

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23







FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

Human Development and Research Centre (HDRC) is a voluntary organization dedicated to promoting human dignity since its establishment. The organization's primary goal is to advocate for good governance by raising awareness among marginalized groups, such as Dalits, tribals, and other backward classes, about their rights and empowering them. To achieve this objective, HDRC works on two fronts. Firstly, it organizes communities as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) at the grassroots level. Secondly, it provides guidance and support to these groups through research and training initiatives. In pursuit of its goals, HDRC has formed partnerships with various networks at the taluka, district, state, and national levels, including the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership (WGWLO).

Over time, HDRC has expanded its reach and currently operates in 855 villages across 42 talukas in 12 districts of Gujarat, reaching out directly to all most 1.25 lakh households in the state. The organization focuses on raising awareness about rights, building capacity, and promoting good governance among Dalits and other marginalized communities in these areas. Additionally, HDRC works on housing and other rights in slum areas in Ahmedabad city and eight other small and medium towns.

HDRC places a special emphasis on women and children from Dalit and other backward classes. The organization supports women's economic and social empowerment by organizing them into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Cooperatives and provide training to empower them. Empowered women not only gain personal recognition in society but also contribute in improving their families' economic well-being. To further advance women's empowerment, HDRC operates programs like Cooperative and Swabhoomi Kendra, where women farmers receive guidance on land rights and are encouraged to adopt successful organic/natural farming practices.

Children and youth are the future of any country, representing hope for tomorrow. In order to ensure that they receive quality education and develop into responsible citizens, HDRC has been dedicated to promoting education and skill development among children and youth in villages, as well as in Ahmedabad and 8 other small and medium cities.

The annual report provides a summary of our activities and outcomes from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. It is categorised into 7 chapters covering topics such as inclusive rural governance, urban governance, women's empowerment, child rights and development,



youth skill development, research and training, and establishment of mechanisms to address human rights violations.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the agencies and organizations that have supported us in achieving our objectives. Special thanks to our governing board and funding agencies for their continued and timely support. I also extend my appreciation to our chartered accountant for the cooperation and guidance to be adhering to the healthy practices of transparency, accountability. Most importantly, I want to thank our dedicated staff members and volunteers, whose hard work, and commitment have been the major key to our success. Without their dedicated service, we would not have been able to reach our goals.

Mathai K.O
Executive Director
SXFES- HRDC



INTRODUCTION

The Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) is a secular organization focused on empowering marginalized communities such as Dalits, Tribals, OBC, minorities, youth, children, and women. With over five decades of experience, HDRC works on various issues including Dalit rights, women's empowerment, child rights, land rights, tribal forest rights, sustainable housing, health, education, and livelihood programs in Gujarat. They have also responded to emergencies such as the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, Gujarat riots in 2002, Banaskantha floods in 2007 & 2017, the Covid19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, and the Taukate cyclone in 2021. HDRC adopts a rights-based approach to development programs, aiming to empower marginalized communities to understand and assert their rights by promoting individual and institutional accountability.

VISION

“To promote and strengthen the people’s organizations & movements of the marginalized / discriminated / excluded communities to achieve social justice and dignity within human rights framework and democratic mechanisms of the Indian Constitution.”

MISSION

“The Human Development and Research Centre is a secular, non-denominational, voluntary organization which exists to empower marginalized communities, particularly Dalits, Tribals, OBCs, Minorities and Women of these communities to bring about social change by conceiving and conducting programs of an educational nature along with facilitating people’s movements and creating sustainable livelihood options.”

STRATEGY

It combines two important aspects of developmental strategy: active involvement and direct intervention at the grassroot level through community-based organizations; and conceptualizing and supporting that involvement through research, training and through critical reflection. The strategy emphasizes empowering local people by creating community-based organizations in intervention areas. The goal is to strengthen these organizations through direct intervention programs, ultimately making them owned, controlled, and managed by the people themselves. This approach is at the core of all the interventions conducted by HDRC.

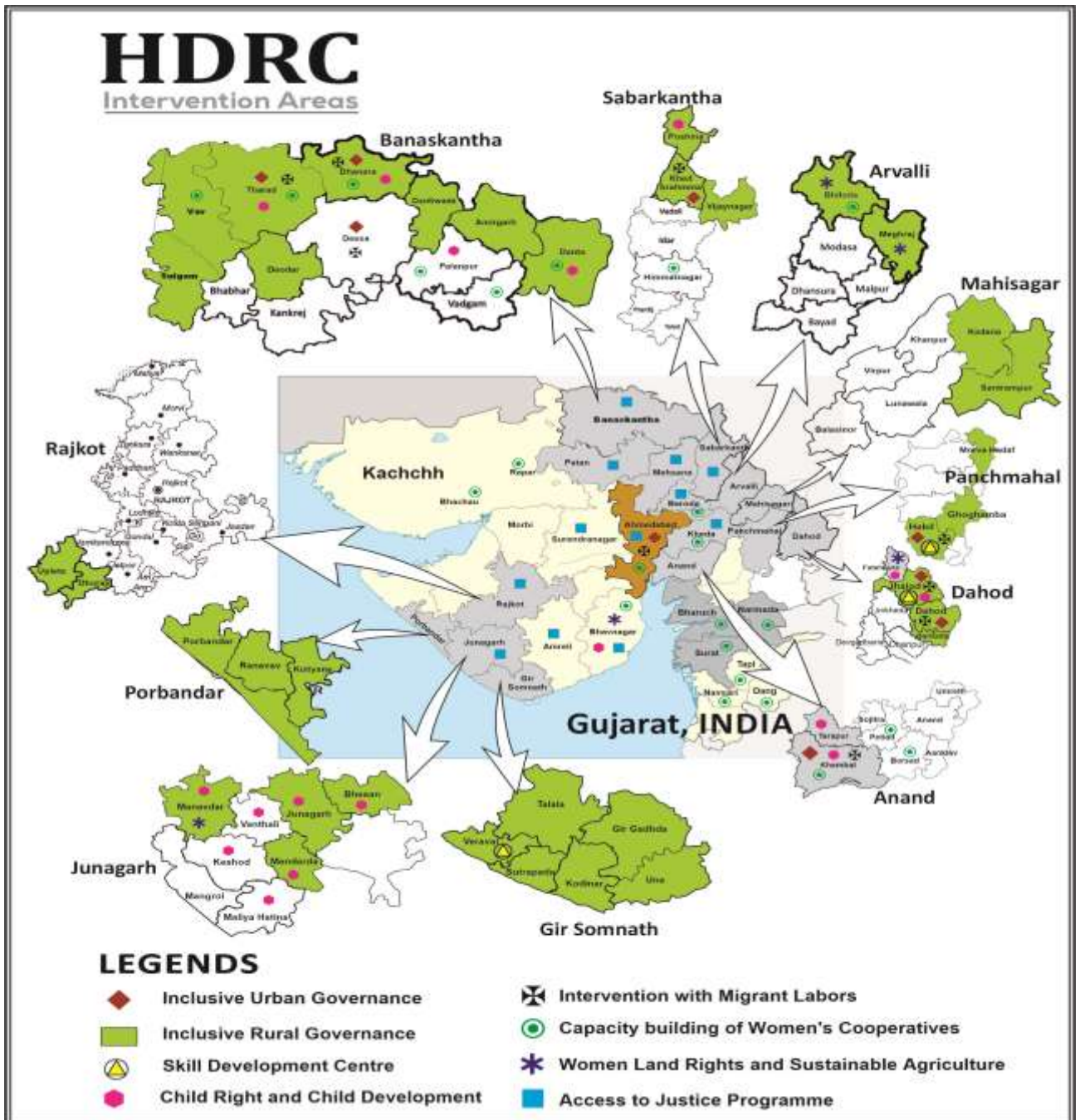
Key functional Areas

- 1) Direct intervention programs
- 2) Research and training programs
- 3) Building collaborations and networks
- 4) Advocacy for rights and entitlements
- 5) Emergency response programs.

