

## **11. Internal Organization**

*Prof Anil Bhatt* voluntarily retired from Executive Committee and Presidentship. An Executive Committee meeting held on **10<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 at Vyara, South Gujarat**, and Committee members unanimously chosen *Prof. D.S. Ker* as president. Prof. Ker, chairman of an organization called *Gramya Vikas Trust*, at Dwarka is an active member of Janpath. A strong grass root movement in the work area of Gramya Vikas Trust has defeated Poshitra Port Development Company, which proposed to develop Special Economic Zone in this region. Poshitra Struggle is indeed an example and inspiration for voluntary sector of Gujarat.

### **Janpath has four-layered organizational structure**

#### **THE GENERAL BODY**

**Consists of all the members of JANPATH and meets once a year. It is the highest body of the organization and all-important decisions have to be ratified by it.**

**NIYAMAK SAMITI (Advisory Council for Policy directions) consists of one fifth of total number of members: Tenure of its members is one year. One cannot seek re-nomination till all members of Janpath have had one chance in the first round. Meets twice a year to discuss and approve major decisions and give directions to the organisation..**

#### **KAROBARI SAMITI (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

**Consists of four members elected or nominated by the General Body. Additionally, one member is co-opted by the executive committee. Past presidents of the organization, and some academicians-activists also participate as permanent invitees. One member retires by rotation every year. Every four-years the E.C. has a completely new set of members. Meets at least once in two months or more frequently if required. The committee takes all the administrative decisions monitors and reviews the works..**

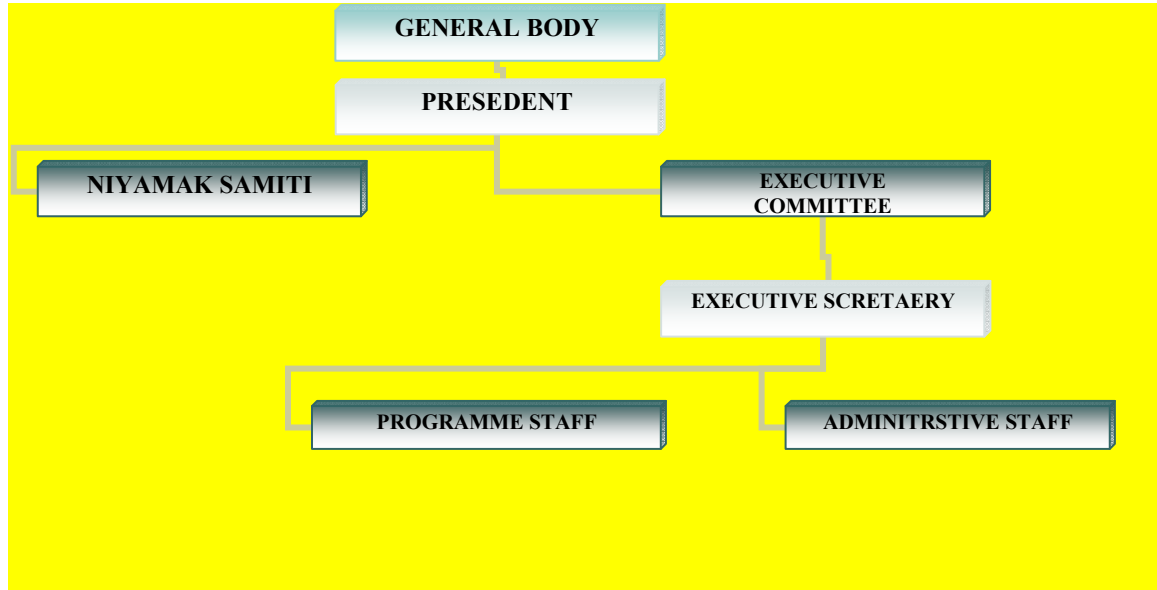
#### **THE PRESIDENT**

**Head of the organization. His/her tenure is four years. Presides over and conducts the Niyamak and Karobari Samiti meetings.**

## THE SECRETARIAT

Consists of administrative, field and research staff, headed by the Executive Secretary, responsible for all activities and for running of the organisations.

### Organogram



### Executive Committee members:

#### Organizational

Gramya Vikas Trust

Mahiti

Naya Marg

Vikas Prof

Disha

#### Invitees:

Anandi

Bandhkam Majdoor Sangathan

Asag

#### Individual

Harshad Desai

Rajesh Shah

Sukhdev Patel

Anil Bhatt

### Janpath's Niyamak Samiti (Governing Board) Members:

- Uttar Buniyadi Vidyalay
- Jyoti Trust
- Chandrakala Mahila Gruhodyog Co. Society

