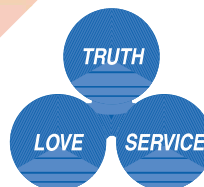




**VICHARTA
SAMUDAY
SAMARTHAN
MANCH (VSSM) &**



**Friends of
VSSM
&
Dharampur**

Glimpses of Humanity at Work Come, Join the Movement

2018-19





**VICHARTA
SAMUDAY
SAMARTHAN
MANCH
(VSSM)**



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Ms. Geeta Gala	Trustee
Smt. Mittalben Patel	Secretary Cum Managing Turstee

Leadership Team Details

Ms. Mittal Patel	Managing Secretary At Head Office, Ahmedabad.
Mr. Linesh Gurjar	Manager Finance-Programme

Programme Co-ordinators

Ms. Amiben Shah	(Livelihood Programme)
Ms. Dimple Parikh	(Education Programme)
Ms. Prajakta Bhawe	(Advocacy, Water Management Programme)
Mr. Chirag Jadav	(Housing Programme)
Mr. Jitendra Gohel	(Accountant)

Field Co-ordinators

Mr. Jayantibhai Bajaniya	Mr. Naran Raval	Mr. Mohanbhai Bajaniya
Ms. Shardaben Bhati	Mr. Kanubhai Bajaniya	Mr. Tohid Shaikh
Ms. Chhayaben Patel	Mr. Ramesh Makwana	Mrs. Madhuben Bajaniya
Mrs. Ilaben Bajaniya	Mr. Harshad Vyas	Mr. Mahesh Raval
Mr. Paresh Raval	Mr. Shankarbhai Bajaniya	Mr. Rizwan Shaikh
Mr. Bhagwanbhai Raval	Mr. Ishwarbhai Raval	

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About VSSM

Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch, abbreviated as VSSM came into being in 2005 in a quest to find the whereabouts of various Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes (NT-DNTs) of Gujarat. The questions it struggled to find answers included “why don't we see them around us anymore”, “where are they now” and “what had happened to them?” This quest revealed some uncomfortable truths. The plight of these communities forced us to design some concrete and focused interventions which required it to become a legal entity. VSSM was formally registered as an organization in the year 2010, with the vision to give social identity, dignity and voice to the suffering and hardships these communities faced and to find solutions to their unvoiced challenges.

Vivacious, gregarious, humble, skilled, cultured, harmless and so much more. Yet, neglected, excluded, deprived, traumatized and much more. The Nomadic and De-notified tribes of Gujarat have every right to be upset towards the civil society and policy makers for being treated shabbily for generations. VSSM, through its various



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initiatives endeavours to enable the NT-DNTs to get access to citizenry rights, education, health facilities, elderly care, child care, water conservation and livelihood support. It has taken up the challenge to bring about a holistic change in the lives of NT-DNTs by questioning stereotypes both at the grassroots as well as the policy levels.

Vision

The Nomadic and De-notified tribes attain identity and live a dignified life.

Mission

VSSM strives to create an empathetic social and political environment that is willing to enable inclusive growth of the Nomadic and De-Notified communities. Simultaneously, to design community-based interventions that triggers a progressive change from within.

What VSSM does

Puts in massive efforts to establish the identity and rights of nomadic individuals as citizens of this nation

Engages with Nomadic communities and influences positive change over their medieval mindsets

Designs and implements strategies at the grassroots to address the unique challenges encountered by NT-DNTs

Sensitize the civil society to create an encouraging environment that promotes protection and development of NT-DNTs

Liaise with the government to enable framing of NT-DNT friendly programs and policies

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY



Obtain access to a dignified living

We get questioned many a times, what are the human rights of the nomadic and de-notified communities? Well, just like us these citizens of our nation too have fundamental rights, which they do not have access to. It has taken us a good few years to make the authorities and civil society realize that there are communities like these living amidst us who need some special care and impetus to survive and develop.

The work which began with an objective of providing identity and recognition to the Nomadic and De-Notified Communities in Gujarat is realising its potential of helping deprived communities holistically. As a result of the support from compassionate and empathetic officials and law-makers in the State and Central Government, VSSM is instrumental in designing programs and policies that help Nomadic and De-notified tribes pan India.



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The Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani discussed the concerns of Nomadic and Denotified communities

“You are my guests today. I have invited you to listen to your troubles and have an honest conversation over it!!” our honourable Chief Minister Shri Vijaybhai Rupani hosted us all at his residence. Shri Rupani, patiently heard us all and assured that this government is determined to resolve the challenges of nomadic families surviving under difficult living conditions.

“Please do not hesitate to speak up, there is a person here taking notes. After four days we will begin making concrete plans and programs to address your issues.” Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijaybhai Rupani emphasised as he addressed the group of nomadic and de-notified communities he had hosted at his residence. The occasion was part of the interaction series 'Mokla Mane' our Chief Minister hosts at his official residence. As part of the series, he interacts with groups from various sections of society.

“Mokla Mane – Shree Vijay Rupani an open mind” such a meaningful name to this initiative that encourages people to share their issues without restraint, with open heart. The nomadic individuals did talk with an open heart. Shri Rupani's humility has won our respect, he listened to us for 1.5 hours and made commitments that brought a sense of relief amidst the present nomads...



'Mokla Mane' with Chief Minister Shri Vijaybhai Rupani

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'Ben, I have been shivering ever since I heard that we have been called by the CM Saheb. We survive under numerous challenges but I had no clue how to express them all. However, our CM Saheb was so warm and affectionate that all my apprehensions were laid to rest. The way he initiated the conversation gave us the confidence to speak. He listened to us so nicely and took such good care of us!!' Lakshmanbhai shared after the meeting. The nomads consider the government their parents, their guardians. The community leaders and members present at the occasion were elated at the fact that they were heard by the Chief Minister of their state.

We are grateful to Shri Vijaybhai Rupani for hosting these communities. The fact that he treated the communities with great regard has elevated us further. Our respects and gratitude to Shri Vijaybhai.

We are grateful to have the relentless support of respected Shri Ishwarbhai Parmar, respected Shri Bhagwan Kaka, Shri Manoj Agrawal, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Central Government forms a Board for Development of Nomadic, Semi-nomadic, De-notified tribes, appoints Ms. Mittal Patel as a member

The heuristic strategies designed by VSSM to address the unique challenges and issues faced by the communities it works for has drawn the Central Government's attention. The office of the Prime Minister of India sought VSSM's, particularly Ms. Mittal Patel's guidelines and recommendations for framing the policies for the nomadic and De-Notified tribes. The Government of India took note of the recommendations submitted and earmarked a separate grant for development and upliftment of these communities. A Board for Development and Welfare of De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities has been constituted under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Ms. Mittal Patel has been appointed as Member of the Board.

The uprising of Bawri women against alcohol and drugs

“Ame thaya Bhavani, Daru have Javani ”

(We have turned ferocious like Goddess Bhavani, alcohol and drugs have no place here....)

Since the last couple of decades, the men in Ramdevnagar settlement have fallen prey to alcohol and drugs. Ironically, this settlement is just opposite a major police station of

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Ahmedabad. Young or old most men are chronically addicted to these two vices. The addictions have affected the social fabric of this community. Out of some 800 families cramped in this small settlement, just 50-60 have managed to spare themselves from falling in the trap of these addictions. Some girls

have been widowed very young, marriages that have been broken because the wife walked out of it, domestic abuse, and violence at nights, money earned after a hard day's work is used in buying ganja/marijuana. One family here has witnessed 7 deaths in one day while there are mothers who have witnessed fatal accidents where their sons consumed acid thinking it was alcohol. There are boys from other localities of Ahmedabad who visit the settlement to buy drugs. Briefly put, drugs and alcohol have had a colossal impact both on the economic and social fronts in this settlement.



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Honourable Home Minister at Ramdevnagar settlement

The women from Ramdevnagar always requested us to work on de-addiction in the settlement. Our experience has taught us that if the will to fight these vices does not come from within no one else can facilitate the change. We requested the women to raise their voice, promising our support all along. One fine day after a rough night, few women from Ramdevnagar came to our office to convey 'enough is enough' and they are prepared to fight it out. These strong-willed women decided to raise their voice against their husbands, sons and the administration who has shared a symbiotic relationship with the bootleggers and drug peddlers.

In just a couple of days, few activities were planned along with the feisty women of Ramdevnagar – a public demonstration, reaching to the society at large through social media and print media to reaching out to the police and administration for support.

The peaceful public gathering which later transpired into a rally managed to draw the attention of police as well as the government. Assurance to tackle and curb the menace poured in from the Police Commissioner Shri A. K. Singh as well as from the Home Minister of Gujarat Shri Pradeepsinhji, who invited us to his office to discuss the issue and paid a visit to Ramdevnagar settlement immediately. The police personnel have begun taking rounds of the settlement twice or thrice a day and a new police booth is also coming up in the settlement. Of course, the women are more than happy, the patrolling has enabled them to enjoy a peaceful sleep and the money their men are earning is coming home too. It has just been a few days, but it has been a welcome change in the lives of these women who have taken a ferocious avatar. If the police continue with their patrolling things will change for better in the lives of hundreds of these women.

It is a long-drawn movement, one that needs to be carried on with patience and

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persistence. The powerful vested interest groups have already started playing their role to fizzle off the collective spirit, with the agitating women facing domestic abuse from the men in their family. But, their determination as on how has only strengthened because of the support they have received from the police, government, media and the civil society.

Nomadic settlements demolished by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Historically, the nomadic tribes have never been part of any revenue village, they always put up their settlements away from the villages. They always reside at the fringes of any village. It must have been the same for the settlements that have now become part of our ever-expanding cities due to the rapid urbanization. As a result, numerous



settlements ended up in some central parts of the city. These settlements are perceived as hutments and ghettos, they showcase the presence of poverty in an otherwise dazzling and affluent cityscape. And the administrators have a problem with this image. The settlements are deemed 'encroachments' by city administrators and there is a continuous pressure from the government to remove these so-called eyesores.

The residents of Ahmedabad's two nomadic settlements one at Eicher Depot in Sabarmati area and another in Ramdevnagar on Satellite Road

Demolition at Ramdevnagar Bawri Settlement

were left homeless after the municipal authorities carried out demolition drives.

In Sabarmati area, around 70 families from various nomadic communities living on the footpath became a problem for a private construction company. They succeeded in convincing the government that these families are encroaching the land demolished. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation decided to bulldoze the shanties. The families along with their young children were literally on roads. When the members of our team and communities went to complain about it they were put behind the bars. The approach of the authorities was extremely disheartening.

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Demolition at Sabarmati Nomadic Settlement

Sometime after the incident, the extremely compassionate Shri Vijay Nehra was appointed as the new Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad. Soon after his appointment, we briefed him about the issue, he expressed regret over the incident and instructed his officials to make arrangements to ensure these families obtain houses as soon as possible.

VSSM team compiled the required documents for 47 families. We prepared the files of all these families and submitted them at the Commissioner's office. On 6th March 2019, 32 of the 47 families were based on a draw allotted 1BHK houses in Ahmedabad's Chandkheda suburb. We are still awaiting houses for the remaining 15 families. Hopefully, that too shall happen soon.

Similarly, in Ramdevnagar homes of 106 families were erased by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The families had received notice in 2017 however the community members did not deem it important or foresee its implications hence, never brought the issue to anybody's notice. One fine morning the bulldozers erased houses of around 44 families. The entire process took place under police monitoring to prevent any violent protest. The pain of seeing their hopes crumble in front of their

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Proceedings of allotment of houses through “Lucky Draw”

eyes could only be comprehended by those who have built a house with hard-earned money. It was not just their homes that were shattered, their dreams came shattering down too.

At present, a proposal with necessary identity and address proofs of these families are sent to the Government for allotting them alternate residential facility. We hope for the speedy action from the Government.



32 families who lost houses at Sabarmati got permanent residence

Mavtar Bhojanalay - Community Kitchens for Destitute Elderly

The heuristic strategies VSSM has designed cover the children, women, men... everyone. One of the groups that have continuously caught our attention throughout the regions we work is the poor and weak elderly. The individuals who are in the twilight of their lives, who do not have family that would care for them, who are too old or too ill to work, who beg for a living. These are the individuals who have worked hard to raise their families, but the children have moved on or looked the other way when it was their turn to care. We also come across old individuals who want to work and live with dignity, but their physical limitations prevent them from even little walking. There are such groups of such elderly all around and VSSM has experienced the need to care for them as they await final goodbyes, to let them experience love and care. The biggest challenge for these individuals is food or managing daily meals. Some have nothing to eat while others even if they have grains are too weak to cook for themselves. Beginning this year VSSM has initiated community kitchens for the elderly.



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Mavtar Bhojnalay, Deesa

We launched the first community kitchen in New Deesa's L. P. Sawani Nagar, for 14 unattended elderly. The responsibility of cooking meals was assigned to women from the settlement who needed work but was unable to go out because she had children to take care of or a widow in need of supplement income. The grains and required pantry supplies were provided to her by VSSM. However, as soon as the news about the communal kitchen spread on social media the administrative wing of Jalaram Temple got in touch with VSSM's fieldwork in Deesa. They offered us to provide food at free of cost from the meals they cook for their devotees. Although they were unable to deliver the food at the settlement, it had to be organised by us. VSSM in consultation with the settlement elders appointed a person to bring the food from temple and distribute it amidst the elders, twice every day. This service has been operational from March, 2019.

VSSM supports the travel cost and remuneration of this assistant fieldworker. This assistant fieldworker maintains the attendance register as well as manages the administrative functions of the Community Kitchen.

Currently, 15 elderly individuals come to have food at a room designated for serving food. Some individuals who are sight-impaired and unable to walk are delivered food at their respective shanties.

Grain Kits

VSSM also provides grain kits every month to the elderly beneficiaries who live away from L. P. Sawani Nagar. There are 8 such beneficiaries in Deesa. In one such case, when the fieldworker had gone to deliver the grain kit, the old lady narrated her difficulty of not having utensils. The fieldworker took the initiative and provided utensils to the old woman.

