

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

Taluka Wise KMVS Coverage



Symbols : Sangathan Qasab Gramshasini Dai Para Legals Soorvani

FOREWORD



Kutch has always been facing natural calamities, due to fragile ecology – the worst affected are always women. To address their woes and gender inequity in the region, KMVS came in to existence. For the past 25 years, KMVS is doing this process relentlessly.

Post earthquake, Kutch has changed. On one hand women always struggled to conserve scarce natural resources- be it water or grass lands, but now their challenges have grown due to heavy industrialization. It is huge challenge therefore to keep the women's empowerment process alive and vibrant. It is imperative that we align with the times. KMVS has over the years, promoted collectives like – Gramshasini (collective of EWRs), sakhi Sangini (urban slum dweller women), producer companies of agriculture and animal husbandry, Soorvani (folk music artists), para legal cader, UMS and SJS (collectives in Nakhtrana and Mundra) to address some of these challenges. But, looking at the intensity and scale of women's issues, it was thought that all the energies and efforts of these collectives needs to be centered- with this need, it was decided that developmental interventions be carried with 'local governance' as a medium. this also ensured that empowerment process itself is looked at holistically.

In the past 17 years of working with EWRs and panchayats, KMVS has focused on enabling women in panchayats so they can govern their panchayats better. But, with changing times they also aspire to build gender responsive panchayats- panchayats which address gender sensitive issues at the ground level and becomes true models of change. So, with this objective, all the knowledge resource cells and entire KMVS team is implementing towards realizing collective dream of 'gender just' panchayats. Some of achievements in the past year are- VHSCs have been strengthened to ensure better service deliveries at village, Social justice committees are sensitized to address violence on women and entire panchayat bodies are sensitized to ensure equal space for women's voices through process like 'Mahila Gramsabha' and 'Panchayat meetings'. Technology media like- Radio, Video screening, Voice message has been utilized to spread this message further. Some of the panchayats have also ensured that no marginalized family is deprived of their entitlements by using 'Panjo Haq (software providing information on govt. schemes, developed by KMVS). I am hopeful that these new innovations and approach is a step in the right direction to address challenges.

Lata Sachde

Secretary, KMVS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous year has been of developing strategies and finding a core to the empowerment process that KMVS has initiated. During the first decade of its journey, it was necessary to focus on building capacities of women so that they lead the change and bring social transformation. In the second decade, the onus was kept on building institutions out of the change process which are carriers of this movement and efforts. The last five years have been to strengthen and consolidate these institutions, their ideas, approaches and vision. So, at the time when KMVS will enter in to its 25th year, this year was crucial to rekindle some of the discussions and reflections on its efforts and finding a central theme which connects to overall developmental process.

Thus, with this context the beginning of the year was mainly devoted to such discussions and processes, which proved that the processes and efforts needs to be centred around 'governance' theme, which will truly empower the elected women representatives to get in to the gender responsive governance and ensure that development happens in a true sense. This approach would also strengthen the women's leaders and groups of the collectives to ensure closer linkages to their panchayats and make them accountable to take up women's agendas.

The concept, approach and its strategies are still evolving and would be consolidated through out the next year. Apart from this, KMVS carried the movement of 'One billion rising' in Kutch and associated women's collectives to raise their voices against violence on women. Also, celebration of women's day motivated 100 women leaders to form a team and raise collective movement called 'Goonj', against alcohol and violence on women. The entire movement has been mentored and supported by KMVS.

The year saw KMVS fuelling energy to women's movement in Kutch, and focusing its strength on local self governance.



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Effecting change in rural governance

Sushasini – building Gender responsive governance

Sushasini cell has been working with elected women representatives (EWR) since 1997 and have enabled EWRs post each panchayat elections. The cell has strived to build their strengths to govern their panchayats and ensure transparent and effective management of panchayats. Introducing many key strategies like 'building model panchayats', 'devising literatures and campaigns at district levels to build their capacities', 'setting up information centres to provide knowledge to panchayat and community members,' and most important of all- forming block- district level manch (collective) of EWRs. Through these strategies, more than 1200 EWRs have associated with manch and have impacted at their panchayats and villages. Consolidating the efforts beyond strengthening governance process only, the cell has started building capacity of EWRs so that their panchayats take up gender sensitive agenda. Following have been activities this year-

- **Panchayats pave way for gender responsive governance**

To build gender responsive panchayats, first effort was to identify 50 panchayats across 6 blocks, which have women sarpanch and are willing to take up issues of women. Identifying this panchayats, the next step was to meet their Panchayat bodies and understand their issues, perceptions on gender responsive agenda and issues they want to prioritise on. Along with these meetings, detailed profiling was done for this panchayats – profiling included state of basic amenities, institutions and services in the village and issues pertaining to education, health, livelihood, drinking water and sanitation. The profiling has helped in introducing concept of – **“Gender Index”**



Gender Index is a tool, conceived by Sushasini to act as a mirror for panchayats to measure their work from gendered perspective- 'Did their activities empower women? Did they carry their efforts towards bringing in gender equity?' the tool is being finalised and will be implemented in panchayats with their consensus and support.

- **EWRs run and manage information centres**

Information centres, formed since 2005 are now being managed by currently elected EWRs. Hosted in block panchayat offices in all six blocks, the centres play important role of a bridge between community and block/district panchayat departments. They focus specifically on marginalised communities so that they avail their entitlements. In the past year, information centre has helped 11031 families to avail benefits. Also, cluster level information centres have been opened at Abdasa, Mandvi, Nakhtrana and Mundra blocks. These centres provide further advantage to community members, who don't have to go to all the way to block office for availing information/ forms and formats for benefits under various government schemes.



- **Enhanced presence of women in Gramsabhas**

Experiencing feeble presence of women in Gramsabhas- which is largest decision making and democratic forum in local self governance, Sushasini has been working with panchayats to hold Mahila Gramsabhas before the main Gramsabhas and encourage women to take up their agendas in Main Gramsabhas. To build this as a standard practice, Sushasini motivated 49 Panchayat that they would hold Mahila Gramsabhas before their Gramsabhas. During the last year, 94 such Mahila Gramsabhas have been held associating 3079 women members.

