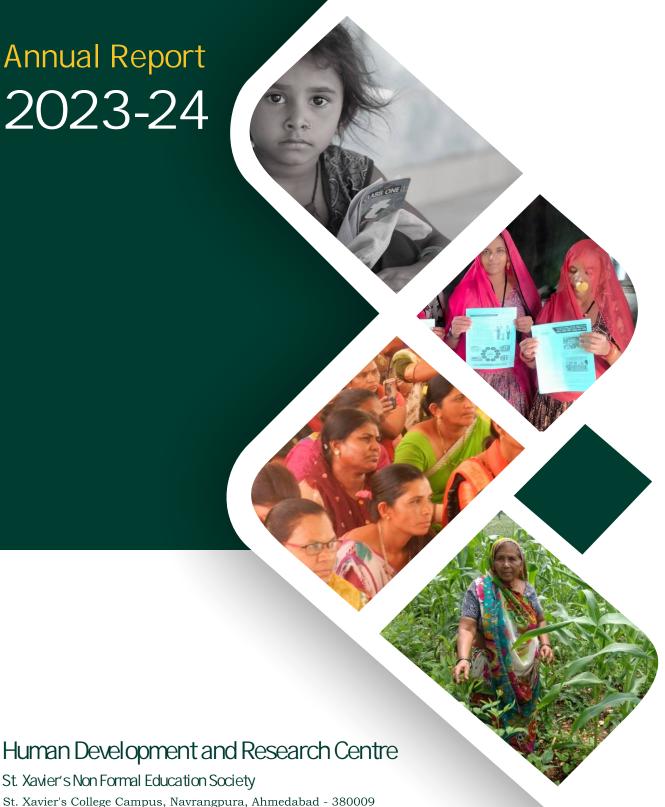


Annual Report 2023-24



St. Xavier's Non Formal Education Society

St. Xavier's College Campus, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380009

Annual Report 2023-24

Prepared and designed by Arif Mirza



Human Development and Research Centre

St. Xavier's Non Formal Education Society



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#### THE DIRECTOR

During the year, the organization faced an unprecedented resource crisis that severely impacted our operations. The denial of renewal of our FCRA from MHA, coupled with a significant decline in donor funding, led to a substantial resource crunch. Despite our best efforts to diversify funding streams and optimize resources, we were forced to confront the harsh reality of financial constraints.

The crisis necessitated tough decisions, including the painful closure of certain projects that had been instrumental in driving our mission forward. The subsequent staff retrenchment and attrition that followed were equally challenging, as we bid farewell to a few talented colleagues who had dedicated themselves to our cause. The financial constraints also forced us to reassess our priorities, streamline operations, and implement austerity measures. While these decisions were difficult, they were essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to our mission and are exploring innovative solutions to navigate this economic landscape. We are grateful for the resilience and understanding of our staff, partners, and stakeholders during this difficult period.

The annual report of 2023 to 24 outlines the significant impacts and achievements of HDRC's various programmes across Gujarat, focusing on inclusive governance, urban empowerment, women's advancement, child development, youth skill enhancement and research.

Inclusive Rural Governance Programme: This initiative strengthens local governance and community-based organizations for marginalized groups, including Dalits and Tribals. It has successfully empowered over 3,800 individuals through leadership training, budget planning workshops, and advocacy for tribal forest rights. Key accomplishments include regularizing housing plots for Scheduled Castes in Bhoddar village, Porbandar Dist. and improving service delivery for thousands of households.

Urban Governance Program: Aimed at enhancing urban governance, this programme has supported over 2,500 families in 25 slums across nine districts. It has led to improvements in infrastructure, secured housing assistance for 370 families and facilitated access to essential documents and welfare schemes. The programme has effectively increased leader engagement with municipal authorities.

Women's Empowerment Program: This programme promotes gender equality and supports



women's economic and social participation through two main projects:

- 1. Livelihood and Social Intervention Models: It supports over 40 women's cooperatives with entrepreneurship training and livelihood generation, resulting in new small businesses and successful governmentscheme applications.
- 2. Women Land Ownership and Sustainable Farming: It empowers women farmers through land ownership training and sustainable farming practices, resolving 115 land inheritance cases and improving market access for women's produce.

Child Rights and Child Development Programme: Focused on reducing school dropout rates and enhancing learning for marginalized children, this programme has implemented projects to secure educational rights for Agariya children and promote holistic development. Achievements include the formation of the Agariya Shiksha Sangathan, improved educational outcomes, and enhanced socio-economic status for women through various support initiatives.

Skill Development for Youth Programme: Established in 2015, this programme enhances employability for youth aged 18-25 from marginalized communities. This year, it trained 590 youths across five centres, achieving a74% placement rate. The programme included skills training, awareness campaigns, and self-employment support, culminating in a successful Grand Alumni Meet.

Overall, HDRC's comprehensive approach has significantly advanced governance, economic stability, and educational access, positively impacting marginalized communities across Gujarat.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the support agencies and collaborators who have supported us in achieving our objectives. Special thanks to our governing board. I also extend my appreciation to our chartered accountant for the cooperation and guidance. Most importantly, I want to thank our dedicated staff members and volunteers, whose hard work and commitment have been the major keys to our success.

we remain committed to our mission and are exploring innovative solutions

Mathai K.O Director, HDRC



# INTRODUCTION

The Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) is a secular voluntary organization dedicated to empowering disadvantaged communities, with a focus on Dalits, Tribals, Minorities, Youth, Children, Women, and other marginalized groups.

Founded in 1969 by three professors from St. Xavier's College in Ahmedabad, HDRC initially operated as the Behavioral Science Centre under the college's administration. In August 1977, it was officially registered as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the umbrella of the 'St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society (SXNFES). This registration was crucial in distinguishing HDRC from the formal college education system. In 2013-14, the organization changed its name from Behavioral Science Centre (BSC) to HDRC to better reflect its inclusive approach to human development.

With over five decades of experience, HDRC has been at the forefront of advocating for Dalit Rights, Women's Empowerment, Right to Education, Child Development, Land Rights, Forest Rights, Sustainable Housing, and Livelihood Programs for marginalized communities in Gujarat.



#### **VISION**

HDRC exists to promote and strengthen people's organization's and 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**

HDRC 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 programmes of an educational nature, facilitating people's movements, and creating sustainable livelihood options.



#### **STRATEGY**

To carry out its mission, Human Development and Research Centre (HDRC) combine two important aspects of developmental strategy:

- Active involvement through Direct Intervention Programmes at the grass-root level through community-based organizations; and
- Conceptualizing and supporting that involvement through Critical reflection, Research and Training.



#### **KEY FUNCTIONAL AREAS**

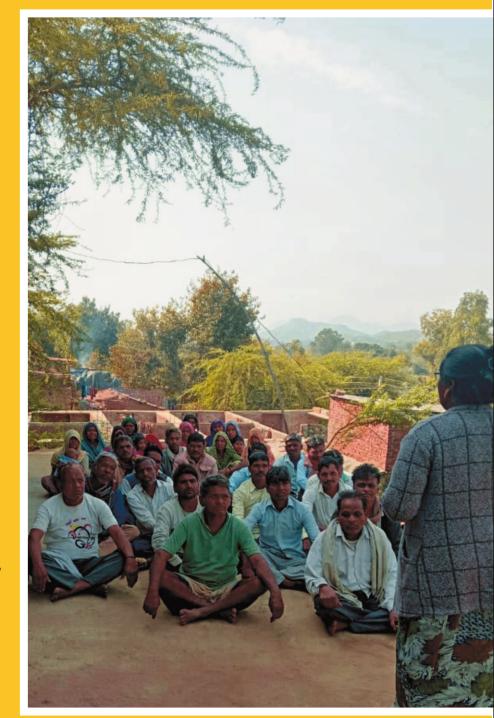
- Direct intervention programmes
- Research and training programmes
- **±** Building collaborations and networks
- Advocacy for rights and entitlements



# Inclusive RURAL Governance

The program is dedicated to promo ng, strengthening, and enhancing the capacity of marginalized communi es such as Dalits, Tribals, Minori es, Women, and others in rural areas of Gujarat. It focuses on developing value-based voluntary leadership, People's Organiza ons (PO), and Community-based Organiza ons (CBO) to empower local self-governance ins tu ons and cons tu onal statutory commi ees.

The primary goal of this rural program is to empower marginalized communi es to ac vely par cipate in democra c processes and decision-making by expressing their opinions and asser ng their rights. The program aims to facilitate their access to development en tlements, rights, and social jus ce. Addi onally, it works towards promo ng sustainable livelihoods for women and marginalized communi es.



#### **Major Projects**

This programme has three major ongoing projects:

- 1. Marginalised communi es and civil-society organisa ons engage with local governance inst u onst to improve access to sustainable development.
- 2. Strengthening People's Organisa ons and Campaigns for Empowerment and Rights of the Marginalised Communi es.
- 3. Accompanying the Tribals for Forest land Rights and their Development.



#### Marginalised Communities and Civil Society Organisation ENGAGE with Local Governance Institutions to improve access to SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Objec vesofthe project-

- 1. To strengthen and engage with exis ng village leaders and taluka associa ons so as to secure access government schemes, rights and en tlements of the target group.
- 2. To achieve livelihood security by forming collec ves of marginalized groups of the society.
- 3. Exis ng village leaders and taluka associa ons are strengthened and engage to secure access to government schemes, rights and en tlements for the target groups.
- 4. Livelihoods security is reached through collec ves of marginalised groups of society

Interven on Areas: 240 Villages from 16 Talukas of Junagarh, Porbandar, Gir-Somnath and Banaskantha districts

Ac vi es



#### Iden fying and Empowering Civil Society Organiza ons (CBOs/CSOs)

Throughout the year, HDRC has successfully iden fied and collaborated with 16 community-based and civil society organiza ons. These groups have undergone two rounds of comprehensive training focused on budget planning (GPDP) and en tlement programs, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to e ec vely advocate for their communities.



#### Capacity Building and Leadership Development

Our commitment to enhancing leadership at the village level has been demonstrated through targeted training programs on monitoring government schemes. A total of 108 training sessions were conducted, a rac ng 1,686 women and 2,128 men. These sessions not only improved leadership skills but also deepened par cipants' understanding of governance and public service delivery.





#### Baseline Assessments and Exposure Visits

In our e orts to strengthen coopera ves, we have completed baseline assessments for eight coopera ves, u lizing both primary and secondary data sources. Addi onally, we have organized exposure visits for women coopera ve members, providing them with prac cal insights and opportuni es to build valuable networks.

#### **Awareness**



To raise awareness on important issues, we have developed nine dierent types of educa onal materials covering topics such as PESA, FRA, women's coopera ves, Panchaya Raj, budget planning, urban governance, and government schemes. Furthermore, 17 taluka-level associa ons have launched campaigns for inclusive governance, amplifying community voices and promo ngbroader par cipa on.

