

# *Annual Report*

**April 2017 to March 2018**



**Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (AWAG)**

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## ***Ahmedabad Women's Action Group-AWAG***

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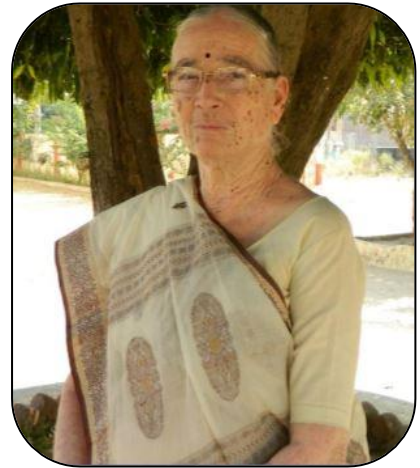
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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

With the changing situation in Gujarat wherein women are made victims of physical violence through political and economic power wielders, AWAG along with the activists in Gujarat, has played an effective role in raising a voice in the struggle and legal battle for justice for these women victims.



It gives me immense satisfaction to see that in the process of seeking justice for women, AWAG is moving on the path etched out by (late) Dr. Ilaben Pathak-Founder Secretary of AWAG.

A new generation has been included to take ahead Ilaben's vision of empowering women. I am certain that AWAG will continue with its endeavours to attain its objectives.

***Ramilaben Gandhi***

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## OUR VISION, MISSION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

### VISION

To realize the identity of women towards dignity, equity and empowerment.

### MISSION

- Supporting adolescent girls and women for equitable access, control, decision making and mobility in their lives.
- Sensitizing the societal forces towards changing the mindsets and behaviour of various stakeholders of the society towards empowerment of less privileged women.

### GOAL

To empower women through assertion of their individuality, to strategize towards survival, to get social justice and equality.

### OBJECTIVES

- To strive for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.
- To strengthen the identity of women, support for knowledge building, develop skills with an aim to make women secure and resilient to face challenges.
- To contribute to the national agenda of women's empowerment.
- To enable to improve social position of women by empowering them to take decisions and control of their lives and supporting to understand their 'SELF' & 'DIGNITY'.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

AWAG has been active on the issue of violence against women and continually devises fresh strategies to counter this social evil along with hosting a number of activities to demonstrate its protest against all forms of violence.

### **Demanding Justice for Bulandshahar Victims**

AWAG joined in the protest demonstration that was collectively organized by All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (All India M.S.S), All India Democratic Students' Organisation (All India D.S.O.) and All India Democratic Youth Organisation (All India D.Y.O.) on 29 May 2017 at Ashram Road, Ahmedabad. This was with regard to the disgraceful incident of gang rape of a group of women near Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh. Slogans demanding justice for the victims were voiced aloud.



### **Celebration of International Women's Day**

In view of International Women's Day on 8 March 2018, AWAG along with All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan and other local organizations staged a protest demonstration in Ahmedabad, demanding to put an end to atrocities against women and also sought equality and freedom for women. This was followed by a program at AWAG Kunj to pay tribute to late Asma Jehangir, a renowned Human Rights Activist. The programme was graced by Dr. Bhikubhai Parekh from Movement for Secular Democracy (MSD). Likewise, AWAG's team at Patan, Gujarat, also participated in the Women's Day celebrations held at the block level.



## MENTAL HEALTHCARE OF WOMEN

AWAG has been instrumental in implementing the Mental Health Project for Women since December 2008 covering the slum areas of Bapunagar, Rakhiyal, Gomtipur, Saraspur and Ramol in the industrial belt of east Ahmedabad.

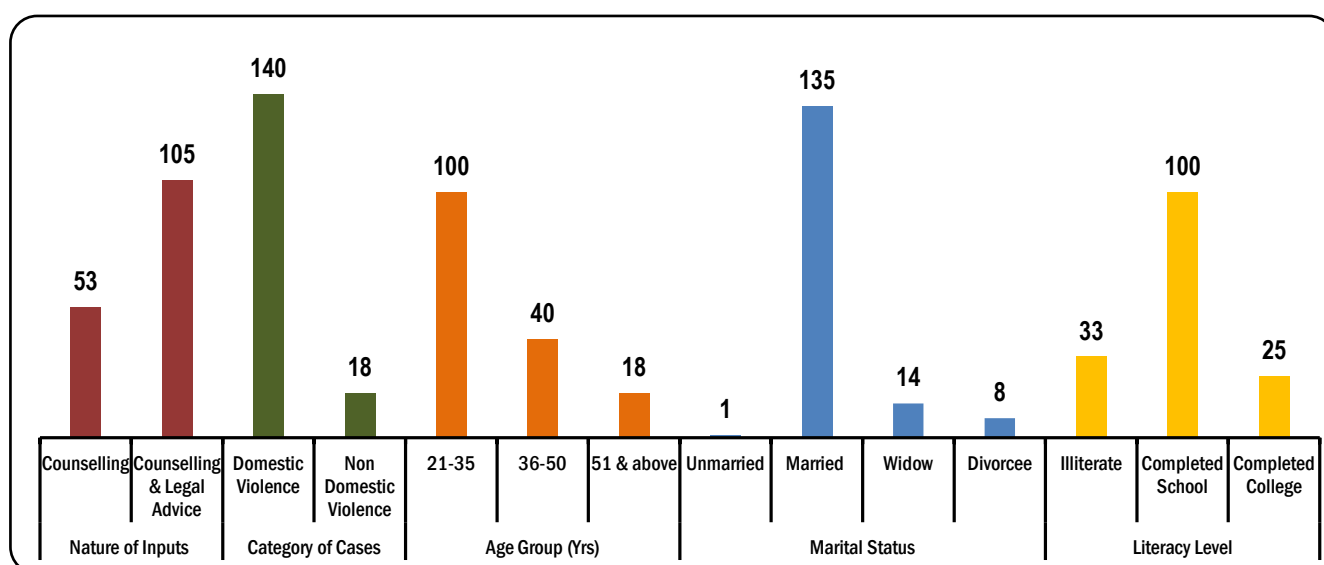
The main objectives are:

- a) To provide counselling and psychiatric support to women suffering from mental illnesses,
- b) To strengthen women suffering from Domestic Violence to have better quality of life.

The following activities were undertaken to fulfil these objectives -

- Approaching communities to disseminate awareness about mental health through community leaders
- Guiding the patients to the path of curative treatment
- Counselling
- Psychiatric care with medicines
- Group therapy through workshops

The awareness raising meetings were conducted in the areas of Bapunagar, Rakhiyal, Gomtipur, Saraspur and Ramol. A total of 144 meetings that were conducted over the year covered 3718 women. The theme of the meetings was to provide a general understanding of mental disorders and the need to treat them for a healthy living. Over the year, 158 women approached AWAG's Centre to avail of the facility for treatment of mental illness through counselling and medical help. A summary of all these cases is graphically depicted below.





