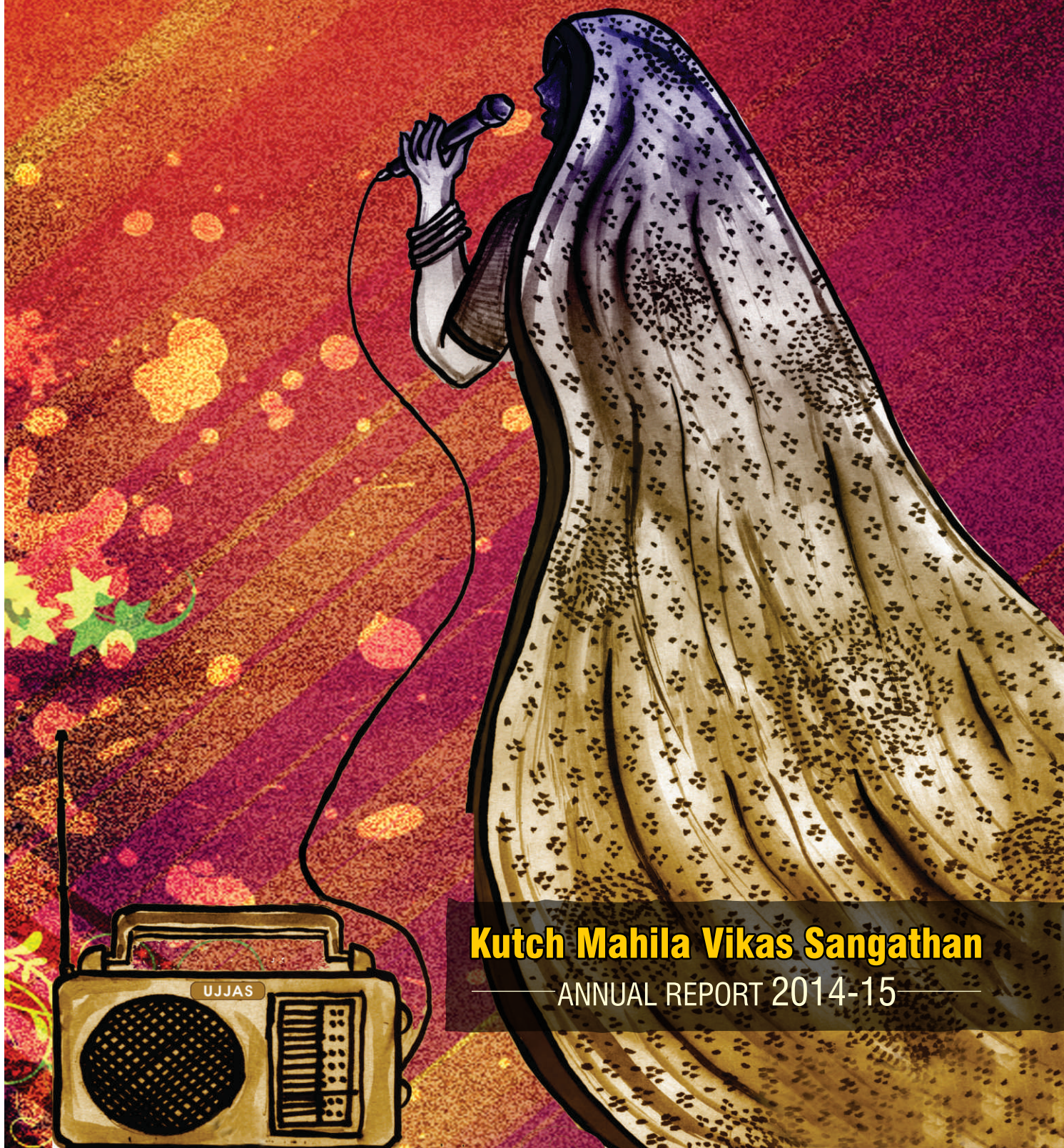


Breaking gender stereotypes: Journey of crane...



Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

— ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15 —

-Bhanbai, Jamkunariya

-Godavariben Valand, Nakhatrana



-kasturben Pomar, Panchayat Member, Sayra

-Jenabai Sodha, Lakhpat

- Hirbai, Vinjan

FOREWORD

Experiences on journey of women's empowerment- past 2 years...

The experiences have taught us many things and it has been a journey with many layers. It was filled with struggles at one hand and vigour on other end.

When journey of KMVS began, its core objective was to empower women of the region. Through means of different interventions, women members felt empowered and carried collective process further. Previous year has also been of innovative strategies, interventions, linkages and of new associations. Focus has been on supporting the local self-governance institutions to become gender sensitized. Various interventions have been carried with EWRs, but this new approach also brought together male member in panchayats along with EWRs, providing a new platform for dialogue.



This also triggered internal changes in the organization and prompted all the knowledge cells to work collaboratively. This brought forward an important insight that if we believe 'panchayats can adapt new approach and efficiently govern their systems', real impacts can be seen at ground level. Sensitized steps by standing committees of panchayats also proved this belief true. Working with youth through One Billion Rising movement also showed that youth of today want to carve new paths and want to take path of peace and love. Thus, the developmental processes moved forward.

While Kutch is undergoing series of changes post industrialization, women's issues are also changing diabolically. Urbanization has entered in to psyche of rural and peri-urban communities. Issues of women's safety are becoming grave at all levels. When such issues were regularly discussed or dialogued, It was also imperative for KMVS to reflect on: 'what does this mean from context of women's empowerment and leadership?' it was time for reflecting not only on external changes, but also from within, since organization is transitioning with fourth generation of leadership.

To address this, KMVS has undergone a long orientation and reflection process, have tried to understand perspectives of youth and have been dialoguing with various groups. So, we have made new definition of empowerment, specifically when people are turning more individualistic. So, it becomes necessary that collective faith is built and environment of solidarity and peace is built where women feel safe.

To carry the process of reorientation and reflection, I am grateful to governing board members of KMVS, women members of KMVS and my team members. So, towards new challenges, changes, and pathways...

Preeti Soni

Executive Director, KMVS

Section - 1

Looking back at the year- reorienting strategies

3

Section - 2

Strengthening local self-governance process
for gendered governance

4-13

Section - 3

Impacting by promoting community based collectives

14-20

Section - 4

Ensuring collective synergies

21-24

Section - 1

Looking back at the year- reorienting strategies

As year approached, organization went into transition phase- transition was sought at many levels like engagement with community, approaches that define strategies and most importantly beliefs that transpire impact. Facilitating empowerment through reflective and continuum practices over the decades, KMVS has witnessed sharp changes in socio-environmental-political landscape of Kutch.

While it has had to adapt to the changing situation in Kutch, it has remained steadfast in its commitment to focus on women's empowerment. KMVS, on the other hand, has also seen one transition of leadership to a second line of women leaders. Recognizing the importance of these cardinal factors, KMVS decided to go for organizational reorientation process. The process began with the initial discussions with the current executive team and senior founder members of KMVS, and representatives of its partner organizations. The discussions charted seven areas for understanding the change in empowerment process and dimensions. In order to do exhaustive step by step exploration of each dimension with large team, two day workshop was held with a representative group of leaders from KMVS, its different Knowledge Cells and Sangathans. The overall exercise opened up three core areas of exploration, namely:

1. A critical stock taking of the present status, issues and needs.
2. Review of the work done by KMVS, its strengths in the dimension and outcomes, and
3. Future development needs of KMVS.

The first discussion was on “what is women's empowerment” led to an understanding of what the staff and community leaders understand by women's empowerment, what are the strengths of KMVS staff in carrying out women's empowerment activities and what more needs to be done to develop their capacities. Similarly, the discussions were carried out on rest of the themes:

- Women's leadership in Kutch, KMVS and Sangathans.
- Approach of KMVS for women's empowerment.
- Present situation and issues of women that need to be addressed in changing socio-cultural and political landscape of Kutch.
- Current status of natural resources, its impacts on women, things being done and things need to be done to enhance the condition by KMVS.
- Social impacts of industrialization and urbanization in Kutch- current initiatives and future strategies to address the issues effectively.

After having the detailed discussion on themes, it was decided to develop thematic papers on each theme which would guide the future process of KMVS.

Section - 2

Strengthening local self-governance process for gendered governance

In past two years, KMVS has worked its strategies so that all the activities align with governance as a core approach. Through this, it was envisaged that panchayats would take up gender sensitive agendas and be role model for other panchayats to redefine development process.

I. Panchayats Constitute gender responsive practices

Working with local self governance structure, last year has particularly been insightful as it saw graduation of concept 'Gender responsive governance' in panchayats. Following is brief highlight on the concept:

● Sensitizing and feminizing standing committees

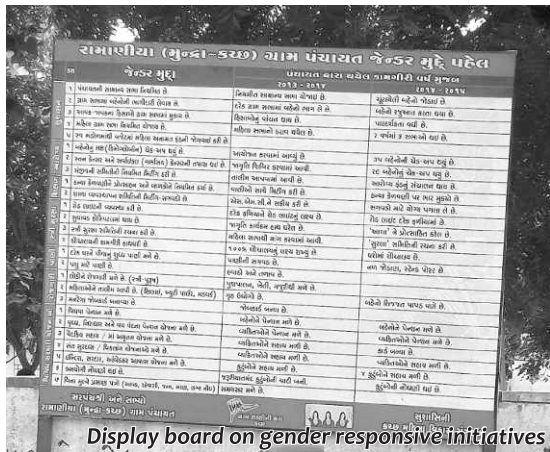
In the current scenario, panchayats rarely allocate budget for addressing issues of women which becomes a stumbling block when they wish to take up gender responsive agenda. To enable them for taking up the agendas, and making them accountable towards this issues; committees have been trained to devise their own mechanism for gender budgeting. As a result, 15 panchayats have allocated 10% of their budget that would be utilized for women's issues.

Orientations of Social Justice Committee and VHSCs were also carried with this context. 96 members from Social justice committee participated and shared their experiences and challenges whereas 250 members from VHSCs understood about their roles and responsibilities. The trainings carried in collaboration with block panchayat, provided an ideal platform to sensitise officials and committee members.



● Developing and incubating Gender Index tool for panchayats:

Gender Index is a tool, conceived by Sushashini to act as a mirror for panchayats to measure their work from gendered perspective.



By introducing the concept, it is visible that issues of health, nutrition, education, drinking water are now frequently discussed and addressed in mahila Gramsabhas. Women protection committees have also been formed in 9 panchayats which will work on women's health, vaccination, domestic violence and abuse, unnatural death of women etc. Also, some of the other visible impacts have been initiation of ward Sabhas, allocation of women component funds by panchayats and livelihood initiatives for community members.

Posters depicting perspective generation on gender responsive governance have also been put up in 35

panchayats. This was done to develop their knowledge and motivate them to take up initiatives for gender responsiveness.

● Improving access to entitlement for marginalised

Information centers, set up with core objective of enhancing access to entitlements, have started becoming a space for dialogue also. The block level information centers are functioning in 5 blocks- Abdasa, Lakhpat, Bhuj, Nakhtarna and Mundra. Cluster level centers are functioning in 4 clusters of Nakhtrana and Mundra. The centers have moved beyond processing claims and have been digitized and are using various ICT tools like audio and video productions for generating dialogue at community level.

Village level information centers have also been initiated in Nakhtrana and Mundra blocks. to provide information right at village level, centers have started using 'Paanjo Haq' portal (developed by KMVS) providing information on 40 government schemes and its details. This has prompted many panchayats to ask for installation of the portal and 10 EWRs have also been trained in using it.

Also, panchayats have taken proactive steps to carry surveys for identifying women for entitlement like 'Widow pension', 'old aged pension' etc. following this, Entitlement day melas have been held in eleven villages where EWRs process claims of all the beneficiaries in panchayat itself. Through this, 52 women have benefited. Also, as a continual process the information centers are running campaigns for resolutions of 'land entitlements (vada registers) in 87 villages.

● Generate platforms through Jan sunwais

Jansunwai on issue of PDS (Public distribution system) were held in the year. Recognizing critical issues faced by villages in availing rations from fair ration shops, a brief sample survey of 40 households of 96 villages was carried to ascertain quantity and regularity of grains they are getting. Seeing the quality and discrepancies found in the amount of ration provided to the

families, Ujas sangathan took lead to address PDS issues. Jansunwai was held in presence of all the block and district level supply officers in the presence of more than 700 people. Women members put their problems and TDO issued a notification to all PDS shop owners to address the issues and provide adequate options. Such platforms have ensured dialogues and ownership within community.

