

Annual Report 2024-2025



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SELF-ESTEEM - UNITY - INDEPENDENCE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letter from the Founder.....	3
2. Our Mission.....	4
3. Our impact in 2024-25.....	5
4. Awards and Recognition.....	6
5. Organization's Organigram.....	7
6. Interns and Volunteers.....	8
7. Ongoing Projects.....	9
a. Sambhali Saheli.....	10
b. Sambhali Shiksha.....	17
c. Sambhali Samarth.....	31
d. Sambhali Sutra.....	49
8. Special Events.....	56
9. Financial Chart.....	59
10. Partners & Support.....	60
11. What's Next: Our Hopes for 2025–2026.....	61



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Khamaghani

As I sit down to reflect on the year gone by, I'm filled with both gratitude and quiet pride. What began as a dream in a single room in Jodhpur has become a powerful movement for dignity, inclusion, and hope across Rajasthan.

This year, Sambhali Trust crossed a meaningful milestone—reaching over 77892 lives. But behind every number, there's a face. A girl who now speaks up. A mother who now earns. A young person who no longer hides. These stories are the soul of Sambhali.

We've taken bold steps—filing petitions for LGBTQ+ rights, opening Rajasthan's first LGBTQ-run café, and creating more spaces where our people feel seen, safe, and celebrated. None of this could have happened without the love and trust of our supporters, our tireless team, and the unshakable courage of the women and youth we serve.

Thank you for believing in us, for walking with us, and for helping us light candles in the darkest corners.

With love and hope,
Govind Singh Rathore
Founder, Sambhali Trust



OUR MISSION

Sambhali Trust is a non-profit organisation aiming at enhancing the lives of underprivileged women and girls in Rajasthan. Through a grassroots model, we aspire to achieve lasting, community-driven empowerment fostering self-confidence, encouraging deprived women and children to reclaim their worth. Founded by Govind Singh Rathore in Jodhpur in 2007, we want to support these women by providing them with access to a formal education, training in traditional income-generating skills such as handicraft production, as well as arranging and monitoring women's self-help groups, helping them to save money, have access to loans and create small enterprises of their own. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty and dependence by providing underprivileged communities and groups with a safe place, vocational training, as well as valuable, marketable skills to give them an opportunity for a better life.

Self-esteem: We are empowering women through centres where they attend workshops about Human Rights, Health and the Environment as well as attending self-defence and leadership classes.

Unity: We are building networks of lasting community support and work together to enhance the lives of underprivileged Rajasthani women.

Independence: We are promoting social and financial independence of women and young girls by providing them business and management training, as well as sewing and embroidery classes.



OUR IMPACT IN 2024-25

PROJECT	IMPACT
Sambhali Empowerment Centers	432 Women
Sambhali Primary Education Centers	510 students
Nirbhaya Project	7005
Garima Project	1680
Scholarship Project	214
Boarding Home	81
Aadarsh Project	4855
Sambhali Sathi	131
Sambhali Sarai	11
E - SERVICE	374

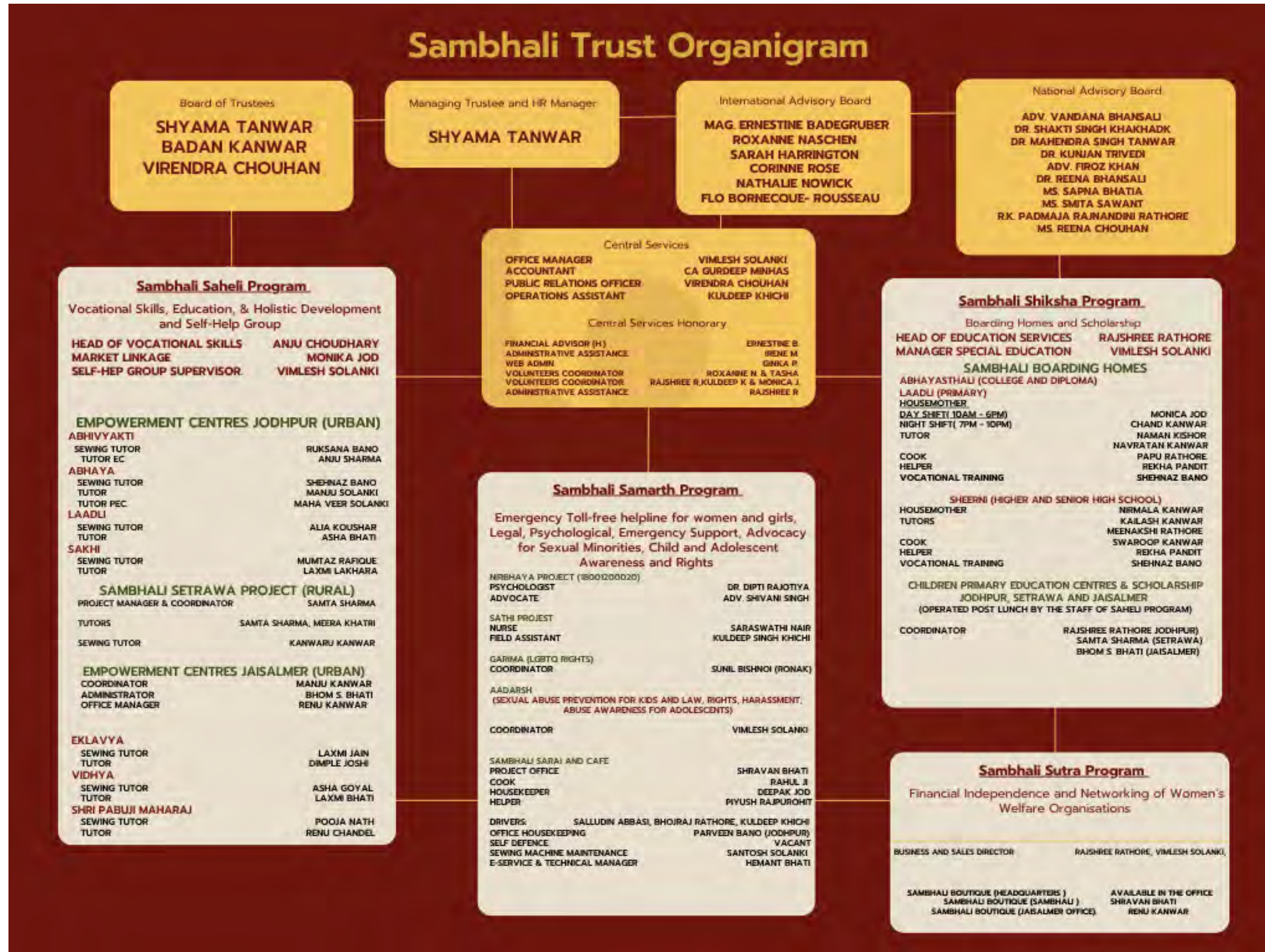


RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Speaker Award - GDHS 2024 (Digital Health Summit)
- Recognized by Jodhpur Travel Agent Association - World Tourism Day 2024
- Honored by Jaisalmer District Administration & Women's Empowerment Dept. (March 2024) - Jamali Ji & Basanti Devi
- Certificate of Appreciation - International Patients Union (IPU)
- First Prize - Outlook Responsible Tourism India Award (Sustainable Grassroots Heroes)
- Participated in Project Smile, One Day Workshop - Rajasthan Police, Jodhpur Range (Nov 2024)



ORGANIGRAM



INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

47 Domestic Interns and Volunteers



70 Foreign Volunteers



ONGOING PROJECTS



Sambhali Saheli

- Empowerment Centres
- Microfinance Project
- Government Linkage



Sambhali Shiksha

- Primary Education Centres
- Boarding Homes
- Scholarship Project
- Amritam project



