

**Women from Vyara, Gujarat -
Dairy Cooperative Entrepreneurs**



One of the most sustainable, alternative income generation activities is dairy farming, which has proved to be doubly successful and beneficial to Vasava women in Gundhi, Vyara, Gujarat.

Gujarat is known to be 'the land flowing with milk' and thus the Navjeevan Child Focused Community Development project in Vyara promoted the women groups to develop their own dairy in the village. Before starting the programme, the women were given ample exposure and training to strengthen their SHGs and understand the business of dairy management. The women learnt quickly and soon were headed to start the dairy programme. With the support of NABARD for a subsidized activity loan, the women were able to purchase better breed of animals. The women distributed among themselves the responsibility of managing the animals and arrangements for fodder availability. Additionally, the dairy was also controlled by them, which included activities such as daily collection of milk, management of financial transactions and reaching it to the main Milk Cooperative SUMUL. One could see these women empowered with a sense of responsibility, rising up early morning and walking with milk cans on their heads.



The success of dairy business enhanced the position of women in their homes and villages and gave them a meaningful occupation. They are better recognized by the male family members as contributors to the family income. They are now aware of the market linkages and are able to analyze the market by themselves. They have realized that with their own management skills, they can bring economic changes in their own lives. As a result, migration is completely curbed.

Holistic Child Development India is a Christian humanitarian organization working towards bringing lasting improvement in the quality of life of children, their families and communities through different types of development projects with a child-centered approach that promotes rights, interests and dignity of children. It is a partner of Kindernothilfe e. V., Germany, a child development organization which works in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe