

YINDABAD

58 minutes

This program includes subtitles in English

Sec 0 Starting Credits. Outdoor/Day..
Domkhedi, Narmada Valley. Maharastra

Credits.

Domkhedi flooded.

Fade to black.

Sec 1. Outdoor/Day.
Kolkata, Delhi, Jabalpur, Mumbai.

Traffic jams, crowds of people.

Sec 2 Guddibai. Outdoor/Day.
Jabalpur. Madhya Pradesh.
Guddibai in a Rickshaw.

TC IN: 2:34

We used to farm, ploughing the field with bullocks and growing wheat. Our livelihood was dependant on farming. When we came from our village we were carrying all our things on our heads and our backs. We brought all our belongings. I was crying. I felt very bad, when I left my village as I had to leave my house behind, take my children and come here.

TC OUT: 3:30

Sec 3 Guddibai. Indoor/Day.
Guddibai's house. Jabalpur

TC IN: 3:45

All our land was completely submerged. The water came into our house. Our source of livelihood was lost and there was nothing to eat. Our site became very bad. There was nothing to eat and no land to grow things on. There was no employment and no business, so we came to the city to feed ourselves.

TC OUT: 4:08

Sec 4 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/ Day.
Memorial Gandhi. Badwani

TC IN: 4:35

Narmada is thirteen hundred kilometres long beautiful river, which is also considered as the most pious river in India.

Sec 5 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens. New Delhi.

And it flows to the west and it has in its one hundred thousands square km area of river basin; adivasis, the tribal populations, and also the non-tribal and mixed population, of farmers, labourers, artisans, small entrepreneurs, are, you know, living there.

Sec 6 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/ Day.

Narmada Valley.

And we have almost no industry in the valley, it is more or less a pure river indeed, unpolluted, but the people also live on the land forest and water fish in the river basin.

So this is, not just natural resources, but it is also their life support. 100% adivasis population, those are in the hills area, the mountains edges of Vindhya and the Satpuras, the two mountains, and they really are the more self-reliant communities. They are dependent on the nature, the natural resource, and least dependent on the market, they're also the least monetized communities. And they have their own culture, their own gods and goddesses, which are located in the river valley, in the trees, in forest, on the land in the forest and so on.

TC OUT: 06:09

**Sec 7 Dedlibay. Indoor/ Day.
Domkhedi. Maharashtra
Deadlibay House.**

TC IN: 07:30

I have three sons and six daughters. We have been living here, on the banks of Narmada River for many generations. I don't know exactly how many years. Since we have been living here for so many years, obviously this land, river, forest belongs to us. We get vegetables from the forest. We cultivate this land and get crops. We have the first right on these resources. Today the government has come after so many years and started claiming it's right to these natural resources.

TC OUT: 08:27

**Sec 8. Grulabsing. Outdoor/Day.
Jelsindhi. Madhya Pradesh
Rio Narmada**

TC IN: 08:29

"Free life belongs to us, the adivasis, we will show this to the world"

TC OUT: 08:45

**Sec 9 Badwani. Outdoor/Day.
Badwani. Madhya Pradesh.
Market.**

Badwani's Market.

**Sec 10 Kamla Yadav. Indoor/Day.
Badwani. Madhya Pradesh
Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) office.**

TC IN: 09:37

At first, we were totally unaware of what was happening in the world. We would walk to our fields, work throughout the day and come back in the evening, do housework, eat food and sleep. Then one day someone came with the news of the dam being built in Gujarat on the Narmada River, the Sardar Sarovar. We were less bothered about it then, doing whatever work needed doing. We thought that if the dam was being built far away in Gujarat why would it cause any harm to us?

TC OUT: 10:03

**Sec 11 Medha. Outdoor/Day.
New Delhi.
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens.**

TC IN: 10:04

You see in August 1985, when I first came to the valley, it was with one of the advocates, who wanted to file a case in the court.

We asked for information related to the project, its costs, and benefits, its economics, the financial viability of the project. When we saw that the government officials at the highest level and also the ministers themselves told us frankly and some of them confessed that they didn't have complete studies ready and that the plans were yet to be made. And they have the decision to build the dam as a... has been imposed.

TC OUT: 10:44

**Sec 12 Sardar Sarovar. Indoor/Day.
Sardar Sarovar dam. Gujarat.**

Sardar Sarovar under construction.

**Sec 13 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day.
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens. New Delhi.**

TC IN: 11:40

We said that we would fight for the rights of the natural resources based communities. May they be adivasis or non adivasis farmers, fish workers, and these are the down-trodden population, whose resources form a capital of such large projects.