The Grain Kits are also provided to the elderly individuals in some scattered locations. These individuals cook at their place with the help of the neighbours. There are 10 people at Harij, 8 individuals at Deesa who are given grain kits. We are planning to give grain kits to 14 elderly individuals at Amreli.



Heinous police atrocity on 12 Bajaniya men in Junagadha district

The first account reported immediately by Ms. Mittal Patel after the incident of atrocity

Three days after we celebrated Independence Day, I received a very disturbing phone call from a few Bajaniya men staying in shanties along Junagadha's Chobari Road. Even listening to their narrative on the phone was difficult to endure and if all that I was told was true it was heinous act the police had carried out on the vulnerable men of some of the poorest communities of our society. Immediate instruction was given to the VSSM's team members in the region to go and get in touch with the individuals who had called us up for help.

There is a 30-year-old Bajaniya settlement on Junagadh's Chobari road, the families here are daily wage earners. The incident had taken place during the early hours of 16th August, the execution to which seemed to have initiated on 14th August. 2 police constables from C Division, Gandhigram – Junagadh had come to the settlement and taken pictures of some Bajaniya men saying they needed it to protect them well, to prevent others from harassing them unnecessarily. The pictures were taken with a mobile phone. On 15th night or 16th, early morning around 2.30 -3 am three police jeeps reached Homenagar-Miranagar for Prahladbhai Bajaniya, who has home and relatives at the mentioned settlement but works as a security guard at Homenagar. He



Mittal Patel addressing Bajaniya community at Junagadh

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The victims of Junagadh atrocity

was showing them pictures of the men the constable had taken on 14th. He was asked if he knew them. Some were his relatives and hence he answered in affirmation. The police hit him as asked him to get in the jeep and take him to these relatives of his. The entourage of 3 police jeeps reached the Chobari road settlement. They woke up the sleeping families. 11 men were asked to get into the jeep. When they questioned, the police began beating them. When the wives asked, "we are taking them to celebrate festivities.." All the 12 men were

brought to Gandhigram police station after which the beating began, from 3.30 am to 7 am all of them were badly beaten. Two men were disrobed and asked to beat each other with lathis and if the beating wasn't hard enough the police threatened to beat them even more. Both these men were forced to perform sexual acts on each other. They cried and refused to oblige, they were beaten and made to carry it out for more than 30 minutes.

At around 8 am the police beating stopped. They were asked to confess crimes and robbery they had never committed. They were not even given tea and water. When the men questioned why to confess of the acts they have never committed, the beating resumed and continued as each was tied and beaten till 3.30 pm. Around this time the police carried out elderly Hirabapa and threw his where the rest of the men were seated. They did not even realize that Hirabapa wasn't breathing. When the Bajaniya men alarmed the police, Hirabapa was taken away, the rest were ordered to keep quiet. No one was aware of what eventually happened of Hirabapa.

After 10 pm on 16th August the men were given some tea and food, all except one were released after they signed blank papers. They were asked to keep quiet of Hirabapa's custodial death. The police told them that a lot of your men commit robberies and that is why we need to arrest you. Most of the men weren't able to walk. They brought themselves to Civil hospital for treatment. The police reached there and warned them of dire consequences if the revealed the truth to anyone. The family members of Hirabapa were threatened, only a few men from the family were allowed at the cremation of Hirabapa. The police also forced them to burn the body and not bury it as is the practice followed by the Bajaniya. The post-mortem authorised by police says

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Hirabapa died of heart failure. A newspaper mentioned Hirabapa confessing of stealing 30-40 mobile phones.

After all the men were released, one was still held in police custody. After intense beating he was made to confess in the court of stealing 35 mobile phones.

The Bajaniya families have been residing here for the past 30 years and the apartments and houses that have developed around the settlement vouch for their honesty.

VSSM intervened and asked for a judicial inquiry into the matter by non-partisan and honest individuals on the panel.

After the incident was brought to light by VSSM on its social media platforms, MS. Mittal Patel met with Range IGP - Junagadh, SP - Junagadh, Deputy DGP - Gandhinagar, our Home Minister Shri Pradeepsinhji Jadeja and put up the demand to initiate an inquiry into the matter. Following these meetings and our demand, an inquiry into the matter has been assigned and initiated. Ms Patel also called up Shri Vinod Mal, Deputy DGP – Police Reforms on the unabating episodes of police atrocities on the nomadic and de-notified communities. A request has been put in to specially train the police on issues relating to the nomads and change the police perception towards these communities. Shri Mal is extremely inclined to do the same and has advised us to send an application on the matter. The gleam of hope during this entire episode has been the extremely empathetic response of all the senior police officials on this matter. We hope justice prevails and the police atrocities on the marginalized ebbs away.

Recent development

There was a report sent to the organization mentioning that Hirabapa died of heart attack as per the post-mortem report. This report has been challenged too. The person who was in the police custody has been released on bail. Right now the complaint lodged in the name of Shankarbhai Bajaniya-one of the survivors has been addressed by the Hon. Court.

Shri Vinod Mal, Deputy DGP, Police Reforms agrees to organise special trainings for police officials

Consequent to the Junagadh incident, Ms. Mittal Patel met up with the respected Additional DGP Shri Vinod Mal Sir. Currently, he heads Department of Police Reforms. Shri Mal has always been sensitive and pro-active towards VSSM's work. We

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have requested him to include these instances against the communities of NT-DNTs in the police training programs.

An observation we shared with Shri Mal was that most of the abuse and atrocities are inflicted by the local police personnel meaning the constable, PSI and PI who function with pre-conceived notions and harbour negative mind-set against most of these communities.

As a response to the request made by Ms. Mittal Patel, Shri Mal has proposed to design a training module for the same and invited our recommendations. VSSM has provided the same. A training was also organized in collaboration with VSSM and activists who work with Chhara- a de-notified community.

VSSM launches a General Survey

The population of nomadic and de-notified communities is spread across Gujarat. Most of the times these communities aren't aware of their identity nor are they part of the revenue village, as a result, they tend to remain excluded from the government schemes for the marginalized. Also, the authorities and policymakers need to have a concrete estimate of the people still out of the welfare blanket. VSSM has launched a detailed block-wise survey to discover the unreached nomadic settlements and ascertain the population of nomadic and de-notified communities of Gujarat. The first stage of a survey is carried out in the districts with VSSM's presence.

Since the survey is settlement-wise we expect to find settlements and regions where focus interventions are required in terms of obtaining ID proofs, residential plots and the likes... We envisage that the findings require us to encompass more marginalized under our wings.

The survey is conducted by VSSM field workers, they visit each village of the taluka they are assigned to, meet the people of the village or go through a contact point in the community. It is an intense and time-taking task that requires extensive travelling to remote areas.

The survey is underway in the nomadic in the settlements of blocks of Banaskantha, Patan, Mahesana, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Amreli, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts.

Collector Banaskantha targets to resolve the issues of Nomadic and De-Notified Communities

Banaskantha is one of the biggest districts of Gujarat and it has the maximum population of NT-DNT Communities.

Shri Sandip Sagle, Collector of Banaskantha has been extremely welcoming and positive about VSSM's work since his appointment as the Collector of Banaskantha

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Collector of Banaskantha discussing the issues of Nomads

two years ago. Around 5900 applicants of nomadic and denotified communities have got various documents and benefits of the Government schemes during the last year due to the positive approach of the Collector.

On 14th November, 2019, Shri Sandip Sagle, Collector of Banaskantha conducted a meeting with all the departments as well as VSSM Banaskantha Team to discuss the issues of Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes. There were around 240 pending applications VSSM had made till now which were discussed in the meeting. The collector addressed each issue with the relevant department.

Shri Sagle is well-aware of the worsening water crisis of Banaskantha. He was also affirmative to provide all the help to VSSM's Participatory Water management Programme. We Salute to the Collector of Banaskantha Shri Sandip Sagle.

District Collector turns messiah of nomads

Shri K Rajesh, Surendranagar District Collector pledges and allots residential plots to 501 Nomadic and de-notified families as Diwali gift

The nomads of Surendranagar are reeling under a different kind of blessings these days. They are blessed to have caring, compassionate, empathetic and willing District Collector Shri K Rajesh at the helm of their region. Surendranagar is one of the districts with the highest concentration of nomadic population and slowest rate of application processing. The resistance from village leaders, senior officials and local authorities unwilling to work extra mile to help these communities attain their rights has seldom. All of these changed once Shri K Rajesh took charge of the region. From caste certificates, Antyodaya ration cards to plots to build their first-ever homes, Shri K Rajesh

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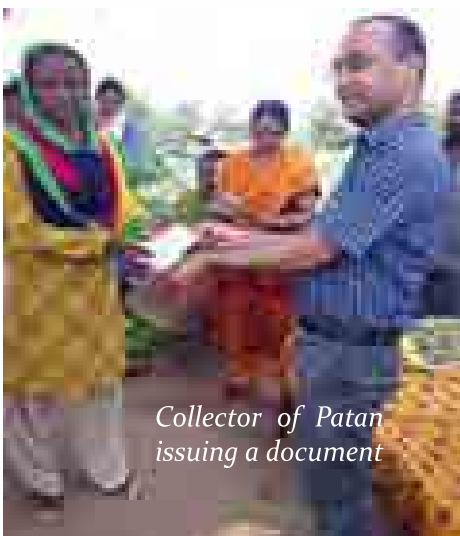


District Collector of Surendranagar discussing issues of Nomads at a settlement

has ensured his administration works for the marginalized communities of Surendranagar.

It came as a surprise when he shared his pledge to allot plots to 501 nomadic families as a Diwali gift. The administration geared up to ensure the pledge was accomplished. And they did fulfil their pledge. A task that couldn't be accomplished for more than 7 years in spite of our best efforts was done in a few weeks. A District Collector is considered the king of his district. If the king is sensitive and compassionate towards the deprived subjects only then he would make required efforts for their welfare. Shri K. Rajesh - is the officer who took the initiative to give a permanent address to 501 nomadic families as Diwali Gift. It needed the commitment and will of an individual like Shri K Rajesh. At the end the hard work did pay off.

Shri Anand Patel, Patan District Collector sanctions 350 residential plots for nomadic communities



*Collector of Patan
issuing a document*

Sensitive and compassionate Shri Anand Patel is in a hurry to clear the long-pending files of applications made by the marginalized families including the nomads. His proactive, fast-paced file clearing spree has surprised us all. We are of course delighted by the progress the dust-laden files of Patan district offices are making. "These communities have been part of my childhood memories. I am anguished to see these glorious humans of the past face such miserable present. I want to work to best of my ability to improve the living conditions and status of these communities." Shri Patel is mobilizing his team to work at record speed and clear all pending files.



Providing freedom from debt and deprivation

The Swavlamban program was introduced by VSSM to provide the nomadic and de-notified communities the much-needed freedom from debt traps, empower them to take control of their lives, enable them to improve their financial health, help them revamp their livelihoods, support medical emergencies, educational needs and much more. The apprehensions were many, there have been numerous learnings, we have made required amends on the way. The initiative has now gained tremendous strength. It has been instrumental in bringing a massive change in the lives of its beneficiaries. Individuals like Lalabhai, who did not own even a spoon now owns approximately 90 large cattle. He is the top milk contributor in his district. Ranchodbhai Vansfoda, a father who earns his living by making baskets can afford the treatment of his Thalassemia major son Mahesh in a private hospital. This is the kind of power Swavlamban has given to its beneficiaries. With a limited fund of Rs. 3 crore and the ever-growing demand for loans,



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we are now requesting the individuals like Lalabhai to give-back to the society, to the other marginalized nomadic families. Good fortune needs to be taken forward, that is what individuals who have grown financially as a result of Swavlamban are requested to do.

Bhavani Gang Sakhi Mandal formation



The Bhavani Gang, as the agitating women of Ramdevnagar have christened themselves after they raised their discontent against the prevalence of ganja and alcohol in their settlement they are fighting a tough battle. The odds are against them in more ways than one. Everyday conflicts they encounter in their homes and settlement are nerve-wracking. The Ramdevnagar women along with us have seen a dream of an improved and thriving settlement that is free from alcohol and drug abuse. The women bear the physical, financial and emotional brunt of the addictions their husband and sons pick up. It is for the first time that these women have raised their voice and face the wrath of the men of their family as well as vested interest groups. The forces against them are powerful and well equipped. These women must remain united in their fight. VSSM believes that SHG groups will prove to be an effective medium to bind the women together and fight their battles collectively.

VSSM plans to launch the program of Sakhi Mandal formations, SHGs of women of Ramdevnagar. The groups will initially be savings groups that will transition into

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vocational groups after the understanding and working relationships mature. Inculcating the habit of regular savings amongst the nomads is pertinent to teach them financial prudence. If the SHG groups can hold them together, the Bhavani Gang will be able to continue with its fight and march towards social and economic freedom!!

Introduction of additional criteria for loan approvals under Swavlamban Programme

Introduced in 2014, the Swavlamban program has turned to be VSSM's flagship program, encompassing a growing number of individuals under its mantle. This year's approvals have brought the total number of beneficiaries to 2624, as the initiative recorded a growth of 12.47%. The number of applicants is growing every year and the funds on hand remain limited. As always, we need to be stringent in evaluating and approving the applications. The Swavlamban initiative is not merely an interest free-loan program, it is much beyond that. Financial prudence, bank savviness, cultivating a habit for regular savings along with establishing and revamping livelihoods are the direct effects we are seeking. The indirect influence is the social change it triggers. The pre-conditions to loan approval are ones that impact change in their medieval mind-sets and habits. Children in school, giving up addictions to tobacco and alcohol, small-sized families, decreasing spending on social and religious ceremonies etc. were some of the pre-conditions we had introduced during the program's initial years. As our observations and learnings grow, we felt the need to introduce a few more criterion/pre-conditions for loan approvals this year.

