

2020 – 2022

kmvs.org.in



Annual Report



**kutch mahila
vikas sangathan**



Table of Contents

.....

About us 01

Reach 02

Glimpses & Reflection 03

Program Overview 07

Gendered Response to the Pandemic 36

Challenges 39

Future Visions & Plans 40

Organisational Information 41

Financials 43

Changes within KMVS : Board & Structure 45

In the News 46





About us

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan was founded in 1989 with an overarching objective of empowerment of rural women of Kutch through fostering and cultivating economic, political, social, cultural, individual leadership. KMVS believes there are four primary components to achieving women's empowerment – increasing women's security, improving women's access to resources, enhancing women's ability to become decision makers and effective leaders, and institutionalising the change process. To KMVS, empowerment lies at the intersection of these transformations. One of the core strategies of the organisation has been mobilising and organising women into local collectives and groups, through social rationalisation, perspective building and realisation of their capability to independently address gender inequities in their lives and communities. The development context of KMVS in the last three decades has constantly evolved with the shifting realities of urbanisation, expanding it to the urban poor in informal settlements in towns and cities. The organisation functions as a network of different grassroots women's groups and collectives, triggering, shifting and reshaping the gender paradigms and dialogues in the society.

Vision

To enable women to lead a gender transformative process within communities, citizens, youth and institutions; and to create a pro-active, safe and sensitive environment which fosters perspectives, actions, thought, and policies that are free of violence, patriarchy and gender-based vulnerabilities.

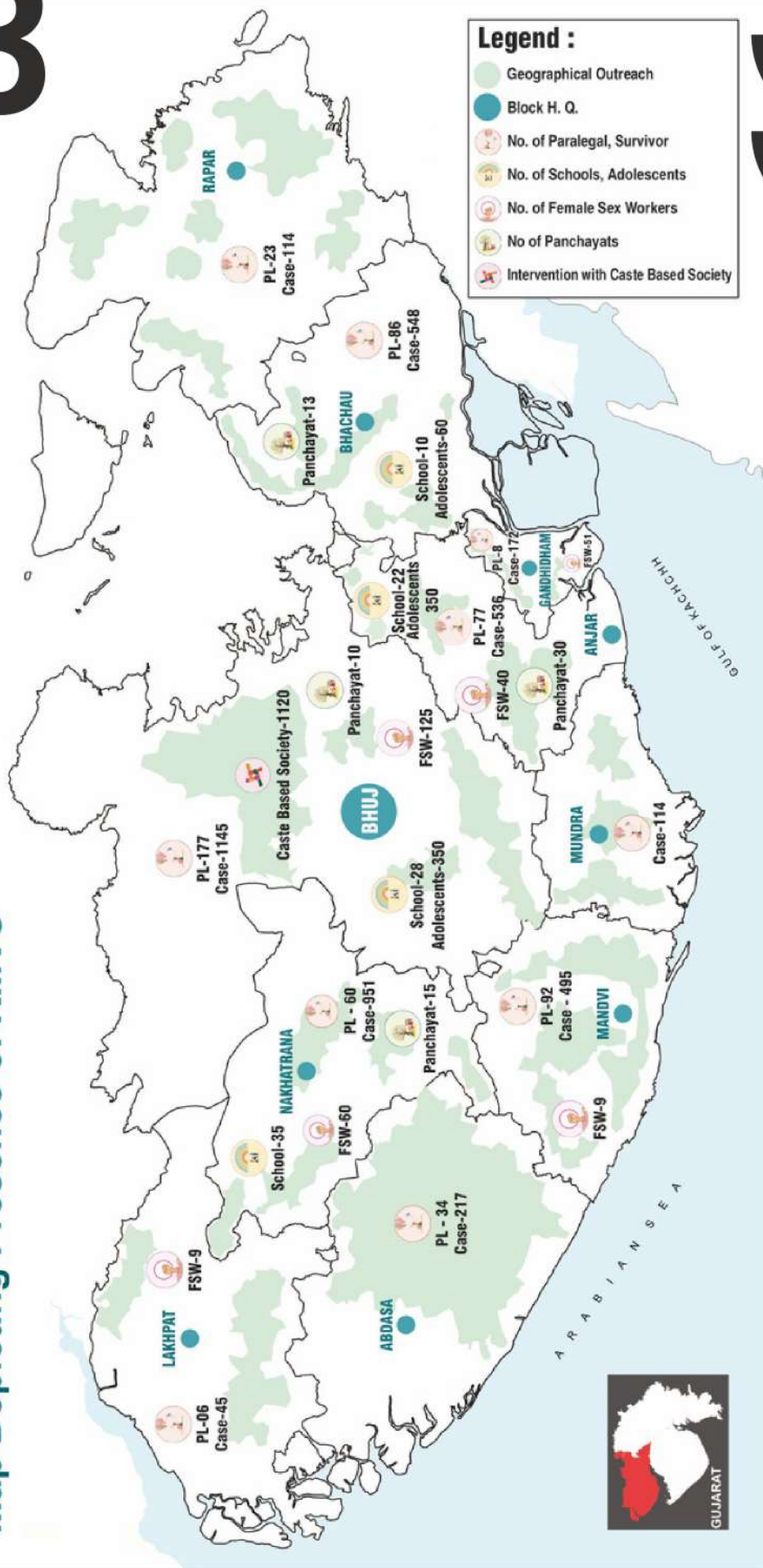
Mission

The overarching mission is to empower, conscientious organising women, youth, community organisations and local governance institutions, to address gender inequities and to ensure a compassionate and safe environment for women and girls.

