



Village Upliftment Chair Dilip Parikh speaks to SCF-supported Lokmitras from villages in Gujarat.

The International Day of Friendship was established by the United Nations to honor the idea that friendship between individuals can inspire change and build bridges. **This transformative power of friendship is evident in our Village Upliftment Signature Program.** With the support of Share & Care, Lokmitras, or “*friends of the people*”, offer assistance, education, and mentorship in their villages with the goal of uplifting that community.

Dilip Parikh, Village Upliftment Chair, recently traveled to India along with his wife and fellow SCF member, Jayu. Hear his updates from the field, and **check out our blog post for even more photos and videos from his visit!**

*During our visit to India, Jayu and I spent an entire day with the Environmental Sanitation Institute team and 12 Lokmitras visiting four villages and witnessing the impact of the past three years of the Lokmitra program that Share & Care supports.*

*We first visited Lilapur, where Lokmitra Bhupat has catalyzed the whole village through multiple interventions, including school transformation, supporting women, and inspiring youth. Then in the village of Bharvadvas, we saw how creating a role model for the nomad*

community with love resulted in a first ever school, a student who started 10th grade and went on to join armed forces, and a singer in the making lifting up the community.

In Pedhambali, we witnessed Lokmitra Jaldip and Snehal's incredible spirit of service, where they not only served the villagers but inspired the next generation of youth, many of whom are volunteering in their villages or serving as Lokmitras and Shikshak Mitras. Finally, our visits culminated with a collective circle in the village of Bhanpur, where we heard from all 12 Lokmitras and Shikshak Mitras as they shared their journeys of being the change and transforming themselves while bringing the change in villages



During their tour, SCF team members observed a lesson at a Lokmitra-supported school.



We

Jayesh Patel, who heads the Lokmitra program, greeting SCF team members.

were also glad that through Lokmitras, we witnessed the change they created, including:

- Awareness throughout all 12 villages and with villagers in vicinity;
- Impact on their villages including target groups like farmers, women, children, and teens; and
- Transformation of themselves as they focus on bringing change to others.

— Dilip Parikh, Village Upliftment Signature Program Chair

**The incredible work done by the Lokmitras is a testament to the transformative power of the care and support you share from a world away.** This International Day of Friendship, we humbly ask that you honor these *friends of the people* with a donation.

**GIVE A GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP**

**See more photos from the trip as well as videos captured by the Lokmitras serving in these villages on the blog!**



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