- **Dinkar Dave**
- **Samaj Trust**
- **Jagruti Trust**
- **Uttar Buniyadi Viyalay- Palitana**
- **PTRC**
- **Gramin Seva Trust**
- **Hind Swaraj Mandal**
- **Rishta**
- **Nirman Trust**
- **Shramik Vikas sansthan**
- **Disha**
- **Ashadeep Manav Vikas Kendra**
- **Arch**
- **Narayan Rathod**
- **Gujarat Khet Kamdar Union**
- **Koli Patel Samaj Khedut Majdoor Sangathan**
- **Behavioral Science Center**
- **Kheda Social s/service Society**
- **Paguthan Power Plant social dev. Group**
- **Charkha**
- **Sarvoday Yojana**
- **Dhirubhai Dobariya**
- **Sava-Raj**
- **Ashara**
- **Sarathi**
- **Nadatod Vibhag Vikas Samiti**

#### **Decision Making Process within Janpath.**

The Karobari Samiti (‘Executive Committee), consisting of five regular plus five invitees, takes all administrative decisions on the basis of the agenda presented by the Secretary, as also about any matter raised independently by the members. It also

monitors the working and reviews the progress of the organisation. It prepares & proposes new programmes, activities and approaches on the considerations of the Niyamak Samiti and the General Body. The Secretary is its executive or implementing arm. He/she conducts the office-administration as well as the programs in the field. In matters of personnel and finance, including major material facilities the members of the personal committee, finance committee and members of working group on various issues advice her/him from time to time.

### **Annual Convention & General Body Meeting of Janpath**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and General Body meeting was held on 10-11<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 at Gram Seva Samaj Vyara, Dist Surat. Convention was attended by 112 organizational and individual members. The theme of two-day convention was “Natural resources (Land, Water and Forest) & Tribal Community”. Ms. Truptiben Shah, well-known activist on tribal issues, gave a keynote address; while others like Dr. Satyakam Joshi, (economist and social scientist from Center for social studies- Surat), Shri Chunibhai Vaidya, (eminent Gandhian activist), Indukumar Jani (Naya Marg) and Ms. Vimalaben Kharadi (Director, Disha) were co-speakers.

Members expressed their deep concern on the growing pressure on the natural resources along tribal belt resulting into migration of the residents towards cities. With changing socio-economic condition these scenario will be worsened over the years. There are serious gaps in the implementation welfare schemes. In order to restrict migration, we need to focus upon strengthening of natural resources in tribal areas and finding alternative livelihood means.

### **Niyamak Samiti Meeting:**

Niyamak Samiti met on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006, at office of Mahiti, Dholera, and Ahmedabad. The agenda of the meetings was Impact of Industries on coastal belt and Impact and Challenges of proposed project Kalpasar in Gujarat.

In the last decade, Gujarat coast has attracted major cement, and chemical industries. This has severely affected the ecology, environment and there by livelihoods of coastal communities. Fishing, Agriculture, salt making, Viewing, leather work were major livelihood options for coastal communities.

Due to heavy industrialization, there have arisen serious issues of pollution. In some of the industries have coastal ecology so badly that the coastal communities have no option left then to migrate to other areas. Government is planning a *Mega Project Kalpasar* in gulf of Khambhat. The Gulf of Khambhat is rich in marine ecology. The project is ambitious and needs heavy investments. Niyamak Samiti members expressed their deep concerned about the impact of this project on the coastal communities along gulf of Khambhat and recommended that these concern need to be shared with the government. Members also decided to participate actively during Environment Impact Assessment of the project, proposed in 2006-2007.

#### **Executive Committee meetings:**

During the financial year 2005-2006, Executive Committee met five times to take administrative and programme related decisions. In addition to regular meetings, there were two special meetings of EC to discuss upon crucial and urgent matters.

The first one was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2005, in context of future programmes of Janpath, where committee decided to have a panel of advisors consisting of activists, academicians, and economists to guide, steer our future programmes.

The second one was held in February, to discuss about Gujarat Social Forum, where Janpath decided to become project holder and take financial responsibility for the event.

#### **Our Associates:**

During this financial year, we invited following organizations to become member of Janpath.

1. Jeevan Mangalay Trust – Rajkot
2. Palanpur Vibhag Dalit Mahila Bachat Dhiran Sahakari Mandali
3. Vadagam Vibhag Dalit Mahila Bachat-Dhiran Sahakari Mandali

#### 4. Vav Vibhag Dalit Mahila Bachat-Dhiran Sahakari Mandali

Today, in all we have 133 Organizational and 76 individual members. Apart from these, we also have close association with almost 360 organizations, CBOs working on various human rights issues. Janpath keeps live contact with all these organizations through its monthly newsletter and through email, and we participate in their programmes time to time. We also receive regular and effective responses from grass roots, which makes this bond stronger.

