

Empowering Marginalized Communities of Bhal region towards Social Justice, Youth & Rural Development

Annual Report 2006-07



Livelihood Opportunitites through Micro Finance



Campaign on Bride Price System



Production & Income Inceze due to Water Conservation



Raising Voice for Dai Women's issues before Govt.

June 2007



Mahiti Rural Development Centre

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Administrative Details

Name of the Organization : **Mahiti Rural Development Centre**
Document : Approved by Board of Trustees on 6th July 2007
Reporting Period : **1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007**

Organizational Brief Information

Address : **Regd / Head Office:** At & Post: Dholera, Opp. Bhim Talav, Rahtalav Road, Tal: Dhandhuka, Dist: Ahmedabad Pin: 382 455, Mob: 94267-25907
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Contact Person : **Ms. Devuben K Pandya, Executive Director**

Establishment Date : **9th August 1994**

Registration Details : Registered as Trust No. F/4410/Ahmedabad and Registered as Society No. Guj/4550/Ahmedabad; Regd under FCRA Act

Geographical Coverage : **Coastal Belt of Gulf of Cambay (Khambhat)**
Ahmedabad District – Dhandhuka, Dholka & Barwala Blocks
Bhavnagr District – Bhavnagar & Shihor Blocks **Total 79 Villages**

Vision : *“To abolish social discrimination created by unjust social structure of Bhal region and envisage advancement in living standards of exploited / deprived / marginalized sections while making them self-reliant”*

Mission : *“To empower the oppressed communities of Bhal region focusing on women by organizing communities around issues related to natural resources, health, hygiene, social justice, micro finance and disaster mitigation”*

Major Activities : - Formation & Capacity building of various Village Level Institutions
- Strengthening Micro Finance Institutions
- Natural Resource Management & Development – Land Covervation, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Watershed Development Program
- Social Justice and Violence against women
- Youth Development
- Disaster Management

Networking : **State Level:** Pravah, Janpath, Sajjata Sangh, Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan, Gujarat Dai Sangathan, Working Group for Women and Land Ownership, JanSwashyay Abhiyan
National Level: Voluntary Action Network of India - VANI, National Alliance of Women’s Organizations - NAWO, Confederation of Rural NGOs of India – CNRI

Funding Source : **Government:** District Rural Development Agencies, CAPART, District Reproductive Child Health Society, Rural Technology Institute, Gujarat Ecology Commission, Gujarat Women’s Economic Development Corporation
National: Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust – SDTT; **International:** Hivos, The Netherlands, Oxfam, Australia

Governing Board	:	Men	04	Women	03	Total	07
Program Staff	:	Men	07	Women	06	Total	13
Support Staff	:	Men	02	Women	01	Total	03
Administrative Staff	:	Men	02	Women	00	Total	02
	:	Men	11	Women	07	Total	18

From the Desk of Executive Director



I am happy to present before you the Annual Report of “Mahiti” for the year 2006-07. I would like to inform you that Mahiti has been successful in achieving results of its objective oriented efforts. Our journey towards development has been marked by many ups and downs. It is not easy to work in this area surrounded by natural adversities. In spite of a number of difficulties our team has been working in this area staying locally. Due to dedicated and persistent work for several years, the team members of Mahiti have won confidence of people and they have come closer. Now, Mahiti has emerged as a strong community based non government development organization in Bhal region. Local women have started raising their voice against the exploitation but that is not sufficient. A collective voice against exploitation can be raised only when the menfolk and especially the youth in the society become the part of movement. During one and half years of closer contacts with youth in the area, we have been able to make them vocally express the anguish and frustrations lying unexpressed within them so far. This has made them sensitive towards the issues & joined the efforts to find the solutions for the same.

The Bhal Social Justice Activists Group (B-SAG) initiated by Mahiti has been trying hard to help their community irradicate the deep rooted social evils so that justice can prevail. We have organized **Campaign on Bride Price System** (in Gujarati “Kanya Vikray Samvad Yatra”) in association of this group prevailing in the area. We have covered 19 villages where this system exists deeply to sensitize people of all the communities towards the social evils / bad customs. It has become imperative to do this because they get entrapped in the vicious circle of debt and exploitation due to the social pressure created by expensive social customs. As a result of this campaign, talapada koli patel community in 14 villages called up a meeting of their caste members and discussed the issue and prepared a social justice caste constitution for their community members. So far, talapada koli patel communities in 14 villages have accepted this constitution. One of the indirect results of this campaign has been remarkable. This year, the community organized a group marriage program where 61 couples from economically weak families got married, thus avoiding excessive expenses in marriage.

The organization in collaboration with B-SAG worked on the issue of domestic violence and community education to develop people’s understanding of social justice. The activists help people to find solution of the problems of land disputes and domestic disputes. The activists’ group has been able to win people’s trust and people visit our **Legal Aid & Guidenace Center** (social justice center) to seek legal advice for their problems. The group makes as much efforts as it can to arrive to a solution. Thus, we have taken up efforts to abate the explitation.

In the sphere of heathcare activities, Mahit helped **68 women receive training as midwives** following the government approved syllabus by advocating their case with government department.

Now, they are trained and qualified midwives. This training has been beneficial in two ways. On the one hand, the tradition village midwives are trained in modern techniques and aspects. On the other hand, pregnant women in villages get better prepartum attention and care. The rate of vaccination among pregnant women and children has increased considerably. Moreover, **63 women health workers have been trained** who are now capable to render primary healthcare in the village.

Mahiti has joined Gujarat Janaswashyay Abhiyan to make efforts to bring about policy related changes on the issue of healthcare. As a part of these networking efforts, Gujarat government has passed a resolution to set up health committees at different levels. Moreover, Mahiti has got representation in Ahmedabad District Reproductive & Child Health Service Committee and Ahmedabad District Planning Committee.

Two strong area level women's organizations have been initiated to confront the issues of economic exploitation. Both the Women's Savings and Credit Cooperatives have been legalized and they have been imparted all kinds of capacity building training with the view to make them self reliant. Presently, the Women's Savings and Credit Cooperative of Ahmedabad district manages its affairs independently. Due to these cooperatives socially and economically exploited poor people are gradually getting out of exploitation by moneylenders / landlords.

The coming years pose a big challenges before us. Bhal region has been declared as Special Economic Zone (SEZ). As a result of that sale of agriculture land has increased. The middlemen engaged in sale and purchase of land have started taking advantage of the situation. Mahiti has already started efforts to create awareness among people regarding the adverse effects of industries on the environment as well as on people's life. We need to make more strategic and systematic efforts. We need to create not only the awareness among people; we also need them to rise up asking for their rights to live their life. We need to make people get organized to take actions to prevent adverse effects on quality of their life and environment.

In the next years, we shall be putting stress on carrying out a study of challeges rising before us and create awareness among village level institions to raise their voices and convince the industries to be transparent and set up only such industries which do not have adverse effects on the life. We also need to make efforts to activate women's organization and activists groups to join the action on the issue.

Devuben K Pandya
Executive Director
Mahiti Rural Development Center, Dholera

Date: 21-06-2007

Part A Program Activities

Program Focussed Areas

Mahiti works mainly on five areas – *micro finance, social justice, health, natural resource management, and disaster management*. For each of these issues, various activities are taken up in the villages by setting up various village level institutions and by empowering them to work on the issues. The details of **village level institutions** set up and facilitated by Mahiti since its inception are given in the following table.

Districts	Blocks	SHGs	WCs	Women Cooperative	SAG	Watershed Committees	Youth Groups	DPMCs
Ahmedabad	Dhandhuka	149	22	One Cooperative	50 members	07	11	12
	Barwala	40	05			01	--	00
	Dholka	25	02			06	01	00
Total		214	29	14		12	12	
Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	50	06	One Cooperative		10	08	03
	Shihor	04	00			00	--	00
Total		54	06	10	08	03		
Grand Total		268	35	2	50	24	20	15

SHGs= Self Help Groups, SAG=Social Activist Group, WCs=Water Committees; DPMC= Disaster Preparedness and Management Committees

Geographic Coverage



Mahiti has been working in the “**Bhal region**”¹ with Talapada Kolis (Other Backward Caste OBC), Dalits (Schedule Caste) and other marginalized communities for their socio economic empowerment. It is actively working in **79** villages of Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar district covering **05** talukas / blocks i.e. **Dhandhuka, Barwala, and Dholka** talukas of Ahmedabad district and **Bhavnagar and Shihor** talukas of Bhavnagar district.

01. Social Justice and Youth Development

The population in Bhal region consists of a number of castes among which darbar, kanabi patel, koli patel, devipujak, bharwad and a few dalit castes are main castes. Darbar and Kanabi Patel are considered higher castes. They are landlords and moneylenders. 80 % of population in Bhal region consists of talapada koli and 10 % are dalits. The government has included talapada koli in other backward caste category but very little attention has been paid to them. The local landlords / moneylenders have a strong hold. In some of the coastal villages 90 % population is talapada koli

¹ Bhal means forehead where nothing grows

which is controlled by the higher castes which is fact just 10 % of the population it is but natural that in such circumstances women and children are in still weaker position. This region, which is already deprived in natural resources is greatly in strong hold of a number of social evils like castism, social customs, dowry and above all patriarchal social values. This social condition is reflected in its political power balance too. In spite of being majority, koli and dalits have no political power. The moneylenders / landlords have control on them.

There have been a few changes in the social, economic, political and environmental realities in Bhal region. The forms of exploitation and leadership have changed. In this situation, Mahiti has prepared itself to face new challenges. People in this region, live under a kind of pressure, they can not enjoy their human rights freely. Local power system is controlled by powerful class and they intervene even in the execution, utilization of natural resources and government schemes for backward classes. The poor people are deprived of the benefits as a result; their participation in business and market system also is limited.

Since last four years, Mahiti has taken up to work emphatically on the issues of social injustice like exploitation of women, social evils - liqor, gambling, violence against women, atrocities, illegal possession of land, domestic violence, deprivation of backward classes from the local power system etc.

Mahiti believes that it is necessary to organize youth and educate them regarding social issues. During women's capacity building period "Mahiti" realized that it is not possible to achieve expected success in these issues just by addressing women folk. After a number of reflection meetings and brainstorming, a strategy was drawn out. According to the strategy it was decided to involve enthusiastic and sensitive young women & men with this issue and convince them to carry out various processes to enhance their courage, knowledge, capacity to raise voice against exploitation and also to develop their leadership qualities.

Carrying forward this idea and making ceaseless efforts for about four years, Mahiti has set up a **Bhal Social Activists Group (B-SAG)**. The aim is to carry out social justice campaign at the regional level, to create human rights awareness among people, to make them understand various forms of exploitation and raise voice against those evils. This group comprises of about 50 young men and women from exploited communities and has joined campaign since last two years. They carry out social justice activities and make efforts to raise the society from the mire of social evils. Guide the people towards right direction. The group members meet regularly on 25th of every month. The members extend legal counseling to people to solve their social and legal problems. Two consultant advocates have been appointed for this purpose. **100 such cases have been handled during the year providing legal intervention and counseling. 05 capacity building training have been organized for the activists.**

A **Legal Aid and Guidance Center** has been set up in the Mahiti Campus. Last yaer 1 member of this group has been appointed as pera legal worker. About **170 people visited the center** to seek guidance and advice. Now, center is becoming known to people slowly but definitely.

10 more youth centers & groups have been set up. Proceses of creating organizational feeling and capacity building have been taken up. Various youth activities have been initiated at the village level. A cricket tournament organized by youth in association with Mahiti

During this year, Mahiti focused on one of the social evils in this region i.e. Kanya Vikray – (Bride Price.) This is a burning issue in the society here. Mahiti adopted various strategies to address the issue. People have been sensitized. A "Kanya Vikray Samvad Yatra" had been organized in the area covering 19 coastal villages. Much time had to be spent to carry out preparations and making this dialogue successful.

1.1 Activities of Bhal Social Activists Group (B-SAG)

As mentioned earlier, this group meets once every month and carries out various efforts to create awareness regarding human rights and legal awareness among rural population with a view to continue social justice campaign further. They also makes efforts to raise the level of understanding of people about their social evils and problems, they also helps people in various forms such as getting birth certificate, death certificate, issue of ration card, and getting important documents related to land ownership etc.

■ A study on Status of Primary Schools

During the year, B-SAG took up a study of primary schools in remote villages in coastal area where education level is very low. This study was carried out in 30 villages. The data collected during the study revealed on analysis that in every village, number of teachers was less than the number of children enrolled. The number of rooms also less than needed. The school rooms and buildings damaged in 2001 earthquake had not been repaired. It appeared that the government was out to ruin primary school education in these villages. Teachers have been recruited as 'teaching assistance' at a fixed salary of Rs. 2500/- a month for next five years. The teachers obviously do not have any motivation to work. Besides, majority of teachers travel from Ahmedabad daily. They reach late and go early. In such a condition, it can easily be understandable that the children are in the most vulnerable situation. Besides, the study revealed that the majority of workers in mid-day meal program are from darbar community. Thus, the lower castes have no space in this program. In this situation what more opportunities can they have? It is imperative to address this issue in coming years. We need to do networking with government, awareness creation at village level to work on this issue. Mahiti is considering to emphasize this issue in future course.

Capacity Building of B-SAG with a view to impart legal awareness among the activists and develop leadership qualities in them. Mahiti organized **05 trainings** during the year. More details please refer **Table 01**.



During the year, **14 meetings** were organized and all activists regularly attended the meetings. The number of cases coming to the center is increasing day by day. About **100 cases** were handled by the group and efforts were made to solve the problems by legal interventions and counseling. The details have been presented in **Table 02**. The B-SAG members have been successful in creating their identity at local level. This kind of platform is receiving good response. The center has proved to be the only place where deprived and marginalized people can hope to get justice where they can get solution and guidance to their satisfaction.

Process Case Study: Family Dispute – Solution through Intervention by B-SAG

Mrs. Savitaben Dadhi, Anandpur Village, Dhandhuka Block

Savitaben was sent to her father's place along with her children because of monetary transactions between her father and her father-in-law. Her father could not repay Rs. 15,000/- which he had borrowed from him. Savitaben had been at her father's place since last two years. In the mean time her father died. Her brothers were poor and were not in a position to repay the debt. Savitaben's father-in-law insisted on repayment first. As such there was no problem between the couple but the father-in-law even got ready to break his son's marriage. Savitaben was sad. She was worried about her children's future. When the B-SAG came to know of the case and they felt that it was their duty to intervene.

They sent a notice to Savitaben's husband and his father to attend the meeting. They did not appear in spite of two three reminders. At last, a notice for maintenance was sent through an advocate to create pressure. On receiving the legal notice, they at once appeared before the B-SAG. The relatives on both sides were called for a meeting. After discussion it was decided that the debt shall be paid in installments. The B-SAG members contributed the money and paid 25% of amount on the spot. Then Savitaben's in-laws took her and her children home. Now, she stays with her husband and children in a separate house.