Sambhali Samarth

- Aadarsh Project
- Garima Project
- Nirbhaya Project
- Sathi Project

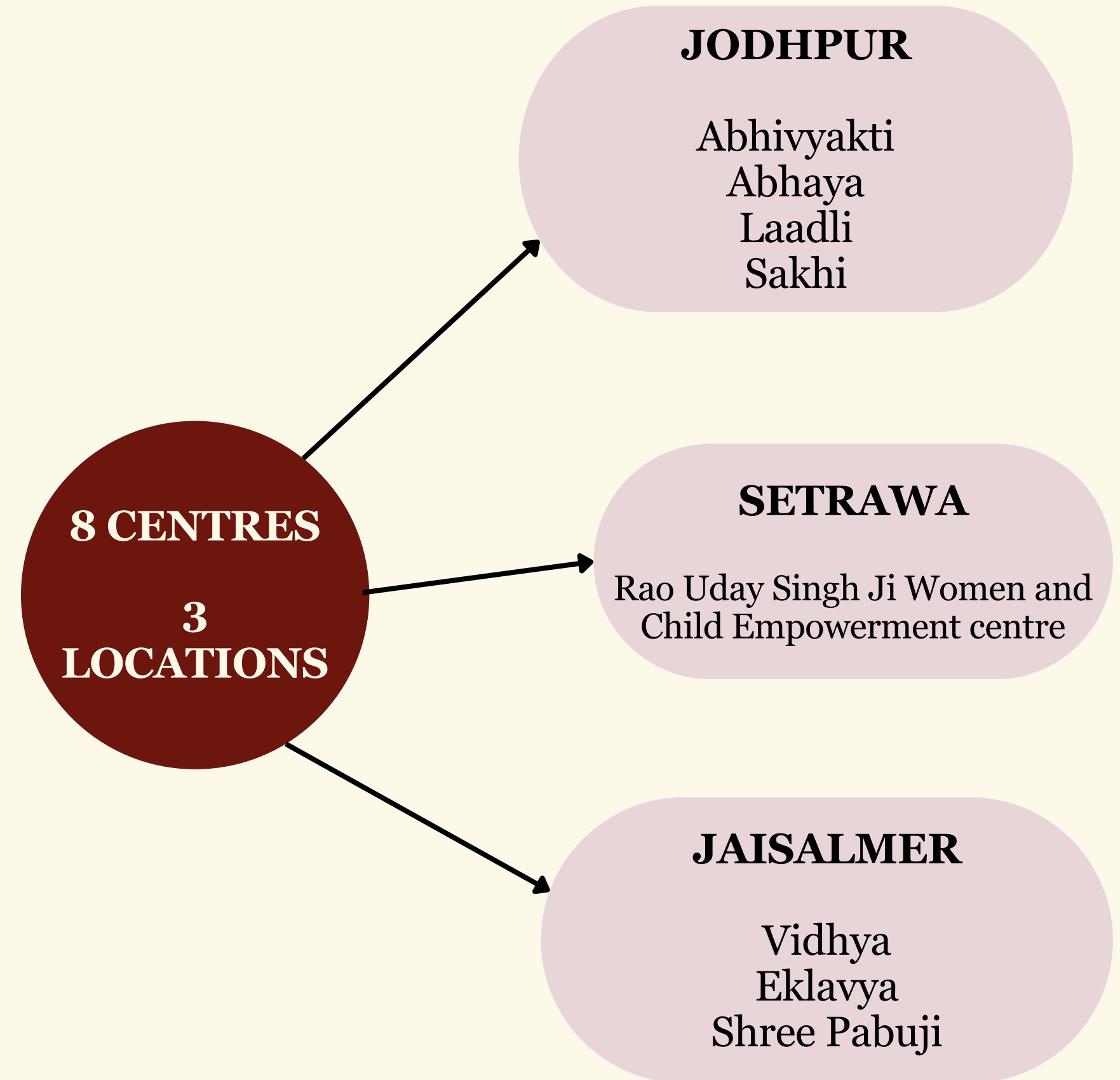


Sambhali Sutra

- Market Linkage
- Sambhali Boutique

SAMBHALI SAHELI

Through 8 empowerment centers, Sambhali Trust's vocational and self-help projects provide underprivileged girls and women with primary education and vocational training to foster independence. They engage in workshops on self-esteem, emotions, and self-worth, while microfinance initiatives enable financial autonomy. They are also getting market linkage, additional legal, psychological and health services. These programs empower participants to build sustainable livelihoods. The Trust continues to uplift communities by expanding access to these transformative opportunities.



EMPOWERMENT CENTRES (EC)

Empowerment Centres run a year-long program for women and teenage girls who haven't had much schooling. The program includes basic lessons in Hindi, Math, and English, along with job training in sewing and embroidery. It also teaches important life skills like how to defend yourself, manage a business, and become a leader. In weekly workshops, they learn about different topics such as human rights and women's health. The goal of these centers is to build the women's confidence and improve their ability to communicate. Importantly, the program helps them become financially independent by giving them the chance to earn money. They do this by sewing items and selling them at the Sambhali Boutique, which encourages them to be entrepreneurs.

432 women have participated across the 8 Empowerment Centres.



