



# ANNUAL REPORT

- *Human Dignity Programme*
- *Education Programme*
- *Swavalamban – Livelihood Programme*
- *Tool Support Programme*
- *Housing Programme*
- *Participatory Water Management Programme*
- *Tree Plantation Programme*
- *Sanjiv Arogya Setu and Medical Support Programme*
- *Mavjat Programme – Grocery Support for Unattended Elderly*
- *Sanjiv Annakshetra Programme*
- *Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Programme*
- *Vadia Rehabilitation Programme*

## Reporting Period

**From April 2022 to March 2023**

## Financial Year

**FY 2022 – 23**

### **Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch (VSSM)**

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## Who are Nomads?

The term Nomad derives from a French word “Nomade”, meaning people without fixed habitation. Nomads are known as a group of communities who travel from place to place for their livelihood.

The nomadic communities in India can be broadly divided into three groups: hunter gatherers, pastoralists, and the peripatetic or non-food producing groups. Among these, peripatetic nomads are the most neglected and discriminated social group in India. They have lost their livelihood niche because of drastic changes in transport, industries, production, entertainment, and distribution systems.

The **Nomadic and the De-Notified Tribes (NT-DNT)** have always been an intrinsic part of India’s social, cultural and economic canvas since early times. They feature in the stories told by our grandparents, in our fables and folklores and the literature. During the bygone days of thriving rural economies, these communities had a significant role and social status within the society. Each of the nomadic communities had a reason to exist in the daily lives of villagers and towns-dwellers.

However, the emergence of modern and industrialized economies soon challenged the very existence of these communities. Today, with their skills and expertise being rendered obsolete, these communities now face a daily struggle of survival and an almost non-existent loci status in the society.

## About Us

Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch is a non-profit organization working to empower the nomadic and de-notified and deprived communities while striving to create an inclusive society as well as government policies for these extremely marginalized sections of our society.

VSSM as a collective was initiated in the year 2005 and was formally registered as an organization in the year 2010, with the mission to give social identity, citizen’s rights, education, health facilities, housing and livelihood options to the various communities of Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes (NT-DNTs).

We work with the Peripatetic nomads of Gujarat. They are the Saraniya, Gadaliya, Luhariya, Vadi, Madari, Nat, Vanzara, Bajaniya, Devipujak and many more. The peripatetic nomads have never been part of any village or contained societies. The nature of their work required them to be on constant move. They were the traders, entertainers, artists, fortunetellers, essential service providers and much more.

Since these communities were never a part of any settled society and now that their skills were no longer required, they began vanishing from the memory of the civil society, lawmakers and planners.

We have also incorporated measures for Environment Conservation i.e. Water Management and Tree Plantation through community participation.

## Vision | Mission | Objectives

### Vision

The inclusion of Nomadic, De-Notified and Other Marginalized Communities in mainstream society anchored towards Socio-Economic and ecological stability and enable the people to lead a dignified life.

### Mission

To ensure and enable holistic development of the people belonging to the Nomadic, De-Notified Tribes and other marginalized section of the society addressing the interdependence and coevolution of Human Economies and Biodiversity.

### Objectives

#### Our Community Specific Objectives include:

- To enable the communities of NT-DNT avail their citizenry rights and entitlements.
- To ensure the children from NT-DNT communities enjoy their fundamental Right to Education.
- To support the creation of alternate livelihood opportunities when the traditional occupations have become obsolete with time.
- To ensure that the NT-DNT families obtain a stable residence
- To preserve and promote cultural heritage of NT-DNT communities by providing stage to their inherent art and artistry.
- To provide support for the medical emergencies and to ensure that they get adequate medical support from government and private functionaries

#### Our Environmental Objectives include:

- To make people aware about the fast depleting water table and get them involved into the Participatory Water Management Programme
- To enhance the Green cover, a Tree Plantation Drive was initiated since 2019.

## Our Interventions | Programmes

### Human Dignity – Advocacy Programme

#### Obtain Access to a Dignified Living

*To provide support for availing various citizenry entitlements, active advocacy for hassle-free procedures and to help getting access to different government schemes*

Through Human Dignity Programme, VSSM helps Nomads get access to various identity documents, like Voter ID cards, Ration Cards, Aadhar Card, Caste Certificates, and much more. These documents are crucial to enable them to access the numerous government policies designed to elevate the standard of living of our poor populace. Once the documents are in place, applications are filed for allotment of residential plots to the families who still have not found an address to belong.

Most of these families now need to settle down at one place to earn a decent living and educate their children, a need they never experienced when they made a living while practicing their traditional occupations. The obsolescence of their traditional trades now compels the ever-wandering nomads to lead a settled life.

Furthermore, VSSM also plays a pivotal role at the state and central level in framing and implementing the Government Welfare Policies favoring nomads.

- Helped avail Voter ID Cards to over 5,00,000 individuals.
- Supported 2,00,000 families avail Ration Card (APL, BPL and Antyoday) until now.
- Helped more than 3,000 families receive free residential plots from the Government.
- Reached 2,00,000 families of 22 districts of Gujarat.
- Could be able to create a special provision for Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes Communities in various government welfare schemes.
- Associated these communities with more than 40 various Government Welfare Schemes

- **Story of Success**

**VSSM has requested the District Collector to ensure these nomadic families issues are resolved...**

“This settlement of ours is huge, yet some families still stay in mud homes; and most houses also lack access to water. It would be a relief if water reached these homes and the owners of mud houses can have brick-cement homes.

During a recent meeting, the community of Paandva village of Mahisagar’s Balasinor block shared the above sentiments. We ensured that their homes would not remain kuccha for long because our Prime Minister dreams of a pucca home for all the homeless families. We also briefed them that the government has implemented the ‘Nal-se-Jal’ scheme to ensure potable water reaches each household.