1.2 Campaign on Bride Price System

In an analysis of cases received by the center during three years it was found that majority of problems were the result of social evils. One of the commonest causes was the evil of bride price. Mahiti has been promoting savings and credit activities for a long time too. Two women's savings and credit cooperatives have been set up at area level. In spite of that people are still not freed from the clutches of moneylenders. A question was asked by the activists "Why so" and on reflecting on the issue it was felt that through savings and credit activity has made small amounts available to poor women to meet their needs. They still borrow money from moneylenders to fulfill their social obligation and then carry on the burden of debt for many years. **70 % of land has been pawned at the so-called "sahukars"** and the cause of borrowal is expenses for marriage. People spend much more than their capacity for social ceremonies just to be with the Jones' People spend money because they feel that they must follow social conventions.

To fulfill that obligation they even mortgage their land which is the only source of income. Consequently, the whole community is under the debt of moneylenders who pressurize them for almost everything.

B-SAG has been deliberating on this problem for the last two years. After much brainstorming, the group realized that till the people do not get out of debts and stop borrowing, people shall never be free from the clutches of landlords / moneylenders.

Preparatory Meeting: A meeting was organized for the members of activists group on **01-12-2006**. All social evils and conventions were discussed in detail. The members discussed about the social conventions which compels people to mortgage their land and borrow money from moneylenders. The discussion revealed that there is a very serious and widespread evil in the local communities and that is asking for price for the bride. It may be called reverse dowry too. According to this custom the girls' parents ask for a large amount of money and jewellery from the boy's parents before marriage. This amount may be as much as one lakh rupees which obviously a large sum for an ordinary family only a few families can pay such a large sum without facing any problem. People mortgage their land with the landlord to fulfill this obligation. If the debt is not repaid in time the family has to let go the land. Lack of proper income source compels people to migrate. Young boys get addicted to liquor and gambling in frustration. Moreover, the woman who has been brought home on paying a higher price has to suffer harassment through in-laws family. In the end the victim is the women.

It is indeed a serious issue and addressing it was not easy because issue had many emotional dimensions too. After detailed discussion the B-SAG members decided on a number of strategies. It was decided that first of all a meeting of caste leaders should be called up. 05 leaders from each village were invited because no change can be initiated without the cooperation of the caste leaders.

Caste Leaders Meeting: A meeting of caste leaders of Talapada Koli Patel community was called on **16th December 2006**. More than 150 people the community leaders and activist were present at the meeting. B-SAG has presented the true picture of their community and efforts were made to convince them to bring about changes in their social customs. After much persuasion the leaders were showed willingness to accept the idea. Then they came out with a suggestion that the caste leaders who decide the caste constitution and are capable to do so also should be made involved in this process. They should be made sensitive to this issue. Then only the community can get united towards the issue.

In the past, Mahiti had made efforts to irradicate these social evils but not much success could be achieved due to lack of education, negative activities by anti-social elements, harmful conventions and absence of unity in the community. During the ceaseless activities for the development of society, the Mahiti has won people's trust. Only after that Mahiti has formed B-SAG and through it persuaded people to fight against social vices and evils.

Drama: Mahiti and B-SAG have prepared a play on the issue. The play **"Dikri Bole Chhe, Mavtar Mane Vechchho Nahi"** [The girl requests – parents, please do not sell me off]. The play was performed by few enthusiastic young men & women from B-SAG and Mahiti. The play presents a realistic picture of the drastic consequences of social evils on people's life. The issues of excessive expenses on marriage, posthumous feasts and such social customs by borrowing money and then young men getting into grips of liquor and gambling were effectively presented in the play.

Rally: With a view to take this issue to the community at large, a **"Kanya Vikray Samvad Yatra"** had jointly been organized by Mahiti & B-SAG during **25th December 2006 to 1st January 2007** in 19 villages. The rally visited Navagam Karna, Kamatalav, Gogla, Sarasala, Khun, Rahtalav, Mahadevpura, Gandhipura, Mingalpur, Zankhi, Rajpur (Ahmedabad), Ganeshgad, Sanesh, Kotda, Bhadbhid, Gangawada, Madhiya and Sonrai (Bhavnagar).

We wanted to take the play and the rally to the villages where this evil of bride price is more widespread. We felt that if Mahiti or B-SAG takes this program to villages, it may not get expected success. Ms. Devuben Pandya, Executive Director of Mahiti met the leaders of talapada koli patel community and sensitized them towards the issue. She requested them to participate in the rally. Mr. Takha Dada, an 80-year old community leader from Navi Sodhi village openly accepted the idea and proposal of the rally and he extended his full support.



During the rally when the activists reached the village first of all, they visited every corner of the village and then it gets converted in to a meeting. Then the activists' song devotional songs, folk stories and tried to give new ideas to the audience. The play also was performed during the meeting. The audience was so much impressed by the play that they could easily identify their life situation with it. At the end of the play village leaders and women were asked to express their opinions. The activists appealed to people to unite on this issue. The rally visited every village and ended at Sonrai (Jasvantpura) village in Bhavnagar district on **1st January 2007**. About 2500 People including the villagers and community leaders

as well as representatives of voluntary organisations participated in the **Closing Ceremony**.

During the function at Sonrai village, an appeal was made with intervention by Devuben Pandya that a fair and just constitution must be formed for the Talapada Koli Patel community. It was suggested that a committee should be formed in every village and women should be included in the committee. On

the same day, Shri Dipasangbhai Rathod, the leader of Gogla village announced that he would togetherd leaders of all the 52 villages in his village and a gender just constitution would be formed and announced.



most leaders and other wellknown persons also were present. The women, Youth and leaders of the village worked very hard to make this event a success which was commendable.

As a result of this campaign, the community leaders have formed a new constitution for the community with fair and just norms and standards against the evil of bride price system prevalent in the community. A general **Community Convention of Talpada Koli Patels** was organized at Gogla village in Dhandhuka taluka on **15th of January 2007**. Community leaders from all the villages attended the meeting. The president of the meeting was Shri Kanjibhai Talpada (Ex MLA). Takhadada one of the senior

Another remarkable point was that the expenditures of meals and arrangements were jointly borne by yough and women groups. The major cost was borne by Gogla village which was of Community Convention where approximately 5000 people were attended the event.

From the very beginning all media, newspapers, E-TV Gujarati News Channel, and Mr. Sanjay Dave from "Charkha" extended their cooperation. Divya Bhaskar, Times of India, Gujarat Samachar, Aajkal, and Indian Express carried out wide coverage of this campaign and message spreaded to the people at large.

As a result of this whole processes, recently Bhal Area Talapada Koli Patel Community has formed a new caste constitution which has received endorsement and acceptance by the community. The highlights of this constitution are given below:

- The custom of taking money for giving daughter in marriage shall be completely stopped. Now onwards the father of a prospective bride shall not take money from the father of a prospective groom even in private.
- Marriage party shall consist of only 51 members.
- Amount of money for other customs also has been reduced making it affordable to everybody.
- Only five women shall attend the ceremony of the birth of first child (earlier fifty or even more people used to attend which used to be burdersome to the girls parents).
- Feasts on the occasion of death shall be completely stopped.

Photographs - Campaign against Bride Price System





Impact of the Campaign

- The residents of the villages where this rally went realized the evils of old conventions and accepted the fact that such conventions and customs are harmful.
- A kind of thought process has started.
- After this rally, a new constitution of the talapada koli patel community has been formed and people have slowly started adopting it.
- This yatra has given one more dimension to the identity of Mahiti and B-SAG. People have understood that this organization not only carries out implementation of development works but also works for a social change in the society with the true sense.

ભાલ પંથકમાં કન્યા વિક્રયને ડામવા સંવાદ યાત્રાનો પ્રારંભ

11/મુદ્રા/તા.૨૫-૧૨-૨૦૦૭

■ કન્યા વિક્રયથી દેવામાં કુબેલા પરિવારને બેઠા કરવા સાથે સામાજિક જાગૃતિનો હેતુ રૂપ થી ૧ જાન્યુઆરી દરમિયાન ભાલ પંથકમાં થઈ ગામોમાં સંવાદ યાત્રા અંતર્ગત રેલી, નાટકો, જાગૃતિ કાર્યક્રમો યોજાશે

ભાવનગર, તા.૨૫ છેલ્લા ઘણા વર્ષોથી ભાલના કોળી સમાજ સહિતના સમાજોમાં કુરિવાજો અને દુષ્ણોનું પ્રમાણ વધતું રહ્યું છે. જેના કારણે આ સમાજ દેવામાં ડુબતો રહ્યો છે. ભાલ પંથકના સમાજનાં વ્યાપેલા દહેજ દ્વારા કન્યા વિક્રયના કુરિવાજને

ડામવા માહિતિ ગ્રામ વિકાસ સંસ્થાએ કમર કસી છે માહિતી વિકાસ સમિતિ દ્વારા પરિસ્થિતિમાં પરિવર્તન લાવવા સમાજના ૫૦ ભાઈઓ-બહેનોને સાથે રાખીને ભાલ-સામાજિક ન્યાય કર્મશીલ જુથની રચના કરી છે.

આ જુથ કન્યા વિક્રયના

દુષ્ણથી દેવાદાર બનેલા સમાજને બેઠી કરવા તથા સમાજના વ્યાપી કુરિવાજો અંગે જાગૃતિ ફેલાવવા ભાલ સામાજિક ન્યાય કર્મશીલ જુથ અને માહિતિ સંસ્થાના સંયુક્ત ઉપક્રમે તા.૨૫ થી ૧ જાન્યુ દરમિયાન કન્યા વિક્રય સામે સંવાદયાત્રાનું આયોજન કરાયેલ છે.

સંવાદયાત્રા વિસ્તારના ૧૯ ગામોમાં નાટક, રેલી, જાગૃતિ કાર્યક્રમો અને સમાજના આગેવાનો સાથે વિચાર વિમર્શ કરશે.

ભાલ પંથકના કોળી સમાજમાં પ્રચલિત કન્યા વિક્રયના કુરિવાજ સામે ૧૯ ગામોમાં નિકળેલી સંવાદયાત્રા

નવાગામ (કરણા)થી શરૂ થયેલ યાત્રા જસમતપુરા (સોનરાઈ)
ખાતે પૂર્ણ થઈ : દરેક ગામોમાં રેલી નાટક સહિતના કાર્યક્રમ

ભાવનગર,તા.૧ ભાલ પંથકના કોળી સમાજમાં પ્રચલીત કન્યા વિક્રય (દેથ)ના કુરિવાજને નામુદ કરવાના હેતુ સાથે ભાલ સામાજિક ન્યાય કર્મશીલ જુથ અને માહિતી ગ્રામ વિકાસ સંસ્થાના ઉપક્રમે ૧૯ ગામોમાં સંવાદયાત્રા કરીને જસમતપુરા (સોનરાઈ) ગામે પૂર્ણ થઈ હતી. જ્યાં કોળી સમાજના આગેવાનો સાથે વિચાર ગોષ્ઠીનો કાર્યક્રમ યોજવામાં આવ્યો હતો.

ભાલ પંથકમાં વસતા ખડુમત એવા તળપડા કોળી સમાજમાં કન્યા વિક્રય (દેથ)ના કુરિવાજ પ્રવર્તે છે. આ કુરિવાજના લીધે આ વિસ્તારના કોળી સમાજના ૭૦ ટકા લોકો દેવાદાર બન્યા છે એટલું જ નહીં તેમના જમીન અને દાગીના ગીરવે પડ્યા છે. ભાલ પંથકના ખાવન ગામ પરગણામાં આ કુરિવાજના લીધે અમુક ગામોમાં લગ્ન સમયે

દીકરીના રૂ.૫૦ થી ૭૦ હજાર સુધીની રોકડ રકમ લેવામાં આવે છે. આ રકમના કારણે દિકરીનો ખાપ પૈસાદાર તો નથી થતો પરંતુ દિકરાનો ખાપ દેવાદાર બને છે.

ભાલ પંથકના તળપડા કોળી સમાજમાં પ્રવર્તતા કન્યા વિક્રય (દેથ)ના કુરિવાજને દૂર કરવા માટે ભાલ સામાજિક ન્યાય કર્મશીલ જુથ અને માહિતી ગ્રામ વિકાસ સંસ્થા દ્વારા તા.૨૫/૧૨/૦૬ના રોજ સાંજના ૪ કલાકે નવાગામ (કરણા)થી સંવાદયાત્રાનો પ્રારંભ થયો હતો. આ સંવાદયાત્રા કાના તળાવ, સરસલા, ધોધલા, ખૂણ, રાહુ તળાવ, મહાદેવપુરા, ગાંધીપુરા, મીંગલપુર, ભાણગઢ, જાખી, રાંજપુર, ભૂના કોટડા, ગાંગાવાડ, ભડભીડ, માઠીયા, સનેસ, ગણેશગઢ થઈને તા.૧/૧/૦૭ને આજરોજ જસમતપુરા (સોનરાઈ) ગામે પૂર્ણ થઈ હતી.

આ સંવાદયાત્રા દરમિયાન ઉક્ત ગામો નાટક, રેલી, જાગૃતિ કાર્યક્રમો તથા તળપડા કોળી સમાજના આગેવાનો સાથે ચર્ચાઓ કરવામાં આવી હતી. આજે જસમતપુરા (સોનરાઈ) ગામે સંવાદયાત્રા પૂર્ણ થયા બાદ ભાલ પંથકના ખાવન ગામ પરગણાના તળપડા કોળી સમાજના પટેલ તખાડાઠા સહિતના આગેવાનો સાથે એક 'વિચાર ગોષ્ઠી'નો કાર્યક્રમ યોજાયો હતો. જેમાં આ સમાજમાં પ્રવર્તતા ઉક્ત કુરિવાજને ડામવા માટે ચર્ચા વિચારણા કરવામાં આવી હતી. અને આ અંગે નિયમો ઘડવા માટેનું આયોજન કરાયું હતું.

આ સંવાદયાત્રાને સફળ બનાવવા માટે કર્મશીલ જુથના મણિલા મંડળ, પુવા સંજઈનો માહિતી સંસ્થા, જસમતપુરા (સોનરાઈ)ના સરપંચ સનાભાઈ, કાળા તળાવના સરપંચ ઘાઠુલભાઈ સહિતનાએ જોતમ ઉદ્યોગી હતી.

