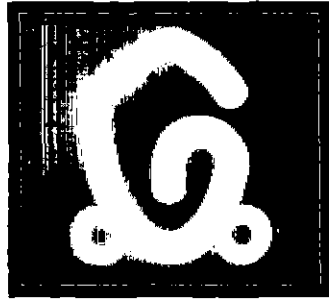


વાર્ષિક અહેવાલ ૧૯૯૫-૯૬

ANNUAL REPORT 1995-96

વાર્ષિક અહેવાલ ૧૯૯૫-૯૬



મહિલા સામખ્ય ગુજરાત

MAHILA SAMAKHYA GUJARAT

મહિલા સમાખ્યા ગુજરાત

ANNUAL REPORT

1995 -96

Mahila Samakhya Society

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Outline

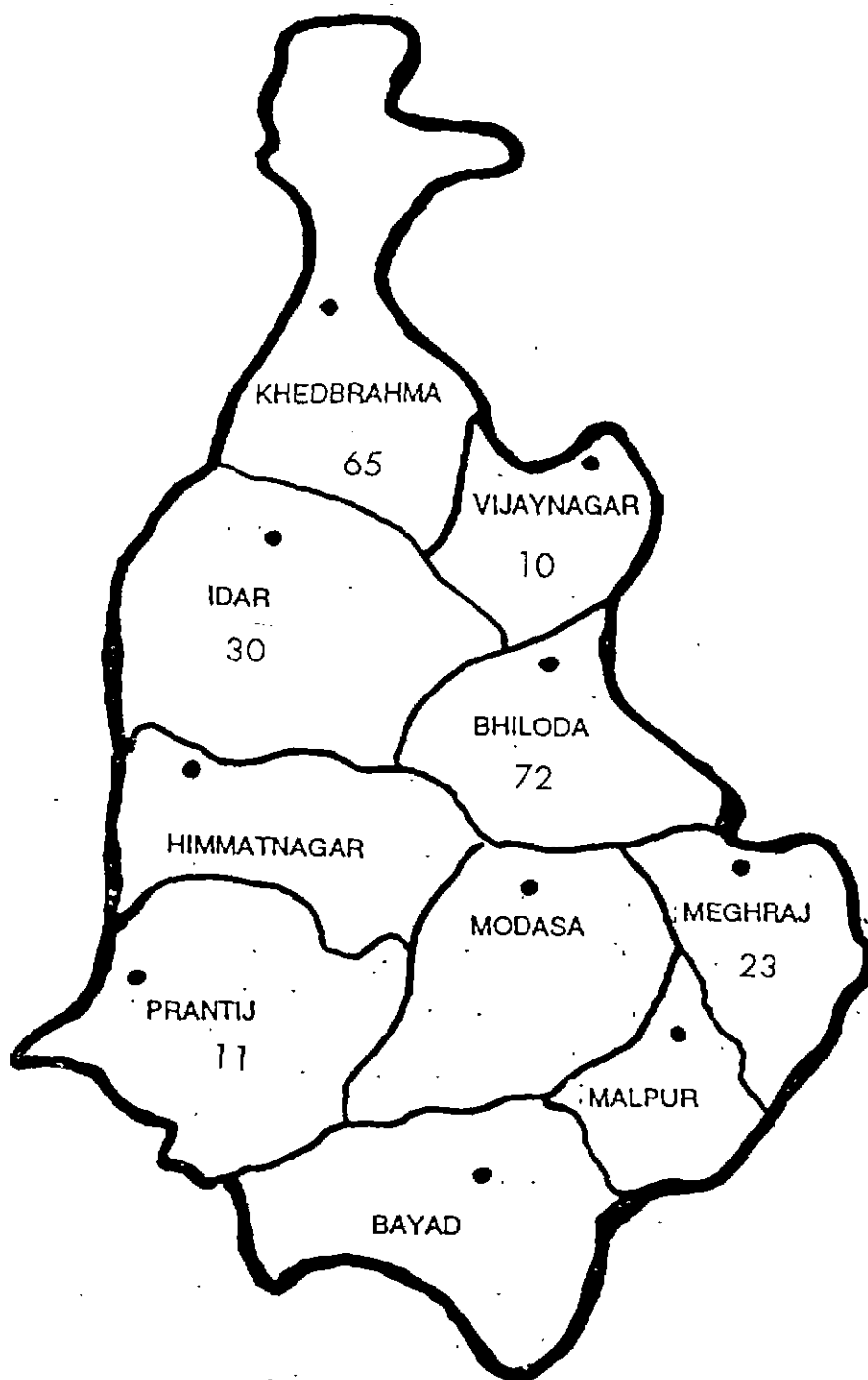
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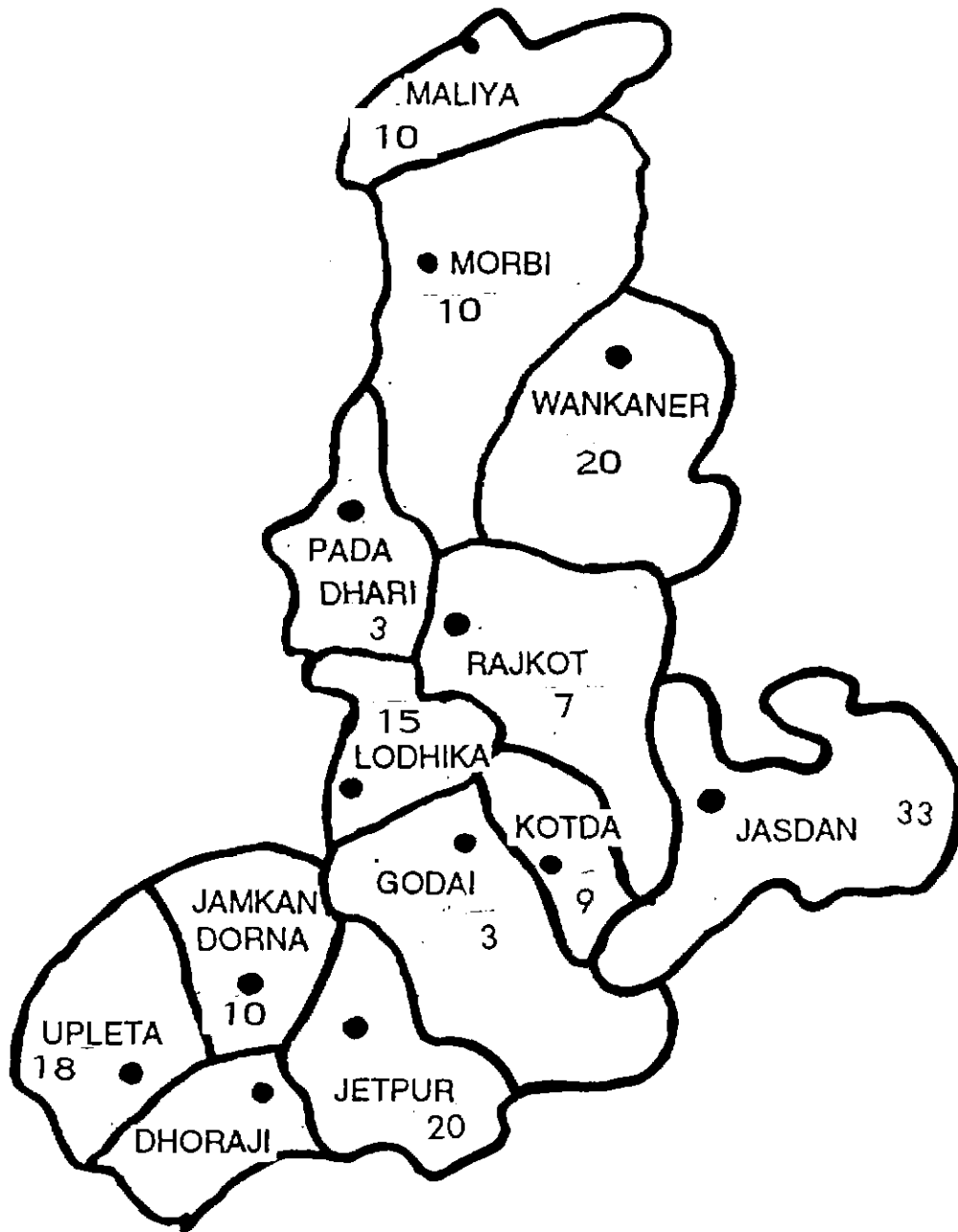
SABARKANTHA DISTRICT



MS PROFILE

No. of Villages	211
No. of Talukas	6
No. of Sahyoginis	32
No. of Trained Sakhis	544
No. of Trainee Sakhis	254
Total sakhis 85 Villages	798

RAJKOT DISTRICT



MS PROFILE

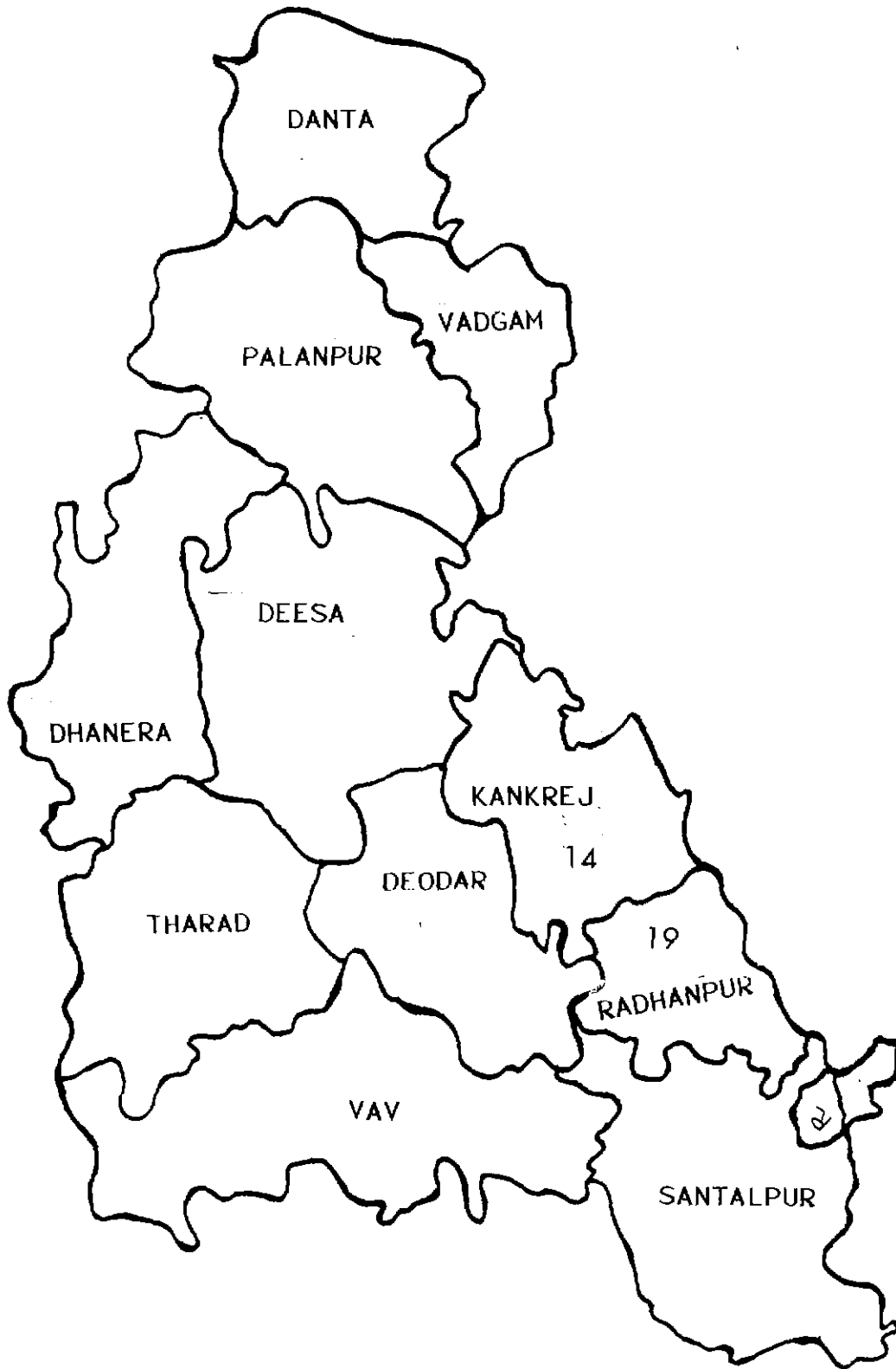
No. of Villages	154
No. of Talukas	12
No. of Sahyoginis	16
No. of Trained Sakhis	320
No. of Trainee Sakhis	202
Total sakhis 109 Villages	522

