

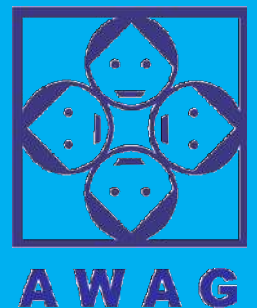
ANNUAL REPORT

(2025-2026)



AWAG

A Struggle for Equality



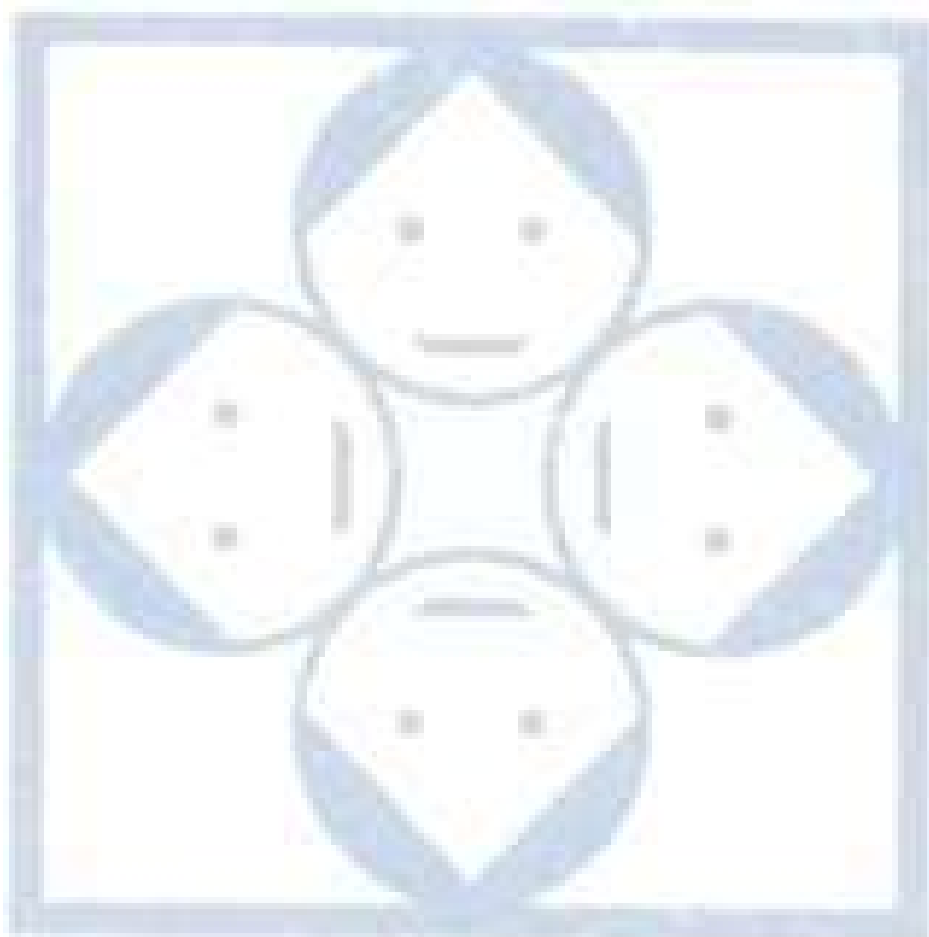
Core Issues and Activities....

- **Gender Violence & Inequality**
- **Counselling and Legal Aid**
- **Community Awareness, Rights & Empowerment**
- **Policy and Research**
- **Campaigning and Advocacy**
- **Mental Healthcare of Women & Adolescents**
- **Menstrual Health, Hygiene and Sanitation**
- **Awareness on Safe-Unsafe Touch**
- **Skill Development & Income Generation**
- **PoSH ICC Member (External)**

In essence, AWAG is not just an organization; it is a force for positive change.

Annual Report

April 2025 to March 2026



Ahmedabad Women's Action Group-AWAG

'AWAGKUNJ', Bhudarpura, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad-380 015

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✉: info@awagindia.org

🌐: <http://www.awagindia.org>

f: <https://www.facebook.com/awagindia>

b: <http://www.awagindia.org/blog/>

📺: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Nrr0RDdSvbAPCidO9tAWw>



FROM MY DESK.....

Before presenting this Annual Report, I would like to pay tribute to one of AWAG's pillars, Our Ben - Ramilaben whose demise has created a huge vacuum in our organization. Ben's demise is indeed an untimely loss since till the very end, she continued to serve as one of the most passionate fighters for the rights of the downtrodden women. Ramilaben has performed her duty as Trustee with utmost devotion and conviction, thus, setting an example for all of us. She has faced social opposition with courage and stood by the downtrodden women, sharing their pain and helping them stand up for their rights. Her vision guided AWAG to provide a helping hand to women through its counselling centres. We dedicate this year's achievements report to the memory of this incredible woman. May her soul rest in peace, and may we continue to carry her spirit in everything we do!



