

# ***Expanding Reach, Deepening Impact***

Annual Report 2021 - 22



**Saath Gramin Trust**

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## 1. Post-COVID Community Engagement and Geographic Expansion

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Saath Gramin Trust launched an intensive community engagement campaign across Gujarat to reconnect with grassroots stakeholders, reassess evolving local needs, and identify new opportunities for impactful interventions. These visits prioritized inclusive recovery, particularly for women, youth, and rural households affected by the pandemic.

- Conducted mapping and needs assessments in over 30 rural and peri-urban communities.
- Identified thematic priorities including health, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, adolescent development, and financial inclusion.
- Forged strategic partnerships with local grassroots organizations and women-led collectives to ensure community ownership and sustainable implementation.

This effort laid the groundwork for expanding operations into key districts such as:

- Ahmedabad (Urban and Rural)
- Gandhinagar
- Kheda
- Mehsana
- Valsad (South Gujarat)
- Bharuch

Through this strategic expansion, the Trust deepened its presence in both tribal and industrial regions—ensuring its development efforts reached some of the most underserved and economically vulnerable populations.



## **2. Strengthening Women's Economic Resilience through Financial & Digital Literacy**

In 2021–22, Saath Gramin Trust continued to prioritize women's financial empowerment by providing financial and digital literacy training to over 700 women, many of whom are members of the Saath Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative Society.

- Prepared women to manage financial emergencies and adapt to rising inflation.
- Introduced tools for household budgeting and daily expense tracking.
- Promoted use of formal banking products such as savings accounts, fixed/recurring deposits.
- Built awareness on identifying and avoiding informal debt traps.
- Facilitated understanding of government schemes and entitlements to access financial and social benefits.

## **3. Skill Development for Holistic Empowerment**

Alongside financial literacy, Saath Gramin Trust organized a comprehensive skill development program benefiting 675 women and adolescent girls through a three-month training initiative. The program focused on both technical skills and personal development, creating pathways to economic and social empowerment.

Key Components:

- Vocational training in professional beauty parlour services
- Leadership development
- Life skills education
- Gender sensitivity
- Financial sustainability and entrepreneurship

This integrated approach enabled women not only to enhance their livelihoods but also to take ownership of their personal and professional growth.





#### 4. Gender Rights and Legal Awareness



To ensure women were equipped beyond economic knowledge, the training also included gender rights and legal literacy modules. These sessions helped women recognize their rights and access redressal mechanisms when needed.

Topics Covered:

- Provisions under the Domestic Violence Act (2005) and POSH Act (Sexual Harassment at Workplace).
- Access to legal aid services, helplines (181, 1091), Mahila Police Stations, and Women Help Desks.



Delivered through participatory formats—role plays, group discussions, and storytelling—these modules built awareness, confidence, and a sense of collective strength among women participants.

#### 5. Knowledge Creation and Research: Sambalpur Need-Based Assessment

In a significant move toward national-level engagement, Saath Gramin Trust undertook a comprehensive Need-Based Assessment Study in Sambalpur, Odisha, commissioned by Mott MacDonald (JSW Foundation). The study aimed to inform and align CSR efforts with community realities in the region.

Key Findings:

- Widespread deficiencies in healthcare infrastructure, particularly in maternal and child health.
- Gaps in educational access and quality, especially for adolescent girls and tribal children.
- Limited livelihood opportunities and lack of formal skill-building programs.
- Inadequate sanitation and water facilities in marginalized settlements.



The study concluded with actionable, area-specific recommendations tailored to Sambalpur's socio-economic context. It reinforced Saath Gramin Trust's role as a key partner in participatory research, contextual diagnostics, and evidence-driven development planning.