

sambhali trust



Annual Report 2012/13

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Mission Statement



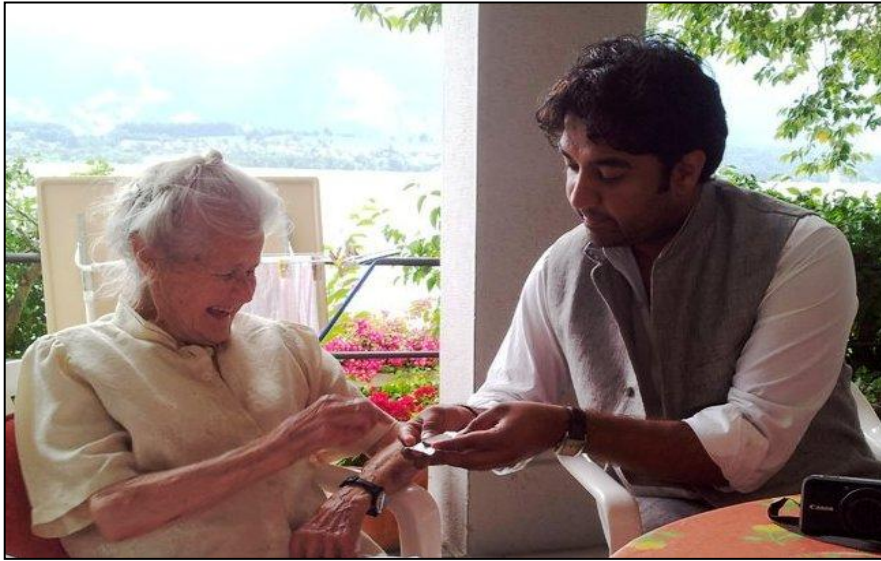
Sambhali Trust is a non-profit grassroots organisation based in Rajasthan. The main objective of the Trust is to provide support and education to all underprivileged people of urban and rural areas.

We achieve our mission by providing Empowerment Centres for women and girls and offering vocational training in sewing and embroidery skills as well as tuition in Hindi, English and Maths. We hope by teaching these skills it will help to enable them to achieve economic independence in the future. We wish to provide income-generating activities for more women and access to employment opportunities.

We support the need to develop women's awareness in medical health and hygiene issues, nutrition and diet through the provision of medical health camps and outreach work. We understand that a good education is the foundation stone to a child's development and the provision of scholarships for children unable to go to school and children from rural areas improving their educational standard to increase their opportunities.

We also provide refuge, counselling and support in cases of domestic violence; financial help to support women in need of legal aid and in cases of urgent medical care. We strongly pursue and encourage the aim of gender equality whilst being sensitive to cultural norms and encourage personality and social development, creating strong women's networks within their own communities.

Letter from Founder, Managing Trustee



Khamaghani !

As ever, another year has gone by so quickly! I would first like to congratulate Sadhvi Shanti with Ernestine Badegruber and friends for setting up *Sambhali Austria* and also Renate Massmann-Krei and Andrea Reuther, who, with other friends of Sambhali have set up *Freunde für Sambhali* in Germany. We are delighted that we have so much support in these countries and that ex-volunteers and friends want to carry on the work they have started and together we can discuss the progress of projects and how the organisation can move forwards.

I would also like to pay thanks to everyone I met on my trip to Europe last June when I made a series of presentations regarding the work we are doing at Sambhali Trust. I was met with so much kindness, warmth and generosity from all our Sambhali friends and new friends! So many people helped to arrange presentations and opened their doors and hearts for Sambhali! This photo shows Hermine, a lady I have known for the last 4 years. She is 103 years old and lives in an Old People's Home in Thun, Switzerland; my friend, Rahel, who works in the Home, introduced me to her and we have been friends ever since! My thanks go particularly to Ernestine Badegruber, Kathleen Domeisen-Kirschbaum, Mrs Hilde Scheidt, Rita Muehlebach, Margarit Nobs, Natalie and Rahel, Ingrid Geilert, Christa Holland, Mrs Dagmar Kügelgen, her friends and daughter Frederike Schwarz von Kügelgen, who all helped to set up venues and publicise the presentations. It was a wonderful time meeting so many new people and forging links to enable the projects that Sambhali Trust is running to continue.

This past year has seen Sambhali establish 6 new projects which are now running successfully. With thanks to Marie Thérèse Khün, together with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment we are now looking after the babies at our Sambhali Sisters for Sisters Project and have called this project, Sambhali 'Sisters' Babies'. With the support of Mme Jacqueline de Chollet and Anne Vincent, Global Foundation for Humanity, we are educating 15 young girls from the rural desert villages of Setrawa, Shergarh and Solankiyatala at a good school in Jodhpur and providing them with accommodation in a family-run home.

I would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors who are now helping 125 girls and boys through the Scholarship programme and I'm very happy that none of these children have dropped out of school nor

failed their exams. I feel strongly that education is the foundation of a child's life and gives him/her the chance to develop into a stronger human-being.

Our graduates are all continuing at the Graduates Sewing Centre and we have a new Sewing Centre in the Mehrangarh Fort where the women are making items for our new stall within the Fort. We have had 15 students successfully graduating from the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre and I am pleased to say that we have been able to employ 5 of them in different roles within our organisation.

Sambhali's work is gradually getting recognised within Rajasthan by the increased number of invitations we are getting through the Departments of Women and Child Development and Social Justice and Empowerment, as well as awards through the local communities both in Setrawa village and in Jodhpur. This is a small milestone for the Trust in Setrawa particularly, where we have come across so much caste prejudice. We are finding more and more people are approaching Sambhali for help through word of mouth and now people accept Sambhali Trust and women want to benefit from it.

My grateful thanks in particular goes to Planet Wheeler and Frères de nos Frères who without their continued support Sambhali Trust would be struggling, Ramona Saboo, Forty Red Bangles for her continued support to the Trust and the Graduates Sewing Centre, Chris Pye for the valiant effort he made and suffering sore feet for the sake of fundraising for Sambhali; Ralph Lewin, Max Lehmann, Nigama Riedi for sharing her birthday present with the woman of Setrawa, Kirchenkreis Spiegel, Femmes en Mission Humanitaire, Women Travel, Restaurant Viertel-Kreis, Sans Frontières, Dragoman and Global Giving. A huge thank you goes to Rosemary Smetena and residents of Belcarra, Canada for sponsoring 15 children to go to school for 2 years; Martha Gies for bringing her Writing Group to visit Sambhali Trust and of course Susan Ruf and Erika for opening up her flat entirely to us on our visit to Europe. Thanks goes to Michaela Hansen of Granny Aupair for providing us with experienced volunteers; Nothelfergemeinschaft der Freunde, World Unite, Magda Hilterfingen, Sophie Barat Schule in Hamburg, Women Go, AMASC, UNSW students in Australia, Montessori Schule March, Jona, Switzerland. Grateful thanks also goes to Roberta Freymann and the City of Surrey in British Columbia, Canada for their support in providing work for our Sewing Centres, Sigrid Rule; my thanks to our dear Cornelia Uebscher for taking care of the Sambhali website year-on-year. Grateful thanks to Dr Yves Burrus for again funding the Self-Help Group Programme in Setrawa, enabling groups of women in two different villages to successfully complete another year to start small businesses and also to the Mehrangarh Museum Trust in Jodhpur. I would like to thank the Child Welfare Committee in Jodhpur and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Also many thanks to all our volunteers who have worked hard in all the projects to make them successful and I'm so happy that some have returned for a second time.

We are now reaching out to women and children in need in so many different ways, which also now includes an Outreach programme we are developing in Setrawa which will gradually bring awareness on educational and health topics to the village women. There is still an enormous scope of work to be done in helping to empower and educate the underprivileged women and girls in Rajasthan but together I feel we are gradually achieving it.

Warmest regards



Govind Singh Rathore



Problems facing women in Rajasthan today

Rajasthan is one of the four poorest and most backward states in India in terms of poverty rates, education and health.

"In India, Dalits continue to remain one of the most oppressed and exploited people. Once described as the "untouchables", Dalits are socially excluded and face widespread discrimination of education and malnourishment in a semi-desert climate all these factors make life a daily struggle.

The caste system has relegated them to the lowest level in caste hierarchy and steeped them on poverty and helplessness. They are treated like social outcastes. Their very existence as human beings with dignity is denied, leading to a further denial of all basic services like health, education and livelihood.

The women's oppression is further exacerbated inside the household where they continue to live within patriarchal norms. The denial of rights is deepened by their poverty as well as the fact that they are women, tripling their oppression and serving to keep them at the subservient levels of society".*



The Dalit communities comprise about one fifth* of the population of Rajasthan (which is approx 68 million). The high incidence of child marriage (under 18 years), female foeticide, dowry deaths and domestic violence in a patriarchal society all contribute to the problems that women face. Combined with illiteracy, lack of education and malnourishment in a semi-desert climate all these factors make life a daily struggle.

Reported Incidences of crime against women in 2011 in Rajasthan (The National Crime Records Bureau)

Crime reported	Incidence
Rape	1800
Kidnapping and abduction	2713
Dowry deaths	514
Cruelty by husband and relatives	12218
Molestation	2447
Foeticide	13
Kidnapping of children	785
Abandoned children	98

*Dalit Women in Rajasthan: Fact-finding mission by PWESCR (Programme on Women's Economic Social and Cultural Rights) 2007

** Imagining India – Ideas for a New Century by Nandan Nilekani 2008

India has very clear and binding international treaties with respect to equality and non-discrimination, right to food, water and livelihood. *

1. The principle of gender equality and human rights including education
2. Right to food and dietary needs
3. Right to water
4. Right to work

Despite these obligations it is often found there is a lack of basic services, particularly in the rural areas such as availability of **water, sanitation**, lack of knowledge and information about state programmes, entitlements and work opportunities. Within the survey conducted by PWESCR* with regard to **work** and **livelihood** they did not find a single State-sponsored scheme being implemented for training or given credit access to Dalit women; in some areas there are NGOs but very few focus on income-generating activities and mobilisation of women in Self-Help Groups. Government jobs are few and with little access to education and training, they are unable to enter the formal organised work sector. Those people who earn less than 1800 rupees per month are entitled to a BPL card (Below Poverty Line) which entitles them to government aid.

With regard to **education**, Nandan Nilekani** writes, *“Through the 1960s and 1970s the focus of governments was on building infrastructure, with little emphasis on teachers’ training, educational achievements and performance measurement. As a result the total number of illiterates continued to grow”*. Hence the demand for private schooling.

