



**Sambhali Trust
Annual Report 2008**

1st Old Public Park, Raika Bagh
342001 Jodhpur, Rajasthan
INDIA



Mission of Sambhali Trust

Sambhali Trust is a non-profit grassroots organisation based in Rajasthan. The main objective of the Trust is to provide support and education to all underprivileged people of urban and rural areas.

Currently, the Trust is working on several projects to empower women and children based in Jodhpur and Setrawa village, who endure oppressive social and economic situations, in order to promote a sense of independence and self-worth.

We achieve our mission by offering English language classes and arts & crafts workshops, teaching the students skills which will help to enable them to achieve economic independence in the future. We encourage personality and social development, creating strong women's networks within their own communities, as well as providing community outreach programmes.



Photo: Govind S. Rathore leading participants of the Sambhali Trust during a Women's Empowerment Rally in Jodhpur. This rally was held on the 10th May 2008 and was organised by the Trust.

Letter from the Founder and Chairman of the Trust

Khamagani,

On January 15th 2007 I founded a non-profit charitable trust in India to help women from the Dalit community overcome some of the difficulties they face. India is historically a patriarchal society with men having more superiority over the women. On a personal level, I had first hand experience of how some of the women I came into contact with on a daily basis were treated by their own families and communities. They were being physically and mentally abused by their husbands, brothers, uncles and in-laws.

Members of the Dalit community are outcasts and avoided by society. It is extremely difficult for them to get access to education and therefore proper guidance regarding their rights. This is particularly the case for women in the 'Dalit' communities who face the double-burden of both their caste and gender. Over time, the need to do something to change their situations grew within me; to help them gain stability, financial independence and to have equal opportunities in all aspects of their lives.

The fundamental goal of Sambhali Trust is to empower our participants by providing basic education, arts and crafts skills and raising awareness through outreach programmes. I want the participants to learn to speak up for themselves and openly ask for help, for a compromise, and for a change, in order to recognise that they are not alone and that people dealing with similar troubles can create a network – a force with which to be reckoned.

This annual report reviews the efforts of Sambhali Trust in its second year – how far we have come and what we hope for in the future. Without the commitment, passion, and support of so many different people, none of this would have been possible.

Warmest regards,
Govind Singh Rathore

HISTORY OF DALITS

Dalits, meaning ‘downtrodden, divided’, are considered ‘outcastes’, who are vulnerably positioned outside of the traditional four-fold caste system of the Hindu religion. They face a daily struggle against oppressive and discriminatory forces in society because they are considered impure and are therefore physically and socially excluded from the rest of society.

‘Dalit women are India’s worst victims of discrimination, deprivation, exploitation, and violence.’
(National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights).

Dalit women constitute 80.5 million people in India: 8% of the total Indian population. They are born into a life of inequality, having had no choice over their gender or caste. Dalit women face significantly greater levels of violence, discrimination, poverty and illiteracy. Many Sambhali students have endured cheating husbands, divorced parents, murdered parents, the responsibility of looking after the household, not being able to go to school, little or no family support, and/or financial insecurity.

“Dalit women are especially vulnerable in a caste-ridden society like India... she bears a double burden as her gender, coupled with her low caste, proves to be doubly negative against her.”

Kiran Soni Gupta, Divisional Commissioner, Jodhpur, 2008.

“I discovered that despite their happy demeanors and easy going attitudes, some of them had quite difficult backgrounds. They never complained, however, and if you didn't know some of their stories, you would never have guessed the problems that some of them have had to overcome.”

Chloe Scott, Jodhpur volunteer.

“There are some very harrowing stories that show what these young girls have already been through in their lives before coming to Sambhali.” **Corinne Rose, Jodhpur volunteer.**

However, Dalit women today are not simply passive victims; the current mood is not one of mere acceptance, but one of determination to ‘transform their pain into power’. Sambhali, at a grassroots level, aims to aid and support their empowerment.



“Before I came to Sambhali I felt completely alone. I have a physical disability that means I can't walk- so I used to hide from the world. I felt so depressed, But since I came to Sambhali my life has changed – I now feel so happy that I have a place to come where I feel accepted and loved. I love to learn sewing and embroidery and with these skills my dream is to open a sewing shop. I am smiling because of Sambhali!”

Photo and comments: Aneta, Jodhpur Project 1 participant.