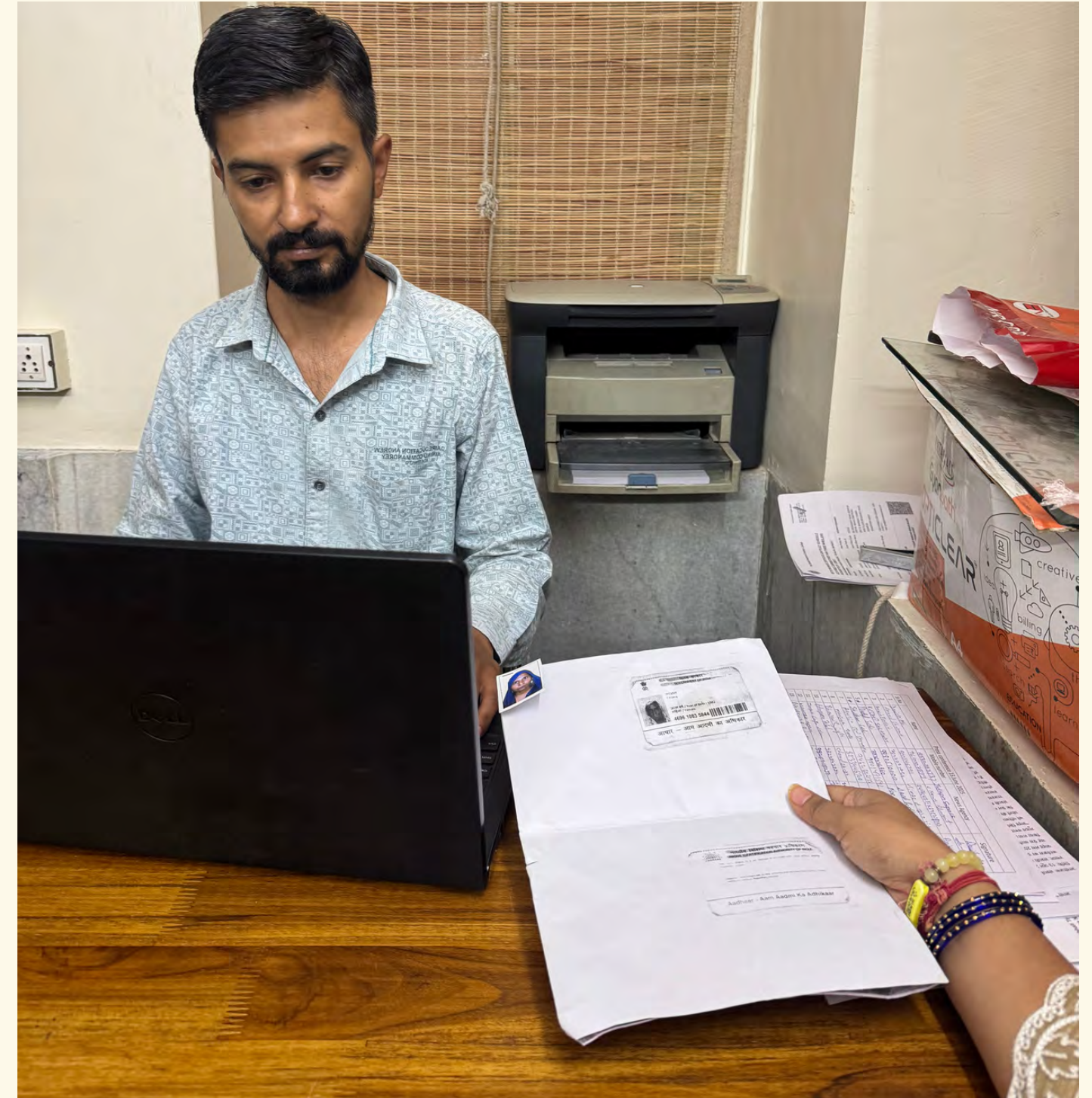
GOVERNMENT E-SERVICE

Sambhali works closely with uneducated, rural, and below poverty line (BPL) communities to help them access vital government-issued documents through our e-services initiative. These include domicile, caste, disability, and birth certificates; widow pension enrollment; ABHA health cards; and PAN cards.

For many in rural areas, the lack of awareness, digital access, and bureaucratic hurdles make it nearly impossible to obtain these essential documents. By facilitating these services, we not only simplify the process but also empower individuals to claim their rightful benefits.

These documents are critical for accessing social welfare schemes, educational and job reservations, pensions, healthcare services, and financial tools. They serve as proof of identity, unlock opportunities, and bring marginalized populations into the formal system.

Through this effort, we aim to build a more inclusive society where every individual, regardless of their socio-economic status has the tools to lead a secure and empowered life. We have helped 374 people so far with their documentation and certification .



NAJMA'S STORY

Najma is a young woman of 23 with a son. Najma lives in Bhil Basti with her husband and her mother-in-law. Her husband works hard as a laborer, but he has a problem with alcohol. He drinks all the time and doesn't treat Najma well. He also doesn't give her enough money to take care of their home. This made life very hard for Najma.

Then, in August, when people were doing a survey for a new center, they met Najma. They told her that at the center, she could learn to sew and also have the chance to study. The center taught sewing and helped women find work. So, Najma started going there.

Since then, Najma has learned to read the alphabet. She has also learned how to cut and stitch clothes like frocks and salwar suits. She is very good at embroidery. Because of this, the center also gave her work embroidering cushion covers. This helps her earn some money so she can buy things for herself and her son. Now, Najma is working hard to learn sewing well.



THE STORY OF PIRA PANNI

This is the story of Pira Panni. She heard from her neighbors that there was a sewing center where they also taught reading and writing, so she enrolled her name. Pira Panni is 40 years old. She married young and had a son at 17. Sadly, her son was mentally weak, and then her husband died from an electric shock. This was a huge shock for her at a young age. Later, her brother insisted she marry again. She wanted to keep her son with her, but her second husband refused because of her son's mental condition and the expenses. Pira Panni couldn't bear to be without her child but had to leave him with her first husband's mother.

After her second marriage, her mother-in-law also troubled her and didn't want her to have another child because her second husband already had children from his first wife. Pira Panni was very worried because of this.

However, after coming to the center, she started to like it. Pira Panni found solace and purpose at the center. She not only enjoys sewing and studying but has also discovered a talent for embroidery and crochet. By connecting her with local market opportunities, the center has empowered her to earn an income and build a better life for herself.



SELF-HELP GROUPS

Launched in 2009, Sambhali Trust's microfinance program, known as Self-Help Groups, empowers women to gain financial independence through training in business and management. It primarily supports women and widows from marginalized communities and those dependent on their husbands for financial support. In this initiative, women form groups and contribute a small monthly amount to a collective fund. Each month, one woman receives a loan from this fund to start a business, cover medical costs, pay education fees, or meet other needs. The system benefits each member in rotation and functions effectively due to a low 1% interest rate, enabling affordable repayment.

	Jodhpur				
1	April 24	1	Snehlata	15000	Kid's Fees
2		1	Shakuntala Kaur	20000	Personal
3		2	Monica Jod	10000	Personal
4		2	Deepak Jod	23000	Personal
5	May 24	2	Deepika	25000	Personal
6		2	Priya Gharu	24000	
7	June 24	1	Durga	15000	Personal
8		2	BA santi Kandara	10000	Daughter's dilevary
9		2	Vandana Barasa	10500	Treatment
10		3	Mumtaz Rafiqe	30000	Personal
11	July 24	3	Parveen Bano	31000	Personal
12	August 24	1	Saraj	25000	Treatment
13		2	Nazmeen	20000	Personal
14		3	Rekha	10000	Kid's fees
15		3	Alfisha	10000	Personal
16		3	Gulbsha	10000	Bike Repair
17	Sep 24	3	Naida	21000	Daughter's Wedding
18	Oct 24	1	Runi	6000	Daughter's Fees
19		1	Jaya Kanwar	17000	Personal
20		2	Mamta Gharu	20000	Kid's fees
21		3	Jeenat	15000	House Repair
22		3	Rekha	7000	Personal
23	Nov 24	1	Vimlesh Solanki	7500	Personal
24		2	Shilpa Teiwani	20000	Personal
25		3	Parveen Bano	19000	Personal
26	Dec 24	1	Runi	15000	Personal
27		3	Fatma	50000	Daughter's Wedding
28	Jan 25	1	Sarita	5000	Personal
29		1	Nazrana	15000	Personal
30		2	Monica Jod	25000	Personal
31	Feb 25	1	Shainaz	20000	Electricity Bill
32		3	Aliya	30000	Treatment to Husband
33	March 25	1	Pushpa Kanwar	23500	Kid's Fees
34		2	Priya Jod	15000	Personal
35		2	Basanti Kandara	5000	Electricity bill

	Setrawa				
S.N	Month	G. No	Name	Amount	Purpose
1	April 24	4	Champa Devi	9000	Treatment
2		5	Sugna	16000	Wedding
3		10	Shanti	15000	Daughter's Wedding
4	May 24	4	Jasu Devi	10000	Daughter's Dilevary
5		5	Kesar Devi	16000	Treatment
6		6	Seeta	13000	Treatment
7		10	Sohan	19000	Daughter's Wedding
8		11	Nathiya Soni	24000	Shop
9		12	Kiran Devi	10000	Personal
10	July 24	5	Khamma	5000	Daughter's Wedding
11		5	Seema	20000	Personal
12		6	Chidi Devi	10000	Animal's Food
13		6	Hawa Devi	4000	Personal
14		10	Guddi Kanwar	16000	Animal's Food
15		12	Suman	10000	Treatment
16		12	Geeta	16000	Personal
17	August 24	2	Jubaida	12000	Shop
18		3	kalawati	20000	Daughter's Wedding
19		4	Pushpa	10000	Treatment
20		4	Chirami	10000	Constraction
21		5	Leela	13000	Goat

21		5	Leela	13000	Goat
22	Sep 24	3	Kavaru Kanwar	19000	Cow
23		4	Bijali	9000	Electricity
24		4	Bhawari	10000	Personal
25		4	Champa	12000	Treatment
26		5	Raani	15000	Shop
27		5	Sharda	22000	Treatment
28		12	Seema Devi	15000	Treatment
29	Oct 24	5	Sawroop	21000	Goat
30		5	Divya	38000	Constraction
31		10	Anita	15000	Shop
32		10	Sajiya	10000	Animal's Food
33	Nov 24	3	Meera Khatri	15000	Shop
34		4	Indra	18000	Shop
35		5	Anchi Devi	26000	Shop
36		5	Samda	50000	Constraction
37		11	Seema	40000	Daughter's Wedding
38	Dec 24	5	Sugna	30000	Constraction
39		5	Luni	20000	Shop
40	Jan 25	5	Suaa	10000	Personal
41		5	Leela	24000	Shop
42		12	Bhakwati	12000	Wedding
43	Feb 25	6	Chidi Devi	10000	Wedding

SAMBHALI SHIKSHA

This program prioritizes accessible and quality education through three equally significant avenues. It allows boys and girls without schooling to attend Primary Education Centers (PECs) where they also receive academic assistance. Furthermore, it shelters and empowers girls in elementary and secondary school, along with college-aged women, in three boarding homes, offering education, housing, meals, tutoring, computer skills, and self-defense training. The Sambhali Shiksha program also supports children from disadvantaged families with scholarships to enable their education.



