

**Collaborative efforts for community development & livelihood enhancement  
by Mahiti Trust in association with various village level institutions**

## **Annual Narrative Report 2022-23**



**Mahiti Trust**  
Committed for Equality & Development with Justice

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## Part 1: - Introduction

The Mahiti Trust is a non-profit organization that operates at the grassroots level in the Bhal Region of Gujarat, India. This region is known for its coastal areas along the Gulf of Khambhat, from Khambhat to Bhavnagar. However, the land in this region is infertile, earning it the name "Bhal" which means "forehead," symbolizing that nothing grows here. Since its in 1994, the Mahiti Trust has been dedicated to empowering and developing the socially, economically, and politically marginalized communities in the region.

The organization has made significant progress over the years and has become a strong community-based organization at the local level. The Mahiti Trust focuses on finding solutions to the various challenges faced by the region. It has implemented initiatives such as rainwater harvesting plastic lining ponds, and roof-top rainwater havesting tanks to address the issue of drinking water scarcity.

Additionally, committed women health workers have been instrumental in providing reproductive health services in remote villages. The organization also addresses primary healthcare concerns, empowers women to assert their rights, raises awareness about exploitation and human rights, and promotes sustainable management of natural resources for the of the poor. Furthermore, the Mahiti Trust explores alternative agricultural methods to improve the agricultural yield in the region.



The Mahiti Trust is held in high regard by the local community, as they view it as a strong institution created by and for themselves. The organization's main office is located in Dholera village, which was once a thriving port city but has faced significant changes over the past century. Despite these changes, the control of a small group of powerful landowners and moneylenders over the marginalized communities in the region remains unchanged. The organization recognizes the multitude

of problems plaguing the area and has developed long-term strategies to address them.

These problems include saline lands, limited access to drinking water due to high salinity levels, resource scarcity, limited livelihood opportunities, low agricultural yields, and the exploitation of disadvantaged communities by moneylenders and landlords. Additionally, the region is prone to natural calamities such as floods, droughts, and cyclones. While the government has made some efforts towards development, they have been insufficient. Over the past two decades, the social, economic, and political landscape of the Bhal region has changed, accompanied by shifts in the forms of exploitation and exploiters.

The Mahiti Trust continues to work tirelessly to tackle these challenges and strive for the betterment of the region. Their dedication to community empowerment and rural development has made them a vital force in the Bhal region.

## **Vision**

Envisaging a just society that is free from oppression and discrimination necessitates the eradication of unjust societal structures, as well as enhancing the livelihoods of marginalized communities to promote their self-sufficiency and well-being.

## **Mission**

Empowering the marginalized communities in Gujarat state with focus on women to bring about sustainable changes in their lives and also address issues of injustice through strong organizations of people and their leadership.

**Focussed Areas:** The Mahiti Trust focuses on seven main areas:

1. Women's Empowerment and Microfinance
2. Social Justice and Human Rights
3. Health and Sanitation Awareness
4. Management of Natural Resources
5. Protection of Children's Rights
6. Empowerment of Youth
7. Agricultural Development and Land Improvement

To address these areas, the Trust establishes and empowers village-level organizations, enabling them to undertake activities and initiatives aligned with these key issues.

## **Objectives**

1. Management of natural resources and to improve access & control of marginalized communities on it.
2. Develop local resources to explore and strengthen livelihood options for marginalized communities.
3. Civic Amenities - Improving the status of services and intervening in providing them
4. Healthcare, Sanitation – Improving the condition of facilities and intervening to provide them.
5. Building leadership of women & youth to create effective local influence to fight against injustice and inequity.

## **Thematic Areas**

### **(1) Socio-economic empowerment of poor, discriminated and marginalised communities, especially women**

- a. Strengthen and expand the scope of women's savings credit co-operative societies set up at the area level as a means of women empowerment
- b. To assist the government and other organisations in the implementation of integrated development programmes for the sustainable livelihoods of communities
- c. To address the problems of vulnerable people's needs through innovative experiments and policy advocacy
- d. Support community-based health, sanitation programmes and increase access to services and create awareness
- e. To impart vocational skills among youth and facilitate employment opportunities for them with the aim of enhancing their livelihoods
- f. To conduct community-based disaster management programs.



## (2) Programmes related to social justice

- a. To develop & enable, support a voluntary activist for social activism to address the issues of discrimination, oppression and different forms of injustice.
- b. To attempt to resolve the above questions through the Legal Aid and Advice Centre



### Our Values

**Equality:** Develop capacities with sensitivity on all forms of discrimination, commitment to reduce discrimination and achieve gender equality by focusing more on the poor, downtrodden and women

**Participatory process:** Trusting people's capabilities and their institutions

**Traditional Wisdom:** Giving people freedom to exercise traditional wisdom

**Accountability:** To be dependent on donors and communities for whom resources have been activated.

**Transparency:** showing transparency in all programs,

Developing cooperation through **networking**

**Teamwork:** Striving to maintain equality, innovation and diversity in the team

Creating **competent leadership** and being instrumental in becoming self-reliant.

## Organization in Brief

Name of the Organization	<b>Mahiti Trust</b>
Registered Office	At & Post: Dholera, Opp. Bhim Talav, Nr. Khun village, Rahtalav Road, Taluka: Dholera, District: Ahmedabad, Pin Code: 382 455
Liaison Office	G-2/1, Om Shantinagar, Nr. Shrinandnagar – II, Tagore Road, Vejalpur, Ahmedabad Pin: 380 051
Contact Numbers	Mobile: + 91 – 955880 3902; 955880 3901, Landline: + 91 – 79 – 2681 1003
Email Address	mahiti.india@gmail.com
Web Address	<b>www.mahiti-gujarat.org</b>
Vision	<b>Envisaging a just society without oppression, discrimination, by abolishing discrimination created by unjust social structures &amp; improving the living standards of marginalized sections while making them self-reliant.</b>
Mission	<b>Empowering the marginalized communities in Gujarat state with focus on women to bring about sustainable changes in their lives and also address issues of injustice through strong organizations of people and their leadership.</b>
Date of Registration	<b>9<sup>th</sup> August 1994</b>
Trust Registration Number	Registered under Bombay Community Charitable Trust Act 1950, Regd. No. F/4410/AHMEDABAD
Society Registration Number	Registered under Society Registration Act 1860 Regd. No F/4410/AHMEDABAD
Registration U/S 12A (a) of the Income Tax Act 1961	AAATM7204JE20167
Registration U/S 80 G of Income-Tax Act	AAATM7204JF20215
Income-Tax PAN	AAATM7204J
FCRA - Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1976	Registration No.: <b>041910199</b> valid till 31.03.2027
CSR Registration	Registration for undertaking CSR Activities Regd. No. <b>CSR00006565</b> dated <b>24.05.2021</b>
External Auditor	<b>M/s Chandravadan A. Shah &amp; Co.</b> Chartered Accountants, Ahmedabad
Board of Trustees	1. Binoy Acharya, Trustee 2. Nafisa Barot, Trustee 3. Rajiv Khandelwal, Trustee 4. Sachin Oza, Trustee 5. Deepti Purohit, Trustee 6. Suman Rathod, Trustee 7. Devuben Pandya, Managing Trustee

**GUJARAT**  
**DISTRICT MAP**

PAKISTAN

Rann of Kachchh

KACHCHH

Bhuj

Gulf of Kachchh

DEVBHUMI DWARKA

Porbandar

Porbandar

JAMNAGAR

Jamnagar

Rajkot

RAJKOT

Amreli

AMRELI

Junagadh

JUNAGADH

Veraval

Gir Somnath

Diu

(DAMAN AND DIU)

