PEOPLES TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE

43, SRAINATHDHAM DUPLEX
DINESH MILL-URMI ROAD
BARODA-390007
STRUGGLE OF SILICOSIS VICTIMS IN AGATE INDUSTRY OF GUJARAT
Agate Industry in Khambhat
BEAUTIFUL AGATE ITEMS

• VIEW OF SHOW-ROOM IN CITY OF KHAMBHAT
RAW STONES
BREAKING INTO SMALL PIECES

• CHIPPER AT WORK
HEAT TREATMENT

- Particular type of stone is given heat treatment to reduce water content. This helps in further processing. It also changes the color of the stone. Color changes to red.
Before grinding, some types of stones are fed to wooden drums which are mechanically rotated for further size reduction.

Grinding is the process which generates lethal silica dust.
• Polishing to give luster after shape is given.
Making holes

• For necklace-MALA- holes have...
Horizontal & Vertical Wheels
SILICA Dust Everywhere
Workshop OR House ?
These are no more: Left in last one year
Silicosis Sufferers
Widowed. Large numbers of widows lead a life full of struggle. Some continue the same work which killed their husband.
Our Activities:

• **Machine Yatra.**
  • Safer technology exhibited.
  • Yatra went door to door for one week.
  • Workers were able to operate and see for themselves how does it work and the results.
Our Activities: Street Play
Our Activities:
Health Fair
15,000 citizens visited Fair in 2 days.
Support

• Hospital admission.
• Low rate group Insurance- 12 families benefited.
• Small savings groups formed - 15 groups with more than 100 women members.
• Helping get small soft loan from Government for new business.- 5 benefited.
• Help widows claim monthly assistance provided by Government.
• Organize meetings, trainings etc.
• Note books, books, uniform to school going needy children each year.
• Help during disaster
Problems

• Workers are bonded by employers paying advances.
• Workers know very little about their rights, hence do not come forward.
• Employers do not like 'out side' intervention.
• Employers do not allow workers to join meetings.
• Workers do not have time for meetings. They work on piece rate. In the evening meetings are not possible.
• No labor laws apply for OHS, service conditions or social security.
• No Government department look up at this problem.
Plan for this year

• Work with widows.- organizing, savings groups, trainings for alternate employment, counseling & support
• Work with orphans & children: Day care centre, children activity centre, medical check up. Picnics
• Work with sufferers.-care & support
• Work with elders - care & support
• Strengthen Victims Association.-Make presentations, protests, approaching courts and other avenues for justice.
• Joint International Campaign with ANROAV, AMRC, LAC, ICEM, SOLIFONDS
Our Activities:

• **Machine Yatra.**
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Our Activities:
SMAMMELAN
Mahefuzabibi - a widow - narrating her problems.
Our Activities:
Helping design and install local exhaust ventilation system.
Silicosis Victim Association
THANK YOU