Screening for cervical and breast cancer

The marginalized communities never prioritize their health. And women especially are the last to avail medical help. The men seldom comprehend the importance of medical examinations and screenings for the women in their family. The growing instances of cancer amongst women prompted us to introduce compulsory screening for cervical and breast cancer. Early detection of both these cancers has better chances of cure. Henceforth it will be mandatory for the women applicant or male applicant's



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wife to get herself screened for both these cancers. The tests will be conducted free of cost at Ahmedabad.

Mandatory to plant trees



Nomadic communities have always remained in sync with nature and their surrounding environment. Their hutments come-up under the shades of the trees, their roofs and walls are made from branches of trees yet, many of these communities never realize the value of planting trees. As an effort to help them realize the value of trees and motivate them to contribute towards the society, we are making it compulsory for any applicant to plant and raise at least two trees. The trees will

need to be planted in applicant's courtyard or near the place of residence, in the presence of VSSM team member before he/she fills up the application form. Care has also been taken to specify which tree. Only Neem, Jamun, Banyan, Peepul, Moringa, Amla, Raayan or other native species.

Learning to sign

The nomads have never felt the need to go to school neither have they valued education. This attitude severely hampers their children's chances of going to school. To influence change in their mindsets we have asked them to learn to sign from their school-going children. Inability to do so will eliminate their likelihood of receiving loan approval.

Addiction-free and hefty fines



The applicants will first have to give up all addictions like tobacco, ganja, cocaine, paan masala, alcohol, smoking. If, after the sanction the applicant is found consuming any of these he/she will be fined a hefty amount.

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Paying instalments in banks

Each applicant will have to deposit the instalment amount in the bank between 1st to 5th of each month. VSSM team members will not follow-up for the instalment, will not accept the amount of instalment. Unless it's an emergency the applicant will not seek assistance from VSSM team member for any task related to instalment payment. Inability to deposit the amount in the bank means severely hampering the chances of re-approval.

Felicitating Swavlamban's honest and consistent re-payers!

We at VSSM, have always dreamt of families belonging to nomadic and de-notified communities practising thriving occupations, becoming financially independent and self-sufficient. To ensure that our collective dream becomes a reality we initiated Swavlamban, an interest-free microfinance program to support individuals from these extremely marginalised communities begin their independent business ventures or to help revitalize their existing occupations. Under the program, VSSM has supported 2624 individuals till date. The overall amount of revolving loans extended as of now stands at Rs. 6 crores. This program has injected hope amongst these hard-working communities who until now remained engulfed in the debt traps of private money lenders. It should be noted that these communities do not possess any permanent



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residential proofs or other essential support documents cannot manage to acquire financial assistance from the organised sector, this requires them to remain dependent on the private or unorganised sector for their emergency financial needs.

VSSM, through a special event organised on March 25th 2019, decided to applaud the loanees who had never missed their instalment dates or managed to finish their loans even when experiencing difficult times. It came as a surprise to the members of civil society when they learnt that these very poor people who do not even have a decent roof on their head have been so regular with their loan repayment.

The following were the benchmarks based on which the beneficiaries/loanees were commended:

- Individuals who never missed an instalment in spite of struggling with serious medical emergencies like cancer or death of the sole bread earner of the family.
- Individuals or communities who collectively repaid the loans of those who had dishonest intentions and purposely decided to not pay their loan back.
- Elders ranging from 70 to 85 years who had obtained loans and always paid their instalments before time.
- Fellow community men who volunteered to recover loans from



their respective communities.

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- Individuals who not only paid off their loans but also thought about their fellow community people by deciding to donate to the organisation so that others like them can benefit from this program.
- Loanees who journeyed from rags to riches as a result of the Swavlamaban program. There are examples of individuals who did not have a single penny but with their sheer hard work now earn in lacs.
- Lastly, individuals who have begun earning well and can live decently but cannot manage to save, who still need money to build their own house. To these individuals, we sanctioned loans to invest as a fixed deposit in the bank, a fairly new initiative we are testing. If we succeed in achieving desired results we will take a call to increase its span.

Apart from honouring individuals based on above-mentioned categories we also offered loans to 150 new applicants to enable them to start their business ventures.

The entire event was graced by organisation's trustees Shri Madhav Ramanuj, Shri Pravinbhai Laheri, Shri Pragnesh Desai, Shri Parul Dandikar, Shri Gita Gala and Shri Maulik Patel. We were honoured to have our well-wishing friends Respected Shri Bhagwanbhai Panchal whom we call Kaka, Shri Narendra Jani, Director, Developing Communities Welfare Board, Shri Kiritbhai Shah, Shri Surekhaben Shah, Shri Chauhansaheb and all who have shown tremendous compassion towards these communities.



Snake-charmer community's Dharunath Vadi, inspires others of his community to earn dignified living...



I have known **Dharunath** since his childhood. His father Babanath Vadi was a magician and skilled snake charmer. After a long and bitter struggle, the Vadis residing near Rajkot's Parevda were allotted land to build houses. VSSM also played a crucial role in this struggle. After the Wild Life Act came into existence the Vadi-Madari have been rendered jobless. The governments haven't designed any programmes to rehabilitate them after the collapse of their livelihoods. Even for the Vadi community of Gujarat earning for a square meal is a challenge. As a

result, most of them now beg as a mode of earning to sustain their families.

VSSM has been striving to ensure that these families at least stop begging and pick up some kind of work to earn their living. However, no one from this stigmatised community has shown preparedness to take any loan even if we offered them. The fear they carry is, 'what if we cannot repay the loan, who is going to trust us further?' Hence, they simply avoid venturing into beginning their own enterprise.

VSSM's Kanubhai convinced Dharunath to take a Rs. 5000 loan and start a small kiosk in his settlement. He remained hesitant and denied to taking loan but we insisted. "What if the kiosk does not succeed and I am unable to repay the loan?"

"Don't worry if it fails we will pay off the loan, first think about beginning, worry about everything else later," we insisted.

We forced Dharunath into starting the kiosk for which we loaned him Rs. 5000.

It has been few months, the kiosk is doing well and Dharunath is repaying the instalments regularly.

We decided to honour Dharunath for his willingness to start a venture and the bold move he made inspite his own internal resistance. We did honour him during the felicitation program organised on March 25th 2019.

"Ben, these four people are my relatives. They too want to start their business. Will you provide them some loan?" Dharunath inquired as he met me before the event. We were delighted to hear this inquiry, it was music to our ears.

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After Dharunath's successful venture, 5 to 6 Vadi-Madari individuals from the same region have applied and received loans from VSSM. They have initiated their small ventures, eventually quitting begging as means to earn. Many of them including Dharunath are regularly making donations to VSSM's Swavlamban program.

Interestingly, Dharunath still does not want to take more than Rs. 5000 as loan, he still worries what if I fail to repay it back on time!! Such honesty and integrity are rare values these days!! Don't you agree?

The Vadi-Madari are very good at selling their ideas and they can be mentored in such a way. We are working in this direction. Hopefully someday we succeed in launching a new breed of salesmen.



Somabhai Vansfoda Vadi wishes to uplift people from his community by being a VSSM worker...

Somabhai Vansfoda Vadi is native to from Kambhoi, but work has taken him to Gandhidham, Bhachau, Bhuj and surrounding regions.



"Ben, all the wandering and roaming never really helped us in earning a decent life. There were times when finding food to enjoy two meals in a day made us happy, and that was all, enough clothing and sufficient food have always been dreams we chased. After we came in contact with Naranbhai and joined VSSM our life has changed only for better. I wished to do some business but who would loan money to homeless individual like me?? One look at our homes and

the lenders look the other way. It was VSSM who held our hand, gave me Rs. 30,000 to start a venture. The money on-hand gave me confidence. The thought of buying a small auto from private company crossed my mind. A motorized

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vehicle increased our efficiency, it helps ferry our plasticware to more villages. I added some of my savings to the VSSM's loan and took some loan from a finance company. Naranbhai's contacts, my joining VSSM helped us get a brand-new loading rickshaw through this private finance company. Later, when I wanted some more capital to expand the business I again reached out to VSSM to help, Rs. 50,000 was sanctioned by VSSM for the business expansion. Life is a smooth ride now. I pay Rs. 9,500 to the finance company and Rs. 3000 to VSSM as monthly instalments."

Somabhai's narrative brought a sense of delight. He intends to be a hard-working member of VSSM and just like VSSM helped him earn a decent income, he wants to help 25 others.

VSSM has offered him an interest free loan which he thinks should not be taken for granted or perceived as a free support. Every month Somabhai donates back as much as he can to VSSM.

Somabhai's monthly income is Rs. 20,000 to 25,000. He pays substantial instalments yet, manages to save enough that he recently got silver jewelry made.

Our only wish.... May people like Somabhai always remain surrounded by success and happiness.

CATEGORY WISE LOAN SUMMARY

STATUS AS ON 01/11/2019

Particulars	No of Loans	Sanctioned Loan Amount	Total Repayment Till Date	Total Balance Loan Amount
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Dafer Rehabilitation	3	57,000	24,000	33,000
Education	41	1,929,500	926,900	1,002,600
Employment	1,810	53,209,000	35,852,809	17,356,191
Housing	253	7,285,843	4,113,410	3,172,433
Marriage Support	30	1,395,000	704,765	690,235
Medication	20	542,500	341,119	201,381
Flood Rehabilitation	311	7,850,000	5,885,054	1,964,946
Social Cause	13	544,000	241,305	302,695
Vadia Support & Rehabilitation	143	5,805,000	2,964,502	2,840,498
Grand Total	2,624	78,617,843	51,053,864	27,563,979

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DISTRICT WISE LOAN SUMMARY

STATUS AS ON 01/11/2019

Particulars	No of Loans	Sanctioned Loan Amount	Total Repayment Till Date	Total Balance Loan Amount
Ahmedabad	343	11,785,000	7,472,550	4,312,450
Amreli	21	631,000	319,742	311,258
Anand	3	200,000	75,600	124,400
Banaskantha	1,265	37,892,843	23,256,149	14,636,694
Bhavnagar	4	130,000	76,000	54,000
Delhi	3	300,000	6,000	294,000
Dwarka	1	100,000	25,000	75,000
Gandhinagar	37	775,000	568,900	206,100
Gir Somnath	2	500,000	242,000	258,000
Jalor	6	300,000	38,000	262,000
Jamnagar	13	470,000	336,000	134,000
Junagadh	9	340,000	300,310	39,690
Kutch	47	804,000	736,770	67,230
Mahisagar	10	300,000	276,000	24,000
Mehsana	90	2,890,000	2,167,000	723,000
Morbi	80	2,053,000	1,576,700	476,300
Patan	171	3,768,000	2,719,472	1,048,528
Rajkot	278	8,373,000	6,363,006	2,009,994
Sabarkantha	17	435,000	296,050	138,950
Surat	1	10,000	10,000	-
Surendranagar	223	6,561,000	4,192,615	2,368,385
Grand Total	2,624	78,617,843	51,053,864	27,563,979



Building a strong foundation for first time school-goers

Remote settlements, dislike for the nomadic tribes, acute discrimination and disgust towards the children of nomadic and de-notified communities, civil society and villagers unwilling to allow children of the nomads in the schools, instability as a result of constant wandering of the families parents miserably unaware of the importance of educating their children. These were few grave challenges we encountered once we began working the nomadic and de-notified communities a decade ago. It has required years of intense persuasion, sensitization and liaising with villagers, parents, teachers, education authorities and policy makers that has brought marginal change in the status of education of the children of nomads.



Enforcing children's education upon parents

The parental approach towards education has been very dismal when it comes to the communities we work with. Large family size, itinerant lifestyles, abject poverty, illiteracy, isolation, discrimination means the parents never valued the need to educate their children. Our efforts to educate the nomadic children focused on liaising with authorities and villagers but all these efforts were futile unless we did not evoke the hunger for education from the communities themselves. The communities had to demand their children's right to go to school. We had to make them realize the value of education. In most cases this awareness did not come easily or voluntarily. Hence, we made it compulsory. Now, one of the major criteria of receiving benefits of VSSM's Swavlamban program is to make sure the loan applicant sends her/his children to school. To seek VSSM's support for processing various applications the pre-requisite is children in school. Lately, we have also requested district authorities supportive of VSSM's work to introduce the condition of sending children to school if they need residential plots, caste certificates and likes. As a result of such tricks, the parents have begun prioritizing education.

Mittal Patel explaining the importance of education at a settlement



Dafer children receive transport facility to reach school

The nomadic settlements are always at a distance of 2-3 kilometers from the main village. Discrimination and distance were the primary reasons these children remained excluded from the mainstream education system. The efforts VSSM has poured in to empathize the village leadership towards the needs of these marginalized communities has changed the ground realities to an extent. They are now more willing to allot residential plots to them, give them space in school, permit issuance of Adhar Card Ration Cards and likes. The school principal and teachers are embracing these children too. There is some reluctance but not as bad as used to be earlier. Recently, we were witness to this attitude change when the school principal in Mehsana's Vijapur after a brief discussion and some legit arguments showed preparedness to enroll 14 Dafer children in his school. Later the issue of reaching the school emerged as there is Mehsana highway passing between the Danga and school. Similar was the case for children at another Dafer Danga nearby as there was a Bus Interchange the kids have to cross. Both these Dangas are at a distance of 1 to 1.5 kilometers. We were required to make an application with the District Education Officer to arrange transport facility for these very young Dafer kids of both the settlements. Consequently, transport facility is being made available to these 28 children who now regularly attend the school. Dafer



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parents are engaged to guard farms during the crop season, they are away for 4-6 months. VSSM team has also helped them with migration certificate for the period the migrate with their parents. This has helped ensure continuity of these children in school.