#### **Janpath Team:**

**President: Prof. D. S. Ker**

Secretary and Programme Coordinator: Mr. Harinash Pandya

**Administrative Staff: 4**

**Programme Staff: 12**

**Staff Turnover: Two our admin staff and two of the programme staff left Janpath, for personal reasons. One post in administrative side is still vacant.**

#### **Financial Situation:**

During reporting period of April 2005 to March 2006, we received funds from following organizations:

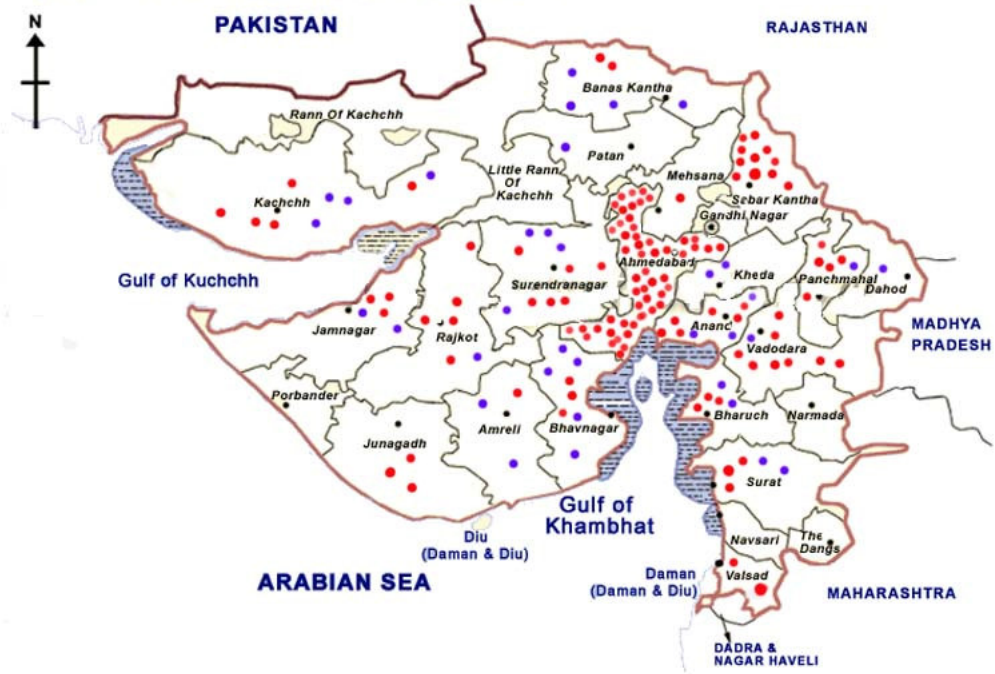
HIVOS – For General Networking and promoting voluntary action

Action Aid – For documentation and Co-ordination of Dariya Kinara Samvad Yatra (an proposed exposure visit along the coast of Gujarat) and for General Networking and Promoting voluntary action

CARE India (Gujarat) - For promoting issue based network, ‘AGARIYA HEET RAKSHAK MANCH’ of Salt Pan Workers of Gujarat.

In addition to this, CARE India (Gujarat), Action Aid, American Aid Foundation and VOs like Janvikas, St. Xavier Social Service Society, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Utthan, FWWB, Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan, Navsarjan, CSJ, St. Xavier Non formal education society, Saath, Oxfarm India Trust, Gujarat Khetvikas Parishad, CFDA, BSC contributed for “ Gujarat social Forum held in March 2006.

## JANPATH'S PRESENCE IN GUJARAT



### Profile of the Organizations Associated with Janpath

PROFILE OF ORGANISATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH JANPATH.

	Main issues of Concern	MO	MI	AO	AI	Networks	Total
1	TRIBALS	18	1	4	1		24
2	DALITS	22	5	5	2		34
3	HEALTH	9	1	1	3		14
4	EDUCATION	30	5	3	4		42
5	NRM & DEV	19	2	3	4	2	30
6	CHILD RIGHTS	11	1			1	13
7	URBANISATION	4			2		6
8	GENDER & WOMEN EMP.	25		3		1	29
9	POVERTY ELAVATION	22	1	1			24
10	DISASTER MITIGATION & PREP.	9			1		10
11	HR& SOCIAL JUSTICE	14	4	6	2		26
12	SALINITY & DESERTIFICATION	2	1			1	4

13	MASS COMMUNICATION	7	5		1		13
14	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	3	2	1			6
15	AWARENESS THR. CULTURAL ACTI.	2	0	1	1		4
16	SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS	4		1	2		7
17	DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE	3	1	2		1	7
18	UNORGANISED LABOUR	12	1	1			14
19	RESEARCH AND TRAINING	5	6	3	1		15
20	ENVORONMENT & ECOLOGY	3			1		4
<b>Total</b>		<b>224</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>326</b>

**MO** Member organizations

**AO** Associated Organizations

**MI** Member Individuals

**AI** Associated Individuals



## 2. Progress Report

### A. Networking Activities:

- a. **Rahbar** – This programme facilitates sharing of experiences and insights of the organizations. Organizations with remarkable interventions on various issues of human rights are invited to talk about their journey, experiences, learning, and achievements. This year we collaborated with Department of Social-work, Gujarat Vidyapeeth for organizing Rahbar programmes. Students are sharing responsibilities of organizing a programme, documentation etc. In the financial year 2005-06, in all 8 programmes held. We could not invite an organization outside Gujarat, but we are planning the same in next year.