BARODA DISTRICT



MS PROFILE	
No. of Villages	264
No. of Talukas	7
No. of Sahyoginis	28
No. of Trained Sakhis	550
No. of Trainee Sakhis	147
Total sakhis 151 Villages	697

BANASKANTHA DISTRICT



MS PROFILE

No. of Villages

33

No. of Talukas

2

No. of Sahyoginis

05

Statistical Profile of Mahila Samakhya Gujarat

District	No. of Sahyoginis	No. of villages	No. of Blocks	Total No. of Sakhis (Villages with Sakhis)
Baroda	28	264	7	697 (151)
Banaskantha	5	33	2	-
Rajkot	16	154	12	522 (109)
Sabarkantha	32	211	6	798 (85)
Total	81	622	27	2017 (345)

Statistical details of Child Care Centres in MSG

District	No. of Blocks	No. of Centres	No. of Balsakhis	No. of Children
Baroda	4	22	44	660
Rajkot	8	16	23	275
Sabarkantha	2	20	67	513
Total	14	58	134	1448

Statistical status of Mahila Kutir Processes in MSG

District	No. of villages were:			
	Kutirs have been completed	Kutirs under construction	Land is obtained for kutir	Processes for acquiring land are going on
Baroda	-	1	4	24
Rajkot	3	-	15	20
Sabarkantha	4	3	4	08
Total	7	4	23	52

Statistical data about Savings groups in MSG

District	No. of villages	No. of blocks	No. of women (approx)	Approx. amount saved
Banaskantha	1	1	45	450 Rs.
Baroda	10	4	225	25,000 Rs.
Sabarkantha	48	4	780	1,14,500 Rs.
Rajkot	25	6	600	1,15,000 Rs.
	84	15	1650	2,44,950 Rs.

Statistical Details about Sakhis

District	No. of sakhis who are:		Total sakhis (Villages with sakhis)
	Trained (Villages)	Trainee (Villages)	
Rajkot	320 (80)	202 (72)	522(109)
Baroda	550 (141)	147 (66)	697(151)
Sabarkantha	544 (72)	254 (70)	798(85)
MSG Total	1414 (293)	603 (208)	2017(345)

Statistical details about participation of
Sangha Women elected on
different levels of Panchayati Raj in MSG

Level District	Panchayat Member	Sarpanch/ Deputy Sarpanch	Block Member	Total
Rajkot	91	18	7	116
Baroda	48	14	2	64
Sabarkantha	35	13	3	51
MSG Total	174	45	12	231

OUR PROGRAMME, OURSELVES

Year after year after year - Year comes and years go. Annual reports are written and rewritten. New events, new processes, new experiences in the same old structure. The structure which has its foundation stone laid in 1988.

New Education Policy (1986) and its plan of Action focussed on women's education with a new dimension. Cultural and social attitudes, regional, community, caste, religious taboos and above all the position of women within the family and the social structure needs to be addressed to create an impact. The programme of education for women's equality was designed and ten districts of three states - Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh were selected for its implementation.

MAHILA SAMAKHYA : THE NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES

- * The initial phase of the project, when women are coming together to form collectives and consolidate their independent name and space, must not be hurried and short-circuited.
- * The pace, form and content of all activities must be determined by women and women's collectives at the village level who are participants in it, and women's priorities for learning must always be respected.
- * All processes and activities within the programme must be based on respect for women's existing knowledge, experience and skills.
- * Every component and activity within the project must create an environment for learning, help women to experience and affirm their strengths, create time and space for reflection and respect individual uniqueness and variation.

* Planning, decision making and evaluation process as well as all levels of project personnel must always be accountable to the women's collectives at the village level.

* Project structure and personnel must play facilitative and supportive rather than directive roles.

Today being executed in six States of India, Mahila Samakhya our programme has proved to be successful strategy for education and empowerment of rural poor women. After Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, Mahila Samakhya started in Andhra Pradesh and in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh as a part of Bihar Education Project and District Primary Education Programme respectively.

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat registered as an autonomous society in April 1989 started initially in three districts - Rajkot, Baroda and Sabarkantha whereas the fourth one - Banaskantha was added in 1994.

MAHILA SAMAKHYA : THE OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance the self-image and self-confidence of women and enable them to recognise the worth of their contribution to society and the economy.
2. To create an environment when women demand knowledge and information thus empowering them to play a positive role in their own development and the development of society.
3. To establish decentralised and participative mode of management, with the decision-making powers devolved to the district and village levels, which in turn will provide the necessary conditions for effective participation.

4. To enable village-level women's collectives to actively assist and monitor educational activities in the villages including the primary school, AE/NEF centres and facilities for continuing education.
5. To provide women and adolescent girls with the necessary support structures and an informal learning environment to create opportunities for education.
6. To set in motion circumstances for larger participation of women and girls in formal and non-formal education structures and to create an environment in which education can serve the objectives of women's equality.

Having spent seven years in the fields Mahila Samakhya Gujarat matured as programme. This year in January Executive Committee approved of releasing of Sakhi honorarium money to Mahila Sangha as a collective fund. Since long discussions were going on in the villages wanting to shift into Sangha model. With the decision it will soon be executed from April 1996 releasing funds in the name of Sanghas. This will in a way decentralised financial management and decision-making in the hands of sangha which is the central to Mahila Samkhya Project.

This year personnel selection for resource person/consultants were held twice - in June and December 1995. Executive Committee met for these times in a year - July, September and January.

The important development on human resource front was selection of two more Sahayoginis as resource persons. Sahayoginis selections for Banaskantha and Rajkot districts is planned in near future. Many Sakhis, literacy volunteers and Sangha women are keen to become Sahayoginis.

The 8th March celebrations this year showed that 10363 women from four districts participated in the programmes of which majority participated at their own expense. It is a step in the direction to create autonomous collectives in the villages when Mahila Samakhya project comes to an end by 1997.

Trainings and Reflections

Mahila Samakhya is a process oriented programme and processes are neither visible nor systematically straight forward. Mahila Samakhya being women's education programme believes in giving equal emphasis to creating time and space for learning opportunities to women as well as learning new things. The programme is implemented in a participatory and flexible manner equally respecting priorities of women.

In such a condition the programme can neither have ready-made designed schedules for training its personnel nor can consider any learning experience as conclusive one. Trainings and reflections are continuous processes going on for different levels - Sangha, Sakhi, Sahayogini, district and State team members and for different roles - Balsakhi, dai, kutir constructor, literacy instructor, Nari adalat women, woman member/sarpanch in Panchayat, trainer for health issues and so many of them.

DTT : NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Last year witnessed important change in training structure of District Training Team (DTT). Training for all District and State team members and DTT Sahayoginis took place in April-May 1995. The training covered issue-based planning and theoretical issues of collective functioning. The training was facilitated by Abha Bhaiya from Delhi and Shrilata Batliwala from Bangalore. It did led to lot of conceptual clarity and collective understanding among participants who were from two different levels.

The forum of interaction of DTT members continued in June and September where DTT from all the districts camp up with their difficulties. With new recruitments two DTT member Sahayoginis became resource persons and two going on long leave changes were required in Rajkot and Baroda districts. Besides the discussion on decentralisation of training skills, concentration of "power" among DTT members and dependence upon them led to a collective decision that those Sahayoginis who are interested in imparting training will do it for their cluster Sakhis. The decision and dream of many Sahayoginis to explore themselves as trainers became a reality and as Sankheda cluster Sahayoginis from Baroda district wrote in their letter to State office "We did the training ourselves for the first time in March. The evaluation and planning session of the last day shows that it has reached women and we are now confident that we can do trainings for our Sakhis." Sabarkantha district unit continued with their DTT.

Trainings in Mahila Samakhya do not merely mean structured training programme within but also includes interactions with outsiders, attending training programmes of other organisations, meeting together for collective decision-making or even taking up any activity which has not been done before and learn from one's own experiences.

OUTSIDE INTERACTIONS

In May 1995 one Sahayogini from Rajkot attended Uttar Pradesh Mahila Samakhya training on Sangha model. She shared Gujarat experiences of Sakhi rotation model and got insight into Uttar Pradesh programme. Six members from Gujarat visited Uttar

Pradesh Mahila Samakhya in May: 1995 They visited Varanasi and Banda districts and got more details about setting up and running Mahila Shikshan Kendra and programme processes going on in those districts.

NEW AREA OF REFLECTION

More training inputs on women, violence and sexuality went into the programme this year. Four members from Gujarat attended single women workshop in April 1995 organised by Jagori, New Delhi. In October 1995 two resource persons from Baroda attended workshop on child abuse and violence against women organised by Shakshi, New Delhi. The training helped them to evolve new methodology and content for Yuvati Shibirs. It also helped them in networking for the programme and self development as individuals.

Shakshi was invited to organise such workshop in Gujarat in February where 12 women from Mahila Samkhya Gujarat also attended the programme. Mahila Samkhya Baroda organised this workshop which was sponsored by Shakshi. The workshop mainly focussed on issues of women and violence, analysis of nature of violence, women's health issues and issues of child abuse. The workshop besides creating conceptual clarity lead to confidence and openness among group members who never related concepts with their own lives and their work in the field. State consultant attended workshop on Reproductive Health of Women with special emphasis on Reproductive Tract infection in February which was organised by Centre for Operations Research and Training. Women's health training of SEWA Rural was also attended by Sabarkantha and Rajkot women in September.

Issue-based trainings for Panchayati raj, child care, legal awareness, handpump repairs, literacy volunteers etc. and Sakhi orientation and reflections continued. In December Mahila Samakhya women expressed their support to Bhawaridevi by attending the protest rally organised in Jaipur. The rally made women understand the way strategies are evolved to address issue of atrocities against women taking a large public forum.

THEATRE WORKSHOP

There had been a major training programme on theatre mainly for DTT Sahayoginis. In July 20 days workshop was organised by Delhi-based Rati Bartholomew. 68 years old Rati has vast experience of theatre and working with women's groups. 20 women attending the workshop learnt to use their body to express ideas through exercises and games, write and create plays from real life incidences, analyse films with feminist perspective and importance of collective coordination in creating a play. The workshop conducted in a strictly disciplined atmosphere created short stories and street plays by the group members. As one of the participants in the evaluation reflected, "The nature exists all around us but the experience of coordinating with it and act was new one. This workshop was the opportunity to express my such feelings." Painting, singing songs, writing stories, doing mimes, creating improvisations, structuring scenes and making play were all integral part of the workshop. The workshop besides making participants confident in creating better plays for celebrations and melas, also gave new exercises and games for otherwise body conscious women coming for trainings. Use of these exercises in Sakhi trainings created joy of expression and articulation among trainee women.

Sahayoginis attending theatre workshop in turn did the similar training for other Sahayoginis in the district. Such training for Banaskantha and Sabarkantha group took place in October. The workshop also led to adding few sessions in Sakhi trainings. The inputs were also used in plays done in literacy day and women's day celebrations in September and March.

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

Process Documentation (PD) workshops and trainings of the last year had generated lot of material. In January PD core team meeting was conducted with Delhi based Kalyani Menon Sen. Reflecting upon past experience of PD and possibilities of using existing material, ways and designs for future activities were evolved in this two-days meeting. Considering the need to design strategies for the next plan period (if Mahila Samakhya programme continues after 1997) and to consolidate Sangha opinions on past and future of Mahila Samakhya programme, Sahayoginis workshop for doing Sangha PD were conducted in February in all the three old districts Sahayoginis decided to carry out Sangha PD workshops in two to three Sanghas which is going to be over by May 1996. .pa

This second phase of PD workshop aimed at getting future directions and consolidating past experiences provided forums for collective reflection to all those who are in the programme since long. It has been planned to carry out similar exercise with new batch of Sahayoginis. Sangha PD workshops have started in the villages which are being facilitated by Sahayogini of that respective Sangha. It is hoped that the exercise will help in getting insights about sangha processes.

ADDITIONAL INPUTS

In November State Programme Director of Mahila Samakhya Uttar Pradesh conducted a workshop on evaluation for all district teams. The workshop helped in individual reflections and discussing administrative and programmatic systems in their State.

Newly recruited resource person\consultants were given 15 days on-the-field training this year. In January seven of them attended training programme and visited villages in Baroda, Rajkot and Sabarkantha districts and concluded with their own analysis and plan of action.