Fulvadi children of Kakar to get a brand-new hostel at their settlement



Children at Kakar Vadi Settlement

Kakar is a remote village situated in Banaskantha's Kankrej block. Around 3 kilometres from Kakar village stands a huge settlement of Fulvadi community. Fulvadi is one of the major sub-sect of Vadi – Madari tribes. Vadi or Madari is the snake charming community of the past. They earned their livelihood by performing snake shows on the roadsides. This community consists of both Hindus and Muslims. There are seven different sub-sects of Vadi; Lalvadi, Fulvadi, Maanvadi, Dharyogarudi are some of these sects. There are 5 major Fulvadi settlements in Gujarat and Kakar settlement with more than 350 families is one of them. A couple of generations ago some Fulvadi families came and settled at this particular place, away from the village. Since then this hilltop settlement has become a home to growing number of Fulvadi and few other nomadic families. The settlement is colloquially known as Vadi no Dhoro/Vadi's settlement. In 2004-05, government earmarked the space for these families, neither did the residents of Kakar appreciate this allotment nor did they oppose government's decision. Kakar leadership has always shown acceptance towards these families. They have accepted the hilltop as Vadi residence and that is how it has always been. The

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government has in phases, allotted plots and financial; assistance to the families here for the construction of their houses. But it is a very long drawn process that involves numerous bureaucratic hiccups. Absence of knowhow to tackle all these official processes leads to further delays. Nonetheless, the permanent pucca houses have been coming up in the settlement every few years.

Once VSSM initiated its activities in the settlement it has enabled resolve the long pending house construction issues of these families along with supporting them obtain various documents that establish their identity. VSSM has enabled 200 individuals receive Voter ID cards, 300 individuals obtained Adhar cards, 200 families received Antyodaya Ration Cards.

The Fulvadi is an amazing sect to work with. Humble, simple, medieval, rooted - all at the same time. A tribe that evokes intrigue and curiosity. Fulvadis prefer to remain silent unless asked for opinion. Amongst all the Vadi sects the Fulvadi sect is the most backward. They are rigid and continue to cling on to their orthodox belief systems. Although the community remains deeply connected and intertwined, it hasn't yet decided to choose a progressive path. Dictates by the community elders some as old as 82-83 years have to be followed or else the families are axed from the community. We have tried listing some commendable while some tyrannous characteristics of the Fulvadi:

- One of the largest sub-sects of Vadi, with an approximate population of around 2 lacs.
- Economically extremely deprived.
- Strongly united as a community.
- The community dictate forbids them from crossing Banas river for permanent settlement.
- Very poor approach towards educating their coming generations.
- The younger generation does not find their voice because the elders act as dictators of the community.
- Very simple living standards. Even Rs. 3000 is enough to accomplish a Fulvadi marriage ceremony.
- Widow re-marriages are a norm.
- Child marriages never practiced.

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- Cases of divorce never seen as the community elders act with lot of responsibility.
- Married men are forbidden to wear anything else but Dhoti.
- Watching movies is strictly prohibited.
- Fulvadi have vowed to never cross the Banas river hence, their settlements could be found only to the north of Banas.



Kakar Hostel under construction

The large number of families also required a school and government did set up a school in the settlement. However, given the nature of wandering of these families, the children were never sent to school. The reason being the migration pattern the community follows. With no clear destination the families are always on the move. They return to the settlement only once a year.

VSSM believes that these children should be part of the mainstream education system and receive continuous learning to be able to bring their community out of the shackles of orthodoxy and poverty. The extremely poor community like Fulvadi does need support from society to enable their children attend school. A permanent residential facility for the children of migrant parents was an idea we have had pitched for a very long time. Given the economic status of the Fulvadi parents, mobilizing resources from them was not an option. We reached out to well-wishing friends of VSSM. And the outcome of their support is the brand new hostel at Kakar Fulvadi settlement for the

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Fulvadi children. The primary objective of this facility is to ensure the children here receive continuous mainstream education.

The basic characteristics of this facility are:

- The hostel will function for 10 months of the year when the parents are away for work.
- VSSM and its experiences team will ensure that make it more than just a residential facility. The children will be groomed and nurtured to increase their social acceptance.
- The children will be provided nutritious breakfast and dinner while the lunch will be mid-day-meal at the school.
- A fully functional kitchen to cook for 125 children daily.
- The children will be looked after by 3 full time team members as well as parent volunteers.
- VSSM will also provide extra coaching to students who lag behind in studies.
- Books, notebooks and stationery will be provided by VSSM.
- VSSM team will continuously follow-up with the teachers for the all rounded development of these children.
- The hostel will also have art, craft supplies and play material.
- The contribution of parents will also be integral here. The parents will be compelled/encouraged to contribute towards the food expenses of their children.

The hostel will become operational by January 2020. We are thankful to Shri Pravinbhai Shah and Shri Piyushbhai Kothari for their generous support.

New horizons unfold for 18 children of VSSM

VSSM runs two hostels- G U Shah Boys' Hostel and Unnati Girls' Hostel at two different Sadvichar Parivar Campuses in Ahmedabad. A total of 225 children from nomadic and de-notified communities stay at these facilities. While they stay at these hostels they attend reputed schools in Ahmedabad. The hostels have been functioning for 7 years now and many of the children have been with us for as long as 7 years. 62 children have completed education up-to secondary and higher secondary level as a result of these residential facilities.

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It has been our constant endeavour to ensure that these kids receive appropriate education and training that increases their employability once they have finished their education. The Education team headed by the very capable Dimpleben constantly monitors and evaluates the performance and progress of all these children. Liaising with various universities, public and private vocational training institutes for further education of the children is a constant effort. The senior children are sent to various open houses and vocational seminars to keep them in sync with the current market trends and requirements. The children who stay with us are first generation school goers. They neither have the savvy attitude nor do they have the know-how. VSSM team constantly mentors them to bring about the attitudinal change that is required to pursue further education.

15 children from our hostels, 13 boys and 2 girls who passed grade 10 this year i.e. 2019, have secured admissions in the Engineering Diploma program offered at Ganapat University.

3 boys secured admissions in a special diploma program offered by Maruti Suzuki. The company has also guaranteed well paid jobs to these youth once they finish their studying.



Dimpleben and children who got admission at Ganpat University

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The entire team of VSSM Education Programme works relentlessly to ensure these kids study hard and well. The co-ordinators and administrator persevere to find suitable courses and colleges for them. It is their efforts that are bringing such good placements, placing these kids at the threshold of engineering studies. These placements have spread cheer amongst the hostel team too. All members of our GU Shah Hostel Team are delighted with these placements. They have worked really hard to make sure these kids study well, remain focused and do not drop out of schools. It is because of them they had such encouraging admissions in technical courses. It should be noted that our children are first generation school goers.

KSFR's Udaybhai assisted in getting these children admissions to Ganapat University. The University has offered to take care of their lodging and boarding expenses.

We are grateful to KSFR and Ganapat University for making this possible. It is very well wishing individuals like these that make this world a better place

The children at Unnati Girls Hostel and Shree G. U. Shah Vatsalya Boys hostel make us proud every day...

VSSM runs two hostels - Shree G. U. Shah Vatsalya Boys Hostel and Unnati Girls Hostel at Ahmedabad where 225 students from nomadic and de-notified communities are provided residential facility, while their education happens in reputed schools of Ahmedabad. The hostels are situated on Sadvichar Parivar Campus. With the generous support and help of well-wishers, these children are progressing really well in attaining their dreams.



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- The students have come out with flying colours in their academics and other extra-curricular activities such as sports and drawing.
- Jaya Solanki is one of the older girls who takes responsibility of a section of girls in Unnati Hostel. She studies in first year of under- graduation majoring in Sociology. She got first rank in her second semester exams at University level.
- Some students from Vatsalya Hostel, are studying in Industrial Training Institute (ITI) for various courses. One of the students Pankaj Ukadiya stood first in the course of two wheeler repairing. He wants to open the vehicle garage.
- Saraswati Aboti took part in the competition as a part of Saptadhara Programme in her college. Her painting on Save Girl Child theme was judged first at this competition.
- Saraswati stood first in Athletics 800 mtrs. running at Gujarat University Sports' Day.

A dream comes true

A dream we have seen with our eyes wide open. A dream we have been striving to achieve since eternity. A dream we are now all set to realise. VSSM had visualised an all-inclusive centre for the nomadic and de-notified communities of Gujarat. A place they can call their own, a place for their children to acquire skill-based learning and basic education, a museum that houses exhibits of their rich and glorious cultural heritage; their stories, their costumes,



Shri Chandrakantbhai Gogri

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their musical instruments, their tools, their folklore, a training centre for the youth of these communities to acquire and upskill their inherent professions. In the nutshell, we wished to create a one of a kind cultural and educational enclave for nomadic and denotified communities. Yes, it is an impossibly ambitious dream. It is a dream we have endeavoured really hard to realise, it is also a dream that grew beyond comprehension with the ever spiralling rates of real estate. The challenges we faced brought us to point of giving up on this much-cherished vision. Until the respected and very dear Shri Chandrakantbhai Gogri decided to be our angel and grant us this dream, Chandrakantbhai has bought 29 bighas of land in Pansar near Kalol about 59 kilometres from Ahmedabad, to donate it to VSSM to build this enclave. Shri Chandrakantbhai Gogri and his Aarti Foundation have been our pioneer supporters. They have supported VSSM through thick and thin, whenever VSSM has been in need of funds during any emergency or otherwise, Chandrakantbhai along with Aarti Foundation has stood beside us like a rock. We are immensely grateful to Chandrakantbhai for his generosity and large-heartedness. It would have been impossible to realise this crazy vision without the support he has provided. Shri Lal Uncle with his knowledge and wisdom is and will be an integral part of this dream. We are so humbled to have the blessings, inspiration and support of all our elders through this magnificent journey of VSSM. This truly is the beginning of a new chapter for VSSM.

Kinjal fixes her father even before she becomes a Police Officer!!!



Kinjal Chuvadiya, is determined join police force one day. Ask her why this choice. "I want to fix my father," comes a quick and firm reply. Kinjal is one of the 7 daughters of an extremely strong willed lady named Ramaben Chuvadiya. Ramaben and her husband live in Surendrnagar's Tarakiya village. The family sustains itself on a small farm. and meagre earnings from some farm labour or coal making. Kinjal's father is an injury stricken alcoholic who is unable to put in hard work. Kinjal and sisters grew up in an atmosphere that was abusive, discriminatory and

miserable. The want for a male child and constant pressure from the community has made Kinjal's father a bitter man. Everyday quarrels and beating was a norm in the household. While the father saw no point in educating the girls, Ramaben was determine to provide a better future to her daughters. In 2014, as she got to know about VSSM's Doliya hostel Ramaben came to us with a request to enrol her Kinjal and younger Poonam in the hoste. She was apprehensive because of lack of funds. The girls fit the criteria and we enrolled them in Doliya Hostel. So Kinjal, Poonam and later Puri all three daughters joined us. Ramaben

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has always remained sorry for being unable to provide her elder daughters the same opportunity.

Recently Kinjal created quite a stir in her village and community when one evening after the usual drinking her father started beating her mother. Kinjal was with her parents during a school break. The father began spilling his favourite sentences of why the need to educate the girls etc. which turned into a full-fledged thrashing episode. Kinjal decided enough was enough. She had to take a bold move and free her mother from this never ending torture and abuse. Since they live on the farm, the next morning she went to the village hired a small kuccha room. She then divided the house hold goods and brought her mother to the rented house. She told her father that she is freeing her mother from every miseries. After settling the mother she rushed to Vankaner, the nearest police station. There she demanded to meet the PI and briefed him about her alcoholic father, violent behaviour, domestic abuse. Kinjal informed him that if anyone - her mother or she herself calls the police station for help, the police will have to reach within 30 minutes. The Police Inspector was amazed at the grit, wisdom, and fearlessness of young and well informed Kinjal. "How do you know all these?" he couldn't resist asking. Kinjal shared her Ahmedabad background, how staying at VSSM hostel, witnessing the team work, the causes it fights for, the recent Ramdevnagar movement against alcohol and drugs and the rally she was part of.

Kinjal was back in Ahmedabad and Ramaben continued to stay separate from her husband. After 3 months her father's family and community requested to end the separation. Ramaben called up Kinjal. "Take his commitment in writing, ask the relatives and leaders to become guarantors and assure the drinking and beating will stop. Take multiple copies, give one at the police station and send one here." Ramaben was instructed by Kinjal and she did the same. The father has sobered down considerably, the beating and quarrels have stopped. There is peace in the house now.

"What difference does it make if I have daughters or sons. With daughters as bold and fierce as Kinjal, who needs a son??" questioned Ramaben.

Kinjal is a brilliant 12th grader and so are her sisters. Poori the youngest always stands 1st or 2nd rank in her class. The mother has worked really hard, tolerated tantrums and much more to educate her daughter. These are the kind of daughters we want to raise here at VSSM. Confident, fearless, determined girls who can stand up for their own rights as well as their family's and their community's. The world definitely seems a better place with inspiring girls like Kinjal around.

Sendha believes it is his responsibility to do good for the girls of his village, Vadia!!



Once upon a time when few Saraniya women took to prostitution to feed their families, little did they know that this occupation will become a curse for the women of their coming generations. Vadia, a home to all these Saraniya women was a hamlet that came up much later. The profession of prostitution later was forced upon the young daughters of these women who had voluntarily ventured into it. The family members who forced this profession on the women in their family were their own fathers and brothers. Men in Vadia

work in partnership with the established pimps of the region. Fathers trading their young daughters, brothers bringing clients for their sisters has been a normal practice for these men, who do no other work. Boys seldom go to school here. They sustain themselves on the earnings of the women in the family. It has been one of our greatest challenges to inculcate habit of putting in hard work (to farm, to start a kiosk, to study and take up job) in these men.

21-year-old **Sendha Sisodiya** comes across as a breath of fresh air amidst these lazy and notorious men of Vadia. Sensitive, caring, understanding, empathetic are just few of the many adjectives we can affix to describe Sendha who has been under VSSM's care for past 5 years. His younger two siblings a brother and sister are with VSSM hostels. Sendha is a calm and well-read boy. He completed his schooling in commerce stream. According to him responsibility of supporting the family is his since his father works are farm labor he wants to begin earning as soon as possible. We have helped him enroll with TISS School of Vocational Education affiliated course to pursue Bachelor of Vocational Education - B.Voc in Marketing. Sendha also works part time. However, learning the ropes to a professional life has its own challenges for Sendha who denied studying for becoming a CA as it involved hiding financial misappropriations and now marketing the products he is assigned seems unfair as he is required to lie about product, make tall claims about it... He finds it difficult to speak lies for the products. All he wants is to work hard and earn fairly.