Also, detailed study was undertaken on bottlenecks the women face in participating in Gramsabhas. Some of the prime reasons narrated by them have been social customs, non announcement of Gramsabhas, improper timing and place and patriarchal mindsets etc.

- **Jansamwad with government officials**

Initial discussions with panchayats showed that their first priority in advocating agenda was for improved health services and functional 'Gram Sanjeevani Samitis (brief studies by KMVS shows that around 40% VHSCs in 6 blocks are not aware on their roles and responsibilities). To understand their issues better, FGDs were done with more than 100 EWRs and panchayat bodies. Based on the discussions, priority issues were derived for each panchayat. After this, Jansamwad (hearing) was held in which block health officer-Nakhtrana, Medical officer- Bhuj and Urban health officer-Bhuj remained present. Panchayat member from each block presented their issues and sought solution from the officers. The officers listened to it and responded constructively. When needed, the panchayat members persistently argued about their issues and views and made them accountable. Such forums have instilled huge confidence in EWRs, who will be holding two more such Jansunwais in coming year.

- **Institutionalising and Capacity building**

'Gramshasini (district level manch of EWRs) has moved a step further in becoming an independent forum. Guided by leadership of 18 EWRs from 6 blocks, they have successfully derived their membership norms, rules and regulations and decision making process. The core leadership meets every 4th Thursday to discuss the issues faced by EWRs in their blocks and how Gramshasini can support them. The leaders have also participated in comprehensive gender and leadership trainings imparted by KMVS.

Also, they have been involved in building capacities of EWRs in their block level manch as well as the Panchayat committees. With support of Gramshasini, 6 VHSCs and 3 SJsCs have been trained in Nakhtrana and Mundra blocks. Also, around 40 Manch meetings have been held, where 600 EWRs have participated. 204 EWRs have also provided fees of 100 rs towards their membership.



- **Making women's voices and votes count- convergence of governance and ICT**

The programme aims at generating gendered dialogue and building women's constituencies by deploying ICT tools like community radio, video and mobile applications. KMVS is implementing this programme along with partners It4change and Anandi. Implemented in Nakhtarana and Mundra, core group of 48 EWRs and more than 200 Sangathan leaders directly involved in utilising radio and video to bring forth issues like ration card, defunct PDS shops, lack of basic facilities in PHC,CHCs, rampant alcoholism etc. also, EWRs are engaged in running 2 block level and 4 cluster level information centres. Managed jointly by team of infomediaries, the centres provide all information related to government schemes and also holds activities like- collective radio/video viewing sessions, meeting of panchayat bodies, discussing use of ICT to raise their issues etc.

To facilitate learning process, a web based portal- 'Panjo Haq' has also been developed, which has information of 45 government schemes and it's formats. Any one from the community can access it at information centres. Besides, radio sessions, video viewing routines have been held at community level. Also, processes like social audit have come out of discussions at info centres. To generate awareness on larger scale public mela – info mela' was also held in which all information on RCH and VHSC



was displayed through various mediums of radio story, banners, video stories and GIS based applications. Enhanced usage of technology has provided an option of large scale discourse and dialogue on gender responsive governance and has also motivated EWRs to explore possibilities at their panchayat level to raise their voices and involve panchayat committees in taking up issues. Some of the panchayats have also revived their computers and are starting to impart computer education to young girls.

- **Impact**

Compared to EWRs in the previous decade, current batch of EWRs are willing and capable to associate with governance process hence it is imperative that they develop gendered approach to this. This was possible during this year and was evident in small initiatives taken by all 50 panchayats. This has brought forth complete new dimension to empowerment of EWRs- i.e. of gender mainstreaming of panchayats.



Enable Gender Just society and sensitising Social Justice Committees

The legal knowledge cell has been actively addressing issues of violence against women through mediums of helpline and providing legal aid and counselling. The helpline running successfully for past 3 years, has handled more than 1100 cases of gendered violence. This year, keeping in view of focusing on panchayats, the cell concentrated its efforts on concept of 'safe district'. So, working with panchayat members, sensitising social justice committees to take up the issues of violence in their villages and mobilising youth to develop perspective on the issues has been prioritised in these months. Strong linkages with DLSA have been done through which issues faced by women inmates in jail- like their issues, their mental health etc. have been understood.

- **Villages associated in awareness drives**

As a first step to associating with panchayats, youth and various community groups, awareness drives were carried in 148 villages. Specific violence issues were also discussed in 34 Mahila Gramsabhas. Specialised meetings were carried in villages where occurrence of unnatural death/ dowry related deaths were on rise. The discussions and poster campaigns have generated greater insights to causes of violence and have also motivated people to stand up and raise their voices against violence. Its clear impact is seen in 55 cases, which have been referred to helpline by Sarpanch/ panchayat members.

- **Young girls and boys understand their safety**

Along with awareness drive in villages, seminars and workshops with youth were held in schools & colleges like Chanakya academy, Kutchi leva patel and Indirabai girl's school. Total 1500 youth participated in these seminars which talked about violence, sexual abuse, its causes and how the police department and helpline can help them in such occurrences. Also, under 'Suraksha Setu' initiative of Kutch police, they were trained in basic self defence tactics. Protection guidelines have also been developed with help of SP,

which was shared with youth. Adolescents also asked questions on their security. As a sign of huge worth of such efforts, 10 girls called on helpline to lodge complaint against their abusive fathers who inflicted violence on their mothers.

One young girl Niki* (name changed) also used forum of helpline to seek maintenance for her and her mother; both of them been abandoned by the father 17 years ago. Such cases and incidents prove direct impact and connect of these seminars and discussions.

- **Helpline becomes immediate rescuer to victims of gendered violence**

Since the launch in May, 2010 helpline has become face of joint effort of KMVS and Mahila police station in supporting victim women. In the last year, helpline has received 570 cases of domestic violence, violence due to alcohol, physical abuse, illicit relation, abuse due to girl child etc. Along with addressing cases, helpline counsellors have also associated with 'Bachapan Bachao'- initiative to repatriation of missing children, missing cell- cell which investigates missing complaints of women.

Also, helpline counsellors have extended their association to local police stations and their staff in counselling and discussion with victims. So, they are acting as a mediator in encouraging victim women to lodge complaints and they also oversee that the police station staff respond to them consciously and sensitively.

