

Contents

Executive Summary

1.	Supporting survivors of gender based violence	01-06
2.	Safety becomes agenda for panchayats	07-09
3.	Generating platform for voices of youth	10-15
	working with them	
4.	Working with urban poor for exercising their rights	16-20
5.	Financials	21
6.	KMVS Team Members	22
	Governing Board Members of KMVS	
7.	Glossary	23

executive summary

This marks third year of Kmvs's efforts to see a society which is free from violence and is enabling for its women and girls so that they access their choices without any fear. The previous years focused on generating understanding on safety concerns for women and girls, factors that feed to unsafe environment both at private and public spaces and how multi pronged approach aids the process.

Intervention with youth and sensitising leaders of caste based society were a new approach that Kmvs divulged in and drew varied insights on how each of institution addresses concerns for women be it formal or informal. The year also marked beginning of Kmvs's foray in to eastern Kutch. This was initiated by setting up safety centre in anjar block of Kutch. Villages for awareness generation, forming cadre of para legal and elected representatives were also selected from the same block so that impact can be seen in a cluster based approach.

This is also beginning of Kmvs's work with rural youth who are pushed out of education system.

Overall, the year has brought forth many challenges and realisation to newer and pervasive forms of patriarchy. Issues of early and forced marriage are as prevalent as ever and tightens a strong hold for all adolescents where they rarely break out of cycle. Caste system and divisions based on the same can also be seen in communities startling from young children to Older generation.

On the other hand there are also positive impacts and collaboration that happened in this year. Collaboration with government departments, induction of Kmvs team on various district level committees and evolved understanding of safety strengthening on going efforts have been highlights this year.

Following sections narrate this learning in details.

Supporting survivors of gender based violence

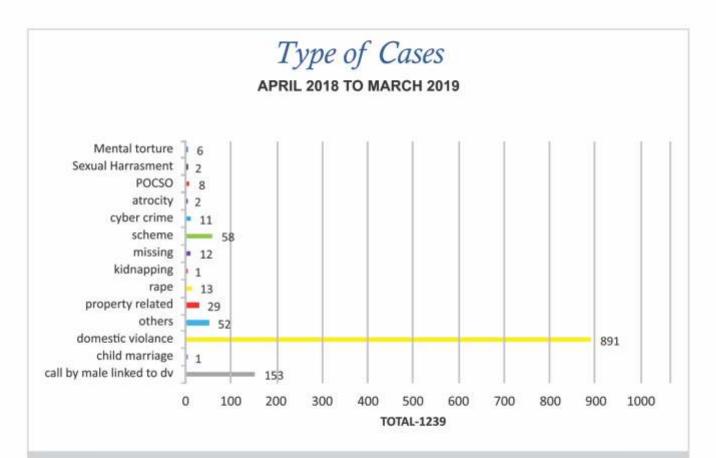
With vision of building a region which is free from violence and patriarchal mindsets, Kmvs has strived to work at different levels. Working with judiciary and enhancing access to justice by survivors forms integral part of it. The process is done by – supporting survivors through hello Sakhi helpline, generating awareness on legal framework to communities and building para legal cadre that supports most marginalised communities to stand up for their rights.

The work has been carried in depth by adding nuanced understanding of safety at private and public spaces and how various factors feed to generation of unsafe environment for women and girls. Following section narrates some of the efforts carried in this year.

PROVIDING IMMEDIATE RESPONSETHROUGH hello sakhi helpline

Efforts on enhancing outreach of the helpline were performed through different intervention such as strengthening the collaboration with dsp-west Kutch, through capacity building, discussion with authorities and association with dlsa. Helpline has become a unique model and its strengths are realized by each department equally. It also provides space for judiciary and police department to customize their programs to reach last mile and generate people centric approach.

Following table shows number of cases received during last year on the helpline:



In total 1239 cases were supported by counselors. The majority of cases pertained to domestic violence (798 cases), followed by cases taken up after a call by a male members to resolve domestic dispute (153) and calls seeking support for entitlements (111). Through handling scheme related cases the women could be supported with 46,600 Rupees in total. This shows the importance of opening the access to schemes specifically widow pension to survivors who are in much need. Total economic benefits like support in accessing land and other assets, marital assets etc to womenmembers throughhelpline is 61,34,600 Rupees which is more than the total of 2014 to 2018 altogether.

