

Annual Report

April 2016 - March 2018



Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

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Bhuj

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Foreword

For Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, last two years have been transformative and innovative. In previous years KMVS looked to build capacities of women so that they are capable of addressing gender inequities in the region.



But in past two years, there has been a shift in the organization's approach, structure and leadership, which is in line with its core vision of reinvigorating its energies to align with regional changes. On one hand, women's empowerment ideology is redefined by not just getting limited to domestic violence, economic security, political inclusion, health awareness and services etc. but looking it holistically to understand safety concerns of women and build a vision, **"creating violence free- safe environment for women and girls in Kutch district"**.

In addition to this, attempts have been made to include the strength of youth, adolescent girls, different caste-based communities and other disadvantaged women's groups (women engaged with sex work, migrants etc.) to realize vision of safe district.

Besides this, following basic values of organization, change has also been introduced in the organization, and young and dynamic leaders from within the organization have taken the onus of leadership from this year.

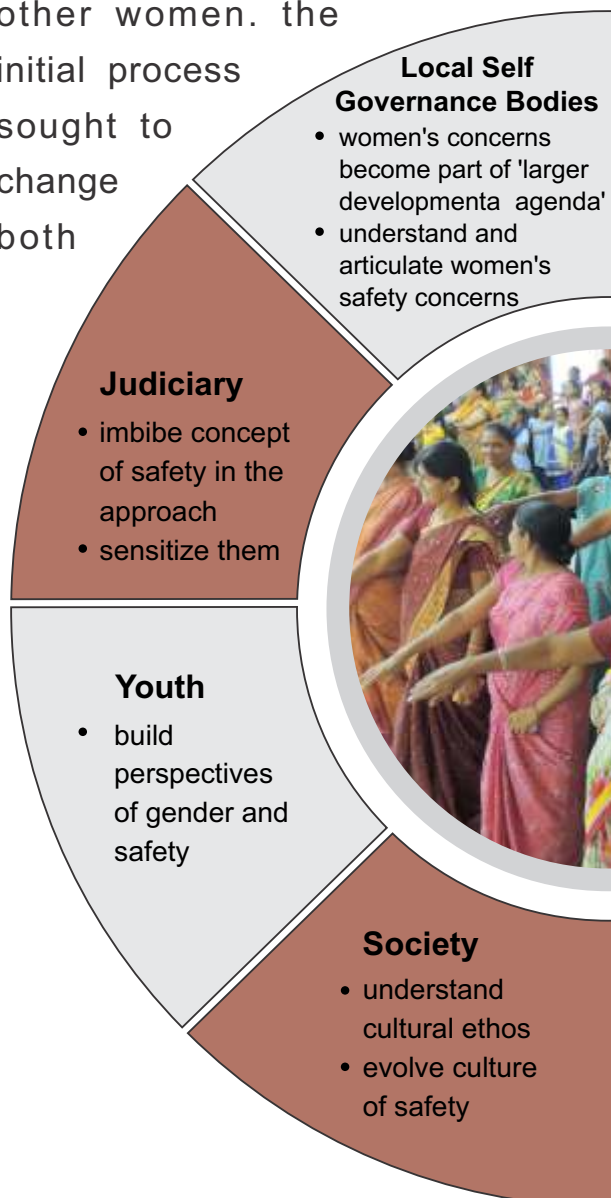
In this annual report, you will be able to experience the efforts and impact of the organization's work under their leadership.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all friends, associates, partners, donors, consultants for the cooperation and encouragement provided to us, and hope that you will find the report insightful and will enjoy reading it as much as we have on this path breaking journey.

Alka Jani,
Executive secretary

executive summary

KMVS has worked with core focus to mobilise women in to collectives who are capable of addressing gender inequities in the region. Through these decades, empowerment was seen as collective and individual level process where each member defines her own boundaries of autonomy but at the same time is mindful of overall state of conditions of other women. the initial process sought to change both



state and status of women at their household and societal level.

After 26 years of journey, during reflection process women articulated the need to focus on 'women's safety' as a priority concern looking at grave incidents of violence (which has almost doubled in past 5-6 years).

With this, it was also decided that KMVS team will focus on understanding safety concerns at various places and evolve deeper understanding on safety at private and public spaces. After generating understanding, an overall strategy will be built to impact at different levels. With the safety audits at public spaces and analysing domestic violence cases registered on the helpline, key stake holders identified were:



What does safety mean...

On the outset, discussions and dialogues were carried to define 'safety' for each stakeholders. It was articulated thus: "safety is an internal feeling and doesn't require any external support." So, woman/ girl is safe if she has no fear and feels secure without any outside help. This became basis of carrying interventions with each stakeholder and onus was put on understanding where 'woman' feel unsafe – i.e. are they unsafe due to exterior/ economics/ politics/ any other factors..."

EMERGENCE OF INITIATIVES - "SALAMATI NI DISHA MA KUTCH NA DAG (ON THE PATH OF SAFETY- KUTCH)"

With the collective understanding of safety, it was important to realign and restructure KMVS initiatives so that they move forward with common approach. It was decided that the conception of 'knowledge cells' will change and all the units will work towards common program 'safe district'. So, the teams are realigned as - 'Legal program', 'Governance program', 'Yuvavani Program', 'Urban program' and 'Media and Development Communication program'. This helped in deciding commons between each program and link strategies accordingly:

- Collaborating with state machinery, service providers and community at large to build overall environment of safety for women in the district
- See 'youth' as catalyst for transforming behaviours at community level and bring them in to dialoguing for 'safe spaces'
- Building overall environment of safety for women by sensitising the panchayats and making them accountable to bring the issue in their ambit.
- Involving caste based justice systems and leaders in understanding safety concerns and providing a space for dialogue on the issue in their public discourse

As the first year ended KMVS moved in to a direction where the issues, factors and spaces compromising safety of women is identified. Overall, it is also evident that as unsafe the public spaces are, women are most vulnerable in private spaces. The case analysis from hello Sakhi helpline have also shown that more than 80% cases are of domestic violence. This also prompted the team to look for factors that compromise women's safety within confines of their home. It also required that safety of women/girls/adolescent boys is seen more closely within homes, schools and neighbourhood.