According to the 2011 Census, in Rajasthan

	Percentage of population
Literacy rate	67%
Literacy rate in males	80.51%
Literacy rate in females	52.66%
Sex ratio	926:1000 (F/M) (In 2001 it was 922:1000)



*Dalit Women in Rajasthan: Fact-finding mission by PWESCR (Programme on Women’s Economic Social and Cultural Rights) 2007

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Regarding Gender Inequality

G. Chamki Raj in The Hindu 27 January 2013, on the aftermath of the Delhi gang rape case writes:

“The Constitution guarantees to all women equality, prohibition of discrimination by the State, equality of opportunity, and equal pay for equal work. It also provides for making special enactments for women and children. It renounces practices derogatory to women’s dignity and provides for just and humane conditions of work and maternity benefit. But till date, these guarantees remain a distant dream for Indian women.

Despite these laws, despite several women occupying high offices, Indian women continue to face discrimination and violence. Dalit women are doubly oppressed. With sexual harassment, rape, acid throwing, “honour killings”, selective abortions, bride burning and trafficking, India has been adjudged the “fourth most dangerous country in the world for women to live in” by the Thomas Reuters Foundation Survey in 2011.

Offences against women are acts of aggression to establish that they are secondary citizens. The patriarchal culture confines a woman’s role to the family for the sake of reproduction and for accumulation of wealth, negating her contribution to the nation’s GDP. Marriage is considered her ultimate life. However, the need to pay dowry makes a daughter a burden, leading to sex-selective abortions and female foeticides.

Empowerment of women is an irritant to the mindset of a patriarchal society and hence the increase in violence against women. In such oppressive conditions, the recent spontaneous protests gain significance.

Laws are redundant in the absence of social responsibility towards gender issues and the political will to implement the laws. The perception should change, in consonance with our constitutional guarantees to women because a woman is human.”

Current Projects



Sambhali Jodhpur Empowerment Centre

The main base, established in 2007, the Centre takes 25-30 girls for 6-month course in vocational training in sewing, embroidery and block-printing; tutoring in Hindi, English and Maths as well as general knowledge workshops to help increase their personality development.

Sambhali Sisters for Sisters Project

Created March 2012, this is based in the girls' shelter home (Balika Grah) of the Social Justice and Empowerment Department. An average of 30 girls receive basic Literacy, tutoring in Arts and Crafts and help with homework for those girls attending school as well as activities related to their self-esteem and personality development

Sambhali Sisters Babies' Project

This was created in February 2013 as a response to the need for 24-hour care for the babies within Balika Grah Shelter Home. Sambhali has refurbished a room to make a nursery and is providing 3 care-assistants and 1 nurse to look after the needs of the babies.

Sambhali Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre

Created in February 2013 this is helping around 110 women and girls who are attending the centre to learn vocational skills, Hindi and English. We have 2 tutors teaching sewing and embroidery and one tutor teaching Hindi and English together with foreign volunteers.

Sambhali Setrawa Empowerment Centre

Opened in 2007, this Centre provides both an after-school programme for girls who go to school and a programme for uneducated girls to read basic Hindi, Maths and English as well as washing facilities for those with no access to water in their homes. There is a Saturday School, where the centre holds educational workshops which are also open to family and friends and a newly-formed Sewing Class for the older girls and women. An outreach programme has also started.



Sambhali Panaah Shelter Services

This provides a short-term refuge for women suffering from any type of violence plus counselling support, medical help and legal advice to rehabilitate them back into their community.



Sambhali Sheerni Educational Programme

Created in June 2012, this project is funding 15 girls (8-13 years old) from Setrawa and Solankiyatala desert villages to educate them in a good school in Jodhpur. They live in a family-run house and are provided with food and accommodation as well as volunteers providing Arts & Crafts and English classes as well as recreational games after school.

Sambhali Sheerni Self-Help Group Project

Started in 2009 and based in the rural area of Setrawa, there are now 96 women in 8 self-help groups from two different villages, who are supported in saving money on a monthly basis and have access to loans to enable them to start a small business.



Sambhali Scholarship Programme

This project is now supporting 125 girls and boys by donors directly sponsoring children to receive a good education in a private school.

Sambhali Graduates Sewing Centre

Created in 2009, this is where graduates from Sambhali Trust's Empowerment Centres are able to earn a regular income by making a variety of clothes, accessories and soft-toys for the Sambhali Boutique, as well as for national and international orders.



Sambhali Mehran Sewing Centre

Created in September 2012 it has provided wives of the men working in Mehrangarh Fort with vocational training in sewing and embroidery. After a 4-month course, the women now earn an income by making items for the Sambhali Mehrangarh Fort Stall and participate in international orders.

Sambhali Boutique and Sambhali Mehrangarh Fort Stall

Created in 2010, we produce Western and Indian-style garments, accessories, soft toys, cushion-covers, table linen, embroidered and block-printed items which our graduates are making.

Jodhpur Empowerment Centre



This year has seen 55 students pass through Sambhali's doors and we have had 20 students who have successfully completed one year's training. These students have all been donated sewing machines so that they are able to earn an income from home. Seven students (*left*), with Sambhali's help have sought government jobs by applying in person to the Mayor of Jodhpur; we are happy to say that 4 students, Ravita, Shobna, Sanju and Meenakshi are now employed through Sambhali Trust and Basanti has been in charge of the Sambhali Student Shop.

Challenges

- Women and girls with very little education, some illiterate, not able to voice their opinions, poor self-confidence
- No knowledge of general and women's health, nutrition, all general educational topics

Responses

- Tuition in Sewing, Embroidery and Art & Craft activities with a view to income-generation; counselling and discussion re family problems
- Workshops provided on health issues, nutrition, by professionals and volunteers
- Health Camps provided
- Support individuals seeking employment

This year the students have been using their new sewing skills to make garments for the 15 girls in the Sheerni Educational Project (boarding home). They have developed their embroidery skills into making samplers and with the help of volunteers these have now been packaged to sell in the newly-formed Sambhali Student Shop. They have also been developing greetings cards to further develop new creative ideas. Other volunteers have given workshops and helped the students to make necklaces, scarves, pearl bracelets and necklaces.

The girls are learning many new things: how to do photography with one workshop, they have learned dancing, acting, theatre, and these all increase their confidence. Ten girls were invited to Jaipur to perform theatre and dance following a workshop given by some volunteers in drama, focussing on social issues. We have had computer lessons also where a volunteer has taught the girls how the basic steps how to use a pc and how to use the internet, email etc.

The women and girls have attended meetings given by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, where there was a discussion on the problems of Scheduled tribes, SCs, OBCs and were given information about their rights.





Komal

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“My name is Komal. I am 16 years old. I was born at my grandparent’s house at Merti Gate in Jodhpur. I am the oldest; I have two younger brothers and one younger sister. My childhood was not so good because my mother was always out working so I was alone to take care of my brothers and sister. My father was working picking up scraps to sell back for money, and whatever money he would get he would spend on alcohol. My father is still very much an alcoholic, he beats my mother and fights with her whenever he drinks. When we were young, we would wake up in the night listening to this. Seven months ago he left the house. He used to do this all the time, fight and then leave for a few months, and then come back and fight. Last time he came back on my younger sister’s birthday and he ruined everything. We don’t know when he’ll come back – he could come back at any time, drunk. My mother can’t do anything to stop him – if she tries, he will beat her.

My maternal grandmother lives with us now and she gets a pension from her old job in the municipal corporation. After half is taken by my uncle, and the next half taken by my aunty, only a small part, 1,500 rupees, is left for us. My mother still works for another 1,500 rupees a month but still it’s hard for us. We don’t have our own house, so we have to pay 1,000 rupees for rent – and the place we have has no water or electricity. The rest is very little for 6 people to live on. Neither of my brothers go to school, but my sister is sponsored by Sambhali to go to a good private school this year. I went to private school up to 2nd, but I had to drop out because of money problems. By the time my siblings got old enough for school, the money was finished. My brothers are young, 13 and 14, but they are beginning to behave like my father, the way they try to dominate us the family. My mother has tried very hard to convince them to go to school but they refuse. I am scared they will grow up to be like my father.

I heard about Sambhali from my cousin, Shobna, a successful Sambhali graduate. I started coming in August 2012. Shobna told my mother to send me to Sambhali to learn Maths and sewing and many things to help me in my future. My family is very happy that I’m coming. My favourite part of Sambhali is studying English. I don’t know exactly what I’ll do in the future but I know all these things will help me. Now I wake up in the morning and finish all my work very quickly to come to Sambhali. I can speak good Hindi now – at home we only speak Marwari. When I go to shops around Jodhpur, they pay more attention to me speaking Hindi. I learned photography here, which I had never had the chance to do before. I was very shy, but now I am more confident, and I’m acting in the Sambhali theatre. Even in Sambhali I used to avoid talking, avoid conversations, and now I feel that I can talk with people.”

Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre



Challenges

- Austere building and dormitories with no decoration, minimal bedding and basic facilities
- Few resources to help with the children's all-round development
- No activities outside of school, little clothing, minimal health care

Responses

- Painted some of the building with bright colours
- Tuition in Hindi, English and Maths, general educational and recreational activities
- Provision of extra clothing, blankets, curtains
- Health Camp for skin problems and ongoing lice treatment

On 9 April 2012, Sambhali Trust invited the Child Welfare Committee of Jodhpur to discuss the establishment of an empowerment project for girls at the Shelter Home, Balika Grah, in Jodhpur that is run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samaj Kalyan Vibhag). All these girls are virtual orphans. They are aged 3-14 years old and their parents are either in jail or they come from disadvantaged backgrounds, where their parents are not able to keep them at home. They are cared and protected under the supervision of the Superintendent, Ms Manmeet Kaur. There is a dormitory, they are given 3 meals a day, and most girls attend a government school for 5 hours a day in the morning.

Sambhali's 2 tutors and up to 4 volunteers attend this project 5 days a week, 2 hours a day. A syllabus has been developed covering all topics of English and Hindi grammar as well as simple Arithmetic to work in conjunction with what they learn at school; weekly testing takes place as well as revision for exams.

"The children used to shout all the time when people came – now they have improved a lot in their manners, they greet everybody who comes here properly and nicely. They keep themselves neat and tidy, with combed hair. They practise good hygiene now that they have the means and the knowledge of how to do it. Their learning skills have increased –with volunteers coming with different techniques like pictures and puzzles. Their progress reports (from school) have improved a lot, especially in English. When we started, the place was very unclean and the girls had bad hygiene, no warm water, but as Sambhali started making efforts to improve the girls' lives, the orphanage staff also started making efforts to improve, and this has been very good for the girls. We're able to explain things to them in a practical way, so they understand and accept our advice for their problems; they really want to learn; they are much healthier now."

