

## GMDC: Committed to Progressive Gujarat



AMOD G-19 EXTENSION LIGNITE MINE, BHARUCH

***Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC), founded in 1963, is a major mining company owned by the Government of Gujarat. It is a public listed entity (BSE & NSE) and has consistently ranked among the top PSUs in the country.***

GMDC is country's largest merchant seller of lignite, a key energy mineral catering to thermal and other industries. The company also produces base metals and industrial minerals such as bauxite and fluorspar. In its commitment to clean and renewable energy production, its power generation portfolio comprises of lignite-based thermal power plant with an annual capacity of 250 MW, as well as wind power with capacity of 200.90 MW and solar power with a capacity of 5 MW.

## GMDC's CSR Policy

- To provide a robust framework for carrying out the CSR initiatives in alignment with Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021 notified on 22 January 2021 (Notification No. G.S.R. 40). The company seeks to ensure increased commitment at all levels in the organisation to operate its business economically, in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner while recognising the interest of all its stakeholders.
- To bring about tangible socio-economic development in mining operational areas of GMDC, thereby improving the local community's well-being through discretionary business practices and contribution of corporate resources.
- To emerge as a responsible corporate leader in sustainable CSR initiatives through innovative partnerships/programmes, strategic collaborations, and stakeholder engagement to promote inclusive community development.

To execute this policy, GMDC has established **Gramya Vikas Trust (GVT)** as a public charitable trust with the primary objective of promoting development-based activities around GMDC's mining operational areas.

**“To improve the quality of life of communities in the working area of GMDC.”**

**GMDC'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY VISION**



## Key Stakeholders

*As GMDC attempts to address complex and longstanding social issues, the company has a dynamic approach. It attempts to execute CSR activities from the prescribed list of themes under Schedule VII of The Companies Act, 2013.*

### Target Groups

#### Children:

Investing in education and health

#### Youth:

Harnessing the potential of young India

#### Women:

Focusing on women empowerment and livelihood programmes

#### Rural households:

Empowering farmers and rural entrepreneurs



### Areas of Operation

GMDC has a vast geographical coverage. Its areas of operation include villages in the districts of Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Chhota Udepur, Devbhumi Dwarka, Kutch, Panchmahal, and Surat.

# Strategic Focus



**Skill ecosystem-focused transformation**

**Promotion of quality & inclusive education**

**Bridging gaps in healthcare through access & availability**

**Safe drinking water, including integrated watershed development & sanitation**

**Working towards climate action & environmental sustainability**



## Facilitating Children to School - Providing Bus Service



GMDC provides school bus services in Kutch and South Gujarat regions to ensure that children around its mining operational areas are not deprived of educational opportunities because schools are far away. School buses also have the added advantage of keeping students punctual.

Khengarpar is an isolated pastoral border village in Lakhpat taluka, Kutch district. About 70 Rabari families dwell there with their cows, goats and buffaloes. Stretches of harsh, open land surround this Rabari village. Most families do not own any form of conveyance, even a motorbike, let alone a tractor. Therefore, when the school bus comes in at 7 am to pick up the children, it is the only chance that the children usually get to see the outside world. The bus ride is about 15 km to school. For the children, the school bus represents more than just the means to get primary education. The yellow school bus offers them a life larger than their own pastoral one, and the children are eager and excited to wait for its arrival into their village.



**GMDC spends Rs. 59,000 every month on operating school buses in Kutch & South Gujarat. The average monthly distance covered in both regions is about 6,500 km.**

## Enhancing Education with Smart Classes



***Smart Classes with computer-assisted learning and multimedia tools have been introduced in several villages in mining operational areas.***

Shri Jawahar Ashramshala is a small tribal residential school catering to about 280 children in Narukot village in Jambughoda taluka, Panchmahal district. The school is over six decades old and is reminiscent of the post-colonial era when pioneering efforts were made to bring education to tribal areas.

The infrastructure at the school has aged and is inadequate for the growing number of students and the demands of modern education. When weather permitted, the students often assembled in the open courtyards to attend classes. Taking heed of the dire need to improve the educational spaces

within the Ashramshala complex, GMDC has funded four classrooms. Of these, two rooms have been designated as 'Smart Classes' for ninth and tenth grade students, and have been provided with projectors and computers with appropriate educational modules installed in them. These modules are syllabus-specific and students use them to enhance their understanding of difficult concepts. Students convene in the Smart Classes outside of regular school hours and operate the computer and projector on their own. With the support of Smart Classes, GMDC has been able to prepare these students for the tech-savvy world.



