



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

SAMBHALI TRUST

Sambhali Trust
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Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year at Sambhali Trust, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. Our mission to support and uplift women, children, and people from the gender minority in Rajasthan remains at the heart of everything we do, and this year's achievements are a testament to our shared dedication.

This year marked a significant expansion as we extended our services to Jaisalmer, one of Rajasthan's most underdeveloped areas. Our goal is to break the cycle of poverty by providing education and economic opportunities to women and children. The warm welcome we received from the community has strengthened our commitment to making a lasting difference.

In Jodhpur and Setrawa, our Empowerment Centres and Boarding Homes have continued to grow and flourish. Since 2007, we have reached over 62,351 women and children, and I am especially proud of the 1,076 women who graduated from our Empowerment Centres and the 3,207 students who benefited from our Scholarship Project. Their resilience and determination are truly inspiring.

However, it has been a challenging year for fundraising due to the global economic situation. Facing a lack of resources, we had to shut down the Fatima Empowerment Centre after August 2023. Additionally, two Empowerment Centres (Astitva in Jaisalmer closed due to a shortage of donors. Thankfully, we managed to reopen one in the neighborhood, allowing women from the closed centres to continue their education and training with us.

Our Primary Education Centres (PECs) have shown remarkable outcomes. Many children who never attended school are now enrolled, and those who are first-generation learners receive the support they need to excel. The ongoing work in the community, including parent-teacher meetings, is helping education become more accepted in poorer areas and preventing child labour. Students can stay for up to two years, gaining a strong foundation for their future education.



We have expanded our focus on computer education with two new tutors in Jodhpur, one in Setrawa, and one in Jaisalmer. The aim is to teach essential digital skills, foster problem-solving abilities, encourage creativity, and prepare students for future technological advancements.

We are incredibly proud of our college graduates this year. Manisha, who was in her first year of MA, has returned to Setrawa to conduct computer lessons in Setrawa PEC. Lalita, who completed her B.Sc., is now a tutor at PEC in Setrawa. Aasu, Naktu, and Leela, who are in their third year, have returned home but will come back for exams or practicals. Notably, two of them have become teachers in their village school. It's inspiring to see them giving back to their communities and making a difference.

We have seen an increasing number of volunteers from various countries joining us. Their diverse perspectives and dedication enrich our community. Special thanks to Tasha Stoppler from Germany for her invaluable two years of service.

In Jodhpur, we actively engage with various government departments on crucial topics. During COVID-19, our major initiatives included raising awareness about safety measures, helping with medical equipment, and distributing masks and rations. We participated in the SMILE initiative, focusing on transgender rights and awareness programs. We demanded the presence of women inspectors during the arrest of women and filed a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) for separate wards in government hospitals for transgender individuals. Sambhali's input has been instrumental in influencing local government decisions, ensuring the rights and needs of marginalized communities are addressed.

We are excited about the upcoming Sambhali Sarai project, which will start soon. Our ongoing Project Garima continues to support LGBTQIA+ individuals, and we remain committed to helping vulnerable individuals through initiatives like this.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our Associates: Sarah Harrington (Sambhali UK), Shereen Arent (Sambhali USA), Mag. Ernestine Badegruber (Sambhali Austria), and Roxanne Naschen (Sambhali Germany). Special thanks to Ginka Poole and Corinne Rose for their invaluable contributions. We also extend our gratitude to new donors such as Copy Club, Nathalie Nowick, Flo Bornecque-Rousseau, and Jill Ford.

As we move forward into the next year, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our donors, volunteers and partners. Your unwavering support and belief in our mission enable us to create meaningful change and help individuals lead independent and dignified lives.

Thank you for being a crucial part of Sambhali Trust. Together, we will continue to build a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

With warm regards,

Govind Singh Rathore
Founder, Sambhali Trust



Our Mission

IN HINDI, SAMBHALI MEANS "STRENGTHENING OF THE DEPRIVED". WE BELIEVE IN A GRASSROOTS MODEL FOR LASTING, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EMPOWERMENT FOSTERING DIGNITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE, ENCOURAGING DEPRIVED RAJASTHANI WOMEN TO RECLAIM THEIR WORTH.



Founded in Jodhpur in 2007 by Govind Singh Rathore, Sambhali Trust is a non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering the women, girls and deprived communities of Rajasthan. It was granted Special Consultative Status at the ECOSOC (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) in 2015.

Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty and dependence by providing underprivileged communities and groups with a safe space in which they can get a formal education and vocational training in valuable, marketable skills. This will enhance their opportunities and provide for a better life.

In order to do so, we navigate between three major poles: education, financial independence and community. We provide access to a formal education in Hindi, Maths and English, and training in traditional income-generating skills such as sewing and embroidery. We also organise and monitor self-help groups which teach women how to save money, gain access to loans, create small enterprises of their own or provide for themselves. Last but not least, they have the chance to enter and build networks of lasting communities, whether it be a sisterhood with the other members of the centres or in the professional sphere.

In this way, we believe our underprivileged communities can embrace and embody Sambhali Trust's core pillars: self-esteem, unity and independence.

Overview of 2023-2024

Empowerment Centres and Primary Education Centres

The Empowerment Centres are the core project of Sambhali Trust. Each year, they offer the opportunity for more women and children to have access to education and achieve financial independence. Between our three locations in Jodhpur, Setrawa and Jaisalmer, 1,140 new women and children joined our programme this year.

Scholarship Programme

We provide scholarships to children from households that cannot afford to pay for an education. This year, 292 children received a scholarship and were able to attend school. Since 2007, 3,207 underprivileged children have been given an opportunity to study within our scholarship programme.

Aadarsh Project

The Aadarsh project works to prevent child sexual abuse in local schools and colleges, as well as educate children attending our centres. 3,165 new children have benefited from the project this year. Since it's inception, 23,439 children have received an education in the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Garima Project

Recently established, the Garima project works to support members of the LGBTQIA+ community. This year, 214 members participated in the project.

Boarding Homes

Our boarding homes enable girls living in small villages to have access to proper education and to establish a healthy routine with the help of housemothers. This year, 75 girls are participating in this program, 17 of which started this year.

Nirbhaya Project

This has been a huge part of Sambhali's work. Through a toll-free helpline, 1325 women and girls sought legal and professional counselling this year. Since the project started in 2014, 14,723 women and girls have received help via this project.

Microfinance Project

Operated through 'Self-Help' Groups, this project enables women to attain financial independence via a mutually shared fund and business trainings. This year, 80 women benefited from the project.





Sambhali Trust Projects



सम्भाली

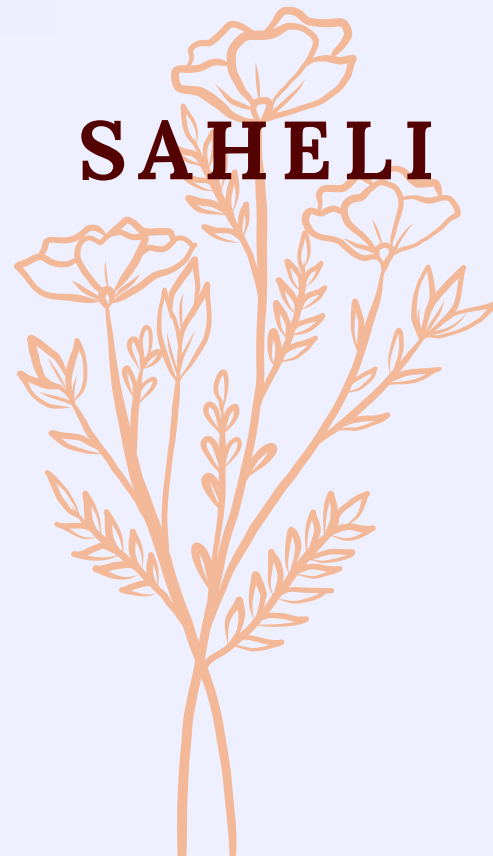
- Empowerment Centres
- Microfinance Project
- Government Linkage

