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A Quest Towards Collective Action for Freedom & Development



MAKING **VISION** A REALITY



Over two decades, Team Samerth has worked relentlessly, empowered vulnerable marginalised communities and provided social as well as economic dignity.

FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE'S DESK

Re It is truly incredible to contemplate the remarkable journey we have embarked on over the past 23 years. From the very outset, our mission has remained crystal clear: to stand in solidarity with the most marginalized communities that find themselves pushed to the fringes of society due to the challenges posed by their unique geographical locations or distinct identities and abilities.

In the year 1999, I took a step away from my role at Oxfam and commenced this transformative journey - beginning in Kutch, where the challenges are as expansive as its deserts. In the Rapar Block of Kutch, water was a scarce resource, groundwater remained elusive, and the prospect of any sustainable livelihood seemed remote. Families in the region found themselves ensnared in a cycle of exploitation and poverty, with dire repercussions on the health of women and the education of children.

Since those early days, we have traversed a considerable distance. We now possess demographic and geo-hydrological data that serves as the compass for our long-term interventions in each community. Today, we have the capability to preserve and enhance surface water resources, and we are well on our way to establishing water structures that ensures water security in villages, and provide protective irrigation facilities that the communities themselves oversee and govern.

Similarly, Chhattisgarh faces its own geographical challenges. Since 2007, we have been dedicated to the restoration of land and natural resources, all the while fostering the active involvement of tribal farmers and other pivotal community stakeholders. Our aspiration is to realize 'Four Returns': those that are Inspirational, Social, Natural, and Financial, all of which are pivotal for the indigenous communities, especially Baigas that are one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). By leveraging a range of entitlements and government programs, our primary focus is on augmenting the income of farmers and tribal communities through the promoton of agriculture and forest-based livelihoods. Integral to this approach is the collaboration with government departments to guarantee the effective execution of schemes and the timely delivery of benefits to the specified communities.

Mahua Collector, Palak

In education, our engagement revolves around the Learning and Migration Program (LAMP), an initiative focused on the education of children affected by distressed seasonal migration in six districts.

In light of the communal strife that unfolded in Ahmedabad in 2002, we gained a profound awareness of the paucity of early childhood education resources. In response, we have introduced child-friendly pedagogical approaches within the public school system and incorporated cutting-edge technology, such as tablets in libraries. These initiatives have yielded tangible improvements in the academic performance and retention rates of over 4,000 children. Furthermore, we have established a daycare and rehabilities, providing therapies aimed at enhancing communication and mobility skills.

Throughout this year, our central emphasis has been: strengthening our team's capacity, fostering career growth opportunities, and promoting emotional resilience. Samerth has experienced significant growth over the years, with a substantial portion of this expansion occurring organically. As we step into the year 2023-2024, we are committed to approaching the next phase of our journey with a strategic mindset.

Our journey is marked by the fostering of partnerships with the community, with the overarching aim of creating an eco-system in which unreached communities not only survive but thrive, where landscapes flourish, and where hope and prosperity are in abundance.



Gazala Paul Managing Trustee

ABOUT SAMERTH

Samerth Charitable Trust, registered in 1992, is devoted to empowering vulnerable communities through natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, and educational opportunities. We prioritize swift action, innovation, and the fusion of traditional wisdom with scientific acumen, particularly in emergencies and their aftermath.



Paira Filling

Vision

To build a humane, sustainable and equitable society.

Mission

- To facilitate the empowerment of vulnerable communities and marginalized groups by helping them access their entitlements across all facets of human existence.

- To advocate for the integration of provisions for excluded and marginalized groups through innovative models that influence policy making.

- To actively promote gender-balanced development through inclusive, participatory and empowering initiatives.