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Issues on which organizations is working with</b>
1	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2005	Lokmitra - Dhedhuki	Education, Watershed, Health, promoting People's organizations and drought proofing.
2	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2005	Agar Kamdar Sangh, Kharaghoda	Organizing and mobilizing saltpan workers for their rights of minimum wages, compensation etc. Also gives legal aid to workers. .
3	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2005	Kanooni Sahay and Manav Adhikar Kendra-Surat	Education in urban slums, promoting CBOs, Legal training and aid, working with un-organized labour
4	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2005	N. N. Sadguru Water Foundation	Natural Resource Management, Coomunity Water Research, Micro Watershed development
5	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	Social Action For rural and Tribal inhabitat of India (Sarathi)	Natral resource management, development programme, Women empowerment, Education

6	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	Ashapura Charitable Trust	Water shed, Women Empowerment, Training programmes for rural youth etc
7	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2006.	Gram Dakshinamurti Lokshala	Education
8	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006	Kinara Bachao Andolan	Issues of Fisheries community along South Coast of Gujarat.

#### **b. Exposure visits**

During reporting period, Janpath and its associated organization conducted 'Dariya Kinara Samvad Yatra', an exposure tour along the coast of Gujarat. The tour covered coastal villages of Jamnagar, Probandar, Junagadh, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand, Surat and Navasari districts. The process of Samvad Yatra initiated one year ago, when members recommended Janpath for organizing an exposure visit for understanding coastal issues in changing socio-economic perspective.

The preparations for the Samvad yatra went on for more than six months with regional meetings for planning, pre yatra visits etc. It was difficult cover 1663 km of coastal belt at one go. Thus, Samvad Yatra was divided into Saurashtra phase, Bhavnagar phase, and South Gujarat Phase.

The actual tour continued for 50 days covering around 300 villages. In each of the village, we had meetings, focused group discussions, field visits, and individual interviews, thus having dialogue with at least 50 people from each village. We had a documentation team doing audio, video documentation. Students from M. Phil, Master course of Journalism and sociology department of various universities from the state had joined for reporting.

The main issues that were identified during this tour are Salinity, Over exploitation and degradation of natural resources, scarcity of water,

shrinking of livelihood options, heavy migration, changing local political equations due conflicts interests etc.

The detailed documentation and Analysis will be completed by June, which will be then shared at regional workshops before conducting a state level workshop sharing of experience and future planning.

However, Samvad Yatra has brought lot of awareness and zest on the coastal issues. This we can judge by the write-ups in the local news bulletin by common citizens. The issues of sand mining, limestone mining, and water pollution are being largely highlighted.

In some of the regions like that of Jamnagar, local organizations have chocked out their action plans based on the experiences of the yatra. They have requested Janpath to provide them a technical support wherever necessary.

- c. **Samachar Sankalan** – A monthly newsletter of Janpath is circulated to about 600 organizations and individual across the state. In the month of June Samachar Sankalan completed its 100 issues. The 100<sup>th</sup> issue compiled articles by prominent column writers and activists like Digant Oza (Satyajee Trust), Indukumar Jani (Naya Marg), Ilaben Pathak (AWAG), Mahesh Pandya (Paryavaran Mitra), Chunchai Vaidya (gram Swaraj Samiti), Bipin Thackkar (Disha - Pathey), Jagdish Patel (PTRC), and Prof Ker (Gramy Viaks Trust). In addition to regular issues, we also published special issue of Samachar Sankalan on ‘Zamin Bachao Andolan’ - Campaign against GR passed by Gujarat Government on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2005 for allotting (upto 2000 acres) wasteland on lease to industrial houses and big farmers for corporate farming. Other issues that were focused in Samachar Sankalan were, Right to food Campaign, Issues of coastal communities, Right to Information, and National Rural Employment Guarantee act, proposed Social Security and FCMC Bill etc.

## **B. Advocacy Efforts through Media:**

- a. On 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2005, with significance of Quit India Movement in the history of India's freedom struggle, 'Kutch Zamin Bachao Andolan' had organized Satyagraha Programme. Thousands of people conducted Rally and protested Government's Resolution of giving wastelands to industrial houses. Representatives of the peoples groups burnt down the copy of GR in collector's office and tried to close down the office. Prominent Sarvodaya leaders like Chunibhai Vaidya, who took part in this protest, were also arrested along with local people. **Press Conference** on the issue of '**Corporate farming**' was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2005 at Ahmedabad under the banner of Lok Sangharsh Samiti- a state level coordinating organization for local struggles on this issue. Both electronic as well as local media covered the issue widely.

Meanwhile, thousands of applications have been put up from all over the states by land less farmers for asking for the wasteland. This had definitely put up pressure on the government. In near future, *Lok Sangharsh Samiti* would challenge this GR in the court.