Dilkush Chouhan, English tutor

Activities

Painting in various forms; thumb painting, stencil painting, rubber, fabric, poster paint etc
Simple block-printing, tie-dye; monkey & elephant handprint
Simple sewing stitches: chain, stem, back, lazy daisy stitch;
Key-chain making; simple jewellery from beads; embroidery samples, hankies, crafts, flowers
Crochet work
Birthday cards
Workshops in Health & Hygiene including dental care and regular lice treatment

Pinnu.

"My name is Pinnu. I am 13 years old. I have been living in Balika Grah for 6 years. My father died when I was 6 months old. My mother can't afford to care for me or give me an education so I am living here. I have 5 brothers, four are married and one is still studying – he lives in a boys' shelter home. I like to live at home but for my education and other requirements it is better here.

Now I am doing well in English class at school, before I never did. We never used to get our books and necessary stationery on time before. The warden used to teach us but we had no professional teacher to teach us. We used to get bored before Sambhali started coming.

The biggest problem Sambhali solved was that we all had skin rash problems (scabies), so Sambhali got a doctor (dermatologist) to come. The lice treatment was also a really good thing Sambhali did. We never used to have shampoo either but now we have some. Now we get sanitary napkins from Sambhali, before we never got any. We also got towels and toothbrushes – before we never had those either. We never used to get sweet milk, we would only have sugar a few times a year – but then Sambhali bought sugar and now we have it every morning.

The schoolteacher came to visit here and the other hostel across the way and he said here is better because of the education Sambhali provides.

When sometimes I have a problem or a matter that's troubling me on the inside, before I couldn't talk about it with anyone here. Before Sambhali came we had nobody to share our problems with, we had to wait to go home at vacations to talk about it if something was troubling us. But now I can talk to one of the people who comes from Sambhali.

Our behaviour has changed a lot, we used to fight a lot. Our way of talking has changed, we've stopped abusing each other and using bad words. Before we were afraid to complain about anything, now we have a complaint box and we can put our complaints in there.

I feel happy when Sambhali comes here and I want them to continue for years and years."

Please note, we have not included individual photos of the children due to privacy reasons as it is a state government-run shelter home run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Sisters' Babies Project



Challenges

Lack of overnight and day care of the babies in the “Sisters for Sisters” Project at Balikah Grah, a government-run shelter home.

Please note, we have not included individual photos of the babies due to privacy reasons as it is a state government-run shelter home run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Responses

Together with the Child Welfare Committee in Jodhpur and the Superintendent of Balikah Grah, Sambhali Trust implemented a programme on 6 February 2013 to fund the care of the babies under Shishu Grah. This included decorating a room to make it into a nursery and furnishing it with cots, mattresses and necessary equipment and toiletries to look after the babies. We employ 3 care assistants who each have an 8-hour shift and one nurse, so that the babies are cared for on a 24-hour basis. Hospital visits and medication are paid for by the government.

There are only three children's shelter homes of this kind in Rajasthan – one in Jodhpur, one in Bikaner, and one in Kota. As such, children found all over the area are picked up and brought to Jodhpur. When this project started there were 4 babies and now there are 5.

One baby, Krishna, was found near a temple in Jodhpur when she was 2 months old. She spent 2 months in the orphanage before she was adopted by an Indian family. Another baby, Guddiya, was found near a temple in Bhilwara, South of Jodhpur, on the 22 December 2013. She was also two months old. Initially she was growing very well, but then she contracted a fever and was checked into the hospital for 20 days. They discovered she has a “hole in her heart”, and for this she needs medication every day. Now she is 5 months old and her health is uncertain.

Laxmi is a 4 month old baby who was found near bushes with a 5kg stone on her chest near Nagaur, North of Jodhpur. We suspect her parents were trying to kill her with this stone. She was found on the 20 November 2012. She has been healthy since she's been at the orphanage and gets regular health checkups. The smallest baby, Anjana, is 2 months old, but she looks like she could be 2 weeks old. She is tiny and very weak, and recently spent 15 days at the hospital with hemoglobin problems. The Sambhali staff are working very hard to nurse her back to health. She was found near bushes at a temple in Jaisalmer. She was placed there on 30 January 2013 and rescued 3 days later on 2 February, 2013.



Ravita (ex-Sambhali student Jodhpur Empowerment Centre)

"Since some weeks I'm working with the babies at the 'Sisters for Sisters' Project. The shifts are changing every week. One week I go there from 8.00am to 2.00pm, the other week I'm working from 2.00-8.00pm. There is another Care Assistant who I'm changing the shifts with. In the time I work there, I feed the babies, wash their clothes, give them oil massages and give them Medicine according to the doctor. In the beginning it was hard sometimes because the Caretakers of the (government-run) shelter home were not nice. They were unfriendly and told us that we didn't do a good job. Now that's better, too. I like my new job because it's a good feeling to be and care like a mother for children who don't have parents anymore. Also i only have sons so it's nice for me to have so many daughters now".

Shobna (ex-Sambhali student Jodhpur Empowerment Centre now, Care Assistant, Sisters' Babies Project)

"I'm 24 years old. I went to school and passed the 9th year. I am married and I have one son, who is 9 years old. I got married when I was 12 years old. My husband used to hit me. He was always drunk. Then he committed suicide, my son does not love him. I live with my mother and father who are very good people. Two of my brothers are good but my eldest brother fights all the time. There are seven people in my joint family. My father is retired. He has asthma and has to take medicine all the time. He had a government job so he gets a pension now – I don't know how much money it is. He helps me with 500 rupees a month.



My son goes to a private English-medium school. He is a 4th year student now. The school costs 2,600 rupees per month for school fees and boarding. My father paid for this but now he's retired and he can't pay. There's lots of tension because of it. My son really likes computers and English.

When I come to Sambhali, I feel happy and my life changes. I feel stronger and more independent. I am a better mother and a better daughter. I finish all of the housework. I'm the only lady in my family to do all of the housework. I come to Sambhali by auto-rickshaw – Govind helps me with this. English is my favourite subject. Stitching and sewing is how I can have independence and money. When I'm not able to come to Sambhali, I feel sad and sometimes cry and shout at people. I am an independent single mother. My mind is free. My life is good. No hitting, no tension, no asking all the time for money. I love my son and he loves me. My son has a good future – he's my future – he's a good student and I'm so proud of him – this is what I want for a happy life. And maybe my son will be a pilot one day!"

Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre



This project started in February 2013 and anticipating the need in this neglected area of Jodhpur we were still amazed when 120 women arrived on the first day! After 2 weeks the response remained the same and so we procured 2 classrooms in different properties, close to each other. The group has since divided themselves into 2 groups: one comprising of older mostly married women and the other group unmarried girls in their teens. We now have Anju and Kavita teaching Sewing and Embroidery and Vimlesh teaching Hindi and English,

Challenges

- A poor minority community where women have traditionally been unable to further their education past 12th standard, so they have had no opportunities if they wish to continue learning. (10% girls go to college, 90% stay at home).
- Many girls are pulled out of school by their parents either to do the housework or because of safety, the school is too far, etc.
- Many single mothers with no job opportunities, welcome the chance to expand their skill-set and work as tailors from home.

Responses

- Provision of tuition in Hindi and English
- Vocational skills in sewing, tailoring and embroidery
- Educational workshops eg Self-Awareness, Breast-Cancer, Health, Nutrition and Geography of India
- Medical health-camp aimed at women's health
- Provision of Income-generation activities through international orders ie making 5000 rakhi bracelets for a Canadian charity

We have found so far that the older women are more interested in sewing and stitching and the teenage girls are more interested in learning English (and sewing) to improve their employment opportunities.

"I learn stitching at home from my brother who is a tailor, but it's not good. I only learn how to make salwaar suits. Now I come to Sambhali and I'm learning better skills, embroidery and different kinds of stitching. I want to become a fashion designer – and I will think of the ideas and my brother will sew them." **Rukshar**

"English is very important for this time, so I come to study English. I only enjoy studying English, not stitching. I study English for a future job – I want to be a Doctor or a Lawyer. I want to go to college but my parents won't let me because they say girls shouldn't do this". **Rehana**



Shahnaj



From the very first day of Sambhali's Brothers for Sisters Project, Shahnaj told me proudly when starting interviewing her, she has come to attend our lessons. The 25 years old mother of two children, a girl of eight years and a son of six, never went to school, but was, in her youth, taught some Hindi at home by her grandfather. Before joining the project, she had a certain degree of reading and writing ability in Hindi, but none at all in English.

Meanwhile English has become her very favourite subject and she's even trying to invest every day a fair amount of time back home in practising and repeating. In this way, I can honestly state, she has evolved as an outstanding English student in the beginners' group who is constantly eager to give proof of her abilities, be it by coming in front to the white board, be it by helping other learners.

Her husband, Shahnaj underlines, is supporting her in coming to the project, and she adds, she would even step into a teacher like role and try to share with him what she was taught by the Sambhali volunteers. In the early days of the project, understanding was very difficult for her, but today she's feeling confident in the communication with her teachers. Learning in an intercultural environment composed by Indian and foreign women at the same time is, as Shahnaj states, something she really does enjoy. Asked about what difference the Project is making in her life, Shahnaj replied that not only feels more confident in specific situations (e.g. going to the market), but also feels like this new part of her life will have an effect on her personality development as a whole.

Corinna, volunteer

Najmin



Najmin is sixteen years old and lives in Janta Colony, the area that Brothers for Sisters supports. She has come to Brothers for Sisters every day since it began, even if that means tagging along a neighbor's child that she is looking after for the day. She lives with her mother and two brothers, and she has always wanted to go to school. Her mother said it was not possible for either Najmin or her brothers to attend school. She enjoys cooking, cleaning, and dusting, but finds being at home boring, so she feels much better since being able to come to Brothers for Sisters.

For the last two years, Najmin has made blankets out of old cotton clothes that she sells to a man for 30-40 rupees who then sells the blankets for 500-800 rupees. This income, as well as the money her brothers make from white washing, supports Najmin's family.

Because Najmin has never been to school, she finds learning English difficult as she never learned to read. She excels in class, however, often being the first to know the answer or come to the board.

Najmin is learning to write in Hindi from Sambhali's Hindi teacher Vimlesh; she practises Hindi at home and learns English at Brothers for Sisters. She likes learning, especially stitching; she practises at home and hopes to make a living by stitching pillow cases and clothes one day.

Samantha, volunteer

Setrawa Empowerment Centre



For some time now the Centre had needed to move to a different place because the landlord didn't like children from the Dalit caste in his building. The new Centre opened in October 2012 in a rented building within the grounds of a private school, 5 minutes outside Setrawa village. The new building has two smaller rooms, a bathroom and one big room in which the sewing class is (we have 6 sewing machines). Also there is an area in front of the centre where they can play games. We also have the possibility to go to the sports field of the Private School and play games or use it for outdoor lessons. The rooms have now been decorated with the alphabet, numbers, rhymes and drawings by the children and the volunteers.

Challenges

- Poorer children have little opportunity for education
- Dalit children have no running water at home
- Strong caste prejudice
- No vocational training available in the village

Responses

- Providing 70-80 children tuition in Hindi, English and Maths
- Health & Hygiene sessions
- Educational workshops
- Sewing Classes
- Outreach programmes



We have developed a new Sewing class in November where some older girls now learn embroidery and how to make garments with a treadle sewing machine. We have employed one of the women from the Sheerni Self-Help Group Project in Setrawa, Jasu Devi, who is very good at teaching the girls. They have also learnt to make bags, cushion-covers, jewellery and bracelets. It is hoped over a period of time they will get more proficient and develop their skills for the potential to earn an income in their village.

Butterfly Class

These children are from the poorer communities on the outskirts of the village. Social skills are developed with the Dalit children by giving them a structure to the day and understanding the importance of washing, grooming and personal hygiene. Also by interacting with the other children who go to school they develop team-building skills and working in pairs as well as being part of a group and learning when it's their turn etc..These children are all getting an education that they would not otherwise have had as their parents would not have sent them to school.

Peacock Class

It is a proud achievement that Sambhali can say that these children are amongst the top of their class at school in English. They are divided into 4 or 5 classes depending on the number of volunteers with 3 tutors teaching the more basic classes and the volunteers teaching the advanced classes. On Saturdays there are workshops for all the children; Arts and Crafts, team-work, competition in English knowledge, story-telling and face-painting.





Durga Devi

"My name is Durga and I am 7 years old. My father's name is Chetan Ram. He works in a stone mine. My mother's name is Luni Devi, she is a housewife and also goes to the Sambhali Centre to learn sewing. I have 2 elder brothers, who work in Balotra and also 1 elder sister, who goes to Sambhali to learn sewing. I am very happy now because I have started to come to Sambhali. Before, I used to play in the streets of the village and that was useless.

One day Ushaji came to our street and told us about Sambhali Trust and from that day I started to come to Sambhali. It has been almost 2 years. I have learnt lots of things, like writing my name, my age, counting, alphabets, food, animals, colour, fruits, vegetables. We say prayers in English and Hindi, rhymes and poems and many things.

I was very shy to give answers but now I am very confident and I am proud that we have Sambhali Trust in our village. I am also proud of Sambhali Trust, because it has opened this Centre for us, where all of the desires are fulfilled. I am very happy here and I want to become a teacher like Usha Ji."



Santosh Devi

"My name is Santosh. I am 6 years old. My father's name is Sawai Ram, he is a driver. My mother's name is Madhu Devi, she is a housewife and also learns stitching from 11.00-1.00pm in Sambhali. I have 2 younger sisters and we live in a joint family consisting of 8 members.

I have been coming to Sambhali for the last 18 months. Here Ushaji told us to brush our teeth regularly which I have never done at my home. I like the hygiene class also and Ushaji combs my hair, cuts my nails and detects any lice in my hair and removes them, which I like the most.

Many foreign volunteers come to teach us, play with us and sing songs and do various activities with us. There are many other schools in the village but I don't go there, because we always get punishment there when we can't study and not able to give answers. But in Sambhali, Ushaji explains to us each and everything very nicely with lots of affection – that's why I like to come here.

In the beginning I used to come to Butterfly Class only, but now I am attending Peacock Class also. I like it very much. We get biscuits in the Centre every day. I also like it when GovindSinghji comes to our centre and asks about us, what we have learnt, if we are happy or not. He asks us each and everything about us and I like it very much."

Sheerni Self-Help Group Project



There are 8 established Self-Help Groups in Shergarh District: 6 in Setrawa village and 2 in an outlying hamlet, Solyankiyatala. As some of the groups had been running for 3 years, according to set protocols we needed to re-establish all 8 groups. In 5 groups some members were changed and some new members were added. A new President, Secretary and Treasurer was chosen for each of these new groups, which were formed in February 2013. New records and registers were set up and new diaries for small-scale businesses and savings were printed. Two groups meet with Manju Mehta, Project Manager, on one Thursday per month to discuss savings, loan requirements and seeking business advice.

Challenges

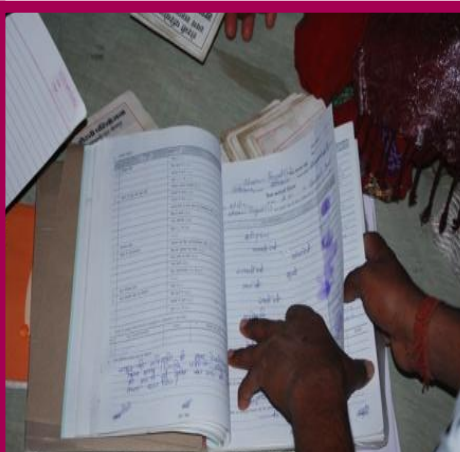
- Women reduced to working as labourers in stone quarry mines to earn money as well as harvesting in season
- Extra income only available through avaricious money lenders

Responses

- Opportunity for women to have access to loans at 1% decreasing interest
- Opportunity to start small businesses, through buying goats, cows, flour-grinders, starting small shops

The women of Solankiyatala have now formed 2 Self-Help Groups and they have been encouraged to start small businesses for themselves. All the women have come together to use their artistic talent on paper, cloth, waste materials and make useful products for sale. As they are mostly illiterate, the women are also trying to write their names and learn to sign.

In April, six women of Setrawa and Solankiyatala were helped to get loans for the establishment of their business. Two women brought a fridge for cold storage products and two women started a cloth shop of covers and salwaars suits. Two women opened small shops for grocery and fancy store respectively and will buy their products from Jodhpur. Discussions for bank loans were started again, but the Bank Manager did not want to implement anything; therefore all loans are conducted through each individual groups savings with a Corpus Fund injection from Sambhali Trust plus donations made from generous donors to fund individuals for dairy cows, goats, flour-grinding machines. A discussion was held about the Dairy Business in Solyankiyatala and Setrawa and about the establishment of more business for the women's overall development. Sixty women participated and were shown new strategies which centred around developing marketing skills. They were advised to sell things at a reasonable price and develop their business through purchasing items which are not available in their villages. They were advised to sell items at a low price to begin with to develop a turnover and then increase their margin.





Sajiyo Devi

"I am from Belwa, near to Balesar, 40 minutes from Setrawa. When I was very young, my father died, and my mother had to go door to door to get food for us. I got married when I was 15 years old and moved to Setrawa. My husband was 25 years old. He was working in a stone mine.

Now, I have 5 daughters and 2 sons. Now I am a widow – my husband died one and a half years ago. I have 4 children still in the house – 2 daughters are married and one, Asu, is at the boarding school in Jodhpur (Sheerni Educational Programme).

Three of my daughters got married at one time to save money, but one is too young to move in with her husband (she's 14), so she continues to live with me until she is old enough. When my husband died, I got 30,000 rupees from the government – I used this money to marry my daughters and for my husband's traditional twelve days of mourning.

Dau Devi told me about Sambhali 3 years ago and made me want to join. Before Sambhali, if I needed money, I had to ask my Rajput neighbours for smaller sums. It is better now that I can come to get this money from Sambhali. On my first loan from Sambhali, I took 6,000 rupees for two goats. Now I have four goats, they are providing my family with lots of milk, and later I will sell the two kid goats for money.

My second loan was 2,000 rupees. I tried to start a business selling vegetables door to door, but that wasn't successful, so I stopped it. It was summer, and the vegetables were rotting. The third time, Sambhali donated one flour grinding machine to me.

Two of my sons and 1 daughter are sponsored to go to private schools in Setrawa.

Trying to choose what is the best thing that Sambhali has given me is very difficult; for me the best thing of all is Sambhali. I like the weekly meetings because if I have any stress or problems I can tell all the ladies in my group, if I need money I can tell the President of the self-help group.

Now I am only one woman and I am doing housework, flour-grinding, and sometimes stone work to support my family. My future plans are to make a small shop attached to my house for my flour-machine and other goods."



Indra Devi

"My name is Indra Devi. I am 40 years old. I was married at 15. When my husband and I were first married, he wasn't working, but then he bought a big stone mine. For a time, we had money.

I have two daughters, one married and living in Chaba, one and a half hours away.

Five and a half years ago, my husband died in a car accident with 25 other people. The driver was drinking alcohol. The car was full of the men of 4 surrounding houses – all the men in my family, my brothers-in-law and their cousins also died in this car. So then we were 4 houses of only women, who couldn't do anything. I had to sell the stone mine to help support us.

Then I learned about Sambhali. I had no other ideas of what to do and Govind said he would help us, so I joined the group. I learned about it 3 years ago from a friend. I just started with 50 rupees a month, then I took a loan for 9,500 rupees and I bought a cow. I started to sell the milk from the cow and help my family a little bit. One of the other women in my family now has a flour-grinding machine, and one of my grand-daughters is sponsored by Sambhali to go to private school in Setrawa. Another woman in my family wants to take a loan for a sewing machine.

I'm the older person in my family, so all the responsibility is on me. Seven kids from the family are living with me – kids of the parents who died in the car crash. Now I am not feeling good every day and I wonder, if I die, who will take care of these children? There is still a lot of stress in my life.

Two other women in my family are enrolled in the Narega scheme with the government to work in construction, but I can't do this work because I am too old.

For my next loan, I'd like to start a small shop. We are very far from the market here so all my neighbours and people would buy from here – it would be a good business. I hope to take this loan in the future."



Dau Devi

"I was born in a village two hours from Setrawa. I was 14 years old when I got married, and moved to Setrawa with my husband. Now I have four sons and two daughters. One daughter is married and living with her husband, and one son got married so his wife is now living with us. My oldest son completed 8th standard before he got into a bad driving accident, and his injuries and operation now prevent him from working. None of my other sons or daughters are working.

Three years ago Mrs Manju Mehta (Manager, Sheerni SHG Project), first came to my area and she told all of us about Sambhali's Self-Help Project. She told us good things about the project and that it would help us so I thought, now I'm just sitting in my house, I should try this opportunity to make things better. I took money for the first time two years ago. I took a 7,000 rupee loan and 3,000 of my own family money and I bought a flour-grinding machine. In my area, no one has a grinding machine, so this has been very helpful for us.