In February accounts and administrative training for all district unit members including deputationist from government was conducted by State office. The training helped in creating uniform systems across the districts. The communication helped in resolving understanding differences among government and non-government functionaries.

It was in April 1995 that during DIU-DTT training need to have all Sahayogini Mela after the last one done in 1991 was expressed. The matter was rediscussed in all-DIU meeting in August and objectives and planning meeting was fixed. As it was to be Sahayogini Mela planning committee consisting of Sahayoginis met in September to decide Mela design. The venue explorations for 125 people and other administrative processes are going on and the beginning of the next year will witness all Gujarat team meet.

Reflecting upon field experiences, learning from each other and strategising for future actions had been the content of all-DIU meetings. The inter-district interactions were more on a continuous basis this year with DIU meetings in April, July, August and December. Sahayogini monthly meetings, Sakhi cluster meetings, Balsakhi reflections and meetings, child care centre children parents meeting are the regular activities at the district which keep on providing learning opportunities as well as monitoring mechanisms.

WOMAN AND WATER

Water - the daily necessity and the difficulty in most of the villages has been the issue taken up in new villages during rapport building processes. Sahayogini facilitating processes for acquiring handpump or getting it repaired or trying for water-taps upto their locality leads to initial process for women to break their inhibitions and go out of their villages to block or district offices. It is also a beginning of and strenghtening of collective formation.

In Banaskantha women have approached Shihori Water Supply office for giving application and are now in touch with the line-man in the village who is responsible for water supply. In Rajkot Sangha women have tried to take water taps upto Harijan Vas. This had never been done in the past and that too by women on their own.

NEW DIRECTION

The otherwise handled at the Sangha level issue of water took new shape in Rajkot district. In October 1995 district unit Rajkot took up "People's participation in handpump repairing and maintenance project" in collaboration with district panchayat and UNICEF. The project had been initiated in January 1995 but Mahila Samakhya Rajkot took it up for 17 villages of Jasdan block. Rapport building, survey and information sharing on health, educational programmes and shows were organised by two Sahayoginis of the block where Sangha women also participated actively. Water committees were formed and handpump mechanics were identified. In March 1996 training of 54 members the water committes of 10 villages was conducted. Handpump mechanics (including women)

were selected in four villages who also took training in March . The training programme was conducted in coordination with Gujarat Jal Sewa Training Institute, and I.F.C.L. Rajkot.

The handpump project in Rajkot has led to change of attitude in many people involved in the project who had little faith in women's potential earlier. Water-related interactions in other districts though have been not taken major moves definitely have led to positive image of the programme in the eyes of government officials. Women too have felt more comfortable in interacting with government set up afterwards for their road, electricity, transport services, benefits of government schemes and other such work once water related interactions teach them new lessons - lessons they never thought they will learn in their life-time.

Women and Health

Women's Health - It's an area where feeling of shame, neglect and carelessness is prevalent to the maximum amount. Women's health issues are hardly talked about and even if they are, they focus around reproductive health of women.

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat had mainly worked in four broad areas:

- Linkage with PHC,
- Upgrading skills of village mid-wives
- Health awareness camps and trainings
- Adolescent girls camps.

This year also either of these areas of intervention continued in all the districts. Banaskantha district still into initial processes of programme took up issue of access to health services in the villages. In Kankrej block Khengarpura village women took an initiative in stopping money taken by government appointed nurse. She used to charge money from villagers for giving injections. In many villages women started discussions on getting health services, regularity of the nurse, problems with existing health infrastructure and so on. Mahila Samakhya actively got associated with the Pulse-Polio Vaccination programme this year. On 9th December and 20th January women from village Sangha to district unit actively participated in the campaign. In many villages women helped government officials in making the programme successful. Sangha members also propagated importance of vaccination to other women in the village.

Health

Adolescent girls camps

This year also adolescent girls camps continued across the districts.

In Sabarkantha another such training with the help of NGO CHETNA was organised in June. 25 girls from five villages of Khedbrahma participated in the training. The experience was enriching for the girls to know themselves better.

Rajkot started with one camp in September where 20 girls participated from three villages. Reflecting on their experiences during training they said, "we got much information for the first time in our life and we will use it individually and discuss it with our friends also. We still want some more information."

In Baroda Sankheda block Yuvati Shibir was organised in January where additional inputs were given on women and sexuality and violence by district resource persons who attended Shakshi Delhi-based women's group training. In five blocks of the district Yuvati meetings are going on and girls are demanding reading material. Even Sangha women are asking for such training as many misconceptions exist about anatomy, sexuality and women's health related issues. These girls also participated actively in health survey work of the district.

Isn't it an achievement that from a state of passive acceptance of their reality, these 'future women' are asserting themselves by demanding to know more? The informal young girls groups in villages are also providing support mechanism to Mahila Sangha.

HEALTH TRAININGS

Dai trainings have been taken up in Rajkot district. In September women's health training was attended by Sahayoginis and district resource person. Sahayoginis initiated discussions about dai trainings in the villages as a follow up of which Sangha women evolved criteria for dais to be trained. The processes also raised issues of lack of skills among so-called trained dais, attitudes of dais and absence of financial motivation, inability of old dais to carry out delivery, names of dais only on paper who never go for services etc.etc. Survey forms for information about dais were filled up and two dais each from a village were selected. The long term training programmes for these dais will soon be taken up with Jhagadia-based NGO SEWA-Rural. In the 8th March celebrations also health stalls in collaboration with PHC were opened where information about health issues was imparted. Women also did role plays on work done by them on health issues which led to awareness among women attending those programmes.

HEALTH CAMP

Mahila Samakhya Sabarkantha continued with the health camp in Bhiloda block. Health diagnosis camp was organised in coordination with local NGO Arpan and Ashaniketan health centre. 450 women, men and children attended the camp. Arpan also provided medicines in a camp where specialists were also called for health check-up. Follow ups and meetings were also conducted in the villages. Local PHC had exhibited health related posters, models and film for health education. The district also plans to carry out health survey and health awareness workshop in the villages. Women and health training at SEWA-Rural, Jhagadia was also attended by two Sahayoginis. They learnt new things about health issues, women's health and society, STD, etc.etc.

HEALTH SURVEY

Mahila Samakhya Baroda in September decided to take up health issue on a long term basis for five blocks. In January Health Survey to assess local needs, conditions and feasibility of discussing health status of women was taken up in as many as 70 villages through Sahayoginis initiating discussion on women's health issues. The survey form included topics of availability of PHC services, kind of illness, traditional healing practices, delivery methods, family planning perceptions, food habits, village quacks, training needs of dais etc.etc. The major issues faced by rural women were white discharge, headaches, pain in the waist, difficulties related to mansturation, etc. etc. Based on experiences in the first phase the form has been re-designed. In Dabhoi as a part of 8th March celebration health camps were organised in collaboration with Lions Club. 125 women were examined in detail and guidance was given for the remedy. It was in these camps that discussions on services of PHC were made. A paper on health services available at village and block level had been distributed for information.

The health survey in Baroda led to lot of discussion and analysis in Sangha meetings. Women became conscious about feeling of 'shame' and inhibitions attached to their 'body'. Many sociological beliefs associated with women's body were also debated. It was realised that in Pavi Jetpur, Chotta Udaipur and Naswadi blocks superstitious beliefs about women's disease prevailed. Local NGO Parivartan was contacted who carried out village level programmes to address these issues. 11 such programmes covering 25 villages were attended by 1700 women and men. It also led to realisation of their exploitation and analytical approach started developing among them.

It has to be accepted that this new direction of information gathering on women's health issues has brought out the least discussed topic in the 'public' forum. Women too are becoming more conscious of their health problems leading to improved health status and even visibility among family. She who hardly took care of herself now knows that she also has a right to take treatment and her health problems are also equally important.

Women and Law

Law - a mystique which can in no way be understood by rural poor women. This is what is commonly believed but has gone wrong when it comes to Mahila Samakhya processes.

It was in the initial years when women started coming together as a group and reflect upon their household experiences, the otherwise individual issues of beatings by husband, alcoholism, problems in getting maintenance, divorce or one's own child only because SHE IS A WOMAN started recognising as women's issues. Sangha took collective actions in the issues of beatings or abuse by husband for attending the Sangha meeting or not cooking proper food or even for no reason at all. Women got together and tried to persuade the husband and if it did not work they pressurised him by creating public opinion or social pressure as a group. In many villages individual cases camp up where Mahila Samakhya being facilitative educational programme tried to create local supports and mobilise group to take collective action.

TOWARDS NEW ALTERNATIVES

Vaghodia block women in Baroda district took these processes seriously and they formed the legal committee consisting of women from ten villages. The legal committee formally formed in May 1995 was a voluntary action of rural women which was firmly supported by Sahayoginis of the area. They decided the date and the time: Monday 11 to 5 P.M. The place was a problem. They decided to meet at the block office compound and sit below neem tree. Cases started coming to the committee and credibility got established in a very short time. The women of the committee were

approachable at their villages also. Many incidences came to individual women which in turn got placed in the committee. The committee women continued to come to the block office at their own expenses. Cases handled by women* ranged from stridhan, maintenance or child custody to division of property, cattle related disputes or even family matters.

In September 1995 the literacy day celebration the Legal Committee women did a role play and renamed their committee as 'Nari Adalat' (Women's Court). There are 17 women from 11 villages who are till date running the court voluntarily. The women from Padra block got inspired and they also decided to have their Nari Adalats. In Padra two different segments of the block evolved their two Adalats in December 1995 and interestingly one of the group sits in the Theatre compound every Tuesday. Baroda district has by the end of the year three women's courts in operation which are the result of rural women's voluntary efforts.

LAW

Impact of Nari Adalats in Vaghodia and Padra Blocks

A complete voluntary action of rural poor women evolving out of a government sponsored programme is what Nari Adalat means. It is the women's collective attempt to look for an alternative system where women have 'space' for expression while going for a justice. Women having issues coming to Nari Adalat feel confident in presenting their side of the issues and Adalat women provide lot of moral support in the empowering process of self-expression. It has also led to visibility of women in public spaces-theatre compound or block office compound where otherwise no woman be there without male accompanying her. Men also get used to presence of women in such places, wondering at the way issues are handled

and resolved, appreciating such less costly method of resolving disputes and helping whenever approached. People from villages other than Mahila Samakhya also come to Nari Adalat with their matters. Government officials who now believe in the potentials of these women looking at the resolved disputes extend their helping hand. The point that has been made loud and out is women no more are only those who seek justice, they can give judgements too about family matters in public space. This gives many other struggling women to come out and voice their oppression.

Considering the needs of Nari Adalat women and to strengthen and make them more autonomous starting of a para-legal course was explored. In February 1996 orientation training for women wanting to join legal course was conducted. 50 women attended the day long course where primary concepts were discussed. The three months course is planned to begin from April 1996. The district team worked hard to evolve the course design, contacting legal experts and consultants, creating material required for the course. Intensive discussion about need for a long term course and Sahayoginis to their work keeping the time frame in mind went upto Sangha level. Sanghas also are actively deciding about who will attend the course, who can spare time, who will take responsibility of running the Nari Adalat, what will happen at the home front, persuading family members of Sangha woman who want to attend the course and so on. In January process documentation exercise to publish an issue of news-letters on Nari Adalat Women was also carried out. The women are preparing themselves for the forthcoming course.

RAJKOT PROCESSES

Mahila Samakhya Rajkot continued with their legal aid guidance processes this year. Cases of maintenance or divorce most frequent where Sangha, Sahayoginis and district support the woman in difficulty. Wherever the case is complicated linkages have been made with Morbi Vikas Vidyalaya which was at times far off. Contacts and coordination was done with district judge and attempts to appoint Sahayoginis on block level legal guidance committee were made. Civil judge of each block was also approached. There has been legal committee in the district which meets every month to discuss cases and strategies to solve them. In number of maintenance cases alimony money have been paid to women. There have been awareness workshops by block legal aid committees which were attended by Sahayoginis and Sangha women. These workshops arranged by district judge provided new set of information to Mahila Samakhya women. This year Mahila Samakhya Rajkot also became active in taking their cases to Lok Adalat of their areas.

SABARKANTHA CONTINUES

In Mahila Samakhya Sabarkantha this year the legal consultant of the district did number of village-based legal awareness meetings. The meetings made its impact in terms of actions. In Jaswantpura village of Meghraj block Sangha woman and husband were victims of atrocities by their family members only. After attending the legal awareness meeting the woman felt confident of taking a step of giving complaint to the police. There was a procedure and the family members were jailed.