Sendha is amongst the few first-generation youths of Vadia who have gone to school after VSSM initiated work with them. Reading Geeta and books on spirituality is an activity he loves. What he hates is parents pushing their girls into prostitution. "As a boy it is my responsibility to protect the girls of my village and I am determined to do that!!" Such noble thought from boy-child of Vadia is rarity.

All we can hope is, "Sendha, may your tribe increase!!"

A blessing named Surekha!!

Surekha Raval arrived at VSSM hostel around two years ago. Surekha and her two younger brothers lost their parents at a very young age. The family stayed in small shanty in Ratanpur village in Banaskantha's Danta block. Surekha was barely 10-years-old when her parents died in quick succession to an illness. A distant maternal uncle and aunt became their guardians, taking them under their care and protection. They raised the three siblings as their own children. Surekha was educated until 12th grade beyond which affording her higher education became a challenge for poor folks. Lack of financial resources prevented Surekha from pursuing college education. The relatives involved her in farm labour. Paresh, VSSM's team member in Banaskantha learnt about Surekha's situation and immediately recommended her and both her brothers for admission in VSSM run hostels in Ahmedabad.



Humble, courteous, understanding, mature, sensitive Surekha arrived at VSSM's Unnati hostel with great apprehensions. "How do I blend-in, how will I get through in this vast city?" were her initial concerns. However, she embraced the hostel and its children beautifully. Within short time she assumed the role of an elder sister to the girls of Unnati hostel. She began taking responsibility of managing the hostel. Today, two year later she remains in charge of the daily schedule, kitchen, larder, stationary stock, accounts of the hostel. The manner in which she cares and showers affection over the small and younger girls of Unnati hostel also reveals how easily she slips into the motherly role for the 100 plus girls.

Surekha aspires to be a journalist, to better accomplish this aspiration she recently enrolled herself for a photography course where she was taught the basic concepts of photography and camera handling. The initial inhibitions of working on computer have also been successfully overcome by her. "I would have been nowhere without VSSM. It is because of VSSM, it's training and mentoring that I can dream of doing better with life. The love, care, confidence I have received here are irreplaceable. VSSM has taught me to be strong and fearless. I have to realize my dreams and give back to the society. And that I will for sure."

PARTICIPATORY WATER MANAGEMENT- TREE PLANTATION



Collaboration for a greener and inclusive future



As our society remains negligent towards the needs of nomadic as well as other marginalized communities even in this modern age, our **“Participatory Water Management”** program is a part of this mission to settle the people of Nomadic Tribes by establishing “water cooperation”. In return for our efforts for reducing the water scarcity in the villages, they facilitate the settlement of Nomadic Tribes in their respective villages.

The world has realized the significance of water management and its impact on **the climate change** phenomenon. Water and weather, the delicate balance between evaporation and precipitation, is the primary cycle through which climate change is felt. As our climate changes, droughts, floods, sea-level rise and storms intensify or alter, often with severe consequences. The state of Gujarat is no different as there are several regions in **North Gujarat** as well as **Saurashtra** which witness extreme weather conditions in the form of alternating droughts and floods. As very little water is

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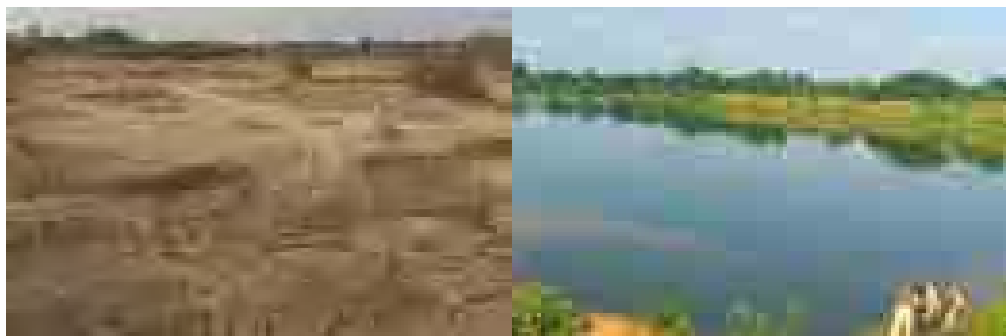
Meeting with the villagers for the awareness about water crisis

preserved or retained in the absence of a **water management system**; water is drained in river basins even in case of a flood. As a result, the groundwater table has reached a staggering **800-1000** feet over the past several decades despite several floods in these regions.

However, our endeavours through some of the most challenging landscape of Gujarat has made us aware of the indifferent attitude of rural Gujarat towards the environment. How have we become so careless towards elements that are important for our survival?

We often travel to different villages across Gujarat and are alarmed by both, the groundwater tables as well as the gross negligence towards an impending disaster. We have worked extensively on water management issues. We believe water has played an important role in bridging the gap by connecting the various strata of the rural communities in the past and it was pertinent we worked towards addressing the issue of water in the regions we worked in. VSSM has been active in Banaskantha since the beginning. It is a district bracketed in the **dark zone** by the state government or in other words, the citizens here are forbidden from sinking a borewell so we decided to initiate our participatory water management efforts from some of the most remote and water-starved villages of Banaskantha.

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VSSM began talking about water, initiated a dialogue with the community leaders and village elders. It talked about the status of water in their region, the need to work towards addressing the issue of water and how VSSM and rural communities can join their hands to recharge the groundwater tables. During these interactions, we would also talk about the state of the poor communities of their villages. As we made progress the communities began paying attention towards the poor. The village leaders began addressing the issues that had been pending for years. VSSM has designed its list of prerequisites in a way that encourages community participation and holistic development of the village.

We initiated the programme in the year 2015 and have so far excavated **87 lakes** in 7 talukas of Banaskantha namely Diyodar, Dhanera, Tharad, Lakhani, Deesa, Suigam and Vaav. As part of Water Management Drive, we initiated **compartment bunding** for 40 farmers starting with Vadia Village in Banaskantha District.

This year since January 2019, we have desilted total of 37 lakes. Around 15 lakes have received water so far owing to the good rainfall in Banaskantha region.

The social impact of Participatory Water Management Programme

One of the primary objectives to commence water conservation efforts in Banaskantha was to initiate and engage in a dialogue with the prosperous settled communities of its villages. The desire was to instigate and encourage people to think about the poor and marginalized communities staying in and around the villages. It should be noted that Banaskantha has the highest concentration of nomadic communities and most depleted groundwater tables. It is a known fact that the poor have the least access to common resources. VSSM felt that to kindle sensitivity and compassion for fellow human beings it will have to wade itself through water, a resource so scarce hence very precious in the region. It was assumed that water will prove to be a tool to trigger the much-needed change. The dialogue has had the desired impact as villagers are reaching

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out to us, they are prepared to shun their resistance and discriminatory attitude against the poor by stepping forward to accommodate them in their villages. It is a steady and gradual progression, but we are glad rigid mindsets are changing for good.

Some heart-warming change we have witnessed is –

- **Ratangadh** has a considerable population of poor communities staying in the village. These families aren't nomadic but other marginalized communities. After listening to our talks, following us on various social media platforms where we talk about the welfare and empowerment of poor sections of society the youth from Ratangadh proposed to help the poor families build their own homes, include their names in BPL list. Including names of these families would require removal of names of other privileged communities who might be on the list. What amused us was the Panchayat was prepared to it and took the required actions.
- The villagers and leadership of **Mudetha** village came with a request to help them process documents for 40 poor families in their village. They had already prepared a file for these homeless families in their village, with all the necessary documents required to process the applications.
- In **Shirwada**, the leadership allotted land for settling 50 Valmiki families in their village. They even tidied up and levelled the land for these families.
- In **Benap**, the sarpanch has allotted land to settle 30 Vadee families in their village.



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- The leadership of **Raviyana** came forward and showed preparedness to settle 40 nomadic families in their village.
- This year the monsoon has been extremely generous. The Sardar Sarovar Dam overflowed twice. Many of the lakes that were linked with the Narmada canal received water after decades. This has triggered a demand to link as many lakes as possible with the Narmada canal. They are requesting us to lead a movement for the same. A region which was not prepared to buy the idea of conserving water, refused to contribute to the efforts of lake deepening are congregating to work collectively on the issue of water and irrigation in their region. The is a massive impact. And the future looks upbeat.

Tree Plantation Campaign

Our work with the nomadic communities involves continuous travelling across Gujarat. At some point, we have been witness to the changing landscape across the countryside. Travelling through the parched regions we see thousands of acres of barren land waiting to be covered in green once again. To increase the green cover of the water-starved and drought-prone regions, VSSM initiated massive Tree Plantation campaign in some of the aridest regions it works.

Some salient features of this campaign are

- The entire campaign is carried out in partnership with the village leadership and panchayat. There is some contribution from the village in terms of sharing the remuneration of the person appointed to take care of the planted trees. The village body has to spare land to carry out the plantation and make provision for water. The leadership will be responsible for the survival of each planted tree.
- Care will be taken to ensure that the trees selected are ones that can easily grow in the region, ones that have always been around/native to the region, are shade-giving, ones that birds prefer to perch and nest upon, flower well, bear fruits to



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attract the birds and the bees. The trees that are planted these days do grow fast, but birds do not prefer to build their nests on it. VSSM got in touch with Forest Department for procuring tree saplings at no or low cost.

VSSM launched the first phase of Tree Plantation Campaign in Banaskantha district where the organisation is already working on Participatory Water Management program. The groundwater levels in Banaskantha have gone down to as low as 1200 feet. It's an alarming depth to fetch water from. The community too is looking forward to improving the status of water in their region.

Apart from this Tree Plantation also took place in some nomadic settlements of Ahmedabad and Mehsana districts of Gujarat.

Below is the list of villages where the first phase of tree plantations took place in Banaskantha. A total of **13000** trees have been planted this year. This includes 9050 in other villages and 4000 peepal trees in Shirwada alone.



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No	Village	Block	District	No	Village	Block	District
1	Makhanu	Diyodar	Banaskantha	6	Benap	Suigam	Banaskantha
2	Kakar	Kankrej	Banaskantha	7	Chaladar	Bhabhar	Banaskantha
3	Diyodar	Diyodar	Banaskantha	8	Golvi	Diyodar	Banaskantha
4	Mudetha	Deesa	Banaskantha	9	Shirwada	Kankrej	Banaskantha
5	Juna Deesa	Deesa	Banaskantha				

A tree plantation drive was also conducted around VSSM's Head Office in Ahmedabad. The trees were planted by women living in Ramdevnagar Bavri settlement and the girls at Unnati Girls' Hostel. Women at Ramdevnagar have formed a group called Bhavani Gang to eradicate the presence of Ganja and alcohol from the settlement. These women planted trees as part of stigma reduction from their settlement. The girls from Unnati Hostel have also taken responsibility to maintain one or two trees.



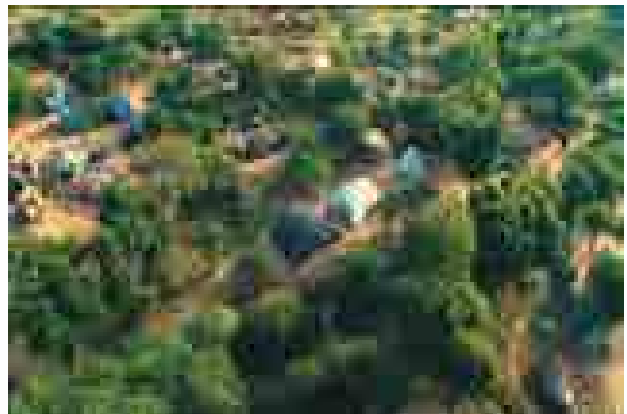


As sedentism replaces nomadism

Nomadic tribes have never had a permanent address due to their traditional occupations which involved continuous roaming from village to village. Only during the four months of monsoon did these families remain stationed around the boundaries of the village where they felt accepted by the villagers. Even today, there are nomadic tribes like Vadi-Madari who follow similar way of living and wader for 8 months a year. The De-notified tribes on the other hand had to migrate a lot as they had their names involved in robbery and dacoity. They were never accepted by the village. They were subjected to violence and stigma from the village. This became the reason that the nomadic and de-notified tribes never had their own pucca house neither they felt it necessary to settle down. However, as their traditional occupations became obsolete and they fell prey to abject poverty, these people want stable residence so that they can find occupation nearby.

Construction of houses of 90 families in Kakar Vadi-Madari Communities

Vadi-Madari is an intriguing nomadic community. They are known for their traditional occupation of snake charming and magic tricks. In the past they wandered from village to village showing their skills of playing with snakes & in entertaining people. Over the period of time owing to the urbanization, social myths for these communities, government ban & law enforcements etc. the livelihood of the Vadi-Madari people has become obsolete. These families were forced to live on as labourer or on begging. Vadi-Madari communities have ever since been facing the social stigma of child kidnappers. Recently, the incidents of mob lynching on people from the



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community have grown on horrifying scales in Gujarat. There is an immediate and crucial need to settle these families so that they can be brought in the mainstream society.

About Vadi settlement at Kakar Village

The Vadi Settlement of Kakar village is situated 3 kms away from the main village of Kakar. 90 families of this settlement are very poor, illiterate and continue to live nomadic life. These families have been allotted free residential plots by Government of Gujarat in 2009. 72 out of these 90 families got the benefit of Pandit Dindayal Awas Yojana in 2009. Under this scheme, they were to get Rs. 45,000/- an amount insufficient for constructing a decent livable house. The families were prepared to work to build their houses, however these families are not able to build the houses of their own due to lack of resources for the remaining cost of construction and so they approached VSSM for further assistance as a standard livable house can be constructed at the cost of Rs. 1.50 Lac per unit.