Unluckily domestic violence stays one of the most common problems to handle as already observed in previous years. But this year less cases of domestic violence have been reported (798 compared to 2104 cases in 2016-2018). As mentioned in the section about collaboration with caste-based communities KMVS strives to tackle this issue on various ways next to the helpline. Achievements were made through keeping up awareness for domestic violence itself but also the helpline as explained in the coming paragraphs.

Numbers of (reported) cyber-crime is increasing quickly. 2016-2018 only 13 cases were reported to 'Hello Sakhi' helpline, this year already eleven victims reached out to the helpline.

COLLABORATION WITH Other Helplines.

Collaboration with the immediate response and rescue helplineAbhyam Helpline 181 was conducted. The helpline is available every day around the clock, so they are able to take action even in the night when 'Hello Sakhi' helpline find it difficult to provide rescue support. Additionally common meetings and workshops were organized to discuss current situation and strengthen each other's capacities. Especially KMVS' para legals supported the Abhyam staff to campaign in the villages and participated in workshops for enhanced awareness of the helpline. In total 230 cases were referred to them.



In 16 cases 1098 childline was consulted during the counselling counseling process of minors. The child protection helpline provides good expertise in abuse of children, child labor, sexual harassment, mental abuse, abuse; child marriage and child custody so that the collaboration ensures the support of cases with relation to children's issues with best care and knowledge. Furthermore general meetings with childline team took place.

SAFETY CENTRES FOR mediation

This year 6 block center and 2 cluster level centers are functional during this period. The centers offer mediation; counseling and legal aid support. They are open on all week days and two days are allotted for family counseling where caste members/ police members/ other



members are involved as per need of each case. The innovation serves as detailed discussion and counseling for women members who are victims of gendered violence. The poster display has been installed at walls which educate and questions societal norms.

Also psychological counseling has been introduced to the Bhuj center. Every Thursday a psychologist is coming to

the center and is aiding the mental healing of victims. Through this process six victims have been referred to a psychological treatment at a hospital and the response to this innovation was very positive.

The focus during this year of KMVS' intervention lies on increasing the outreach to Eastern Kutch and in establishing centers at this area. The newly created center at Anjar served a starting point for this intervention and especially linking it with different institutions has been the main focus. With the increase in cases of early child marriage, intimate partner violence and domestic violence and caste based structures are much stronger in these parts making it difficult to take any progressive steps and decisions.

04

BUILDING PARA LEGAL CADRE FOR enhanced outreach

The para legal cadre is set up within community to support women to access their rights. This year 100 new para legalswere certified from Bhuj, Mandvi, Abdasa and Nakhatrana blocks after their training on social perspectives and law that in special extend applies to women such as (sexual) harassment in its different dimensions or POCSO.

Additionally a core group of 35 paralegals has been formed through special training to build their leadership qualities. This core group would be engaged in the program by providing support for safety campaign, addressing calls on the helpline and case reference. They supported a total number of 302 victims in this year.

AWARENESSGENERATION ON LAWS AND rights of women.

In depth awareness on basic law on topics that affects women in special, the services of Hello Sakhi helpline and the topic of awareness was carried out in 30 villages of Anjarblock.

Awareness on helpline was also done at local fair where more than 800 people understood about helpline and safety centers.

Already mentioned collaboration with government institutions was perused to build awareness on POCSO. The joint efforts with juvenile justice board and Child Welfare Committee lead to a deeper understanding of the practices of POCSO in KMVS daily work.

As well awareness was built on the topic of harassment at workplace. After an incident (see details in Human interest story) workshops were conducted with the employees of the members of Abhiyan NGO network in Kutch to initiate a discussion on this issue. At the end five of the 35 participating organizations could be supported by forming an Internal Committee (IC). Two more were given advice on the formation of an IC.

UNDERSTANDING WOES OF female prisoners

In order to build a better understanding of the challenges faced by prisoners in accordance with the human rights, a special visit was organized to Gadhapader Jail – barrack for women and children, with permission from district court. Representatives from the district court and DLSA accompanied the visit.



HUMAN INTEREST Stories

Are we safe were we work

Aashna, who is working in a reputed organization was harassed over mobile phone and had to confront abusive behavior from her senior colleague. She thought it would stop, but one day she was abused sexually in office. Not allowing this to continue, she filed a complaint to ICC. Her case is being heard and action against male colleague is pending.