**Mittal Patel with government officials meets Raval Community of Pandva village**



**Mittal Patel discusses nomadic families issues during the meeting**

We have brought the living condition of this settlement to the notice of the district collector and will continue to follow up with the authorities until their issues are resolved. We hope the solution happens soon.



**Raval Community of Pandva Village of Mahisagar District**



**Mittal Patel bringing the living condition of this settlement to the notice of the District Collector**

The Raval community of Pandva village earns their living through agriculture or small-scale independent ventures. We offered to support them in whatever way they deemed possible. The community members share a great bond we pray for their continued harmony and well-being.



**The current living of nomadic families**



**The Raval community of Pandva village earns their living through agriculture or small-scale Independent Ventures**

## **Education Programme**

### **Mainstreaming the Next Generation**

*To provide and support facilities to groom next generation children of these communities to get access to education and expand their horizon to a life full of opportunities*

The nomadic communities lag tremendously on the access and importance of education. As a result of this deprivation, the communities have failed to be part of the educated mainstream. Since its inception, VSSM has made massive efforts to bring education to the doorstep of these communities by opening Balghars and bridge schools in settlements, enrolling the children in government or private schools or residential educational institutions.

- Total 476 children (163 Girls and 313 Boys) getting education from 02 hostels of the organization with all expenses borne by VSSM.
- Shri G. U. Shah Boys and Girls Hostel is functional at Mansa, Gandhinagar.
- The hostel for the children of Snake-Charmer (Vadi-Madari) Community is functional at Kakar village in Kankrej Block of Banaskantha District.
- VSSM has visualized a one-of-a-kind cultural and educational enclave, spread across the 36 bigha-land at Pansar village, for nomadic and de-notified communities. This Hostel will be named as Vallabh Vidya Vihar Sankul.

Hostel	No. of Children		
	Girl	Boy	Total
<b>Shri Gambhirchand Umedchand Shah Boys &amp; Girls Hostel</b> At. & Ta. Mansa Dist. Gandhinagar	118	226	344
<b>Smt. Viraben Meghjibhai Shah (Chandaria) Hostel</b> At. Kakar Ta. Kankrej Dist. Banaskantha	45	87	132
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>476</b>

The donors can sponsor education of a nomad child by contributing Rs. 35,000/- per child (Annual) and help us lead the children of Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes communities – some of the most marginalized section of the society – towards a brighter future.

VSSM has visualized a one-of-a-kind cultural and educational enclave, spread across the 31 bigha land at Pansar village, for nomadic and de-notified communities. This all-inclusive residential facility will be called Vallabh Vidya Sankul. The whole project will be implemented in phase wise manner starting with the Hostel Buildings for Boys and Girls to accommodate approximately 900 children. This will be followed by multipurpose ground for sports training and training for para military forces, library or rearing hall, community hall, amphitheater, guesthouse, staff quarters, Skill Development Centre, Vocational Training Centre for youth and so on. One block will accommodate approximately 450 children. This all-inclusive Enclave named Vallabh Vidya Vihar will have 2 blocks, 96 rooms.

- **Story of Success**

**VSSM is grateful to the well-wishing friends who have made significant contributions to bring the Vallabh Vidya Vihar Enclave to life...**



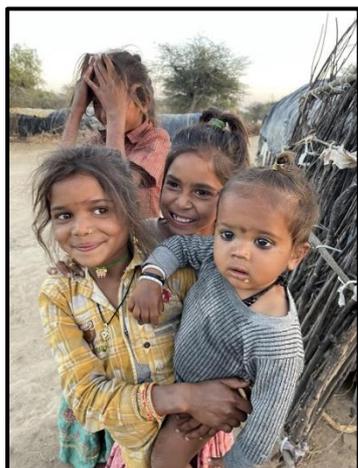
**Mittal Patel with VSSM Coordinator Shri Jayantibhai Bajaniya at Pansar Campus**



**Construction in Progress at Pansar Campus**

As most of you who have been part of our education interventions know, VSSM operates two hostels, one for girls and another for boys. And since the introduction of this initiative, these hostels have functioned in rented properties that have required us to keep relocating for some or other reasons. And each relocation not only gives us logistical challenges but also disrupts the stability of children. If we had our own space, we could focus properly and channel our energies on the education and development of the children. On comprehending our challenges, our respected Shri Chandrakantbhai Gogri – Aarti Family bought land to help us create Vallabh Vidya Vihar Enclave. After performing Bhoomi Pujan, the construction of two hostels, one each for girls and boys, has been initiated. The upcoming hostels will be large enough to host 1000 children at a time. In addition, the

proposed campus will have a school, vocational training center, sports facilities, and much more.



**Nomad Children**



**Mittal Patel with Nomad Children**

The campus will also serve as a learning center for those willing to study the nomadic and de-notified communities and understand the efforts required for their rehabilitation and development. I am grateful to the following well-wishing friends of VSSM who have made significant contributions to bring the Vallabh Vidya Vihar Enclave to life.

Sheth Shri Motisha Sadharmik Bhakti Mandal, Smt. Bhoomi Malbari, Shri Chetan Amaratlal Choksi, Smt. Jayalakshmi Chokshi, Shri Pranav Vora, Reeth Properties LLP, Paramount Health Services and Insurance Pvt. Ltd., Estate of Bhanu Chandulal Shah, Arpan Foundation, Shri Suren Kapadia, Dr. K. R. Shroff Foundation, Shri Suresh Manilal Shah, Shri Dilip Ghisalal Shah, Shri Mahendra Pukhraj Jain, Aarti Industries Ltd., Kacheria Foundation, Lincoln Pharmaceuticals, Estate of Bhanu Chandulal Shah, HD Fire Protect Pvt. Ltd., Shri Prakash Sakarlal Gandhi Charitable Trust, Siddhi Trading, Smt. Amoli Prakash Shah, Smt. Rashi Gaba, Mazda Limited, Shri Dharmin Patel and Family, Shri Darshil Rambhia, Smt. Harsha Desai, Shri Aleem Adatia, Shri Narendra Gajrawala, Shri Vallabh Foundation, Smt. Dayaben Girjashankar Sheth Charitable Trust, Sophos Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Listenlights Pvt. Ltd., Aarti Drugs Limited, Acuite Ratings and Research Limited, Shree Prefab Steels Pvt. Ltd., Shri Kiritbhai Shah, VSSM I Forum and many other well-wishers have made donations, but it is impossible to mention their names in a single post. We are grateful to all of you for your support and compassion for the cause. As we reach the threshold of fulfilling the dreams of thousands of children, we will continue to need your help. Hope to find you beside us as we work to raise some outstanding citizens of this country.

