

# Gram Vikas Trust Site Visit

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## Snapshot of the Visit:

### Visit Summary:

- Reached Bharuch at 10:00 AM on 11<sup>th</sup> March (Saturday)
- Met Mr. Ramesh Kasondra (GVT Founder and Director) at GVT Office around 10:10 AM and had a casual discussion on ongoing activities at GVT.
- Ms. Jaypriya, Ms. Chhaya, and Mr. Arif from GVT accompanied for the visits through the rest of the day.
- Visited Sardarpura primary school to meet 4 out of the 8 bicycle program beneficiaries and their parents.
- Visited Ambos community to meet 6 more bicycle program beneficiaries.
- Visited Dhandheda to meet parents of one of the SAC (Support a Child) program beneficiary.
- Visited Kabir Education Nursing College, Ankleshwar to meet current and past SAC program beneficiaries
- Returned back to the GVT office in Bharuch around 4:00 PM where 9 SAC beneficiaries were called for interaction.
- 2 more SAC beneficiaries joined virtually.

### Impression

- Last years' beneficiaries of the bicycle program satisfied and happy
- Current beneficiaries of the SAC program grateful for the support by GVT and Asha, aiming for jobs and higher studies. Most of the past SAC beneficiaries employed and doing well.
- Interesting, impactful initiatives by GVT in coordination with government schools to improve the quality of student learning through app based weekly tests.

## Background

Gram Vikas Trust was founded in 2001 and its aim is to help improve the social and economic conditions of the population in drought prone Bharuch and Narmada districts of Gujarat through education.

The two GVT projects being funded by Asha are:

1. Bicycle Program: GVT is providing bicycles to village girls after they pass 6th/7th grade so that they can travel 2-4 kms to attend high school in the nearest town so that they do not drop out due to safety concerns and inconvenience.
2. Support A Child (SAC) program: GVT provides scholarships to the students wanting to continue study beyond 12<sup>th</sup> standard. Scholarships typically cover college tuition, hostel, and other fees.

## Bicycle Program Beneficiary Interaction.

We visited Sardarpura primary school and Ambos community to meet some of the bicycle program beneficiaries. The beneficiaries studying at the Sardarpura primary school come from Utia village which is about 3 km from the school. The mothers who had accompanied the beneficiaries at Sardarpura were supportive of their girls' education. The beneficiaries studying in Ambos village come from Koylivav which is also about 2-3 km away. The beneficiaries come from poor families that do not have their own farm land, and are engaged in daily wage labor at other people's farms. The students will have to travel to another village after 8<sup>th</sup> standard as the school is only from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard. The beneficiaries said that they are saving about 15-20 minutes of time in going to and coming back from school since they received the bicycles, and the trip has become more enjoyable. The girls are helped by their fathers and/or brothers for the regular maintenance of the bicycle. The girls ride their bicycle to the school in groups.

## SAC Beneficiary Interaction

The in-person interactions with the SAC beneficiaries happened at three locations. The first one was at Dhadheda village where we met mother of Shaba who is doing B. Com 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Valli charitable trust at Manubar village. Shaba's hostel fee is Rs. 40,000 and the tuition fee is Rs. 20,000 per year. Shaba's mother said that Shaba is enjoying her studies at Manubar and is doing well in her studies. She is exploring her options after graduation and would probably like to go for higher studies eventually. Next, we visited Kabir Education Nursing College in Ankleshwar where we met 3 current and 3 past SAC beneficiaries who are doing/did the basic diploma in nursing. This is a year-long program that costs Rs. 15000 to the students. The program includes 6 months theory classes (2 hours a day, 6 days a week, for 6 months) and 6 months of training (full time training at clinic/hospital). The training Most of the beneficiary parents are daily wage workers and the beneficiaries wouldn't have undergone the training if they were not supported by the SAC program. The past beneficiaries employed in clinics and hospitals are earning between Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 5,000 per month. The salary from the nursing work is now the primary source of income in the family.

The third location of SAC beneficiary interaction was GVT office itself where about 9 beneficiaries from nearby locations were called. The beneficiaries are involved in a various programs ranging from high-school, BSc in Physics, MBBS, Diploma, and Engineering. The students seemed happy in their respective programs and are doing well. The students participated well in the discussion and were very thankful to GVT for the support they are receiving. Two more beneficiaries were interacted with over a WhatsApp call. One of them received the support a couple of years ago, and now has good job in a nearby factory. The other was pursuing her MBBS in Ahmedabad and was is her last year.

The SAC beneficiaries do feel like passing on the guidance and contributing to support more students like themselves in the future.

## Concluding Remarks

GVT planned the site visit very well and arranged meetings with as many beneficiaries as possible at various locations around Bharuch. I also learnt about some other initiatives by GVT in coordination with the state government to improve the quality of education in the government schools through mobile app weekly quizzes. Various programs by GVT such as the bicycle and SAC program complement each other to make sure that all children in the area get access to good quality education, and attain self-dependence.

Photos:



1. *Bicycle program beneficiaries at Sardarpura primary school*



2. *Bicycle program beneficiaries at Ambos village*



3. Meeting with SAC Beneficiary's parent in Dhadheda.



4. Meeting with previous and current SAC beneficiaries at Kabir Education Nursing College in Ankleshwar





5. Meeting with SAC beneficiaries gathered at GVT office.