- b. **Press briefing on the issue of Right to Information** – Under the banner of Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel (GIRTI), media briefing is being done one on regular bases through press notes. On 30<sup>th</sup> Day of RTI we had press conference to share the experiences of using RTI. The issues highlighted in the media are about the RTI Act and its important provisions, need of awareness campaign, and other advocacy issues with the state government like formation of state rules, information commission, and appointments of information commissioners etc.
- c. Coastal mining is becoming one of major issues of concern along the coast of Saurashtra. All along the coast of Dwarka to Porbandar, limestone mining is being carried out extensively. Due to removal of limestone which acts as reservoir of fresh water, coastal communities have lost their source of fresh water permanently, thereby creating severe drinking water

problems. **Press conference was organized in collaboration with Charakha.** This issue was widely covered by the media. It was for the first time, 'Salinity' was looked in context of limestone mining. At the end of 17 days of hunger strike, collector had to order stay on the lease of mining.

- d. **Talk Shows:** In the reporting period, Mr. Harinesh Pandya, secretary was invited for an hour-long live talk show on E TV. This was immediately after the enactment of the act. The co-speaker was Mr. Hasmukh Adhiya, principle secretary to chief minister of state. The second talk show was on Z TV, on Juvenile Justice Act.

### C. Facilitating collective actions

- a. **Right to Information Gujarat Initiative (Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel)-** Right to information is one among our core issues of concern. Our strong but low profile nature of leadership on this issue for past five years has facilitated coming together of the organizations under the banner of Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel (Gujarat Initiative for RTI). Today the activities of GIRTI are owned by the organization and individuals associated with it. We look foreword to this initiative to grow into a full-fledged state level network focusing upon effective implementation of RTI to strengthen democracy and increase people's participation in the democracy. Currently, other process focusing upon governing issues like, Associations for Democratic Reforms (ADR), transparency International, We the People have joined hands with *Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel*. In a *workshop held in Ahmedabad in January*, the decision was taken that, Janpath would host this process for another year or two. **The facilitation center for RTI will be started at it office which would have telephone helpline for RTI**, and promotional activities like training, awareness building programmes etc. Currently RTI teams at facilitation center

consist of volunteers and Janpath staff. Core group regularly meets and provide programmatic inputs to the team.

**b. Agariya Heet Rakshak Manch (AHRM)-** A forum of voluntary organizations and concern individuals working on the issues of saltpan workers in Gujarat. Janpath has initiated this work almost eight years back and now has taken a form of independent network. AHRM has been now registered as independent issue based network under society and trust act. The activities of AHRM in four districts viz. Patan, Rajkor, Kutch and Suredranagar are financially supported by CARE- India (Gujarat) and Janpath. Besides giving financial assistance, Janpath provides all programmatic inputs to this upcoming network. In the first phase of its programmes, AHRM has undertaken awareness generation activities radio programmes, making CDs and cassettes of folk songs of Agariyas, regional multi stake holders consultations etc. Today, AHRM has visibility amongst the community as well as state. State has recognized to make it a permanent member of Empowered Committee, specially formulated to look into the Agariya.

**c. Issues of Nomadic Communities:** Migration is inherent part of the life of nomadic communities like Na, Bajaniya, Vadi, Saraniya. Some of these communities are notified as criminals from time to british period. Today, their traditional means of earning livelihood has turned irreverent. Most of these communities today work as either construction workers or agricultural labourers. Because of their migratory life-style, these communities do not have ration card, voter's identity card which makes them more vulnerable. In a way, these are invisible unheard people. Janpath, from its very beginning have given first priority to lesser known issues, initiate and promote collective actions. We have initiated preliminary study on the issue soothe 42 identified nomadic communities. The district chosen in the initial phase are Surendranagar, Mehasana and

Ahmedabad. The regional consultations in all three districts have been done. Members that have joined in this study have formed a forum called Vicharata Samudaay Samarthan Manch. A forum has community representatives (41%), activists (21%) and community based organizations (38%). In near future it is planned to have detailed survey in these three districts.

#### **D. Responding to cotemporary issues**

**a. Floods in Gujarat:** ‘Citizen’s Initiative’ (CI) a group of organization and individuals formed to respond during emergencies was co-ordinating relief and rehabilitation activities during floods of this monsoon. Janpath restricted its role to disseminate information to members, to link them up with CI and also pass on the information about requirement of relief material received from the regions to CI. We also gave updates to aid agencies both regional and national level as and when required.

**b. Gujarat social Forum:** After World Social forum, we at Gujarat decided to take this process to regional level. A three days Mega Event was held on 10-12<sup>th</sup> March 2006 (Gujarat Social Forum – GSF, with around 135 events (approximately 50 seminar/workshops per day) in addition to cultural events and plenary sessions.

The event provided space and opportunity for people’s movements, civil society organizations, activists, and professionals to come on single platform and raise their voice.

The main venue for the event was the Tagore Hall and Sanskar Kendra premises in Ahmedabad, with 3 other sites – Narottam Jhaveri hall, Kochrab Ashram and Mehndi Navaz Jung Hall – in the vicinity for some other programmes. The event saw a massive participation by people’s organizations from all parts of Gujarat, a mobilization of approximately 7,500 people. The participation of women was very impressive with the presence of around 1,500 – 2,000 women.

The event consisted of plenaries, workshops/seminars, cultural programmes in the evening, film screenings and an alternative market exhibiting products produced by the women's groups, cooperatives etc.

