

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a grey patterned sleeveless top, is looking upwards and to the right with an attentive expression. In the background, two other students are visible, one in a red shirt and another in a purple shirt, both looking down at their work. The setting appears to be a classroom with light-colored walls.

Beyond All Expectations Annual Report 2023

इसलोकहो प.इ.

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Letter from the President of Sambhali U.S.



Lalita with her students

I sit in my room at the guesthouse, next door to Sambhali Trust's offices in Jodhpur, determined to write this letter. But I'm tempted to go up to the roof where the girls and young women in Sambhali's neighboring boarding homes will see me and invite me over for chai. They are very convincing, the chai is delicious, and being with them is so good for my soul. **Each of them has stories of going beyond all expectations.**

Two of Sambhali's three boarding homes are next door, the one with the youngest girls and the one with the college students. The college students didn't dream of higher education when they were little girls. How could they? The women in their families barely had any formal schooling. But today the youngest Sambhali girls see these older sisters, confidently say they will go to college, and explain what they want to be when they grow up.

Not only did the first girls to attend a Sambhali boarding home a dozen years ago go beyond all expectations, they are changing the expectations of so many girls to follow both here and in their villages.

It wasn't easy—and it still won't be—as they face the challenges of being the first generation of women learners and earners in their families, living in a society that often opposes their drive to gain control of their lives. But their determination to keep beating the odds never wavers.

Were I next door right now, I would see the amazing drawings Aasu is working on for her art portfolio, continuing towards her degree though she was pressured to get married in the midst of her first-year college exams last spring. She showed up for an exam the morning after her wedding, traveling two and a half hours to get there, the car breaking down, and convincing a police officer not to give the driver a speeding ticket. She earned first division scores.

Were I next door, I'd hear about Manisha's afternoon teaching at a Sambhali Primary Education Center and about Lalita's day teaching computers at both Primary Education Centers and boarding homes while they continue working on their MA and BS respectively.

I'd also see Swaroop, the newest member of the college boarding home. At thirty-two, she is older than other students and doesn't yet know much English, but her story is the heart of Sambhali. Swaroop's husband committed suicide last year. A widow with no status, blamed for her husband's death, neither her in-law family nor her family of birth would allow her and her children to live with them. Someone told her about Sambhali and she made her way here with her young daughter and son.

Swaroop had no other place to go and she wanted to learn. Sambhali didn't say, *no, our boarding homes are just for those who start as young girls*. Rather, the Sambhali family embraced her. Her daughter is now at the Sambhali boarding home for secondary school girls, her son lives with her at the college boarding home, and she has begun her first year of college. As Sambhali Trust founder Govind Singh Rathore puts it, Sambhali is all about need and demand. And so a woman who had no one now has this loud and joyful family. As do her children.

This is how Sambhali works, whether it is at their flagship Empowerment Centers, where women who never learned to read are slowly making out letters in Hindi and English and learning numbers on a measuring tape as they develop the sewing skills that can bring them income and respect—or in any of their other holistic suite of programs.

“Beyond all expectations” is the story of the children in Sambhali's Primary Education Centers who sometimes help their moms with their Empowerment Center homework. It is the story of those who find new lives as survivors of gender-based violence.



Swaroop

It is the story of a chosen family of people who weren't expected to learn much or to want much or even to hope for much, who are creating new expectations for themselves and for those around them.

“Beyond all expectations” also describes this year at Sambhali U.S. We reached out in homes and corporate settings with SUStenance events in five states reaching more than 130 people with the stories of the women and girls of Sambhali. More than 250 donors supported our work and sixteen new volunteers joined our Communications, Development, Finance, and Volunteer Engagement Committees. Together, we raised nearly \$135,000, 61% more than we did the prior year, enabling us to do far more to support Sambhali's mission.

Our largest donation came from the combined generosity of the employees of VMware, a tech company based in California. Someone there had heard about Sambhali U.S. and put our name on an internal giving list. Sixty other employees in India and the U.S. saw it and were moved by Sambhali's mission. Our angel never identified themselves, so we were not able to offer our thanks. But I'm reminded that we never know when someone will be touched by the stories of the women and girls of Sambhali and what a difference that may make in their lives as they strive to continue to go beyond all expectations.

From my guest room in Jodhpur during my time visiting Sambhali's projects, I think of you around the U.S. and the impact you are making. I wish you were here to see it because it would fill you with joy. Please come, the women and girls of Sambhali know you are a part of the family.

And on that note, I need to go. Manisha just texted me with an invitation to come over for chai.

With abundant gratitude,



Shereen Arent



Shereen with Aasu

Programs That Build New Expectations

The mission of Sambhali U.S. is to support the courageous women and girls of Rajasthan, India, who seek to raise their voices with dignity and self-confidence, build a road to economic independence, and ultimately determine their own destinies.

