



**A GRANT APPLICATION SEEKING SUPPORT  
FOR  
HUMAN DIGNITY – ADVOCACY PROGRAMME**



**Submitted To**

**INDIA DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (IDS)  
CHICAGO, USA**



**VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH (VSSM)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Building No. 09, Aryan Corporate Park, Nr. Shilaj Railway Crossing, Thaltej.  
Ahmedabad – 380 058 Ta. Daskroi Dist. Ahmedabad Gujarat.

**Contact: (M) +91 90999 36013 Email: vssmgujarat@gmail.com Website: www.vssmindia.org**

**Dear Grant Applicant:**

Thank you for your interest in applying for a grant from India Development Service (IDS) to fund your project.

As you know, IDS is a Chicago-based non-profit organization that supports non-political, secular organizations that work to benefit the disadvantaged in India.

Before you begin the application, please read this brief summary of our requirements and expectations for the projects we support with financial grants. **The deadline for 2024 Grant Applications is December 31, 2023.**

**1. Reporting requirement**

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IDS has an obligation to inform our donors about how their money is being spent. Therefore, we publish blog posts (which appear on our website and Facebook page) with news about the various NGOs and projects we support. Each year, we publish an annual report that contains an article (illustrated with photos) about each project and its progress during the past year.

Both the blog posts and the annual report rely on information and photos from our grant recipients. If your NGO is awarded an IDS grant, you will be required to report on your project twice; once in the middle of the year (June 30) and again at the end of the year (December 15). Project reporting forms are included in this grant application packet.

If your NGO publishes quarterly, semi-annual, or annual reports that include information about the IDS-supported project, IDS would appreciate receiving those, too.

Success stories, such as those that describe the growth of a specific person who was helped by your project, are especially valuable and appreciated!

**2. Photo requirement**

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Photos are very important to us and to our donors; good photos can bring projects to life. We require *at least* seven project-related photos from each grant recipient with each progress report. There are three requirements:

- A. Quality:** Photos must be bright and well-focused.
- B. Subject Matter:** Photos must clearly illustrate project activities and/or outcomes; for example, patients being treated in a village clinic, children learning in a classroom setting, or other situations in which people's lives are improving as a result of the IDS-supported project.
- C. Resolution:** Photos must have a resolution of 300 dpi or more. Typically, acceptable photos have a file size of 2 MB or more. Photos may be taken with a digital camera or with the camera on any modern smartphone.

**Noncompliance with IDS reporting and photo requirements will result in the suspension of your project's IDS funding.**

Finally, please acknowledge IDS support in your published material and social media by including this line: This project was made possible by a grant from IDS (India Development Service), Chicago.

Thank you once again for your interest in IDS grants. If you need assistance in completing the application, you are welcome to contact your IDS Project Coordinator.



**Name of NGO****Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch (VSSM)****Mailing Address****Registered**

“Harikutir”, Sadvichar Parivar Campus,  
Satellite Road, Ramdevnagar. Ahmedabad - 380 015  
Ta. & Dist. Ahmedabad Gujarat.

<b>City</b>	Ahmedabad	<b>State</b>	Gujarat	<b>Pin Code</b>	380 015
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**Correspondence**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Building No. 09, Aryan Corporate Park,  
Nr. Shilaj Railway Crossing, Thaltej. Ahmedabad – 380 058  
Ta. Daskroi Dist. Ahmedabad Gujarat.

<b>City</b>	Ahmedabad	<b>State</b>	Gujarat	<b>Pin Code</b>	380 058
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**Email Address**

vssmgujarat@gmail.com

**Website (URL)**

www.vssmindia.org

**NGO Registration Details****Societies Registration Act, 1860**

Reg. No. GUJ/15163/Ahmedabad

**Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950**

Reg. No. F/14872/Ahmedabad

**Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**

Reg. No. 041910469 valid up to 31/05/2026

**Income Tax Act, 1961**

PAN No. AABTV2421M

**Title of Project**

Human Dignity – Advocacy Programme..... Obtain Access to a Dignified Living

**Location of Project (City and State)****The Whole of Gujarat State\***

\* There are 40 Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes Communities in the state of Gujarat. Apart from them, there are other marginalized communities in the state who do not have enough opportunities to break free from the clutches of marginalization and poverty.

Thus, the project will continue to cover almost the whole of Gujarat with priority given to the Nomadic, De-notified and other marginalized communities in the state.