● **Recognition of Mahila sabha as gendered space**

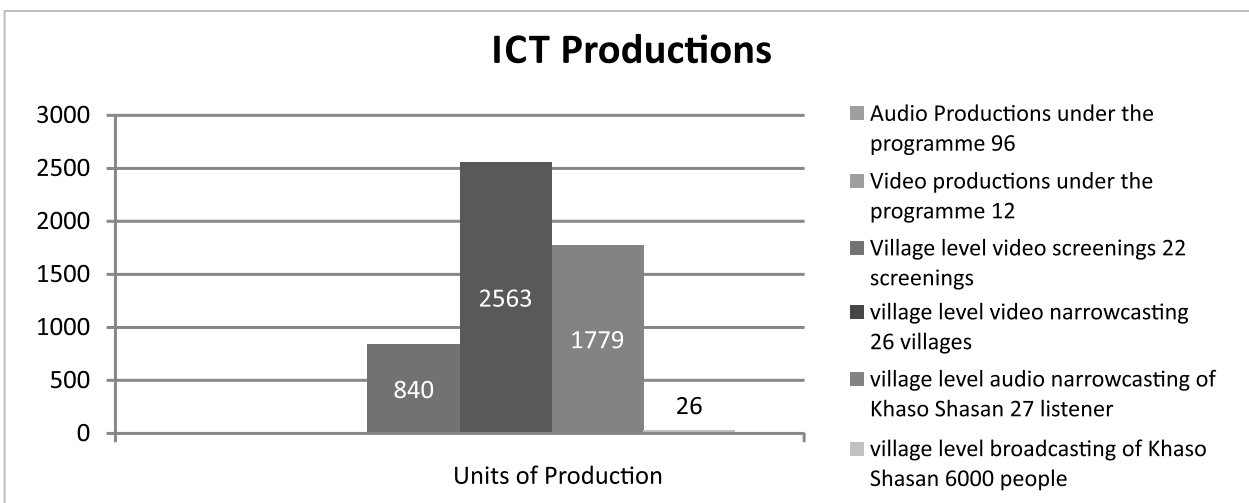
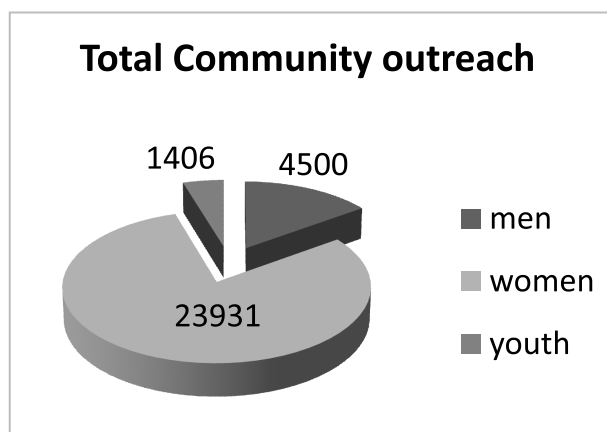
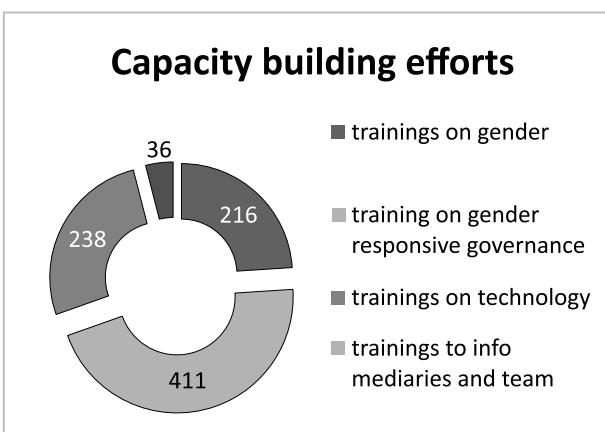
Mahila sabhas, serve as critical space for identifying women's issues and motivate them to raise this in Main Gramsabha. Extending the approach to 60 panchayats, 194 Mahila Gramsabhas were held where 8591 women members participated. Core issues discussed in the Gramsabha were- land entitlements to women, improvement in PHC and Anganwadi centers, formation of women's protection committees to highlight issues of safety of women, introduction of women's development fund sewage system, drinking water, ratification of BPL list, lesser appointment of teachers etc.



Along with this an impact study on Mahila Gramsabhas was also held during the period, a field based study was carried covering 100 villages from entire Kutch. Their brief analysis shows only few villages see it as a space to address issues of women, which shows that concentrated efforts needs to be carried so panchayats see this as a space for meaningful dialogue and women's participation in governance.

● **Deploying ICT tools for building women's constituency**

Focused inputs on realizing objective of gender responsive spaces in panchayats and communities, 50 panchayats were reached through digitized information centers, video screenings in developing dialogues, voice messages, GIS mapping for evidence based advocacy, audio serial broadcasting for awareness and activation of panchayat systems to use existing technology. Some of the charts below shows the coverage of approach:



● Ensuring spread of approach in partner organizations

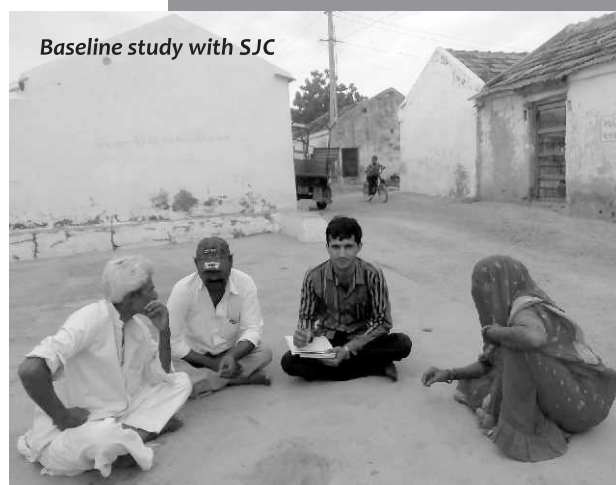
KMVS has always believed in ensuring spread of its approach by sensitizing partner organizations towards it. partner organizations like SETU, ACT, K-Link and Sahjeevan were approached and a workshop was held where they presented their interventions and panchayats directly associated with them for meaningful exchange. Based on it, two initiatives were carried with ACT organization namely; training on toilet sanitation, and water research and management.

Detailed training was carried for women members on ground water management and ground level source protection for better implementation of building the toilets in their villages. 30 women members from 6 blocks participated in these trainings. Based on this, a survey was carried in Goyersama and Baroi village for 420 toilets. Process for building 100 toilets in Baroi is underway.