# 200

#### Advocacy and Ac on at the Grassroots

Our advocacy e orts at the taluka level have had a significant impact, with 174 community leaders taking ac on on village-level issues. In addi on, 211 village commi ee members have ini ated interven ons related to social, economic, and governance, showcasing the concrete results of our capacity-building ini a ves.



#### Strengthening Networks and Partnerships

We have established strong networks with government o ces and local resource centers in 17 talukas, allowing for more targeted, issue-based campaigns. Through a thorough study on women coopera ves and GPDP, we have provided prac cal recommenda ons to 270 village commi ees, helping to improve their e c venessin governance and development.

# EMPOWERED LEADERSHIP

3814 Leaders

1,686 women and 2,128 men as well as 1,280 women coopera ve members have enhanced their capaci es

# IMPROVED SERVICES

13513 Households

gained access to at least one en tlement. Civil society e orts improved basic services in 211 villages.

#### GRASSROOT ADVOCACY

211 Village Committees

and 174 community leaders ac ons and advocacy e orts drive social and economic change.

Our ini a ves have not only enhanced the capabili es of civil society and local leaders, but also facilitated significant improvements in governance, service delivery, and community empowerment.

# Regulation of Hossing Plot

Ac on taken by Village Commi ee to Regula on of Housing Plot for Scheduled Caste Community in Bhoddar village of Ranavav Taluka in Porbandar District

Bhoddar, a peculiar village nestled in the Ranavav Taluka of Porbandar district in Gujarat, is located 25 km away from its sub-district headquarters and 40 km from the district center. Covering a sprawling geographical area of 906.96 hectares, the village is home to a popula on of 2,020 individuals, with 1,021 men and 999 women. The literacy rate in the village stands at 62.13%, showcasing a no ceable disparity between men (72.48%) and women (51.55%). Despite being classified as a gram panchayat



based on the 2009 sta s cs, Bhoddar faces with significant challenges, especially within its marginalized communi es.

A prominent demographic in Bhoddar is the Scheduled Caste (SC) popula on, accoun ng for 23.17% of the total residents, while there is no representa on of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the village. The SC households have for long me been plagued by uncertainty surrounding their land and housing rights.

Since 1978, 56 SC families have established their dwellings on community land ini ally designated for grazing. As the value of this land has increase over me, the village panchayat and local authori es have issued evic on no ces to these

families. The situa on has escalated, with SC community leaders asser ng that the right to housing is a fundamental human right and demanding the regulariza on of their homes. However, the local authori es have been uncertain about the procedures for plot regulariza on, leaving the SC families in uncertain situa on.

The pivotal moment arrived with the establishment of a village commi ee dedicated to addressing community issues. This commi ee served as a voice for the SC families, placing a high priority on regularizing their plots of land. Through a series of regular mee ngs, commi ee members were trained on property management rules, plot regulariza on procedures, the authority of the village panchayat, and the responsibili esoflocal o cials.

Equipped with this newfound knowledge, the commi ee took a proac ve approach by dra ing an appeal to the village panchayat. This ini a ve sparked construc ve discussions between the panchayat and commi ee members, resul ng in a mutual agreement on the necessary steps to be taken. Together, they submi ed an applica on to the taluka authori es to kickstart the regulariza on process.

The village commi ee members remained vigilant, closely monitored progress and maintained con nuous communica on with both the taluka and village panchayat. Their perseverance paid o as, a ersustained e orts and nego a ons, the authori es finally regularized the housing plots for the SC families, securing their right to reside on the land they had called home for genera ons.

This case exemplifies the impact of collec ve ac on and informed advocacy. Through unity and arming themselves with essen alknowledge, the marginalized SC community in Bhoddar successfully navigated the bureaucra c process and safeguarded their housing rights. This triumph not only brought relief to 56 families but also established a precedent for community-led ini a vesin the area.



# Strengthening People's Organisa ons and Campaigns for Empowerment and Rights of the Marginalised Communi es.

This project has specificable coverasmen oned below.

- 1. To develop / enhance capaci es of voluntary community leaders so that they are able to facilitate people's access to en tlements, raise cri cal ques ons in democra c spaces and are able to influence the func oning of village level democra c ins tu ons.
- 2 To strengthen people's organisa ons at taluka / area level so that they are able to take collec ve ac ons through collec ve leadership at taluka / district level for common issues of the marginalised communi es.

Interven on Areas:

100 villages of Vav, Tharad, Suigam and Danta taluka of Banaskantha district as well as 50 villages of Khedbrahmma and Poshina taluka of Sabarkantha district.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

#### Community Leadership



Accurate informa on plays a crucial role in empowering voluntary community leaders to assist marginalized communi es in accessing their entitled benefits, such as government schemes, PESA guidelines, and the right to educa on. Without access to this informa on, communi es are at risk of connued exploita on and exclusion from mainstream society, which ulmately impacts their social and economic well-being. In response to this challenge, a series of training programs and meengs were strategically organized to disseminate informa on, foster understanding, and promote collective action on within these communities.

#### Trainings

Training programs were conducted for voluntary leaders from various villages and blocks to equip them with a comprehensive understanding of key policies, including the Right to Educa on, PESA, and the Na onal Educa on Policy (NEP). The training sessions were focused on government schemes, the pivotal role of School Management Commi ees (SMCs), and the significance of



community engagement in gramsabha mee ngs under PESA. Point Persons (PPs) spearheaded the training e orts at the Taluka level, while Social Animators (SAs) provided con nuous support to help leaders advocate for community rights and individual en tlements. Throughout the repor in a period, a total of 29 training sessions were organized, with a par icipa on count of 1,053 individuals. Notably, 332 of the par cipants were women, represen ng 32% of the total par cipants, while 721 were men, accoun ng for 68% of the par cipants.

#### Community Empowerment through Village-Level Mee ngs led by Social Animators:



Social Animators played a crucial role in organizing 261 mee ngs across six talukas, suppor ng voluntary leaders in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for community and individual en tlements. These mee ngs focused on key areas such as accessing government schemes, overseeing the Public Distribu on System (PDS), ensuring proper school supervision, addressing issues related to the Na onal Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), improving sanita on, addressing primary facili es in urban slums, and resolving housing-related concerns.

A total of 4,810 individuals par cipated in these mee ngs, with 2,134 women (44%) and 2,676 men (56%), showcasing the ac ve involvement of both genders in community development e orts. Through these sessions, par cipants were be er equipped to navigate essen al services and take ini a ve in improving condi onsin their communi es.

These village-level mee ngs served as crucial pla orms to educate par cipants on important issues such as educa on, PESA Act provisions, and the procedures for accessing government schemes. The mee ngs underscored the significance of par cipa ng in gram sabha mee ngs, as they are vital for grassroots decision-making. By empowering individuals with knowledge and promo ng ac ve involvement, the ini a ve aimed to promote inclusive governance and ensure community members could e ec vely advocate for their rights.





1053 Individuals

equipped with knowledge of key policies, RTE, PESA, Na onal Educa on Policy and roles and responsibili es of SMC members through 29 training programs.

# COMMUNITY && EMPOWERMENT &&

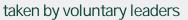


261 Village Meetings

organized on PDS, MNREGA, Govt. Scheme and resolving other community issues. 4810 individuals par cipated with 2,134 women and 2,676 men.



#### **INITIATIVES**





The program's founda onal strategy focused on empowering voluntary leaders through con nuous training and regular mee ngs. The primary goal was to equip these leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to proac vely address pressing issues within their communi es, par cularly those related to accessing government schemes and services. By fostering a deep understanding of policies and programs such as the PESA Act, the Right to Educa on, and various government schemes, the ini a ve aimed to ensure that disadvantaged communi es were be er posi oned to daim their rights and access essen al services like educa on, healthcare, sanita on, and employment.

Throughout the year, these trainings and mee ngs provided leaders with the opportunity to learn how to e ec vely navigate government systems, advocate for community needs, and par cipate in local governance processes such as gram sabha mee ngs. As a result, voluntary leaders have been able to lead and mobilize their communi es towards tangible improvements in their living condi ons.

The outcome of these e orts has been remarkable, with 366 community-led ini a ves launched over the year. These ini a ves included ac ons such as advoca ng for school improvements, ensuring be er access to Public Distribu on Systems (PDS), resolving housing and sanita on issues, and securing en tlements under the Na onal Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). The voluntary leaders, trained under this program, have become crucial agents of change, driving e orts to upli and empower their communi es. The program's holis c approach has not only helped communi es access services but has also strengthened the social fabric by fostering a more inclusive and par cipatory governance system.





















#### Strengthening



People's Organisa ons

The sustainability of the program was ensured through the strategic engagement of voluntary leaders at the local level, who were tasked with addressing community issues within their respec ve areas. In instances where local solu ons fell short, leadership responsibili es were escalated to taluka-level People's Organiza ons (POs), which took on the responsibility of resolving more complex issues. People's Organiza ons play a vital role in community development by organizing resources and ini a ves, addressing social problems, and advoca ng for jus ce and equality. They ac vely combat social injus ces such as discrimina on and support vic ms of human rights viola ons by seeking legal remedies and raising awareness.

To enhance the e c veness of these organiza ons, targeted capacity-building measures were implemented, specifically for Banaskantha Dalit Sangthan (Vav, Tharad, & Suigam) and Adiwasi Jan Jagru Sangthan (Khedbrahmma, Poshina, & Danta). Training sessions were conducted for both execu ve and general members to improve their skills in addressing community challenges.

Throughout the year, the People's Organiza ons led a total of 29 ini a ves, demonstra ng their proac ve approach to addressing community concerns and promo ng development. These ini a ves highlight the organiza ons' dedica on to fostering sustainable solu ons and advancing community welfare.











#### Issue-based campaigns

through collec ves of People's Organisa ons



A cri cal focus of our program is the e ec ve implementa on of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), which is essen al for tribal regions. Ensuring compliance with PESA provisions is crucial due to the unique cultural and administra ve characteris csof these areas. During the repor ng period, HDRC conducted 7 training sessions and 16 mee ngs to emphasize the importance of organizing the Gram Sabha in accordance with PESA regula ons. These e orts have resulted in a significant demand for resolu ons that align with PESA requirements, demonstra ng the dedica on of village leaders to uphold the act's s pula ons and improve local governance in tribal areas.





HDRC's focus is on enhancing educa onal quality and ensuring equal access for all students aligns with the Right to Educa on (RTE) Act. During the repor ng period, Social Animators and voluntary leaders conducted 91 school visits, showcasing our strong commitment to educa onal advancement. These visits involved a comprehensive assessment of various aspects of school life, including the quality of mid-day meals, deanliness, and the preven on of discrimina on during meal me. Our approach is holis c, addressing not only meal quality but also broader aspects of the educa onal environment and curriculum. This mul faceted strategy aims to create a suppor ve and inclusive educa onal ecosystem that benefits all children in the community.

Social animators and leaders assist the less fortunate in the village in accessing various government scheme benefits. Out of the 1,094 individuals who benefi ed from various government schemes, 407 were women and 687 were men. Addi onally, forms for 1,020 individuals were submi ed for various welfare schemes, further expanding the reach of our support.