It is with immense pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report of AWAG for the year 2025-2026 on behalf of the Trust Board, our staff, the women and girls we have served and supported with unwavering resolve. As we step into a new year, marked with challenges against social complexities, gender inequality, and mental health issues, the need for justice, reorganizing community resources to counter female trauma, and restoring education and mental wellness for the marginalised is more important than ever.

Having given this a lot of thought, we at AWAG have resolved to address these issues and focused on the following areas of concern through our Annual Action Plan 2025-2026 while staying committed to our pillars of action, namely, Violence Against Women through Project Pankhi, Mental Health, Education. Through Project Pankhi, more than 2,000 community members have benefited from our awareness sessions on gender-based violence. Through our Mental Health Project for Women and Adolescents, we have been able to provide counselling and psychiatric support to hundreds of women and girls. Our Gender-Based Violence Response has seen a significant number of women and adolescent girls accessing group and individual counselling. Besides this, through our educational intervention programs, such as 'Samaan Vishwa Ae Sashakt Vishwa' and the CSR partnership with Light Finance under the project 'Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Shiksha', we have touched the lives of thousands of children by distributing educational kits and creating awareness about safe-unsafe touch and menstrual hygiene management. We continue to provide after-school support and skill-based sessions to thousands of young girls from marginalized and underprivileged communities. Our legal aid and counselling centres have provided support to 253 cases of domestic violence with the help of police and recovery and rehabilitation services.

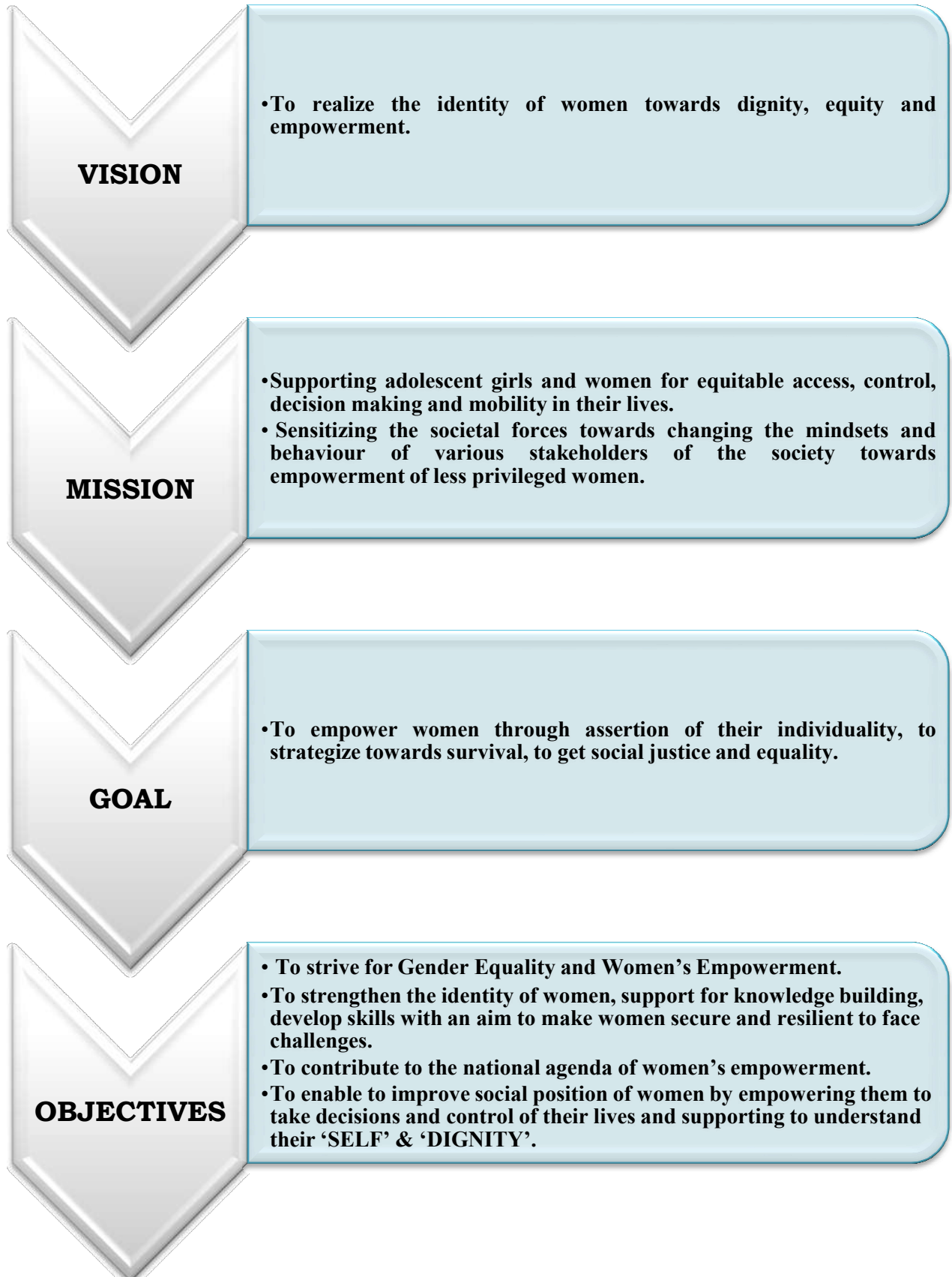
I would like to thank our stakeholders, donors, and support partners, including the State Mental Health Authority, the British Deputy High Commission, Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Ltd., Light Microfinance, Sophos Technologies, The Sandesh Ltd., and many others, for contributing generously to our work. I also extend my sincere gratitude to our Trust Board and staff members, as well as the community volunteers, for their unfailing support and encouragement. The year ahead will see us building upon and taking forward our work. With the support and guidance from our stakeholders, we believe that together we can achieve what we set out to do – make a difference in building an equitable and just society.