**Swavalamban – Livelihood Income Generation Programme  
Providing Freedom from Debt and Deprivation**

*To provide interest free loans for various purposes be it to start Micro Businesses, Education, Social Cause, Rehabilitation, health issues and so on*

In 2014, with a meagre amount of 1 lakh, VSSM launched the Swavalamban Programme to provide alternate livelihoods opportunities and free the NT-DNT communities from the debt

traps of private money lenders. The program's objective was to provide interest-free loans because when it comes to NT-DNT and other marginalized communities, none of the public or private banks showed a willingness to loan money to these individuals. After all, they do not have supporting documents and identity proofs. Swavalamban programme aims to empower the extremely marginalized communities by increasing their skills, planning their finances, and creating alternative livelihood opportunities imminent with modernization. The success of Swavalamban is attributed to the holistic approach we maintained. The team of VSSM remains in continuous contact with the family, assisting them with financial and business advice. We also ensure the applicant sends his/her children to school is off any addiction that may affect his/her health. These pre-requisites have helped bring a resounding change in the socioeconomic health of the entire family in particular and the community at large. The program has become instrumental in changing the individuals' mindset and creating alternate livelihoods.

- Interest-Free loans given to the communities of 26 Districts of 3 States.
- More than 4,600 Individuals supported under the Swavalamban program
- Loans amounting worth nearly Rs. 14.06 crores provided for more than 55 occupations
- 50 Savings Groups formed with 500 beneficiaries. Some of these groups have also been linked with Govt. Welfare Schemes which further enhanced their livelihood opportunities.
- On an average 90 loans disbursed per month.

A revolving fund of nearly Rs. 3.81 Crore is accumulated for the said purpose. We are targeting to augment it to Rs. 10.00 Crore so as to increase our capacity to support more individuals who aim to attain financial freedom for their families.

- **Milestones of Swavalamban Programme**

Status as on 31/03/2023

Organization	No. of Loans Disbursed	Loans Repaid in Full	Active Loans	Total Revolving Fund	Total Loan Amt. Disbursed
VSSM	4,633	3,131	1,502	3,80,65,624.00	14,05,85,193.00

**District wise No. of Beneficiaries**

Particulars	Total No. of Loans	Sanctioned Loan Amount	Total Repayment Till Date	Total Balance Loan Amount
Ahmedabad	753	2,28,15,500	1,66,54,561	61,60,939
Amreli	134	36,15,500	22,57,142	13,58,358
Anand	11	5,40,000	4,62,500	77,500
Arvalli	4	70,000	62,500	7,500
Banaskantha	1,805	5,76,74,693	4,41,33,218	1,35,41,475
Bhavnagar	12	5,80,000	3,82,500	1,97,500
Botad	2	60,000	6,400	53,600
Dahod	2	60,000	48,500	11,500
Delhi	3	3,00,000	1,00,750	1,99,250
Dwarka	2	2,00,000	53,800	1,46,200
Gandhinagar	57	12,95,000	12,41,000	54,000
Gir Somnath	3	5,20,000	5,14,200	5,800
Jalor	7	3,50,000	1,74,671	1,75,329

Particulars	Total No. of Loans	Sanctioned Loan Amount	Total Repayment Till Date	Total Balance Loan Amount
Jamnagar	53	17,88,000	17,48,000	40,000
Junagadh	14	5,35,000	4,18,800	1,16,200
Kheda	21	7,10,000	5,90,500	1,19,500
Kutch	49	8,64,000	8,30,500	33,500
Mahisagar	44	10,72,000	9,04,000	1,68,000
Mehsana	119	37,85,000	33,92,501	3,92,499
Morbi	102	26,12,000	25,39,100	72,900
Panchmahal	38	10,26,000	8,56,200	1,69,800
Patan	272	64,53,000	59,42,300	5,10,700
Rajkot	652	1,84,78,000	1,51,02,002	33,75,998
Sabarkantha	25	6,73,000	4,88,070	1,84,930
Surat	2	30,000	29,000	1,000
Surendranagar	447	1,44,78,500	1,07,10,452	37,68,048
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,633</b>	<b>14,05,85,193</b>	<b>10,96,43,167</b>	<b>3,09,42,026</b>

### Purpose wise No. of Beneficiaries

Particulars	Total No. of Loans	Sanctioned Loan Amount	Total Repayment Till Date	Total Balance Loan Amount
Education	58	48,25,000	18,07,961	30,17,039
Employment	3,409	9,86,38,350	7,80,64,170	2,05,74,180
Housing	401	1,45,75,843	1,07,74,184	38,01,659
Marriage Support	32	15,15,000	15,01,000	14,000
Medication	30	8,57,500	6,49,478	2,08,022
Social Cause	20	8,74,000	6,86,269	1,87,731
Vadia Rehabilitation	175	88,05,000	64,33,114	23,71,886
Dafer Rehabilitation	6	85,500	60,391	25,109
Flood Rehabilitation	311	78,50,000	73,51,500	4,98,500
Grocery Support	191	25,59,000	23,15,100	2,43,900
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,633</b>	<b>14,05,85,193</b>	<b>10,96,43,167</b>	<b>3,09,42,026</b>