During the two years, this reflected in type of cases handled by the team- cases on cyber crime, child sexual abuse, child marriage, forced marriage and intimate partner violence. The process of counselling was then remodelled to work not only with victims but also perpetrator, their families and caste based leaders.

The efforts have also been extended to wards in the city which has been shared with Municipality. Public events and fairs have also helped sustain the dialogue with various stake holders. Overall, it can be seen that the teams have started to work towards : "Enable women to lead a gender transformative process within communities, citizens, youth and institutions; and create a proactive, safe and sensitive environment which fosters perspectives, action, thought, and policies that are free of violence, patriarchy and gender based vulnerabilities"

The year 2017-18 has also been landmark year for organisation as it saw fourth leadership transition in overall life of KMVS. The new leader has been chosen from within the organisation and process is in line with KMVS's vision of –"fly like a crane", where the cranes change their leading position to give way to new flock to weather the winds.



Emergence of new leadership has also seen shift in strategies like:

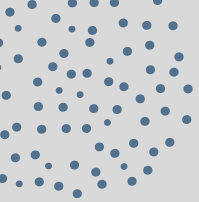
Common space - the cells which used to function autonomously are now all working from the same premise, and have aligned their approach to common goal.

Involving new stakeholders - working with youth cadre and involving them in understanding violence and it's forms, about their consent and choices, is also identified as an important strategy.

Understanding issues of migrant women and women in the unorganised sector is also chosen as rise of migrant communities in cities and rural areas has resulted in to emergence of new class, caste dynamics.

Strengthen linkages and sensitisation with government offices - close linkages with SP office and helplines like 181, 1098 so that the response to violence is immediate and more wide spread. KMVS members are also on the committees like Missing cell, IC committes of various institutions and department, women's police station , NALSA etc.





1. Ensuring safety by responding to survivors and building environment of safety

2016

- distinction between counselling and mediation
- role of safety center
- understanding safety at private spaces and identifying factors of it

2017

- close linkage with police and advocating 'safety' in public event
- direct intervention in rape and gangrape cases ensuring conviction of perpetrators
- litigation of DV cases in court
- categorisation of paralegals to design capacity building needs

now...

- paralegals actively involved in identifying forms of violence
- extension of KMVS's overall interface with judicial system
- panel of lawyers supporting litigation and other support to women

Major interventions have been:

- Four safety centres are now functional: At Bhuj, Naliya, Anjar, Nakhtrana
- Incident of Naliya Gang Rape and other cases have created an increase of awareness from various stakeholders
- Forming a core group from para legals who can take leadership at cluster/ block level
- Close linkages with 181 and 1098 for addressing cases of immediate rescue and child sexual abuse

Data analysis of cases on helpline and in police registers also showed high rise on violence within homes. The steep rise in gang rape incidents in these two years have particularly been disturbing. It is also disheartening to see that with each such incident, girl's mobility are further curbed and also result in early and forced marriage. With this context, the process of counselling and advise has been redesigned to understand factors that make women unsafe. This also showed need to dialogue with entire caste and community leaders so such incidents don't get confined to households but are discussed publicly also.



Upscaling helpline reach through safety centres:

Safety centres are now functional at block and cluster level. These centers serve as platform for the blocks and evolved a safe space where they can seek not only legal advise, but also counselling and other support which helps them rebuild their lives. Through the centres dialogues with various stakeholders in the blocks have been initiated and it opened up the discussion about women's safety.

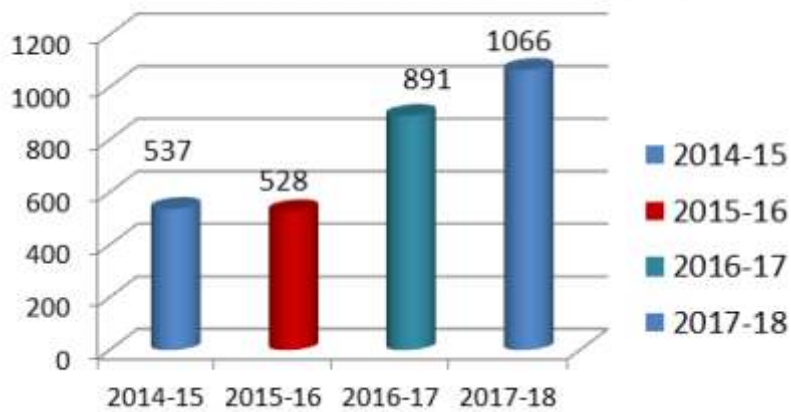
Also the focus lay on upgrading the prevalent literature on law in the centers for further deepening the access to educational material. It was also important to link the paralegals to the center for deepening their understanding and help connect with survivors with gendered perspective.

For creating awareness

of the new centers, new approaches had been used e.g At Mandvi Sangeet reyan was held where Jogi Community gathered together and addressed the issue of safety to the community. As a result 17 community members took the leadership to address issues of violence in their community. such events have also been held with other communities.

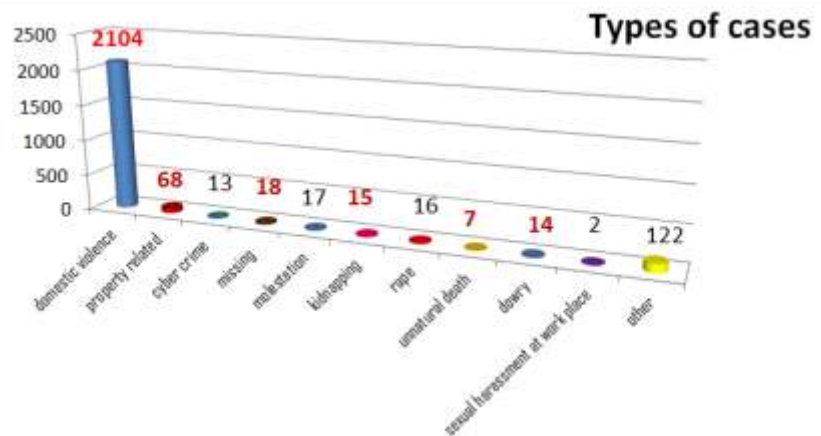
Following chart shows brief analysis of cases registered on the helpline for past three years:

Number of cases registered on Hello Sakhi



Safety centers have moved beyond domestic violence cases and are handling criminal cases also.