- Primary Education Centres
- Boarding Homes
- Scholarship programme

- Nirbhaya Helpline
- Aadarsh Project
- Garima Project
- Nirbhaya Project

- Market Linkage
- Sambhali Boutique

SAHELI



SHIKSHA



SAMARTH

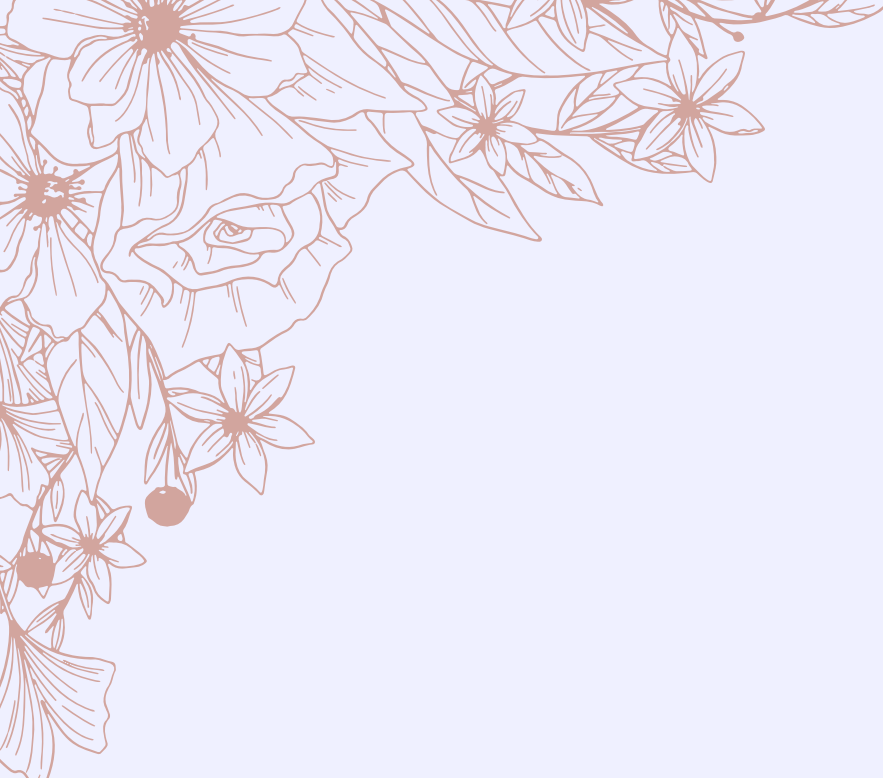


SUTRA





ONGOING PROJECTS



SAMBHALI SAHELI

At Empowerment Centres, underprivileged girls and women receive a primary education and vocational training in order to obtain a degree of autonomy. In addition, they participate in a variety of workshops in areas such as self-esteem, self-worth, current affairs and social matters. Through microfinance projects, and government and market linkage, they are given a chance to gain financial independence.



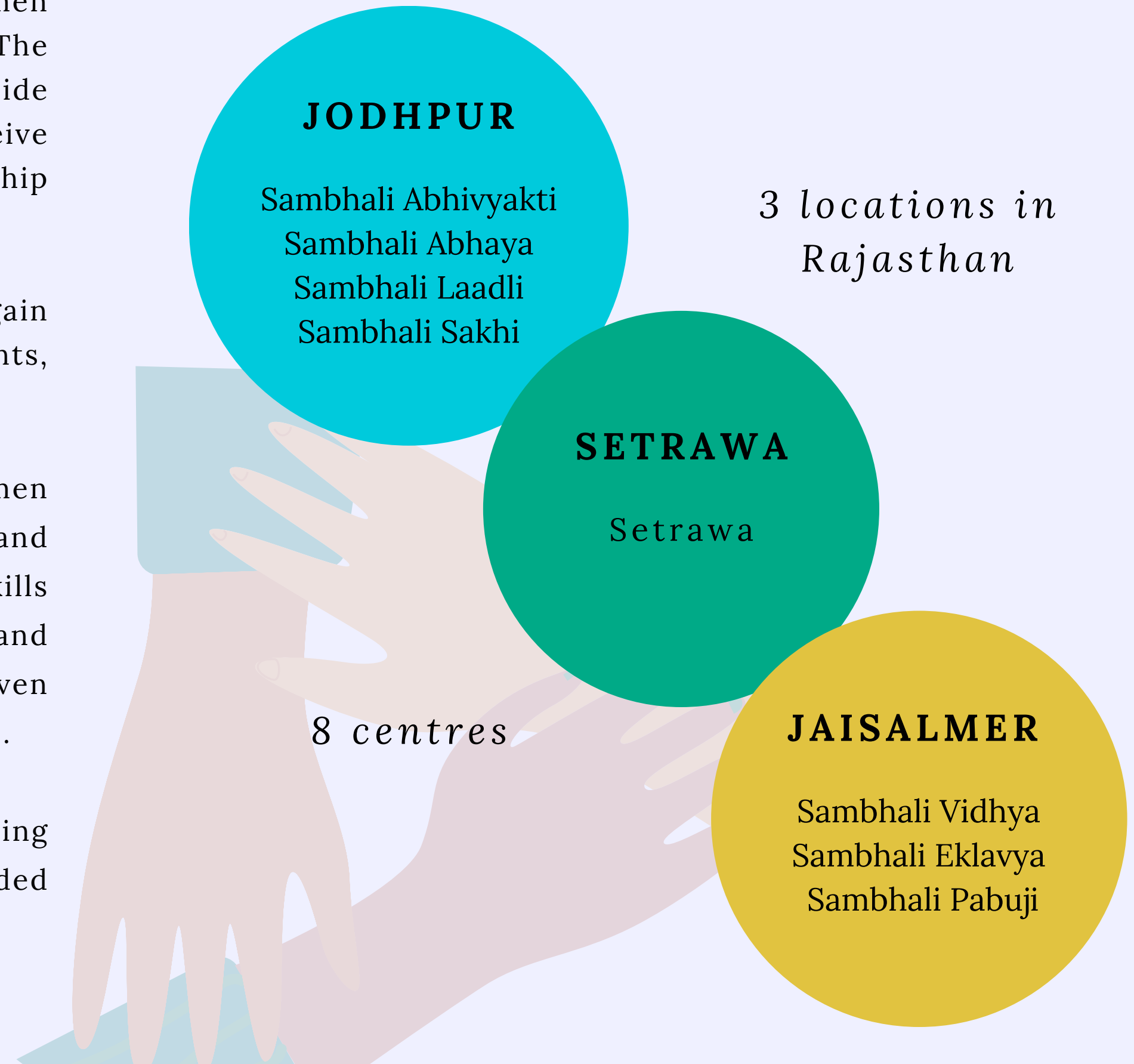
EMPOWERMENT CENTRES (EC)

Empowerment Centres provide a year-long programme to women and teenage girls with little to no educational background. The programme focuses on Hindi, Mathematics and English alongside vocational training in Sewing and Embroidery. They also receive training in self-defense, business management and leadership skills.

Through Educational Workshops on Wednesdays, they gain knowledge on a range of topics such as human rights, environment, history, women's health, politics and geography.

The goal of these Empowerment Centres is to encourage women to develop their self-esteem and improve their confidence and self-expression. In addition, they provide them with the skills necessary to gain financial independence through sewing and selling their products in the Sambhali Boutique. They are given the opportunity to earn an income by developing their business.

Empowerment is not limited to economic aspects. By addressing various facets of life, the centres aim to create a well-rounded support system that promotes overall growth and development.





The education of our women gives them the opportunity to learn, but more importantly they can progress and specialise in a craft that they may have already had some experience with due to previous necessity. They are able to practice with different tools, fabrics and threads which they don't generally have access to. From making an item of clothing from start to finish, table cloths, stuffed animals and bags to crocheting various items, our women are fully trained and capable of earning, allowing them to be independent.

Our women take pride in their work, with each stitch and seam a testament to their skill and dedication. With every project, they not only create beautiful and functional items but also weave and develop a sense of community and empowerment among themselves. The transformation from raw materials to a finished product mirrors their personal journeys. Their success is a testament to the power of education, community, and the unwavering belief in their own potential.



Workshops at the Empowerment Centres

- Women are given advice on health, daily hygiene, sanitation and practical nutrition according to the available produce in Jodhpur and Setrawa at the time.
- Workshops are conducted on Women's Rights and on the prevention of sexual abuse under Sambhali's No Bad Touch programme (Aadarsh Project).
- Periodic health camps and doctor's visits are arranged throughout the year to review women's health and provide medicines as needed (funded by Sambhali Trust).
- Women also engage in festivals, cultural and educational activities organised by the Trust including dances for national holidays such as Diwali, Holi Festival and Independence Day.

Reporting Requirements

- Student attendance register
- Attendance register for staff and volunteers
- Register of the workshops carried out
- Monthly reports of activities and workshops with photos

- Women's Day
- World Down Syndrome Day
- World Forest Day
- World Water Day
- Women Entrepreneur
- World Autism Awareness Day
- Bullying and its Prevention
- Sports as a Career
- Gender Equality
- International Labour Day
- Harrapan Civilisation
- Emergency Ambulance
- World Blood Donor Day
- Draught
- Human Trafficking
- Social Institutions
- Fire and Electric Safety
- Independence Day
- Intimate Hygiene and Menstruation
- Nipah Virus
- Green Revolution in India
- Political Parties
- Caste Discrimination
- Domestic Violence
- National Voters Day
- Malala Yousafzai
- Religion in India



GOVERNMENT AND MARKET LINKAGE



Our aim is to establish a connection between the women and the market. Market linkage is carried out by Monica Jod whose focus is to expand the market network. She actively engages with vendors to promote and showcase the work and products of the women from the Empowerment Centres. The goal is to broaden market opportunities and bridge the gap between the product and the buyer. Through collaboration with local businesses and organisations, the centres create pathways for women to gain employment, financial independence and a sense of accomplishment.

