

ANNUAL REPORT

January 2022- March 2023



2022-23
SAKHI SANGINI

CONTENT

- Letter from the founder .
- Sakhi Sangini- Unleashing the Power of Collective
- Vision and Objective of Sakhi Sangini
- Journey of Independence
- Micro-finance Program
- Legal aid and awareness
- Health Program
- Trainings and Capacity building
- Jameen Awass Program
- Vulnerable section of society
- Common Service Center (Single Window System)
- Center for Entrepreneurship Development

Letter from the founder

Ever since KMVS's inception, many of us have been visualizing emergence of a force of women leaders , confident - courageous and dedicated to lead the community-based federations organized in different areas. The federations or the Sangathans not only destined to be an alliance but imbibed with the core values and ideology of KMVS.

In this journey of women's movement in Kutch for last 34 years, KMVS has witnessed many such strong leaders who have contributed a lot to bring their women out, create spaces for them, hand hold them in crises and collectivising them as Sangathans. These federations in rural areas are now capable of functioning as independent organisations.

Having more than 15 years' experience of working with women in rural areas, KMVS initiated its work with the underprivileged women in urban areas of Bhuj city in 2007. The urban team of KMVS with complete

dedication and energy organised the slum dwelling women, efforts were made to identify issues and needs of these women, and programs / projects were implemented under their leadership to address the same.

Gradually in 2013 when we realized that the federation has become matured enough to be given a formal identity, it was named as “SAKHI SANGINI SANGATHAN” and was registered as trust and society.

Till 2021 KMVS as promoter-/ parent organisation nurtured and supported Sakhi Sangini entirely. In 2021 it was logical that, the Sangathan should function autonomously by creating its own office place, planning the yearly interventions as per the priorities of their members, taking up the overall monitoring and administrative responsibilities etc...

The drive begun in January 2022. and it has been a wonderful 15 months that this community-based organisation is now led by the enthusiastic women leaders.

This is the first annual report of Sakhi Sangini 's autonomous journey from January 2022 -March 2023.

On behalf of all the Sakhies associated with the Sangathan, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those individuals, groups and organisations, who have contributed to strengthen and stabilize this urban collective and converting the vision in reality

Alka Jani,

Founder / Trustee



Sakhi Sangini- Unleashing the Power of Collective

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) introduced the Urban Cell in 2007 as an intervention in urban spaces, addressing the increasing control of patriarchal hands that manifested differently in these areas. Through the Urban Cell initiated to work in urban areas, KMVS encountered women living in the slums of Bhuj who had migrated from rural areas of Kutch for last 50-25 years to urban areas like Bhuj. To better understand their problems and the issues they faced, several door-to-door meetings and surveys were conducted. The survey revealed that these women were economically disadvantaged, their expenditures exceeded their income, and they lived in houses made of plastic and mud.

Looking at the need for livelihoods, KMVS Urban Cell decided to focus on improving their livelihood in collaboration with the municipality under the “Swatcchata Abhiyaan” engaging them for door-to-door collection of waste in the city. However, the biggest obstacle was that women were initially hesitant to work, as they belonged to different communities where, the caste system was deeply entrenched.

Despite the initial resistance, through persistent efforts and continuous communication, three women eventually agreed to undertake the work. Over time, this number grew to 126 women.

To ensure that the 126 women had control over the money they earned and prevent it from falling into the hands of their families or in-laws, bank accounts were opened in their names, and direct payment transfers were initiated. The perspective of these women working in the cleanliness of Bhuj, and their respective communities also changed. They were no longer referred to as "Safai karne wali" or "kachara lene wali" (sweepers or garbage collectors) but were now addressed as **"Sakhis."**

All the women became connected and associated with the Sakhis, and as a result, leadership training programs were introduced. Women started identifying and understanding issues in their communities and developed empathy towards one another. From this, self-help groups were formed. The idea behind these groups was to save money collectively, support each other in times of need, and become self-sufficient. Initially, two groups were formed, and over time, other areas were included as well.