03 H C A R E

Map Depicting Presence of KMVS

RAN OF KACHCHH



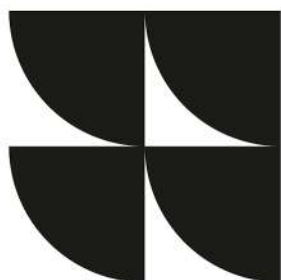


04

Glimpses & Reflections

KMVS's programmes are conceived, developed and strategised keeping women's well being at their core, primarily through organising, education, governance, access to rights and entitlements and overall community development. The year 2020 saw two major culminations and event:

1. Completion of Phase 1 of the Safe District Programme
2. The Covid-19 Pandemic, which shaped our direction of and approach to our work



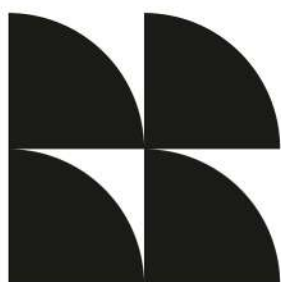


Safe District Programme

Safe District Programme was initiated in the year 2016, following the launch of Hello Sakhi Helpline, helping recognise and de-layer the nuanced forces and what comprises of women's safety in society. KMVS was making a shift in the core of their approach by deepening their perspectives on how individuals, communities, government system and ecosystem could effectively respond to women's issues and transform adverse gender norms. This programme was designed to work with two kinds of stakeholders:

1. Institutional stakeholders, namely district police, schools, universities, women and child helplines, panchayats and sarpanchs
2. Community stakeholders comprising adult women, men, adolescent girls and boys, vulnerable and ethnic communities

The year 2020 witnessed the culmination of this 5 year old programme, with a set of learnings and observations to be taken further and is planned to be extended in the form of Phase II of the programme. The year unfolded assessment and evaluation thereby strategising and planning for the next phase starting from the year 2022. The section 'Future vision and plans' will elaborate more on the conceived Phase II of the Safe District programme.





Covid-19 Pandemic

Towards the end of 2019, COVID-19 began to spread and was soon declared a global emergency in the face of a pandemic. An indefinite nationwide lockdown was declared in India on March 24, 2020, to prevent the spread of the disease. It presented itself with a difficult scenarios, where on one hand communities understood the importance of staying indoors and staying safe and avoiding contact-spreading, however there were many who simply did not have the luxury of staying inside, especially for the daily wage earners and the urban poor. This was true for the entire unorganised sector and people who had migrated from villages to cities in search of livelihoods. Only a handful had ration to support their households for two to four weeks.

KMVS realised that the situation would make migrants, female sex workers, survivors of gendered violence, the elderly and single working women, most vulnerable. Home as a safe and a comfort zone is a rare reality and belong to few. The lockdown impacted women the most, either with taking away mobility for the girls and women who carved that space for themselves after a lot of struggle, or women who stayed indoors with no breathing space in their house packed with people, for days. Domestic violence cases increased post the lockdown, owing to several reasons. Unemployment, financial stress, unavailability of intoxicant substances (due to restrictions on mobility), restricted movement for all being locked up in small densely inhabited houses. The



number of women reaching out through the Hello Sakhi helpline and the safety centres increased, due to cases finally surfacing amidst the crisis. Dealing with post covid situations was most challenging when it came to women's mental well-being. Some have even reached the point of attempting suicide.

Another critical blow of Covid-19 was on the access to education, affecting all at large and girls specifically. Schools were shut with many girls losing out on that one opportunity they got for studying and never stepping back in, to schools. Secondly, Covid led to the shift to increased utilisation of phones. Due to a loss in livelihoods, availability of leisure time, there has been a sharp increase in cyber crimes. Cases of stalking came to Safety centres or through paralegals at the village meetings. Professions such as that of sex work, was the most impacted, leaving female sex workers the most vulnerable, who are still dwell in the shadows of Covid's impact. A lot of cases related to violence against women, sex trafficking came to the Samvedna office through paralegals.

With this multitude of challenges, KMVS strived to be there for her women with an ear to the ground & an arm around their shoulders. The responses have either taken shape systematically or as relief aid and handholding. The organisation's response to this crisis is elaborated in more detail in the program overview section.



05

Program Overview





legal team

About the Program

KMVS data from studies revealed that close to only one-third cases of domestic violence were actually being reported. There are many reasons to it starting with the prevalent patriarchal social system, the status and norms of women in the society, lack of systemic support for women and the gender-insensitive judicial system and its mechanisms. KMVS launched the 'Hg in a gender-sensitive lens in dealing with violence against women's cases. With this program, KMVS intends to build capacity through awareness of legal provisions and rights for women as well as create a safe space for women through Safety centres in the community itself. An informal network of Paralegal cadres was created, comprising a core group as well, by training women who exhibit leadership skills from within collectives. These women leaders become the link between the women in the communities and legal aid through safety centres. KMVS has till now formed a core paralegal cadre of 60 and community-level paralegal cadre of 450 women, with 5 safety centres and 2 sub-centres in 5 talukas, Bhuj, Mandvi, Nakhtrana, Anjar and Bhachau in Kutch.





Key Activities

Building capacity of Paralegal Cadre of Women

The members who exhibit leadership skills from among the locally organised women are given paralegal trainings and trainings on perspective building on diverse topics, starting from the social system to gender inequality to gender norms to sexuality to women's legal rights to laws and acts for women who face violence to importance of evidence and skills for collecting them to dealing with survivors to macro topics like climate change and its multi-layered effects, technology and social media. Paralegals play a key role in bridging the gap between the victims of domestic violence and/or harassment in the community, and access to legal aid or safety centres. In the year 2020-22, 125 new paralegal workers joined the group, whereas 60 core paralegal cadre of women were given advanced trainings. 130 women from community-level paralegal cadre, who support the core cadre pertaining to laws, rights and acts related to safety of women against violence. The pandemic also brought much needed attention to climate change. 60 paralegals were imparted awareness on the issue, its effect in Kutch district and the interconnection between climate change and changes in socio-cultural lifestyle, especially its impact on women.