Possessing government documents is crucial for empowering individuals and groups. These papers serve as essential legal and administrative instruments, allowing access to rights, resources and opportunities. Specific documents are required to access many government services and benefits. For instance, an Artisan Card not only provides priority access to cultural festival stalls but also enhances the recognition of products. A notable benefit of this card, utilised by eight women in our organisation this year, is the opportunity to receive substantial loan grants.

Government-issued identification documents are often vital for citizens to exercise their right to vote. As part of our efforts, we organised a voter ID issuance camp specifically for transgender individuals. The government linkage programme goes beyond documentation tasks to include awareness workshops. Within this initiative, workshops are held to educate participants about the Indira Gandhi Loan and LIC loans.



NILOFAR'S STORY

At just 21 years of age, Nilofar Bano she made the brave decision to marry for love, a choice that in her community came with significant challenges. Her in-laws, unhappy with the match, subjected her to mistreatment and domestic violence, creating a hostile environment that made daily life a struggle. Despite these hardships, Nilofar remained steadfast in her resolve to build a better future.

Initially, she found solace and purpose at the local centre, where she began to learn sewing — a skill that not only brought her joy but also promised financial independence. However, her journey was interrupted by the news of her pregnancy. Unable to continue her training, she had to put her dreams on hold to focus on the health and well-being of her unborn child. After the birth of her son, Nilofar faced yet another challenge: caring for a newborn while managing her household responsibilities. Her son, now six months old, became her greatest motivation. Determined to provide him with a better life, she returned to the centre. Balancing the demands of motherhood and her aspirations, Nilofar juggled caring for her baby with managing her sewing skills. At the centre, Nilofar's dedication did not go unnoticed. The staff and fellow attendees admired her strength and commitment. She attended advanced sewing workshops, learning new techniques and improving her craft. Her creations began to reflect her meticulous attention to detail and her passion for the art.

Realizing the potential of her talent, the center provided Nilofar with additional support. She received training in financial literacy to manage her earnings and made use of local markets and online platforms to sell her products. The community rallied around her, offering emotional support and even childcare assistance, allowing her to focus more on her work. Nilofar's journey was not easy, but her determination paid off. Her sewn products started gaining popularity, and she began earning a steady income. With each piece she created, she not only improved her financial situation but also reclaimed her sense of self-worth and independence. Through her perseverance, Nilofar transformed her life and set an inspiring example for other women in her community. Her story is a testament to the power of resilience, the importance of support and the impact of financial independence. Nilofar Bano's journey continues, but she now walks a path paved with hope and the promise of a brighter future for herself and her son.





WASINA'S STORY

Wasina had only completed her studies up to the 7th grade and got married at the age of 18. Because her husband was working as a medical representative while also preparing for his medical entrance exams, he was unable to devote much time to the family. As a result, Wasina took up the responsibility of supporting him as well as running a medical store to support the family.

After successfully passing his pre-medical test, her husband started to claim that Wasina was not a suitable match for him, and started developing a relationship with another woman. After this, he began treating Wasina very poorly, expressing his desire for a divorce. When she refused, he resorted to physical abuse and other forms of harm to force her into agreeing to the divorce. Later, he proposed that she could stay with him while he married someone else. However, Islamic law requires the first wife's permission for a second marriage.

We referred her to our Psychologist, Deepti Ma'am, who advised her to take strict action against her husband's abuse. However, Wasina was very afraid to do this. She was even afraid to leave the house and didn't have any means to connect with the outside world. Eventually she joined the Centre and is now sewing and continuing her studies. She has started to gain a little courage and moves around more freely, and for the first time, she has bought her own phone. She is very good at embroidery and has started working for the local market.



MICROFINANCE PROJECT

In 2009, Sambhali Trust initiated a microfinance programme, referred to as Self-Help Groups, aimed at empowering women to achieve financial independence through business and management training.

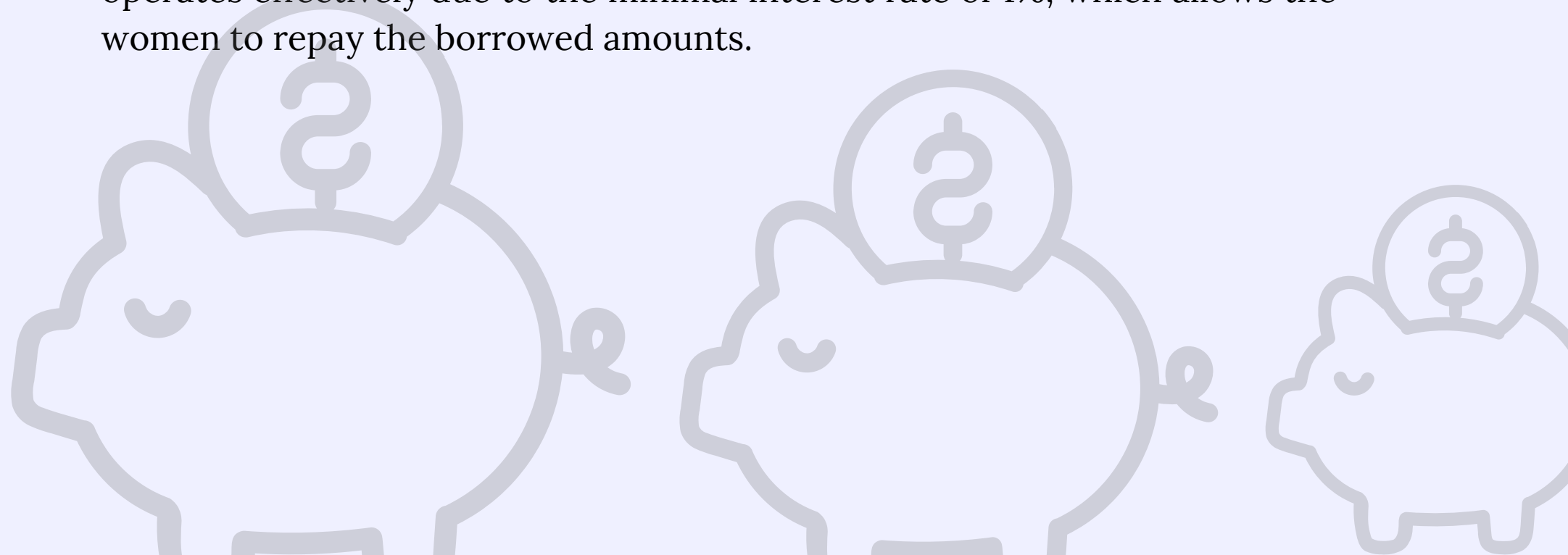
The programme primarily targets women and widows from deprived communities, as well as those who rely solely on their husbands for financial support.

Under this microfinance initiative, the women are organised into groups and each member contributes a small amount of money into a pooled fund each month. At the end of each month, this money is loaned to one woman within the group to start a either a new business, cover medical expenses, pay education fees and more.

Each woman benefits in turn from these Self-Help groups. This system operates effectively due to the minimal interest rate of 1%, which allows the women to repay the borrowed amounts.

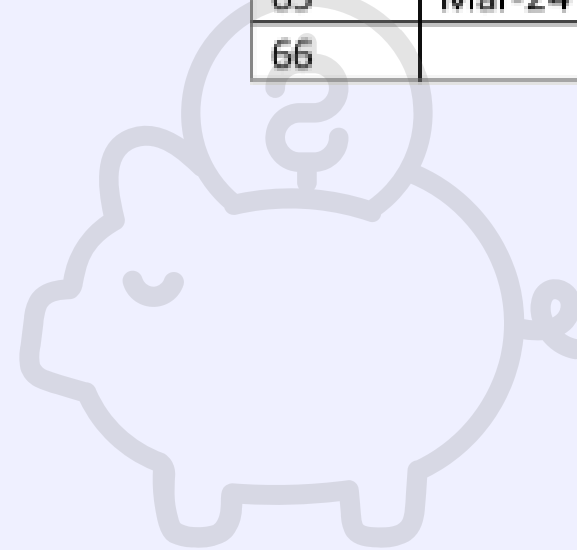
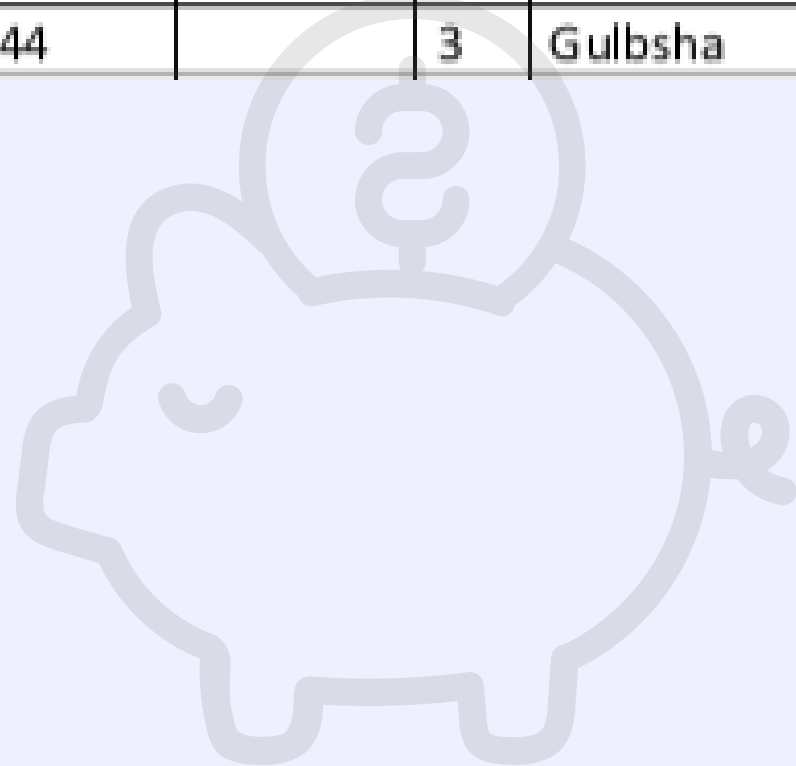
SETRAWA SHG 2023-2024