## Experiential Learning with Activity Rooms

Government-run primary schools are often hard-pressed for resources to upgrade their facilities and offer children from poor and migrant backgrounds a better chance at learning. GMDC, under its CSR provisions, supports small and large schools by creating highly interactive and experiential learning through Activity Rooms within the school premises.

With the help of a professional agency, GMDC has standardised the grade-wise games and activities that are offered. It has also provided attractive posters, learning aids, furniture and decor items so that the children are engaged and enthusiastic as soon as they step into the room. Most activities are related to science and maths as taught in the syllabus, and are targeted at developing mental skills, speed and memory of the participants.



ACTIVITY ROOM, PANANDHRO  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



BHUTESHWAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

**GMDC has created 35  
Activity Rooms at a total  
CSR spend of Rs. 2.91  
crore.**



## Helping Parents to Reduce Expenses - Providing School Supplies for Every Child



Notebooks, textbooks and school bags are made available in primary schools in GMDC's operational areas. This simple gesture has made a big impact in school attendance and educational performance of the underprivileged children. A CSR spend of Rs. 39 lakh has been made in the year 2021-22 for these provisions to school children.





**‘Most parents can afford to buy one or two notebooks for their kids. But while taking notes, all the subjects get mixed up and the students cannot study properly. When they have separate notebooks for each subject, they learn to organise and revise better.’**

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**N.B. PANCHAL,  
PRINCIPAL,  
FLUORSPARNAGAR  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Fluorsparnagar Primary School in Kadipani village, Kawant taluka, Chhotaudepur is located just off the Madhya Pradesh border. Originally established for the education of the employees’ children, the school is currently being run as a CSR initiative and has been opened to tribal children in the neighbourhood. These children come from impoverished backgrounds, where their families have been unaccustomed to prioritising academics. For the want of pencils and notebooks, it was all too easy for young first and second graders to shy away from coming to school. GMDC gives one dozen notebooks per term and a sturdy school bag to every child. This has made a huge difference in the academic performance of the tribal children.

## Encouraging Girls' Education Through Financial Support



Since 2012, GMDC has been running a financial assistance scheme for girls studying in primary and higher secondary government schools in its mining operational areas. The key objective of this scheme is to mitigate the drop-out ratio of girl students from schools. The scheme is applied for Class 8 to Class 12 and funds are transferred directly into the bank accounts of the girls. As students clear each progressive grade, financial assistance increases and those from vulnerable and backward categories are given higher assistance. Each beneficiary student receives annual assistance in the range of Rs. 4,000 - Rs. 7,000, depending on which class she is in and what her socio-economic status is.



Transferring funds for financial assistance directly into the bank accounts of girls is a step towards creating financial awareness and preparing them to be able to provide for their own future.

## Smart Anganwadis



The anganwadi in Wandh village, Mandvi Taluka, Kutch has been around a while. The significant change has been the marked increase in attendance over the last five years. In 2018, GMDC, through its Gadhsisa Group of Mines, upgraded this pre-primary school into a 'Smart Anganwadi.' Whereas in earlier years barely about ten children showed up at the pre-school, now, the anganwadi runs full and has nearly 28 children under its care everyday.



**GMDC has created 51 Smart Anganwadis in its project areas at a total CSR spend of Rs. 3.04 crore.**

Just as GMDC has done with many other anganwadis in its operational villages, at Wandh too, the company changed the way pre-school children between 3 and 6 years of age experience their first encounter with receiving an education. It engaged a professional agency to design and supply a package of structured, child-friendly learning material and furniture. The games, learning charts and attractive designs all aim to contribute to creating a holistic development of the children's emotional, cognitive and physical skills.



SMART ANGANWADI,  
UMARSAR VILLAGE, KUTCH

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**‘With the high quality material that has been provided, it is so much easier to teach these little children. They come to the anganwadi and see charts with animals, birds and fruits everyday and learn through visual recognition. The toys are sturdy and don’t break even when children keep playing with them because they are so engrossed with their activity. The mothers now realise that things at the anganwadi have changed and that their children are happy here.’**

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SHILPABEN VAGHELA,  
ANGANWADI TEACHER AT  
WANDH

## Ensuring Health Facilities for the Community



The ATPS Hospital is located within the ATPS colony in Lakhpat taluka, Kutch district, and is a six-bed facility with two medical officers. Designed for preparedness for ensuring employee health safety, the hospital has certain special facilities such as a burns centre, audiometry screening, spirometry tests, x-rays and a pathology lab. It is visited by specialist doctors including gynaecologist, physician, ophthalmologist, dermatologist, ENT specialist and paediatrician once a week.

ATPS Hospital offers free medical consultations, treatment and medicines to patients from neighbouring villages. Everyday, the hospital sees about 40 village locals seeking medical help. All the facilities available to the ATPS staff without charge are also available to rural patients.



GMDC's hospitals in Panandhro and ATPS in Kutch offer free medical services to all communities in its project areas.

# Accessibility of Healthcare in Remote Areas through Telemedicine

MOBILE HEALTH VAN IN TAGDI VILLAGE, BHAVNAGAR



***GMDC has initiated a unique E-Clinic Project to bridge gaps in health services available to the communities in its operational areas. In-person medical professionals under the project are supported by telemedicine to treat patients in remote villages.***





A mobile van, fitted with smart devices, computer, and high-speed internet, visits the villages according to a pre-determined schedule. It has on-board a dedicated team of a doctor and a nurse to offer health screening, rapid tests and free medicines. Wherever needed, a senior doctor is consulted via video conferencing for more complex cases.

The e-clinic model has been very useful for the community members, especially the elderly patients, many of whose children have migrated to other places. It provides an easy initial access to medical help and also refers them to appropriate healthcare facilities for specialist needs. The e-clinic has helped communities to manage their follow-up visits, chronic conditions, and medication regime at their doorstep. It provides them with weekly screening facilities for monitoring basic parameters such as haemoglobin, blood sugar and blood pressure.



**'I usually come to the health van every week to treat ailments like cough and cold, but most especially, to manage my chronic high blood pressure and knee pain. The doctors here know me because I am a regular, and they have all my records on their computer.'**

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*BHAGWANBHAI VAJHA, TAGDI VILLAGE, BHAVNAGAR*



## Water Supply for Local Community



Regular water supply continues to be an issue in Kutch. For example, residents of Mata No Madh village in Lakhpat taluka would frequently look up GMDC to seek its help if their water supply was interrupted, or if they were in need of more water. In its quest for a solution that was more convenient to the locals, GMDC has provided a water tanker to the village panchayat. The villagers can now easily approach the panchayat and make a request for water. The local body delivers the water to them for a nominal charge.

**GMDC supports villages in its operational areas by sending out company tankers with treated water whenever they need it.**



## Treated Water for Agricultural Use



*ETP POND NEAR  
RAJPARDI LIGNITE MINE*

In an effort to bolster agriculture in its immediate vicinity, the Rajpardi Lignite Mine has created a pond outside the mine area. This pond is pumped with water that has been processed through the company's effluent treatment plant. Thus, the treated water from the mine is harnessed and conserved in the pond, and

is made available to the farmers for irrigation use. The locals cultivate sugarcane as a cash crop in their fields by drawing water from this pond.



*FARMING WITH TREATED WATER IN RAJPARDI*

## Cattle Troughs

Cattle troughs in Kutch district assume a special significance as cattle rearing is the mainstay for most communities to survive in this harsh, semi-arid region. Rabari and other pastoral communities rely on cow, buffalo and goat rearing as the main source of livelihood.

In its concern for the large number of pastoralists in mining operational areas, GMDC sends out its 10,000 litre tanker to fill the cattle troughs whenever regular water supply by the government is interrupted.

The cattle trough in Fulra, a village in Lakhpat taluka, Kutch is couched in a parched, dusty landscape with thorny shrubs as the only vegetation. Most other troughs in the region receive piped water to refill their reserves. Unlike these other ones, however, the cattle trough in Fulra requires a daily vigil so that the large herds of cattle that visit it do not go thirsty. GMDC sends its company tanker to Fulra twice daily to refill the cattle trough. It makes sure that the

water reaches the site well in time before the villagers set out with their herds for their first drink of water when the day begins.



## Household Drinking Water Facility



The mornings progress briskly for the women of Maljipura village, in Jhagadia taluka, Bharuch district. They busy themselves with regular daily chores cleaning kitchen utensils and laundry in their yards. Maljipura hamlet in the vicinity of Rajpardi Lignite Mine, was relocated and rehabilitated in 2006 when mining operations commenced in the region. The company, as a responsibility to its stakeholders under CSR, has provided the new hamlet with a borewell and an overhead tank. With the support of these amenities, the village has been able to enjoy individual household-level tap water connections. The convenience of regular water supply to their homes has relieved them of significant drudgery and stress.