- **Lodging the protest to heinous crimes**

Besides generating awareness and responding to victims, the cell also undertakes collective movements to condemn heinous crimes of rape. In December, rally was organised to protest against rape on 7 year old girl in Rapar block. The rally was supported by victim's community members and other women's groups. Also, incidents of rape in Mundra block were protested by a silent rally where 500 college girls also joined. Nakhtarana collective members also went to Police station on 8th March to condemn alcohol and told them to strengthen prohibition on alcohol.



- **Para legal cadres act at the ground level**

90 Para legals have been trained in DV act, Dowry act, acts on sexual violence, RTI, property and inheritance laws and other such laws for women. Their profiles have also been sent to DLSA for their certification. They have also undergone PLV training from DLSA(District Legal Service Authority). They act as ground level contact to victims and help them reach to helpline.

- **Outcome**

Along with the helpline which has addressed grave cases of rape and other violence during this year, youth awareness and collaboration with Suraksha setu and DLSA has generated huge outreach of awareness efforts. It's impact in youth is visible and has given new dimension to the work- not just as immediate rescue, but also for sensitising young minds.

The one billion rising campaign was initiated in 167 countries in February. To raise voice against violence and celebrate freedom and rights, KMVS also organised this event at Bhuj. The event was jointly held with police department of Kutch and Aarti Group of industries. More than 400 leaders from 5 blocks of Kutch witnessed unique portrayal of women's plight, sung by women folk artists. Event was held at serene backdrop of Hamirsar lake of Bhuj and associated many voluntary organisations as well.

Ensuring health security by sensitizing panchayats and service providers

Reproductive & Child health, identified as a core issue since inception of KMVS, has been addressed through multipronged strategy of advocating for better services at PHC & CHC, sensitisation and capacity building of ASHA, Nurse and other medical staff, building cadre of dai(mid wife) for safe deliveries and educating mothers and pregnant women to reduce Infant and maternal mortality. The efforts were successful, particularly in Abdasa block where situation on health was precarious prior to these efforts. During the course of time, KMVS also realised that along with RCH, tract infections and uterine issues are on rise in wake of industrialisation. As a pilot initiative, 2238 women in 17 villages of Kutch were screened for cervical cancer of which 20% tested positive to VIA/VILLI test.



Shocked by these results, KMVS decided to scale this initiative and asked for financial support to Government of Gujarat, who generously agreed. Thus, the focus during this year has been to scaling cervical and breast cancer screening and associating with Panchayats to take up the issue.

- **Panchayats become accountable to combat cervical cancer**

The early pilots had shown that unless the Panchayats take up the issue of cervical cancer screening, it can never reach women on mass scale. For this, KMVS closely worked with Gramshasini manch (district level EWR federation, promoted by KMVS) and sensitised women sarpanch about the issue. The task was a difficult one because, symptoms of cervical cancer are not felt at initial stage and societal norms also prevented women to attend diagnostic camps for cervix check up. After detailed training of women sarpanch, 10 villages agreed to hold camps at their villages.

As a preparatory phase, baseline of women in age group of 18-60 was carried. After that, FGDs were held with women groups, ASHA & nurse, Panchayat members and young women to build their information and knowledge on necessity of cervical and breast cancer screening. IEC material was also prepared on these issues. After that, collaboration with Bhojay Sarvodaya trust has been done to provide mobile van, medicines and post camp operative services for the women. In the last year, 10 trainings have been done in 6 villages. KMVS has also recruited trained staff – nurse and other personnel to ensure effective screening at the diagnostic camps. Also, government of Gujarat is supporting this initiative to develop this as a model which can be replicated across the state.



The community based screening model has shown many advantages- it allows women to break taboos about this cancer and talk freely about their other RCH issues, the panchayat is sensitised towards women's health issues and feel the need to become accountable, ASHA & Nurse go beyond their traditional roles and engage with community to address such critical issues. This is the first of it's kind of initiative in Gujarat, and would provide many learnings on community engagement and cost effective screening of the deadly cancer.

- **Gram Sanjeevani Samitis are powered to function effectively for health issues**

KMVS has partnered with Gujarat State health Department to build capacities of interior block of Lakhpat.

During the last year, detailed survey of Lakhpat block showed that around 80% of GSS were non functional and the members didn't even know they were part of the committee. Based on this, discussions and

meetings were held with these members to motivate them to undergo comprehensive training. After this, 90 GSSs of Lakhpat have been trained. But, it is still felt that refresher trainings and handholding support would be required and should be a continual process. So, the programme has been extended for one more year. The GSS have started functioning to their roles.



- **Outcome**

The biggest impact has been acceptance of community based cervical cancer screening model by government and community as well. Entire initiative, being accepted and led by respective Gram panchayats have given them new perspective on women's health rights

and has also generated dialogue on critical issues like cervix infections and sexually transmitted diseases. Such cost effective community based models have gone long way in securing women's health against these cancers.



Urban Governance

Sakhi Sangini Sangathan- mobilizing Urban poor for improved livelihoods

- Institutionalization of SHG federation in to a CBO and moving towards women's bank.

Such is evident in case of Niyamatben, of Urbhaabh Mahila mandal (SHG). She was supported for livelihood loan worth Rs 25000/-, adding 5000 on her own she bought two cows. She purchased fodder and explored market for milk in Army campus area near to her house. She has added 2 more cows now and today she proudly earns Rs 10000/- every month for her family.

Sakhi Sangini, formally registered last year, has provided best example of how women from urban slum areas can come together for holistic development and how collective leadership can guide a newly formed federation.

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The sangathan, which started with small initiatives of door to door waste collection with 60 women has the span of 100 SHGs formed in 28 slum areas federated at the city level covering 1400 members with total savings being 40,00,081 and loans being rotated amongst the members worth 1,04, 05,300. The leaders have further taken up the challenge of setting up a small women's bank in the city for offering different products and availing banking services to women as per their needs. As part of preparatory processes, a cadre of 12 animators /leaders have been trained to execute the microfinance program at the SHG level and MIS is developed for computerised reports of the program.

