirming women’s existing knowledge and skills;
- initiating a process of critical questioning and analysing with regard to issues such as survival or discrimination within the family;
- locating literacy in social practices and lived realities of women;
- involving women in determining their needs, their issues, what they want to learn, and how they want to develop their own strategies at various levels;
- establishing partnerships with collaborating agencies and local government departments as crucial to women’s role in the planning and conceptualising of projects, as well as in the actual implementation of them;