

Foreword

Women's empowerment movement, though going on since many decades, has gathered momentum particularly in the last two decades. It has been accepted that women form the fulcrum of development in any region, society or culture. They have been able to establish their equal status and identity on some fronts like the political space, where women have taken the onus of good governance right from village up to the district level. The Rights based approach now informs all interventions for empowerment of women, including those by the State.



KMVS's association with Kutch is more than two decades old. In recent times, Kutch is developing at a rapid pace which has had its share of positive and negative impacts on Kutchi women. Organization is also in similar trajectory due to the deep relationship it shares with them. It is fulfilling to see that women are becoming more aware and forthcoming as part of emerging sangathans of KMVS like - Sakhi Sangini, Panchayati Manch or Dai sangathan, or KSSS - the trend which was missing during initial years.

Even in this era of empowerment, bigger challenges still remain - while women have been empowered in livelihood and right based sectors, the violence on women is increasing day by day. According to a nationwide survey by United Nation Population Fund, shocking figures reveal that 70% women are facing domestic violence in India. Working on these issues over the last decade, KMVS also registered 1100 (around 100 cases per year) cases at counseling centers, which have now increased to 300 cases per year. KMVS, in collaboration with District Police authorities has launched a helpline for women called "Hello Sakhi" to address this issue. An analysis of the cases which have been recorded through the helpline show indelible impact of industrialization and the changing social trends accompanying it. It is apparent that society today is in a dilemma. On the one hand there is a strong bent towards archaic customs and traditions in the name of preserving our "culture" and on the other hand, there is an inclination to adapt to the rapid changes in socio-economic trends. This has resulted in further burden on women to sustain their families, familial and social relations and cope with rapid changes in surroundings.

On the issue of health, through NRHM (National Rural Health Mission), government has ensured decentralization of primary health care services and community monitoring of the same; however fatal disease like cervical cancer is still being recorded in large numbers. Influx of workforce from outside the district has added to rise in societal evils like polygamy and unsafe sexual practices; burden of which is again borne by women.

In this scenario, KMVS decided to go through phase of institutional building to devise core strategies and approaches to work on. A need was felt for various member CBOs and knowledge cells to come under one umbrella so that they can collectively work for dreams, competencies and development of women. Organization is also undertaking long term strategic planning in furthering empowerment process of women. Most important learning for the organization has been how a movement based organization evolves and revisits its strategies in changing socio economic scenario.

This annual report attempts to talk of the interventions and learning simultaneously. The interventions were made possible through strong support of our members, associate organizations, networks, government machinery, KMVS team and governing board and most importantly women of Kutch. KMVS family has immense pleasure in presenting this report and hope you will cherish the memories.

- Preeti Soni
Executive Director

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Institutional building process of KMVS

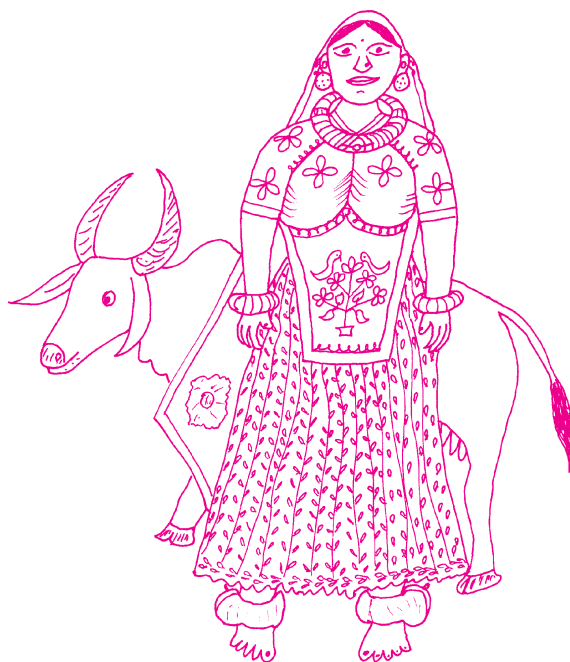
KMVS has, over the past two decades consistently, at periodic intervals, sought to revisit its own goals and objectives in the light of larger societal transformations, without compromising on its core ideological underpinnings- ***the values and principles of truth in action while empowering disadvantaged women***. In the past five years, there have been new challenges like- growing urbanization, changing socio-cultural configurations within the rural communities, and developmental opportunities in the micro and macro context, which has significant relevance to institutional building exercise within the organization.

In steering the institutional building process, series of events were organised, first of which was, the organizational climate and culture workshops. These were held to understand existing culture of KMVS and how it should be developed in coming future. The workshops were steered by known HID expert Ms. Anuradha Prasad. It gave an opportunity to team members to revisit the mission, vision, goal and objectives of the organization and try to envisage future strategies and approaches that need to be taken in wake of growing challenges in the region.

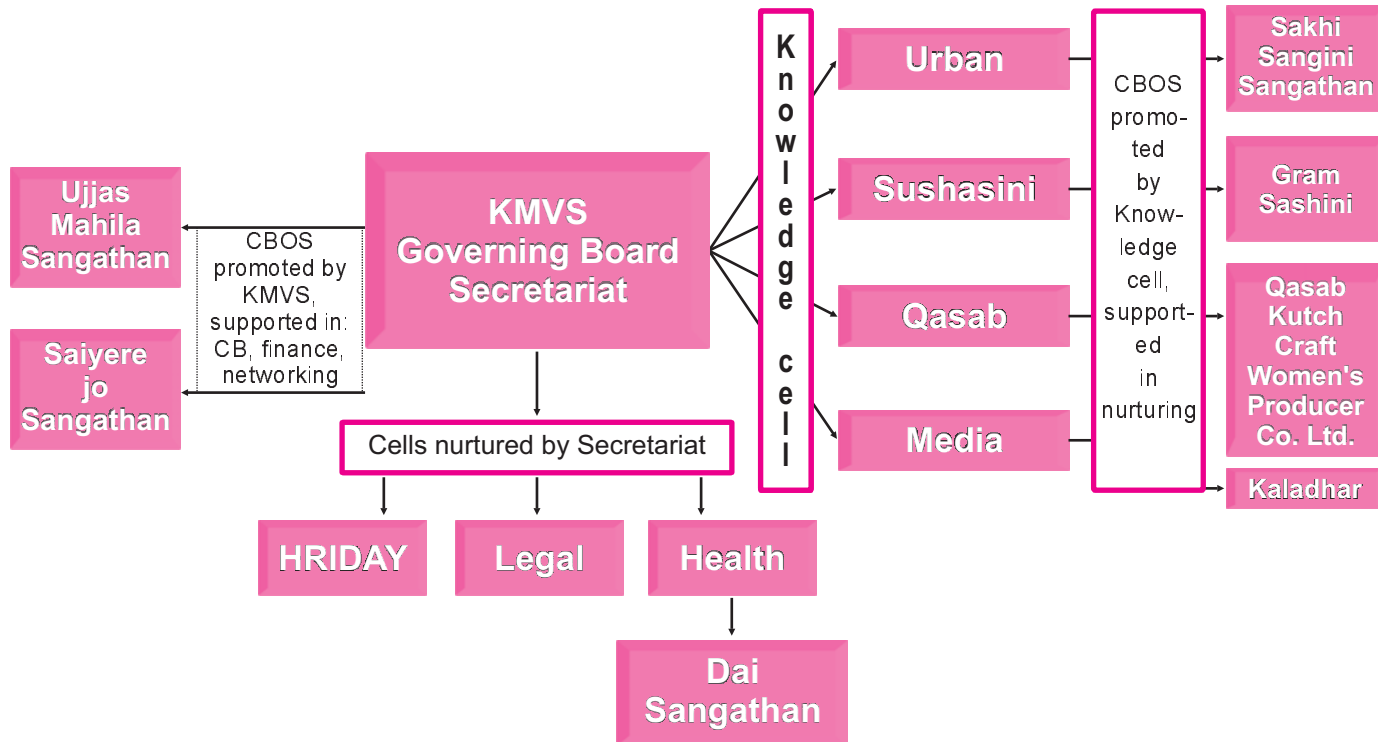
One of the major outcomes of these workshops has been that KMVS should move ahead in the direction of becoming a network organization, strongly raising movement against critical issues. While need was also articulated for organization to become resource base for the sangathans promoted and nurtured by it.