ARABIAN SEA

BANAS KANTHA

Palanpur

PATAN

Mahesana

MAHESANA

GANDHINAGAR

Ahmedabad

MAHESANA

SABAR KANTHA

Himatnagar

ARAVALLI

Modasa

MAHISAGAR

Lunawada

PANCH MAHAL

Dahod

DAHOD

Godhra

CHHOTA UDAIPUR

CHHOTA UDAIPUR

Rajpipla

NARMADA

BHARUCH

Bharuch

SURAT

Surat

Navsari

NAVARI

Valsad

VALSAD

THE DANGS

Ahwa

MAHARASHTRA

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI

LEGEND

- International Boundary
- - - - State Boundary
- District Boundary
- State Capital
- District Headquarter

Map not to Scale

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(Last Updated on 12th November 2014)

DISTRICT	SR.NO	BLOCK / TALUKA	NO. OF VILLAGES
AHMEDABAD	1	DHOLERA	32
	2	DHANDHUKA	34
	3	DHOLKA	16
	4	SANAND	04
BOTAD	5	BARWALA	27
	6	RANPUR	33
BHAVNAGAR	7	BHAVNAGAR	30
	8	VALLABHIPUR	08
PATAN	9	SANTALPUR	04
Total			188



## Part 2: - Programmatic Interventions

### Women's Economic Empowerment through Micro Finance



Holistic macroeconomic policies have failed to adequately address gender inequalities, as women continue to encounter barriers in key development sectors such as education, healthcare, and employment, perpetuating their vulnerability, particularly within impoverished communities.

Recognizing the significance of economic empowerment in fostering decision-making autonomy and confidence among marginalized women, Mahiti Trust emphasizes the pivotal role of micro-credit initiatives. Such initiatives not only mitigate the risk of exploitation among rural women but also foster economic self-reliance, elevating their status within familial and societal contexts.

Mahiti Trust adopts a cooperative and organizational approach, establishing women's groups to address the fundamental needs of the Bhal region. Beginning with the formation of savings and credit groups in villages like Bhangadh and Mingalpur, the Trust has facilitated the emergence of two area-level federations, registered under the Gujarat Cooperative Act. These federations, including the Bhal Women's Savings and Credit Cooperative Society in Ahmedabad and the Bhal Mahila Jagruti Savings and Credit Cooperative Society in Bhavnagar, serve to empower marginalized women economically, liberating them from the cycle of exploitation through savings and credit activities. The impact of these cooperative societies is evident, with rural women significantly reducing their dependence on usurious practices and breaking free from the burden of perpetual debt.

Both cooperatives are presently operational across 103 villages, actively engaged in microfinance activities. Mahiti Trust has significantly bolstered the capabilities of women in Ahmedabad, Botad, and Bhavnagar districts through regular formal and informal training sessions, as well as exposure tours for leaders of Women's Savings Credit Cooperative Societies. Presently, there are **11,556** women members distributed among **547** women savings and credit groups. The combined savings of both cooperatives amount to Rs **2.14** crore, with a total credit extended reaching Rs **1.81 crore**.

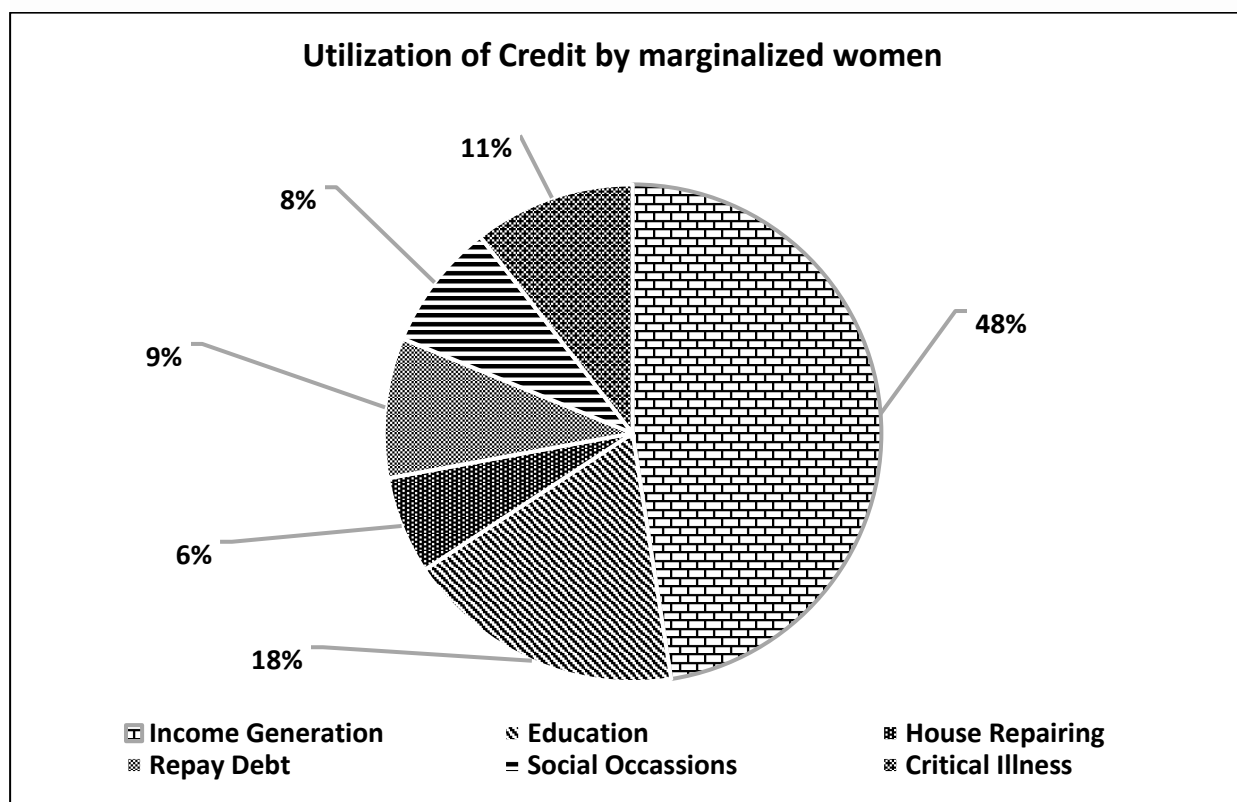




The organization's primary aim is to strengthen both Women's Savings Credit Cooperative Societies as influential financial and social entities within the region, thereby liberating individuals from the exploitation of moneylenders and fostering socio-economic advancement. To achieve this objective, it is imperative to equip cooperative leaders with a comprehensive

understanding of cooperative society management, achieved through regular training sessions to enhance their capacities.

These well-established women's savings credit cooperative societies in Ahmedabad, Botad, and Bhavnagar districts have made considerable progress in expanding their geographical reach and achieving their financial objectives. Further details regarding their accomplishments are provided below.



Analysis of the graph reveals that throughout the year, the majority of credit disbursed by the organization was allocated towards income generation activities, with agriculture, debt repayment, social events, and health-related expenses following suit. This community-driven women's bank, established at the regional level by the organization, has garnered statewide recognition for its impactful initiatives.

Drawing from its extensive experience in microfinance, the organization serves as a learning hub for women from various institutions and regions across the state who are engaged in similar endeavors. Recently, the **Mithi Virdi Natural Farming Group** from Ghogha Taluka in Bhavnagar district visited the **Bhal Women's Savings and Credit Cooperative Society**, where they received orientation sessions from cooperative leaders and organization representatives. During this visit, rural women gained insights into the significance of community organization and economic independence, with Ms. Devuben Pandya and Dinesh Pandya sharing their firsthand experiences in achieving these goals.