• **RAY – Ray of Hope for slum dwellers in Bhuj city**

As the sangathan grew in strength, it identified housing as a priority issue and has been supporting women members to realise their dreams of building their house with small revolving loans. A team of 4 Housing program animators was trained and nurtured on technical aspects, disaster safety mechanism, quality of construction and material usage, budget utilization as per the design of house and resolving social issues and problems. Till date 142 such decent poor houses are supported by Sakhi Sangini . To scale up the housing programme, meeting with Bhuj MLA was arranged to explore possibility of associating this with central programme of 'Rajiv Gandhi Awaas Yojna(RAY)'. The state and central Urban Development Departments responded positively to this and asked for list of 300 households in Bhuj slum areas which can be covered under this scheme. Based on this, 3 areas- Bhimrao nagar, Ramdev Nagar and GIDC were identified. They have been oriented on basics of RAY scheme. Profiling and GIS mapping of these area has also been accomplished. Formation of slum committees, resolutions by the households has resulted in to submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), sanctioning of which is underway. Owner driven housing program of Sakhi Sangini has become a tool



Dai ben Koli , a paraplegic happily moved in to her own house leaving behind a home,made of tarpaulin shed.

This became possible only through support from SHGs (Ekta, Mdina and Mubaraq) in the area . They applied for the housing loan on her behalf , and assured that if federation decided to support her financially, the group members will also support her Sakhi Sangini provided her subsidized loan. The SHG members volunteered for free labor work



for addressing issue of legitimate housing for poor families in slums. It is hoped that based on the successful implementation of the first phase, this scheme will be scaled to all slums of entire city.

- **Obtaining the space to voice the governance issues**

Sangathan has started focusing on governance issues. The efforts, which started with regularising areas sabhas in ward 2 and 3 of Bhuj, and formation of area committees. They took a huge step when they advocated for opening the outlet of lake, which was encroached by a builder. After lobbying and advocating, the encroachment has been removed and area is free from the fears of flooding. . Also, they have produced material on good citizenship which has been utilised through awareness campaigns in 4 areas. Material talks about rights and duties of good citizens. The area committee has been availed of Urban Governance fund to be used for initiating activities to address priority issues in the area and which can be instrumental to establish them as area leaders .Also, Sakhi sangini leaders and members of area committee are being trained so that they can contest for municipality elections. This way, the city can have informed and active counsellors and the members can also bring change in to Urban governance scenario.

Kalpaben and Neetaben, who are trained para legal live in GIDC. They used to face huge issue of- group of men from other areas who would consume alcohol and shout obscenities every evening in GIDC. Both Kalpna and Neeta mobilised 8 other women from community and started silent protest at the place where men used to consume alcohol. Getting emberessed to see the women follow them, they ultimately stopped coming to GIDC. Many such tactics are being deployed by this brave women to reduce alcohol.

Also, Sakhi sangini leaders and members of area committee are being trained so that they can contest for municipality elections. This way, the city can have informed and active counsellors and the members can also bring change in to Urban governance scenario.

- **Addressing health and violence issues**

Decentralised redressal system has been set up for violence cases from slum area. Thursday has been allocated to listening and providing counselling. Para legal cadre of Sakhi sangini is also very active and link with Mahila police station directly to address these issues. Study on health issues in Urban slums has been done and comprehensive planning based on study findings has been done. Sakhi sangini is planning to build cadre of health cadre which can link with Anganwadi workers and nurses for improved health services. Sakhi sangini also plas to improve PDS system and Anaganwadi structures in their areas.



- **Setting example in solid waste management**

The door to door waste collection programme with sakhis is covering 10,000 properties. To design this programme to be more citizen centric, pilot initiative with Army campus area was started. The initiative seeks to build the area which is free from waste, so each household is sensitised to segregate their dry and wet waste. Wet waste is fed to the cattle and dry waste is taken to land fill site. Plastic waste is separated for recycling. Each household contributes for this system. 8 Sakhis are providing their services to run the programme.

Sakhi sangini leaders have also encouraged areas committees to start similar initiatives in their wards. After this, waste collection programme has been adopted by 2 more wards.

Also, Sakhi sangini leaders and members of area committee are being trained so that they can contest for municipality elections. This way, the city can have informed and active counsellors and the members can also bring change in to Urban governance scenario.

- **Outcome**

The Sangathan, which is still in emergence, has really brought about change in fulfilling the housing needs and are also working for the other entitlements and developmental issues of more than 1500 women across 42 slums. Successful functioning of legal addressal system has provided renewed hope to women in slums, who could never confine their issues to anyone. Overall, the sangathan has successfully built leadership among members to address each of issues faced by women.

Preserving Art & Culture



Soorvani- Enabling kutchi folk artists for sustaining their art & Culture heritage

Soorvani, formed since 2008 worked to provide larger platform to folk music artists so that this unique art form survives and get it's due exposure. In the initial years, focus was kept mainly on arranging for performances and linking to national level musical festivals. Since past two years, Soorvani members have been strengthened to build their collective and nurture new leadership and talent in the field of musical forms like – Kafi, Daastan and Vai and instruments like Surando and Pava. With this context, key interventions during the last year have been-

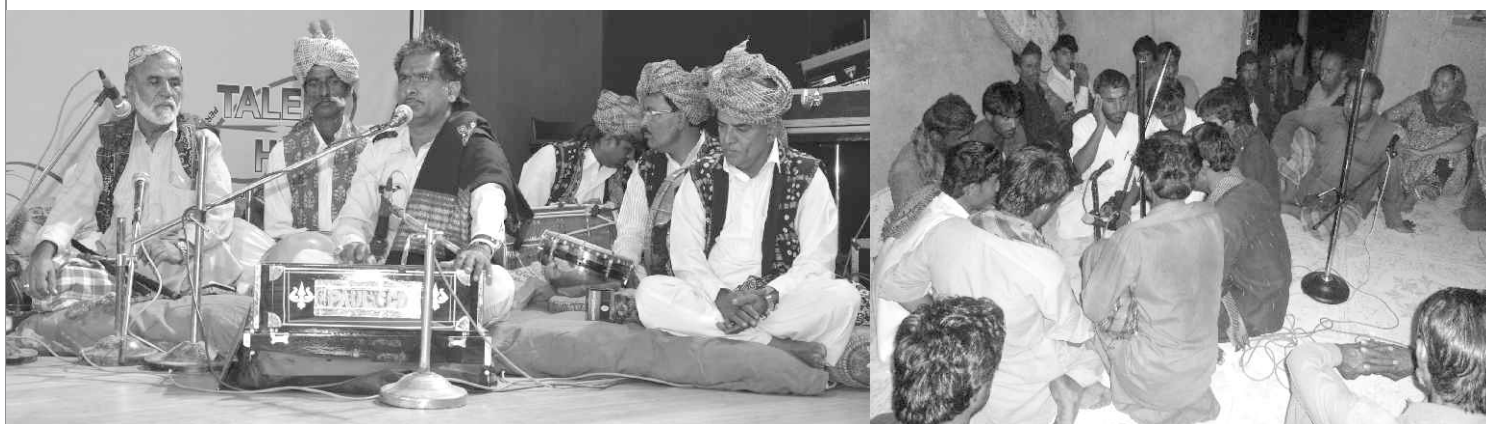
- **Soorvani collective is strengthened**

