



Objective

To increase the active participation and leadership of women in local self-governance in Bhavnagar district, and to create women-oriented governance through social justice and equality.

Events

- **International Women's Day (8 March):** Celebrating women's leadership in Panchayats and Talukas.
- **Human Rights Day Conference (10 December):** Presenting findings of anti-violence campaigns and planning action with officials.

Achievements

- 40% of EWRs are active members of MSM, creating a strong collective voice for women's issues.
- In 27 villages, women regularly meet and present priority issues like drinking water, sanitation, housing, health, and safety directly in Gram Sabhas.
- Ensured equal seating in Gram Sabhas for both women and men, strengthening women's dignity and participation.
- Women are holding decision-making and leadership positions in Panchayats and Gram Sabhas. Proxy representation has declined.
- Key role in disaster relief during COVID-19 and cyclones.
- Lok Adhikar Kendra helped ~1,000 families access ration, pensions, housing, and health entitlements annually by empowering women and marginalised community.
- 10 Panchayat Security Committees are active on violence issues ensuring justice for ~70 women facing domestic violence.
- Forum leader **Hiraben** honored with the **Gondhia Award**.



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About Us



Mahila Swaraj Munch (MSM) was established on 31 March 2009 under the Societies Registration Act to **promote and strengthen women's leadership in local governance.**

Although the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) gave women reservation in Gram Panchayats, many still faced resistance due to patriarchy, feudal structures, and gender discrimination. To break these barriers and build collective power, MSM was formed in Shihor Taluka with support from Anandhi Sanstha (working since 1997 on training and capacity building for elected women).

Today, MSM brings together 1,050+ members (Sarpanch, Panchayat representatives, committee members, and women from marginalized communities) across 45 villages in Shihor and Umralla, Bhavnagar district.

Main Programs



Towards Women Oriented Governance: (Mahila Abhimukh Shasan)

a. Women's Participation & Leadership in Self-Governance:

- Build strong leadership among women Panchayat members.
- Increase participation of women and marginalized communities in the Gram Sabha and Panchayat.
- Train and support women to be decision-makers and eliminate proxy leadership.
- Raise and address issues faced by women and marginalised communities.

b. Lok Adhikar Kendra:

- Raise awareness and access among women, single women, and marginalized communities about their **rights, entitlements, and government schemes like rations, pensions, employment etc.**
- Operates twice a week at the Taluka Panchayat complex by trained women leaders (Umralla, Shihor).

c. Fight Against Violence & Discrimination

- Organises Annual Anti-Violence Awareness Campaign with the Panchayat from Nov 25th (International Day against Violence against Women) to December 10th (Human Rights Day)
- At the block level, the Nyay Samiti holds meetings every Thursday to address cases of violence against women. Legal guidance and mediation support are provided during these sessions, and in cases where legal assistance is needed, the committee ensures necessary support is made available.
- Strengthens in village Mahila Suraksha Committees to address women's safety at the village level.