## Roads and Connectivity



***Quality roads to inter-link villages is one of the key enablers for improving living conditions in rural areas. GMDC has on several occasions participated in paving, road-building and upgrading around its mining operational areas.***

GMDC has contributed about Rs. 50 lakh to the re-paving and widening of the principal access road connecting Surkha Lignite Mine's core villages, Tagdi, Thordi and Malpar in Bhavnagar district. The road was in poor condition, and due to its proximity to the Surkha Lignite Mine, GMDC supported in its upgrading. The re-paving and widening activities were done with the help of the state's Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, while the funding of these activities were jointly done by GMDC and government agencies. Following road works, the villages are now inter-linked with all-weather roads, and vehicles can ply with considerable ease. Facilitating the movement of people, material and goods between villages has helped improve socio-economic conditions and well-being within communities.

## Illuminating Rural Areas



*GHADULI VILLAGE, KUTCH*

Public areas everywhere see a variety of activities through the day, and rural neighbourhoods are no exception. Understanding and planning for appropriate lighting for night-time illumination contributes to creating safe and sustainable spaces. GMDC has been proactive in installing high mast towers and street lights around its operational areas. For instance, Ravapar village in Lakhpat taluka, Kutch is off the main thoroughfare, and sees heavy movement of pedestrians and vehicles, including trucks. To ensure pedestrian convenience and safety around the village area, GMDC has installed 70 street light poles along the main road at a CSR spend of Rs. 70 lakh. The management of the street lights has been handed over to the panchayat, that continues to ensure that the lights are turned on before nightfall.



*RAVAPAR VILLAGE*

GMDC has installed high mast towers and street lights in villages nearer to its operational area to improve illumination in large areas.

## Reviving Ponds and Lakes



BHUTESHWAR VILLAGE, BHAVNAGAR

“The *ganda baval* roots rip the ground beneath and create channels for the water and the top soil to get washed away. The land starts to degrade and the tough thorns prevent us from being able to get to the pond.’

BHADRESH VAGHELA,  
VILLAGE LOCAL

The landscape across GMDC’s mining operational area in Bhavnagar district is besieged by the wild growth of *prosopis juliflora*, locally known as ‘*ganda baval*’. This hardy evergreen shrub has aggressively invaded large swathes of land and has negatively impacted groundwater levels. These thorny plants have very thick, deep taproots that disrupt groundwater recharge and increase surface runoff. The community’s access to village ponds, as also the pond’s ability to hold water is affected in the face of dense growth of *prosopis juliflora* around water bodies. The shrubs need to be cleared regularly.

GMDC routinely deploys its own excavators whenever villages need to clear the land of *prosopis* or deepen their ponds. When the overgrowth is especially dense and stubborn, the excavators need to be sent on full-day shifts for even as long as one week before these village resources are restored.



## Creating Shared Spaces for the Community

Umarsar village in Lakhpat taluka, Kutch, like many others in the region, is a small habitation with about 30 families. The homes in this little village are small and any gatherings have to perforce be organised in common spaces. The avenues and social spaces for people to connect with each other are extremely few. Living in compact dwellings surrounded by a hostile terrain, social events bestow life and colour to the community.

For years, community members would engage the local *mandap* service to create makeshift structures that could host events and weddings. While the expenses towards the rentals were not small, the *mandaps* provided the much-needed arena to gather over festivities, food and music.

As part of its CSR activities, GMDC's Umarsar Lignite Mine proposed to the village that it could set up a permanent shed with concrete flooring for village events. The villagers would only need to spend on the decorations of their choice. The simple, open layout and structure could be adapted for a variety of community events, and the roofed venue could be a convenient space to manage the catering services. The company has spent Rs. 4.24 lakh towards creating the community shed in Umarsar village.



GMDC has created community halls and spaces in a number of villages to make it easier for locals to organise social events.



## Community Reading Hubs



The community building in Bhumbhali village, Bhavnagar district was lying in disuse for about a decade before the youth requested for a library and place to study to prepare for competitive exams. GMDC offered, as part of its CSR commitments, the books, storage cupboards and furniture. The selection of the books and reading material in the library was done by the village youth and their mentors. The library is open all day and about 60 youth frequent it everyday, usually late in the evening. The entire resource centre is managed by the community and GMDC continues to be available to them to support their efforts to prepare for meaningful careers.

The company has provided library resources and illustrated children's books worth over Rs. 73 lakh in project areas in its commitment towards making youth future-ready .