# Preparation of IEC material



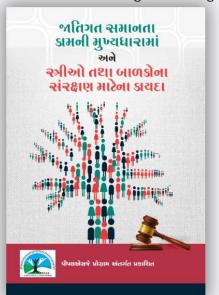
A diverse array of educa onal materials has been me culously cra ed to delve deeper into per nent issues within the realm of educa on. The ini al booklet me culously outlines the Right to Educa on (RTE) Act of 2009 and the School Management Commi ee (SMC), elucida ng the commi ee's composi on, func ons, rights, and member responsibili es.





The subsequent magazine delves into the intricacies of the New Educa on Policy (NEP), providing a comprehensive overview of its provisions, the educa on system, evalua on methods, and commi ee supervision. These resources have been though ully designed to enhance the understanding and knowledge of all stakeholders involved.

In an e ort to heighten awareness among tribal communi es regarding the PESA (Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas)) Act, a concise booklet has been disseminated. This publica on briefly elucidates all provisions of the PESA law, outlining the powers and rights granted to tribal under this legisla on. It serves as an indispensable resource for educa ng tribal individuals about their en tlements and the legal framework established to strengthen their governance and development.



Furthermore, a booklet has been released to promote gender mainstreaming and strengthen stall awareness. This resource or ers a comprehensive guide on prevening harassment of women in the workplace and described the provisions of the Protecton of Children from Sexual Orences (POCSO) Act. Its primary objective is to educate stallon fostering safer, more inclusive environments and ensuring adherence to legal safeguards for both women and children.



# Sta Trainingon Result Based Management (RBM)



Three days comprehensive training session was conducted on Results-Based Management (RBM) and gender mainstreaming to enhance the team's understanding of project and program evalua on. The training focused on the logical sequence and interconnectedness of inputs, ac vi es, outputs, outcomes, and impact, emphasizing the cri cal importance of mely monitoring and evalua on. Addi onally, the session covered gender-responsive budge ng and audi ng prac ces to ensure gender equality and jus ce, including the equitable distribu on of opportuni es and benefits among all genders.

The primary goal of the training was to cul vate a deeper sense of inclusiveness and gender sensi vity within the group, encouraging members to view women's par cipa on not merely as numerical representa on but as integral to decision-making processes.

Renowned expert Mr. Khilesh Chaturvedi led the training session, which took place at the Patel Resort in Gir-Somnath district and was a ended by 30 selected par cipants.















Implementa on of

#### Forest Rights Act in tribal areas

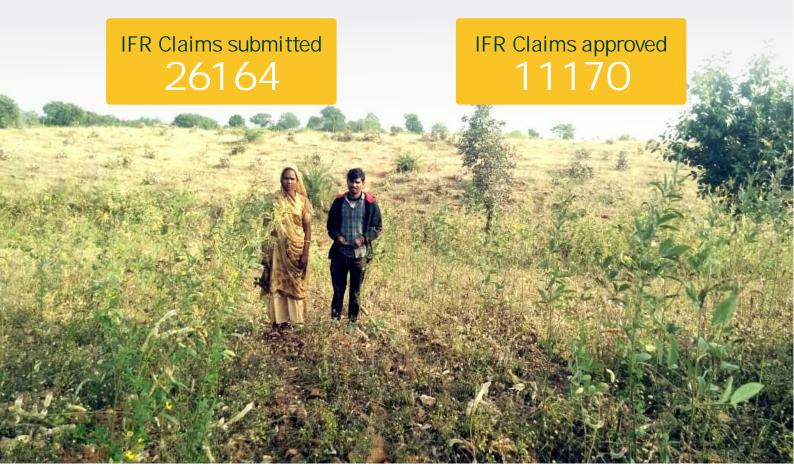
The focus of the project is to ensure implementa on of the Forest Rights Act 2006 and 2012 rules in tribal areas, and strengthening the Forest Rights Commi ee (FRC). The project also seeks to empower the Gram Sabha under the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) and assist tribals in preparing documents for individual rights that have been rejected or are pending, as well as submi ngclaims for Community Forest Rights (CFR).

In an e ort to advance the implementa on of the Forest Rights Act, coordina on mee ngs and training sessions were organized with local authori es across six districts: Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Mahisagar, Panchmahal, and Godhra. These sessions were a ended by local organiza ons, representa ves from Forest Rights Commi ees, and members of Sub-Divisional Level Commi ees (SDLC) and District Level Commi ees (DLC).

A series of six specialized training programs were conducted by experts from Arch Vahini, aimed at enhancing par cipants' understanding of forest rights and equipping them with prac call skills for elective implementation. A total of 688 individuals took part in these trainings, including olding olding from the Forest Department, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Collector (TSP Department), and Heads of Forest Rights Commillees.

Throughout the training sessions, par cipants were introduced to various technology tools, such as an Android mobile app specifically designed for field maps, surveys, and GPS. These tools are crucial for conduc ng precise land surveys and verifying daims under the Forest Rights Act.

Collabora ve e orts of HDRC, local authori es, and community-based organiza ons, resulted in significant progress in the processing and approval of claims under the Forest Rights Act. This ini a ve represents a major advancement in securing land rights for forest-dependent communi es, enhancing governance, and promo ngindusive development.





Status of Individual Forest Rights daims									
Sr.	District	Taluka	Total	Total	IFR	IFR	GPS		
			Villages	Claims	Sanctioned	Rejected	Done		
1	Banaskantha	Amirgarh	40	2380	1350	1030	372		
		Danta	55	4231	2921	1310	386		
2	Sabarkantha	Poshina	47	3086	865	2221	1234		
		Khedbrahmma	38	3119	905	2214	775		
		Vijaynagar	27	5723	984	4739	3321		
3	Arvalli	Bhiloda	64	4807	2809	1998	34		
		Meghraj	37	2818	1336	1482	409		
	Total		308	26164	11170	14994	6531		

Status of Community Forest Rights daims								
Sr.	District	Taluka	Total	CFR	CFR	Approved		
			Villages	Approved	pending	area in Ha.		
1	Banaskantha	Amirgarh	52	50	2			
2	Sabarkantha	Poshina	47	46	1	24192.87		
		Khedbrahmma	38	34	4	21124.07		
		Vijaynagar	70	37	33	12111.01		
3	Arvalli	Bhiloda	64	28	36	7018.00		
		Meghraj	62	62		5459.00		
	Total		333	257	76	69904.95		

#### Improved Coordina on for Rejected Claims:

Substan all progress has been achieved through HDRC's collaboral vele orts with the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Department and the Forest Department. The focus has been on conducing GPS surveys for claims previously rejected under the Forest Rights Act, ensuring a more accurate reassessment of these claims.

#### Approval of Community Claims for Livelihood:

A noteworthy milestone has been reached with the successful approval of 119 community daims in the Poshina, Khedbrahma, and Vijaynagar talukas of Sabarkantha district. These approved daims play a vital role in securing livelihoods for forest-dependent communies, represen ng a significant advancement in empowering these communies and upholding their rights to land and resources.





# Inclusive URBAN GOVERNANCE

Goal of the Program: To ensure improved governance practices in urban local bodies and active participation on of the urban poor in democratic spaces for sustainable and dignified life in Gujarat.



#### Strategy:

Building the capacity of urban poor leaders to strengthen their knowledge, skills, and advocacy abilities, enabling them to secure rights and entitlements for their slum communities. We aim to sensitize did decision-makers to be more inclusive and responsive to the needs of the urban poor. Empowering leaders by encouraging active participation on in governance processes such as Ward Sabha, Area Sabha, and various committees (e.g., SMC, Health, WASH), to influence urban policies. Furthermore, HDRC emphasizes networking with government and health departments to improve healthcare access and services in under served areas.

#### Outreach and Scale:

The program has impacted over 2500 families in the slums of 8 medium and small towns namely Dhanera, Dahod, Jhalod, Deesa, Halol, Khedbrahmma, Khambhat and Tharad.





#### Impact:

HDRC has successfully conducted mapping of slum areas in 8 small and medium towns, gathering socio-economic data from 2,232 families to gain a deeper understanding of the areas requiring interven on. This ini a ve has resulted in 17 urban poor collec ves subming applica ons to various municipal departments, advocang for improvements in basic services and amenies. Furthermore, 13 collec ves have engaged with local Municipal Councilors to ar culate their demands.

Through these collabora vee orts, 29 collec ves have e ec vely resolved issues pertaining to the Public Distribu on System (PDS), electricity, and other essen al services provided by the Municipal Corpora on. This showcases the impact of collec veac on in addressing the needs of the community.

# Improved access to the Primary Facili es:



- Area Sabha mee ngs were conducted in Khambhat and Dhanera town to improve essen al services and facili es.
- New street light poles were erected in the Khedbrahma & Chikhli area, enhancing safety and infrastructure.
- Three Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were established in Hatki Fadiya, Dahod, in collabora on with the UCD o cer in Ahmedabad, with the ini a on of a revolving fund process.
- 35 families in Hatki Fadiya, Dahod, now have access to dean water with the installa on of new water taps in their homes.
- The construction of new rooms at the primary school in Chikhli, Khedbrahma Town, is underway to enhance education on a linfrastructure.
- 50% of the 79 leaders have increased their understanding and are ac vely addressing issues with relevant authori es.
- In a significant achievement, leaders in the Chikhli area of Khedbrahma Town successfully nego ated with local landowners (Patels) to allow the installa on of a water line through their farms, benefi ngover 150 families a erayear of persistent advocacy.





#### **ENTITLEMENTS:**

- With the assistance of local leaders, 67 individuals have successfully applied for livelihood schemes, improving their economic prospects.
- A total of 103 families have applied for NFSA ra on cards, out of which 72 families already receiving benefits.
- Urban poor communi es in various slums have obtained 709 essen al documents, including Aadhar cards, Voter ID cards, caste cer ficates, PAN cards, and Ayushman cards.
- Leaders from three slums collaborated with local Municipal Councilors to facilitate e-Shram card registra on for unorganized labor workers. As a result, 86 workers have been registered and have received e-Shram cards, making them eligible for welfare and development schemes at both the central and state levels.









#### HOUSING RIGHTS:

A total of 540 families residing in five dierent slum areas have applied for housing assistance through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. In Halol, 350 families submied applica ons, with 250 families successfully receiving approval for housing assistance. Similarly, in Khedbrahma, 120 families have also been granted approval to begin construct on their houses, marking a significant milestone towards improving living condients and securing housing rights.

Interven on for the urban poor of AHMEDABAD:

Girdharnagar: Thirteen families who were impacted by the bullet train project have successfully secured financial assistance of 100,000 each a er engaging in produc ve mee ngs and dialogues with the authori es.

Motera: Seventeen families who were facing evic on no ces from the AMC were able to prevent displacement through frequently mee ng the collector and submi ng convincing representa ons to him. As a result of this, now they can con nue to reside in their homes.