- **Story of Success**

**A small loan from VSSM's Swavalamban initiative has significantly impacted Sureshbhai and his brothers' lives...**



**VSSM Coordinator Pareshbhai helped Sureshbhai take Interest Free Loan from VSSM**



**Sureshbhai and family makes Baskets, Ladders and other construction-related materials form Bamboo**

"We aspired to expand our business of bamboo basketry but lacked the required capital. We are five brothers, and you provided each of us with an interest-free loan of Rs. 20,000. We borrowed another Rs. 1.00 Lakh from a private lender at a very high-interest rate. With the money, we went to Mumbai to purchase bamboo from the wholesale market. The cost of bamboo in Mumbai was comparatively cheaper, and Rs. 2.20 Lacs enabled us to buy a lot of bamboos. Eventually, we borrowed another Rs. 1 lac from you to pay off the private lender's loan. It was a risk we had taken for the first time; we are glad everything worked out well. Apart from the regular baskets, we have also begun making bamboo ladders and other construction-related materials, which are in great demand, and our business is good." Sureshbhai Pilucha village in [Banaskantha](#)'s Vadgama spoke about his [business](#) expansion after availing interest-free loan under [VSSM](#)'s Swavalamban initiative.

"Agreed that your business has grown, but how has it impacted your happiness quotient?" we inquired.

"Initially, we used to rent the vehicle required to ferry our goods; now we have bought a chakra to carry our products. We also purchased a motorbike and keep Rs. 5000 for daily expenses."

We all have dreams, and realizing those dreams does need some support. We hope to be that support. A small loan has significantly impacted Sureshbhai and his brothers' lives. Sureshbhai aspires to build a big store in Palanpur or Vadgam to help display and sell his products/creations. We pray for his continued success.

Since its launch, the [Swavalamban](#) initiative has supported 4,600 families. And lives of numerous families have changed for the better. We are grateful to all our well-wishing donors for their encouraging support.

## Livelihood Tool Support Programme

### A Step Further in Livelihood Support

*To provide support in the form of tools and material through which surviving members of the deceased sole breadwinner of the family can start their own business.*

Death of the sole breadwinner in the family during natural calamities and pandemic led to the launch of Tool Support Programme. Low-income families find it particularly difficult to survive with dignity when the only earning person in the family passes away. Often, the family size is too big, or the children are too small. Also, the family members are not confident about their ability to repay the loan when offered, and they do not want to be tagged defaulters. To support and rehabilitate the affected families, VSSM offers tools like handcarts, sewing machines, Cutlery material, Pedal Rickshaw and so on to the surviving members and help them earn a dignified living.

- Tool support provided for 21 occupations to 350+ individuals with support amounting to nearly Rs. 40.00 Lakhs provided
- Beneficiaries of 20 districts of Gujarat covered
- We are planning to provide tool support to 25-30 individuals

We are providing support in the range of Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- per individual as part of this programme and help them become self-sustained in the future.

We believe in providing tool support to the neediest people who have no capacity to repay the loan. We convince and teach them financial planning and give most applicants VSSM's interest free loans.

- **Story of Success**

**VSSM's Tool Support Programme enables a dignified living to individuals like Janakben...**



**Mittal Patel giving Sewing Machine to Janakben**

“You look very young; so must you be when your husband passed away? Why didn't you consider remarrying?”

“I have two children. I have seen many widowed women leave children with their grandparents and remarry. There is nothing wrong with marrying again, but the thought of my children growing up without the care and protection of my parents gave me sleepless nights. So I decided to remain single and raise my children.”

Eight years ago, Janakben lost her husband to TB. A resident of [Ahmedabad](#), Janakben is physically challenged yet works as domestic help to earn a living to raise her children. The disability proved to be a challenge when Janakben had to mop the floor, but she had no other choice.

Someone advised her to learn sewing to earn better, and she did acquire the skill, but to take it as an occupation, Janakben required a sewing machine, and Janakben lacked the funds to buy one. She did expect someone to help her, but that did not happen when [VSSM](#) learnt about her condition and needed it to help her buy a sewing machine.

“My elder son studies in 10<sup>th</sup> grade; I had to think twice even if I needed to buy a book for him. My elder brother does help, but he too has a family to support. This sewing machine will help me earn a dignified living. I will not have to remain dependent on others to meet the basic needs of my family.” Janakben shared. “I have an [APL card](#); can’t I have a card that helps me get more grains. Even a kilo more would be a relief,” she continued.

We have briefed her about the government scheme of providing [Antyoday ration card](#) for widowed women, and we will be helping her get one. It amazes us to witness how Rs. 10-15,000/- can transform someone’s life for good. We are grateful to all our well-wishing donors for enabling us to help reach these people in need.

## Housing Programme

### From Nomadism to Sedentism

*To provide technical and partial financial support for construction houses to the needy families. To help get access to government benefit schemes.*

Historically, the nomads, being wanderers, never had a permanent address to call home. Their nature of work never allowed them to remain at a fixed location for long. Because this life of perpetual wandering helped them earn a living, they never felt the need to belong to one place.

But with the advent of machines and industrial production, the need and value of the services provided by the nomads gradually turned obsolete. Nomads now require land to settle down for good, to raise their families in a safe and secure environment.

Until now, these families have never owned land. Since they never settled in one place, they have never been accepted in the villages. Even the local administration hasn’t been proactive enough to provide them permanent plots for residence. Thus, along with constantly lobbying the issue with the government for the allotment of plots connecting them with Government Housing Schemes for construction support, VSSM also provides technical and financial support to the Nomadic families to help them build houses to lead a stable life. In 2022-23, we are planning to construct 300 houses. We will provide 75,000/- to each family.