Current Sambhali Trust Projects

Literacy Programme Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Created January 2007

15 Participants



Jodhpur Project 1: Women's Empowerment Jodhpur Rajasthan

Created January 2007

25 Participants



Setrawa Project Setrawa, Rajasthan

Created October 2007

60 Participants





EMPOWERMENT: SAMBHALI TRUST OBJECTIVES

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Vocational Training for Self-Sustainability

Daily lessons from a local teacher in textiles, sewing embroidery and fabric printing. Items are made and later sold through the Sambhali India shop, and a percentage of the profits are returned to the students.

EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Language Training and Outreach Programmes

English lessons and health workshops from foreign volunteers helping to enhance their employability and range of skills along with community outreach efforts to raise awareness of Dalit rights

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Independence, Self-Esteem and Unity

Promoting personality development to eradicate any feelings of inferiority the girls may have and transform them into feelings of self worth and confidence

Economic and educational empowerment is illustrated within the three individual project sections that follow. Social empowerment, however, will be discussed in the subsequent four sections, outlining the major successes and achievements of individual Sambhali participants.

LITERACY PROJECT

Many of the Sambhali Project Jodhpur participants have had little or no education. In an attempt to help these girls, the Trust set up a literacy programme to provide financial support for their schooling. Sponsors are sought from around the world to contribute funds sufficient to cover school fees (and related expenses) on an individual basis. The Trust also provides education for some of the participants' own children in order to ensure that the cycle of illiteracy and poverty is not continued.

There are 15 students participating in the 2008/9 session.



Monica Jod, Literacy Project participant

Monica attends Badal Chand Sujan Kanvar School and is currently in the Seventh Standard.

On Republic Day (26th January) she was presented with an award by the School's Head Trustee for 'Best Student' in her class. Immediately after, she rushed off to the Stadium to take part in the celebrations – hence the beautiful costume!

"I was so happy to receive this award and have made my father proud. He had considered taking me out of School, but is now encouraging me to continue and succeed!"

Monica.

"Monica has worked very hard with her studies and we at the Trust, along with her family, are very proud of her achievements." **Govind Singh Rathore, Founder.**

Vandana attends Sun City Public School and is currently in the third Standard. In April 2009, she will have been attending school for 2 years.

"I go to Sun City Public School and this is made possible by the scholarship I received through the Sambhali Trust Literacy Project. Before, my family didn't have enough money to send me to school, so I had never been to school.

Now, I really like going to school and my favourite subject is English. I enjoy being able to talk to volunteers when I visit Sambhali. I am very thankful to Sambhali for giving me this opportunity for learning because I know that having good English skills will enable me to get a good job. I hope to become a singer and travel the world!"



Vandana Jod, Literacy Project Participant

"Many of the girls' families are willing to send their daughters to school provided there is no financial burden on them, and so increasing school sponsorship is crucial." **Chloe Scott, Jodhpur Volunteer**



2008/2009 Literacy Project students

JODHPUR PROJECT 1: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

For six days a week (Monday-Saturday, 11am-3pm) 25 students attend the Jodhpur Project Sambhali Centre (based at Durag Niwas Guest House). Here, they are provided with a safe and secure environment where they benefit from free education, emotional support and a forum in which to voice their concerns. Their day begins with morning prayers and meditation. On Monday to Friday mornings half of the class is taught Basic English by volunteers while the other half have an arts and craft class held by a full-time local teacher. In the afternoon, the groups change over for the Intermediate English classes. On Saturday, the students take part in sports day or other cultural activity (for example, visit to a museum).

Students

There are currently three batches of students:

- ◆ The very first intake, from which 10 students will graduate in summer 2009;
- ◆ The second intake, which joined in October 2008, and;
- ◆ The third intake, which joined in February 2009.



Tamanna Borana is the full time arts and crafts teacher. She specialises in teaching tailoring, embroidery, block printing, screen printing and traditional tie and dye.

“What was really obvious was how much the girls respect Tamanna, the sewing teacher. She is the one who holds the girls together, disciplines them, praises them, and teaches them the skills that will help them develop some independence. I am still amazed at the complexity of her designs, the speed at which she composes them, and the ease in which she teaches the girls.” **Chloe Scott, Jodhpur volunteer.**



Photo: Jaya and Sonu practising ari-tari embroidery

Volunteers

During 2008-2009, Sambhali Jodhpur has been fortunate enough to host 17 volunteers from many different countries, such as the UK, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and more. The volunteers mainly help to teach English, but also bring with them knowledge and ideas to help support existing project and Trust activities.