With Gratitude,
Jharna Pathak
(Secretary, AWAG)

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AWAG'S VISION, MISSION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AWAG has been active on the issue of violence against women and continually devises fresh strategies to counter this social evil by:

- Protesting against all forms of violence against women through public programmes and demonstrations.
- Raising awareness about their rights among community women and support them to lead a life free of violence.

Panel Discussion on Women's Issues



Lokmanch – Discussion on ‘ગુનાખોરી વધી નીતિઓ બદલવી કે માનસિકતા?’ on Gujarat News on 1 October 2025.

<https://youtu.be/okkrSW1cTlc?si=XdAe7eWb1XjUPHc5>



NIRMANA NEWS – Discussion on ‘ગુજરાત શર્મસાર... નરાધમો બેફામ પર વિશેષ ચર્ચા’ on 8 October 2025.

https://youtu.be/LYQXPMZgi_M?si=z7LSucaYv4JhzyH



The Truth on Jus Hindi – ‘हरदीप पुरी जताएंगे पछतावा? | एप्स्टीन फाइल्स में कई खुलासे बाकीरो भारत में जी ! जवाबदेही?’ on 14 February 2026.

<https://youtu.be/U1S1rc8cQOs?si=424fSjhFe1qTZZWG>

Celebration of International Human Rights Day

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2025, AWAG joined in with other organizations and activists in the public program organized by Movement for Secular Democracy (M.S.D.) at Sardarbag, Ahmedabad. The program was based on the 2025 UN Theme - "Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials." Community women, activists and representatives from various organizations participated in the programme and shared insights on human rights.



Celebration of International Women's Day

To mark the occasion of International Women's Day and to continue to strive for gender parity and women's rights, AWAG along with AIMSS, ANHAD and Gujarat Lok Samiti held a Protest Demonstration on 7 March 2026 at Sardarbaug, Ahmedabad. The programme was based on the UN Theme: Rights, Justice, Action, for all Women and Girls.



Seminar: 'Silent Suffering, Delayed Justice: Addressing Housewives' Suicides'



AWAG in association with Forum for Fast Justice – Mumbai, WILPF – India, CPDRS and AIMSS, jointly organized a Seminar on "Silent Suffering, Delayed Justice: Addressing Housewives' Suicides" on 10 March 2026 at AWAG Kunj, Bhudarpura. The gathering sought to break the silence surrounding the topic and had the presence and participation of voices

from law, academia, and civil society to confront this urgent issue.

Programmes on Gender Awareness and Violence against Women

- In order to raise awareness about their rights and support them to lead a life free of violence, under Project Pankhi, AWAG conducted periodic outreach awareness sessions on Gender Based Violence covering a total of 2098 participants comprising of community women, adolescent girls, students, ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers and other change makers/mobilizers.



- Training Programmes on 'Gender Sensitization and the POSH Act, 2013' and 'Dignified Attitude at Workplace' were conducted for employees of the High Court of Gujarat at the Gujarat State Judicial Academy, in collaboration with the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and the Gender Resource Centre, Women and Child Development Department, Government of Gujarat.



