
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
(IDEAL)

2021-2022
ANNUAL
REPORT

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CSJ was established with the aim to intervene and ensure vulnerable communities get access to justice. These groups include women, Dalits, minority communities, tribals, and other marginalised groups.

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) is an initiative by the Institute for Development Education and Learning (IDEAL). It is one of the first organisations of its kind in India that uses the law to fight for the rights of marginalised people. It first began operating through a network of law centres across Gujarat in 1993 and today also works in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and responds to nearly 3,000 cases every year.

Our 17 law centres consist of lawyers, paralegals and researchers passionate about making a difference.

CSJ provides a span of legal services while also, in the process, working towards activating government and civic bodies. Its aim is to identify and address policy gaps and fight for social justice and simultaneously engage in legal know-how, hold public campaigns, and train young lawyers and paralegals.

The organisation, through its networks spanning across India, also partakes in disaster response. Be it the migrant crisis during the nation wide covid 19 crisis or the devastation that followed the Tauktae cyclone, CSJ ensures that vulnerable communities receive their due entitlements.

Interventions

Access to Justice
Adivasi Rights
Capacity Building
Child Rights
Dalit Rights
Labour Rights

Land Rights
Minority Rights
Prisoners Rights
Rights of Fisherfolks
Rights of Urban marginalised
Disaster Response

GUJARAT

- Amreli
- Anand
- Rajula
- Bharuch
- Baroda
- Bhiloda
- Dang
- Dediapada
- Godhra
- Lathi
- Mandvi
- Meghraj
- Naliya
- Patan
- Poshina
- Una
- Umarpada
- Savarkundla
- Ranip