Seminar themes & sectors			
Themes			
Environment	Health	Urbanisation	
Disasters	Water	Governance	
Human rights	Education	Disability	
Sectors			
Dalits	Adivasis	Minorities	Women
Labour	Children	Coastal communities	Socially marginalized groups (OBCs, DNTs)
Youth	Maldharis		

The GSF event served to bring together NGOs and people's organizations and movements on one platform to debate issues in an atmosphere of respect for differences and divergences.

Upon request from the core committee of GSF, JANPATH agreed to hold the financial responsibility for this event..

#### E. Publications

- a. "Gayab Balpaan" Book on 'Child labour Prevention and Regulation Act 1986' - During training programmes conducted with Police academy on child JJ act, we realized hat many of the police stations, still does not have copy of this Act. Janpath, in Association with Child rights collective Gujarat (CRCG), and Police Academy of the state is planning to have series regional training programmes. We are planning to have a special session will be conducted on child labour prevention and regulation act and its provisions'. These books will be widely circulated as training material.
- b. Handbook on JJ Act: During the training programmes with Police Academy, we received feedback for having ready reference manual on JJ act. Upon getting this feedback in most of the training, we published a **guidebook on JJ Act**. This received tremendous response from the participants of the training.



- c. **Right to Information Act 2005 and Gujarat Rules**– Parliament passed ‘Right to Information Act’ in the month of May. Janpath published Gujarati version of the act and Gujarat Rules and was widely circulated all over the state. Within a period of six months, around 3000 books have been two distributed. This book is now widely used as training material on RTI.
- d. **Poster Pamphlets, leaflets on Right to Information, NREGA, Right to food campaign etc.** These are circulated widely during workshops, seminars, and conventions.

#### **F. Seminars and workshops**

- a. **Workshop on GO-NGO relationship** in context of women’s empowerment project, named ‘SWASHKTI’ – This project is funded by world bank through Government of Gujarat and has been executed by 66 organizations in Gujarat. The project has severe grievances against government of Gujarat, both financial, and about behavioral issues. Amount as big as 1 crore rupees is yet to be paid to these organizations, by GoG. Organizations felt that these issues need to be looked from context of GO-NGO relationship and have requested Janpath to facilitate this process of understanding the gaps, and to advocate to put foreword their views. One-day workshop was organized on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005 for discussing various aspects of GO-NGO relationship in context of the Swashakti Project. Organizations narrated their positive as well as negative experiences of executing this project. The findings of the workshop will be documented and communicated to government of Gujarat and world - bank.
- b. **Seminar on FCMC bill** – The voluntary sector is seriously concerned over the Center’s proposal to enact foreign Contribution Management & control (FCMC) to replace current Foreign Contribution and Regulation act (FCRA),-1976. In a half day seminar organized at Ahmedabad to

discuss upon the same, Mr. Chandrawadan shah , Charter Accountant made detailed presentation about provisions in the various sections fo the bill. Participants expressed their great concern about the strange provisions in the new bill like renewal of FC registration after every five years, instruction only 30% of the total budget can be spent on administrations etc. Participants unanimously rejected proposed bill and submitted their appeal to finance ministry, New-Delhi.

- c. **Workshop on Land Rights and Poor:** One –day workshop was organized on Globalizations and land rights where more than 55 representatives from voluntary organizations participated in the discussion. Workshop invited well-known academicians like Indiraben Hirway, Socail researchers Vinay Mahajan, and activitists like Kalubhai Dangar, Indukumar Jani, and many others. Participants discussed at length about he changes in land related legislations, especially in Gujarat for past few years. Presentation by Vinay Mahjan helped the participants to understand these changes as part process of globalizations; where in developing countries are being looked as country with natural resources, cheap labour and large market for produced goods.
- d. **JJ Act Training programmes:** Two training workshops were conducted at Gujarat State Police Academy, Gandhinagar, where in senior officials from Police departments; officials from dept of Social defense, JJ Boards, CWC participated. The children from observation inaugurated the workshop. **Janpath, Child Rights Collective Gujarat, and Police Academy jointly held these workshops.** The subject covered during training programmes are, ‘society & Rights of Children, ‘ Proclamation of UN and we’, ‘Role of Police in JJ Act’, ‘Role of JJB and CWC’, ‘Child Crimes....a psychological problems’, ‘efforts for child developments’ and ‘JJ Rules and social security’. These workshops have amazing response. There is wide demand for regional training programmes by various police stations across the state.

**e. Workshops on Issues of coastal communities:** In all 6 regional workshops and four state-level seminars were conducted on the issues like Salinity, Water, Agriculture, status of agricultural labour, rural household industries, mining, fisheries etc. The regional workshops were to streamline the idea of Dariya Kinara Samvad Yatra was streamlined. At the end of each of these workshop, the regional core committee was formed which took complete responsibility of Samvad Yatra in specific regions.