Self-help group meetings were conducted in various areas of Bhuj, and during these meetings, other issues such as domestic violence, women's health, housing, and education for their daughters emerged. To address these issues, the federation of these organized women, named **"Sakhi Sangini,"** was conceived and registered as an independent local organization in 2013.

With the support and nurturing of KMVS, Sakhi Sangini gained a separate identity. It took its first step towards progress by functioning as a separate identity in 2022. A core team from the community was formed, and over time, the team expanded from four members to a large team.

Vision / key goals:

The overarching mission of Sakhi Sangini is total empowerment of women and adolescent girls dwelling in slum areas by institutionalizing them as federations led by the trained and nurtured leadership capable of facilitating change in the socio-economic- political status of women and girls. The federation aims to provide the women and girls range of opportunities and spaces to enable a secured and safe future through a variety of interventions and programs.

Key objectives:

- ✚ Financial inclusion – access to credit for resource poor women for their economic transformation and sustainability.
- ✚ To create safe environment for women and girls in the city in collaboration with local administration police and judiciary.
- ✚ Safe and secure housing for poor slum dwellers.
- ✚ Collectivization / institutionalization and capacity building – nurturing of adolescent girls.
- ✚ Identification of women leaders and their capacity building so that they lead the sakhi Sangini federation and relevant programs.
- ✚ Increase women's participation in local governance.
- ✚ Create an environment where the poor are enabled to access quality services / benefits of government schemes and programs as their right.
- ✚ Organizing and including women from marginalized sections like sex workers, women engaged with unorganized economic sectors, migrants, ragpickers etc

Journey of Independence

In August 2021, a process involving 22 women from the core group took place in Srujan, which is another well known organization run by one of the board members of Sakhi Sangini. The motto of KMVS is to empower federations and make them independent. It was observed that Sakhi Sangini was ready to function as an independent organization where leaders from the community would take the lead.

The process began with a workshop where these 22 women participated and were given leadership roles. Now, as leaders, the focus is on taking this organization forward and making significant changes to empower women in other areas.

During the workshop, women shared their experiences and how their perspectives have changed. The changes and impacts that have occurred were discussed, and the aim was to impart these changes to other women and empower them.

Inclusion of women from the vulnerable section of society, was the main focus of the new work plan discussed. The workshop also briefly touched upon the work done by the urban cell. It was concluded that, the independent organization should also address other emerging issues and provide support to empower women to take the lead.

Following the workshop, a 4-day workshop and meeting were held in LLDC with the board members of Sakhi Sangini. On the first day, the vision of Sakhi Sangini was discussed in detail. The meeting then focused on determining the issues that Sakhi Sangini would tackle independently and those that would require support from KMVS.

Out of the 22 women, a smaller core group was selected, and leaders were assigned to specific themes. The objective was to guide these leaders in taking their respective programs forward. This was accomplished through activities where groups of 4-5 women wrote about the vision, objectives, needs, planning, and reporting associated with their programs. The involvement of other women and the expansion of work in other parts of Bhuj were also discussed. Various issues and program teams were identified during this discussion.

Each group provided a brief overview of their programs, and overall plan of Sakhi Sangini was finalized. The impact of these programs was emphasized, and a presentation was given by the core team to KMVS team, outlining how the programs would be run and by whom once the organization becomes independent.

This entire process has strengthened the motivation and determination of the core members to take Sakhi Sangini forward. Their hard work and honesty will bring about impactful changes in the lives of women.

At a later stage effort were made to access independent funding for this CBO.

The co-opted governing board members and the senior KMVS leaders (founders of Sakhi Sangini) approached funding institutions and finally were successfully able to secure funding from 2 funding agencies. The core team of Sakhi Sangini also played an important role in sharing the organisation's vision/ objectives/ work plan / approach etc to funders and also responded to their queries satisfactorily.

After the independent planning and visioning exercise, the core team with the support of KMVS team hired a new office in January 2022, set up their own administration system and started implementing the programs as planned. Today after completion of 15 months of their autonomous functioning, with the governing board member's support, they gradually steer their organisation as responsible leaders.