- Helped construct more than 1,500 houses in 15 settlements so far with full technical support and partial financial assistance.
- Construction of 300 more houses to begin soon
- Further 3,000 families are under consideration for support in near future.

VSSM strives to drive in various government grant support for these families. Also, we encourage the families to contribute their share as much as possible. However, we know that it would not be sufficient to construct a house without support of Donors rooted through VSSM.

Thus, considering all possible support from Government and individual contributions, we, as an institute, will be required to provide partial financial assistance ranging from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- per family for construction of house.

We have applied for house construction grant for 1,500 families. We have received commitment for the construction of 200 families. We are right now waiting to get the house construction grant to kick-start the construction.

- **Story of Success**

**The upcoming Neogen Nagar in Charadva will bring light to the lives of Gadaliya families...**



**Mittal Patel visits Charadva Housing Settlement**



**The current living condition of Gadaliya families**

Pain and adversity can never last forever; they too shall pass if the individual keeps the faith, puts in the required efforts, and remains persistent!

The first time we met the families of the Gadaliya community of [Morbi](#)'s Charadva, they mentioned their life shrouded in darkness; accomplishing their aspiration to own a home was the light they eagerly awaited. But unfortunately, they have failed to find that light themselves, but gathering funds to make pucca house a reality could not happen.

[Gadaliya](#) community are ironsmiths and practice the generations-old traditional occupation of making ironware. Many have advised them to pick up new skills and trades, but the families need more preparation to make that shift. As a result, it is difficult for the current and older generation to learn new skills or invest time in learning those skills. The new generation may work towards honing time-appropriate skills, but the elders have no option but to live within limited means.



**Mittal Patel with the nomadic communities and others at Charadva housing site**



**Ongoing construction work at Neogen Nagar Charadva**

[VSSM](#) strives to help such homeless families find a permanent address, a pucca home. VSSM's Kanubhai and Chhayaben helped gather the required documents and facilitated the application process for these families. Finally, with the support of the respected Prime Minister, the District Collector of Morbi, and the gram panchayat of Charadva village, the 21 families living in Charvada received residential plots.

After receipt of the plots, the next step was finding funds to build a decent house. The government aid of Rs. 1.32 lacs remain inadequate; we can provide the entire support; however, the owners of the house should also contribute. The families shelled out Rs. 1 lac each, and we provided the rest Rs. 1.25 lacs. The collective contribution would enable build a two bedroom + kitchen + attached sanitation unit for each family.

[Neogen Chemical Ltd.](#) has agreed to support the [construction](#) of these homes. Respected Binabehen and Harishbhai Kanani are very sensitive and supportive human beings. "If I had it my way, no one would remain homeless!" Binabehen shares. I call her Maa and am fortunate to receive her warmth and love. I am grateful to the Kanani family for their support.

The Gadaliya families cannot save and contribute; hence, they have taken a loan of Rs. 1 lac each. "Building a house happens once in a lifetime; the loan can be repaid in instalments, but you cannot build a house in instalments!" a wise community elder shared.

The upcoming Niyojan Nagar in Charadva will bring light to the lives of Gadaliya families. With the completion of these homes, VSSM would have facilitated the construction of 1,500 [houses](#), meaning providing permanent addresses to 1,500 families. I am grateful to every well-wishing individual who has supported this cause.

## **Participatory Water Management Programme**

### **Addressing the Looming Water Crisis**

*To increase water retention capacity if the existing lakes in the villages by various means such as desilting, deepening, farm ponds etc. and sensitizing villagers for impending issues of water crisis.*

- The programme envisages to connect these lakes to the canals in this region and create a network of lakes and canals to improve the ground water table.
- We have desilted around 245 Lakes in 14 Blocks of 4 Districts in North Gujarat region namely, Banaskantha, Patan, Sabarkantha and now Mehsana too.
- Installed 12 Recharge Borewells in 2021 alone and further aim to develop 40 Recharge Borewells in current year.

The efforts for Water Conservation will always fall short as compared the need thus, we have bifurcated our work in two broad categories:

- (i) Small Lakes – The donor contribution for rejuvenation of such lakes is worked out to Rs. 4.00 Lacs per lake; and
- (ii) Large Lakes – The donor contribution for rejuvenation of such lakes is worked out to Rs. 6.00 Lacs per lake.

In addition to above, we also encourage the villagers to contribute for the de-siltation of the proposed lake and make arrangements of Tractors to take away desilted soil. We also drive-in government fund wherever possible to increase the effectiveness of our initiative. It is to note that the Funds received from Government Welfare Scheme and the Contribution received from the villagers is utilized over and above the aforesaid VSSM contribution.

- **Story of Success**

**Water Management work takes place in Mama Pipla village of Poshina block with the help of VSSM...**



**Mittal Patel at Poshina village for Water Management**



**Mittalben with Govt. Officials & villagers perform Bhoomi Pujan Ceremony at Mama Pipla village**

Poshina is a hilly region inhabited by various Adivasi tribes of Gujarat. The tribals have minimal needs and live close to nature, carrying terrace farming on this hilly terrain.

The forest regions of the eastern belt of Gujarat that are home to the Adivasis of the state are blessed with perfect monsoons but poor irrigation facilities. As a result, the population takes Kharif and Rabi crops. Mostly the families farm until wells have water, after which they migrate to distant regions like Palanpur, Ahmedabad, and Baroda in search of work. Many take up shared farming, but if the region has water, it could prevent many families from migrating for work. If there was water, cattle farming could also be possible for them.



**Mittal Patel, Govt. Officials & the Villagers gathered at the Government School in village**



**Mittal Patel and others at Lake Site**

We decided to deepen the lakes in this region. Respected Pratulbhai Shroff of Dr. K. R. Shroff Foundation offered to donate for these efforts, but we wanted to try to bring such measures under the purview of the government's Sujalam Sufalam Scheme.