OUR APPROACH

- **01** Empowering and engaging community members across all initiatives to foster sustainable program development.
- **02** Incorporating cutting-edge technology through the utilization of smart devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones) and innovative applications, such as GIS mapping, to enhance accuracy, streamline knowledge management, and enable more effective monitoring and evaluation as our operations expand.
- **03** Cultivating partnerships with governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to facilitate the dissemination of vital resources and knowledge, ensuring a broader outreach and maximizing our overall impact.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE WE BEGAN

- Samerth has enabled the establishment of 1,178 communitybased organizations and institutions which have a combined membership of around 14,448 serving a population of 2 million people - these include Self-Help Groups, Children's Groups, Farmer Producer Groups and Farmers' Producer Organizations, Parent Associations etc. which are comprised of community members and their leaders. We have also promoted a range of community institutions to deal with various aspects of rural development such as drinking water and sanitation, agriculture, water resource development and management, livestock management, village development, savings and loans, etc.
- We integrate technology throughout our programs, from grassroots level to the highest levels of our work; from Geomapping technology, enabling hydrogeology analysis and models to initiate the development of water structures, to harnessing surface and rainwater resources... to tablet libraries and learning centers.
- Through collaborations with the Government and other non government agencies, ensuring the facilitation of financial schemes and knowledge for wider reach and impact.



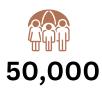
of our team comes from the communities we serve.

₹ 200 Cr

benefits have reached the community directly and through Samerth - enhancing many aspects of life.

Such as creation of **1,000+ water structures**; **42,000+ hectares of land** producing enhanced crop yields and contributing to food security and livelihoods.

OUR REACH



lives impacted directly in Kutch

***** 185,000+

children impacted in Chhattisgarh and Ahmedabad



people of vulnerable communities reached in Chhattisgarh

IN KUTCH REGION, GUJARAT

- Ensured a 25% drop in distress migration, a huge issue in the area.
- Geo-Hydrological data combined with demographic data has facilitated micro planning at village level.
- 407 Ponds, 269 Wells, 398 Rain Roof Water Harvesting units, 39 Check dams, 2,251 Sanitation units have been constructed.
- 22,000 Cattle, core to the existence of remote communities reached through water interventions.
- Our work now covers...



in Rapar, Bhachau & Nakhatrana blocks of Kutch reaching a population of 100,000 people

IN AHMEDABAD & GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT

- Numerous initiatives, including running 16 early education centres in remote locations; education centres reaching out to more than 3,000 children in communities and schools; Tablet libraries bridging the digital divide to more than 430 children; a centre providing need based rehabilitative services to 450 children with mental & intellectual disabilities undertaken.
- Mobile Libraries at 52 schools, Peace Education at 42 schools and leadership training for more than 1,500 adolescent girls and young women, have made a significant impact on communities in need. Additionally, over 100 women have been empowered as Nutri- Entrepreneurs, producing nutritious snacks for their communities and the broader market.
- Our work now covers...



in Western Ahmedabad, Lambha & Sanand and Gandhinagar in Gujarat

IN THE DISTRICTS OF CHHATTISGARH

- 11,000 Community Volunteers have received training, 7,052 Learning Centres have been established, 3,985 Community Members are actively involved, 889 Self Help Groups have been established, 522 Panchayati Raj Institutions have been established.
- Samerth works with Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and Marginalised Communities in tribal districts.
- Our work now covers...



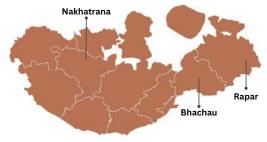
in 13 Districts of Chhattisgarh: Bemetra, Kawardha Balodabazar, Sarangarh, Mahasamund, Dhamtari Shakti, Surajpur, Mungeli, Bijapur, Narayanpur, Bastar, Gourela Pendra Marwahi

PROGRAMMES 2022-23

I. EMPOWERING THE MARGINAL FARMER COMMUNITY IN KUTCH

We began work in the Rapar Block of Kutch, Gujarat after witnessing first-hand how the harsh conditions of the arid region affect the livelihoods of the small and marginal farmer. This perpetuated exploitation and a cycle of poverty where children were kept away from schools.

Since 2001, we have been able to collect critical demographic and geo-hydrological data that has helped us develop long-term solutions to harvest surface and rainwater, mobilize a community approach to natural resource management and educate children of the community.



Kutch, Gujarat



More than 400 members from Farmer & Self Help Groups

were provided training on organic methods of farming like vermicomposting and kitchen gardens to grow a wide variety of vegetables and help families improve their own access to and intake of nutrition.

NURTURING CHANGE

Creating a sustainable source of Nutrition for Farmers

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE MEANS, CONSERVING AND MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

- Created 47 Ponds, 25 Rain Roof Water Harvesting Systems and two dug wells in the Kutch region helping most vulnerable communities to survive through harsh climates.
 - Creating sustainable sources of drinking water for 40 gram panchayats in the Rapar region.
 - Improved fodder security through grassland development of 110 acres in the region.