### Financial Health of Both the Women's Savings and Credit Cooperatives Society Ltd

N o	Details	Year 2021-22		Year 2022-23		Total
		Ahmedabad Savings cooperative	Bhavnagar Savings cooperative	Ahmedabad Savings cooperative	Bhavnagar Savings cooperative	
1	<b>No. of Villages</b>	71	32	71	32	<b>103</b>
2	<b>No. of Groups</b>	351	195	352	195	<b>547</b>
3	<b>Membership</b>	7869	3468	8063	3493	<b>11556</b>
4	<b>Share Capital (In Lakhs)</b>	6.07	6.22	6.11	6.11	<b>12.22</b>
5	<b>Savings:</b>					
	Opening Balance (Rs. lakh)	104.24	91.57	107.92	93.78	<b>201.70</b>
>	Increase in savings during the year (Rs. lakh)	22.92	24.16	25.59	29.93	55.52
>	Savings withdrawals during the year (Rs. lakh)	19.23	21.94	17.92	25.12	43.04
>	Closing balance of savings (Rs. lakh)	107.93	93.79	115.6	98.59	<b>214.19</b>
6	<b>Credit:</b>					
	Opening Balance (Rs. lakh)	103.53	78.77	102.88	74.06	<b>176.94</b>
>	Loans given during the year (Rs. lakh)	28.66	13.89	34.37	21.48	55.85
>	Loans returned during the year (Rs. lakh)	29.31	18.6	30.44	20.81	51.25
>	Credit: Closing Balance (Rs. lakh)	102.88	74.06	106.81	74.72	<b>181.53</b>
7	<b>Number of Loans</b>	803	676	998	644	<b>1642</b>
8	<b>Fixed Deposit (Rs. lakh)</b>	7.83	6.9	6.71	5.53	<b>12.24</b>
9	<b>Total income during the year (Rs. lakh)</b>	8.42	5.6	9.78	7.05	<b>16.83</b>
10	<b>Total expenditure during the year (Rs. lakh)</b>	7.55	6.91	10.05	7.78	<b>17.83</b>
11	<b>Profit/Loss (Rs. lakh)</b>	0.87	-1.31	-0.26	-0.72	<b>-0.98</b>

The 2022-23 agricultural season proved to be highly challenging for farmers, primarily attributed to excessive rainfall. This adverse weather condition hindered the sowing of cotton and severely impacted production levels across both the rabi and kharif seasons. Consequently, the failure in farming directly influenced the income of the cooperatives, leading to a notable decline in credit recovery throughout the year. This decline subsequently resulted in a significant decrease in lending interest income, culminating in a financial loss of Rs 0.98 lakh for the year.



**Case Study: Kundanben Rameshbhai Bhatt**, a resident of Bavaliyari village, has been an active member of the Bhal Mahila Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Limited for the past seven years. Consistently saving Rs. 500 per month, Kundanben utilized the cooperative's financial services last year by availing a loan of Rs. 1,00,000. This loan facilitated the expansion of her animal husbandry business, with the funds specifically allocated towards purchasing a buffalo.

Since then, Kundanben's entrepreneurial venture has flourished, generating daily earnings ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 through the sale of milk. With these profits, she diligently repays her loans, ensuring the smooth functioning of her household. Kundanben holds the cooperative in high regard, considering it akin to family, and actively participates in its various activities.



**Case Study: Shantuben Kalubhai Jhampadia**, a resident of Navagam village, demonstrates a disciplined savings habit, setting aside Rs. 500 per month. Engaged in organic farming, Shantuben has leveraged financial assistance from the cooperative to establish her agricultural enterprise. With a loan of Rs. 1,00,000, she invested in essential farming equipment and agricultural inputs, enabling her to cultivate her land independently.

Shantuben's approach to farming involves meticulous planning, as she strategically repays her loans upon the seasonal income from her farm produce. By diligently managing her agricultural activities, Shantuben not only sustains her farming operations but also effectively oversees her household affairs.



## Bhal Women's Convention and AGM



In June 2022, the "Bhal Women Convention and Annual General Body Meeting" was jointly convened by the Women's Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies Limited. This significant event saw the participation of over 375 women members from both districts, along with representatives from voluntary organizations and government officials. Distinguished guests including officials from the agriculture department, MLA

Kalubhai Dabhi from Dhandhuka constituency, Subhashbhai Gohil, President of Dholera Taluka Panchayat, Dholera Mamlatdar, and Prof. Bhadrayubhai Vachhrajani from Lokbharati University graced the occasion as guests of honor. The conference emphasized the importance of natural farming, the organizational strength, and the significance of land ownership in women's names. It commended Mahiti Trust's unity and development-oriented endeavors. Furthermore, women who exhibited prudent savings habits, timely loan repayments, and demonstrated leadership in rural development at the village level were duly honored and encouraged. These accolades aimed to underscore the importance of savings, responsible loan utilization, and fostering entrepreneurship among women. By distributing prizes with the noble intention of initiating business ventures or employment opportunities, the event sought to inspire other women in the community towards similar endeavors.

### Key Points about Bhal Women's Savings and Credit Co-operative Society:

1. Established as a robust financial institution, the cooperative is recognized as a leading women's bank in the Bhal region.
2. Women play a pivotal role in the cooperative's management and decision-making processes, demonstrating self-administration.
3. The cooperative efficiently resolves structural issues by engaging with local women to find swift solutions.
4. Members accumulate personal savings under their own names, facilitating easy access to loans for financial support.
5. Loan disbursement enhances women's financial contribution to their families, elevating their status within the household and society.
6. Initial monthly savings of Rs 10 have evolved to Rs 500, showcasing increasing financial empowerment among women.
7. Women actively engage in rural development and social justice initiatives alongside managing cooperative affairs.
8. Executive board members organize loan recovery meetings independently and make autonomous decisions on loan sanctions and financial matters.
9. Both cooperatives fully cover their administrative expenses.
10. Women from the executive committee participate in government audits, providing answers to auditors' inquiries.

## Women & Land Ownership:



As Indian citizens, we enjoy constitutional rights such as equality, freedom of speech, and employment. However, entrenched patriarchal norms often hinder women from fully exercising these rights. Despite legislative advancements, societal attitudes continue to impede the implementation of laws aimed at achieving gender equality.

Since 1980, India has committed to eradicating discrimination against women, evident in amendments to laws like the Hindu Succession Act of 1956, which now

grants daughters equal rights to ancestral property. However, societal biases persist, particularly concerning land ownership, seen as a symbol of status and power.

To address these challenges, initiatives like the Women and Land Ownership Working Group in Gujarat, in collaboration with Mahiti Trust Dholera, have initiated programs promoting women's land ownership and sustainable farming in 10 villages of Dholera taluka. Capacity-building efforts, including training sessions focused on women's land rights and sustainable agriculture, are conducted at both village and taluka levels. Through these collaborative endeavors, we strive to advance gender equality and empower women as rightful stakeholders in their communities.

At the grassroots level, a comprehensive guideline has been introduced to implement an intensive program aimed at revitalizing the Panchayati Raj system, the sole government structure at the village level. This initiative, launched in 2020, focuses on promoting women's land ownership and sustainable farming across 10 villages in Dholera taluka. Spearheaded by the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership - Gujarat in partnership with Mahiti Trust Dholera, the program encompasses villages including Jhankhi, Rajpur, Mingalpur, Mahadevapura, Rahatlav, Gandhipura, Mundi, Sandhida, Bhimtalav, and Hebatpur.

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, the organization has prioritized training for its employees on women's land ownership issues. In February 2023, a taluka-level training session was conducted to enhance women's knowledge and skills in the areas of land ownership and sustainable agriculture. Through these efforts, we aim to empower women and promote sustainable development at the grassroots level.



Throughout the year, a series of awareness camps, interactive activities such as snake games, and educational sessions were conducted in 10 villages of Dholera taluka. These initiatives, organized by Mahiti Trust and the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership – Gujarat, aimed to promote women's land ownership and enhance their understanding of land-related records, inheritance laws, and legal literacy.



Meetings were held with women to educate them on inheritance rights and land records, resulting in the inheritance of land by **270 daughters and 122 widowed women**, with the rights of 56 women recognized in official records. The campaign emphasized women's rights, widow inheritance, and family property rights, addressing reasons for reduced rights and providing information on potential losses due to forfeiture.

The establishment of "**Swa-Bhoomi Kendra**" at the taluka level facilitated the resolution of land-related issues for women. Additionally, various meetings elucidated the process of inheriting land, while efforts were made to ensure the presence of sarpanches, women leaders, and talatis during the campaign, with their attendance recorded in 6 out of 10 villages.