Planning

Micro-finance program

The program is meant for financial inclusion, access to credit for resource-poor women for their economic transformation and sustainability.

As the main organizing intervention, microfinance program has been instrumental to reach out to women through Self-help groups regularly. All the members of the Self-Help groups get together every month and execute the savings and credit activities, this assures women's financial security and sustainability. They are also linked with different government and bankable schemes for their credit needs. This encouraged them to start their own livelihood activities.

The leaders and the members of SHG are regularly involved in different training and workshops covering different subjects and topics to enhance their knowledge base and impart information related to different skills and programs. This builds their capacities, and skills as leaders and develops perspective so that they become instrumental to change their own lives, and the lives of the women and community in their area and lead the change process as leaders.

Sakhi sangini's is forming new groups and activating the dormant group for better financial inclusion of women. For this purpose, Sakhi Sangini is doing General meetings in every area of Bhuj. 29 General meeting were organised by the team during the reporting period, in which relevant information about government schemes is imparted and whomsoever required were supported to access the same. For better reaching out to every woman, leadership training is given to selected young girls having leadership qualities, as the SHG facilitators one such batch of SHG facilitators on is successfully trained and 8 amongst these trained girls are engaged with different SHGs, and the second training for next batch is in process.

Though during the course of time 225 SHGs were formed and linked with the Program but currently, 140 SHGs are most active. Total saving during these 15 months is Rs 5929100/- and the total loan disbursed is RS14340250 /-.

Two training programs are provided to empower young women to take leadership roles in their respective areas. One of the key aspects covered is the concept of self-help groups (SHGs), where participants learn about the member's, leader's and facilitator's roles. During the training, two documentaries, "Samuh Kya Hai" and "Baithak Kyu," are shown to familiarize the cadre with the functioning of the group and how they can support women. The roles and responsibilities of facilitator are also taught to ensure that they can effectively conduct meetings in the area after the training.

In the previous year, through a general meeting, SHFs (Self-Help Facilitators) were identified with leadership potential, and a screening process was conducted by the team to select candidates to facilitate the SHGs. 8-9 such young girls are engaged as facilitators.

Microfinance program status during the reporting period

Total SHG groups till March	140 groups
Total Saving	5929100 Lakhs
Total Loan	14340250 Crore
Total repayment of the loan	19524666 Crore
Total Interest	2594523 Lakhs



Self-help group meeting in Ganesh Nagar area

Legal

For creating safe environment for women and girls in the city in collaboration with local administration police and judiciary.

Creating a violence-free safe environment for women and girls in the city is the core agenda of Sakhi Sangini, different approaches and processes are adopted to achieve this objective of safety. A legal counselling centre for urban areas has been established in the city in the KMVS office to support the victims of violence, Para legal training is conducted regularly for the selected leaders from the areas. These Para legal workers are engaged in awareness generation in the areas, they also refer cases to the counselling centre. Para legal workers are actively engaged with government mediation centres and do the follow-up of the cases.



Door to Door legal Awareness campaign

Regular intense legal awareness campaigns are organized in the areas. **5 such Camps for 10 days** were conducted every quarter in the last 15 months. Sakhi Sangini constantly works for building trust among communities, and as a result, a greater number of cases are getting registered.

Centralized counselling centre in KMVS office in adjunct to “**Hello Sakhi**” helpline with DSP office has been operating for supporting the women approaching issues of violence and offenses against women and girls. Cases were taken up for counselling at counselling centre in KMVS. The cases included issues of maintenance for divorces, marital disputes, property-related cases, sexual abuse, missing persons etc. Legal awareness campaigns including door to door interaction with women were also organized in areas. Every month 2 legal camps were organized by the team in different areas. Adolescent girls are given illumination regarding sexual harassment and available allocations to brawl against it. This year **379 cases** were handled

9 cybercrime workshops were organized in collaboration with the state police. Approx. **80-100 women** in each workshop. The workshop focussed on awareness among women and young girls spread about criminal activities such as online harassment, scams, fraud phishing, etc. taking place from phones and other gadgets.



