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Through Karyakartas (Social Workers)
Through Organization
Gramshree: Empowering Women through Self-Reliance

Gramshree organization is an entity based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It has been persistently working for the past 25 years to uplift women's lives residing in lower-income areas and rural stretches of Gujarat. To date, Gramshree has successfully impacted and empowered 75000+ women by conducting initiatives and launching projects that emphasize vocational skills (chiefly handicraft) and generate opportunities for income generation.

Saree Libraries

Sari Library is an initiative that enables Indian females to wear the drape of their choice in conjunction with their heritage at no cost. The Sari Library is an establishment where generous donors can provide joy to the ones unable to afford sarees. Gramshree ensures that all the donated sarees are in perfect condition, without any defects.

So far, Gramshree’s Saree Libraries have been established for 720+ women with 500 sarees donated to date. Along with Rudatal and Punadara, some of the centers greatly impacted by the initiative are:

Lilapur Village

Lilapur's total population is approximately 1500, with the majority of the villager's livelihood depending upon farming, dairy, and manual labor. Thus, in an agriculture-centered demographic, the women of the village did not have festive ethnic clothing, and establishing a library there seemed fit.

Gramshree extended their help during the times of the pandemic by establishing a saree library in August 2020. The event conducted followed the complete guidelines for safety. Frequent
sanitization and social distancing were given a priority. Over 25 women of the village attended the inauguration, and five of them borrowed a saree on the first day itself.

Vaghajipur Village

Vaghajipur is a small village located in Kapadvanj Tehsil of Kheda district in Gujarat. It hails 70kms from the metropolis of Ahmedabad with a decent infrastructure and road network. Under the Lokmitra program by ESI, Anil Chauhan has performed a significant sum of rural development activities in Vaghajipur, benefitting many villagers. His contribution to the
establishment of a Saree Library in Vaghajipur has brought smiles to many women of the village.

Chadotar Village
The establishment of the Saree Library at Chadotar village was made possible with the support and contribution of Lokmitra Faruk Bhai and Kamalben who stepped up to offer a room for the library.

The event received local media news coverage, which benefitted the village as the health department of the district wanted to make the library a safe space for conducting health awareness workshops in the future.
Khakhra Project: Rudatal Gam

The Khakhra Project initiative of Gramshree provides all the resources and expert guidance to the village women for making khakhras. They are encouraged to learn something new in an old familiar, i.e. cooking, and utilizing their talents to generate an income for themselves.

Representatives of Gram Vikas Mandal allocated space for Khakhra Training Program in Rudatal village and actively contributed their time and energy to the project. The women in training were able to develop a new skill set, along with improving their financial stature.
Jashiben, an Anganwadi teacher of the village, successfully registered 55 women aged between 18 to 40 years for the Program, further divided into two batches. The Program commenced on 07 January 2021 under Hemaben Soni’s guidance. Hemaben is a humble human possessing excellent culinary and management skills which she gained by working as a manager at Jankiben's Khakhra center.

Annapurna: An Authentic Cooking Experience

'Project Annapurna' was a well thought collective initiative directly contributing to women's skill development in cooking Gujarati cuisines and positively impacting the vicinity of Pachmari, a city in Madhya Pradesh.
Gramshree’s team of experts landed in Panchmarhi and began the five-day workshop. Program coordinator of Gramhree Smt. Nita Jadav led the workshop on 06th July 2021 with 55 participants (80% women) at Sanjaygadhi Youth Leadership Training Institute.

During the five day workshop, Smt Tanuja Ben (Gramshree Head Chef) taught the participants a diverse array of Gujarati cuisines from Gujarati Chewda (Sweet Namkeen), Khichu, Thepla (flavorful flatbread), Batakavada (Potato Fritters), Dalwada (Gram Dal Fritters), Methi Na Gota (Fenugreek Fritters), Khaman, Idda, Dhokla and more authentic Gujarati cuisines. The total counts hail to 30 dishes during five days.

**Masks of Mindfulness**

Masks of Mindfulness was an act of service conducted by the Share and Care Foundation along with Gramshree. Women artisans of the village, who were affected negatively by the unfortunate circumstances played a major role to help stop the spread of the novel disease.
Similar to any household, the women of the village were also confined to their homes and quarantined. Unemployed and left with bare expenses to spare, Gramshree saw an opportunity to give back to the society, and to the women of the village centers (Pedhamli, Punadra, and many more).

Masks were created by these artisans with the waste cloth they had in proper condition. This helped the women to acquire and experiment with new skills and knowledge, along with generating an income through it, not to mention the change they have brought in the safety of the villagers through distributing these masks.
Impact of the Project

- As we are spreading awareness about Corona and the importance of social distancing (it's something which people don't understand as being a very social community), some people are taking initiative to arrange masks and sanitizers for the community. Thus this campaign inspires individuals to take ownership to bring changes in their lifestyle and to be very mindful when they step out from their homes.

- Some of our Lokmitra village coordinators (Pedhamli and Punadra village coordinators Jaldip and Pankaj) are inspired by the idea of Masks for Mindfulness and have arranged masks with the help of local support and use masks as a tool of awareness.

12,500 masks were distributed in a decentralized way (including the first and second phases). The distribution was conducted by following all the government guidelines of social distancing and maintaining sanitization and hygiene.

More than 100 people are involved with the distribution, awareness, and facilitation with 20 women getting direct incentives through it.

Through our ecosystems
E.S.I, Gramshree, Jivan Tirth, and Harijan Ashram trust has distributed 6500 masks in the communities of Sughad, Amiyapur.Ambapur, clusters of the lokmitra and Ramapir no tekro.

Through Karyakartas (Social Workers)
We are providing 50 to 200 masks (A total of 3500 masks) to our karyakartas individually to distribute in their neighborhood, local shopkeepers, vegetable vendors, etc. (these are the super spreaders).

Through friends of Organization
We have provided 2500 masks to the friends of the organization. They have distributed it to the people on the streets and some random slums. We are going to stitch more than 2500 Masks for the children of our Ashram shala, young and older girls of Vinay mandir and. PTC (all the boarding schools of Gandhi Ashram campus).

In the wake of the pandemic, Gramshree realized the importance of providing assistance to the people at the grass-root level. The contribution of volunteers in the above-mentioned villages are key individuals who are keeping the tradition of these initiatives up to date. We wish to continue this journey of encouraging and empowering women to grow and become the leading light for the generations to come.