MAHARASHTRA

- Baramati
- Mahad

MADHYA PRADESH

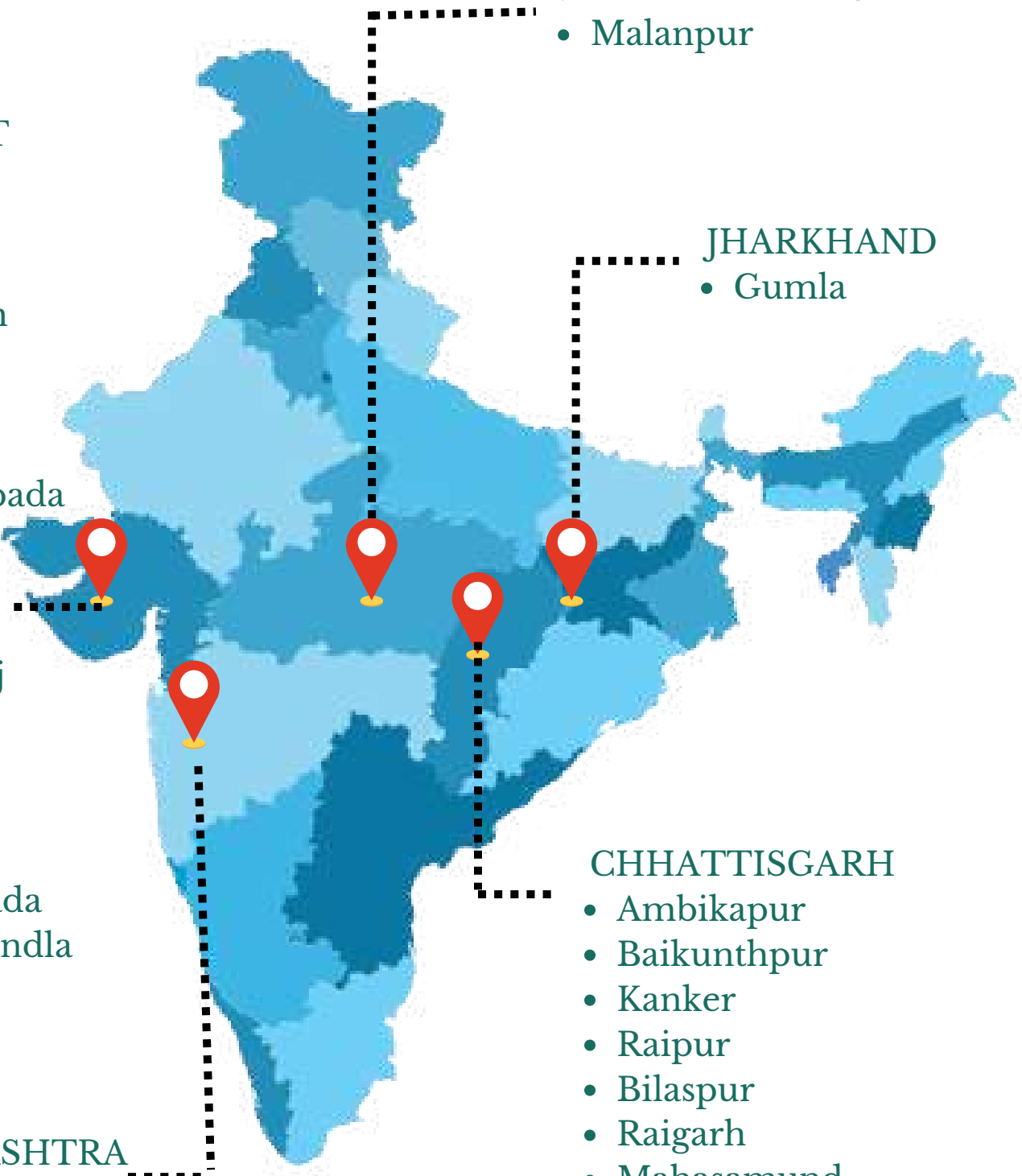
- Malanpur

JHARKHAND

- Gumla

CHHATTISGARH

- Ambikapur
- Baikunthpur
- Kanker
- Raipur
- Bilaspur
- Raigarh
- Mahasamund



**LEGAL
AWARENESS**

Disseminating information about legal rights and entitlements through awareness programmes including campaigns, radio shows & street plays

**LEGAL
REFORM**

Grassroot intervention, challenging unjust existing laws & contributing in the formulation of law

**LEGAL
AID**

Addressing legal issues of individuals & communities by assisting in litigation, facilitating entitlement claims under various laws & enactments

**LEGAL CAPACITY
BUILDING**

Conducting various capacity programmes to develop the capacities of young lawyers, paralegals & volunteers to use law for ensuring that rights & entitlements are guaranteed to the vulnerable.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION**

Using formal & informal dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve a legal dispute between two parties by activating formal state mechanisms. It involves permanent conciliation boards, mediation centres, & the informal spaces include Anjuman, village heads, etc.

NAYIKA



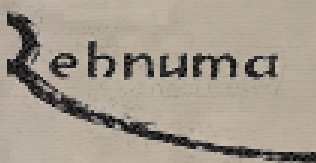
Nyayika is a chain of multi-specialty law centres, offering affordable, professional, transparent and accountable legal services at the grassroots. Nyayika centres are run by a team of trained lawyers and paralegals with the objective of increasing access to justice for communities at the grassroots and to demonstrate a self-sustainable model of grassroots legal service delivery.

REHBAR



Rehnuma is CSJ's cross-cutting/integrated minority intervention. It aims to uphold the rights of minority communities. Through the intervention, CSJ plans on expanding its regular service to minority communities. Further, the aim is to engage with religious seats of power (Jamaats, Maulanas) and community-mechanisms (Anjuman) to inculcate a rights-based lens in its approach.

REHNUMA



Rehbar or the National Resource Centre is a virtual knowledge hub incorporating multiple competencies and experiences from within CSJ's system. Rehbar is not limited to a physical space and has a floating or dynamic membership. Its mandate is to theorise the rich experiences of the organisation in order to make conceptual contributions to the law and justice space.

ADIVASI HAQ RAKSHAK MANCH



Adivasi Haq Rakshak Manch is a platform through which CSJ aims to intervene and fight for rights of Adivasi communities in Schedule V areas. This is done through a special focus on legal empowerment strategies and strengthened local self-governance. This platform further acts as a springboard for interventions through paralegals from the community to emerge as strong leaders in the social justice space.

LAWYERS FOR CHANGE



CSJ equips young lawyers from vulnerable communities to become social justice lawyers and change agents in their communities. LFC has been instrumental in the development of community-based leadership of young lawyers as a mechanism for social transformation.

DARYA NO DAYRO



CSJ's coastal initiative, Dariya No Dairo, covers coastal districts of Gir, Somnath and Amreli. The coastal intervention is targeted at socio-economic rights of people from the fishing community living on the coastal belt.