Six months ago, my husband died. Sambhali gave me a grant for 20,000 rupees so I could open a fancy shop with sweets and clothes. No-one in my family was helping to support me. I had four older brothers-in-law, but they're all dead, and I have two younger brothers-in-law but one is very ill with blood in his cough so nobody can help me when my family needs help.

My oldest son who had the accident can't do anything, the second is sometimes doing stone work with his uncle but he is really too young to do this, the third one is working as a stock boy at a vegetable stand, and the fourth also can't work because he has a stomach problem that doctors can't figure out. They've done many x-rays and tests on him and still they don't know, and he must take medicine every day, so he has many medical expenses.

I'm not scared about the future anymore. I have a lot of trust in Sambhali and I feel that if I need help in the future, they will help me. Sambhali Trust sponsors one of my daughters to go to a private school in Setrawa village. Because Sambhali helped me, now I want to grow my shop business. I will buy clothes, dishes, plates and kitchen things, a refrigerator to sell cold drinks and ice cream in the summer, and more. I'm very happy with this program and I will never forget how they helped me."

Scholarship Programme



Our success story this year, is of 3 sisters and their 2 cousins, whom Sambhali has sponsored to go to private schools through generous donors for the last 3 years. They have all completed 12th Class and want to go on to further education at college. They are considering doing hotel management, a vocational study course which will see them have a good job at the end of 2 years. We wish them the best of luck with their exam results and the Trust will continue to support these girls, all of whom started with Sambhali in 2007.

"Rajasthan schools fail to meet RTE* benchmark" The Times of India April 2, 2013

"The condition of government schools in the State is way below the mark set by the Act. Only 51.1% government schools in the State meet the student-teacher ratio as per the RTE norms. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) for 2012 says that since 2010, the ability of children to read basic text or to do simple arithmetic has been declining in government schools while that of children enrolled in private schools have remained steady. In 2011, 21% students could do simple subtraction which dropped to 19% in 2012. To add to the shameful figures, 9.3% students in Class 3 cannot recognize numbers 1-9, while 28.8% students cannot do simple subtraction. The condition in other classes is no different.

For instance, the learning levels of Class 5 children in private schools increased from 56.6% in 2009 to 65% in 2012 while for government schools it plummeted to 33.3% from 40.1% in 2009. In other words, two out of every three children in government schools in Rajasthan after five years of schooling can barely qualify for Class 2. In mathematics, the situation is more alarming. The survey indicates that that for competencies - reading and problem solving, the learning levels among children in private schools remained considerably higher than those at government schools.

During the three years of RTE implementation, the focus has solely been on filling the infrastructural gaps while academic performance has been hit. Under the RTE Act, no student should be detained till Class 8. At a time when conventional pattern of examination is being replaced by a more comprehensive form of assessment globally, majority of schools in the state don't have the adequate infrastructure to support the new system."

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-02/jaipur/38216758_1_government-schools-private-schools-education-act-2009



Challenges

- Girls of poorer families are often required to stay at home to do the housework despite mandatory obligations to attend school
- Despite government legislation, the standard and quality of education in government schools is not good enough leading to poor literacy and child development
- Children from poor families lack the financial resources to send their children to private schools

Responses

- Sambhali Trust is now providing 125 girls and boys education in good private schools in Jodhpur and Setrawa village, through private sponsorship. Some of these children have been attending school for the last 5 years since this project began.
- Sambhali's Empowerment Centres, often act as a stepping stone to getting the children back to school once they have been pulled out due to family circumstances

"The Scholarship programme started in 2007 with approximately 25 girls, and now it's grown to 125 girls and boys. We sponsor 13 girls and boys in Setrawa village, and the rest in Jodhpur. They attend good private school. I would like to take care of the girls for 16 years of education, which is a long time, from kindergarten to graduating, but with the help of private sponsors in private schools or with the help of the government we want to make this successful. There have been only 4 drop-outs since it started, so we know that the project is very successful, and people have shown their loyalty to the Trust. More and more local people are approaching us every day; 99% of people are Dalits. We started with girls who were pulled out of schools because of financial problems, but now we are taking their younger siblings, younger children; some are 3 years old, from nursery school. When the women and girls came into the Empowerment Centres, I saw that some of the girls were so brilliant that the Sambhali Empowerment Centre could be too small for their wings to fly, so I wanted to give them that capability and we couldn't afford it, so we then starting raising money and made people aware of the Scholarship programme and found some financial help.

In Setrawa we help the children of the Sheerni SHG Project. The teachers give us updates on how the kids are doing; every year they send us the yearly report cards and we do an update and assessment on each child. Sometimes if they are not doing well enough we have to speak with them – it's all about monitoring.

We believe education is the key to success. Seven students in total graduated from schools this year. Two would like to become lawyers as well as the 5 girls enrolled in a hotel management course. Unfortunately, 2 failed, one in 12th Class and one in 10th Class, but we asked them to continue because we believe they will make a difference in their lives one day. Every June people contact us and want to sponsor a child for one year and we have no idea how we will fund the child the next year – this has been a big problem for us. We have tried to find people who can sponsor these children for a longer time, but it is difficult."

Govind Singh Rathore, Manager Scholarship Programme



Bindya, Bharti & Sonu Pandit

"I was born in 1992, I don't know my actual birthdate because my father was drinking and my mother cannot write or study so the Principal of my school wrote down my wrong birthday date. We are 5 sisters and 1 brother. I am the youngest of the whole family. Our oldest sister is married, living in a village one hour and a half away, and she has one son. Our second oldest sister is at home, she is very good at sewing and stitching. She can't leave home because my mother is not very well, she has a pain in her back, and headache, and high blood pressure, so my sister is in charge of the housework, cooking food for my father, dusting, so she cannot leave home. Now my father is not drinking; for 10 years he hasn't been drinking, but before when we were little he was very much drinking and beating our mother. He was always fighting with my mother, not explaining his feelings. Now he is the best father, supporting us all the time, supporting every girl; after some time he said sorry, he is giving us a sorry for beating us and our mother. We said it's okay, now that's all in the past, now it's the future and the future is good.

We started coming to Sambhali 5 years ago. Before that we were in government school until 8th class. My mother cleaned other peoples' homes to pay the school fees, which were very cheap. In government school 5 or 6 years ago caste was very important and because of our caste, the Principal was cheating us. She said the fees are higher than we paid so our mother needed to clean the school to make up for it. Our mother was ready to clean for us but we said "No, you have back pain please don't", and when she didn't, we had to leave.

Then my older sister started going to Sambhali, and she said, some girls are going to Sambhali, why you are not going to Sambhali? So then we joined. Then we said to Govind brother, "Now we want to start studying again, can you support us?" And then he said Okay, then he started supporting us. He is a very nice man, he is very good, he is like a God for us, he is making many people's lives good. He is empowering many women. He is asking all the girls to start studying again and if girls have doubts, Govind brother is encouraging them to stay with it. I learn good English for us, for him and for all of Sambhali.

Now we go to private school and this is very good. Private school has very good teachers, good friends, and caste is not important in private school. We have Muslim, Christians, all are together like the same and all girls share one tiffin box. It is very good, the situation is very different from government school and we are learning to be global-minded and to have global-thinking in our hearts. There, they ask you what you actually think, they open your mind, help you grow to be confident and we very much enjoy school. If we need some help for study we will ask others in the class. We have two other best friends in the class, one is Muslim and one is high caste, and they are very nice. We are very sad to finish private school. We are remembering our first day, our last day. Our teachers are very good to us, they are supporting us. If our family has a problem they are supporting us, every problem we are sharing with our teachers. We all were crying on the last day. All the teachers came and said, "Don't cry, you have a good future, we hope you make a good future and we are all giving you good wishes for the future". We don't know what our friends are doing now, what they will do, but some girls say they will go to hotel school, but they can't because they don't have the focus. But we 3 (all 5) are going to hotel management school." **Bharti Pandit**



Madhu and Priyanka Hansh

Madhu Born 26 August 1993. "We were born in Jodhpur city. In our family, we have 2 sisters and 1 brother. I am the oldest, both our parents are jobless. We both went to government school up to 9th class, but then we had to leave because of money; this is a big problem in our family and we were looked down upon at government school because of our caste; it was not comfortable for us, they would think of us as garbage. All the time the people and teachers and classmates are saying that we are low caste, like the people dusting and cleaning up garbage, and sometimes if we go late to school, the teachers would tell us to take a dustbin and clean the school because of our caste. They would give us punishment for coming to school 2 minutes late, and it was very embarrassing for us. Teachers would threaten that they would beat us. When government school would supply food for the students, all the teachers would eat the food for us and wash the tiffin and then give them to us. The toilet is not clean, and because the lock on the door is very bad sometimes we would get locked in the bathroom. But in the private school caste is not important. For a long time we ignored all this, what the teachers were saying, what our classmates were saying, because studying is very important.

Then our cousins (Bharti) asked Govind if Sambhali could sponsor them to go to school, as they had no money. My father is drinking; because all low caste is a problem, then they are thinking "Oh, I have tension, I have problems, I need to drink...", then they are fighting with their mothers. Two days ago my father was drinking and fighting with my Mum and my mother went upstairs and drenched herself in kerosene and then us sisters went up and begged her don't do that, we can't live without you, we were crying and stopped her.

We will study properly, one day we will get a job and help our parents and support them, help solve our mother's and parents' problem. Sometimes our father has had a job, but then he is drinking and he loses it. And our mother has done job cleaning a government center Anghalvari, giving her 2,000 rupees per month. Our father takes this money from our mother for drinking but the mother says "We need this money for home, why should I give this money to you for drinking and you're fighting with me". Our younger brother is in 9th class in private school, because he is the son so they pay for him. These holidays he will be searching for a job, he is just 17. He wants to work in a big bazaar, or at National Handloom. He helps to our mother, he is giving her 2,000 or, 1,000 rupees to help around home. We also help our mother in the home, we make chappati, we are helping her clean, dusting."

Priyanka Born 10 July, 1995. "I have a tension in my throat all the time, whenever I eat food I have lots of pain, speaking is okay but I think I have a tonsil problem. Two years ago I had a treatment and now it's a little better but sometimes it comes back. We enjoyed private school too, too much, we loved it, they say we want to thank Govind brother so much for this situation. We also want to go to hotel school for one year, then 6 month internship, and then we hope to get a job in a hotel. We hear back about our exam results sometime in June and July, we are wishing that all girls will pass! Our home is completely dependent on our mother's payment, and there is a lot of sorrow in our home. We hope that if we can go get a good job we can help our mother, she had once to borrow money, so we hope that we can help her pay back these loans, and give her extra money to use."