“When the first girls arrived at the project two years ago, they had no formal education, no dreams of a secure future, no hope. But through educational empowerment, they have been able to overcome their problems and realise their full potential.” **Helen Barley, Jodhpur volunteer.**

Highlights



Ramdevra Pilgrimage:
In August 2008, 19 Sambhali Jodhpur participants, 4 volunteers, and 2 trustees, spent 5 days walking 180 kilometres to Ramdevra village. There was much media attention as it was the first time that foreigners had ever taken part in the pilgrimage.

Other notable highlights include:

- ◆ The Annual Meet in May 2008;
- ◆ Meeting the President of India, Pratibha Patil, in June 2008
- ◆ Condolence Walk in October 2008.

“After visiting their communities, I began to realise what the project offers to our girls, how much it helped and is still helping them. I experienced them much happier, less shy and much more aware of themselves and their capabilities than nearly all of the other women we met in these communities.” **Johanna Werz, Jodhpur volunteer.**

SETRAWA VILLAGE PROJECT

Setrawa is a village of around 3000 inhabitants, situated 110 km from Jodhpur, in the Thar Desert. It is the ancestral village of *Sambhali's* founder, Mr Govind Singh Rathore. *Sambhali's* aim here was to promote caste integration and to improve the daily lives and future prospects of its participants while respecting, and celebrating, the values of the village.

The volunteers have established a routine, incorporating the main aims of this project that divides the day as follows:



English learning aiding children already attending school with extra English classes before and after school hours and providing education for those who cannot afford it.

Sewing, Arts and Crafts women and girls gather every weekday morning to practice traditional sewing patterns and to learn new ones, in order to teach self sustainable practices.



In addition, further programme aims are:

- To demonstrate basic hygiene skills such as hand washing and the proper manner in which to clean clothing etc.
- Future possibilities may include improving the general infrastructure and appearance of the village, as well awareness programmes.

“You can see a real willingness to learn in the eyes of those little girls. I taught some of them how to read the time and after we finished, I saw one hidden behind the door, her finger pointed towards the board, articulating the ‘lesson’ to keep it in mind.” **Coline Humbert, Setrawa volunteer.**

Volunteers

There have been two long-term volunteers, Helen Wagner and Griselda Murray Brown, who will have been in Setrawa for 7 months and 6 months, respectively. During their time in Setrawa, they have contributed significantly to the development of this particular project, in terms of education and pastoral care.



“For Rekha’s birthday, Gris, the girls and I surprised her with a party. When Rekha arrived for English class we jumped out and started singing ‘Happy Birthday’! The girls enjoyed eating the cake and dancing to Hindi music. Wearing their party hats the girls burst the balloons and sang songs together. It was a great day.”

Helen Wagner.

“Guddi is naturally bright and eager to learn. Soon after the inception of the Sambhali centre, she approached the then volunteer and mimed writing on her palm, asking to be taught. As a member of the traditionally outcast Dalit community, she was unsure whether she could attend the classes; when she found out she could, she promptly signed up all the females in her extended family and became the Sambhali centre's most frequent pupil.”

Griselda Murray Brown.



Both Helen and Griselda are currently working on a sponsorship initiative to secure funding for Guddi, Laxmi and Maya to attend the private school in Setrawa (through *Sambhali's* Literacy Programme)

Finally, we would like to welcome our new full time teacher, Ms Usha Sharma, and offer our congratulations to Ms Rekha Sharma on her marriage.

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT 1: INDEPENDENCE



"I used to do what my father always wanted; many people spoke to him asking him to let me go to college. Finally, I did some tutoring which help me pay my way to go to college. I used not to go out of the house and my father would take me everywhere. Now he does allow it, so I have become more confident since coming here."

Photo and quote: Shweta, Jodhpur Project 1 participant.

"My life before Sambhali was devastating. My husband was an alcoholic. He, along with my mother-in-law, used to beat me. They dragged me out of the house, after which I went to live with my parents. I was responsible for taking care of my parents and my children, but I did not have any skills with which I could earn a living. Since I came to Sambhali, my life has completely changed. Sambhali not only taught me a variety of skills but also gave me the confidence to be independent through which I'll be able to design a better future for myself and my family."

Photo and quote: Nirmala, Jodhpur Project 1 participant and summer 2009 graduate.