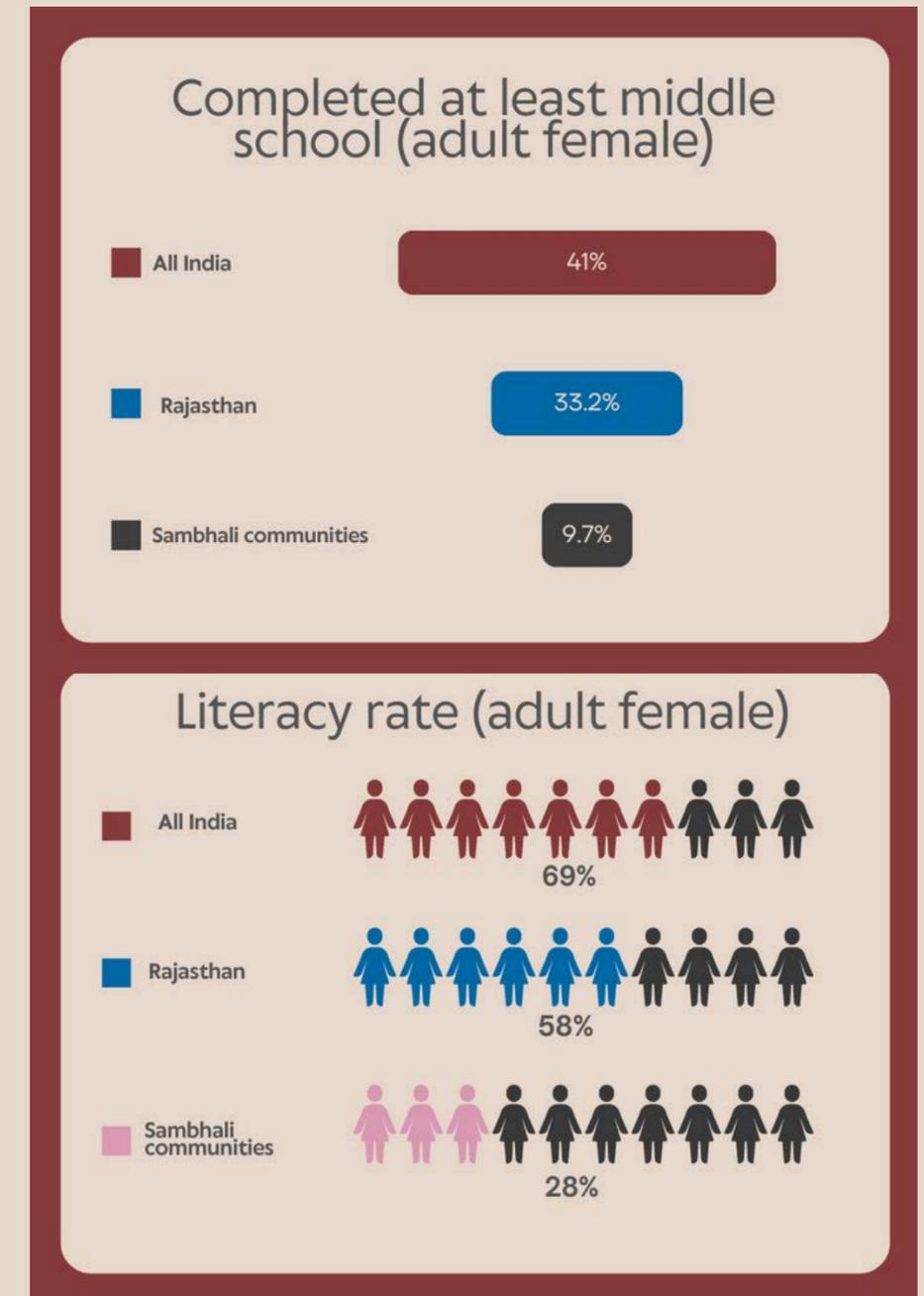
The words of our mission suggest a world that many imagine to be beyond all expectations. But the programs we help to fund are changing that.

Education brings economic strength, it brings respect, and it brings the power to build a life for yourself. But in the communities that Sambhali Trust serves, where fewer than 10% of women complete middle school and less than a third are literate, women face enormous hurdles to education and empowerment.

The bulk of our funding supports Sambhali Trust programs that directly serve women and girls through traditional and vocational education, life skills, self-defense training, and physical and mental health assistance. Armed with these new skills and knowledge, the participants in Sambhali programs reshape the trajectory of their lives, attain a measure of financial independence, and even set a new course for the family's future.

We also fund Sambhali Trust programs aimed at breaking the cycle of gender-based violence through legal services and psychological counseling, emergency assistance, safe havens, and education, thus enabling women and girls to develop options to maintain their safety and security.

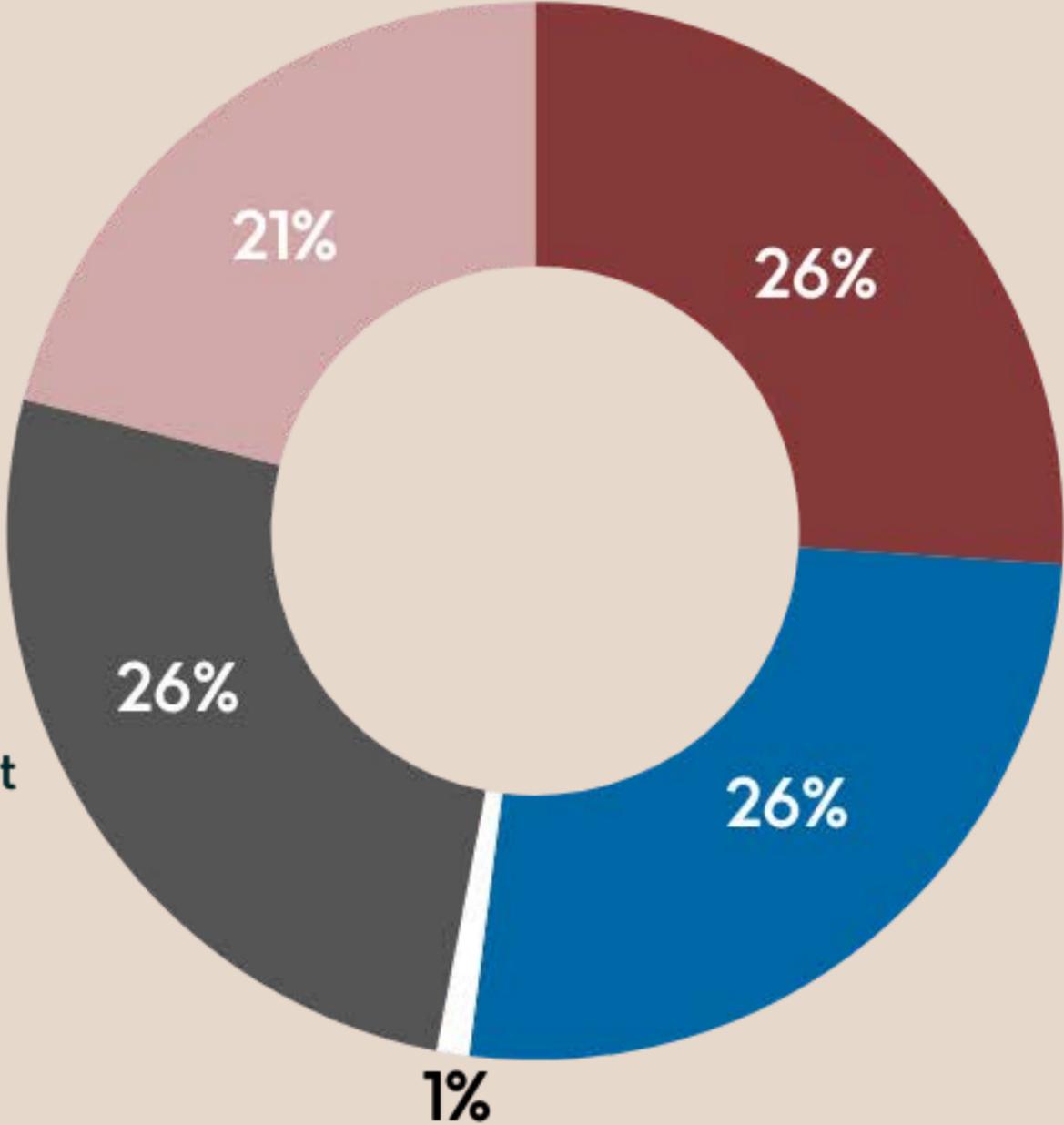
For the marginalized women and children of Rajasthan who face discrimination based on gender, class, and caste, the future used to look bleak. But with your help, the courageous women and girls of Sambhali's programs are succeeding—beyond their wildest expectations.