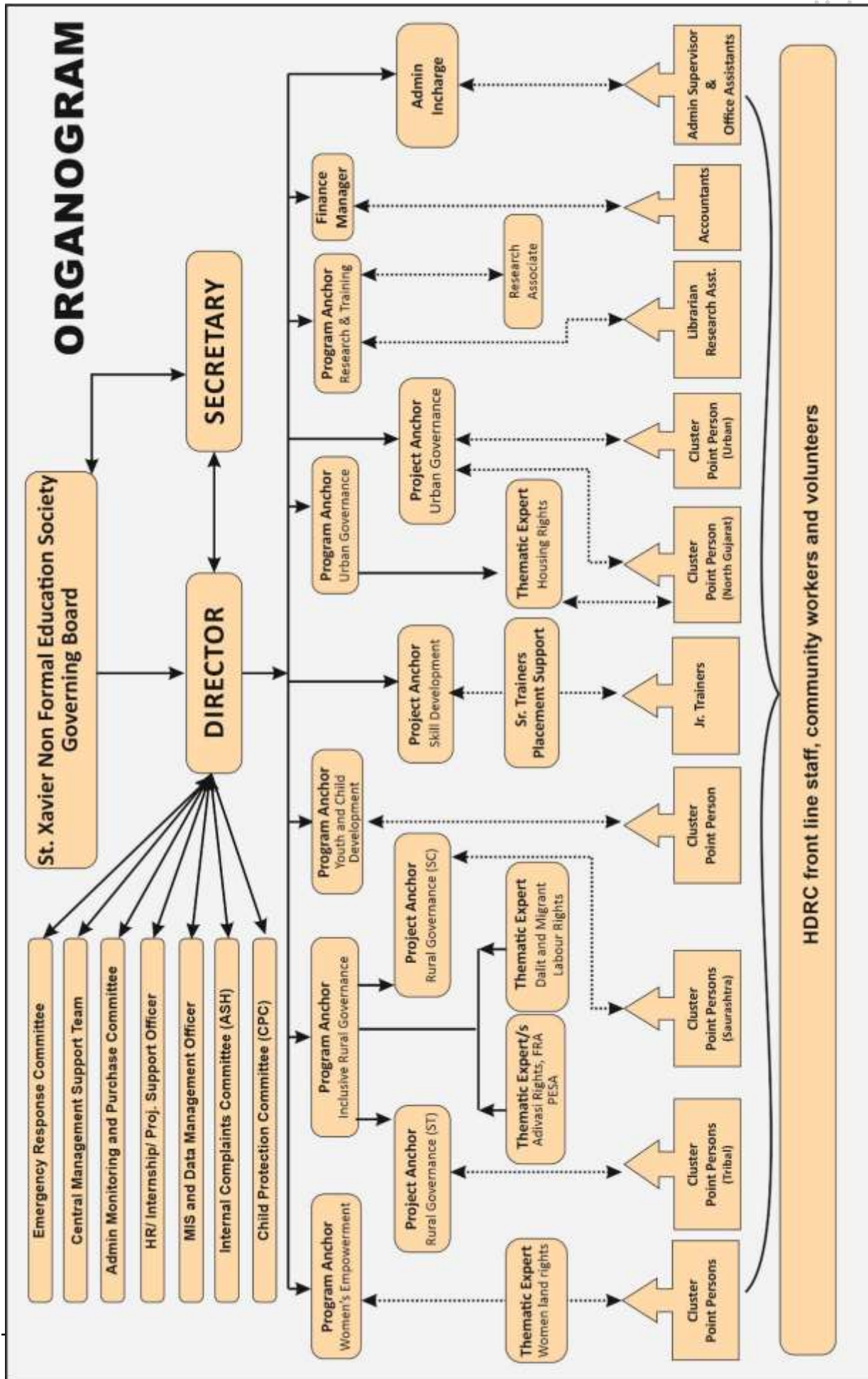


GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

Currently, HDRC is working in 42 Talukas and 41 Slums in 12 districts in Gujarat.



ORGANOGRAM



Inclusive Rural Governance Program

The overarching objective of this theme is to empower marginalized communities, ensure transparency in governing institutions, and foster meaningful public dialogue. The total coverage during the reporting period was 730 villages of 35 talukas in 10 districts in the state of Gujarat. It has **three specific objectives-**

1. The first objective is to promote and enhance the effectiveness of collectives, community-based organizations, and associations of marginalized individuals. This will be achieved by improving their access to basic services, advocating for their rights and entitlements, seeking social justice, and demanding accountability from governing institutions.
2. The second objective is to establish a platform for communication and collaboration between local governance institutions and communities. This will facilitate the exchange of information and enable the utilization of resources provided by development schemes and initiatives aimed at achieving social justice.
3. The third objective is to elevate the concerns and voices of marginalized communities to state-level policy-making forums. This will foster public discourse and prompt action towards addressing these issues.

Strategic interventions include-

- a) Empowering local communities and Taluka associations to access their rights and entitlements through the promotion of community collectives at the village level.
- b) Strengthening the leadership capacities of marginalized individuals and women within these communities, enabling them to effectively advocate for their needs and aspirations.
- c) Facilitating open and constructive dialogue with key stakeholders, including Village Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat, and District Panchayat, elected members, and committee representatives at various levels, to foster collaboration and address community concerns.
- d) Establishing Resource Centres at the district/regional level, serving as hubs for networking and partnerships with both Government Organizations (GOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to leverage resources and expertise for community development.
- e) Strengthening connections with government offices, to ensure effective coordination and cooperation in implementing community-driven initiatives.
- f) Strategic alliances with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to harness collective efforts and resources towards sustainable development.
- g) Conducting social audits and community monitoring of services and entitlements in villages.



Workshop/Sammelan/Rally/State level consultation:

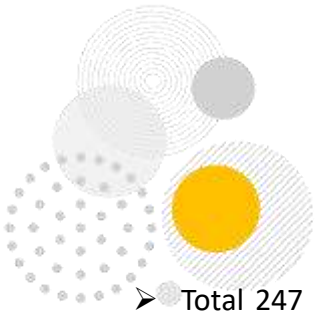
More than **1000 dalit and Taluka association members were trained in 8 trainings and 14 refresher training** on topics like 73rd CAA and statutory committees, government schemes, governance and social accountability tools, plan and budget (especially for SC and ST) and on emerging issues, new schemes and policies. Besides these training, 10 workshops were also organized which include 6 on GPS mapping attended by 289 FRC members and Youth. One regional workshop was organized on issues of FRA (IFR, CFR, forest villages) at Godhra. 70 participants took part in it. Another one was on issues faced by Dalit and marginalized in the field of agriculture with implementing agencies of government in Saurashtra. 41 community leaders participated in it. Two applications were also given to the concerned authorities i.e. state social justice and empowerment department, Gandhinagar and agriculture department, Gandhinagar for implementing Agri-based scheme. A workshop on Dalit land rights and Panchayat budget was also held at Junagadh and one workshop on PoA Act provisions and issues of compliances which was facilitated by the chairperson of Banaskantha District Social Justice Committee. Apart from this, a State level workshop was also organized on the findings of the study on participation of women in Panchayat. 55 Women Sarpanchs, panchayat members, leaders, fellows participated in the workshop. This workshop ended with some future action plan and roles and responsibilities to be taken.

Resource centers:

There are 4 Resource Centers which are functional in Halol, Jhalod, Palanpur and Gir-Gadhada.

Achievements/impact of this program

- 3677 (APPI) +2640 (PSJ)+ 6752(Misereor) Households linked with various government schemes for social security and development.
- Total 450 (115 APPI+ 270 Mis+ 65 PSJ) village collectives have continued monitoring and tracking of the access to entitlements and rights by the marginalized communities i.e. ICDS, PDS, MGNREGS, PDS, land rights, Gutter line, housing in 115 villages. Total 634 (APPI) + 124 +617 (PSJ) Community leaders have taken action for rights and entitlements.
- Trained 10 (APPI)+ 10 (Misereor) Taluka Association have taken action by approaching the concerned authorities for GPS of pending/rejected claims and Adhikar Patra to individual Forest rights (IFR) holder, recruitment of Lok Rakshak Dal (LRD) and forest staff, issuing of caste certificate, allotment of land to Dalits for agriculture and house, crematorium land, illegal mining, ST bus stoppage, MGNREGA and minimum wages, atrocity cases, governance schemes, basic services, rights and entitlements etc.
- Capacity building of 2158 village level community leaders+ 1683 urban area level leaders+ 2365 PSJ.
- Prepared 2 modules for capacity building of village committee and leaders. Of these, one was understanding of village committee and village political economy.



- Total 247 PRI members and Sarpanchs have supported the demands during panchayat meetings and Gram Sabha regarding MGNREGS ,Water (Nal se Jal/ Tap water) , RCC road FRA etc. They also agreed to take necessary actions to improve participation of women, Dalit and tribal in gram sabhas.
- Gram Sabha has taken an important step by passing a resolution in Dharoi, Padhara, Ganva, and Ziznat villages of Khedbrahmma taluka for GPS mapping of rejected individual forest rights (IFR) claims.
- total of 210 visits were made to various schools by the Social Animators and voluntary leaders, to improve education standards and initiated 163 initiatives to enhance the quality of education and fostering holistic development.
- On 14th Feb 2023, Shri Govardhan Munde, Senior Investigator National Commission for Schedule Tribes (NCST) and shri. Milind Thatte, member, working group on FRA visited the Gujarat for an assessment of FRA and PESA. The assessment team also has Capt. Smita Gaikwad, expert resource person and Ms. Mimansa Parolia, Research Assistant. The two villages they visited were Vandariya and Kharoda. Local TSP officer and Chitnis along with the HDRC team coordinated with the central commission's review team in both the villages. Several issues such as pending claims, issues of GPS, lesser allocation of land, non-cooperation of village FRC position holders etc. The central committee noticed the issue and directed the DLC to hold a meeting and take immediate necessary action in this issue
- 800 women started participating actively in 4 cooperatives and capacity building of 691 women completed during the reporting period.
- Completed baseline survey on awareness about government schemes of 42741 households completed. Another baseline survey of 8147 households regarding schemes and entitlements was completed.
- Generated profile covering background, socio-economic status, skills and knowledge of 2403 village committee member
- HDRC is also working in collaboration with ARCH Vahini (Action Research in Community Health and Development) and TSP to do field mapping, Survey and GPS in its target area. During the reporting period they also trained 688 tribals on how to proceed for the rejected claims.
- During this period out of total 26,164 claims from 308 villages, 11170 individual forest rights (IFR) were sanctioned and 14915 claims were rejected for which GPS survey has been done for 6531 claims.
- Community Forest Rights (CFR) of 388 villages was done out of which 257 were sanctioned and 40 remain pending
- Networking with 20 CSOs and CBOs on different issues related to the rights and entitlements of Dalits and marginalized.
- HDRC is also working in collaboration with ARCH Vahini (Action Research in Community Health and Development) and TSP to do field mapping, Survey and GPS in its target area.



Challenges

- Non- cooperating attitude of government officials and Sarpanch in organizing PESA Gram Sabha etc.
- Dominance of upper caste people
- In Poshina, the situation for women is very difficult. Even today, they are not allowed to go out alone and do not have any kind of exposure to the outer world. The reason behind this is the mindset of the community. This mindset is the biggest challenge. Though HDRC has successfully tried to face this situation and to some extent few women even started attending the training, but still this mindset serves as a challenge.
- till now, Gram Sabha was having control of managing the forest plantation like which plants to be planted and the income from selling the produce was managed by the Gram sabha but now all this has been decided by the forest department thereby reducing the income of tribals and is also adversely impacting the forest because instead of diversified plants now mono cultured plants are being planted.
- Difficulty in filling form G (for conservation, protection, use of forest thereby saving the ecology) due to clashes between forest right committee (government body) and Joint forest management committee JFMC, which is an elected body)



URBAN GOVERNANCE

To ensure that the urban poor live with dignity and are fully integrated into urban society, actively participating in urban governance, and enjoying equal and fair access to entitlements, civic services, social security, and sustainable livelihoods, HDRC is implementing two programs:

- 1) Ensuring Rights and Entitlements of the Urban Poor and Promoting Inclusive Urban Governance in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This program focuses on the formation and strengthening of slum collectives, empowering them to address the challenges they face. The leaders of these collectives are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage with local government, elected representatives, and other decision-making authorities. This enables them to assert their rights and entitlements and actively participate in the governance process.
- 2) Awas Adhikar Zumbesh (AAZ) - a campaign advocating for the housing rights of the urban poor. This initiative aims to empower the urban poor to collectively address issues such as slum eviction, access to adequate housing, and housing policies.