"The girls had to design, create and produce a pillowcase over the course of a week. Each pair of girls were given 100 rupees to provide the materials for the pillowcases. The girls all went shopping on the Sunday (their day off) and enjoyed the experience of buying the fabrics and bartering and joking with the shopkeepers to try and get a good price. They had a lot of enthusiasm and got on with the project very rapidly. They had the independence of using the money given wisely, and designing and creating from scratch within a time-frame." Corinne Rose, Jodhpur volunteer.



Top three winners of the Pillowcase Design Project: First Place: Soniya and Pooja; Second Place: Saraswati and Ravina, and; Third Place: Sandhya and Jyoti

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT 2: SELF-ESTEEM

In educating our participants and increasing their interaction with people from outside their communities (for example, foreign volunteers, visitors and guests), we have built self-esteem for our girls. They are no longer shy about greeting new people and asking questions. They are very quick to tell people about themselves and Sambhali and how it has affected the quality of their lives.

In fact, sometimes it is very hard to get them to stop talking!



“For example Radha, who would blush and look away when we first asked her questions, is now coming out of her shell. She glows with pride whenever she understands and can answer our questions.”

Eliane Luthi Poirier, Jodhpur volunteer.

Photo: Radha, February 2009 Intake



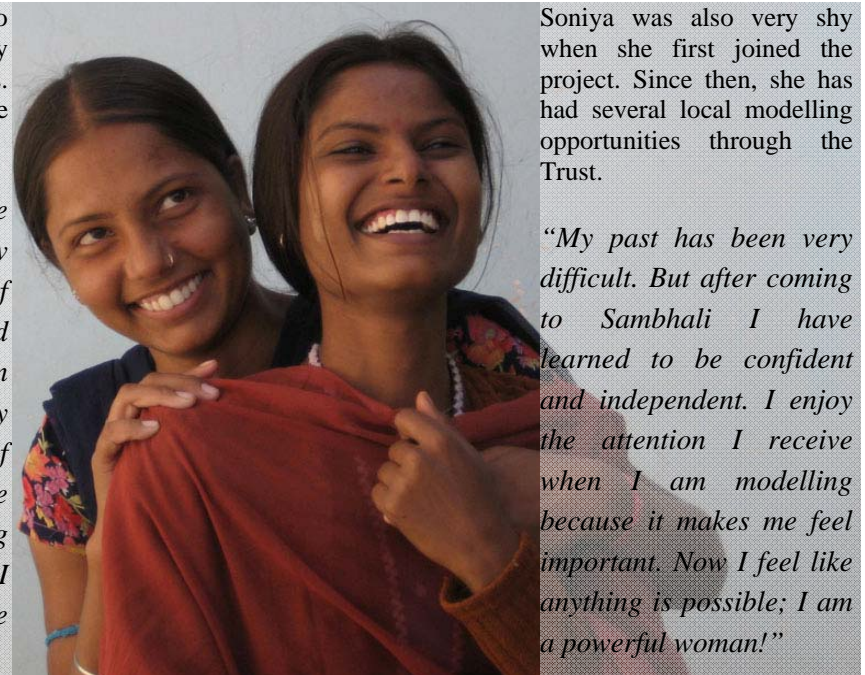
Photo left: Shalu was one of the six Sambhali students who took part in the Fashion Shoot.

Six of the Sambhali Jodhpur Project students were given the opportunity to take part in a Fashion Shoot, organised by students from the NIFD Institute. Their teacher, Sambhali Advisory Board member, Kamlesh Ratnu, supervised his students as they styled and dressed the Sambhali students.

The girls obviously had a lot of fun. They were very shy at first, but as the day progressed and they finally finished getting ready for the actual shoot, their confidence in themselves blossomed. It probably helped that their fellow students continuously offered support and compliments!

When Lajwanti first came to the project, she was very shy and spoke little to others. Later this year, she will be getting married.

“As a result of all I have learned at Sambhali, I now feel that I am capable of standing up for myself and my rights. I am confident in my ability to be a worthy and productive member of my household. Of all the training I received, sewing is my favourite, and when I graduate I will miss all the classes and the people!”



Soniya was also very shy when she first joined the project. Since then, she has had several local modelling opportunities through the Trust.

“My past has been very difficult. But after coming to Sambhali I have learned to be confident and independent. I enjoy the attention I receive when I am modelling because it makes me feel important. Now I feel like anything is possible; I am a powerful woman!”