Legal camp and cybercrime workshop

Total number of cases handled

Types of cases	Number of cases
----------------	-----------------

Domestic violence	153
Child custody	27
Missing	9
Maintenance	22
Property dispute	7
Alcohol addiction	63
Cyber crime	14
Physical harassment	4
Sexual harassment at workplace	2
Appeal/request by a husband to get back his wife	58
Total cases	379

Health

Sakhi Sangini works on has been engaging and reproductive health

charitable trust “Bhojay Sarvodaya Trust” (BST) and the government Health department. Sakhi Sangini’s team also organized general health and gynaecological camps every month in the areas. This provided women space to open and talk freely about their health issues, women have started giving importance to their own health. Sakhi Sangini is also now linking the women for prenatal and antenatal care, adolescent girls, and children for accessing proper services of Anganwadi and urban health centres.

women’s health and linking women for services with a local

Health Training under the Health Training program, our team visited different areas and conducted door-to-door visits to provide vital health information to women. We address various issues faced by women, such as menstruation, white discharge, and childbearing. These problems are significant, and it is crucial for women to have knowledge about the same. The Health Training program aims to raise awareness about these women-related problems and educate participants about how to identify and manage them. The resource persons from KMVS leading these sessions are trained by experts.

During each Health Training sessions, approximately 30-35 **women**, including adolescent girls, were present the resource persons use informative movies and presentations that cover topics like menstruation, sex, and gender. They also discuss the societal biases and misconceptions surrounding these issues, emphasizing that it is not the fault of women but rather a result of societal norms. Participants were educated on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including proper nutrition and personal hygiene practices like using sanitary pads and maintaining cleanliness.



Health training session

Following the Health Training sessions, the participants take it upon themselves to spread awareness among other women who couldn't attend the sessions. They became advocates for women's health and encourage others to join the gynaecological camps organized by Sakhi Sangini in collaboration with the Bhojiya Sarvodaya Trust.

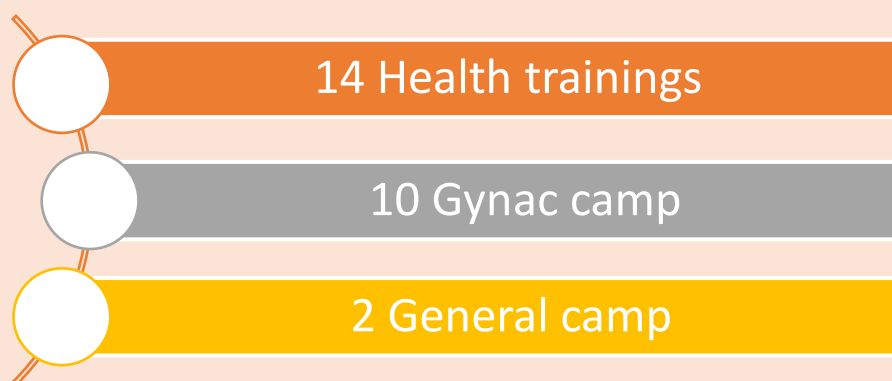
Gynaecological Camp: every month, a gynaecological camp organized in one area, where doctors provide their services to women in need. Approximately **50-60 women** benefit from these camps. The Bhojiya Trust generously offers free services during these camps, which includes medications, free tests like sonography, free surgery, etc the women.

For severe cases that require further treatment, the women are referred to government hospitals or the Bhojiya Hospital. One of our team members follows up on these cases until the individuals receive full treatment. In the past year, six severe cases were identified and referred for further treatment.

General Health Camp: During the Self-help group meetings and door-to-door visits, our team informs the community about the upcoming General Health Camp. This camp welcomes individuals of all ages and genders to seek healthcare services. Around **40 people** avail themselves of the benefits provided during these camps, including free medications.