Kamdar Maidan Health Quarters: Following the collapse of some quarters due to poor condions, advocacy eorts through wrien and oral representaons to the Commissioner have resulted in approval for the redevelopment of the quarters. The Commissioner has also ensured that a ected families have the opon to rent houses during the redevelopment process, with a commitment to relocate them back once the project is completed.







There are two projects under this programme:

- 1. Livelihood and social interven on models for the women's savings and credit coopera ves network
- 2 Women land ownership, women farmer informa on centre (Swa- Bhoomi Kendra) and promo ng sustainable organic farming among small and marginal farmers

#### Livelihood and Social Interven on Models for the Women's Savings and Credit Coopera ves Network



The Assumpta Society, in collabora on with HDRC in Ahmedabad, has played a crucial role in establishing and suppor ng a network of over 40 women's savings and credit coopera ves throughout Gujarat. Many of these coopera ves have been promoted by religious sisters' organiza ons. Over the years, these coopera ves have united for training programs and mentorship sessions led by both external experts and individuals within the group. The goal has been to improve the opera onsof the coopera ves, comply with changing legisla on, and empower women economically and socially.

In the a ermath of the pandemic, there has been a growing demand for livelihood genera on ac vi es among the women's coopera ves. This response has been driven by the urgent need to address job losses, crop failures, and the collapse of small businesses due to the various lockdowns.

In 2023, a pilot project supported by ALBOAN-PDT tled "Beyond the Pandemic: Finding a Women-Centered Sustainable Way Forward through the Coopera ves and Health/Social Centers" was launched. The project aimed to work with coopera ves and promo ng organiza ons to iden fy local livelihood opportuni es.

The project's findings, as revealed in the evalua on conducted upon its comple on, underscore the importance of leveraging the coopera ve network to create shared resources and diversify into livelihood genera on. This approach is seen as essen alin addressing the severe resource constraints that o en drive individuals to migrate involuntarily.

A posi ve development is emerging as individual women from Adivasi women's coopera ves in the Dangs, Tapi, Navsari, and Narmada districts are showcasing their entrepreneurial skills. They are exploring various op ons for genera ng livelihoods, such as cul va ng and selling vegetables and millets, as well as raising animals and poultry. These women have valuable experiences that others can learn from, and it is crucial to scale up their e orts so that more women in the same areas can par cipate in similar ac vi es without crea ngcompe on among themselves.

Several mee ngs have been conducted with these women and the organiza ons suppor ng them to gain insights into their approaches, iden fy obstacles they face, and determine where they need external assistance. External individuals have also been consulted to provide fresh perspec vesand guidance on the way forward.



The ul mate goal of the project is to leverage the exis ng network of women's savings and credit coopera ves to enhance the livelihoods and social well-being of women from marginalized communi es beyond the tradi onal scope of coopera ves.

#### Project Beneficiaries:

The women's savings and credit coopera ves network exclusively serves women from socio-economically and culturally marginalized communi es, primarily Dalit and Adivasi.

#### Geographical coverage:

The network operates in 20Districts covering 36Talukas, with direct interven on in 20coopera ves. Five of these coopera ves focus on establishing hubs for livelihood, while the remaining 15 work on addressing social issues and providing support for good governance. through a handholding process.

#### Core ac vi es:

- · Project orienta on Mee ng, for 46 members and 2 core team members from 17 coopera ves.
- For two days, "Training of trainers (TOT)" was conducted covering topics such as self-employment opportunity and farm-based enterprise opportunities. This training was a lended by 12 members from project team.
- Assessment of feasible livelihood genera on ac vi es within the area i.e. explaining the survey form, di erent livelihood model, self-employment through small business, making product, buying & selling the product and di erent services etc. Members from 5 coopera ves took part in this assessment.
- Exploring possibili es of Agricultural and animal husbandry in the two villages Par gam (Dolvan) and Pipalvada gam (Bardipada).
- 1427 par cipants from the 9 coopera ves were trained on animal husbandry, tradi onal cul va on prac ces of farming and income genera on ac vi esthrough exposure visits, mee ngs, focussed group discussion (FGD's) and trainings. This was done in collabora on with Krushi Vikas Kendra (KVK), BAIF, Aga Khan founda on.
- · Handholding support for coopera ves management in Dakor, Dholera, Subir, Himmatnagar, Vijaynagar coopera ves.

#### Project Result & Achievement:

- 1. The discussion with the self-employed individuals and social program promoters and sta of the Coopera ves was frui ul. The women involved showed great coopera on and enthusiasm to par cipate in the training program, embracing the idea of transi oning towards small-scale employment to address their social issues.
- 2 At the orienta on mee ng, the women shared their experiences in small businesses at the village market and explored poten all of new initial a vesin this field.
- 3. The orienta on mee ng for the project took place in Ahmedabad, where the posi ve a tude and coopera on of all the promoters and sta of the Coopera ve were commendable. 46 members par cipated in this mee ng that includes 17 promoters. The process of the livelihood project was discussed and decisions were made collectively.
- 4. It was agreed during the mee ng that the focus of the social issues would be on ac vi es, with the 17 coopera ve promoters and sta members commi ed to training and learning about both self-employment and social issues. Each coopera ve will implement the ac vi es within their group, with some focusing more on social issues while ensuring that knowledge gained from self-employment training is shared among members to promote economic viability.

#### HDRC

- 5. Sta training sessions were conducted on filling survey forms to assess the poten all for transi oning towards self-employment in the local community. Through feasibility studies, sta iden fied various interven on possibilities such market research, and storage solutions and training required for it, engaging subject-material energy experts for this training.
- 6. U lizing par cipatory methods at village mee ngs, the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) provided valuable insights to both sta and par cipants for future ac ons. Cost-e ec ve agricultural prac ceswere iden fied, o ering opportuni esfor economic improvement and sustainability.

During the handholding process, the coopera ve network was guided by CMC members on various government compliance ma ers. Vijayanagar Coopera ve received support with their registra on process, including preparing and subming documents such as opening a bank account, obtaining necessary documents from the coopera ve department, draingresolu ons, and securing a No Object on Certificate (NOC). The online registra on process was completed at the District Registrar Oce.

Furthermore, a Women's Day celebra on washeld, which was a ended by 500 women from four di erent coopera ves.

#### **Case Study**

Madhuben Mo lalbhaiKokani is a 45-year-old lady (ST) living in Bardipada village of Dolvan Taluka in Tapi District. She studied up to the second year of gradua on. She has 5 members in her family. She is the one who was born and brought up in this village and has seen and been a part of all the changes in this village in the last 10 years. She joined the coopera ve a long me ago and has been a part of the coopera ve for more than 15 years, from 2002 to up II now. Currently, she holds the posi on of Assistant Secretary in the mandal.

She said that she has been a part of the change that her village has gone through. There was a me when there was no school in the village, the roads were all katchha roads making it di cult for the villagers to commute, especially during the rainy season. She remembered the me when even basic facili es like water and sanita on were lacking in their village. The mandal she is associated with was also not registered and was working as an SHG. The women from the mandal took ini a ve to work on issues like educa on, financial independence through saving, and women's health. They also worked to eradicate child marriage, a major social evil at that me. As a result of all these e orts, now there are 2 government primary schools and 2 anganwadis in their village, a well-established panchayato ce, and a milk dairy.

She received several trainings and is now a deputy secretary in Mandal. She received one- me support for Mushroom cul va on under the livelihood project and her first experience was very good. She invested her first income in purchasing more seeds and cul vated mushrooms 3-4 mes in the dura on of 3-4 months as Mushroom Cul va on is a seasonal ac vity. As a result, she has earned Rs. 30,000/- by selling 26 kgs. of mushrooms. She used this amount to educate her 28-year-old son, who is prac cing as a doctor in Surat. She is also contribung to the family income by suppor ngin farming (paddy and pulses) and through a kitchen garden. It made her feel empowered.



#### Women Land Ownership and

#### Promo on of Sustainable Farming



Project is dedicated to empowering women farmers by providing them with access to essen all productive resources through the establishment of Women's Farmer Information on Centers, known as Swa Bhoomi Kendras (SBKs). The key initial at vest of this project include promoting women's land ownership, advocating for property rights of women, and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices among women farmers. HDRC has successfully established five SBKs in Bhiloda, Vijaynagar, Danta, Fatepura and Meghraj. Furthermore, the SBK in Meghraj was developed in partnership with the Women's Group for Women Land Ownership (WGWLO), further strengthening our commitment to advancing women's rights in land ownership.

The strategic interven ons of this project have focused on facilita ngwomen's land ownership, suppor ng sustainable agricultural prac ces, and enhancing crop produc on for both Kharif and Rabi seasons. Training sessions and capacity-building ini a ves have been conducted to empower women farmers on land rights and agricultural techniques. Addi onally, awareness campaigns have been launched to educate the community about sustainable farming and land ownership. Networking and collabora on with various stakeholders have been crucial in expanding the project's reach and impact.

Throughout the year, the SwabhoomiKendras have served as a valuable resource, with 151 women and 99 men seeking informa on on land inheritance, government schemes, and sustainable farming prac ces. Total 38 awareness mee ngs were conducted, engaging 508 women and 97 men. Addi onally, a comprehensive campaign was carried out across 8 villages—Lakhipur, Valuna, Zarda, Paharia, Palla, Vaidi, Borsi and panchal—where 277 women and 24 men ac vely par cipated.

#### Training for Women Village Leaders



In an e ort to raise awareness and promote advocacy on land issues and sustainable farming, a training session was organized for women village leaders in Meghraj, District Arvalli, on January 6, 2024. The training brought together 30 leaders from 15 villages, along with 2 paralegal workers, 1 coordinator, and 7 other par cipants. The session focused on





understanding crucial land records such as 7/12, Title le er, 6 and 8A, and provided valuable insights into suppor ng women through the inheritance process. Discussions also delved into sustainable farming prac ces, emphasizing the significance of indigenous seeds and maintaining farmers' records.

Furthermore, a follow-up training session was conducted on March 14, 2024, in Meghraj to provide additional support to paralegal workers handling women's land ownership cases. This session, a lended by 40 women, aimed to ensure prompt informal on disseminal on and elicitation on of women's land inheritance issues.

#### District Level Conven on



A district-level conven on was held in Meghraj, District Arvalli, on April 13, 2023, with the objec ve of enhancing access to informa on on women's land inheritance, sustainable agriculture, forest land, and government schemes related to agriculture and animal husbandry. The conven on witnessed the par cipa on of 167 women. During the event, par cipants collec vely decided to submit a demand le er to the District Collector, highligh ng the issues and challenges discussed during the conven on and seeking e ec ve solu onsand support for the women involved.

#### Demonstra ons



A series of 10 impac ul demonstra ons were conducted in various villages including Waluna, Kasana Borsi, Lakhipur, Rajgol, Zarda, Vagpur, Panchal, and Vaidi. The demonstra ons were made for crops of Paddy (Dangar), Adad, Krishna Kamod, Bunty, Lal jowar, Toor, Lal Dangar, Makai, Lodra, and sesame (Tal), providing valuable insights to the local communi es.

