

The 30 Year Journey of KUTCH MAHILA VIKAS SANGATHAN



2019 - 2020

Annual Report

કચ્છ મહિલા વિકાસ સંગઠનની ૩૦ વર્ષ સહિયરોની સફર.... એક ઝાંખી



કચ્છ મહિલા વિકાસ સંગઠનની (૧૯૮૯-૨૦૧૯) ત્રણ દાયકાની સફર જેમાં ૨૫,૦૦૦ થી વધુ મહિલાઓએ સંગઠીત થઈ, સમાનતા અને હક્કોની લડત ચલાવી. ખેતી, પશુપાલન, ભરતકામ, માછીમારી, શહેરી ગરીબ, મજૂરીકામ, ચૌનકર્તા તથા કિશોરીઓના સંગઠનોએ પોતની આગવી ઓળખ ઉભી કરી અને વિસ્તરેલું, મહિલા સંવેદનશીલ દૃષ્ટિકોણ આધારિત વિકાસની પરિભાષા રચી. આજે ક.મ.વિ.સં. જિલ્લાના યુવાઓ વિચારધારાથી મુક્ત મહિલા-કિશોરીઓ માટે સલામત વાતાવરણ સ્થપાય તેવું સ્વપ્ન સેવે છે.



પીઠિતોને 'દરજા' તથા 'સ્થાન' અપાવવા મદદરૂપ... હેલ્થો સખી



મહિલાઓની અંતઃ ચેતનાને સલામ કરતો એવોર્ડ



વંધિત, શોષિત એવી કેટલીય મહિલાઓના અવાજ બન્યા આ સંગઠનો



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JOURNEY IN THE SPIRIT OF

Safety
Solidarity
Security
autonomy

INTRODUCTION

गच्छन् पिपिलिको याति योजनानां शतान्यपि ।
अगच्छन् वैनतेयः पदमेकं न गच्छति ॥

The moving ant trods the journey of a thousand miles; An idle eagle cannot cover a single step

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan took the first step of its journey in 1989 and this year it shall turn 30. The first step headed away from the direction of patriarchal frameworks and toward a space for rural women coming together to support each other and unfence their individual essence. With the evolution of Kutch upon an intensive age of urbanization, there was an inflow of newfound technology, economy and knowledge, all of which was disproportionately kept away from women by the virtue of control over the mobility, autonomy and emancipation of women.

As the blight of patriarchy spreads, it festers in the resources that women get further denied from. As an acknowledgement to the same, KMVS evolved with time to promote women's collectives and spread its ideology by partnering with civil society collectives, institutions, panchayats, municipalities, industries, the traditional communities, universities, schools, and very importantly, individuals.

Today, KMVS stands as the conduit of empowerment that it envisaged 30 years ago.

KMVS THROUGH THE DECADES

First Decade (1989-1998)

Establishing ground was especially difficult as the pioneering team of 3 had to encounter the extreme distrust and hostility of the communities, which was to be expected. Regardless, it was important to feel the complex social reality that Kutchi women faced and be tethered with it at a deeper level. The persevering efforts of the KMVS team to understand the same was instrumental in winning acceptance. The team was eventually able to convince key members of the communities, both men and women, off the sincerity of their ideas.



GENESIS

The late 1980s had entrenched Kutch amidst the fury of an economic crisis worsened by recurring droughts. Even for Kutch as a whole, there were rising concerns of how to survive in times of natural calamities. Women are often left undiscussed during testing times, furthering their overall burden in patriarchal systems. Recognising the same, a dialogue with the government department of Gujarat State Handicraft Board, Gujarat Women's Economic Development Commission, JanVikas - a NGO based in Ahmedabad and the very instrumental alum from Cornell University, Ms. Sushma Iyengar led to the conception of what was to later become KMVS. In June of 1989, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan was registered as a Trust and Society.

KMVS stood to develop “as an independent organisation of marginalised rural women, that would work towards developing women's ability and confidence to address issues of their concern; and develop their unique identities, take leadership in managing natural resources, enhance access to knowledge, skills and financial resources through its collective strength.”



The efforts in the Pachcham region of Bhuj block were the first steps of an infantile KMVS. The craft-rich communities dependent solely on middle men, had an added extra dimensionalities to the problem, making it economic and social. To the women, the middlemen seemed pertinent to the process of production of their crafts. However, if the women were to collectivize, independently manage the production & sale and reap full, undiscounted yields of their crafts, the issue could be deflated at its core. Collectivising women who were unorganized and steeped in patriarchy, into transformative action, was the core value, key strategy, and aspiration goal for many years, right through the nineties.

These very women of Paccham and their coming together was symbolised by the previous logo. It was representative of their unshackling from patriarchal weights, raising their voices, and emerging victorious in their collectivisation.

Efforts to consolidate the handicraft process highlighted the need for efficient and accountable structures, leading to the emergence of intermediary tiers between the women and KMVS; these tiers were eventually formalized as the taluka Sangathans.

The early 1990s saw the geographic expansion of KMVS through the formation of Mahila Mandals ('Women's Groups') in many area villages. At the same time the organization witnessed an expansion of its agenda. Handicrafts were no longer the only rallying point, as environmental, women's health and legal issues started gaining attention and importance. The KMVS team expanded and strengthened its own knowledge base to meet the growing participation of rural women by building linkages with other NGOs. Sister organizations such as Sahjeevan and the Centre for Social Justice emerged in response to specific needs of the communities.

During the late 1990s KMVS was able to create an organizational structure that fostered decentralization and establish autonomous identity to Sangathans.

This process generated new training needs and highlighted issues of transparency and accountability. The Sangathans eventually reached a stage where they were able to identify, demand, create and manage their own development interventions, but they continued to need issue-based and sector-specific support. Given this changing landscape, KMVS started moving away from hands-on management of the Sangathans and began creating resource centers around major issues.

The Cells of KMVS



MEDIA CELL

The Media Cell uses print and radio mediums to raise the voices of the oppressed and attempt to change perceptions of gender roles in society. The Cell seeks to highlight stories of development and women's empowerment through active community participation, engagement and ownership in all its programs. It also strives to preserve and revitalise Kutchi folk music by providing a platform of Soorvani to local artists.

Second Decade (1999-2008)

These very resource centres were converted into, what came to be known as, the Knowledge Cells. However, the catastrophic magnitude 7.6 earthquake that rocked Kutch on January 26, 2001 brought in an unparalleled scale of destruction and change. The adversity gave rise to heroes within the KMVS' Sangathans, whose commitment to local development and rehabilitation cemented their credibility and perseverance.