The plot each family has been provided is large enough to accommodate the sanitation unit hence, sanitation units have also been constructed along each house. We completed constructing 58 houses so far and working on the remaining 32 houses.

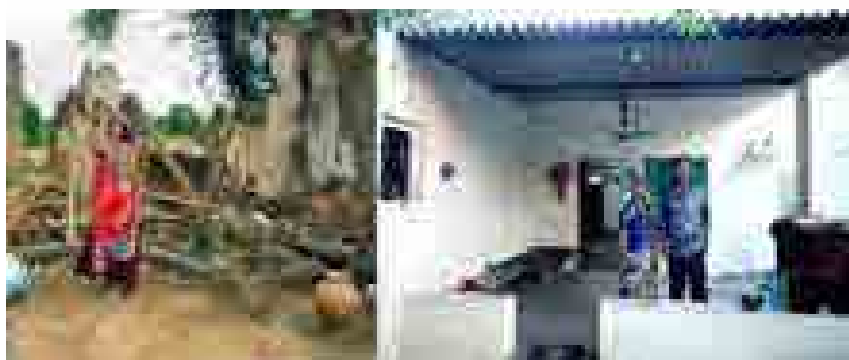
The houses are built in a duplex style. The allotted residential plot measured 20 ft * 45 ft. The construction has been carried out over half the plot lest the families feel the need to expand the house in future. The houses have concrete roofs instead of tin roofs. In order to make the entire settlement look like any mainstream urban colony of row houses, we have also planned to make a road in the settlement so that there can be streetlights and dividers.

Chhapi Housing

36 Saraniya and Devipoojak families of Chhapi received assistance of Rs. 70,000 during the financial year 2015-16 under the Pandit Din Dayal Awas Yojana. However, this amount, however is very less to even build a small pucca house. Nonetheless, these families made an effort and finished the construction up to lintel level. They were in no condition to go further, deciding to reach out to us. We waited and observed for a year to see whether the families are trying on their own or not. We have been knowing the families at Chhapi since the beginning, thus, VSSM took a call to provide support to these families. Soon with the support VSSM has extended these 36 families will finish construction of their houses.



Flood Rehabilitation



Banaskantha faced massive floods in 2015 and 2017. VSSM extended support to 213 families with the help of many of its well-wishers. These nomadic people summed up courage and took up construction of their washed-out houses on their own. 'Pucca' own

house is an ultimate dream for any individual more so for a person belonging to the nomadic tribes who have never known a decent house. Thus, they decided to construct their dream house adding their savings to the funds provided by VSSM from donors. They provided labour to build on their own. But all these factors took a lot of time,

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there still are few families who are building their house. Those who have completed the construction are living happily and blessing the donors from the bottom of their hearts.

Out of 213 houses 163 houses are completed, while the remaining families are constructing their own houses as per their financial ability. Due to insufficient funds, we give them one amount by which they start doing some work, can earn and finish the construction. We do not tend to put any set deadlines on the beneficiaries as we are the ones who are supporting them and we do not think that we own their freedom and choice. So, through people like you we support them and let them decide the size and design of the house.





Absolute transformation on the horizon



Vadia, a village that once brimmed with despair, gloom and apathy. It was a village; the society and government had washed their hands off. In 2005, VSSM stepped in Vadia intending to work with the Saraniya, a nomadic community once engaged in sharpening weapons of the erstwhile royal armies. With the independence of India and progressing times the occupation, this Saraniya community practised began fading into oblivion. The families neither had other skills nor were they skilled enough to find other jobs. During that time few women voluntarily got into flesh trade, a profession that would later be

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Community marriage at Vadia

forced upon the future generations of girls born in the village. It is a profession that got associated with the village of Vadia.

VSSM gradually started working towards resolving the issues of Vadia. The journey thus far has tested many of our emotions, the change remained slow but far-reaching. The Vadia today is quite different from when we saw it first. The efforts of VSSM has brought education, alternate livelihood, health, houses in the lives of people here. More than half of its families have now given up prostitution. The girls now attend school, are getting married and leading a life they previous generations had never imagined.

In 2012, we arranged the first-ever mass/community marriage ceremony in Vadia. That year 20 girls were either married or engaged. Marriage or engagement is a huge step towards preventing girls of Vadia being pushed into prostitution. The community believes that if a girl gets engaged, she should not be initiated into prostitution. VSSM perceived this belief as a major tool to prevent the spread of prostitution in Vadia. Beginning in 2012, Vadia has witnessed many of its daughters getting married over the years. This year we have had 7 daughters getting married. It was an occasion to celebrate the change and the hope Vadia is experiencing.

“My two daughters are married today; I have fulfilled my promise. Even death does not scare me now,” an emotional Rameshbhai had shared after his daughters' wedding. In 2005, Rameshbhai has promised to never push his daughters into prostitution. The pimps active in Vadia kept haunting him, trying their level best to trap and compel him to initiate his daughters into the trade. Rameshbhai, fought abject poverty, failing health but remained determined and strong like a rock. Fathers like Rameshbhai give us hope and assurance that this movement will continue. Every year we shall continue to witness the daughters of Vadia getting married, freeing themselves from the shackles of an inhumane occupation their fore-mothers practice.

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A mere thank-you can never be enough for the support you all have been. Realizing the dream of freeing the daughters of Vadia from the heinous profession is impossible without the persistent, unquestioned and consistent support from VSSM's large-hearted family. To get a daughter married is a huge task for any parent and here we are arranging weddings for a few daughters every year. We are immensely grateful to have you standing beside us as we make progress in Vadia.

The weddings of Vadia's seven daughters this year received support from our very dear Shri Chandrakantbhai Gogari, who has always put tremendous faith in my work, Shri Morari Bapu, who has always lent his voice to the plight of the nomads, Smt. Saroj Chaudhury, Shri Somabhai Patel who supported trousseau for Krishna and Kalpana, Rameshbhai's daughters.

Buffaloes as Wedding Gift



Every time a daughter from Vadia expresses her desire to get married, VSSM takes the responsibility of making the required arrangements to ensure the weddings take place smoothly. Starting this year, we have decided to follow a traditional north Gujarati practice of gifting 'dhamenu' a buffalo in the trousseau. The buffalo milk will provide financial security to our daughters at their marital house. Ideally, we would have wanted to gift the buffalo on the wedding day itself but, the prices of buffaloes drop in the months of September-October and as advised by as well-wishing farmers we planned to purchase and gift them then. "The buffaloes are cheapest during Bhadarvo, 11th month of Gujarati calendar!!" Nagjibhai, a community leader from Tharad had advised.

Once Bhadarvo arrived, VSSM's Shardaben and Nagjibhai persevered to find 5 good buffaloes. We gave buffaloes to five daughters out of seven as the financial condition of the in-laws of other two daughters are well-off. On 23rd September 2019, in the presence of our dear Shri Lal Uncle, we organized a program to gift the buffaloes to these daughters.

Supporting 30 families to build their own houses as part of Vadia Rehabilitation initiative

The massive floods in north Gujarat a couple of years back razed off houses of many families in Vadia. 30 families have been identified who own plots but do not have enough resources to construct houses. The families are either small farmers or daily wage earners. Their kaccha houses have been swept away during the floods. Beginning this year, we have launched the housing program in Vadia. This year we initiated and finished construction of 5 houses.

Balghar to address the social, nutritional and developmental needs of children between 1 to 6 years



The efforts of VSSM have been targeted towards the rehabilitating the families of Vadia. We have reached the school-going children, the young women and men however, the very young children and elder remained excluded from our focused interventions, a concern we have addressed this year.

The children between the ages of 1 to 6 years need to be included in the Early Childhood Care and Education Program. Vadia has a considerable number of children between these ages and the

government-run ICDS/Anganwadi services in Vadia mostly remain defunct. After our consistent efforts the government did sanction an Anganwadi in the village however, it hardly functions. The contract of operating the Anganwadis in the region was awarded to one particular organization who is missing from action, we have requested the government to hand us the management of the Vadia Anganwadi which, the officials are unable to do at this juncture. As a result of these missing services, the parental approach towards the importance of education and basic nutritional needs of the child remains dismal, hampering the overall development of the child.

VSSM has initiated a Balghar or Early Childhood Care centre in the village to focus on the all-round development of children between the ages of 1 to 6 years. The Balghar is

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an integrated centre functioning as a hub for children together, inculcate pre-school education to initiate them into mainstream education once they are 6 years old. The centre also takes care of the nutritional needs of these children with a functional kitchen that will cook up one nutritional snack each day. Currently, 40 children are attending this Balghar at Vadia.

A trailblazer named Hemi

In Vadiya, it is customary for the parents of the girl child to engage their daughter by the age of 7 to 10 years, if for some or the other reason the girl isn't engaged it should be understood that she will be pushed into flesh trade. The respect of engagement is such that nobody dares to disrespect the tradition by initiating the engaged girls into prostitution. Even married women are never expected to involve in prostitution. These are certain unwritten norms the community follows.

After the initial involvement in Vadia, VSSM had realised the power and importance of this unwritten code of conduct. It had the power to herald a new beginning for the girls of this village. The desire to see the girls getting married and leading normal lives was sparked by Hemi, a young girl who came in contact with the VSSM team when it began working in Vadia in the year 2005. This contact had happened at the time when she was just on the verge of getting into the flesh trade. Hemi's sister, sister's daughters were all into this trade. However, once Hemi started getting involved with VSSM's work her interaction, with the world beyond her society grew. Gradually she expressed her desire to get married and not take up the trade. This wish triggered a storm in her family. She was beaten and abused by her family members, especially by her brother and sister yet she remained firm with her decision.



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Eventually, the marriage did happen and it was not just her but 19 other girls were either married or engaged on a historic day in 2012 when Vadia witnessed its first every mass-marriage ceremony. Since Hemi was the first to express the desire to get married vested interest groups were conspiring to fail her marriage. The initial years of the marriage had a fair share of ups and downs, with some men from Vadia treating Hemi's husband with cash and alcohol. This free treats addicted him to alcohol. These men were determined to make Hemi's marriage fail so that no other girls from Vadia chose marriage as an option. This continued for a few months and Hemi was already pregnant. She tried her best to improve the situation but after things failed to improve, she walked out of the house. Bhikho would come at her parent's home and abuse, threaten her of dire circumstances. Hemi refused to tolerate any such nonsense, she continued to stay with her parents and gave birth to a baby girl named 'Pari' meaning Fairy. Since she did not want a drunkard husband to raise a beautiful daughter she was blessed with she never called husband or in-laws to announce the arrival of her daughter. Some months later things mellowed down, Bhikho sobered down too. Hemi made a conditional return to her home. Like all marriages, Hemi's marriage has had its share of ups and downs. Hemi is determined to make the marriage work, her husband now works as farm labour, Hemi has begun cattle farming. The couple has two daughters now.

As a result of Hemi's bold move, all the younger sisters of her family have joined VSSM's hostel and the elder ones have been married. Every year increasing numbers of girls are getting married. Prostitution is no longer seen as the only occupation as families lean towards small business and farming.

Thanks to Hemi's pathbreaking decision to get married the girls of Vadia can now opt for getting married and lead a normal life.

VSSM encourages and supports Chandraben to walk a different path.....

Vadia, one village, one community but 100 different interpretations. Each individual coming into contact of this village perceive it differently. So far, most have chosen to stay away from this village and its community because of the stigma it holds. Some like us (VSSM) decided to tackle the ground realities of this village, find solutions to their complex issues and help them lead a better and peaceful life. VSSM has received positive support from many of the families living in this village who also desire to erase the stigma Vadia holds.

Amongst these families is Chandraben Saraniya. In fact, it was her mother Sheni-ma, who had warmed up to me and began talking to VSSM when it first reached the village in 2005. Chandraben would always avoid coming face to

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)



face with me. I know she had reasons to do so but never probed. Once when I was visiting Shenima's place I bumped into Chandraben for the very first time. Chandraben is a powerful woman back then, she was into many things, she herself was a prostitute, trading girls to the pimps from outside and all the other stuff that is involved with the trade of prostitution. Her daughter Lakshmi, is a very beautiful girl. I know what happens to beautiful girls in this village. Every time I would see a girl child in Vadia my heart would tremble from inside. Since I knew their fate, my heart would silently ask God why does she birth girls into Vadia?? We all know nature seldom refuses, it just gives!! It is for us the humans to understand.

While working in Vadia I have never questioned or preached. It was a decision I had made to not give unsolicited advice or judge their choices in Vadia. However, that day I couldn't stop myself from telling Chandraben, "Don't push your daughter into this life of hell!!" and Chandraben replied, "I will not!!" However, for Chandraben, it was easier said than done. There were numerous lucrative offers but she remained strong in her resolve. She did not force her into prostitution but decided to commit her to one man. Not something we would approve but that it what she did then.

Once again when I happened to meet Chandraben and got talking to her I made an observation, "It is good you did not push your daughter into hell, you know the pain

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

of being into this trade so why be instrumental in pushing other girls into this life of pain and trauma, why not give it all up." There was a message that Chandraben absorbed very well. She decided to give it all up and so did her son who was involved in fetching customers from other towns to the girls of Vadia.

That day she did not even think twice before uttering, "Henceforth, I will never engage in any unlawful and immoral activities." It was hard to trust her, but the human Chandraben is "I can never lie after promising you, I will die if I broke my promise, you are away but my God is near me, he can see everything..." all this she said with her hands on her heart.

"Ben, I do not want to involve in any sinful activities. Will prefer being content in whatever my hard work brings me. We have learnt that money earned from hurting others does not last long.... It fades away as fast as it comes.' After giving up all the wrongful activities, Chandraben turned to farming, she first repaired her farm, began buying water from the nearby borewell. The income from agriculture was insufficient to meet the needs of the family. The family continued to pour-in hard work and some prayers but an economic activity that would increase the family's income remained elusive.