Sheerni Educational Project



"In the days leading up to the inaugural day at Galaxy Sr. Secondary School, the girls have grown so much in confidence, respect for each other, for volunteers and for the host family. The girls have now settled into a stable routine that will nurture their personal, social and academic development. Ten days after joining this project, 15 girls from the Dalit caste worked hand-in-hand towards their first day at school in Jodhpur."

The first day at school was the culmination of hard work and careful preparation by the Housemother at the Boarding House, Nirmala, aided by the six Sambhali volunteers. Clothes, books, back-packs and food together with working out a new daily routine, attending to washing, brushing teeth, wearing school uniforms and going to bed at a regular time, were all a totally new experience for these girls....even sleeping in bunk beds!

Nirmala Housemother

"The boarding home began on 1 July 2012 with 15 girls. Two girls are from Solankiyatala, one girl is from Balesar, three girls are from Sherghar and the rest are from Setrawa village. All are from the rural areas 100 km west of Jodhpur. At the beginning, there were a few girls who didn't want to stay, but after a month, things settled down. When they first came they were wearing bad clothes, village clothes, then Sambhali gave them new clothes. We got their hair cut and gave them a good shampoo. The volunteers helped them use toothpaste, and introduced new hygiene techniques. When the girls arrived they were only speaking in Marwari and Rajasthani, they never used Hindi language, but now they are speaking Hindi language as I am teaching them. They didn't understand how to do studies, how to read Hindi books, they made very small progress first understanding the ABC and they had to learn how to write Hindi. Their writing was not good, they didn't understand how to use a pen or pencil, nor how to write in the lines, they didn't know how to copy from the blackboard. Together with some volunteers, after 2-3 months of working very hard, they began to understand how to do these things.

The food changed for them between the village and Jodhpur city. Here we have two vegetables, rice, 2 chappati; this quality of food is not available for them in the village where their families are very poor. They are really happy with the quality of the food and they are becoming healthier and healthier."



Daily routine

In the morning the girls have 1 cup of milk, small biscuits and toast for breakfast and take their tiffin boxes (with paratha and poya inside) to school for the 10:30 break. By 1 o'clock school is finished and they go home to the boarding house, change their clothes and have lunch. Then they rest for a half an hour and the volunteers come from 3.00-6.00pm for tuition, practising English, games and Arts and Crafts. Nirmala would help them with homework between 6.00-7.00pm. Dinner is at 7:30 to 8:30pm, and then the girls brush their teeth and go to sleep at 9:30 or 10:00pm.

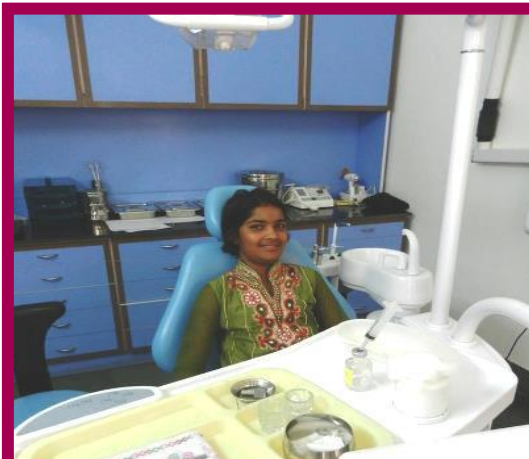
They attend Galaxy Secondary school, (which is a private school close to their home) for 5 hours a day. Every morning Nirmala and her mother-in-law walk to school with the girls and collect them. Seven girls are in 2nd class, two girls are in 3rd class, two girls are in 4th class, two girls are in 5th class and two girls are in 6th class. At school they learn Hindi, Maths, Social Science, Environmental and Computer Studies as well as English, yoga and karate. Every Sunday the girls' parents telephone the girls; the whole Sunday girls are busy talking on the phone. Every month the parents come to visit their daughters at the hostel. In March, Leela's father fell very ill with a fever so he asked her to return home to take care of him. She went back for 2 or 3 days to care for him, and then returned to the hostel.

Medical Check-Ups

When the girls first arrived, they had ear problems, skin problems, fevers, so they received some treatment at the local hospital. This is where they go for continued check-ups as needed. The girls also went to the Shared Vision Foundation in Jodhpur for a sight check-up and five girls were found to have eye problems, were having headaches and needed glasses. Two of the girls complained of bad vision in poor light and a physician suspected night blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and so they were given some medicine as well as all girls receiving vitamin supplements. They go for a monthly dental check-up at the Sri Swami Madhavanda Austria Hospital in Pali with Sadhvi Shanti (*photo opp page left*) where they have also had a vaccination health camp.

The girls also had lice in their hair which couldn't be treated with ordinary lice shampoo and also some of the girls had skin rashes, so they visited a dermatologist. Two of the girls had a specific skin disease and needed a special cream and most girls needed a prescriptive lice and worm treatment.

As some of the girls were undernourished and very thin, we decided to take measurements of the girls' arms, legs and waist circumference as well as their weight. These measurements are now recorded on a monthly basis so we can record improvements. In March we gave them a course of spirulina sweets, (spirulina is an algae that is rich in protein, vitamins and minerals).





Kenia Baumgarten Volunteer

"The Boarding house currently provides food and housing for 15 girls, ranging from 8-13 years old. During my 1 month stay, the number of volunteers ranged from 3-5. Our primary duties included helping with English homework, as well as practicing English vocabulary and reading through play and activity books. We also assisted the girls when studying for English exams. In the days where there was little homework assigned, or on school holidays, we would engage in various learning through play activities, such as drawing and sketching, jewelry making, games and songs.

I also accompanied the girls to their monthly trip to the hospital for their follow up check-up. Many of the girls were initially anxious to go as they are now well aware that they will be receiving injections. But I was glad to be able to help them keep their minds occupied during the 2 hour trip with many songs and games. Upon arrival, they were quickly attended to by various medical staff. They were all giving a general check-up and blood tests, as well as vision exams and medication for stronger vision. After, they all received their required injections for Hepatitis B and tetanus among others. The girls were all very brave through this process. They also all received extensive dental cleaning, and a few of the girls also received cavity fillings. The dentist also instructed the girls on the proper tooth brushing method in front of a mirror. Finally after lunch, the medical staff instructed us on the required medications each girl was getting. Unfortunately, most of them are still suffering from anemia, so a continuous dose of iron tablets was given. A couple of the girls will also be requiring vision glasses. Pooja, who presents problems walking with her right leg and issues with her right hand, is required to have daily physical therapy for 30 minutes. Additional medical treatments may also be required in the future to help treat her condition.

Sambhali Trust has created a safe haven for these girls. It was easy to see their eagerness for learning as well as their need for love and attention. All the girls love and care for each other very much, some taking the role of older sisters and protectors to the younger ones. I hope the Sheerni Project continues this much needed work with these girls, and hope in years to come they are able to house even more girls like them, as there are so many young girls in need of a program like this one. I will cherish this experience for ever."



Workshops



With the many volunteers we have had this year in both Setrawa and Jodhpur, all the students were treated with a great variety of Arts and Crafts workshops which have all encouraged the students' creativity. Evelyn Wittmund-Hahlbohm also helped in assisting Kavita, our tutor, to develop new products in our newly-formed Mehran Sewing Centre as well as in giving workshops in the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre. The students also received many other informative sessions on a wide variety of topics including nutrition and health issues as well as geography. *(Photo left, Sarah Harrington giving workshop on stringing pearl necklaces and bracelets).*

Craft workshops



We were fortunate to have many Arts and Crafts volunteers who helped design new items for the students of the Empowerment Centres to produce. *(photo, Bea Bilder's necklace).*

Greetings Cards Workshops



Thanks to volunteers Isobel Scott-Clarke and Helga Zaddach, the students started producing greetings cards with the embroideries that they were already producing in class.

Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop

Sambhali celebrated its International Women's Day with a Breast Cancer Awareness workshop for its participants of the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre and the Graduates. We thank Nathalie Cardinaels from Belgium for presenting a very informative seminar. We then took this presentation to our Brothers for Sisters Project where over 100 women attended, and one of our volunteers, Courtney King, gave the workshop with the help of the other Sambhali tutors.

Since this workshop, we have had a woman presenting with possible symptoms and encouraged her to go to the doctor to get them checked out. Thankfully, it was only inflammation and she got some medicine, but we are encouraged that the women themselves are taking responsibility for looking after themselves and becoming aware particularly of this disease. *(Photos below in Brother for Sisters Project)*





Drama Workshops

We had a couple of volunteers, Anke Kraatz and Katja Kuhlmann taught a theatre workshop which lasted for 6 weeks. They started with various exercises and simple improvisations about everyday roles eg going to the market, at home, or at school. Then various issues were explored such as “child marriage” and “the birth of an unwanted child” which then culminated into a shadow theatre play (*photo, below left.*). Language communication wasn’t easy but the result was very powerful and showed the confidence that the girls had developed during their weeks in the workshop. The girls have performed for groups visiting the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre as well as being asked to perform in Jaipur by the Government and also in Jodhpur.

“Our previous fears, that maybe it would be problematic for the young women improvise on themes such as “child marriage” or “birth of an unwanted girl” had turned out as completely exaggerated. Full of emotion and passion, even moving us to tears, the girls performed and showed us the problems they had to deal with. The work is strenuous, but worthwhile!” **Anke, volunteer**

We also had a couple from France, Elise Guilloux and Thibault Chalvignac who were working with the children in Setrawa village doing theatre workshops (*photo below right*).

“For my last week, I would like to do a workshop which was a quiet different. I imagined a shadow show at the Fort in the village. Thibault and I decided to do a workshop about the light at Sambhali and we spent so much time to realise it as best as possible! We imagined a simple story with animals and a moral like the Jean de La Fontaine’s fables (a French poet). Usha (the teacher) was delighted and grateful because it was the first time in seven years. Otherwise, we taught some facts about the light (history, the revolution of way of life...) and we made candle lamps with children.” **Elise, volunteer**



Medical Health Camps



This year has seen the kind and generous help of Sri Swami Madhavananda Austria Hospital in Pali whose medical staff came to conduct a medical camp at our Sambhali Brothers for Sisters Project. There was a gynaecologist and a physician attending and we saw 123 patients. 87 of them went to the gynaecologist and 36 went to the physician. Some of the women were found to have eye problems and 95% of them were anaemic. The patients were given free consultation and medicine. Women and girls were given flyers about healthy food and hygiene information (*photos left and below*).

This medical camp was also held at the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre, a week later, where women from the other Empowerment Centres and Graduates' Sewing Centre were invited to attend.