MENTAL HEALTHCARE OF WOMEN

AWAG has been instrumental in implementing the Mental Health Project for Women since December 2008 covering various areas in urban dwellings of 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

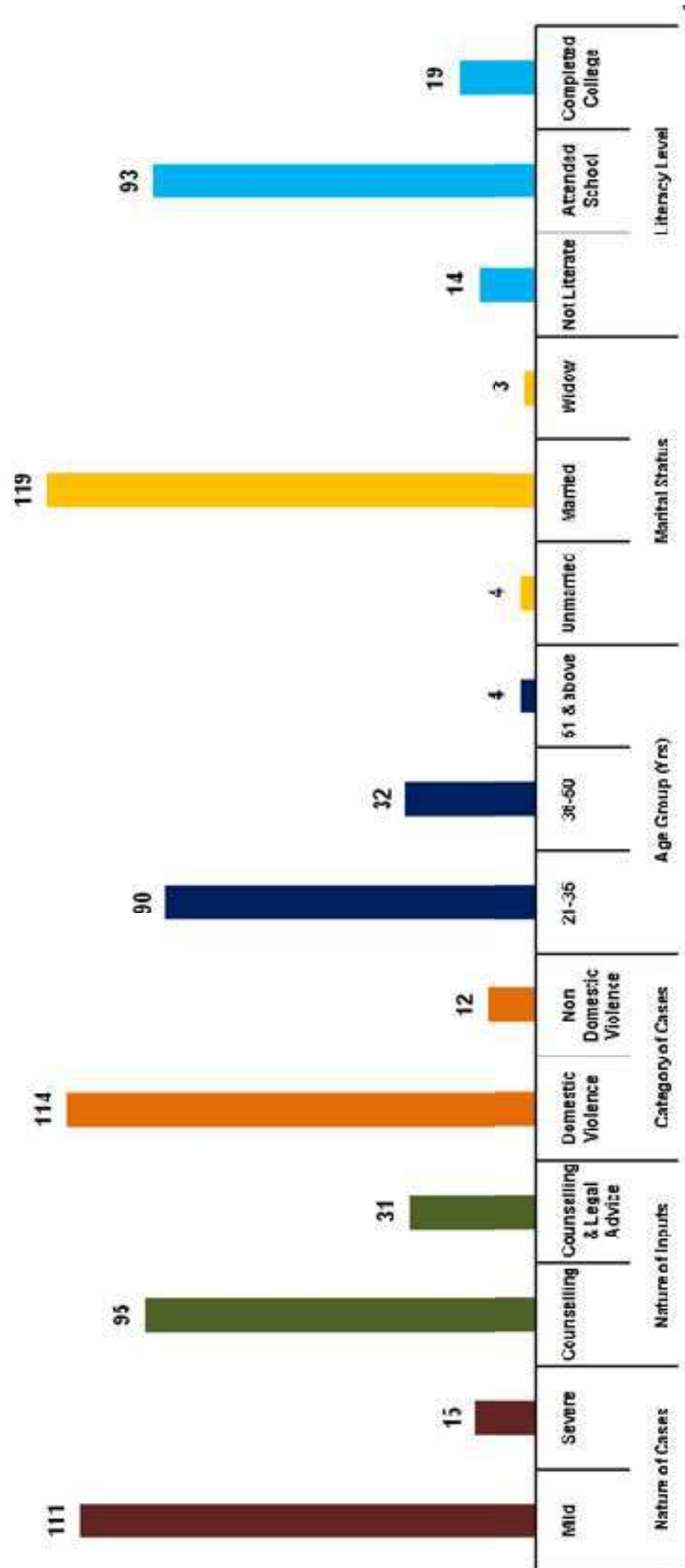
The awareness raising meetings were conducted in the defined areas through a total of 144 meetings covering 3615 women. The theme of the meetings was to provide a general understanding of mental disorders and the need to treat them for a healthy living. Over the year, 126 women approached AWAG's Centre to avail of the facility for treatment of mental illness through counselling and medical help. A majority of cases (90%) 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 and/or legal advice. All the severe cases sought psychiatric help with regular follow-ups. This required provision of medicines which was provided 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. Over the year, three such workshops were conducted covering a total of 86 women.

On the whole, through awareness 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.