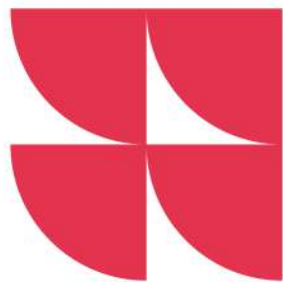


Operationalising Safety Centres as Safe Spaces for Women

Paralegals build trust and deeper connections through community visits to become that go-to person for women facing violence and injustice. Few cases which can be dealt with by facilitating dialogue within the family are initiated by the paralegal leaders themselves, others are brought in at the Safety Centre. Safety Centres became safe space for all the women within or outside the community to share stories of the violence they experience without any judgments and expect to be able to access legal support. Each safety centre there are 15 core paralegal cadre anchoring the violence cases that come to the centre. The core paralegal group has played a crucial role in helping the women open up, handling, counselling, mediation efforts in all such cases.

A Safe and Hopeful Space!

To create an enabling space for young children of survivors and minors who have been facing abuse and violence a separate room called "Killol" has been created. This space adjoins current safety centres and also has a separate openings all the walls depict various concepts of gender norms, gender roles, moving beyond gender binaries and accepting each individuals with their own unique gender identities. It also has some of the favourite cartoon character that children can associate with. It also has a small library and other playful activities to engage them further.



More than 50% of the cases have been identified by the paralegal leaders. In the year 2020-22, 2896 cases surfaced through the safety centres as well as the helpline, with 2524 cases of domestic violence, and the rest, of POCSO, cyber crime, sexual harassment and government entitlements. A total of around 13 lakh of financial assistance and entitlements have been facilitated to women survivors of violence through support and legal aid.

Extending out reach of 'Hello Sakhi' helpline

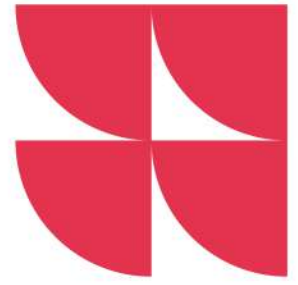
Kutch being one of the largest region in terms of area, there are villages located remotely. The paralegal leaders have conducted awareness sessions with an intention of extending the reach of 'Hello Sakhi' helpline for women facing violence in the rural communities, however it is difficult to be there physically on a regular basis. With the support and in partnership with DLSA and Panchayat, KMVS was able to start legal aid and assistance centres at panchayats in 3 villages. In the year 2020-22, 15 core paralegals organised awareness sessions on helpline and reached out to 140 villages in 7 talukas.



Developing Gender Sensitive Lens & Perspective in Judiciary Systems

Bringing a gender sensitive lens at the institutional end becomes pivotal to impart justice with dignity and respect. KMVS, in collaboration with the police department and helplines, conducts and organises orientation meetings and sessions on gender based violence owing to our social structures, patriarchal system, gender biases with police sub-inspectors and junior lawyers. In the year 2020-22, 30 junior lawyers and 20 police officials were given such trainings.

Webinars were also conducted around, Child Marriage Act, socio-legal impact of child marriage, and potential role of Panchayat as an association to intervene in stopping the social evil, for leaders of various communities and villages. Through these sessions and the following discussions, it was also proposed to make Panchayat associations accountable for the child marriages happening in their village and areas, in order to probe them to activate the Village Level Child Protection Committee (VCPC).



governance program

About the Program

The Safe District's core agenda and larger vision is to create an ecosystem for safety of women and transform gender related perspectives. KMVS, with this program, strategises to work with panchayats and sarpanchs and sensitises them about the larger social system and injustice to women, and creating accountability for enabling safety for women in our spaces and systems. KMVS forms an informal association of Panchayat members and Sarpanchs to inculcate and organise gender sessions for them. At the same time constant efforts are being facilitated to increase participation of women in Gram panchayats and most importantly as Panchayat members and women Sarpanchs. With this a larger dialogue is initiated of Women sarpanchs and women's role in systemic transformation.





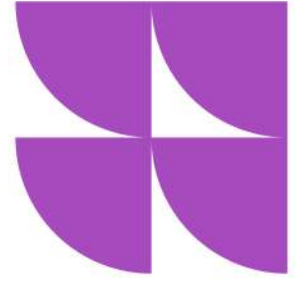
Key Activities

Safety Audits in Villages

A baseline survey was conducted in 20 villages in Anjar and Bhachau with an intention to work towards a gender just and community led governance structures and systems. These were followed by Safety Audits conducted in these villages with 20 panchayats with 514 women to understand ground realities and their perspectives of safety and further sensitising and mobilising panchayats towards feminizing institutional structures and address the issue of safety for women and girls. Our community leaders played a major role in the safety audits and initiating dialogues around safe environment. 16 out of 20 panchayats passed safety resolutions following the safety audits.

Women Participation & Election as Sarpanch and Panchayat Members

It has been observed that the villages where a women is a sarpanch or where elected women panchayat members are active, women in general have more participation in the issues of villages and decision making, which fosters a safe environment for girls and women themselves. KMVS through its women leaders organises interactions and sessions on women safety with core group (caste



leaders, women leaders and Paralegal group) and Panchayat associations in order to it being included as an agenda in priority. An informal group of Panchayat associations of 21 villages including 80 core members have been formed. In the year 2020-22, meetings were held in 40 villages with Panchayat and village core group. The trainings on Social perspectives, panchayati raj system and its power, role, women reservation and formation of acts and fundamental rights are imparted to the panchayat members through this core group.

Four Mahila sabhas were organised as a pilot model in Kanthkot and Vipasar village where 221 women participated and discussed issues like lack of authority, just governance and their participation. As a model, it has been adopted by the panchayat core group members that each panchayat will hold mahila sabhas at a village or a ward level. In addition to that, constant efforts in the form of regular interactions, mobilising and sessions, are being made to encourage and increase the women members active participation as well as standing in elections for Sarpanch. The participation of women has increased considerably in gram panchayats in last two years, for instance; In Bhuj Taluka, out of 21 positions of Sarpanch, 8 have been held by women i.e. Women participation has been increased to 38% from 19% in previous elections. Similarly in Anjar Taluka, there have been 50% reservations for women participation, where efforts have been made to increase women election, and 3 women have been

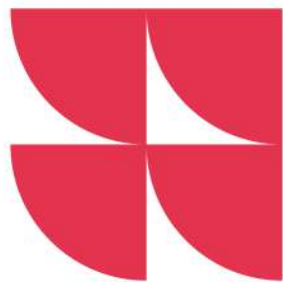


elected as Panchayat members and a women leader has been elected as the Sarpanch.