In 2023, Sambhali U.S. allocated \$81,000 in grants to the following programs:

Grant Distribution

- Boarding Homes
 - Empowerment Centers
 - Primary Education Centers
 - Nirbhaya Gender-based Violence Project
 - Aadarsh School-based Project
-



Empowerment Centers: Where Women Go Beyond

Aarti's story is a familiar one in Rajasthan. She left school at age 12, married a few years later, and had two sons. Her husband became sick and unable to support the family. Desperate, Aarti (pictured, on the left), arrived at one of Sambhali Trust's Empowerment Centers seeking financial assistance.

Sambhali U.S. helps fund these Empowerment Centers where every year over 300 women and adolescent girls receive basic instruction in Hindi, English, and math, and vocational education in sewing and embroidery. They take classes in self-defense and attend weekly workshops on a wide range of topics from health and safety to legal rights and environmental protection. After one year, participants graduate with a sewing machine and a marketable skill. Aarti quickly improved her Hindi, English, math, sewing, and embroidery skills and became proficient at making clothes. She now freelances for a local boutique and receives direct commissions from the local market.

Sambhali's Empowerment Centers create a nurturing environment with peer support that encourages women to aim beyond expectations. When they complete the program, women like Aarti possess the skills to achieve financial independence and the confidence and support to use them. In the words of Sakhi, another participant in the program, "I feel empowered learning sewing and studying in the center. I can trust people here and now socialize with other women....I am happy here."



LuLu Ray, Photographers Without Borders



Women of the Empowerment Centers

Breaking Down the Barriers to Education

Meera always aspired to become a teacher. She completed only two years of elementary school, but through sheer determination continued studying on her own and was able to pass the tests to graduate from secondary school. Married at 21, she deferred her career hopes, had three children, and worked in the family store. In 2007 the store closed after patrons defaulted on their loans. Out of financial desperation, Meera created opportunity. She enrolled her children in Sambhali's Primary Education Center (PEC) and started attending the free English language workshops and sewing training at the Empowerment Center in her rural village of Setrawa. After years of study, she realized her dreams and is now a teacher of English and Math at Sambhali's PEC in Setrawa.

But that's not all. Recognizing the immense value of education, she made sure that her children received the opportunities that she had lacked. She enrolled her daughter, Lalita, in the Sheerni Boarding Home in the city of Jodhpur when she was 8 years old. Lalita is now pursuing a college degree in chemistry, botany, and zoology while living at Sambhali's Abhayasthali Boarding Home for college students, and she serves as a computer teacher at Sambhali's PECs and boarding homes in Jodhpur. Meera's elder son is pursuing a graduate degree in computer science and her younger son is studying for a Bachelor of Science degree. With help from Sambhali, Meera empowered herself and her children to exceed expectations through education.



Lalita

Meera

Turning Dreams for An Education into Reality

Karishma's mother died when she was only three years old. As the oldest child, Karishma gradually had to take on more responsibilities in the home, forcing her to drop out of school. She found her way to one of Sambhali's Empowerment Centers after she learned from women in the neighborhood that they provide free education. Her life is not easy—she completes all of her household work in the morning so she can spend three hours each afternoon studying, sewing, and being with her friends. With the help of the Empowerment Center, Karishma now has options that she could never before have dreamed of.



Spreading the Power of Education

By the time Radha was 18 years old, she was divorced because of the domestic violence and crimes committed by her husband. Having attended school only to the third grade, Radha feared for her future without the education and skills to create a life for herself. She heard about Sambhali's Sakhi Empowerment Center from a neighbor who encouraged her to participate. Now, she particularly enjoys the sewing classes at the Center and is excited about using her skills to earn a living. Radha has been teaching her mother and sisters how to sew, advancing Sambhali's goal to spread education and change expectations well beyond their own walls.