By implementing these programs, HDRC strives to create a more inclusive and equitable urban environment, where the urban poor can live with dignity and actively contribute to the development and governance of their communities.

Strategic Intervention:

To effectively address the needs of the urban poor, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Formation and Empowerment of Area-Level Collectives: Through regular area-level meetings and input sessions, forming and strengthening collectives of the urban poor. This will provide a platform for them to voice their concerns and collectively work towards finding solutions.
2. Identification of Community Leaders: HDRC will identify and support community leaders within the slums. These individuals will play a crucial role in representing the interests of the urban poor and advocating for their rights.
3. Networking with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs): HDRC will establish partnerships and collaborations with CSOs and CBOs that are actively working on issues related to the urban poor. This networking enables us to leverage resources and expertise to address the challenges faced by this marginalized group.



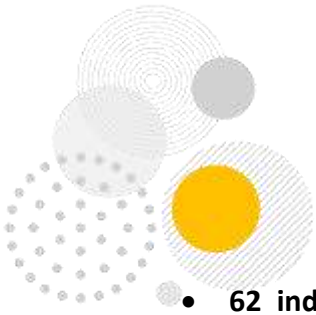
4. Establishing Linkages with Municipal Corporation Offices and Government Departments: HDRC will establish strong connections with municipal corporation offices and government departments to ensure that the concerns and needs of the urban poor are effectively communicated and addressed.
5. Promoting Women Leadership: HDRC will focus on promoting women's leadership by supporting women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Special attention will be given to Valmiki women's collectives, empowering them to actively participate in community decision-making processes.
6. Strengthening Awas Adhikar Zumbesh (AAZ): AAZ, a movement for housing rights, will be strengthened to advocate for the housing rights of the urban poor. This will involve mobilizing collective action and raising awareness about the importance of affordable and adequate housing.
7. Capacity Building: HDRC invest in the capacity building of leaders and collective members. Through training programs and workshops, leaders acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for the rights and
 - a) entitlements of the urban poor.
8. Workshops and Consultations: HDRC will organize workshops and consultations to educate the urban poor about their entitlement.

Major Activities

While continuing with the previous projects under IGSMT Project, **Slum Area Mapping was done in 8 Small and Medium Towns – namely Tharad, Deesa, Dhanera, Khedbramha, Ambaji, Zalod, Dahod, Khambhat.** To delve deeper into the socio-economic landscape of the project intervention areas, the project collected information from a substantial 2232 families. 121 leaders were identified for town and slum level collectives having participation from both men and women. HDRC built capacity of these leaders in the manner so that they can take up local issues and resolve them. It includes facilitating filling of forms for various government documents/essential certificate like Aadhar Card, Voter Identity Cards, caste certificate, ration cards, PAN Cards, Ayushyaman (health) Card and Aadhaar cards to foundational documents such as voter IDs.

Results

- **Total 2202 (1617 + 585) people were** facilitated for various government documents, essential certificates.
- **Total 60** people were facilitated for various government schemes such as widow pension, Old age pension etc,
- **Fresh forms of 463 families were filled to avail ration under NFSA.** 488 families whose forms have been filled earlier, started receiving ration, remaining are in process.
- **870 workers** from the informal sector were registered for **E-Shram card.** (489 workers across 8 areas + 381 in Ahmedabad), in collaboration with local municipal authorities.



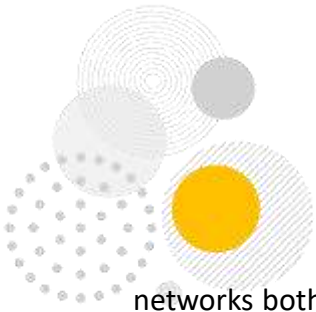
- **62 individuals** were facilitated to fill forms under Manav Garima, a scheme for livelihood.
- Supported to **546 families** for accessing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) housing scheme.
- Total **forms of 42 children** have been filled for study in Private schools **under RTE** in HDRC's working areas.
- 17 collectives of 8 small and medium town and 35 collectives of 32 areas of Ahmedabad gave applications to various municipal departments for improved basic services and amenities. Additionally, 34 collective representative of Ahmedabad and 9 representatives of collectives in small and medium town, engaged directly with local Municipal Councillors.
- 81 representatives/leaders of various collectives in Ahmedabad have solved their issues of PDS ration, Electricity and other basic amenities through Helpline of the AMC and the PDS.
- A total of **9 Right to Information (RTI)** requests were filed, aiming to gain transparency and accountability. These requests covered aspects like the provision of PMAY housing, budget allocation for city development, sanctioning of the tenders of redevelopment schemes and housing distribution.
- **A total of 188** get benefitted under various under government schemes such as - Sukanya Yojana, Vahali Dikri Yojna, Old age pension, Widow Pension, Bus passes for Senior Citizen transport service, Pradhan Mantri Jhan Arogya Yojana.etc.
- In 19 slums, the AAZ area level committees have submitted memorandum to the relevant officers for proper resettlement of the homeless families residing nearby the proposed sight of redevelopment under PPP model.
- To empower women in its target areas, HDRC has formed SHGs of Valmiki and other marginalized women. Each group has 10 members and this group has been further linked with National Urban Livelihood Mission and other livelihood schemes of the centre and the state. 2 SHGs from Chamunda and Keshwaninagar, (site and service) also got loan of loan of Rs.1 lakhs each.**219 patients of Skin, fever, ENT, Bone problems etc were treated at Health Camp organized in** Kalapinagar, Ahmedabad.
- **Awareness campaigns** were organized for residents of notified slums to make them aware of the provisions made under **R & R policy** such as it has a provision of rent of Rs.7000/month for 30 months and understanding of committee formation and maintenance, & that 50% of the committee should be women etc. Approximately more than 2925 families were benefitted with these awareness campaigns.
- **7 PILs** have been filed in the **Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad** regarding unlawful eviction of families in different areas of Ahmedabad.



IMPACT

- Construction work started in 9 slum quarters, namely, – Khokhra (new), Khokhra (Old) and Vijay Mill, Amraiwadi, Patravali Chali, Soneriya Block Shiheshvari, Parsi Na Bhatta. This will directly benefit 2747 people in terms of shelter security. Apart from this, 681 families from Parsi Bhatta, Hasmukhlal ni Chali and Shiheshvari areas in Ahmedabad will receive benefit under R & R policy. Besides this, under the banner of AAZ, issues of slums that are notified for demolition due to development projects such as Metro Rail Project, Smart City Projects etc., were also addressed. More than 1325 families were prevented from evictions in different areas that include Chamunda Bridge, Kubernagar, Eicher Depot Ranip, Ambawadi, Gota, Bhilvas etc. 9 meetings with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) resulted in the authority agreeing to consider those having legal documents such as property tax receipts, electricity bill, etc and also those who were residing in the same place for more than 10 years, as legal holders. Even 4 families which were livings in huts were also allotted houses under R &R policy and a compensation of Rs.18000/- per hut was also given to 38 families.
- Improved gutter line, waste collection and sanitation in 27 slums,
- Block paving work is done in 6 slums, construction of footpath in 2 slums and construction of RCC road in 1 slum area.
- Public toilet blocks were also constructed in 2 slums.
- Prior to the election, AAZ also presented a charter of 13 demands to the three major political parties of Gujarat, urging them to include the demands of slum dwellers and urban homeless in their political manifesto. However, these parties did not take their request into consideration. Later, a demonstration was held with over 50 participants representing slum residents, people living in open spaces, on footpaths, and in unregulated informal colonies. They presented their demands to all party representatives.
- **Trainings/Workshops:** Total 8 training sessions/workshops were organized in each of the 8 cities, i. e., Tharad, Deesa, Dhanera, Khedbrahma, Ambaji, Zalod, Dahod, and Khambhat on the 74th Amendment, urban governance structures, ward committees, and Area Sabha.
- 9 quarterly training cum meetings with AAZ network on urban housing policy and issues of redevelopment were conducted. Besides these, HDRC also participated in national consultation on community led management of Bastis in Delhi held on 9th sept 2022 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and in an inter-city consultation for strengthening platform for housing advocacy was also organized at Ahmedabad management Association (AMA) on 22nd Nov 2022.

Another major activity under this program is that of networking with other like-minded organizations and institutions. Therefore, HDRC for various agendas like health, relief work, skill upgradation of youth, livelihood support etc. collaborated with several organizations and



networks both at the state and national level including CHISHAA, My City Our City, Mazdoor Adhikar Manch, Mera Ghar Mera Adhikar, UCD, Aga Khan Foundation and others.

Publication (preparing educational materials): modules, awareness materials like Pamphlet on housing schemes, PPP redevelopment policy and Housing policy for urban poor were published.

Challenges

Land ownership, delayed and non-responsive attitude of government officials were the major challenges in Banaskantha. Water scarcity leading to health issues, unemployment and women empowerment lacking along with migration towards cities for better opportunities are the main challenges in Sabarkantha.

WORKING WITH UNORGANIZED SECTOR

Workers from unorganized sectors were organized with the aim to ensure their rights by making them aware about their rights and by facilitating them to avail benefit of various government schemes. This was done through meetings at contact points (Naka) and inform them about various government laws and schemes, establishing linkages and coordination with government, organizations, unions and other institutions, capacity building trainings etc.

The workers were made aware about various government schemes and laws through 146 Naka Meetings. 10,417 people received E-shram card which is mandatory to avail benefit from any government scheme. 8 workers were facilitated to get their pending dues amounting to Rs. 3,17,000/-. 4 families received Compensation of Rs. 400000/- in case of natural death and 20 families received compensation amounting to 600000/- for accidents. 250 women workers were facilitated to avail Maternity benefit (Prasuti Sahaay) amounting to Rs. 9250000.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women being vulnerable and especially, when they belong to the marginalized community are more prone to various types of atrocities. It is for this reason that since its inception, HDRC has its focus on women. It constitutes organization's key target group. HDRC is striving to empower these women in the manner that they have their own social identity and at the same time, become financially independent also. It is in this context that HDRC is running three projects in their working areas.