SN	Month	GN	Name	Amount	Purpose
1	April-23	4	Chirami Devi	20,000	Daughter's Marriage
2		4	Sajiya	10,000	Daughter's Marriage
3	May-23	4	Chandu	5,000	Goat
4		11	Kunta Kanwar	10,000	Shop
5		12	Suman	10,000	House Repair
6		12	Seema	10,000	Door Fix at home
7	June-23	4	Rani	10,000	Son's Marriage
8		11	Mangi Khatri	15,000	Son's Treatment
9	July-23	12	Geeta Devi	12,000	House Repair
10	Aug-23	12	Bhomi Devi	10,000	Treatment
11	Sep-23	12	Pooja Devi	5,000	Father's treatment
12		12	Mamta	16,000	Husband's Treatment
13	Oct-23	5	Sunita	30,000	Husband's Treatment
14		11	Kunta Kanwar	20,000	Shop
15		11	Poonam Khatri	15,000	Child's Treatment
16		12	Radha Devi	10,000	Personal
17	Nov-23	5	Anchi	10,000	Treatment
18		12	Kavaru Devi	9000	Treatment
19	Dec-23	12	Bhagawati	10,000	Daughter's Marriage
20	Jan-24	3	Chhota Devi	16,000	Cow food
21		5	Leela/Bhuraram	17,000	Shop
22		10	Lahara	5,000	Goat
23		10	Madhu	5,000	Goat
24		10	Prem	10,000	Treatment
25		10	Surja	12,500	House Repair
26	Feb-24	4	Indra/rawalram	17,000	House Repair
27		5	Sua/Gangaram	19,000	House Repair
28		12	Poni Devi	14,000	House Repair
29	Mar-24	3	Mathura Devi	6,000	House Repair
30		4	Radha	10,000	Cow food
31		5	Divya	13,000	Treatment
32		6	Meera	4,000	Treatment



JODHPUR SHG 2023-2024

SN	Month	GN	Name	Amount	Purpose
33	April-23	1	Hemlata	12,000	Personal
34		2	Kiran Sarvata	25,000	Son's engagement
35		3	Mumtaz Rafeeqe	15,000	Personal
36	May-23	1	Snehlata Gehlot	5,000	Child's Fees
37		1	Afsana	20,000	Marriage
38		2	Deepika Jod	28,000	Treatment
39		3	Aliya Kausar	46,000	House Construction
40	June-23	2	Mamta Gharu	18,000	Husband's Treatment
41		3	Rekha Pandit	13,000	Roof Construction
42	July-23	1	Shakuntla Kaur	10,000	Sewing Machine
43		2	Basanti	14,000	Child's Fees
44		3	Gulbsha	5,000	Personal
45		3	Shainaz	8,500	Personal
46	Aug-23	1	Runi	10,000	Treatment for Father in law
47		1	Snehlata Gehlot	10,000	Children's School Fees
48		2	Shilpa Tejawani	15,000	Children's School Fees
49	Oct-23	1	Rita	30,000	House maintenance
50		2	Monica Jod	40,500	Personal
51		3	Gulbsha	7,000	Personal
52		3	Jeenat	30,000	Roof Construction
53	Nov-23	1	Saroj Kanwar	15,500	Personal
54		2	Vandana Barasa	20,000	Mother Treatment
55		3	Shainaz	29,000	Personal
56	Dec-23	1	Sarita	7,000	Personal
57		1	Shainaz	25,000	Personal
58		3	Aliya	17,000	Construction
59	Jan-24	1	Hemlata	20,000	Mother's Treatment
60		2	Deepika /Pushpa	20,000	Children's Fees
61		3	Shainaz	17000	Personal
62	Feb-24	1	Sarita	10,000	Children's Fees
63		2	Mamta Gharu	22,500	Treatment for Father in law
64		3	Ruksana Bano	20,000	Personal
65	Mar-24	1	Snehlata Gehlot	10,000	Children's Fees
66		3	Rekha Pandit	14,000	Children's Fees



KALAVITA'S STORY

Kalavati Khatri, aged 52, has a husband who works in the private sector. They have five children, three of whom are married. Due to their poor financial situation, they sent one of their daughters, Priya Khatri, to one of our boarding homes where she completed her education.

Since 2009, Kalavati has been associated with Self Help Group No. 3. She took a loan from the group and started her own shop, where she began selling stitching materials like thread, buttons, hooks etc. The women from the village started buying these items from her. She also started doing sewing work. Today she earns Rs. 10,000 per month from her shop.





SAMBHALI SHIKSHA

This programme is divided into 3 projects, all equally important in terms of providing an accessible and quality education. Firstly, it enables boys and girls without access to education to attend school via Primary Education Centres (PEC). Here, they can also receive assistance with homework and other school-related tasks.



Secondly, this initiative provides shelter to girls in elementary and secondary school, as well as young women in college (previously at Sheerni Boarding Home) through our 3 boarding homes. Here they receive quality education, accommodation, free meals, daily tutoring, computer training and self-defense classes. They also receive assistance with homework and other school-related tasks.

Sambhali Shiksha programme also grants scholarships to support children from families that lack the resources to have access to education.



PRIMARY EDUCATION CENTRES (PEC)

Within the Empowerment Centres, the Primary Education Centers (PEC) are designed for children aged 5 to 12. These centres enable 350 children, who are either not enrolled in school or have irregular attendance, to receive education. They are taught Hindi, Maths and English. This helps some children acquire the necessary skills to enter school while providing tutoring to others.

The impact of the PEC is profound, opening doors to opportunities that these children might not otherwise have had. By providing an educational foundation, the centres are not only improving literacy and numeracy rates but are also instilling confidence and hope in the young minds they touch. These efforts are a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in transforming lives and building a brighter future for all.

Children also participate in a variety of activities, including self-defense classes, computer courses, and workshops on sexual education, emotions and body awareness. Those who lack basic necessities receive medical examinations and necessary care. Many are the children of the women enrolled in the Empowerment Centres.





The centres, managed by teachers, welcome women in the morning and children in the afternoon. Volunteers assist in organising and giving classes in Hindi, Maths, and English.

In the afternoons, the centres turn into vibrant hubs of youthful energy. Children arrive with bright smiles and eager eyes, ready to dive into their lessons. The volunteers are a combination of Indian college students on internships or people who come to us from overseas.

The dual focus on women and children not only enhances educational outcomes but also strengthens the fabric of the community. Women, equipped with new skills and knowledge, become role models for their children, creating a culture of lifelong learning. The centres become more than just places of education; they are sanctuaries of hope, where dreams are nurtured and futures are built.