Three more of such incidents followed in past months in three other organizations. Looking at the situation, KMVS has initiated dialogue with all of the reported organizations so that they form and activate ICC. A workshop was held where members of NGOs of Abhiyan network (32 organizations) participated and started activating their ICCs. Two other organizations are being helped to orientate ICCs about role and responsibilities, how to handle cases, how to maintain proper documentation etc.

Safety becomes agenda for panchayats

In the previous years, work with panchayat has focused on sensitising the elected representatives so that they build safe areas and villages for women and girls. Strategies have focused on strengthening standing committees so they become able allies to panchayat bodies and create support group of women that strengthens gram sabha as decision making bodies in addressing concerns of women.

Core intervention that are conducted include: constituting safety audits for understanding areas of concern for women's safety, building capabilities of elected members on gender and other issues and forming informal collective between panchayats



through Safety audits

In this year 19 Panchayats of Anjar block associated with process of understanding women's safety concern. This was understood in detail by constituting safety audit processes to each one after the initial base line study was conducted. Additionally 10 more villages were associated from the work done in previous year.

The safety audits were received with a lot of approval. This year's approach included many different target groups like youth and women in addition to the panchayat members. Not only panchayats but also community members take up the opportunity to discuss basic needs with each other. Topics that were brought up regularly pertained to infrastructural issues like street lights, possibilities of public transport as safety issues during their use. To deal with these matters linkage to government departments of various levels has been successful. Concerns like domestic violence, ECM and suicides could in many cases only be worked on through campaign and forming informal groups of panchayats. 20Panchayats where the intervention has started recently, still see governance issues as their priority and feel women's agenda should be taken forward only by EWRs. It is a challenge to bring in perceptional change in such strong institution.

Looking at gravity of issues like early and forced marriage, violence and abuse on young women it was thought that if informal group between panchayat is created, they can



have a similar agenda where all the panchayat can make efforts to resolve it and also it becomes sustained movement between them. Such association will be formed and their nurturing will be focused in coming year.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF EWRs

To build perspectives of EWRs of panchayats for incorporating women's issues in panchayat, training were imparted trainings focused on building perspectives on gender and social realities so that marginalised groups are included in the discourse. A total numbers of 279 panchayat members participated in the trainings.

One training was facilitated for all members of panchayats so that they collaborate with each other on critical issues. It dealt with the problem of ECM, how it is performed in large numbers every year and how to work with this knowledge. Although as already pointed out, this topic is hard to deal with, all the participants could consent to the hurtful effects this practise has on young community members. Some of the present panchayat members initiated action steps after the training to further combat ECM in their villages.

In the time periods after the training it can be observed with which energy and confidence EWRs are raising their issues at government offices and hold the responsible department officers accountable for their demands. Furthermore they become more aware of their responsibilities as representatives of the village and the power that they have. One example for the change is the request for talatiis, after learning about their tasks and the right for their assistance to any sarpanch who needs one, the EWRs start fighting for their rights as one would not expect it before the training.

Special focus was also laid on the revival of social justice committees so that they fulfil their mandate of including socially excluded communities. Efforts were also made so that they understand and address issues of violence on women under aegis of panchayat.





Inclusion of youth in dialoguing about safety was a core component of overall discourse of safety at organisation. The process was initiated by dialoguing with adolescents in schools and sensitising other stakeholders on their concerns. This was continued this year by associating with out of school adolescents from villages of anjar.

Core intervention has been: conducting sessions on gender and gendered violence at schools, mobilising a cadre of adolescent girls in rural and urban areas through various strategies, providing learning platforms to youth and developing literature for nurturing their voices.

gender violence at schools

Since this is the fourth year of the interaction at school a lot of discussions took place about how the sessions have impacted the students. 32 case studies were collected based on this topic and the studies showcased which steps the youth have taken in their lives after the sessions. Steps were taken regarding reducing gender inequity, sharing their desires with their parents, talking about different gender roles of boys and girls and taking different steps about gender discrimination in their life. The outcome of this research showed that most of the students understood the principles of the sessions taken and they also involved the learnings in their life and took steps regarding themselves and their siblings.

For the first time during these years an interaction with parents, teachers and school management committees took place. It has been discussed how the issues mentioned in the sessions are impacting the children. Based on these discussions it has been also decided that all

of the sessions will have a duration of one hour and each of the sessions will contain a written feedback by the students and how the session impacted them.