#### Field Days:



In the course of the year, a total of 14 engaging field days were organized, with 9 taking place in October, 2023, 1 in December 2023, and 4 in January 2024. These events saw the par cipa on of 247 women and 38 men, encouraging a spirit of collabora on and knowledge-sharing among the a endees.

#### Achievements:



A significant milestone was reached this year with the successful comple on of 115 inheritance processes. This included 24 cases of widow inheritance, 81 cases of daughter inheritance, and 10 cases of joint inheritance. Addi onally, the women of Swabhoomi Kendra-Meghraj were granted the opportunity to sell sustainable agricultural produce at the Meghraj market yard every Thursday from 08.00 am to 03.00 pm thereby empowering them, showcasing their products and contribuing to the local economy.







# CHILD RIGHTS and CHILD development Programme

The program is designed to decrease school dropout rates among children, with a par cular focus on girls. It also aims to enhance the personality development and learning abili es of children from marginalized communi es, specifically Tribals and Valmikis. Addi onally, the program seeks to improve school governance in accordance with the Right to Educa on Act of 2009 by collabora ng with the School Management Commi ee (SMC), parents, youth groups, and community-based organiza ons (CBOs).

# Secure right to educa on of children of Migrant/Agariyas communi es in Gujarat

The program is designed to achieve the following objec ves:

- 1. Iden fy current government provisions aimed at improving educa on and analyze gaps in their implementa on.
- 2. Develop a strategy to ensure e ec ve implementa on of government provisions to enhance educa on.
- 3. Collaborate with other organiza ons to create new special provisions for educa on improvement and advocate for policy changes.

Projects aims to enhance the educa on system by evalua ng exis ng government ini a ves, holding the government accountable for their implementa on, and working with other organiza ons to propose innova ve solu ons and policy changes.

HDRC has developed a series of me culously planned ac vi es with the goal of comprehensively assessing the educa onal landscape and iden fying key obstacles hindering academic progress. Our team conducted a comprehensive survey to pinpoint the hurdles faced by students, par cularly those

transi, oning between schools within Dasada taluka. The challenges HDRC dogumented were extensive





ranging from the di cul es of commu ng between distant schools in the saltpan areas to issues such as inadequate water supply, infrastructure deficiencies, and irregular electricity supplyimpac ng their learning environment.

Our baseline survey involved visits and mee ngs with community members and the School Management Commi ee. Through engaging with 927 families, including 713 with Agariya children, we gained invaluable insights into their educa onal needs and the challenges they faced during migra on and within Rann schools. These interac ons provided a holis c understanding of the nuance educa onal needs of this community.



Throughout this period, our relentless pursuit of government accountability in educa on provisions remained steadfast. Our con nuous engagements, strategic advocacy, and collabora ve e orts with various stakeholders underscored our commitment to e ec ng posi ve and sustainable changes in the educa onal landscape for the Agariya community in the Rann regions.

#### Engaged with Civil Society Organiza ons and Government O cials

we ac vely collaborated with civil society organiza ons such as Swa, Ganatar, and local government representa ves. Our primary focus was on gathering comprehensive data on organiza onal structures, local initiatives, and village leadership. Dialogues with government of cials, including primary education of cers, BRC, CRC, and taluka development of cers, played a crucial role in addressing key issues in education. These discussions centered around school accessibility, dropout rates, and challenges faced by schools in the Rann region. A dedicated session with the Taluka Development Of cer (TDO) allowed us to address concerns regarding education on a wareness. Furthermore, an awareness campaign having children in focus along with a specific emphasis on seasonal hostels was also initiated in collaboration on with BRC to ensure widespread understanding among the target audience.





#### Public Awareness Campaign

An extensive campaign was carried out across 15 villages in Dasada Taluka to raise awareness among Agariya families, school teachers, and Panchayat members. The ini a ve focused on educa ngindividuals about the importance of educa on, which led to home visits, resolu on of migra on card issues, promo on of girls' educa on, and dissemina on of informa on about further studies post-grades 10 and 12

#### Strengthen and Capacity Building of Village Leaders

A series of mee ngs were conducted with representa ves from the community, School Management Commi ees (SIMCs), and local leaders from 15 villages. This ini a ve led to the forma on of the AgariyaShikshan Sangathan, consis ng of 20 dedicated members. Through focused mee ngs at the block level, Sangathan members gained valuable insights into educa onal rights, e ec ve advocacy strategies, and their specific roles and responsibili es.

#### Develop Monitoring and Evalua on Mechanisms

An MIS system was successfully implemented to monitor progress, with the ac ve involvement of the Agariya Educa on Sangathan and youth groups to ensure accountability. Stakeholders such as the SMC President and Agariya families were ac vely engaged in overseeing key educa onal aspects, holding regular mee ngswith district educa on o cials to track progress and address any concerns.

#### Capacity Building of Community Members

A series of 35 community mee ngs engaging 467 community members, were conducted, highligh ng the provisions of the RTE Act and addressing educa onal challenges unique to the Agariya community. These Strategic mee ngs were organized to iden fy and toaddress challenges, developing procedural frameworks for resolu on at the taluka level.

#### Advocacy Mee ngs with Government O cials

Regular mee ngs were held with government o cials and local leaders to present requests and advocate for solu ons. E orts were made to address concerns raised, resul ng in repairs being carried out at Rann Shala and improvements in the provision of midday meals.

#### Focus Group Discussions (FGD) on SMC Par cipa on

Six FGDs were conducted involving SMC members, youth volunteers, local representa ves, and government o cials. Proposals were formulated to enhance midday meal facili es and address school repairs, promp ngimmediate ac on by SMC members and the Agariya Shiksha Sangathan.

#### Establishment of SMC Associa on at District Level

The SMC Associa on Commi ee, consis ng of 13 members, was formed at the block level. Through orienta on sessions, members were equipped with their roles and responsibili es, leading to produc ve mee ngs to address community concerns.

#### Crea on of Youth Volunteers' Groups

A youth group comprising 12-13 members was established in 15 villages. Their primary focus on educa onal issues under the RTE Act involved organizing mee ngs, submi ng requests, and ensuring widespread awareness among Agariya community members.

#### Mee ngs with Government O cials

Ongoing mee ngs were held with government o cials and stakeholders to address gaps in educa on policies and programs. Discussions focused on school refurbishments, transporta on, and the provision of midday meals, resul ng in repairs and proac ve measures for improvements.



#### Collabora on with other organiza ons

Our ini a ve began with a collabora ve e ort to tap into the exper se and resources of established organiza ons such as Ganatar, Swa, and the *Lakshya* Academy organiza on. This collabora ve engagement facilitated a comprehensive mee ng to explore poten all partnerships within our project areas. Together, we delved into cri call issues impacting access to education, promo in negonal engagement, and enhancing overall health.

#### Key Achievements

- Conducted an educa onal needs assessment to gain insight into the current state of educa on for children in Agariya families. The assessment involved 927 families, encompassing 713 children aged between 3 and 14 years. Of these, 427 children experienced a change in their educa onal ins tu ons. The assessment also aimed to collect informa on about the families and schooling details of the children.
- Executed an educa onal awareness campaign to facilitate the enrollment of Agariya children in schools
  within the Dasada taluka. This ini a ve assisted 52 children in acquiring the necessary documents for
  admission.
- Successfully established the Agariya Shiksha Sangathan, comprising 20 members. This group can
  autonomously drive local development in the Agariya community by holding mee ngs, where a
  president and secretary were appointed with unanimous consent.
- Organized a produc ve mee ng through the Agariya Shiksha Sangathan, invi ng members of the School Management Commi ee (SMC), youth volunteers, local representa ves, and government o cials. The objec ve was to improve midday meal facili es and priori ze school development, dra ingrequests to mo vate SMC members and the Agariya Shiksha Sangathan for prompt ac on.
- Conducted mee ngs in collabora on with organiza on sopera ng in the Dasada taluka, such as Swa, Ganatar, and Target Academy organiza on, to fulfill programme/objec vesand ini a ves.
- Advocated for the establishment of three new playgrounds in the saltpan area for Agariya children by submi ng a request to the Taluka Educa on O ce on behalf of the Agariya community and Agariya Shiksha Sangathan.
- Developed a mapping system for housing of agariya familyies who have migrated to the saltpan areas.
- Facilitated the submission of an applica on for seasonal hostels in the villages of Odu and Naranpura by
  the local educa on o ce for the children of Agariya families. This process is currently underway
  through collabora on between the Sangathan and SMC.
- As a result of rigourous followup and con nue interac on with the concerned authority, repair and renova on work has been initiated in the schools of saltpan area.
- Furthermore, there was a lack of midday meal facili es in two Rann Shalas, which led the Agariya Shiksha Sangathan to file a request with the educa on o ce. Immediate provision of midday meals began upon assurance from the authori es, along with a commitment to provide quality meals.
- Addi onally, 5 children from Agariya families, whose educa on was disrupted due to the Rann area, have been granted admission to a boarding school in the village to ensure uninterrupted studies.
- We have partnered with the Lakshya Academy to provide necessary sta onery and notebook kits to 8 school dropout children, facilitaing their reintegra on into schools.
- Lastly, we have successfully facilitated the issuance of migra on cards for 27 children from Agariya families.

Promo ngholis c development of marginalized communi es especially among the Dalit (Valmiki), Marginalized Urban Poor and Tribal communi es with advancing women leadership skills and their par cipa on in the decision-making at social and governance levels that a ects the lives of urban poor in Gujarat



#### Following are the specific Objec ves for the Children Development

- Reducing dropout ra o and migra on among the children of tribal communi es from Jhalod and Fatepura of Dahod District, and of children from Valmiki communi es of Tarapur and Khambhat taluka of Anand district and from Ahmedabad city.
- Improving educa on and self confidence among the children from tribal, Valmiki and marginalized communi esin project loca ons
- Ensure community monitoring for improved services and schemes of Educa on, Health and Food security

#### Women Leadership

- Women leading ac ons for improving basic ameni es, services, and en tlements of the households in the project loca ons
- Improving socio-economic status of women

#### Strategic Interven on

- Learning and personality development processes/ac vi es with Children groups and Adolescent girls' groups
- Killol Kendra for suppor ngchildren for syllabus related learning
- Vaca on camps for personality development and life skill
- Capacity building of leaders of children groups
- Linkages with schools and Anganwadi centres
- Counselling and Capacity building of women leaders
- Linkageswith NRLM/NULM
- Strengthening Coopera ve Management commi ee members
- Campaign to increase coopera ve members

#### Killol Camps

During the repor ngperiod, 13 Kilol Kendraswere opera onal, catering to a total of 388 registered children, with 186 girls and 202 boys in a endance. The average a endance rate stood at 81%, with 314 children consistently par cipa ng in the sessions. The ac vi es at Kilol Kendra encompassed a wide range of educa onal pursuits, including mathema cs (tables, mul plica on, and division), language skills (reading and wri ngin English, Hindi, and Gujara ), anatomy (learning body parts in English), and examprepara on.