It was necessary to build leadership in these wretched times and the decentralisation of power to both the Knowledge Cell level and Sangathan level provided a fertile ground to cultivate the rising leaders. The Sangathans were based at the taluka level, namely, Abadasa, Pachcham, Mundra and Nakhatrana. Local women upheld leadership roles in these taluka Sangathans and were consistently honed in their capacities and skills.

The activities of the Cells and Sangathans vary and are determined mainly in response to the existing circumstances and expressed needs of the women. Over the years KMVS has evolved a multiple, yet integrated focus that includes handicrafts, micro-credit, health, media, education, natural resource management, domestic violence, sustainable livelihoods and women's governance. KMVS' work on some of these issues has led to the creation of specific knowledge cells.



The Sangathans that were based at the taluka level established in the early 1990's



Saiyere Jo Sangathan

In 2002 Saiyere Jo Sangathan (SJS) was registered as its own Trust and Society. SJS is located in the western part of Kutch and operates primarily in the Nakhatrana taluka. The organization's identity has been defined by its work to empower rural women through ecological restoration and livelihood promotion. In the many decades of SJS' existence, it has evolved from a small group of KMVS-organized craftswomen into an independent, multidimensional NGO serving above 8,000 women across 89 villages, now also managing SHGs and safety centres.

Abdasa Mahila Vikas Sangathan

Abdasa – Kutch's westernmost taluka – has long been plagued by serious caste tensions and issues of violence against women. Abdasa Mahila Vikas Sangathan (AMVS) was founded in 1992 to help local women deal with immediate mental and physical abuse, while the long-term vision was to help improve women's security against violence, poverty and drought. For its first ten years AMVS was a growing, relatively effective organization that knew moderate success. Owing to SJS's presence in to western kutch, the sangathan was dissolved in 2006.

GRAMSHASINI



Dedicated to promoting the political empowerment of women in Kutch, they seek to build the capacities of women in local-level governing bodies to advocate effectively on women's issues and bring about transparency in village development processes.



QASAB

Qasab works with female artisans in Kutch to promote traditional handicraft embroidery as a sustainable secondary livelihood. Qasab helps empower women by giving them control over the production process. Qasab has recently been registered as a Producer Group Company and, while still highly connected with KMVS, is now officially its own independent entity.



HRIDAY



HRIDAY – the Human Resource Institutional Development Academy – is dedicated to building the capacities of Sangathan members, KMVS staff and workers of other local NGOs. Its goal is to help improve their abilities to work with the marginalized segments of society and become better leaders in their respective communities.

Pachcham Mahila Vikas Sangathan

Throughout the mid-1990s PMVS was involved in watershed restoration, women's literacy and education, training reproductive health workers, consolidating craft production and initiating a savings and credit (S&C) program. These interventions evolved into specific programs supported by KMVS' resource units, facilitated the further emergence of local women's leadership, and increasingly gained the Sangathan respect within the larger community.

The 2001 earthquake and its aftermath thrust PMVS into the limelight. The demands of rehabilitation enabled its women to show the full strength of their leadership and organizational capabilities and helped them earn the respect of the Pachcham community. The earthquake changed things, though, and before resuming regular activities PMVS recognized the need for a different approach. The Sangathan's decision to consolidate its interventions and concentrate on the greatest needs of the community led it to running a clinic 'Jedle Jo Jatan' in collaboration with PHC to evolve community based model on reproductive health. PMVS eventually closed down in 2008 but remains as a relic in the history of KMVS and served it with many learnings to take away.

KUSHAL MANCH



KUSHAL Manch – the Kutch Self Help Advocacy and Learning Forum – has been focused on women's empowerment through microfinance savings and credit activities. KUSHAL Manch believes that enabling women to engage in entrepreneurial activity is a vital piece of greater empowerment, as economic strength gives women more decision-making power in their families and communities. As of 2009 the Cell has been formally dissolved, as the collectives became autonomus in managing its credit cooperatives



Third Decade (2009-2018)

The third decade of KMVS began with the throttling of an aptly timed intellectual shift. While KMVS continued to work with the incessant malaise in the ruralities of Kutch, with rapid urbanisation post the earthquake, the social landscape of Kutch was changing just as rapidly. In the first half of the decade, the focus started to be relocate from rural areas where there were active trainings on maternal health, developing awareness of prominent health issues, training of youth on preventive and reproductive health, training paralegals, promoting the mellifluous art forms in Kutch, media representation and utilisation.