**Project Categories**

*(Choose one or two of the following to describe the goals of your project)*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education/Training | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Income Generation      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy through Policy Reformation |

**Proposed Start Date**

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The programme is effective since the inception of the organization back in year 2010. Since we are dealing to address the identity crisis of the 40 Nomadic Tribe and De-Notified Tribe Communities which has an estimated population of more than 60.00 Lacs alone in the state of Gujarat.

**Project Manager**

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**Ms. Prajakta S. Bhawe | Manager (Programmes)**

**Funds Requirement**

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**Fund Requested per year**

Rs. 50,06,000.00

**Number of Years of Funding Requested**

For Existing 01 Financial Year i.e. FY 2023-24

**Mode of Transfer of Fund**

If funding is approved, would you like funds sent by cheque or wire transfer?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through Cheque | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through Wire Transfer |
|--|---|

You may extend your support either through cheque or Wire Transfer. Considering our recent experiences with Wire Transfer of funds from foreign origin, it is advisable to send your funds through Cheque. **Kindly draw your Cheque in favour of “Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch”**. However, to transfer the funds through wire transfer, we request you to kindly refer to the correspondent bank accounts maintained by our Bank in list of banks ([Click here for link to the list](#)) offering seamless and instant transfer of funds to our account as detailed below.

**Bank Details for Wire Transfer**

Please provide the following details:

- **Name of Account Holder** : **VICHARTA SAMUDAY SAMARTHAN MANCH**
- **Address** : 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Building No. 09, Aryan Corporate Park,  
Nr. Shilaj Railway Crossing, Thaltej. Ahmedabad – 380 058  
Ta. Daskroi Dist. Ahmedabad Gujarat.
- **Account Number** : 39949262574
- **Bank Name** : State Bank of India
- **Bank Address** : **New Delhi Main Branch**  
11, Sansad Marg. New Delhi – 110 001
- **Bank SWIFT Code** : SBININBB104 (Foreign Transactions Only)
- **Bank IFSC Code** : SBIN0000691



**[A] ABSTRACT**

Describe the project in 500 words or less. Be sure to include descriptions of

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| a) The recipient community;               | b) The locality;             |
| c) The size and scope of the project; and | d) The goals of the project. |

This abstract should summarize the more specific information given in the sections that follow.

**The Nomads [Nomadic Tribes & De-Notified Tribes Communities | NT-DNTs]**

The nomadic communities in India can be broadly divided into three groups: hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, and the peripatetic or non-food producing groups. Among these, peripatetic nomads are the most neglected and discriminated social group in India. During the bygone days of thriving rural economies, these communities had a significant role and social status within the society. It is considered that there is a population of around 50.00 lacs to 60.00 lacs in the state of Gujarat alone. Further, it is estimated that these communities i.e. Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe Communities carry at least 12 to 15% of total population of India.

**The Problem**

Comprehend a situation where you have no birth certificate or any document to prove your identity, to prove that you exist. It was shocking but this was the very reason the administration had remained clueless on the existence of their vast population and since they were nowhere on paper, there weren't any policies designed for them. They lost their livelihood niche because of technological and industrial advancements. Since they knew no other skills and could not adapt to the changing world order, they threw themselves or forced to live on the mercy of others. Exploitation, atrocities, and societal apathy became a routine phenomenon in their lives. Today, with their skills and expertise rendered obsolete, they face a daily struggle for survival in the society. It was very important to make the members of these communities to realise the importance of **citizenry documents and their rights**, which they were oblivious to.

**The Programme | Human Dignity – Advocacy Programme**

The programme is guided by its mission statement,

*To provide support for availing various citizenry entitlements, active advocacy for hassle-free procedures and to help getting access to different government schemes*

The Programme is torchbearer of all the philanthropic initiatives of VSSM. It functions,

- To ensure basic citizenry documents for the people of Nomadic and De-notified tribes
- To avail benefits of the various government schemes and benefits
- To advocate a change in policy to ensure new policies for the people of Nomadic and De-notified tribes
- To ensure and enable a holistic development for the people of Nomadic and De-notified tribes



Thus, began the efforts of VSSM to ensure each and every Nomad family receives all citizenry documents – Ration Card, Voter ID Card, Birth Certificate, Caste Certificate and others. Documents that help them access various governments schemes designed for the weaker sections of the society. Absence of these documents means possibility of discrimination in various Government Welfare Schemes, undue harassment by the Law Enforcement Authorities (in case of Dafer & other De-Notified Tribes Communities) and much more. Even the basic rights like free education, health services, housing aid, food grains, old age & widow pension etc. remain a distant dream for them.