PRIMARY EDUCATION CENTRES (PEC)

The Primary Education Centers (PECs) is for children aged 5 to 12 who have little or no schooling; these PECs currently serve **510 students**. They teach Hindi, Math, and English, helping some kids enroll in regular school and tutoring others who already attend. The PECs make a big difference by building a foundation in education, they improve reading and math skills and also boost the children's confidence and positive outlook. This community-based approach is changing lives and creating a better future. The children also participate in activities like self-defense, computer training, and workshops about sexual health, feelings, and understanding their bodies. Plus, they get medical care if they need it, and many of them are the children of women in the Empowerment Centres. 21 children were successfully enrolled in formal schools. Out of 510 only 12 children are not going to school.





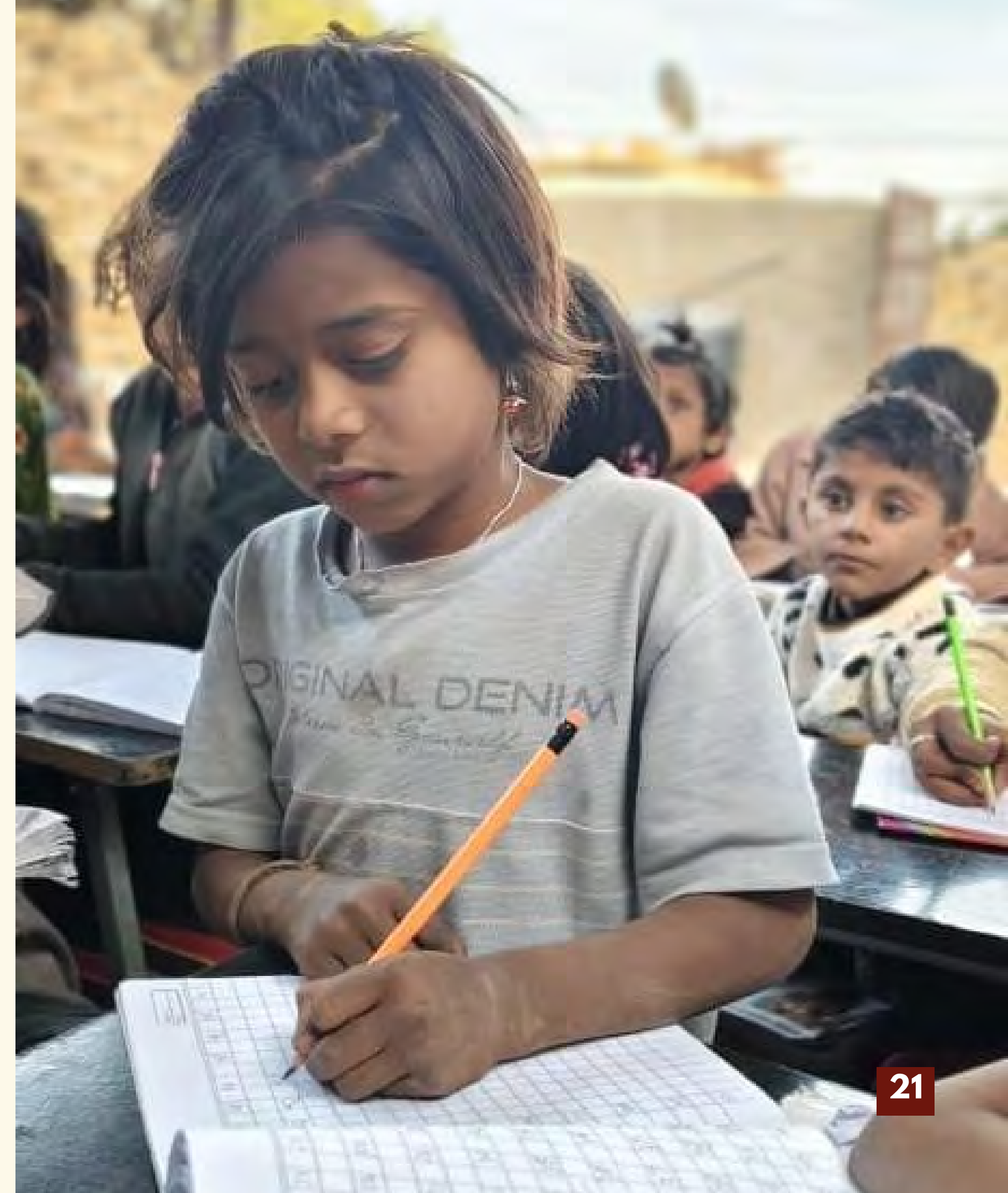
These centres, overseen by teachers, provide learning opportunities for women in the morning and become dynamic spaces for children's education in the afternoon. Volunteers, including Indian college students and individuals from abroad, are instrumental in organizing and teaching Hindi, Maths, and English. The afternoons are characterized by the enthusiastic participation of children. This dual emphasis on women and children not only improves education but also reinforces the community spirit. Educated women serve as role models for their children, encouraging a lifelong commitment to learning. The centres function as crucial community anchors, offering hope and fostering the development of future generations.

WORKSHOPS AT EC AND PEC

- Be your child's best friend
- How to deal with emotions in tough times
- Types of mental health issues
- Relevance of Astrology
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India
- Types of Violence
- Human Rights Day
- Feminism
- Women Abuse
- Nutrition-Food
- Child Safety
- Menstruation
- Female Foeticide
- Self-care and Personal Development
- Digital Empowerment
- Consumer Rights
- Skill Communication and Building Confidence
- Citizen Participation and Political Participation
- Truthfulness
- Effective communication
- Stress and Management
- Solar System
- Let's get Creative: The Art of Creative Writing
- Sleep Cycle
- Environmental effects of agriculture
- Mindfulness
- Social media
- Learn at your own pace
- Mental health
- Menstrual health
- Climate change
- Empowering woman
- Online scams
- Understanding how kids are affected by domestic violence
- Art of Courage
- Emotional management in childhood
- How to manage your finances
- Childhood Trauma
- The story of Diwali
- Wild wonders, A Global Safari of furry friends
- Traffic Rules
- Self Care
- First Aid Basics
- Bullying
- Natural resources
- Water cycle
- climate change bacho ki Shiksha
- Water system
- The Recycle process
- Be a Superhero
- Exploring Habitats
- The science of sound
- The skeletal system
- The Problem with plastic
- How digestive system works
- Electrical safety
- The human gas exchange system
- The missile man of India
- Mental and Physical Fitness
- Story Freedom
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Wonderful World of Sky
- Understanding your consumer rights
- Child Labour
- From birth to old age
- The statue of unity
- Fun facts about birds
- Good and bad hygiene
- Importance of education
- Accepting difference cultural differences
- Food we eat
- Teamwork
- Color theory
- Independence Day of India

DIYA'S STORY

Diya, a six-year-old girl, lived with five sisters in a big joint family of 22. Her father, a farmer, took the kids to work in the fields, so Diya didn't go to school. During a survey, people found her at home. She said she didn't like school. They invited her to their learning center. At first, Diya attended one day, then missed two. But the center used fun activities to teach, and soon Diya and other kids loved coming daily. Diya couldn't read or write before, but now she writes letters from A to Z and counts from 1 to 20. Seeing her excitement, the center talked to her mother. She said the children had to help in the fields. The center explained that other kids balanced fieldwork and school. They encouraged enrolling Diya in school to learn more. Her mother agreed and enrolled Diya in a government school in Bhil Basti. Now, Diya loves attending both school and the center, eager to learn every day.