Such incidences on one hand are viewed as anti-family approaches by the society, the other side of the picture is awareness about one's oppressive state and asserting one's rights. And there is no doubt that for women it is the most difficult process to undergo. Mahila Samakhya Gujarat has succeeded in creating collective and moral support to women in such process. And undoubtedly the process to gain courage and in turn provide support to other women invariably continues.

Women and Child Care

Child Care - though a collective responsibility of man and women, most of the burden has to be borne by mother and young daughters. In Sangha formation stages where issues of multiple burden on women are debated upon while discussing their inability to find time for Sangha meetings, child care is one of major works for women. Surprisingly, the fact that inability to attend to the child in presence of other workload is also equally true for rural women.

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat focussed on child care centre activities as a support structure to promote collective responsibility of Sangha. Issues of overall development of children and releasing girl child and mothers for other opportunities for learning or earning were also kept in mind. The centres are run at a place decided by the group, time convenient to mothers and for children in 0-6 years of age.

In the last year there were 70 centres of which 12 centres were to be closed down for the time being or permanently due to various reasons. The Sangha not ready to take responsibility, the balsakhi or her husband too dominating to allow other Sangha women to monitor her work, the centres not properly run or monitored were some of the major reasons. Interestingly in Rajkot district one well-run child care centre in Upleta block (Kothi Jalia village) got closed down due to very different reasons. There ICDS block opened and the centre Balsakhi shifted to ICDS centre because it provided her more money at lesser time. Slowly in absence of other active woman to take over, the centre closed down.

TRAINING LINKAGES

Mahila Samakhya Rajkot took up important steps to recognise their centres by coordinating with CHETNA, Ahmedabad based NGO. The coordination was mainly in terms of evolving monitoring mechanisms of their centres and make them interesting for children. Trainings for Balsakhis and committees women continued and reflection and follow-ups were done. Mela and study tour for centre children is also being planned.

BARODA EXPERIENCES

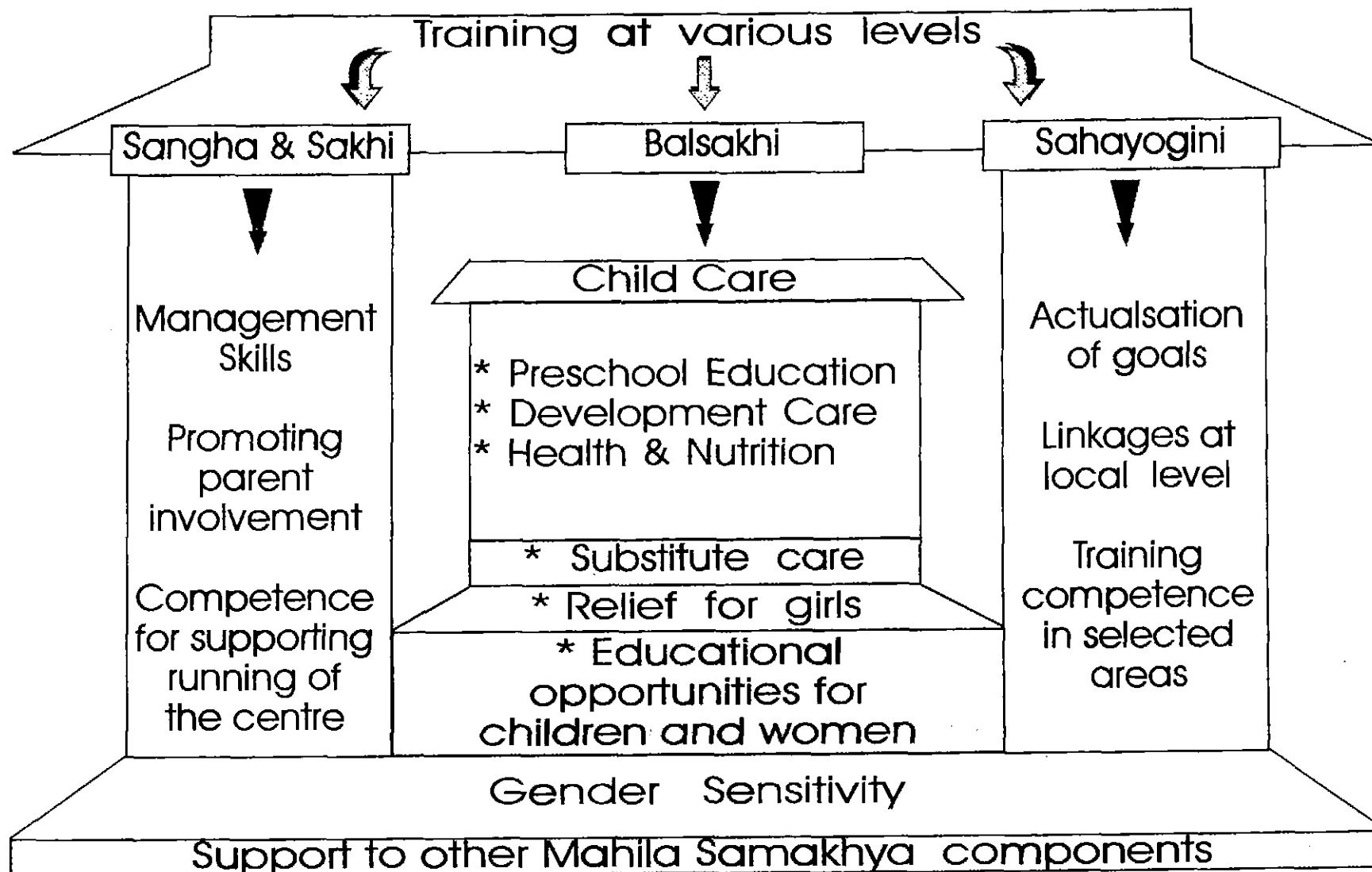
Mahila Samakhya Baroda decentralised the monitoring processes by assigning responsibilities of evaluating the centre on adjoining Sanghas. Training for voluntarily run centres in Padra and Naswadi blocks was also taken up to discuss issues of change in women's work, role of balsakhi and her honorarium, need for the centre and its linkage with Mahila Samakhya programme. The voluntarily run centres were evaluated by other old centre women in the block leading to lot of discussion about objectives of voluntarily-run centres. In many centres women collectively decided about using contingency money for buying soap for bathing children. In Chhota Udaipur block wheat were stored on their ration card for the centre by Sangha women. In Padra block, Ganapatpura Sangha women who had gone for pilgrimage bought toys for the child care centre children. In Dairy village of Chhota Udaipur block honorarium of Balsakhi was deducted for her insincere attitude and money was spent for buying necessities for the centre.

SABARKANTHA REVIEWS

Mahila Samakhya Sabarkantha need was felt to review the trainings of Balsakhis and increase the contact of parents of children coming to the centre. Every month Sahayogini conducts meetings of Balsakhis of her cluster of villages. As the district had adopted pattern of one child care centre coordinator and three Balsakhis the number is more compared to other districts. This year as the emphasis was more on regularising centres and monitoring them by the group some of the centres were to be closed down. In some centres Sangha took disciplinary actions against Balsakhis and some of them were replaced to improve functioning of the centres. In some villages women contributed money to buy necessities for the centre.

CHILD CARE DOCUMENTATION

Last year also witnessed one significant achievement in the direction of documentation of child care centres. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Madras, had approached Mahila Samakhya and Baroda district child care centre documentation was already in process last year. The document in the name of "Another kind of child care : Alternatives for Rural Women" got published under SURAKSHA - Early Childhood Care and Education in India series. In August 1995 process documentation exercises of sampling centres was carried out with a uniform design to reexamine the financial pattern of centres in operation. The exercise undertaken in one third of the centres in the district led to important insights of difficulties faced by Sanghas and balsakhis.



Skills and competencies for child care - a conceptualisation

Excerpts from Suraksha "Another Kind of Child Care : Alternatives for rural women"
Booklet on CCC of MS Baroda

Sahayoginis and Sangh members state their views:

Our children were very shy and did not speak much. Now they have become intelligent and smart, are more confident and enjoy school better. They even get good marks.

Our children's health is better as mothers are more aware, immunisations are more regular, and they are no more exposed to stresses of weather.

In Timbi village, eleven girls were enrolled in school this year. Girls also attended school more regularly. Older children from the child-care centre were enrolled into school. Thirteen year old Balskhi Leela feels that she is learning so much and also contributing to the family purse. Her sister is free to go to work and so the family is better off.

How has the community changed?

The Sanghas, Sahayoginis and DRPs share a strong feeling that the work of MS with specific reference to child care has brought about increased interaction in the community, especially among women, offered visibility to Sanghas'activities, and brought about better linkages in community services. The women vocalise:

The child care centre has become the place for everyone to meet. Visitors from voluntary agencies, health workers and NGOs come to visit. Even the postal service drops and picks up mail from here.

Only a few women were coming to Sangha meetings in the beginning, whereas now all mothers whose children are in the centre take interest in the Sangha's activities. They look forward to going out and learning more.

- In our village, mothers from lower castes cautioned their children against touching food or water or eating with other children. Gradually, upper and lower caste children and mothers have mingled with each other. Now, Harijan women send their children without hesitation. It is a great achievement.

- All key persons in the village help us in setting up the centre, including the Sarpanch in some villages. Now they know our activities will improve things.

- Now in many villages child care is being viewed as a major support for families. We have been able to successfully involve men and fathers in assisting us. They bring fuel for the centre, sometimes run errands, fix up lights, attend to repairs, and moreover, convince other men to permit their wives' participation in MS activities.

- In our village, they send the Sangha women to speak to outsiders, be it the police or other government people. People realise we can encounter hurdles and solve problems. It is good to know we can help, but we have to be careful we are not exploited.

Most evident in the expression of faith in themselves for bringing about change in their own lives as against expecting only "fate" to change the situation.

The follow up of process documentation led to change in strategies and functioning of centres. The nutrition (food) for the centre used to be brought by Sahayoginis, Balsakhis or C.C. committee women. Sangha women started becoming part of that process. The processes also led to learnings related to Sangha strengthening due to child care centre, shouldering collective responsibilities and difference of government-run centres and Mahila Samakhya centres.

Though there have been ups and downs in child care centre numbers, change in number of children or Balsakhis, the notable aspect is the way women shoulder responsibilities in making of "THEIR OWN CENTRES".

Women in Politics

The 73rd amendment regarding 33 percent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institution got implemented with State Assembly elections in June 1995.

At Mahila Samakhya Gujarat discussions and information sharing in role of women in Panchayati Raj had already started by the end of last year. There was lot of confidence and enthusiasm among Sangha women who were getting the chance to show their "empowerment" at the public forum. The enthusiasm was to be channelised and supported by Mahila Samakhya even being a facilitator to the process.

BARODA DISTRICT

Mahila Samakhya Baroda approached Unnati, Ahmedabad based NGO for a Panchayati Raj workshop. In April 1996 two-days workshop for Sahayoginis was conducted which was attended by representatives from other two districts. The questions from the field were collected for the workshop and specific answers were sorted out. In Padra and Vaghodia blocks of the district video shows were done for environment building.

Panchayati Raj

Baroda district Vaghodia block & Chhota Udaipur block

One sahyogini in each of the blocks stood for the elections. Vaghodia one as independent candidate and other from Chhota Udaipur on party ticket. Chhota Udaipur sahyogini won the election and was asked to resign from Mahila Samakhya as she can not continue as a political person as well as sahyogini. She chose to

resign from the political career. Vaghodia sahyogini lost the election but she took the process as a learning experience. Most importantly the issue she made in her area was that a woman candidate can fight the elections on a general seat. Even before elections, Vaghodia block sahyoginis sat in front of the block office on the day of filling up candidature forms for the election to guide women candidates. Even women from villages where Mahila Samakhya is not working also approached them and got guidance.

In Baroda district 8th September 1995 World Literacy Day was celebrated by Vaghodia block for Panyachati Raj. Women who stood for the elections shared their experiences of difficulties they faced as women, their struggles and supports in the process. This also helped in discussing such issues in public which were never talked over before. In March 1996 women filled up forms for remaining Panchayati elections. In Vaghodia Drishti - Ahmedabad based NGO made a film on Panchayati Raj titled "Swaraj" where Sangha women and village men enacted roles and participated in film-making process.