Summary of Cases

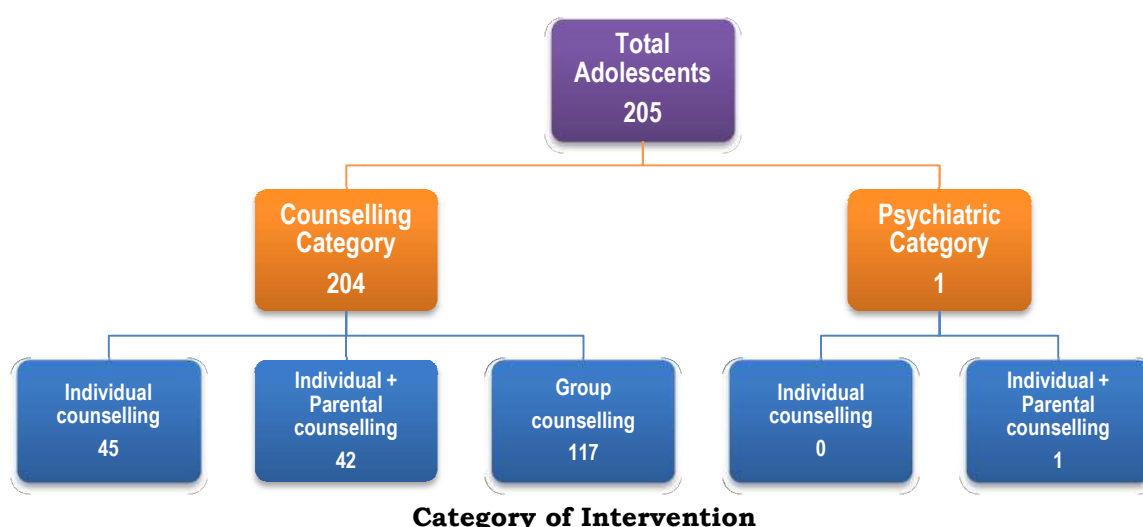


MENTAL HEALTHCARE OF ADOLESCENTS

The Mental Health Project for Adolescents, undertaken by AWAG is functional since September 2008. With common adolescent issues identified as adjustment problems, relationship issues, 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 undertakes the following activities:

- 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 in community as well as in schools with the help of community leaders and school authorities whereby AWAG conducted a total of 144 meetings covering 3612 adolescents. A total of 205 adolescents were provided counselling and medical help over the year. Counselling of adolescents included individual as well as motivation and academic-related group counselling as per the requirement.



DIAGNOSIS OF ISSUES UNDER EACH CATEGORY

- Academic-related difficulties such as low concentration, forgetfulness, exam anxiety, fear of failure, low confidence, need to adopt time management/study techniques – 162(79%) adolescents
- Emotional / behavioural / personal issues – 42(21%) adolescents
- Psychiatric category – 1 adolescent



Individual Counselling



Motivation and Academic Related Group Counselling

As part of the project activities for conducting training for teachers, a total of 30 teachers underwent training, the objectives of which were as follows:

- a) To create awareness about mental health
- b) To sensitize teachers to the psychological needs of the adolescent students so as to support them.
- c) 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.



Teachers' Training

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.

‘SAMAAN VISHWA AE SASHAKT VISHWA’

‘*Samaan Vishwa Ae Sashakt Vishwa*’ translates as ‘An equal world is an enabled world’, is a slogan that highlights the crucial link between gender equality and societal progress. Our Constitution grants equal rights to both men and women in every sphere of life, including the Right to Education. However, the reality is different. At home, at school and in society at large, deep-rooted beliefs about gender shape practices and policies that limit girls’ opportunities to learn. Educating girls creates a transformative ‘ripple effect’ that extends far beyond the classroom.

Based on this premise, initiatives were undertaken to encourage learning, retention and continuity in education of girls by providing support through after-school tutorials and activities to spark awareness.



Inaugural session with mothers and students



Learning through Creativity



Celebration of Republic Day

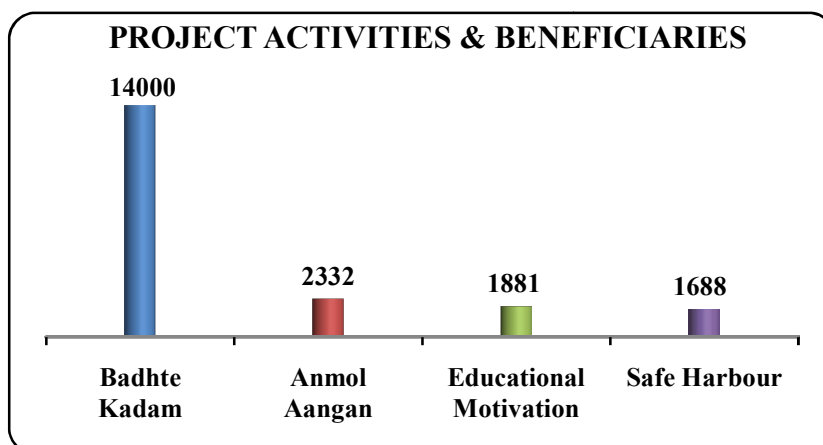


Awareness on Safe-Unsafe Touch

‘EK HI ICCHA, SABKO SHIKSHA’

‘Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Shiksha’, a CSR programme of Light Finance was effectively implemented by AWAG over targeted locations spread across nine states viz Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Odisha. The project covered 14000 children belonging to government-run rural schools.

