

COMMITTED TO MAKING A JUST SOCIETY

*SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:
OPENING UP OPPORTUNITY FOR
EVERYONE IN EVERY WAY*



SETU

SETUs as cluster level information centers emerged immediately post the 2001 earthquake to play a bridge role in coordinating effective relief and information needs. In these 15 years, SETUs carved its own niche – facilitating local people & external agencies towards strengthening communities to decide, negotiate and monitor for the kind & the pace of development that they need and can sustain in urban and rural settings across 6 blocks in the district of Kutch. Over the time, SETUs realized the need to strengthen the local governance and thus reeducating the Gram Panchayats in governing their villages. Since 2004, SETUs thus focused on strengthening local governance more prominently through various innovations in urban and rural settings across 6 blocks in the district of Kutch..



SETU Abhiyan

Strengthening Local Governance

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Social Justice Committee

As per the Gujarat Panchayat Act of 1993, reads that the Social Justice Committee is mandatory and needs to be constituted in every Panchayat. The Social Justice Committee functions at the village level, block level and district level.

The main objective of Social Justice committees is to work towards creating a more just and equitable society where every individual has equal access to opportunities, resources, and human rights, irrespective of their background or identity.

Initially the SJs in Rapar lacked awareness about its functioning. Rapar SETU took an initiative to address this by presenting the need for SJC and the current scenario of the SJs in Rapar to the Block Chairman and the committee members. SETU team members, the Block Chairman, and the TDO (Taluka Development Officer had a discussion and as a result SETU was given the responsibility to increase the awareness.



Only Commitment makes a society just

SJCs in Bachau and Rapar Taluka

In Bachau Taluka Taluka, social welfare camps are conducted twice a month as a result of the Bachau Taluka Social Justice Forum and are being run with more efficiency and enthusiasm. In the Samkhiyali Village, the Social Justice Committee's Chamber inaugurated itself- which is a huge sign of success. Kabrau SETU played a role in helping the members of the Samakhyali Social Justice Chamber (SJC) realize the importance of connecting with and calling various other departments.



The Initiative

SETU creates awareness about the objective, functioning and roles and responsibilities to the members and stays in constant touch with the committee. SETU also organizes exposure visits. Through repeated efforts and actively addressing the challenges and taking steps to improve awareness, communication, and community engagement, advocating for policy reforms, providing resources, SETU promotes the active functioning of the Social Justice Committee.



Justice practiced is justice served

- There has been a shift from infrastructural issues being discussed in the meetings to social concerns such as child marriage, caste discrimination, violence against women.
- The Social Justice Committee's role in providing a social perspective on prevalent issues is recognized.



- The members of the committee have gained a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and have a sense of duty towards the society.
- The forum also encourages students to pursue further education.

