

## **KOJAIN'S COMMITTEE FOR KUTCH MAHILA VIKAS SANGHATHAN**

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**From: Vivek Maru, on behalf of KMVS**

### **Appeal Letter: Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangethan Social Workers Fund**

#### **Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangethan**

KMVS is a grassroots rural development organization of Kutchi women. Founded in 1980, KMVS is now made up of some 12,000 women organized in mahila mandals in approximately 160 villages. The mandals are vehicles for women to assess and address the social and environmental problems they face. The work takes place in five areas: health, education, handicraft, social ecology (focusing on watershed development; farming and animal husbandry issues), and legal (focusing on domestic violence).

I worked with KMVS for 8 months before law school, and continue a working relationship with them. I can attest personally: this organization is truly exceptional in the level of dedication of its employees, in the sophistication of its approach to social change, and in the concrete results it achieves. My mother, Usha Maru, has copies of 1) a document that lays out KMVS' activities in more detail, 2) profiles and photographs of several KMVS social workers, and 3) an excerpt from an essay I wrote in the wake of the earthquake which narrates some of KMVS' history and work.

#### **Social Workers Fund**

KMVS is launching an effort to create a fund for its fulltime staff. Donor organizations in India often tend to favor supporting what are called "projects" over organizational staff. Foundations and Trusts like to be able to point to concrete, physical accomplishments like check dams and schools.

KMVS has found, however, that their most crucial resource is the activists who work in the villages, assessing social and environmental conditions, raising awareness, and mobilizing participation. It is the day-to-day work of these activists that drives KMVS' achievements, and that gives rise to "projects" in the first place. The activists work out of the spirit of social justice and volunteerism, earning between 1200 and 3500 rupees per month. Many of these people are like brothers and sisters to me. I have seen them working 16 hour days, moving from village to village by the organizations' jeeps or by local busses, communicating respectfully and effectively with the poorest and most marginalized in Kutchi society, refusing jobs that would pay them higher.

Here in the U.S., there is great interest in supporting social efforts back in India. Distance makes it difficult, however, to stay connected to the work we support. Through the social workers fund, families abroad can be connected to individual workers. They can visit the workers they support in India and can receive updates from them about their activities and accomplishments. The hope is that KMVS will be able to secure funding for the people that its work depends upon, and that donors abroad will have a closer connection to the work they are generously supporting.

**Making a Pledge for the KMVS Social Workers Fund**

No.	Description	Amount in \$
1	I would like to pledge a fixed sum of .....	
2	I would like to pledge \$_____ each month for the next ____ months.	
3	I would like to pledge \$750 to support the salary of one KMVS social worker for one year.	
4	I would like to pledge \$3500 to support the salary of one KMVS social worker for five years.	
5	I would like to be connected to an individual KMVS social worker.	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check can be made payable to KOJAIN. Memo: “KMVS Social Worker’s Fund.” Mail check to Treasurer of KOJAIN:  
Harak Gala 727 Thornwood Dr., Odenton, MD 21113**

KOJAIN, the organization of Kachchhi Oswal Jain Association In North America, has established a mechanism for giving to KMVS. KOJAIN's Taxpayer ID No. is 06-1442444. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please contact any of the committee members with any questions or for more information.

**Thank you for your support.**