The main objectives of the campaign were clarified, highlighting the significance of women's land ownership and explaining the functions of different committees within the gram panchayat. Information on the services provided by the gram panchayat and the maintenance of registers was also disseminated to enhance community understanding and engagement.

### Interventions on Women and Land Ownership during the year

Particulars	Numbers	Participants
Demonstration	8	62 women
Field Day	10 villages	1187 women
Campaign	10 villages	627 men – women
Meetings	10 villages	165 women
Meeting with government officials	10 villages	11 visits
Training by government institutions under ATMA project	10 villages	41 women
Linking of beneficiary women with government schemes	10 villages	490 women
Awareness Camp	10 villages	605 men – women
Understanding 7 - 12 and 8A	10 villages	1120 women

In recent times, land prices have surged following the declaration of a Special Investment Region (SIR). This situation unveiled instances where men omitted women's names from land documents to facilitate land transactions. In response, the campaign prompted numerous women to assert their rights and rectify these discrepancies by registering their



names in land records. During the campaign, women actively engaged with one another, exchanging questions and insights. Many gained awareness of the significance of land records such as 7-12 and 8A, which were previously unfamiliar to them. Moreover, an increasing number of women recognized the importance of property ownership in their names. As a result of the campaign's efforts, women have been frequenting the Swabhoomi Centre, demonstrating their heightened involvement in securing their land rights and navigating through land-related processes.

### **Youth Empowerment – Vocational Skills Training Centre**

The Government of Gujarat, in collaboration with the Central Government, has identified the Bhal region as a promising industrial hub in recent years. In 2001, the Gujarat government enacted a special law designating the Bhal region as a Special Investment Region (SIR), with plans to attract substantial industrial capital investment. L&T Construction Limited has been commissioned to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure, including roads, sewage systems, water, and electricity, transforming the area into a modern industrial city. To oversee this development, the Gujarat government established a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) known as Dholera Industrial City Development Limited (DICDL).

Furthermore, to bolster infrastructure and connectivity, the Gujarat government is in the process of establishing an international airport near Navagam Karna village in Dholera, aligning with its vision for economic growth and development in the region.



The Bhal region is poised for significant industrial development in the coming years, with several prominent companies initiating projects in the area. Tata Renewable Energy Limited has already established a 300 MW solar power plant near Mahadevapura village, while Renew Energy Limited plans to set up solar panel manufacturing units near Bhimtalav. Additionally, there are indications that the Vedanta Group may soon establish a chip manufacturing unit in the vicinity.

This surge in industrial activity is expected to create a substantial demand for skilled manpower over the next five years. However, the challenge lies in providing employment opportunities for youth, especially women and girls who have discontinued their education.

Without the necessary skills, they may find themselves limited to unskilled labor roles. Presently, their options are primarily confined to diamond polishing and agricultural labor work, which offer only daily wage employment.

To address this issue, it is imperative to equip vulnerable youth with market-driven skills that align with the demands of emerging industries. By providing targeted skill development opportunities, these individuals can access more lucrative and sustainable livelihoods. This proactive approach not only benefits the individuals by enhancing their employability but also contributes to the overall economic growth and development of the region.

### Establishment of Vocational Training Center



In response to the emerging industrial landscape in the region, Mahiti Trust is dedicated to providing youth with opportunities for skill enhancement and sustainable employment. To this end, the Trust has inaugurated a "Vocational Training Centre" on its premises, with support from Transpek Industry Vadodara, providing essential equipment and materials for training.

The Centre was inaugurated in January 2023, with esteemed guests including Shri Atulbhai Shroff, Managing Director, Ms. Hemangini Gaikwad, CSR Manager of Transpek Industry Vadodara, and Plant Incharge from Tata Solar Company, along with Shri. Anilbhai Parik, offering insights on upcoming employment opportunities for rural youth. The inaugural batch of electrical cum solar technicians commenced training in January 2023, with two successful batches completed thus far. Out of 34 trainees, 10 have secured placements with Tata Renewable Energy Limited, with the remaining trainees placed on a waiting list for subsequent rounds. Buoyed by the success of the vocational training program, Mahiti Trust aspires to establish a state-of-the-art, gender-sensitive vocational skill development center at the regional level, further empowering youth and fostering economic growth in the community.







## Case Study



### Title: **Empowering Lives through Vocational Training: A Success Story**

Name: Abhay Bhagubhai Punani Village: Bhangarh Taluka: Dholera District: Ahmedabad

Abhay Bhagubhai Punani, a 20-year-old resident of Bhangarh village, faced educational setbacks after failing standard 10. Despite the challenges, he courageously enrolled in the Wireman/Solar Technician Course, determined to improve his circumstances. Previously employed as a security guard at Tata Power, he juggled night shifts with daytime coursework, bearing

sole responsibility for his family's welfare due to his father's illness and his brother's young age.

In a village where daily wage opportunities were scarce, Abhay's resilience shone as he prioritized skill development over immediate employment. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and practical knowledge, he excelled in the course, earning recognition among his peers. Following campus interviews facilitated by Mahiti Trust for Tata Renewable Energy Company, Abhay secured a lucrative job, significantly alleviating his family's financial burdens.

His success didn't end there. Motivated to empower others, Abhay actively promoted vocational training opportunities, participating in promotional videos that garnered attention on social media. His advocacy efforts resulted in increased enrollment in subsequent training batches, furthering the impact of skill development initiatives in the community.

Abhay extends heartfelt gratitude to Mahiti Trust and Transpek Industry for transforming his life and remains hopeful for continued growth and prosperity in his newfound career. His story stands as a testament to the transformative power of vocational training in uplifting individuals and communities.



## Natural Resource Management

In Dholera taluka, twenty-two villages have been enveloped within the ambit of the Special Investment Region (SIR) designated by the Gujarat government. These villages, situated in areas prone to sea-tides and inherent salinity, grapple with severe livelihood challenges. Despite the adverse conditions, residents persist in cultivating available land, albeit with diminishing returns. Over time, the land has become increasingly unproductive due to salinity, compelling families with limited land holdings to migrate to nearby urban centers in search of livelihood opportunities.

The livelihood resources in the region are scant, with rainfed agriculture on alkaline soil, fishing, and animal husbandry constrained by environmental limitations. Consequently, agricultural productivity remains abysmally low, exacerbated by the heightened risk posed by erratic rainfall patterns. For eight months of the year, excluding the monsoon season, migration becomes a necessity for survival, leaving families vulnerable and devoid of social security measures.

Compounding these challenges is the early abandonment of children's education, with many as young as ten years old engaging in diamond polishing work. The majority of the Talpada Koli and Dalit communities endure lives below the poverty line, with annual family incomes averaging a meager Rs 25,000. Moreover, economic disparities persist, as powerful classes dominate local enterprises, including transportation, restaurants, shops, and flour mills, while also securing lucrative contracts for community projects.

In times of crisis, members of the Koli and Dalit communities are left with little recourse but to resort to exorbitant loans from moneylenders or landlords, often at interest rates as high as 120%. Defaulting on such loans can lead to severe consequences, including loss of livestock, land, and housing, further exacerbating their precarious situation. Tragically, instances of physical harassment against women from these marginalized communities are not uncommon, adding to their plight.

Addressing these systemic inequities requires comprehensive interventions aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities, improving access to education, and providing robust social support systems. Only through concerted efforts and equitable policies can we hope to uplift the marginalized communities of Dholera taluka and ensure a dignified existence for all its residents.



### Construction of Roof-Top Rainwater Harvesting Tanks

The Mahiti Trust has long been dedicated to addressing the pressing issue of drinking water scarcity in the Bhal region. Characterized by saline soil and groundwater, the area heavily relies on harvested rainwater as its primary source of drinking water. Recognizing the critical need for sustainable solutions, the Trust has championed the installation of Roof-Top Rainwater Harvesting Tanks as a viable long-term

remedy for water scarcity in the region.