Gaining Skills to Achieve Financial Independence

At 18 years old, Sharda joined the beginner class at Laadli Empowerment Center to learn skills that could support her family financially. Her mother works as a cleaner. Her father, a part-time stone worker, spends half of his earnings on alcohol, leaving too little money to care for the family of six. Even with the odds stacked against her, Sharda came to the Center to learn how to read, write, and sew. She now sews dresses and works on local market orders. Sharda is becoming a tailor to attain the financial independence to support herself and her family.

Primary Education Centers: First Steps on a Path Beyond



For many women and girls of Rajasthan, life is a grinding cycle of poverty. Without a basic education, they lack the skills and tools needed to get decent paying jobs. Instead, they typically are required to marry at an early age and sacrifice their own ambitions to husbands whose skills or education often can't fully support the family. But that is the grim reality for many girls, like Janika, who had to drop out of school to help run the family's household, and Ekta, whose parents would send only the boys to school.

Fighting for lives beyond those expectations, Sambhali U.S. is funding Sambhali Trust's Primary Education Centers, or PECs, that prepare children for public schooling, support them as they navigate the school system, and raise the community's awareness of the availability and importance of education. The PECs serve over 300 children each year, providing classes two hours per day, six days a week. They foster a creative, communal, and joyful atmosphere, building a love of learning. Besides instruction in basic literacy and numeracy, the centers also offer workshops on the prevention of child sexual abuse, children's rights, health, daily hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition. Many of the children's mothers attend Sambhali Empowerment Centers in the mornings at the same locations, thus reinforcing the positive lessons and experiences generation-to-generation. Now Janika, Ekta, and other girls like them are receiving an education and dreaming that they can choose a life different from their parents'.

Working Hard Towards a Bright Future

Mahima is 12 years old and in the beginner's class at a Sambhali Primary Education Center (PEC). Before this, she never attended school. Her parents are divorced and she lives with her mother, who receives no financial support from her father and struggles with mental illness. Mahima's mother ekes out a living selling vegetables but cannot provide for Mahima's education. At the PEC, Mahima is beginning her education and glimpsing a brighter future.



Finding Confidence Through Education

Nazia is a 7-year-old student at the Abhaya Primary Education Center. Her parents are divorced and her mother struggles financially. When Nazia joined the PEC, she was quiet and didn't engage much with the volunteers or her peers. But with every month that passes, she's becoming more confident. Recently, during a workshop, she helped other children with the assignment, teaching them how to finish the lesson. She's working on expressing herself more and engaging in English conversation with the volunteers.



Succeeding Beyond Limitations

Lakshmi, age 13, attends a government school where she is often ignored and neglected because she has special needs. But her experience is different at the Fatima PEC. When she first arrived, she chose to sit apart from the other students and she did not talk to them. In time, she saw that she had a welcoming community. Now she studies diligently and is learning to read. But most of all, she interacts with her peers and has numerous friends at the center.

Excelling in Education

Neha, age 12, attended the government school for four years before joining Sakhi Primary Education Center. At the PEC, Neha is known for being a great student and getting high grades in her classes. But Neha didn't always have access to a good education. She and her family used to live in another village before worsening living conditions and limited sources of income caused them to move to Jodhpur. Now Neha's father works as a painter and her mother works in the market while Neha and her sister learn at the PEC.

Boarding Homes: Where **All** Learn and Live Together

Under the best of circumstances, it is difficult for a young girl growing up in Rajasthan to aspire to have a career, much less one in law enforcement. But 14-year-old Usha is undaunted. Forced to leave school after two years to work as a field laborer, she eventually resumed her education and now is a resident at a Sambhali boarding home where she dreams of becoming a police officer.

Sambhali Trust's Laadli Boarding Home for elementary school students and Sheerni Boarding Home for secondary school students provide girls from rural Rajasthan and impoverished urban neighborhoods in Jaisalmer with stability, nurturing, and communal and educational supports to enable them to become the first women in their families to complete secondary school. Each boarding home has a housemother, cook, and tutors who together work with the girls to place them on a trajectory for success. In addition to a traditional academic curriculum, the girls receive computer instruction, take classes in self-defense, develop sewing skills, and attend workshops on topics such as health, legal rights, and the environment. And through the communal environment of the boarding homes, the girls develop leadership skills fueled by mutual sustenance and encouragement.

Sambhali Trust's boarding homes provide an environment that enables girls to complete their secondary education. And it goes beyond that. Having already achieved more than they thought possible when they started school, many girls go to college. They can continue their education because Sambhali now runs a third boarding home, Abhayasthali, which is home to ten young women who previously attended the Sheerni Boarding Home and now are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Thanks to your support and the work of Sambhali Trust, Usha may well realize her dream of becoming a police officer.





Overcoming Obstacles to Pursue an Education

In 2012, Sanjana moved from her village to a Sambhali boarding home in Jodhpur to continue her education. This was a tough choice for her parents, but they knew that their limited resources for an education would hold her back in life. The boarding home offered Sanjana a comprehensive curriculum of schoolwork and life skills. As Sanjana has gotten older, she's become a mentor to younger girls. As a first-year college student, Sanjana chose to take on the responsibility to help the younger boarding home students with everything from studies to dancing to working through their personal challenges. Despite the difficult path on which Sanjana began, she's paved a new road well beyond that. She's determining her own future while encouraging the girls around her to follow their dreams.

Creating a Path to a Fulfilling Future

When Priya joined Sambhali at just 13 years old, she couldn't imagine how her life would change because of the education and support she received at the Sheerni Boarding Home—let alone how she would change the lives of so many other girls. Before joining Sambhali, Priya was receiving a poor education from a village school. She broke through this barrier and became the first girl from a Sambhali boarding home to graduate from secondary school and the first to attend college. Today, Priya has earned her college degree and a Master of Arts degree in Geography. She is working on a degree in education to qualify for teaching at the high school level. She opened the door to what was possible and changed expectations not only for herself, but for the other boarding home girls and for other girls in her village. It's an impressive legacy for a young woman of 24.