VSSM, since its inception in 2010, **bridges the gap between the Government and these Communities.** We put in efforts at both ends i.e. help the Government identify right families entitled for the special consideration as well as help forming policies appropriate to these communities. We also work hand in hand with the government to review the performance and transparency in implementation of its welfare schemes while on the other hand, we help the communities reach Government Welfare Schemes, align them to the basic requirements set for availing various documents. We help the community and educate them to file the forms, submit the supporting documents and avail the benefit of government welfare schemes. We have received exceptional support from the Government. The various District Collector have always been proactive to provide the citizenry documents as well as the benefits of various government welfare schemes through organizing on premise camps.



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**[B] COMMUNITY NEEDS**

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**1. Describe the recipient community and its residents' needs.**

The Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe communities have always been an intrinsic part of India's social, cultural and economic canvas since early times. They feature in the stories told by our great grandparents, in our fables and folklores and the literature. During the bygone days of thriving rural economies, these communities had a significant role and social status within the society. Each of the nomadic communities had a reason to exist in the daily lives of villagers and towns-dwellers. They roamed from one place to other place to become a link between two distinct societies/settlements/states.

However, the emergence of modern and industrialized economies challenged the very existence of these communities. They lost their livelihood niche because of drastic changes in transport, industries, production, entertainment, and distribution systems. The illiteracy and fear of confrontation forced them to accept the status they were thrown in. Since they knew no other skills and could not adapt to the changing world order, they threw themselves or forced to live on the mercy of others. Exploitation, atrocities, and societal apathy became a routine phenomenon in their lives. For many generations, they did not know that they had certain fundamental rights granted by the constitution. Thus, not only there is a need to support these families but we may have to walk extra miles to help them embrace a life with dignity also.

**2. Provide us with some information on the locality. Is the locality a classified *backward* district by the Government of India?**

The nature of their work never let these communities settle down at one place. Once considered an advantage soon became a challenge for the generations. Since they were not part of any single revenue village and/or society, their very existence never came to notice of the people in general or the government. Major portion of their populace never became part of any government record, and since the people of the society didn't accept their inclusion, they remained without address even if they stayed at one place for years. Though they have been classified as socially, economically and educationally very backward communities, due to non-existence loci status never helped them find visibility even on the government records until we – VSSM – started working for them.

**3. Are other NGOs operating in the area and providing services similar to those you propose? If so, please list their names and briefly describe their projects and the population they target.**

There may be many organization earlier working with the nomads and their individual issues but VSSM has embraced a wholesome view to work with these communities. We touch down every aspect of the life aiming to help them lead their lives with dignity be it, getting identity, housing, education, livelihood, health support, emergency relief and Rehabilitation or anything. It is us – the VSSM – who have adopted such an all-inclusive nature of intervention for the not only the Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe Communities but for the other most marginalized section of the society too.

**4. Are you pursuing partnerships with any NGOs or other organizations in order to have a deeper and more sustainable impact?**

VSSM always remains open to any partnership at every scale of expertise. We believe in “together we can, together we will” philosophy. We receive cooperation from various government departments, its subsidiaries to support, promote and ensure more inclusive efforts towards giving identity to nomads. There are many volunteers who also contribute greatly to increase the effectiveness of the programme.

**5. What is the scope and size of the project? Specify the number of people, the community or population range, and the types of services your project will offer.**

It is considered that there is a population of around 50.00 lacs to 60.00 lacs in the state of Gujarat alone. Further, it is estimated that these communities i.e. Nomadic, Semi Nomadic

and De-Notified Tribe Communities carry at least 12 to 15% of total in the whole country is still waiting to find a voice. Although, we are able to crack down a major change in government policy at both state as well central ministry level, we have still reached a smaller level. As already said, changing government policies or forming dedicated boards and corporations will not suffice; we may actually have to get in touch with these families who still avoid confronting government offices even for their own benefit. As part of the programme, we...