**The state-level seminars** were organized during 10-12<sup>th</sup> March 2006, at Ahmedabad, where more than 250 grass root workers from all the coastal districts participated to discuss about the finding of the Samvad Yatra and way ahead. It was decided to have core committee which would focus upon documentation, analysis of the Samvad Yatra and regional committees would formulate regional plan of action for future.

In regions like Jamnagar, it was decided to have series of technical workshops to develop scientific understanding on salinity and related issues.

**f. Seminar on Social Security Bill for unorganized sector:** Half day seminar was organized jointly by Janpath, CFDA an Bandhkam Majdoor Sangathan on proposed Social Security Bill for unorganized sector. The participants of the seminar included eminent lawyer, activists, trade union leaders, representatives of the organizations working with unorganized sector. Participants appreciated the bill as positive step for welfare of unorganized sector but expressed deep concern about the difficulties that are likely to occur at implementation stage... Secondly, several occupations like tea garden workers that listed in the bill are in organized form as on today. Once covered under social security bill they will discard from the current benefits of organized sector. The ability of the state to enforce the act is another issue of debate. Today there are large violations seen in an enforcement of Migrant labour act, Child labour prohibition and abolition act, minimum wages act, Payment of wages act

etc. In this scenario enforcement of this act will be major challenge and thus serious issue of concern. The feedback of participants is documented and circulated to other organizations working on these issues and also at national level.

**Impact WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Food Security:** WTO ministerial meeting was to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at Hongkong. The agreements that were planned to be signed were agriculture related.

Janpath Disha-Pathey and Gujarat Khetvikas Parishad jointly organized a day long seminar at Ahmedabad on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The seminar invited Members of cooperative societies, Agricultural producer market Committee (APMC), Milk producer's cooperatives, trade unions etc. Social researcher and agriculture expert Mr. Vinay Mahajan made detailed presentation on impact of WTO agreements on Agriculture and food security in Asian countries. Participants expressed their concern on declining prices of agriculture produce and subsidies, thereby making agriculture non viable for small farmers. The participants decided to hold rallies, Dharna and meeting all over Gujarat to oppose WTO agreements related to agriculture. WTO Caravan was organized focusing these issues.

**Working Group Meetings** – were regularly held on migrant community, Right to Information, issues of Maldhari (shepherd community), globalization and impact on poor and marginalized, issues along coastal belt etc. The working committee reviews the activities done, and given inputs for future planning. From time to time, we broaden these working groups by involving grass roots activists and organization, expertise on particular subject, and academicians.

### **G. Support to upcoming groups in the Sector**

The groups that were supported in the reporting period were Sabar Ekata Manch (A forum of CBOs working on the issues of Dalit Rights in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat.) and Lok Seva Shikshan Viaks Trust (A group of youth working on issues related to migration and education in Kheroj block Banaskantha district). We didn't give much monetary support but programmatic inputs for their programmes on NREGA, and right to Food etc.

In the reporting period, we gave small monetary assistance to Agariya Heet Rakshak Manch networking activities especially for expanding its reach to other districts like Bhavnaar, Bharuch, and Jamnagar etc.

### **H. Supporting right-based work.**

- a. Land –Rights movement in Gujarat: On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2005, Gujarat government has passed resolution saying that, 45.6 lacks hectores of wasteland will be allotted to industrial houses and big farmers on lease for 20 yrs for corporate farming. Industrial houses and big farmers are suppose to cultivate this land with the help of modern technology and moreover, GR says that value added projects can be set up in the allotted lands without having NA clearance.
- b. In reality, the land which is recognized as 'wasteland'(especially cultivable wasteland around 18 lac hectores) in the books of the government is being tilled by dalits, OBCs, small and marginal etc. Government considers this as an encroachment and charges fine from the tiller.
- c. The resolution of the government will affect more than 51 lacs landless farmers/labourers that depend on wasteland for charcoal making, grazing, fuel etc.
- d. Hundreds of land less labourers, Maldharis, small and marginal farmers have raised their vice and demanded cancellation of the GR retrospectively. Several meetings, conventions, rallies, and Dharanas are

being held in the districts like Kutch, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Surendranagar where government have identified the survey numbers to be allotted to the industrial houses . Under the banner of “**Zamin Bachao Andolan**” village committees have being formed which are mobilizing people for making applications to the government to cancel the resolutions. Parallel to this, hundreds of applications are also being made to demand the wasteland for agriculture. Lok Sangharsh Samiti is giving leadership to this movement and being supported by other state level/issue based networks.

Meanwhile, the data regarding the land which has been marked by the government for allotment to industrial houses was asked under RTI. The data revealed that neither government have made any specific study of the scheme where such wasteland was being allotted to cooperative societies of the women, self help groups, nor did they have reason and logic to say that these scheme was failure. The data was widely shared in the state, which gave boost to the movement.

- e. **Gujarat Jan-Andolan-** Its platform of Voluntary organizations, trade unions, civil liberty organizations and activists working on the issues human rights. Jan-Andolan has intervened successfully in various crucial issues like housing rights in urban poor, POTA, justice for riot victim’s impact of globalization on Agriculture and labour etc. Janpath is actively associated with Jan Andolan and contributes financially as and when required.
  