From the above, it is apparent that a majority of cases pertained to domestic violence wherein the victims were married, falling in the age group of 21-35 years and had completed schooling. These cases were largely rendered counselling. All the severe cases sought psychiatric help with regular follow-ups. This required provision of medicines which was supplied by AWAG with the support of Dr. Ajay Chauhan from the local Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad.

The group therapy in the form of awareness-raising workshops has been very beneficial in providing openness and acceptance of personal issues and dealing with them more effectively. A total of 3 workshops that were conducted during the year covering a total of 81 participants, has equipped the women to...

- Start saying “NO” to violence
- Learn skills to cope with and reduce the level of stress
- Gain better health through medical help
- Seek advice from the legal counsellor

On the whole, awareness among women has spread at a faster pace and many women have benefited through the process. Women have gained an understanding of living a better quality of life by strongly facing the hurdles that come by. Counselling has provided better coping skills and a supportive environment where they feel empowered.



**Awareness Raising Workshop for Group Therapy**



## **MENTAL HEALTHCARE OF ADOLESCENTS**

The Mental Health Project for Adolescents, undertaken by AWAG commenced in September 2008. With common adolescent issues identified as adjustment problems, relationship issues, negative attitude towards marriage, educational issues, low self-esteem, family issues etc., the project makes an attempt to reach out to the adolescent group both in community as well as in schools and focuses on the following objectives:

- a) To identify psychological problems prevailing among adolescents.
- b) To intervene among adolescents so that they develop better coping skills to have a better quality of life.
- c) To provide psycho-education to parents where need arises.
- d) To train teachers of schools in the project area in providing support to adolescents.
- e) To hold hands of teachers and monitor their performance.

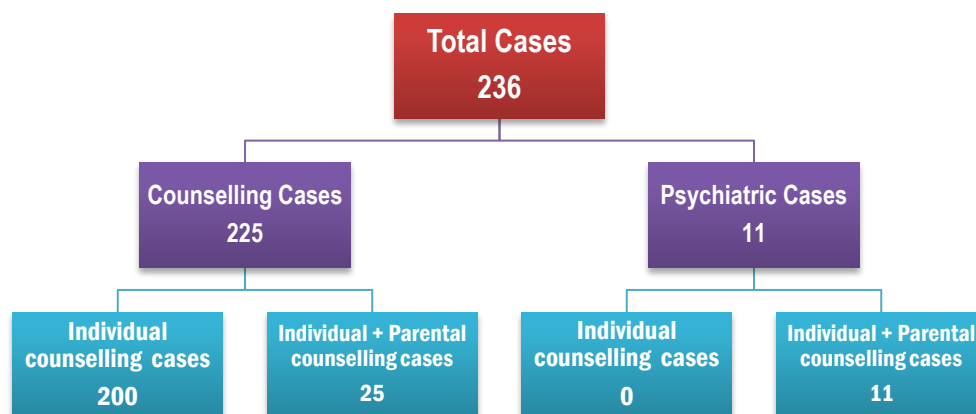
In order to fulfil these objectives, the following activities were undertaken:

- Approaching schools to contact adolescents enrolled
- Approaching communities to contact non-school going and dropped out adolescents
- Guiding adolescents to curative path
- Counselling
- Psycho-education of parents
- Psychiatric care with medicines
- Teachers training for care of adolescents and monitoring of Teachers' performance

The project intervention had a two-pronged approach to reach out to the adolescents so as to provide them with a better understanding of mental health leading them towards cure through counselling and medical help as per need. Due attention was paid to providing more strength and support to the adolescents by working with both parents and teachers by making them more aware of their problems and developing a better understanding of the same.

To start with, awareness raising meetings were organized with the help of community leaders and school authorities whereby AWAG conducted a total of 154 meetings covering 4062 adolescents. A total of 236 cases were handled over the

year. Of these, 40 cases approached the Centre whereas 196 cases were handled in the school by the counsellor.



**Case Summary**

#### DIAGNOSIS OF ISSUES UNDER EACH CATEGORY

- Academic issues - 189 cases
- Emotional / behavioural / personal issues - 31 cases
- Family issues - 5 cases
- Psychiatric problems such as Tension Headache, Mild Depression Disorder, Mild Depression Disorder with Anorexia Nervosa, Schizophrenia, Seizures, Panic disorder with depression, Mild Depression Disorder with Impulsivity, Bipolar disorder - 11 cases

Additionally, a total of 25 teachers from two schools underwent training workshops conducted by psychologists and psychotherapists. The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- To create awareness about mental health
- To sensitize teachers to the psychological needs of the adolescent students so as to support them.
- To provide primary psychological and emotional help in academics, family issues etc.

Regular monitoring and follow-up of teachers was also conducted by AWAG. Likewise, in counselling cases, parents were provided with suitable suggestions to improve the mental health of their children.

The resultant effect of AWAG's interventions with adolescents over the year is that the affected children, their parents and teachers have gained considerable awareness regarding the psychological problems prevailing among adolescents. Moreover, through training workshops and counselling sessions, they have developed skills to cope effectively with their lives wherein the children experience a warm, secure and a healthy environment.

## **AWARENESS ABOUT MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND SANITATION AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND WOMEN**

Over 80% of India's women do not have access to hygienic material/sanitary pads for menstrual protection. Lack of awareness and affordability leads to women using sand, ash, rags or dirty cloth instead of sanitary pads, thus leading to blistering, soreness, infections and long-term reproductive health issues. This problem has been addressed through the given project that focuses on building awareness about menstrual health and hygiene by training young local women leaders to raise awareness about menstrual health and hygiene and generate income through selling low-cost sanitary pads locally. Details of the meetings that were held each month across various villages of Patan in Gujarat are given below.

No. of Meetings held	Villages Covered	Total Participants
<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1358</b>

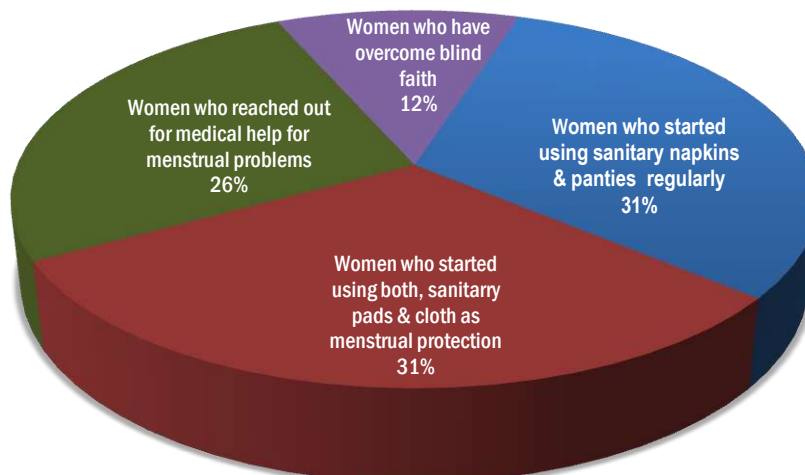
The meetings rallied around discussing the following points as well as concerns put forth by the participating women.