Further, in order to gauge the ground condition of women sarpanch's as well as connect them all together, KMVS conducted a survey of women sarpanchs in different villages, talukas, surveying 326 total women sarpanchs. The survey brings out and analyses their participation and role in bringing women safety in their village spaces and challenges they face. The women sarpanchs are profiled in a database and a network is created to bring them together as well as disseminate information through technology.

Facilitating Linkages with the Government Benefits and Welfare Schemes

KMVS through the elected women representatives in Panchayat facilitates filling the application forms for different schemes and availing benefits to people in village. Around 87 forms of different welfare schemes such as Manav Garima Yojana, Ganga Swarupa scheme, widow pensions, Divyang Vivah Yojana, etc., were filled. The linkages were the most needed during the lockdown, where KMVS facilitated conversion of 256 APL cards to Annapurna Yojana card to access ration support, 15 new ration cards, 22 aadhar cards, 235 PAN cards, activated Akshaypatra Yojana providing free meals in 5 critically affected areas and opened 62 bank accounts.



youth program

About the Program

This program is a stepping stone and the foundation of our hope for a gender-just and safe society in the future. KMVS started working with youth, especially adolescent girls as a vital component of the Safe district program. Through this program, KMVS organises adolescent girls with a focus on their education and imbibe leadership and gender equality traits in the girls; partner with education department to imbibe gender equitable pedagogies through trainings in primary schools and universities; facilitates skill building and linkages with employment opportunities and most importantly extends the perspective building in boys and men as well through community meetings and schools, institutions as well. The youth program is active in 19 different slum areas in Bhuj and 55 villages in Anjar and Bhachhau talukas.





Key Activities

Organising Adolescent Girls

A core group of adolescent girls 'Salamat Sakhi' have been identified and formed that take the lead in awareness sessions and initiate the transformative efforts in their own community. Till now KMVS has organised a total of 800 girls through their efforts. These girls are imparted trainings on gender equality, social system, menstruation, understanding their own body and sexuality, etc. In the year 2020-22, around 400 girls joined the group and 260 girls have participated in 12 trainings.

Gender Equality Sessions and Gender Audits in Schools

In order to initiate a systemic change and structuring the workshops in a more grounded manner, gender audits were initiated and completed in 11 schools in the year 2020-22, with the next 10 schools having shown interest in participating in Gender Audits. The audits include information on infrastructure, safety, supportive policies, equal participation of children in sports and cultural activities anchored on gender equality, and lastly, accessibility for all students irrespective of their caste, religion and gender. Along with students, the teachers are also being given training on building a gender-sensitive learning environment and



perspective. A total of 38 teachers have been a part of these trainings.

Campaigns for Bridging and Reintegrating Girls into Education

KMVS interacted with the girls who have stopped going to school owing to the pandemic and found out that they wish to resume their education, however they were not able to due to the demoralising environment at home, the consequent in-confidence from it, and financial constraints.

KMVS collaborated with the panchayats in the villages to start Akhar Centres either in the Panchayat itself or at community spaces. Akhar Centers were conceived as intermediate spaces that help the girls who have left schools for various reasons (Covid-19, social, financial, safety) or failed to pass their 10th or 12th standard exams, to resume their education. At these centres, equipped with necessary infrastructure, girls (who dropped out of mainstream education) revise their syllabi and gear up to resume their formal education. In the year 2020-22, Akhar Centres have been started in 18 villages with 140 adolescent girls resuming studies and 10 girls getting enrolled in schools again. 78 girls have also appeared for their 10th board examinations.



Skill building and Challenging Gender Roles

KMVS constantly strives to challenge gender roles, by facilitating and helping young girls question and walk the path less taken. One of the activities for that is skill building, especially in non-traditional occupations, as per capacity, such as auto-driving, photography, nursing, and relevant internships and jobs. In the year 2020-22, 78 girls took nursing courses out of which 29 are interning at hospitals. 40 took up a photography and videography course, out of which 5 girls are pursuing a 6 month long professional course and 7 were given training for driving auto-rickshaws out of which 3 are already driving autos in Kutch.

Perspective & Leadership-Building on Gender Equal Environment

Adolescent girls have started reclaiming their spaces and voicing their opinions on issues related to their education, marriage and recreation. The last two years witnessed milestone initiatives and achievements in this domain.

In order to build and express solidarity against early marriages, adolescent girls initiated a signature campaign with their parents, in their villages to campaign for consensual marriage at will and not at a premature age, under societal pressure. This was

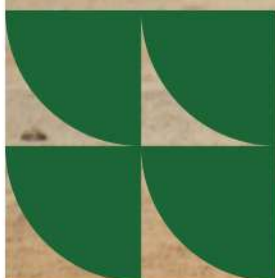


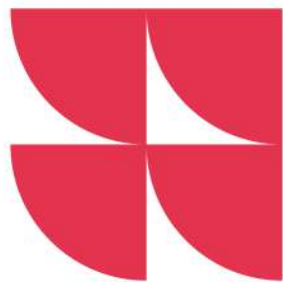
conducted in partnership with Social Development Officer of the Block, who is in charge of Prevention of Child Marriage Act. Each signed copy went to the officer, which became a common access and action point for both the officer and the under-aged married women. This campaign sensitised the Panchayat and community leaders too, rendering the community's support at the village level. The campaign against early marriages was conducted in 22 villages with 1500 parents signing it. The Panchayat members also signed to prevent or report child marriages. Early marriages were curbed through this campaign. The police intervened and it was the first time that the court announced an order against child marriages in the district.