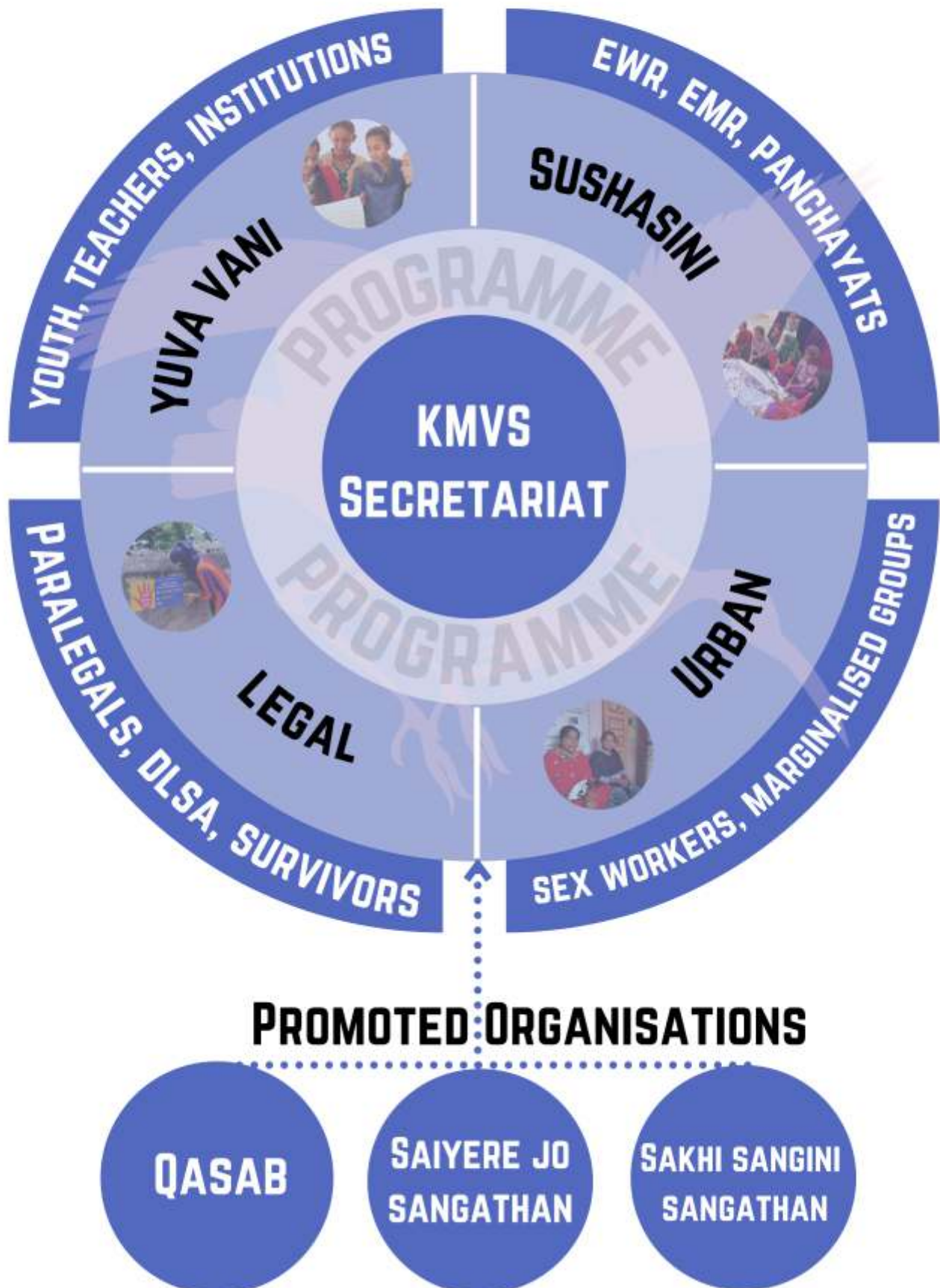
With the introduction of an Urban Cell in 2007 which was put in place as an intervention in urban spaces to tend to the increasing control of patriarchal hands that were manifesting differently and non-traditionally in the area; there were new programmes developed. Also as a tool for empowerment, it was important for women to enhance their financial literacy and step towards independence. In November 2010, the urban poor women of the self-help groups throughout the urban slum areas formed a city-level federation – Sakhi Sangini. KMVS supports and nurtures this federation to focus on their issues of priority in order to govern their rights as citizens. The federation was dedicated to inclusive safety in terms of social, mental, physical and financial layers.

Also in 2010, the Hello Sakhi helpline was launched as an emergency number to immediately rescue or aid victims in times of crises.

In the second half of the decade, however, during KMVS' reorientation in 2014-2015, what shall prove to be the decision of the decade, a necessity was felt to redesign its structure considering that a lot of programmes were culminated, or being handed-over to sister organisations, or newly generated. With the Secretariat at the centre, KMVS as it is today, references four major knowledge cells that each nurture a group and manage a programme of thier own. Also, as part of reorientation process, it was decided that all the programs should have a core focus of 'women's safety', and new stakeholders like youth and migrant workers should be included. With this, came in to being the current structure of organisation where onus is on four core programmes: socio-legal aid to survivors of gendered violence, Yuvavani, Working with Urban Poor and working with Local self governance sturcutres on safety.



ORGANOGRAM



YUVA VANI

2019-2020



THE YUVA VANI PROGRAM'S VISION

We believe in equity in the society where there are gender-equitable cadres who believe and say no to all kinds of patriarchal control and violence so that they raise their voices and exercise their agency to avail their rights.

The Past Year's Journey

The Yuva Vani program plans its executions at 2 levels. First is at the level of educational institutions so that the concepts of gender and safety are imbibed at an early adolescent age to ensure they become equitable. The second is to work with the adolescents who were pushed out of the education systems from rural and urban areas so that they are able to raise their voices to entitle themselves to the rights they deserve and exercise their agency.

To understand issues of adolescents in rural and urban areas the process undertaken is screening and then building their capacities on issues of gender, patriarchy and gendered violence. Girls from 10 villages in Anjar were screened. 170 out of the 300 screened underwent their **first sessions on gender**. It also brought to fore the issues that they were facing, like dowry, early marriage,

not being allowed to study beyond 10-12th grade, not being allowed to wear their clothing of choice, not being allowed to make friends from other castes, inaccessibility of mobile phones, so on. They also commented that they have not seen women in Panchayats. Despite these prevalent pertinent issues, the girls still aspire for careers that will change their lives in more ways than one. A core group of 25 girls has also been formed who will draw points and plan for the future of girls in the village.

To chronicle all these issues and action steps by some of the youth leaders a book profiling their journeys and dreams has been made. Process of working with them has generated a deeper understanding on agency, choices, identity and transformation. Each of the stories depicted in the book (Threads that bind, Lives that flow) talk about their dreams, aspirations and journey with KMVS.

BOWLED THEM OVER !

About 400 people's eyes darted, the Mayor holding his breath, and the last ball was bowled and...! And there is victory for the girls of Kutch. On 2nd June, as part of the KMVS' 30-Year anniversary celebration, a set of 4 matches (2 under 18, 2 over 18) between girls from urban areas and girls from rural area was played. The match was held at the heart of Bhuj in Jubilee circle. There were professional umpires, commentators, trophies and accolades. From not being allowed to get out of their homes, to playing in front of a thronging crowd, it was a day for the girls of Kutch!



In addition, 164 young girls from 12 villages of Anjar and Bhachau were screened. The process showed that about 70% girls have dropped out after 8th standard and want to engage in stitching or learn to be beauticians but they also aspire that their education resumes. With 60 girls from Bhachau block, a map of their social hierarchy was developed for both them as well as the organisation to understand the levels of oppression. They shared interesting examples of when they realized their gender – e.g. some girls were not allowed to use mobile, not allowed to ride bikes, forced to wear dupatta etc.

As the next step, a gender-based violence - safety audit was done with the same 164 girls where they elaborated to the panchayat that where all they felt unsafe. A training on sexuality was also delivered to them where they learnt about their bodies and how to care for it. In a surprising revelation, while understanding the hierarchies, it came out that when it comes to acceptance, trans people fall higher on the social ladder than single women.

To celebrate 28th May, as World Menstrual Hygiene Day, a publication of 'Bol's fifth edition was released and events were held at 5 villages and 6 slum areas. Not just menstrual hygiene but the stigmas and taboos associated with menstruation that prevent menstrual hygiene were also spoken about with the youth. Around 200 girls talked about taboos on the subject and also prepared posters on traditions that they want to change, barriers that they want to break.