RAJKOT DISTRICT

In Rajkot district after the information sharing about reserved seats and general seats processes took momentum for filling up the forms. In many villages women stood on the general seats also with the objectives to get an exposure and learn new things even if we are defeated. The Sahayoginis and district team members supported the women by providing necessary guidance in filling up the form. When they were to go to take symbols it was realised that wherever Sangha was in existence, women came to the office while for other villages men came. Interesting discussion took place on selecting the symbols at the Sangha

meeting. One women selected rising sun by saying "33% Women reservation is a new sun and opportunity to work and new things for us". The other women who selected Aeroplane said "Now women have started moving out and take new information. If Aeroplane wins, women will get more opportunities to go out". Government officials and other people at the block and district level were also amazed by the enthusiasm of Sangha women. Another experience was that wherever Sangha was active in canvassing the women candidate, political parties were ready to give money to support but women by collective decision-making did not want to be part of such process.

Panchayati Raj

In Rajkot district Kotasangani block Mata Mandva Village

Trainee Sakhi Labhuben of Harijan Caste stood for the election for Sarpanch Post. The women contesting against her was Patel. Other women and Sakhis of surrounding village canvassed for Labhuben. On the night before the voting day she was contacted by Patel caste people and told her to declare her support in favour of Patel women. She was offered 10,000 Rs. Labhuben was firm in her conviction that she stood for learning, knowing and winning and not for buying others or selling herself. Sangha women immediately called a meeting. Men of Harijan caste parted in favour of Patels and afterwards Labhuben came to know that voters were bought for 100 Rs. each and she was the victim of unfair democratic process. Even while the counting took place sangha women were not allowed and Labhuben along with her husband could go inside. She expressed that she felt lonely there being women. 30-40 sangha women consistently supported her in her struggle for change. Labhuben also related her learnings of the sakhi trainings to her real life experiences on politics of subordination.

In April, 32 elected women participated in a training programme at Gondal. They were informed about their rights and duties and positive use of Sangha as a support network. In the process focus was kept on supporting each other 'as a woman' and not to part as a collective because of outside influences. In September Sarpanch Sammelan was also organised at Jasdan in collaboration with block level government machinery. It led to visibility of women into a political space and new confidence and support to elected women leaders. Information on government schemes, roles of Talati, Mantri, linkages of old and new Sarpanchas, powers, duties and rights of Sarpanch were also shared.

SABARKANTHA DISTRICT

Mahila Samakhya Sabarkantha district officials were invited for information sharing in Sahayogini meetings. Sahayoginis conducted Sangha meetings and women on their own created support systems from surrounding villages. After election Sahayoginis organised Sarpanch meetings for their cluster of villages.

Panchayati Raj

Jetpur village Bhiloda block Sabarkantha district

Navalben wanted to stand for the elections but she was not getting the form to fill up her candidature. Sangha women got together and decided to help her accessing her right to stand for the elections. Members of the sangha approached taluka/block level office and got the form for Navalben. She though lost the election, the processes helped the members of the group to realise how women are marginalised in the process of political participation.

In April 1995 representatives from all the districts participated in capacity building sub-regional workshop for Panchayati Raj institutions organised by Unnati in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. It gave MSG an opportunity to network, know others and share their experiences for preparations for the forthcoming elections.

Panchayati elections provided opportunities for discussing issues that otherwise would not have been brought out by Sangha women. Their experiences of entering into political sphere led to realisations and learning about how women are 'not heard' and sidelined in public sphere and how they can assert themselves. It also led to experimentation space for women in creating their place in otherwise male-dominated field of politics. It was also a test for women's collectives to keep their solidarity intact against outside forces.

Panchayati Raj

- * "In our village we sakhi women wanted to elect a sarpanch but he lost. The other one got elected by doing liquor corruption. The sarpanch is not capable for us. The one who was to be elected honestly and with proper procedure could not win".
- * I stood for the election on the post of Sarpanch but I lost. I am very happy about confidence and courage that I have got now".
- * " We received quarterly bulletin 'Apni Vat' regularly. You write about election but let me inform you that the election in our village is based on liquor".

* " I have won as a member uncontested. Nanuben of our village has won in the district (as a district panchyat member). We all the women have voted and supported for her."

These are some of the excerpts from letters of village women sent to the State Office in response to the State Quarterly newsletter during July to September 1995.

And we women at Mahila Samakhya can say that we succeeded in this new area as an individual and as a programme. We became visible and learnt to handle ourselves against external pressures while realising internal strengths and feeling of togetherness.

Women and Literacy

Literacy - ability to read and write - has never been imposed actively for rural women in Mahila Samakhya. The programme processes view 'education' as a broad concept where literacy is merely a part of it.

Over the years with their needs to write applications for water/electricity/road/transport services, their interactions with government department where 'written word' is must, recognising need to be literate while participating in Panchayati elections, maintain child care centre records, read or write to district/state news-letters, feeling of helplessness while literate person is required to read something or write Sangha minutes, feeling of shame to take help from family members and many other personal factors motivate women to learn to read and write.

The process-oriented programme cannot simply start with a class for imparting literacy skills. Discussions around issues of why to learn reading and writing, what will be the benefits, how will we learn, who will teach, what will be our responsibilities takes time in Sangha meetings. District unit members reflected on what will be the course, what will be the methodology and what is the objective.

LITERACY CLASSES

Mahila Samakhya Sabarkantha continued with its literacy classes. The meetings of literacy volunteers were held every two-three months where village women also participated at their own expenses helping in improved monitoring system. This year the focus was on motivation, documentation and evaluation. Women

themselves also became active in associating other women with the literacy classes. This year adolescent girls also joined in the crusade for change with their mothers. Classes for drop-out girls in six villages of Khedbrahma block have started since January 1996. The long term objectives are being explored. Women in the literacy classes are thinking of doing literacy camps for other women who are finding it difficult to spare their time inspite of their interest in literacy. After a motivational spell at the camp the women possibly will learn to get time for themselves is the assumption.

Literacy

Adolescent girls classes of Sabarkantha District

In January based on Sangha women's feelings to make literate their daughters, drop-out girls classes were thought to be initiated. In six classes in six villages of Khedbrahma block of Sabarkantha district beginning was made. Three girls who are familiar with Mahila Samakhya activities started coming to a common place and literate women or older girl started taking classes. 69 girls have just began their journey of learning with fun. Besides text books, outside materials and discussions about childhood experiences, issues faced being a girl, etc., form the content in the class. At present the classes are viewed as motivational centres for these girls to study further and get them into the mainstream. Possibilities of starting a Mahila Shikshan Kendra are also being explored.

These girls had actively participated in 8th March programmes in the district and without being shy presented how they enjoy learning together. One girl said that she has to go to graze cattles and therefore her mother did not allow her to go for the class but she now finishes off her work early and go for learning new things.

Though their mothers could not make it, these future women will definitely have their world as per their dreams.

LINKING WITH GOVERNMENT

Mahila Samakhya Rajkot continued its collaboration with district literacy committee in post literacy phase of Total Literacy Campaign. District Literacy Committee started a newsletter titled "Tahuko" inspired from the format and style of State News-letter 'Apni Vat'. Neo-literate women from Mahila Samakhya villages are also contributing to 'Tahuko' magazine. There was a competition for deciding the name of that magazine where three women literacy volunteer and neo-literate village women from Mahila Samakhya villages won the prizes. They were awarded prizes on 15th August by the Minister in the presence of District Collector and District Development Officer who was previously State Programme Director in Mahila Samakhya Gujarat. On 8th March also Drawing competition for girls and debate competition for neo-literate women were organized in collaboration with District Literacy Committee.

LITERACY CAMPS

Discussions with District Literacy Committee in Rajkot to organise camp for illiterate village women were made. In November two-day training on maintaining interest of neo-literates was attended. The training was followed by literacy volunteers training in November where Mahila Samakhya Rajkot acted as a trainer. In December four-days camp to literate 60 Sakhis was organised. Besides imparting literacy skills in this camp, information on different schemes were also given. At the end women went back with information about schemes and skills to write their name inspiring them further to become literate. There has been village level actions in literacy. In Bakhalvad Baisakhi has started literacy classes for women who want to become literate. In three other villages local volunteers have started literacy classes.

MOTIVATING GIRLS

In Banaskantha district the processes for literacy could not be picked up in absence of literacy volunteers. The achievement was in the direction to motivate girls in going to hostels. Sahayoginis approached family members of the girls and two girls from Bhadrewadi and Nyat Wada, two from Mehmdavad and three from Shiya could be admitted to hostel for further studies. Girls who participated in 8th March celebrations spoke on importance of literacy. Thus motivated many women to send their children to school.

BARODA DISTRICT

In Baroda district Gulabpura, a Mahila Samakhya village, got first prize under Total Literacy Campaign. Piplsat village Sangha of Sankheda block started night classes. The environment was built by showing films on literacy. In Padra individual learning with the help of self-learning materials started while in Vaghodia women started with the book on language of the court. Mahila Samakhya Baroda prepared book on simple legal words in February which is going to be used for forthcoming legal literacy course.

LITERACY DAY 1995

World Literacy Day was celebrated by Sabarkantha and Baroda districts. Baroda district in Vaghodia block celebrated for sharing learnings of women candidates in Panchayati elections. In Sabarkantha the celebrations were for days in form of camp to motivate neo-literate women. 47 women and 15 volunteers participated in the programme. At the end of the day women made blockwise groups for their further planning in literacy and resolved to make many more women literate and create a collective.

LITERACY VISITS

In May two resource persons attended a workshop on creating material for neo-literates organised by Nirantar, New Delhi. Interactions on DPEP - District Primary Education Programme - started this year with visit of Netherlands Embassy First Secretary Women in Development Ms Riet Turksama along with Mr.Cooper. She conducted discussions on possibilities of financing DPEP in the similar organisational structure as Mahila Samakhya. In January Ms Gigar from Netherlands along with Training of Women in Agriculture Evaluation Team visited one village of Banaskantha district. She expressed her happiness to see Mahila Samakhya work and suggested to coordinate with TWA. In February consultant Geeta Poyak visited Mahila Samakhya to hold discussions on possibilities and areas of coordination between DPEP and Mahila Samakhya.

With so much of work in literacy now Mahila Samakhya Gujarat is exploring possibilities to start Mahila Shikshan Kendra (MSK). Baroda district for legal literacy and Sabarkantha and Rajkot districts are working on girls education which may get transformed more concretely into MSK. In their interactions with literacy women having gained confidence over themselves are also becoming conscious of the education of their children.

Women and Concrete Space

Concrete space for women - The kitchen in the house or a temple in village besides well or pond of village are the places accessible to rural women. In many villages women pointed out that they hardly met together otherwise on a social occasion. Mahila Samakhya provided opportunities for interaction and getting together as a group for rural women.

NEED FOR KUTIR

Sangha getting formed and women coming closer to each other started holding meetings on their own. The issues may be writing application, deciding who will go to block office, collect money of the savings group, discussing case of domestic violence or disagreement of Sangha women's husband to send her to Sangha meeting. Women call meetings, discuss the matter, reach at a consensus and carry out their decision into action. In many groups here was the stage where they felt the need to have a 'common place' for getting together. Holding meetings at once was also difficult considering number of Sangha women coming together for Sangha meetings. The discussion on materialising the dream of having 'concrete space' in the village itself took momentum.

INITIAL STEPS

Initial discussions on space for women led to more concrete action. The processes of acquiring land records, selecting land, applying for piece of land, following up the application at different levels in the government and taking possession of land in the name of Mahila Sangha takes lot of patience for the Sangha. Once the land is obtained task of designing their 'own space', estimates for construction, local supports and materials for Kutir construction, making plans for

the submission, estimating exact cost, getting plans approved and trying to get contribution to meet the budgeted cost beyond Rs.15,000/- (which is Mahila Samkhya provision for one kutir) demands its own time. The reflections and discussions meet through reality when construction work begins with digging the foundation stone. Learning construction, getting work done from mason, contributing free labour, keeping accounts, bargaining for materials, monitoring use of materials and struggling with the villagers reactions towards women doing construction are other areas of work for Sangha women. The long journey takes the group through number of conflicting situations and collective building or breaking phases.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS

This year the long debated issue of getting additional funds for Kutir construction took new dimension. Mahila Samakhya Sabarkantha had already succeeded in diverting Rs.8,000/- each for five kutirs from Tribal Development Project in the past. This year they could get Rs.17,500/- each for other five Kutirs leading to amount of Rs.32,500/- for one Kutir construction. This year Kutirs of Chikhla and Dan Mahudi villages of Khedbrahma block were completed leading to total 4 Kutirs in Sabarkantha district. With the extra funds getting channelised construction activities took fast pace in three villages - Kishangarh of Bhiloda block and Bhutia and Baval Kanthia of Khedbrahma block. This will soon begin in other four villages while processes are at various level in 8 other villages.