SARGIL'S JOURNEY

Sargil, an eleven-year-old boy who couldn't hear or speak, faced big challenges in learning and communicating. He had never been to school when he arrived at the Sambhali Abhaya Center. Life was tough for him, unable to easily understand or share his thoughts. But the center's kind teachers helped him with visual aids, sign language, and patient teaching. Slowly, Sargil learned to read and write, opening a new world of connection and understanding. He was a bright, eager student and grew into an intelligent young boy. After time at the center, his parents enrolled him in a regular school. The headmaster, amazed by Sargil's reading and writing skills, asked where he learned so well. His parents proudly shared about the Sambhali Abhaya Center and its wonderful teachers. They were deeply grateful for the center, which transformed Sargil from a boy who couldn't communicate into a confident student thriving in school.



BOARDING HOMES

Many bright but disadvantaged girls, especially those in rural areas, are denied the opportunities and support needed to develop their talents. Often brought to Sambhali by parents seeking better living conditions and education they cannot provide, these girls find a nurturing environment where their potential is realized. Sambhali offers a comprehensive education that includes academics, personal growth, health awareness, and vocational training. By encouraging critical thinking and creative expression, Sambhali unveils possibilities for careers these young women previously couldn't imagine. Ultimately, Sambhali is more than a school; it's a source of hope and transformation, proving that with the right support, every girl can thrive and make a significant impact.



While currently accommodating a mix of ages, the typical structure is Laadli, Sheerni, and Abhayasthali. Each home is overseen by a resident housemother and cook, with volunteers contributing to the educational support. The girls receive instruction in personal hygiene and are guided by tutors in developing daily routines. Their health needs are addressed with initial medical and dental check-ups and vaccinations before school enrollment. Academically, tutors assist with homework and provide personalized support. Beyond academics, volunteers organize engaging activities like dance, music, and ball games, along with important awareness sessions on child marriage and gender equality. We are proud to share that in many of the families we support, the third generation of girls is now attending school and even colleges, which shows the visible impact of our work.. At Laadli, 11 new girls joined. A nurse was appointed for health management.



Holistic development

This boarding home fosters the well-rounded growth of girls from different grade levels by creating a supportive atmosphere that combines academic help, extracurricular opportunities, and skill-building workshops.

Adaptability

By readily adjusting to these new educational settings and surroundings, the students demonstrate a resilience that positions them well for future challenges.

Community Engagement

Participating in cultural events, rallies, safety surveys, picnics, and festivals deepens the students' ties with the community. Additionally, family visits during breaks reinforce family connections and emotional well-being.

Health & Well-being

Even with common health concerns like chickenpox and seasonal illnesses, the girls effectively manage their health and schoolwork. The Trust has proactively responded to these issues by ensuring access to medical support.

GRADUATION DATA

Name	College	Regularly staying at boarding home?	Year of Study	Subjects currently taking	Degree Seeking
Manisha	Shri Sumer Mahila College	No	2nd Year	Geography	MA
Sumitra	Shri Sumer Mahila College	No	1st year	Biology Zoology Botany	B.Sc.
Naktu	KN College	No	3rd year	History Home Science Sociology	BA
Leela	KN College	No	3rd year	History Sociology Fine Arts	BA
Aashu	KN College	No	3rd year	History Sociology Fine Arts	BA
Pooja Chauthi	KN College	Yes	2nd year	History Sociology Economics	BA

Name	College	Regularly staying at boarding home?	Year of Study	Subjects currently taking	Degree Seeking
Dimpal Kanwar	KN College	Yes	2nd year	Biology Zoology Chemistry	BSC
Laxmi Kanwar	SL Jangu Veterinary College	No	1st year	Anatomy Animal Management Genetics Physiology Extension	Diploma in Animal Husbandry
Vishnu	Shri Sumer Mahila College	Yes	2nd year	History Home Science Sociology	BA
Samta	Shri Sumer Mahila College	Yes	2nd year	History Home Science Sociology	BA
Swaroop Kanwar	KN College	Yes (Staying in Sheerni as she works there)	2nd year	History Political Science Sociology	BA
Jyoti	Shri Sumer Mahila College	Yes	2nd year	History Home Science Sociology	BA

SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

Launched in 2008, the Sambhali Scholarship Programme helps children attend school whose mothers are part of the Empowerment Centre. Recognizing that many mothers struggle to pay for their children's education, this program was established to guarantee access to good schooling. Thanks to individual donations from around the world, children are enrolled in quality local schools. Their sponsors receive yearly updates including school reports, photos, and information about their families. The program currently supports **214 children's education** across its centers and hostels. Beyond tuition, the scholarships cover uniforms, books, and other essential school materials, ensuring the children have what they need to thrive academically.





This program has had a wide-ranging impact. Numerous students have achieved significant academic success, with some even pursuing higher education and professional careers, thus escaping the cycle of poverty. The success stories from the Sambhali Scholarship Programme highlight the life-changing power of education and the kindness of donors. This initiative continues to inspire and gain support globally, proving that working together can truly make a substantial difference in the lives of those who need it.

AMRITAM PROJECT

Project Amritam, in partnership with Purpan University in France, seeks to enhance community life in Setrawa, Jodhpur by tackling environmental and socio-economic issues. It converts barren lands into fertile fields, improves water access, and increases green cover. The project empowers women by easing their water collection responsibilities and supports children with a healthier environment and hands-on sustainability education.

Project Amritam focuses on empowering women and children by enhancing water access and promoting greenery, alleviating the traditional burden on women responsible for water collection. This allows women more time for education and economic pursuits, positioning them as community change-makers. For children, the project creates a healthier environment and provides practical sustainability education, fostering future eco-conscious leaders.

This project has benefitted 200 people.



SAMBHALI SAMARTH PROGRAM

Sambhali Samarth combats gender-based violence by providing aid, support, and psychological counseling through its free Nirbhaya helpline. This initiative includes the Garima Aardash Projects and Sathi project which offer specialized support and counseling for sexual abuse emotional difficulties and health awareness among gender minorities, children, and adolescents.

These projects aim to establish a secure and supportive space where individuals feel comfortable sharing their experiences and accessing necessary assistance. Additionally, Sambhali Samarth conducts workshops, educational programs, and community outreach to increase awareness about gender-based violence and advocate for gender equality.



NIRBHAYA PROJECT

The Nirbhaya project provides crucial psychological support and counseling for those affected by gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual assault. Sambhali's committed team ensures that women's voices are heard and that they receive the necessary support. To achieve this, a qualified lawyer and psychologist are readily available to assist, support, and counsel women in need, many of whom initially feel powerless and unaware of their rights.



The Nirbhaya project has 3 main goals:

1. Offering immediate emergency assistance, legal aid, and psychological counseling to survivors of gender-based violence, specifically addressing domestic violence, sexual abuse, harassment, rape, and acid attacks.
2. Increasing public awareness about gender-based violence, available resources for help and support, and legal rights through workshops and informational materials.
3. Providing survivors with a free helpline to learn about their legal rights and available services, including easy access to our psychologist for counseling and emotional support, and connections to a medical team within the city.



BR'S ESCAPE TO HOPE

BR, a 25-year-old aspiring teacher, lived in a painful home where her mother and brother abused her with cruel words and physical violence. After a recent breakup, her family mocked her heartbreak, confined her to the house, and blocked her studies. Her brother even threatened to force her into an arranged marriage. Trapped and tormented, BR had attempted suicide twice. Unable to endure more, she fled, boarding a train with no destination. For two days, she wandered, hungry and lost, selling her gold earrings to survive. A kind stranger directed her to Sambhali Trust. On November 1, 2024, BR arrived at the trust, distressed and broken. After gentle counseling, she shared her story. Sambhali provided shelter, food, and safety. When her family was contacted, they arrived quickly. Meetings revealed her brother's violent control and BR's deep fear of returning home. Through patient counseling, both individual and family-based, reconciliation was achieved. Her family promised to change. On November 5, 2024, after four days of care, BR returned home, hopeful for a better future.