‘કન્યાવિક્રય’ સહિતના કુરિવાજોને જાકારો આપતા તળપદા કોળી પટેલો ધોલેરા નજીકના ગોગલા ગામમાં યોજાયેલ સંમેલનમાં નવું બંધારણ ઘડાયું

ભાસ્કર ન્યૂઝ. અમદાવાદ

ધોલેરા પાસેના ગોગલા ગામે આજે ‘ભાલ વિસ્તારના સમસ્ત તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજના યોજાયેલા મહાસંમેલનમાં અનેક લોકો અને આગેવાનોએ વર્ષોથી ચાલ્યા આવતાં લગ્ન અને મરણપ્રસંગના કુરિવાજોને જાકારો આપી સમાજને નવી દિશા તરફ દોરી જતા બંધારણની રચના કરી હતી. આ નવા બંધારણનો ગામેગામ અમલ થાય તે માટેની કમિટી પણ બનાવી છે, જે આ તમામ બાબતો પર ચાંપતી નજર રાખશે.

રસપ્રદ વાત એ છે કે, આ કમિટીમાં બહેનો પણ સરખી ભાગીદારીમાં હશે. ભાલ જેવા સૂકા પ્રદેશમાં ૭૦ ટકા વસતી તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજની છે. સમાજની વર્તમાન સ્થિતિ વિશે તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજના એક આગેવાન કાળુભાઈ ડાભીએ કહ્યું કે, ‘‘ખાસ કરીને અમારા સમાજમાં લગ્ન અને મરણપ્રસંગ વખતે એટલા બધા કુરિવાજો છે કે તેના ભાર નીચે વ્યક્તિ આજીવન દબાયેલી રહે છે. વળી તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજમાં કન્યાવિક્રયનો પ્રશ્ન વ્યાપક છે, જેમાં દીકરીનાં લગ્ન માટે વરપક્ષ તરફથી દીકરીવાળાને ઓછામાં ઓછા ૮૦ હજારથી લઈ બે લાખ રૂપિયા ચૂકવવા પડે છે. જો દીકરા પક્ષ તરફથી આ રકમ આપવાની ક્ષમતા ન હોય તો દીકરો કુંવારો રહી જાય છે, પણ દીકરાને કુંવારો તો ન રખાય ને? એમ દીકરી પક્ષને આપવા માટે જરૂરી રકમ માટે પરિવારની થોડીઘણી જમીન પણ શાહુકારને ત્યાં ગિરવે મૂકી દે છે. દીકરાનાં લગ્ન વખતે મોં માગ્યા પૈસા આપ્યા પછી દયનીય હાલત તો દીકરીની જ થાય છે, કેમ કે સાસરિયાંવાળા તો એક જ મેણું મારે છે કે ‘અમે તને મફત નથી લાવ્યા, તારા બાપાને લાખ રૂપિયા ચૂકવ્યા છે’. આવા સમયે દીકરી



■ ધોલેરાના ગોગલા ગામે તળપદા કોળી પટેલોના સંમેલનને સંબોધતાં અગ્રણી. - કૃષ્ણ દલે

વહુ મટીને એક ચીજવસ્તુ બની જાય છે. આ બધી બાબતો અટકે તે જરૂરી છે અને ખાસ કરીને દરિયાકાંઠાની આસપાસ આવેલા સાવ સામાન્ય સ્થિતિમાં જીવતા પરિવારો માટે દરવર્ષે સમૂહલગ્નનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવશે અને તેનો ખર્ચ સમાજ ઉપાડશે’ આ સંમેલન યોજાયું તે પહેલાં ભાલ વિસ્તારમાં કાર્યરત્ માહિતી સંસ્થા દ્વારા આખાય વિસ્તારમાં ‘કન્યાવિક્રય સંવાદયાત્રા’ થઈ હતી. સંસ્થાનાં નિયામક દેવુબહેન પંડ્યાએ કહ્યું કે, અમે આ યાત્રા કરી ત્યારે ધોલેરા અને ભાવનગરના વિસ્તારમાં કન્યાવિક્રયનું પ્રમાણ વિશેષ હતું. વળી આર્થિક રીતે કમર તોડી નાંખે તેવા આ રિવાજને લીધે અનેક પરિવારોને બરબાદ થયેલા જોઈ આ

સંમેલનનો વિચાર સમાજના લોકોને જ આવ્યો અને તેમણે ભેગા મળી નવું બંધારણ રચ્યું, જે ખરેખર પશ્ચદર્શક બની શકે.’ નવા બંધારણ મુજબ કોઈ વ્યક્તિ દીકરા પક્ષ પાસેથી રકમ માગી શકશે નહિ, દહેજ લેવું નહિ, મરણ વખતે ઓછી વ્યક્તિએ જવું વગેરે અનેક ઝીણીઝીણી બાબતોને વણી લીધી છે. આ મહાસંમેલનમાં તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજના અગ્રણી તખાદાદા, કાનજીભાઈ તળપદા, પુરુષોત્તમ મકવાણા, સોમાભાઈ ગાંડાભાઈ વગેરે ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા અને નવા બંધારણને લીલી ઝંડી આપી હતી. સંમેલનમાં સમાજના લોકો દ્વારા જ કન્યાવિક્રય પર તૈયાર કરાયેલું નાટક બતાવવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

Koli Patel boys find paying dowry taxing

Radha Sharma | TNN

Ahmedabad: It's not just girls who are victims of the dowry system in India. Boys in Talpada Koli Patel community, predominantly settled in 52 villages in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar, are worse off. They are unable to get a bride as their families cannot afford the hefty dowry demands from the girls' side!

In Khun village in Dhandhuka, depression is widespread amongst boys who cannot find themselves a wife because they can't afford to pay dowry to the girls.

Babu Raghani, 28, has been sulking at home for the last few months, not even talking to his family.

Villagers say Babu is depressed ever since he was refused marriage as his landless parents can't afford a dowry of Rs 1.5 lakh demanded. "Our boy's life is finished," rues Babu's father Adabhai.

Activists say such is the impact of this menace of reverse dowry, that almost 70 per cent families of this community are neck deep in debt and have mortgaged their land to raise the dowry to be paid to the bride's father.

The dowry named 'dikri vikray', roughly translated as selling price of the daughter, ranges from Rs 35,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh.

Here, the bridegroom's father is expected to pay up for every small expense incurred including the marriage feast, fee paid to the pandit solemnising the marriage and even the barber who distributes the invitation cards.

The boy's father is also asked to make donations for the village school, the village gate and has a clause of inflation!

"At least 70 per cent families have mortgaged their land to get their sons married. Moneylenders exploit this situation by charging 5 to 7 per

cent rate of interest. Since most are not able to pay back, they also lose their land," says Devu Pandya of Mahiti, an NGO spearheading the movement to abolish the tradition of dowry in this community.

Madhuben, mother of five sons, has embraced poverty in getting them married.

"I have almost become penniless paying dowry for the

REVERSE DOWRY



Such is the impact of this menace of reverse dowry, that almost 70 per cent families of this community are neck deep in debt and have mortgaged their land to raise the dowry to be paid to the bride's father

marriage of my four sons. The youngest is yet to get married, I hope I see him with a bride before I die," says the distraught mother.

"The reverse dowry system has pushed the entire community towards an irreversible state of indebtedness. This will have to change if the community has to survive," says Dinesh Pandya, another activist of Mahiti that recently led a week-long rally creating mass awareness about this social evil in 19 villages in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar.

કુરિવાજો ડામીને તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજ વિકાસ સાધશે

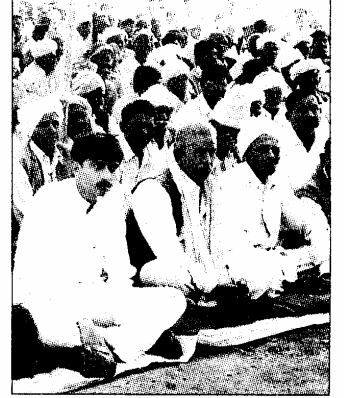
ગોગલાના મહાસંમેલનમાં પરંપરાગત રિવાજોમાં ફેરફાર

ભાસ્કર વ્યાજ, અમદાવાદ, ઇંદૂકા

ધોલેરા પાસે આવેલા ગોગલા ગામ ખાતે આજે ભાલ વિસ્તારના સમસ્ત તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજનું મહાસંમેલન યોજાયું. તેમાં સમાજના વિકાસને અવરોધતા અનેક કુરિવાજોને ડામી દઈ સામાજિક પરિવર્તનનો એક નવો સંચાર પેદા કર્યો હતો. ભાલ વિસ્તારના તળપદા કોળી સમાજ માટે આ એક ઐતિહાસિક ઘટના બની રહેશે કેમ કે મહાસંમેલનમાં સમાજમાં દરેક વ્યક્તિને પાયમાલ કરવા કુરિવાજો બંધ કરવામાં બંધારણની જાહેરાત કરી હતી. સંમેલનમાં તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજ પ્રત્યે સ્થિતિ તમામ આગેવાનો હાજર રહ્યા હતા.

જો કે રસપ્રદ વાત એ છે કે, કન્યાવિક્રય જેવા રિવાજમાં પોતાની જમીન વેચવી પડી હોય તેવા લોકો પણ આ સંમેલનમાં જોડાયા હતા અને પોતાની જે સ્થિતિ થઈ છે તે બીજાની ન થાય તે માટે સમજાવતા હતા. ધોલેરા પાસેના રાહાતળાવના મશરુભાઈ ચૌહાણે કહ્યું કે, મારી પાસે ૨૦૦ વીધા જમીન હતી. મારે ત્રણ દીકરા હતા અને પાંચ દીકરીઓ. દીકરાને પરણાવ્યા ત્યારે દીકરીવાળાને વ્યાજ લાવીને પૈસા ચૂકવ્યા હતા. જો આ વ્યાજ ચૂકવવામાં મારી ૧૦૫ વીધા જમીન જમીન જતી રહી. જો કે મારે પાંચ દીકરીઓ પણ હતી, પણ મેં દીકરીના લગ્ન વખતે સામેથી પૈસા ન લીધા અને હું માનું છું કે દીકરીના પૈસા ન લેવાય. 'ચિંતાજનક વાત એ છે કે આ વિસ્તારમાં એચ આઈ.વીનું પ્રમાણ ઘણું વધી રહ્યું છે. આગેવાનોનાં જણાવ્યા પ્રમાણે વટામણ ચોકડી, ધોલેરા ચોકડી, બગોદરા હાઈ વે પર આવતી કોલગર્લ પાસે આ કુંવારા છોકરાઓ જાય છે. તેમની પાસે કોઈ રસ્તો નથી અને એ રીતે નવું જ દૂષણ વ્યાપી રહ્યું છે. દીકરીનાં લગ્ન માટે શાહુકાર પાસે જમીન-ઝવેરાત મૂકવા પડ્યા હોય તેવા તો અનેક દાખલાઓ ભાલ વિસ્તારનાં તળપદા કોળી પટેલ સમાજમાંથી મળી આવે.

મહત્વની વાત એ છે કે અહીં કન્યાઓની કમી નથી. દીકરીના જન્મને તો આવકારવામાં આવે છે. કેમ કે તેના લગ્ન વખતે તો મા-બાપને પૈસા મળે છે. આ બધામાં સૌથી વધારે ભોગ તો અંતે મહિલાએ જ બનવાનું હોય છે. સાંદીડા ગામમાં જ્યાંબેને આ વિશે કહ્યું કે, 'મારા પતિ ગુજરી ગયા છે. જો કે મારા લગ્ન વખતે મારા માવતરે સાસરિયાં પણ પાસેથી પૈસા લીધેલા એટલે મારા પતિ જીવ્યા ત્યાં લગી મેણું



■ મહાસંમેલનમાં સમાજના અગ્રણીઓની રિવાજોમાંથી બહાર આવવા આપીલ. -ઈન્દુ દવે

મારતા રહ્યાં કે, તને તો હું પૈસા આપીને લાવ્યો છું. લગ્ન પછી આ મહેણું આપી જિંદગી દરેક દીકરીને સાંભળવું પડે છે એટલું નહીં સાસરાપક્ષે કરેલું દેવું ભરપાઈ કરવા માટે દીકરીએ પણ તનતોડ મહેનત કરવી પડે છે.

હું દરેક માવતરને સમજાવું છું કે આ કુરિવાજોને બંધ કરી દીકરીઓને ભણાવે.' મહાસંમેલનમાં જાહેર થયેલા બંધારણના અમલ માટે દરેક ગામમાં જે કમિટી બનશે તેમાં મહિલાઓનો પણ ચોક્કસ હિસ્સો હશે. આ કમિટીની ઉપર એક મોટી કમિટી હશે. દરેક કમિટીમાં સરખા પ્રમાણમાં બહેનો ભાગીદાર બનશે. જો નવા બંધારણનો કોઈ ભંગ કરશે તો તેની સામે આ કમિટી કડક પગલાં ભરશે.

સમાજનાં નવા બંધારણમાં શું હશે?

- દીકરા પક્ષ તરફથી કોઈ જ રકમ લેવી નહીં.
- સમાજનાં દરેક બાળકને ભણાવવું
- સગપણ વખતે છોકરા-છોકરી બંને પક્ષની સહમતી જરૂરી
- સગપણ વખતે કોઈ લેવડ-દેવડ કરવી નહીં
- બાળમાં ફક્ત ૫૫ માણસોએ જ જવું.
- સીમત વિદીમાં ફક્ત બે વ્યક્તિએ જ જવું.
- મરણ પછી બારમાંનો રિવાજ બંધ કર્યાં છે.

In Bhal, she's made them say no to bride price

Debuben Pandya's efforts led Koli Patels from 52 villages of Bhal region to give up practice

Recalling her past, she says, "We were asked to sit on the floor at the back, while the children of higher caste like Darbars and Patels used to sit on benches in the front," she says.



Patels have now adopted a social constitution against practice at behest of Debuben Pandya. Javed Rajja

DP BHATTACHARYA
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 7

DISCRIMINATED for being Dalit, she took up cudgils for women and today, after 35 years, she won her first battle for emancipation... that of banning bride price.

Sixty-year-old Debuben Pandya was instrumental in convincing the Koli Patels from 52 villages of the State's Bhal region to give up the practice of bride price by accepting a social constitution on January 15, 2007.

The system of bride price for long has been a bane for the community with most of the families facing financial crunch.

To arrange for the money, families were often forced to borrow money from the village moneylenders at interest rates varying between 60 and 120 per cent per year.

Families in the process often lost their house and land and had to migrate from the village to work in nearby areas as labourers or move to the salt pans of Bhavnagar or to Surat.

many young men of the community to visit workers and end up getting infected with HIV/AIDS.

Born in a Dalit family in Zanzarka village of Dhanduka Taluka of Ahmedabad District, she faced all odds in her fight to purge the system, underwent trauma of being an untouchable in

Through these societies, more than 60 women have been able to reclaim their mortgaged land from the village moneylenders.

As her husband worked as a primary

school teacher in Bhanagad village, Debuben started a balwadi in the same village, thus began her journey as a social activist.

Through her job, she mingled with village women and introduced them to the concepts of family planning a taboo then. "Though I faced resistance initially, soon the women started paying heed to my advice," she adds.