Additionally, around 250 adolescent girls participated in identifying and collectively drawing maps of 22 villages for provision of a space for sports and recreation, and have initiated advocacy for the same to the Panchayat. A recreation space has been given to the girls and women in 14 villages, owing to their efforts. This changes the general norm that girls/women do not need recreation outside their house. The open spaces are most often taken over by men, owing to our socio-cultural conditioning and perception that girls do not play sports and have been finding spaces indoors until now, to socialise. This was a crucial first step towards reclaiming space for themselves.



One of the other crucial achievements of the past year was, the interest that young boys began to show in the gender equality sessions and organising themselves in a group. A total of 35 adolescent boys from 3 slums and 50 young boys from 5 villages in Anjar Taluka joined the Sangathan, forming a mixed group of boys and girls. These boys are being imparted trainings on gender roles, patriarchy, violence, gender inequality, masculinity and the like to deepen and substantiate hope towards an equitable future.





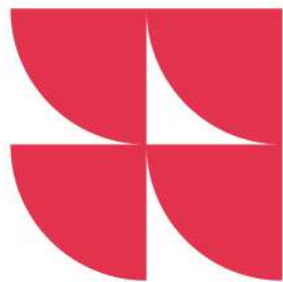
samvedna program

About the Program

KMVS came across one of the vulnerable, largely invisible and socially shunned groups of women in the society i.e. sex workers, during organising activities. Sex work is largely viewed as a taboo and as anti-social, leaving these professionals unorganised with self-stigmatisation of their own lives. Although in few cities in India, they are being documented and celebrated through media, in Kutch they are deemed non-existent. There are no brothels in the city or alternative safe spaces for the sex workers. This makes it harder for them to come out and organise. Secondly, despite sex work being illegal, it a large part of the population avails these services, owing to its demand, but with no policy or laws to protect the rights of sex workers. They often exploited from middle-men/pimps, customers, the police. Severe health issues like AIDs and STDs make them even more vulnerable.

KMVS started interacting with sex workers with an objective to work and organise them, in the year 2016. Samvedna, a community based organization was formed in 2018 with the objective of mobilising female





sex workers into a collective for demanding basic rights and entitlements, along with addressing issues related to their livelihoods, their health, challenges such as violence, discrimination & exploitation, and especially issues related to the education and well-being of their children. A drop-in centre was begun, a physical space dedicated to developing as a learning-cum-resource centre accessed by the collective's members from all over the district.





Key Activities

Organising and Profiling of New Members

Samvedna currently has over 300 sex workers as registered active members of the group from Bhuj, Anjar, Nakhatrana, Mundra, Mandvi and Gandhidham district. With an integrated holistic development approach, KMVS also conducted a survey of the children of sex workers, primarily with an objective to understand their challenges and gauge their access to education and recreation. A total of 69 children were surveyed.

Capacity Building of Workers about Gender and their Rights

Diverse trainings and capacity building sessions are organised for the sex workers at the centre, topics such as rights and acts such as Anti-trafficking and Domestic violence act, sexuality, leadership, gender equality, gender and patriarchy, etc. A total of 8 trainings with over 200 women had been conducted over last two years.

Health Checkups

Regular health camps are held for sex workers owing to the nature and unsafe practices of their work. Although sex-work is not legal in India, KMVS stresses that the health camps be organised in collaboration with government hospitals. In the last two years,



counselling on safe sex and usage of condoms was given to 164 women and 46,000 condoms were distributed amongst workers as well as 190 women got complete health-checkups done.

Identity and Entitlements

A house, a safe space does not exist for sex workers in Kutch as there is no brothel or designated red light area where, although in an illegitimate way, it becomes a safe space for sex workers. KMVS conducted a survey of housing access by these women. Most of the women do not have a secure house or residential space of their own. KMVS is not advocating to build a brothel, but to build a home. Any human regardless of sex, caste, class, gender or religion is entitled to land, identification documents, a family and community. KMVS is building towards this step by step. A lot of these women are migrants, many of them do not have identification documents or some have different names in documents to hide their real identity. In the year 2020-22, KMVS facilitated registration and registration for the following documents for FSWs: PAN Card (39), Food Security Card (35), new Ration Cards (27), Aadhar Card (48), 145 new bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana, Labour e-Cards - 85, Widow Pensions (10). In addition, 27 children of sex workers enrolled for schools, 48 transgender people were registered with National Institute of Social Defence to access public entitlements. 392 ration kits were distributed as immediate relief during the pandemic, 211

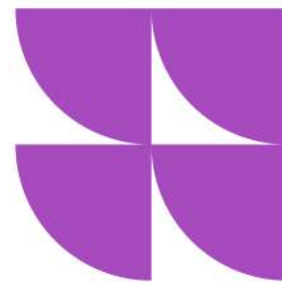


women were vaccinated and financial support under different schemes was made available to 120 women amounting to a total of INR 1,60,000.

Secondly, owing to social stigmatisation of their work, most sex workers have no voice in public discourse to acknowledge their work socially. KMVS tries to create such a space in two ways: involving them in other trainings, with non-sex workers, to foster compassion and open-mindedness towards sex work, to be able to normalise it as a dignified and respectable job; and talk about our work with sex workers at different platforms wherever we get a chance. For instance, in last two years collaborations for sensitisation on issues of FSWs were coordinated with local organisations like the Lions Club (Bhuj Chapter), Hum organisation, Vivekanand Research and Training Institute, Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC), etc. It can be stated that over the years, KMVS has organised 180 FSWs and they are now acknowledging their work socially, starting from the monthly meetings that KMVS holds with them.

Regular Monthly Meetings and Legal Literacy

Additionally, 6 sex workers joined the paralegal trainings and 5 joined the leadership training with Sakhi Sangini Sangathan. These trainings help create a sense of belonging and solidarity, with women from different walks of life, who all face different facets of the same evils of patriarchy. With constant effort, a core group



consisting of 7 female sex workers has been formed, who actively navigate the area and address the issues of the women. Cases related to domestic violence, caste-based violence, sex trafficking are reported to the Samvedna office through the core group. Counseling and legal proceedings in 14 cases have been executed by the core group in the last two years.