CSJ's intervention is partly related to service delivery — looking at the basic entitlements of the community and implementing government schemes specially introduced for the fishing community.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LEGAL EMPOWERMENT (YPPLE)

YPPLE

Young Professionals
Program for Legal
Empowerment

The objective of the program is, to equip young legal professionals to become powerful change agents by giving them the opportunity to develop a holistic understanding of how legal empowerment at the grassroots plays a catalytic role in bringing social change. A group of young legal professionals are placed in one of the field areas where CSJ is implementing its interventions.

CSJ's primary work is in the sphere of grassroots lawyering. This involves providing legal assistance to members of vulnerable communities. It is the experience of CSJ lawyers and paralegals from this domain that informs other engagements of the organisation with academic institutions and duty bearers. During the year 2021-22, we were able to intervene in around 2,751 cases.

Rights	Social Category of Victims								Total
	OBC		SC		ST		General		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Rights of Women	3	66	2	53	6	65	2	34	231
Rights Related to Land	40	27	16	7	166	50	123	60	489
Rights of Consumers	1	1	12	5	1	0	1	0	21
Rights of Identity	72	94	25	25	107	127	41	41	532
Right to Basic Amenities	9	4	25	6	11	2	0	0	57
Rights Related to Social Security	122	180	72	95	331	255	26	50	1131
Rights of Children	23	23	6	10	1	4	11	27	105
Minority Rights	7	14	0	0	1	0	0	1	23
Miscellaneous	39	4	36	8	39	11	21	4	162
Total	316	413	194	209	663	514	225	217	2751

Mandvi, Gujarat

We were approached by Mr Nadiyabhai Vasava, regarding a will that was made 25 years ago transferring their ancestral property to a third party. We challenged the will in the court of the Principal Civil Judge, Umarpada on the ground that, i) the ancestral property was property under 73AA of the Gujarat Land Revenue Code, 1879 and therefore any will transferring the said land would require the permission of the Mamlatdar as well as the collector and ii) secondly the will was not certified(probate).

Our arguments were accepted by the court and the will was rejected.

State	No. of Fact Findings Conducted	Types of Incidents	Social Category of Victim (divided into three Category)
Chhattisgarh	54	Offences against Women, Violation of POCSO Act, Violation of SC/ST Atrocity Act, Custodial Violence, Human Trafficking	OBCs-28, ST-14, SC-12
Gujarat	51	Offences against Women, Violation of POCSO Act, Violation of SC/ST Atrocity Act, Kidnapping, Custodial Violence	OBCs- 17, ST- 10, SC- 13, General- 11
Jharkhand	7	Offences against Women, Kidnapping, State Negligence,	ST-5, SC- 1, General-1
Total	112		OBC- 45, SC- 26, ST- 29, General- 12

Lathi, Gujarat

In Mudiypada village of Lathi taluka, Mukeshbhai Vanodara initiated physical intimacy with Chayaben on a false promise of marriage. When the case come to our Lawyer, Jalpa, she filed a complaint under Section 376(2)(n) of the IPC and Section 3(2)(v) of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Our lawyer was also able to get a compensation amount of Rupees 3,75,000/- for the victim.

All of CSJ's centers engage extensively with the community through various outreach activities, including legal awareness camps, village visits, campaigns etc. The goal is not just to provide legal assistance, but also to empower the community so that they can formulate their own strategies and aid the community in the long run. To this extent, all centers identify and train community volunteers, who then intervene in cases of human rights violations.

The table below shows all outreach programs undertaken by CSJ centers in the previous year.

State	Village Visits			Awareness Programs			Total No. of people reached
	No. of visits	Female	Male	No. of Shibirs/ camps	Female	Male	
Chattisgarh	327	3,286	2,675	72	4,058	3,325	13,344
Gujarat	975	14,104	19,147	114	5,760	5,409	44,420
Jharkhand	116	909	579	15	1,323	618	3,429
Total	1,418	18,299	22,401	201	11,141	9,352	61,193

STRENGTHENING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH LEGAL CAPACITY BUILDING

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Capacity Building forms one of the core activities of CSJ as it is directly related to our larger institutional goal of expanding the scope of Access to Justice for the marginalised communities. In line with CSJ's pedagogy, capacity-building programs are designed to empower people to overcome the negative and sometimes brutal impact of systemic discrimination.