Rain Water Harvesting Structure Tank

MUTUAL LEARNING AND INNOVATION, WORKING TOGETHER FOR WATER SAFETY!

During a reconnaissance visit to villages in Kutch, we visited Dholaveera, an ancient archaeological site with numerous water harvesting structures dating 4,500 years back. Gazala Ji and I saw the plight of the people, especially the marginalized communities living in isolated places in the villages. We observed women and girls walk many kilometers to fetch fresh drinking water, as the underground water is saline and fresh-water zones are very limited.

Samerth and Water Harvest came to work together to create water-self-sufficient villages. For the first-time artificial catchment water harvesting systems, usually practiced in the Thar desert of Rajasthan were piloted in the Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. This, along with introduction of domestic water filters and small behavioral changes - made drinking water safer for families!



O P Sharma, Country Director Water Harvest, India Liaison Office



250+ Household Rainwater Harvesting Structures

built through our collaboration, permanently moving families from the drudgery of fetching water.

III. DEVELOPING AND DIVERSIFYING NATURAL RESOURCE BASED LIVELIHOODS AND SUPPORTING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN CHHATTISGARH

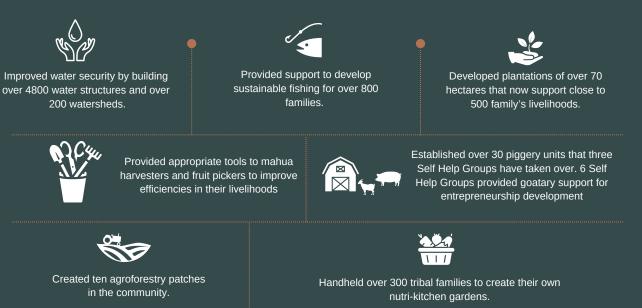
Working with the most vulnerable groups dependent on forest produce and agriculture where the communities face great challenges with erratic rainfall and poor irrigation facilities. This region is cut off from surrounding areas due to the hilly geography, and sustainable livelihood is a great challenge to its native tribals. Since 2007, we have been working with marginal tribal farmers as well as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), reaching 13 districts.



Samerth Trust's commitment to empowering marginalized individuals and communities through sustainable development initiatives and education is inspiring. Your unwavering dedication to creating positive change in the community is truly commendable

Jaysukhlal Shantilal Mehta, Trustee, The Mahavir Trust

IMPROVING WATER SECURITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS





STRENGTHENING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

The education programme provides access to quality education opportunities to children in areas of seasonal migration, while also advocating to communities and governments the universal right to education. The Learning and Migration Program (LAMP) operates in highly underserved, remote districts, where school dropout often occurs due to distress seasonal migration undertaken by the family.

- 10,337 children reached through 400 Learning Resource Centers
- 5 Smart classes were established
- 5 Science labs with appropriate tools were established
- 14 libraries were established in schools and learning centers
- 672 School Management Committee members are trained
- 1,151 Panchayati Raj Institution members were trained on the right to education in districts where school dropout often occurs due to distress seasonal migration undertaken by the family.



CONDUCTING AQUIFER MAPPING TO IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We have begun aquifer mapping in the Sakri River Basin to draw out future ways forward for groundwater restoration, catchment and recharge zone development and appropriate cropping.

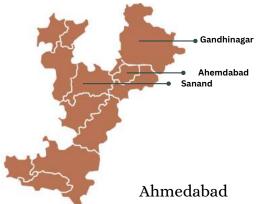
Tribal communities are also undergoing leadership training to undertake the planning and governance of water management systems.



I. ADDRESSING GAPS IN RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS, THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND YOUNG WOMEN FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE AHMEDABAD

Samerth Talim Kendra: The need based rehabilitation centre for Differently Abled Children and Adults

- In 2007, there was a critical demand for a dedicated programme in Ahmedabad to address the unique needs of children and adults with disabilities residing in the densely populated slums of Vejalpur, Sarkhej, and Makarba.
- We provided rehabilitative care, encompassing physiotherapy, speech therapy, sensory therapy, and animal-assisted therapy, to more than 100 children. Over the course of the past year, these children have experienced significant improvements in their communication and mobility skills.