Total economic benefits in the years of 2014 to 2017 to women members through helpline is 59,00,500



The chart shows steady rise in number of cases in past three years, also number of cases of domestic violence show particularly high number. 16 rape cases also show that safety centres have moved beyond domestic violence cases and are handling criminal cases also.

Redressal at local level

Capacity building of para legal:

Para legal have been an integral part of overall outreach of safety centres which is evident as para legal have referred more than 100 cases in past two years. Overall, cadre of 200 para legal from 6 blocks of Kutch have been identified who have undergone training on gender, violence, legal framework, laws – DV, POCSO, Rape, dowry, Muslim personal law etc.

Following the workshop, many para legal have started taking lead in accessing their own rights, and supporting other women members. Most noteworthy are the cases where abuse has been on minors. Two such cases were brought to light by the para legal and they helped the mothers to lodge the complaint. They have also acted as witness in many cases and have successfully established association with local police stations which makes the process of lodging complaint quicker and more accessible to women.

After the initial training at least 25% para legal have started identifying violence in private spaces also.

Associating with DLSA and other institutions:

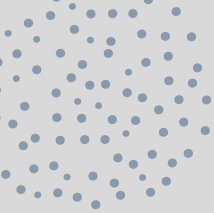
A workshop with DLSA, child protection office, recently opened “One stop centre – Sakhi”, anti-dowry officer, women protection office, district police and various women groups was held. Objective of holding the event was mainly to discuss on safety concerns of women, which were narrated through 11 real case stories of women depicting issues of safety concerns during childhood, home, domestic violence, at work place, cyber-crime, dowry, violence due to other factors. Also available schemes and options for victims were the main issues discusses.

A young girl narrated following about unsafe environment: *“adolescents are fed fear from childhood and girls are also harassed at work place. So just being allowed to study doesn't empower women.”*

Team of ‘Sakhi one stop centre’, which has been functioning in Bhuj recently, also participated .They talked about their services, joint meetings were then held with them. Sakhi centre team has also visited KMVS and asked collaboration. details of their services have been shared with all CBOs of KMVS so they can also refer women to the center.

Total 6 cases have been referred to the center. The women have received immediate help and have also received stay facilities, since the center is still being set up, the services are still evolving. As the center comes under direct purview of DLSA judge, they have also asked for feedback of KMVS.





2. Awareness on safety by using community media

2016

- understanding on caste based society and their traditions
- drawing strategies for each of different media

2017

- mainstreaming media for campaign and extensive outreach
- dialoguing with caste based leaders

now...

- evolving cadre from society who take "safety dialogue" forward
- pros and cons of different media has been realized and are being utilized accordingly

Generating Discourse/ Dialoging with caste based society

ideated during during visioning process, it was envisioned that, diverse pluralistic cultures of the region will be utilized to generate dialogue on women's safety so that the society will become responsive on those issues. Focusing on the cultural aspect of the society, Media Cell has further engaged for mapping concerns of various communities and have started dialogue with various stakeholders like community leaders to gain insight on their safety concerns.

through this process, profiling of the Rabari community has been completed. It has been mapped that they reside in 124 villages. It has also been learnt that within the community 24 sub castes exist. profiling of Jogi community has been completed and dialogue with the caste based leaders on women's safety issues has been brought forth with.

On 8th March 2017 a discussion was initiated which aimed at bringing together various caste based societies and reflect on issues of technology, traditions, impact of industrialization and traditional occupations in the context of women's safety. The process was very insightful as a starting point to initiate discussions with society leaders. it has also been analyzed through this process that the society as a whole still doesn't provide space for decision making to Dalit and other minorities, and their views rarely become part of overall developmental discourse. In every community girls have access to primary education, but there is still a huge gap between their higher educational attainment resulting in greater imbalance post marriage. Also, women have moved forward and have changed and sought change in many processes but male members are still caught in same time and believe in traditional customs and roles for women.

The process which has been started with Jogi community, will be continued so that the leaders can dialogue on which traditions are progressive that can be taken forward and which are ones that are still holding women back. This will also provide the society a chance to look at which are the areas that they feel vulnerable in as a society.

Utilizing media and technology to generate awareness

In creating awareness for various programs and also on the issue of women's safety, Media program has utilised various mediums, e.g. publishing Ujas magazine, developing radio programs, producing videos and skits and launching the new idea of voice messages. following are the major activities carried out during this time:

Skits: A skit named 'Kala Dungar na sapna nu Kutch (Kutch- as dreamt by black hills)' has been prepared which looks at present situation of Kutch and safety issues and how the scenario can change if community participates in creating safer environment for women and girls. The skit was essential part of safety campaign that reached more than 6500 people across 80 villages. The campaign was carried with support from Panchayats, local leaders, police staff and other community groups. It successfully created an environment of safety through which other initiatives can be launched. The campaign also included awareness on women's helpline like -181 and other helpline launched by Kutch police to reduce alcoholism. Over a period of time the original skit has been also revised to ensure community involvement and generate more participating dialogue.