A typical day at a centre :

11 a.m to 2.00 p.m: classes for women
2.30 p.m to 4.30 p.m: classes for children



Workshops at the Primary Education Centre

- Monthly tests are used to monitor the progress of each student and to provide feedback to our donors.
 - Attendance and workshop reporting systems are kept in line with those of the Empowerment Centres.
 - Two tutors are employed in each centre to teach Hindi and Maths, whilst Sambhali volunteers provide English and sometimes Maths lessons together with educational workshops.
 - Learning methods are playful and interactive.
 - Workshops are held every Wednesday to enhance general knowledge appropriate for their age, gender, and comprehension. These include workshops on the education and prevention of sexual abuse, as part of Sambhali's No Bad Touch programme (Aadarsh Project).
 - Periodic health camps and visits by doctors during the year are done to review the children's health, providing medicines when necessary. As the provision of medicines is an unknown cost, this is provided by Sambhali Trust.
 - All children receive fundamental guidance on health, daily hygiene and sanitation, along with practical nutrition advice according to the available produce in Jodhpur and Setrawa at the time.
 - They also participate in festivals, cultural and educational programmes organised by the Trust such as dancing on national holidays such as Diwali, Holi Festival and Independence Day
- Solar System
 - World Water Day
 - Bullying and its Prevention
 - Gender Equality
 - Juvenile Justice Act
 - Gender Stereotypes
 - International Yoga Day
 - Emergency Ambulance
 - Anti Child Labour Day
 - Fire and Electric Safety
 - Independence Day
 - Pollination
 - Malala Yousafzai
 - Gender Roles
 - Benefits of Reading
 - Human Body and Brain
 - 10 Most Endangered Species of India
 - Delhi Air Pollution
 - Gaza War
 - Five Senses
 - Mountain Ranges
 - Public Speaking
 - Excess Use of Social Media
 - World Education Day
 - G20
 - UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

ADIL'S STORY

Adil is 10 years old and is a student in the beginner class at the Abhivyakti Centre, where he comes for afternoon tuition. His father is a daily wage labourer and earns very little money, making it very difficult for them to run the household. Adil has five siblings and all of them come to our centre. His elder sister comes to the Empowerment Centre to learn sewing.

Adil is a student in the 2nd class at his primary school. Despite this, he did not know how to read and write many words when he first attended the centre. Over time and with much determination, his reading has much improved as has his addition and subtraction in mathematics. He is always ahead in sports and wants to become a police inspector when he grows up.





BOARDING HOMES

Many underprivileged girls, particularly those residing in rural areas, possess the potential to excel academically but lack the chance and support to nurture their abilities and uncover their distinctive talents. These girls are brought to Sambhali by parents seeking improved living conditions for them and an education which they are unable to offer.

At Sambhali, these girls find a place where their dreams and abilities are nurtured. The organisation provides a holistic approach to education, focusing not only on academic excellence but also on personal development, health, and vocational skills.

Sambhali opens up a world of possibilities for these young minds: they are encouraged to think critically, express themselves creatively and aspire to careers that once seemed out of reach.

In essence, Sambhali is not just an educational institution; it is a beacon of hope and transformation. It demonstrates that with the right support and opportunities, every girl has the potential to shine brightly and contribute meaningfully to the world around her.



We have three boarding homes, all in Jodhpur: Sheerni, Laadli and Abhayasthali. There are currently 75 girls at these boarding homes, with 33 in Sheerni home, 32 in Laadli, and 10 in Abhayasthali. The ages of the girls at each home are currently mixed, but normally Laadli is for age 3-10, Sheerni is for age 11-18, and Abhasathali is for age 18+.

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The boarding home provides a nurturing environment for girls from various grades, offering a blend of academic support, extracurricular activities and workshops to facilitate their holistic development.

The boarding homes are run by a housemother and have a cook who lives with them. Some volunteers also attend the boarding homes in order to help the teachers. The girls are taught personal hygiene and their tutors help them establish a routine, including washing their hands, themselves, shampooing and brushing their teeth. Medical and dental check-ups as well as vaccinations are taken care of before they can start attending school.

Once they start school, the tutors help them with their homework and provide individual tutoring where necessary. The volunteers organise activities such as dancing, playing music and ball games. Awareness workshops about child marriage and gender equality are also conducted. And they participate in the various activities the Trust organises, such as cultural festivals like Diwali, Raksha Bandhan, Independence day and Holi.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Active involvement in cultural events, rallies, safety surveys, picnics and festivals enhances the connection between students and the community. Family visits during breaks also strengthens familial bonds and emotional support.

ADAPTABILITY

Students demonstrate resilience and adaptability in adopting these new schools and environments, showcasing their readiness for future challenges.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Despite health issues like chickenpox and seasonal illnesses, the girls manage their well-being and studies well. The Trust has taken steps to address these challenges and ensure access to medical care.



GRADUATES FROM SCHOOL

Name	12th Grade Completion	Current Endeavour	Aspiration and situation
Manisha	2020	Awaiting for M.A. second semester exams	Teacher, currently working for Sambhali as a computer tutor
Lalita	2021	Completed her B.Sc. Final year	IAS officer (Indian Administration Service), currently preparing for competitive exam
Aasu	2022	Currently in final year of B.A.	Teacher, currently teaching in a private school
Leela	2022	Currently in final year of B.A.	Teacher
Naktu	2022	Currently in final year of B.A.	Teacher
Pooja	2022	Awaiting results of first year second sem of B.A.	Teacher
Vishnu	2023	Awaiting results of first year second sem of B.A.	Teacher
Jyoti	2023	Awaiting results of first year second sem of B.A.	Police officer
Samta	2023	Awaiting results of first year second sem of B.A.	Teacher
Swaroop	2022	Awaiting results of first year second sem of B.A.	Teacher



A typical day at a boarding home

6.00 a.m: The girls get up, dress and do some cleaning

7.00 a.m: Breakfast

7.30 a.m: The girls go to school

11.00 a.m: Lunch

1.30 p.m: School is finished and the girls come home

1.45 p.m: The girls change their clothes

1.45 p.m to 2.15 p.m: Lunch and cleaning

2.30 p.m to 4.30 p.m: Tutoring with the teacher and volunteers

4.30 p.m to 7.30 p.m: Study time and/or free time

7.30 p.m to 8.00 p.m: Dinner

8.00 p.m to 9.30 pm: Homework

9.30 p.m to 10.30 p.m: Free time

10.30 p.m: Bedtime



KAVITA'S STORY



Hailing from Nachna, a small town in Jaisalmer, Kavita has always been a bright and ambitious girl. She lives with her grandparents, mother, and four siblings (two brothers and two sisters). Her family faces severe financial hardships. Her father, once addicted to opium and alcohol, tragically ended his life by consuming pesticide despite undergoing treatment at an addiction centre. Since then, her mother and grandparents have supported the family by working as field labourers, however, their income remains low.

Kavita, the eldest among her siblings, is determined to change her family's future. Along with her younger sister Kanchan, she currently resides at Laadli Boarding Home where she receives the care and support necessary to focus on her education. Last year, she was studying in Class VI, showcasing her intelligence and hard work. Today, she has been promoted to Class VII and continues to excel in her studies. Over the past year, Kavita has remained a hardworking and well behaved student, thriving at the boarding home alongside the other girls. With her strong will and dedication, she continues to pursue her dream of becoming a pillar of support for her family, bringing hope for a brighter future.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Sambhali Scholarship Programme was initiated in 2008 to enable children whose mothers attend the Empowerment Centre to go to school. Many mothers face challenges affording their children's education, hence the creation of this programme to ensure access to quality schooling. Through individual scholarships from global donors, children are enrolled in good local schools. Sponsors receive annual updates with school reports, photos, and family backgrounds. Currently, there are 235 sponsored children, comprising 165 girls and 70 boys, with 204 in Jodhpur and 31 in Setrawa.

The programme not only covers tuition fees but also provides for uniforms, books and other necessary school supplies, ensuring that the children have everything they need to succeed academically.

The impact of the programme is multi-faceted. Many of the students have gone on to achieve remarkable academic success, with some even pursuing higher education and professional careers, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty. The success stories emerging from the Sambhali Scholarship Programme serve as a testament to the transformative power of education and the generosity of donors. The programme continues to inspire and attract support from around the world, demonstrating that collective efforts can indeed make a significant difference in the lives of those in need.





Meenakshi is a 9-year-old girl who is very inquisitive and hardworking. Before coming to this centre, she knew very little about reading and writing. Girls in her family are not educated. There are 4 girls and 2 boys in her family and Meenakshi is the only girl who goes to school. Her mother does both household and labour work, while her father works as a labourer. Unfortunately, due to his addiction to alcohol, he can hardly run the house, let alone educate the children. Both parents are illiterate and have no interest in the education of their children. However, Meenakshi is good at and interested in her studies.

Last year she received a scholarship and was admitted to Gandhi Bal Mandir primary school. Here she gained a 70 per cent grade and got first place in the class. Despite a skin disease, typhoid and a bad family environment, Meenakshi has received good results. She is currently studying in Class 4 and is going to school regularly. Her diligence to her studies, despite her difficult circumstances, is inspirational.

SUCCESS STORIES



“My name is Poonam. I am 16 years old. I have two brothers and one sister. My father is paralyzed and because of this must rest on his bed. My mother works as a labourer under NAREGA to support the household. I have had a scholarship from Sambhali since 1st class. Now I am studying in the 12th class.

Because of Sambhali I was able to continue my studies. If not for which I would be married like my aunt at a young age. Sambhali gave us the opportunity to move ahead and get a good education, due to which I was able to move ahead. Sambhali is a boon for people like us. I want to thank Govind Bhaiya from the bottom of my heart that he considered me worthy of this and gave me this scholarship.”