II. Expanding the purview of panchayats and improving access to justice

With dynamic changes in socio-cultural environment of Kutch, forms of violence and spaces of occurrence have also changed. This was evident through the year as the women approaching helpline (Hello Sakhi, joint initiative of KMVS and DSP office, Kutch) suffered not just from domestic violence but, torture and abuse due to varied reasons. Looking at growing occurrence of such incidents, efforts have been more focused towards sensitizing Social Justice Committee to take up the issues of violence, and mobilizing youth to develop their perspective on safety and violence which leads to overall environment of women's safety.

Major interventions in past year have been:



Baseline study with SJC



Awareness on 'Hello-Sakhi'

● Strengthening Social Justice Committee

During years of experience of working with local self-governance, it has often been seen that Standing committees like Social justice committee have limited purview and define their role to work for Dalit communities only and not for ensuring overall access to justice in the village. In building the environment for women's security, it was envisioned that SJs develop perspective on their role for enhancing access to justice for women. Before initiating the trainings, baseline survey of SJs from 60 panchayats was carried to understand their status of formation and perceptions around women's issues. The study showed that SJs have very limited role to play and majority of panchayat members were unaware about its existence. This prompted the efforts to focus on orienting the SJs about their role in overall local self governance, and build gendered perspective as a next step. First level trainings would be carried in coming months.

● Helpline : immediate response to gender violence

Hello sakhi, which has been launched for immediate response to victims of violence and generating overall security for women, has reached to 2500 women suffering from gendered violence. In the last year, helpline has received 537 cases from 10 blocks of the district. Out of

this 489 have been mediated and 41 cases have been referred to mediation centre. Analyzing types of cases, it comprises cases of domestic violence, violence due to alcohol, unnatural death, child custody, polygamy, physical abuse, illicit relation, and mental harassment due to birth of girl child etc. Compared to the previous year, number of reported cases have dramatically increased because of rapidly changing Socio-economic dynamics and wide spread of helpline information.

Efforts are also underway to analyze cases received to their geographical spread and caste/class stratification, nature of violence and causes of social norms and traditions to understand the overall scenario of violence in Kutch. It would also serve as a pointer to understand key aspects of safety and violence in the region. The information would be helpful in formulating strategies for the concept of 'safe district' in coming days.

Along with this, awareness drives have also been carried in villages. the efforts have reached 6844 community members. Concentrating its efforts on concept of 'safe district', legal cell has developed collaboration with various government departments and developed network with the local organizations. Collaboration with government bodies includes Taluka and District courts, DLSA, Suraksha Setu, cybercrime department, Mamlatdar office.

Without the help of Hello-Sakhi helpline, I would have been on the streets.

38 year old Hanifa*, mother of two children, lives in Bhuj. At the age of 20, she got married, her husband worked at Kandla Port. She began her journey of married life with lot of aspirations and ambitions but when she came to know the reality of her husband she was scared to death. He gambled and had relations outside marriage. He started torturing within a year of her marriage. As if that was not enough, she was abandoned by her husband while pregnant. With an expectation of receiving justice, she struggled for 13 years for her rights. Spending money and time behind hundreds of visits of courts yield nothing except despondency. Frustrating from all fronts, she approached Hello-sakhi helpline and with its support she got divorced. Though being a single parent, she is happily bringing up her children and ensuring their education for bright future.

* Name changed

● **Building village level cadre for support and addressal of issues**

Over the years, cadre of 140 Para-legals has evolved across seven blocks of the district. They have proved to be an important stakeholder in addressing the issues at ground level. Cadres from Anjar, Bhachau and Rapar blocks have also associated recently. As a part of capacity development, newly formed groups underwent training of three modules on perspective whereas old groups completed their trainings. To enhance knowledge of the groups on 'harassment at workplace' and 'sexuality and gender', Collaboration was made with Partners

for Law in Development (PLD). The trainings have added to their existing knowledge and have also developed their understanding on how they can exercise the framework for women at community.

● **Insights:**

With rapid technology advancement, number of cybercrime cases has increased drastically among young generation. With this understanding, youth cadre would be focused more in coming year.



III. Sensitizing Sanjeevani samitis for improved health services

Reproductive and child health has been the addressed and identified as a critical issue women are suffering from. Efforts like Sensitization and capacity building of service providers (ASHA, ANM, and AWW), building cadre of link worker, educating adolescent girls and pregnant women etc. clearly reflect multipronged strategy to reduce infant and maternal mortality. Major interventions of the cell during the last year are:

● **Training service providers and activating Mamta day**



To improve maternal and child health through Mamta Day, health team has taken an initiative to work in 4 blocks in order to bring vibrancy in celebration of Mamta Day. Seeing the low level of participation of women and children, the team used link workers as catalyst to identify and encourage adolescent girls, pregnant women and their new born to avail entitlements through Mamta Day. During Last year, total 49 Mamta Days were celebrated in the presence of link workers.

Training ANM, ASHA and Anganwadi worker: Clarity on roles and responsibilities of service providers and level of their efficiency are core factors that determine the success of Mamta Day event realizing overall objective of betterment of IMR and MMR rates. To realize this, trainings were carried in which 10 service providers from 33 villages of Pachchham region and 8 service providers from 2 slums of Bhuj participated.

● **Adolescent training**

To impart information on body and knowledge of reproductive organs, signs of puberty and menstruation care through videos and posters, village wise groups of adolescent girls were formed and trainings have been imparted to them. Adolescents in the age group of 13 to 18

years, specifically children left out of schools are associated with trainings. Along with overall health and hygiene, inputs were also given so they develop their perception on gendered violence, impacts of violence on mental and physical health; health as right etc. 139 adolescent girls from 6 villages of Pachchham region underwent the training.

● **Combating cervical and breast cancer**

To spread knowledge, education and awareness to fight against breast and cervical cancer, village level trainings and camps were organized in blocks of Bhuj, Nakhatrana, Abdasa, Lakhpatt, Mandvi and Mundra along with 3 slum pockets of Bhuj city. The whole process was done in three steps. First, women's trainings were arranged in 17 villages and 2 slums of Bhuj where basic information on reproductive health diseases was given. In second step, screening camps for breast and cervical cancer were held in 21 villages of 6 blocks under which more than 1200 women underwent screening. In the third step, 267 cases found positive in via villi test of which 101 case positive for the breast cancer. 3 cases referred for cervical cancer surgery and 2 for mammography.