Based on these years passed, a decision has been taken to build up a cluster of schools where the session will be repeated once a year. In this way gender equity will be mainstreamed through all the schools. In collaboration with the District Education Officer (DEO) concepts of sexual abuse and safe touch have been implemented and it reached more than 200 schools across the district.

MOBILISING

adolescent girls_

The last year was the first year in which the youth was mobilized collectively. 250 girls and boys from 21 villages were mobilized through different strategies. The first strategy aimed at forming youth centers in each of the villages. The objective is that the centers become a space where youth start to exchange about their issues and decide on a common action.

Another strategy was implemented that a magazine called "Bol" was developed and it started (in 2018) to be distributed at centers and meetings. The youth contributes to the magazine with their own life stories and it becomes a talking point for the youth across the district.

The third intervention aimed at developing and showcasing small videos of different spheres of their life from their own perspective. These clips were shown to different youth as a starting point of discussions.

The mobilization process started with sessions on gender and patriarchy, consolidated through magazines and videos, discussing issues of choice, consent, forced marriage, sexuality, menstruation taboos, gender roles and masculinity and

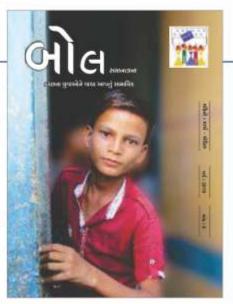


publications are also shared with paralegals, community leaders and teachers so that they use the law to report any such incidents.

As seen over past two years, a culminating event of sessions with youth really instills confidence in them to talk about issues of gender discrimination, violence and abuse which are rarely discussed publically. Therefore a public event ("mela") was held with 275 students from 10 schools of Anjar, 80 youth leaders from 6 villages of Anjar and panchayat members, teachers, officials from education department, social welfare officer, child protection officer and child line members. The event aimed to give space to youth so they talk about what they want Kutch to be-they depicted this through drama, skit, dance performance and speech. Their direct and unabashed approach made the functionaries impressed and they vowed to support issues of ECM and abuse. The Youth also presented safety audits and other analysis to panchayats and other functionaries. Also books and 'Bol' magazines were much appreciated by them. The booklet on 'POCSO' was also launched and given to 22 schools.

FEEDBACK ABOUT Rol

The responses have been very positive in general by all the youth. After reading Bol magazine the girls of Kotda village have started playing games like football and badminton at public places. Nirali from Chandiya stated: "This took me to my childhood when I used to play cricket in public but now after reading this I too want to go out and start playing." After reading the magazine she has started claiming her space again.



HUMAN INTEREST Stor

Mahesh belongs to a community where normally girls don't receive higher education. Before he participated in the workshop he thought that household work is the responsibility of girls and boys won't get involved with that. But when he saw his mother working alone in the home, he always dreamt of supporting his mother and helping her with the work.

The reason he only dreamt about it was because he was afraid that when he is helping his mother then the other men and boys will tease him and call him coward. Mahesh thought that they will laugh t him and say he is weak and behaves like a girl.

After the workshop Mahesh changed his opinion about this topic and he thinks now that the household work is not only girls work, it is also something boys can do. "After the workshop I have changed my perspective and now I am also helping my mother." He also posed a question: "Why men are the only one deciding in this society? Girls should also have the right to decide for themselves about their house and their work. After the workshop I believe now that girls and boys are equal and there is no difference between them."

He also told the following about the workshop: "In all of the workshops I have learned something new. The work girls do, boys can also do and also the work boys do, girls can also do. Boys and girls are both very strong. Girls have also dreams that they want to fulfill and they should also get the opportunity to pursue them. And I have learned as well that boys should not abuse girls sexually." After every of the session he discussed the topics with his parents. He shared with them his opinion that there should be no gender inequality and both should be treated equally. Now his parents have also changed their perspective and they think that there is no difference between boys and girls.

INTERVENING WITH ADOLESCENTS IN urban slums of bhuj

The Kishori centers have been set up and they are organizing 350

youth in 17 slum areas of Bhuj. So far nine centers

have been set up and they are equipped with a library and with outdoor games like cricket and football. Because the society in general thinks that it is not necessary for girls to read and educate themselves and that they should not play outside, the focus in the meetings lie in overcoming those stereotypes and inspiring the girls to claim their space outside and also to engage in reading.