## Motivating Youth Towards Sports Participation



GMDC has taken an active step in promoting a culture of sports and fitness arounds its operational areas. Athletic performance is increasingly being recognised as a fundamental factor in developing one's sense of self-worth. As a country, India is making concerted efforts to build a strong sports fraternity right from the grassroots level. Taking cue from the nation's pledge to develop a culture of sports, GMDC has used innovative means to attract village youth into sporting events. Through its CSR initiatives, it has transformed wasteland into a cricket pitch, provided sports kits to communities, and has even sponsored a school marathon.

GMDC has supported sports activities such as marathons and cricket in its project villages. Participation in recreational sports has been beneficial for the health and well-being of village communities.



## Supporting Community Needs



At the rear end of Amod village in Bharuch district, is a serene woodland that leads to a little clearing. The place, known as ‘Shantivan’ was once a barren patch which GMDC used for tree plantations. It planted about 1,750 saplings in the one-hectare area in 2011, and today, the tall trees elicit a solemn silence as one takes a walk through them.

The inhabitants, all of them tribal families, use this quiet, secluded spot to perform the last rites when a community member passes away. They have their unique custom, where they celebrate the the person’s journey on the earth and their departure

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**GMDC has supported communities in a number of ways by creating opportunities for equity, increasing green spaces, and helping them build their social networks.**

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with dance and drums through the woods. The final rites were performed in the open for the lack of other facilities. The company has supported the community by creating a small crematorium in the village outskirts.



*CREMATORIUM CREATED FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN TADKESHWAR*



**'The community bathrooms that GMDC has built are very helpful for us during social gatherings and deaths in our Sonalnagar hamlet in Panandhro village.'**

*VILLAGE LOCAL FROM THE MAHESHWARI SCHEDULED CASTE COMMUNITY, PANANDHRO VILLAGE, KUTCH*

## Healthy School Lunches through a Centralised Kitchen



*Daily nutrition for thousands of children studying in municipal schools is largely dependent on the lunch prepared and served by school kitchens. Improving the nutritional status of children has been a state imperative and GMDC has been eager to help create a healthy India.*

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**With the help of the centralised kitchen in Bhavnagar, it has been possible to provide nutritious mid-day meals to an estimated 25,000 students from 56 government-run schools in the district.**

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The Akshaya Patra Foundation, an NGO, already had a well-established, centralised model for serving nutritious, three-course meals to school children under the Mid-Day Meal Programme. In 2017, GMDC contributed to the Foundation to set up a centralised kitchen for the Bhavnagar region. Like Akshaya Patra's other kitchens, the one in Bhavnagar is automated, with strict guidelines for hygiene and food safety protocols. It is an ISO-certified kitchen where regular lab testing is done to monitor food quality. In Gujarat, Bhavnagar has gone on to becoming the model kitchen that inspired many other similar kitchens to be established in the state.



**HYGIENICALLY PREPARED MEALS  
READY FOR DELIVERY TO SCHOOLS**

## Shree Shyamji Krishna Varma Memorial



Shyamji Krishna Varma was a staunch Indian nationalist and revolutionary who fought the British by making his base in London. He was born in 1857 in Kutch, Gujarat and became a formidable voice against the colonial rule in India. He founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist during his time in London. His political activities were criticised by the British and Varma shifted his base to Paris, and eventually to Switzerland, where he spent the rest of his life. He died on March 30, 1930. Before his death, he made arrangements in Geneva to preserve his and his wife's ashes for 100 years and to send their urns to Independent India. On August 22, 2003, the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi received the ashes from Geneva and brought them to India. The Kranti Teerth memorial, in honour of Shyamji Krishna Varma was inaugurated in 2010, in Mandvi. The 52-acre memorial complex is intended to raise awareness and honour patriots who helped India gain her freedom with their devotion and efforts. Since the time of its establishment, the memorial has been maintained and managed by GMDC. An estimated CSR spend of Rs. 70 lakh is made annually towards the management of the memorial.

## Way Forward



*GMDC'S SOLAR POWER PLANT, PANANDHRO*

From the very beginning, GMDC has prioritised improving the lives of local communities around its mining operational areas. Through the decades that it has worked on the field, it has engaged in ongoing dialogues with communities. This has helped the company to better channelise itself for developing projects that lead to sustainable development and long-term growth within villages.

Considering the multifaceted challenges and uncertainties that the world faces today in the form of climate change, depletion of natural resources and pollution, the company seeks to develop a future shelf of projects that have a clear thrust on environment conservation. To address emerging concerns, GMDC-GVT is increasingly gearing its administrative structure to adopt a scientific and long-term approach to planning with careful attention to designing socially and environmentally sustainable projects.