It was during this period in 1979 that Utthan, an Ahmedabad-based NGO, started its work in the region and Debuben joined them. This gave shape to Mahiti, a concept to empower the people of the region and had Debuben in the forefront.

"Our association with Debuben goes back to the fag-end of 1970s, when Utthan was trying to make vulnerable communities of Bhal region self-reliant," says Nafisa Barot from Utthan.

"It was at that period we came in touch with her. She was a strong woman with tremendous leadership potential, fighting her own individual battles then. Naturally, when Mahiti shaped up she became the torchbearer," she adds.

Later, Mahiti was registered as a separate organisation in 1994, with its head office at Dholera in Dhanduka Taluka of Ahmedabad.

Today, the organization is working on creating micro-finance, social justice and healthcare and sanitation in the Bhal region of the State.

Apart from working for social justice, Debuben, through her organization, has managed to construct 22 plastic line ponds to cater to the needs of drinking water for 15,000 families in 19 villages to counter the problem of salinity.

Further, her organization has set up more than 500 roof rain water harvesting tanks and 35 water management committees in this arid region.

In Bhal, she's made them...

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JANUARY 16, 2006

Reeling under debts, Koli Patels ban bride price system

DP BHATTACHARYA
GOGLA, JANUARY 15

GEETABEN Sarasla still recalls the dreadful days of her marriage. Her father had taken about Rs 25,000 as bride price from her in-laws for her marriage. "They used to constantly remind me that they had bought me from my parents with their hard-earned money. As the family had borrowed the sum from the local money lender at an exorbitant rate of interest, I also had to double up as a labourer in the nearby fields to support the family income, to pay the debt off," says Geeta.

However, hopefully now things could turn different for her daughters Sanjita and Sonal as the community leaders of the Koli Patels in Bhal area on Monday adopted a 30-point constitution, forbidding bride price in all 52 villages that come under the stretch here at Gogla village in Dhanduka taluka.

The system of bride price has for long been spelling havoc on the financial well-being of the community. To arrange for the money, payable to the girl's family, the groom's family is often forced to borrow money from the village money lender at interest rates varying between 60 and 120 per cent per year. More often than not, families in the process lose their house and land and are pushed to move out of the village to work in nearby areas as labourers or move to the salt pans of Bhavnagar or Surat.

"Normally one is expected to pay anything between Rs 80,000 and Rs 1.5 lakh to get a bride in the community. However, with all the paraphernalia, the expenditure goes much higher than that," said a member of the community.

sahukar (village money lender) five years ago but today I am told that I owe him Rs 1.75 lakh as mere interest," said Masru Chauthan from Gogla village. To get two of his sons married off he has already lost 105

Practice led to vicious debt traps, rising alcoholism and AIDS; young women married off early, overburdened with work

which is rampant among the Koli Patels across the state assumes a dreadful face in the Bhal area as most of the community members are poor agriculturists. "They get their girls married off at an early age for money," Pandya told Newsline adding that the practice often results in total breakdown of the girls' health, by the time they reach their 20s.


"With debt comes alcoholism and domestic violence," Pandya said adding that in some cases where the boy's family cannot arrange enough money to get the boy married off, the boy start visiting commercial sex workers operating across the highways in the area. "In almost all the villages, we have a number of cases of HIV/AIDS, which is a direct result of this practice," Pandya added.

"We have been trying to create awareness for a long time among the community," Pandya said, adding that recently a procession was taken out across villages in the region to sensitise the community members regarding the evils of the practice. "While the women of the community have been very receptive, we came across a lot of resistance from the men," Pandya said. "However, the community has finally agreed to formulate this constitution and ban the practice, which in itself is a great step towards eliminating the evil," she added.

1.3 Legal Aid and Guidance Center

With a view to continue the campaign taken up by B-SAG initiated by Mahiti and make it more effective, a Legal Aid Guidance Center has been set up at Mahiti campus. This center has been working since last 1 ½ years. The aim of setting up the center is to help people avail of legal counselling or guidance whenever they need it. Two members from the B-SAG have been assigned the responsibility of the center and at least one of the member remains regularly present at the center. During this year **170 people have visited the center. Legal interventions have been initiated in 100 cases.** The details are given in **Table 02.**

A library containing legal books, posters, forms of government schemes are kept here and the material is available to the people who ask for it. A six monthly newsletter has been published by the center to spread the information related to the center including its activities among people. The para legal workers have been imparted capacity building training. The records of activities of the center are systematically maintained.

Process Case Study: Women Land Ownership Ms. Kailashben J. Rahani, Village: Devpura, Tal: Barwala	
	Kailashben, a resident of Devpura village is a widow with four young daughters. She is an agriculture labour. Her parents in-law also are no more. She had 60 bighas land belonging to her in-law's family. When she went to cultivate the land, she realized that the land has been encroached by others. In the village, one of the persons who had taken possession of the land illegally argued that he had lent money to Kailashben's deceased husband. Another person claimed the land belonging to his family by generations. Kailashben was confused and troubled.
Then she visited the Legal Aid & Guidance Center to seek justice. The center first of all took up action related to succession by Kailashben because the land was on the name of her father-in-law. After several visits, the village secretary transferred the land on the Kailashben's Name. Then the B-SAG met the encroachers and discussed the issue with them in the presence of village leaders and persuaded them to let the land go. They put a condition to get the land measured and if it turned out tallying with the registered survey number, they would give away the land. Application for measuring survey number of land has been made and it is in the process.	

1.4 Formation & Strengthening of Youth Organizations



During the year, youth groups have been formed in 10 villages. The total number of members is 296. This is an addition to the 10 groups with 260 members formed during last year. **Table 03** presents the details of this activity. Thus, now, **we have 20 youth groups with 556 youth membership.** These youth due to unemployment in this area go to Bhavnagar city for labour or diamond cutting work. With a view to motivate them to maintain their contacts with their native place, Mahiti has evolved a new way. The team members of the organization go to Bhavnagar on Sunday and holidays and meet

them there. Meetings are held for discussion and entertainment. Recreation activities are also organized. When they come to their villages, they can go to youth centers. These centers have small libraries with indoor and outdoor sports equipment. Mahiti has partly contributed in setting up of these centers. The village youth collect funds locally to run the center and keep it well equipped. The centers have proved to be much beneficial because it provide a place to village youth to go to and pass their time in constructive activities.

Bhal Youth Cricket Tournament: A cricket tournament for the village youth groups in the area was organized during **9th November 2006 to 13th November 2006 at Ganeshgadh village** (Bhavnagar). Youth of 20 villages were participated in this tournament. The tournament was inaugurated by Mr.



Vijay S. Parmar (Director, JanVikas, Ahmedabad). He explained the objective of the tournament and asked youth to get organized, use their energies for positive purposes, and sustain themselves in coming time of completion. He guided them how and what skills they need to develop for survival. He also inspired youth to do something for the society. Two prizes one for Man of the Series and another for wining team have been given. The prizes were awarded in the presence of Bhavnagar Taluka President, Taluka Development Officer and the Director, District Rural Development Agency.

Youth Activities: Members of youth groups in villages have slowly started taking up various activities of their choice as well as socially beneficial activities for their village. Mahiti acts as a facilitator in these activities and helps them in planning and execution aspects. Many activities including village cleanliness drive, sports, tree plantation, cultural programs and recreation activities have been carried out by the youth during the year. Sports activities have helped them develop feeling of unity. During the Bride Price Campaign, the youth groups of every village carried out commendable work in organizing the program. This indicates that youth have realized the seriousness of social evils and have indirectly expressed their protest against harmful social customs. When, Mahiti started formation of youth centers there were no such activities taken up by youth. When they got the support they have risen up remarkably. Sports and music equipments supplied by the organization has motivated the youth towards sports and music. This year, 03 cricket tournaments had been organized by the youth themselves. Youth activities carried during the year is given below.



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Village	Youth Activities
Navagam Karna	Village Cleanliness Drive, Initiation of Savings and Credit Activities, Cultural Programs, and Sports
Sarsala	Sports, Cultural Programs, Village Cleanliness Drive
Sonrai	Music Program, Sports and Tree Plantation
Kana Talav	Cultural Program, Campaign to ban liquor, and sports
Sanesh	Sports and Tree Plantation

1.5 Rally against relaxation of prohibition policy by the Gujarat government



During this year, Gujarat Government has relaxed its policy related to prohibition for SEZ, well known clubs and start hotels. Relaxation of prohibition can not be tolerated in the land of Mahatma Gandhi's state. If prohibition policy is relaxed, it would be insecurity for women to go out after dark, the incidents of violence and atrocities against women shall rise. Poor people will become poorer because liquor shall be freely available to them, and in such circumstances women shall have to suffer more. A rally was organized by eminent voluntary organizations of Gujarat on **21st February 2007 at Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad**. Mahiti also participated in the rally. When Mahiti

discussed the issue with several gram panchayats, they too extended their support. 42 gram panchayats presented their written protest resolutions to the GoG. More than **600 women from Bhal region joined the rally** and expressed their protest vigorously.

02. Community Healthcare Program

Bhal is a backward region not only from socio economic aspects but also in physical infrastructural development too. Due to absence of appropriate infrastructural facilities, people living in this region are deprived of basic health related facilities. There are Primary Health Centres (PHCs) set up by the government but condition of these PHCs is not at all satisfactory. A few private practitioners (doctors) exploit the patients. Especially, pregnant women's and children's health issues are of great concern. Malnutrition, early marriages, lack of capacity or knowledge to look after young children causes of illhealth among women. Social backwardness, lack of awareness lead to superstitions and beliefs regarding mother and childcare often endanger women's and children's lives too. People often consult witchdoctors (Bhuvras) in cases of illness. Moreover, excessive physical strain during pregnancy results in miscarriages, skin diseases, malaria, diseases related to digestive system due to consumption of contaminated water and food are prevalent in this area. Children also become victims of various diseases like poliomyelitis; measles etc because often they are not administered vaccination after birth, lack of sexual knowledge result in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Children grow up without proper attention. They suffer from bad habits and malnutrition. They are not sent to schools. Young girls become victims of social and physical problems during adolescence and live miserably for the rest of their life.

Pregnant and lactating mothers, who need utmost care are neglected by their families owing to poverty and superstitions. They neither get proper food, nor proper rest and healthcare. Cases of miscarriages are frequent. If pregnancy passes safely delivery by traditional birth attendants – Dai often put the mother and new born's lives in danger. There are PHCs in the area but they are far away from the villages and also not in sufficient numbers. In many cases serious patients or women in labour die mid way before they can reach the PHC.

In this condition, it is imperative that people get alternative healthcare system. The healthcare program of Mahiti aims not only to provide infrastructural facilities in healthcare but also to create health related awareness among people. Mahiti wants that each and every village in Bhal region becomes self reliant in healthcare

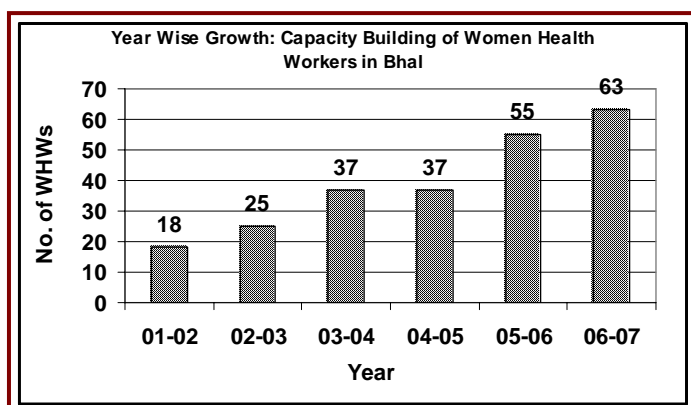
2.1 Capacity Building Training for Women Health Workers (WHWs)

Mahiti's Community Healthcare Program started in 1995. The second phase of the program started in 1998. During 1998 – 2000, the 37 women health workers were trained. Then no more health workers were trained till 2003 because there was no fund available for that. In the meantime, trained women health workers continued their work at village level. In 2004, it was felt that the trained health workers need some refresher training because they should be kept informed with the new developments in the field of healthcare. Therefore, the health workers were imparted **two trainings** during the year. The details of training programs given in **Table 04**. Mahiti has already taken measures to keep this program continue for a long period. Mahiti provides medicines to the WHWs to use in the villages. Mahiti acts as a facilitator in this sphere. The medicines purchased in bulk from wholesale market cost less and the WHWs have to pay less compared to the open retail market. The WHWs add into it the share of their minimum work input and then supply medicines to the needy people.



Capacity building of New Women Health Workers: Mahiti carried out a study to evaluate the impact of its healthcare program in 2001. The study revealed that the program was fairly successful. It was possible to extend it in other villages, and then Mahiti decided to include 25 more villages in this program for a period of 03 years (2005 to 2008). **During this year, 05 training programs were organized to train WHWs. 08 new WHWs have been identified and included in the trainings.** This capacity building programs made women more confident. They

No	Name	Village	Date of Joining
1	Vasantben Dharajiya	Kumbharwada	20-05-2006
2	Pankhuben Baraiya	Sanesh	20-05-2006
3	Labhuben Rathod	Gandhipura	20-05-2006
4	Champaben Makwana	Anandpura	25-08-2006
5	Ujiben Bavaliya	Kapadiyali	11-09-2006
6	Vasantben Baraiya	Kapadiyali	11-09-2006
7	Dhaniben Makawana	Mundi	25-08-2006
8	Anandiben Chavda	Varna	25-08-2006



have learnt to identify the illness from symptoms and are given appropriate treatment. They are now capable to find out if the cases are serious and when to refer them to suitable medical practitioner. This year, vaccination program were organized in 20 villages by setting up linkages with PHCs. 75 women have been operated for family planning. These women also vigilantly carry out health awareness raising activities. They are also trying to change sanitation and hygiene related habits of people in the villages.

Referral for Critical Illness: Mahiti's Health Program staff and women health workers assist the patients having serious condition and are in need of operation. They accompany the patient to the hospital in the town / city nearby. They also refer the case to specialists if found necessary. During the year, **28 such cases have been handled.** The cases were mainly women patients with iteral and sexual diseases / problem. Thus, Mahiti along with empowerment and development work fulfill the duty as a support system in cases of critical illness.