- How does menstruation occur?
- Why is there pain during menstruation?
- Is it normal to menstruate every 15 days?
- Is the passage for urination and menstruation the same?
- What practices do we adopt to maintain hygiene and prevent the occurrence of reproductive ailments?
- Is it OK to cook food and prepare pickles during menses?
- What are the benefits of using sanitary napkins and wearing panties?
- What are the reasons for white discharge?
- How is the sex of the foetus determined?
- What are the ill effects of using Copper-T as a contraceptive device?

Through a day's session of tutorials on menstrual health (<http://www.awagindia.org/creating-impact/health-awareness/>) coupled with dialogue and discussion, a large number of myths and problems regarding menstrual health issues, hygiene and related topics were explained and demystified by the facilitator, Dr Laxmiben Iyengar (Trustee-AWAG).



## WORK IMPACT



## Hear it from the Field



"Initially I was embarrassed to participate in the meeting, but after doing so my knowledge & confidence increased. Earlier, we used cloth rags for menstrual protection and have never worn panties nor have we used sanitary napkins. We experience a number of problems such as irregular menstruation, prolonged menstruation and body heaviness before menstruation. The meeting helped us to cope with these situations. Such meetings are very enlightening & must be conducted regularly."

Leelaben from Village Kanigam, Patan

## **SUPPORTING FLOOD-HIT VICTIMS IN VILLAGES OF BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT**

In the wake of the massive floods that hit north Gujarat in late July 2017, two districts of the region – Patan and Banaskantha were declared disaster affected by the revenue department of the State. The situation in the villages of Banaskantha was far from what could be called normal. After the water receded, there was incidence of death, the stench of rotting crops and dead cattle, and a sense of loss and fear among people who were left to build their lives from scratch. The locals claimed that there are about thirteen villages where no form of government relief had reached yet. Moreover, in many villages, residents did not receive the exact amount of money which was announced by the state government.

It is here that AWAG aimed to run medical camps in these villages where the probability of the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases was high and hygiene was being compromised. Hence, with the support of generous contributions channelized through Global Giving, AWAG conducted the following activities to support the flood-hit victims in the villages of Banaskantha, Gujarat.

**PHASE 1:** AWAG participated in the Medical Camps that were organized by Medical Service Centre in association with Cultural Educational Forum in the flood affected villages of Dhanera block - Banaskantha District of Gujarat from 6 to 10 August 2017. Over the years, as part of their disaster response, AWAG has supported several initiatives towards disaster relief and rehabilitation, most significant, during the earthquake in Kutch, Gujarat. A total of 11 Medical Camps were held covering a Total of 767 patients. During the camps the patients were examined by a doctor and were provided suitable treatment as an immediate measure. Medicines were also provided to the patients.

We found cases of severe skin infections in 70% of patients. Skin infection was a common phenomenon in all the patients whether in adults or children. Secondly, we found the patients having knee problems. Of course women patients were found to face more of this problem. It may be due to lack of nutritious food.

There is a need for intervention activities in nutrition in this area. Moreover, intervention on issues related to women hygiene would be useful as many women complained of white





discharge, burning sensation, itching and so on. With this, we completed the phase of our medical relief operations.

**PHASE 2:** Moving ahead with our plan of providing the much needed support, the following activities were undertaken in villages of Patan as well as in village Bismillaganj in Radhanpur- Dist Patan, Gujarat. The criteria of selection of this area were based on its remote location where access by other agencies is negligible.

- An Awareness Raising meeting with regard to gender-based violence was conducted for the village women. This was followed by distribution of plastic rugs/floor mats to them. These rugs are water-resistant, durable and have a multipurpose use for indoors and outdoors requirements. A total of 420 such rugs were distributed to the village women.
- Similarly, an Awareness Raising meeting was held with young girls from the village with regard to menstrual health and personal hygiene. Alongside, sanitary napkins were distributed to a total of 35 youth girls who attended the meeting.
- Supplementary nutrition packets containing Dates were also distributed to the flood-affected victims especially women and children.

**PHASE 3:** The next step was to extend the above activities to the other 60 villages on a need and priority bases. A total of 120 women participated in the above activities and in addition to the knowledge acquired, they also received plastic rugs/floor mats which are essentially used in their homes.





## COUNSELLING

AWAG continues to offer counselling services to violence-affected women in need. This service is available at its Centres at the urban area of Ahmedabad and rural area of Radhanpur. The stages of counselling that are adopted are depicted below.



A total of 423 cases were handled over the year under discussion. Details of the nature of all these cases and how they were resolved is tabulated below.

S. No.	Types of Cases	Urban Centre		Rural Centre	
		No. of New Regd. cases	No. of pending cases from previous period	No. of New Regd. Cases	No. of pending cases from previous period
1	Battering and Mental Torture	120	28	34	04
2.	Conflicts within Family	24	03	01	01
3.	Domestic Violence due to Alcoholism	37	-	05	02
4.	Divorce	02	-	01	-
5.	Bigamy	03	-	01	-
6.	Extra Marital Relations	12	02	01	-
7.	Unnatural Death	01	-	-	-
8.	Legal Matter	18	04	-	03
9.	Disappointment from partner	-	-	-	-
10.	Disputes with members of Extended family/ neighbours	02	-	06	01
11.	Sexual Harassment	09	-	-	-
12.	Psychological Distress	06	02	-	-
13.	Others	90	-	-	-
TOTAL		324	39	49	11
Total of new and pending cases		363		60	
GRAND TOTAL		423			

**Interventions by AWAG****☞ Action Taken**

S. No.	Action taken by AWAG	Urban Centre	Rural Centre
1.	Police Assistance sought	08	06
2.	Child brought into mother's custody	05	01
3.	Hospital Assistance sought	02	04
4.	Sent to Short-Stay Home	03	-
5.	Joint Meetings	66	15
6.	Legal cases filed through Lawyers	12	06
7.	Counsel – Social	286	49
8.	Counsel – Legal	97	15
9.	Counsel - Psychological	12	-
10.	Psychiatric Treatment	12	-
11.	Psychiatric – Follow up	24	-
12.	Any others	-	-

### Visits

S. No.	Visits	Urban Centre	Rural Centre
1.	Police Station	08	10
2.	Home Visits	01	07
3.	Follow up Home visits	-	-
4.	Courts	01	21
5.	Hospitals	05	02
6.	Others	-	-

### Pending Cases

S. No.	Pending Cases	Urban Centre	Rural Centre
1.	Battering and Mental torture	28	05
2.	Conflicts within family	03	02
3.	Divorce	-	01
4.	Bigamy	-	-
5.	Doubtful Death	-	-
6.	Maintenance	04	04
7.	Physical / Mental harassment by husband / in-laws	-	-
8.	Any other	04	-

### Conclusion of Cases

S. No.	Conclusion of Cases	Urban Centre	Rural Centre
1.	Settlement in AWAG	24	05
2.	Settlement in Comm.	12	03
3.	Settlement in Court	13	01
4.	Withdrawn by the applicant	29	02
5.	File closed by AWAG	97	12
6.	Rehabilitation through Short Stay Home	03	-
7.	Counsel only	75	15

### Conclusion of Legal Cases

S. No.	Conclusion of Legal Cases	Urban Centre	Rural Centre
1.	Settlement during the court procedure	13	02
2.	Exaction of maintenance order	04	01
3.	Punishment to the Accused	-	-
4.	Any other	04	-
5.	Pending	14	05

## MULTI PURPOSE WOMEN WELFARE CENTRES (MPWWC)

AWAG runs a Multipurpose Women Welfare Centre supported by Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat at Radhanpur, Dist Patan; Gujarat. The Centre provides guidance and assistance to women in relation to their social, economic, educational as well as legal problems.