In the fiscal year 2022-23, the Gujarat CSR Authority, with generous support from the Gujarat Power Corporation Limited, collaborated with the Mahiti Trust to implement Roof-Top Rainwater Harvesting Tanks in 10 impoverished households in Charanka village, Santalpur taluka of Patan district, and **29** households in Sodhi village, Dholera taluka. These interventions extended to villages near the arid landscapes of Kutch, mirroring the challenges faced in the Bhal region. Leveraging the Trust's extensive experience in water management, the Gujarat CSR Authority sought its expertise to tackle the pressing issue of drinking water scarcity.

To date, the Trust has successfully constructed **8860** Roof-Top Rainwater Harvesting Tanks in saline villages, resulting in an annual harvest of approximately **88.60** lakh litres of safe drinking water. This initiative has empowered numerous families to achieve self-sufficiency in drinking water security, marking a significant milestone in community development.

Through collaborative efforts and sustainable interventions, the Mahiti Trust continues to spearhead transformative initiatives, ensuring access to safe and reliable drinking water for vulnerable communities across the region.

### Promotion of Organic Farming

In the 21st century, the agricultural landscape in our country faces a dichotomy. While there is a pressing need to enhance production to meet the demands of a burgeoning population, the overreliance on chemical fertilizers poses a threat to soil health and alternative sources of production. In response, there is a growing global advocacy for sustainable agricultural practices among agricultural scientists, economists, and civil society organizations.

Termed as organic farming, sustainable agriculture, traditional agriculture, or natural farming, these practices aim to reconcile the imperative for increased production with the need to preserve environmental integrity. Sustainable agriculture, as defined by various organizations, embodies a philosophy of meeting the present generation's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. It involves the adoption of improved agricultural techniques that optimize land and water resources, thereby ensuring higher yields while safeguarding natural ecosystems.

At its core, sustainable agriculture emphasizes the prudent management of natural resources such as water, land, and air to fulfill current needs while harmonizing with nature. This approach ensures that agricultural practices do not pollute essential components of the environment, thereby bequeathing a cleaner and more sustainable legacy to future generations. Given the urgent imperative to preserve natural heritage and biodiversity, there is an increasing recognition of the importance of sustainable farming practices.



Aligned with these principles, the Trust is leading an organic agriculture program, supported by Arvind Limited, Krishna Biotech, and the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership Gujarat. This initiative aims to educate farmers about sustainable farming practices, fostering environmental stewardship and resilience in agriculture. Through collaboration, we strive to cultivate a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

Cotton plays a vital role in India's agriculture, especially in dryland regions, despite challenges posed by nature's unpredictability and monsoonal variations. While hybrid and improved varieties like Shankar offer potential for higher yields, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has begun to harm cotton cultivation, impacting farmers' livelihoods and environmental integrity.

The widespread adoption of BT Cotton varieties exacerbates these challenges, disrupting ecological balance and degrading soil health. Concerns over nutrient depletion and environmental consequences highlight the urgent need for sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in regions like Bhal experiencing increased BT cotton cultivation and declining land conditions.



In response to pressing agricultural challenges, Mahiti Trust, in partnership with Arvind Limited and Krishna Biotech Private Limited, has launched a comprehensive capacity enhancement program for organic cotton cultivation. This initiative aims to improve soil fertility, lower cultivation costs, and encourage the use of indigenous cotton varieties. Key components include promoting organic bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides as alternatives to chemical inputs, thereby supporting sustainable agricultural practices and environmental

stewardship.

By prioritizing soil health restoration and embracing organic farming techniques, the program aims to empower cotton farmers, mitigate environmental risks, and ensure the long-term sustainability of cotton cultivation in the region. Through collaboration and innovation, we strive to build a more resilient and sustainable future for cotton farming communities.

### **Scaling Organic Cotton Cultivation: Empowering Farmers in the Bhal Region**

The initiative spans 36 villages across Dholera, Dhandhuka, Barwala, and Ranpur talukas in the Bhal region, involving 4000 farmers in organic cotton cultivation. Training modules cover various aspects of sustainable farming, from pre-sowing preparations to disease control and irrigation management, equipping farmers with essential skills. Recognition and accreditation are crucial. Initially, 2000 farmers transitioned to organic farming in 2015, gaining organic farmer status from APEDA. An additional 2000 farmers joined since 2021, with those adhering to NPOP guidelines eligible for organic farmer certification in the fourth year. Quality assurance is maintained through SGS Certification India, conducting annual



audits. In the fiscal year 2022-23, **541** farmers applied for input promotion assistance through the I-Khdut portal, receiving **Rs. 25,41,000/-** in direct financial aid. The program focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing soil health, conserving natural resources, and supporting organic cotton cultivation. Through these interventions, the aim is to empower farmers, promote environmental sustainability, and drive socio-economic development in the Bhal region.

<b>Interventions</b>	<b>Target Group</b>
IEC distribution to farmers (Organic Handbook, Making organic fertilizers, Panchagavya, Dashaparni)	36 villages; 2000 farmers
The process of filling up the internal inspection form	4000 farmers from 36 villages
Filling up the Farmers' Field Book	4000 farmers from 36 villages
Creating a farm map	4000 farmers from 36 villages
Surveillance Audit of SGS	4000 farmers from 36 villages
Composting	16 villages
Preparation of Amrut Paani / Jivamrut	22 villages
Preparation of Bio-Pesticides) – DASH PARNI	22 villages
C.P.P. (Cow Pet Pits)	08 village
Pheromone Trap Demonstration	160 farmers
Vermicompost Demonstration	06 farmers



organic farming methods.

Throughout the year, farmers engaged in organic farming were assembled and trained on the advantages of organic practices, including the production of organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Following live demonstrations, farmers were encouraged to replicate these techniques in their own fields. The enthusiastic response from farmers led to over **177** individuals independently producing jeevamrit and dashaparni, signaling a growing adoption of



thorough visits were conducted to the villages to plan and coordinate effectively. Discussions were held with village sarpanches and leaders to inform them about the upcoming campaign and designate specific locations within the villages for its implementation. A four-wheeler

**Campaign:** In collaboration with the Women and Land Ownership Working Group Gujarat, there was a significant effort to enhance the capacity and awareness of women farmers in the Bhal region, particularly regarding sustainable farming practices. To achieve this goal, a campaign was organized to raise awareness about sustainable farming across 10 villages in Dholera Taluka. This campaign took place in May 2022 and included various processes and activities aimed at educating and empowering women farmers in the region. Before the campaign commenced,

was hired and adorned with awareness posters and banners, while loud speakers with microphones were arranged to broadcast the campaign messages across the villages. Announcements were made throughout each village, rallying residents to gather at designated locations for the campaign activities. This comprehensive campaign approach was executed across 10 villages.

During the campaign, a total of **1100 farmers** participated, where discussions centered around organic farming, facilitated by the Women and Land Ownership Working Group in Gujarat. The concept of sustainable agriculture was explained, highlighting the adverse effects of chemical farming. Insights were shared on traditional farming practices, emphasizing the self-sufficiency of indigenous and dry farming methods, contrasted with the dependency on market-bought seeds in modern agriculture. Village elders reminisced about their farming techniques, from seed selection to post-harvest practices, shedding light on traditional agricultural wisdom. Pamphlets on organic farming were also distributed to further educate participants.



### Campaign

During the campaign, a game called "Red Green Dish" was played on chart paper to illustrate the cost differences between organic and chemical farming, enlightening participants, especially women farmers, about the affordability of organic practices. Discussions ensued regarding seeds, comparing indigenous seeds known for their longevity with hybrid seeds that are viable for only a single year.

Attention was directed towards soil management, emphasizing soil testing techniques and the importance of sampling from different parts of the field. Information on registering women farmers through the i-Kisan portal and details about various agricultural schemes, including the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme, were shared.