A magazine was also released on body shaming after a few girls narrated unfortunate incidents that deeply left an impact on their body image.

In another Bol magazine, the issue picked up was conforming to roles sexuality puts on youth and what happens when a person breaks the rules of those roles. Core group of 40 youths and 10 members of KMVS contributed for the magazine to share their most intimate experiences on sexuality, norms set by the society and who has broken which norm was fulfilling for all.

There was also an exposure to Dalit Shakti Kendra, where girls received vocational trainings on plumbing and stitching so that they can have a means of income.

" If we discard our sanitary napkin in front of a snake and the snake passes by it, then it will go blind"



In December, a Youth Mela was organised where 250 adolescents from urban and rural had come together to discuss for a collective of girls that shall be facilitated by KMVS for direction and guidance to overcome issues of domestic violence and early and underage marriage. 6 youth leaders have been identified who will support girls in 14 villages.



For the past four years, intervention in schools has been carried to develop a cadre of gender-equitable boys and girls. For the sessions to be conducted this year, 28 primary and 5 high schools from Bhuj, Anjar and Bhachau were chosen. The schools have been chosen in villages where all the interventions of safety are being undertaken. 1254 boys and girls from 30 schools from Bhuj, Bhachau and Anjar undertook sessions on gender. 5 schools of Bhuj and 3 schools of Anjar undertook sessions on gender, masculinity, femininity, gender-based violence and safe touch.

The school summer vacations were capitalised to audit and redesign the sessions per basis previous year's feedback. Now, each session is encapsulated in one hour and would impart different areas of knowledge, all the while ensuring an age appropriate learning. Following which, sessions on value based learning were conducted in two schools where students spoke about the persisting caste and religious divide that hinders their mixing with other children.

Continuing with the process of developing an ideal curriculum, an agreement with Nirantar (Delhi based organization working on gender; education) was made for them to mentor the process. With this objective, permission from DPEO and DEO has been sought to train 40 teachers from 28 schools. They will be trained on gender, patriarchy and gender based violence, and will be sensitised to use the activity book developed as part of the exercise. It has been decided that there shall be two books, one on gender, patriarchy and power, and another on 'me, my body and sexuality' will be developed. There shall be a different book for facilitators and an exercise book for children. First drafts of books are ready which will be designed and finalised after pilot testing in schools.

Gender sensitization sessions with 21 students pursuing a master's degree from the Department of Social Work, Kuchchh University were conducted. The students shared their personal experiences of discrimination and elaborated on their perspective of creating change.

Member of the KMVS team has been appointed on district level child protection committee (DCPC), advisory committee for children remand homes. Meeting of DCPC was held where recommendation on awareness and proper functioning of POCSO was recommended.



MOBILISING KISHORIS IN URBAN SLUM

The intervention was laid to empower and channelise the strength of adolescent girls into collectives that enable them to let their dreams soar higher and to fulfil them with no barriers in their way.

A major setback is that there is no financial security or even a substantial level of schooling. For the same, 'Unique Trainings' were designed to help the girls pick up skills from a pool of vocational trainings. In the same process, it was learnt that a few adolescent girls very willingly wanted to learn the chhakda (auto-rickshaw). In collaboration with the dream foundation, '7' adolescent girls were trained on driving a chhakda. 2 of them were also provided with a chhakda to run on the roads.

The girls are also active contributors to the Bol Magazine.

Generating an environmentally conscious cadre in the scape of Kutch takes great importance. 2 teams of girls were prepared who performed plays on environment and conservation in 18 villages of Anjar block and in 4 of Bhachau block.

12 adolescent girls reapplied for their 10th and 12th Grade examinations. Books were provided to 3 and tuition classes for 18 adolescents were also started.

**415 ADOLESCENTS
FROM 21 SLUM
AREAS CONNECTED**



On 14th February, an unfortunate incident took place at Sri Sahjanand Girls Institute where allegedly 68 girls were made to strip down to their intimate wears for ‘polluting’ the environment by going to temples and touching other fellow hostellers during their menses. KMVS immediately reacted to the incident and demanded from the Gujarat State Women’s Commission (GSWC) and National Commission for Women (NCW) for a safer and positive atmosphere for girls in educational institutions be created that is built away from orthodoxy and is on grounds of the law and progressive temperament. The NCW took suo-motu cognisance of the issue. Simultaneously, an event to celebrate menstruation ‘Destigmatize Menstruation’ was hosted by KMVS on 16th February at the central location of Hamirsar Lake, Bhuj. There were recitations, songs, dances, plays and a platform for the youth, women and doctors to express their views on the matter. It was the first time that the city came together to deal with stigmas associated with menstruation.



On 8th March, International Women’s Day, as many as 500 women took part in an event themed as “My Body, My Right”. Women and girls shared if they ever explored their bodies and what they see when they look at themselves in the mirror, all the shaming they go through before their pregnancy, after their pregnancy, the taboos on menstruation they meet on a day-to-day basis. It opened forums of conversation that they seemingly never had before.

THE LEGAL CELL

2019-2020

OVERVIEW

After the earthquake in 2001, gender based violence was observed to have increased manifold and there was a need to offer pan-Kutch immediate socio-legal help to those in need, especially women. The Legal Cell as it is today was envisaged then. Through a series of struggles, on 26th June 2010, the Hello Sakhi Helpline was started in association with the district police, which is operated by KMVS. Since then, the case registration mechanism has begun to include paralegals, local networks and leaders. The Hello Sakhi helpline stands today as an SOS call, with the understanding that no victim is left helpless and has access to immediately address the crime inflicted on them in some form. As the helpline works synergistically with the police, cases that require a more urgent and grievous plan of action are tended to just as swiftly.

While types of violence and frequency of certain kinds of violence have increased, so have the paralegals who have blossomed into leaders. In the last few years, a total of 5 Safety centres were established in different blocks which were tied up with local governments.

The Legal Cell has shown extreme adaptability by approaching safety differently every year depending on the crimes in prominence.



The past year's journey

The legal programme has grown to develop multiple-facets to ensure the safety of women. Pro-bono socio-legal services are offered to people, primarily at counselling centres. To make sure cases of violence do not get silenced, a cadre of paralegals from the communities are trained who help identify and assist in reporting any crime. Simultaneously, it is important to generate awareness on safety matters for which safety campaigns are held throughout the year.

The year began with designing and carrying out campaigns the learnings of which then feeds into planning of strategies and also gives an overview of changing forms of violence.

Through a baseline study, 30 villages in Anjar and Bhachau block were identified where it was felt important to go through with the safety campaign.