To make this possible, we received the support of Cabinet Minister respected Shri Rushikeshbhai Patel; his proactive instructions to authorities helped iron away the challenges we encountered in the process.



**Mittal Patel discussing Water Management**



**Mittalben in discussing with the Community**



**VSSM launching Lake Desilting Work at Mama Pipla after Bhoomi Pujan Ceremony**



**Mittal Patel and others performing Ground Breaking Ceremony**

Poshina TDO Shri Nareshbhai Choudhary helped acquire the documents required to take up the deepening of lakes. Shri Choudhary is a very empathetic official who wants to work for the betterment of his region. As a result of his support, we could furnish documents for 25 lakes to the Jal Sampati Nigam, of which work orders for 11 lakes were allotted to us, and we launched the deepening work in Mama Pipla village after performing the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony. The community had gathered at the government school in the village; they expressed their gratitude for the efforts and welcomed our proposal to provide interest-free loans to families wanting to deepen wells that dry up during summer.



**VSSM launching Lake Desilting Work at Mama Pipla after Bhoomi Pujan Ceremony**



**Mama Pipla Water Management Site**

We hope to work for the progress and prosperity of the people of Poshina block through Dr. K. R. Shroff Foundation. I am grateful to the administration of Poshina and Respected Shri Rushikeshbhai.

*To make people aware of the environmental crisis and its effect on our life and contribute proactively for its conservation through community partnership thereby increasing the green cover in the region and reducing mean carbon footprint of the people.*

During our work for Participatory Water Management, we have also witnessed the changing landscapes across the country side. The arid regions and millions of acres of barren land could be covered in green once again. It is known to all that planting trees will result in retaining water in the soil, decreased soil erosion and increased fertility of the land. With these objectives in mind i.e. to increase the green cover of the water starved and drought prone regions - VSSM began tree plantation drive in 2019.

Like Participatory Water Management Programme, Tree Plantation Programme is also a long term initiative. It is a precondition set on to the people of the village that maintenance of the tree plantation site will be shared equally by VSSM as well as the people of the village. In order to make tree plantation a self-sustained programme, we have made a nursery with the capacity of 1.50 lakh saplings.

Planting of trees in partnership with villages managed and maintained through Local "Vriksha Mitra – Tree Friend/ Tree Caretaker" and increase green cover of the deserted land in northern Gujarat – a critically draught prone region with magnitude of ecological issues. We have planted more than 3.60 lakh trees so far.

- Planted more than 5.00 Lacs trees at various 123 sites spread across 91 villages of 13 blocks in 3 North Gujarat Districts with tree survival rate more than 93%.
- A nursery with capacity of 1.50 lakh saplings is operation in Kakar Village.

VSSM assumes the responsibility to take care of the tree planted for 03 years in collaboration with equal participation of the people of the village and local forest department. We give priority to crematories and government wastelands in order to ensure survival of the trees. We also adopt latest support technology such as installation of drip irrigation system for optimum and efficient use of the available resources.

Considering the experiences so far, the maintenance cost for three years comes out to approx. ₹ 160/- per tree however, the purpose achieved as against can be considered priceless.

### • Milestones of Tree Plantation Programme

Sr. No.	Block	No. of Villages	No. of Sites	Total No. of Trees Planted	No. of Trees Survived	Survival Rate %
1.	Ahmedabad	1	1	116	81	69.83
2.	Bhabhar	8	8	23,006	20,480	89.02
3.	Dantiwada	2	3	22,027	20,962	95.17
4.	Deesa	14	20	70,496	66,397	94.19
5.	Dhanera	3	3	25,400	20,112	79.18
6.	Diyodar	13	20	66,119	60,960	92.20
7.	Kankrej	10	16	30,094	28,810	95.73
8.	Lakhani	13	21	1,08,965	1,02,057	93.66

Sr. No.	Block	No. of Villages	No. of Sites	Total No. of Trees Planted	No. of Trees Survived	Survival Rate %
9.	Suigam	6	7	24,568	23,778	96.78
10.	Tharad	17	19	1,10,052	1,07,534	97.71
11.	Vadgam	1	1	2,500	1,800	72.00
12.	Vav	2	3	9,504	9,245	97.27
13.	Jhagadia	1	1	7,500	3,300	44.00
*	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>5,00,347</b>	<b>4,65,516</b>	<b>93.04</b>

- **Story of Success**

"Do visit our crematorium once!"

If one isn't aware of our work, such an invite to visit a crematorium can create a stir. But the community leaders of Ramsan village were inviting us out of their love, to showcase the beautiful place it had become.



VSSM planted 3500 trees and almost all of them have taken roots and flourished.

However, eight months ago if there was a death in the village, 8-10 family members would first visit the crematorium to clean it, following which the body was brought for cremation. The place was brimming with the wild growth of gando baval and litter all around. With the support from UNI Design Jewellery Pvt. Ltd and the local community, we planted 3,500 trees, and almost all of them have taken roots and flourished.

The region's groundwater tables have dropped to alarming rates, and the communities have leased 4500 hector land to solar companies. But, unfortunately, the installation of solar plants means the trees had to give their sacrifice. The reason the land was leased is that it had no water, but if we plant trees and create an environment that helps attract rains, people will not be forced to give up their land but farm on it. This is the reason everyone now wishes to plant more trees.

We hope Ramsan can inspire other villages to play their part; each village roughly needs to plant 20 to 25 thousand trees. This is the dire need for a sufficient water future.



Mittal Patel with community leaders, villagers and VSSM Team.