The focus of the project was to provide educational kits to rural students and also create awareness on Safe-Unsafe Touch (‘Safe Harbour’) as well as on Menstrual Health (‘Anmol Aangan’), in addition to Educational Motivation among them. The provision of educational kits under ‘Badhte Kadam’, offered vital benefits by ensuring that these children have the necessary stationery and resources to pursue their learning journey.



‘Safe Harbour’ awareness sessions sparked awareness among children, equipping them with knowledge to safeguard themselves. ‘Anmol Aangan’ awareness sessions shattered myths, empowering girls with knowledge on hygiene, nutrition and self-care. Awareness sessions on Education Motivation that were conducted for students were aimed at motivating them in achieving their goals and so also in understanding obstacles and distractions that hinder the fulfilment of their goals.



‘SHE’, MATTERS

The project ‘SHE’, MATTERS, undertaken by AWAG was supported by SOPHOS under its CSR programme. The programme was implemented in Ropda village in Daskroi Taluka of Ahmedabad district, Gujarat. The two-day workshop covering 52 young women was aimed at creating awareness and understanding on gender based violence, mental health and, menstrual health and hygiene.

Through discussion and audio-visual aids the participants were imparted knowledge that shattered myths, empowering women with knowledge on gender, hygiene, nutrition and self-care.



EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT AND AWARENESS BUILDING FOR GIRLS FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Marginalized communities such as DNT girls face significant barriers to educational access and awareness. Limited resources, early school dropouts, and social stigma impact their growth and safety. The project undertaken by AWAG through CSR initiatives of The Sandesh Limited, aimed to improve academic outcomes and build essential life skills for 130 girls aged 7 to 20 years from marginalized and underprivileged communities in Ahmedabad, through tutorial sessions and awareness workshops.

The key activities and outputs of the project were:

- **Promoting Girl-Child Education:** A programme to encourage and motivate girl-child education was conducted with young girls and their mothers at AWAG Kunj, Bhudarpura. The participants gained insights on the crucial link between education and societal progress to create a more empowered and thriving world for all.
- **Activity Workshops and Exposure:** A series of workshops were conducted for children and were aimed at creating learning opportunities and exposure through creativity, learning and skill building activities for them. Based on the children's needs and interest an array of workshops related to creativity and craft, fire safety, preventing heatstroke and a lot more were conducted for children.
- **After-school Tutorial Sessions:** After-school tutorial and mentoring sessions were held to increase educational performance and engagement among young girls.



COUNSELLING

AWAG continues to offer counselling services to violence-affected women in need, as part of its core activity. This service is available at its Counselling Centre in Ahmedabad. Project Pankhi (supported by TBZ) lends us a hand in providing counselling and rehabilitation to the women victims of domestic violence through on-phone counselling and face-to-face counselling services.

A total of 253 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 & Causes of Violence	No. of New Regd. cases	No. of pending cases from previous period
1	Physical	22	04
2.	Verbal	32	07
3.	Domestic Violence due to Alcoholism	08	05
4.	Dowry	11	-
5.	Suspicion	06	01
6.	Extra Marital Relations	20	05
7.	Drug addiction	09	03
8.	Emotional/Psychological Distress	02	-
9.	Economical /Financial constraints	07	04
10.	Gambling	04	-
11.	Sexual Harassment	07	02
12.	Maintenance	-	01
13.	Others (nulliparous, forced to marry, caste issues, interference by parents, compatibility, forced to leave education, mental disorder, physical non-attractiveness, disappointment from partner)	07	02
	Total registered cases	135	34
	Cases offered help through on-phone counselling & guidance	84	
	GRAND TOTAL	253	

Interventions by AWAG**Action Taken**

S. No.	Action taken by AWAG	Total
1.	Police Assistance sought	06
2.	Child brought into mother's custody	01
3.	Hospital Assistance sought	-
4.	Sent to Short-Stay Home	02
5.	Joint Meetings	49
6.	Legal cases filed through Lawyers	05
7.	Counsel – Social	189
8.	Counsel – Legal	58
9.	Counsel - Psychological	169
10.	Psychiatric Treatment	02
11.	Psychiatric – Follow up	-
12.	Any others	-
13.	On-phone Counselling (social & legal)	84

**Counselling sessions with social and legal counsellors**

Visits

S. No.	Visits	Total
1.	Police Station	03
2.	Home Visits	01
3.	Follow up Home visits	03
4.	Courts	-
5.	Hospitals	-
6.	Others	10

Pending Cases

S. No.	Pending Cases	Total
1.	Battering and Mental torture	03
2.	Conflicts within family	01
3.	Divorce	-
4.	Bigamy	-
5.	Doubtful Death	-
6.	Maintenance	08
7.	Physical / Mental harassment by husband / in-laws	04
8.	Any other	-

