



Annual Report Saath Gramin Trust

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Saath Gramin Trust

Foreword

In our second year, our major focus was on health and financial literacy for rural women and adolescent girls. Education of the young rural girls remains one of the utmost priority issues for Saath Gramin Trust.

COVID-19 impacted us in the last month of the financial year. In collaboration with various organisations, we worked for providing masks and spreading awareness among the communities on COVID-19 and its prevention measures to be followed. In the coming year, we aim to continue our COVID-19 initiatives to safeguard the rural communities.

Shyam Prakash Singh, Chief Executive Officer

About Us

Saath Grameen Trust was initiated to cater to the needs of rural women and children regarding education, health, sustainable livelihoods, social and financial inclusion, and holistic development. Saath Gramin Trust is promoted by Saath Mahila Savings and Credit Cooperative Society.

The foundation primarily works in rural areas of Gujarat state and mainly focuses on the empowerment of youth and women.

Sanitary Pads for Rural Women

Menstrual health in India is still largely governed by taboos and a lack of information. There is little knowledge about the health consequences of using unhygienic methods for menstrual management especially in rural areas. The usage of cloth, which is a traditional method, in itself is not unhygienic and is also a sustainable option, but it requires washing and drying in the sun. Most women in India do not feel comfortable with the washing and drying because of prevailing taboos, apart from lack of access to water also proving to be a problem.

Menstrual health and hygiene is an important issue to be addressed. Saath Gramin Trust in partnership with Unipads reached out to adolescent girls and women from the rural communities to spread awareness on menstrual health and hygiene, safe practices and promoting the use of sanitary pads. Brainstorming sessions were carried out with rural women and adolescent girls to create strategies for increased access and easy availability of sanitary pads in rural areas for the women.

Vision

“Inclusive, sustainable, and empowered village communities”

Mission

“To empower rural women, youth and children through quality education and sustainable livelihood opportunities”

The core objectives of Saath Gramin Trust are as follows:

1. Social and political empowerment
2. Focused and in-depth intervention on family income and education of children
3. Identify and work on gender and livelihood issues of women and promote entrepreneurship
4. Create alternative livelihoods for rural women and the community

Financial Literacy Training

Women in absence of financial literacy are prone to accumulate debt burdens, have poor spending habits, have little to no savings at time of emergencies and lack long-term preparations.

Financial literacy training empowers women to be prepared for emergencies, deal with rising costs and inflation, better manage day to day expenses, improve their confidence and decision making.

With this theme, 324 women were provided financial literacy training by Saath Gramin Trust in the year with the support from Consumer Forum. Through the training women learned about prioritizing savings, understanding debt traps, reducing unnecessary expenses, budgeting, understanding various savings schemes and interest rates, government schemes and services etc. One of the trainee women participant said, “The training is very useful to us to understand how to better manage our daily expenses and ensure we are able to save for emergencies”.





RO Units for Schools and Aanganwadi's

To provide access to pure and clean drinking water to children and reduce water-borne diseases, 150 RO units were installed in 70+ Aanganwadi's and 6+ schools of Sanand block of Ahmedabad district.

Through this initiative, more than 2,500 children now have access to clean and safe drinking water at their schools. Regular healthcheckups will be carried out to monitor the improvement in health status of children.



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COVID-19 Initiatives

COVID-19 pandemic had a disastrous impact in the rural communities as well. The rural communities, especially living in remote areas, had very little access to knowledge and resources about COVID-19. Many myths were prevalent in the area, and people had no information on how to safeguard themselves.

To mitigate this, series of awareness activities were carried out. 3,000 women were reached through various awareness activities and sessions carried out in partnership with Saath Mahila Savings and Credit Cooperative Society. 6,000 masks were distributed in the community with support from Milaap. Through our initiatives, a basic level of awareness was generated among the rural women and communities.

Board Members

Chinmayi Desai, Urban Program Director, Saath Charitable Trust: She has 22+ years of experience working in the development sector.

Rajendra Joshi, Founder & Managing Trustee, Saath Charitable Trust: He has initiated and developed the Integrated Slum Development Program.

Shyam Prakash Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Saath Gramin Trust: He has 18+ years of experience working in the sector.

Vama Rajpal, Image and Skills Coach and Entrepreneur: She has diverse professional experience in Healthcare and Development sector.

Anuradha Gharti, Trainer and Social Worker: She has 18 years of experience in the development sector working on social justice issues.