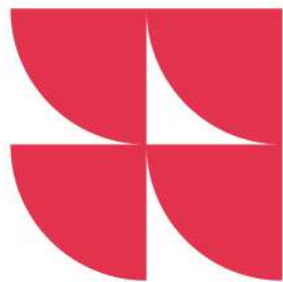
Policy Inclusion Advocacy Efforts and Outreach

Inclusion and social acceptance is crucial for vulnerable groups such as sex workers, KMVS has initiated efforts of collaboration and networking with an intention of influencing policy. For instance, Samvedna group has been linked and is a core active member of the National Network of Sex workers (NNSW). Interactions and sharing sessions are facilitated with other organisations working with sex workers. The CBO is well connected with Kutch NP Plus Programme (a network of HIV positive people), Indian Council of Social Welfare, Integrated Counseling and Testing Centers. Following is a glimpse of outreach and solidarity building actions undertaken in the last two years:

Samvedna members participated in a meeting held by the National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) on the Anti-Trafficking Bill as well as expressed solidarity for the LGBTQIA+ community in a series of workshops and virtual movements initiated during the lockdown. The members also collaborated with multiple organisations under the umbrella of NNSW for a Twitter Storm



- iorganised to let the voices of the sex workers' community be heard over the feud regarding their recognition by National Human Rights Commission as part of India's informal workforce.
- 180 members of the Samvedna group participated in a survey by the NNSW on the financial effects of the COVID-19 on sex workers
- Participated in presentation of sex workers' rights status in the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) district performance meeting
- Samvedna group protested and organised a rally showing support for sex workers in the Ganga Jamuna red light area in Nagpur, Maharashtra, following the sealing-off of the area by the government.
- 11 members of Samvedna group participated in South Asia Women's Fund virtual cultural event
- A 2 day workshop was facilitated in collaboration with NNSW and VAMP (Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad, a grassroot organization of sex workers), where the resource person, a sex worker herself, came from VAMP to share her life experiences.



work with ethnic communities

About the Program

It was found that a large number of cases of violence against women surfaced from certain specific lower caste communities. A need for transformative work with these communities was felt. Women were the most vulnerable with no identity of their own, no access to education or opportunities. With the intent of holistic community development, KMVS started working with such communities in the year 2016, beginning with Devipujak community, and later with Jatt community in 2020. Initial work involved understanding and building a rapport and trust with these communities, especially women and Panchayat leaders. The key activities included sensitisation and transformative work to enable a safe environment for women and girls, through awareness campaigns and facilitation of access to legal rights and government schemes.





Key Activities

Sensitisation and Initiating Transformative Work

KMVS has been working with Devipujak committee since 2016. The formation of a committee of 12 women and 10 men, was a milestone achievement. This committee includes community leaders, panchayat members and women paralegals. In the year 2020-21 a Grievance Redressal Centre (Takrar Nivaran Centre) was opened in one of the settlements, where 3 men and 3 women counsel the people about their issues within the community. These counsellors are trained by KMVS. After witnessing two slum areas Ramdevnagar and Bhimraonagar being rehabilitated in situ and taking that as an example, other communities have come forward with an interest in, liaison with the government for formal housing and have formed Jameen Awaas Adhikar Manch (Land and Housing Rights Group) comprising representatives from 6 other slums of such communities.

In another instance from the Jatt community, the women in Sumrasar village took charge of food grains being sold at a higher price, by initiating advocacy with the Public Distribution Authorities official of their area. The women used to travel to neighbouring PDS shops to get cheaper food grains. They wrote an application demanding lowering the prices of food grains to the Collector and Deputy Mamlatdar of the district, with the required number of



signatures, under the Panchayat's mast head. Following this process, the prices were lowered and the women no longer needed to travel far for food at affordable prices.

Awareness Campaigns for Women's Safety, Gender Perspectives and Legal Access

Interactive awareness sessions were conducted with men and women of both communities on patriarchy and the social system, women's legal rights, feminism, gender-based violence and women's safety and gender-safe environment. In the year 2020-22 a total of 4 sessions were conducted with around 69 participants.

In the year 2020-22, 248 cases of violence against women reached the centre, out of which 24 cases were solved by the Devipujak committee itself independently, and 37 cases from other areas counselled and solved by the paralegal cadre.

In an exposure visit organised by KMVS, the Jat community was connected to the Devipujak community where they had a sharing and learning session on the journey of formation of the committee, community centre and grievance redressal centre and the strategies adopted by them to achieve the same. The visit gave them a glimpse of how the Devipujak community run their safety centre and handle their cases. This understanding shall help them to set up their own safety centre and act as proactively as the Devipujak Community.



Linkages with Government Schemes and Entitlements

The leaders of Jat community were successful in forming 2 women savings cooperative comprising 20 women and linking them with Mission Mangal Yojana. Community leaders in the Jatt community also organised a health and eye checkup camp, where 350 women attended and benefited from the camp, along with facilitation of vaccination of 50 people. Additionally, linkages for UWin (labour card) card for 380 people have been processed and 3 campaigns for Aadhar card have been organised, along with 15 widow pension schemes processed and 10 new bank accounts being opened under Jan Dhan Yojana.





