



More than 25,000 children and community members directly and more than 1,00,000 indirectly reached. Aspiring to expand our reach in coming years.



Glimpses from the GVT program area....

Established in 2001, Gram Vikas Trust is a non-profit organization that uplifts underprivileged children and women through education, food, nutrition, health, sustainable livelihood skills and sanitation programs in Bharuch and Narmada districts of Gujarat (India). Thanks to all the individuals and organizations who donate to us. Visit www.gvtbharuch.org to support us or write to us on contact@gvtbharuch.org for more information.

Quality Education Project-Post Diwali Campaign



Back to school after Diwali vacation!

GVT team carried out post-Diwali Community Awareness Campaigns in 35 project villages with the message: *the vacation is over and the time for children to be in schools again!* Thanks to Reach To Teach for the funding support. A total of 5,122 students (50.1 per cent girls) participated in the campaigns in Jhagadia and Vagra blocks of Bharuch district during 10 to 29 December. The campaign reinforced the value of regular school attendance through children's rallies, their performances, and street plays by a local professional group. The parents, who also participated, appreciated the message given in a creative and memorable manner.

Jivanbhai Vasava , Ambos (Jhagadia block)



Jivanbhai Vasava from Ambos village (Jhagadia) is a father of a boy, Pradeep, studying in Class 7 in the village school. Jivanbhai was quite happy and, as he said, inspired with the Community Awareness Campaign in his village. He liked the street play which was funny and full of positive messages around attending school regularly. He said he would ensure that his son goes to school regularly. While thanking GVT and Reach to Teach, he committed himself to work hard to give his child a bright future through quality education.

GVT's Concept Note shortlisted for Early Grade Reading Innovation Challenge 2015, by READ Alliance, funded by USAID

The Letter of Interest submitted by GVT has been shortlisted, which is a significant milestone offering possibility of expanding positive impact on children's education. While almost half of the Class III school children are unable to read Class I text (indicating poor learning in schools) in Bharuch district, GVT has demonstrated innovative reading techniques that enable all the children to improve their reading ability in 31 schools so far. Though the process of final award of funding is long drawn, GVT hopes to be one of the finalists and then start the new program from next academic year (June 2016) in more than 200 schools.

New construction of school sanitation unit at Nandelav



School sanitation units for boys and girls

New construction of safe sanitation units separate for boys and girls in primary schools of 3 villages (Mortalav, Haldar and Nandelav), as well as renovation of sanitation units in 3 villages (Vantheval, Kharia and Tankaria), has been completed. There are 2 villages, Sitpon and Sahpura, where construction work is ongoing. Thanks to Charities Aids Foundation and Herbal Life International India Pvt. Ltd. for the funding support. A total of 20 village level government primary schools will be covered under this program. Safe sanitation in school contributes positively to school attendance and children's learning through good hygiene conditions.

Vasava Sushma Madhavbhai, Padal village



Riding Towards the Future

Sushma, 17 years, Class 12 from Padal village (Jhagadia block) received school kit containing school bag, notebooks, guides, pen, tuition fees, uniform, and so on. Sushma comes from an economically poor family as his parents work as agriculture laborer with unsure income. Though Sushma faces lots of challenges to continue her education, she is regular in attending school and works hard gaining new learning continuously. GVT provided school kits to 22 such school girls in 3 villages (Mortalav, Padal and Panvadi of Jhagadia block), who otherwise fight odds to continue higher studies. Thanks to Asha For Education for the funding support.

GVT's Board of Advisors conducted program visit



A step towards strengthening governance and programs

GVT formed Board of Advisors by inviting experienced and well qualified members from development sector (government, non-government and corporate). The Board members conducted their first visit to the program area and held meeting to guide the Strategic Planning process during 12-13 December. They expressed satisfaction on seeing the program implementation, and also provided suggestions for further strengthening. Based on their inputs and other ongoing organizational review processes, GVT is drafting its first Strategic Plan 2016-2020 that will provide a strategic framework to the organization for the following five years.

Upcoming events in Jan-Feb 2016 – Be our partners, get involved, explore more at www.gvtbharuch.org.

- **Education:** Aiming and planning to expand education program in more villages in the following months.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion:** construction of new sanitation units for boys and girls in 2 more primary schools.
- **Food, nutrition and health:** distribution of food kits to malnourished children and destitute old age people.
- **Other initiatives:** Finalizing the draft Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

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