So that's how the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the save Narmada movement came to be.

TC OUT: 12:02

**Sec 14 Kamla Yadav. Indoor/Day.
Badwani. Madhya Pradesh
NBA's office.**

TC IN: 12:06

I spent a lot of time with Medha Patkar (Didi (Sister)). She started coming to our village, conducting meetings with the men and women. She encouraged us to go and see the dam site once. When I asked my parents for permission to go and see the dam site, they said, "Go, go. You will at least get to see the new state (Gujarat)." We went to the dam site in different vehicles. Here were as many as 10, 15 or 20 000 people going to see the site. It was the first time I had seen so many people. I just stared!

TC OUT: 12:38

**Sec 15 Maan dam demonstrations. Outdoor/Day.
Maan. Madhya Pradesh**

Archive footage. Demonstrations in Maan dam year 1999.

**Sec 16 Medha Patkar Outdoor/Day
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens. New Delhi.**

TC IN: 13:25

When the project comes up, it is these resources that any dam builder needs for building the dam, they have to acquire the land, they have to harness the water, they have to clear fellows, submerge forest as well as land, and also in a way to kill all the fish. The people would lose everything. They will lose their source of livelihood and this was never really investigated before the decision of the dam was made.

TC OUT: 13:52

**Sec 17 Magdag Verma. Outdoor/Day.
Lepa. Madhya Pradesh.
Narmada River**

TC IN: 14:18

We don't consider the water of the Narmada as simple water. We take it as the blessed food offerings of the goddess mother Narmada. Because we have been living here blessings of the Narmada.

**Sec 18 Magdag Verma. Outdoor/Day.
Lepa. Madhya Pradesh
Magdag's house.**

We also have believe in other gods & goddesses but we accept river Narmada as a goddess next to the mother who gives us birth, because of her we are alive.

TC OUT: 15:05

**Sec 19 Kamla Yadav. Indoor/Day
Badwani. Madhya Pradesh
NBA's office**

TC IN: 16:17

We had many small temples, archaeological monuments, Hapeshwar temple and Shulpaneshwar temple that are completely submerged now. Temples of the like that were never seen before. Isn't it a great loss? Why did the elders not do anything? Now our demand is that the government must try and save our culture, which includes these age-old temples.

TC OUT: 16:52

**Sec 20 Deadlibay Indoor/Day
Domkhedi, Narmada Valley. Maharastra.
Dedlibay's house.**

TC IN: 16:59

Everyone has rights over this land and this forest. The insects which live in it have a right over it, our Gods and Demons have a right over it, we adivasis have a right over it. We are all going to suffer the loss together caused by the Sardar Sarovar dam. The dam-builders will get rich, their bank accounts will fill up, they will build more fancy houses and tall apartments while we will lose everything that we have.

TC OUT: 18:02

**Sec 21 Jeevanshalas Outdoor/Day
Jelsindhi, Narmada Valley. Madhya Pradesh**

*Children playing on the Valley
Jeevanshalas (adivasi school). Children doing exercises in class.*

Sec 22 Deadlibay Indoor/Day.
Domkhedi, Narmada Dalley. Madhya Pradesh
Dedlibay's house.

TC IN: 18:46

After so many years the government has not even been able to run a single primary school here. Government schools run only on paper. Teachers never come to the schools. We are all illiterate. How will we get a job? Today we have started our own primary schools. Now our children are being educated. The first batch of the students of the Jeevanshalas will go to the college this year.

TC OUT: 19:45

Sec 23 Baba Maharia. Outdoor/Day
Jelsindhi, Narmada Valley. Madhya Pradesh
Baba Maharia's house.

Baba Maharia works in field with his sisters.

Sec 24 Baba Maharia. Indoor/Day
Jelsindhi, Narmada Valley. Madhya Pradesh
Baba Maharia's house.

TC IN: 20:14

In our village, most of the people are illiterate and the government does not give complete information to those who are not illiterate about where we will be rehabilitated. We are people who respect laws, but laws have turned mad.

TC OUT: 20:44

Sec 25 Dedlibay Indoor/Day
Domkhedi, Narmada Valley. Madhya Pradesh
Dedlibay's house.

TC IN: 20:44

The government must think about our children. I want to ask the government a question. These government officers are educated. They do jobs. They do not farm. They work with paper and earn money, but what do they eat? Do they eat the currency notes? Do they eat the pens and papers? After all they are also dependent on the land. They will get food only if there is a land producing food grains.

TC OUT: 21:43

Sec 26 Baba Maharia Indoor/Day
Jelsindhi, Narmada Valley. Madhya Pradesh
Baba Maharia's house.