One day Chandraben accompanied by her son came over to our office in Ahmedabad. "Ben, I want to buy buffaloes, loan me some money please. I cannot promise about the entire village, but I will not allow any daughter of my family to enter prostitution. Also I guarantee no member of my family will be ever involved in any unlawful activities." I had never asked for such guarantee or commitment but Chandraben continued to speak.

VSSM sanctioned loan to Chandraben and 3 of her extended families with an objective of buying buffaloes. I was in Vadia a month after the loans were sanctioned. What I saw in front of her house brought a sense of delight. 5 buffaloes in her front yard was a fantastic sight. "I still have to buy a cow and some more buffaloes. I will not break the trust you have put in me." Chandraben was all smiles while saying this.

Chandraben is not alone in her venture, her entire family including her son and daughter-in-law work equally hard. The loan instalment reaches our account before 5th of every month. There is a sense of discipline in their attitude and behaviour. These are the winds of change we were so looking forward to... Yes, there are many like Chandraben whom we would like to stand besides us after

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

giving up their immoral involvements. That too shall happen soon. We are hopeful. And that feeling of hope is becoming stronger on each passing day.

Chandraben asked me to write her story so that others can draw inspiration from it. So here is her story, hope her efforts to live a rightful life motivates others in her vicinity to do so....

We pray to Almighty to continue showering his blessings on Chandraben and her family.

Hoping that this family helps others in their community to choose an ethical path.

Transforming Lives at Vadia



CONCLUSION



With the help of all the supporters and contributors, we at VSSM are able to succeed in our work with nomadic and de-notified communities. We are grateful to all of you for being an indomitable support through thick and thin. VSSM family has been growing consistently and we owe our success to our well-wishers, contributors and our field and office team. We are extremely grateful to friends of VSSM and Dharampur for being there all the while as a consistent support and guide.

We are thankful to our esteemed well-wishers such as Shri Kantisen Shroff, Shri Chandrakantbhai Gogari, Shri Sudhirbhai Thackersey, Shri Nimesh Sumati, Caring Friends, Shri Rameshbhai Kacholia, Shri Dhiren Dalal, Shri Sanjaybhai Shah, Shri Dr. Vikram Mehta, Shri Piyush Kothari, Shri Lal Rambhia, Shri Pravinbhai Shah, Smt. Saroj Chaudhury, Shri Nitin Suman Shah, Shri Kirit Shah, Shri Ambubhai Patel, Kalupur Co-Operative Corporate Bank Ltd., Shri Jigarbhai Patel and the like for their constant support and concern.

The continuous support and trust of the most deprived classes of the society remains our main guiding force. Their welcoming approach is always encouraging and makes us work towards implementing new programmes.

Our field team which keeps in touch with the community and work at the grassroots has been at the basis of our work. With their continuous sense of belonging and communication, we are increasing our outreach with each passing day. They are the ones because of whom we could gather the trust of the community and sustain the same.

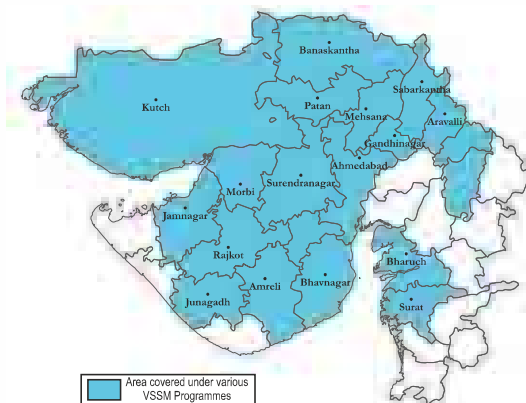
Our team at Ahmedabad Head Office plays very important role of being a bridge between the field and our well-wishers.

We feel fortunate that we have such a big and ever increasing family.

Thank you all!

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

The various activities of VSSM are spread across 18 districts of Gujarat.



• Ahmedabad	• Amreli
• Aravalli	• Banaskantha
• Bharuch	• Bhavnagar
• Botad	• Gandhinagar
• Jamnagar	• Junagadh
• Kutch	• Mehsana
• Morbi	• Patan
• Rajkot	• Sabarkantha
• Surat	• Surendranagar

About Friends of VSSM and Dharampur (FVD)

The Core Group of Friends of VSSM and Dharampur was formed under the chairmanship of respected Late Shri Pradeepbhai, and is now functioning under the leadership of respected Shri Rashminbhai Sanghvi. Smt.Kokilaben Shah, Shri K.K. Jhunjhunwala, Shri Atulbhai Ambavat, Smt.Meena Shah, Smt. Nandita Parekh, Shri Nitin Shingala, Smt. Trupti Shingala, Shri Mihir Sheth, Shri Abhay Bhagat and Shri Ashokbhai Katariya give their cooperation in functioning. All the dear ones attached with this group are always concerned with the work and spare their valuable time to keep in touch with the donors of Mumbai and discuss the work with them. You all are with us that is why we can work without any worries. Your continuous warmth helps the pressure of financial responsibilities decrease. Your experiences also guide us to keep the work forward. We pay our gratitude to all who are connected with the Core Group and are always ready to help on an email or phone from the Core Group.

Those who are willing to contribute at Mumbai may please contact respected Shri Rashminbhai Sanghvi at following address:

Contact address at Mumbai – FVD

Shri Rashminbhai Sanghvi

Rashmin Sanghvi & Associates

220, 2nd Floor, Arun Chambers, Tardeo Road, Tardeo Mumbai- 400034

Tel.: +91-22-2351 1878 | 2352 5694, Fax: +91-22-2351 5275

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Fund Requirement for the next three years

(In Lacs)

Sr. No.	Programme	Units	Budget for the Financial Year 2020-21	Units	Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22	Units	Budget for the Financial Year 2022-23
1.	Human Rights' Advocacy	-	24	-	25	-	26
2.	Relief from Poverty	-	5	-	5	-	5
3.	Elderly Assistance	75	15	100	20	100	25
4.	Unnati Girls' Hostel	-	28	-	30	-	32
5.	Vatsalya Boys' Hostel	-	62	-	65	-	69
6.	Kakar Hostel	-	27	-	28	-	29
7.	Housing (including Sanitation Units)	100	160	100	175	100	190
8.	Livelihood Admin	-	24	-	25	-	26
9.	Livelihood Revolving	500	50	500	50	500	50
10.	Participatory Water Management	70	331	70	331	70	331
11.	Tree Plantation	43	25	73	40	103	50
	TOTAL		751		794		833

Note: 5.1.1: Participatory Water Management Programme: In the year 2019-20, the budget was Rs. 3,31,70,000/- in which we have planned to excavate around 70 lakes which will include 50 lakes costing Rs. 5 Lakh and 20 lakes costing Rs. 3 Lakh. The second season of the year will begin from December-19. We have kept the target of 70 lakes for the next three years but the number may vary as per the availability of funds.

5.2.1: Tree Plantation : We will find new sites in the village which we have worked previous years to plant trees. This year, we have carried out tree plantation drive in 13 sites. In the Financial Year 2020-2021, we will make it 43 sites (13+30), in 2021-22, there will be 73 (43+30) sites and there will be 103 (73+30) sites in the year 2022-23 where VSSM will conduct Tree Plantation Drive.

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Form for Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manchi (VSSM) registration. The form includes fields for Name, Address, Phone Number, Email, and a large section for Description of the Project. The Description section is divided into two columns: 'Project Description' and 'Project Objectives'. The form is signed by the Project Manager and the District Collector.

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email	Description of the Project
				<div><div>Project Description</div><div>Project Objectives</div></div>

Project Description:

Project Objectives:

Signature of Project Manager:

Signature of District Collector:

Case No.	Case Name	Case Type	Case Status	Case Date	Case Time	Case Location	Case Description	Case Action	Case Result	Case Comment
1	Case 1	Case Type 1	Case Status 1	Case Date 1	Case Time 1	Case Location 1	Case Description 1	Case Action 1	Case Result 1	Case Comment 1
2	Case 2	Case Type 2	Case Status 2	Case Date 2	Case Time 2	Case Location 2	Case Description 2	Case Action 2	Case Result 2	Case Comment 2
3	Case 3	Case Type 3	Case Status 3	Case Date 3	Case Time 3	Case Location 3	Case Description 3	Case Action 3	Case Result 3	Case Comment 3
4	Case 4	Case Type 4	Case Status 4	Case Date 4	Case Time 4	Case Location 4	Case Description 4	Case Action 4	Case Result 4	Case Comment 4
5	Case 5	Case Type 5	Case Status 5	Case Date 5	Case Time 5	Case Location 5	Case Description 5	Case Action 5	Case Result 5	Case Comment 5
6	Case 6	Case Type 6	Case Status 6	Case Date 6	Case Time 6	Case Location 6	Case Description 6	Case Action 6	Case Result 6	Case Comment 6
7	Case 7	Case Type 7	Case Status 7	Case Date 7	Case Time 7	Case Location 7	Case Description 7	Case Action 7	Case Result 7	Case Comment 7
8	Case 8	Case Type 8	Case Status 8	Case Date 8	Case Time 8	Case Location 8	Case Description 8	Case Action 8	Case Result 8	Case Comment 8
9	Case 9	Case Type 9	Case Status 9	Case Date 9	Case Time 9	Case Location 9	Case Description 9	Case Action 9	Case Result 9	Case Comment 9
10	Case 10	Case Type 10	Case Status 10	Case Date 10	Case Time 10	Case Location 10	Case Description 10	Case Action 10	Case Result 10	Case Comment 10

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

NAME OF THE SOCIETY - VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (P. C.)
 BALANCE SHEET ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31ST MARCH, 2019
 REG. NO. 371872/A AHMEDABAD

FUNDS	SCH	AMOUNT (RS)	AMOUNT (RS)	ASSETS	SCH	AMOUNT (RS)	AMOUNT (RS)
earmarked FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS:)	A			CASH & BANK BALANCE:)			7,06,420.52
HOUSING		1,04,925.00		BALANCE WITH SAVINGS ACCOUNT WITH			
WATER MANAGEMENT		4,46,154.00		STATE BANK OF INDIA A/C NO. 333244441			
EDUCATION		1,07,234.33	6,58,313.33				
INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C:)							
BALANCE AS PER LAST YEAR		14,854.50	44,087.50				
ADD: SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		29,203.00					
TOTAL			7,06,420.83	TOTAL			7,06,420.83

THE ABOVE BALANCE SHEET TO THE BEST OF OUR BELIEF CONTAINS A TRUE ACCOUNT OF FUNDS & LIABILITIES OF THE TRUST
 FOR CHANDRAVADAN A. SHAH & CO.
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
 DATE: 10.06.2019

SECRETARY
 NITTA L. PATEL
 G - 02, SAFAL PAVNESH,
 PRATILAY AGAR,
 AHMEDABAD - 38

CHANDRAVADAN A. SHAH
 PROPRIETOR
 31 NO. 031706
 FIRM REGISTRATION NO. 004829W
 UDIN: 19034736AAAAC13353

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

FUND INVESTMENT		FUND INVESTMENT		FUND INVESTMENT	
1. New Hostel Corpus Fund Invested in FD	1,05,02,600	2. New Hostel Earmarked Fund Invested in FD	1,62,83,358	3. Education Corpus Fund Invested in FD	51,00,000
4. Life Time Membership Fees Fund Invested in FD	7,517	5. General Earmarked Fund Invested in FD	1,00,05,286	6. Relief from Poverty Corpus Fund Invested in FD	12,50,000
7. Water Management Earmarked Fund Invested in FD	40,04,064				
4,71,52,825					

FUND INVESTMENT IN FIXED DEPOSITS AS ON 31/03/2019	
AMT. RS.	JUSTIFICATION
1,05,02,600	New Hostel Corpus Fund Invested in FD
1,62,83,358	New Hostel Earmarked Fund Invested in FD as New Hostel Construction work will be started in FY 2019-20
51,00,000	Education Corpus Fund Invested in FD
7,517	Life Time Membership Fees Fund Invested in FD
1,00,05,286	General Earmarked Fund Invested in FD will be utilized in FY 2019-20
12,50,000	Relief from Poverty Corpus Fund Invested in FD
40,04,064	Water Management Earmarked Fund Invested in FD will be utilized in FY 2019-20
4,71,52,825	

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

**NAME OF THE SOCIETY - VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH SCHEDULE
FORMING PARTS OF BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH,
2019 EARMARKED FUNDS**

PARTICULAR	BALANCE AS ON 31/03/2019	JUSTIFICATIONS FOR BALANCE AS ON 31/03/2019
Human Dignity		
Availing Citizenry Rights	8,57,457.12	This balance pertains to the Advocacy Programme running cost and carried forward to 2019-20. No specific donor for this programme.
Relief from Poverty	9,33,008.00	The same fund will be utilized in FY 2019-20
	17,90,465.12	
Housings		
Dhrangadhra Housing	3,96,820.00	The same fund will be utilized in FY 2019-20
Old Deesa Housing	5,35,638.00	The same fund will be utilized in FY 2019-20
Kakar Housing	1,08,946.00	The same fund will be utilized in FY 2019-20
Chhapi Housing	1,90,000.00	The same fund will be utilized in FY 2019-20
	12,31,404.00	
Livelihood Generations		
Vocational Training - Skill Development	2,927.12	Routine Programme Running Cost
Water Management		
Water Management	46,90,844.00	The same fund will be utilized in FY 2019-20
Vadia Support Programme		
Vadia Initiative	12,55,313.00	Routine Programme Running Cost
TOTAL RELIEF FROM POVERTY	89,70,953.24	
Education - Hostels		
Unnati Girls Hostel	7,37,095.07	Routine Programme Running Cost
Gambharchand Oomedchand Shah Chhatralay	2,18,544.32	Routine Programme Running Cost
	9,55,639.39	
Education - Bridge Schools		
Old Deesa Bridge School	59,639.00	Routine Programme Running Cost
Education - General		
Support for Education Fees	7,94,841.37	Routine Programme Running Cost
Education - Capital Fund		
New Hostel	1,68,84,039.00	New Hostel Construction Cost
Unnati Girls Hostel	13,74,256.99	Capital Expenditure Fund will be utilized
Gambharchand Oomedchand Shah Chhatralay	281.98	Capital Expenditure Fund will be utilized
	1,82,58,577.97	
TOTAL EDUCATION	2,00,68,697.73	
TOTAL	2,90,39,650.97	



VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Budget Requirement from November 01, 2019 to March 31, 2020

Sr. No.	Activity	Actual Requirement
1.	Availing Citizenry Rights	0
2.	Relief from Poverty	0
3.	Vadia Rehabilitation	14,70,687
4.	Old Age Home	5,58,099
5.	Unnati Girls Hostel	8,80,571
6.	Shri Gambhirschand Oomedchand Shah Chhatralay	43,48,770
7.	Kakar Boys & Girls Hostel	22,03,000
8.	Vadia Balghar	0
9.	Support for Education Fees	0
10.	Kakar Housing	31,28,000
11.	Old Deesa Housing	0
12.	Chhapi Housing	11,51,550
13.	Vadia Housing	24,88,350
14.	Dhrangadhra Housing	0
15.	Livelihood Monitoring Cost	10,44,623
16.	Livelihood Loans	37,92,000
17.	Banaskantha Water Management	3,31,70,000
18.	Banaskantha Tree Plantaion	6,62,499
19.	Head Office	0
	Total Budget Rs.	5,48,98,149

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

List of FCRA donors during 2018-19 to November 2019

Sr.No.	Donor Name	Country	Years	Amount
1	Helping Hands of America	United States of America	2018-19	53,180.00
2	Shree Neel & Sejal Vaidya	United States of America	2018-19	1,05,000.00
3	Shri Anilbhai Parikh	United States of America	2018-19	1,04,925.00
4	Shri Simon V. Parekh	United States of America	2018-19	7,123.00
5	Mr. Neel Vikram Parekh	United States of America	2018-19	13,782.00
6	Pravin Millenium Trust	United Kingdom	2019-20	19,57,450.00
7	Share & Care Foundation	United States of America	2019-20	2,05,153.00
8	Shri Prashant Rajnikant Bhagat	India	2019-20	50,000.00
9	Kundaria Family Resource Institute	United States of America	2019-20	34,233.00
10	Smt. Swati Mandalia Ringwala	United States of America	2019-20	74,323.00
11	Shri Neel Vaidya	United States of America	2019-20	1,43,707.24
	TOTAL			27,48,876.24

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Details of donors who have donated more than Rs. 25,000/- to VSSM during 2018-19. Thank you for your support.

Due to space constraint, we could not include names of donors who have donated less than Rs. 25,000/- as their list is long. With a request to let you know that your donation is also valuable for us. We are working because you all are with us. Heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

Donor Name	Amount	Donor Name	Amount
Aarti Foundation	12,00,000	Dakshaben Naranbhai Patel	2,50,000
AbhayBhagat	40,000	Dayaben Girjashankar Sheth Trust	1,00,000
Addis Marketing	25,000	Deviben Kanjibhai Myatra	50,000
Adhgam Villagers	25,000	Dishatbhai B Mehta	40,000
Ajmera Pravinlata Dhirajlal	1,00,000	Dixit Gunvantrai Shah	5,00,000
Almitra H Patel	2,50,000	Estate Of Late Shantilal	27,50,000
Alpaben Atulbhai Ambavat	70,000	M. Shah Of Mumbai	
Amar Jyoti Trust	20,00,000	Falguni Ajay Patel	35,000
AndabbhaiJevatbhai Patel and Villagers	1,00,000	Fine Organics Industries Limited	8,00,000
Anil Thaker	25,000	Gambharchand Oomedchand Shah	10,00,000
Anuj Jayeshbhai Sharedalal	40,000	Charity Trust	
Arunbhai D Shah	80,000	Gem & Jewellery National Relief	15,00,000
ArunbhaiNahar	5,00,000	Foundation, Mumbai	
Arvindkumar N. Bhatt	25,000	Gita Rajesh Patel	35,000
Atul Chandra Charitable Trust	11,00,000	Gunvantrai Maganlal Shah	5,00,000
BDH International	25,000	Hans Maharaj Trust	60,000
Bengal Finance And Investment Pvt. Ltd.	10,00,000	Hareesh Jamnadadh N.P.J. Bhat	50,000
Bhagwanidevi Basudev Jhunjhunwala Trust	92,560	Hirenabhai Dilipbhai Desai	25,000
Bhailalbhai Prabhudasbhai Prajapati	50,000	Induben S Mehta	25,001
Bharatkumar R Patel	50,000	Indubhai Manilal Shah	50,000
Bhartiben Naranbhai Patel	5,00,000	Jatinbhai M. Gajarawala	50,000
Bhimpura Gram Panchayat	50,000	Jayesh Chandrakantbhai Sharedalal	87,500
Bhumiben Chandulal Shah	10,00,000	Jayvantkumar M Shah	1,00,000
Blue Moon Properties Private Limited	41,000	Jewelex Foundation	6,00,000
Chandravadan Shantilal Shah	4,50,000	Jyoti Naresh Ajwani	25,000
Chetan A. Karia	25,000	Kahan Chand Narang	25,000
Chhabilchandra Hiralal Genge	1,00,000	Kakar Gram Panchayat	25,550
		Kakulal Chhaganlal Mehta	1,00,000
		Kalidas Madhavji Valia	25,000

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Donor Name	Amount	Donor Name	Amount
Kalpesh Bhandari	35,000	R. M. Shah Foundation	11,00,000
Kamlaben Gambhirchand Shah	10,00,000	Radhika Anilbhai Upadhyay	1,00,000
Charity Trust		Rajanbhai C. Pandya	25,000
Kamlaben H Shah	51,000	Rakesh Parikh	1,05,000
Khadol Sarpanch	50,000	Ramchandrabhai M. Pancholi	30,000
Kiran Motors Limited	2,31,600	Ramesh Kacholia	5,00,000
Kirtibhai Sheth	1,50,000	Ranbir Rishi Kapoor	51,000
Kokilaben Pradeepbhai Shah	50,000	Rang Seva Tirth Foundation	25,000
Kusumben Mayurbhai Shah	35,000	Ranjanben Naranbhai Patel	5,00,000
Lakhi Trust	25,00,000	Rashi Gaba	1,00,000
Magic Tours And Travels Pvt. Ltd.	1,00,000	Rashmin C. Sanghvi	75,000
Maharshi Kishore Dave	1,00,000	Ratangadh Gramjana Sahyog	60,000
Maltiben Bipinchandra Shah	1,00,000	Raviyana Dudh Utpadak Mandali	30,000
Manav Mitra	10,00,000	Sachinbhai Parekh	25,000
Manoj Gunvantrai Shah	5,00,000	Sanjaybhai Shah	12,10,000
Manuben Indubhai Shah	1,01,111	Sarjanben Navinchandra Parikh	25,000
Mitaben Ketan Thakkar	35,000	Sharadbhai Gopaldas Shah	70,000
Nalini Hasmukhroy Shah	3,00,000	Sharda Cropchem Ltd.	10,00,000
Nancy N. Kothari	1,00,000	Shrimad Rajchandra Aadhyatmik	10,50,000
Natraj Foundation Trust	35,000	Satsang and Sandhna Kendra, Mumbai	
Navinbhai S Shah	25,000	Siddhi Trading	4,00,000
Nikunj Sanghvi	42,500	Star Chemicals (Bambay) Pvt. Ltd.	10,00,000
Nileshbhai Maninar	25,000	Sudhirbhai Thackersey	11,11,111
Niraj S. Kothari	1,00,000	Sujal Shah	25,000
Nirav Kirti Bhuta	50,000	Suresh Manilal Shah	1,00,000
Nitin Shah	2,50,000	Toshan Ajay Tamhane	5,00,000
Nitinbhai Shingala	35,000	Transpek Industry Limited	5,00,000
Nyalkaran Charitable Trust	2,00,000	Ushaben Dineshchandra Upadhyay	51,000
Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	15,18,568	Ushaben Gunvantrai Shah	10,00,000
Paresh Jashwantri Vora	25,000	Vinodbhai Ambavat	35,000
Parshottambhai Bhikhabhai Patel	51,000	Vinodbhai Jeshingbhai Chinai	1,00,000
Piyushkumar Ucchavlat Desai	10,00,000	Viral Ketan Shah	1,00,000
Prakas Sakarlal Gandhi Cheritable Trust.	2,25,000	Viral Mukeshbhai Shah	1,00,000
Prasanbhai N. Tolia	1,00,000	Well-wisher	50,000
Pravinlata Dhirajlal Ajmera	3,00,000	Well-Wisher	25,000
Pushpaben Kantilal Shah	1,11,000	Total Local Donation received for the FY 2018-19	3,94,81,501

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Media coverage

Jadeja assures safety of Bavri community women

Minister visits Hamburg after a group of women organized fear of being attacked by their partners. Almost millions in the city

1. **Introduction**

More than 100 years after its founding, the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is still a relatively young organization. It was founded in 1903 as the American Society of Human Biology, and its name was changed to ASHG in 1972. The society's primary focus is on the study of human genetics, and it has a long history of promoting research in this field. ASHG is a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). It is also a member of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) and the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG).

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 2. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 3. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 4. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 5. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 6. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 7. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 8. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 9. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.
 10. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33(1), 1-15.

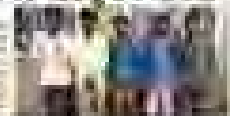
KEY CONSIDERATION: THE MESSAGE TO BEING ACHIEVED is a stern message that consumption and sale of prohibitive substances will not be tolerated, and stern action will be taken against those breaking



Figure 1

happening in their community and asked them to approach the police and administration at any time and strict action will be taken.

જુન-૨૦૨૨-ની પોલીસે વિગતોની જાહેરાત
૧-૨ જુન-૨૦૨૨ રાત્રે જુલમી હુમલામાં



...the fact that the company has a long history of innovation and leadership in the industry. The company's commitment to excellence is evident in its products and services, which are designed to meet the needs of its customers. The company's success is a testament to its dedication to quality and customer service.



વિશ્વરત્ની જાતિ ના લોકો માટે
આભારકર્તા નો કેમ્પ ઘોષણો



ਸਿਵਲੀ ਅਦਾਲਤਾਂ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਪ੍ਰਾਂਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ
ਅਧਿਕਾਰਤ ਨਾਜ਼ਮੀ ਹਥਿਆਰਾਂ ਵੀਡੀਓ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ



...the ...



(*) \mathcal{A} is a \mathcal{C}^* -algebra, \mathcal{B} is a \mathcal{C}^* -subalgebra of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{C} is a \mathcal{C}^* -subalgebra of \mathcal{B} . Then \mathcal{C} is a \mathcal{C}^* -subalgebra of \mathcal{A} .

There is a lot of talk about the importance of the environment, but it is often forgotten that the environment is also a source of many of our problems. For example, the environment is a source of many of our diseases, and it is also a source of many of our social problems. Therefore, it is important to take steps to protect the environment, and to make sure that it is a source of health and well-being for all of us.

આચાર્ય મણીભાઈ શાસ્ત્રી (૧૯૧૬-૨૦૧૭) ગુજરાતના એક પ્રખ્યાત ગદ્ય લેખક અને અભિવ્યક્તિવાદી હતા.

[illegible]

VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

Trust information including bank details

Name	Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch
Address	‘HARIKUTIR’, Sadvichar Privar Campus Satellite Road, Ramdevnagar. Ahmedabad – 380015, Gujarat. India
Contact Person	Mittal Patel
Contact Person email	vssmgujarat@gmail.com
Contact Number	(079) 2686 0378/79
Website	www.vssmindia.org
80G(5) I.T. Exemption Certificate No.	DIT(Exe)/Ahm/80G(5)/217/2010-11/dt.26/10/2010
PAN	AABTV2421M
Society Registration No.	Guj/15163/Ahamedabad
Trust Registration No.	F/14872/Ahmedabad
Whether donation eligible under 80G	Yes
FCRA Registration No.	41910469
Bank Details:	
Bank Name	Dena Bank
Branch	Ambawadi, Nehrunagar Branch, Ahmedabad
Account Name	Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch/VSSM
Account No.	85710024266
IFSC Code No.	BKDN0110857
Foreign Fund Bank Details	
Account Name	Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch
Bank Name	State Bank of india, Manekbaug
Account Name	33732434635
IFSC Code No.	SBIN0008052
SWIFT Code No.	SBININBB410

A Lot to be Grateful for...



Enduring and overcoming the challenges VSSM faces everyday wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and hard-work of its team members. From the 'One person army' that Mittal was during the initial days, the organization now has a team of 48 people spread over 18 districts.

Deliberate efforts have been made to maintain the grassroots team of the organization from the communities of NT and DNTs itself. These young team members are aware of the daily challenges the communities face hence, with required guidance and support from the management team, they succeed to effectively address them. While doing so they showcase tremendous perseverance, presence of mind, adaptability and dedication. Sometimes work does get frustrating and depressing but all such moments are short lived, as they never lose sight of the larger goal that is - empowering the NT and DNTs. VSSM wouldn't have succeeded in achieving even a fraction without the commitment and extreme hard work of its team member. Very few organisations are blessed to have a blend of team members that become organisation's strength and back-bone, VSSM is the lucky one.

VSSM's Board of Trustees with their collective experience, wisdom, knowledge and influence have shaped the organisation to its current avatar. The Board of Trustees have become integral and extended members of VSSM team by directly associating themselves with various activities

None of the initiatives and endeavours VSSM launches could have achieved its desired outcome if it were not for the relentless support of its large hearted donors. VSSM's well-wishing friends most of whom have supported it repeatedly, year after year are the reason VSSM can dream of achieving the unheard, unimagined and unachieved. Their faith and generosity is like wind under our wings, they are the reason we fly...



VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)

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