#### Children's Groups:

A total of 983 mee ngs and ac vi es were conducted with children's groups during the repor ng period. These ac vi es included ac on songs, rhymes, storytelling, and games, along with a structured curriculum module focusing on value educa on and personality development. Children were introduced to fundamental concepts such as child rights, healthy ea ng habits, general health and hygiene, and gender equality. Adolescent girls received educa on on safety rules and menstrual hygiene, while lessons on the lives and contribu ons of na onal leaders like Jyo ba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Fa ma Sheikh, Birsa Munda, Dr. Ambedkar, Gandhiji, and Ms. Arunima were imparted. Peer learning and teamwork were ac vely encouraged during these sessions.

#### Reduced Dropouts and Improved School A endance:

Throughout the repor ng period, 75 students were iden fied as irregular a endees at school. However, through dedicated e orts and counseling provided by fellows, Bal Mitra, and School Management Commi ee (SMC) members, all students were successfully encouraged to a end school regularly. Furthermore, a total of 29 applica ons were submi ed for children to enroll in private schools under the Right to Educa on (RTE) in the working areas of HDRCs.

#### Enhanced Learning Skills:

Overall, 85% of the 491 children assessed have demonstrated significant improvement in their learning abili es, encompassing reading, wri ng, and numeracy. This comprehensive assessment was conducted on all children from Killol Kendra and children's groups by Bal Mitra and community facilitators (Fellows). The children were assigned tasks based on the previous class syllabus, and their progress was me culously tracked through recorded responses.

#### Monitoring of Anganwadi and Schools by community leaders:

Fellows and collective leaders actively engaged with School Management Committee (SMC) members in 60 villages spanning Jhalod, Fatepura, Tarapur, and Khambhat, as well as 15 slums in Ahmedabad city. Discussions centered around the roles and responsibilities of SMC members, emphasizing the importance of active participation on in meetings and the committee's pivotal role in curbing school dropouts and fostering school development. Consequently, SMC members exhibited increased involvement, voicing concerns when necessary and supporting in a vestion school enhancement. Notably, 22 SMCs in Ahmedabad, 27 in Tarapur and Khambhat, and 46 in Fatepura and Jhalod displayed remarkable activity levels. Key achievements included addressing issues in 11 rural and 3 urban schools, such as enhancing hygiene in washrooms and water tanks, constructing new classrooms, ensuring students received scholarships and mid-day meals, initial on the progress of Valmiki and tribal children.

#### Engagement with Anganwadi Workers:

Throughout the repor ng period, collec ve leaders and fellows visited 75 Anganwadi centers. Discussions revolved around vaccina on and the provision of nutri ous meals to lacta ng mothers, pregnant women, and adolescent girls. The Anganwadi workers exhibited unwavering support and readily provided requested informa on, expressing gratude for our organiza on se orts.





Through our interven on, we were able to significantly increase children's a endance rates, with 80% of children aged 3 to 5a ending Anganwadi centers in rural areas and 60% in urban areas.

#### Parent Mee ngs:

In all 75 project loca ons, spanning 15 areas and 60 villages across Jhalod, Fatepura, Tarapur, and Khambhat, our fellows and collec ve leaders engaged in mee ngs and one-on-one discussions with parents. Concerns were raised by parents regarding the educa on of their adolescent daughters, as high schools were lacking in their villages. Our team counseled and mo vated parents to priori ze their daughters' educa on, o ering guidance on safe travel to school and sugges ng enrollment in boarding schools to ensure uninterrupted educa on.

#### Women Leadership

#### Community Engagement:

Our fellows and collec ve leaders organized community mee ngs in 15 slums of Ahmedabad city and 60 villages across Jhalod, Fatepura, Tarapur, and Khambhat. Residents were informed about government schemes and issues related to basic ameni es and services. A total of 170 women leaders from local groups took ac on to address these issues, with 40 in Fatepura, 15 in Jhalod, 30 in Tarapur, 15 in Khambhat, and 70 in Ahmedabad city ac vely par cipa ng. Furthermore, 771 social security schemes and ci zenship documents were processed in the project loca ons.

#### Socio-economic Status

#### Empowering Self Help Groups (SHGs):

In an e ort to address and resolve social issues, group leaders in 15 slums of Ahmedabad city and 60 villages in Tarapur, Khambhat, Fatepura, and Jhalod taluka organized regular mee ngs. Our fellows ac vely par cipated in these mee ngs, o ering guidance and mo va on to women for livelihood ac vi es. They also accompanied SHG leaders to the Mission Mangalam taluka o ce and the Urban Community Development Centre for financial ac vi es. The focus was on exploring livelihood op ons through SHGs, resul ng in 60 SHGs being connected with various ac vi es. During this me, SHGs received Rs. 80,000 in revolving funds and secured cash credit loans of up to Rs. 7,05,000 at minimal interest rates. Women u lized these funds for their children's educa on and ini ated small businesses in agriculture, animal husbandry, pe y shops, beauty services, tailoring, and saree selling. As a result, 30 women have begun earning income for their families through these small businesses.

#### Ekta Mahila Coopera ve Credit and Supply Society Limited:

The society has a total of 422 members, with a share capital of Rs. 211,000 and a mandatory monthly savings requirement of Rs. 200 per member. Star ng in February 2024, the coopera ve began o ering loans to its members, primarily for educa on and livelihood enhancements.





#### Learning and Migration Program (LAMP)

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Strengthening a Resilient Educa on System for Migrant and Tribal Communi es by 2030 Instu onal Reach

Villages: 70, SMCs: 70, Anganwadi Centres: 50, Primary Schools: 70, Learning Resource Centres (LRCs): 6, Spoke Schools: 30, High Schools (Grades 9 to 10): 3, Virtual Learning Hub: 1, Virtual Learning Spokes: 3, Adolescent Girls' Groups: 36

LearningInterven ons

Children in LRCs. 317, Children in LEP: 180, Children in Govt. Schools (Spoke): 1577, Children through Teacher Training: 5264, Children through Anganwadi Worker Training: 1122, Children in High School Support (Grades 9 to 10): 210

Capacity Building

Govt. Teachers Trained: 70, School Principals Reached: 70, Anganwadi Workers & Helpers Trained: 97, Govt. O dials Trained: 28

Governance

SMC Members Reached: 294, PRI Members Reached: 145, Youth Volunteers/Ci zen Educators: 159, Community Members Reached: 2359

Total Beneficiaries: 12,407

#### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Conducted surveys in 70 villages, iden fying 1040 at-risk migrant children aged 6 to 14 years.
   Achieved 76.73% reten on rate of at-risk children within the educa onal system through caregiver interven on.
- Maintained a comprehensive database for monitoring migra on status, updated regularly with input from Adolescent Group and Cizen Educators.
- Successfully enrolled 97.34% of eligible children in schools across villages. Facilitated re-enrolment of 41 dropouts and a empted to enrol 339 irregular and 135 never-enrolled children.
- Established 6 Learning Resource Centres (LRCs) in Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts with ac ve involvement and support from parents, community members, and School Management Commi ee (SMC) members.
- Enrolled 317 students in LRCs, providing them with access to digital resources, educa onal tools, and comprehensive materials.
- Launched LEP dasses in 6 villages, enrolling 180 students and witnessing significant academic improvement from Grade D to Grade B or A.
- Successfully organized Bal Mela across 70 primary schools, engaging 4290 children in recrea onal and cultural ac vi es.
- Conducted baseline and endline assessments to ensure transparency and accountability in evalua ngstudent progress. Achieved notable improvement in all 317 students from LRCs.
- Selected 1577 students from Spoke schools for tailored learning programs aimed at enhancing learning outcomes, demonstra ng a commitment to holis c educa on and community engagement.
- Conducted educa onal ac vi es in 30 spoke schools, posi vely impac ng 1,577 students. Addressed individual language challenges, nurtured language mastery among students, and provided daily sessions tailored to language improvement based on baseline assessments.
- Conducted two rounds of training benefi ng 70 primary school teachers in LEP and LRC methodologies. Successfully facilitated adop on of new methodologies by 6 primary school teachers.
- Engaged 5, 264 students across grades 3 to 8 through comprehensive training programs, fostering support and collabora on through consistent dialogue with government o cials and grassroots engagement.
- Convened 125 mee ngs with CRCs, BRCs, principals, supervisors, and community stakeholders, enhancing transparency and strengthening rela onships within the community.



- Supported 210 students from three high schools through weekly sessions aimed at enhancing their learning experiences. Prepared students for board exams by providing model papers and mock exams, fostering confidence and readiness.
- Enrolled 94% of children aged 3 to 6 years, totalling 1122 children, in the Early Childhood Educa on (ECE) program at Anganwadi Centres. Increased a endance rates of Anganwadi children from 73.74% to 91.32% through regular monitoring and engagemente orts by facilitators.
- Successfully enrolled 96.08% of children from 50 Anganwadi centres in Balva ka and STD 1.
   Conducted comprehensive training programs for 97 Anganwadi workers and helpers across 50 centres, ensuring sustained quality of ECE delivery at Anganwadi centres.
- Integrated Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) e ec vely into regular teaching methodologies, resul ng in improved engagement and educa onal outcomes among children enrolled in Anganwadi centres. Established synergy with ICDS o cials through regular mee ngs, facilita ng e ec ve communica on and alignment of objec ves for successful implementa on of training programs aimed at enhancing the capabili esof Anganwadi workers and helpers.

#### **IMPACT**

- Reduced Vulnerability to Migra on: Iden fied and provided support to 1,040 at-risk migrant children aged 6 to 14 years, reducing their suscep bility to migra on through educa onal interven ons.
- Improved Reten on within the Educa onal System: Achieved an 76.73% reten on rate of at-risk children within the educa onal system, ensuring con nuity of learning and reducing dropout rates.
- Increased School Enrolment Rates: Successfully enrolled 97.34% of eligible children in schools across villages, providing access to educa on for a larger number of children and promo ng inclusive educa on.
- Facilitated Reintegra on of Dropouts and Irregular Students: Facilitated the reintegra on of 41 dropouts and a empted to enrol 339 irregular and 135 never-enrolled children, promo ng inclusivity and addressing educa on al gaps.
- Improved A endance Rates in Schools. Achieved an 85.89% a endance rate in schools, crea nga conducive learning environment and maximizing learning opportuni esfor students.
- Enhanced Language Proficiency and Educa onal Quality: Improved language proficiency and educa onal quality in 30 spoke schools, benefi ng 1,577 students and fostering ac ve student par cipa on.
- Equipped Teachers with New Methodologies: Equipped 70 primary school teachers with skills in Language Enhancement Program (LEP) and Learning Resource Centre (LRC) methodologies, leading to enhanced teaching prac cesand improved student engagement.
- Engagement of Students Across Grades: Engaged 5,264 students across grades 3 to 8 through comprehensive training programs, resul ng in improved learning outcomes and enriched educa onal experiences.
- Strengthened Community Rela onships: Strengthened community rela onships and transparency through 125 mee ngs with various stakeholders, enhancing collabora on and addressinggrassrootseduca onal challenges.
- Empowerment of Girls: Empowered 562 adolescent girls in 36 villages through monthly mee ngs and discussions on girls' educa on, health awareness, and consistent schooling, leading to significant shi sin mindset regarding career aspira ons.
- Improved Learning Experiences for High School Students: Improved learning experiences for 210 students from three high schools through weekly sessions, facilita ng be er performance and outcomes in board exams.
- E ec ve Early Childhood Educa on (ECE) Programs: Enrolled 94% of children aged 3 to 6 years in ECE programs, resul ng in increased a endance rates and enhanced learning experiences, se ng a strong founda on for future educa on.
- Empowerment through Tailored Learning Programs: Empowered 1577 students from Spoke schools with tailored learning programs, promising enhanced learning outcomes and skills essen al for future success.