As an important outcome from the culture workshop entire team felt that walking on the path of becoming a network organization needs common voice of all knowledge cells under umbrella of KMVS. By doing so, a strong knowledge and skill base would be ensured which will help in providing strong support to holistic empowerment of women. The emphasis was also put in wake of new challenges at socio- economic- political space in the region that required close coordination with cells.

In this context, it was decided that all the knowledge cells of KMVs should share common office premises. A close analysis of developmental phase of each knowledge cell revealed that some cells can work independently while Health and Legal cells would still require nurturing support of Secretariat - the central support cell. HRIDAY, being the capacity building cell forms integral part of supporting knowledge cells in striving for excellence, was merged with the Secretariat to ensure centralized training support to all the cells. It was also decided that the Urban cell, which is has successfully established itself, would function as a separate cell. Following is the new structure of organization.



Proposed new structure of KMVS:



Strategic planning exercise was undertaken along these lines to identify important stakeholders, define future scenarios, issues of the region and mapping competencies of the team to undertake these challenges. Various exercises were done to understand importance of each stakeholder at micro and macro level of programmes, and develop on future themes like - working with issue based groups, new stakeholders, partnerships and resource planning.

This led to discussion with experts and board members, after which it has been decided that when the region is facing such stark transformations, it is time that KMVS reflects on its own agendas for action by undertaking an indepth study on the status of women in Kutch. And equally important, examine this changing phenomenon from the perspective of women's changing lives. The study would be first of its kind of gender study across the district.

It is hoped that the study would bring status of women in current context and help KMVS to build long term strategy for years to come.



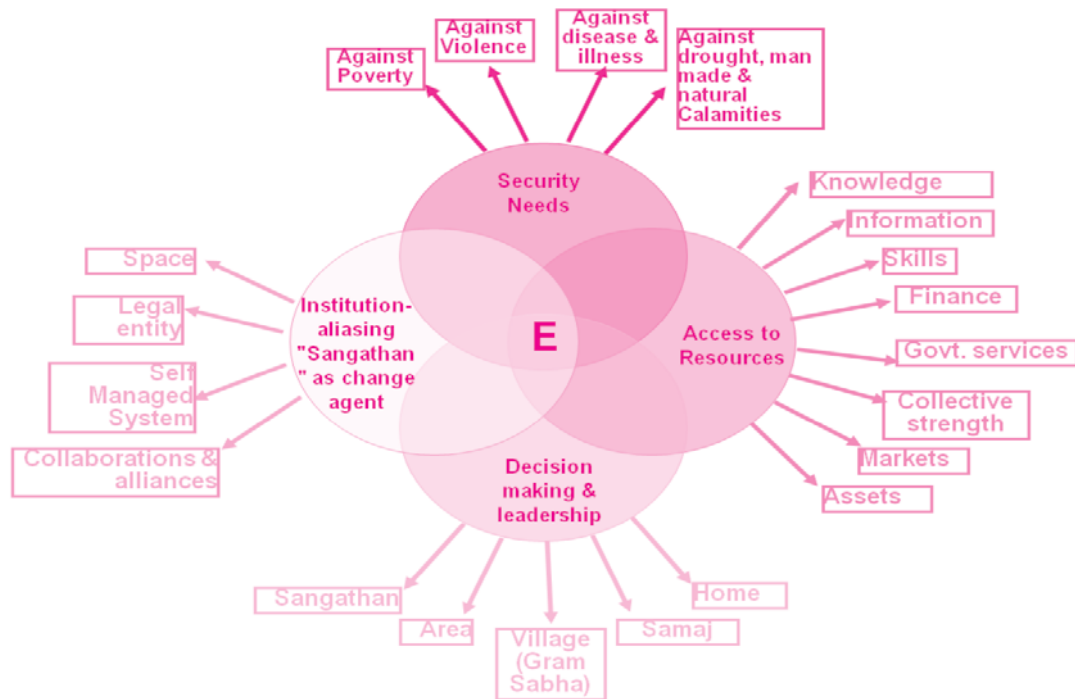
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Fantastic decade.. full of challenges, which taught us disaster mitigation, promoting new institutions and supporting Kutch based organization with optimum skills and capacities.

Above all this learning and experience, last two years have been very reflective in terms of reinventing and reviving KMVS as an umbrella organization for different area and issue based women's federation.

KMVS: Towards holistic empowerment of women in Kutch

At KMVS, we believe in following components for holistic empowerment:



KMVS believes that for holistic empowerment each woman should be secure, should have access to all the resources, should be a leader in their homes, village, communities and area and is empowered to take her own decisions. Such leaders should motivate many more women to mobilize them in forming a sangathan, which can address the challenges collectively. Thus, the cycle of empowerment would be complete by institutionalizing the change through forming collaborations and alliances and evolving self managed systems. With this belief, KMVS initiated its interventions in addressing all four needs of empowerment. Following are glimpse of activities in each of the areas:

1. Security Needs

For addressing the security needs, KMVS began with interventions on the gender based violence by setting up **legal cell**; while **health cell** worked towards securing women against deadly diseases and thereby improving the overall condition of women.