Radio Program: the radio serial is aired in the same name 'Kala Dungar na Sapna nu Kutch (Kutch- as dreamt by black hills)', each episode is 30 minutes long, in total 24 episodes are aired every year. radio program has also undergone changes. It has been decided that the program be made into magazine format where issues like gang rape, issues of safety of girls in school, issues of migrants and single women, RTE and issues of women from Jogi community are addressed in the episodes produced. The production is fortnightly and is now being done through AIR (all India Radio) so it has a bigger reach. Each episode has generated at least 10-12 responses from audience. 80 community members have been part of these productions. Many of the listeners gets sensitized from the program and talk about how they can be a part of community action. 70 SMS has also been received appreciating the program.

Ujas magazine and video making: Ujas magazine, which had been unique identity of KMVS, has been published regularly and is sent to around 1000 women members. Similarly, video is also used effectively to depict issues of domestic violence, dowry, harassment and abuse etc.. The videos are then screened at public meetings and other events of organization.

Voice messages : as used earlier, voices messaging has proved to be a helpful tool to provide information bytes to community at large. A list of 1400 people was prepared and 12 message on different topics like harassment at various places like school, home, child custody, transportation, flesh trade, forced marriage, dowry, domestic violence due to mistrust, sexual harassment, and the need for male child have been made. After the first broadcast a good response has been received by the people. The messages also referred to incidence of violence in Kutch and it asked listeners to call on a dedicated number if they have any queries. 85 phone calls (25 male and 60 female) have been received where most of the people said they liked the message and it was a new way of receiving information on the phone. Many of them also asked about details of helpline and connected to Hello sakhi in this way. Following the messages, many recipients have sought help from Hello Sakhi.

Overall, the different media has helped build on dialogue on ‘safety’ and reach to larger community base.



3. Sensitising panchayats for 'safe villages'

2016

- sensitizing panchayats to understand women's safety needs
- carrying audits and mapping unsafe spaces

2017

- panchayats pass resolutions and take action steps for women's safety
- women's safety becomes agenda of Gram Sabha and Mahila Sabha
- panchayats in two other blocks undergo process

now...

- panchayats look at safety audits closely and agree to form protection committees and pass resolutions
- panchayat understand "women's safety as their essential role and form close link to Hello Sakhihelpline

Major interventions have been:

- Male members of panchayat have agreed on participating in safety audit process
- Dialogue with Caste Based Leaders has been sought in order to sensitize them and make them aware about women's safety issues

Steps taken after election period:

At the beginning of 2017 the elections were held for panchayats . they assumed their duties in February, so the main objective was to sensitize new elected members. to initiate this, a discussion with Sarpanch in 16 panchayats in Abdasa was initiated. After repeated meetings in which many stated that their village is safe 10 panchayats in Abdasa and 6 in Nakhtrana were selected who were willing to be part of dialogue on safety.

As a continuation of the safety process, discussions with the new panchayat body and ex-panchayat members were held so that newly elected body is aware about safety planning for their village. A collaborative planning was made which was presented in front of panchayat body and Mahila Sabha.

Baseline Study of Panchayats

A total of 26 panchayats have undergone baseline study process in these two years. within through this, 622 elected women representatives have been profiled to gauge their understanding on safety.

As the third year of safety interventions begin, it has been decided that focus will be on Eastern Kutch where the intensity of crime against women has increased in previous years. For the second year (2017-18) total 17 panchayats have been visited to understand their current perspective and willingness to associate with the safety interventions.

After initial discussions, 6 panchayats from Bhuj and 4 panchayats from Anjar have agreed to go through the process. Discussion with 77 members of the panchayat has been held.

The initial interaction shows:

- *7 panchayats are women headed and 3 other panchayats have male member as sarpanch.*
- *98% of the members are elected for the first time so they have lack of exposure and are still trying to understand governance aspects.*
- *27% feel women's safety concerns are primarily panchayat and women's responsibility, 22% say it's women's responsibility, 23% say it's responsibility of leaders and panchayat. Majority of members fail to see it under governance purview.*
- *98% EWRs are active and hopeful to address women's issues.*

Looking at these data, it could clearly be seen that the training inputs needs to be focused towards gendered governance after which the issues of women's concerns can be brought out. It is also important that the panchayats have a support group from the village which aids the dialogue and action for women's safety concerns. So as a next step it has been decided that the capacity building process will also be carried with the community group also.

Capacity Building of EWRs

For further educating and building up the capacity of EWRs training with 367 male and female members has been carried out. main objective of it was for the EWRs to understand legal instruments and access socio legal help for victims.

Also training with 177 EWRs from 10 panchayats took place. In this case main focus was on nuanced understanding of women's safety and that they start looking at the marginalized communities in their villages, and also to look if their development plans are inclusive and representative. after healthy dialogues, majority of EWRs wished that such trainings continue on regular basis.

A collaborative workshop between the Panchayats of Bhuj, Nakhtrana, Anjar and Mandvi was held. To further the learning process across panchayats, four panchayats from Bhuj presented their process of safety audits and how they prepared their safety index based on audit. impact from this workshop was that 67 women from 19 panchayats have understood the process deeply and decided on different actions, e.g. holding safety audits at school and public places.

Capacity Building of standing Committee Members

99 members from 9 panchayats had participated in the training on "Gender and Safety". Emphasis was put so that they analyse context of their own village and their understanding on safety from this context. this has provided important inputs in bringing safety in governance context.



the safety mapping process draws a visual picture for everyone to understand and discuss. The safety maps enabled the panchayats to decide their actions plans towards the issues raised. majority of the panchayats have showed positive outlook and have resolved issues by putting up street lights, improving other structures and supporting victims of violence.

10 panchayats also agreed on putting up public boards with the Hello Sakhi helpline and linking the issue of DV to the helpline.

Analysis from safety audits

In 2017 thirty safety audits have been held with EWRs and panchayat. At the beginning of 2017 it has been analyzed from existing data that panchayat members discussed more on improving structures like roads and saw this as their main responsibility rather on being concerned on women's safety issues. The EWRs were also hesitant in divulging any information as they relied on male members/spouse to give prior consent.