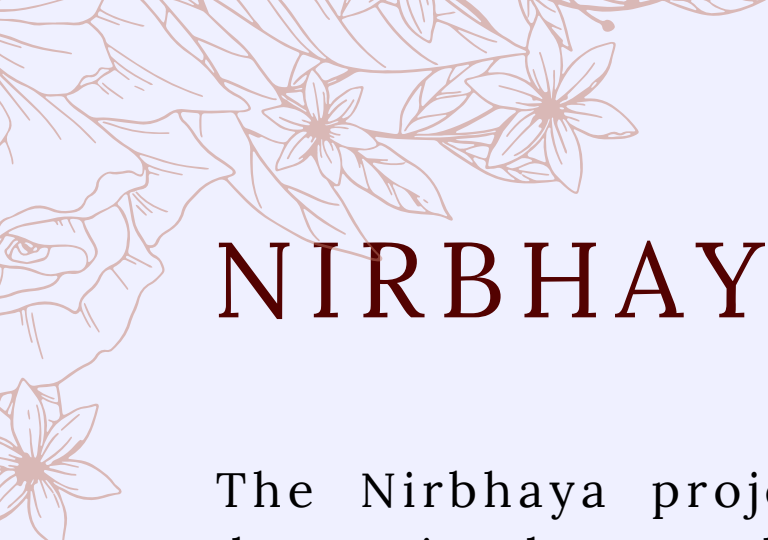
THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT OF THE NIRBHAYA PROJECT TEAM HAS TRANSFORMED COUNTLESS LIVES, OFFERING HOPE AND A PATH TOWARDS HEALING AND EMPOWERMENT. THEIR WORK IS A TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF WOMEN, AND A BEACON OF HOPE FOR A FUTURE FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION.

SAMBHALI SAMARTH

Sambhali Samarth works towards the prevention of gender-based violence by offering assistance, support and psychological counselling via the toll-free Nirbhaya helpline.

It is composed of two additional projects, the Garima and Aardash Projects, which deliver professional support and counselling on sexual abuse and emotional challenges to gender minorities, children and adolescents.

These projects aim to create a safe and understanding environment where individuals can openly discuss their experiences and receive the help they need. Through workshops, educational programmes and community outreach, Sambhali Samarth also strives to raise awareness about gender-based violence and promote gender equality.



NIRBHAYA PROJECT

The Nirbhaya project offers psychological support and counselling to individuals facing gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual assault. The dedicated team at Sambhali ensures that women are listened to and provided the help that they need. To fulfill this mission, a qualified lawyer and psychologist are available to assist, support and counsel women in need. Those supported by this initiative often reach out for assistance as they feel powerless and lack knowledge of their rights.

THE NIRBHAYA PROJECT HAS THREE MAIN GOALS

1.

Provide emergency help, legal support and psychological counselling to survivors of gender-based violence with a focus on:

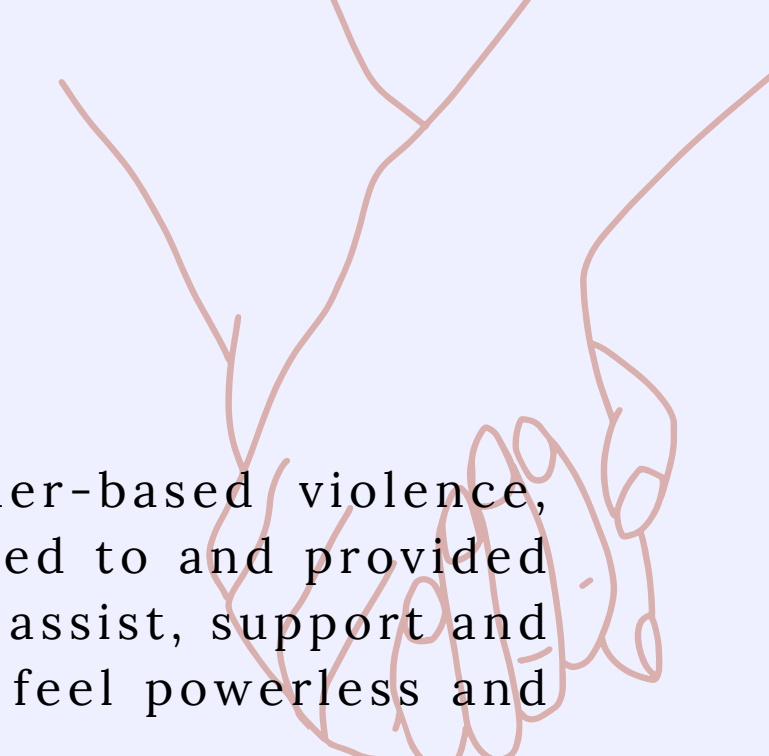
- domestic violence
- sexual abuse
- harassment
- rape
- acid attacks

2.

Raise awareness through workshops and publicity material which provide information on gender-based violence, how to access help and support, and knowledge of legal rights.

3.

Give access to a toll-free helpline to provide knowledge of legal rights and services available to survivors, such as giving them easy access to our psychologist, offering counselling and emotional support, and connecting them with a medical team in the city.





Psychological Support: This project provides needs-based help and includes individual, couple and family counselling. They receive ongoing monitoring until they no longer need counselling. As progress is made, the counselling frequency may decrease from weekly to monthly, and eventually to every six months to maintain their progress. In cases where problems persist, the survivor is referred to legal aid services.

Legal Counselling: Each survivor learns about their legal rights and services they are entitled to. They are familiarised with all the legal terms and procedures that are available to them. They receive help in writing police complaints and with filing them at the police station. General services such as helping with compensation procedures, collecting required paperwork and court functions are free and performed by our lawyer. This also includes preparing the survivor for recording evidence, keeping track of the case, conducting research, presenting arguments, drafting and pleading.

Educational Awareness: This year, 18 workshops were held in the Empowerment Centres and in other various public and private institutions in Jodhpur, such as the National Law University, the Army Public School and the Police Training Academy. These workshops covered different topics like domestic violence, child abuse, minimum wage laws, transgender rights and cyber crime. Additionally, 10 leaflet distribution campaigns were conducted, reaching approximately 1,600 individuals.



Results

Through the Nirbhaya Helpline, we dealt with 663 cases between April 2023 and March 2024, including 81 cases in Jodhpur.

Emergency Rehabilitation Centres: We provide shelter home facilities to women in emergency situations for short term periods in order to give them access to a safe place.

SOS Helpline: This is an Emergency Medical and Legal Support Service for women (and their families) who can not afford emergency medical treatment or legal representation. The Emergency Provision Fund provides immediate support in critical situations, while the Legal Support Fund covers legal expenses, ensuring survivors are provided the necessary help they are unable to afford:

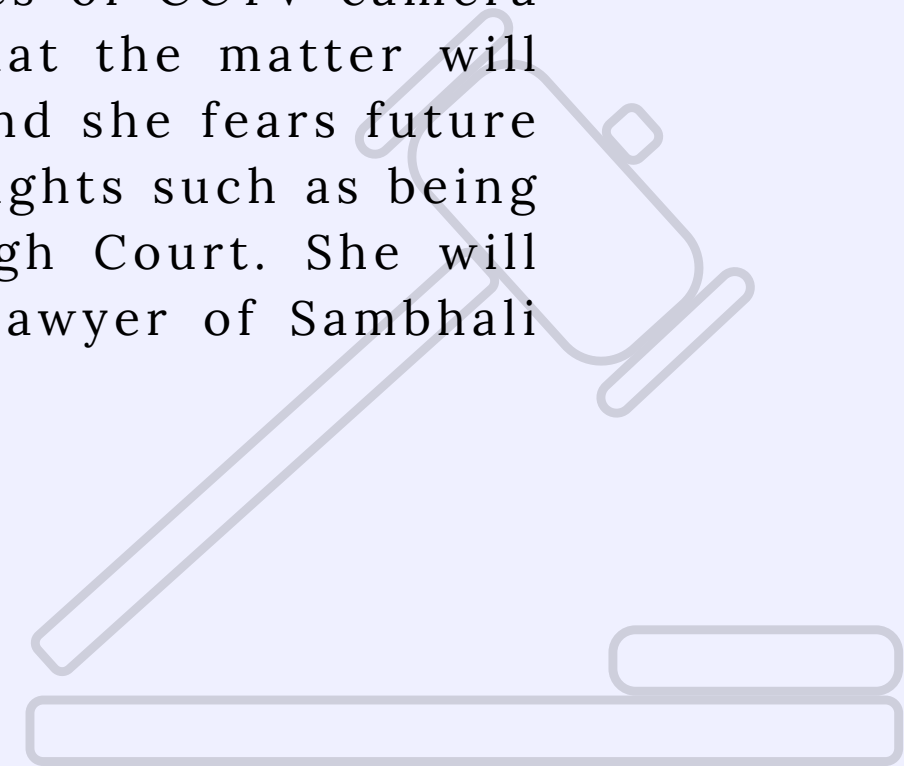
- Emergency medical care, diagnosis, emergency medication, ambulance transport, emergency shelter accommodation and other similar critical expenses
- Legal assistance for those requiring a divorce, those facing or at risk of domestic abuse, forced marriage and similar situations, and those who are unable to cover related legal fees and expenses.