Photographs of different insects affecting crops were presented, introducing beneficial insects and various pest control measures such as pheromone traps, yellow sticky traps, and blue sticky traps. These sessions aimed to equip farmers with practical knowledge for pest management and crop protection.

### Formation, Nurturing & Strengthening of Farmer Producer Organizations



Since 2017, the Mahiti Trust has partnered with NABARD to establish and empower farmer producer organizations (FPOs). Over this period, 14 FPOs have been formed, with ongoing capacity-building efforts spanning from 2017 to 2020. Recognizing the success of these organizations, NABARD entrusted the Trust with expanding this initiative to Ghogha, Bhavnagar, and Ranpur talukas in the year 2021. As part of this expansion, two additional FPOs have been registered in Ghogha and Bhavnagar talukas over the past two years: Mota



Khokhra Farmer Producer Company Limited and Gohilwad Fruits and Vegetable Producer Company Limited. These FPOs, located in Mota Khokhara and Sodvadra villages of Bhavnagar taluka, respectively, represent further strides in empowering local farmers and fostering sustainable agricultural practices.

**Following are the interventions made in connection with the promotion of farmer producer organization during the year.**



During the fiscal year 2022-23, Bansidhar Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Company Ltd. engaged in the trade of organic wheat and gram, achieving an annual turnover of Rs 5.77 lakh. In February 2022, the Bhal Mahila Agri Producer Company participated in the Sahyog Mela organized by NABARD, showcasing and trading various products including chana dal, flour, raw chana, and bhaliya wheat, with an

annual turnover of Rs 1.48 lakh. Additionally, capacity-building efforts were undertaken through training sessions for farmer producer organizations (FPOs) in Bhavnagar district, with over 27 directors from these organizations participating in six training sessions conducted throughout the year.



In March 2023, the board of directors of Farmer Producer Organizations embarked on an inspirational tour to Maharashtra. A group comprising 34 farmers and team members visited various agricultural establishments including BIAF, Lachhkadi, Sahyadri Farm in Nashik, and Jain Irrigation in Jalgaon. Following this exposure visit, Mota Khokhra FPCL and Gohilwad Fruits and Vegetable Producer Company initiated their operations.

Additionally, both organizations launched their agricultural input businesses, inaugurated by a NABARD official in March 2023.



During the year, two Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were established. Mota Khokhra FPO commenced its onion business, successfully marketing two truckloads of onions in collaboration with a Delhi-based businessman. Meanwhile, Gohilwad FPO launched its agricultural input store at Bhavnagar APMC





**Inauguration of Agri Input Store of Gohilwad Fruits and Vegetable Producer Company**



#### **Detail of FPOs: -**

No	Name of Farmer Producer Organizations	District	Year of Inc.	No. of Shareholders	Product Basket	Status
1	Banseedhar Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Ahmedabad	2017	741	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
2	Bhal Mahila Agri-Producer Co. Ltd	Ahmedabad	2017	334	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
3	Radheshyam Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Ahmedabad	2017	336	Cotton	Handed Over to farmers
4	Shree Pipal Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Ahmedabad	2017	352	Cotton	Handed Over to farmers
5	Bheemnath Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2018	367	Cotton	Handed Over to farmers

No	Name of Farmer Producer Organizations	District	Year of Inc.	No. of Shareholders	Product Basket	Status
6	Navda Agri-Producer Co., Ltd	Botad	2018	332	Cotton	Handed Over to farmers
7	Mota Khokhara Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Bhavnagar	2021	407	Cotton and Bajari	Ongoing
8	Alampur Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2021	259	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
9	Dharpipla Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2021	273	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
10	Jalila Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2021	279	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
11	Nani Vavdi Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2021	223	Chickpeas and Cotton	Handed Over to farmers
12	Sanganpur Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2021	305	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
13	Sundariyana Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Botad	2021	339	Cotton, Wheat and Chana	Handed Over to farmers
14	Gohilwad Fruits and Vegetable Producer Co. Ltd	Bhavnagar	2022	388	Fruits and Vegetables	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>4935</b>		

### Social Justice: - Legal Aid & Guidance Center



The Bhal region comprises diverse castes, including Darbars, Kanbi Patels, Kolis, Dalits, Devipujaks, and Bharwads. Darbars and Kanbi Patels are considered upper castes, often holding positions of landlords and moneylenders. However, despite constituting only 10% of the population, they exert significant control over the lives of the remaining 90%, particularly the underprivileged Talpada Koli community, which makes up 80% of the region's populace. Talpada Kolis, categorized as Other Backward Castes by

the government, often face neglect and exploitation. Local power dynamics, dominated by the upper castes, influence access to resources and government schemes, leaving marginalized communities deprived of benefits and opportunities. Social injustices such as casteism, dowry, and patriarchal norms further exacerbate the challenges faced by women and children in the region.

Recognizing these disparities, the Mahiti Trust has initiated the Bhal Social Activist Group (B-SAG) to address social injustices and promote human rights awareness. Comprising around 50 members from marginalized communities, B-SAG conducts grassroots campaigns to combat exploitation and empower the oppressed. Additionally, the Trust operates a



Family Legal Aid and Counseling Centre, providing support and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and injustice. Through interventions and counseling, the Trust has facilitated resolutions in over 23 cases, aiding individuals in navigating legal challenges and seeking justice.

## Healthcare and Sanitation

### Primary Health, Reproductive and Child Health



The government-operated primary health centers and community health centers in the Bhal region face significant inadequacies, particularly in remote villages where access to healthcare is limited. Female health workers assigned to these areas struggle to visit regularly due to overwhelming responsibilities covering multiple villages. Recognizing these challenges, the Mahiti Trust has been actively working to enhance connections between government health facilities, health workers, and traditional birth attendants (dai) in the region.

Over the years, the Trust, with support from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai, and the Health Department of the Government of Gujarat, has trained **105** women health workers and **130** traditional birth attendants across 72 villages. These trained personnel, despite the lack of specific healthcare projects, play pivotal roles in providing primary healthcare and ensuring safe deliveries in their communities. Notably, their efforts have resulted in no failed deliveries this year, with many of them appointed as "ASHA workers" by the government.

The Trust facilitates regular coordination meetings with women health workers, covering various aspects of women and child health, vaccination, pregnancy care, and government health schemes. Additionally, efforts are made to dispel misconceptions about family planning methods and encourage institutional deliveries. These health workers actively



engage in promoting health awareness, assisting with government scheme applications, and providing support to pregnant women and their families.

Furthermore, the Trust facilitates access to essential medicines at wholesale prices and trains women health workers to administer treatments at the village level, enabling them to generate income to cover personal expenses. Quarterly coordination meetings provide opportunities for ongoing education and collaboration, ensuring that health workers remain equipped to address the evolving healthcare needs of their communities.

### Interventions related to healthcare by trained WHWs and TBAs

Activities carried out during the year	No. of Persons / Cases
TBAs & WHWs helped in No. of Chiranjivi Yojna benefits	204
TBAs & WHWs helped in No. of Janani Suraksha benefits	
TBAs & WHWs facilitated in No. Persons for Vaccination	2634
TBAs & WHWs facilitated in No. of Family Planning Operations	64
TBAs & WHWs did No. of Safe Institutional Deliveries	141
TBAs & WHWs did No. of Safe Deliveries at Home	98
TBAs and WHWs did No. of Patients treated for TB	44
TBAs and WHWs did No. of Patients treated for Iron Tablets	2950

As a result of this program, women have overcome hesitancy in discussing sexually transmitted diseases with male doctors. Increased awareness and adoption of family planning methods have been observed among women. People are now more informed about the benefits of government schemes, leading to improved care during pregnancy and after delivery. Institutional facilities have witnessed an uptick in utilization, and there has been a notable increase in the utilization of emergency services such as 108. Adolescent girls have become more conscious of their health, focusing on nutritious food and personal hygiene.