The given table depicts the activities undertaken along with the beneficiaries that have derived gain from these interventions.

Nature of Inputs	No. of Beneficiaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing information and guidance on cases of violence inflicted on women</li> <li>• Providing information on the ongoing government schemes</li> <li>• Primary Counselling for violence-affected women</li> </ul>	782

Leaflets were distributed on following topics:

- Legislations on Domestic Violence against Women (Domestic Violence Act-2005)
- Discrimination against Girls
- Child Marriage
- Ongoing Government schemes such as *Vidhva Sahay* (Widow Pension)



## **AWAG'S CONTINUING ACTIVITIES**

### ➤ **Counselling Centres**

The counselling service provided by AWAG is available at its centres in the rural and urban work areas. Each year, an average of 400 women derive benefit from these services.

### ➤ **Legal Aid Centres**

Similarly, AWAG runs Legal Aid Centres where women seeking legal assistance are provided counselling and aid. They are also offered support in attending court proceedings.

### ➤ **Income Generation**

The victims of domestic violence are offered skill training to meet their economic needs. They acquire skills and upgrade their learning to a high level and then start working to generate an income. Most women get absorbed into tailoring/stitching at the organization's Production Centre at Bapunagar. The rest undertake other activities. Recently, linkages have been established with Fabindia for garment making.

During the year, 11 women were provided skill development training.



**AWAG's Production Centre**



➤ **Network**

AWAG is a part of two networks in Gujarat.

**1). Forum of Concerned Citizens for Naliya Incident (FOCCNI)**

The FOCCNI (<https://www.facebook.com/FOCCFNI/ti=as>) that was formed on 16 February, 2017 in view of seeking justice for the women victimized in the Naliya Sex Racket, has ever since been active on the issue.

In course of seeking justice, several representations have been made at various levels to the concerned bodies. Since April 2017, the Forum has taken upon the task of seeking the Justice Dave Commission that was announced in the Legislative assembly on 16 March 2017 for inquiry in the Naliya Sex Racket. For this we have made appeals from the Hon. Governor to the Director General of Police, Gujarat.

The chain of events undertaken by the said Forum in the course of the year, are as below..

- On 8 April 2017: held an emergency meeting and scheduled the *Sammelan* (Conference) on 22 April 2017.
- On 10 April 2017: presented a request to procure the notification to the Mamlatdaar (Revenue Officer) and Police Inspector (PI) of Naliya; District Collector of Bhuj, Superintendent of Police and DSP Gujarat. On the same day, submitted a request letter for a meeting to the first woman DGP of Gujarat.
- On 16 April 2017: visited village Mandvi at Gariyadhar taluka in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat.
- On 20 April 2017: submitted a Memorandum to the DGP for seeking justice towards the cases at Naliya and Mandvi.
- On 22 April 2017: held a State-level Sammelan (Conference) at AWAG's office at Bhudarpura, that had the participation of a number of organizations, activists and citizens to discuss the various aspects related to the injustice, atrocities and exploitation inflicted on women in the State; as well as the future course of action in the matter. This event was followed by a Press Conference.
- On 8 May 2017: approached the Hon Governor of Gujarat and submitted a Memorandum outlining the case details and demands therein.
- Thereafter, on 31 May 2017, the representatives of the said Forum also met the Addl Director General of Police, (CID- Crime) Gujarat and submitted a Memorandum outlining the case details and demands therein.

- On 13 June 2017- in relation to procuring details of the missing children, the Fact Finding Team of the Forum paid a visit to, Child protection Officer at Bhuj and Jeevan Prabhat orphanage managed by Arya Samaj at Gandhidham (Kutch district).
- On 24 June 2017-Sammelan at Bhavnagar.
- On 4 July 2017-visited the rape victims at Deesa.
- On 16 July 2017-released a Press Statement asking "where is the Naliya investigation Commission?"
- On 3 September 2017- Review meeting for earliest representation before Justice Dave Commission
- On 5 September 2017- sent a letter through Regd. AD Post to the Dave Commission requesting for the appointment (we got the address from US, Home Department, Govt. of Gujarat).
- On 13 September 2017- the above letter returned back to us with the remark "Not Known".
- On 18 September 2017- on completion of 6 months of Government's announcement in the State Assembly about the Justice Dave Commission for the inquiry of Naliya Sex Racket, we issued a Press Release asking the State Government "Where is the Justice Dave Commission?"
- Meanwhile we continued voicing our concern for the rape cases throughout the State. Then Diwali Festival approached, followed by State Assembly Election declared. The Forum was waiting for the New Government.
- 15 February 2018 – held a Press Conference. The resultant effect of this initiative has led to the release of the Notification with reference to Justice A.L. Dave (Retd.) Commission of Inquiry to investigate the incidents of rape committed in various parts of Gujarat.

## **THE PURSUIT FOR JUSTICE STILL CONTINUES....**

### **2). Gujarat Mahila Manch**

The Gujarat Mahila Manch is a network constituting of eminent women organizations, activists, academicians, advocates etc from across Gujarat. The forum had gathered at a *Sammelan* in Ahmedabad on 19 November 2017 to voice the ongoing abuse, repression, sexual harassment, deprivation and apathetic attitude of the government towards the dignity and security of women in the State. Dr. Jharna Pathak from AWAG being a member of the fact-finding committee in the Naliya Sex Scandal case, shared its report and findings therein. She added, "Several legislative reforms that have come up post-Nirbhaya case are not being implemented in Gujarat."

➤ **Committee Member against Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace**

Under the 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013', it is mandatory that every workplace establishes an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and further mandates for the appointment of an external member to the ICC. AWAG serves as an external member of the ICC against sexual harassment of women at the workplace at the following institutes:

- Reserve Bank of India
- Income Tax Dept, Ahmedabad
- Punjab National Bank
- Human and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)
- Gujarat State Police Department
- Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation
- FabIndia

Periodic meetings and trainings on the Act were conducted with the staff members of the concerned institutes as and when required. Related complaints from these institutes were also attended to.