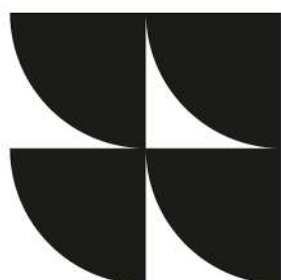
06



Gendered Response to the Pandemic

The pandemic has left a deep impact on the communities residing in slums, starting with loss of livelihoods leading to financial woes, depression in men with its effect visible on the family members, especially women and children, in the form of violence. The cases of domestic violence which were already high in Devipujak, Jatt and remote village communities, increased even more. Awareness sessions around domestic violence and the availability of Hello Sakhi helpline along with information related to Covid-19 was imparted door to door in these areas. Having witnessed the inability of the urban poor to cope up with this situation, KMVS in collaboration with other partners changed their role for some time, and provided relief in the form of cash, health check-ups, counselling and litigation support along with ration kits. A major insight in the words of the women was :

"Ghar mein bhookh aur dukh dono hai, bahar sukh hai"





mental health counselling and were provided the safe space and warmth of having other women, their 'sakhis' by their side. Regular check-in calls were made to all the women members & leaders to provide with moral support and keep up the hope.

The organization provided cash support of Rs.3000 each to the most vulnerable households, along with 3750 ration kits and medical aid in 19 slums. Around 70 more families were provided a cash support of Rs.1000 each. During the financial crisis owing to pandemic, 25 women in one of the area, were linked to the work of stitching masks, wherein each women earned upto 2000 INR every month, bringing some amount of financial and livelihood security. The ration kits was designed with doctors' inputs to ensure a healthy and nutritious meal for the people so their immunity system could be strengthened.

A lot of challenges were encountered, as situations in slums were even more fatal, considering the population density. A survey was conducted by the community leaders, mapping the access of ration kits provided from the government, and it was found that many women did not have proper identification documents to avail these kits. A set of identification documents are required for getting free ration support, financial support and health insurance from the government. KMVS actively monitors 9 PDS ration shops in 8 slum areas, monitoring the quality and timely availability of ration to the eligible households.



Female sex workers who experienced a direct blow to their livelihood have still remain affected, making them even more vulnerable. In order to cater to their well being, KMVS facilitated professional counselling by placing a psychiatrist at the Samvedna drop-in centre. Around 160 FSWs and 80 transgender women were supported with ration kits through different trusts and the government along with financial support and livelihood linkages to some.

With respect to education, KMVS conducted a survey in about 125 villages regarding accessibility to online classes. This revealed that less than 10% of school going children have access to mobile phones, and the priority was given to the male child. The girls faced the major blow, eventually dropping out of school and stopping education completely. The group of adolescent girls was strengthened and efforts were made to remain connected with them through phones or visits to their houses. Many girls were attempted to be married off. However with solidarity and morale building, there have been cases where girls have expressed their dissent in their marriage and interest in resuming education. Akhar Centres have played a huge role in facilitating a start towards reclaiming their education as well as life again.





07



Challenges

Few areas in north-west rural Kutch, especially Banni communities were found to be very conservative when it comes to women. Young women and girls are not permitted to leave their houses in many communities, with traditional rituals holding their growth and learning back, where family's honour is directly linked with women. A lot of grave mishaps including crimes and murders have occurred in the community because of this. The women face a lot of mental and physical health issues which needs attention. It is the most challenging area to work and bring about change in, for our paralegal leaders.

With regard to the cases of violence, one of the major challenges that was faced by the paralegal leaders and the core group in these last two years, was dealing with the cases of differently-abled women, where it became difficult to communicate to the women due to various impairments along with the trauma that the women were going through because of different forms of harassment. A communications expert needed to be on-board in such cases. This quarter also brought in a lot of cyber crime cases out especially in the Devipujak community, where young girls and adult women's pictures were clicked without their knowledge or consent, and were widely circulated. This kind of harassment is new for the community and the paralegal leaders are working with the local police officials to combat the issue.

Our work with female sex workers was faced with a lot of difficulties, where the workers are still struggling to survive, even after a year post covid. Many have either migrated back to their villages, homes or have switched to other occupations, for few it was severe enough to attempt suicide owing to mental, financial, emotional, socially inflicted trauma. It has been a huge challenge to track and meet these members of the Samvedna group.





Future Vision & Plans

POLICY ADVOCACY

Following the learnings from our work towards empowering women and gender equality, through organisation, leadership, capacity building, education, governance, accessibility to rights and entitlements and overall community development of marginalised and vulnerable communities, KMVS envisions to deepen, expand and upscale the efforts, starting with Phase II of the Safe District Programme, along with "Working with Industries in the Realm of Workplace Safety for Girls and Women Working in Industrial Spaces".

Given the shifting reality of Kutch, of increasing number of industries and shifting gender roles, of women starting to work in industries, the violence is not restricted to intimate partner and domestic violence in interpersonal spaces only. KMVS has initiated this segment of the programme with the selection of industries to be surveyed and further conducting a study in partnership with FOKIA in the concerned areas on the environment and policies of the industries for women's safety.

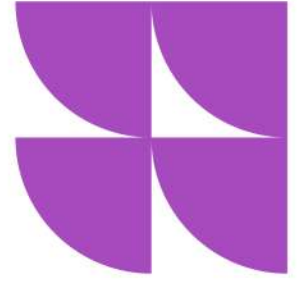
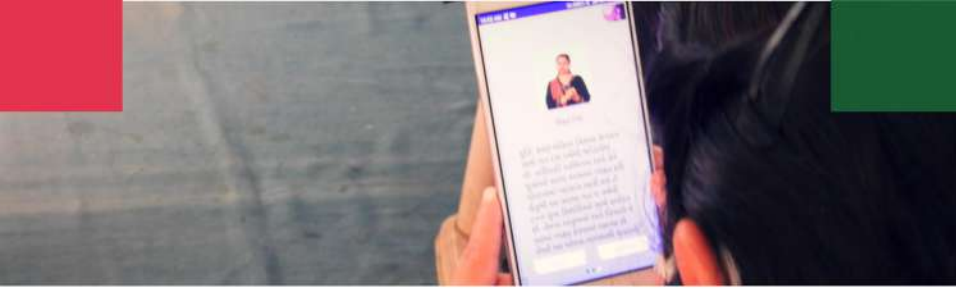
In retrospect of being a part of the larger movement, KMVS will continue perspective building and participation in national level feminist movements and gauging development patterns to be exercised for changing paradigms and strategies for women's empowerment and gender equality. An emphasis will be laid on building evidence-based research capacity in leaders on field, which can be directed further in building a movement and advocacy from within the community.