N'S STORY OF STRENGTH

Nisha (name altered for privacy) was forced into marriage by their family. Even though they were born a woman, they feel more masculine inside. Just a week after their marriage, Nisha bravely left their in-laws' house and found their way to the safety of Sambhali with the support of their girlfriend. Nisha's family had limited their education, only allowing them to study until the 9th grade. Their father's mental health struggles led him to pressure their mother and sister into illegal activities, including blackmail, and they tried to force Nisha to join them. Determined to live a different life, Nisha courageously reached out to Sambhali for help. There, they found a secure shelter and the opportunity to continue their education. Today, Nisha has built a life of their own. They are independent, earn their own living through their job, and enjoy the freedom of living alone. Importantly, Nisha is also on the path of their gender transition, taking steps to align their outer self with their inner feelings and identity.



Psychological Support

This project offers tailored psychological support, encompassing individual, couple, and family counseling. Clients receive continuous monitoring until counseling is no longer necessary. As they improve, the frequency of sessions may gradually decrease from weekly to monthly, and eventually to every six months for ongoing support. If challenges remain, survivors are connected with legal aid services.

Legal Counselling

Survivors are educated on their legal rights and available services, including relevant legal terms and procedures. They receive free legal assistance from our lawyer for tasks such as writing and filing police reports, handling compensation claims, gathering paperwork, and navigating court matters. This support also encompasses preparing them for testimony, monitoring their case, conducting research, building arguments, and managing all legal filings.

Educational Awareness

This year saw *35 workshops & 22 awareness campaigns* held in Jodhpur at Empowerment Centres and institutions such as the National Law University, Army Public School, and the Police Training Academy. The workshops covered topics like domestic violence, child abuse, minimum wage laws, transgender rights, and cybercrime.

IMPACT

Emergency Support Services for Women include:

- **Emergency Rehabilitation Centres:** Safe, short-term shelter for women in crisis.
- **SOS Helpline:** Urgent medical and legal aid for women and families in need.
- **Emergency Provision Fund:** Immediate financial help for critical needs.
- **Legal Support Fund:** Covers legal costs for divorce, abuse, or forced marriage cases.

6330 *Individuals Reached*
through 35 workshops and 22 awareness campaigns in Jodhpur & Jaisalmer.

120 *Cases Addressed*
where we provided direct legal and psychological support or intervention.

555 *Calls Received*
on our toll free helpline number.

GARIMA PROJECT

This project aids gender minorities facing discrimination, violence, and abuse. Recognizing the physical, mental, and financial abuse they endure, the need to hide their identity, and rejection due to gender non-conformity, the project offers professional support to escape abusive situations. The Sambhali Trust office in Jodhpur is a safe, daily space for the gender minority community to access help and socialize. The initiative empowers them to express themselves, learn their rights, improve well-being, and receive specialist support. Aiming for societal awareness and inclusion, workshops build confidence and community, fostering independence, better healthcare (like STDs services with MDM Hospital), and financial stability. Weekly gatherings offer peer support and discussions on human rights, gender, health, and legal issues.



SK'S RISE: FROM DANCE TO DREAMS

Two years ago, SK, who identified as gay, joined Sambhali's Garima project and learned about important topics through discussions. Without family support, SK stopped studying after 10th grade but chased their love for dance, working as a choreographer to earn money and gain independence. On Women's Day, Hotel Meerut's representatives visited Garima and offered jobs to eight people, but SK didn't meet the education requirements. Impressed by SK's potential, the HR manager offered a housekeeping internship, promising a permanent job with hard work. SK eagerly took the chance and worked diligently at Hotel Meerut for a year, showing skill and a positive attitude. Their effort paid off with a promotion, opening a new chapter in Uttarakhand. Now living proudly as transgender, SK thrives in their career and uses their stable income to pursue further education, chasing dreams with confidence and authenticity.



VG'S PATH TO FREEDOM

VG, a 21-year-old woman who loves women, faced a nightmare when her parents discovered her sexuality. They physically abused her, verbally humiliated her, and shared her private videos and chats with family and friends, exposing her to public mockery. Overwhelmed by shame and pain, VG attempted suicide. Desperate to escape, she fled home and arrived at Sambhali Trust on October 20, 2024. The trust's counselor contacted her parents, who visited but refused to accept her identity during family and individual counseling sessions. Their hostile behavior escalated, requiring police intervention. Devastated by her family's rejection, VG stayed with Sambhali, receiving shelter, meals, and a supportive environment. Regular counseling helped ease her trauma and rebuild her confidence. From October 20, 2024, to February 25, 2025, Sambhali provided a safe haven. VG later moved to Delhi after securing a job, carrying hopes of healing and building a future where she can live authentically.





EVENTS IN 2024-25

- **Pride Party (June 8, 2024):** A celebration of love, diversity, and inclusivity.
- **Fashion Show (June 6, 2024):** Showcased talent and expression with a war dance, debate, LGBTQ+ rights insights, and a ramp walk. Approximately 130 attendees.
- **Entertainment Night (June 5, 2024):** An evening of stand-up comedy and live music. Estimated 70-80 people attended.
- **Nukkad Natak (June 4, 2024):** A street theatre performance on LGBTQ+ rights for 210 people.
- **Inauguration of Sambhali Sarai (September 21, 2024):** Hosted the Canadian Ambassador with dinner, the inauguration, personal stories, and a war dance by Garima community.
- **World Tourism Day at Mahila Bagh (September 28, 2024):** Celebration at Mahila Bagh with a water performance about calming conflict. Audience of 250-300.
- **Setrawa Tour (October 11-12, 2024):** A two-day tour for 20-22 people to discover Setrawa's cultural and natural heritage.

IMPACT CREATED

85 *Individuals received counselling*

49 *Identity documents processed*

37 *Medical & Health assistance*

170 *Events organized*

200 *Awareness sessions conducted*

1680 *People benefitted*



AADARSH PROJECT

Aadarsh is a community-based initiative where Sambhali's tutors lead workshops for children in PECs, schools, and colleges. Originally founded in 2013 as the No Bad Touch Project, it has evolved into the Aadarsh Project . The project aims to increase awareness of child sexual abuse by educating children, families, and teachers, and to strengthen prevention strategies. It emphasizes how to recognize and respond to instances of sexual abuse. Additionally, workshops address the physical changes and various challenges faced by children and teenagers, including emotions, puberty, social media, and the transition to adulthood. Through these diverse workshops, teenagers aged 10 to 18 are guided through this complex stage of life. They learn to articulate their feelings and are encouraged to ask any questions they may have in a secure environment .

During 2024-25 period Aadarsh team conducted 61 workshops



IMPACT

61 Workshops Taken

28 on No Bad Touch and 33 on Save Youth
Save Nation

4855 Students Impacted

via different workshops, seminars and
interactions.

35 Schools reached out



SARAI PROJECT

The Sarai is a sanctuary in Jodhpur for women escaping gender-based violence and for gender minorities facing violence or family rejection. The term "*Sarai*" refers to a traditional resting place for travelers, symbolizing a safe haven.

Sambhali Sarai provides both groups with safe shelter, education and vocational training, and resources to gain independence and reestablish their lives. The shelter also serves as a drop-in center for LGBTQIA+ members, and the bottom floor has a new Empowerment Center and Primary Education Center. 11 lives struggling with the same were looked after by Sambhali this year.



SD's Path To Freedom

SD, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, originally resided in Mumbai where he was closely associated with the transgender community. He lived in a communal setting commonly referred to as a "haveli," a space where many transgender individuals live together cordially. This cordiality eventually took a distressing turn for SD as he was pressured into prostitution, which he vehemently denied. This prompted him to escape from the haveli in search of dignity and autonomy.