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For the Mahila Salamati Campaign, a 15-day campaign in each quarter of the year in those identified 30 villages was held. The campaigns involve loud-speaker and vehicle rallies with jingles and songs on safety, a special skit on child marriage, focussed group discussion with people, meetings with government organisations and aanganwadis, gully meetings. Hand-outs and flyers are given to women. Posters in public spaces were put up as well as the slogan and information for Hello Sakhi helpline was also written. In 20 villages of Anjar, the public wrote slogans on the rights of children and crimes against them. In the 4th quarter, an end-term feedback study was performed to follow-up on the campaigns.

In 160 villages in Bhuj, Nakhatrana, Mandvi, Nalia, Abdasa, Anjar and Bhachau block, the paralegals took the initiative of spreading awareness on domestic violence and Hello Sakhi helpline.

As with each year, likewise, a kiosk was active during all hours of Lok Melas held during Janmashtami and Yaksha to educate people on various law and legalities. Pamphlets were distributed to 20,000 people and immediate in situ socio-legal aid was provided during the fair.

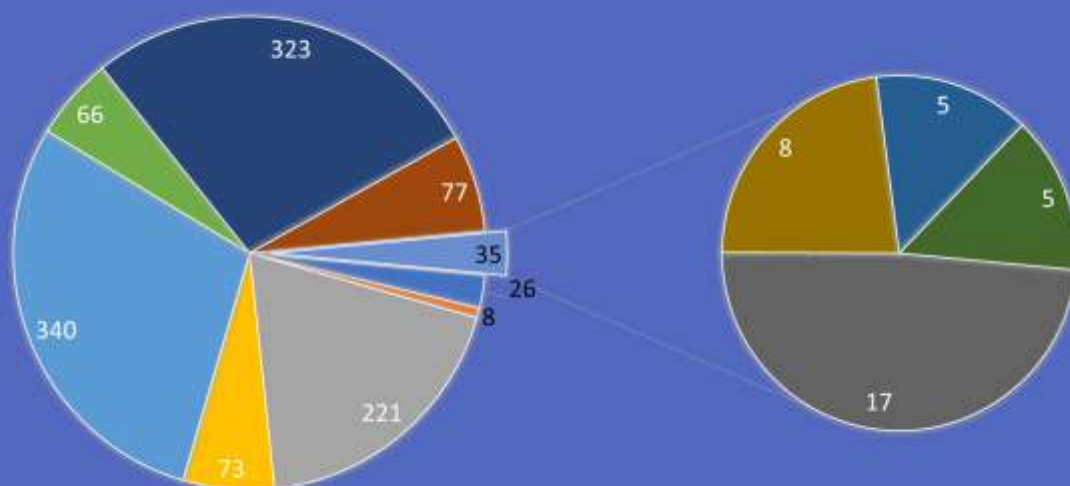
THE HELLO SAKHI HELPLINE DIAL 9913391234



Similar and in collaboration with DSP office, Kutch, the helpline is functional and there is a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place for registry of cases. There is a panel of lawyers and trained counsellors in 5 safety centres spread across Kutch. The helpline also collaborates with police from other districts, women and child department, Abhayam 181, District Child Protection Unit, and Sakhi OneStop Centre. There's a quarterly meeting with other collaborative organisation where details of each quarter are shared and assessment of anomaly in cases, or a sudden rise is thought and worked over. If a case goes unsolved, then it is transferred to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). There is a unit of paralegals that also works with the DLSA of which 45 of the organisation's trained paralegal cadres have received Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) certification from the DLSA.

CASES REFERRED BY

- ☐ Police station
- ☐ EWR
- ☐ Hello Sakhi Helpline
- ☐ Community leader
- ☐ Campaign
- ☐ Previous beneficiary
- ☐ Paralegal
- ☐ Social worker
- ☐ Devipujak Safety Center
- ☐ Other NGO
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Others(Individual,Internet)



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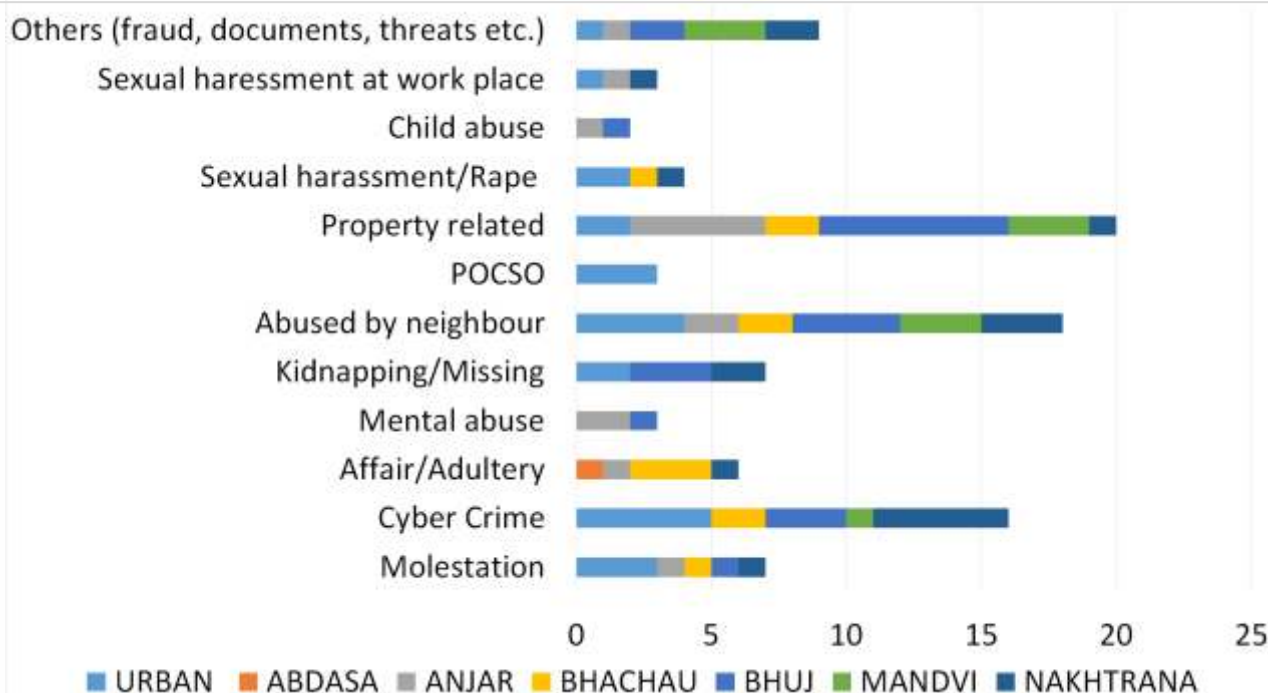
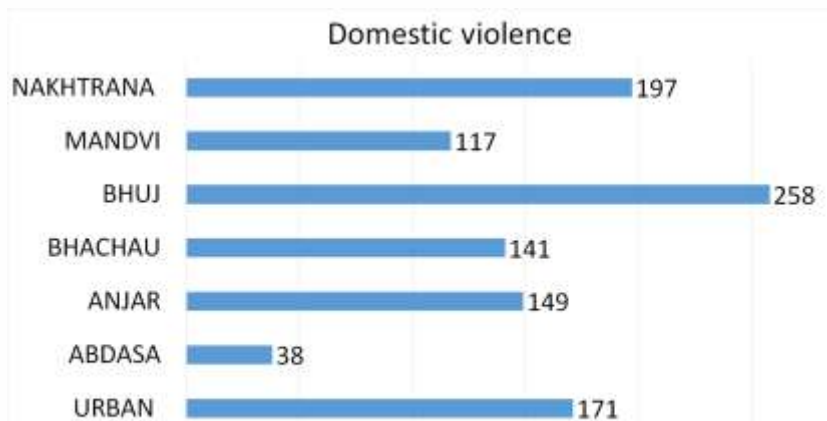
In Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Nakhatrana and Bhachau safety centres, the trained counsellors who undertake personal counselling, family counselling, mediations, etc were also trained on mental health and deliberating on it. The success of these safety centres is exemplary as they are locally set-up, and are following all its guidelines on its functioning, have been consistently spreading legal awareness, are in collaboration with local governments, local police, paralegals, Anganwadi and ASHA workers.