Sambhali U.S. thanks the Circle of Sisterhood for its support of the Abhayasthali Boarding Home. This U.S. organization of college-educated women and their supporters has reached across the world to help other women realize their college dreams.

Nirbhaya: Changing **Expectations** About Gender-based Violence

Gender-based violence is a worldwide problem. But it is especially pernicious in Rajasthan where nearly a quarter of ever-married women between the ages of 18 and 49 have experienced physical or sexual violence and where women are pressured to keep silent about “family matters.” That, combined with a lack of education and financial resources, leaves women at the mercy of their husbands, their in-laws, and a biased legal system. The LGBTQ+ community, including hijras, (intersex and transgender people who look and dress in traditionally feminine ways) also are marginalized in Indian society and face ongoing harassment and gender-based violence.

With your generous support, Sambhali U.S. funds the Nirbhaya project, which operates a toll-free helpline providing direct assistance to women and members of the LGBTQ+ community facing gender-based violence. Nirbhaya offers critically timed psychological intervention and legal support as well as access to medical and other crisis services. During 2023, Nirbhaya fielded 1,396 calls from the state of Rajasthan and provided direct services to 151 people in Jodhpur. These services included aid in filing police complaints, direct legal assistance, and trauma and couples counseling. Nirbhaya also delivers a robust educational program, reaching nearly 4,000 people through workshops and information distribution to advise women about their legal rights and the support available through Sambhali Trust—including the Empowerment Centers and emergency shelter for women and their children facing gender-based violence.



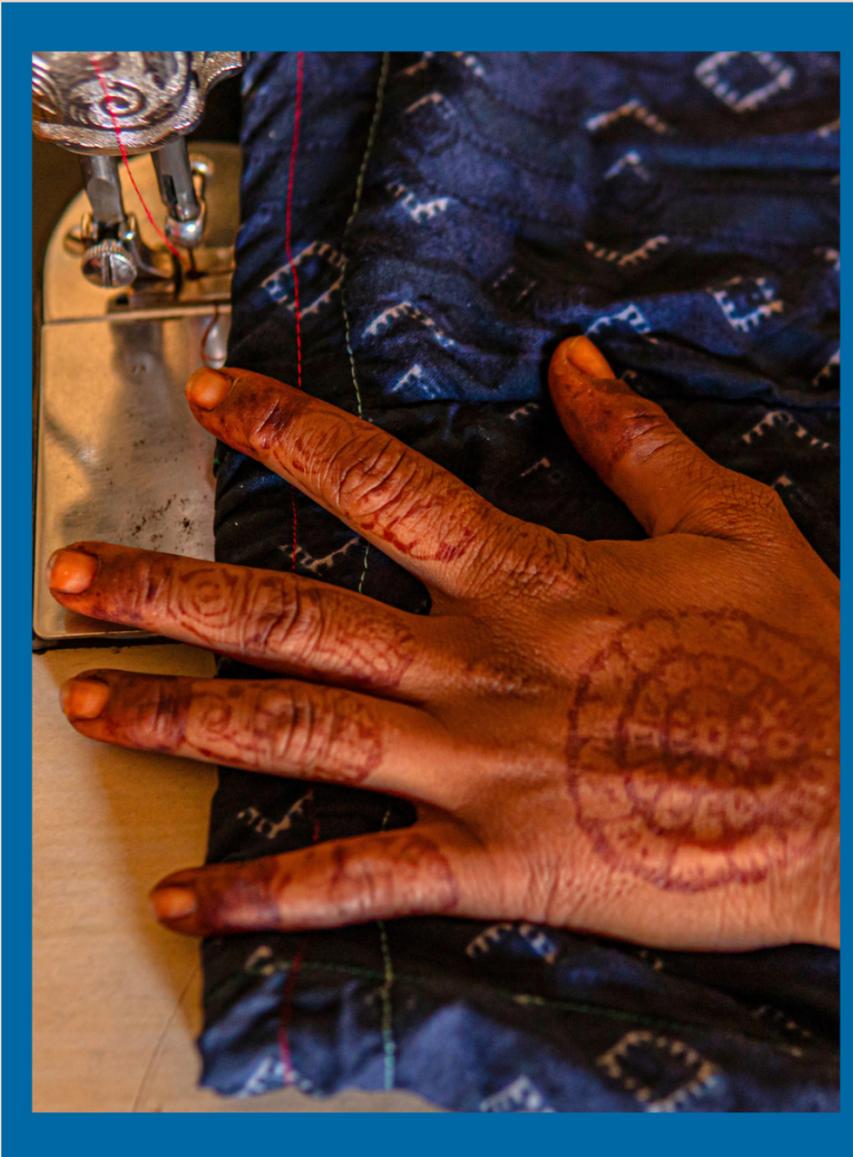
Helping to Unravel a Web of Abuse

Misha learned about the Nirbhaya project at a workshop while she was a student at a Sambhali Empowerment Center. She told Nirbhaya staff of the ongoing physical and psychological abuse by her husband as well as his criminal activity and addiction issues. Her husband refused to enter into counseling or treatment for his addiction.

Misha worked with Sambhali lawyer Shivani Singh to file a case under India's domestic violence laws seeking compensation, child custody, maintenance, and protection against further abuse by her husband. When her husband's response was an escalation of his attacks, Shivani successfully obtained a restraining order as well as compensation available under the Indian legal system for survivors of domestic violence. Shivani also helped Misha file for divorce. It is likely to take an additional six to eight months for the case to be resolved, at which time Misha will become eligible for additional government benefits. Not waiting for the legal process to conclude, Misha has already been able to get a job and set up a household with her son.