Following his departure, SD took refuge in a dairy farm, where he worked for approximately a month. During this period, he encountered a social media video featuring Kanta Bua, a local influencer known for the ownership of a traditional haveli in Jodhpur. Drawn by the hope of support Siddharth travelled to Jodhpur. SD spent an entire day navigating through the city in search of Kanta Bua. Upon finally connecting with her, He was referred to Sambhali Trust. Once he reached, SD received comprehensive counselling support with Dr. Dipti, a mental health professional associated with the organization.

These sessions helped him process past trauma, rebuild self-worth, and regain emotional stability. Today, SD, now stable and free, also contributes to Sambhali and works at a Café created by Sambhali Trust that has been designed specifically keeping in mind the LGBTQ community. The café not only provides employment but also a sense of worth and self-reliance which is pivotal in one's life. SD's journey is a powerful testament to resilience and the courage it takes to stand up for what is right.



SATHI PROJECT

Launched in January 2025, the Sathi project delivers essential health education and services to women, children, and LGBTQ+ individuals in Jodhpur. Recognizing that limited healthcare access hindered the benefits of Sambhali's educational, financial, and emotional support programs, Sathi, led by an experienced government nurse, bridges this gap. It offers health education, basic care, triage, and guidance navigating the healthcare system, empowering participants to manage their well-being and reinforcing Sambhali's mission of holistic empowerment.

The name "*Sathi*," meaning "companion," reflects the compassionate, trusted role of the program's staff, who bring decades of expertise in local healthcare systems. The program also supports enrollment in government benefits and insurance, complementing Sambhali's broader efforts. We have successfully supported 131 individuals through this program.



AP- A Step Toward Better Health

AP, a 17-year-old girl from an economically disadvantaged background, used to attend Sambhali Trust's education centre. Her teachers noticed she was often dizzy, pale, weak, and complained of frequent headaches and fatigue — all symptoms of severe anaemia. Concerned for her well-being, the educators alerted Saraswathi Ma'am, and AP was taken for a medical check-up. She was diagnosed with anaemia and started on a course of iron supplements.

With consistent care and medication, AP's condition has significantly improved — she is now more alert, energetic, and able to focus on her studies. Recognizing the likelihood of nutritional deficiencies within the family, Sambhali extended support to her parents as well, arranging iron tablets and health screenings for them.

This case highlights how Sambhali Trust not only supports education and empowerment but also provides essential medical aid to those in need, ensuring that health challenges do not become a barrier to personal growth.

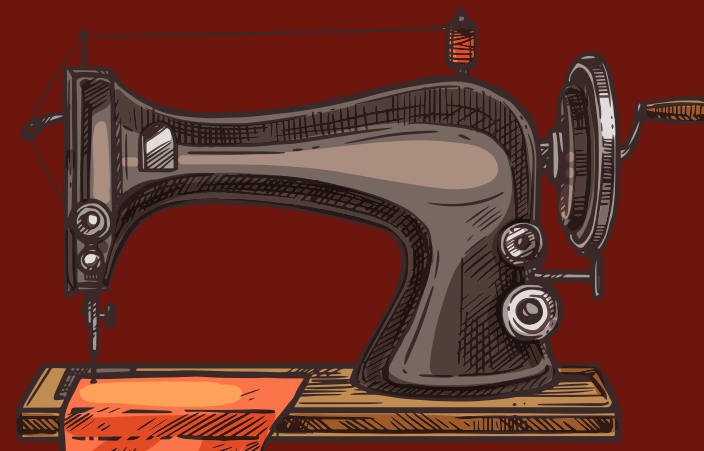


SAMBHALI SUTRA

Sambhali Sutra supports women graduating from its Empowerment Centres to achieve financial independence through the Sambhali Boutique. After receiving over a year of training from skilled instructors using high-quality equipment, these women create handicraft products. The income generated from these products is directly provided to them, fostering their economic self-reliance.

110 women received sewing machine after successful completion of the course

233 women took part in local market production activities



MARKET LINKAGE

Our goal is to connect women from the Empowerment Centres with market opportunities. Monica Jod works to expand the market network, engaging with vendors to promote the women's products and enhance market access. This helps women secure employment, achieve financial independence, and gain a sense of accomplishment.

This initiative is more than just income generation. It fosters financial independence, boosts self-worth, and encourages entrepreneurial thinking. Many of the women who once lacked confidence or were confined to domestic roles are now contributing to their households and making independent financial decisions. Their earnings, however modest, give them dignity, autonomy, and hope.

233 women got employment through our market linkage program.



SB – Stitching a Life of Self-Reliance

30-year-old SB has been attending the Abhaya Centre for the past year. In this time, she has learned various types of embroidery techniques—skills she never imagined she could acquire. With limited formal education and no prior experience, the training at the centre opened new doors for her.

At home, SB faces difficult circumstances. Her husband is frequently ill and unable to contribute financially. This left her with the heavy burden of supporting the household on her own. However, through the centre, SB was connected to the local market, where she now sells her handcrafted embroidery products. She earns between ₹5,000 to ₹7,000 per month, a crucial income that helps sustain her family.

Beyond financial support, SB shares that coming to the centre has transformed her confidence and outlook on life. She feels empowered, independent, and proud to contribute meaningfully. The Abhaya Centre, she says, is more than just a training space — it is a place of hope and dignity for women like her.



SAMBHALI DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The Sambhali Development Foundation (SDF) is a non-profit extension of Sambhali Trust, created to ensure long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on external donations. Its core mission is to generate local employment, engage socially conscious partners especially in tourism and mobilize regional resources. SDF empowers marginalized women while preserving Rajasthan's rich cultural heritage.

Currently, SDF runs three key initiatives:

- Sambhali Café – a dignified workspace run by LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Sambhali Boutique – showcasing handcrafted goods by Rajasthani women.
- Sambhali Walks – heritage walks led by local LGBTQ+ guides.

Each venture uplifts communities while promoting cultural pride and social change. Together, they create a model of empowerment and self-reliance with global resonance.



SAMBHALI CAFE

Sambhali Café is a groundbreaking social enterprise in Jodhpur, run by members of the LGBTQ+ community. More than just a café, it serves as a safe and empowering space where individuals gain skills, dignity, and a sense of belonging.

In a society where LGBTQ+ individuals often face exclusion, Sambhali Café stands for inclusion, acceptance, and equality. Located within the Sambhali Sarai, the café aligns with global goals of decent work and social justice.

Profits from the café support Sambhali Trust's empowerment programs, ensuring a cycle of growth and impact. With every meal served, the café nurtures hope, community, and change—proving that visibility and opportunity can transform lives.



SAMBHALI WALKS

Sambhali Walks offers a unique, inclusive way to experience the heart of Jodhpur. Starting at the bustling Ghanta Ghar and winding through Navchowkiya's historic lanes, the walk reveals hidden gems like Toorji's Step Well, Gulab Sagar, and ancient temples—all narrated through rich local stories.

Led by guides from the LGBTQ+ community, these walks provide not only cultural insight but also a perspective rooted in resilience and empowerment.

The journey ends at Sambhali Café, where guests enjoy a traditional Jodhpur platter and support a larger cause. Sambhali Walks is more than a heritage tour—it's a celebration of diversity, storytelling, and inclusive tourism.



SAMBHALI BOUTIQUE

Since its inception in 2008, Sambhali Boutique operates from our office premises, showcasing a diverse array of handcrafted products created by women graduates of our Empowerment Centres. This year, we experienced a notable rise in activity and sales, driven by collaborations with *prominent hotels and retailers such as Vivanta Gujarat, Gorbandh Palace Jaisalmer, Marriott Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, and handicraft stores like Maharani Handicrafts, Surya Handicrafts, and Surya Fabrics*. We've welcomed an increasing number of local visitors, alongside foreign tourists and volunteers, all showing keen interest in our handmade goods.