The participants for such training included young lawyers, aspirants for the All India Bar Examination, community volunteers, staff of civil society organisations, government officials, law students, etc.

S. No	Category	No of Trainings	Number of participants
1.	Civil Society Organization	27	1,416
2.	Members of Forest Rights Committees/ Biodiversity Management Committee/ Community Forest Rights Management Committee	4	192 people involved with committees
3.	Paralegal Volunteers	29	513
4.	Law Students/ Young Lawyers	3	484
5.	Capacity Building of the members of the Panchayat on Governance	11	487 members of the Panchayat
6.	Capacity building of lawyers from vulnerable communities for AIBE	2	300
7.	Total	74	3,392

In 2020, we began our journey with the 'Social Compact'- a multistakeholder movement that brings together corporates, worker organizations, and experts into a co-solutioning relationship to ensure greater dignity for industry-employed informal workers in India.

In this spirit, we are collaborating with IIM- Ahmedabad; FICCI's task force for migrant workers' rights; FGI Gujarat; and CII where we support their teams by providing capacity building in facilitating entitlements of informal workers and at the same time engage with different processes to influence the industrial ecosystem.

Through the various entitlements and registration mentioned in the table below, a total of 11,36,342 was generated in the past year.

Identity related registrations	OBC	SC	ST	General	Total
Labour identity related registrations/ entitlements (E-Nirman,E-Shram, U-Win, MNREGA Card etc.)	1,586	1,283	3,548	755	7,172
Citizen identity-related documents (Birth Certificat, Income certificate, Domicile Certificate, Pan Card etc.)	302	183	84	336	905
Health and safety entitlements (Ayushman Bharat Card, Vaccination Certificate, Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana etc.)	428	443	18	413	1,320
Other social security related entitlements (Ration Card, Ujjwala Yojana etc.)	223	196	16	102	537
Total	2,548	2,105	3,666	1,578	9,934

Labour Consultation, Ahmedabad

A 2 day National Consultation was organised in Ahmedabad on intersectional themes of labour rights. The event's objective was to critically engage with the challenges and effects of the new Labour code on the social security of informal workers and give recommendations for operationalising a robust informal workers' registration system.

CSJ's philosophy of using the law for social change is not limited to providing legal services inside and outside the courtroom. It includes creating an eco-system of empowerment whereby communities and individuals feel strengthened to intervene with the help of pre-existing legal mechanisms. The top-down approach of governance has weakened processes at the village level defeating the entire purpose of strengthened local-self governance and the powers and functions of the Gram Sabhas as envisioned by the Constitution. CSJ's interventions in law and governance:

Integrated Model of Governance:

The aim of the Integrated model of governance is to strengthen local self-governance institutions in Schedule V regions and innovate an actionable framework through which current laws that deal with natural resource governance interplay and benefit the community. The overall objective is to create livelihood opportunities and conservation of traditional knowledge, management of forest and community resources, and cultural heritage of Adivasis in Schedule V regions through the implementation of these laws. Through the implementation of the integrated model of governance, a total of 3,617 Hectares of land was received in 8 Gram Sabhas of Antagrh Block, Kanker, Chhattisgarh,



Grassroots Health Governance

As a part of our immediate response to Covid, we provided 324 Covid health kits in more than 250 villages in Gujarat and Chhattisgarh. We also provided 19 Oxygen Concentrators in Gujarat and Chhattisgarh

Realising the necessity of grassroots health response, CSJ conceptualized a health governance intervention wherein strengthening and establishing PHCs and Sub-centres, along with prioritizing the agenda of health in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan was envisaged. The intervention was carried out in the Kanker, Mungeli, and Bilaspur districts of Chhattisgarh and Dang, Panchmahal, Khambhat, and Bharuch of Gujarat.

Awareness and Training:

We reached around 180 villages of 50 panchayats in 6 districts of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh to raise awareness about how to use Covid kits, sensitisation against vaccine hesitancy, and awareness regarding different compensation schemes for families of victims of Covid.