- ensure people of various Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe communities receive basic citizenry documents from the government
- facilitate them to avail benefit of various government welfare schemes
- advocate for change in existing government policies to act more conducive in favor of Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe Communities
- ensure and enable holistic development of people of Nomads

**6. What are the goals of the project? Describe the difference your project will make to the community or population served.**

Roti, Kapda & Makan (Food, Clothes and Shelter) can be considered a necessity without which people cannot survive for long. However, for nomads, it is also the Identity, which has remained a distant dream for the people. The Human Dignity Programme helps nomads in finding their legal identity and further support and enable them in receiving benefits of various government welfare schemes. Unlike other organizations, VSSM channelizes its efforts in line with the government functionaries and works as a gap-filling partner to the government instead of contradicting. For us, this has always been a proven strategy. Over the period with some exemplary reformations by the government both at state and at central level, our efforts have intensified to a great extent.

Generally, it is observed that the people of this community are heavily dependent on others for obtaining various government documents as well as benefit of various government welfare schemes. The fear of confronting government offices and illiteracy make them soft targets of the agents who exploit them and sometimes cheated for obtaining almost free government documents. The agents and goons trap them so tight that they would afraid to look anything beyond what is told to them. And, if counter argued, they bluntly defy supporting any further or even make their life like hell. The innocent and misfortuned nomads lost all hopes and faith in the society due to repeated cheats until we began working with them. During the initial period, they didn't put faith in us but slowly and gradually as we made progress they started believing in us and then a day came when they all opened-up their heart to us in hope to find a solution from us. The agents imposed a heavy rate chart for each document available almost free and/or at a very nominal fee. The other breakthrough we brought in is that we employed people from these communities as our field staff so that they can establish rapport effortlessly while on other side being from their native community the field staff can well understand and empathize with them.

**[C] LONG TERM PROJECTION**

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**1. What resources will you bring to this project? In addition to financial resources, list resources such as special skills, volunteer help, or buildings and other such facilities.**

Instead of traditional practice of knowledge sharing and training, we have adopted a more comprehensive strategy to deal with the people i.e. helping by doing. Since we are dealing



with humans, we do not follow a standard pattern of intervention all the time. With some common features like Settlement, Family and Individual information gathering through comprehensive survey forms designed by us, analysing the data recorded and likewise following a systematic and scientific approach to deal with the issues of individuals/families and a settlement. Since most of our work is dealing with the government for obtaining citizenry entitlements, we have established a sound rapport with local civic bodies so that we may bridge the gap between the two ends. As such, we do not receive any specific grant or funds for the said programme as most of the donors primarily wish to focus on the projects with tangible and quantifiable outcomes. Although, the Human Dignity Programme carries maximum weightage in terms of its importance and significance but it does not attract required financial support. Only small donation amounts are accumulated to justify the need and luckily, we are able to manage it until now.

**2. Do you have additional funding for this project? List any funding from entities other than IDS.**

As referred above, we somehow manage to accumulate individual small donations to justify financial need of the programme.

**3. The Government of India provides extensive resources. Are you aware of the governmental resources available? Have you applied for such resources?**

We are well aware of the grants and resources available however, such resources are very much specific in nature limiting its use for our programme. Besides, the beneficiaries we are dealing with do not have any identity proof to prove. In such circumstances, the government grants and resources are qualified only for the confirmed identity. Although, as soon as we succeed in getting the required identity proofs, we help them directly avail benefit of various Government Welfare Schemes available. Thus, VSSM does not receive any funds or resources from the Government, it helps the beneficiary individuals and families get maximum benefit from several of its welfare schemes.

**4. What steps are you taking to avoid duplicating the efforts of the government and/or other NGOs?**

As already said, the extent to which VSSM works for the Nomadic, De-Notified Tribe and other marginalized communities, no other NGOs/organizations in Gujarat ever did in our knowledge. There are some organizations who work on individual issues and aspects but not all aspects as we do. So far as Government is concerned, we, instead of duplicating the efforts, gap fill the efforts made by them. We support the government to identify the right beneficiaries and help them in fulfilling the document requirements for each scheme while on individual beneficiary(ies)/family(ies) part; we help them in getting various citizenry entitlements as well as avail benefit of the government schemes at stretch.

**5. How will you sustain the project after exhausting the grant from IDS?**

The IDS grant will come as a huge relief to sustain the mother of all the interventions of the organization. The volume of work is so huge that it will take years to reach to a desired result. We are hopeful of receiving your continued support irrespective of the years to come.