- 1) "Beyond the Pandemic: Finding a women centred sustainable way forward through Cooperatives and Health/Social centres" and networking among them.
- 2) "**Swabhoomi Kendra**", a center that helps women farmers in claiming their land rights, enables them to access productive resources and promotes sustainable agriculture among women farmers.
- 3) Promoting Sustainable & Organic Farming Practice in Gujarat

The first project "Developing good governance practices and Sustainability in the cooperatives and Networking among them" is being carried out by ASSUMPTA society and HDRC in collaboration, from 2013 to 2022. In this program, 40 women cooperative societies joined from 31 Talukas (Blocks) of 17 Districts in the state of Gujarat. They are categorized into 4 regions namely, - Southern South Gujarat, South Gujarat, North Gujarat, and Central Gujarat.

The project aims to develop leadership among cooperative members from the marginalized societies by imparting knowledge and skills required for the financial viability of the cooperatives. And also address issues related to livelihood and other social issues while doing networking and advocacy for common issues of the communities these women belong to. During the reporting period, following activities were carried out-

1. Orientation meeting: The orientation meeting was organized and divided into two rounds. The project was explained in detail to the cooperative societies' promoters and superiors of the religious centers in the first round of orientation meeting. In the second round, the meetings were conducted to explain and make them understand the 5 major focus areas during the period which includes - (1) Health (2) Social work (3) Livelihood (4) Education and (5) Co-operative specific impact based on the Evaluator recommendations. The main objective of the project, project activities, working methodology, short- and long-term results, impact, and challenges of this project were also discussed.



380 members from 23 cooperative societies and centers participated in this orientation and received very good support from Cooperative Management Committee (CMC), women leaders and promoters. In this meeting, responsibilities were assigned for social and economic work, which all the participants accepted and agreed to work on it. The participants were empowered to understand and take actions for social justice. 50 women participants voluntarily came forward to learn new things and work on sustainable livelihood activities.

2. Health Training

All the co-operative societies came up with a suggestion to conduct training for health, especially, to women and adolescent girls. The health training for adolescent girls was on 1) on **Menstrual health** and 2) on **physical change** with aim to make adolescent girls and women aware of these natural processes and to prevent them from the misconceptions that exists. A training on the Protection of Children from Offences Act (POCSO) was conducted. During the training, participants were educated about the concept of good and bad touch, specifically targeting small children and girls, in order to raise awareness about it. 721 adolescent girls from 7 cooperative societies participated in the adolescent health related trainings.

Besides these trainings, an **awareness programme was also conducted on uterus and breast Cancer for adult women**. During this, topic like causes of the uterus and breast cancer, treatment, preventive measures to stop the further development, regular check-up etc. were dealt with at length. Total 338 women from 8 cooperative societies participated in this training where 42 women got checked during the training.

An **Ayurvedic Health Camp** was also organized in collaboration with Vedruna Holistic Health Care Centre- Unai, which gave an insight into the identification and use of Ayurvedic plants and their medicines. For example: Gooseberry, Hibiscus, Aloe Vera, Arduasi, Brahmi, Tulsi, Mint, Ginger, Turmeric, Kesudo, Gallo, Babool, Jamun, Nagod, Drumstick, etc. It is very important to recognize and preserve it. The trainer of the event was Sr. Lissy Paul of the Carmelite Sisters of Charity, Vedruna in Navsari district, Vansda taluka, Bhinar village. She was also the Medical Officer at the Ayurvedic Hospital in Chapaldhara.

3. Social work-related training:

Three major points were covered based on suggestion and opinion of the cooperative societies, namely: 1) NREGA scheme, 2) Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and budget and 3) Inheritance (Legal Hier)

3.1 NREGA Scheme: (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005) or MNREGA, is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the **right to work**. There were mix type of feedback from the cooperative's societies on this. At some places, it was going on well and people got job for 100 days, whereas, at some places it was not implemented properly and thus, possessed several issues. Therefore, a training was conducted on how to effectively implement the NREGA scheme. This training was planned for



5 cooperatives but 8 cooperatives took part in it. Total 230 participants took part in this training, out of which 218 were women and 12 were men.

3.2 Gram Panchayat Development Plan-Budget (GPDP): The Gram Panchayats are constitutionally mandated for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) for economic development and social justice by utilizing resources available with them and funds allocated by the government. Every year the Gram Panchayat has financial plan of developmental work in the village. Every resident villager has right to review and raise concern, ask question for the work mentioned in the plan. But due to lack of awareness people do not question the authority and thus, suffer. Therefore, a training was conducted on Planned Budget and GPDP in Gujarat State Budget 2022-23 in order to give an idea of how much budget has been allocated in health, family, women and child development, nutrition and health oriented, economic assistance scheme, education, social, unscheduled caste and scheduled caste welfare, panchayat, village development etc. Total 43 members participated in this training.

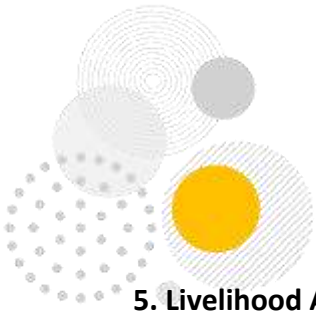
3.3 Inheritance (Legal Hier)

It was observed that due to the dominance of patriarchal society, women do not register their names in land records such as 7/12 and 8 A forms. As a result of this, they are not eligible to avail the benefits of various government schemes related to agriculture. Also, it was found that they are not even aware of the processes to be followed to get their names registered. This is necessary to prevent them from different exploitation in difficult circumstances. Therefore, the members of the cooperative demanded for a training on inheritance in which they explain them the processes, forms to be filled and documents required. Though there were many challenges such as there were families who had not made documentary changes from the last 3-4 generations and therefore, found the process lengthy and tedious and left the process incomplete. On the contrary, there were men who initiated the process of registering the names of their wife and daughter despite of the opposition from their elder family members. Total 31 trainings were organized in 28 villages and it was attended by more than 640 trainees.

4. Social network, advocacy and Collective Leadership:

Two mega events, Vishva Adivasi Divas (World Tribal Day) on August 9, 2022 and World tribal Rights on September 13, 2022, were organized to provide people a common platform while raising awareness about their rights. As a part of the collective leadership and common advocacy, the application for implementing the constitutional and legal provision for tribal areas was also given to the Mamlatdar (taluka authorities).

Besides these, several other events were also organized like food festival at Unai, Dolvan and Bardipada. Widow meet in 5 Cooperatives was conducted. International Women's day was celebrated at Unai in which 109 women participated. The same event held at Vyara has participation of 200 women. 150 women participated in women's day celebration organized by KVK Navsari in which they were informed about conservation and utilization of traditional cereal crops by the experts from KVK.



5. Livelihood Activities:

More than 90% of the people in rural India depend on agriculture and animal husbandry and related work for their livelihood. Thus, it has direct link with the saving and credit activities of the cooperatives. It is in this connection that 5 cooperative societies were selected. 6 cooperative societies and 1 institution was selected from south Gujarat. (Dolvan, Subir, Unai, Bardipada, Nani Singloti), Zankhvav and Vijayanagar. Networking was done with Krushi Vigyaan/Vikas Kendra (KVK) Vaghai, Navsari and Vyara's ATMA project, government schemes and other institutions. As a result of which, 67 women from Cooperatives got trainings on mushroom cultivation, various seeds such as Gram, Chickpea, Okra Pigeon peas etc. were given to 109 women, Kitchen garden 100 women 223 women got mango grafts, Pickle making training to 78 cooperative members by the district horticulture department., 79 women received training on Organic fertilizers, homemade pesticides and now they are making use of them. They were also trained on the use of tools, equipments and machinery to reduce drudgery and time.

Under Mentxu fund, 362 women got benefitted in the form of different seedlings, mango tree grafts, mushroom cultivation, poultry, etc.

A feasibility study was conducted on livelihood enhancement for tribal women cooperatives in both farm and non-farm sectors, as well as forest-based activities. The study aimed to gather data through questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Participatory Research Analysis (PRA). The study included members of women cooperatives and other women from four blocks in each of the four districts. To ensure representation, one village was selected from each block. Consequently, the study area consists of five women cooperatives operating in 130 villages, namely Unai, Bardipada, Subir, Dolavan, and Nani Singloti.

Total Rs.68,25,950/- were given as loan to the members of 5 different cooperative for different purposes that included animal husbandry, building a house, business, employment, education, health, farming, cultivation of graft, purchase of seed, social (marriage, death, engagement)

A 2-day training by experts was held to impart information on good governance and technical issues of co-operative societies. The trainer was retired Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Gujarat's Mr. J.J. Shah and the present District Joint Registrar, Miss Avani Vora. This training was attended by 43 members from 15 cooperatives and staff.

Exposure trip to Bharatiya Agro industries Foundation (BAIF) to inform participants about various income generation sources

7. Achievements:

- The Resource team is well versed with various topics. Cooperatives have begun to identify the cases of Domestic Violence. The second line leaders and the village Representative took active part in identifying the victims of Domestic Violence and other social issues in more than 10 cooperatives.



- The Bhiloda Cooperative set an example of taking the lead and solving social issues in their areas.
- 5 cooperatives from south of Gujarat, i.e., Subir, Unai, Bardipada, Dolvan and Nani Singloti trained on livelihood started taking initiative to become independent by selling their products directly in the local market.
- Women started taking leadership in solving issues both social and financial, for example, the irregularity in PDS in villages has now been resolved because the cooperative members became aware of the App and its use to report such irregularity. 50% of the members of the cooperatives are aware of the sexual and reproductive system.
- Women started taking collective leadership. The issue of increased stamp duty has been undertaken by the federation members at the state level. Meetings and dialogues with concerned officials at Gandhinagar and with the Director of the Gujarat State Cooperative, Ahmedabad is still in process.