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT 3: UNITY



The Sambhali students have very close relationships with each other and can be quite protective. This was evidenced by the fact that, recently, one girl confided in some of the other girls about comments that a group of boys had made to her in the park next to the Sambhali Jodhpur project office.

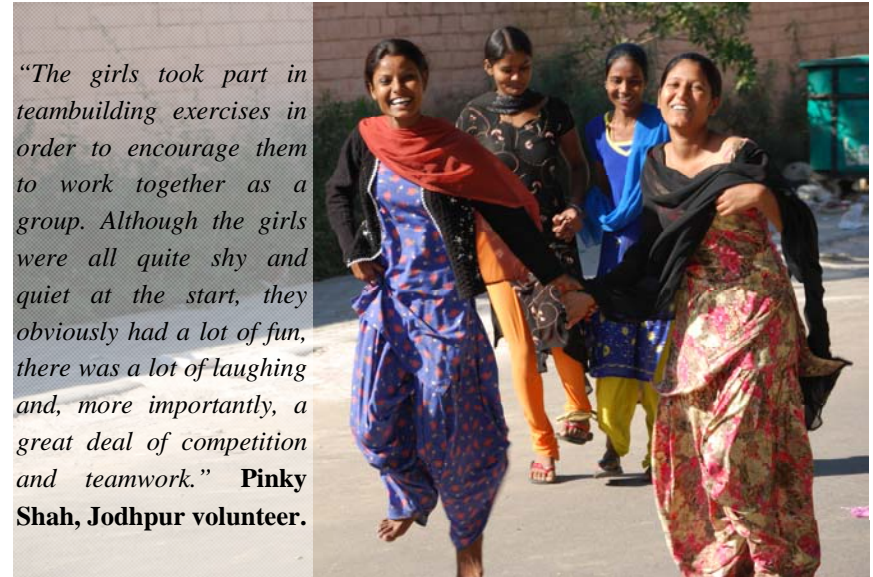
Word spread fast and, without hesitating, all of the girls got together and marched to the park to search for the group of boys. They intended to confront and defend themselves and spent 20 minutes searching for them, but the group had disappeared. Nonetheless, this showed that their immediate thought was to act as one and defend themselves.

"I watched the girls practise a dance to the Wedding Song. One of the girls burst into tears during practice, because the song reminded her that she was going to get married in a year's time. I learnt that she would not have been able to cry at home and this was an outlet for her emotions. All the other girls went to support her, showing the closeness and understanding that they have for each other." **Corinne Rose, Jodhpur volunteer.**



Photo: Lajwanti and friends

"I watched the girls as they chatted with one another, worked at their embroidery and sat down to eat their lunch. In the fifteen months that they have been here, strong bonds have formed between them and they have grown into confident young women with a strong sense of solidarity. When they girls are together they seem larger than the sum of their parts and I can immediately appreciate how much work it must've taken to achieve such solidarity." **Casey Lord, Jodhpur volunteer.**



"The girls took part in teambuilding exercises in order to encourage them to work together as a group. Although the girls were all quite shy and quiet at the start, they obviously had a lot of fun, there was a lot of laughing and, more importantly, a great deal of competition and teamwork." **Pinky Shah, Jodhpur volunteer.**

Photo: First Sports Day, Jodhpur Project



Setrawa Village participants on a picnic to Tiveri village. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, playing many imaginative games, such as that in the photograph. After being wrapped in toilet paper, they had to race against the other teams.

INDEPENDENCE – SELF-ESTEEM – UNITY: Market Stall

For one week, beginning 12th January 2009, Sambhali volunteers and participants held a market stall at the Clock Tower, centrally located in Jodhpur's main market. At the stall, items made by the participants from both the Jodhpur and Setrawa projects were sold. The main aim for this stall was to fundraise for two weeks of health camps that were going to be hosted by Sambhali in both Jodhpur and Setrawa.



Not only did the girls work very hard to produce quality items for the market stall, but each day, a different pair came to the stall and helped the volunteers to sell the items to tourists.

Photo Left: Deepika and Sandhya help at the stall. Some items for sale included bags, wall hangings, elephants, coasters, and more.

Photo Below Left: On the first day of the stall, all of the Jodhpur students came to visit after class finished to offer their support – and of course to satisfy their curiosity!

Photo Below Right: Several media agencies were very interested in the stall and this was published in the *Times of India* on 14th January 2009.