The long awaited Kothi Mahila Kutir of Jasdan block of Rajkot district could be completed because of availability of extra funds. Nehru Yuva Kendra gave Rs.5,000/- while local industrialist donated giving material and technical support with Rs.8000/-. Rajkot District unit also witnessed encouraging

processes at Pal village of Lodhika block. The Kutir at Pal could be completed within the budgeted limit due to supports and contributions of Sangha women. With Pal Mahila Kutir, Rajkot district unit got three Mahila Kutirs constructed. The district unit is in a process of creating technical support for the much demanded Kutir activity in the district.

Mahila Kutir

Pal village of Lodhika block of Rajkot District

Five women got the Mahurat date and four women laid the foundation stone in November 1995. Sweets were distributed to local leaders and women and men present on the occasion. The women had networked with local resources for tractor, bricks at cheaper price and free labour for the foundation work. When construction work started because of local politics the village leaders refused to give permission letter and wanted to stop the construction. They made objection application to Panchyat. When women got these information they decided to conduct a meeting with those who objected construction. They did not turn up. Women gave their letter to the Panchyat to present their view point. One women who was very upset with such process of objection said, "If women can go to country or world politics, village people are nothing much. We will fight until we get our right."

Three years back women had taken construction training at Rural Technology Centre, Jhagadia. Refresher training with local masson was also conducted. The walls were constructed by November end. After that it was a hectic labour season and women in order not to lose the income did the slabbing work at night. Men of the village also supported the slab construction. The plastering was completed by January and cleaning and cow-dung flooring of the verandah was also done in February. Free labour for Kutir

construction was given by women and men of the village.

Women decided to celebrate the 8th March and inaugurate their Mahila Kutir. Discussion on who will inaugurate the Kutir led to deciding the name of Dhaniben, a Sangha woman. Young boys of the village volunteered their services in the programme. 300 women from 15 villages attended the celebration.

Mahila Samkhya Baroda-Much time went into technical issue of transfer of land in the name of Mahila Sangha. The money for the construction were transferred in the name of Sangha and processes of designing and material gathering are on. Women have decided turns to avoid loss of wages to all of them. Panchayat and village men are also supporting the process. This year considering difficulties in obtaining land through government, alternative of getting land on donation to Mahila Sangha was explored. Land in four villages could be obtained on donation.

This year possibility of obtaining additional grants for Kutir construction opened up with CAPART, New Delhi. Proposal has been worked out for funds for Rajkot and Baroda district in March. The follow-up is soon to be made.

USE OF KUTIR

Women though discuss low housing and techniques of construction prefer their Kutir be a 'concrete' one. Mahila Kutir 'our office' as referred by Sangha Women is intended to be used for night meetings, literacy classes, training sessions and other collective activities as voiced by them. Mahila Kutir, collective asset for the group has led to discussions and struggles with societal barriers of caste, class, gender and psychological barriers of fear, oppression or inferiority. Women have realised and have started asserting their space in the

family, community and society as an outcome of the Kutir processes. Women learning masonry or doing construction breaks stereo types of otherwise male dominated field of construction.

Mahila Kutir concretisation gives new found confidence to the collective as it is a visible identity for the group. Women have learned to share and take responsibilities as a group which enhances individual and collective confidence.

Women and Economics

Economics -It's known that women account for maximum amount of work with less than moderate amount of returns for their work and minimum amount of property on their name. Money though it may have been earned by women, they do not have most of the time control over it.

Issues of women's position, her almost an absence of access and control over her own earnings, property rights to women etc. were being discussed in the Sangha meetings. Women decided to start savings groups on their own and Mahila Samakhya Gujarat facilitated the process. Women collectively made rules for their savings groups.

With the experiences over the years women now know that MSG guides and supports when they have a question. Sangha also have known that many things can be learnt only by doing it. Savings groups having reached at a point are now looking around for options to invest their money.

BARODA OPTIONS

In Baroda district women having discussed how to save, how much to save and from where made rules and decided turns to go to the Bank. In Patod village savings group of Padra village women have given loan to husband of one of the Sangha women. That group also intends to take land on lease or on rent and go for plantation which will give extra income to the group.

SABARKANTHA ACTIONS

In Sabarkantha district some of the savings groups on their own had approached local NGO or government departments. Some groups were approached by DWCRA also. Women have their plans to open grocery shop, sell coconuts in Mela/Festivals or near temple, buy a tractor and give it on hire, start grinding mill and so on. The options are debated upon among themselves. The district unit tried to coordinate with Ahmedabad-based Friends of Women's World Banking for trainings and long term visions for these groups.

RAJKOT ALTERNATIVES

In Rajkot district women had economic and income-generation the priority from the beginning. Village based savings shibirs had systematised the process of savings groups. Considering the demands for loans, five groups got registered as DRDA savings and credit groups in Rajkot district. In three villages TRYSEM classes for embroidery, silver work and stitching have been started. One group in Morbi block has got itself registered DWCRA group for making pillow and mattress covers. Information sharing on various government schemes by involving respective officials have continued. It has led women to demand other necessary information, approach Sarpanchas or create consciousness about name in the IRDP list. Two women from the district also visited Kuttchch Mahila Vikas Sangathan to get an idea about economic empowerment activities of that organisation.

BANASKANTHA BEGINS

In Banaskantha district women in Shrinath village of Radhanpur block started savings group in March 1996. As the district is yet passing through rapport building processes, in Sangha Sahayoginis shared information about Mahila Samridhi Yojna. The women of Vslpur village of Kankrej block got motivated and 80 of them opened their account.

Women getting economic independence may not be notable event but economically independent women getting control over their earnings is an event. The collective processes strengthened many women individually who took it long to accept that they also can have a say in money matters. The groups also got strengthened and got identity in the village.

Women's Collectives

The focal point of Mahila Samakhya Programme is Mahila Sangha Women's collective. The Sangha forms the nuclei of the collective reflection/action envisaged by the project.

Sangha formation is a gradual process where sahyogini performs initially catalytic and subsequently a supportive role for the group of women to come together. The open dialogue with village women discussing their problems, feelings, aspirations, needs, issues being women all get its SPACE in collective forum. The feelings of being close to each other and small actions taken together gradually forms the sangha. The Sahyogini starts sharing information, act as a guide and becomes feedback link between Sangha and the support structures at the district.

In the beginning group of women usually venture to Panchayat or block level offices for their local needs related to water, electricity, handpump, road, transport, ration shop etc. The confidence and courage gathered from such ventures help them to come out of their shells of 'Womanhood'. The fears, shame and inferiority complexes are encountered individually as well as collectively. Each visit to Panchayat or block office is discussed in a group meeting. Every issue taken up by women becomes educational activity.

When the group takes up some concrete identity, the members getting defined, meeting regularly, holding meetings on their own without sahyogini - all makes it SANGHA. But there are no water tight defined parameters till date to call whether a particular group is a sangha or not. Mahila Sangha deciding to take up an

issue for debate or action, go through systematic analysis of the problem, collection of necessary information, visit to block or district headquarters, collective planning on the course of action, implementing the plans, reflecting back on the experiences and learnings from the execution of plans and again redesigning the future course of action. The process cycle continues for one issue and the other.

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat continued with such reflections and analysis in most of its villages where Mahila Sangha has gained its visibility, Mahila Samakhya has given voice to women in the villages and with the struggles over the years have gained visibility to women. Local Panchayats, block offices, government departments, voluntary agencies - all know of the presence of Mahila Samakhya Programme. The year also marked more efforts in the direction of coordination and networking with them.

The important achievement this year was in the direction of Sangha autonomy. It was felt over the years that 8th March celebrations every year were becoming more of a decentralised process in terms of planning but financial control had always been in the hands of Mahila Samakhya Gujarat. This year for the International Women's Day 1996 processes were initiated at the field-level to reduce financial dependence on the programme. Sangha women were asked to analyse the situation and following issues were discussed in the sangha meetings across the districts.

- Will you celebrate 'THIS DAY' if Mahila Samakhya project is closed down?
- What will be the financial responsibilities that sangha would like to take up while celebrating 8th March?
- Would Sangha women like to attend the celebration at their expenses?

- Are programme processes going to be continued after end of project period in 1997? Would sangha like to carry on without project support?

8th March

8th March International Womens' Day 1996

Sabarkantha district unit started 8th March celebrations from 8th March itself which continued upto 27th March with 11 programmes. 5346 women from 219 villages attended these programmes.

Rajkot district unit from 8th March to 25th March did four programmes. Three more programmes have been planned in April. 1790 women from 65 villages attended four programmes completely on their expense.

Banaskantha district unit did two seperate programmes for two blocks. 725 women from 29 villages came together registering identity of the programme in the district.

Baroda district unit organised five programmes in five blocks from 8th March to 26th March which were attended by 1650 women. Dabhoi cluster celebrated International Women's Day by organising health camps. Three camps in collaboration with Lions Club were organised in which 125 women got their health check-up done.

The outcome of discussions became visible when in the 8th March celebration all the women in Rajkot and Baroda districts attended 8th March celebrations at their expenses. In Sabarkantha women decided to take only one way transport from Mahila Samakhya while one time expenses were born on their own. Rajkot district unit in appreciation of women's contribution distributed momento to each and every woman who attended the programme on her own.

This year the celebrations marked a difference also because the programmes were done in the villages. Baroda district in Dabhoi block went for health check-up camps for women. On going issues in the villages got voiced in the celebrations. Pamphlet on Primary Health Services at the village was distributed and discussed in Baroda where health is becoming major area of intervention.

Women's collectives gain strengthened identity with 8th March celebrations. Rally organised prior to the programme creates women's voice at the block level. For people who hardly believe that women can shout slogans and dance on the roads in the enthusiasm of celebration of 'their day' it is the scene to remember. Over the years 8th March celebrations reemphasise the presence of Mahila Sangha in the village.

Collective Formation

We came to know about women's meeting in Andharia (nearby village). We got the day and date of the meeting and visited them. We invited Sahayogini to come to our village.

We started meeting. After Sangha is made we really enjoy. We can talk about our joys and sorrows, get information about offices, increase our confidence, work in a group, get each other's opinions and cooperation. This is the only place where we can talk anything about ourselves.

We have changed a lot personally. We started going out alone, if someone's husband does not allow woman to come for the meeting or fight with her, we all women get together and explain the man about our programme. Earlier no such "women's meeting" took place now it is really good. We also changed as a collective. Now whenever there is any difficulty or question we

get together and go to Panchayat, block or district offices and present our case.

At present we have got Ambar Charkha approved and have planned for raw materials, training, expenses for the final product. We also did health Camp. We go to literacy classes and are interested in learning to read and write.

We want to start child care centre and want to add more women and make our Sangha Strong."

(Excerpts from Padra Mahila Sangha of Bhiloda block in Sabarkantha district reflecting their experiences about Mahila Samakhya during process documentation exercise conducted in their village itself)

STRONG SANGHA

With Sangha model getting operationalised and Sanghas going to have their own financial resources the collectives are going to create new world for women. The process documentation exercises also lead to indicators of 'strong sangha'. Mahila Samakhya Gujarat considers strong Sanghas are Sanghas who -

- take definite issues and carries them further with collective objective in mind.
- are ready to add new women in their Sangha.
- take responsibility for work and share them as a group defining roles of individuals.
- share collective feeling and accept each other first as a 'woman'.
- regularly gather on their own, take collective decisions and implement them.
- share their learnings, experiences, feelings, information and personal joys and sorrows as a member of the group and learn from each other.

- has the identity as a women's collective in the village and among village leaders.
- is aware, sensitive and active for women's issues and ready to take them up as a collective.

Discussions on Sangha Model : Possible options

- Types of Models : A) Rs.400/- per month to the Sangha who in turn grows up as an independent organisation.
- B) Rs.200/- to the Sangha as a collective fund and Rs.200/- to Sakhis for honorarium. (Number of Sakhis can be decided by the group)
- C) Rs.400/- per month to Sangha who in turn will decide about collective responsibilities and mechanisms for responsibilities on rotation can be devised. Rules for use of fund will also be made collectively.

- Rules for Utilisation - Not to be used in the first year of Collective funds :
- Token membership fees for identity as member.
 - Addition of new members based on criteria of attendance, interest, regularity and support.

- Where will it be used:
- * Educational tours
 - * Women's issues - violence or legal aid..
 - * Maintenance of Mahila Kutir
 - * Meet expenses for collective activity

- * Educational expenses for girls or women
- * Women's health issues.
- * Environmental activities.

Where it cannot be used :- Promote religious or caste related activities.