TC IN: 21:45

The people living in the valley knew that we were all one and decided to go to the dam site. We asked what will happen to our lands, fields and cattle. We told them that if they do not change their rehabilitation policies we will stop the dam.

TC OUT: 22:04

Sec 27 Demonstrations. Outdoor/Day.
Narmada Valley, 1999.

Archive footage 1999, adivasis in a demonstration.

**Sec 28 Demonstrations Outdoor/Day.
Maleshwar, 2001.**

Archive Footage demonstrations in 2001.

**Sec 29 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day.
Nandurbar, Maharashtra
Collector's Office.**

TC IN: 23:17

We will fight! We will win!

*We shall sit here and ask for employment, our compensation.
We shall compel them to listen our demands. We are not here as Ganpati
(a statue), we are human. We need food, employment, our daily bread.*

TC OUT: 23:39

**Sec 30 Kamla Yadav. Indoor/Day.
Badwani. Madhya Pradesh
NBA's Office**

TC IN: 23:43

*We became aware of the disaster that was about to come, that our
current lives would be gone forever, and we jumped into this struggle.
We also made it a point that the women from the different villages
unite because we believe that women, when united, can bring about
unbelievable changes in society.*

TC OUT: 24:07

**Sec 31 Demonstrations. Outdoor/Day
Maleshwar**

TC IN: 24:12

*Let the Governments of all over the world know that henceforth they
must think twice. Women power is here. We shall create an uproar all
over the country. If you kill one, we will produce twenty-one. We,
Indian women are brave. We Indians shall not be slaves anymore. Now it
is only the matter of our submerged land. One by one, we will face
police firing.*

TC OUT: 25:03

**Sec 32 Kamla Yadav. Outdoor/Day
Satyagraha Chikalda. Madhya Pradesh**

TC IN: 25:04

*Look at them. Our sisters are coming
They will leave everybody behind and go ahead.
They will not keep on crying.
They will break all bondages*

*We want justice!!
Say no to injustice!!!*

TC OUT: 25:45

**Sec 33 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day.
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens. New Delhi.**

TC IN: 25:45

We know that the social impact would mean that people would, not only go through deprivation of their sources of livelihood, also in enormous psychological stress, because they would lose their cultural base and roots, the tribal communities, which are more or less homogeneous and integrated, have their close links with the nature. They cannot live without it.

TC OUT: 26:12

**Sec 34 Gudibai. Outdoor/Day.
Jabalpur. Madhya Pradesh.
Gudibai's house.**

TC IN: 26:22

Before submergence, in our village we did not go out to work. We had our own farms and we used to do our own work.

**Sec 35 Gudibai. Indoor/Day.
Jabalpur. Madhya Pradesh.
Gudibai's house.**

While working in the village we didn't feel any problems but here there are a lot. For whole days we have to work in the sun. They make us work all day, if we sit down they shout at us. There are a lot of problems here.

**Sec 36 Gudibai. Outdoor/Day.
Jabalpur. Madhya Pradesh.**

We feel there are a lot of problems working here as a labourer. We have never felt these kind of problems before. If you work well they talk to us properly, otherwise they tell us to go. They chase us away and don't give us any money.

TC OUT: 27:17

**Sec 37 Magdag Verna Indoor/Day.
Lepa. Madhya Pradesh.
Magdag Verma's house.**

TC IN: 28:07

We don't want to be displaced by such projects which destroy this state, this country & even us. Also, we don't want to resettle in the cities because there we have to live at dump roads and the living style is very bad. That's why no one wants to live in the cities. The fresh air which they breathe in the villages is not available in cities. And what will we do as work there if the cultivation is also limited? Even the residential areas are limited. Like dump drains, like germs there is only place to live. So in this situation no one from the village wants to move towards the city

TC OUT: 29:10

**Sec 38 Rankowar.
Maan. Madhya Pradesh. Indoor, Outdoor/Day.
Resettlement site.**

TC IN: 29:30

Tin-shack houses that the government built are causing so many problems to these people. How can we live in this resettlement site? They did not give us land for land, they didn't rehabilitate us, and the government just gave us this tin-shack house, nothing else.

Here we suffer a lot from the heat. We had to leave out chickens, goats, cows and buffalo. People have fought, asking for land for land, a house for a house, and at the end they just got this. How can we continue living in tin-shack houses? They should rehabilitate us, they should give us a house for a house.

TC OUT: 30:22

**Sec 39 Kamla Yadav. Indoor/Day
NBA's Office in Badwani**

TC IN: 30:30

When we go to the rehabilitation sites we see that men somehow manage to get over the situation, being more mobile. However the condition of the women is far from good. The women in these rehabilitation sites plead with us that we have left our home but you should not leave your village. There is nothing here. No water, no help, nothing. It's like a jungle.