A. The Legal Cell – Towards Social Justice and equitable societies:

Since its inception, KMVS has time and again felt that violence on women has been increasing day by day (the government records of Kutch suggests that an increase of 10% is registered each year in incidence of unnatural death of women due to violence). It not only affects women's security but also hurts their dignity as human being. The team has observed that over time, the increase in violence on women, is accompanied with an increase in the types of abuse and causes of violence.





So, the issue of violence which had poverty at its root, has now spread across all castes and classes alike.

The cell has come a long way since inception, and has been scaling up the activities to cover entire Kutch. One of the strategic intervention has been launch of helpline called “Hello Sakhi” in 2009. This is a joint initiative with District Police. The helpline has got encouraging response with women from all sections of the local community accessing its services from all over the district.

Following are main activities of the cell:

i. Awareness generation

In the first phase a mass campaign was launched for generating awareness on gender based violence, particularly focusing on domestic violence, providing information about the PWDVA (referred to as DV act) and promoting the helpline-“Hello Sakhi”. The campaign covered 90 villages of 9 blocks of Kutch and provided an opportunity for direct interaction with communities and to understand the causes of violence.

Core strategy of the campaign was to reach out to more and more community members through awareness generation tools like leaflets, wall posters, slogans, video shows and group discussions. The underlying objective was educating the women to recognize the issue of violence and access help rather than taking extreme steps like suicides. This also helped in holding guided discussions with men and incorporating their views in tackling the problem and ensuring sensitisation of youth also.

Following is the summary of causes of domestic violence as articulated by women during the campaign

Increase in alcoholism, especially due to rise in SEZs which allow permit for liquors

Negative/ discouraging response from police department leading to less registration of cases

Rukshmaniben Madhav Joshi, resident of Ravapar village in Nakhatrana, had married against her family's will. She has a 6 year old son. After a few years of marriage her husband started to torture her. As she is physically challenged, she was more vulnerable. Being addicted to alcohol, one night her husband acted savagely and tried to burn her. She started screaming and was saved by neighbours. They called for an ambulance and reported this to “Hello Sakhi” help line. With valiant efforts, she was saved.

Even in this situation her natal family refused to help her, abandoning her. Hello Sakhi team came to her rescue and helped her in filing complaint at police station. The Police arrested her husband. She got protection and treatment.

Hello sakhi team members convinced her community elder to help her. One elder person stayed with her for 8 days after which they arranged for a house at village Dhavda, where she can stay safely. Community members also helped financially. This is motivating example for team where they were involved from rescue till rehabilitation.

Philandering husbands inflicting more violence on their wives

The social taboos of upper castes, which prevent women from even recognizing violence as an issue

ii. Responding to victims through helpline:

The helpline has become widely known in rural and urban areas alike. More than 356 cases have been registered on the helpline since the help line has been launched. details of which are in the table.

Along with the helpline service, the cell has associated with Mental Hospital of Bhuj to provide free counseling to people in distress, couples facing marital issues and other community members. This helps in solving their issues through mutual consent without legal procedures.

iii. Building para legal cadre from community

To ensure strengthened local response to victims, a process was initiated to identify youth from the community who can be trained as para legal workers. For this, 3 selection meetings were held with CBOs to develop criteria for selecting para legal cadre.

In the first phase of selection workshops across the blocks, selection workshop was held in Mundra where 40 women participated, and in total, 30 women were selected from 2 such workshops. In building their capacities, a customized training module was prepared and first batch of 28 para legal were trained, mainly in history of human civilization, democracy and constitution, freedom movement and women's role in it, and their duties and responsibilities as good citizen.

Way ahead:

The intensity and gravity of gender based violence in the society requires many more sustained and coordinated efforts and community involvement. The cell intends to spread awareness in more villages of the region through the second phase of campaign and strengthen the Para legal cadre in coming year.

Total cases –356

Cases settled through	91
Cases being run in the Court	59 (12 under DV)
Divorce	14
Referred to Police	17
Child custody	4
Rape	1
Unnatural Death	14
Counseling	15
Mentally disturbed	19
Referred to Stay Home	2
Police Case	5
On going cases	115

B. Health – along precarious paths...

The health programme was started with an aim to improve the situation of reproductive health of women in 4 Talukas (Mundra, Abdasa, Pachamm-banni and Nakhtrana) of Kutch. Overall objective was of reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates in the blocks. The interventions undertaken for this purpose were awareness raising, education, campaign, need based services, activation of existing groups in the community and collaborating with Government and other organizations.

The multi pronged strategies have been: awareness campaigns, creation of cadre of health workers,

In the village Vadsar of Abdasa, Champaben Rathod is an active nurse. She is member of VHSC and was trained by KMVS. She organized meeting for listing out works which will helpful in development. She involved other village leaders in meeting so VHSC members also agreed. The other members of VHSC accused her of being corrupt, but this did not deter her confidence. She went on to initiate work for cleaning of village and repairing of pipe line. In times, where majority VHSC members are not fulfilling their duties, she led by example and went beyond her traditional responsibilities as nurse.

creation of cadre of TBAs (trained birth attendants), cadre of VHSC (Village Health and Sanitation Committee), ASHA and Anganwadi workers and by linking up with local trust run hospitals (Bhojay Sarvoday Trust) in offering diagnostic and operative care, and referral to super specialty hospitals outside the district.

Main interventions have been:

i. Capacity building of VHSCs

The VHSC is a committee which specifically looks after health and sanitation issues in the village and plays an important role in improving the health care services and sanitation facilities in the village.



KMVS has been working to build their capacities so that they perform their roles effectively. Training for 126 VHSCs in all 4 blocks was organized in two segments. The first segment was for two days and included topics like role of VHSC, its purpose, role and responsibilities of its members, VHSC funds and its uses, development of village health plans, leadership and communication skills, and health and information rights of individuals. The second segment was meant to reinforce learning from the first segment and emphasize VHSC's role

in making health system accountable to the community.

ii. Kishori taleem - Adolescent training

Women aged between 14 – 20 years were trained on issues of reproductive health, nutrition and physical changes. Some of these Kishoris would be able to work voluntarily as health workers and take forward reproductive health issues in their villages.

iii. Awareness generation about National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and community's rights under it

KMVS has been acting as the nodal agency for generating awareness on NRHM and its provisions for improving health care delivery system to ensure that more and more people avail its benefits. Some of the activities undertaken were:

Capacity building of service provider

Capacity building of local existing groups and PRIs so they can monitor services at village level and ensure its effective implementation

Awareness program with existing and active groups like PRI, yuva mandal, mahila mandal, sakhi mandal and dais (TBA)



iv. Cervical Cancer awareness program

Health interventions of KMVS have revealed widespread occurrence of cervical cancer amongst women. Earlier it was believed that frequent pregnancies and lack of healthcare services are the root cause for this deadly disease

which kills thousands of women every day across India and worldwide. But, the changing culture of the region, increased incidence of polygamy and unsafe sexual practices result in the spread of SPV virus, the prime factor causing the cancer. KMVS decided to organize screening camps in the sangathan villages (in Nakhtrana, Mundra blocks) as a pilot intervention, and was shocked to discover that more than 20% women were affected from the Mundra region alone. This implied that the screening programme needs to be comprehensive, covering entire region.