## Sanjiv Arogya Setu and Medical Support Programme

### Towards Affordable Medical Care

*To provide assistance to the destitute and deprived elderly individuals in need of special medical treatments in cases of chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart surgeries etc. and provide partial financial support through various mediums.*

Medical treatments are getting beyond the reach of the poor and marginalized section of the society. Mostly, unaware of the intensity issues and/or overlooking/ deliberately ignoring the minor conditions due to scarce financial resources, there are likely chances that these individuals develop critical and life threatening medical conditions. Any critical medical emergencies leave them with no other option but to borrow money from private money lenders or now VSSM for help.

Though we ask them to approach nearest government run hospital but they would hesitate to consult. The reason being – most of them have had a very bitter and horrifying experience of government run hospitals. They insist to be treated at any private hospital even though they had to exhaust even a last penny saved. It is felt that even though the patient's condition does not improve in private hospitals, the doctors are considered better than those of Civil Hospital.

At last, when no choice is left and all the money wasted, the patients are taken to Civil Hospital. The condition of the patients by then deteriorate drastically and as a result the patient either succumb to death or had to live a dependent life.

This could have been avoided if the patient gets affordable and timely treatment at Civil Hospital. The doctors at such hospitals are equally capable and experienced for any emergencies.

They are even more compassionate and dedicated than those of Private Hospitals. And above all most of the treatment at civil hospitals are done free of cost or at a very nominal amount making it economically viable for such patients.

- Supported 23 COVID & Mucormycosis Patients receive effective medical treatment. Also provided financial assistance of almost Rs. 6.46 Lacs so far.
- Supported 203 patients receive affordable Medical support in the emergency situation providing nearly Rs. 8.35 Lacs worth financial assistance over and above the government assistance.
- On an average 10 – 12 patients per month get supported through VSSM.

The programme envisages to help poor and destitute families in getting affordable medical treatment through government run Civil Hospitals and help them save exorbitant cost of diagnosis and treatment.

It would be difficult to ascertain the amount of Support for each case is unique and require distinct understanding to deal with however, on an average, the amount of Rs. 15,000/- per beneficiaries is assumed for extending the support to the beneficiary.

- **Story of Success**

**Raghav, is one of the many names of Lord Rama.**



Mittal Patel meets Raghav and his father at VSSM's office

Little Raghav recently came to our office with a mask covering his face and an IV cannula tucked in one of his arms.

“How are you?” I asked him as he came and quietly sat down on the chair opposite me. Raghav was with his father Rameshbhai.

“I am ok!” he replied with a smile.

Raghav belongs to a village near Rajasthan’s Jodhpur; the name of the village got missed in the conversation. Seven years old Raghav has blood cancer; unfortunately, cancer reappeared after it was treated once. It seems like the disease has gotten to like the host body.

Rameshbhai is a marginal farmer, and the treatment which has been going on since 2019 has required them to sell the little jewelry his wife owned. The family is financially and physically exhausted by the frequent rounds of Civil Hospital.

The Ahmedabad Civil Hospital attracts a lot of interstate cancer patients for its excellent facilities, but Raghav’s treatment could not be free of cost because the health card from Rajasthan or any other state does not work here.

I have a question and request for the government; can’t we make these government-issued health cards work across India? Low-income families fighting major diseases like cancer need support from the government because the cost of treatment is backbreaking, and the goodwill Ahmedabad civil hospital has in cancer treatment makes it an obvious choice.

“We will keep our faith alive until Raghav is alive; we cannot leave him to his fate and do nothing!” Rameshbhai shared with tears in his eyes and a heavy heart. He has been

requesting support from anyone and everyone to help his son fight cancer. Raghav is a brave boy, giving the disease a fight with a smile on his face. At present, he is undergoing chemotherapy.

## Mavjat Programme

### Assistance to Unattended Elderly

*To provide food and grocery support to senior citizens/elderly people who are groping in abundance for two meals of grocery.*

"To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors!"

The quote is at the core of Mavjat Programme, an initiative we launched to provide care and support to elders who either have been abandoned or have no one to take care. VSSM believes they have the right to age with dignity, respect and spend their silver years peacefully. These individuals/beneficiaries covered under Mavjat are also linked with Various Government Welfare Schemes to ensure their overall wellbeing. As part of the programme, VSSM provides monthly ration kits, medical assistance and attends to their needs. We also offer or make an arrangement for cooked meals for individuals who are unable to cook for themselves.

- More than 600 Beneficiaries across 20 districts are getting monthly groceries kit with currently more than 450 active beneficiaries.
- Grocery Kit worth Rs. 1,500/- is being provided every month.

The programme aims to ensure two-time meal to the unattended, deserted and destitute elderlies so that they do not have to live a dependent life. The grocery kit includes enough food grains, pulses, oil and spices to sustain for a month. You can support us by sponsoring the Ration Kit for the beneficiaries for a month's or year's period or support the Ration Kit for one or more elderly individuals.

#### • Story of Success

**“Have you shared such a strong bond from the very beginning?”**



Mittal Patel meets Manjulaba who receives ration kit from our Mavjat initiative



Mittal Patel meets elderly destitute in Kheda

“Yes, I think we were destined to live like sisters. Our husband passed away some time back; he was a little older than me, and so is she. My husband was not keeping good health; it was when I decided to work as a cook and domestic helper at a doctor’s house in Baroda. So I took up the responsibility of earning for the three of us and kept sending the money to my husband and step-wife!”

Manjula baa’s talk did come as a surprise. She lost her husband to a long illness; his first wife was Savitriben, while Manjulaben is his second wife, who also runs the household.

The yearning for a child made Kaka marry twice, but that aspiration was never fulfilled. Kaka operated a grocery store in Navsari, but as age and frail health caught up, he closed the business. The savings were exhausted on his age-related medical issues. Ultimately, they returned to Chunel, the native village in Kheda district. Kaka has left both of them a small house. However, both of them are incapable of working hence bringing food on the plate is a problem. The duo tries to survive on the quota available on their ration card and pension for older people, but money for medicine, etc., remains a challenge.