From baseline studies it has been noticed that none of the women members were aware on women's issues and very few actually know about the governance process. Also it has been analyzed that EWRs find greater difficulty in finding their voice in governing their panchayats. The internal dynamics between the members of panchayat body also pose a challenge in smooth functioning of panchayats. The issues identified from the safety audits were : alcohol consumption at various public places, Lack of street lights, the feeling of not being safe at public places and public transport were mentioned by the panchayat members as well. Also the members complained about non hygiene in areas, lack of health facilities and the absence of basic amenities. In Abdasa and Nakthrana block also social customs and traditions like child marriage, caste discrimination and domestic violence were questioned.

From many audits sessions it was decided that the issues raised will be further raised in the Gramsabha and regarding discrimination and traditions a dialogue with caste based leaders will be sought. Also many panchayats agreed on installing streetlights and discussing the issues raised in upcoming meetings. As an outcome some of the panchayats also decided on displaying the safety index they have developed, so that the society can understand that their panchayat takes the safety issue seriously.





4. Understanding perceptions of youth and working with them

2016

- understanding perception and designing training session meeting and gathering consent of education department and
- teachers on importance of the concept

2017

- reflecting and measuring impact of sessions and making changes
- introducing concepts of "changes in adolescence" and "safe touch"
- providing larger platforms to children for their articulation
- collaborating and sharing experience at networks and symposiums

now...

- working on mainstreaming concept in schools and colleges
- associating with panchayat and SMC so they can take further steps
- building youth cadre who takes the approach forward

The study on gender imagery in adolescents showed prevalence of boundaries and struggle of youth to break free. It was also evident that they found school as an ideal space to discuss about gender and value based education. Consultative meeting with teachers and education officials also guided that sessions can be carried in schools in making it a 'gendered space'.

Initiating sessions:

It was important to design overall sessions flow and conceive the larger design which triggers thought process in the adolescents and makes them question gender inequity. Curriculum and designs of many organisations were studied which made basis of framework for sessions design. The flow was planned as discussing about gender (patriarchy, power, roles), masculinity and femininity (beliefs, traits), values, gender based violence (types and myths), identifying unsafe spaces.

With this context, schools were approached – schools were selected from urban and rural areas but emphasis was put in selecting the ones where panchayats and para legal cadre has been working so that the dialogue on gender and other issues is alive beyond schools. In the second year also associations with 20 schools in Nakhtrana block were made and in total 35 schools underwent trainings during this time where more than 4000 students participated in the sessions. It was also decided that the team will engage mostly in co-education schools because it was imperative that the issues addressed in the sessions should be discussed both with girls and boys.

Evolvement of the work:

The complete concept of the sessions has permanently undergone a process of revision and adaptation. First of all the modules were designed to address the issues of “Gender and Gender based violence” which has also included the safety audit process. After the first year the students previously trained were requested to give a feedback about the sessions. They have suggested including more interactive exercises and it was also considered to integrate writing as a process of documenting their articulation and support their reflection. the team was approached by teachers and schools to include the topic “Adolescence” into the module planning. Out of this reason and also due to the experience made the complete sessions were revised and two more modules called “Talking on adolescence issues” and “Sexual orientation” have been added. Also the modules became more interactive including games and videos on gender issues.

Measurement of impact:

To measure the impact of the sessions two fairs were organized in which 400 youth from schools and slums participated. A skit was performed on issues like gender gap between male and female students, issues of violence on girls and type of abuse they feel and possible steps to be taken to ensure their safety. As a common expression a declaration was given to officials from the education department with the following demands:

- Continual patrolling at the time when school girls board bus/ chakda
- Formation and activation of committees against sexual harassment in schools
- Space for dialoguing about gender based violence at schools
- Adults Develop understanding on sexual harassment in adolescent boys and girls and be responsible to stop it
- Realisation of right to study for children



This event gave the students a space for discussion and voice their perspectives on various issues. In the second year more emphasis was put on students articulation on safety concerns to various stakeholders like panchayats, teachers and their parents. the panchayats agreed on taking concrete steps like switching in the streetlight earlier in winter and building higher walls at school areas, so that girls dont feel unsafe within premises.

Working beyond schools

in the beginning of the second year it was also envisioned that the impact of the work would be more effective if there would be a space outside the school where issues can be addressed. For that reason the permission of the panchayat has been sought to set up spaces for the youths outside of the school. In this way young girls will have a space to meet, interact, discuss and support each other on issues of discrimination, autonomy and decision making. Such youth centres were initiated in 9 villages of Nakhtrana block which were much appreciated by the girls. The youth leader were also selected from those villages who ran the centres regularly.

Collaboration with government institutions:

It can be analyzed from the two years engagement that the collaboration with the District Education Officer (DEO) and District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) has intensified during these years. Once the planning of the initial concept of the modules was completed, official permission was sought for conducting them. The officers have also been integral part of the yearly fair which was organized as a platform where youth can articulate their understanding through innovative mediums of skits, speech and dance. After almost two years it can be seen that the efforts with schools has successfully established the fact that gender education is important at a growing age and it should be carried along with the formal curriculum. Also the DEO, DPEO and other officials supported large level events and other programs carried by the children and noticed an enhanced articulation of the children specifically on critical issues like child sexual abuse.

Introducing concept of "safe touch":

while working with schools and in discussion with child line team, it was shared that many children face sexual abuse in homes and other places. It was thought to be important to introduce concept of 'safe touch' at an early age. To generate awareness and understanding on 'what is abuse', 'what are legal provisions for it- sections of POCSO', 'what should you do if you face abuse', a symposium was held with more than 250 children from various schools of Bhuj block. Chief magistrate of juvenile justice board, chairman of CWC, child protection officer and DPEO also remained present and talked with children about the issue. They also invited children to 'Juvenile court' so they can have better understanding. Children also shared stories of abuse and made drawings on subject.