Working Toward a Better Future

Nidhi, a mother of three daughters, was pregnant with her fourth child when her husband and in-laws forced her out of her home, saying she could return only if she gave birth to a son. Nidhi went to live with her mother and cleaned homes for a small wage. Nidhi joined the Fatima Empowerment Center and received counseling through Sambhali's Nirbhaya project. Through counseling, her husband and in-laws saw the cruelty they subjected her to and apologized to Nidhi. Thanks to the support she gained through Sambhali, Nidhi is back living happily with her husband and children.

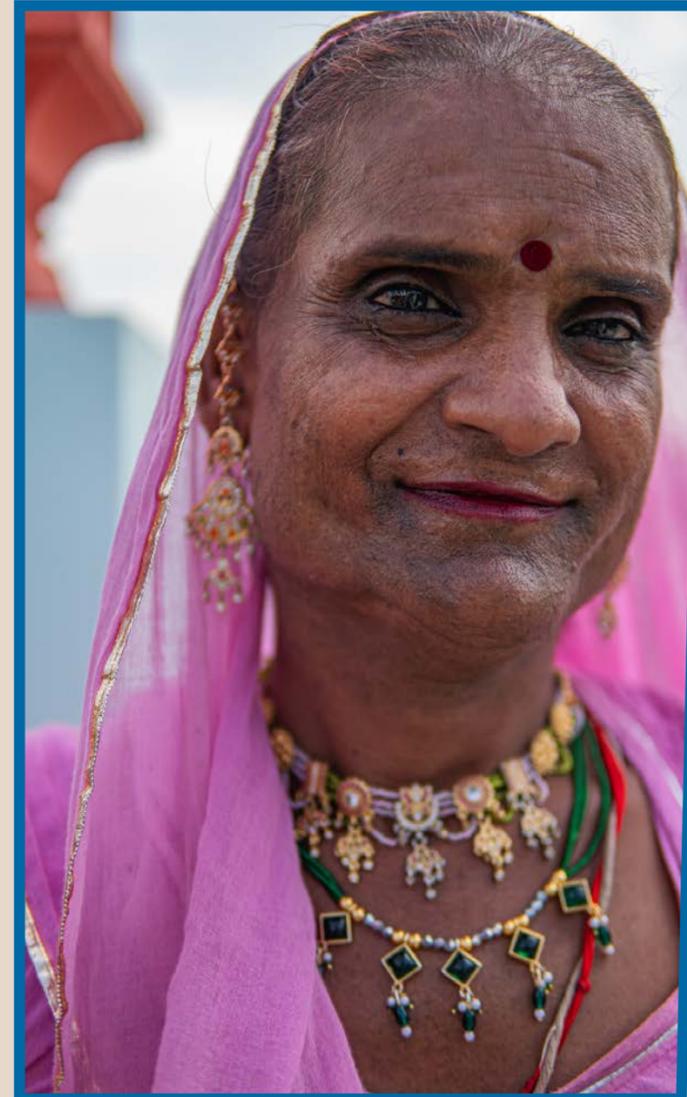


Sambhali Helps to Make Rights a Reality in the Hijra Community

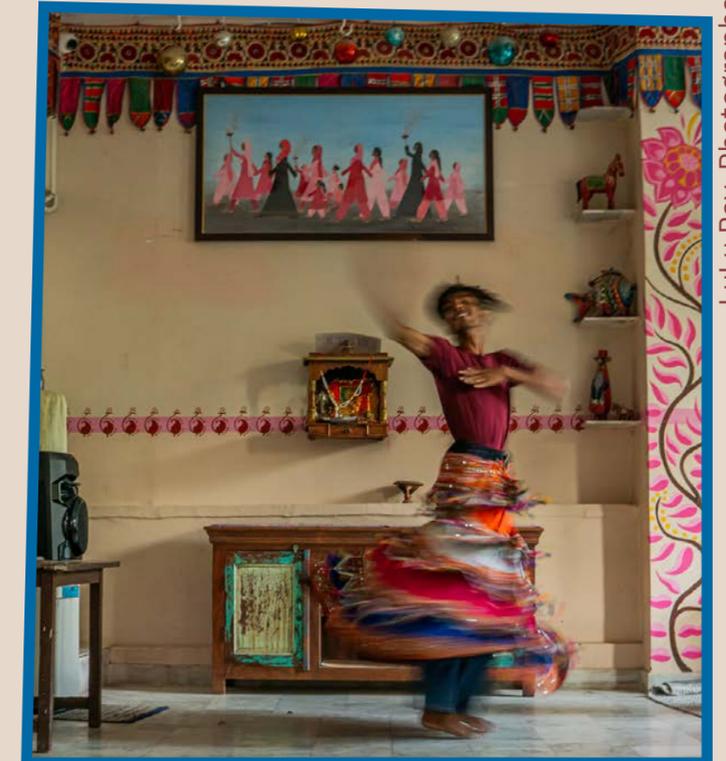
The Nirbhaya project helps provide critical support and advocacy to hijras, intersex and transgender people who look and dress in traditionally feminine ways. Hijra identity is complex, as is the language used to describe it which includes both legal and traditional references to the third gender and, more recently, to transgender. Also complex is the status of hijras in Indian society. Historically, hijras were seen as members of the divinity and bearers of good blessings. Today, beyond performing religious rituals, hijras live on the margins of Indian society. Their main sources of income outside of religious ceremonies are from begging and as sex workers.

In 2014, India officially recognized hijras as citizens deserving of equal rights. Sambhali is dedicated to making that recognition a reality. Sambhali's Nirbhaya project offers support to hijras against gender-based violence and harassment and provides legal, psychological, and day-to-day aid.

Sambhali's impact extends westward from Jodhpur to Barmer and Jaisalmer, where staff has worked to assist hijra and other members of the transgender community in obtaining voter IDs and the transgender cards that are necessary to obtain services from the government. Sambhali also has applied to secure rights in dedicated wards in hospitals for transgender populations. This is work done in partnership with Sambhali's Garima ("dignity") project that provides a safe drop-in center, seminars, and other educational initiatives for members of the LGBTQ+ community.