### Skill Development

for Youth Programme

The Skill Development Programme for Youth aim to create an enabling environment for socially and economically disadvantaged (Dalit, Valmiki, Tribal and other marginalized) youth in rural and urban areas of Gujarat.



Programme was ini ated by HDRC in March 2015. It focuses on enhancing employability skills and promo ng dignity and self-esteem among youth, par cularly those from marginalized communi es. This year, the project extended its reach to youth in five districts of the state through five skill development centers located in Halol, Limdi, Nizar, Junagarh, and Golana.

Key ac vi es of the programme include mobilizing youth with career aspira ons to facilitate enrollment. The program targets marginalized youth aged 18 to 25, with a focus on both boys and girls. E orts involve iden fying areas for mobiliza on, understanding job preferences, assessing willingness to relocate for employment, and engaging key community figures such as local leaders, Sangathans, organiza ons. Program Alumniand HDRC's volunteers helped in doing this.

Awareness campaigns, including roadshows, banners, pamphlets, village mee ngs, door-to-door interac ons, and counseling sessions, have successfully led to the enrollment of 590 youth for training. These e orts aim to empower youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and equip them with the skills needed to secure meaningful employment opportuni es.

#### Skills Training



Young aspiring individuals were thoroughly briefed on the program, its impact, and the ini a ves of the organiza on, including the Donor Quest Alliance. They underwent 240 hours of comprehensive training in retail management, so skills, life skills, communica on, career guidance, digital literacy, and value educa on from a seasoned master trainer, u lizing a blended learning approach. Various techniques were used to promote self-learning, with a mix of indoor and outdoor ac vi es for prac cal knowledge. Students without mobile access were provided with devices for digital sessions.



#### Employer Engagement 🚓



Engaging with employers o ers valuable opportuni es across diverse sectors, facilita ng the quality placement of trained youth and providing insights into current market trends. This interac on helps pinpoint areas for improvement in training. Establishing strong rela onships with local employers is essen al. This was done through market scans, HR round tables, one-on-one mee ngs, and telephonic or electronic communica ons, facilitated by the center team and placement coordinator.



#### Guest Lectures:

Mo va on plays a crucial role in the skilling program, especially for young individuals seeking to absorb valuable life lessons for success. Guest lectures from company HR professionals and experts o er students insigh ul career and life perspec ves. These sessions enable students to gain a deeper understanding of various careers, businesses, and market trends, empowering them to ask ques ons and explore their interests in the retail industry or other fields. This year, the centers organized 22 guest lectures to enrich the learning experience.

#### Alumni Engagement:

Alumni networks play a vital role in o ering mentorship and guidance to current students, aiding in the clarifica on of their doubts. Alumni mee ngs are designed to facilitate the sharing of experiences, with two or more alumni from each batch invited to inspire students through discussions on their career paths, skill applica on, and strategies for overcoming career challenges. These gatherings serve as a pla orm for alumni to share success stories, insights into further educa on, and workplace experiences, thereby mo va ng students through real-life examples and personal anecdotes.



#### ParentsMeet:

The support and coopera on of parents are essen all for the career progression of students. To foster this partnership, mee ngs are organized with parents of each batch to provide them with informa on on the training program, job opportuni es, required skills, and poten all job loca ons. These sessions aim to address any concerns parents may have and are par cularly crucial in encouraging female students to pursue their career goals.

#### Self-Employment Training:

Self-employment training sessions are conducted 2-3 mes per batch, equipping students with the knowledge needed to start small-scale businesses with minimal investment. The training covers various aspects of business opera ons, including processes, government loan op ons, loca on selec on, customer service, and product quality. Furthermore, a demonstra on session is held to allow students to interact with poten al customers, gather feedback, and develop strategies to enhance their career prospects.

#### Promo ngResponsible Ci zenship:

Each batch includes a session on the fundamental rights and du es of ci zens as enshrined in the Cons tu on of India. This session is designed to educate students about their cons tu onal rights and responsibili es, empowering them to become well-informed and responsible ci zens. Market Scan:

The market scan/analysis ac vity is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the current job market. This includes informa on on available job posi ons, required qualifica ons, eligibility criteria for both freshers and experienced individuals, job mings, benefits, and types of workplaces. Our facilitators play a crucial role in guiding students through this process, encouraging them



to share their own experiences. Placement coordinators conduct these scans to iden fy various job vacancies. Each batch of students par cipates in 1 or 2 market analysis ac vi es, total 22 market scans were completed throughout the year, greatly benefingour students.

#### Gender Equality and Harassment Awareness:

At HDRC, we priori ze the importance of gender equality and awareness of workplace harassment. Students are sensi zed on these issues through workshops and discussions on the Harassment at Workplace Act. These sessions aim to enhance students' understanding of gender roles and responsibili es, while also addressing gender discrimina on and promo ng a posi ve work environment. By engaging in workshops and virtual sessions with experts, students gain valuable insights that can be applied to both their personal and professional lives.

#### Grand Alumni Meet 2024:

In February 2024, HDRC hosted a Grand Alumni Meet at each of our centres, with over 250 alumni in a endance. During the event, alumni shared their career journeys, highligh ng their progress from entry-level posi ons to roles such as supervisors and contractors, and howour program has posi vely impacted their careers. Success stories were shared, including alumni who have secured promo ons and created job opportuni es for others. The event was a pla orm to mo vate current students by showcasing the tangible impact our program has had on alumni career paths. Alumni were honoured with mementos from HDRC as a token of apprecia on for their achievements.

#### Placement

Placement is a fundamental aspect of our skill development program. This year, we provided training to 590 students, with a mandatory placement goal of 70%. HDRC exceeded expecta ons, achieving a placement rate of 74% by successfully securing suitable jobs for 434 students.

Centre Name	Total Batch		ned lents Female	Total	Total   Male	Placed Female	Placed Data	Mobile library Used
Halol	4	69	26	95	72	17	89	26
Zalod	6	125	50	175	86	32	118	38
Nizar	7	98	62	160	79	50	129	100
Junagadh	3	45	25	70	33	11	44	5
Golana	4	44	46	90	27	27	54	11
Total	24	381	209	590	297	137	434	180







#### Research and Training

The Research and Training Unit at HDRC serves as a vital support system for various projects and also conducts independent research studies to enhance the knowledge base surrounding the center's ini a ves. The unit is ac vely involved in organizing, facilita ng, and par cipa ng in training programs across di erent projects and institutes.

#### 1. Par cipatory Ac on Research for Fishing Communi es in Coastal Gujarat:

One of our major ongoing ac vi esis the Par cipatory Ac on Research for Fishing Communi esin Coastal Gujarat, which aims to understand the policy impact, socio-economic changes, and livelihood transforma ons a ec ng fisher-folk in the coastal region of Gir-Somanth, Gujarat. This research is funded by ALBOAN and applied a combina on of qualita ve and quan ta ve research methodologies, as well as an explora ve research design.

Qualita ve research methods u lized in this study involve observing, documen ng, analyzing, and interpre ng characteris c pa erns, a ributes, and meanings of human phenomena under inves ga on. The final report for this project has been completed and submi ed to the funding agency. Moving forward, HDRC plan to organize a one-day consulta on with the fisher community at the regional level based on the findings of the report.

#### 2 Seminar Report on Forest Conserva on Amendment Act 2003:

The seminar report focuses on the Forest (Conserva on) Amendment Act 2023, which was o cially no fied by the government of India on August 4, 2023. The main objective of this amended act is to narrow down the scope of forest conserva on for certain forest lands. It also includes provisions that exempt border lands from the requirement to obtain permissions for clearing forests in order to facilitate the construction of "strategic linear projects of national importance". Additionally, the act permits certain nonforest activities on the focus of t

#### 3. Organizing Study Circles:

A Study Circle has been commenced to facilitate discussions on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's concept of Social Democracy. The inaugural session featured Raju Solanki, a Social Ac vist from Ahmedabad, along with Vidya Bhushan Rawat, an Ac vist Writer from Delhi, and Ashim Roy, an Ac vist from Ahmedabad, as guest speakers. This session took place on April 13, 2023. The second Study Circle was held on July 15, 2023, focusing on the topic of Social Jus ce and Uniform Civil Code, with Kanubhai Vyas, a Re red Addi onal District Judge, serving as the keynote speaker.

#### Other Ac vi es:

The Baal Sanskar Kendras in rural Gujarat (Khambhat) have been established to provide quality educa on to children from Dalit and marginalized communi es. The curriculum at Baal Sanskar Kendras is designed to be flexible and child-centric and to help them catch up and build a strong founda on in basic skills.

- The teachers are trained to use innova ve teaching methods and to create a posi ve and suppor ve learning environment.
- The centers also organize workshops and awareness programs for parents to educate them about the importance of educa on and the role they can play in their children's development.
- Children who were previously unable to read or write have shown remarkable improvement in their literacy and numeracy skills.
- One of the major achievements of the Baal Sanskar Kendrashas been the reduc on in dropout rates.
   Many children who were at risk of dropping out of school due to poor academic performance or



economic pressures have been able to con nue their educa on thanks to the support provided by the centers.

By focusing on academic learning, cultural values, physical development, and social awareness, these centers are helping to crate a new genera on of confident, informed, and socially responsible cizen. The ac vity based learning approach, emphasis on holis c development and community involvement have contributed to the success of the centers and have had a posi ve impact on the lives of many children.