After a comprehensive planning exercise, following steps were taken to implement the program:



Understand the situation of cervical cancer in 10 villages in 4 talukas

Capacity-building of KMVS health staff, dais and agewan (community leader) about cervical and breast cancer

Generating awareness about the cancer at village level via village institutions like- Panchayat and other committees

Screening test at village level where awareness activities have already been accomplished by KMVS

Performing VIA/VILLI test

v. Diagnostic camps

It has been experienced that simply providing for health services is not enough. Services have to be accompanied with guarantees that women will adapt. In reaching to remote villages, various camps like eye camp, Gynecological, Pediatric and general check up were arranged. In 15 villages of Abdasa and Mundra blocks. The camps saw number of women accessing help from the doctors and accessing help for their problems. The women diagnosed with serious ailments, were further referred to Bhojay Trust Hospital, Bhuj for further surgical treatments.

Following table shows statistical information of the activities:

Block	Dais i.e. traditional birth attendant	Trained kishoris	Village health and sanitation committee
Abdasa	61	322	23
Nakhtrana	52	381	27
Mundra	52	310	52
Pachamm	25	187	24
Total	190	1200	126

vi. Organising Dais (Traditional Birth Attendants)

KMVS has been working for capacity building of dais and initiate a movement for their recognition as key service provider in the local health structure at village level. Their experience can help in reduction of MMR and these women can act as point persons for referring to government clinics.

Dai Sangathan

Towards this purpose KMVS has been organizing and supporting 200 trained Dais so that they can be mainstreamed in the health system. The other objective besides mainstreaming Dais was that they get recognized for their traditional knowledge and can train the

adolescents and young women on safe motherhood and other hygienic practices.

For this KMVS participated in several advocacy activities along with Dai Sangathan Gujarat for putting pressure on Government. After various efforts, the government has agreed to look at list of Dais from interior Pachham (Bhuj block) and Abdasa regions of Kutch, who can be appointed as ASHA (government appointed village health worker under NRHM) workers.



Way ahead

In the coming year, the cell will strive to address issues beyond RCH, like cervical cancer and other such diseases. The cell also aspires to build in depth knowledge on other health issues and link with noted health experts who can work at community level for betterment of health.

Other capacity building initiative would be 2 day Dai training in 4 blocks will be undertaken, on the changing role of dais as per new GR (government rule).



Access to resources

The other important aspect of empowerment is access to resources - be it knowledge, information, skills or assets. With this belief KMVS initiated following interventions –

Qasab works for providing larger platform to embroidery artisans;

HRIDAY cell aims to impart knowledge building trainings.

Media cell works on providing information and technology through innovative mediums in local language;

Urban cell works on livelihood initiatives and holistic empowerment of urban women



A. Revamping embroidery craft - Qasab



Qasab started with overarching goal of creating an identity and brand for the unique and intricate embroidery craft of Kutchi women and ensure enhancement of its market access which leads to improved prices, translating in to improved quality of life. Working with more than 1700 artisans from 6 blocks of Kutch, Qasab has successfully created its brand and established itself as huge platform to promote various products with embroidery.

Major interventions of Qasab have been:

i. Forming and registering producer company of artisans

Since last two years Qasab has been working to register a producer company of the artisans. Many processes were initiated with producer groups to take their views on structure and form of their producer company, composition of its board and identification of potential leaders from various artisan groups associated with Qasab. Through various meetings, 10 community women leaders were identified as board and promoter members.

The initiative for economic empowerment of women artisans finally became a registered company in the year 2010. This has been a landmark achievement and realization of dream for producer groups.



ii. Exposure of women groups



Since past many years, groups from various countries visit Kutch and have one day workshops with the artisans. Last year groups from US, Australia, Germany, France visited and participated in one day workshop with artisans of appliqué work, and other embroideries. These workshops provide great opportunity to artisans for interaction and to share their culture with groups.

iii. Strengthening the supply chain and inventory management systems of the cell

This has been a year of consolidation of internal inventory and stock management system. The newly designed systems are in place and are proving useful in improved management of raw materials and other stocks.

Way ahead:

Qasab will look to strengthen its capacities through newly assumed form of producer company. The coming year will mainly focus on successfully undergoing this transition.

B. Building capacities - HRIDAY

During the year 2002-3 training and capacity building cell was formed in KMVS to cater to capacity building of staff, sangathans and other partner organizations. The main aim was to undertake comprehensive and customized training for each staff member of KMVS and rural sangathans promoted by it. Capacity building is recognized as a critical part of organization, and the cell has been instrumental in providing inputs on thematic, conceptual, planning and management areas. In 2007, the cell was named HRIDAY (**H**uman **R**esource and **I**nstitutional **D**evelopment **A**cademy). The cell has successfully trained KMVS staff and spanned its expertise to Kutch and Gujarat based organizations with over 200 trainings.

Following are the highlights of trainings undertaken during the year:

I. Capacity building of KMVS staff:

Thematic:

i. Induction and orientation for new recruits: Each year HRIDAY arranges induction trainings for new members in KMVS family. The inputs are directed towards building an understanding of women empowerment movement, voluntary sector and history of the organization.

ii. Understanding on Panchayati Raj for field staff of KMVS: for each of the new members in KMVS, this training is imparted. Its main objective is to disseminate basics of Panchayati Raj and its importance

in overall three tier structure of governance

iii. Understanding on Domestic Violence Act, 2005: since the organization works on this issue intensively, a training was held with para legal cadre and new members of KMVS to orient them on the law, its provisions and how it is used by women suffering from violence issues

iv. Global warming: the training was arranged as a lecture cum open house discussion on this critical issue and our role as citizens to take mitigation steps



Building skills and competencies:

v. Improving written and comprehension skills in English language for KMVS staff and other organizations: This training was first of its kind for organizational members and put emphasis on imparting basics of the language and using it to articulate the activities and learnings that they carry

vi. Team building training: on impart basic knowledge on team work and using it to be effective team player

vii. Process documentation: to train staff on effective documentation processes

viii. Visioning on community radio: was undertaken with the media team to understand roles and functions of community radio station

Learning through exposure by KMVS team



Exposure to hospitals In Chennai on cervical cancer



Exposure to "Akshara", Mumbai

Exposure to "DDS", Hyderabad on Radio initiatives

II. Capacity building of Ujjas sangathan

KMVS has supported and promoted Ujjas Mahila Sangathan since last 4 years. Ujjas has been working with Fisher community of the coastal belt of Mundra. It has successfully organized the community in registering a federation "Machimaar Adhikaar Sangarsh Samiti" (MASS) and has built their capacities to face the challenges in highly industrialized region. HRIDAY trained the "Machimaar Adhikaar Sangarsh Samiti" on the subjects mentioned below:

- Identification of main threats to fishing sector,
- Understanding impact of industrial development,
- Knowledge of Acts related to Special Economic Zone, Coastal Regulation Zone, Coastal Management Zone

Capacity building of fisherman producer on leadership

HRIDAY trained the members of fishing community of Kutch Sea Food Fishermen Company (Producer company promoted by KMVS and Abhiyan) in building their leadership skills. The objective was perspective **building, sensitization and knowledge building**. **some of the issues covered were:**

General and reproductive health issues of women in the region and the role of men of the community to reduce these health problems

Gender equity and women's role in traditional fishing occupation.