Results:
The market stall was very successful in that a great number of items sold, from bracelets and postcards to scarves and table cloths. All those involved got a clearer idea of which items were saleable and which were not, and were therefore better able to identify which products were most marketable to tourists.

- ◆ **Independence:** For all of the girls, this was the first time they had been in such a situation; they were put in the middle of a busy market and told to help fundraise by selling their work to tourists. At the same time, they needed to raise awareness of Sambhali's work. Some of the girls were even brave enough to chase tourists with Sambhali leaflets!
- ◆ **Self-esteem:** This was their first real interaction with strangers en masse. The girls soon realised that this was a good opportunity to practice their English and communication skills. There were many smiles when they successfully made a sale! Furthermore, the girls saw a real return on their efforts in that they all received a percentage of the profits.
- ◆ **Unity:** The girls were very pleased that items they had made were selling and this encouraged them to work together to produce more. For example, the elephants sold out within a few days (attracting tourists and locals alike!), and the girls immediately started work on producing more.

Health Camps:

Health camps were held in Setrawa week beginning Sunday 1st February 2009, and in Jodhpur week beginning Monday 9th February 2009.



Photo above left: Line of patients waiting to be seen in Setrawa.

Photo above centre: Local General Physician, Dr B. Derashree and volunteer, Dr. V. Ng.

Photo above right: Jodhpur students listening intently at a health workshop.

Future Plans:

Due to the success of the first market stall, it was decided that one market stall would be held each month (during tourist season). In response to comments from customers, the girls would be practicing their existing skills by making a greater variety of items that tourists might buy, but we do not yet stock.



A Second Chance...

A poem by Helen Barley, Jodhpur Volunteer

*In another life I was all alone,
Bound by the chains that tied me to the home.
I felt like screaming, "Where is the joy
in this life, when all I experience is
oppression and strife?"*

*But then came the hope which was to set
me free, the chance of a new life with Sambhali.
This education has given me the power
To bloom from a seed into a flower.*

*My new found confidence makes me feel
the need, to show India that Dalit women
can succeed.
I look ahead and now I can see, no dream
is too great for me to achieve.*

*Sambhali- I hope these words can express,
how you have empowered the once
powerless.*

SAMBHALI GRADUATES

The first set of students will graduate from the Sambhali Trust Jodhpur Project 1 in the summer of 2009. They will have been attending Sambhali for two and a half years.

Here are their thoughts...



Sambhali not only gave me the confidence to be independent but also equipped me with a variety of skills through which I'll be able to design a better future for myself and my family. If you ask me for one change that Sambhali has given me, I'd say that would be an everlasting happiness.

Nirmala



Sambhali has helped me a lot. For the first time ever, I got an opportunity to do something that would make my life better. It got me a job. Apart from helping me to gain independence, Sambhali also helps me to take care of my family.

Meera



Through Sambhali, I now know how to speak and write English. Sambhali has been a home for me. I can speak from my heart here. There are some things about which one can't talk about at home, but for me there is no such barrier at Sambhali.

Lajwanti



Sambhali gave wings to my desire. At Sambhali I learnt to study, sew and paint. I wish to better my future by opening my own sewing centre. Thanks to Sambhali, even that could be realised soon.

Pooja



I was completely wretched until I came to Sambhali. Today I can read and write both English and Hindi. I want to support my family from the work I have learnt at Sambhali. Sambhali is helping me to realise this dream by establishing a sewing centre in my area.

Soniya

After coming to Sambhali, I gained a lot of self confidence. I now know that my future aim is to open a sewing centre.

Sambhali has opened an illuminated pathway for my otherwise disillusioned life.

Deepika



Before coming to Sambhali, I never thought that I would be able to earn a living. My life had been confined to the four walls of my house. Sambhali helped me to be independent.

Saraswati



Today, because of Sambhali, I have the confidence to earn a living for myself. Sambhali is also helping us to establish a sewing centre through which we'll be able to earn a living from the skills we have learnt here. There is much more to life beyond being trapped within your own house.

Sandhya



At Sambhali I have made a new life. Now I know where my future belongs and how I'll achieve it. I wish to take up a career in sewing and embroidery. Sambhali is also helping me to open a sewing centre, where I could earn a living for myself.

Usha



Through Sambhali, I have found the means to support my family. I wish to ensure that my siblings and future generations should not face the conditions of my childhood.

With Sambhali supporting us, I'm sure that I'll be able to fulfill my dream.

Sunita



SAMBHALI IN THE NEWS ...