A Workshop with 30 NGOs, in collaboration with Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan, was held to put in place an Internal Committee that shall deal with sexual harassment at workplace under compliance with the act in its namesake. As it is mandated to have an outsider as part of the Internal Committee of the organisation, KMVS staff are members of ICs of PGVCL, Khamir, Local Police, Kutch University, Samaj Suraksha Khata, Hunarshala, Abhiyan, Sahjeevan, H.O Post Office. It is being deliberated upon to make sure these positions do not remain nominal but can carry out actions with consequences.

An app, called Sankalp App in association with EdelGive is also under development that shall smoothen the current management information system of the organisation. Readables were also prepared for paralegals for immediate access to information.

Most cases that are registered fall under domestic violence. In recent times, there has been an observed increase in cybercrime

TOTAL - 1169



CASE STUDY

Devi, a 13-year-old girl, belonging to the Koli samaj got engaged at the age of 3 during her childhood to her Aunt's son. When she turned 13, they began to plan her marriage. Her fiancé at the time was a little over 18. Both the families together went on a pilgrimage to a village in Junagadh. During a very private moment between Devi and her fiancé, they consensually got intimate in love. After the pilgrimage, the families happily celebrated their wedding and Devi entered her husband's home as a daughter-in-law. Devi used to work in the fields but would often complain of pain in her abdominal region. On advice, she started working only at home but one fine day, the pain aggravated to the extent that it had become unbearable. For the sake of her well being, she was taken to Primary Health Centre where the doctor revealed that Devi is 4 months pregnant. However, it had only been 3 months since her marriage. Devi's in-laws accused her of lacking character. She explained over and over that the child was conceived together with her husband during the pilgrimage trip, but in fear, her husband never approved of the claim and denied. The in-laws declared at the PHC itself that she cannot enter their home anymore. A devastated Devi went back to her mother and after a few days they came to KMVS's counselling centre at Bhuj. They wanted to lodge a case against her in-laws but that would not have been advisable as it would result in both families being arrested against a charge of child marriage. Hence, the matter had to be settled through counselling. Devi was taken to the hospital by the KMVS counsellors for her complete health check-up. The doctor declared both Devi and her unborn child healthy and advised against abortion (which was being suggested by Devi's grandmother to save face). After multiple sessions of counselling with Devi, her family and her in-laws, in one private counselling session with Devi and her husband, he confessed that indeed the child is indeed his. The husband was asked to support Devi and take her in. The families were also counseled and advised to take care of Devi, considering the child is indeed theirs and was born out of consensual relation. Devi has now, rightfully, been welcomed back home and both families are taking good care of Devi. Her child is on its way.



SUSHASINI

2019-2020



OVERVIEW

The Panchayat Cell had an informal beginning in 1997 when reservation for women in local governments came about. The women were installed into the system as mere figures to fulfil the 1/3rd reservation quota, however, that had to be changed. The women representatives were, thus, nurtured specifically by demystifying 'Panchayati Raj' by KMVS. The effort initially started in the villages of Mundra, Abdasa and Nakhatrana and later expanded to include Lakhpat, Mandvi and Bhuj.

The main objective of the Panchayat Cell is to educate members on good governance and not just hold titular positions. It is to establish leaderships and run politics that have their base wet in sensitivity and humanitarianism, to make safety and financial security inclusive for all.

In 2004, at a congregation in Kookma, it was felt that a centre for dissemination of information was required. So, Panchayat Knowledge Centres were started. It was also felt that there needs to be a platform for elected women representatives, and so in 2006 Panchayat Mahila Manch at each block was started. In 2010, a district-level committee was realised called Gram Sashini was started. In its premise, women leaders and elected representatives took part to develop and share their knowledge on issues like gender, equality, rights and justice, Indian Constitution, democracy, values of good governance like transparency, accountability, inclusion. At present, Gram Shasini members continue to be supported by KMVS through its Panchayat Cell.

The Past Year's Journey

In concordance with every year, through a baseline survey, 20 new villages and 10 old villages that continue to need assistance were identified and profiled before March 2019.

The baseline survey and safety audit starts with the women at centre. Women are asked to point on the map of their village as to where they feel happy, or where they feel safe. The most common answers received point towards temples and gardens. Upon being asked why they felt these places were safe, their simple answer was that since these places were women dominated, they felt safe and away from any 'threats'. Further, it is asked, where they feel fearful or unsafe? As most relate fear or lack of safety with someone harassing on the streets or rape, it is explained that safety is also mental and that one can even fear their homes. What came out is that women feel safer in the presence of CCTV cameras and good lighting, and also that addiction of any kind, especially alcohol, majorly contributes to violence.

Apart from that, questions on livelihood, health, cleanliness, basic services like schools, mid-day meals, curriculum, status of anganwadis, ASHA workers, Public Health Centre, the bureaucrats in place, roads, lighting, sewage and many more are asked.