#### Promoting Sustainable and Organic Farming Practices in Gujarat

Capacity building of the team was a crucial component of the Mithivirdi group's strategy for promo ng organic and natural farming. The primary goal of this ini a ve is to cul vate issue-based ac vists who can drive social change within the community. Within 3-4 years of the group's forma on, the objec ve was to enhance the team's capabili es to educate other farmers, par cularly small-scale farmers, on the benefits of natural and organic farming prac ces. Addi onally, the group aimed to establish direct connec ons between these farmers and the market to facilitate the sale of their produce. As a result,

- · Khedut Haat, a farmer's market where produce is sold directly, has been established in Bhavnagar.
- · Khedut Haat has also been set up in urban areas with the support of the Municipal Commissioner.
- The use of WhatsApp groups to create a market for direct selling has proven to be successful. As a result, over 30 farmer families have not only added value to their produce but have also been able to sell it directly.
- The team has enabled over 30 farmer families to sell their organic farm produce directly and increase its value.
- The team members have been trained to set up agricultural markets in various cies, enhancing their capacity.
- In addi on to team members, some young farmers have also developed the skills to independently establish markets for their produce in dierent cies.
- The team members have been equipped with the necessary skills to easily provide agricultural inputs and essen alservices to other farmers.
- More than 10 individuals from the team and other farmer leaders (community leaders) underwent training to become trainers in order to demonstrate organic farming techniques to fellow farmers.
- 7 women from the team and the community received training to become trainers in forming, opera ng, and managing saving and credit groups for other women.
- The capacity of execu ve members of the federa on was strengthened to independently carry out administra ve tasks.
- Execu ve body members were trained on issues such as violence against women and various welfare schemes, enabling them to provide support to other women in the community.
- Women have begun taking the ini a ve in resolving issues related to the police sta on, overcoming their previous fear of approaching lawen forcement.
- Women leaders in the community have developed the skills to organize and manage large-scale events such as Interna on al Women's Day on 8th March.
- Members of the Farmer Producer Organiza on (FPO) and the team have gained knowledge on value addi on in agricultural products, successfully producing groundnut oil marketed under their own company's brand.



#### **Impact**

Gender discrimina on is a pervasive issue in patriarchal socie es worldwide, a ec ng women from birth in areas such as upbringing, educa on, occupa on, and property distribu on. This discrimina on, which o en includes both physical and mental abuse, presents obstacles at every stage of a woman's life. While some families may be excep ons, the prevalence of this discrimina on is alarming.

To address this issue, e orts have been made to empower women in various ways, including ini a ves focused on organic food produc on. These e orts aim to reduce atroci es, build capacity, and raise awareness among women. Addi onally, legal support has been provided to ensure that women have the necessary resources to combat discrimina on.

One such ini a ve is the establishment of a Gender Resource Center in Koliyak, which is operated by local women who are well-equipped to address the needs of their community. The center o ers a range of services, including capacity building for livelihood and marke ng, the establishment of the Sahiyar women saving and credit coopera ve society for long-term financial support, legal support from experts, and training for leadership, financial management, and administra ve skills.

Through these e orts, women are being empowered to overcome the challenges they face in patriarchal socie es, ul mately working towards a more equitable and just future for all.

The Gender Resource Center has achieved the following:

- Empowering execu ve members of the coopera ve to independently manage savings and credit ac vi es.
- Enhancing the team's counselling skills to address cases of violence and atrocies, as well as maintenance issues.
- Facilita ng women in marke ng their products and improving their livelihood through mee ngs and exhibitions.
- Enhancing women's mass communica on skills during annual fes vals.

Sr.	Details	Figures
1	Members of saving and credit mandal	260
2	Total share fund	1.05 Lakhs
3	Number of competent executives	10
4	Administrative training	4
5	Counselling/guidance sessions	25
6	Online Applications	10
7	Cases of violence and maintenance	7

#### Achievement

- Over 20 young farmers have honed their marke ng skills and are now successfully selling their produce directly in Bhavnagar and other markets.
- Women have gained confidence through simplified loan processes o ered by a small women's savings bank.
- Successful value addi on in groundnut and tea produc on, including processing, packaging, and marke ng, has opened up opportuni es for profitable business ventures.
- Youth groups in the area have developed the ability to organize and manage events such as food fes vals and Interna onal Women's Day celebra ons independently.



#### Capacity Building of HDRC Staff

Date	Training Topics	Trainer/Organizer	# of Staff Participated
10-07-2023 to 14-07- 2023	Navigator Training	Quest Alliance	2
12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Training on Results Based Management (RBM) and Gender Responsive budgeting/ Auditing Practices	Mr. Khilesh Chaturvedi by HDRC	HDRC Core Staff
11-09-2023 to 13-09- 2023	Refresher ToT	Quest Alliance	5
24-11-2023	Placement Officer Training	Quest Alliance	3
30th September to 5th October 2023	Community Process Facilitation Certification Program (CPFCP) 2023	Indian Society for Applied Behavioural Science (ISABS).	1
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Online meeting for Pro-gender equality plan	ALBOAN	3

#### Students for placement training / internship

Sr.	Name of the	University	Course	Date	Students placed for	Total No.
	Students					of Students
1.	Ms. Thekkanathe	Rajagiri	MSW	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023 to	Women	1
	Annie Antony	College of		15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Empowerment,	
		Social			Urban, Child Rights	
		Sciences			& Child	
					Development	
					Programmes	
2.	Mr. Vasava	Gujarat	MSW	1st April 2023 to 5th	Research & Training	1
	Jayendrabhai	Vidyapith		May 2023	Unit and SBK	
	Kanubhai				programme	
3.	Mr. Pathik Rathod	Gujarat	MSW	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024 to	Office Related work	3
	Mr. Jeet Jani	University		28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		
	Mr. Ajay God					
4.	Ms. Mitul M.	Gujarat	MSW	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Officer Related &	1
	Sontariya	University		to 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.	Research Unit	
5.	Ms. Sandhyaben	Gujarat	MSW	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 to	Research & Training	2
	Devubhai Kukna	Vidyapith		20th October 2023	Unit and Women &	
	Ms. Jigna Pratapbhai				Child Development	
	Nandaniya				project	



#### St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society

#### RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

		(Amount in Rs.)		
PARTICULARS		2022-23		
	FCRA	INDIAN	TOTAL	TOTAL
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance				
Cash	18,895	38,886	57,781	75,189
Bank Balance	84,75,217	64,50,971	1,49,26,188	1,62,51,098
Investment- Fixed Deposit	86,56,899	4,35,60,873	5,22,17,772	5,22,17,772
Net Current Assets	6,92,402	19,25,190	26,17,592	23,20,645
Receipts				
Grant & Donations	3,41,87,347	40,85,640	3,82,72,987	4,76,19,268
Income from other sources	-	12,49,053	12,49,053	14,20,184
Interest Income	11,46,415	30,92,026	42,38,441	37,09,574
Total Receipts	5,31,77,175	6,04,02,639	11,35,79,814	12,36,13,730
PAYMENTS				
Program Cost				
Expenditures on the Object of the Trust	3,01,50,306	42,63,835	3,44,14,141	4,19,87,930
Administrative Cost		a (19)	_	
Establishment Expenses	55,13,853	44,20,696	99,34,549	82,89,232
Remuneration to Trustee	3,14,620	5,44,540	8,59,160	7,56,500
Audit Fee	2,33,130	50,568	2,83,698	2,06,559
Charity Comm. Contribution	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Assets Purchase	5,27,140	26,200	5,53,340	20,81,223
Grant return to funder		29,25,459	29,25,459	
Closing Balance				
Cash	8,386	42,686	51,072	57,781
Bank Balance	56,55,799	16,82,202	73,38,001	1,49,26,188
Investment- Fixed Deposit	1,04,48,316	4,52,43,677	5,56,91,993	5,22,17,772
Net Current Assets	3,25,624	11,52,776	14,78,400	30,40,545
Total Payments	5,31,77,174	6,04,02,639	11,35,79,813	12,36,13,730
Diff	0		0	

NOTES FORMING PART OF ACCOUNTS - ANNEXURE O

CA JAHIR MANSURI CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MEMBERSHIP NO.: 115867 UDIN: 24115867BKETAC2019 For, ST. XAVIER'S NONFORMAL EDUCATION

SOCIETY

SECRETARY / TRUSTEE

DATE: 25.09.2024 PLACE: AHMEDABAD



#### St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society

#### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT** FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

(Amount in Rs.)

			2023-24		2022-23	
PARTICULARS	ANNEX URE	FCRA	INDIAN	TOTAL	TOTAL	
INCOME :						
GRANTS INCOME	н	3,40,55,683	41,95,387	3,82,51,070	4,64,24,797	
DONATION INCOME	-	-		-	-	
INTEREST INCOME	1	11,46,415	30,92,026	42,38,441	37,09,574	
INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES	J	-	12,49,053	12,49,053	14,20,184	
TOTAL INCOME		3,52,02,098	85,36,466	4,37,38,564	5,15,54,555	
EXPENDITURE :						
EXPENSES ON OBJECTS OF THE TRUST	к	3,01,50,306	42,63,835	3,44,14,141	4,19,87,930	
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES	L	55,13,853	44,95,466	1,00,09,319	87,12,183	
AUDIT FEES	М	2,33,130	50,568	2,83,698	2,06,559	
REMUNERATION TO TRUSTEE	N	3,14,620	5,44,540	8,59,160	7,56,500	
CHARITY COMMISSIONER CONTRIBUTIO	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	
DEPRECIATION	D	6,68,528	4,22,951	10,91,479	. 12,12,124	
TOTAL EXPENSES		3,68,80,437	98,27,360	4,67,07,797	5,29,25,296	
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER INCOME  Transfer to Non-Corpus Fund (Annexure-B.		(16,78,339)	(12,90,894)	(29,69,233)	(13,70,741	

NOTES FORMING PART OF ACCOUNTS - ANNEXURE O

**CA JAHIR MANSURI CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS** MEMBERSHIP NO.: 115867

UDIN: 24115867BKETAC2019

For, ST. XAVIER'S NONFORMAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

AHMEDABAD

SECRETARY / TRUSTEE

DATE: 25.09.2024

PLACE: AHMEDABAD



#### St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society

#### **BALANCE SHEET** AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

(Amount in Rs.)

DARTICU ARC	4 5 1 5 1 5 1		2023-24		2022-23	
PARTICULARS	URE	FCRA	INDIAN	TOTAL	TOTAL	
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES						
CORPUS FUNDS	A	24,44,339	4,35,60,873	4,60,05,212	4,60,05,212	
NON-CORPUS FUNDS	В	1,28,44,416	76,50,567	2,04,94,983	2,34,64,216	
UNUTILIZED GRANTS	н	59,31,636	1,79,442	61,11,078	90,14,621	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	С	76,037	23,011	99,048	65,146	
TOTAL		2,12,96,428	5,14,13,893	7,27,10,321	7,85,49,19	
ASSETS AND PROPERTIES						
NET FIXED ASSETS	D	47,82,265	32,69,541	80,51,806	86,64,722	
INVESTMENTS	E	1,04,48,316	4,52,43,677	5,56,91,993	5,22,17,772	
CASH AND BANK BALANCE	F	56,64,185	17,24,888	73,89,073	1,49,83,968	
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	G	4,01,661	11,75,787	15,77,448	26,82,733	
TOTAL		2,12,96,428	5,14,13,893	7,27,10,321	7,85,49,19	
		-	-	-	-	

NOTES FORMING PART OF ACCOUNTS - ANNEXURE O

CA JAHIR MANSURI **CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS** 

MEMBERSHIP NO.: 115867

UDIN: 24115867BKETAC2019

For, ST. XAVIER'S NONFORMAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

AHMEDABAD

SECRETARY / TRUSTEE

DATE: 25.09.2024

PLACE: AHMEDABAD