It was apparent in the initial years that, Soorvani structure would be quite different than other community based collectives. The structure would also have to be much more diverse and decentralised to cater to various musical forms, traditions, cultures and skills.

Thus, Soorvani leadership emerges from five different geographical zones, each representing music style/ instrument central to that area. Various meetings and discussions were carried in the past year to define this structure and nurture new leadership. They also devised rules and regulations for their collective. The leadership also underwent trainings on governance and orientation to other KMVS collectives. The leadership is overall being guided by a steering committee which comprises of experts on the subject and a KMVS representative.

- **Artists are profiled and Graded**

For designing capacity building and skill upgradation trainings for artists, detailed profiling and gradation process was carried in months of April-June. Profiling involved surveying each artists for their music style, learning style, their Gurus, their perceptions on music, their livelihoods through performances etc. the profiles were further analysed by subject expert who provided detailed report on – learning process, performances and



general observation of artists. From this it has emerged that- the artists find it hard to practice continually due to pressure of earning livelihood, most of them have learnt music from their forefathers, artists without traditional folk music families find it hard to get platform, women particularly face difficulties in mobility, transport and perform etc.

Gradation process was redesigned as 'Musafari', where the team and experts travelled to artist villages and discussed with them, while artists would perform at night. This reduced hesitation for upcoming artists. In total 300 artists have been profiled and graded.

- **Performing at larger stage**

The performances were at two stages- i. Local ii. State/national level



• **Local level performances**

comprised of reyans (local music programme at villages). In total 10 reyans were held in blocks of Abdasa, Mundra and Lakhpat. 140 artists performed Molud, Kafi, Dhor, Bhajan styles. Many senior artists shared stage with young artists, giving them much needed confidence and boost. Such informal stage and performances have helped build recognition and confidence in artists.

On 14th, 15th August Sh. Narendra Modi visited Bhuj for the Independence day celebrations. As a part of various events, Soorvani artists performed at Kutch University and District Panchayat campus. Also, Adani foundation held programme at Mundra. Two other such performances were held at Rajkot and Baroda in which 19 artists performed. Another such performance was held in Association with Institute of Sindhology. More than 300 people witnessed this event which was centred around sufi music. Also, team performed at coveted NCPA centre in Mumbai, where a special evening was arranged for Kutchi folk music. Attended by more than 400 guests, the programme was hallmark event for Soorvani, who got lot of recognition for their distinct style.

• **Archiving Traditions**

In generating archives, partnership has been formed with AIIS(American institute of Indian studies). The institute would provide support in- i. creating an accessioning system for archives ii. Creating policy and mission statement for Soorvani archives including- acquisition policy, agreements for recording and access for artists and public, documentation format for archives, standardisation policy iii. Training Soorvani staff for field recording and cataloguing iv. Preservation.

The partnership would be unique and strengthen the Soorvani team in archival process. With this objective, Ms. Shubha from AIIS-ARCE has visited KMVS twice- to understand the folk music and artist's issues as well as to define scope for archival process. She has advised that the team should visit ARCE to understand archival and recording basics. Based on this, team underwent comprehensive training on recording and also understood basics of archival, accessioning and cataloguing. The team has already started creating formats for accessioning of the music CDs and have also started documenting the Jat traditions. The traditions are being archived through field based recordings, going through the history of Jat music and meeting senior artists from the community. The archival of these traditions would continue in the next year.

- **Assisting artists for their social security**

As most of the artists are from poor economic condition, Soorvani has ensured that all the artists are insured under the group insurance scheme of LIC. Also, survey of government schemes was also undertaken to understand government schemes available for artists. Unfortunately, there are very few schemes to motivate artists coming from weaker economic sections. Soorvani has provided assistance to few artists for their health issues and has also helped family members of 4 artists to claim life insurance on occurrence of death.





Community media- CRS

Community radio station at Bhimsar was launched in April 2012. Since then, the station has become voice of the community of 26 villages. Managed by operational committee of 11 members from community, the station broadcasts for 3 hours every day. The programmes range from local market rates to educational programme and specified programmes on governance. The broadcasts are very popular and the station manager as well as community reporters continually receive feedback on the programme content and delivery.

11 community based volunteers have also been identified and trained in basic recording who feed localised content to the programmes. The radio station has broadcasted on range of local issues like PDS system, alcohol, ration card, women's health and safety and education. Many of the community members have also started visiting the radio station to share their stories or provide feedback. Station has also started generating small revenue by airing advertisements of local business men/ small entrepreneurs.

- **Outcome**

Soorvani, is gaining recognition at national level and performance at NCPA centre is a true recognition to kutchi folk musicians. Archival process has also enriched the knowledge about unique musical traditions.

Strengthening and nurturing through secretariat

Capacity building and Secretariat

Hriday- building capacities of collectives and staff

- **Nurturing leadership in collectives**

core objective of HRIDAY has been to build capacities of sangathan so that the leadership can bring in effective governance at their collectives and nurture other cadre at community level. To facilitate nurturing and leadership change process, HRIDAY held discussions with Sangathans to understand their needs and struggles through the process. This was then put through a small document, which became basis for reflection workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Gagan Sethi. Through this process, comprehensive training plan has been developed which would be carried throughout next year.

- **Building gender responsive governance**

To enhance concept of gender responsive governance, trainings were held for 250 EWRs. The core themes discussed were gender, gender responsive governance and how ICT can play important role in generating this dialogue. The trainings were extremely effective and motivated many members to raise issues at their villages.