III. Capacity building of urban women on leadership

Urban women who are living in slums of Bhuj area have been linked to Sakhi Sangini federation of SHG group. Parallel to organizing them through their occupation and other livelihood activities, it is also mandated that they will be nurtured and go through a series of perspective building programmes. 124 urban sakhi sangini members underwent trainings on.:

- Unity is Power.
- Gender sensitization.
- Social perspective.
- Leadership.
- Self confidence .



IV. Training Of Trainers:



"Focus India" an associate organisation of Aga Khan Foundation based in Junagadh invited HRIDAY- to conduct a TOT (Training of Trainers). The group which is focusing on Disaster mitigation was trained in developing a perspective of participatory learning, skills, methods and mediums of participatory trainings, demonstration of various training methods and ways to educate elder community groups

Way Ahead:

HRIDAY will look to work on more thematic inputs like management skills and personal growth labs to nurture Programme personnel. The cell will also be working on devising comprehensive modules on leadership development for rural sangathans.

C. Media Cell: Development communication - can be the most powerful tool

KMVS believes that knowledge is most empowering tool for women to emerge out of the confines of society and their communities. With this belief, KMVS sought to engage in community media like-print, radio. The years of experience has shown that these mediums have become most effective in reaching to interior areas and help raise voice of the voiceless.

Some of the major activities of media cell are as below:

Ujjas Patrika - The bi monthly magazine is published regularly to showcase various issues prevailing in local society. This magazine reaches to about 2700 women from more than 300 villages of Kutch. Written in Kutchi language, it has been very popular with the community households. The magazine is recognized as '*Mukhpatra*' (voice) of KMVS.

Radio programmes - Initiated in 1998, the very first radio program '*Kunjai Panje Kutch ji* (Crane bird of Kutch)' was immensely popular



and made people aware about their governance issues. The media cell thereafter went on to produce 8 more radio series on various issues. In the year 2010 a radio programme was prepared for GGRC (a Govt. of Gujarat undertaking) on effectiveness of drip irrigation.

The cell has also been working to establish **Community Radio Station** in Bhimsar village to further the use of community media in mainstream development. After years of effort, the license to set up community radio station in Bhimsar, Nakhtrana was granted. This station will cover of 26 villages of the block and would air the programmes on subjects prioritized by the community. A team of volunteers and operational committee has been set up. The process of setting up of the studio has been initiated in this year and it will become functional soon.



While working for community media, it was felt that region like Kutch has vibrant and unique musical heritage. With more than 40 forms of music, and dozens of musical instruments and styles, it indeed gives Kutch a distinct pluralistic folk music heritage. But, even with rich heritage, the music is in declining stage, due to decreasing demand. KMVS sought to address this issue by organizing the artists and providing a platform for male and female music artists in reviving this dying tradition. This sangathan has been named as - Kutch Sangeet Sadhak Sangh.

Kutch Sangeet Sadhak Sangh

The Sangathan was formed in 2007. Currently it engages more than 400 folk music artists. It has paved the way for the artists to hold performances and show case their talent. Women in particular have found this as an ideal medium to raise their voice against traditional customs and move on to larger platform to show their talent.



During this year, 18 performances of artists have been held in Bhuj, Benaras, Delhi, Bangalore,

Ahmedabad, and other places in Kutch. All of these performances have been very successful and have been inspirational for the artists. A steering committee of experts has also been formed. They have been meeting regularly with the artists and team. Their guidance has helped in establishing identity of sangathan and strengthening their efforts towards creating niche.

In capturing their efforts, 3 documentary films have also been produced by noted film makers on life and work of noted women artists of Kutch - Jiviben, Shehnazben and Bhathiben.

Way ahead:

The media cell will work for operationalizing the community radio station. Production of another radio series on panchayat issues is also in pipeline.

Kanji Rana is a teenage Jodiya Pawa player. He learnt it him self without knowing more about classical forms of music. When KSSS got to know about him, they approached him and invited him to studio to play instrument. He hesitated to come to studio but persistent efforts of KSSS motivated him to perform in front of community and in studio.

He started his musical journey with radio serial and now is performing in front of thousands in different programs. He has improved his quality of performance by guidance of KSSS experts and mastered art of Raga & Raginis.

D. Urban Cell: Organising women from Urban slums, dignify them through livelihood interventions

KMVS has thus far focused its work on grass roots in rural areas. However growing urbanization of major cities of Kutch, necessitated that it engages with women in the urban areas as well and thus a few interventions in urban areas have been initiated. As a part of this, KMVS is working with more than 350 women from urban slums for the last three years.

The efforts in the urban area follow a unique approach. These do not focus on a particular aspect of women's lives, rather it looks to address holistic empowerment. The initiatives currently are centered around livelihood enhancement which is an entry point activity to mobilize the groups. The current programmes are:

i. Door to Door waste collection

The program has been jointly initiated with Nagarpalika (Municipal corporation) and other partner organizations since 2008. KMVS has been involved in identifying and building capacities of these women for door to door waste collection from more than 20,000 households of Bhuj.



The programme currently engages 122 sakha-sakhi in waste collection. A charter of rules and regulations has been prepared so that this process is streamlined and Sakhi group becomes more accountable towards this program.



ii. Other livelihood initiatives

Linkage has been established with Craft Recourse Centre an organization which buys the non-biodegradable waste from the

Sakhis (women associated with door to door waste collection programme) The plastic is further recycled by the organization. This adds additional dimension to the program and helps the cause of ecology preservation.

For promoting livelihood, these members have been organized in various groups based on the livelihood activity like - pickle making, home managers, tiffin providers, professional stitching etc.