The second Project is on women and their land ownership and also farmer information centre commonly known as **Swabhoomi Kendra (SBK)** aims at enabling women farmers to access productive resources. The major activities under this project were related to **women and land ownership**, motivate women for property rights and **promoting sustainable agriculture** among women farmers. During the reporting period, HDRC promoted 5 SBKs. One each in Bhiloda, Vijaynagar, Danta, Fatepura. The one in Meghraj is being promoted in joint collaboration with GWLO. During this period, total **1988 people (1280 women+ 708 men)** took help and guidance from para legal workers (PLWs) on women's land ownership and sustainable agriculture.

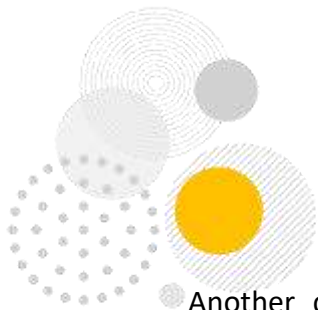
1. Women and land ownership

1.1 Identifying cases- During the year, 319 land related cases belonging to three types, i.e., widow inheritance, rights of daughter and joint family cases, were identified. Out of which 216 cases were resolved.

1.2 Training on women land ownership- A training was organized to make women aware on the processes of inheritance both in presence of husband and after his death. It was organized on 25th December 2022. 20 women leaders from 15 villages of Meghraj Taluka participated in this training.

Training on issues of women land ownership and sustainable agriculture was also organized in two phases during the reporting period. The aim of this training was to increase women participation in sustainable farming and accepting it. 130 women leaders participated in it.

1.3 Campaign on land ownership was conducted by Land Paralegal Worker (PLW) at the village level in 15 villages to spread awareness among them regarding land ownership and its related benefits. In this campaign, **total 553 women and 69 men participated**. At the end of the campaign, 489 cases were identified in these villages.



Another campaign was carried out on women & land ownership and sustainable agriculture in 15 villages of Meghraj taluka **where 419 women and 24 men participated**. It was also aimed to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices to meet nutritional security, such as use of local seed, seed bank etc. and to avoid land degradation caused due to chemical pesticides and insecticides. Another aim of this campaign was to find out the number of women that got land ownership, identifying different committees of Gram Panchayat and to sensitize the village panchayat body on the issue of land ownership of women.

1.4 Legal Literacy Trainings - were conducted in 15 villages of Meghraj Block by Land Paralegal Worker (PLW) for women farmers in order to spread awareness among them regarding land records and to make them understand how to secure their land rights. In this training, total 427 women and 56 men participated. During the training, it was found that there were 60 cases where women did not have their names in the record while 236 women have registered their names in the records after the inception of the project.

1.5 Capacity Building – of women and leaders was done through awareness meetings on land inheritance, sustainable agriculture (1739 participants) and how to fill Khedut Pothi (220 participants). Training and meetings were conducted along with taking them for visits to Government offices and departments.

Linkages with Govt department for two trainings	60 women
Participated in women and land rights Course organized by WGWLO, AKRSP, and the Womanity Foundation.	1

1.6 Advocacy- to ensure land rights of women farmers and support women for their land rights, a memorandum was submitted to the District Collector of Arvalli district in the month of July, 2021. Meetings with Sarpanch of Meghraj Block were also conducted in the month of August 2021. As a result of these meetings, 3 Panchayats namely: Rajgol, Vaghpur and Kasana Panchayats extended their support on the issue of women land ownership.

2. Women and Sustainable Agriculture

As part of the intervention on women and sustainable farming, demonstration on sustainable farming practice and field day was organised at the village level.

2.1 Demonstrations were carried out by farmers during Rabi (winter) and Kharif season at the village level to introduce new techniques in organic and sustainable farming, use local seeds, organic fertilizers and pesticides with support from Swabhoomi Kendra. Total 15 demonstrations were held during the reporting period.

2.2 Field Day is a practical activity in which learning is based on group activities. Women farmers learn about new farming methods, types of seeds and the process of organic farming. It is a great way to share and learn from each other. And this method also motivates other women farmers to adopt sustainable farming. Different types of method were used to explain



the importance of sustainable farming, i.e., sharing experience, games, prepared inputs, importance of local/native seeds, videos. A total of 17 field days were organised in which 530 women and 21 men participated.

2.3 Farmer book (Khedut Pothi): it is an individual farmer's profile from the 15 villages of Meghraj Taluka. It contains their general profile as well as record of their investments for 3 consecutive agricultural seasons, i.e. Rabi, Khareef and Rabi. This record will give them an idea of their investment against the production received.

3. Media Coverage and Publication

- Article on HDRC's work on women and land ownership got published in the Adilok Magazine in August 2022.
- Case study of Atiben Nikeshbhai Varsat got published in Times of India on 23rd June 2022.
- Case study of Kamlaben Shankarbhai Damor was published in Spreading Roots published by Bhoomi Ka and National Coalition for Natural Farming in the issue of August 2022.
- Re-printed Banners on Women and Land Ownership.
- Demonstration banners prepared.
- Two leaflets were published on land inheritance process and Government schemes in detail on I-Khedut Portal

4. Achievements

- This year 50 women adopted sustainable agriculture in Meghraj taluka.
- 216 land ownership cases were resolved from five talukas.
- 274 women benefited from agriculture schemes and 276 women from social security schemes from five talukas.
- Meghraj SBK got the permission to sit in the TDO's office for two days in a week in order to guide and support to the women of Meghraj Taluka on the issues of women and land ownership and sustainable agriculture.
- Both PLWs were invited as resource person 7 times by the government of Gujarat and other organizations for trainings and meetings on land ownership and sustainable agriculture.

Besides this, with the objective of promoting sustainable and Organic Farming Practice in Gujarat, HDRC has been running a project for 7 years covering 14 villages of district. It was found that farmers faces various issues such as inadequate supply of medicine/pesticides, fertiliser and seeds at a fair price, lack of services and to access agriculture related ancillary schemes and research, waste of farmer's time and cost in agriculture input, lack of updating of essential documents and ease of access to online services for farming activities, higher transportation and input costs on individual purchases, hefty commissions by the agents/broker in market operations. In order to address aforementioned issues, Farmer



Service Centre was formed, initially, with 200 members, which has now turned into 425 members based FPO, named Mithivirdi Farmer producer's company. On 15th Nov.2023, a **Farmer Service Centre** was inaugurated in **Koliyak** in Bhavnagar Taluka. Essential licences such as a distribution/sales licence for fertilisers, seeds, medications/insecticides, State Seeds Corporation licence, CSC (Community Service Centre) registration and E-Nam (online sales system) registration were secured.

This centre also provide help to farmers through I-khedut portal in filling online application of government schemes and services of xerox/print of other documents related to agriculture. The centre also provides co-ordination and support for ancillary farming inputs of private companies and guidance of experts for prompt resolution of problems related to agricultural crops.

Besides this, centre also acts as **Gender Resource Centre** focusing on women's empowerment by organizing women into SHG and by building their capacities. 25 SHGs (savings groups) have been set up in more than 12 villages with their focus on widows, abandoned and women considered socially backward. These group and its members are also linked to various government schemes.

The organic food grown has been sold at different points. At present, there are 14 centers in Ahmedabad out of which 3 are retail points and 8 are wholesale selling points with an average monthly turnover of Rs.8 lakhs. Apart from selling directly from these points, a Food festival is also organized every year. This mega event is solely organized and managed by the youth of this area. Food festival is marked for its traditional lost recipe and forgotten foods. It needs mention here that 80-90% of the team, including, farmers who adopted organic farming consists of local youth. They aim to bring change in the field of agriculture and its practices.

Celebrations on International Women's Day (8th March 2023)

A mela was held in Paniyali village, Pohriai District, Bhavnagar on International Women's Day (8th March 2023). Here, 2 recently started women's groups, namely: Saheli Stree Sangathan (Mithivirdi Group area) and Sahiyar (women's organization) organized a stall and jointly held cultural programs to highlight various aspects affecting society at large.

400 local women and 200 women from Vadodara who are associated with Sahiyar, participated in the mela.



Results/Achievements

The success story of the youths' latest pricing and marketing methods of agricultural products was highlighted by the government of Gujarat.

Local level youth team has become competent in organizing food festival and Women's International Day collective programs on their own.

A farmers' help centre has been set up at the cluster level to help reduce agriculture input costs and help the farmers easily do related administrative tasks.

In two villages, village women Sangathans have been set up and got the government funds for generating financial earnings.

With the support of women leaders, a gender resource centre was set up at Koliak at a cluster level to address women's day-to-day questions / queries.



CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Valmiki and Tribal Children and women (AIF)

Overall Goal:

This initiative aims to support the overall growth of marginalized communities specifically the Dalit (Valmiki), marginalized urban poor, and tribal communities in Gujarat. It focuses on empowering women by developing their leadership skills and involving them in decision-making processes at social and governance levels. The goal is to bring about positive changes that directly impact the lives of the urban poor in Gujarat.

Specific Objectives of the Program

The program has specific objectives that are focused on two main areas: children development and women's leadership.

Under children development, the program aims to reduce the number of children dropping out of school or migrating from tribal communities in Jhalod and Fatepura of Dahod District as well as children from Valmiki communities in Tarapur and Khambhat taluka of Anand district and Ahmedabad city. It also aims to improve education and self-confidence among children from tribal, Valmiki, and marginalized communities in these locations. Additionally, the program aims to ensure community monitoring for better access to education, healthcare, and food security services and schemes.

Under women leadership, the program aims to empower women to lead in actions that improve basic amenities, services, and entitlements for households in the project locations. It also aims to improve the socio-economic status of women.

Strategic intervention

- a. Learning and personality development processes/ activities with children groups and Adolescent girls' groups
- b. Killol Kendra for supporting children for syllabus related learning
- c. Vacation camps for personality development and life skill
- d. Capacity building of leaders of children groups
- e. Linkages with schools and Anganwadi centres
- f. Counselling
- g. Capacity building of women leaders
- h. Linkages with NRLM/NULM
- i. Strengthening Cooperative Management committee members
- j. Campaign to increase cooperative members



Major Activities during the reporting period

a) Killol Kendra (Joyful learning centre):

Total 13 Killol Kendra were being run by HDRC during the reporting period. The total number of children registered in these Killol Kendra were 344 (182 girls, 162 boys). Average attendance of Killol Kendra was 80%.

