

CONVENT OF JESUS AND MARY  
Palanpur – Banaskantha District  
Gujarat - India

## Project for the empowerment of women in the tribal villages of Amirgadh taluka at Banaskantha district, Palanpur

We work mainly among the tribal villages and have chosen 6 villages for this program. Sr. Julie has chosen 6 animators, most of them from the same communities, to work with her. These animators are getting trained, as they have no experience of community mobilization process. In order to build and strengthen their capacity and skill, we plan to have their meeting once a month. The animators get regular input to prepare them for the work.



For the rapport building with the village community, Sr. Julie and the animators visit the families and the community regularly, listening to their difficulties and their problems. At times we have to face many challenges to get the support of the villagers. The people were cheated and misled in the past, and this makes our work difficult at times



In the meetings we make the women aware of the objectives of the project, the need of the women to come out of their home and work together for their empowerment. In our visit we give greater attention to the women's and the children's problems and our animators handle these situations. The family visit assess the situation of the family.



In our visits to the villages, we encourage the women to take their children for the vaccinations. We also advice the pregnant women to go for regular checkup. They are explained by us the importance of the immunization and ANT care for healthy motherhood and healthy child.



Women with children are advised to take advantage of the government program available in the village and in the hospitals, and the animators accompany them when necessary.



### Balwadies (nursery classes)

We have a few nursery classes in the villages, to give to the children an incentive for their onward education. Education, cleanliness, games and nutrition are taken care. We encourage the parents to take interest in the children and their education, and in the other programs for the children.

Sister Julie Parmar RJM