“I always prayed to Goddess Jagdamba to keep us under her wings. It was as if she answered my prayers and sent us to help through VSSM’s Rajnibhai. God bless Chunel’s Dilipbhai for talking about us to Rajnibhai, who now brings us a monthly ration kit.”



Mittal Patel receives blessings from Savitribaa



Savitri Ba shares her experience with Mittal Patel.

## Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Programme

### A Support During & After a Calamity

*To provide support and carryout relief operations during the crucial time of disaster and continues with post disaster rehabilitation of affected families*

Be it human-induced calamity like a pandemic or natural disasters like flash floods, cyclones, droughts, VSSM remains a friend-in-need not just for the Nomads but society at large. Every year one or more regions of our state are hit by a calamity that leaves behind a trail of destruction. In the aftermath of such events, loss of lives, livelihoods, livestock, households and belongings affect the marginalized extensively. We always take a proactive stance during

such events of widespread destruction, provides relief material as part of the immediate assistance, and works to rehabilitate the livelihood of those impacted.

- 50+ Blocks of 22 Districts covered so far.
- 40,000+ families extended immediate relief kits while 300+ interest free rehabilitation loans worth Rs. 79.00 Lacs have been extended.

The support and rehabilitation measures are being carried out with the support of donors and well-wishers post ascertaining the need assessment of the situation.

## **Vadia Rehabilitation Programme**

### **Absolute Transformation**

*Changing the phase of the entire village by complete eradication of prostitution (existed since 1950s & 1960s) by way of multidisciplinary approaches such as, constructing houses, giving ration cards, providing interest free loans, educating kids, marriage of daughters and so on.*

Transformed the tabooed image of Vadia by complete eradication of an enslaving trade of prostitution (existent in the Vadia since the 1950s & 1960s) by way of multidisciplinary approaches such as the construction of houses, acquiring ration cards, providing interest-free loans, educating children, arranging marriages of daughters and so on.

- 90+ families of the village of Flesh Trade
- 50+ families freed from debt trap
- 36 girls have been married in order to help them come out from the clutches of flesh trade.
- 191 interest free loans amounting Rs. 84 Lacs extended

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. Since 2019, we have decided to follow a traditional north Gujarati practice of gifting ‘dhamenu - a buffalo’ as part of wedding gift and provide additional support amounting Rs. 1.60 Lacs to Rs. 3.60 Lacs per daughter for the marriage so as to provide financial security to the daughters at their in-laws’ house.

## **Vote of Thanks**

On the whole, we could reach this far only through the open hearted support received over a period from well-wishers and supporters like you. It enables us not only to bring a happy change in the lives of poor but also proves a step towards bringing balance in the ecology. All these programmes are aligned to help the most marginalized people of the society and reinstate the lost equilibrium in the environment.

We take this opportunity to thank each one of you who extended their support towards various of our programmes. It truly helps us pursue our vision with more vigour.

With your continued support and encouragement, one day, we are sure to bring about a holistic change in the lives of the marginalized section of the society.

## Organisation Information

### Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch [VSSM]

- **Contact Details**

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www.vssmatvadiya.wordpress.com | www.nomadsrelief.blogspot.in  
www.facebook.com/vssmindia | twitter.com/vssmindia  
www.youtube.com/NomadDenomads

- **Registration Details**

**Registration Date** : **29/01/2010**

**Act under which registered** : **Societies Registration Act, 1860**  
Registration No. GUJ/15163/Ahmedabad

**Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950**  
Registration No. F/14872/Ahmedabad

**Income Tax Act, 1961**  
PAN No. AABTV2421M

**Exemption under Income Tax Act, 1961 Section 12AA**  
Registration No. DIT(Exe.)/12AA/145/2010–11 dated 11/08/2010  
valid w.e.f. 29/01/2010

**Exemption under Income Tax Act, 1961 Section 12A (1), Clause (AC)(i) Provisional Registration**  
Approval No. AABTV2421ME20214 valid up to 31/03/2026

**Exemption under Income Tax Act, 1961 Section 80G(5)**  
Registration No. DIT(Exe.)/Ahm/80G(5)/217/2010-11 dated  
26/10/2010 valid w.e.f. 01/04/2010

**Exemption under Income Tax Act, 1961 Section 80G (5), First Proviso Clause (i) Provisional Registration**  
Approval No. AABTV2421MF20214 valid up to 31/03/2026

**CSR Registration No.** : **The Companies Act, 2013 Section 135 and Rule 4 (1) & (2) of Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014**  
Registration No. CSR00001129

**FCRA Registration No.** : **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**  
Registration No. 041910469 valid up to 31/05/2026

**Name of Members of the Governing Body** : Shri Liladhar Gada..... **President**  
Ms. Parulben Dandikar ..... **Vice President**  
Smt. Mittalben Patel ..... **Founder Trustee**  
Shri Pravinbhai K. Laheri ..... **Trustee**

## Bank Details

### Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch [VSSM]

- **For Local and CSR Donations**

**Name of Account** : VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH and/or VSSM  
**Bank Account** : 59119099936011  
**IFSC Code** : HDFC0000783  
**Bank Name & Branch** : HDFC Bank Ltd.  
Platinum Plaza, Ahmedabad

**Kindly draw the Cheques/DD of your donation in favour of  
“VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH” or “VSSM”**

- **For Donations of Foreign Origin - FCRA Donations**

**Name of Account** : VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH  
**Bank Account** : 39949262574  
**IFSC Code** : SBIN0000691      **SWIFT Code** : SBININBB104  
(Foreign Transactions Only)  
**Bank Name & Branch** : State Bank of India  
Main Branch, New Delhi

**Kindly draw the Cheques/DD of your donation in favour of  
“VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH”**

**Photographs of Various Activities**