Sophie LaFrance, Photographers Without Borders



LuLu Ray, Photographers Without Borders

Aadarsh: Empowering Safety for **All** Children



To counter child and sexual abuse, vulnerable youth need to learn how to recognize the problem—and how to say “no!” That is just one part of Sambhali Trust’s No Bad Touch workshop, which teaches young children what sexual abuse is and how to take action and access resources in response to abuse. Jodhpur’s first educational program to openly address the issue of sexual abuse, No Bad Touch is provided to children at public and private schools across Jodhpur and at Sambhali Empowerment Centers and Primary Education Centers. Sambhali staff also hold conferences for local government agencies and community leaders to encourage them to take action to counter sexual abuse.

For teenagers, Sambhali Trust runs the Save Youth/Save Nation workshop to provide them with important information on the physical, mental, and emotional effects of puberty. It covers the reproductive system, menstruation, staying safe online, sexual harassment, and mental health.

Together, these two workshops comprise the program called Aadarsh, which means “ideal” in Hindi. Thanks to your support, Sambhali is reaching thousands of children and youth yearly, providing them with essential information so that they can navigate childhood and adolescence safely.

SUStenance Events: Building Our Circle Beyond

A key part of Sambhali U.S.'s mission is telling the stories of the women and girls in the Sambhali programs. In 2023, we launched a series of in-person SUStenance (Sambhali U.S.) events, gatherings of Sambhali supporters and their networks to spread awareness of how Sambhali Trust empowers Rajasthani women and girls to rewrite their futures and change expectations. The events can take place in home, corporate, or community settings. At SUStenance events, hosts and board members share their connections to the work of Sambhali Trust and give interested attendees information about how they can participate, whether financially or through volunteering. Five SUStenance events in 2023 reached over 130 people, bringing in new donor support and volunteers. We look forward to expanding our reach in 2024.



Our Volunteers: Always Going Beyond Our **Expectations**



Board members representing Sambhali U.S. (clockwise from left): Tanmay Juneja, Carlea Bauman, and Dina Baker

In 2023, our nine-member Board of Directors and numerous volunteers pooled their diverse backgrounds and talents to drive Sambhali U.S. forward. Many of us have volunteered at or visited Sambhali Trust. Our team has decades of expertise in fundraising, communications, volunteer engagement, and non-profit management.

Collectively, our professional and on-the-ground experiences provide the Sambhali U.S. leadership with a greater ability to support programs in Rajasthan and direct funds to achieve the greatest impact for the programs designed and determined in India by Sambhali Trust. Our six committees encompass board members and other devoted volunteers. They meet regularly, strategize, and work to advance our mission. The committees include Communications, Development, Executive, Finance, Governance and Board Development, and Volunteer Engagement.

The members of the Board of Directors also share a commitment to responsible and transparent management. This is reflected in the Platinum ranking we have earned with the charity rating organization GuideStar. [Read more about our Board of Directors here.](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Harini Varadarajan Goes Beyond Boundaries

Traversing international boundaries is nothing new for Harini Varadarajan. Born in India, and now making her home in Houston, Texas, she has lived in many places throughout the world and still travels frequently to her birthplace to visit friends and relatives. Her experiences and observations of life in India sparked a passion for improving the lives of Indian women.

As a Hindi speaker, Harini communicates directly with the women and girls participating in Sambhali programs and translates their experiences for Sambhali U.S. supporters. She is responsible for some of the accounts presented in this report, as well as the stories we tell through newsletters and other media throughout the year.

Along with Barbara Epp, an American living in Germany, Harini serves on our organization's multinational research team. Harini and Barbara provide vital information about key topics such as education and literacy levels in India, Rajasthan, and the neighborhoods Sambhali Trust serves.

For Harini, the work is personal. "As a woman who has grown up in India with many of the social norms and double standards, I'm happy to see such wonderful changes and to be a part of Sambhali contributing to this change."



“Harini is such an asset to our committee. It’s not just that she speaks Hindi; she understands the culture and challenges the women face. She knows the right questions to ask to get deep and meaningful stories.”

Ginka Poole
Vice President of Sambhali U.S. and chair of
the Communications Committee

Technical Assistance and the Foundations Team: Expanding Our Volunteer **Expectations**

Since our inception, we have been telling the stories of the women and girls of Sambhali, raising funds to support Sambhali Trust programs, and recruiting volunteers. Less apparent has been our work supplying technical assistance to Sambhali Trust. This enables Sambhali Trust to dedicate funds to other critical needs and expand its impact. Among other projects, Sambhali U.S. volunteers helped Sambhali Trust upgrade its website and develop systems for effective tracking of visitors and beneficiaries of Sambhali's programs. As Sambhali Trust is a fully Indian-run organization, Sambhali U.S. provides this support only when requested by Sambhali Trust staff.

In 2023, the Sambhali U.S. Foundations Team began working alongside Sambhali Trust staff and volunteers to research and identify a wide range of funding opportunities. Some foundations will fund only those nonprofits registered in the U.S., while others prefer to directly fund grassroots organizations on the ground where they are working. Our team helps draft grant applications to funders in both categories.

The Foundations Team, composed of volunteers Lynn Broadbent, Susan Olson, Sandhya Murthy, Nishita Challa, Jeanne Miller, and Ina Lee kicked into high gear in 2023, successfully obtaining a \$10,000 grant from the Circle of Sisterhood to support the Abhayasthali Boarding Home for college students. With more applications in the pipeline, the Foundations Team is spreading the word about Sambhali and its mission and establishing a steady financial base from which we can expand our support for women and girls in Rajasthan.