Lastly, a question is raised, "what can the Panchayat do for you?"

Certain limitations felt during these safety audits are that it is very important to understand the social context and the rules in the community. It can also be difficult to point out domestic violence or that women may not talk openly about it.

In each of the 20 villages, a day was dedicated to a workshop on social outlook. In the panchayats, effective local governance is tutored to the members. Depending on the village and the need identified, a plan of action was tailor-made for them. While the general theme continued to be on gendered governance on its basis, there was a special focus on women's law and women's safety. It is still felt, however, that Panchayats continue to resort to cosmetic measures on the same.



421 EWRS ASSOCIATED

180 EWRS TRAINED

**WOMEN'S SAFETY
80 RESOLUTIONS
PASSED**



As a result of the safety audit, meetings with 19 Panchayats were held to further stress on the demands and needs of women in their area. There were congregated workshops for 7 panchayats of 7 villages to help them plan out the effective measures they will take for women's safety and enforcement of law.

In 10 Panchayats, local issues were raised, of which many were on primary healthcare services, dissemination and linking of government schemes and women's safety.

THE POWER OF A QUESTION

Pushpaben Maheshwari is a resident of Mathada village in Anjar block and as an ASHA worker earlier, she has provided a very sound service in healthcare to the village. Pushpaben was elected unopposed in the current Gram Panchayat elections. Previously, she had very little idea about the nuts and bolts in the functioning of the panchayat and so she connected with KMVS to learn more. Members of the Gram Panchayat's Gram Sabha or the general assembly were not aware of when the next general meeting was going to be. She had heard in one of the KMVS workshops about these general meetings and the regularity with which they need to be conducted. She started raising questions which eventually led to everyone learning the date and time of the meeting. All that was needed was for someone to take an initiative. This particular action of hers inspired other members and she won their support. Now these meetings happen with regularity.

Pushpaben and the members of the Panchayat have been making decisions together in every aspect and with Pushpaben as the Chairman of the Social Justice Committee, they have been working continuously for the justice of all the people of the village. She also undertook paralegal training to understand the concept of violence and she raises her voice in the village against domestic violence and atrocities against women. Women's participation and women's issues have been constantly raised before the Panchayat and the people of the village.

THE URBAN CELL

2019-2020

OVERVIEW

The beginnings of Urban cell go back to 2008 when a need was felt to address the issues of marginalised and underserved urban women and children. At that time, the urban interventions involved housing projects, regularising government schemes, managing SHGs. With the registration of the Sakhi Sangini federation in 2013, it was felt fit to transfer the projects being managed by the Urban cell to Sakhi Sangini, while continuing to nurture the federation at the same time.

In 2015, an effort to understand the marginalised lives of female sex workers in Kutch was initiated by the Urban cell. Owing to their secretive lives and identity, it took three years to really swing the intervention in a quantitatively productive direction. Through various visits to other NGOs working on a similar theme, with the collaboration of National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW), a direction was realised to aid them in their inclusion into the mainstream and their collectivisation to ensure holistic grounds of their safety. With efforts in collaboration with the District Health Officer and National Urban Health Mission in 2017, through continued distribution of condoms, a relationship of trust was built between KMVS and the sex workers. As time progressed, further collaboration with other governmental and non-governmental organisations like Kutch NP+, Indian Council of Social Welfare, Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres, National Network of Sex Workers, and Women and Child Welfare Department strengthened the overall programme.

The Previous Year's Journey

Quarterly coordination meeting with other NGOs and Governmental organisations working with sex workers were done to administer progress and strategise future plan of action. In collaboration with these organisations, a total of 7280 condoms were distributed and 136 sex workers were tested against HIV for AIDS. The FSWs that came out positive were counselled and were followed up with for their medication and anti-retroviral therapy.



15
LINKED
WITH
SOCIAL
SECURITY
SCHEMES

137
TESTED
AGAINST
HIVAIDS

As it is difficult for sex workers to come out of their homes, through repeated interaction with brothel owners, a rapport was built to reach out to more sex workers and these were eventually collectivised into what is known as the 'Samvedna Group'. 17 FSWs are core members of it. 37 women in Bhuj and 31 from Nagor and Raydhanpar were trained on the importance of collectivisation. Apart from that 50 women attended the workshop on health, and 30 on gender.

The Drop-in Centre that was installed continues to function as a haven for the sex workers and they utilise its capacity for exchange of information and interacting safely with KMVS. Women were also continuously screened for availability and accessibility of identity documents, government documents and bank accounts. 6 bank accounts were opened and 4 PAN cards were made and 15 were linked to government schemes.

KMVS also became a party in the National Network of Sex Workers. A collective CBO meeting of NNSW members was held in Bangalore to understand the functioning of other CBOs in the network that could be replicated and applied in context of Kutch.

A coordination with imminent speaker and spiritual leader Morari Bapu who aided in the destigmatisation of sex workers during a Ramayan Katha was also a notable event.



WORKING WITH CASTE BASED COMMUNITIES

After opening up dialogues with the Devipujak Community, a detailed study was carried out to understand the community's contemporary status and its history. A booklet was developed that showcased these very findings from the study. Upon analysis of the same, a committee of 22 people from the community was made. These were emerging leaders from their society. They reflected on the present traditions in their community that endanger the safety of women and realised an action upon the same was necessary.

Simultaneously, during trainings, few members realised there was a need for an *in situ* decentralised justice system and so a safety centre was opened on 14th October 2019 called – 'Takraar Nivaran Centre' or Dispute Resolution Centre. In future, it is being planned to deliver paralegal training to the Devipujak community so that they can run the centre more efficiently.

A community dialogue with the Jatt community has also just begun.

SAKHI SANGINI

Sakhi Sangini is a city-wide federation established in November 2012, that is continuously being nurtured by the Urban Cell. It came together to address the issues of marginalised women and children on their social, financial, physical and mental safety for their inclusion into the mainstream. For this year, 15 new Self-Help Groups were started (217 in total). Total interest of Rs 20,65,389 was distributed with savings of Rs 1,58,69,600. 28 Groups were linked with the National Urban Livelihood Mission Revolving Fund.

Apart from these, 95 SHGs and members were linked with Ujjwala Yojana and 25 new PAN cards were made. 13 Leadership trainings (3 specifically for SHGs) were delivered.

Many loans for health, production, education, household were distributed of a total sum of Rs. 5,77,15,500.