Health Camp



Trainings and capacity building

During the reporting period systematic trainings/ exposures / workshops were organised for the area leaders, core team and field staff.

The core team of Sakhi Sangini was engaged with in house computer trainings, they have now learnt to write their reports in computers and send mails. 2-3 of these team members have been trained for data entry in the Microfinance program MIS, they are being trained to work in excel sheets. They are nurtured to resolve the problems emerging from the SHGs , the core team is trained to prepare the Power point presentations .

A new cadre of **7 SHG facilitators** is trained and engaged with with groups , every month a separate repoprting and planning meeting is organised with the SHG cadre and the core team this provides the opprtunity to the leaders for handholding the cadre to fiunction better .

3 selected young girls are trained by an experianced person for Single window system to run the common service centre and serve the needy members in terms of generating documents / cards and accessing government schemes and programs . in coordination with the area leaders camps are also organised in different areas for this . An exposure to Rajkot municipality and Samakhiyaali common service centre was organised for the core team and the service providers to learn from the practical implementation of such centres .

Systematic planned trainings were organised for area leaders on perspective and skill building topics through out the year in the two batches covering the following -

- Understanding self .
- Understanding the Sangathan vison and objectives
- Leadership (need /qualities /types / responsibilities)
- Feminist movement and KMVS
- Social perception .
- Understanding of “ Global to the Local “(the solar system / the planet / continents / country / state / district / block/ city)
- The political and administrative structure of India .
- Effective communication
- In addition to th advanced trainings , specifc trainings for the para legal workers on different legal aspects and laws related to women were imparted .
- Sakhi Sangini leaders also participated in different trainings organised by KMVS.SS leader also participated in workshops and exposures organised by HIC (Homes I the City net work)



Cadre training

Jameen Awas (accessing a piece of land for legal dwelling.)

The long-term vision is for a city-level federation of landless community emerges to work on this issue systematically.

Sakhi Sangini has been working on the issue of housing in the spectrum of priority and has been inspiring and building women's capacities so that they perceive their dreams of building their own houses. For this, the legitimate ownership of land is the first requirement, while all most 80-85 % of slum dwellers presently live on illegally encroached government lands. The land is a very sensitive issue, and a process of organizing people in the areas under women's leadership to strategically engage and inspire them in applying for government land is underway. Area committees are formed to support these individuals, help them to go through the complicated process, and to coordinate with different departments. The long-term vision is a city-level federation of landless community emerges to work on the issue systematically and later, implementation of government housing programs in the city become possible.

In the year 2022, Sakhi Sangini collaborated with KMVS to conduct **14 general meetings** with women and leaders, followed by meetings with the heads of families, which included men. In these meetings, **10 areas** were identified where application forms for accessing a 100 sq.mtr land were filled by families. Leaders were appointed from each area, and a committee was formed to facilitate information dissemination within the area. Volunteers were trained to fill out the forms, which were then submitted to the collector's office.

To empower the committee members, training sessions were organized, and they were provided with exposure to Mahila Housing Trust in Ahmedabad. So far, **1,170 forms** have been filled and submitted to the collector's office. The government is currently processing the replies. As part of this process, the government has requested documents from the people residing in those areas. Up to this point, **69 individual forms** have received a reply/ response from the government, while the process is still ongoing for others. (The response and the government letters asking the applicants for submitting the documents are maintained in proper filing system to be used as evidence as and when needed)

Ongoing efforts are being made to establish the **"Zameen Awas Adhikar Manch" (Land Housing Rights Forum)**, which will consist of committees representing all the slum areas. This forum will act as a pressure group and advocate for the land rights of the slum dwellers.



Zammen Awas manch meeting in areas of Bhuj

Inclusion of women from Vulnerable section of society into Sakhi Sangini Sangathan

Organizing and including women from marginalized sections like sex workers, women engaged with unorganized economic sectors, migrants, rag pickers etc. into the mainstream of federation has been one of the main objectives of Sakhi Sangini.