- Any activity related to politics.
- Donations or gifts cannot be given.
- Individual interest or luxuries cannot be met using this fund.

The Sanghas creating alternative space for women are now growing in strength and numbers. They are also actively participating in promoting Mahila Samakhya in their adjoining villages especially where Sangha women have their family or relatives. The programme is soon to get new direction and explore new avenues from the Sangha and there is no doubt that those directions will be more sustaining.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Documentation

Hundreds and thousands of processes - individual and collective, at the top level and at the bottom, process in isolation and process having multiplying effects, and of process one becoming beginning of second process.

MONITORING

Equally important is the presently going on processes which will provide basis for the future direction of the programme. Monitoring of processes at different levels is being done in collective forums at different levels. All-DIU meetings, Sahyogini monthly meetings, sakhi cluster meetings, Balsakhi meetings, Sangha meetings are such forums where women sit together and reflect back on their work in the fields, analyse situation, find solutions and evolve important that besides upper level agenda, most of the agenda for such meetings is set by the participants to the meeting making it truly a participatory process.

EVALUATION

On the evaluation front the long awaited and delayed sub-committee on Actionable Points of Evaluation Report 1993 met on 29-11-1995 for its second and conclusive meeting. The proceedings and report will soon be finalised and placed in Executive Committee meeting.

Personnel evaluation took up high priority this year. After all- DIU individual evaluation during workshop with MS U.P. SPO in November Rajkot and Baroda district units initiated evaluation processes among their teams. Rajkot district unit staff (Resource Person/Consultant) evaluation format leading to discussions about programmatic requirements and individual capabilities to fulfil those requirements. Baroda district unit carried out evaluation processes for staff members with the newly appointed District Programme Coordinator. Personnel were evaluated in terms of their inputs to the programme, their administrative and individual qualities and cost-benefit ratio of their style of functioning.

REGULAR RECORDS

Documentation of day-to-day processes continued with Sahyogini diaries, sangha meeting registers, sakhi and sangha women letters from the fields. The districts made their Quarterly Progress Reports and quantitative format was designed to keep track of statistics. Sabarkantha district unit collected village wise data from each sahyogini to create record of programme processes in the villages.

NEWS-LETTERS

The State and district news-letters remained forums for expression and reflection of programme events. Second issue of Baroda news-letter 'Nari Man Vat' was published in June 1995 with information on Panchayati Raj and district activities news. Sabarkantha district unit published fourth issue of 'Saheline Sathware' their news letter covering issue-based activity reports on literacy, savings, health and legal aid. Rajkot district unit

had published three issues of 'Aapno Sad' their news-letter in 1991 and 1992. This year it was revived with new get-up and colourful look. The issue in October 1995 included district activities news stories. The issue was followed by another edition in February 1996 covering health related information, gender equality message, news items and letters from sangha women. Field-level pressures make it difficult for the district staff members to continue publication activity in absence of additional person looking after it.

"AAPANI VAT"

The State office continued with its Quarterly publication "Apani Vat" with its three issues in June, October, January and planning for April issue is on. The postal survey done in March 1995 got overwhelming response. 225 post cards were received at the State office in response to the survey sent as a part of the news-letter. The results helped in designing forthcoming issues of the news-letter by making them truly need-based. In January process documentation with Vaghodia Nari Adalat women from Baroda district was conducted with the objective to have these women control over the medium, processes were done to help them to articulate the process of evaluation of Nari Adalat. Women came up with two page write-up and a drawing of Nari Adalat which was reproduced as a part of January edition of the news-letter. The October issue giving basic information about Banking system was appreciated by Sangha women.

Documentation

Findings of the Postal survey March 1995 about State news-letter
Aapani Vat

- * Who reads it - where and when?
 - In the Sangha meetings everyone sits and reads it.
 - Read it at night as in the day time there is lot of work.
 - Read it as soon as we get it in the post.
 - First we read it with Sahyogini and discuss it then reread it with literate sangha women.
 - Girl, Sahyogini, Literate sangha woman, teacher, Aanganwadi worker, anyone from the family read it for us.
 - We read it in Mahila Kutir or Child Care Centre or at the house of any one of us.
 - Village leaders as well as family members read it.

- * What do you like to read the most?
 - News stories of other villages and other districts
 - letters written by sangha women
 - Stories on literacy, savings, money, work done by other sangha.
 - Whatever written about courage of sangha and news of their work.

- * What do you want to read in future issues?
 - Meeting talk
 - Stories on child care, Panchayati Raj
 - Our rights
 - Mahila Kutir
 - Literacy campaign story
 - Savings and health
 - What to do if handpump does not work
 - Population and operation

It is interesting to note that the style and format of 'Apani Vat' was copied by Rajkot district literacy committee while publishing their monthly news-letter 'Tahuko' for neo-literates. Sabarkantha district unit actively participated in publication of two booklets on health and Panchayati Raj for the post-literacy phase with district literacy committee.

NEW VENTURES

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat for the first time published its diary and calenders for the year 1996. The activities and expressions of sangha women got 'space' in the diary while the calender was made of six photographs reflecting Mahila Samkhya spirit and issues in the field.

Lot of documentation got generated as an outcome of process documentation exercises. Sangha PD voiced concerns and achievements of sangha over the years. More systematic publications are being planned in the coming year.

Baroda district unit published a booklet on legal terminology titled "Korat ni Bhasha" (language of the court) in February. The booklet will be used for imparting literacy skills to neo-literate women who would be attending forthcoming legal course.

The interlinked processes of monitoring, evaluation and documentation continued over the years. The coming year will witness implementation of sangha model, concretisation of Mahila Shikshan Kendra and Mahila Kutir activities and more decentralised processes on training front.

ANNEXURE - A

LIST OF MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS ON
31.03.1996

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- 01 Chairperson
Secretary to Government
Education Department
Gandhinagar.
- 02 Member Secretary,
State Programme Director,
Mahila Samakhya Gujarat,
Ahmedabad.

DISTRICT UNITS

10. District Programme
Coordinator
Mahila Samakhya, Baroda
11. District Programme
Coordinator,
Mahila Samkhya, Rajkot.
12. District Programme
Coordinator,
Mahila Samakhya, Sabarkantha

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NOMINEES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

03. National Project Director
Mahila Samakhya
Department of Education
Government of India
New Delhi.
04. Director (I.F.D.)
Department of Education
Government of India
New Delhi.

NOMINEES OF NRG

14. Prof. Amita Verma.
M.S.University, Baroda.
15. Ms. Abha Bhaiya
New Delhi.

STATE GOVERNMENT NOMINEES

05. Deputy Secretary,
Education Department
Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar
06. Director Adult Education
Gandhinagar.
07. Commissioner
Women & Child Department
Polytechnic Campus,
Ahmedabad.
08. Assistant Commissioner
"DWCRA"
Office of the Commissioner
of Rural Development
Jivraj Mehta Bhavan
Gandhinagar
09. Deputy Secretary and F.A.
Education Department
Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar

DRG NOMINEES

16. Shri Narendrabhai Lakhataria
Assistant Director (AB)
Saurashtra University, Rajkot
17. Ms. Ambikaben Suthar,
Principal
Kutch Kadva Patidar Kanya
Vidyalaya,
Khedbrahma (Sabarkantha)

NOMINEES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

18. Dr. Sushilaben Sheth
Shri Kanta Stri Vikas Gruh
Bhaktinagar, Rajkot.
19. Mrs. Jyotsnaben Shah
Vikas Jyoti
Nagar Wanda Char
Baroda.

NOMINEE OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

20. Ms. Renana Jhabwala
SEWA, Bhadra, Ahmedabad.

REPRESENTATIVES OF SAHYOGINIS

21. Ms. Pushpa Bhatt,
Sahyogini, Sabarkantha
22. Ms. Pravina Patel,
Sahyogini, Banaskantha.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF GENERAL COUNCIL AS ON
31.03.1996

A. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01. President,
Hon.Minister for Education
Government of Gujarat
Sachivalaya,Gandhinagar | 12. Director Adult Education
Block No.12,
Old Sachilaya, Gandhinagar |
| 02. Vice President,
Hon'ble Minister of State
Government of Gujarat
Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar | 13. Director,
Social Welfare,
Gujarat State. |
| 03. Chairman,
Secretary to Government,
Education Department,
Sachivalaya,Gandhinagar | 14. Chairman
State Welfare Advisory
Board, Ahmedabad. |
| 04. Secretary to Government
Rural Development Deptt.
Sachilaya,Gandhinagar | 15. Director,
State Resource Centre,
(Adult Education),
Gujarat Vidyapith,
Ahmedabad. |
| 05. Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare Department.
Sachilaya,Gandhinagar | 16. District Programme
Coordinator,
Mahilaya Samkhya, Rajkot |
| 06. Commissioner,
Women & Child Development
Polytechnic Campus,
Ambawadi, Ahmedabad. | 17. District Programme
Coordinator,
Mahila Samkhya,Sabarkantha |
| 07. Development Commissionr,
Gandhinagar. | 18. District Programme
Coordinaor,
Mahila Samkhya Baroda. |
| 08. Secretary to Government,
Health Nutrition and
Family Welfare Deptt.
Sachivalaya,Gandhinagar | 19. District Programme
Coordinagor,
Mahila Samkhya Banaskantha |
| 09. Secretary to Government
Planning,
General Admn. Department
Sachivalaya,Gandhinagar. | 20. Member Secretary,
State Programme Director,
Mahila Samakhya Gujarat
Ahmedabad. |
| 10. Director of Primary
Education, Block No.12
Old Sachilaya,
Gandhinagar. | B. PERSONS FROM
GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS
& EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS |
| 11. Director of Higher
Education, Block No.12
Old Sachivalaya,Gandhinagar | 21. Smt. Pratiksha Raval
Gujarat University
Ahmedabad. |
| | 22. Ms. Lilaben Chandorkar
Baroda. |

23. Smt. Amrapali Merchant
Sardar Patel University
Vallabh Vidyanagar
24. Ms. Shantaben Nagjibhai
Desai, Anath Ashram,
Surendranagar.
25. Smt. Sushilaben Sheth,
Kanta stri vikas Gruh
Rajkot.
26. Smt. Jyotsnaben Shah
Vikas Jyot,
Baroda.
27. Dr. Kantaben Maru,
Bhavnagar
28. Smt. Meera Menon
Ahmedabad.

C. NOMINEES OF CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT

29. National Project Director,
Mahila Samkhya,
Ministry of Human
Resource Development,
Department of Education,
Government of India,
New Delhi.
30. Ms. Preet Varma
Under Secretary
31. Representative of I.F.D.
32. Prof. Amita Verma,
M.S. University,
Baroda.
33. Ms. Abha Bhaiya,
New Delhi.
34. Ms. Poonam Kathuria,
Ahmedabad.
35. Mrs. Leela Visaria,
Ahmedabad.

ANNEXURE - C

LIST OF PERSONNEL AT MAHILA SAMAKHYA GUJARAT AS ON
31.3.1996

STATE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, AHMEDABAD

* Ms. Gita Shah State Programme Director	* Ms. Mira Desai Resource person Associate Programme Director (15th Aug. to 30th Sept.)
* Mr. B. R. Shah Accounts Officer	
* Mr. R. J. Rathod Accountant	* Ms. Rashmika Modi Consultant
* Mr. R. H. Chauhan Assistant	* Mr. L. R. Timani, Stenographer (English)
* Ms. Daxa Khambhati Clerk	* Mr. D. T. Chotaliya Stenographer (Gujarati)
* Mr. T. L. Desai Driver	* Mr. Rasik Vaghela Peon
	* Mr. Rajesh Luhar Peon

BARODA DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

* Ms. Indira Pathak DPC	* Ms. Malti Shah Assistant
* Ms. Mamta Baxi Resource Person	Mr. C. B. Gondaliya Stenographer
* Ms. Bela Vaghela Resource Person	* Mr. Rajesh Driver
* Ms. Smita Jani Consultant	* Mr. Shanker Parmar Peon
* Ms. Pragna Sejpal Resource Person	* Ms. Taraben Peon

SAHAYOGINIS

* Vaghodia	: Rashmika Vyas, Jaishree Jaishwal, Urmila Gohil
* Padra	: Smita Pathak, Dashrath Padhiyar, Kailash Chauhan, Saraswati Chauhan.
* Sankheda	: Ranjan Patel, Salma Mansuri, Anshuya Patel
* Dabhoi	: Saroj Patel, Veena Bhatt, Shobha Malbari
* Naswadi	: Takhi Rathwa, Bachi Bhil, Champa Chauhan, Kokila Rathwa, Renuka Rathwa, Laxmi Rathwa.