IV. Community media

● **Community Radio Station: Collective voice of community**

Since its inception April 2012, Community radio station; Bhimsar has become a collective voice of community of more than 26 villages. It is managed by operational committee which comprises members from the community. Committee members meet once in a month for production plan. This year few new members joined in it. The station broadcasts for 3 hours every day. The programmes range from local market rates, educational programmes, folk music, traditional art and specified programmes on governance. The broadcasts are very popular and the station manager and community reporters continuously receive feedback on content and delivery of the programmes.



Community based volunteers have been trained in basic recording who feed localized content to the programmes. Many of the community members have started visiting the radio station to share their stories or provide feedback. Station has also started generating small revenue by airing advertisements of local entrepreneurs. This year, Sangathan succeed to construct a building for radio station on availed land.

V. Building common vision and approach

Secretariat cell formed in year 2004 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 extends support in setting up finance, governance and HR systems in Sangathans. The core initiatives by secretariat cell in the past year comprise:

● Visioning and nurturing support to knowledge cells and Sangathans

Last year, the support was extended to media cell by providing inputs in redefine the concept of preservation of traditional folk music with the changing context of Kutch. The cell was also supported to develop a mechanism for-how art can sustain itself. Along with it, support was provided in routine management, operationalization and outreach of community radio station. Extending support to legal cell, a baseline survey was carried out by secretariat in 60 villages to understand the status of social Justice Committee (SJC). Resource raisings and its related processes for different programmes of each knowledge cell is done by secretariat. To study the impact of Mahila Gramsabhas, field based survey was carried out by TISS interns. The whole process was coordinated, supported and guided by secretariat cell.

● Building capacities- 'Hriday'

Support was provided to the sangathans- SJS,UMS, Gramshasini and Sakhi sangini to strengthen their government systems and legal compliances.capacity building trainings of governing bodies of the Sangathans to govern their respective Sangathans effectively have also been imparted. Overall, capacity building efforts like training service providers, adolescents, building cadres at village level, designing specific inputs for team members etc. have also been carried by Hriday.

To develop team spirit, synergy and common vision among first line leadership, process of coaching for transformation was initiated. It is a four module processes of which two modules have been covered so far.

● Networking and outreach

Last year, a study was carried out by High Level Committee on Status of Women (HLCW) to understand the issues of women in India. To understand specific issues of women precisely, the committee organized meetings with NGOs of different states across the India. In the meeting, status of issues faced by women were shared, which were noted and added in to overall report.



● Representation

Representation of organization was done at learning workshop hosted by LOGIN network (connecting organizations in Asia, working on governance issues) . presentation on understanding of overall governance scenario in Kutch. I.e. where are women in governance in Kutch; challenges faced by them; bottlenecks etc understood . institutionalisation framework from the members of Sangathan, Commons and distinct with Sangathan`s member and their overall challenges etc.



Presentation on Mobile Learning Week, Paris

To explore how mobile technology can be leveraged to improve and accelerate the learning of women and girls, Mobile learning week is organized by UNESCO in Paris every year. Last year, the proposal submitted by KMVS got selected in Mobile learning week 2015 where demonstration and sharing of “the understanding and use of IVRS in strengthening rural governance by KMVS” was done with 45 delegates from different countries around the world.

● Launching Picture this!

the book was formally launched at IIC, Delhi. The book comprises of collection of paintings depicting the women`s movements which is contextual to Kutch and is similar to global movement as well. It was unveiled by Anjolie Ela Menon in the presence of renowned organizations, art experts and partner organizations of KMVS.

● Documenting and research support

Last year, narrative reports for interventions have been prepared. Along with it, brochures for organization and various collectives have been prepared for enhanced outreach.



Book launch by Anjolie Menon



Section - 3

Impacting by promoting community based collectives

I. Gramshasini Sangathan

Moving towards building its identity as a collective of EWRs and enable them to govern their panchayats better as well as work towards sensitizing panchayats to adopt gender sensitive approach, Gramshasini is gradually moving towards a space where it can function independently. Sangathan has specifically focused on building a strong cadre of governing body members who can provide visioning support to the collective.

Total 18 meetings of the governing body have been done so far. Extending support to EWRs for their administrative issues and challenges they face in governing their rights as panchayat members, 9 munch meetings have been done at block level.

Enrollment of new members in collective, gramshasini members becoming part of PDS monitoring committee and implementation of GR, getting strong support of local MLAs in advocacy efforts and meeting with hon. CM sh. Anandi Patel to reiterate the advocacy issues show significant recognition of Gramshasini manch at the block and district level.

To provide support to EWRs and mobilizing for Mahila Gramsabhas, support committee had formed in 70 villages comprising 1200 members. Of which 230 members from 17 villages were oriented on their roles and core functions.

Gramshasini leadership has undergone range of trainings. Leadership, gender perspective, communication and management, ground water management for setting up of toilets etc. remained the major topics of the trainings. To make them understand more about their leadership styles and how they address communities, they have also undergone detailed training on their roles as governing board member.

II. Sakhi-Sangini (Urban cell)

Sakhi-Sangini, formally registered last year, has become a paragon of how women from urban slum areas can come together for holistic development and how collective leadership can guide a newly formed federation. With the course of time, it has become a district level platform for urban poor women to voice their issues. Last year, Sangathan has prioritized following major areas and issues for action.

● Being responsible citizens and catalyst of change

Considering the diversity and size of population of India, bureaucracy is a veritable labyrinth. Because of this complexity majority of citizens do not know what programs the government offers to them nor how to access these programs. To understand community's awareness on basic public welfare schemes (PDS, Health and Education) and its economics, to develop right based approach of community for their rights and to make the government system accountable for providing services in appropriate manner, a study was carried out by the Sangathan in which basic facilities such as PDS shops, health centers, schools and Aanganwadies of all 14 wards of Bhuj city were mapped with the help of GPS (Geographical Positioning System). Information on education, health and PDS schemes also got collected from respective government departments and its training imparted to 75 community leaders.



Group meeting, Bhuj

Instead of reaching all 14 wards, Sangathan has concentrated its efforts on ward number 2 and 3 to regularize the functions and services provided under the schemes with anticipation to develop these two wards as role model for rest of the city. A cadre of 25 members has been formed to extend ground level support. They are performing monitoring functions for PDS system.

● Addressing violence Issues through counseling centers

Redressal system has been set up for the violence cases from the slum areas. Besides three decentralized counseling centers, one more counseling center is operating twice a week at Sakhi-Sangini office. 30 cases have been reported in past year at these centers. Unlike earlier, Men and youth have started showing their interest and have approached counseling centers.