➤ **Migration Support Centre**

AWAG provides counselling and accommodation facilities to young migratory working rural girls that are trained and provided employment by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) – AKRSP (I), through a Migration Support Centre. A concept based on that of a 'home away from home' in the form of counselling services, accommodation assistance, periodic get-togethers, ensures a supportive environment for a progressive career growth for these youth.

An orientation session on 'Awareness about importance of personal hygiene' was conducted by AWAG's counsellor with the rural youth girls at the Migration Support Centre on 25 July 2017. Sanitary napkins were distributed to them at the end of the session.

Cultural Celebrations and Get-togethers are an ongoing feature especially during festivities like Diwali and New Year wherein the young working girls celebrated with a dance and dinner programme at AWAG Kunj. The group enjoyed themselves and were thoroughly refreshed from their hectic working schedule.



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

AWAG is active in the public domain by participating in activities related to its work issues as well as hosting events in line with the same. Some key events for the year were:

### State-level Sammelan

On 22 April 2017 Forum of Concerned Citizens for Naliya Incident (FOCCNI) held a State-level Sammelan (Conference) at AWAG's office at Bhudarpura, that had the participation of a number of organizations, activists and citizens to discuss the various aspects related to the injustice, atrocities and exploitation inflicted on women in the State; as well as the future course of action in the matter. This event was followed by a Press Conference.



### Discussion on 'Justice Verma's Recommendations and their Impact'



In wake of the recent and rising sex scandals inflicted on young girls and women in Gujarat, AWAG took the opportunity to commemorate our dear Ilaben's (Late Dr Ila Pathak)

birth anniversary, by organizing a programme on 'Justice Verma's Recommendations and their Impact', on 20 May 2017 at AWAG Kunj. Dr. Jyotsnaben Yagnik (Retd. Principal Judge-City Civil and Sessions Court, Ahmedabad) graced the occasion as the chief speaker amongst other eminent guests. The programme was very enlightening and inspiring for AWAG as well as other members of the Forum of Concerned Citizens that are battling for justice for Gujarat's 'Nirbhayas.'



### **Sammelan with Community Leaders of Radhanpur (Gujarat)**

An annual gathering (Sammelan) of AWAG team with the community leaders of Radhanpur (Gujarat) was organized on 18 November 2017 at AWAG's field office at Radhanpur. The purpose of the visit was to interact with the community leaders and motivate them to keep up their morale and continue the fight for gender justice. The gathering had community leaders from across 58 villages of Radhanpur.



### **Awareness Raising Workshop on Gender Violence at Patan**

A one-day awareness raising workshop on Gender Violence was held on 26 November 2017 at Patan for the 120 community leaders belonging to AWAG's work area in 60 villages of Patan block of Patan district, Gujarat. The points of focus of the workshop were to understand and recognize various forms of exploitation and violence inflicted on women and mechanisms of seeking help to raise a voice against it.



➤ **EVENTS HOSTED BY AWAG**

Sr. No	Date	Details
1).	19 July '17	As part of their internship programme at Gender Resource Centre, three students from Central University of Gujarat visited AWAG to gain exposure and orientation of AWAG's activities related to gender and counselling.
2).	5 August '17	A "Coffee and Conversation" session was held at AWAG's head office at Bhudarpura to talk on gender violence and prejudices. The participants that included teachers and counsellors shared their views and interesting insights.
3).	11 November '17	Twenty-nine students pursuing graduation in Social Work from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work Mumbai, visited AWAG as part of their field orientation & exposure programme. The students who were accompanied by two faculty members learnt about AWAG's work and experiences. This was followed by an interactive session on gender violence.
4).	23 December '17	Students from Shri Sarvajani MSW College, Mehsana pursuing BSW visited AWAG as part of their exposure visit. Students got to know about AWAG's work and discussed their questions with the facilitating team.
5).	5 January '18	A Gender Awareness and Sensitization Workshop supported through CSR initiatives of M/s. Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Limited-Mumbai was held with 34 students belonging to Std 9 and 11 of Asarwa Vidyalaya, Ahmedabad. The workshop had the active participation and enthusiasm of the students.

➤ **AWAG'S PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES**

Sr. No	Date	Details
1).	7 May 2017	The Dr. Tupti Shah Memorial Lecture Series on Contemporary Concerns of the Feminist Movement in India, launched by Sahiyar (Stree Sangathan) in her memory, at Nyaymandir, Vadodara.
2).	16 June '17	Preparatory meeting for Gujarat State Level Consultation on Land organized by Janpath Network. The meeting that had the participation of around twenty-five organizations, involved identification of land issues, network building and strategic planning for future interventions.
3).	6 July '17	An obituary meeting organized by St. Xavier's Social Service Society (SXSSS), Ahmedabad in memory of Dr Edwin Masihi, a close associate of SXSSS and a lot more other development organizations including AWAG.
4).	2 August '17	A panel discussion on "Perspectives on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls" at Nirma University, Ahmedabad, organised by Population Foundation of India in partnership with Feroz Abbas Khan to sensitise youth about gender-based violence.
5).	15 September '17	A dialogue on "Question of Choice and Consent: Case of Child marriage and Abduction for marriage in Gujarat" organized by ANANDI, a civil society organization engaged with rural women at AMA, Ahmedabad.
6).	18 September '17	Solidarity meeting of the campaign "Karwan-e-Mohabbat: A Journey of Love, Atonement & Solidarity", at Ahmedabad.
7).	2 October '17	On invitation by Shri Kasturba Stree Vikasgruh-Jamnagar, Shri Ramilaben Gandhi (President, AWAG) graced the occasion that commemorated the completion of 60 years of the organization's journey.
8).	26 October '17	A Television programme named 'Hello Sakhi' that featured a live discussion on Sexual Harassment inflicted on Women in Gujarat that was aired on DD-Girnar.
9).	10 November '17	An open discussion with Mr. Sam Pitroda in Ahmedabad for inclusion of recommendations in the people's manifesto towards women empowerment.
10).	18 February '18	On invitation by Majoor Mahajan Sangh, AWAG participated in their celebrations on the occasion of Kasturba Jayanti. The event centred around discussions and talks on Women's Awareness and Empowerment.



## TESTIMONIALS

### • Mr Aishik Saha (Field Volunteer- GlobalGiving)

On 24 and 25 May 2017, Mr Aishik Saha (Field Volunteer- GlobalGiving) paid a visit to AWAG and conducted a Site Visit of the projects related to Awareness about Menstrual Health and Sanitation among Adolescent Girls & Women, as well as Mental Health Counselling for Adolescents in Patan and Bapunagar respectively. The entire visit was interactive and fruitful whereby AWAG received valuable inputs that are enumerated below.

