

# Annual Report for the year 2013-14

SSSS as a Social Development Organization has been promoting developmental interventions and enabling capacities of the rural communities in six districts of North Gujarat namely Aravali, Banaskantha, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Patan and Sabarkantha on various social issues as HIV /AIDS, Roof Water Harvesting, Sanitation & Hygiene, Reduction of IMR & MMR, MNREGA, Livelihood, Women Co-operatives, etc.

During the year 2013-14, the major engagements of SSSS have been the following:

## 1. Empowering Communities on Health: (2010-14)

- ✧ *Infant mortality Rate is reduced by 50% from the existing rate*
- ✧ *Maternal Mortality Rate is reduced to 0%*
- ✧ *Complete Ante Natal Care is increased by 30% from the existing rate*
- ✧ *28 Village health workers are fully trained on health issues*

The village communities of the centres namely Deesa, Palanpur, Vadgam, Bhiloda and Vijaynagar under able guidance & leadership of their respective partners and constant

caring support of the Village Health Workers (VHWs), the horizon of traditional belief in care, support and treatment of prenatal and antenatal has widened its scope through the intervention of the project supported by Episcopale Conferenza Italiana – Rome. In order to improve Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) indicators in five blocks of Aravali, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts and link them to access government health services, 28 VHWs tirelessly and



with servitude focus are capacitating and empowering their respective communities on health issues and possible obstacles in their areas. Village Health Committees (VHCs) too are facilitating and linking the community health problems with the Panchayat, TDOs and other Government Health Departments. The local health units at grass root level are gaining the momentum of their entitlements of health from the Government. Some of the awareness & trainings conducted during the year such as follow up on acupressure, home remedies & Counseling to the VHWs, a couple of exposure visits to government units for VHWs and VHCs, health camps for the communities specifically on ENT have strengthened them to have complete access in availing government health facilities and entitlements of the people. Revision and Test at the end of the year will have enabled the VHWs to seek for employment wherein some of the animators trained by us have been employed by the government officials in its health related services.

**2. Safe Motherhood Healthy Childhood: (2013-16).** The safety of the mother and the child before, during and after the birth of the child is what all designed and planned



in this project financially aided by Manos Unidas – Madrid (Spain) and implemented in five blocks by five partners namely Radhanpur, Patan, Kheralu, Mandali and Kadi in thirteen revenue villages. SSSS intervention is all out to improve the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) indicators in five blocks of Patan & Mehsana districts who will completely access government health services by

the end of the project. 15 village health workers (VHWs) are getting trained to venture into the health sector as a fully capacitated person and to empower the communities on health during the project. They are also made to realize the necessity of delivering their voluntary services when the project term is over as number of people from their own village held them in respect and dignity. The role of the Village Health Committee (VHC) who facilitates and links with the Panchayat and the local health units to receive their entitlements on health is highly appreciated. The communities do lack awareness on government health schemes in the villages and hence it becomes a hindrance in accessing the benefits. VHWs with the help of the VHCs are rendering awareness on various available govt. health schemes through Government officials. Health awareness trainings organized by SSSS for VHWs who in turn deliberate the same to their respective communities has borne tremendous fruits that can be measured as per the indicators mentioned in the logical framework. Other activities organized both at Central and Partner level like health camps for the communities, workshops on health issues, leadership, acupressure, counseling to the VHWs, a couple of exposure visits to government units for the VHWs and VHCs. At the time of Mid - term evaluation which will be conducted sometime in October 2014, the knowledge of the VHWs, their skills and expertise displayed during the project period will be truly manifested.

### **3. “SANGATH”- Strengthening Capacities of Tribal Communities through Empowerment and Socio-Economic Development (2013-16).**

As a common understanding of credit cooperative societies, three exposure visit were organized for partners and Animators to well-functioning credit cooperative society called Hangati Trust –Mandal at Surat district in which 27 people including partners and Animators took part; SEWA Bank – Ahmadabad city in which 26 people including Animators took part and at ASHANIKETAN – Bhiloda, Aravali Dist in which 27 people including Core Committee Members participated. The exposure visit was an eye opener for most of the participants. Trainings on Credit Cooperative Society were conducted at Pethapur as well as all partner locations namely Asal, Meghraj, Nanakanthariya, Vadgam, palanpur and Deesa, approximately 114 SHG members and leaders increased

their common understanding on Credit Cooperative society. As an impact of the training more than 1512 SHG members who have been enrolled for the credit cooperative societies at different partner locations have collected Rs. 4, 12,665/- Four Cooperative societies namely at Vadgam, Nanakantharia , Asal and Meghraj are registered with the District Registered Office and SSSS is proud to mark this intervention as one of the biggest achievement of the year 2013-14.

Through the livelihood skill development trainings that were organized for 755 project beneficiaries like tailoring, beauty parlor, handcrafts and kitchen garden made an impact in their personal as well as societal life. Majority of the participants who attended kitchen garden training program have planted variety of vegetables and flowers.



Four partners namely – Vadgam, Nanakantharia, Asal and Meghraj organized training program on credit facilities for the project beneficiaries with the financial support from their own institutions and funds

SSSS and CARITAS INDIA organized a training on RBM (Result Based Management) for all partners of the Archdiocese of Gandhinagar who work in social services. Mr. Saju - Zonal Manager for Western Region of CI, conducted two days session at JVK, Pethapur and disseminated information about RBM. He dealt mostly on some important factors like Problem tree, Result framework, etc. with good examples from his experiential field.

Through the interventions of SSSS, Co-operatives are slowly progressing to come on par with the rest of society and are being empowered to take their rightful role to resolve their problems. The strength of these groups has been their unity, active participation and collaboration not only among themselves but also to each one of the group members. Lots of hidden hopes and aspirations of these women are waiting to be realized that will bring to reality the vision of the “new heaven and new earth” of their dreams.

Fr Salvadore Fernandes  
Secretary