In case of exhausting the grant(s) received from IDS, we will continue our efforts to raise funds from individual and institutional donors. The team travels extensively across their respective field district for various programme functions such as, identification of the beneficiary, conducting survey, identifying their needs, submitting individual applications to nodal government office on behalf of the beneficiary families, taking rigorous follow up for the progress done, and most of all not burdening the individual and families for the expense incurred for all these work. The organization does not charge them anything in return of the support provided to them. It is believed that in the absence of our support, these families would incur a hefty cost to agents for the same services with no guarantee and/or assurance of getting it. Almost most of the time they had to lose their hard earned money to such goons. The cost incurred by them ranges from Rs. 1,500.00 per instance to Rs. 2,000.00 per instance. There are about 30 government documents and schemes that each person/family of these communities need assistance for. The estimated sum of amount they will need is so huge that we may easily forget our counts.

**6. Please provide a projected financial outcome (e.g., \$75/year to educate one child; donate \$25 to save the life of a mother at childbirth).**

The word “Dignity” in itself carries a humongous task. It means, each nomad enjoys life full of equal opportunities, social recognition, zero discrimination and equal rights. It can only be attained through combined efforts of the society, the government and the organizations like us. Even if we limit our focus only to the state of Gujarat, then there is a huge population of Approx. 40.00 Lacs we are dealing for.

*\$ 2,500.00 per year ≈ to support one field worker for abetting nomads of a region*

**[D] PROPOSED INTERVENTION**

*Explain in 500 words or less how you will measure and/or demonstrate progress in the categories you selected on the first page of the application.*

The programme aim to address core functions in 03 categories namely, Education/Training, Empowerment and Advocacy.

It begins with education and sensitization of the beneficiary individuals and families to realize their rights as the citizen of the country. We provide an extensive understanding, guidance as well as support on how to get various documentary proofs/identities and benefits from different government welfare schemes. We are prepare them how they themselves can make a difference in their lives. This is done post conducting a complete survey of the settlement irrespective of its size. We also ensure that the society in surrounding is also equally sensitized in order to receive maximum cooperation from them and help us settle them for a good reason.

The second comes the empowerment. After completely mapping the volume of work needed in the settlement, we immediately start working step-by-step on each document and issues. Contrary to the traditional way of getting the work done, we keep the beneficiaries with us throughout the process of preparing the applications, submitting to the designated authorities, during the follow-up for the progress done, and while receiving the documents and/or benefit. This helps them understand the process in detail and they can help themselves repeat the same in future if need be. This will also help release the pressure of confrontation amongst the people. Although, we always remain available and ready-at-support, the emphasis is given to realize



the sense of ownership and responsibility so that they do not become dependent on others in future.

The third and the most important of all we advocate for making policies conducive to the plight and sufferings these Nomadic, De-Notified Tribes Communities have gone through for generations. On other part, we played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between the Nomads and the society to receive maximum cooperation. Instead of complaining, we approached government with a solution and emphasized on inclusive approach. We took advocacy in the truest spirit with genuine concern to help the communities, the governance and the society. The change does not come in overnight; one must have to perceive hard the test the fruit of success. It is with this approach we could reach this far. There is a considerable achievement we did over the past few years both at the state level as central level and it has just intensified due to increased cooperation from the Government and the Society but there is still a long way to go. There are many other regions still unexplored where the nomads are waiting to receive help from outside their communities. The organization keeps up-to-date record of the surveys, applications, follow-ups and results to measure at what efforts we received the success.

**[E] FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

*Provide a detailed cost analysis of the project's anticipated yearly expenditure.*

Minor Head	Activities	Unit Cost	Periodicity	No. of Months/Year	Total Budget FY 2023-24
01	Programme Running Cost	3,50,000.00	Monthly	13	<b>45,50,000.00</b>
02	Travelling, Awareness work and other expenses	38,000.00	Monthly	12	<b>4,56,000.00</b>
*	<b>Total Budget</b>	-	-	-	<b>50,06,000.00</b>

**[F] EXPERIENCE**

**1. How long has your organization been working in this region?**

Since year 2005 i.e. even before the inception of VSSM in year 2010, we are advocating to create an inclusive society for the people of Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe Communities across Gujarat. A one-person mission launched into a fully-grown organization working extensively for the holistic development of these communities not only in Gujarat but also in the whole country. We have covered major geography of the state over the past 18 years and are dedicated to extend it further wherever we find even a small trace of these communities.