2.2 Training and Capacity Building of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) – Dai women

Infant and mother mortality rate is quite high all over India and Gujarat is no exception to that. Govt health departments deliberated on correcting the situation. It was decided that all the child births should be done either at a private or a government maternity home. One of the major causes of high infant and mother mortality rate is taking services of traditional birth attendants in rural areas. These TBAs do not have any formal training or knowledge of scientific facts related to pregnancy, deliveries or post natal care of infact and mother. One rededy of the problem was to carry out deliveries in

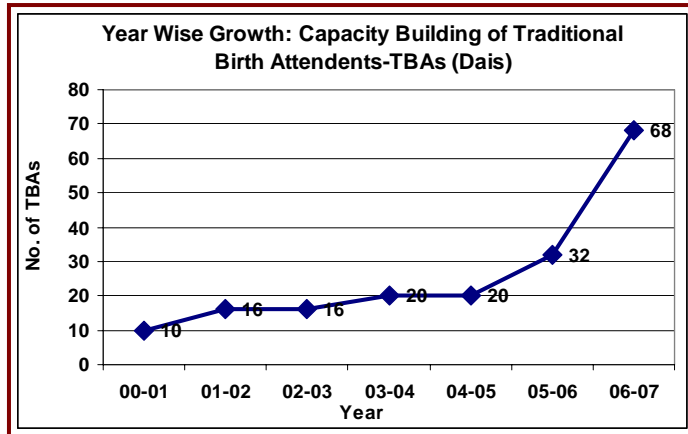


maternity and services of local midwives were necessary in rural areas. Then after deliberation with voluntary agencies working in health sector, a Gujarat Dai Sangathan² was formed about 1 ½ years back. This network prepared a dai training program syllabus for their capacity building. This syllabus has been approved by Gujarat of Government. Mahiti also is a member of this network. This syllabus is in two phases of five-days each. Mahiti is the first organization in Gujarat to impart training in accordance with approved training module and partially supported by District Reproductive Child Health Society.

² Gujarat Dai Sangathan is a network of voluntary agencies working on reproductive and child health sector and of traditional birth attendants. It works for policy related advocacy.

Mahiti has also included the TBAs in these training programs those were trained in the earlier phase of healthcare program. During the year, **06 capacity building training programs** had been organized and a total of **68 TBAs from 36 villages have received the training**. A total of **36 more TBAs have been identified** during the year. More details please refer **Table 06**.

2.3 Bhal Dai Women Convention / Fair: A fair had been organized on **23rd February 2007** at Mahiti Campus in collaboration with Gujarat Dai Sangathan. The objective of the meet was to inform



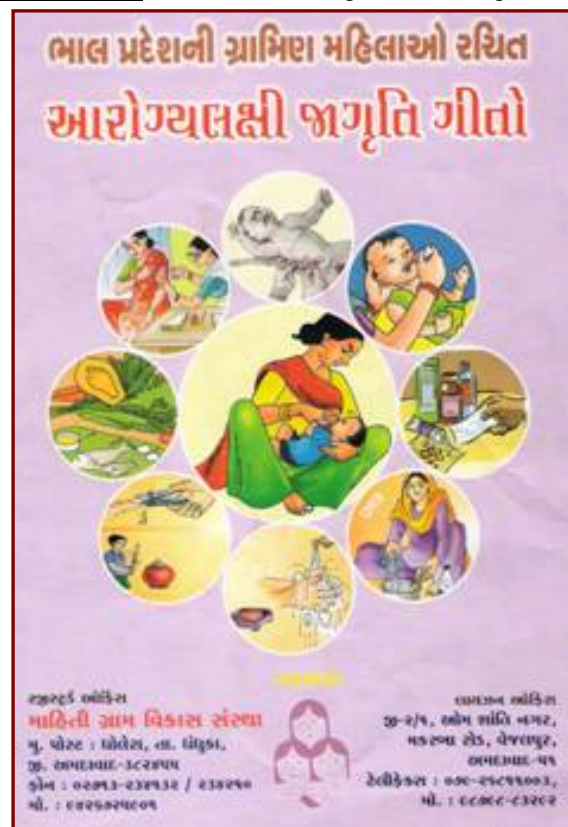
the TBAs in the area about the government health schemes, structures related to safe motherhood and to provide them knowledge with fun, also to interact regarding the problems faced by TBAs while carrying out their work in the villages. Another objective of the meet was to create identity of dai women which can enhance their confidence and enthusiasm to work. Mrs. Gayatriben Giri (State NGO Coordinator, Dept of Health & Family Welfare, GoG) was the chief guest. Local and district level government health officials also attended the program. About 200 women from the

Bhal region attended the convention.

Inauguration of a Book on Folk Songs of Health Awareness: A book covering the messages of



healthcare through folk songs has been published by Mahiti. Mrs. Giri and Mrs. Devuben Pandya jointly inaugurated the book during the convention. The aim of this collection of songs is to create interest among rural population and convey the message of healthcare through folk songs which are written by health workers and Dai women of Bhal. Since the education level in the rural population in Bhal is too low, people tend to forget what they have learnt in the training programs. They need repetition often. Audio



visual communication media like picture, posters, short plays, vedios, games songs etc prove quite useful in conveying the message effectively. Songs based on popular folk songs tunes, in dialect familiar to village population have proved very popular. They can be sung again and again and remembered, repeated easily. This song book shall be very useful to

health workers, TBAs, voluntary organizations, government health officials and nurses. **Performance of a play at the convention:** A short play covering the topics of pregnancy and preparation for child birth was presented by TBAs at the convention.

2.4 Review Meeting of Women Health Workers & TBAs: Every month cluster level meetings are organized between 10th to 15th. The aims of these meetings are to keep the TBAs & WHWs informed about the new developments in their field of work and to get the reports of their work. Mahiti has divided this work into three clusters – Dholera, Barwala and Nari. WHWs based in the villages present the reports of their work. These presentations help all the works because they get to know what other workers – their colleagues in the other villages do and also analyse their own work more deeply. The workers are given suggestions to improve their work. Besides this the records of the treatment administered to the patients and of deliveries during the month are checked and verified in the meeting. The workers interact freely about their problems and experiences related to government healthcare services available for the rural population.

2.5 Emergency Health Transport Service: Mahiti has purchased a mobile medical van cum ambulance to provide healthcare in emergency. This van is used in three ways 1. To carry the woman patients to a hospital if the child birth is risky and to carry victims of accidents to a hospital, 2. The medical van is also used to organize cluster level medical camps in remote villages. 3. in disaster situation. During the year, this van is used **20 emergency cases** of risky pregnancy, accidents, paralysis attack etc. This service has proved a boon to the patients and their relatives because they get a safe and quick transportation.

2.6 Health Awareness Programs: Mahiti had planned to organize health awareness program in 25 villages. In stead of those a total of **26 awareness programs organized** during the year. These programs were attended by 1025 people. Topics like care of infant, tuberculosis, information of common diseases and emniocentesis were covered in these programs.

2.7 Medical Diagnosis and Treatment Camp: The monsoon last year brought excessive rains all over Gujarat. Majority of rivers'd dams overflowed. The Sabarmati River passing through Bhal region was flooded and many villages were affected. Among those were 08 villages of Dholka taluka where Mahiti works. Anandpura, Jakhda, Sargawada, and Moti Boru villages remained waterlogged with 2 to 6 feet deep water continuously for 12 days. As the result once the water gets cleared waterborne diseases started spreading in these villages. The diseases named chicken gunia showed



up for the first time like an epidemic. It was widespread in Saurashtra region and Surat city especially and whole of government machinery concentrated on these areas neglecting Bhal region. Mahiti in coordination with primary health center, Vataman organized medical camps to provide treatment to the affected people. **Two camps were organized at Vataman on 9th and 22nd September 2006.** Dr. Dipak Gupta of PHC and Dr. N. B. Chauhan treated about 581 patients at these two camps. The details have been in **table 08.**

Conclusion

- 63 women health workers in 43 villages have been trained. This year, 08 women have been involved in these programs. 68 dai women from 36 village have been trained. 36 TBAs have been identified for capacities building that are undergoing training.
- 75 women had tobectomy during the year
- Vaccination camps organized in 20 villages by coordination of WHWs with PHCs
- WHWs helped 04 women to get benefit of “Chiranjivi” Scheme and 05 women to get benefit of “Janani” Scheme launched by government.
- TBAs can identify risks during child birth and post natal period and if needed refer the case to suitable doctor / hospital.
- WHWs & TBAs having realized the bad impact of gender discrimination and make efforts to convey this understanding to people at large.

- TBAs who earlier went to the expectant mothers at the time of delivery now visit the pregnant women often during pregnancy and give them proper guidance related to food etc
- TBAs training has helped in eradicating a baseless belief among local people that a newborn baby should not be given breast feeding. TBAs have been successful in convincing women to breast feed their newborn babies.

03. Women Empowerment – Capacity Building of Women’s Savings and Credit Cooperatives – Micro Finance

Since its inception formation of women’s self help groups to give impetus to savings and credit activity has been one of the primary activities for Mahiti. Savings & credit is a basic activity because it acts as a shield, an alternative against the economic exploitation of rural women by moneylenders / sahuikars. These people lend money to poor needy families at exorbitant interest rates and in majority of cases repaying the loan along with interest is next to impossible task for poor families. Their whole life is spent in attempts to repay the debt and when they fail to repay, the moneylender snatches away their land in lieu of money. Mahiti gave impetus to this issue and has achieved commendable success. In many cases women have managed to get out of exploitation.

As years passed, it was realized that an alternative banking system was needed. Mahiti wanted a banking system which is available to women members quite easily. Nationalized banks do not extend credit but for several reasons it is beyond the access of rural poor women. The processes for getting credit from a nationalized bank are quite cumbersome and it is a fact, however, disappointing it may be. In 2001, Mahiti felt that there should be a structure which gives ownership to women in a true sense, where they can have a share in the profit. It had to be a structure working on democratic values. Without wasting much time two cooperatives societies were registered under the cooperative act. They are **Bhal Women’s Savings and Credit Cooperative**, Dholera and **Bhal Women’s Jagruti Savings and Credit Cooperative**, Kalatalav. For this, Mahiti set up two administrative clusters in Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad district. Attempts were made to amalgamate all the women’s savings and credit groups. At present both the cooperatives are in the phase of extending their outreach and financial viability so that they can be sustainable and can emerge as regional level self sufficient Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

3.1 Capacity Building Training for Strengthening MFIs:



Mahiti’s aim is to make these two women’s organizations strong micro finance institutions at regional level so that people especially women can free themselves from the exploitation and also achieve higher socio economic status. For this, it is important to build the capacities of the

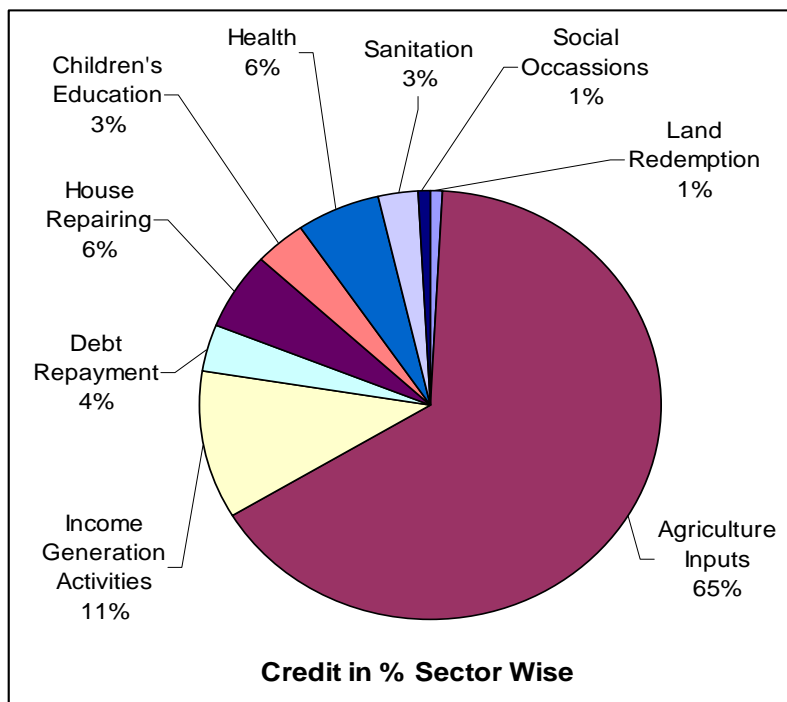
leaders of cooperatives and train them to handle various affairs of the MFIs. A number of trainings are imparted to these women. It includes cooperative management, accounts, finance, laws & regulation, management of SHGs, administrative aspects, perspective building, gender sensitization, role and responsibilities and leadership development etc. The details of trainings are given in **Table 06**.

3.2 Progress and Financial Status of both the cooperatives

No.	Particulars	Status as on 31.3.2006		Status as on 31.3.2007		Increased during the Year		Total Status as on 31.3.2007
		A'Bad	Bhav.	A'Bad	Bhav.	A'Bad	Bhav.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7=5-3	8=6-4	9=5+6
1	Villages covered	55	23	55	24	-	1	79
2	Women Membership	4,217	1,402	4,715	1,631	498	229	6,346
3	No. of Women Groups	184	47	214	54	30	7	268
4	Share Capital	360,660	83,230	432,770	141,560	72,110	58,330	574,330
5	Total Savings	2,630,996	631,929	3,846,611	979,875	1,215,615	347,946	4,826,486
6	Credit (Cumulative)	7,404,253	938,448	11,478,153	1,527,998	4,073,900	589,550	13,006,151
7	No. of loans	3,635	589	4,800	859	1,165	270	5,659
8	Recovery	2,488,899	420,206	3,084,348	721,848	595,449	301,642	3,806,196
9	Credit to be Recovered	3,029,101	519,590	4,018,653	806,150	989,552	286,560	4,824,803
10	Fixed Deposit by Mem.	125,700	-	251,200	-	125,500	-	251,200
11	Fixed Deposit by Mandli	300,000	254,063	800,000	250,000	500,000	(4,063)	1,050,000
12	Interest from Credit	409,647	39,900	554,649	68,120	145,002	28,220	622,769
13	Total Income	431,892	66,788	663,554	103,806	231,662	37,018	767,360
14	Total expenditure	239,271	44,078	308,064	76,108	68,793	32,030	384,172
15	Profit	192,621	22,710	355,490	27,698	162,869	4,988	383,188

3.3 Sector Wise Utilization of Credit during the year by women

No.	Utilization of Credit	Ahmedabad Cooperative	Bhavnagar Cooperative	Total No. of Loans during the year
		No. of Loan	No. of Loan	
Agricultural Inputs and Essential commodities				
1	Land Redemption	10	2	12
2	Agricultural seeds, Equipment and Edible Oil	804	137	941
	Total	814	139	953
Income Generation Activities				
3	Sewing Machine	18	2	20
4	Carpentry	10	-	10
5	Flour Mill	13	-	13
6	Dimanond Cutting Machine	19	-	19
7	Petty shop	39	9	48
8	Vegetable Cart	3	1	4
9	Cattle Purchase	36	8	44
	Total	138	20	158
Other Purposes				
10	Debt Repayment	31	22	53
11	Repairing of House	70	15	85
12	Child Education	49	-	49
13	Social Occassions	-	10	10
14	Health Problem	63	21	84
15	Sanitation / Toilets construction	--	43	43
	Total No. of Loans	1,165	270	1,435



The pie chart given here shows that the percentages of utilization of credit extended to the members for various purposes. This year **1435 women have accessed the credit** for various purposes of agriculture inputs, seeds, agricultural equipments and carrying out small income generating activities. Now, women have started taking credit for children's education which indicates that they have understood the importance of education.