Similar initiatives have also been taken by other EWRs who have raised agendas on education, health, drinking water in their Gramsabhas.

- **Gender sensitisation to Producer Company and Sakhi sangini members**

37 members of Producer company (Promoted by Ujas Sangathan, Mundra) have been trained in basic gender concepts. 37 members of Sakhi sangini sangathan has also been trained in Gender and leadership.

Shantuba from Godhiyar never thought of making the Anganwadi helper accountable for her work. The training sparked this and she went and confronted her and raised this in Panchayat meeting. Anganwadi now stays open regularly.



- **Capacity building of staff**

Coordination with Jagori was done to provide training of Gender, sexuality and gender sensitive governance. Other training on stress management was held for 11 members of the staff. HRIDAY also provided training to staff of 'Sneh Samuday' on leadership taking. 62 members of their staff participated in the training.

- **Secretariat initiatives**

Secretariat, formed since 2004 was set up with a vision to provide central support to emerging sangathans and CBOs and guide knowledge cells to address overall developmental challenges in the region. The cell also provides handholding support in setting up finance, governance and HR systems in Sangathans. Key initiatives by secretariat in the past year have been-

- **Reflecting on the impact and reach of helpline**

As a regular process, Secretariat carries monthly unit meetings with each of the knowledge cells in helping them to reflect over the intended impact, reach to the marginalised sections and span and scale of activities towards it's objective. During meetings with socio-legal cell, in depth analysis of the cases handled during the past year was carried. Through the analysis, team went through detailed training on Muslim personal law and other caste dynamics to understand the issues better.

- **Evaluating the impact and reaching beyond- Community radio station**

Community radio station, running since two years went through in depth analysis and impact assessment through a study initiated by secretariat. The findings and recommendations were shared with the team and operational committee. Based on this, restructuring of the content committee, broadcast content and broadcast time was done. Collaboration with Drishti was also formed to provide trainings to volunteers and radio station team.

- **Incorporating ICT in to gender responsive governance**

Gender responsive governance concepts, implemented through 60 panchayats have specifically focused to integrate ICT tools through programme- '**Making women's voices and votes count**'. The programme is being implemented in 35 panchayats of



Mundra and Nakhtrana block. In depth meetings and discussions were held with Panchayat bodies and programme team in developing their perspectives for integrating ICT in to gender responsive governance.

Baseline survey of the panchayat body and EWRs was also carried to understand the bottlenecks they face in panchayat management, in raising critical issues for women, the spaces available to them to raise and discuss gendered agendas and support they receive from EMRs in panchayat meetings and Gramsabhas. The baseline showed that EWRs receive minimal support from the male members when they raise women's issues and most of them also wished to receive inputs in managing their panchayats in efficient way. Based on the survey and need, detailed training of 300 EWRs and community leaders was held on concepts of gender and panchayat. From this, group of 50 EWRs and leaders were identified who can take the lead in utilising different medium for reaching to other EWRs. They were actively engaged in setting up and managing 4 cluster level information centres at Patri and Bhujpur in Mundra block and Nirona and Ravapar in Nakhtrana block. The information centres undertake regular meetings where panchayat members of cluster villages participate and review center's work as well as become accountable towards entitlement issues in their villages.

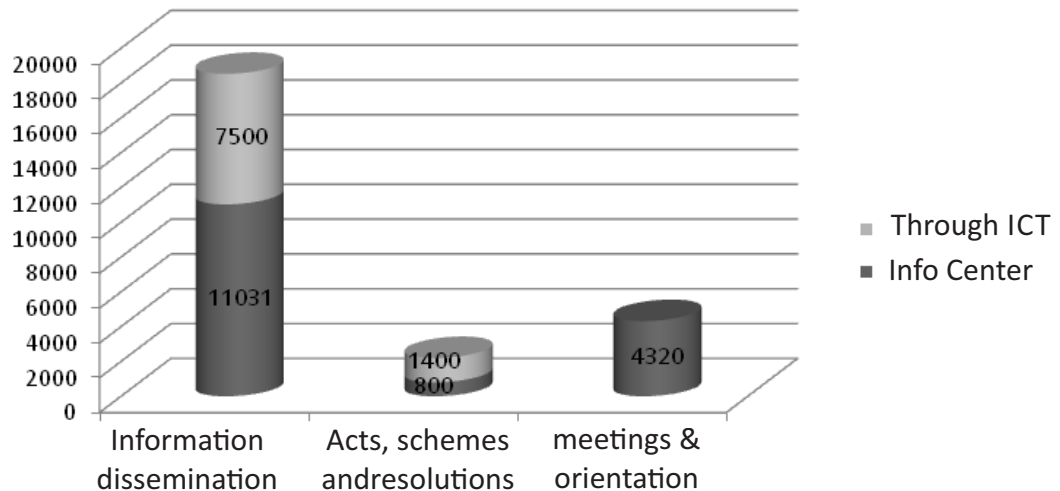
Secretariat has mainly been involved in building capacities of the team, nurturing EWRs and devising strategies for wider outreach of ICT mediums like- devising 'Khaso Shashan (good governance) segment in the community radio broadcasting. This segment talks about good governance practices as well as integrate gender responsive governance in to it's programmes. The programme is much appreciated by the 10,000 community members in 26 nearing villages.

Also, various videos on issues of Gramsabha, ANC, PNC and panchayat have been developed which have been used as a pedagogical tool for sensitising the communities. Voice messages and IVRS have been used to provide information and generate interaction with EWRs and panchayat members. The programme envisages introduction of tactical tools like GIS mapping and utilising IVRS system as helpline with the community.