There was a lot of confusion and miss information regarding the applicability of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Insurance Scheme and even during our meeting with Block Level offices - we were told that health workers such as Asha workers were not included in the insurance scheme. We undertook an awareness campaign to clear misinformation such as its applicability to community health workers. These awareness drives included reaching out to government officials, Asha workers, PHCs, CHCs, and other organisations.

Through our various trainings in Dang and Kanker, we build the capacity of 792 paralegals to address issues around health and governance.

Panchayats where Para-health workers were active and our engagement with healthcare centers

District	No. of Panchayats	No. of Villages	PHCs	CHCs
Kanker	10	19	10	5
Bilaspur & Mungeli	10	22	6	2
Khambhat	5	28	5	1
Panchmahal	10	41	10	4
Jambusar	2	2	1	1
Dang	15	69	6	4
Total	52	181	38	17

Influencing through governance

In the Bazipura Panchayat, (Khambhat block, Anand, Gujarat), the PHC was in the Kalamsar village which was 35km away. People were facing difficulties in reaching the PHC for primary treatment and had to travel for at least one hour to avail treatment. An application was given to the Panchayat for the development of the new PHC in their Panchayat which was accepted. The construction work of the new building is currently under process.

Employment during the pandemic

In Chhattisgarh, para-health workers and volunteers from Bitkuli, Loofa, and Parsapani villages workers collectively appealed to the local governing body to start work under MGNREGA. In Parsapani village Rupees 2 lakh was allocated for digging a pond in Loofa Panchayat and 1.80 lakh was allocated for land leveling. All these construction projects have started and are currently under process.

One of the key areas of our covid intervention was facilitating the family of the deceased in getting compensation under various schemes and from private foundations. While we facilitated the applications of hundreds of applicants in the state of Gujarat, Jharkhand, and Chattisgarh, we were successful with 15 such applications. There was a lot of miss information regarding the applicability of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Insurance Scheme to Asha workers. We, undertook a huge awareness campaign, and we mass circulated Whatsapp messages clearing any misconception regarding its applicability. These messages were circulated to government officials, Asha workers, PHCs, CHCs, and other organisations.

Sr. No.	Scheme / Organisation	No. of beneficiaries	Amount
1.	Covid Mrityu Sahay Yojana (Center's Covid Death financial Assistance)	8	4,00,000/-
2.	Give India Foundation	6	1,80,000/-
3.	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Insurance Scheme for Health Workers fighting against COVID-19	1	50,00,000/-
Total			55,80,000/-

Himmatnagar, Gujarat

Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Insurance Scheme, we helped facilitate the claim of Mr. Archit from Himmatnagar. His family's claim was rejected by the insurance company stating that the claim was pertaining to a death that happened during the period when the scheme was not operational (when the scheme had expired and hadn't been extended). And they were therefore informed that they were not eligible for getting the compensation.

We appealed the decision of the insurance company and presented the GR that clearly stated that the scheme will be applicable to deaths that happened between the time when the scheme expired and when it was renewed. We were successful in ensuring that the family received the compensation amount of Rupees 50,00,000/-.

Cyclone Tauktae that had struck various coastal states of India from the 14th - 19th of May, 2021, has left a trail of devastation behind it. CSJ was actively involved in the relief work and distributed more than 500 ration kits, generators, fuel, water motors and solar lamps to those affected in Rajula, Jaffrabad and Una.

We had submitted a demand letter to the Fisheries commissioner, Revenue Department, and State Disaster Management Authority, highlighting the gaps in the compensation package. We even released a report highlighting the various gaps detailing the same. ([here](#))_

We had also organised a camp in collaboration with the DLSA for reissuing government documents that were lost during the cyclone. During the campaign, we filed the following applications to various government departments,

Applications for house damage: 1,524

Applications for boat damage: 217

Applications for getting work under MNREGA: 285

Application for Job Card: 171

Applications for Death/Injury: 2

Applications for the lost documents: 4

Further, due to the continued efforts of our volunteers, more than 100 people received compensation for their damaged houses in Amreli and Gir Somnath.

With respect to The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, prohibition, and Redressal) (POSH) ACT, 2013, CSJ provides services with respect to its compliance requirements as well as conducts training sessions for the management staff as well as for employees.