2023 was spent strengthening the Foundations Team by adding new members, streamlining ways of researching and managing data, and finding ever more engaging ways to tell the powerful stories of Sambhali. While this team works hard to seek grants, we are learning so much from our Sambhali sisters. We know that ultimately positive change comes out of commitment, courage, and the power of collective action—so much more than money can buy. We trust that every time we share the stories of how Sambhali has helped to transform lives, somebody hears.

Lynn Broadbent



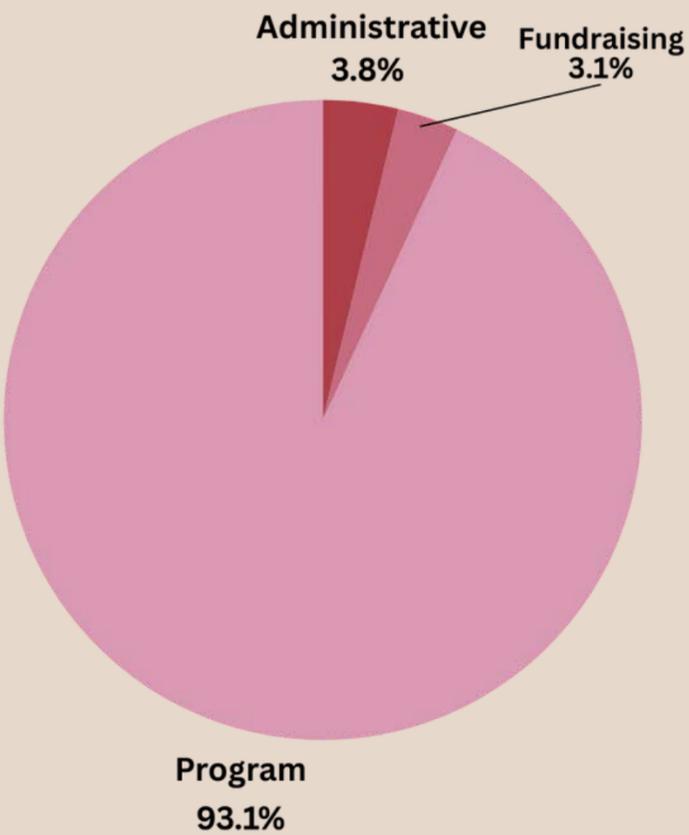
Financials: Growing Beyond Expectations

Thanks to the generous support of our growing and diverse community of supporters, Sambhali U.S. fundraising in 2023 far exceeded prior years, garnering a total income of \$134,662. By maintaining an all-volunteer organization and keeping administrative and fundraising expenditures low, Sambhali U.S. ensures that your contributions have the greatest direct impact on the women and girls of Rajasthan. Last year, 93% of our total expenditures went directly to Sambhali Trust programs.

Income



Expenses



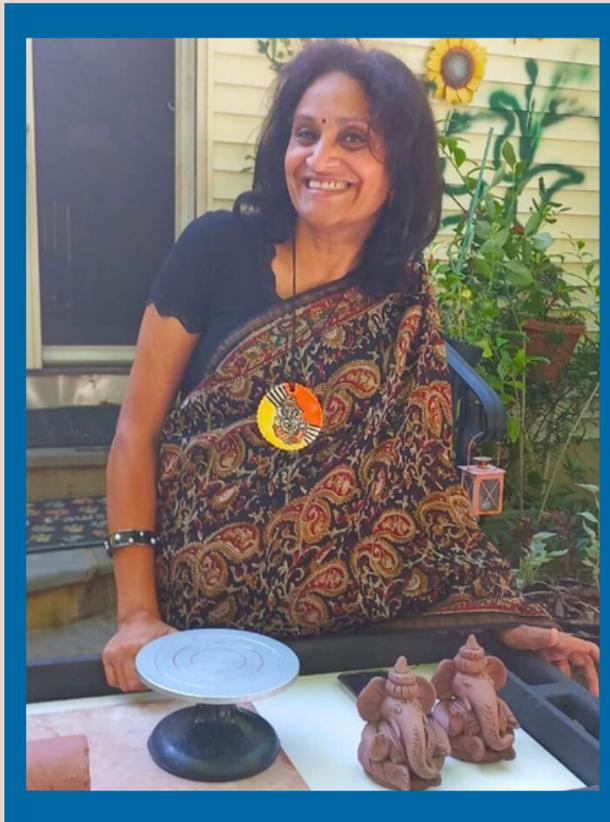
Donor Spotlight: Savitha Rao Is **All In** for Sambhali U.S.

Savitha Rao, a native of Bangalore, India, moved to the U.S. in 1990. Since 2015, she has combined her love of pottery making with her passion for improving the lives of women in her homeland.

In 2023, she attended a SUSTenance event where she donated the proceeds of one of her pottery sales to the organization. As she explained, “I have always looked for charities that support women and girls. As much as you want to believe things have changed, parts of the world are very patriarchal. Girls still have a hard time. Women still suffer. Obviously, Sambhali U.S. fits right in. It lines up with what I want to do.”

From there, Savitha’s involvement with Sambhali U.S. grew. She runs workshops where participants build clay Ganesha, the Hindu god of wisdom and luck. During Ganesha festivals, it is traditional to place figurines of the god in Hindu homes. Savitha always donates the proceeds of the workshops to worthy causes. This year that included Sambhali U.S., with Savitha contributing enough to fund five women at a Sambhali Empowerment Center. Beyond that, the workshops brought new donors and volunteers, generating growing excitement and interest in Sambhali. Says Savitha, “It’s a win-win situation for everybody, including me. For me, it’s the most spiritual, most soul-satisfying thing I do.” But that wasn’t all for Savitha. At her suggestion, the Kaveri Kannada Association donated funds to enable three children to attend a Sambhali Primary Education Center.

In March of 2024, Savitha was thrilled to visit Sambhali Trust. “Being at Sambhali and seeing first-hand the centers with women and girl students, the boarding homes of the girls, and interacting with each of them, was my single most amazing experience ever.”



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