Children groups

Total 720 meetings were held with the children's groups. (Total 140 meetings in Ahmedabad city and 280 meetings in rural villages of Tarapur and Khambhat of Anand district and 300 in Tribal villages of Fatepura and Jhalod taluka of Dahod district). Total 1326 children participated in the group activities.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Forms of total 25 children have been filled for education in Private schools under RTE in HDRC working areas.

Monitoring of Anganwadi and schools by the community leaders

FGD with SMC members and community: FGDs were held with SMC members of 60 villages of Jhalod, Fatepura, Tarapur and Khambhat apart from 15 slums in Ahmedabad city regarding their roles and responsibilities and the need of their active participation. This resulted in the improved cleanliness in schools, proper management of mid-day meal etc.

Meetings with Anganwadi Worker- During the reporting period, 75 Anganwadi centers have been visited by the collective leaders and fellows. During these visits, issues such as vaccination and provision of nutritious food to lactating mothers, pregnant women and adolescent girls were discussed. During the reporting period, 85% children (age group of 3-5) in rural and 60% in urban areas were going to Anganwadi.

Meeting with parents- Collective leaders and fellow also met parents at all the 75 project locations and shared information on their ward's progress. They also motivated them to send their children to high schools, especially, adolescent girls. Most of the adolescent girls have to leave their studies for one or the other reason.

Women Leadership

Another important activity of the project is developing leadership among women by organizing them into SHGs and then building their capacities in the manner so that they can



take up an issue and then solve it such as water problem, cleanliness in their areas etc. During the reporting period, total 190 women leaders from 75 targeted areas of this project took action on one or the other issues in their local area.

Besides this, to empower them financially, these women who were organized into different SHG for saving and credit activity. 54 SHGs were successfully linked to livelihood activities and received Rs.4,08,000 as revolving fund. SHGs have received cash credit loan up to Rs.4,70,000/-. It was found that most of the women are using the money for educating their children, as working capital for various petty businesses or are using it as an input in agriculture/animal husbandry.

In Ahmedabad, the cooperative of women named, “**Ekta Mahila cooperative credit and supply society limited,**” was registered on 21st Feb.2023. It has 200 members. Entry fee is Rs.10/- and the monthly saving is Rs.200/-Member/month

Consultation- A consultation on Gender was organized on 30th Dec. 2022 in which 45 participants participated. Mr. Dinesh Dhabhi and Mayuri Raval were the experts invited as resource persons.

Impact

- 85 students who were irregular in attending schools, now started attending the school regularly.
- Over all 78% out of 1326 children, improved their learning skills i.e. reading, writing, counting.
- 1344 people facilitated for various social security schemes/citizenship documents.
- SHGs have received cash credit loan up to Rs.4,70,000/-

Challenge

One of the biggest challenges is lack of awareness among community, especially, committee members such as SMC, SJC about their roles and responsibilities

The second project ensures holistic development of the children of migrant workers, tribals, Dalits, urban poor and other marginalized communities in Gujarat. The primary objective of this project



is to adopt effective approaches to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 on education of children from migrant communities in salt pan areas. The secondary objective includes building an effective and resilient education system.

Strategic intervention include-

- Awareness generation at the community level about the value of education and various provisions of RTE Act.
- Enhancing comprehension and learning abilities of students through Learning Resources Centers (LRC's)
- Promoting collaborative participation of parents and teachers in children's education and school governance as envisaged in the RTE Act.

Activities

Enrolment Drive- parents in salt pan areas migrate for 8-9 months in search of livelihood. Due to this, their children couldn't continue their education and are generally deficit in learning. Slowly due to lack of motivation, they dropped out from the schools. To overcome this, HDRC organized enrolment drive in which 69 children have been enrolled in class 9th.

During the reporting period, total 422 children were engaged with HDRC in phase 1 out of which 415 children continue in phase 2, that is 98.34% children got admission in the next class.

Set up 3 tent LRC and 2 LRC at village level in Kharaghoda and Mithaghoda of Patdi taluka. These LRC's have learning material in printed as well as audio visual mode. Children use and learn from these materials under the supervision of an expert.

Mega Events- mega events that include Bal Mela, Sport Activities and Science exhibitions were organized in LRC villages and salt pan Area. It not only gave them a platform to showcase their talent but also promote their holistic development. Bal Mela was attended by 709 students. The science exhibition was open for all including parents of the children. The first three winners of the science exhibition were also given prizes. The winners include Green Building (1st Prize), Ozone Layer (2nd prize) and Renewable energy (3rd Prize).



Impact

- 718 students were counselled for future carrier perspectives.
- Successfully completed baseline and midline assessment in 2 phases. Phase 1 covered 2278 beneficiaries and phase 2 covered 2115 beneficiaries.

The third program aims to reduce dropout and enhance learning ability among children from the marginalized community affected by distress seasonal migration.

Strategic interventions undertaken include

- Maintaining and running 2 Learning Resource Centres (LRCs)
- Strengthening school governance through community participation, particularly within the purview of RTE Act, 2009.
- Strengthening the confidence and aspiration of adolescent girls and to support them to complete education while enhancing life skills, learning skills, digital skills, financial literacy, career guidance and employability opportunities through adolescent girls' groups.
- Promoting and providing support for Early Childhood Education (ECE) AWCs and schools and promote holistic development of children.
- Organizing a Block-level consultation on issues of school Governance and education of children from migration-affected community (SMC members, teachers, Govt. officials, etc.)

Achievements

- Out of 183 children, 131 were retained. Or in other words over 71% migrant children in 12 migration affected villages were retained
- 83 SMC, PRI & Youth members trained in 2 rounds on provisions of RTE Act, 2009
- 80% children in were enrolled in schools in 12 villages.
- Continuous monitoring resulted in more than 70% attendance of students.
- 103 children across grades 6 to 8 to be actively engaged in learning activities through the LRC.
- 60 children from Std. 3-5 with the lowest learning levels were covered through Learning Enrichment Program (LEP) which is based on learning methods focusing on foundation literacy and numeracy.
- 350 children in grades 3-5 were engaged through LRC spoke schools' class to improve their language comprehension.



- The LRC facilitators had successfully extended their reached to 10 speaking schools across the 2 LRCs, catering to the needs of children belonging standard 3-4 and addressing their current reading and writing levels.
- Conducted baseline assessment of 612 children across grade 3-8. Based on the baseline assessment, 163 children were placed in 2 LRCs.
- In language, the average score increased from 4.45 (baseline) to 32.85 (midline) and further, to 39.59 (endline). For LRC children, there was significant improvement in their basic learning deficits. Their average score rose from 2.63 (baseline) to 12.51 (endline), indicating substantial progress.
- 2 rounds of issue based consultative meetings were organized in all the 12 villages. 363 community members, 39 SMC members and 16 PRI members were engaged in these consultative meetings.
- 9 out of 12 schools achieved 90% attendance while the remaining 3 had 80% attendance.
- An awareness program was conducted focussing on issues related to elementary education. It reached out to 363 community members. It also included capacity building of 39 SMC member, 16 PRI members and 28 Citizen Educators.
- 185 adolescent girls were made aware on life skills, career choices and employability skills.
- A series of three meetings were held at Block level resource centres and cluster level resource centres along with government officials to promote transparency and ensure effective communication regarding the progress of our program, the activities to be conducted, and the expected outcomes of the project.



RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The Research and Training Unit of HDRC serves as a vital support mechanism for various projects, while also conducting independent research studies to enhance the existing knowledge base surrounding the centre's initiatives. This unit actively conducts, facilitates, and participates in diverse training programs across multiple projects and institutes.

Major Activities

1. Participatory Action Research for Fishing Communities in Coastal Gujarat:

Research project, funded by ALBON, aims to delve into the complex issues surrounding socio-ecological changes and their effects on fisherfolk communities in the coastal region of Gir-Somnath, Gujarat. The primary objective of this research project is to comprehensively understand the impact of policies on the socio-economic and livelihood changes experienced by fisherfolk communities. The research uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, along with an explorative research design, this study seeks to shed light on the challenges faced by these communities.

2. Feasibility Study on Farm-Non-Farm and Forest-based Livelihood Enhancement of Tribal Women Cooperatives:

A feasibility study was conducted on livelihood enhancement for tribal women cooperatives in both farm and non-farm sectors, as well as forest-based activities. The study aimed to gather data through questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Participatory Research Analysis (PRA). The study included members of women cooperatives and other women from four blocks in each of the four districts. To ensure representation, one village was selected from each block. Consequently, the study area consists of five women cooperatives operating in 130 villages, namely: Unai, Bardipada, Subir, Dolavan, and Nani Singloti. Currently, the first phase of the study is underway with the questionnaire already prepared and sent out for data collection.

3. Status of Women and Child of Vijayanagar taluka:



This study was conducted to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation of women and children in seven villages located in Vijaynagar Taluka. The study encompasses women who are members of the cooperative as well as those living in the targeted villages but are not cooperative members. To collect data, a combination of a questionnaire and focused group discussions were utilized. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were employed for data collection and analysis.

To ensure a representative sample, a random sampling method was employed for the selection of households. The total tribal population in the seven villages is 10,378 and they are further divided based on Faliyas. Approximately, 40% of households in each village were selected based on Faliyas, resulting in a total of 800 houses being chosen through random sampling. The questionnaire was designed to capture key variables such as demography, occupation, income, status of women and children, and livelihood. To facilitate data collection, the questionnaire was implemented using the digital Kobo-collect tool platform on mobile phones. In addition to the quantitative data, qualitative data was collected through the use of the Focus Group Discussion method and the Participatory Livelihood Assessment method. The Participatory Livelihood Assessment method was particularly useful in assessing the situation of agriculture, livestock, and forest resources.