JD'S CASE STORY

The incident took place in Banar near Jodhpur on 7.2.2024 when the daughter of the complainant JD went outside her home to dispose of garbage. The neighbor, who is also a relative of JD, called Y (daughter of JD) abusive names and started shouting at her. JD and her husband retaliated and they started hitting JD and her husband mercilessly. JD's clothes were torn and she had bruises on her head, abdomen, legs, and hands as she was dragged in the middle of the road. She was also groped and assaulted by several men. Another neighbor tried to stop the fight between the family members but during the quarrel, he was also mercilessly beaten up.

3 police complaints were lodged, one by JD, one by the neighbor who is a relative, and one by another neighbor. JD mentioned during her counselling session that the lines of CCTV camera footage had been disconnected. JD fears that the matter will not be investigated properly by the police and she fears future attacks. She was acquainted with her legal rights such as being able to directly approach the Rajasthan High Court. She will now pursue the case with the help of the lawyer of Sambhali Trust.



BOYS' CASE STORY

On 5th March 2024 at 2 PM some boys who left their home for the office of the Sambhali Trust were attacked by miscreants in the Rai Ka Bagh area. The boys who were assaulted mentioned being stalked and listening to abuse and homophobic slurs for many days leading up to this event but they ignored them to avoid any conflict. A group of 4 men hindered their way and started hurling abuses at them. Later they asked them for money and when they were denied, they started beating each of the boys mercilessly. The whole incident was captured and recorded on a mobile phone.

A police complaint was immediately filed at the local police station. An FIR was lodged (FIR No. 0137/2024) with offenses related to wrongful restraint and causing grievous harm. Continuous follow-up is being taken with police officers to ensure the culprits are penalised for these said offenses.



GARIMA PROJECT

The Garima Project was established in 2021. It aims to offer professional assistance to gender minorities facing discrimination, violence and abuse. Those seeking help often endure physical, mental and financial abuses. They are compelled to conceal their identities and are shunned by their families and society due to their non-conformity to societal norms. The Garima Project supports them in facing their challenges and give them tools to get out of abusive environments. The Sambhali Trust office in Jodhpur serves as a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Community members are supported by professionals and are welcomed to hang out in the office and socialise any day of the week. We have established a safe space for LGBTQIA+ individuals to express themselves freely, gain knowledge about their rights, nurture their emotional well-being and receive ongoing support from our specialists.

The project aims to raise awareness about the LGBTQIA+ community and foster a sense of belonging within society.

The Sambhali Garima Project is built on the basic principles of trust, faith, hope, kindness, gratitude, love and affection.



Our workshops focus on building self-esteem, confidence, and unity among the community members and the rest of society. We help them become independent individuals, receive better health care and reach financial independence. For instance, through this project we have initiated a partnership with the MDM Hospital to conduct HIV tests and connected beneficiaries with the ART Centre for free HIV medications.



Every Sunday, gatherings are held to address potential concerns and issues, and get support from peers. Participants share their experiences and take part in various activities. They also discuss issues such as human rights, gender stereotypes, emotional and physical well-being, HIV and STDs, cybercrime, law and youth affairs.

International Transgender Visibility Day

On March 31st 2023, we celebrated the International Transgender Visibility Day with members of the LGBTQ+ community, Sambhali's team, volunteers and women from the centres. Sambhali collaborated with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Kanta Bhua, the Head of the Transgender community, to raise awareness and promote inclusivity for the transgender community.

Transgender camps

Camps were organised by the Trust to help the transgender community access Transgender ID cards, Voter ID cards, Ration cards, Aadhar cards and Pan cards. This government document generation plays a crucial role in the establishment of a better social standing and helps them gain access to various welfare amenities and health schemes.

Counselling

Members of the LGBTQ+ community encounter significant social challenges, often facing numerous obstacles as they strive to integrate into mainstream society. The heightened sense of isolation exacerbates the difficulties they experience. Additionally, many individuals from this community are subjected to harassment, blackmailing and extortion. In these cases, we assisted them in recovering their funds, preserving their privacy and dignity, and providing counselling to both the victims and the other parties involved.



I am Tushar Singh Chauhan, I am 18 years old and currently studying in college.

When I was 13 years old, I started feeling strange about myself because I started becoming interested in boys instead of girls. The problem for me was that I had an elder brother who had already passed away, which made that time a very difficult one for my family, especially because after this I was the family's only child.

Around this time, my friend told me about Sambhali Trust. When I went for the first time, I met other people there and started to feel comfortable. I started to feel I was not alone and began counseling with the Sambhali Trust psychologist, Deepti Maam, about my sexual orientation. It started becoming clear to me that I was gay, but I found this difficult to accept because I was afraid of society. I was thinking about telling my family that I was gay, because they were not aware, so I told them about Sambhali and invited them to come for a visit.

They came to Sambhali Trust and thanks to Deepti maam, they were able to learn about the difference between gays and transgenders, my sexual orientation and the community. After this, my family started to accept me and have become more aware of the LGBTQ+ community.

When I discovered I had a passion for dance, Sambhali Trust give me an opportunity to prepare a dance choreography for a school annual function. I then began finding myself as a dance choreographer, and started making videos of me dancing and uploading them on social media. This helped me to become more popular online and receive more exposure so that I could reach more people to work with. I also got the opportunity to operate cameras in a government voting booth. Through this experience, I learned a lot about using cameras, shooting techniques, and creativity. Sambhali also enrolled me in a certified make-up artist course. With this certification, I can pursue work in salons and parlours as a professional make-up artist.

Now, my future looks very bright because Sambhali has enabled me to establish and develop my career, offering me many opportunities along the way. I am very grateful to Sambhali Trust for their huge support in helping me accept myself, find my passion, advance my career and improve my future prospects.

TUSHAR'S STORY





AADARSH PROJECT

Aadarsh is a community-driven project. Sambhali's tutors conduct workshops for children in the PECs, in schools and in colleges. Originally established in 2013 as the No Bad Touch Project, it now operates as the Aadarsh Project, and focuses on fighting child sexual abuse.

The project aims to raise awareness of child sexual abuse through the education of children, families and teachers, and increase prevention efforts. It highlights how to identify sexual abuse and then respond to the situation.

In addition, there are workshops focusing on physical changes and the various challenges that children and teenagers may face such as emotions, body awareness, puberty, social media and adulthood.

Through our different workshops, we help teenagers aged between 10 and 18 to navigate their way through this challenging stage. They learn how to put words to their feelings and in this safe environment, they are encouraged to ask any question that they may have. Here, they can freely express their concerns and worries without fear of being judged or feeling stupid.

In India, 3 girls out of 10 have no idea of what is happening when they get their first period.
In specific areas of Rajasthan, it is 9 girls out of 10.

We approach these issues with:

- Regular conferences with local government agencies and community leaders, encouraging them to tackle child sexual abuse on a larger scale
- Workshops on puberty, emotions, sexual abuse and other related topics
- Books to educate children and help them through puberty: Menstrupedia for girls and Gulu for boys.

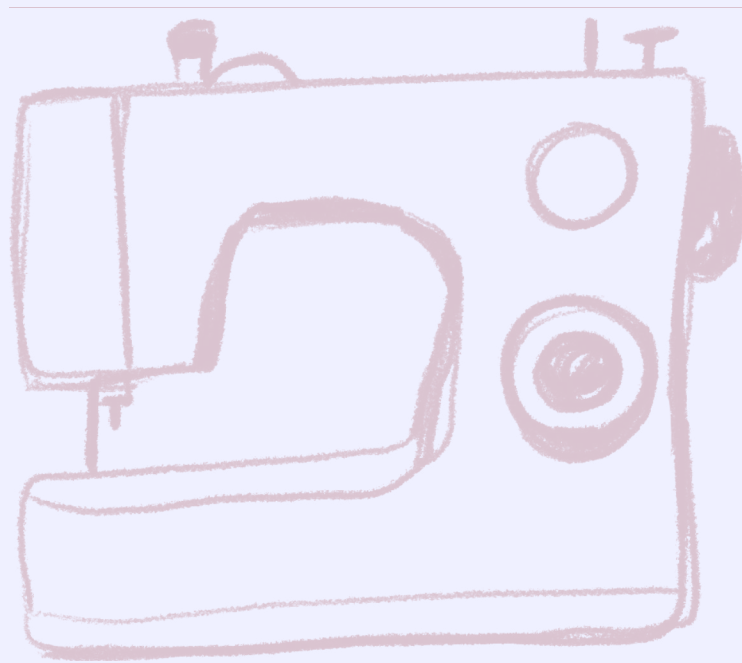
Unfortunately, these topics are still taboo and not openly discussed at home, and this makes our work even more important and meaningful. By creating a safe and supportive environment in our workshops, we break down barriers and encourage open dialogue.