डिजाइनिंग से पहले स्केचिंग पर ध्यान
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।

Workshop for Fashion Design Teaching
 One day talk by Sunita Bhansali from Bangalore
 (Dhaynik Bhaskar, 29 April 2008)

Girls are the future of India (Dhaynik Bhaskar, 11 May 2008)



'बालिका देश का भविष्य'
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।



सम्भली देगी महिला सशक्तिकरण में सहयोग: गुप्ता
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।

In the Name of Life
 Girls learn about the art of living over a 4 day course in Jodhpur
 (Rajasthan Patrika, 22 May 2008)



जीना इसी का नाम है...
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।



भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा शुरू करने की मांग
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।

Girls Meet Prime Minister and Ask for Justice for Dalits (Dhaynik Bhasker, 22 June 2008)



तांत्रिकों ने कहा भूत लगा है, डाक्टरों ने कहा, कहा यह तो ठीक है
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।

Doctor Says she is OK but Cheater Holy Man Says she is Possessed A follow up report on a woman tied to a tree, who was found by a Sambhali volunteer (Dheyunik Navjyoti, 28 June 2008)

Today Yoga Classes Start Five days of Yoga classes in Setrawa (Rajasthan Patrika, 9 July 2008)



नवचेतना शिविर आज से
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।

Only One Trust, Sambhali, is helping to improve the Status of Dalits (Divya Lok, 21 July 2008)

Five Foreigners go to Ramdevra on Foot Referring to the 6 day pilgrimage from Jodhpur (Rajasthan Patrika, 2 Sept 2008)



रामदेवरा पैदल जलद्वारे पांच फॉरनर्स
बाबा के 'विदेशी जातक'
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।



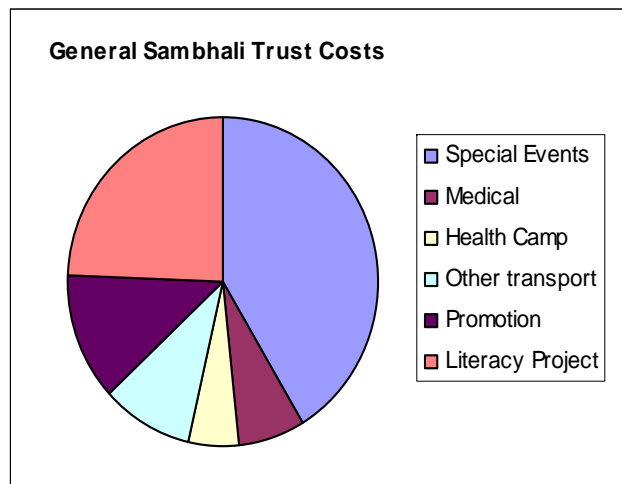
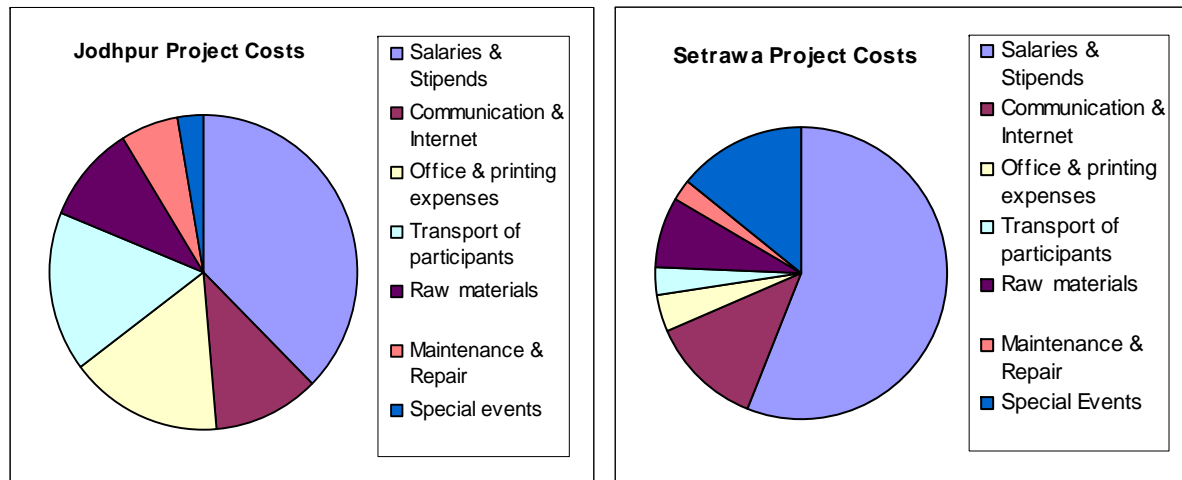
श्रद्धा के फूल
 नई दिल्ली: एक दिन के दौरान 40 महिलाओं को डिजाइन करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए सूनिता भंसाली ने एक दिन का वर्कशॉप आयोजित किया।