One notable finding from the study is the lack of awareness among the tribal population regarding important tribal laws such as PEAS/FRA/Tribal sub plan and the atrocity act. It is evident that there is a need for training and awareness programs to address this issue.

4. Organize Study Circle:

Study Circle has been initiated in which rounds of discussions were held on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's idea of Social Democracy. The Chief Speaker was Raju Solanki, a social activist from Ahmedabad. Vidya Bhushan, an activist & writer from Delhi, and Ashim Roy, an activist from Ahmedabad, were also speakers of the study circle, which was held on 13th April 2023. The second study circle was held on 15th July 2023 on the subject of Social Justice and Uniform Civil Code. The speaker was Kanubhai Vyas, a Retired Additional District Judge.

5. Training/Preparing Project Proposal and Awareness Materials:

The research unit was engaged in different project-related trainings. It prepared project proposals for the Commonwealth Foundation. The unit also prepared awareness materials on the new education policy, farmer producer organizations (FPO), etc.

CREATING AND STRENGTHENING MECHANISM TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

Objective

Victims of unjust structural violence and atrocities are supported to access justice in line with the Constitution of India and the UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent.

Strategy and Strategic intervention areas

To build the capacity of human rights defenders to monitor and report violations of human rights in collaboration with local community-based organizations (CBOs)

- Community mobilization on atrocities and human rights violation issues.
- Networking and engagement with local CSOs for addressing atrocity/murder cases.
- Strengthening DHRDs and community leaders.
- Providing legal support by working with advocates/activists/intellectuals.
- Data collection of atrocity/murder/harassment, untouchability, and socio-economic discrimination cases, and updating information.
- Liaising with local/state government departments, police, and the judicial system.
- Documentation of important cases.

Geographical coverage

At present, this project covers 16 districts of Gujarat, i.e, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Patan, Mehsana, Arvalli, Kutchh, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Junagadh, Gir-Somnath, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Surendranagar, Anand, Kheda and Vadodara. Of these, 11 districts are notified as atrocity prone districts by Government of Gujarat. The government has formed special courts to address speedy trial of cases and to access justice to the Dalits.

Activities and Major Achievement

1. Providing legal support and monitoring in 20 PoA Act cases: During the reporting period, HDRC through DHRD provided legal support and monitoring of 20 precedent cases, 11 cases in Sessions and 9 cases in High Court by regularly attending court hearings.
2. Advocacy and Liaison with Local and State Government departments, Police, Judicial system, NHRC and SC Commission: it included giving memorandums, holding personal visits and meetings with various concerned authorities for effectively implementing



the PoA Act. Total 7 memorandums were given during the reporting period for the effective implementation of PoA Act to various departments at state and central level.

3. Meeting with Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Department to raise the issues of Dalits discrimination, budget allocations, Post Metric Scholarships and legislate the draft bill on Honour crimes in the parliament taking place from 19th to 22nd December 2022. It also did advocated and lobbied with parliamentarians in Delhi for legislation of Honour crimes draft bill to be tabled in the parliament on 19th to 22nd Dec 2022.
4. Data was collected from 15 Indian states, under RTI, regarding PoA cases. The collected data was then entered into computers for analysis and report writing. This was followed by the preparation of study report which is under process.
5. Fact Findings and documentation of brutal atrocities, rape, harassment and constitutional rights violation cases.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE -

The Skill Development Program for Youth aims to provide a supportive platform for young individuals (aged 18-25) from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, including Dalit, Valmiki, Tribal, and other marginalized communities. This program operates in both rural and urban areas of Gujarat, with the goal of enhancing the employability skills of these individuals and enabling them to lead a life of dignity and self-esteem.

The Skill Development Program was launched in March 2015 and has since made significant progress. During the reporting period, a total of **620 youths from 17 districts in Gujarat** have been reached through a combination of online and offline methods. This has been made possible through the establishment of **six skill development centers strategically located in Ahmedabad, Halol, Nizar, Jhalod, Kodinar and Golana and Veraval.**

By offering a range of training opportunities and resources, the program equips these young individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the job market. Through both online and offline modes, participants are able to access a variety of courses and workshops tailored to their specific needs and interests. This comprehensive approach ensures that the program caters to the diverse skill sets and aspirations of the youth.

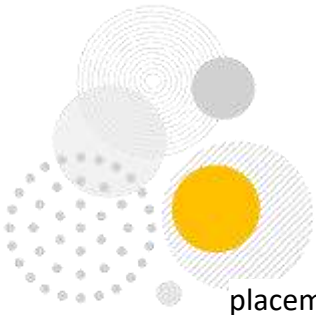
The Skill Development Program for Youth not only focuses on enhancing technical skills but also places great emphasis on soft skills development. Participants are provided with guidance and support in areas such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership. These essential skills are crucial for success in any professional setting and are therefore, given utmost importance in the program.

Furthermore, the program recognizes the importance of creating an inclusive and empowering environment for the youth. It actively promotes gender equality and ensures equal opportunities for all participants, regardless of their background or circumstances. By fostering a sense of belonging and community, the program encourages the youth to embrace their potential and pursue their dreams with confidence. In short, we can say that, the Skill Development Program for Youth in Gujarat is a transformative initiative that empowers young individuals from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, through its comprehensive approach.



Strategic Interventions

- To achieve the goal, activities like mobilization of youth was done through village level meetings. Awareness generation was done by distributing leaflets within the community. Further, the target group was provided with skill training. It includes basic English, basic computers, life skills, career guidance, digital literacy, retail management as the main contents of the curriculum. The aspirants were trained using blended learning method, which is mixture of classroom sessions, guest lectures, indoor and outdoor activities, workbooks, and an app-based learning. The total duration of physical (In-person) sessions was 240 hours. These sessions include training in retail management, soft skills, life skills, communication skills, career guidance, digital literacy, value education etc. by the master trainer. Students were enabled using blended learning method.
- Guest lectures on topics such as career development, value-building, health awareness, constitutional values, de-addiction etc. were also organized. These guests included HR personnels from popular retail, manufacturers, BPO's etc. These HR personnels orient these aspirants on workplace behaviour, ethics etc. which prepares these youth for their future professional career. During the reporting period, 28 guest's lectures were organized at different centres.
- Parents meet of each batches, were also organized at each centre. The purpose of the meet was to inform parents about this program and how it will help their children in future for professional growth. Mock interviews help aspirants to prepare for real life interviews for jobs. This practice boosts their confidence to face and communicate with employers. Towards the end, a feedback or suggestions were also given by the interviewer so that they can improve.
- This was followed by Market Scan. This activity provided them on hand information on available job opportunities, working hours, educational qualification required, salary and other perks and benefits etc. 1-2 market scan activity was done for each batch.
- Self-employment training sessions were conducted 2-3 times during each batch especially to those students who are interested. It includes information on what kind of work can be done with a small investment and how to avail benefit from various government schemes. Besides this it also imparted knowledge on choosing a location, providing good customer service with quality product. It focuses more on the process. A demo session was also held to attract and interact with customers, feedback etc.
- Students were also sensitised on gender equality and issues related to it. These aspirants were also informed on Prevention of Sexual harassment at workplace (POSH) Act so that they can modify their behaviour according to the need.
- The aspirants were taught on how to make their professional identity on LinkedIn and how to use to find right opportunity/internship. The aspirants can also use this platform to connect and strengthen professional relationship.
- A session on fundamental rights and duties was organized for each batch so as to make them aware of their rights and duties.
- Employer engagement is focused on contacting employers to raise awareness of a project and encourage them to offer opportunities to students, such as jobs and work



placements. It involves finding out where there are job vacancies and directing youth to those vacancies that match their job preferences. Building rapport with employers is important, and this is done through various methods such as market scans, HR round tables, one-on-one meetings, and telephonic and electronic conversations. The centre team and placement coordinator are responsible for connecting with employers.

- In the month of December 2022, alumni meet of each batch was also organized at each centre so as to build bridge between present batch and the alumni batch. The Alumni batch also talked about their professional life and the challenges they faced. Also, it opens the opportunities for the current batch to explore various job opportunities available.
- After the successful completion of training, students were given certificates in a ceremony where their parents also came with them. Each candidate was provided with 3-4 job opportunities.

Impact:

- During this period, 628 youths were trained and 407 got placement at various places. Of that 68% are girls.
- The digital literacy of young individuals has significantly improved thereby, granting them access to various digital media platforms. These include online banking, online payment and recharge services, as well as online form filling. Moreover, they have acquired fundamental computer skills, enabling them to become self-learners through the vast resources available on the Internet.
- Increased family income.



CASE STUDY -1

Rural Governance

Bubadiya Faliyu of Chikhli is an area plagued by numerous issues including inadequate roads, water supply, and lighting. Community is particularly affected by the absence of proper roads and pipeline connections for water. The lack of sufficient school facilities and educational opportunities further compounds the challenges faced by communities. In an attempt to address these concerns, local leaders who are the part of HDRC's village committee, have submitted multiple petitions to the municipality regarding the lighting problem.

Given the disadvantaged status of these communities, their awareness of their rights is limited. Consequently, the HDRC (Human Development and Research Centre) has intervened to raise awareness within the community through their establishment of village committees. These persistent problems have persisted for two decades, hindering progress and development. To tackle these issues head-on, the HDRC has organized meetings to educate and engage with community members, particularly those pursuing education. Additionally, discussions have been held with local leaders to address the challenges related to roads, lighting, water supply, and school facilities. Laljibhai, who belongs to ST, is one such village committee member. A written application has been submitted to the municipality, outlining these concerns.

Fortunately, progress has been made in some areas. On 01/05/2022, a road was constructed in Gamar Faliya, significantly alleviating the difficulties faced by residents who previously had to traverse a kilometre on foot to reach their fields. Moreover, the construction of this road has facilitated access to 108 households, ensuring that individuals in need of medical assistance can now be reached promptly. Similarly, a road leading to Chikhli Primary School was completed on 26/01/2023, effectively resolving the issue of vehicular access to the school premises.