### Note from the In-the-Field Traveller: Aishik Saha (GlobalGiving Field Volunteer)

“Thank you so much for inviting me to your admin office and personally taking me to the project sites. I had a wonderful time, I'll never forget these two days. I particularly liked the site visits as it helped me get a clear idea of the projects and interact with constituents. Thank you Saraben for the delicious lunch on both days and the *chai*. I felt absolutely at home and could not have asked for a more pleasant experience. I hope to visit Ahmedabad Women's Action Group again in the near future and do more great work as a team. I also want to congratulate you again for the great impact that AWAG is making. It's obvious that the constituents think the world of you.

### Feedback on the programs

AWAG, as an organization is keeping all its promises and considering the sensitivity of the cause, they have done incredibly well in helping women and raising awareness about issues which people hesitate to talk about. The two projects that are listed on GG are well organized. The staff is invested which is what helps the organization flourish. I think for AWAG to be able to focus on more issues and affect more areas, working on the visibility and the communications of the work is important. Working the Effectiveness section under GG Rewards is also suggested.

### Quote from the In-the-Field Traveller

AWAG's ideas are progressive and are extremely important for the development of the villages. Their projects are based on causes which are social taboos and the fact that they are excelling in it, is commendable. True to their cause, the projects are well rounded and are filling gaps in these respective communities.

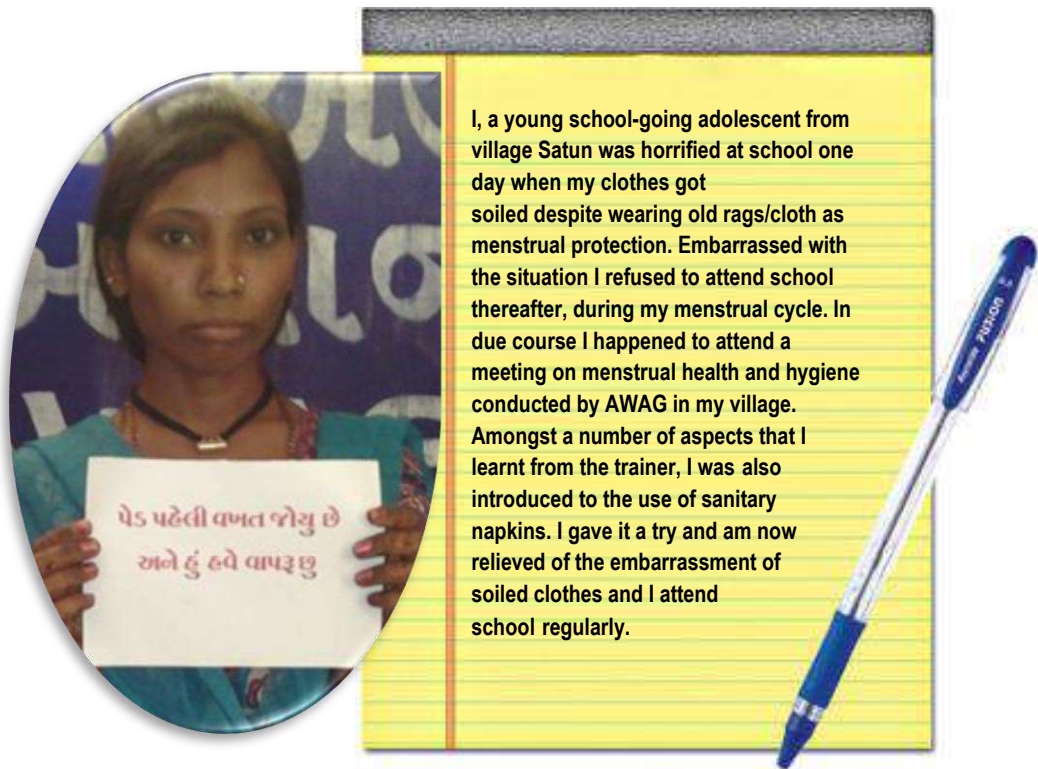
I wish the team a lot of success in the future.”



- **Bala Thakrar (Donor)**

“AWAG does excellent work at grassroots to improve the lives of women and their families. I feel confident donating to AWAG, as I know the projects are well researched and efficiently delivered. I would like to thank all the AWAG staff and volunteers for their commitment to improving the lives of disadvantaged women in Gujarat.”