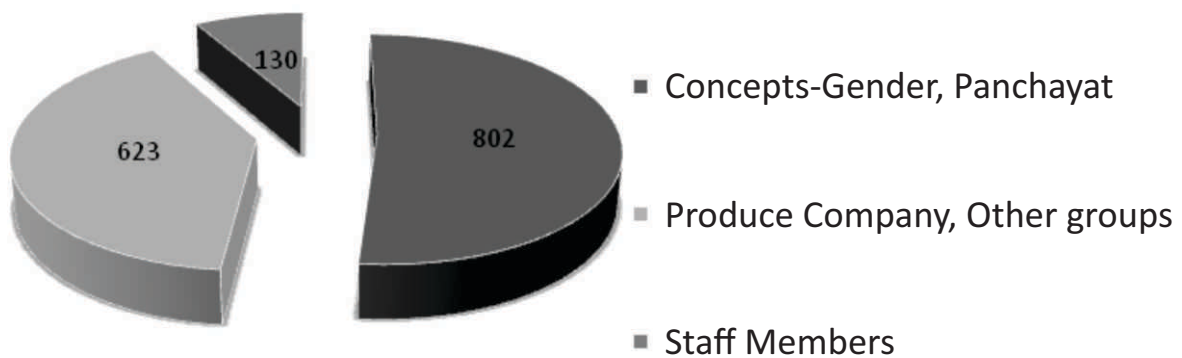


Looking back at the year- Statistically

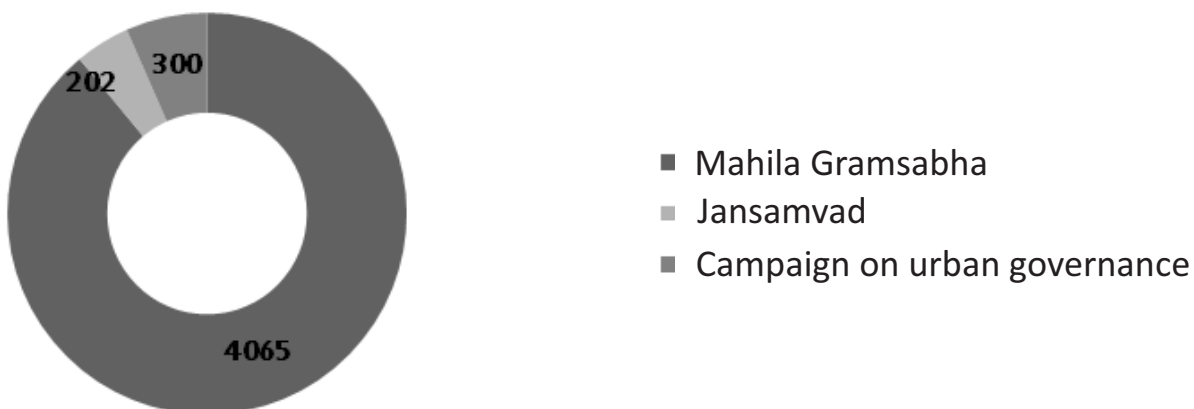
Information provided to community members