TC OUT: 30:55

Fade to black.

**Sec 40 Medha Patkar. Indoor, Outdoor/Day
Manibely, Mahrastra
Satyagraha.**

TC IN: 31:10

Satyagraha means a pledge for truth and that was the method which Gandhi used during our freedom struggle.

**Sec 41 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens New Delhi**

We decided that the Satyagraha or the agitation, staying put into the communities and facing water, it would be the best way to challenge them.

**Sec 41 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day
Manibely, Maharastra
Satyagraha.**

And hence the people from the first village onwards Manibely, which is the first village in Maharsashtra, closest to the dam site, first decided that they would stay in the village, would not move out and when the water would rise the people would face it.

TC OUT: 32:02

**Sec 42 Deadlibay. Indoor/Day.
Domkhedi, Narmada Valley. Maharastra.
Deadlibay's house.**

TC IN: 32:13

We stand in the rising waters. But government officials and police forces came in barges and pulled us out of the water.

TC OUT: 32:24

**Sec 43 Satyagraha. Outdoor/Día.
Satyagraha Manibely**

Archivo footage, Satyagraha 1999o.

Sec 44 Deadlibay. Indoor/Día
Domkhedi, Narmada Valley. Maharastra.
Dedlibay's house.

TC IN: 33:46

They beat us brutally and put us in jails. We were not afraid of these arrests and attacks. But we demanded that if you take us to the jail because you think that we should not be submerged then you should also take our houses, land and forest with us, so that they won't be submerged as well.

TC OUT: 34:11

Sec 45 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day.
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens. New Delhi.

TC IN: 34:12

And hence that would further displace thousands and thousands of families, and all of this together, we have estimated, would be affecting not less than 400.000 people who would be seriously affected. And if you take everyone who would be affected more or less, then the number would go up to 1.000.000 people, that are one million people.

Now this is to be done for construction of one single dam, Sardar Sarovar, but there are 30 big and 135 medium sized dams, and the medium sized dams are also big enough, to submerge not less than 10 or 20 villages. So all this all together this whole scheme, known as the Narmada Valley Developing scheme, is going to be affecting not less than 2.5 million people.

TC OUT: 35:08

Sec 46 Deadlibay. Indoor/Day.
Domkhedi, Narmada Valley. Maharastra.
Dedlibay's house.

TC IN: 35:30

This year, though my house is close to the river, it wasn't fully submerged. But who knows what will happen next year? What the monsoon will take, where the water will reach? I am afraid it will reach to the top of my house.

TC OUT: 35:46

Sec 47 Moonsob rains. Outdoor/Day.
Narmada Valley.

Moonson over Narmada Valley.

Sec 48 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day
Chikalda. Madhya Pradesh.
Satyagraha

TC IN: 36:20

The Sardar Sarovar dam height has now risen to 119 metres and that decision was based on the reports done by the states government that say that there is no balance families to be rehabilitated and all families up to 122 metres have been rehabilitated. But the fact is that there are 35.000 families on the submergence area of 122 metres.

They have lost their livelihood forever and only their houses, hills and mountain, the huge sea like reservoir around them.

TC OUT: 36:48

Fade to black.

**Sec 49 Floodings. Outdoor/Day.
Narmada Valley.**

Floodings on the Valley.

**Sec 50 Deadlibay. Indoor, Outdoor/Day
Narmada Valley**

TC IN: 38:30

Our houses were submerged and all our things were drowned. So we cannot go back there. We had to pressurize the government to be rehabilitated. We had a lot of trouble moving our houses. We had to dismantle them and bring our wood to the river transporting it firstly in a barge and then in trucks.

**Sec 51 Deadlibai. Outdoor/Day
Shobanagar. Madhya Pradesh
Resettlement Place**

It was nice living in the valley but the government rehabilitated us here. Whatever money we had is gone and now we need money for everything.

We have no place to go back to. We have lost our village and our right to live.

TC OUT: 39:52

**Sec 52 Medha. Sardar Sarovar dam. Outdoor/Day.
Sardar Sarovar, Gujarat.**

TC IN: 41:07

It is not only in the catchments but also in the command that the flooding is taking due to dam. So while the reservoir is full, the canals are empty because they are threatened of submergence as well.

As on, today the power is not starting getting started generated and the water is not flowing through the main canal, they had to take the by passed channel at the lower level than the original estimated height of the canal.