Overall Analyses:

Impact assessment from the first year shows that even after a year the youths have retained all of their concepts. 98% have said that the workshops have been very important and have changed a lot of perspectives on gender and gender based violence for them at individual level. And it could not only be analyzed from the youths but also from the teachers and panchayats that they understood for the first time the safety issues and concept and also incorporated it in their planning. it can be concluded that through the continued support of teachers, Education Officers and panchayats it has been ensured that the 'gender education' concept is mainstreamed in schools which is a huge step in a positive direction.



Initiation of the Kishori Project:

As the urban collective - Sakhi Sangini grew stronger, a need was felt to include young girls in the dialogue. With this, a cadre of adolescent girls - both in schools and dropouts were mobilized into a collective. The collectivization was done with an objective of discussing the issues of early and forced marriage, autonomy to study, choose a career or having choices surrounding most important aspect of their lives. These efforts have opened doors for young girls to find a voice in their communities and they have started questioning community leaders on these issues and prevalent beliefs. A mix of training sessions, role-play games and exposure trips with these Kishori collectives have been held.

To facilitate the process further, 'Kishori Centers' at Bhuteswar, Ramdev Nagar, Pathan Fadiya and Shivra Mandap have been initiated for providing space to the girls for interaction, learning, sharing their ideas/views, developing leadership and empowering them so that they can nurture their dreams, work and live in the society as per their aspirations. around twenty-five girls visit the centers regularly which open fortnightly. It is aimed to build a constructive platform for girls where they can learn things while also managing the centers themselves. These centers are equipped with an extensive library, sport equipment and provisions to aid the learning process and inspire them to take action. So far greater changes in terms of girls' confidence, ability to negotiate with their parents, claiming public spaces and trying to break from gender stereotypes can be seen.

For encouraging the girls to discuss about their own issues of their lives two workshops have been held. The workshops dealt with the topics of sensitization about gender discrimination and the importance of financial security. The workshops have been followed by two training modules. In the first training the girls learnt to reflect their lives from an introspective perspective. 293 girls took part in this first module. The second module, in which 115 girls from 7 slum areas attended, focused on social perceptions and identity.

Giving the girls a chance to raise their voice and speak directly to the community about their own issues two Kishori Melas have been organized with the support of Sakhi Sangini leadership. In the first event five to six issues identified by the Kishoris have been showcased by the Kishori themselves through dramas, songs, speech and discussions. In the second mela the main objective was to aware the girls about issues of health and make them understand the significance regarding hygiene and nutrition. This was done by setting up different stalls, showcasing films and giving information about Anganwadis and different schemes. In this event 350 girls from all over the city attended.

As one of the major achievements is that some of the community leaders of Devi Pujak and Valmiki communities have taken up many of the issues of the Kishoris themselves and have promised to speak about them during community events such as samuh lagna (collective marriages) and other festivals.





5. Working on ‘safety’ - Urban spaces

Major interventions have been:

- ◆ Initiation of a drop in center for FSW in order to provide safe space for them in which their issues can be addressed
- ◆ The government departments have collaborated with KMVS and helped to organize FSWs by distributing contraceptives and initiating health check-ups
- ◆ A study has been published in collaboration with IRMA called “A Report on Female workers in the Unorganized Sector – A Study in Slums of Bhuj City in Kutch”

As an overall success for the Urban cell it can be seen that that community is more sensitized about their rights and their responsibilities. It can be also analyzed that the women members have started raising their voices and they have started to go to government institutions to demand for their rights e.g. if an Anganwadi is not functioning properly / mid day meal has irregularities/ PDS shop doesn't provide adequate rations. Also government functionaries have started recognizing them and are giving them space to voice their issues.

The core focus of the cell has been on enabling the ‘sakhi sangini’ collective so that it can function autonomously on right based issues of women in urban slums.

Organising female sex workers in Bhuj:

It has been further analyzed that the core issues of FSW in Bhuj are the following: their Health, Violence that they face, Identity proofs that enable them access to entitlements and issues for education of their children.

The focus was lying on building rapport with them and understand their issues. as a starting point, they have been provided with condoms and regular health check-ups supported at the district hospital. A total amount of 10220 condoms have been distributed to 106 FSWs.

Since more than two years the engagement with with Female Sex Workers (FSW) has started. As there are no red light areas in Bhuj, women are mostly carrying out their work from home and are most secretive about it fearing ostracisation from community.

Also the strategy to form FSW groups has been revised after the health check-ups have been conducted.

Activities and their impact with FSW:

In creating a broader network for FSW, collaboration with the Kutch NP+ has been done. They have agreed in organizing FSW in SHG and these new groups will integrate into the mainstream through the federation of Sakhi Sangini. In 2017 twenty FSWs have joined the SHGs program. Out of the 20, 11 have formed a SHG of their own while 9 other have joined pre-existing SHGs. Six FSWs took an exposure trip to VAMP, Sangli. Impact of this workshop was that all of the six women decided to talk about their rights after the trip and one of the women has also agreed on coordinating the planned drop-in center for FSW.

Mainstreaming security through collectives: Working on housing, credit and food securities

Sakhi Sangini

Within these two years KMVS engagement with the federation of Sakhi Sangini has witnessed some major changes. It has been decided that focus will lay on the healthy and regular SHGs (136 altogether) for the microfinance program. The fundamentals of the program have been revisited by KMVS and due to this meeting with the SHGs have been held in which they self- reflected their norms and identity and also factors that hurt their stability (such as availability of loans from private Micro Finance Institutions and it's pitfalls).

The total savings of the SHGs have been 5,609,500 rs and the total loan imbursed was 23,322,200. 1501 people have been supported by these loans. In general the SHGs had a total amount of 2414 members in 59 slum areas. 14 new SHG have been created and 197 SHGs have been active.

Sakhi Sangini has started increased signs of self-responsibility and there are many instances in which women have taken issues up their own. In this way women of Sakhi Sangini federation in ward 1,2,3,5,8 and 10 have selected a dedicated cadre of workers who regularly visit Anganwadi, Primary Schools and PDS shops in their areas to ensure the quality of service as demanded by the government norms.