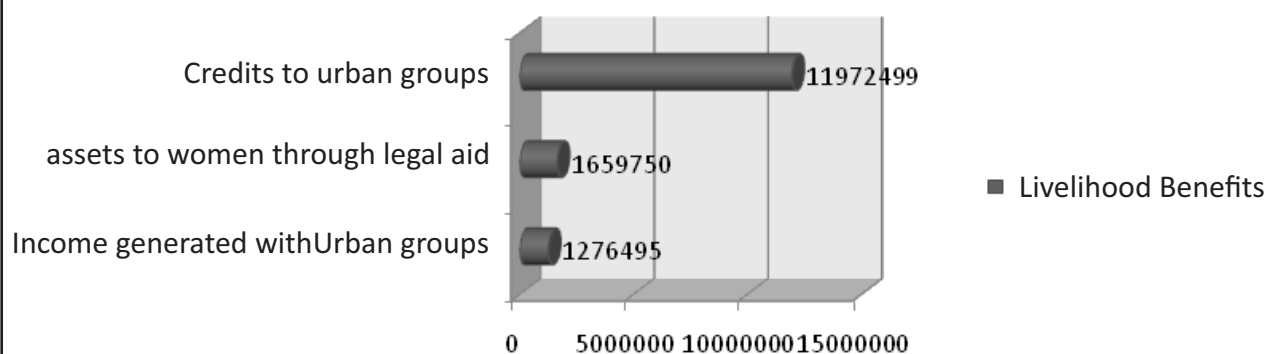
Capacity building



Out reach through innovative strategies



Livelihood benefits to groups



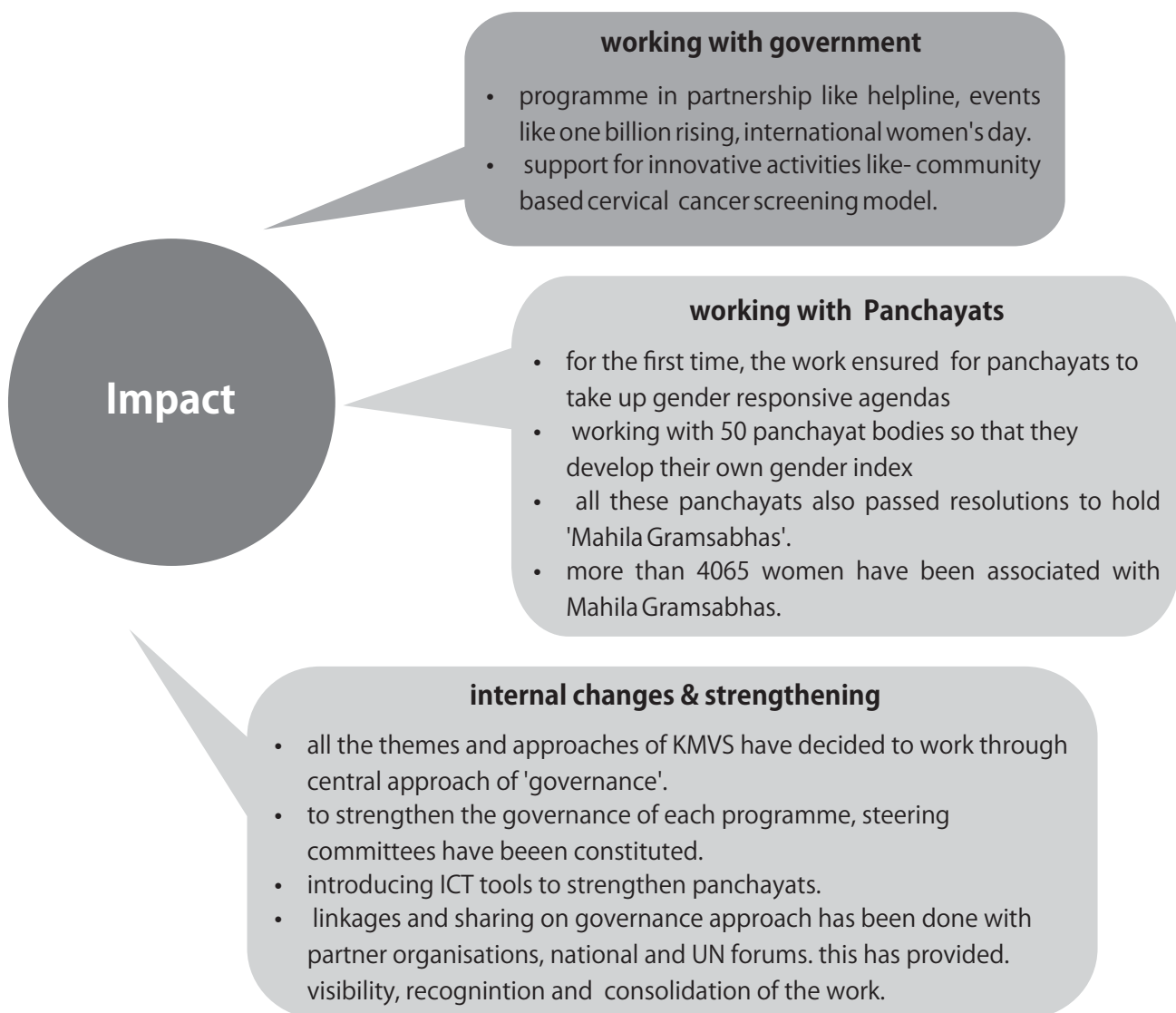
Audit Stetments

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch) Schedule Forming Part of Balance Sheet		
SCHEDULE :: 7 :: CASH & BANK BALANCE		
Particulars	Name of Project	F.Y.2013-2014 Closing Balance as on 31.3.2014 Amount Rs.
Bank Balance		
<i>Bank of Baroda - Bhuj</i>		
S.B. A/c No.03730100003101	KMVS- Governance Fund	250,701
S.B. A/c No.037301000018008	Urban Project	48,810
S.B. A/c No.037301000005891	Handi Craft Activity	2,595,707
S.B. A/c No.037301000005892	Vehicle Fund	27,211
S.B. A/c No.037301000008910	Gratuity Account	2,053
S.B. A/c No.037301000012168	Common Fund	160,193
S.B. A/c No.037301000020573	SRTT Grant Accounts	305,331
S.B. A/c No.037301000009686	SDTT Corpus Fund	323,116
S.B. A/c No.037301000020002	Media Activity	117,187
<i>Dena Gujarat Gramin Bank - Bhuj</i>		
S.B. A/c No.14518	Panchayat Activity	4,787
S.B. A/c No.14519	Training Activity	27,833
<i>Punjab National Bank - Bhuj</i>		
S.B. A/c No.126000 0100180726	FCRA Projects	21,304
Total Rs. (A)		3,884,233
Particulars	With	As On 31/03/2014
Cash in hand		
Cash - FCRA Project	Almash Memon	3,907
Cash - Handicraft Activity	Rakesh Vaiday	23,515
Cash - SRTT Grant Accounts	Almash Memon	369
Cash - Urban Cell	Jinod Shah	453
Cash - Vehicle Fund	Almash Memon	1,296
Cash - SDTT Corpus Fund	Almash Memon	2,120
Cash - Governance Fund	Almash Memon	6,400
Total Rs. (B)		36,059
Particulars	Opening Balance as on 1.4.2012	Closing Balance as on 31.3.2014 Amount Rs.
Investment (Below 3 years)		
FDR with OBC (Common Fund)	410,000	961,915
FDR with OBC (Governance Fund)	200,000	282,455
FDR with OBC (Governance Fund)	-	101,645
FDR with OBC (SDTT)	-	2,315,000
FDR with OBC (Media)	95,000	98,258
FDR with OBC (SRTT)	800,000	208,694
FDR With OBC (Corpus Fund)	24,465,000	23,800,000
FDR With PNB (Common Fund)	500,000	500,000
FDR With PNB (SDTT)	800,000	-
FDR With PNB (FCRA)	15,000	15,000
FDR With PNB (Handicraft)	400,000	400,000
FDR With PNB (FCRA)	-	6,307,570
Total Rs. (C)	27,885,000	34,990,537
Total Rs. (A+B+C)		38,912,829

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch) Schedule Forming Part of Balance Sheet	
SCHEDULE :: 6A :: LOAN & ADVANCES	
Particulars	F.Y.2013-2014 Amount Rs.
Advance To Staff	123,432
Other Advance	626,519
Total Rs.	749,951
SCHEDULE :: 6B :: UNREALIZED INCOME	
Particulars	F.Y.2013-2014 Amount Rs.
TDS Receivable	222,666
Payment Receivable	1,247,296
Total Rs.	1,469,962
Total Rs. (6A+6B)	2,219,913

Information of Board of Trustee of KMVS

Name and Address		Designation
Dr. Ms. Anuraadha Prasad		President
Ms. Lata Sachde		Secretary
Ms. Khataben Sameja	-Saiyerejo Sangathan	Member
Ms. Rajbai Gadhavi	-Ujjas Mahila Sangathan	Member
Mr. Vijaybhai Parmar	-Janvikas Trustee Ex-Officio Post	Member
Ms. Neera Burra		Member
Mr. R. G. Bhalara	-Distric Development Officer Ex.-	Ex-Office



Challenges

- Working with the panchayats on governance issues has thrown many challenges- particularly that of activating women members who are still not accepted within their panchayats and act as mere 'stamps' to their male counterparts. Sensitising these panchayats is particularly a difficult task.
- Also, working with male members in panchayat body has been introduced very recently which is still evolving and support of male members to moot gender sensitive agendas is difficult.
- Strengthening and institutionalising EWRs federation has been a challenge, mainly because change in political scenarios at Gram panchayat level. It is difficult for women to hold on to their own- for fighting elections/ managing panchayats afterwards.
- Other challenge in the past year has been on account of violence cases against women which are criminal in nature where direct intervention by helpline is difficult. In such instances, there is huge pressure and expectation from media as well as community for timely action.



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