Livelihood through Petty Shop – Ms. Vilashben Khant, Sarasala



Land Redemption from Moneylenders by accessing credit – Ms. Laxmiben Narubhai – Navagam Karna



Educational Loan – Ms. Vasatben Premajibhai Dadhi, Navaram Karna



Marketing of Seeds by Cooperative Leaders

Besides the increase in credit, the socio economic capacity of the cooperatives has increased. Now the Ahmedabad cooperative has started managing its affairs independently. It may take one or two years more for Bhavnagar cooperative to become self-sustained.

3.4 Bhal Women's Convention (Annual General Body Meeting)



With a view to raise awareness among local women regarding the area level issues, develop their understanding related to development processes and to strengthen networking and linkages between government and voluntary organizations – a **Bhal Mahila Sammelan was organized on 19th April 2006** at Mahiti campus. More than 3000 women attended the sammelan. Govt officials and representatives of NGOs were invited. Ms. Kailashben Jadeja (President of a Women's Federation in Kutchh) was invited as president to the convention. All of invited guests appreciated women's savings and credit activities and shared their views on various

women related issues. Moreover, following the government rules, the annual accounts of the cooperatives were presented before the members. It was a pleasant surprise for all of us when Ms. D. Thara (District Collector) also arrived at the function and listened to the issues and problems raised by women. She assured them to try her level best to find solutions to the problems.

3.5 Marketing of Seeds & Household Essential Commodities: Crops like sorghum, wheat and cotton are grown in Bhal region. Both the cooperatives supply good quality seeds at the sowing time to their members. In addition to that edible oil which is one the most important commodities also is supplied at reasonable rates to the members. The cooperative purchases seeds and edible oil in bulk from wholesale market and sales at a reasonable price to the members in their villages. This saves the members from the exploitation of local traders and middlemen. Payment system also is convenient to the members. They are supposed to pay half of the price at the time of purchase and remaining half in installments within next six months. The detail of this activity has been given in **Table 10**.

3.6 Social Security Scheme: Mahiti has coordinated with LIC of India for JanShree Bima Yojna. As part of Mahiti's concern for the social security of women, both the cooperatives have become nodal agencies for the scheme. Under this scheme a member is insured for the sum of Rs. 25000/- with a premium of Rs. 200/-. Out of this amount, the insured person has to pay Rs. 100/- and remaining Rs. 100/- are paid by GoI to LIC of India. This scheme covers casualiteis like natural death, death by accident and permanent disability. During the year, **637 men and women from 21 villages in Ahmedabad district and 400 from 12 villages in Bhavnagar district have joined in this scheme**. The villagers near seacoast are quite enthusiastic about the scheme whereas villages nearer to highway are still not very keen. More efforts are needed to be done for this area. During the year Rs. 1 lakh have been paid as insurance amount in 05 cases of natural death.

This year a new initiative was taken up to enhance social security of the people. Recently, LIC has introduced a micro insurance scheme called "**Jivan Madhur**". This scheme shall be implemented by setting up coordination with Confederation of Rural NGOs of India (CNRI) and LIC. Under this scheme, the insured person has to save minimum Rs. 250/- and he / she gets three times security against risks. Mahiti is planning to implement this scheme with cooperation of both cooperatives in the coming years.

3.7 Feasibility Study for the Development of Employment Opportunities: There are meagere employment alternatives in Bhal region. The migration to cities is a burning issue here. Mahiti wishes that people especially women get employment and income generation alternatives during non-agricultural period of the year so that migration can decrease. Mahiti assigned the work of carrying out a feasibility study to a Mumbai based organization named 'International Resources for Fairer Trade' - IRFT. They carried out a six monthS study. The researchers had made dialogue with village leaders, women, Mahiti staff, and traders in the area. At the end, it was found out that there are two employment oriented activities are feasible 1. Dairy Development – Milk Collection Centers and 2. Spice Processing Units during non-agriculture period. An indepth study report and proposal have been prepared for both these activities. Mahiti plans to raise resources for the development of these activities in future.

Consultion

- As the cooperatives have increased their prestige by proving their efficiency and performance. Looking this, many organizations come to visit to observe its activities. Women leaders provide the visitors necessary information about its functioning and experiences. The details of exposure visits to the cooperatives have been given in **Table 18**.
- Bhal Mahila Savings & Credit cooperative society has emerged as a strong area level women's bank.
- Management skills of the president, vice president and secretary have got enhanced. They can take decisions independently; make efforts to include more women in villages in savings & credit activities. Also make efforts to prevent and solve issues / problems related to credit.
- The women leaders have earned respect in their families and society. There have more participation in decision making process at domestic level.
- The representatives of the SHGs have been successful in convincing other women in the village regarding importance of savings. The amount saved has increased from Rs. 20 in the beginning to Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 now.

04. Natural Resouce Management & Development

The Bhal region has saline and alkaline soil with large creeks. The temperature fluctuations are severe. Natural calamities like high tide, floods, earthquake and drought are frequent. The sea water ingress is making land unproductive. It has got so much saturated with mineral salts that it can no longer soak surface water. Rainwaters simply get logged day to day life becomes difficult. The Sabarmati, Bhogawo, Sukhbadar, Ghelo and Kalubhar rivers flow through the region and meet Gulf of Cambay. Rainfall in this region is about 400 to 500 milliliter but as the soil is oversaturated most of the rainwater flows away into the sea. The adverse geographical and climatic conditions make the livelihood system very weak. Vegetation here is scant almost nil. The only vegetation found is *juliflora* and *salvadora percaica*. About six decades back there was used to be mangroves in this region. *Salvadora* and forage grass grew here in abundance but the grazing of camels from Kutchh region has depleted the vegetation near the coast.

There have been many geographical and climatic changes during the last two decades. The level of sea tides has gone up resulting in increase in saline water ingress. Water logging also has increased. Due to excessive silting in catchment area, the river courses change frequently. Wide ditches have developed on seacoast which has now spread as far as to agriculture land. People's problems shall rise seriously if people are not consulted regarding "Kalpasar" project and industrial infrastructural activities planned in this region.

Mahiti has been working on the issue of development and management of natural resources since its inception. Mahiti's work in this sphere is mainly for land conservation and improvement, drinking water resource management. These tasks are carried out by formation of village level institutions and employing their insight and encouraging their participation.

4.1 Land Conservation and Improvement: Mahiti has taken up various activities on the issue of soil conservation and improvement with cooperatives of various government and non government agencies. Watershed Development Program under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) with financial assistance of District Rural Development Agency (Bhavnagar) – DRDA has been successfully implemented in 11 villages of Bhavnagar taluka during 1998 to 2000. The same has been taken up under Drought Prone Area Program (DPAP) scheme with financial assistance from DRDA, Ahmedabad in 06 villages of Dhandhuka taluka during 2001 to 2006.

Activities during the year: Various activities like construction of inlet channel, wasteweirs, water inlet outlet structures, bunds, deepening of ponds, village pond protection walls, soak pits, stone pitching on mud bunds; field bunds, village boundaries, social afforestation etc were taken up in 07 villages of Dholka taluka under Integrated Wasteland Development Program (IWDP).

During the year 2006 – 07, 87 farmers in Saragwada village in Dholka taluka could get the facility of irrigation in 172 hectares land from the rainwater collected in the check dam. Due to this facility, they could grow 51920 kgs foodgrains as against 21000 to 25000 Kgs per year earlier. The irrigation from the check dam increased their income up to Rs. 2 to 2.5 lakhs.

During 2005-06, Mahiti has sent a proposal to CAPART, New Delhi to carry out Wasteland Development work in Navagam Karna village. In this context Mahiti has selected as PIA for the first phase of community organization, capacity building, base line survey, PRA and preparation of detailed proposal for this. After submitting detailed action plan to CAPART and it has rejected the proposal saying that watershed development has no more priority for us. This gave a shock to the organization and village community. The NRM activities carried out during the year and in the past have been given in **Table 11**.

4.2 Animal Husbandry: Seven animal husbandry and vaccination camps organized in Dholka taluka. About 294 animals were given treatment and vaccination. The animals suffering from Galsundho, Aafaro, and Shingada No Sado (Animal diseases) were treated at the camps. The details have been given in **Table 12**.

4.3 Drinking Water Resources Management: Mahiti has been continuously working on the issue of drinking water. It is indeed a challenging issue looking to the geographical climatic conditions of the region. So far **22 rainwater harvesting plastic lined ponds** have been constructed in 19 villages to prevent the stored water becoming saline due to effect of saline soil. This work has been jointly executed by Mahiti and Utthan. In addition to that Mahiti has made more than **550 Roof Rain Water Harvesting Tanks (RRWHT)** through which more than 4500 people can get safe potable water at their door step. 19 village ponds in 17 villages have been repaired and deepened.



28 more RRWHTs have been constructed in Khun and Bholad villages during the year. A demonstration program had been carried out in collaboration with Pravah in Redfa village of Barwala taluka to address the issue of drinking water and sanitation during last 1 ½ years. This program was successfully implemented and completed during this year. A water committee was formed with joint efforts Mahiti and Ahmedabad Cooperative, The committee was imparted various kinds of tranings, gram sabhas and meetings were organized. During last one and half years various Watsan activities such as recharging of well, new bore well, repairing of hand pumps, deepening of village pond were

executed. Besides these 100 toilets, 150 soakpits also have been made.

4.4 Sanitation: Last year, Mahiti and Ahmedabad cooperative had decided to take initiative and proceed further on the issue of sanitation. The



both cooperatives initiated a scheme to extend a loan to the members at the rate of 12 % for setting up sanitation system. Mahiti set coordination between cooperative and Total Sanitation Campaign – TSC in Bhavnagar district. As part of these efforts, Ganeshgad, Khetakhatli, Velavadar and Sonrai villages have been declared “Nirmal Gam” by the govt. Mahiti and Cooperative took up the responsibility to implement the scheme. The govt extends an aid of Rs. 1200/- per unit under this scheme. The remaining amount was given as credit to the

members. This credit is given in the form of raw material. The villagers especially women were given encouragement and support by the organization to construct toilets in their homes. As a result of this initiative a total of 195 toilets were made in four villages mentioned earlier. Mahiti extended its assistance right from the encouragement to technical assistance and capacity building processes. Mahiti has planned to carry this camapaign further during 2007-08 in three villages more in Bhavnagar taluka and two villages in Ahmdabad district. In Anandpura village of Dholka taluka, so, a total of **210 toilets** have been constructed during the year. **12 demonstration soak pits** were made so as to

motivate people neighboring villages to follow suit. The details and status of work on Watsan has been given in **Table 13**.

4.5 Training & Capacity Building towards NRM: Various trainings, meetings, gram sabhas, exposure visits and other necessary programs had been organized during the year to raise people's awareness on the issue of NRM and for their empowerment for the implementation of NRM activities and sustainability of those works created. The details of various activities taken up for people's empowerment have been given in **Table 14**.

Case Study

Increase in Crop Production by Implementation of Appropriate Water Harvesting Structure

Nani Boru village in Dholka taluka is situated 5 Kms away from the highway. The village is mainly populated by darbar, koli patel, Kanabi Patel, Devi Pujak, and Bharwad castes. Total population is about 2100, out of which 78 % people depend on agriculture for livelihood. There are 84 big farmers and 192 small and marginal farmers. They could be taken up one crop in a year earlier. The farmers are enterprising but due to absence of alternative irrigation facility they could take only one crop in a year. Mainly of wheat and sorghum.



There were no alternative livelihood resources and the economic condition of villagers was quite ordinary. About five years back, the village was included in watershed development program. Mahiti was assigned the work of implementation of the scheme. Mahiti spent three years in detailed study of soil, rainwater flow and stream course of the river. During remaining two years of the scheme a check dam was constructed by the efforts of committee. Next year the checkdam was seriously damaged due to excessive rains. Local people especially the youth of the village struggled hard to save the waters of the checkdam.

When the rainy season was over the villagers decided to repair the checkdam so that such a disaster could be prevented in case of excessive rains in following monsoon. Village residents and local committee contributed in every way to carry out the work. About 300 acres of cultivable land surrounds the checkdam. Last year paddy was grown in 235 acre of the land. A few farmers even took crop of wheat in winter, a few farmers decided to grow cotton and also cuminseeds were grown. Earlier the 31 landowners' farmers of this 30 acre land used to grown 11 to 12 tonnes of foodgrains annually earning about Rs. 16 lakhs. This year due to irrigation facility available to them they could cultivate their land twice in a year and got 26 to 27 tonnes a produce paddy cotton, wheat and cuminseeds earning Rs. 36 to 27 lakhs in a year. Thus, they had net profit of Rs. 14 to 16 lakhs.