Organisational Transformation

KMVS, as an organization, has expanded and deepened its understanding on women's empowerment through its work every year. Two events again have guided us strongly, one is our Safe District program that has deepened our learnings about forces that work towards shaping our social system and women's life, and second covid pandemic has brought out a lot of vulnerabilities and limitations of our social system. There was a felt need to understand deep scars and deeply engraved perspectives and patterns of thinking and address internal healing, counselling and wellbeing. As a response to that, KMVS connected with ISABS (India Society for Applied Behavioral Sciences) who primarily consults the organisations in the domain of Human growth, applying behavioural science in the realm of well being, and collaborated for consulting and support in building a sensitive, nurturing,





compassionate environment within the team and with the women, communities we work with.

ISABS is also supporting us for the second line leadership development of the organization. After several calls and discourses, a roadmap was laid in Mid 2021, that evolved into initiation of the Growth Lab for leaders of organisations. 12 senior leaders of KMVS undergone a week long program of group learning and sharing; collective envisioning and responsibility; echoing and understanding one's personality, oneself and the organisations heart in terms of values and their role and potential in organization development. Following the week long immersive process of collective discovery and reiterating values of self, group and organization, ISABS organised Concept sessions twice a week, on communication, gender, leadership, organization vision and development.

With respect to our programmatic expansion and deepening our approach towards gender equality, KMVS connected to Svarya, an organisation that supports in Organisational development through capacity building programmes, leadership building and strategy building and management. Svarya has shown interest and alignment to KMVS's objectives and principles and will be helping us with the organisation development journey.

Financials 2020 - 2021

10

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch) Dated: 29.06.1989

16 "Yogeshwar", GYM Khana, Ganshyam nagar, Bhuj-Kutch, 370001.

Rank As No. of the Trust for transaction of Foreign Contribution is 88 As No. 120000100100726 & FCRA No. 04200001 Dated:24.02.2004

Income & Expenditure Account For The Year ended on 31st March, 2021

Expenditure	Sc.No.	Amount Rs.	Income	Sc.No.	Amount Rs.
To Expenditure on Establishment of the Trust	8	41,88,415	By Rent	-	-
To Remuneration to Trustee	9A	7,08,866	By Interest Income	13	53,29,620
To Charity Cess	9B	-	By Grants & Donations	-	-
To Legal, Income Tax & Other Fees	10	80,731	From FCRA Donors	14	1,40,57,910
To Audit Fees	11	50,000	From Indian Donors	14	1,27,72,862
To Depreciation	4	3,24,625	By Other Income	15	2,50,450
To Amount Tr. to Capital Fund	1	2,19,071	By Amount Tr. From Capital Fund	1	11,600
To Amount Tr. to Corpus Fund	1	9,50,000	By Profit on Sale of Assets	-	2,000
To Expenditure on objects of the Trust					
From FCRA Projects	12	1,12,85,894			
From Local Fund Projects	12	1,32,65,888			
To Excess of Income Over Exp. Tr. To R/s	3	15,90,082			
Total Rs.		3,26,63,572	Total Rs.		3,26,63,572

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

16

As per our Report of even date.

For, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

For, Pawan C. Doshi & Co.

(Mrs. Aruna Dhalakya)

Chartered Accountants

Member-Governing Board

(CA Pawan C. Doshi)

Executive Secretary

Membership No. 057092

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date :

Date : 04/10/2021

UDIN : 21031012 AAAA JK 9532

UDIN : 21031012 AAAA JK 9532

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

P. T Registration No. F-168 (Kutch) Dated: 29.06.1989

16 "Yogeshwar", GYM Khana, Ganshyam nagar, Bhuj-Kutch, 370001.

Rank As No. of the Trust for transaction of Foreign Contribution is 88 As No. 120000100100726 & FCRA No. 04200001 Dated:24.02.2004

Balance Sheet As On 31st March - 2021

Funds & Liabilities	Sc.No.	Amount Rs.	Assets & Properties	Sc.No.	Amount Rs.
(I) Trust Funds	1A	27,374	(I) Immovable & Movable		
(II) Corpus & Other Funds	1B	7,12,05,280	Properties		
(III) Secure Loan	2A	2,46,786	(a) Gross Block	4	1,22,45,901
(IV) Other Liabilities	2B	1,77,90,024	(b) Less: Depreciation Fund.	4	49,45,930
(V) Income & Expenditure A/c	3	1,00,01,865	(c) Net Block (a-b)	4	72,99,971
			(II) Investments & Deposit	5	6,07,56,531
			(III) Loans and Advances	6A	19,51,075
			(IV) Unrealized Income	6B	3,14,357
			(V) Cash and Bank Balances	7	2,89,49,192

Total Rs. 9,92,71,329 Total Rs. 9,92,71,329

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

For, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

(Mrs. Aruna Dhalakya)
Member-Governing Board
Executive Secretary

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date :

As per our Report of even date:

For, Pravin C. Doshi & Co.
FRN:108157W

Chartered Accountants

(CA Pravin C. Doshi)
Partner

Membership No. 037012

Place: Bhuj - Kutch

Date : 01/10/2021

UDIN : 21031012 AAAA JK 9532

10

[illegible][illegible]

12



Changes within KMVS : Board & Structure

Lakshmi Lingam	President	Development Consultant
Vijaybhai Parmar	Vice President	Social Worker Ex-Officio
Aruna Dholakiya	Secretary	Service
Farah Naqvi	Member	Social Worker Ex-Officio
Prabhav Joshi IAS	Member	Govt. Officer (DDO) Ex-Officio
Mohanba Padhiyar	Member	Social Worker
Hansaben Vaghela	Member	Social Worker
Neera Burra	Member	Development Consultant
Sachin Sachdeva	Member	Development Consultant