For the overall exchange of Kishori from different communities one time per month at five different areas collective meetings with Kishori groups are held. In this way they get to know each other, they are able to share their dreams and visions and understand different customs and perceptions. Further it is aimed that they are learning about the society, become more open to each other and accept different ways of living and thinking. Likewise Bol magazine was included as another way to enhance the knowledge of the girls and open up a discussion about the issues touched in the magazine.

During this time a new project was initiated in which seven girls agreed to learn how to drive a chakda. This project started with the objective to make this male dominated occupation also accessible to girls, present them other ways of generating an income and to increase the safety in town by having more female participation at public spaces.

There were two challenges to overcome in this project:on one side the girls themselves were afraid of driving and how society will accept them and on the other side they were also fighting against their family and society and making them understand of the importance of

learning to drive for them.



The girls were trained by experts from janvikas in ahemedabad for three months.

The two girls who afterwards started driving chakda regularly and launched their services on a public event ("kishoriemela") which also included officers from Nagarpalika, from the traffic police and also members of Sakhi Sangini joined the event. The girls received two chadkdas which were sponsored by the Dream foundation.

The process will be continued with other girls.

Working with urban poor for exercising their rights

In the previous years, work with panchayat has focused on sensitising the elected representatives so that they build safe areas and villages for women and girls. Strategies have focused on strengthening standing committees so they become able allies to panchayat bodies and create support group of women that strengthens gram sabha as decision making bodies in addressing concerns of women.

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REGULARISING

Government Schemes

Role Model Anganwadi:

For sensitizing government institutions and enable slum dwellers to access entitlements, discussion on improving services of icds centers and create model center catering to needs of community were conducted. A committee of area level leaders and Sakhi Sangini leaders has been defined and meetings have been held for further planning. Structures of Anganwadis of four areas have been finalized and for two Anganwadis tenure and land from the government has been received during this period.

With the help of members of SakhiSangini parents groups have taken up the monitoring system at Anganwadis, Primary School and PDS. The issues that have been identified in this way have been brought to public by them, also with the support of local media.

SUFFICING CREDIT NEEDS THROUGH SHG program

SakhiSangini is currently working in 52 areas of bhuj. Overall 209 groups with 3150 members are collected in SHGs. From them 135 groups are active with 1640 members. total saving during this one year is 2,911,300 and the total loan disbursed is 52,103,707.

11 women from SakhiSangini received a loan from Dream Foundation. In total an amount of 1,305,000 rupees was received; each of the women received fifty thousand to hundred thousand rupees loan from them. This loan is given with the objective to support the empowerment of women and that they can start a business on their own. The women selected were all members of SakhiSangini and they were eager to take up a work and start their own business but were financially not able to support themselves.

With the loan given women started different kinds of businesses, one started raising her own cattle, another one started making textile for sofas, yet one woman used the loan to take a chadkda for her son and in another example a woman started selling shoes and jewelry.

city program

Homes in city (HIC) decided to create awareness about the climate change and also improve the condition of the environment in the city. In general it has been analyzed that many families are collecting wood from outside and cooking the meals on fire. The gases released from the cooking process are one of the reasons for the bad health condition of women. Now it is aimed to connect 500 women with the Ujivala Yojna and change their cooking pattern from wood to gas. Within this year 135 women at 15 areas have been linked with this scheme and are using gas now regularly.

Also in February with 500-700 families at different areas meetings were held. It has been discussed how to reuse plastic, additionally it was decided to engage in replantation for the climate change.

organising female sex workers

Since April 2018 the FSW have started visiting newly opened drop-in center. This space was created for their self-expression so ,that they start forming a group and learn to raise their voice about their own issues. The center would create the possibility for the FSW to connect to each other and open up about their issues. For connecting the FSW to the center door to door visits in different areas were undertaken at which the concept of the center was explained to them.

At the center itself health check-ups were regularly organized and their health concerns are also addressed by way of distributing condoms and sensitising them for safe sex. The center is open from Monday to Saturday from 11 to 6 pm.

Total of 7040 condoms have been supplied to 108 women during this year. 98 women have already visited the center and their profiling has been completed about their personal background and history. 13 of the women have been counseled about the non-usage of condoms with the aim to make them aware about the safety risk and health complications. To support the FSW in raising up their voice in the society about their own issues eight women were selected to form a leadership committee. Meetings with them were held. The committee members are still in process to understand their responsibilities as leaders butafter the process of sensitization three FSW are feeling capable to take over leadership over the group. To strengthen their identity as FSWs ID cards were created for them and the staff members.