Following table shows some of the achievements of the cell:

In attaining common goal, Sakhi Sangini sangathan was launched and more than 500 women are now associated with it
More than 150 women are engaged in different livelihood initiatives, and their cumulative annual income was to tune of Rs. 23,34,666/-
The cell covers 16 slum areas of Bhuj and is providing support to Mundra sangathan in running canteen services in the Mundra city
More than 30 trainings were organized for the women, in building their leadership capacities

Working with women from urban slum areas has led to many insights regarding the potential of urban women, their skill development aptitudes and their capacities for small scale enterprises. One of the remarkable achievement of working with urban women was encouraging these women members to form SHG groups and formally establishing a federation of their SHGs, "Sakhi Sangini".

Sakhi Sangini

This has become a district level platform for urban poor women to voice their issues. “Sakhi Sangini”, though launched recently has a lot of enthusiasm in identifying more livelihood initiatives and involving more women as members. After various discussions and consultations with sangathan leaders, they prioritized following issues for action:

1. Housing for poor

In taking up the housing issue, a committee of women from Sakhi sangini has been formed. It undertook a survey of all women members and listed the most vulnerable families which will be given a loan of Rs. 40,000/-for building the house. This is being undertaken under “Homes in the city” project.

2. Accessing government schemes and other such benefits through information in coordination with urban Setu

Urban Setu (information centre promoted by KNNa), which has been an important partner in many of the urban initiatives, has helped women to avail ration cards, widow pensions, birth and death certificates. The benefits of this, has been immense to all groups.

3. Work on health issues of women



A gynecological camp was also organized in February 2011, in urban areas and 7 women were referred for further surgeries. Similar camps are also organized regularly to provide information on sexually transmitted diseases and breast and cervical cancer.

Way Ahead:

A new concept of piloting of ‘model area’ has also been proposed. It is envisaged that all the core tasks of waste collection, segregation and disposal would be undertaken by all three partners i.e. Sakhi Sangini, Hunnershala and Sahjeevan. Sakhi Sangini is projected to become a professional service provider group for Bhuj Municipality in long run. This has potential for Sakhis to become entrepreneurs and get due recognition of their work.



Leadership and decision making

A. Sushasini

The cell has been working for more than a decade with aim to create enabling environment for women elected representatives (WERs) so that they become pillars of good governance at village Panchayats and ensure development of respective villages.

Major interventions:

Gram Sashini:

One of the core strategies to mobilize WERs has been forming their manch (collective of WERs) at block level. This manch comprises of elected leaders, members of panchayat and other community leaders. Sushasini has been successful in forming manch in 6 blocks of Kutch, following table shows the membership base:

Block	Sarpanch Member	Member of Panchayat	Other Leaders	Total
Bhuj	15	55	35	105
Nakhtrana	17	68	95	180
Mundra	10	40	30	80
Mandvi	15	55	95	165
Lakhpat	7	22	25	54
Abdasa	8	24	46	68



The manch has been very successful in disseminating the capacity building inputs through its regular bi-monthly meetings, lecture series and exposures. During this year, more than 493 members of manch participated in such meetings. Various developmental issues like MNREGS, PDS system, ration cards, alcohol and issues related to women's health were discussed.

The major achievement during this year has been the launch of 'Jilla Manch' (district manch). This is envisaged to act as a pressure group at district level for advocacy issues of WERs. The collective strength of the block level panchayati leaders would be amplified through this forum and would lead to active participation of women leaders.

Even after continual capacity building efforts, WERs many a times face no confidence motions in their villages which hampers their confidence. The women sarpanch particularly face many such challenges owing to their gendered identity. Such issues requires deep understanding of legal provisions, which has now been mastered by Sushasini team. And the team provides continual guidance to Sarpanch in this situation.

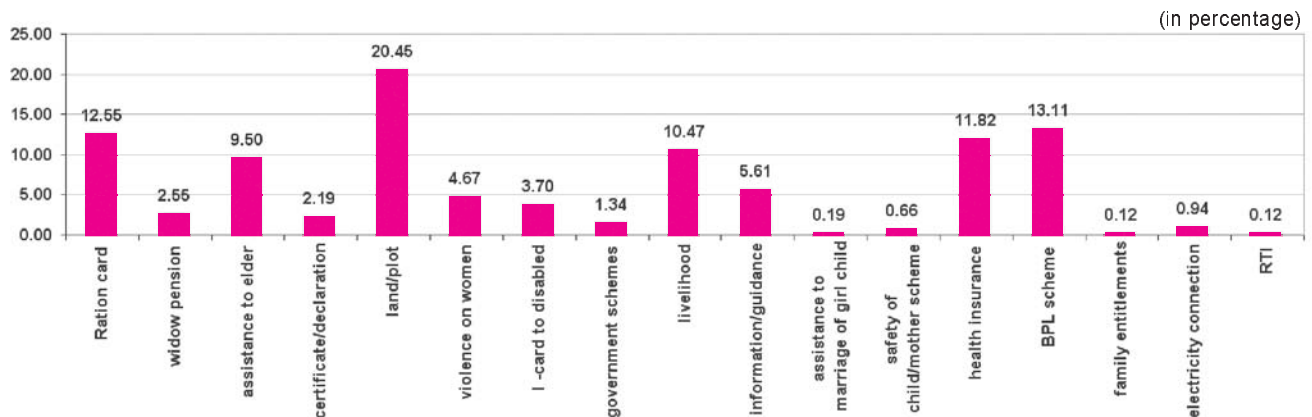
Capacity Building Inputs

Lecture series: In collaboration with Abhiyan, KMVS organizes lectures once in a month. All the community members from work areas of SETU (information centers promoted by Abhiyan) and Sushasini attend these lectures. Themes of lectures are identified from discussions with WERs during their manch meetings. Various subject experts provide information on these issues while feedback and open discussion sessions ensure that members get complete information on the issue and their questions are answered.



Information centers: Currently, 4 information centers are functional in Abdasa, Mundra, Nakhtrana and Bhuj blocks. The WERs of manch manage the information centre, by providing information and assistance to community regarding government schemes. The centers are opened once in a week, the day which the TDO (Taluka Development Officer) has designated for signing and authenticating documents of villagers. The centers have been extremely advantageous to people in availing benefits. The chart below shows the issues covered:

Benefits from information centre to families



Model village

After working with the village panchayats for a decade, it was felt that there are many panchayats where the sarpanches lack basic knowledge about the administrative structure, the designated officials, various government schemes and its workers like ASHA, Anganwadi worker, MTA-PTA members etc. To remedy this situation, an intervention was designed wherein 25 villages from Bhuj, Mundra, Nakhtrana, Abdasa and Mandvi blocks were selected. Various activities like meetings with parents, sarpanch, committee members, drawing competition with children, plays and skits etc. were undertaken to provide information about what an ideal village should be like. These activities were successful; display boards providing all the information regarding phone numbers of sarpanch and other officials, names of ASHA, Aanganwadi worker, phone of NREGA officers and other useful details were put up. Display boards were also put up outside PDS shops so that people don't get cheated of their quota of grains. Its effect has been very encouraging.