STRENGTHENING SCHOOL SYSTEMS WITH CHILD-FRIENDLY PEDAGOGIES

- Working with over 13 public schools and community centres to adopt child-friendly pedagogies that improve school retention and test scores of over 2,500 children.
- Initiated the 'tablet' programme where 400 children aged 5 to 14 years in five learning centres are provided with handheld tablets to help them access technology and the internet to support their learning.
- Provided the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Programme to over 60 out-of-school children from Classes 10 and 12.



FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

We work closely with adolescent girls and women on essential skills of entrepreneurship as well as sexual health and rights, and nutrition. We believe with the right support and access to skills, entrepreneurship is an effective tool for financial independence and community development.



Training with Adolescent girls on Nutrition and Menstrual Hygiene

Provided an intensive training programme on leadership, entrepreneurship, health and women's rights to over 500 adolescent girls and young women.

- Supported the establishment of nutritional snack businesses of 12 young women. We have set up a central kitchen to support the operations of all these businesses.
- Provided alternate vocational training in jewelry making, and paper-plate making to young adults with disabilities.

SAMINA A GROWING ENTREPRENEUR...

Samina, a devoted homemaker for 14 years, faced the challenge of finding employment until she discovered Samerth. The team at Samerth provided her with a beautician course, which not only empowered her to establish a thriving beauty parlour within her home but also offered her invaluable financial assistance.

Today, Samina is on the cusp of expanding her business by securing a nearby shop-front. Her strong bonds with her loyal customers and the supportive community that surrounds her are a testament to her success and dedication.

66 The parlour has granted me the precious gift of both tending to my daughter's special needs and achieving financial independence while contributing to our family's income. 99





WE HAVE TAKEN STRONG STEPS TOWARDS A UNIFIED VISION AND GOAL "ONE TEAM, ONE SAMERTH"

We've amalgamated our 120-strong team in Kutch, Chhattisgarh, and Ahmedabad under the vision 'One Team, One Samerth'. As a growing organisation, we have collaboratively defined our future vision and strategy through intensive team building activities and discussions, for the next five years.



FINANCIALS

Accountability & Transparency

STATUTORY AUDITORS

M/s. H Rustom & Co.

Mistry Chambers, 1st Floor, Near Cama Hotel, Khanpur, Ahmedabad 380 001 hafezdalal@gmail.com **(**. 079-25600733

INCOME

M/s. A.S. Shaikh & Co. 201, Park Avenue, Saiyedwada, Khanpur, Ahmedabad 380 001 🕻 9898769909 🐹 aslamskh@gmail.com



Salary (Highest and Lowest) : Highest Paid Staff ₹ 13,20,000/- per annum (Ms. Gazala Paul Managing Trustee). Lowest - ₹ 1,08,000/- per annum Foreign Travel: There was no foreign visit by any staff in 2022-23. Domestic Travel: ₹ 46,69,597/- (for field and Programme Personnel)



INR 961.82 Lakh (USD 1.15 Million)

For more information on programmes, audit reports or to get involved, Please write to us: info@samerth.org

Balance Sheet for the year ended on 31st March 2023

PARTICULARS	ANNEXURE	Foreign	Indian	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
FUNDS & LIABILITIES					
TRUST FUNDS	A	23,72,909	36,87,462	60,60,371	59,87,773
GENERAL FUND	с		96,08,549	96,08,549	86,91,538
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	C1	59,75,751		59,75,751	62,63,333
UNUTILIZED GRANT	G1	3,51,57,383	2,77,31,339	6,28,88,722	4,10,00,871
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	D	0	3,43,481	3,43,481	3,16,831
TOTAL		4,35,06,042	4,13,70,832	8,48,76,874	6,22,60,346
ASSETS & PROPERTIES					
NET BLOCK OF FIXED ASSETS	в	23,72,909	15,54,851	39,27,760	41,49,543
GRANT RECEIVABLE	G2	2,88,194		2,88,194	15,40,927
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	E	3,52,63,557	2,84,49,938	6,37,13, <mark>4</mark> 95	4,20,83,198
INVESTMENT	F	55,81,382	1,13,66,043	1,69,47,425	1,44,86,679
TOTAL		4,35,06,042	4,13,70,832	8,48,76,874	6,22,60,346

