Mobilizing poor women in slum communities to access improved water-sanitation services: A case study of Sarkhej, Ahmedabad

MHT started its work in 12 slum communities in Sarkhej comprising 2100 households in 2013. At that time, the living conditions were abysmal. Most communities lacked proper roads, underground drainage and piped water supply.

MHT organized meetings and area sabhas and facilitated the formation of community based organizations (CBOs). 10-12 women from each CBO were identified as leaders. The women leaders were trained on importance of sanitation and to effectively interface with govt. to bring water and sanitation services into their area. Trainings comprised interactive tools and communication material.
MHT with the support of the local leaders then helped individual households apply for legal water and sewage connections under AMC’s 500 NOC scheme. It helped the households navigate the complex application procedure and collate the required paperwork. MHT also followed up with AMC on the status of individual applications.

Once the application procedure was completed, MHT along with the community leaders worked with AMC and the local ward councilors to extend drainage and water lines into the communities. MHT also leveraged councilors funds to pave the roads. Individual households contributed between Rs. 1500 to Rs.2000 for construction and as connection charges. The community led transformation happened over 5 years.