### Sanitation and Hygiene

In the project area of the Mahiti Trust, the absence of sanitation systems in many households



is attributed to various factors, including a lack of demand, ignorance, and insufficient knowledge. Unlike water and electricity, sanitation initiatives have struggled to generate significant demand, often due to past negative experiences, bureaucratic hurdles, and regulatory constraints. Recognizing this challenge, the Mahiti Trust has employed social marketing methods to promote sanitation systems, aiming to both stimulate demand and ensure their sustainable use.

Improving sanitation infrastructure is crucial for breaking the cycle of disease and poverty among the poor, who are disproportionately affected by inadequate living conditions. Congested housing, lack of sewerage systems, and poor sanitation exacerbate health risks, particularly for women who face challenges in

accessing safe facilities. The Mahiti Trust has taken proactive steps through its Community Help Desk Center to provide guidance and support, including constructing toilets in the Bhal area. However, despite these efforts, awareness and utilization of sanitation facilities remain low in many villages.

To address this issue, the Trust conducts Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to raise awareness and promote behavior change regarding cleanliness and hygiene practices. Through these efforts, the Trust has facilitated the construction of **5691** toilets in Ahmedabad, Botad, and Bhavnagar districts, with an additional **122** toilets supported under the Swachh Bharat Mission in the year 2022–23.

Furthermore, the Trust organized a medical health check-up camp during the General Meeting of the Bhal Mahila Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Limited in June 2022. This initiative aimed to address women's health issues and received positive feedback from attendees, demonstrating the community's receptiveness to such interventions.

In June 2022, a medical health check-up camp focusing on women's health was conducted during the General Meeting of The Bhal Mahila Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Limited. Specialist doctors from Bhavnagar were invited to provide medical services. Seventy-four women attendees received medical treatment and care at the camp. The initiative to integrate the medical camp into the general meeting was well-received by all assembly members present, reflecting positive community engagement and support for the effort.

### **Community Help Desk Centre – Linkages of most vulnerable families with various government schemes / programs**

Since its establishment in 2019, the Mahiti Trust's Community Help Desk Center has served as a vital link between disadvantaged families and government schemes, with support from the Gujarat CSR Authority. Three centers have been successfully set up in Hebatpur, Mingalpur, and Rahatlav villages of Dholera taluka in Ahmedabad district. Through this initiative, approximately **7,300** beneficiaries across six villages in Dholera Taluka have been linked with various government schemes.

Building on this success, the Gujarat CSR Authority extended collaboration for two Community Help Desk Centers in Sanand Taluka in 2021–22 and in four villages of Santalpur Taluka of Patan District (e.g. Charanka, Phangli, Bakutra, and Dhokawada) in 2022–23. During the same period, **5,545** beneficiaries were assisted in accessing government schemes, bringing the total number of linked individuals to **21,770**.

These centers are highly valued by rural communities as they provide essential guidance, assistance in form filling, and facilitate scheme applications with relevant departments. They serve as crucial hubs for accessing the benefits of government initiatives, enhancing the welfare of disadvantaged populations.

### Details of facilitation done by Community Help Desk Centre

No	Facilitation of vulnerable families with government schemes	2021-22	2022-23	Total
1	Aadhaar Card (New/Modified)	560	1019	1579
2	Ayushman Bharat	275	795	1070
3	Atal Pension Yojana	114	37	151
4	Certificate for percentage for disability	87	30	117
5	Chiranjeevi Scheme	111	53	164
6	Help for free travel passes and equipment for a disabled person	87	29	116
7	ICDS: Anganwadi and Adolescent Girls	5670	15	5685
8	Identity card for persons with disabilities	87	424	511
9	Jan Dhan Yojana - Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana	677	189	866
10	Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)	382	258	640
11	Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana	115	463	578
12	Kasturba Poshan Sahayata Yojana (KPSY) and Matru Vandana Yojana	352	42	394
13	MukhyaMantri Amrutam Yojana	414	158	572
14	Mamta Day Services (Vaccination, Growth Monitoring)	1685	154	1839
15	MGNREGA Job Card	2229	88	2317
16	Mid-day meal scheme	887	489	1376
17	National Family Benefit Scheme	76	1	77
18	Niradhar Vrudh Pension Yojana	2	41	43
19	Organic Input Incentive Fund for Certified Organic Farmers	388	11	399
20	PDS - Fair Price Shop and PDS Card (Renewal)	485	526	1011
21	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi	250	60	310
22	Registration of pregnant women	205	76	281
23	Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	41	129	170
24	Vaya Vandana - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension	506	39	545
25	Valli Dikri Yojana	75	94	169
26	Vidhwa Sahayata - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme	465	325	790
<b>Total No. of Beneficiaries facilitated</b>		<b>16225</b>	<b>5545</b>	<b>21770</b>



## Community Help Desk Center Program



Help Desk Centre at Iyawa Village



Help Desk Centre at Charanka



Help Desk Centre at Modasar



Facilitation in Seva Setu program



Help Desk Centre at Dhokawada



Household Survey – With respect to schemes

## Part 3: - Internal Matters

### Role of members of the managing committee

The organization's Managing Committee comprises a total of seven members, evenly distributed with three male and three female members. These individuals bring expertise in empowerment and development to the committee's functions. They play a pivotal role in providing guidance and support to the organization on legal matters, long-term strategies, policies, and overall reliability.

In times of internal challenges, the Managing Committee stands by the organization, offering assistance and advice as needed. Their involvement extends to participating in organizational activities and providing valuable suggestions for improvement. Through collaborative efforts, all members take an active role in strengthening the organization's mission.

Annually, the committee reviews the organization's financial accounts, progress reports, and plans for the upcoming year, granting their approval as necessary. Meetings are held biannually to discuss ongoing initiatives and future endeavors, ensuring alignment with the committee's collective vision and objectives.

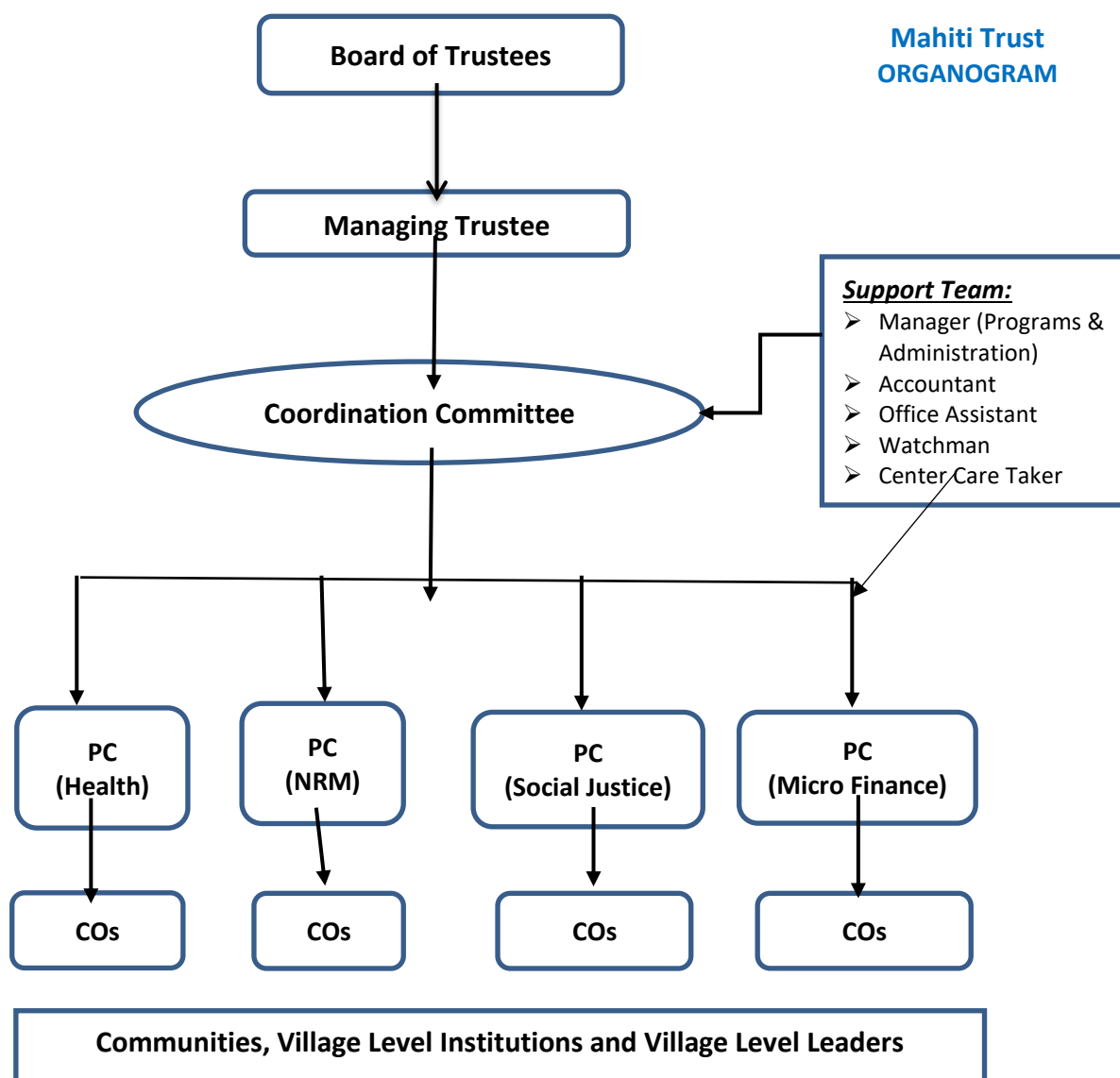
### Details of Managing Committee / Board of Trustees