We believe that knowledge is power, and by presenting them with accurate information and resources, we can help them make informed decisions about their bodies and their futures.

Throughout the year, we conducted 67 workshops reaching a total of 3018 children and 147 adults in 7 different schools and in the 5 Sambhali centres in Jodhpur.

SAMBHALI SUTRA

Sambhali Sutra enables women who graduate from the Empowerment Centres to gain financial independence through the Sambhali Boutique. Most of them have over a year of training with skilled trainers and quality equipment. Resources earned from handicraft products go directly to the women in order for them to gain financial independence.



Sambhali Boutique, established in 2008, is currently within the premises of our office, and continues to offer a wide range of handcrafted products made by the women who have graduated from our Empowerment Centres.

This year, we saw a steady increase in activity and sales, thanks to our partnerships with prominent hotels and shops including Vivanta Gujarat, Gorbandh Palace Jaisalmer, Marriott Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, and handicraft shops such as Maharani Handicrafts, Surya Handicrafts and Surya Fabrics. We have welcomed more local visitors this year, alongside several foreign tourist groups and volunteers who have shown great interest in our handmade products.

Our product range now includes unique, handcrafted items such as soft toys, scarves and tote bags, in addition to our traditional offerings of shirts, dresses, kurtis etc. These products are all meticulously crafted by the talented women artisans.

The Sambhali Dastakar sewing center, located at our headquarters, currently employs 10-15 women. These women, who have completed their training at our Empowerment Centers, now earn a livelihood through their skills in sewing and handicraft production. All proceeds from the sales go directly to these artisans, supporting them in their journey toward economic independence.

We invite everyone to view our [catalog](#) and continue supporting the remarkable work of the women artisans at Sambhali.

Sambhali Boutique





Special events

Annual Picnic, 3rd February 2024

Joined by volunteers, staff and global friends, we embraced our first team-building workshop and picnic since COVID-19. It was a day of connection, joy and unity, highlighting our commitment to empowerment and community.



International Women's Day March, 7th March 2024

We stand in solidarity with the courageous participants and dedicated staff who marched for women's rights in Jodhpur. We celebrated the power and spirit of womanhood. The march was a testament to hope, unity and joy. From the first step of the march to the final burst of colors, each moment was a tribute to the strength and resilience of women.



Jodhpur Queer Pride Parade, 8th June 2024

A march for equality and acceptance, the parade brought together people from all walks of life to support and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in our beautiful city.

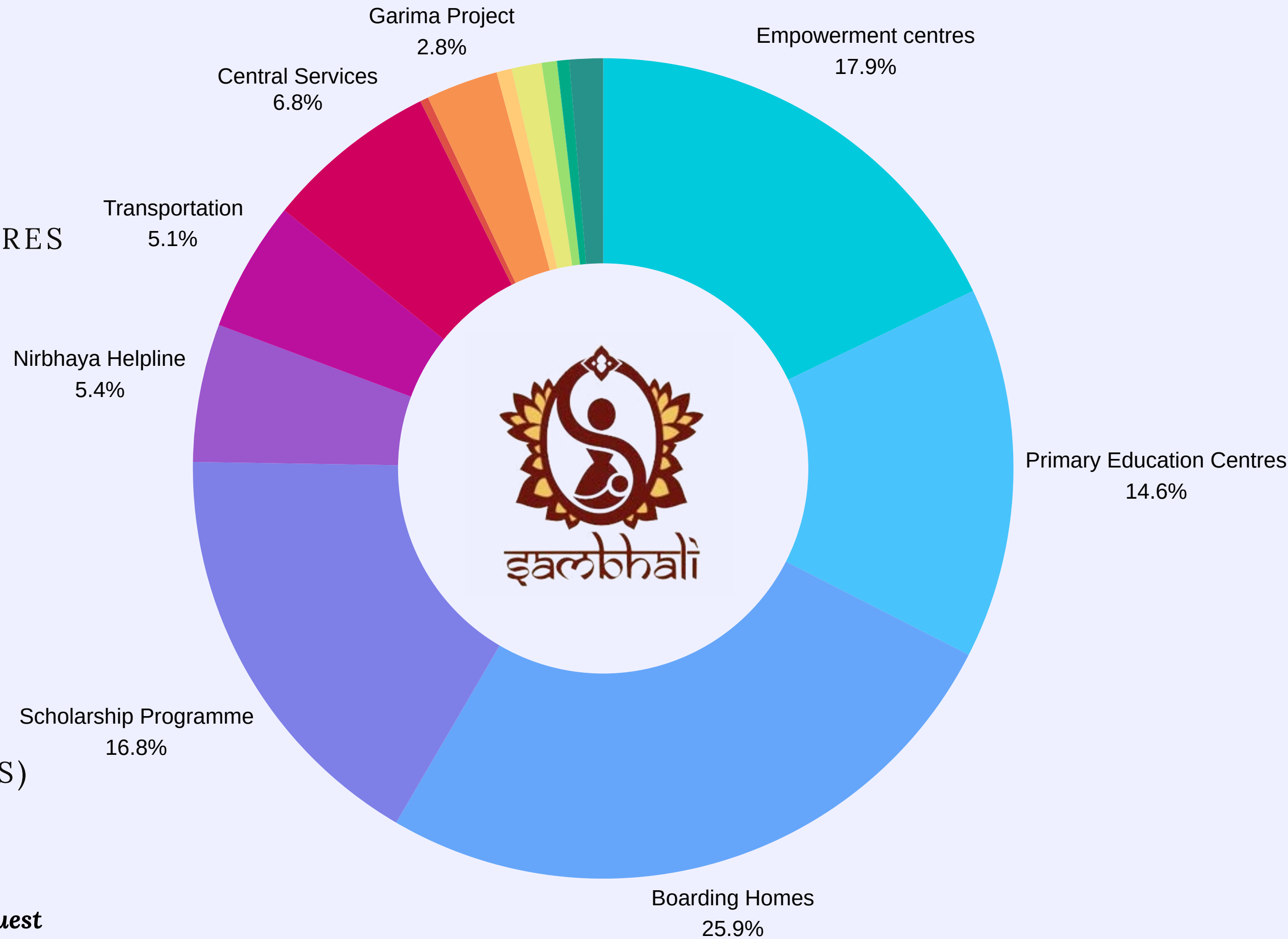
It was a magnificent celebration of love, acceptance and unity. Our commitment to the LGBTQ+ community is unwavering and we will continue to fight for equal opportunities and rights for all.



Finances

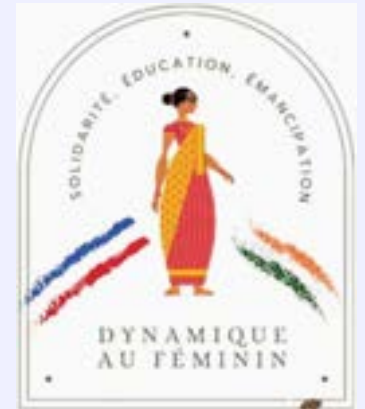
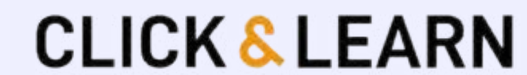
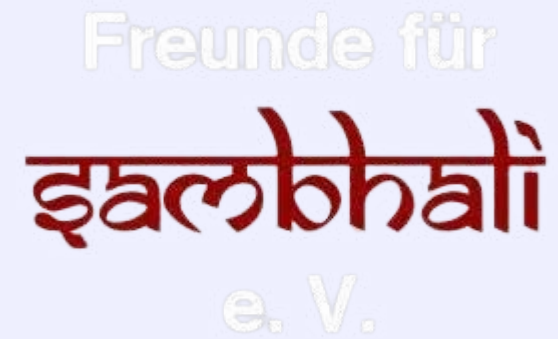
Project Expenditures

- EMPOWERMENT CENTRES
- PRIMARY EDUCATION CENTRES
- BOARDING HOMES
- SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME
- NIRBHAYA HELPLINE
- TRANSPORTATION
- CENTRAL SERVICES
- AADARSH PROJECT
- GARIMA PROJECT
- SELF DEFENSE
- FESTIVAL & CULTURAL
- GENERAL DONATION
- NEW BUILDING (LEGAL FEES)
- INDIRECT EXPENSES
- JAISALMER OFFICE



Sambhali Trust Audit Report available on request

Partners



ORGANIGRAM

Sambhali Trust Organigram 2023-2024