The programme with a mission to provide support for availing various citizenry entitlements, active advocacy for hassle-free procedures and to help getting access to various government welfare schemes has...

- Helped avail Voter ID Cards to over 5,00,000 individuals.
- Supported 2,00,000 families avail Ration Card (APL, BPL and Antyoday) until now.
- Helped more than 3,000 families receive free residential plots from the Government.
- Reached 2,00,000 families from across 22 districts of Gujarat.
- Linked these communities to more than 40 various Government Welfare Schemes



Most importantly, we are able to create a special provision for Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes Communities in various government welfare schemes.

## **2. List other projects in this region that you have worked on.**

### **Education Programme**

#### **Mainstreaming the Next Generation**

To provide and support facilities to groom next generation children of these communities to get access to education and expand their horizon to a life full of opportunities

- Total 476 children (163 Girls and 313 Boys) getting education from 02 hostels of the organization with all expenses borne by VSSM.
- Shri G. U. Shah Boys and Girls Hostel is functional at Anera, Sabarkantha.
- The hostel for the children of Snake-Charmer (Vadi-Madari) Community is functional at Kakar village in Kankrej Block of Banaskantha District.
- VSSM has visualized a one-of-a-kind cultural and educational enclave, spread across the 36 bigha-land at Pansar village, for nomadic and de-notified communities.

### **Housing Programme**

#### **From Nomadism to Sedentism**

To provide technical and partial financial support for construction houses to the needy families. To help get access to government benefit schemes.

- Helped construct more than 1,500 houses in 16 settlements so far with full technical support and partial financial assistance.
- Further 3,000 families are under consideration for support in near future.

VSSM strives to drive in various government grant support for these families. Also, we encourage the families to contribute their share as much as possible. However, we know that it would not be sufficient to construct a house without support of Donors rooted through VSSM/VF.

### **Swavalamban – Livelihood Income Generation Programme**

#### **Providing Freedom from Debt and Deprivation**

To provide interest free loans for various purposes be it to start Micro Businesses, Education, Social Cause, Rehabilitation, health issues and so on

- Interest-Free loans given to the communities of 30 Districts of 3 States.
- Nearly 7,700 Individuals supported under the Swavalamban Programme
- Loans amounting worth more than Rs. 24.26 crores provided for more than 55 occupations
- 135 Savings Groups formed with 1350 beneficiaries. Some of these groups have also been linked with Govt. Welfare Schemes, which further enhanced their livelihood opportunities.

### **Participatory Water Management Programme**

#### **Addressing the Looming Water Crisis**

To increase water retention capacity if the existing lakes in the villages by various means such as desilting, deepening, farm ponds etc. and sensitizing villagers for impending issues of water crisis.



- The programme envisages to connect these lakes to the canals in this region and create a network of lakes and canals to improve the ground water table.
- We have desilted around 252 lakes in 13 Blocks of 04 Districts in North Gujarat region namely, Banaskantha, Patan, Sabarkantha and now Mehsana too.
- We also encourage the villagers to contribute for the de-siltation of the proposed lake and make arrangements of Tractors to take away desilted soil. We also drive-in government fund wherever possible to increase the effectiveness of our initiative.

### **Trees Plantation Programme**

#### **Towards Greener Future**

Planting of trees in partnership with villages managed and maintained through Local "Vriksha Mitra – Tree Friend/ Tree Caretaker" and increase green cover of the deserted land in northern Gujarat – a critically draught prone region with magnitude of ecological issues. We have planted more than 8.87 lakh trees so far.

- Planted more than 8.87 Lacs trees at various 167 sites spread across 91 villages of 13 blocks in 3 Districts with tree survival rate more than 90%.
- A nursery with capacity of 1.50 lakh saplings is operation in Kakar Village.

Since its inception in 2019, the programme has expanded manifolds. VSSM assumes the responsibility to take care of the tree planted for 03 years in collaboration with equal participation of the people of the village and local forest department. We give priority to crematories and government wastelands so as to ensure survival of the trees.

### **Sanjiv Arogya Setu and Medical Support Programme**

#### **Towards Affordable Medical Care**

To provides assistance to the destitute and deprived elderly individuals in need of special medical treatments in cases of chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart surgeries etc. and provide partial financial support through various mediums.

- Supported 23 COVID & Mucormycosis Patients receive effective medical treatment. Also provided financial assistance of Rs. 6.46 Lacs so far.
- Supported 213 patients receive affordable Medical support in the emergency providing Rs. 14.46 Lacs worth financial assistance over and above the government assistance.
- Every month, we provide support to 10+ patients.