It has been experienced that the adership of Sakhi Sangini has become stronger.



Housing programme (HIC)

The construction of a total number of 314 houses has been completed through this project. The houses have been built up at three areas: Ramdavnagar, Bhimraonagar, GIDC. It can be seen from KMVS' overall engagement in this project that the society has slowly accepted women's ability of taking over leadership. Also their skills have been more understood by the male members of the society. Through this project the social norms have started to change and it was possible for women to participate equally. The program is seen as very successful and it is shaping up as a great model for participatory urban housing. During the last two years KMVS has been engaged in reaching out to the citizens, leaderships, and government officials in Bhuj. An event called 'SaherPadeSaad' - Call of the City was organized in Bhuj by HIC. In this event, a vision for Bhuj in the coming years is also deliberated on by eminent citizens of Bhuj. This occasion has been helpful for KMVS in garnering support from the CEO of the ULB and local political leadership.

In these two years Ramdevnagar Vistar Vikas Sangathan (an RWA) has been registered with 50% women representation. This RWA have started going beyond the usual responsibilities of working on Infrastructure issues; they have started taking up social issues, safety issues and the organization of Kishoris. KMVS has continued handholding and training the members of the RWA.

Regularisation of public services:

35 women have been able to access benefits of the government scheme "ChiranjeeviYojna". 31 families are associated with Annapoorna Yojna. apart from this, the federation works to regularise PDS and Midday meal schemes in various schools and wards.

Institutionalizing concept of 'safety' in KMVS promoted collectives

As a culmination to the reorientation exercise, the organization has decided to work on 'from domestic violence issues to safety of women'. This depicts strategic shift of 'being a response mechanism to work actively on generating enabling environment for women where they feel safe and their sense of security enhances.' To realize this, each of 7 CBOs of KMVS are working towards integrating safety approach in their present intervention and the overall organization is looking to realize this by launching it's 'safe district' programme.

With this background, it was envisioned to upscale the helpline which has been running as a joint initiative between KMVS and Kutch police since 2010. During these months, the centres opened in the CBOs act as an extension to the Helpline centre in women police station. The centres in SJS and Sakhi Sangini provides counselling support to the victims and any woman calling from Nakhtrana, Abdasa and Lakhpat block is referred to counselling centre at SJS and woman from Bhuj city is referred to centre in Sakhi Sangini. This ensures access to any woman across the district to the counselling support.



1. Operationalising the counselling centres in CBOs

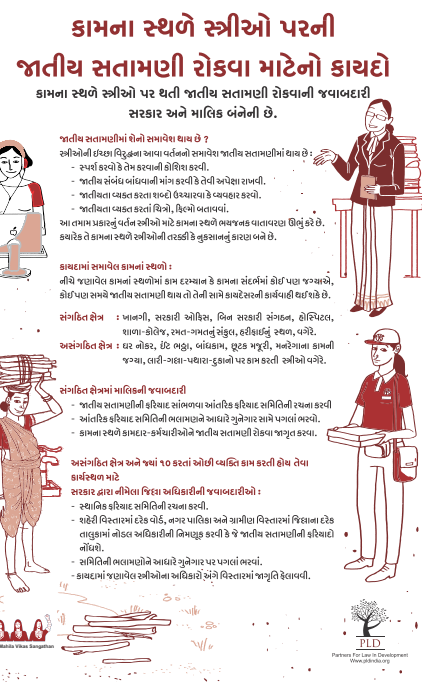
Centres with CBOs:

The centres with Sakhi sangini and SJS are functioning with overall system of counsellor, operator and panel lawyers. The centres are reaching out to majority of the community members through campaigns and regular outreach by the team.

Innovative material on 'harassment at work place' has also been put up at centres. Some of the efforts of 'Gramshasini' (association of EWRs promoted by KMVS) has also led to enhanced outreach of the helpline and 20 panchayats have painted the helpline numbers on public places in the village.

Sakhi sangini sangathan is also making it a point that they are addressing issues within their caste domain. E.g. some of the abuse, rape and unnatural death cases have come to light due to efforts of the women members who have untiringly worked to support families of these women members/ adolescents.

Sakhi sangini is also undertaking campaigns in slum areas so that more women are connected to the helpline.