Good personal hygiene was focused upon as there were many instances of urinary tract infections and pelvic inflammation. The doctors talked about a good diet and how they should be eating more iron and protein. The foods available here in Rajasthan that are high in protein are chick peas, lentils, nuts, paneer, soya and all types of beans, spinach; potatoes in their skins and sweetcorn. Also tomatoes and garlic are considered a good form of nutrition for health. They were encouraged to eat more green vegetables, fruits and nuts, lentils and pulses as well as 2-3 eggs a week. They were given a sample menu to follow. Ghee (clarified butter) was not encouraged if they did use it, but a vegetable oil such as sunflower oil or soya oil. They were found to have many dental cavities also.

A homeopathic doctor from Jodhpur went to Setrawa with his team of 4 to give a health camp to all the women from the SHGs for a free check-up and medicines. We had distributed pamphlets to the whole village about the workshop. More than 100 women and girls came to the health camp for a check up and were able to get free medicines for the next 10 days. The women were suffering from back pain, headache, stomach-ache, problems in the eyes, weakness and many menstruation problems. The main reason behind all these was said that it was their carelessness towards their meals. The benefits of this health camp were going to be measured and we were going to try to organise another one in the future.





	Less work	Moderate work	Maximum work
Break	Milk 150 ML	200 ML	200 ML
Fast	Sprouted 20 gm,	Sugar 1 Teaspoon Veg. Poha - 1 Plate or Bread Butter - 2	Sugar 2 Teaspoon, Paratha - 1, Fruit - 1
Lunch	Chapati - 2, Rice ½ Plate, Dhal - 1 Cup, Green leafy veg. 1 Cup, Salad - 1 Plate	Chapati - 3, Rice - 1 Plate, Curd - 1 Cup, Dhal - 1 Cup, Vegetable 2 Cup, Sweets 1 Piece, Namkeen - ½ Plate, Salad - ½ Plate	Chapati - 4, Rice - 2 Plate, Curd - 1 Cup, Dhal - 1 Cup, Vegetable 2 Cup, Sweets 2 Piece, Namkeen - ½ Plate
Evening Snacks	Butter Milk or Tea - 1 Cup, Roasted Channa or bhel - 1 Plate, citrus fruit - 1	Tea or Coffee - 1 Cup, Tikiya - 2 or butter Sandwich - 2, Sweet Fruit - 1	Milk shake - 1 Glass, Paneer or Cheese Sandwich - 2, Sweet Fruit - 1
Dinner	Chapati - 1, Khichadi - 1 Plate, Kadi - 1 Cup, Vegetable 1 Cup, Veg. Soup 1 Cup, Salad 1 Plate	Chapati - 2, Khichadi - 1 Plate, Kadi - 1 Cup, Vegetable 2 Cup, Veg. Soup 2 Cup, Salad - ½ Plate, 1 Piece	Chapati - 3, Rice - 1 Plate, Dhal - 1 Cup, Vegetable 2 Cup, Sweet - 2 Piece, Salad ½ Plate



In October, a medical camp was organised at our **Sambhali Sisters for Sisters Project** at Balikah Grah, Jodhpur. It was specifically for skin ailments and the children were diagnosed and treated by dermatologist, Dr Prashant Goyal and Dr Shalini Goyal who prescribed treatment for scabies and provided prescriptions and medicines on behalf of the Trust. Lice treatment has been an ongoing problem at the Sisters for Sisters project and the volunteers have provided regular lice treatment for the girls. (photo right). In the Setrawa Empowerment Centre, this is also done as a matter of course, by the staff and volunteers.



Panaah Women's Shelter Services



This was established in August 2012, responding to the need of the growing number of women approaching Sambhali Trust for help seeking protection from their families due to domestic violence. This is not just a problem of the Dalit caste but of all women in India. Women suffer violations through alcoholic husbands, rape, verbal and emotional abuse. Sambhali provides a place of refuge, counselling and advice to help these women gain control of their life again.

Challenges

- Women face all kinds of violence
- Traditional society provides little support for women and they can become outcasts
- Difficult for women to seek justice

Responses

- Counselling, mediation and support provided
- Love, care and protection
- Legal support and medical aid given

Sambhali takes cases related to women's mental illnesses, legal issues, health issues, dowry-related cases and provide financial aid for some women who need to fight a divorce case and women's rights' issues so that they can continue with their lives. Women have come to Sambhali through word of mouth from as far as Delhi and Mumbai. Our manager, Manju Mehta talks to the women and contacts various professional people that might be required, be it counsellors, lawyers, medical assistance or treatment or psychologists and psychiatrists.

We have a good team of three working to help the women coming for support at Sambhali Trust; the manager, Mrs. Mehta with Jaineab Bano and Santosh Chajed as field workers. Mrs Manju Mehta has been attending workshops in Jaipur at the invitation of the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) to be updated on the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012**. A second invitation came from the Resource Institute for Human Rights for Third State People Consultation which was for a workshop on '**State Action and Charter of demands for Children 2013-14.**' We are very happy that we are linked with various State Departments concerned with Women and Child Welfare and that we are kept connected with the latest developments and legislation.

Monica, the first case of in our Women's Shelter Services, (*photo above, second from right*). A victim of domestic violence, she was with us for a week. Sambhali provided her with counselling and then she was able to return to her family to continue her life in better circumstances

Dakhu, (*below*), in hospital receiving treatment for post-natal psychosis for the third time.





Savita

A girl was found at the railway station and some people called Sambhali saying that there was a young girl roaming around. We went down to find her and found out she had been sold by her family to an agent, who sold her to a family in Jodhpur for work. She had come all the way from Jharkhand in the East of India, thousands of miles from Jodhpur. She was 14 years old and ran away from the family she was working for in Jodhpur because they were treating her badly. We took her to Sambhali, gave her some counselling and found her a place in a shelter home under the care of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment with the help of the Child Welfare Committee in Jodhpur, where she could live and receive schooling. However, after counselling we found the address of her parents, and asked that her parents come to Jodhpur and take her back home.

- **Kavita from Mumbai** came to Sambhali in November. She was distressed about a man who had deserted her for another woman. She found Sambhali through Google Search from NGOs in Jodhpur working with women and called us from the train station asking for help. She stayed here for 3 days and for all that time we were providing counselling and mediation between both the parties. We called in the help of media, we asked for professional advice from the lawyers and finally there was a compromise made between the girl's and the boy's side. The girl was happier that she had received help to seek justice and to restore her self-respect and reputation. Mrs. Mehta then went with the girl to her new accommodation in Delhi, where she wanted to start a new life.
- Recently, **the sweeper of the organisation came with his daughter** who became pregnant again. Her mother-in-law had kicked her out, so we and Mrs. Mehta went to the house, spoke to the mother-in-law and counselled both sides. The mother-in-law refused to keep the daughter-in-law, son and the grandchildren. She didn't like the living-style of her daughter-in-law and was always offended with her bad living standards in the society. The daughter and her husband are now living with her parents.
- Another case of **Rani, a woman who left her husband** because he used to beat her and rape her, so she left him and took her two children. She got married to another man who then said he would refuse to take the two children, so she had to go back to her first husband. So at least her children had a father, but they live in separate rooms and she continues to get beaten every day, so she came to Sambhali asking for help. Mrs. Meta went to speak with her husband, but he was not ready to understand or compromise. We encouraged her to come to join Sambhali and told her we could try and get her children sponsored to go to school and encouraged her to come and learn. She continues to live in the same house with her husband and hopefully we can eventually help her get a job.

(Names Changed for privacy reasons)

Mehran Sewing Centre



In September 2012, we started a new empowerment centre within the walls of the Mehranagarh Fort, Jodhpur to educate the wives and daughters of the underprivileged workers who maintain Jodhpur's Fort. For the women it was an opportunity to learn some new sewing skills as well as giving them tuition in Hindi, English and Maths. The children of the women were given classes in educational topics and recreational games from our Sambhali volunteers, whilst the tutor, Kavita Bihal taught the women sewing and Hindi grammar.

Challenges

- Wives of 100 families within the Fort with little education or skills
- Have little income, living in rented staff quarters within the Fort

Responses

- Provision of vocational training, Hindi, English and Maths
- Provide projects for income-generation
- Provide educational games and recreational activities for their children

These women are isolated in the walls of the Fort most of the time, where they live in the staff quarters with their husbands and children. Whilst their husbands are working during the day, the wives are mostly uneducated and unable to do anything and the Empowerment Centre gave them the chance to receive vocational training in sewing and embroidery skills and basic education as well as afternoon-care for their children. Sambhali Trust in partnership with the Mehranagarh Museum Trust wanted to help these women whom we felt would benefit from this training. These women were extremely keen to learn sewing skills as they saw it as a step towards earning an income for themselves and their families and after training would be able to start selling their products and utilising their skills.

We developed a curriculum to teach them different embroidery stitches, the use of the treadle sewing machine, making garments like dresses, kurta, salwars, skirts and Rajasthani suits. We also started tutoring them in Hindi grammar and English with the help of the volunteers. The children were taught writing words and simple sentences in English, basic conversational English (depending on the age and grade) and learning some English songs. The volunteers also played ball games, skipping and other sports with the children, adhering to rules in group games; creative painting, creating board games and other playing material like puzzles from everyday objects; singing, clapping games etc. that would enhance both their fine motor skills as well as their social skills.



Roop



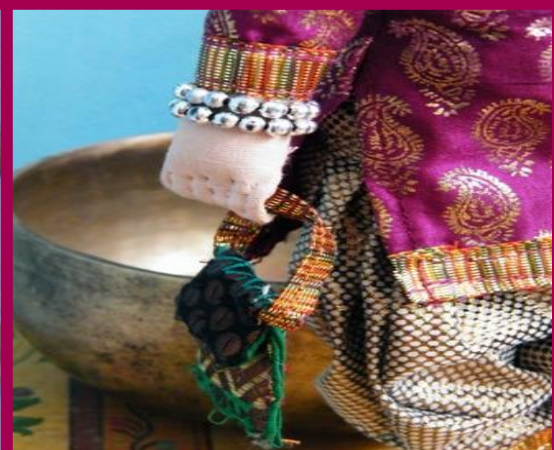
"My name is Roop and I am 25 years old. I have been married for 10 years and have 2 children, 7 and 9 years old. The girl goes to a government school and the boy goes to an English-medium school. My husband works in Mehrangarh Fort and earns 5000 rupees per month and we pay 1000 rupees per month for renting our room within the Fort walls. Out of the remaining money I buy our food, clothing and water as well as paying for my son's school fees. I walk up and down to the Clocktower to buy the food and collect the water to drink in cans from another area inside the Fort.