● RAY- Ray of hope for slum dweller in Bhuj city

As Sangathan grew in strength, it took issue of housing in the spectrum of priority and has been supporting women members to realize their dreams of building houses by linking them to Rajiv Awas Yojna. Construction work of 197 houses in two areas of the city has started under the scheme. To make whole process people driven and to generate a sense of ownership among



beneficiaries, members of area committee meet once a week to share and discuss work progress and associated hurdles. Gradually the members have started dialogue with the system representatives (Municipality officials) for their problems (issues of water, hygiene etc.) It has become an important tool for addressing issue of legitimate housing for poor families and created a space for women in decision making processes. In coming days, Sangathan is planning to register the committee under Residential Welfare Association. Towards Women's bank: Institutionalizing SHG federation.

The journey, started with small number of women, now comprise 2,300 members from 160 SHGs. With an average monthly saving of Rs.2,25,000, it has total saving of Rs.70,50,000 so far. Its total loan disbursement denotes Rs.60 lakhs internally and Rs.45 lakhs for housing program. They are linked with Dena bank and 50 SHGs have been registered with "Mission Mangalam Scheme" to enhance their credit access. They are planning to spanc services for health insurance and pension for women engaged in unorganized sectors in coming days.

● Assessing the situation of women engaged in unorganized sectors.

From the binocular of vulnerability, the situation of women living in slums and working in unorganized sectors poses many questions on agenda of development. Their voices are hardly recognized and their woes are rarely noticed. To unfold realities and understand their problems from multi dimensions, Sakhi-Sangini initiated a collaborative study with Institute of Rural Management; Anand (IRMA). The study

From door-to-door waste collection to own roadside food stall.

Devastating earthquake of 2001 triggered large scale migration. In search of livelihood opportunity, family of Meghbai migrated from a village of Anjar to slum in Bhuj city. Being engaged in activity like waste collection is considered a taboo in her family but she began the work of door-to-door waste collection with the support of Sakhi-Sangini. She also worked at hotel to make ends meet. Her hard-work and honest attitude brought goodness in the family. After three years of struggle, she decided to turn her hobby into a business and with a cooperation of her husband she started roadside food stall business, this was possible through credit from sakhi sangini federation. It's only been five months of her business but today she earns enough to run her family and repay amount of loan. Meghbai is living example of self-reliant woman supported by Sakhi-Sangini.

would cover 10% of 15,000 women as sample size and will become a strong tool for advocacy for the further policies and schemes.

● **Approaching female sex-workers**

Networking with SAWAWS and association with organization like Sangram proved significant in many ways, especially to understand the issues of female sex workers. To strengthen the understanding in more robust way, an exposure visit of Sangram organization has been organized.

● **Major Challenges**

Sangathan has already started to understand the issues of female sex workers. But to bring collectiveness among female sex workers is significant challenge at first place. In the absence of expert organization which especially works on sex workers or GSACS, to control the widespread STD among FSW is another considerable challenge.

III. Saiyere Jo Sangathan (SJS) and Ujas Mahila Sangathan

SJS and UMS collectives (promoted by KMVS) reach to women members in Nakhtrana and Mundra blocks respectively. Both the collectives address issues which are region specific and have an overarching impact in lives of women.

Major interventions:

● **Animal Husbandry and dryland farming**

With an aim to conserve local varieties of seed and ensure its availability right at village level, Seed conservation programme remained continue. Promoting organic farming, 233 farmers have been registered under Organic farming Policy; Government of Gujarat. Cattle got vaccinated under the animal health services. A pilot project for brucellosis disease was carried out of 1958 cattle from 14 villages.



● **Biodiversity Management**

To understand the environmental disequilibrium and its impacts on traditional livelihoods, biodiversity committees were formed in 15 panchayats and registered under Biodiversity Management Act 2002. The committees maintain people's biodiversity register, spread

environmental awareness among community and develop an action plan for the next five years. Action plans have been formulated on five themes so far, namely; water conservation, wildlife, Grazing land, agricultural biodiversity and botany.

● **Organizational Development Process**

To ensure participation and opinion of every single individual for the selection of SJS governing body, 2200 members of the Sangathan did voting in democratic way.

Health- In collaboration of Bhojay Sarvodaya Trust and government Health department, 1306 children checked-up, of which 109 children had diagnosed as having major surgery and referred for treatment. Similarly, 310 women referred for gynecological problems.

Working with the community against violence- Mahila Sangathan and Yuva Snagathan have been formed in Koli community. 250 male members of the community have taken an oath not to consume alcohol or any form of drug. Along with activities of savings and credit, Sangathan extends support to strengthen Panchayati women and legal counseling.

● **Health**

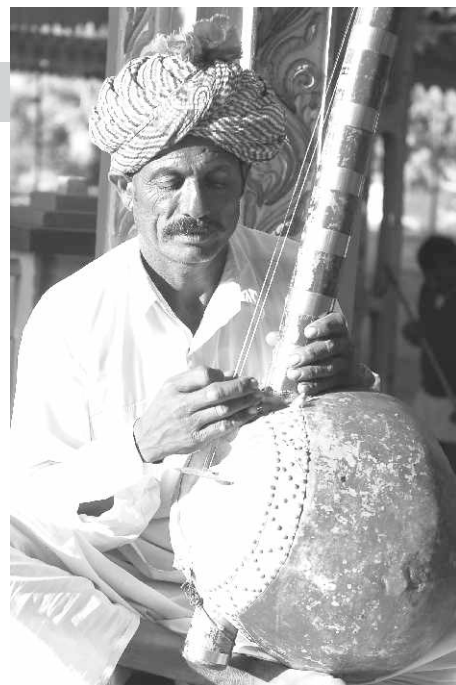
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● **Working with the community against violence**

Mahila Sangathan and Yuva Snagathan have been formed in Koli community. 250 male members of the community have taken an oath not to consume alcohol or any form of drug. Along with activities of savings and credit, Sangathan extends support to strengthen Panchayati women and legal counseling.

IV. Soorvani

Soorvani, formed since the year 2008 to provide larger platform to folk music artists so that this unique and precious art form survives and get its due exposure. since last three years, soorvani members have been strengthen to build their collective and nurture new leadership and talent in the field of vanishing musical forms such as- Kafi, Dastan, Vai and instruments like Surando and Pava. The key interventions of the last year are:





● Strengthening Soorvani collective

Collective has focused on building skills of young artists, as a part of which 157 artists underwent basic level training on understanding of Soor-Taal whereas 50 artists underwent higher level training on performance. All the trainings were given by resource persons and subject experts. Boosting mutual learning, two exposures visits of 71 artists were arranged to Vichrta Samuday; Jodhpur and Kabir; Bangalore. Apart from these, group meetings have also been carried at cluster level to connect with artists on personal level and build sense of ownership amongst them for the collective.