Also we have seen that the water that was taken out of the partially built reservoir was first taken to the cities of Ahmedabad and Baroda, and that was always our claim, because these cities were not in the original plan, there were not to be provided water. But now the city dwellers have got the priority over the rural and the drought affected and drought prone populations.

TC OUT: 42:03

Fade to black.

**Sec 53 Rajendra Singh. Outdoor/Day.
Desert of Rajasthan
Tarun Bharat Sangh Office.**

TC IN: 43:46

Transfer of water from Sardar Sarovar to our place, to the dessert of Rajasthan, is not assured at all. Even when Sardar Sarovar starts working nobody knows for sure how much water there will be or when this water will reach Rajasthan.

Water belongs to nature. It belongs to the trees and to all of us. When you build big dams you make water the property of someone. You make it Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Vivendi... and this is the system affecting our water management. If we really want it, there would be water for everybody, but first we need to make small water reservoirs in different places. Then it will be done and our farmers and peasants lives will be changed. And they could live well

TC OUT: 45:05

TC IN: 45:23

We should have very, very small dams in many different places and manage it in a sustainable way. As you know, in India we have the Sardar Sarovar developmental scheme. The one project is managing all the costs of drinking and irrigation water for the population. Here, in our project, drinking water is a hundred times cheaper, and irrigation water three hundred times. Our model is the best response to these huge dams. We should have small dams so everybody could have access to water. If we continue with centralized irrigation systems or centralized developmental system it would be impossible to provide water to the poorest populations.

Among all the trees surrounding us, none of them is old. When I arrived here, there was not a single tree or plant but I felt happy. I can see trees around me. Water is god's blessing. We picked up every raindrop. We turned wild water into a slow water flow and then we kept it in the stomach of mother earth. We made canal systems, we used pipelines and thought:

Water, that destroys the earth must be controlled and kept in the stomach of mother earth so when you need it for cultivation you can take it out.

TC OUT: 47:33

Fade to black.

**Sec 55 Medha Patkar. Outdoor/Day.
Mahatma Gandhi Gardens New Delhi.**

TC IN: 48:23

And there are options which exist, but the World Bank has not learnt enough of lessons out of the Narmada's experience, and hence we continue to question them even today, because they are legally responsible for Sardar Sarovar, even today, because their loan and credit has not fully repaid. But what this teaches us is that the bankers, the lenders, the private corporate sectors and the rulers are hands in glove. And now beyond into the privatisation of one sector after another, including waters itself.

When we are questioning the centralisation in the development planning, which is taking at all of the people who are left as marginalised, we are also questioning globalization, because that is the worst of centralisation.

Now displacement is equated with development, that is seen in India and all over the world.

TC OUT: 49:30

Sec 56 Kamla Yadav. Indoor/Day
NBA's Office, Badwani, Madhya Pradesh.

TC IN: 49:43

The entire world knows who has got the real benefits of the dam. Even a child will tell you that the water that belonged to us has been snatched away from us and taken to the big cities. The power generated from the dam will go to the big industries in cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Bhopal. Especially because here we do not consume so much. In the big cities they have air conditioners, air coolers, tube lights, and fans for which they need more and more electricity. These are the symbols of development that the Government exhorts at the cost of our (poor peoples') lives.

We live simple lives. Our fields are fertile with sugar cane, corn, maize and chilli. The government thinks that it's alright if our crops are taken away from us and we die but the air conditioners and the coolers in the cities should never stop. I have a question for these policy makers: which book on this earth tells you to kill these poor farmers, to take away their natural resources to satisfy the greed of the urban rich? In which language is this book written: English, Hindi, Maharati, Gujarati?

TC OUT: 51:04

Sec 57. Slums. Outdoor/Day.
Slums, New Delhi.

Slums.

Sec 58 Gudibai Outdoor/Indoor/Day.
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
Guddibai's house.

TC IN: 52:30

We felt free in our villages. In village we knew each other and we used to meet. Here we are alone, we don't know anyone. Where to go, where to talk? We cannot go to anyone's house because we don't know the people. In the village even the poorest people are respected. Here they refuse to talk with us. They say "where have these beggars come from"? That is how they think of us.

TC OUT: 53:02

Sec 59 Kamla.
Badwani, Madhya Pradesh
NBA's office.

TC IN: 53:03

It seems that the Gujarat Government wishes to convert our state (Madhya Pradesh) into America but we do not want this. We just want it to be a better place to live. Poor people should be able to live a fearless life. The rivers, mountains and environment should be safe. Not just Madhya Pradesh but also the whole of our country should be free from the fear of being ousted, being harassed.

TC OUT: 53:18

Sec 60

New Delhi, Jabalpur.

People alone walking in the streets, sleeping...