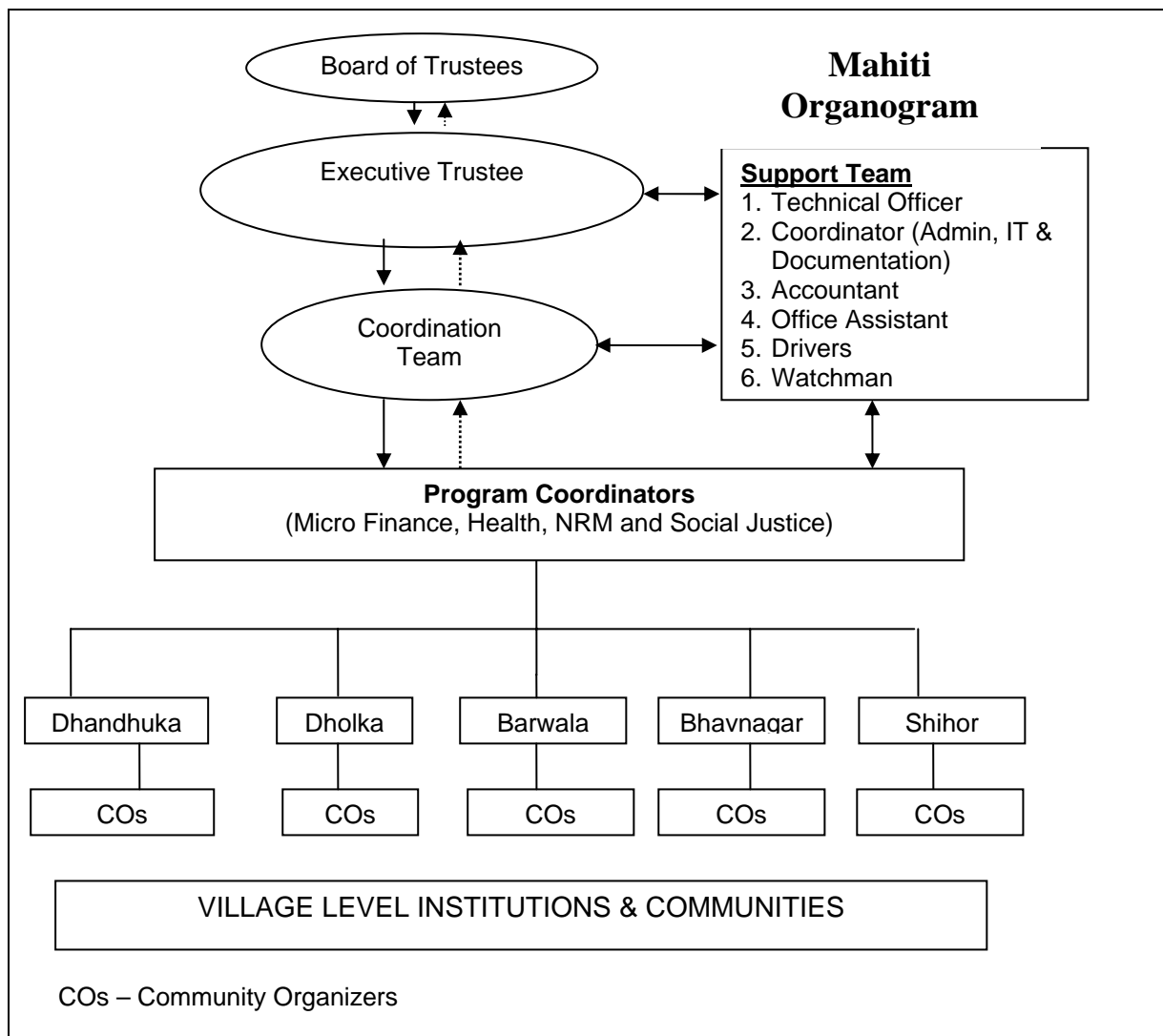
Part B

Internal Organization

01. Role of board members of the organization

The board members extend their guidance and assistance related to the issues of the sustainability of the organization and on issues of area, legal concern and long term direction of the organization. They also extend their assistance if some serious internal issue arises within the organization. The Trustees periodically participate in the activities of the organization as needed by Mahiti and extend their advice and suggestions. All the trustees take proactive interest in the organization and make efforts to make the organization strong. Every year the accounts, progress report and planning for next year are presented before the board of trustees and further action is taken keeping their suggestions in view. For example, during this year one of the members of the Board of Trustees remained present as a resource person during the annual review and planning meeting of the organization.

02. Organizational Structure



03. Decision making process

The organization has appointed a five members coordination team consisting of executive director, senior members and programme coordinators of the organization. This committee looks after the planning, implementation, administration, documentation and capacity building aspects. Meetings are organized every month and decisions are taken collectively. Program team plans the monthly activities. Important activity related decisions are taken at community level. All the planning is based on the issues emerging out of discussion with people. Leaders of women's cooperatives and activists are also consulted for the discussion. Every process is discussed at monthly meetings and is executed after consultation with the coordination committee. **Table 15** shows the decision making processes at various levels.

List of Mahiti Board of Trustees is given Table – 16

04. Human Resources Development

There is no any turn over of the team members of Mahiti during the year. Various capacity building training have been organized during the year for the staff members. Moreover, staff members were sent to various workshop and training. These training included micro project planning, Dai TOT, Basic Training on Watershed Program, Report Writing Skills, Role of women in Rural Development etc.

Staff Skill Upgradation In-house Training organized by Mahiti

No	Date & Place	Topics of Training	Place	Resource Persons
1	31.05.06 to 02.06.06	Wokshop for Review & Planning - Annual Meeting	Mount Abu	Mr. Vijaybhai Parmar, Director, JanVikas, Ahmedabad and Mahiti Trustee
2	10.10.06 to 11.10.06	Report & Case Study Writing Training	Ahmedabad	Mr. Sanjaybhai Dave Charka
3	11.07.06 to 12.07.06	Workshop on Promotion of Livelihood Activities and Identifying IGAs in Bhal	Dholera	Mr. Nirav Shah & Mr. Amol from IRFT, Mumbai
4	22.07.06	Orientation Program on Right to Information Act	Dholera	Mr. Sachin from Janpath
5	25-12-06	Exposure Visit of Spice Processing Unit managed by Women's Federation	Modasa	Representative of Gayatri Spice Processing Unit and DRDA Officer

Training, Workshops attended by Mahiti Staff

No.	Date	Place	Subject	Organized by	Participants
1	24.4.06 to 6.5.06	Ahmedabad	Basic Training Course Phase I on Watershed Development Program	Developmentmt Support Centre - DSC	Mr. Jagdishbhai Sidhav
2	22.6.06 to 5.7.06	Ahmedabad	Basic Training Course Phase II on Watershed Development Program		Mr. Jagdishbhai Sidhav
3	11.7.06 to 12.7.06	Ahmedabad	Preparatory Meeting for National Community Health Workshop	Jan Swasthay Abhiyan - JSA	Ms. Geetaben vaghela & Ms. Daxaben Patel
4	15.7.06 to 16.7.06	Hydrabad	National Conference on Community Health		Ms. Daxaben Patel
5	15.7.06	Ahmedabad	Workshop for Review of Drinking Water Resource Management Programs in Gujarat	Pravah-CFDA	Mr. Jayntibhai Boshiya & Ms. Geetaben Vaghela
6	27.12.06 to 1.1.07	Zagadiya	Training for Trainers (TOT) for Traditional Birth Attendants (Dai) on Reproductive & Child Health	Sewa Rural Sanstha	Ms. Geetaben vaghela & Ms. Daxaben Patel
7	19.2.07 to 23.2.07	Ahmedabad	Training Program on Women in Rural Development	SPIPA, Ahmedabad	Ms. Binduben Bhatt & Mrs. Laxmiben Desai
8	9.1.07	Bhavnagar	Training on Use Vital Digital Information System on Disaster Mitigation	Oxfam GB, Ahmedabad	Ms. Binduben Bhatt & Mr Manubhai Parmar
9	26-02-2007 to 04-03-2007	Hydrabad	Training Program on Micro Project Planning for NGOs	National Institute of Rural Development	Mr. Dinesh Pandya

Table 1
Capacity Building of Bhal Social Activist Group (B-SAG)

Date	Participants	Subjects	Details Topics	Resource Person
10.06.2006	15	Training on Leadership Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidence Building at Village level Conflict resolution Characterstick of leadership 	Mrs. Handaben Makwana
12.07.2006	50	Training on Right to Information Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Understanding of the law Provisions of the Act Information cannot demanded If Government Officer Refuse to give information and what action can be taken up 	Mr. Sachin from Janpath
29.10.2006	15	Training on Legal rights related to Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination Rights 	Mr. I. K. Jadav – Advocate
29.01.2007	50	Training on Various Government Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuvarbai nu Mameru Widow Pension Old age Subsidy Dikri Rudi Sachi Mudi Balika Samrudhhi Indira Awas Yojna Sardar Awas Yojna 	Ms. P. S. Sidhav

Table 02
Couselling and Legal Interventions during the year by B-SAG

No	Type of Cases	No. of Cases	Interventions
01	Domestic Violence / Violence against women and exploitation	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divorse has been made in 2 cases One case is on the table of court Processes is going on to study deeply in the 4 cases Mutual compromise has been made in 13 cases and sent back at the father-in-laws' house.
02	Land Ownership Dispute	69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A procedure has been made to get land from the government which are cultivating by generation but it is not on the name of farmers. Related documents for 43 farmers have been submitted to Mamalatdar and Prant Officer. Government has encroached the land of 10 farmers due to not paying revenue fees to the government. So, we have made various processes to get back the land from the government. This land has been cultivated these farmers since many years. There has a mistake in the land title for 5 farmers in the form 7/12 so we have acquired form 8 A and procedures have been done for changing the land titles.
03	Dispute related to government schemes	05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 4 cases for widow compensation and pension but they have faced too many difficulties by the govt officials. The interventions made to sanction the pension with concerned depts and it has been approved after such efforts. We have made a process to apply for one case under Rushi Athawale Scheme.

No	Type of Cases	No. of Cases	Interventions
04	Industrial Labour Dispute	01	One member of Gamph village was working with a chemical factory in GIDC, Changodar. Due to such chemical effect he is now become disable for the work. Then he has been suspended by the factory owner giving reason for alcohol usage during the work. We are in the process of taking this case to the high court and will file compensation case against the factory.
05	Insurance Related	01	The insurance company has not being paying claim amount to the nominee of died father. Company is asking for the certificate from the company where his father was working. It is very unfair. The B-SAG taken up this case and intervene in the matter. After long deliberation the claim has been paid to nominee.
06	Exploitation by Sahukar	02	02 cases have been solved by B-SAG. One case was for land grazing and another is for threatning by darbar.
07	Social Welfare	01	B-SAG has succesful in getting free travel concession pass for a blind woman which earlier not much attention given by the officials.
08	Compaint against govt scheme	01	Suddenly, Mamaltatdar has closed down the Anganwadi in one the village due bad interfer of moneylender. B-SAG deeply studied the case asked the required information from the district level for reasons of close down.
Total cases		100	

Table 3
Details of Formation of Youth Organization

No.	Village	Taluka	No. of Youth	No.	Village	Taluka	No. of Youth
1	Navagam Karna	Dhandhuka	25	6	Narmad	Bhavnagar	30
2	Kadipur	Dhandhuka	20	7	Khetakhatli	Bhavnagar	25
3	Sandhida	Dhandhuka	40	8	Sonrai	Bhavnagar	37
4	Sarsala	Dhandhuka	25	9	Sanesh	Bhavnagar	28
5	Kotda	Bhavnagar	23	10	Kalatalav	Bhavnagar	43
Total			133	Total			163

Table 4
Capacity Building of Women Health Workers (WHWs)

No.	Date	Place	Participants	Topics
1	16.06.06 to 17.06.07	Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Water borne diseases • Revision of Cold and other respiratory diseases. • Revision of anatomy of human body • Revision of treatment of common illness with use of medicines
2	19.09.06 to 20.09.06	Mahiti Training Hall Dholera	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin Disease • Strengthening of Linkages with TBAs & Women Health Worker • Pre Natal and Post Natal Care • Masturation Cycle • Family Planning

Table 5:- Capacity Building of New WHWs

No	Date	Place	Participants	Topics
01	21-07-2006 to 22-07-2006	Gujarat Vidhyapith Ahmedabad	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of Adolescent Girl and body changes • Gender • Causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of water & food borne diseases. • Causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of respiratory diseases. • Causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of skin infection • Common illness, identify the medicines, use of medicines, indigenous medicinal plants and their use in treatment • Hygiene and sanitation • Government Health Scheme • Risk of pre-natal and post natal condition • Type of Vaccination
02	23-11-2006 to 24-11-2006	Gujarat Vidhyapith Ahmedabad	17	
03	11-01-2007 to 12-01-2007	Gujarat Vidhyapith Ahmedabad	19	
04	27-02-2007	Mahiti Training Hall	30	
05	16-03-2007 to 17-03-2007	Sardar Patel Smarak Bhavan, Ahmedabad	13	

Table 6:- Capacity Building of Traditional Birth Attendants – Dai Women

No	Date	Place	Participants	Resource Persons	Primary Health Centre and Phase
01	14-04-2006 to 18-04-2006	Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad	18	Vaidhya Laxmiben Iyengar Bhanuben Makawana Dr. Megha Shah	Primary Health Centre, Dholera Second Phase
02	26-05-2006 to 30-05-2006	Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad	25	Vaidhya Laxmiben Iyengar Bhanuben Makawana Dr. Megha Shah Dr. Shantibhai Shah	Pipli Primary Health Centre First Phase
03	11-09-2006 to 15-09-2006	Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad	24	Vaidhya Laxmiben Iyengar Gitaben Vaghela	Pipli Primary Health Centre Second Phase
04	13-10-2006 to 14-06-2006	Mahiti Training Hall, Dholera	15	Vaidhya Laxmiben Iyengar Bhanuben Makawana Dr. Megha Shah	Primary Health Centre, Dholera Refreshing Training
05	11-11-2006 to 15-11-2006	Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad	22	Vaidhya Laxmiben Iyengar Bhanuben Makawana Dr. Megha Shah	Bhadiyad Primary Health Centre First Phase
06	16-01-2007 to 20-01-2007	Sardar Patel Smarak Bhavan	17	Vaidhya Laxmiben Iyengar Bhanuben Makawana	Bhadiyad Primary Health Centre Second Phase

Table 7:- Cluster Level Mobile Medical Camps

No	Date	Villages Covered	No. Patients' Treatment			
			Women	Men	Children	Total
1	06-05-2006	Kala talav, Narmad, Khetakhatli	21	8	5	34
2	20-05-2006	Ratanpur, Devpura, Hebatpur	13	12	5	30
3	14-06-2006	Kasindra, Shela	34	15	9	58
4	28-06-2006	Gogla, Buranpur	26	9	13	48
5	25-07-2006	Bhangadh, Gandhipura	17	9	6	32
6	07-08-2006	Shela	10	3	11	24
7	10-08-2006	Devpura, Ratanpur	21	14	25	60
8	20-08-2006	Buranpur, Navagam Karna	17	14	22	53
9	29-08-2006	Mingalpur, Bhangadh	17	13	34	64
10	27-09-2006	Mingalpur	34	17	20	71
11	18-11-2006	Juni Sodhi, Navi Sodhi	20	15	08	43
12	17-03-2007	Gogla	20	19	14	53
	Total	23 villages	250	148	172	570

Table 8:- Details of Area Level Medical Camps

No	Type of Treatment	No. Patients' Treatment			
		Women	Men	Children	Total
1	Eye	25	15	0	40
2	Gynec and Sexual	52	0	0	52
3	Dental and Mouth	10	23	0	33
4	Kee related	57	45	0	102
5	Pediatric	0	0	132	132
6	Skin	58	44	0	102
7	General	50	70	0	120
Total Patients		252	197	132	581

Table 09:- Capacity Building Trainings for Women's Savings and Credit Cooperatives