● Archiving Traditions

In wake of growing tourism traditional folk music has changed its reach and form. With this it becomes ever so important that history and form of this distinct style of folk music is archived. With this context, archival process has been focused. The team has documented and archived the traditions of Jat, Marwada, Gadhvi and Paradhi communities. The traditions got archived through field based recording, going through the history of that particular community music and by meeting senior artists from the community. Along with it, Studio based audio recording of 118 artists and video recording of 152 artists has done. Archival process has been supported by ARCE.

Dhambura and Waai

Dhambura is the musical instrument, which have five strings called Aghor, Tip, Jadayu, Gerayam and Jubaan. It is the instruments used in reciting of Waai. Waai starts with the Baits and then goes to the original form of Waai, in the changing process of Bait to Waai Dhambhura plays the major role. Actually Waai is the poetry part of "Shah jo Risalo" written by great sindhi sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. Waai practitioners sings it through the strings play of Dhambhura. the instrument plays the role to keep tracks of dual sound of man and woman in the singing. Dhambura is much bigger and feature a total of five strings, the Waai singer is only sing with Dhambura without that they could not catch rhythm and it is very connected with Waai, Waai is literally means call, a call to the supreme being. the main objective of this singing is to unite the human soul with the supreme soul. Meetha khan Jat, Janmamad Jat and Sumar Jat (Waai Singer) are descendant of the Jat Muslim from Baluchistan who traversed the rugged terrain and colossal distances through Sindh and brought this invaluable genre to Kutch in Gujarat.

● Local Level performances

Total 6 Reyans (Village level local music programme) were held in blocks of Abdasa, Bhuj, Nakhatrana and Rapar. 124 artists performed Molud, Kafi, Dhor, Bhajan styles. Many senior artists shared stage with young artists, giving them much needed confidence. Such informal platforms and performances have helped to build recognition and confidence in artists.

The team invited by Kabir; Bangalore to perform, where artists from all over India had invited. Also, team performed at coveted NCPA centre in Mumbai. One other such performance was held at AIIS-ARCE; Delhi.

● Assisting artists for their social security

Seeing the poor economic condition of most of the artists, Soorvani has ensured that all artists are insured under the group insurance scheme of LIC. 182 artists are covered under the scheme and premium being paid by Soorvani. Soorvani has provided assistance to 10 artists for their health issues



Archival process

Section - 4

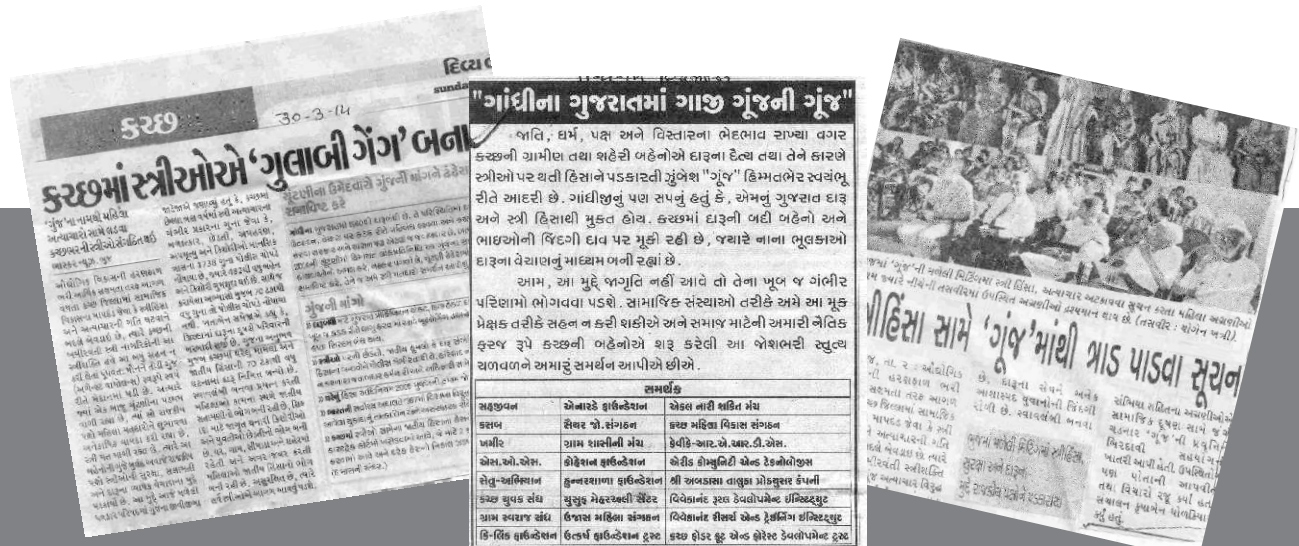
Ensuring collective synergies

● Goonj

To combat violence inflicted on women due to alcohol, a voluntary movement- Goonj was initiated by KMVS which was amply supported by other voluntary organizations and citizens of the district. With the time, Goonj (voice rising from within filling the silence) became a volunteer platform of all citizens, civil society groups, community leaders and professionals to raise collective voice against violence on women and ensuring their safety. The movement sought to break traditional myth that security of women is only women's agenda and reestablished the fact that ensuring women's safety is responsibility of society.

The movement reached to candidates of parliamentary election and raised their demands so that they become accountable to these issues. clear demands were charted which stressed on stricter implementation of the alcohol prohibition act, making police stations accountable to the problems of victims of violence, implementation of the Vishakha guideline to companies and other units, proper implementation of the DV act provisions and ban on liquor distribution during the elections. This step solicited Goonj team and made strong bond among every supporter.

Encouraged by the experience and moving movement to the next level, the team organized large Sammelan in which 5800 women took participate. Women (victims of violence due to alcohol) shared their heartfelt stories- Candidates from different political parties were grilled with sharp questions: Do you believe there should be ban on alcohol', and 'What steps would you take to reduce violence against women', and 'Why the women should cast their vote to their parties' etc. Goonj showed what common people and particularly women can do once they step out and take responsibility for those who suffer unjustly.