As part of this, Sakhi Sangini intervenes presently with migrant women. To start with, Sakhi Sangini leaders have been visiting the areas of Migrant communities, meeting the women, and understanding their situation, in addition to this, the Sangathan is also trying to organize them through SHGs, focusing on their health and safety issues. This process will also provide an opportunity to identify women with leadership qualities and will initiate training for their perspective-building and strengthening leadership abilities.

Last year, the team of Sakhi Sangini with Setu Abhiyan visited all **14 areas twice covering 200 families**. The team conducted door-to-door visits to understand the problems and issues faced by migrant women. In these areas, camps were organized by our trained cadre in CSC (Common Service Centres-Single Window System) to generate E- Nirman and E Shram Cards so that migrants could avail the benefits of government programs relevant to the communities .

Total Areas	14
Total visit by team	28
Total Families	450-500 approx.
Total E-Nirman and E-Shram cards	66



Door to Door meeting with migrants

Single Window System-CSC (Common Service Centre)

To create an environment where the poor are enabled to access quality services / benefits of government schemes and programs as their right.

Sakhi Sangini experienced that women from deprived areas find it difficult to access any benefits of government programs, though being eligible, since they lack information, or do not have proper documents, evidence, or entitlements required to be submitted along with the forms of application.

In addition to it, they get tired of the complicated and lengthy process of applying and following for the same. To fill the gap Sakhi Sangini has initiated a process of launching a women-run single window system this will support them in all aspects and the women will get the benefit from it.

3 young women are being trained by an expert having experience of running common service centre for more than 5 years , The resource person teaches them about filling out the form for the Aayushman card , , Pan card, E-nirman card , E-shramik card etc, and other important documents required by the women ,and also help them accessing the government schemes and program by supporting them filling the forms, submitting the same on line and constant follow up of the same .

An exposure visit to Rajkot took place in January 2023 to know more about the common service centres , a meeting with Mahanagar Paalika was held during the visit .

These trained girls also organized camps in areas when people from the area demanded for the same. Till date 10 **camps** are organized, and in each camp, approx. 20 -30 people avail the services of getting different documents and other services.

Status of services provided during the reporting Period

Documents	Number
Ayushman card	150

E-Nirmaan card	164
E -Shram Card	2
Linking Pan card to Adhaar card	90
Pan card	88
Adhaar card	40
Other Services	60
Total number of beneficiaries Covered	594



Cadre making cards in the areas.

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED).

The Centre of Entrepreneurship Development (CED) is a premier Organization of the Government of Gujarat engaged in Entrepreneurship Development Training since 1979, concept behind CED is to develop entrepreneurs in the urban as well as rural areas of the state, with people who can establish their own Enterprise (Trading/Service/Manufacturing) and creates employment opportunities for others. Sakhi Sangini engaged Women's groups from areas and coordinated with CED. These women's groups go through a 12 days training program where different resource persons are invited to impart training on different issues related to Entrepreneurship, later on after the completion of the training they are certified and inked with either bankable loans or with private donors for financial support to start their business/work.

One such training program was conducted in one area Pathan fariya. Here, **20 women** participated and completed it successfully. Over the period of 12 days, different resource persons came to teach a range of topics such as market research, product development, and branding support, to help micro and small entrepreneurs to develop and grow their businesses.

Out of these 20 women, **three** showed immediate interest in starting their small venture. Business planning was done with them through a brief introduction about the kind of business they want to start, what product/service they want to sell, how much capacity they have to work in a year, whom they see as target customers, what kind of machinery and equipment they require, human resource, raw material, total cost and means of finance. After this process, they were linked with Dream Foundation by Sakhi Sangini for interest-free loans.



CED training and business open

Images depicting Sakhi Sangini's work .



SHG meeting in Ganesh Nagar

General meeting in Ramdev Nagar.



Trainings for SHG cadre



Door to Door visit for legal awareness campaign



Reporting Meeting Sakhi Sangini.



Health training in Bhuteswar



Leadership Training



***Vyasan Mukti campaign in
Raghuvanshi Nagar***