Learnings

While working for model village concept it became apparent that the inclusive approach helps in effectiveness of the panchayat activities and gives more recognition and ownership to WERs



Institutionalizing

Sangathans promoted and institutionalized by KMVS

Ujjas Mahila Sangathan

Ujjas Mahila Sangathan was formally registered in 2004 and mainly works on right based issues in the most industrialized region - Mundra - of Kutch. It is being promoted and supported by Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan. The sangathan has been facing steep challenge with massive industrialization taking its toll on regional horticulture, agriculture, land holding and threat to traditional occupations with rapid changes. Sangathan is continually striving to build community voices against large industries which have tremendous clout. Other efforts are centred at abolishing evils like-alcoholism from the society. Major interventions undertaken this year were:

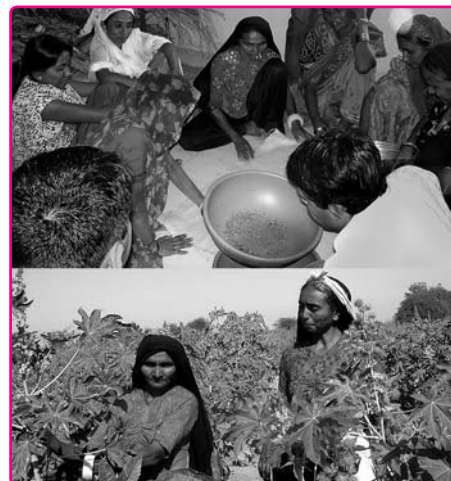
Traditional occupation of animal husbandry has been strengthened through small enterprises like cattle feed, fodder banks, para vet cadre. In turn, women have also been successfully linked with NDDB, reviving the dairy for milk marketing.

In strengthening animal husbandry efforts further, a ghee making unit has been established in Ratadia village of Mundra block. The Ghee is made by traditional methods and is currently being sold in Mundra city as well as Ahmedabad and Mumbai. The intervention has been a confidence booster for women to initiate such small scale enterprises.

For agriculture, a novel programme of traditional seed conservation has been started. This has been initiated on pilot basis with 10 women farmers who will conserve best seeds for next harvest season and ensure seed preservation.

For the fishing community, a producer company has been formed and is in its registration phase. The company has provided many benefits by collective bargaining and has become a forum for fighting for their rights. One of the main impacts has been sharing of ownership by women in income and other transactions of the company. The capacity building inputs received by them has also resulted in their effective presentations in public hearings by companies in the area.

The fisherfolk has established a group MASS for collective struggle to attain rights of fishermen and to protest against unfair industrial growth, which will hugely affect fishing sector in coming years. The Sangathan leadership, particularly women have come out strongly in communicating their views even to environment ministry and successfully achieving court stay on power plant slated to be built in Bhadreshwar, Mundra. The sheer determination shown by women has inspired huge masses to join the movement.



Following table gives a glimpse into UMS interventions:

UMS has 4000 women members

50 villages are being covered

From members, **400** are from fishing community

Savings and credit program links **2700** women

800 members are involved in milk production

36 members are linked with Ghee making unit

42 farmers are associated with Anmol programme of organic farming

46 women members are associated with dai sangathan

75 women are active members of Panchayat manch- Mundra

76 women members have been working as para legal workers

125 women represent leadership of rural sangathans

100 members are associated with - Ekal Nari Manch (advocating issues of single women)

20 women members are working as change agents for awareness on health amongst fishing community

The other major initiative is on health issues, whereby more than 25 VHSCs (Village Health Sanitation committees) are being strengthened and specific inputs are being given to fisher folk on their reproductive health issues. Community members have also raised issues to BHO for better health services to fisher women at sea coasts.

Savings and credit activities have become the real change vehicle for women. Currently majority of the loans are for initiating enterprises or livelihoods. The repayment rates are equally good at nearly 98%. The activity links more than 2500 women and total turn over is more than 50 Lakhs.

Political empowerment is also sought through Manch of WERs, who are constantly being guided by Sushasini knowledge cell (unit of KMVS). The Manch is becoming self reliant in raising their issues and inspiring other women to join the Manch. They have also taken up other issues like - protesting against alcoholism through rallies and filing complaints against shops/persons selling liquor.

Saiyere Jo Sangathan (SJS)

Saiyere Jo Sangathan is a Federation and Community based organisation working in Nakhatrana Taluka of Kutch District, promoted and supported by Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, an established rural women' collective in Kutch. The vision and objectives of the SJS can be summarized as follows *"The economic, social and political empowerment of rural women of western Kutch (Nakhatrana and Lakhapat Taluka) by undertaking different development programs and capacity building efforts.*

Major interventions of the *sangathan* during this year have been:

Animal Husbandry and dry farming program in Powerpatti (cluster of villages located on the western site of Nakhatrana block) cluster

A process of forward and backward linkages has been started with aim to sustaining animal husbandry. A cluster committee comprising of 6 women was formed. This cluster committee would work towards dry land farming and animal husbandry, initially in 6 villages but would cover all 12 villages.

Setting up of small enterprises like - pulses, ghee, butter milk and other cattle feed selling units. This has given ample opportunity to women in establishing themselves as entrepreneurs, the units are now on the verge of becoming self sustainable with adequate profits to cover the operational costs.

One of the important initiatives is the seed conservation program which aims at conserving local varieties of seed and ensure its availability right at the village level. Pilot programmes of field plots and seed banks have been initiated, which have met with reasonable success.

Grassland conservation is another project, aimed at improving fodder for cattle to strengthen the occupation which heavily relies on animal husbandry.

Along with activities of savings and credit, strengthening panchayati women through manch and legal counseling another major intervention was putting process to establish community radio station. The sangathan has mobilized the community to be partner in to the project and has successfully availed land for construction of station.

Following table gives a glimpse into SJS interventions:

SJS has 3750 women members
46 villages are being covered
From members, 1200 are artisans
Savings and credit program links 3500 women
1170 members are involved in milk production
43 members are linked with Ghee making unit
345 farmers are linked with organic farming
56 women members are associated with dai sangathan
73 women are active members of Panchayat manch- Nakhatrana
71 women members are elected as water committee - pani samiti members
156 women represent leadership of rural <i>sangathans</i>

Landmarks achieved by KMVS towards empowering women....

Institutional building process has proved quite important in providing clear direction for the future ahead. It has helped the knowledge cells to get the larger picture of women's empowerment in the current era.

Organization successfully launched the helpline for women, which proved to be most successful initiative in addressing the issue of gender based violence; more than 356 women accessed the help in this year.

A cadre of rural women trained as para legal workers will help in responding immediately to crisis situation.

The cervical cancer screening camps ensured maximum women get screened for the disease, and community stepped in to bear the expenses for the camps.