✍ Conclusion of Cases

S. No.	Conclusion of Cases	Total
1.	Settlement in AWAG	15
2.	Settlement in Community	22
3.	Settlement in Court	03
4.	Withdrawn by the applicant	15
5.	File closed by AWAG	60
6.	Rehabilitation through Short Stay Home	02
7.	Counsel only	02

✍ Conclusion of Legal Cases

S. No.	Conclusion of Legal Cases	Total
1.	Settlement during the court procedure	03
2.	Exaction of maintenance order	02
3.	Punishment to the Accused	-
4.	Any other	01
5.	Pending	13

AWAG'S CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

➤ **Counselling Centres**

The counselling service provided by AWAG is available at its Counselling Centre. Each year, a number of 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 survivors 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 develop their skills in stitching / tailoring and get absorbed into the organization's Production Centre at Bapunagar. Through this, the woman not only becomes capable to earn but also becomes aware of utilizing her earnings as per her discretion.

➤ **PoSH Committee Member**

AWAG serves as an external member of the ICC formed under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace - PoSH Act at various organizations and companies. During the year, periodic ICC meetings and sensitization trainings on the PoSH Act were conducted with the employees/staff members of the following institutes.

- Food Corporation Of India
- Hilex India Private Ltd
- IIBX
- Income Tax Office, Ahmedabad
- India International Depository IFSC Ltd.
- ITC Limited - Packaging & Printing, Nadiad
- ITC Narmada
- Motherson Sumi Wiring India Ltd
- Mucom India Pvt. Ltd

- Nissin Advanced Coating Indo Co. Pvt. Ltd.
- S. D. Retail Ltd.
- SMR. Automotive Systems India Ltd
- Sodexo India
- SVPIA (Airport) – CISF
- Toyotsu Bharat Integrated Services Pvt. Ltd
- Toyoda Gosei Minda India Pvt. Ltd.
- Transstadia Pvt. Ltd
- TrueCare Biomedix
- TT Recycling Management India Pvt. Ltd.(Toyota Tsusho Group)
- Uni Linc India Private Limited
- Veeda Clinical Research Ltd.
- Welcomhotel by ITC



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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

- A talk on “Rational Thought vs. Blind Belief: The Story Behind the Anti-Superstition Law” was organized by AWAG and CPDRS on 3 August 2025. The speakers shared their experiences and reflections on the long and challenging journey towards enacting the Anti-Superstition Legislation in Gujarat.



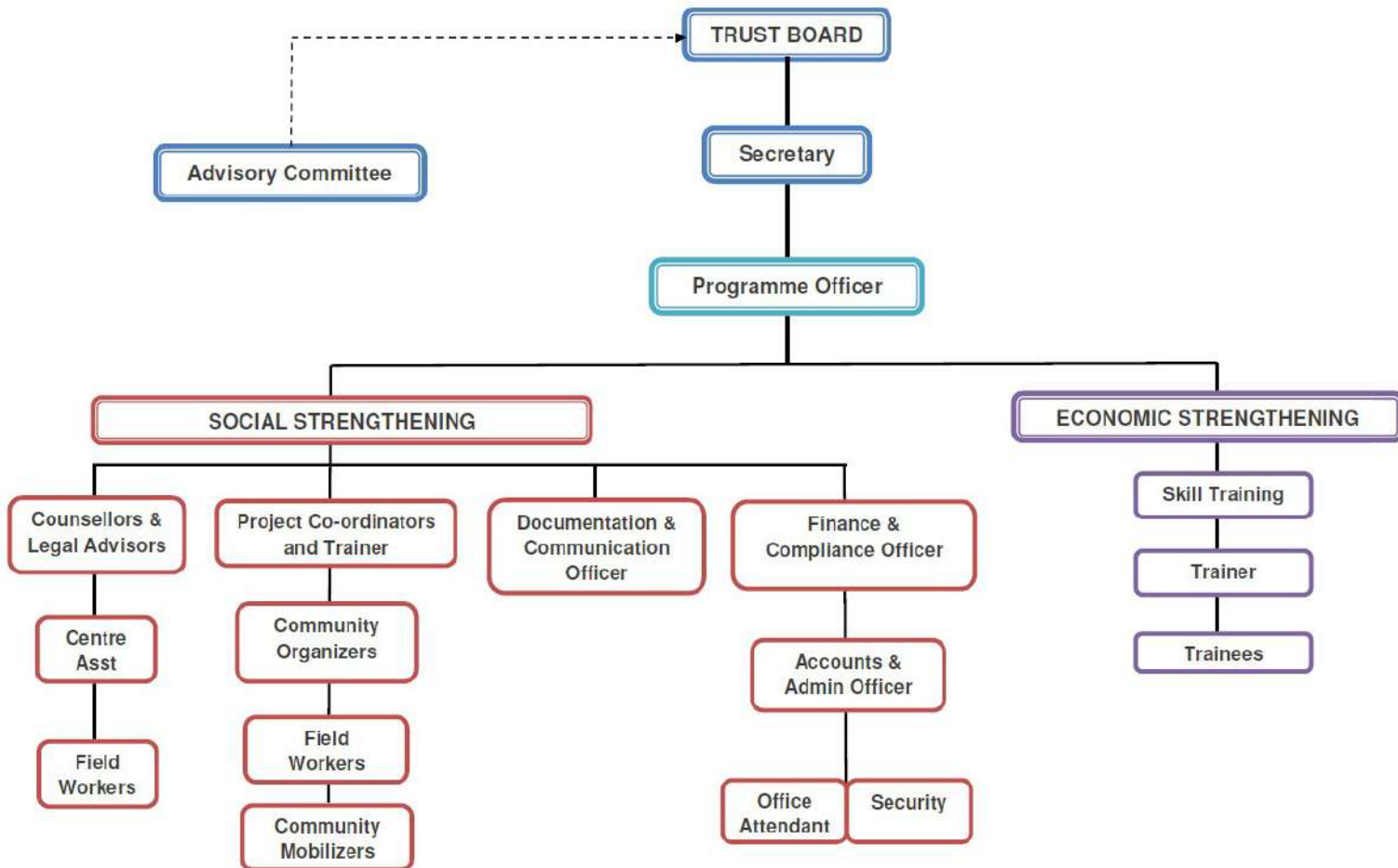
- Participation in discussion on the increasing suicide rate among women and factors responsible for it, organized by Movement for Secular Democracy (MSD) Gujarat on 12 March 2026.