Meetings were held in the center to create the awareness about what is a safe work and government schemes that are available for them. Two meetings in cooperation with Kutch

NP+ and ICDC were initiated to link the FSW with the services provided from them. In the course of this55 FSWs underwent a HIV testing in which one of the FSW has been tested positive on HIV. She was directly linked to Kutch NP+ and supported in receiving the aid which is provided by a government scheme.



For knowing about the way different organizations work with FSW an exposure trip was organized to the women's empowerment organization Snehalaya at Maharashtra. Three staff members and eight women participated in the trip. The objective of this trip was to learn about the ways Snehalaya handles HIV positive women, how they initiate the rehabilitation process of FSW and more general in which ways and how they collect FSWs. As an outcome all of the participants felt that the trip was giving them an insight about these issues and they feel they can adapt these procedures at their own work.

based societies -

For understanding the issues, cultures and traditions meetings have been held with Devipoojak and Rabari communities. In these meetings the focus was on discussing issues like child marriage, girl education and other rituals like satapadhati (brothers-sisters of one family marrying in other family). The process of forming a group within Devipoojak community has been completed and discussions have been held progressively. The community members have already started taking lead to stop child marriages and have sent written complaint to the collector to stop alcohol brewing in the area. In one case two girls who were victims of trafficking were supported by the leaders and were reunited with their families. This was made possible by positive intervention of para legal, policies and society leaders.

Another objective was a detailed study on the existence of Devipoojak, their current occupation and their history. Tocreate profiles and a database collection about their community regular meetings with community leaders have been held. A booklet depicting their socioeconomic profiles, family occupation and other information has been prepared which was unveiled by the leaders at a community function. Local leaders and counsellors counselors of Bhuj also remained present. The booklet will serve them to connect with each other further.



Financials







KMVS Team Members

Secretariat : Aruna, Kamlesh, Hemalataben, Alamsh, Fateshih

Panchayat : Ketal, Lata

Legal : Bhagyasha, Chandaben, Khataben, Madhuben, Malshree, Rinkal,

Vanita, Neeta

Urban : Alka, Sheela, Jinal, Jayshree, Amrut, Minaxi, Varsha, Jignaben,

Leena, Jignesh

Media : Preeti, Aamad, Parvej

Yuva Vani : Kruti, Jagrutiben, Geeta

Governing Board Members of KMVS

No.	Name	Occupation	Officeheld in the association
1	Anuradha Prasad	Development Consultant	President
2	Vijaybhai Parmar	Social Worker	Vice President
3	Aruna Dholakiya	Ex- Officio Service	Secretary
4	Farah Naqvi	Social Worker	Member
5	Prabhav Joshi	Govt. Officer (DDO) Ex- Officio	Member
6	Sandeep Virmani	Development Consultant	Member
7	Hirbai Maheshwari	Social Worker	Member
8	Fatmaben Jat	Social Worker	Member
9	Neera Burra	Development Consultant	Member

Glossary

CPU - Child protection unit

VCPC - Village Level Child Protection Committee

KMVS - Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

PDS - Public distribution system

SHG - Self-help group

HIC - Homes in the city

FSW - Female sex worker

ICDS - Integrated Child Development Scheme

HIV - Human immuno deficiency virus

DEO - District Education Officer

ECM - Early child marriage

POCSO - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

DLSA - District Legal Services Authority

I(C)C - Internal (Complaints) Committee

NGO - Non-governmental organization

future pathways

- Working with collaborative approach has generated deeper impact on communities and has also helped leverage learning from various programs in to each other. This process will be continued by expanding to further geographical areas.
- The hello Sakhi helpline has started supporting survivors of abuse, cyber crime and other issues and isn't limited only to domestic violence. The safety centre has also started reaching out with legal literacy and more such centers will be set up in coming years in different blocks.
- Panchaayat members have slowly started integrating their understanding of safety in to actual resolution and budgeting. The process will be continued with new panchayat also while older panchayat will be nurtured further so that the process is institutionalised.
- Working with adolescent cadre gives new insights and experiences every year. The mobilising, perspective building will be continued by incorporating discourse on consent and choice. Their vioices will also be strengthened so that they say no to forced marriage or any such practices that deprive them of their dreams.
- Supporting women from urban slums will be continued by strengthening their collective and nurturing leadership cadre that takes forward the work. Organising female sex workers has also thrown many challenges but requires persistent effort so that they also build solidarity and support each other.





Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghatan

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