No	Name	Educational Qualification	Relationship with other organization
01	Binoy Acharya	M.Phil (Social Science) JNU	Director, Unnati, Ahmedabad
02	Nafisa Barot	B. Sc (Home Science) MSU	Trustee, Utthan, Ahmedabad
03	Rajiv Khandelwal	P.G in Rural Management IRMA	Director, Aajeevika Bureau, Udaipur
04	Dipti Raju Purohit	M.A. (Sociology) GU	Managing Trustee, Jeevan Tirth, Koba
05	Sachin Oza	Master in Social Work MSU	Director, DSC Foundation, Ahmedabad
06	Suman Rathod	Master in Rural Studies Lok Bharti	Program Officer, Centre for Environment Education (CEE)
07	Devuben Pandya	Secondary	Managing Trustee, Mahiti Trust

### Classification of Team

Total Staff Strength	24
Male	15
Female	09
Administrative	07
Technical	01
Subject Expert	04
Community Organizer (Social)	12

## Organizational Structure



## Team Mahiti Trust – 2023

No	Team Member Name	Gender	Designation	Educational Qualification
1	Devuben Pandya	Female	Managing Trustee	7 <sup>th</sup> Standard
2	Dinesh Pandya	Male	Chief Executive Officer	Master in Social Work
3	Ishwar Parmar	Male	Accountant	Bachelor of Commerce
4	Jagdish Sindhav	Male	Program Coordinator	Bachelor of Arts
5	Paresh Hapani	Male	Program Coordinator	Bachelor of Arts
6	Tejpalsinh Chudasama	Male	Field Coordinator	Master of Social Work
7	Kalpesh Meniya	Male	Field Coordinator	12 <sup>th</sup> Pass
8	Falji Zapdiya	Male	Field Coordinator	Graduate
9	Mrugesh Solanki	Male	Field Coordinator	Graduate
10	Kanubhai Parmar	Male	Field Coordinator	Graudate



No	Team Member Name	Gender	Designation	Educational Qualification
11	Rekhaben Makwana	Female	Help Desk Coordinator	MA and B. Ed
12	Dungabhai Aahir	Male	Field Coordinator	Bachelor in Arts
13	Jagdish Aahir	Male	Help Desk Coordinator	Bachelor in Arts
14	Matuben Rabari	Female	Field Coordinator	Bachelor in Arts
15	Ketanbhai Kansara	Male	Training Instructor	BE (Electrical)
16	Manisha Mer	Female	Field Coordinator	Bachelor of Arts
17	Payal Chudasama	Female	Field Coordinator	Bachelor of Arts
18	Jivraj Vagdiya	Male	Watchman	5th Pass
19	Subaben Gohil	Female	Center Caretaker	Illiterate
20	Ajay Dharani	Male	Field Coordinator	Bachelor of Commerce
21	Gitaben Jadav	Female	Field Coordinator	7th Pass
22	Jayaben Jadav	Female	Field Executive	7th Pass
23	Kiran Ramanuj	Male	Field Coordinator	Bachelor of Arts
24	Sabnamben Shelat	Female	Field Coordinator	9th Pass
25	Amrut Baraiya	Male	Field Coordinator	Bachelor of Commerce
26	Bhumi Devmurari	Female	Program Coordinator	Master in Arts
27	Snehal Gohil	Female	Field Coordinator	Bachelor of Arts
28	Bhanjibhai Khasiya	Male	CEO, Mota Khokhara FPC	Diploma in Civil Engineering
29	Ghanshyambhai Chauhan	Male	CEO, Gohilwad FPC	Graduate in Animal Husbandry

## Our Partners

In our pursuit of realizing the organization's vision, we have been fortunate to receive support and assistance from esteemed individuals and committed organizations. Their participation has been instrumental in addressing critical issues such as women's rights, social justice, child protection, agricultural development, livelihood enhancement for vulnerable communities, natural resource management, and water and sanitation initiatives.

In 2021, cyclone Tauktae wreaked havoc on our Dholera campus, causing significant damage to existing infrastructure. The saline nature of the area exacerbated the deterioration of our facilities. Many houses experienced damage to taps, embankments, and walls due to the cyclone. In response, we launched efforts to secure donations for the repair and restoration of our infrastructures. Gratefully, we received a generous grant of Rs 10.00 lakh from the "Shroff Family Charitable Trust" in the fiscal year 2021–22. This funding enabled us to carry out essential repair work on our campus. In the subsequent fiscal year 2022–23, an additional grant of Rs 3.50 lakh was also been received, further aiding our renovation efforts. The unwavering support of the Shroff Family Charitable Trust has left an indelible mark on our organization, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to them.

Throughout the year, we also received invaluable support from various partner organizations. Their collaboration has enhanced the structure and efficacy of our interventions, enabling us to reach communities at the grassroots level. We extend our sincere appreciation to all these partner organizations for their steadfast support.

No	Partner Organization	Type of Fund	Areas of Support
1	Shroff Family Charitable Trust	CSR	Livelihoods – Vocational Training to youth
2	Arvind Limited	CSR	Sustainable Agriculture
3	Krishna Biotech Private Limited	CSR	Sustainable Agriculture
4	Gujarat CSR Authority	CSR	Community Help Desk Centre and Drinking Water
5	Women and Land Ownership Working Group (WGWLO)	CSR	Sustainable Agriculture, Women and Land Ownership

### Networking and Affiliation

Organizations / Institutions	Areas
Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI), New Delhi	Member Policy advocacy and good governance
PRAVAH – a state level network of VOs, individuals, and experts on drinking water issues	Trustee on the Governing Board Issues & Policy advocacy on drinking water
Sajjata Sangh (a state level network of non-government organizations working on natural resources development and management in Gujarat)	Member Issues & Policy Advocacy related to NRM
Working Group for Women's Land Ownership – WGWLO	Member, Campaign and policy advocacy related to women's land rights
Janpath (a state level network of voluntary organizations in Gujarat state)	Member of Executive Committee Policy advocacy
District Women's Protection Committee Ahmedabad Rural (Ahmedabad District)	Member, Violence against women
Jan Swasththay Abhiyan – JSA, Gujarat	Member, Health issues
Gujarat Voluntary Health Association	Reproductive and Child Health
Action Aid, India	General Assembly Member