No	Trainig Name	Topics covered	Participants	Date & Place	Resource Persons
01	President & Vice President Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on Role and responsibility • Administrative Skills • Understanding Accounts and Finance of Cooperatives • Rules and Regulation for Finance Management • Rules and Regulation on Savings and Credit • Laws and Rules of Cooperative Acts • Promotion of Income Generation Activities among women • Goals, Vision and Objectives of Cooperative ❖ Understanding various types of exploitation of moneylenders 	04	26-04-2006 Nari Branch	Ms. Ramilaben Parmar from Bhavnagar Jilla Sahakari Sangh and Project team
			04	14-06-2006 Mahiti Campus	Devuben Pandya
			04	17-19 July 2006 Gujarat Vidhyapith	Harshidaben Shah from Jilla Sahakari Sangh and project team
			04	30-10-2006 to 01-11-2006 Nadiyad	Bhikhabhai Rabari from Jilla Sahakari Sangh and project team
02	Executive Committee Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles & Responsibilities of Executive Committee • Laws, Rules and Structures of Cooperative act • Scrutinizing loan applications and how to take decision on the same. • Possibilities of New Products of Cooperative • Understanding on the issue of land redemption • Promotion of Income Generation Activities 	22	17 – 19 July 2006 Ahmedabad	Harshidaben Shah from Jilla Sahakari Sangh and project team
			30	30-10-2006 to 01-11-2006 Nadiyad	Bhikhabhai Rabari from Jilla Sahakari Sangh and project team
03	SHGs Representatives Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of Savings • Importance of Unity • Goals and Objectives of Cooperative • Management Aspects of SHGs • How to keep records of SHGs • Methodology and Administrative Structures of Cooperative • Roles & Responsibilities of Representatives • Savings and Credit Rules and Regulation • Understanding types of exploitation by moneylenders • How to increase more members with cooperative 	30	28-06-2006 to 30-06-2006 Gopnath	Ramilaben Parmar and project team
			22	20-21 November 2006 Gopnath	Project Team

No	Trainig Name	Topics covered	Participants	Date & Place	Resource Persons
04	Gender Sensitization Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality issue on the work distribution between men and women • Types of discrimination for boys and girls • Understanding Legal Laws for violence against women • How to overcome gender discrimination • Social customs with respect to gender 	32	29-30 June 2006, Shahibag	Dr. Laxmi Bhatt
			52	28-29 November 2006 Sahibag	
05	Income Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen gardening and seeds distribution 	45	20-09-2006 Mahiti	Project Team and Farmers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government schemes related to employment opportunities 	25	07-10-2006 Nari Branch	Mr. Amareliya, Vistaran Officer Bhavangar
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure Visit to Gayatri Spice Processing Unit 	10	20-12-2006 Modasa	

Table 10

Marketing of Seeds and Essential Commodies by Cooperatives

Activity	District	Villages	Beneficiaries	Quantity
Seeds	Ahmedabad	16	412	51000 Kgs
	Bhavnagar	09	70	11800 Kgs
Edible Oil	Ahmedabad	08	150	3000 Kgs

Table 11:- Natural Resource Management & Watershed Development Program

No	Activity	Type	Status as on 31.03.06			Activity of 2006-07			Status as on 31.03.07		
			Nos	Beneficiary	Villages	Nos	Beneficiary	Villages	Nos	Beneficiary	Villages
1	Farm Protection Bunds	C.M.	342313	2198 farmers	21	13100	162 farmers	1	355413	2360 farmers	21
2	Farm Ponds (Individuals)	No.	40	40 farmers	06	---	--	--	40	40 farmers	06
3	Community Ponds	No.	78	216 farmers	11	1	14 farmers	1	79	230 farmers	11
4	Chech Dams & Water Harvesting Structures	No.	8	283 farmers	7	1	10 farmer	1	9	293 farmers	7
5	Waste Weirs	No.	25	209 farmer	11	2	23 farmer	2	27	232 farmer	11
6	Village Protection Bunds	C.M.	50174	136 farmers	06	2780	22 farmer	1	52954	158 farmers	07
7	Field Boundaries Protection Bunds										
8	Inlet Channel	C.M.	9000	41 farmer	1	4060	34 farmer	2	13060	105 farmer	2
9	Social Afforestation – Plantation	Saplings	58500	--	22	3950	--	8	58500	--	22
10	Mangrove Restoration & Plantation	Hec.	500	Villagers	2				500	Villagers	2
11	Recharging of Bores	No.	87	87 farmers	3	--	--	--	87	87 farmers	3
12	Demonstration Plots	No.	3	3 farmers	1	--	--	--	3	3 farmers	1
13	Grazing Land Development	Hec.	06	Villagers	4	--	--	--	06	Villagers	4
14	Inlet Channel repairing of village pond	No.	-	-		5	70 farmers & 3 Village	4	5	70 farmers & 3 Village	4

Table 12:- Animal Husbandry Development

No	Activity	Unit Type	Status as on 31.03.06			Activity of 2006-07			Status as on 31.03.07		
			Nos	Beneficiary	Villages	Nos	Beneficiary	Villages	Nos	Beneficiary	Villages
01	Animal Vaccination Camps	Camp.	64	2710 Cattle	24	7	294 cattle	7	71	3004 Cattle	24
02	Demonstration of Vermi Compost (Manure)	No.	4	3	3	--	--	--	4	3	3

Table 13:- Drinking Water and Sanitation (Watsan)

No	Activity	Unit Type	Status as on 31.03.06			Activity of 2006-07			Status as on 31.03.07		
			Nos	Beneficiary	Villages	Nos	Beneficiary	Villages	Nos	Beneficiary	Villages
01	Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structures (RRWS) Tanks	No.	522	522 families	20	28	28 families	2	550	550 families	21
02	Rainwater Harvesting Plastic Lined Ponds	No.	22	2750 families	19	--	--	--	22	2750 families	19
03	Village Ponds	No.	19	Village	17	--	--	--	19	Village	17
04	Community Level Water Storage Tanks	No.	06	Village	3	--	--	--	06	Village	3
05	Hand Pumps	No.	05	"	1	--	--	--	05	"	1
06	Well Deepening & Recharging / Repairing	No.	1	Village	1	--	--	--	1	Village	1
07	New Bore Wells	No.	1	Village	1	--	--	--	1	Village	1
08	Toilets (Individuals)	No.	80	80 families	1	210	210 families	1	290	290 families	5
09	Soak Pits (Individuals)	No.	40	40 families	1	122	122 families	1	162	162 families	2

Table 14:- Capacity Building towards NRM

No	Activity	Status as on 31.03.2006		Activity 2006-07		Status as on 31.03.2007	
		Nos	Villages	Nos	Villages	Nos	Villages
1	User Groups Training on Watershed Development Programs	31	22	2	2	33	22
02	Exposure Visits	15	22	--	--	15	22
03	Gram Sabhas	106	40	3	3	109	40
04	Convention of Sarpanches	5	20	--	--	5	20
05	Water Committee Trainings	31	36	3	8	34	38
06	Water Testing Program	30	15	--	--	30	15

Table 15:- Decision Making Processes in the Organization

Who	When	Functions and decisions
Governing Board (Board of Trustees)	Twice a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational policy level discussions and decisions Approval of plans / projects to be submitted to funding agencies Approval of annual plan and budget Approval of annual financial audited reports
Executive Trustee		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day to day financial decisions (investments, expenditure, budget approvals, & other approvals) Personnel matters Planning, Monitoring & reviews
Coordination team	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of program implementation Staff related issues Finance and accounts related matters Planning and monitoring
Program Team	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly planning of individual staff Process discussion of specific issues / activities
Staff members	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall monthly plan Execution and recording activities Institutional issues and resolutions

Table 16
List of Board of Trustees of Mahiti

No.	Name	Profession	Office held in Trustee Board	Relationship with other organization	Address
1	Pandya Devuben Kuberdas	Social Activist	Executive Trustee	---	Mahiti, At & Post: Dholera, Tal: Dhandhuka, Dist: Ahmedabad Pin 382455
2	Barot Nafisaben Rajubhai	Social Activist	Trustee	Executive Trustee UTTHAN	36, Chitrakut Twins, Naheru Park, Vasrtapur, Ahmedabad - 380015
3	Andhariya Jhanviben Jitendrabhai	Development Professional	Trustee	Director ANANDI	25, Manmohan Society, 2 nd Floor, Opp. Aditi Vidhyalaya, Manjalpur, Vadodara 390001
j4	Acharya Binoybhai Padmanabh	Social Activist	Trustee	Director UNNATI	G/1, 200, Azad Society, Raksha Appartment, Himmatlal Park, Ahmedabad
5	Lakadawala Hanifbhai Abdulkhan	Development Professional	Trustee	Director SANCHETNA	0-45-46 NewYork Trade Centre, Near Thaltej Cross Road, Ahmedabad - 380053
6	Khandelwal Rajivbhai Wishwanath	Development Professional	Trustee	Director, AAJIVIKA BUREAU	38, Mangalam Complex, Nr. Cifon Colony, Udaipur 313001
7	Parmar Vijaybhai S.	Expert (Human & Institutional Development)	Trustee	Director, JANVIKAS	C/105-106, Royal Chinmay, Next to Simandhar Towers, Off Judges Bunglows Road, Bodakdev, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad

**Table 17
Staff Profile**

No.	Name of the Member	Position	Qualification	Experience with Mahiti (Years)	Key responsibilities / functions
1	Devuben Pandya	Executive Director & Executive Trustee	7th Pass	24	Overall direction, project management, legal compliance, facilitating staff development, implementing policies formulated by board of trustees, liaison with state government and others, linkages with networks
2	Binduben Bhatt	Coordinator (Bhavnagar Cooperative)	M.A. B.Lib.	16	Capacity building and support to Bhavnagar women's cooperative, member of coordination committee, support staff in implementation of activities in Bhavnagar, liaison with local government
3	Ishwar M. Parmar	Accountant	B.Com	11	Accounts book keeping, and financial reporting preparation of Mahiti, internal audit of both cooperatives, preparing financial statements required by funding agencies, FCRA, charity commissioner, income tax compliance
4	Bhanjibhai V. Khasiya	Technical Officer	D.C.E.	11	Member of coordination committee, technical planning and monitoring, management of NRM projects
5	Dinesh Pandya	Coordinator (Admin, IT & Documentation)	B.Com & DISM	1.5	Preparation of reports, proposals & information management & dissemination, member of coordination committee, liaison and coordination
6	Kalpesh M. Mistry	Coordinator (NRM)	D.C.A.	7	Coordination NRM projects of Mahiti and special portfolio of Dholka taluka and supporting in documentation and other activities
7	Hansaben M. Makwana	Coordinator (Social Justice)	B.Com.	5	Capacity building of social activist group, support in taking up cases and legal guidance, organizing people in Dhandhuka taluka villages
8	Laxmiben D. Desai	Coordinator (Ahmedabad Cooperative)	B.A.	7	Capacity building and support to Ahmedabad district women's cooperative, member of coordination committee
9	Jaytibhai C. Bosiya	Coordinator (DPAP)	M.A. B.Ed.	6	Coordinating Dhandhuka taluka NRM programs and support other activities, organizing people of Barwala taluka villages
10	Gitaben D. Vaghela	Coordinator (Health Program)	M.A.	3	Mobilizing and organizing people in Barwala taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, youth, health issues and social justice
11	Daxaben Patel	Community Organizer	M.S.W	9 months	coordination of health programs, mobilizing and organizing people around health issues
12	Rajesh K. Chauhan	Community Organizer	B.A.	10	Mobilizing and organizing people in Bhavnagar taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, youth, health issues and social justice
13	Jagdish G. Sindhav	Community Organizer Cum Driver	B.A.	10	Mobilizing and organizing people in Dhandhuka taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, youth, health issues and social justice

No.	Name of the Member	Position	Qualification	Experience with Mahiti (Years)	Key responsibilities / functions
14	Dharmisthaben A. Purani	Community Organizer	H.S.C.	4	Mobilizing and organizing people in Dhandhuka taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, youth, health issues and social justice
15	Manubhai K. Vegada	Community Organizer	B.A. B.Ed.	4	Mobilizing and organizing people in Dholka taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, youth, health issues and social justice
16	Rajesh K. Juvaliya	Community Organizer	B.A.	3	Mobilizing and organizing people in Dholka taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, youth, health issues and social justice
17	Manubhai D. Parmar	Office Assistant	B.A.	3	Office routine work and center maintenance
18	Mukesh Parmar	Community Organizer	M.A.	8 months	Mobilizing and organizing youth on social justice aspects and Mobilizing and organizing people in Dhandhuka taluka villages around NRM, Micro Finance, health issues and social justice
19	Ajit B. Ratnottar	Driver	B.A.	4	Driving, maintain trees in the campus and helping in office routine work

Table 18
Details of Exposure Visit hosted & facilitated by Mahiti

No	Date	Members	Organization Name & Place	Topic
1	29.04.06	30	Development Support Centre, Bopal, Ahmedabad.	As part of TOT Program of DSC they visited Mahiti to get exposure on community organization and cooperative management
2	26.07.06	25	Dipak Charitable Trust, Halvad, Surendranagar	to get exposure on community organization, cooperative management and women empowerment
3	28.08.06	8	Representatives of Swiss Development Cooperation, Utthan & Other NGOs Social Workers	Experience Sharing and Capitalisation of women's movement and experience in NRM and micro finance
4	11.10.06	13	Pravah - Sankalan Samiti	Mahiti's Activities on drinking water and sanitation
5	09.11.06	25	SARTHI, Santrampur, Panchmahal	to get exposure on community organization, cooperative management and women empowerment
6	22.11.06	28	Development Support Centre, Bopal, Ahmedabad.	Community organization, management of SHGs and cooperative
7	24.11.06	24	SATH Charitable Trust, Surendranagar	Community organization, management of SHGs and cooperative
9	29.11.06	30	Dipak Charitable Trust, Halvad, Surendranagar	Community organization, management of SHGs and cooperative
10	22.01.07 to 24.01.07	25	Megharaj Mahila Sangh	to get exposure on community organization, cooperative management and women empowerment

Mahiti Trust

Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st March 2007

Funds & Liabilities	Amount Rs.	Total Rs.	Assets	Amount Rs.	Total -Rs.
Funds		3200638.11	Fixed Assets		
			Opening Balance	4081176.00	
			Addition during year	47592.00	
Capital Expenditure Grants		1682894.00	Total	4128768.00	
			Less: Written Off	36904.00	4091864.00
Un-Utilized Grants		1420547.81	Project Grant Receivable		154848.46
Income & Expenditure A/c			Deposits & Advances		55289.00
Balance as per last year	806799.03		Bank & Cash Balance		2580557.95
Less: Deficit for the year	228319.54	578479.49			
TOTAL RS.		6882559.41	TOTAL		6882559.41

Auditor : **Chandravandan A. Shah & Co.** Sahibaug, Ahmedabad
 Bankers : State Bank of India, State Bank of Saurashtra, UTI Bank Limited

Mahiti Trust

Income & Expenditure A/c For the period of 01/04/2006 to 31/03/2007

EXPENDITURE	Total Rs	INCOME	Amount Rs	Total Rs
Project Expenditures	3973107.00	Grant Received / Receivable		3973107.00
Other Expenditure	111379.00	Other Income:		
		Donation	205000.00	
Depreciation Expenditure	344871.23	Bank Interest	79955.00	
		Misc. Income	30992.71	315947.71
Swashakti Project Grant Receivable Written Off	79685.15			
Chabutara Construction Written Off	8331.87	To Excess of Expenditure over Income transferred to the balance Sheet		228319.54
TOTAL RS	4517374.25	TOTAL RS		4517374.25

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