The programme envisages to help poor and destitute families in getting affordable medical treatment through government run Civil Hospitals and help them save exorbitant cost of diagnosis and treatment.

### **Mavjat Programme**

#### **Assistance to Unattended Elderly**

The programme aims to ensure two-time meal to the unattended, deserted and destitute elderlies so that they do not have to live a dependent life. The grocery kit includes enough food grains, pulses, oil and spices to sustain for a month.

- More than 600 Beneficiaries across 20 districts are getting monthly groceries kit. Grocery Kit worth Rs. 1,500/- in case of individual and Rs. 2,300/- in case of couple is being provided every month.



**3. Describe (in a few sentences) the relevant experience of each of your team members.**

The organization is blessed to have a dedicated and committed team both at grassroots level as well as at office level. While the office team is driven by commitment to perform at the highest level of transparency, the field team is equally dedicated and genuinely interested in making all organizational efforts yield at optimum satisfaction.

Each Field or office staff representing the organization in various regions of the Gujarat have dedicated their life to the vision of the organization. The organization could reach this far only due to their commitment over the years.

The field team mostly comprises the people from the Nomadic and De-Notified Tribe communities who could easily empathize with them naturally and build rapport with in less time. In this way, we inherited experience to work with the nomads through our field workers. Most importantly, our team is easily adaptive to the changing normals.

**4. IDS supports only non-political, secular organizations. Please provide a written statement that your organization is non-political and secular and, if available, your organization's mission statement.**

Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch (VSSM), its ancillaries or any of its employees and associates do not endorse, support or practice any behaviour or action of political and communal in nature.

We, hereby, declare that VSSM and all its ancillaries are non-political and secular entities in nature and do not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion/creed, age, gender, national origin, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, alienage or citizenship status, veteran status or disability nor do we knowingly or unknowingly support or patronize any organization that engages in such discrimination.

**Vision**

The inclusion of Nomadic, De-Notified and Other Marginalized Communities in mainstream society anchored towards Socio-Economic and ecological stability and enable the people to lead a dignified life.

**Mission**

To ensure and enable holistic development of the people belonging to the Nomadic, De-Notified Tribes and other marginalized section of the society addressing the interdependence and coevolution of Human Economies and Biodiversity.

**Objectives****Our Community Specific Objectives include:**

- To enable the communities of NT-DNT avail their citizenry rights and entitlements.
- To ensure the children from NT-DNT communities enjoy their fundamental Right to Education.
- To support the creation of alternate livelihood opportunities when the traditional occupations have become obsolete with time.
- To ensure that the NT-DNT families obtain a stable residence

- To preserve and promote cultural heritage of NT-DNT communities by providing stage to their inherent art and artistry.
- To provide support for the medical emergencies and to ensure that they get adequate medical support from government and private functionaries

**Our Environmental Objectives include:**

- To make people aware about the fast depleting water table and get them involved into the Participatory Water Management Programme
- To enhance the Green cover, a Tree Plantation Drive was initiated since 2019.

**[G] IDS REQUIREMENTS**

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The grant recipient will be assigned an IDS Project Coordinator who will assist with the grant application process and with submitting the required mid-year and end-of-year project progress reports to IDS.

The reports will help assess how the project is progressing. The award recipient will document how the proposed intervention is addressing the specific community needs. Sharing data, documents, metrics, and photos is required.

We recognize that there will be deviations from the expected outcomes. If the award recipient encounters difficulties and wants to change the scope of the project, it is the recipient's responsibility to discuss the matter with the assigned IDS Project Coordinator.

IDS supports risk taking, innovation and, more importantly, learning. We expect that your organization will be sharing information with IDS and other projects that IDS supports; in that way, the award recipient and IDS learn from both the partnership and the project.

IDS Project Coordinators, board members, volunteers, and monitors from IDS may visit the project.

India Development Service is a non-profit organization that, in compliance with federal, state, and local laws, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion/creed, age, gender, national origin, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, alienage or citizenship status, veteran status or disability. India Development Service does not knowingly support or patronize any organization that engages in discrimination.



**Signature of Project Manager**

**Date: 10/12/2023**

**Print Name | Ms. Prajakta S. Bhave**

**Name of NGO | Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch (VSSM)**