- Student Internships and Field (Educational) Visits at AWAG

Institute	Purpose	No. of Students
Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre, Ahmedabad	Field Visit for students pursuing M.Sc. Nursing on 9 September 2025	7

MISCELLANEOUS

Organization Structure



AWAG' s Trust Board Members

Sr.No.	Name	Position in the Board	Occupation
1).	Dr. Jharna Pathak	Secretary	Assistant Professor
2).	Ms. Ramila Gandhi [†]	Trustee	Social Activist
3).	Ms. Sara Baldiwala	Trustee	Social Activist
4).	Dr. Laxmi Iyengar	Trustee	Doctor
5).	Ms. Shrungi Desai	Trustee	Advocate
6).	Ms. Chinmayee Joshi	Trustee	Social Activist
7).	Dr. Damini Shah	Trustee	HOD & Associate Professor
8).	Dr. Falguni Purohit	Trustee	Associate Professor
9).	Dr. Rupa Mehta	Trustee	Retd. Media Professional
10).	Ms. Priyanka Desai	Trustee	Self Employed
11).	Ms. Jigna Dave [*]	Trustee	Social Activist

[†] Deceased on 13/01/2026

^{*} Appointed on 28/02/2026

OUR SUPPORTERS

AWAG expresses gratitude to all our donors (individual and institutional) for the continued support and trust in the organization's work.

- State Mental Health Authority of India
- British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai
- Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Ltd.
- Light Microfinance Private Ltd.
- Sophos Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- The Sandesh Ltd.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026)

AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)

Charity Registration No :

F/946/Ahmedabad

Society Registration No : **GUJ/970/Ahmedabad**

PAN : **AAATA2348B**

TAN : **AHMA01249D**

FCRA Registration No : **041910079**

CSR-1 Registration No. **CSR00000709**

ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2026

PARTICULARS	2025-26 Rs.
<u>FUNDS & LIABILITIES:</u>	
<u>FUNDS</u>	
Corpus Fund	1,400
Fixed Assets Funds	64,36,734
Earmarked Funds	3,50,000
Reserve Fund	43,72,704
Unutilized Grants	4,03,979
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Current Liabilities	2,967
TOTAL	1,15,67,784
<u>ASSETS :</u>	
Fixed Assets	64,36,734
Investments	32,81,404
Cash & Bank Balances	17,88,790
Other Current Assets	60,856
TOTAL	1,15,67,784

ABRIDGED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026

PARTICULARS	2025-26 Rs.
<u>Income</u>	
Grants in Aid	70,67,602
Individual Donations	10,000
Interest Income	2,39,999
Other Income	6,53,277
Total Income	79,70,878
<u>Expenses</u>	
Establishment Expenses	53,318
Administrative Expenses	4,20,519
Expenditure on the Object of the Trust	
Medical	22,65,016
Education	42,18,000
Social	10,36,339
Total Expenses	79,93,192
Excess of Expenditure over Income	(22,314)

PROJECT FUND UTILIZATION (2025-2026)