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2023

Bank Account No. of Trust for transaction of Foreign Contribution: 40096325429 - State Bank of India F.C.R.A. No. 041910243 Dated: 5th December 2000 (Renewal till 31st December 2026)

Accounting Policies & Notes forming part of accounts

For, Samerth Charitable Trust

ARIT £-9150 AHMEDABAD

Ms Gazala Paul Managing Trustee

Date: 5th August 2023 Place :Ahmedabad For, A S Shaikh & Co. Chartered Accountants Firm Reg. No. 139775W

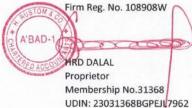
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A'BAD-Aslam Shaikh

Proprietor Membership No.162345 UDIN: 23162345BGPEL55537

Date :5th August 2023 Place : Ahmedabad As per our Report of even date

For, H. Rustom & Co. Chartered Accountants



Date : 5th August 2023 Place : Ahmedabad

'THANK YOU'

Dear Partners, Donors Well Wishers and Supporters

The support we have received from institutions, corporates and generous individuals has enabled us to touch lives at the grassroots level.



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- · American Friends Edelgive Foundation, USA
- Asha For Education, USA
- Ashraya Hastha Trust, Bangalore, India
- Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, India
- Baal Dan Charities, USA
- Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), New Delhi, India
- Commonland, Netherland
- Eklavya Foundation, Bangalore, India
- Frank Water, UK
- Give Foundation, USA
- Give India, Mumbai, India
- Global Green Grant Fund, USA
- · Gujarat CSR Authority, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- · India Development and Relief Fund, Inc., USA
- Krupa Limited, UK
- Manav Jagruti Foundation, New Delhi, India
- Manav Kalyan Trust, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Marcus Business Services LLP, Ahmedabad, India
- QI to Happiness Foundation, Ahmedabad, India
- Samerth-USA
- Shree Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal, Mumbai & Sayla, Gujarat, India
- · Sitaram Jindal Foundation New Delhi, Bangalore, India
- The American India Foundation, USA/ India
- The Ford Foundation, USA
- The Mahavir Trust, UK
- United Nations Children Fund-UNICEF, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- Water Harvest Limited, UK
- Wipro Foundation, Bangalore, India
- · Wheels India Niswarth Foundation, USA, India

INDIVIDUALS FROM INDIA, USA & AUSTRALIA

- Ms Priyavanda A Doshi, Australia
- Mr Ajay Doshi, Australia
- Mr Ashwin Maganlal Doshi, Mumbai
- Mrs Bhatia Ketki Kesarising, Ahmedabad Gujarat
- Mr Emmanuel D'Silva, USA
- Mr Hasan A Lala & Mrs Amina H Lala, Mumbai
- Mr Jaysukhlal Shantilal Mehta, UK
- Mr Mahendra Jagirdar, USA
- Mr Narendra and Ms Jyoti Popat, USA/ /Mumbai
- Mr Nemchand Shamji Shah, Kenya
- Ms Nilpa Shah, UK
- Mr Pravin Kumar Tandlay, USA
- Mr Yusufi Esmailji Nalwala, Mumbai
- Ms Amrtha Kasturi Rangan, Mumbai
- Param Pujya Bhai Shree Nalinbhai Kothari, Mumbai

CORPORATE

- Bandhan Bank Ltd, Regional Office, Ahmedabad
- Cygnet Infotech Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad
- Dharampal Satyapal Limited, Noida
- HDFC Bank Limited, Mumbai
- LIC Housing Finance Limited, Mumbai
- PPG Asian Paints Pvt Ltd, Mumbai
- Siddhantam Tollway Pvt Ltd, Delhi
- Trützschler India Pvt Ltd, Ahmedadbad



We would love to extend an open invitation to everyone interested in understanding our work.

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AND PLAN A VISIT !

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAMERTH CHARITABLE TRUST ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TAX EXEMPTION

Samerth is a non-government, not for profit organization • Registered in 1992 under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950, Trust Registration No. E-9150/Ahmedabad • Also registered under Ministry of Home Affairs, India, to receive foreign funds, 12 A and exempted under 80G. • Samerth is tax exempted under section 501(c) for receiving a donation in the USA. • Certified by Credibility Alliance for adhering to Desirable Norms prescribed for Good Governance • Registered under CSR-1, Regt. No. CSR00000832 under the Government of India, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Office of the Registration of Companies.