In terms of lighting, tubelights were installed in all the faliyas on 23/12/2022, eliminating the challenges associated with nighttime travel. Efforts are also underway to address the water supply problems by installing pipelines in all the faliyas of Chikli village. The students of Chikhli Primary School lacked proper seating furniture, which prompted the leaders and members to file a petition to address this issue. Additionally, construction is currently underway to provide the school with a suitable room.



CASE STUDY - 2

Urban Governance

Anvisha is a 16-year-old girl from the poor quarters of Ahmedabad slums. Her family consists of 8 members. Her father is a casual labourer. Their economic condition is very weak.

When she was in 7th standard, Corona hit the country and lockdown was declared. She did not attend school for two years due to some family issues. Later, she went to school to study, but the authorities did not allow her to sit in the class of 7th standard.

Anvisha told our community worker that the school authorities refused to let her attend classes. Our community worker visited the school and spoke to the authorities, requesting them to allow her to study as she is eager to learn. The school authorities agreed and readmitted her to the 7th standard last year. Now she is studying in the 8th standard. She attends school regularly and actively participates in children's group meetings. Since then she has participated in various activities at school and has also won prizes. Her family is also supporting her in furthering her studies. She says that if HDRC had not intervened, this would not have happened.



CASE STUDY - 3

Child Education

In rural areas, the education sector often struggles with issues like a low number of students enrolling, a high number of students dropping out, and poor academic performance. These challenges were particularly evident in the 12 intervention villages located in the Banaskantha district. In these villages, all families belonged to Scheduled Tribes and had a low socio-economic status. Since agriculture was their primary source of income, many families had to rely on daily wage labor or migrate to other areas for employment due to limited land ownership.

Many families in this area struggle financially and find it difficult to prioritize education. As a result, many children end up dropping out of school. The distance between home and school is also a problem, especially for girls who are seen as vulnerable when traveling long distances. To address these issues and improve school enrolment, attendance, and retention, SXNFES conducted a survey. They found that there were 67 children between the ages of 6 and 14 who were not attending any school. The main reasons for their dropout were financial difficulties and the long distance to school.

The organization SXNFES launched a campaign to achieve 100% enrolment and prevent dropouts. They collaborated with adolescent girls groups, Citizen Educators, and facilitators to visit drop-out children and their parents. They motivated them to re-enroll their children in school. The campaign successfully convinced parents to re-enroll 41 children in different grades. Collaboration with school authorities and the joint effort of different stakeholders played a crucial



CASE STUDY - 4

Urban Governance

Kokilaben, who lives in Pagi Quarters, Suez Farm, Behrampura, and belongs to the ST caste, is facing various problems. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the area she lives in experiences discrimination based on caste and class, lacks proper toilets and ownership of houses, and has inadequate livelihood means. Kokilaben, specifically, is dealing with displacement as she received a notice from the AMC to demolish her kaccha house. The government is having difficulty in documenting evidence of her dwelling. Despite being eligible for a house under the EWS scheme, she did not receive one, leading to her current situation.

HDRC connected with Kokilaben through public contacts and workshops to learn about her situation and identify areas in her community that needed awareness, capacity building, and community involvement. They then took various steps to assist Kokilaben and others in her community, including organizing workshops and conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns. The main activities of the project involved establishing Community Based Organizations, facilitating ration cards and aadhar cards, and helping eligible individuals claim and receive old age and widow pensions.

The project faced financial and social challenges, but the cooperation of the community was exceptional. A group of 10 women, including Kokilaben, formed a Sakhi Mandal and used RTI applications to gather information. They educated the community about the importance of aadhar cards, eShram cards, and ayushman cards for government schemes. Around 20 families benefited from the project, and the 10 members of the Sakhi Mandal were freed from their interest. The women in the group also supported each other by sharing resources.

The project had a positive impact on Kokilaben and others involved, benefiting them socially, economically, and in terms of sustainability. Kokilaben's economic condition improved, and she gained access to better facilities. She became more confident and self-sufficient, even being able to apply for government certificates on her own. Additionally, she started helping others by withdrawing money from the Sakhi Mandals savings. Noorjahan from HDRC provided guidance and information to form the Jay Ambe Sakhi Mandal, which helped them secure loans of 10,000 rupees and later 1,00,000 rupees. The Sakhi Mandal was able to obtain an interest-free loan of 1,20,000 rupees, which was used to solve various problems and difficulties faced by the members. Kokilaben was able to repair her house and build a functioning toilet. The Sakhi Mandal has now completed 5 years, and all the ladies involved are happy and grateful.



CASE STUDY - 5

Skill Development

Khushi hails from a quaint village in Jhalod taluka of Dahod district. Her family consists of four members. Unfortunately, her father, who was the sole breadwinner, passed away 3 years back. This tragic event plunged the entire family into great difficulty. At the time, Khushi was pursuing her graduation. To make ends meet, her mother, sister, and brother worked as agricultural labourers, earning a meagre income. Meeting even their basic requirements became an arduous task.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Khushi was determined to find a job without sacrificing her studies. It was during this period that a friend introduced her to HDRC's Skill Development program. Intrigued by the opportunity, she enrolled in the September 20, 2022 batch and successfully completed the training. Now, she is employed at Vasant Masala (Spice Factory) as an associate and earns a monthly salary of Rs. 8000/-.

This skill training not only enhanced Khushi's personality and boosted her confidence but also provided her family with a sustainable income, allowing them to live a dignified life.

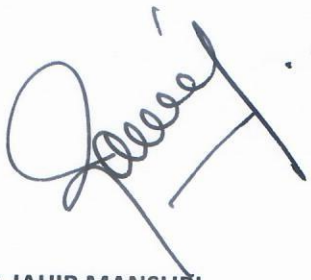
St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

(Amount in Rs.)

PARTICULARS	ANNEXURE	2022-23			2021-22
		FCRA	INDIAN	TOTAL	TOTAL
<u>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</u>					
CORPUS FUNDS	A	24,44,339	4,35,60,873	4,60,05,212	4,60,05,212
NON-CORPUS FUNDS	B	1,45,22,755	89,41,461	2,34,64,216	2,48,34,958
UNUTILIZED GRANTS	H	57,99,973	32,14,647	90,14,620	78,20,150
CURRENT LIABILITIES	C	33,544	31,603	65,147	2,77,791
TOTAL		2,28,00,611	5,57,48,584	7,85,49,195	7,89,38,111
<u>ASSETS AND PROPERTIES</u>					
NET FIXED ASSETS	D	49,23,658	37,41,064	86,64,722	77,95,617
INVESTMENTS	E	86,56,899	4,35,60,873	5,22,17,772	5,22,17,772
CASH AND BANK BALANCE	F	84,94,112	64,89,856	1,49,83,968	1,63,26,287
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	G	7,25,942	19,56,791	26,82,733	25,98,435
TOTAL		2,28,00,611	5,57,48,584	7,85,49,195	7,89,38,111

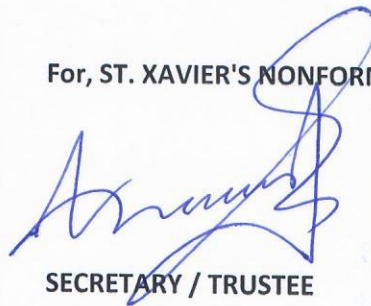
NOTES FORMING PART OF ACCOUNTS - ANNEXURE O



CA JAHIR MANSURI
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
MEMBERSHIP NO.: 115867



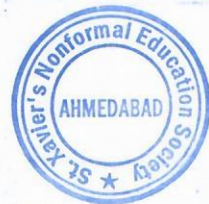
For, ST. XAVIER'S NONFORMAL EDUCATION SOCIETY



SECRETARY / TRUSTEE

DATE : 25TH AUGUST 2023

PLACE : AHMEDABAD



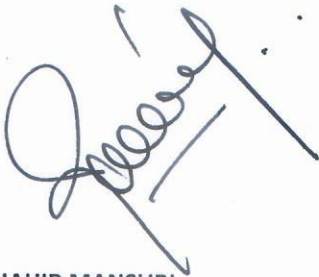
St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023

(Amount in Rs.)

PARTICULARS	ANNEXURE	2022-23			2021-22
		FCRA	INDIAN	TOTAL	TOTAL
INCOME :					
GRANTS INCOME	H	3,22,44,203	1,41,80,595	4,64,24,797	7,32,75,524
DONATION INCOME	-	-	-	-	-
INTEREST INCOME	I	8,74,449	28,35,125	37,09,574	41,42,112
INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES	J	-	14,20,184	14,20,184	8,61,585
TOTAL INCOME		3,31,18,652	1,84,35,904	5,15,54,555	7,82,79,221
EXPENDITURE :					
EXPENSES ON OBJECTS OF THE TRUST	K	2,86,21,705	1,33,66,225	4,19,87,930	6,82,86,565
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES	L	46,48,276	40,63,907	87,12,183	80,79,112
AUDIT FEES	M	1,75,958	30,601	2,06,559	2,53,008
REMUNERATION TO TRUSTEE	N	3,85,175	3,71,325	7,56,500	8,86,080
CHARITY COMMISSIONER CONTRIBUTION	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
DEPRECIATION	D	7,12,474	4,99,650	12,12,124	11,47,036
TOTAL EXPENSES		3,45,43,588	1,83,81,708	5,29,25,296	7,87,01,801
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER INCOME <i>Transfer to Non-Corpus Fund (Annexure-B)</i>		(14,24,937)	54,196	(13,70,741)	(4,22,580)

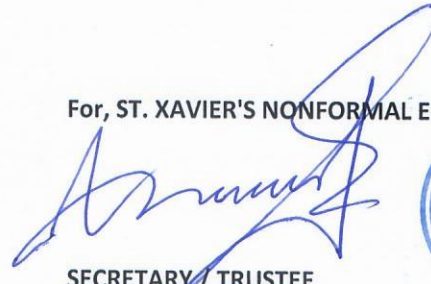
NOTES FORMING PART OF ACCOUNTS - ANNEXURE O



CA JAHIR MANSURI
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
MEMBERSHIP NO.: 115867



For, ST. XAVIER'S NONFORMAL EDUCATION SOCIETY



SECRETARY / TRUSTEE
DATE : 25TH AUGUST 2023
PLACE : AHMEDABAD