● Reorientation process

Based on needs of women, region and external factors that impacts life of women; KMVS realigns its strategies every four year. Experiencing the explosion of environmental and political changes in very short time and its impacts on socio-economic life, the cell decided to enter in to a strategic planning exercise. Anuradha Prasad (Trustee and friend of KMVS over 25 years) was requested to facilitate the participative process. Over a two day workshop with a representative group of leaders from KMVS, its different Knowledge Cells and Sangathans, an exhaustive step by step exploration of 7 dimensions was held. Dimensions comprises: women's empowerment, women's leadership, Industrialization, urbanization and natural resources. The exercise opened up 3 areas of exploration: 1.a critical stock taking of the present status, issues and needs, 2.Review of the work done by KMVS, its strengths in the dimension and outcomes, and 3.Future development needs of KMVS.



● Celebrating the journey

On completing 25 years, silver jubilee of KMVS was celebrated in June 2014 by the members of all knowledge cells and Sangathans. Golden memories of old days were shared by Pioneer members to the young generation of KMVS. Old videos were screened and skits were performed to demonstrate the overall journey of KMVS from its inception till the date. The event provided ideal platform to share collective memoirs across organizations like Sahjeevan, ACT, Abhiyan which grew with KMVS.



● Celebrating One Billion Rising with youth: Understanding safety from their eyes

As part of global movement of 'One billion rising', it was decided that youth would be approached to join in the movement. To make it distinct, a workshop with the 40 students of Kutch University was held in which discussion was carried on: Environment and culture of Kutch, gender, patriarchy, casteism etc. as a culmination of the event, each student wrote his/her thoughts in the form of articles got published in local news paper "Kutch Mitra" under the heading of "Salamat Jilla Mate Yuva Kalme Pahel." The event poured confidence among candidates and became a source of inspiration for other youth to express their thoughts on safety. At the same time, it became an important learning experience for the legal cell to understand the definition of safety from today's youth. The cadre was also linked on voice message platform to build on their perspectives and ensured their continual engagement to the cause.

Over all Impact

Organisational level

Reorientation process has defined long term vision for KMVS and it's CBOs. It has also resulted in a platform where a single strategy is mainstreamed in a common flow of activities across the district.

Programmes like 'Hello Sakhi' and 'Reduction in IMR and MMR rates', implementation of 'RAY' scheme have closely tied up with various government officials and line departments, generating overall environment of acceptance and collaboration redefining the dimensions of 'partnership.'

Systemic level

Community level

Renewed approaches of gender index, Mahila bank, youth writing on violence issues have ensured ownership and engagement of members from all age groups and gender in the developmental initiatives.

Audit Statements for the year 2014-15

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan					
P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch) Dated: 29.06.1989					
16, "Yogeshwar" Ganshyam Nagar, Near GYM Khana, Bhuj - Kachchh - Gujarat Pin - 370 001					
Bank A/c No. of the Trust for transaction of Foreign Contribution in SB A/c No. 13000300780728 & FCRA No. 042/FCRA/14 Dated 24.02.2004					
Income & Expenditure Account For the Year ended on: 31st March, 2015					
Expenditure	Sl.No.	Amount Rs.	Income	Sl.No.	Amount Rs.
To: Expenditure on Establishment of the Trust	6	1,005,686	By: Rent	-	-
To: Remuneration to Trustee	9	540,000	By: Interest Income	13	5,914,597
To: Legal, Income Tax & Other Fees	10	90,722	By: Grants & Donations	-	-
To: Audit Fees	11	40,450	From FCRA Donors	14	10,406,723
To: Depreciation	4	345,394	From Indian Donors	14	3,456,352
To: Amount Tr. to Capital Fund	1	1,091,113	By: Other Income	15	842,931
To: Expenditure on objects of the Trust	-	-	By: Tr. From Capital Assets Fund	1	568,385
From FCRA Projects	12	9,678,549	-	-	-
From Non FCRA Projects	12	6,329,068	-	-	-
To: Excess of Income Over Exp. Tr. to B/s	1	1,464,996	-	-	-
Total Rs.		20,588,988	Total Rs.		20,588,988
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts					
For and on behalf of the Governing Body					
For, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan					
Place: Bhuj - Kutch					
Date: 24/03/2015					

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan					
P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch) Dated: 29.06.1989					
16, "Yogeshwar" Ganshyam Nagar, Near GYM Khana, Bhuj - Kachchh - Gujarat Pin - 370 001					
Bank A/c No. of the Trust for transaction of Foreign Contribution in SB A/c No. 13000300780728 & FCRA No. 042/FCRA/14 Dated 24.02.2004					
Balance Sheet As On: 31st March, 2015					
Funds & Liabilities	Sl.No.	Amount Rs.	Assets & Properties	Sl.No.	Amount Rs.
(I) Trust Funds	1A	65,911,934	(I) Immoveable & Moveable	-	-
(II) Other Funds	1B	1,406,217	Properties	-	-
(III) Liabilities	2	4,185,220	(a) Gross Block	4	8,754,074
(VI) Income & Expenditure A/c	3	1,948,326	(b) Less: Depreciation Fund	4	5,124,306
			(c) Net Block (a-b)	4	3,629,767
			(II) Investments & Deposit	5	31,766,720
			(III) Loans and Advances	6A	111,749
			(IV) Unrealized Income	6B	1,221,651
			(V) Cash and Bank Balances	7	36,720,910
Total Rs.		73,450,797	Total Rs.		73,450,797
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts					
For and on behalf of the Governing Body					
For, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan					
Place: Bhuj - Kutch					
Date: 24/03/2015					

Information of Board of Trustee of KMVS (2014-15)

Name and Address	Designation
Dr. Ms. Anuraadha Prasad	President
Ms. Lata Sachde	Secretary
Mr. C. J. Patel - District Development officer Ex-Officio	Ex-Office
Ms. Khataben Sameja - Saiyere jo Sangathan	Member
Ms. Rajbai Gadhavi - Ujjas Mahila Sangathan	Member
Mr. Vijaybhai Parmar - Janvikas Trustee Ex-Officio Post	Member
Ms. Neera Burra	Member
Mr. Sandeep Virmani	Member



Awareness and
outreach to community

9515

537

Supporting women for
their access to justice



Mobilizing community
members for a cause

5800

505

Awareness to youth



Generating forums for
dialogue/discussion

8591

1233

Capacity building to
communities



Exposure for community
members

152

154

Livelihood support to
community members



Compensation for
victims of violence

₹ 19,28,500

8786

Entitlement benefits





Celebrating
25 years



Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

16, Yogeshwar, Opp. Gymkhana

Ghanshyam Nagar,

Bhuj-Kutch. 370 001

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