- **Geeta (Beneficiary from Village Satun, Patan)**



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Total Staff at AWAG

• Full Time - 28

• Part Time - 11

**TOTAL STAFF - 39**

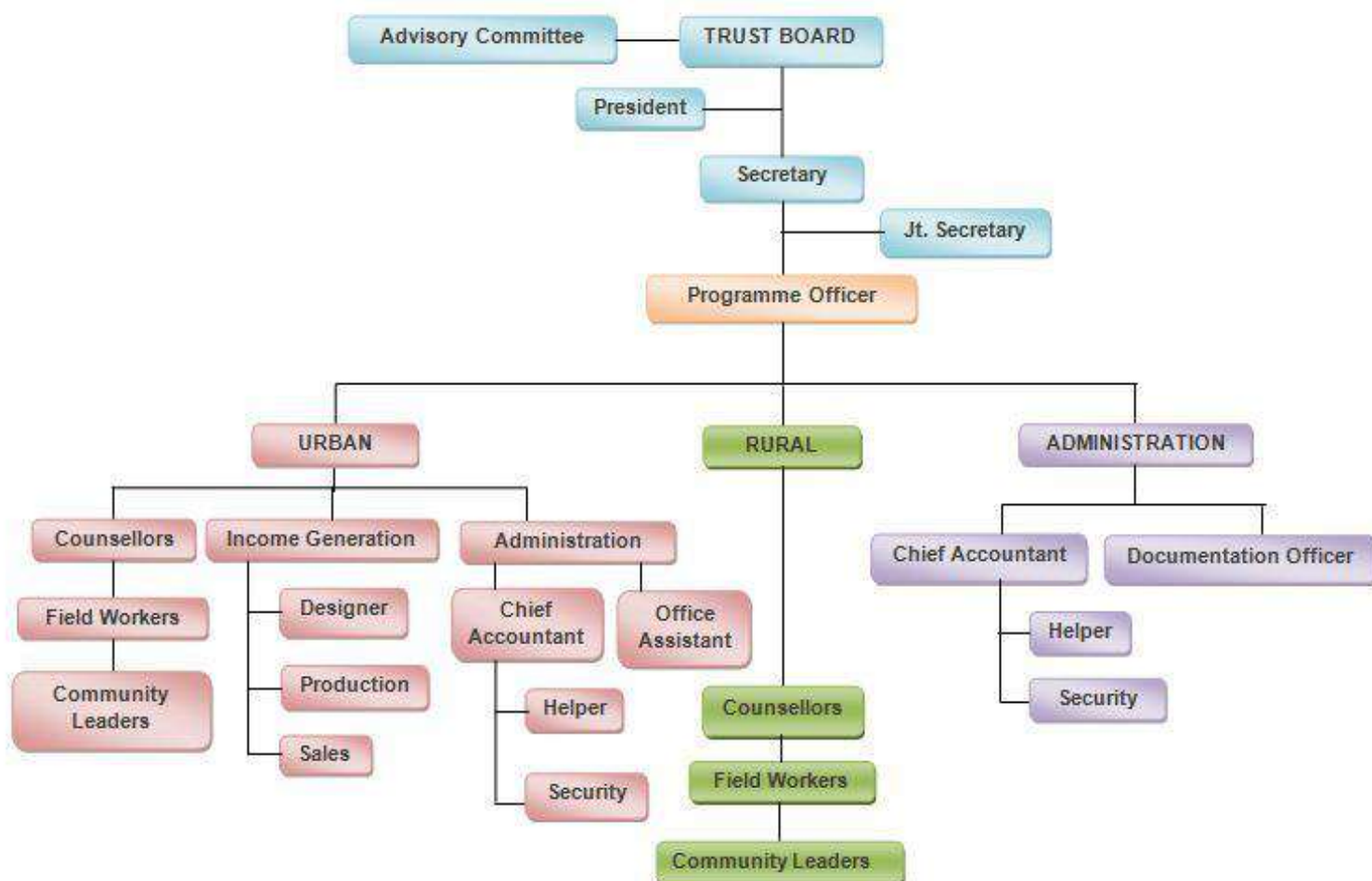
### Payment of Salaries

At AWAG, payment of salaries is as under:

Slab of gross monthly salary paid to full-time staff (Rs)	Female Staff	Male Staff	Total Staff
• Less than 5000	05	-	<b>05</b>
• 5,001 - 10,000	13	-	<b>13</b>
• 10,001 - 25,000	10	-	<b>10</b>

Total Cost of International Travel by Board Members and Personnel is nil for the year.

### ORGANOGRAM OF AWAG



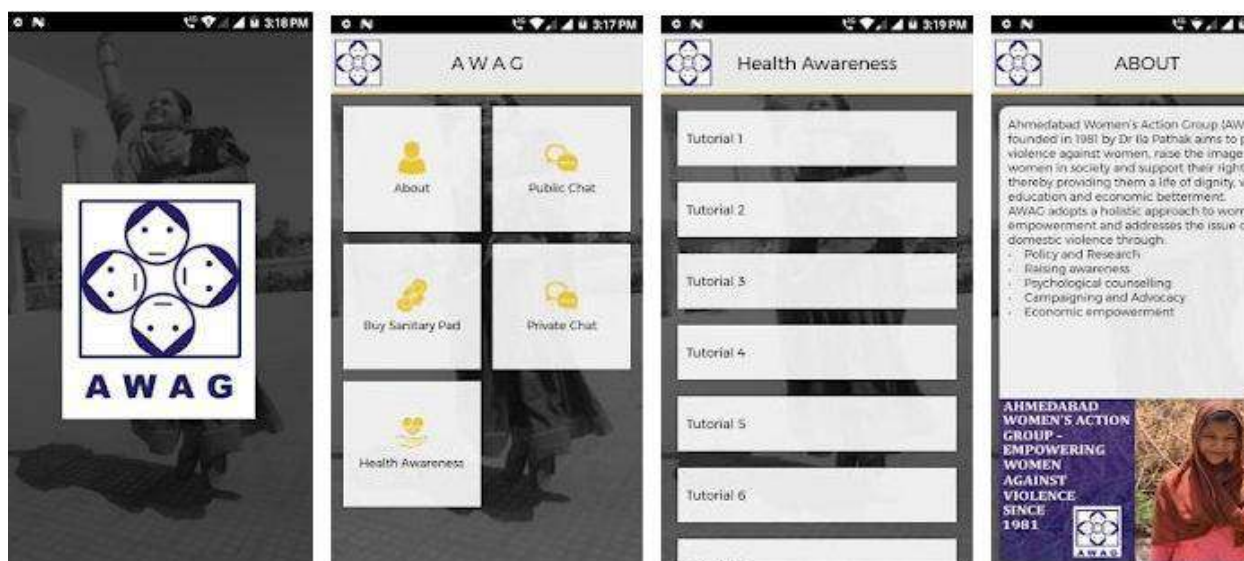
## **Interns and Volunteers at AWAG**

- In course of the year, the following students pursuing higher studies in Social Work and were keen to learn about social realities pursued their internship at AWAG to gain a firsthand experience.

<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Faculty-Institute</b>	<b>Duration of Internship at AWAG</b>
1) Nandani Menon	Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar	8-30 November 2017
2) Sahitya Gali	Symbiosis Law School, Pune	20-30 November 2017

- Shri Durgadas Menon, a Senior I.T Professional & Consultant extended his voluntarism and re-designed AWAG's website (<http://www.awagindia.org/>) and alongside also developed a Mobile Phone Application (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.awag>) that helps trainee participants to demystify and resolve their queries related to menstrual health & hygiene. It also provides options of chatting with experts through a public and private chat. Women can also avail of low cost sanitary napkins through the App.

AWAG takes the opportunity to express gratitude to Shri Durgadas for his goodwill gesture and contributing his expertise that equips adolescent girls and women with the much-needed knowledge.





## Extracts from our Visitors' Book

DATE	NAME & ADDRESS	PHONES	E-MAIL	COMMENTS	DATE	NAME & ADDRESS	PHONES	E-MAIL	COMMENTS
3/11/17	Geoff Wain BRITISH DY. HIGH Commissions Ahmedabad		DHC.Ahmedabad@ fco.gov.uk	Very interesting first visit to learn about ANK's history and current activities. Looking forward to working together in future!	11/11/17	Sonia H. Rodriguez College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan	9833341835	sonia.rodriguez78@ rediffmail.com	Truly inspired by the excellent work done. We are very grateful for this opportunity of understanding your strategies based on empowerment & equality for women against domestic violence @Rodriguez
11/11/17	Dr. Anita Machado College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan		anikerv78@yahoo.co.in	We sincerely appreciate the information of Nirmala. The zeal and commitment of the organization's commanders. It was an enriching experience. We thank you all for your fruitful endeavour.					