- f. **Right to Food Campaign-** In Gujarat Anandi, Paryavaraniya Vikas Kendra, Gramya Vikas Trust (Dwarka) and other member organizations has taken leadership in RTF campaign. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005, campaign organized a state level workshop to consolidate experiences of regional process and to document issues of advocacy with state and national level. Janpath stands in solidarity with all regional events and provide

programmatic inputs whenever asked. Through our news bulletin, we circulate news about Right to Food Campaign.

### **I. Being together for solidarity**

The issue like allotment of waste land to industrial houses, proposed FCMC bill, unorganized Sector bill, and Coastal mining, agricultural negotiations in proposed WTO ministerial meeting kept Janpath secretarial staff as well as Executive members & core members busy attending regional, meeting seminars rally's, conventions and press meets. During the reporting period, out of the total working days, more than ore than 200 days were spent in the field. However organizations at grass roots said that our presence as 'Janpath' gave the sense of solidarity and support to their struggle. Such participation also helped in co-ordination between the local efforts.

### **J. Building linkages with National Level Processes**

1. During reporting period, we participated in national level **conference on Legitimacy, Credibility, and Accountability (LTA)** of voluntary sector held at new- Delhi. The conference aimed to get sense of concern on the issues of credibility of voluntary sector and thus to build consensus to have nation-wide strategy to enhance its credibility & accountability. Janpath is member of one such process called credibility Alliance. For past three years the issues of credibility, accountability and transparency are being frequently discussed through various forums amongst Janpath. There are varied views upon these issues. In Gujarat all networks (regional, state-level and issue based) will have brainstorming on this issue on near future.
2. We participated in three **International conferences** (two at Chennai and one at Mumbai) on the issue of **relief and rehabilitation in context of children in disaster situation**. Janpath shared its experiences and insight of working in various disasters in Gujarat like Cyclone of 1999, drought of 2000, Earthquake of 2001, and Communal Violence of 2002. Our experience of collective response, to

the disaster situations, close association with government during relief, rehab phase thereby by influencing policies affecting children, women and old aged people on issues like property and compensational rights, community rehabilitation, etc., had not only appreciated at national level but also widely followed during post Tsunami rehabilitation phase. Conferences aimed at consolidating experiences and learning of various disaster interventions in the India and abroad, to document the same to and to come out with advocacy issues.

**TDH partner's meet**– Terr Des Hommes Germany, had invited Janpath, to present its views in the process designing of future Programme policies of TDH. Where in we shared our concern that voluntary sector strongly need to study & understand thoroughly and deeply the impact of LPG on human rights, to build perspective to relate micro level changes with macro level incidences changes and to review out strategies to fight these challenges.

**NREGA Workshop:** National level workshop at Pune, on We participated Effective Implementation of NREGA. The workshop focused upon use of RTI for effective implementation of NREGA.

**Event on RTI:** On behalf of *Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel*, we participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> national convention on RTI held at Jaipur-Rajasthan, National Workshop on Effective Implementation: Preparing to operationalize the right to Information Act 2005 and two days workshop conducted by CHRI at New Delhi to share the experiences of RTI in Gujarat. This helped us to keep updated from happenings from other state, helped to develop out our understanding about RTI, and strengthen advocacy efforts.

**Symposium on coastal issues of west India:** A national symposium conducted by M. S. University, Baroda, invited Janpath to present its research paper on “**Mining and coastal livelihood of Gujarat**”. The paper was prepared out our experiences of Dariya Kinara Samvad Yatra. This workshop gave us opportunity



to discuss in detail about issues Coastal Regulation Zone with senior scientist, environmentalists and experts research institutes like ISRO, PRL, Space Application Center etc to get their guidance. Many among them showed keenness to associate with the process of Dariya Kinara Samvad Yatra for longer period.

The same paper was also presented during the workshop held at Mumbai in March. The issue was highlighted in the national level. Some of the legal experts and environmentalists were so impressed by the presentation and data; they showed their willingness to take up coastal mining as research topic for post graduate students.

***Our Heartiest Congratulations:***

***The organization 'GANATAR' was honored by prestigious DARSAK Award "Shri Ashok Gondhiya Award and of the year 2005-2006. Ganatar is one among the founder member of Janpath and has done remarkable work on Child Rights for more than a decade. Ganatar has played leading role in strengthening Child Rights movement sin Gujarat***

***Activists Vinay Mahajana and Charul Bharwada (popularly known as Vinay Charul) are well known for their Theme Songs. For past 15 yrs, couple has contributed significantly to peoples movements by giving voice to the issue of marginalized through a platform called 'Loknaad'. Their songs like " Mandir Masjid Girija Gharne Baant Liya Bhagwan Ko." and "Mere Sapno Kon Janane Ka Haq" are so popular that they have become campaign songs. This year Loknaad is honoured by "Sanskriti Award"by delhi based Sanskriti Pratisthan.***

***OUR HEARTIST CONGRATUATIONA AND WISHES TO***

***GANATAR***

***AND***

***LOKNAAD***