Our product line has expanded to include distinctive items like soft toys, scarves, and tote bags, complementing our traditional offerings of shirts, dresses, kurtis, and more, all skillfully crafted by our talented women artisans. The Sambhali Dastakar sewing center, based at our headquarters, *employs 10-15 women* who, after completing training at our Empowerment Centres, now earn a living through their sewing and handicraft skills. All profits from sales are directly channeled to these artisans, empowering them toward financial independence.



Check out our catalog [here](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS



OPENING OF SAMBHALI SARAI

In November 2024, Sambhali Sarai, a historic 200-year-old site in Jodhpur, opened Rajasthan's first LGBTQ+-operated café, Sambhali Café. Launched as a sanctuary for women and LGBTQ+ individuals facing gender-based violence and familial rejection, it overlooks Mehrangarh Fort and serves local delicacies, snacks, and beverages, celebrating Rajasthan's heritage. Beyond its culinary offerings, Sambhali Sarai provides emergency shelter and vocational training, empowering survivors to rebuild their lives with dignity. The café's opening marks a step toward inclusivity, with Sambhali Trust driving social change.

SPECIAL EVENTS



PRIDE PARADE

The third annual Jodhpur Queer Pride Parade, held on June 8, 2024, was a vibrant celebration of diversity and love, uniting people to champion LGBTQ+ rights. Under the theme "समता और समानता का संदेश" (Message of Equality and Acceptance), participants in traditional Rajasthani attire paraded through Jodhpur, blending cultural heritage with advocacy. Gratitude to all participants, organizers, and supporters, including H'ble Mayor Kunti Deora, Deputy Director Manmeet Solanki, Pooja Sharma, Kanta Bhua, and sponsors Hotel Bijolai Palace, Hotel Chandra Inn, and Bira Beer, for making this event a success.

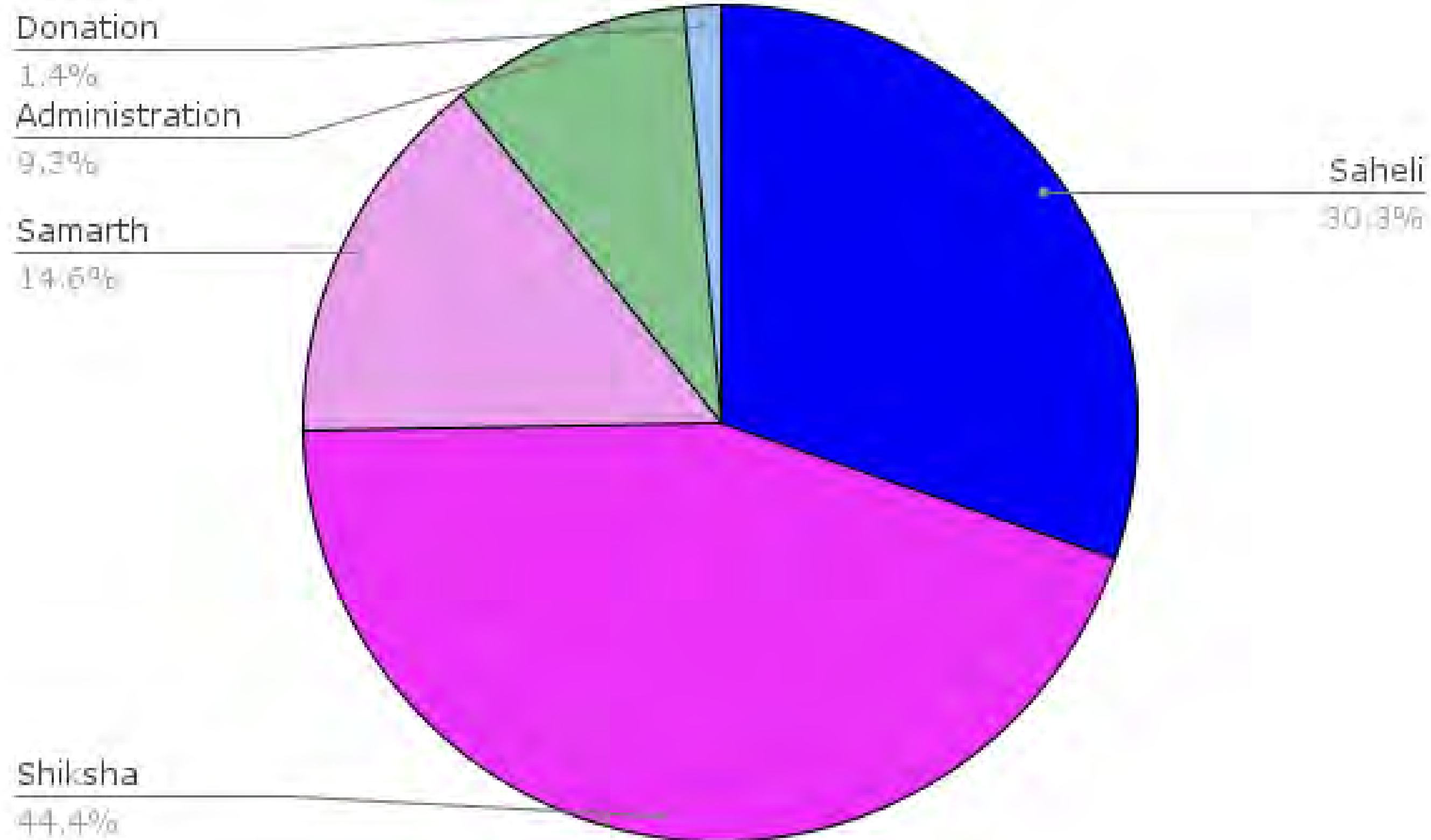
SPECIAL EVENTS



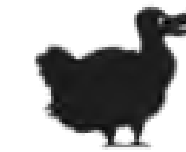
WOMEN'S DAY

Sambhali Trust's International Women's Day 2025 celebration culminated in a powerful march on March 8th in Jodhpur, from their headquarters to Rajiv Gandhi Chowk. The resilience and empowerment-themed event was supported by various dignitaries and organizations. The Jaisalmer District Administration and Women's Empowerment Department honored Sambhali women Jamali Ji, a midwife promoting maternal health and girls' education, and Basanti Devi, a mother who completed her 10th grade and secured a job, showcasing inspiring stories of determination.

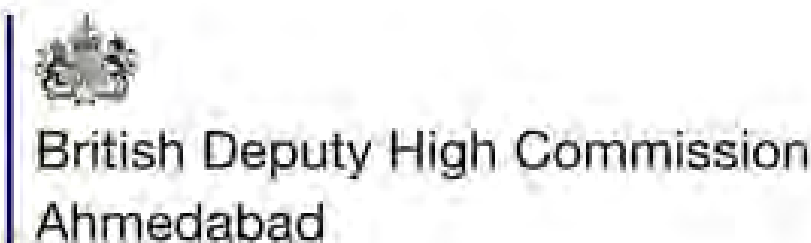
FINANCES CHART



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & SUPPORTERS



Mirjam Chappell



WHAT'S NEXT: OUR HOPES FOR 2025–2026

As we look toward the coming year, our hearts are full of dreams—grounded in the real, urgent needs of the communities we serve:

- Opening more Empowerment Centres in remote areas, where voices are still silenced.
- Establishing a Gender-Inclusive Workshop—a safe, joyful place for every child to learn, regardless of identity.
- Deepening our legal aid and health access, especially for LGBTQ+ and underserved women.
- Expanding market linkages so our artisans can thrive beyond local sales.
- Strengthening ties with global allies who share our values of justice, empathy, and inclusion.
- Keeping our heritage alive by growing Sambhali Walks and storytelling journeys that honour Rajasthan's spirit.
- The work ahead is not easy—but with hands joined and hearts open, we know we can get there.
- Facilitating access to government aid and social security schemes.

Let's keep walking together.





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