Whenever relevant, information of government schemes was passed on and whomsoever required help with it, whether literate or illiterate was helped. There were irregularities on the entitlement of ration, and as many as 2400 people started receiving the entitled amount. 8 campaigns in 8 areas on government schemes were hosted. A new Anganwadi has also been installed, and 4 exposures to organisations in Maharashtra and Kerala to understand their public distribution system happened.

HOMES IN THE CITY PROGRAM

The Homes in the City Programme started in 2008 and has convergent goals of advocacy for institutionalisation, and working with the marginalised in areas for housing, waste management, environment, etc. It has continued to be working in conjunction with KMVS since 2018.

145 SHG members were provided subsidised LPG connections. Two anganwadis are operational at two sites where about 40 kids get education and nutritious food. About 200 migrant laborers (60 homeless) were provided with a shelter at Khasra ground in coordination with the municipality with access to water, light and health care facilities.

FUTURE AHEAD

With each passing year, KMVS believes in revising its understandings and developing a more conscientious deliberate approach to all our work themes. The organisation shall further include intersectional feminism in the philosophy of its approach in the following year and the ones after. It will be KMVS' onus to practice breaking away from binaries presently set in gender and sexual identities.

Keeping up with the times, more digital tools will be developed to connect with the youth and also familiarise the KMVS staff with handling data and the current online space.

A need is being strongly felt to reevaluate the meaning of safety and what it means for the women for whom the safety is being upheld. A safety audit is being readied in design to quantitatively and qualitatively understand features of safety (or lack thereof) in public spaces and will lead to development of guidelines.

The past year shall act as a reflection for the future of the current programmes, whether they can be continued as is, or need any alterations. An external evaluation of the program will also be conducted to understand and chronicle best practices of safety program.

FINANCIALS

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan
P.T Registration No. P-146 (Kutch) Dated: 25.06.1989
In "Incorporation", GYM Kheda, Gandhinagar, Bhuj/Kutch, 370001.

Ready for use of the Trust for submission of Budget Contribution to the Govt. for the year 2019-2020.

Balance Sheet (A/Cs) - 31st March, 2020

Particulars	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.	Particulars	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.
(I) Trust Funds	1A	27,374	(I) Investments by Shareholder		
(II) Current & Other Funds	1B	71,388,000	Proportion		
(III) Reserve Loans	2A	493,028	(II) Current Stock	2	12,000,000
(IV) Other Loans	2B	4,070,512	(III) Loan - Depreciation Fund	4	4,002,805
(V) Income & Expenditure A/c	3	4,871,206	(IV) Net Stock (a+b)	4	1,602,805
			(V) Investments & Deposit	5	48,796,071
			(VI) Loans and Advances	6A	3,900,000
			(VII) Unpaid Income	6B	200,000
			(VIII) Cash and Bank Balances	7	23,794,082
Total Rs.		81,809,592	Total Rs.		81,809,592

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

For Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

(Mrs. Anura Thakur)
Member-Governing Board

Place: Bhuj - Kutch
Date: 24/10/2020

For Purni C. Desai & Co.
Chartered Accountants

(CA Purni C. Desai)
Partner
Membership No. 87582

Place: Bhuj - Kutch
Date: 24/10/2020

4 DEM-20037012 A400403748

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan
P.T Registration No. P-146 (Kutch) Dated: 25.06.1989
In "Incorporation", GYM Kheda, Gandhinagar, Bhuj/Kutch, 370001.

Ready for use of the Trust for submission of Budget Contribution to the Govt. for the year 2019-2020.

Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year ended on 31st March, 2020

Particulars	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.	Particulars	Sl. No.	Amount Rs.
To: Expenditure on Constitution of the Trust	1	1,00,000	By: Income		
To: Expenditure on Training	2	1,00,000	By: Interest Income	13	1,00,000
To: Charity Cost	3	1,00,000	By: Grants & Donations		
To: Legal, Income Tax & Office Cost	4	1,00,000	From FICA/Donor	14	1,00,000
To: Audit Fee	5	1,00,000	From Indian Ministry	15	1,00,000
To: Depreciation	6	1,00,000	By: Other Income	16	1,00,000
To: Amount to be Capital Fund	7	1,00,000	By: Amount to be Capital Fund	17	1,00,000
To: Loan on Sale of Assets	8	1,00,000	By: To: From Cash Development	18	1,00,000
To: Expenditure on objects of the Trust					
From FICA/Donor	12	1,00,000			
From FICA/Donor	13	1,00,000			
To: Excess of Income Over Exp: To: To Rs	19	1,00,000			
Total Rs.		12,00,000	Total Rs.		12,00,000

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

For Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

(Mrs. Anura Thakur)
Member-Governing Board

Place: Bhuj - Kutch
Date: 24/10/2020

For Purni C. Desai & Co.
Chartered Accountants

(CA Purni C. Desai)
Partner
Membership No. 87582

Place: Bhuj - Kutch
Date: 24/10/2020

4 DEM-20037012 A400403748

GOVERNING BOARD

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

THE KMVS STAFF

Urban

Chetan Gajjar, Jignaben Gor, Jignesh Maheshwari, Jinal Shah, Leena Gor, Minaxi Chauhan, Poonam Sharma, Raju Rabari, Sabana Pathan, Sakina Juneja, Sakina Pathan, Sheela Bhatti

Legal

Bharat Joshi (Advocate), Chandaben Joshi, Khataben Sameja, Madhuben Goswami, Malshree Gadhvi, Neeta Maheshwari, P S Keniya, Rinkal Gantra, Vanita Sekha

Yuva Vani

Jagrutiben Gadhavi, Kruti Laheru, Geeta Mata

Sushasini

Deenaben Dholu, Lata Sachde, Yogesh Garva

Media

Aamad Sameja, Hemlataben Goswami

Secretariat

Aruna Dholakiya, Almash Memon, Kamlesh Barmeda, Kulsumben Luhar, Nikita Gor, Parvej Chaki, Fatehsinh Sodha

Intern/volunteer

Dharmesh Chaubey, Kathrina Engel, Abhilasha, Divyesh

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કચ્છના મહિલાઓના દિવાની રજાએ રજાએ સ્થળ મહિલા વિજ્ઞાન સંઘને ૩૦ વર્ષની સફર પૂર્ણ કરતાં ૮૦૦થી વધુ મહિલાની ઉપસ્થિતિમાં આજના મહત્વની તસવીરો, મહિલા છાત્રાવાસની રસ, રજાઓના વિચારો પ્રસાર, કે એમ. ડી. એસ. ની પ્રવૃત્તિની તસવીરો સહકર્મીઓ જગત્તુ બંધ. (તસવીર : હર્ષદ ચૌહાણ)

[illegible]



Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghatan

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