- * Chhota : Jyotsana Rathwa, Rekha Kolcha, Bhuri Rathwa, Udaipur : Sudha Rathwa, Saroj Parmar, Dhanfakshmi Rathwa, Vasantha Rathwa,
- * Pavi Jetpur : Chandrika Rathwa, Pravina Rathwa, Lila Rathwa.

RAJKOT DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Ms. Manisha Brahmhatt
DPC | * Ms. Usha Dharma
Assistant |
| * Ms. Mita Pandit
Resource Person | * Mr K.M.Gohel
Accountant |
| * Ms. Harsha Bhatt
Consultant | * Ms. Kirtida Vohra
Stenographer |
| * Ms Nimisha Raval
Consultant. | * Ms Zhebun Kasambhai
Peon |

SAHYOGINIS

- * Jasdan : Bharati Dave, Pravina Trivedi, Vrajkunwar Meghnathi, Daxa Dave
- * Jetpur : Jasumati Aundhiya, Kanchan Bharthi.
- * Upleta : Usha Sojitra.
- * Vankaner : Pratibha Mehta, Ila Solanki
- * Jam Kandorana: Saroj Mardia
- * Morbi : Rita Patel
- * Maliya : Madhu Solanki
- * Paddhari : Ila Vora (Lodhika also), Hamida Pathan
- * Gondal : Kirti Thakar (Kotda Sangani also)
- * Kotda Sangani: Ila Gosai.

SABARKANTHA DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Ms Shakuntala Mehta
DPC | * Mr. V.J.Patel
Accountant |
| * Ms Varsha Bhatt
Resource person | * Mr. K.L.Vaghela
Assistant |
| * Ms Mayuri Joshi
Resource person | * Mr. S.K.Prajapati
Stenographer |
| * Ms Daxa Prajapati
Consultant | * Mr. Niranjana R. Suthar
Peon |
| * Ms Nayna Pandya
Consultant | * Ms Hansa Turi
Peon |
| | * Mr. Shamal Parmar
Driver. |

SAHAYOGINIS

- * Khedbrhama : Gita Parmar, Pragna Leuva, Gita Solanki, Ramila Parmar, Ranjan Prajapati, Jyotika Mevada, Suraj Prajapati, Kamu Dabhai, Kanta Solanki, Chandrika Patel.
- * Bhiloda : Laxmi Ninama, Indu Asari, Pravina Panchal, Lalita Pargi, Mariyam Khardi.
- * Idar : Urmila Mehta, Manish Raval, Gita Vankar, Jaya Patel, Gita Patel.
- * Prantij : Lila Makwana, Chandrika Sutariya
- * Meghraj : Sangita Patel, Kamla Bhagora, Champa Pandya
- * Vijayanagar : Hansa Pandya, Savita Patel.

BANASKANTHA DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

- * I/C DPC : Ms Shankuntala Mehta
- * Consultant : Nirmala Rathod
- * Resource person : Pushpa Bhatt
- * I/C Accountant: Mr. R.H.Chauhan

SAHAYOGINIS

- * Kankrej : Saroj Raval, Ranjan Chauhan
- * Radhanpur : Anila Chavda, Raxa Jani, Bhanu Sardhara.

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat

Important Dates for the year 1995-96

April-95		
	10-11	All DIU meeting at Ahmedabad
	22-27	Gender Sensitization training for Sahyoginis by ICECD.
May		
	27 - 3	All DIU - DTT Training
	4	New SPD taking over additional charge.
June		
	16	All DIU meeting Ahmedabad
	30	Selection Procedures for R.P./Const.
JULY		
	1	12th Executive Committee Meeting
	4 - 5	All DIU Meeting at Baroda
	6 - 21	Theatre Workshop at Baroda
August		
	7	Riet Turksama & Mr. Kooper from Netherlands Embassay visited regarding DPEP
	27 - 29	All DIU meeting at Himatnagar.
September		
	1	Sahyoginis Selection for Sabarkantha SPD on a full time charge
	5	All DIU meeting with the new SPD at Ahmedabad
	14 -15	All DTT meeting at Sabarkantha.
	22	Emergency Executive Committee meeting regarding appointment of APD.
	27	Sahyogini Mela planning meeting at Ahmedabad.
October		
	16	PD core team members meeting
November		
	8	All DIU meeting at Ahmedabad.

22 - 23 Evaluation Workshop with SPD M.S. U.P.

29 Draft Evaluation report sub committee meeting.

December

4 Preliminary Selection Procedure for RP/Cons

11 Final Selection for RP/Cons

29 - 30 All DIU meeting at Baroda.

January-96

10 Meeting with Sahayoginis to Discuss their agenda at Ahmedabad.

11 - 12 PD core team meeting with Kalyani Menon Sen at Ahmedbad

16 Ms Jigar from TWA visited Banaskantha district village

23 Meeting with Ford Foundation representative.

24 14th Executive Committee Meeting.

February

5 - 6 Accounts and Administrative training for District teams at Ahmedabad.

10-14 Violence training by Sakshi at Baroda

16-17 Sangha PD preparatory training with Sabarkantha Sahayoginis.

21-22 Sangha PD preparatory training with Rajkot Sahyoginis

27 Meeting with Ford Foundation & DPCS.

28-29 Sangha PD preparatory training with Baroda Sahayoginis.

ASHOK P. PATEL & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

803 / 804, Samudra Annexe Near Classic Gold Hotel, C. G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 008.

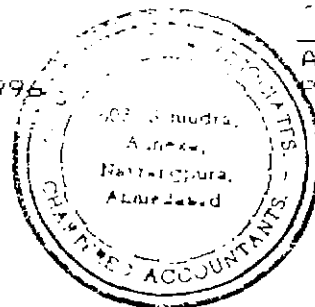
AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of MAHILA SAMAKHYA, GUJARAT STATE, AHMEDABAD (A Society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860) as at 31st March, 1996 and the Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ended on that date and report that :

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
2. In our opinion proper books of account have been maintained by the Society so far as it appears from our examination of the books.
3. The Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure account, dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account of the Society.
4. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the accounts read with the notes thereon, give a true and fair view :
 - a) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31st March, 1996; and
 - b) In the case of the Income and Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date.

For Ashok P. Patel & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 26th September, 1996



Ashok P. Patel
Ashok P. Patel
Proprietor

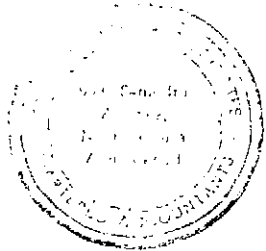
MAHILA SAMAKHYA, GUJARAT STATE, AHMEDABAD

(Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860) Regn. No. GUJ/130/Gandhinagar

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1996

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT		INCOME	AMOUNT	
	Rs.	Ps.		Rs.	Ps.
Establishment Expenses (As per Schedule C)	1413059	=15	Bank interest	543670	=00
Salary and allowance	1570139	=60	Insurance claim received	12000	=00
Expenses on the objects of the Society (As per Schedule D)	4244383	=78	Miscellaneous income	1728	=50
Audit fees	10000	=00	Amount transferred from Grant-in-aid	7333351	=53
Depreciation	95769	=00			
Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Balance Sheet	557398	=50			
Total	7890750	=83	Total	7890750	=83

As per our report of evendate annexed



For Ashok P. Patel & Associates
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashok P. Patel'.

Ashok P. Patel
Proprietor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashok P. Patel'.

State Programme Director
Mahila Samakhya,
Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 26th September, 1996

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 26th September, 1996

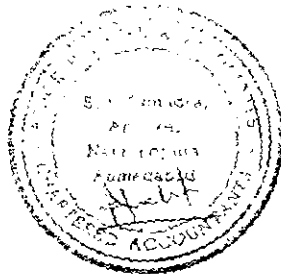
MAHILA SAMAKHYA, GUJARAT STATE, AHMEDABAD

(Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860) Regn. No. GUJ/130/Gandhinagar

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1996

Schedule - A : FIXED ASSETS

Sr. Description of the assets No.	G R O S S		B L O C K		D E P R E C I A T I O N				N E T B L O C K					
	As on 1-4-1995		Additions during the year		As on 31-3-1996		As on 1-4-1995		Additions during the year		As on 31-3-1996		As at 31-3-1996	
	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.
1. Furniture and Dead stock	320362=87		69851=25		390214=12		143222=08		37039=00		180261=08		207953=04	
2. Office Equipments	229328=46		151555=50		380883=96		107664=10		23928=00		131592=10		249291=86	
3. Vehicles	525697=00		Nil		525697=00		391273=90		34802=00		426075=90		99621=10	
Total	1075388=33		221406=75		1296795=08		642160=08		95769=00		737929=08		558866=00	



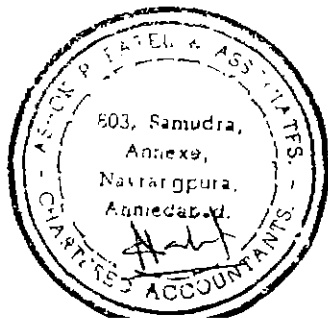
MAHILA SAMAKHYA, GUJARAT STATE, AHMEDABAD

(Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860)

SCHEDULE B

CASH AND BANK BALANCES

Particulars	Amount	
	Rs.	Ps.
(1) In Fixed Deposit accounts with schedules bank		
State Bank of India, Polytechnic Branch	4800000	=00
State Bank of India, Radhanpur Branch	60000	=00
Total	4860000	=00
(2) In Savings Bank accounts with schedules bank		
State Bank of India, Polytechnic Branch	580504	=60
State Bank of India, Rajkot Branch	166452	=67
State Bank of India, Himatnagar Branch	210339	=94
State Bank of India, Radhanpur Branch	29730	=20
State Bank of Saurashtra, Baroda Branch	133884	=02
Total	1120911	=43
(3) Cash on hand at		
S.P.D. Ahmedabad	9218	=25
D.I.U., Rajkot	21636	=10
D.I.U., Baroda	5265	=90
D.I.U., Banaskantha	10396	=05
D.I.U., Sabarkantha	10654	=42
Total	57170	=72



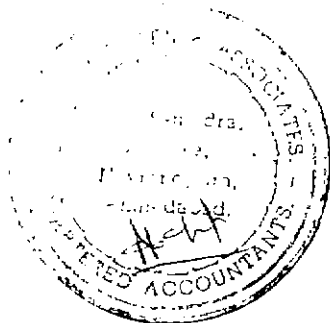
MAHILA SAMAKHYA, GUJARAT STATE, AHMEDABAD

(Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860)

SCHEDULE D

EXPENSES ON THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

Particulars	Amount	
	Rs.	Ps.
Workshop seminar and meetings	695082	=47
Training and documentation	418658	=03
Honorarium, Travel Expenses etc of Sahayoginies	1268365	=95
Mahila Sangha Expenses	714228	=90
Child Care Centre Expenses	497083	=93
Adult Education Expenses	29847	=00
Consultancy fees	259178	=55
Evaluation Expenses	3008	=00
Vocational Training Expenses	74829	=73
8th March (Mahila Day) celebration Expenses	229807	=62
Publication expenses	54293	=60
Total	4244383	=78



MAHILA SAMAKHYA, GUJARAT STATE, AHMEDABAD

(Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860)

SCHEDULE E

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

I. Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under historical cost convention

(b) Revenue Recognition

Income and Expenditure are generally recognised and accounted for on accrual basis except leave salary and pension contributions payable in respect of staff deputed by Government of Gujarat which are accounted for on cash basis

(c) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation and include all expenditure of capital nature.

(d) Depreciation

Depreciation on fixed assets has been provided on written down value method in accordance with rates prescribed under Schedule XIV to the Companies Act, 1956

(e) Accounting policies not specifically referred to are consistent with generally accepted accounting practice.

II Notes on Accounts

(a) The Society has received the Grant (which is shown in the Balance Sheet) from Government of India for implementation of various scheme under the Programme of

Education for Women's Equality and also for Administrative purposes. The amount of Rs.73,33,351=53 being administrative expenditure (including depreciation on fixed assets) as well as expenditure incurred on the object of the society has been transferred to Income and Expenditure Account.

- (b) Society's application for exemption of its income from Income tax under section 10(23C)(iv) of the Income tax Act, 1961 is under approval by Central Board of Direct Taxes. In anticipation of approval, no provision for Income tax is made in the accounts.

Place : Ahmedabad

Date : 26th September, 1996

For Ashok P. Patel & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Ashok P. Patel

Ashok P. Patel
Proprietor

Ashok

State Programme Director
Mahila Samakhya,
Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