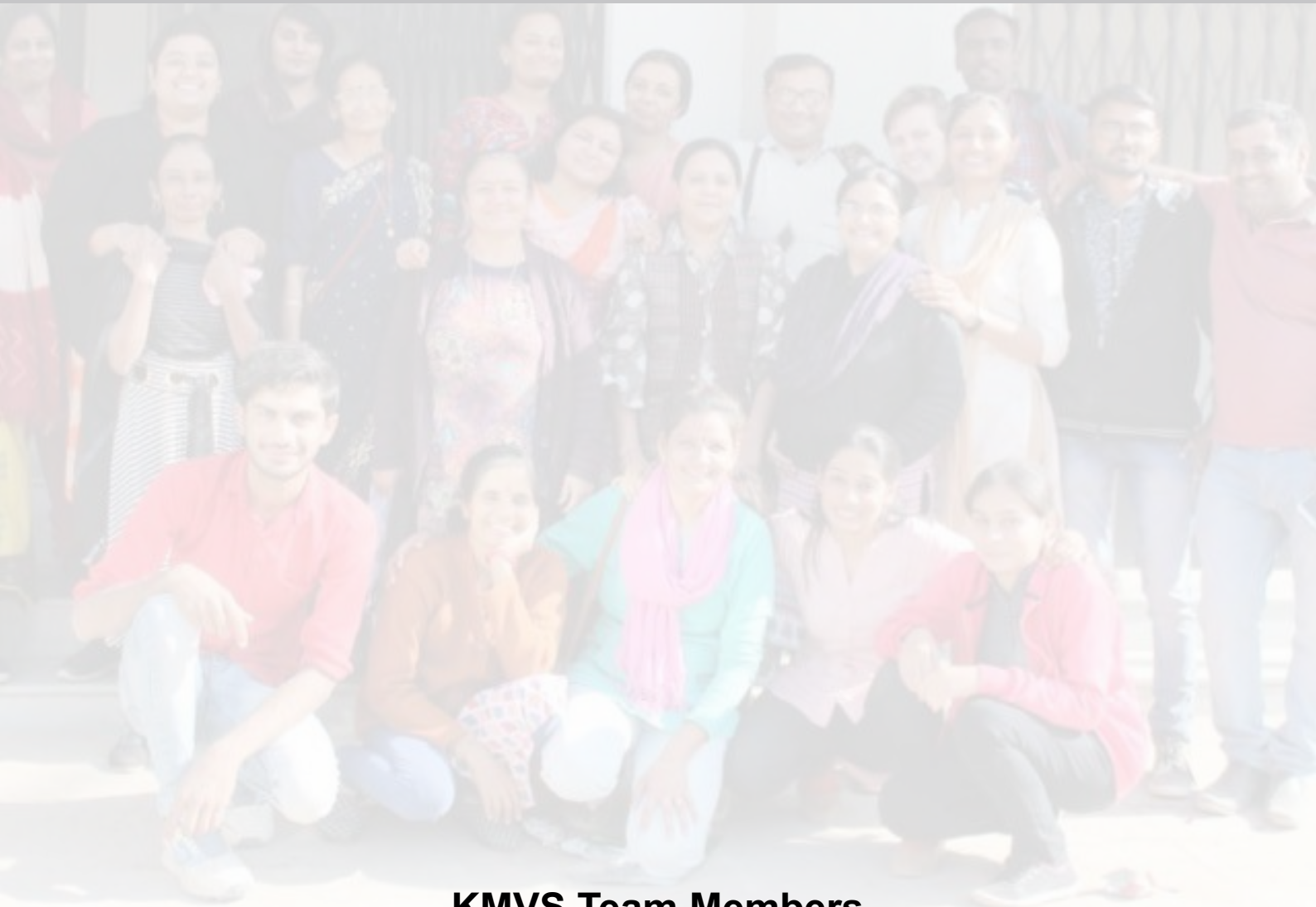


Insights and future pathways...

- ◆ As the incidents keep coming up, it clearly shows girls are abused not only post marriage but at a much younger age by their relatives and fathers also. This requires introduction of 'safety within homes and neighborhood' for girls.
- ◆ DLSA and associated systems have become responsive and have started supporting initiatives. This has also created space for more para legal to get certified and help on cases in official manner
- ◆ Discussions on reproductive health and psycho social changes show boys are at further disadvantage due to no platform for receiving information.
- ◆ The audits and safety dialogue with youth have shown that more than 80% girls have faced abuse at some point of time and this has to be taken up as action step by panchayat / judiciary.
- ◆ Women members have hesitated at every step of audit process and sharing it at larger level but support from male members and other leaders have given this process a boost

Governing Board Members of KMVS

Name	Designation	Area of expertise
Anuradha Prasad	President	Expert in HID processes
Vijaybhai Parmar	Vice president	Ex-officio member from Janvikas
Aruna Joshi	Secretary	Executive director, KMVS
Sandip Virmani	Member	Founder of Sahjeevan and expert in NRM
C.J.Patel- las	Member	Ex-officio member
Farah Naqvi	Member	Expert in education and community media
Hiruben Maheshwari	Member	Representative of SJS
Fatmaben Husen Jat	Member	Representative of Sakhi Sangini
Neera Burra	Member	Expert in Networking and alliance




KMVS Team Members

Secretariat	- Aruna, Kamlesh, Himal, Parvez, Hemlata, Almas
Panchayat	- Ketal, Dina, Lata
Legal	- Malshri, Rinkal, Chanda, Vanita, Madhu, Bhagysha, Neeta, Khata, Jinal
Urban	- Alka, Jigna, Chetan,
Yuvavani	- Kruti, Nayna, Jagruti, Varsha, Leena
Team supporting Sakhi Sangini	- Jayshree, Sheela, Jignesh, Shabana, Rajvi, Minaxi
Media	- Preeti, Aamad
Volunteers	- Derin , Moksha, Arti , Bhakti , Dhara , Purvi, Jaimini, Kushbu, Shruti, Reshma, Bhumi, Shivangi


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We used to counsel women understanding their insecurities and abuse that they have faced but now we approach the discussion holistically and try to work towards solution which also sensitizes the society so that woman become safer.

- Legal program

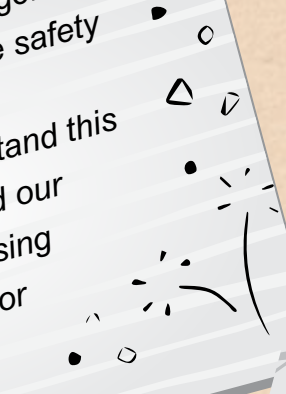


Rather than making girls empowered it is more important to sensitize boys and girls that equitable society is a violence free society. So we have strived to achieve this by talking about diversity and equity to our adolescents.

- Education program

Women in slum live in heterogeneous communities and rarely have safety net in their surroundings. We have started to understand this further and have extended our interventions from accessing entitlement to auditing for safe spacing.

- Urban program



Panchayats have never thought of bringing in discussion on gendered violence in their purview but in this two years we have sensitized and strengthened standing committees so that they also discuss about violence at their village and have become proactive for enhancing access to justice for victims.

- Panchayat program



2016

Adolescent boys and girls from schools come together to produce charter on their safety

Ward 2 of Bhuj municipality strives forward for safety of women

Panchayats exchange action steps on safety

Workshop with women groups / Identifying safety concerns

2017

Adolescents boys and girls from school narrate their safety concerns to panchayats in a district wise symposium

Children learn about safe touch and associate with child protection machinery

District wide women group deliberate on what steps they would take towards safety

Panchayats derive their own safety index



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