**Students and Faculty from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, Mumbai**

**Remuneration of Board Members**

No.	Name	Position in the Board	Age (Yrs)	Address & Contact	Occupation	Annual Remuneration/ Reimbursement
1).	Ms. Ramila Gandhi	President	81	Yoganjali Ashram, Dethali Rd, Post Kholvada, Siddhpur, Dist. Patan Ph: 02767-224707 Email: yoganjaliashram@yahoo.co.in	Social Worker	2,000/-
2).	Dr. Jharna Pathak	Secretary	45	'Ipsit' 5, Professors' Colony, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380009 Ph: 079-27910589 E-mail: fmjharna@gmail.com	Asst. Prof.	-
3).	Ms. Nalini Trivedi	Jt. Secretary	67	C.II-8 Chinaibaug Apts, Nr. Law Garden, Ahmedabad – 380006 Ph: 079-26440788 E-mail: nalinikishor@yahoo.com	Asst. Professor (Retd)	-
4).	Ms. Sara Baldiwala	Trustee	61	6, Century Apts, Chitrakut Society, Nr Rajnagar Crossroads, Paldi, Ahmedabad – 380007 Ph: 079-26623293 Email: info@awagindia.org	Social Activist	-
5).	Ms. Bakula Ghaswala-Desai <sup>^</sup>	Trustee	66	Jalaram Society, Jalaram Road Cross Lane, Valsad-390001; Ph: 251946 Email: bakula.ghaswala@gmail.com	Social Activist	3,800/-
6).	Dr. Laxmi lyengar	Trustee	61	3, Saarthi Apartment, Bhaikaka Nagar, Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 59. Ph: 9727381851	Doctor	910/-
7).	Ms. Nalini Bhatt	Trustee	65	Flat no. 9, Dhruv Complex, Una Email: hmvcollege@rediffmail.com	Social Activist	-
8).	Ms. Shrungi Desai	Trustee	53	A-1001 Rudraksh Residency, L.P. Savani Rd, Adajan, Surat Email: shrungidesai@rediffmail.com	Advocate	2,335/-
9).	Ms. Chinmayee (Sejal) Joshi	Trustee	47	44, Saket-III, Opp. Nandishwar Mahadev Temple, Vejalpur, Ahmedabad – 380051 Ph: 9879191519 Email: chinmayee_joshi@yahoo.com	Social Activist	-
10).	Ms. Riti Shah <sup>*</sup>	Trustee	41	24-A, Miland Mill, Corporate Tower, Sector 16-A Film City, Noida-201301 Email: shah.reeti@gmail.com	Homemaker	-
11).	Ms. Damini Shah <sup>•</sup>	Trustee	56	1-Mayurpankh Soc, B/h Shaligram, Satellite Rd, Ahmedadabad-380015 Ph:9825896249 Email: damininshah@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	-
12).	Ms. Falguni Purohit <sup>•</sup>	Trustee	50	8-Sundarvan Bunglows, Near R.J College, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380015 Ph:7874710101 Email:phalgunidhimant@gmail.com	Associate Professor	-

\* Resigned since 4 October 2017

<sup>^</sup> Resigned since 9 January 2018

• Appointed from 9 January 2018



## DONORS AND PARTNERS

DONORS AND PARTNERS	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED
State Mental Health Authority, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Mental Health Project for Adolescent Girls suffering from mental illness</li> <li>• Implementation of Mental Health Project for Women suffering from mental illness</li> </ul>
Global Giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training 130 women youth health leaders in Gujarat (Women's Menstrual Health Awareness and Sanitation)</li> <li>• Mental Health Counselling of Adolescents</li> <li>• Supporting Flood-Hit Victims in Villages of Banaskantha, Gujarat</li> </ul>
Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi Purpose Women Welfare Centres (MPWWCs)</li> </ul>
Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Ltd, Mumbai.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Counselling through Project Pankhi's Helpline (A project for on phone counselling)</li> </ul>
Arijit Mukherjee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding empowered intervention against domestic violence among grassroots women in Gujarat, India (A Research Project by Dr. Soma Chaudhuri)</li> </ul>
Individual Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For any objectives of the Trust</li> </ul>

**AWAG takes the opportunity to express gratitude to all our donors and partners for their encouraging and continued support.**

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### GlobalGiving

In celebration of our hard work, AWAG has been vetted by GlobalGiving for being actively engaged in their community and as a top-ranked organization in 2017! What's more, we've also received the Site Visit Verified badge for hosting a GlobalGiving representative. AWAG takes this opportunity to express gratitude to all our donors and well wishers for helping us realize our vision, and look forward to your continued support as a trusted partner and change-maker.



### Credibility Alliance

AWAG is accredited by Credibility Alliance under Desirable Norms prescribed for Good Governance of Voluntary Organizations.



**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018****AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)**

Charity Registration No : F/946/ Ahmedabad

Society Registration No : GUJ / 970/Ahmedabad

FCRA Registration No : 041910079

PAN : AAATA2348B

TAN : AHM01249D

**Balance Sheet (Abridged) as on 31.03.2018**

<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Amount(₹)</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Amount(₹)</b>
Trust Fund or Corpus (NonFC)	<b>1400</b>	Fixed Assets	<b>6252654</b>
Other Earmarked Fund (NonFC)	<b>3419886</b>	Cash and Bank Balance	<b>2182653</b>
Foreign Contribution Account	<b>3584069</b>	Fixed Deposits	<b>5614907</b>
Unutilized Grant	<b>3851638</b>	Grant Receivable	<b>673396</b>
Reserve For Interest (FC)	<b>1001969</b>	Other Current Assets	<b>212923</b>
Income & Expenditure A/c (NonFC)	<b>3077571</b>		
	<b>14936533</b>		<b>14936533</b>

**AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)**

Charity Registration No : F/946/ Ahmedabad

Society Registration No : GUJ / 970/Ahmedabad

FCRA Registration No : 041910079

PAN : AAATA2348B

TAN : AHM01249D

**Receipts and Payments Account (Abridged) for the year ending on 31.03.2018**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Amount(₹)</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Amount(₹)</b>
Opening Balances	<b>2269613</b>	Expenditure Paid on the object of the Trust	<b>3487771</b>
Grants in Aid and Donation received during the year	<b>3223384</b>	Administrative Expenses	<b>200435</b>
Donation	<b>147030</b>	Closing Balances	<b>2182653</b>
Interest Received	<b>82080</b>	New FDs created during the year	<b>1000000</b>
Other Receipts	<b>198752</b>		
FD Matured during the year	<b>950000</b>		
	<b>6870859</b>		<b>6870859</b>

**AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)**Charity Registration No : **F/946/ Ahmedabad**Society Registration No : **GUJ / 970/Ahmedabad**FCRA Registration No : **041910079**PAN : **AAATA2348B**TAN : **AHM01249D****Income and Expenditure Account (Abridged) for the year ending on 31.03.2018**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount(₹)</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount(₹)</b>
Administrative Expenses	<b>200435</b>	By Interest	<b>477234</b>
Expenditure on the objects of the Trust (NonFC)	<b>2621528</b>	Donation	<b>147030</b>
Expenditure on the objects of the Trust (FC)	<b>877187</b>	Grants in Aid and Donation (NonFC)	<b>2621528</b>
EK AWAG Project Expenses (NonFC)	<b>135816</b>	Grants in Aid and Donation (FC)	<b>877187</b>
Reserve For Interest (FC)	<b>308169</b>	Publication and Misc Income (NonFC)	<b>195860</b>
<b>Income &amp; Exp Account (NonFC)</b>	<b>175704</b>		
	<b>4318839</b>		<b>4318839</b>