During the past year we took 5 POSH trainings for factories, NGOs and companies (Unique Tags Private Limited, Utthan, Maxxis Rubber India Factory, Drishti Media, Cliantha). These trainings involved preliminary discussions on the importance of women's safety at workplaces and mechanisms that can be adopted for making one. We also discussed the procedural aspects related to lodging a complaint with the ICC such as filing a complaint, timeline under the Act and the punishments prescribed for the same.

These training were conducted both in the physical as well as offline mode,

- Utthan (Online) - 39 people
- Maxxis Rubber India Factory (Offline) - 60 people (9 sessions)
- Drishti Media (Offline) - Around 26 people
- Unique Tags Private Limited (offline) - Around 100 people
- Cliantha (Offline) - Around 150 people

Apart from trainings we are also an external member (under (Section 4(2) (c)) of the POSH Act) of ICCs of various organisations and companies.

Our POSH Brochure can be accessed [here](#).

A monetary impact of around INR 2,70,45,351/- was generated in our field areas in the last financial year. Comparing it to our annual expenditure in the previous year - 5,35,30,950, we were able to generate about 50% of the money we had spent in the year.

Meghraj, Aravalli, Gujarat

Our volunteers filed group applications to the District Collector in Aravalli, regarding the issue of water shortage in 7 villages of Meghraj, Aravalli. as a result of continuous follow-ups, 90,81,800/- was allocated to Ramad village and 70,82,000/- to Chhikari village for the construction of Check dams. The construction of these check dams has started.

Sr. No.	Interventions	No. of Claims/People benefited	Public Money Generated/Expected *
1	Maintenance received under various family laws, Domestic Violence Act, S. 125 CrPC, and penalty under the Dowry prohibition Act	28	28,07,500
2	Compensation under the victim compensation scheme (Rape victims/POCSO)	12	13,90,000
3	Compensation under SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	5	11,25,400
4	Incentives for social integration through Inter-caste Marriages (Registration)	3	310,000
5	Compensation for Covid Death	10	4,30,000
6	Benefits received under various social security schemes	959	2,08,07,451
7	Recoveries under the Negotiable Instrument Act	1	1,75,000
	Total	1,121	2,70,45,351

* The figure is non-exhaustive and therefore merely illustrative of our actual impact.

Thematic	Details of publication
Disaster Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Impact of making vaccination mandatory.</u> 2. <u>Coverage of the PM Garib Kalyan Insurance Scheme</u> 3. <u>The collapse of the public healthcare system in rural India.</u> 4. <u>Critique and recommendations for changes in the Relief Package (cyclone Tauktae).</u> 5. <u>Exclusion of the Everyday Realities of Migrant Fisherfolk</u>
Women's rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Gender and Land Rights in Changing Global Contexts</u> 2. <u>Patriarchal interpretations of the Quran</u>
Rights of Labourers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Transitions from Nagar Panchayat to Nagar Parishad or Municipal Council create challenges for labourers</u>
Rights of Minorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Landless minorities have no means to legally access electricity (focusing on the Dalit landless community in Lathi, Gujarat)</u> 2. <u>Weak systems and processes under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).</u> 3. <u>The Benefit Sharing money under the Biodiversity Act is not reaching the communities.</u> 4. <u>Reason why recent notifications by the AIBE disproportionately impacted candidates belonging to minority communities.</u>
Right to Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The hostility of the government departments towards providing information under the RTI act and illegal means adopted by them to intimidate information seekers.</u>
Prisoners Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>NHRC has been misinterpreting the law to dismiss appeals on technical grounds.</u>

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**DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF (FULL TIME/
PART TIME); ACCORDING TO PAYMENT
LEVELS; GENDER BREAK-UP**

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Slab of Staff Remuneration per month (in Rs.)	Male staff			Female staff			Total Full Time/Part Time Staff		Total Staff
	Part Time	Full Time	Total	Part Time	Full Time	Total	Part Time	Full Time	
Upto 5,000	1		1	2	-	2	3	0	3
5,001-10,000	2	21	23	-	10	10	2	31	33
10,001-25,000	3	22	25	3	11	14	6	33	39
25,001- 50,000		5	5	1	12	13	1	17	18
50,000– 100,000	-	-	0	1	-	1	1	0	1
100,000 >	-	-	0	-	1	1	0	1	1
Total	6	48	54	7	34	41	13	82	95



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