Registration of Qasab as Producer Company is truly a recognition of artisans and their skills.

License for community radio station in Nakhtrana was granted; this will go on to become the first CRS in Kutch and will become mouth piece of community.

HRIDAY has now become focal point of all the capacity building initiatives within KMVS and is also extending expertise to other regional organizations.

One of the high point has been formation of a sangathan of all the urban women under one umbrella- "Sakhi Sangini".

Sushasini cell is now on the path of realizing their vision of self sustainable manch of EWRs. All the manchs are proactively taking up the issues with block officials, and are also taking the lead in facilitating developmental issues like - health and security. This has added another dimension to their collective strength and truly brings out their duties as active sarpanch.

Under the collective leadership of block level manch, Jilla (district level) manch- "Gram Sashini" has been launched . This will help WERs raise their voices at district level.

તકવંચિત મહિલાઓનું સામાજિક, આર્થિક અને રાજકીય રીતે સશક્તીકરણ કરવા કચ્છ મહિલા વિકાસ સંગઠન અને સુનિશ્ચિત આયોજન દ્વારા અમલીકરણ થવાથી હજારોની સંખ્યામાં મહિલાઓ સંગઠિત થઈ છે અને પોતાની ઓળખ વિકસાવવા સંઘર્ષ કરી જાહેર ક્ષેત્રો – હસ્તકલા, આરોગ્ય, શાસન વ્યવસ્થામાં પોતાનું યોગદાન આપવા લાગી છે, જેની નોંધ લેવાઈ છે.



લતાબેન

Events and Publication

Major events have been:

1. Launching of Hello Sakhi helpline

The helpline- "Hello Sakhi" was launched in May 2010. This was inaugurated by DSP of Kutch and other officials from police department and KMVS team. Inspiring speeches were made at the function.

The helpline is functional and Bhuj city police station is providing its active support in attending to majority of the cases. This is a unique initiative where police department has collaborated with an organization for social cause.

2. Launching of Sakhi Sangini

After 3 years of efforts in the urban areas, KMVS and other partner organizations decided to formally launch the urban collective of women. An event was organized for the launch and naming the collective as "Sakhi Sangini". The event also unveiled the logo of the sangathan. It was heartening to see thousands of urban women participating in the event and making motivated speeches about their SHGs, housing and other livelihood initiatives.



Paper presentation was also made by team members of organization on issues rampant in urban areas like- alcohol, violence, lack of proper sanitation, environment and other issues.

3. Community Radio Workshop

Working in the development communication since past 13 years, KMVS has been associated with many national forums on radio programmes. One such forum is "Community Radio Forum", which undertook various capacity building exercises for the organizations which are going through the process of setting up radio stations. They chose to select KMVS as hosts so that the experiences of KMVS can be shared at larger level. This workshop provided great opportunity for the organization to showcase its work and cite examples of setting and running radio stations. The participants acknowledge the fact the KMVS has been able to mobilize the community to own the station and be a meaningful part to it. The workshop



saw more than 30 participants from entire west region of the nation.

4. Launching of "Gram Sashini"

The Jilla Manch (District Manch) was launched in an event, where more than 300 panchayati women participated. The governing board members of the Manch were elected and felicitated by the MP of Kutch, Poonamben Jat.

Publications of KMVS



A monthly magazine covering issues of panchayat and success stories of elected women leaders- being circulated to 2400 panchayat members



A bi monthly magazine covering issues of eminence for rural communities- being circulated to 2700 women across Kutch

Financial Outlay and Other Information

Income, expenditure statement for 2009-10

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Bhuj					
P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch)					
Income & Expenditure Account For The Year ended on: 31st March, 2010					
Expenditure	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.	Income	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.
To: Expenditure on Establishment of the Trust	8	1,698,233	By: Rent	13	72,000
To: Remuneration to Trustees	9	695,988	By: Interest Income	13	4,625,669
To: Legal, Income Tax & Other Fees	10	46,259	By: Grants & Donations	14	6,140,762
To: Audit Fees	11	35,000	By: Other Income	15	2,049,089
To: Bad Debts	-	21,900	To: Excess of Expenditure Over	-	-
To: Depreciation	4	574,104	Income Tr. To B/s	3	994,660
To: Amount Tr. to Capital Fund	1	1,237,691			
To: Expenditure on objects of the Trust	12	9,573,005			
Total Rs.		13,662,180	Total Rs.		13,662,180

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts 16

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

For, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

(Ms. Lata Sanchde)

Member-Governing Board

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date: 27 SEP 2010

As per our Report of even date.

For, Pravin C. Doshi & Co.

Chartered Accountants

(CA Pravin C. Doshi)

Proprietor

Membership No. 37012

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date:

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Bhuj					
P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch)					
Balance Sheet As On: 31st March - 2010					
Funds & Liabilities	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.	Assets & Properties	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.
(I) Trust Funds	1A	60,175,941	(I) Immovable & Movable		
(II) Other Funds	1B	1,281,495	Properties		
(III) Loans	2A	644,976	(a) Gross Block	4	7,360,051
(IV) Liabilities	2B	2,494,045	(b) Less: Depreciation Fund.	4	4,148,303
(V) Income & Expenditure A/c	3	2,229,433	(c) Net Block (a-b)	4	3,211,747
			(II) Music C D	-	75,585
			(III) Investments & Deposit	5	53,536,755
			(IV) Loans and Advances	6A	1,643,287
			(V) Unrealised Income	6B	1,678,172
			(VI) Cash and Bank Balances	7	6,680,344
Total Rs.		66,825,890	Total Rs.		66,825,890

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts 16

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

For, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

(Ms. Lata Sanchde)

Member-Governing Board

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date: 27 SEP 2010

As per our Report of even date.

For, Pravin C. Doshi & Co.

Chartered Accountants

(CA Pravin C. Doshi)

Proprietor

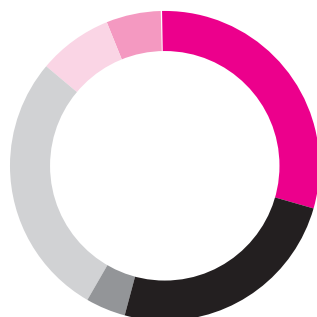
Membership No. 37012

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date:

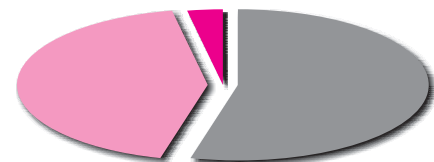
Provisional Details for year 2010-11 (Subject to Audit)

Details: Financial outlay of program costs



- Programic Activity
- Human resource cost
- Admin cost
- benefits accrued at community level
- central support cost
- Training and Capacity building

program cost vis-a-vis benefits to community



- Total Program Expenditure
- benefits accrued at community level
- Revolving funds for community, Staff