Flowers for Memorial Volunteers took part in a condolence walk for those who died in the stampede at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur (Rajasthan Patrika, 2 Oct 2008)



Models from Sambhali pose at a fashion show organized by the Children's and Young People Movie Centre (Matwala Rahi, 1 January, 2009)

ANNUAL 2008-2009 EXPENSES BY PROJECT



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AUSTRIA

*I had to prepare the graduates for a video documentary. It was the first time when my colleagues were not files and computers, but a bunch of humans. Humans not with black coats but people who had so much to say. Who had decided to fight against all odds in life. Who had decided to laugh away at the harshest pains which life can inflict upon them. What I met were not just a bunch of ordinary people, but the strongest fighters I have ever seen. After hearing their stories, I simply felt that I have seen nothing at all. By far my biggest sorrow had been a shuffle of marks in my grade sheet. I never thought that such a small stretch of association with Sambhali would become an experience of a lifetime for me. **Dhruv Sharma BA/LLB student at Hyderabad University, volunteered in Jodhpur for 10 days in December 2008.***

SUPPORT

The projects from Sambhali Trust live from private support. The Sambhali Trust team and all affiliated people are very thankful for any contribution. If you are interested in supporting Sambhali Trust projects and learning more about our work, please contact Govind Singh Rathore, 1st Old Public Park Raika Bagh, 342001 Jodhpur, Rajasthan, INDIA info@sambhali-trust.org. Information on Sambhali Trust can also be found on www.sambhali-trust.org.

Sambhali Trust is very thankful to all who have helped our NGO by generously contributing with advice, ideas, information, financial guidance, technical and administrative support, and sponsoring children to return to school. We also wish to thank all of the volunteers who have helped support our cause, thank you for helping us to shape the identity of our grassroots effort.

2008-2009 Volunteers

Anna Waterkotte
Karelia Wilenius
Casey Lord
Chloe Scott
Helen Wagner
Coline Humbert
Meghan Bennett
Griselda Murray Brown
Fayette Fox
Helen Barley
Lena C. Shaefer
Stephanie Valuks
Elisa Fiedler
Carolina Pinasco
Corinne Rose
Pinky Shah

We also wish to thank our many other shorter term volunteers who assisted with focused workshops.

Johanna Werz
Richard Fehler
Eliane Luthi Poirier
Veronica Ng

We also wish to thank family, friends in India and abroad, and all of the guests who have passed through Jodhpur and visited us at Sambhali Trust this year

Specifically we wish to thank the following:

H.E. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil
Honorable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje Sindhiya
Respected Divisional Commissioner of Jodhpur, Smt. Kiran Soni Gupta
Officers and media persons of Jodhpur Division
Soziale Initiative
Ms Cornelia Uebscher
Lonely Planet Foundation (Planet Wheeler Organisation)
Green Bag Organisation
Brookesville Fund
Global Foundation for Humanity
Le Palais De Thes
Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD)
Worldwide Helpers
Global Experience
Independent Volunteers
Nothelfergemeinschaft der Freunde e.V.
Rajput Cultural Adventures
Sans Frontiers
Marty's Photo Tours
Dragoman Overland
Durag Niwas Guest House

Sambhali Song

Written by the Setrawa Project Participants

Sister of seven brothers
But you still kept me uneducated, oh my mother
Why don't you give me chalk and slate?

My brothers went to school
But you sent me to do cowdung cakes
Oh mother, I am sister of seven brothers
Oh mother, why don't you give me chalk and slate?

My brothers went to colleges
But you made me fill water, oh mother
Oh mother, I am sister of seven brothers
Oh mother, why don't you give me chalk and slate?

My brothers have become officers
But you made me bring firewood
Oh mother, I am sister of seven brothers
Why don't you give me chalk and slate?

Give many colours or people from Sambhali
Educated us in many ways while staying at home
Oh mother, I am sister of seven brothers
Oh mother, why don't you give me chalk and slate?