I went to government school up to 5th Standard in the village where I grew up near Jaisalmer. Before coming to Sambhali I would be doing normal household chores, shopping, washing and cooking. Since September I have been learning embroidery techniques and how to sew dresses, making purses, decorations and now we are making Indian dolls. Before I would be picking the children up from school and cooking meals but now I feel good as I'm making these things. I want to earn an income so that I can help pay for the school fees for my son. I feel happy now that I am working. My husband is supporting me doing this and says it's important."

After the Empowerment Centre was running for 4 months, we realised that the number of women were decreasing but the number of children had gone up to 60! We began to rethink our time and resources up at the Fort and decided to change the centre into a Sewing Centre, so that the women could use the skills they had been learning and produce items for sale. Kavita would remain the Supervisor and we would have one Arts and Crafts volunteer working with her if possible.

Once the women realised that they were now going to produce some products and get paid for the items they made, they started to return again until we had about 10-12 women. We then set weekly projects where they would make something different each week to motivate them and analyse what particular skills they were good at. We would pay them for the items that were of a good standard and then try to sell them in the Sambhali stall in Mehrangarh Fort. They made embroidered purses, Xmas decorations and embroidered table mats, but the item that the women enjoyed making the most and became one of our best-selling items were the Punjabi Indian dolls and now the Maharajah and Maharani (Kings and Queens) dolls, which sell very well in our Boutique. The women are now also working on part of an order for 5000 Rakhi bracelets and small pouches, of which the women are sewing the small drawstring purses.

At present this project is being funded through Sambhali Trust and we hope to continue developing more products that the women can make so that they can earn an income which will support their families, as well as further developing the women's own inner creativity and potential.



Graduates' Sewing Centre



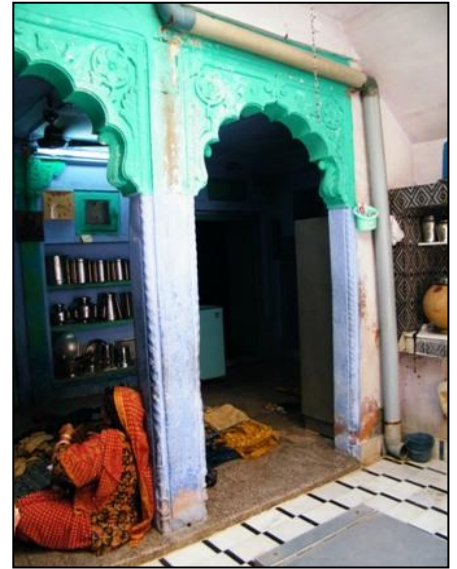
We have really enjoyed being in our new Sewing Centre for the past year and the women have really appreciated the better facilities, the transport to and from the centre and the space for which to make garments, curtains, scarves etc. We now have more room for storage as well as for packing materials. The 13 women have doubled their production to make items for Sambhali's two outlets in Jodhpur as well as working for international orders, which has seen us mostly producing a variety of soft toys, Xmas decorations and block-printed scarves.

Volunteers' help

We have been very fortunate in having professional volunteers helping to increase the skills of the women. Marie-Paul Hardy (above) is a professional soft-furnishings expert from France and has been with us 3 months to teach the girls to make well-finished cushion covers, table-linens, curtains and shoulders bags. Thanks to Marie-Paul the women know how to finish off perfect seams and how to give the item that quality-finish.

Amy Cook spent a month with us and used local trimmings from the Jodhpur market to make beautiful belts to be worn round the waist or the hip, (photo far right, shows volunteer modelling one of the belts). We would also like to thank Maria Frey, who worked very hard with the girls on pattern-making for the various soft-toys that we had orders for; also Helga Zaddach, and with both their knowledge and perseverance the women were able to develop the toys to produce what the customer had envisaged.





Buying block-printed cloth from local artisans

We print our own fabric for our scarves and curtains, but for the kurtas and salwaars (Indian tops and trousers), we buy block-printed fabric from the local artisans in Pipar (photo above), who have been block-printing in their family-run businesses for centuries. They use indigo dye (above) and have built up a selection of numerous blocks for the designs.



We are delighted that Roberta Roller Rabbit in New York have asked us to be Partners with them and since we have been producing orders for them for the last year, they have now asked us to make most of their soft toys which means consistent orders for the graduates.

The women have developed their creativity in the range of embroidered camels and elephants they are producing and have also extended this to embroidered table-runners and table-mats. We are working on new ideas for embroidered voile curtains and a larger range of shoulder bags.



Sambhali Boutique



Sambhali Boutique moved to its new premises in Killikhana, Jodhpur, the pathway up to the Mehrangarh Fort, which is better for the passing tourist trade. It is a very vibrant shop with its bright decor and colourful items. In February 2013, we appointed Sanju (*see below*) as the Boutique Assistant who would manage it on a daily basis. We also were able to secure a site in the Mehrangarh Fort itself in conjunction with the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, where we have been able to display our products since September.

“My name is **Sanju Jawa**. I’m 29 years old. I went to school until the end of Year 9. My favourite subjects at school were English and Economics. I got married 12 years ago and I have two children. They both go to school. They really like school. From March (2013), they will have scholarships from Sambhali. Fourteen people live in our joint family. They are my parents, my two brothers, their wives and our children. I’m single – my husband used to hit me. He didn’t look after me or my children and now he lives with another woman. I am very happy to be back with my own family. In our family, my two brothers and my mother have private jobs. My father has been blind for 10 years and is on bed rest now. Money is very difficult for us. My niece told me about Sambhali. I started here 8 months ago. I like reading English, sewing and embroidery. Before I started coming here, for four years I was working and cooking in a girls’ hostel. Every morning at 7.00am I went there and came back at 11.30am. I get up at 5.30am and prepare the breakfast and lunch for the family. I am now an employee at Sambhali Trust. I am the Assistant at Sambhali Boutique. I make good income here and I am financially independent and able to make my dreams come true for the future of my children who can graduate. My daughter will be a Circle Inspector Officer in the Police and my son will be a computer engineer.”



Stories and Dreams (Sambhali Student Shop)

In February 2013, the volunteers working in the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre had the idea of opening a Sambhali Student Shop which would display some of the items that the students had been making. The embroideries were made into greetings cards and the students also made necklaces and scarves and everything was also printed with a story of one of the students on the back of the piece (*see below*). The shop is just below the Sambhali Centre. Everything is sold on a suggested donation system and one of the students Meenakshi was put in charge of looking after the shop with a volunteer.

Since its opening, the greetings cards have been doing very well as have the pearl necklaces and bracelets, that the students have been producing in a workshop, which have found a good home with many volunteers!



Asha Pandit has been working for the Boutique for the last 2 years. In September, we had the opportunity to have a stall in the Mehrangarh Fort and Asha is now in charge of looking after the stall and is doing a great job with all the people that make their way through the Fort, the main tourist attraction in Jodhpur and Asha herself has been very keen and enthusiastic to engage the customers and tell them about Sambhali Trust. We look forward to the next season.



Community Involvement



In March 2013, it was suggested that it would be a good idea to start doing a community outreach programme in Setrawa village to integrate Sambhali into the lives of the villagers and to gradually provide some necessary education in basic topics such as Health and Hygiene. Five workshops were conducted in a few weeks and now that it's had a successful start, we hope more volunteers will help to develop more workshops in other essential health-related topics particularly, in the future.

Challenges

- Poor awareness of health and hygiene issues in Setrawa village
- Poor integration of castes within Setrawa
- Need to involve community in Sambhali activities

Responses

- Initiated outreach programme with women from the Sheerni Self-Help Groups
- Providing educational workshops to small groups at first, gradually developing a programme

Welcome to Sambhali!

"The volunteers had the idea that the nicest thing to improve Sambhali's image and the people's consciousness of Sambhali would be by inviting everybody from the village and especially the children's parents to the Center. Hence, we put up 50 invitation posters all around the village and prepared a nice program for the Saturday afternoon. After our welcome of our guests in English which Usha translated the children sang some songs. We had bought some biscuits and additionally offered chai tea and fruits to the guests. Usha talked about the various projects of Sambhali and the guests got the possibility to ask questions, to talk to the staff and write down their ideas for improvements etc into a guestbook. By the time all the guests had arrived the Sambhali Center was totally overcrowded and no space for sitting on the floor remained. At the evening the Sambhali staff and the volunteers were very happy about the successful day and I hope the day might have a positive long-lasting effect in the village life of Setrawa."

Sophie, Volunteer

Health and Hygiene

"Rob, Laura, Usha and I brought shampoo, toothbrushes and paste, soap and towels and went out to a village to show the children living in the fields how to brush their teeth and how to wash their hair, hands, and legs. At first they were very shy but once other children saw what was going on more and more came to join us. The next day, we went there again and the children were excited and more willing to follow our hygiene class. Suddenly we were facing 30 children instead of our usual 15 children during the Butterfly class."

Sophie, Volunteer





Teaching in Private School

We wanted to improve the relationship of Sambhali within the village and to help banish prejudices surrounding caste etc, We suggested that the volunteers teach the children in the private school in which Sambhali is situated, some English on a daily basis, every morning from 8.30-9.30am. Up to 4 different classes were taught at one time, depending on the number of volunteers.

"The students at the private school finish school after the 12th class, such that I had expected them to have at least a general basic knowledge of English. But this was not the case. We were surprised that the students had many problems with some topics which we had considered as being simple basic topics.

Teaching at the private school was not always easy. It remained a challenge every day until the end and some days were definitely better than others. I would make a revision class and repeat all the topics we taught the students during my two months of being in Setrawa. I was curious how much they would remember. And then...it was one of the best lessons ever because (I) the students were focussed on the variety of exercises I had prepared, (II) they saw how much we had actually covered during only two months and (III) it showed me that my/our hard work hadn't been without success."

Sophie, Volunteer

How to Save Water!

"Usha and I went to one of the houses of the ladies who join the Sambhali Sheerni SHG Programme. With Usha's help of translation we talked about the percentage of water and land around the globe, the percentage of water in the human body and covered the water cycle as well as the growth of the Indian population. Furthermore, we discussed by which occasions the women use water to conclude on ideas how to save water. Afterwards we played a game and the women were challenged to carry water in a small plastic chai tea-cup along our built path and not spilling water. We all had a lot of fun."

Sophie, Volunteer



Awards and Celebrations



The Hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Sh. Ashok Gehlot came to visit programmes run by the Dept of Social Justice and Empowerment. He also visited Balikah Grah where our Sisters for Sisters Project is based, (photo above).

Sambhali was awarded for Social Work with Dalit Women and Girls' Empowerment by the Devraj (Rajput) community living in the 23 villages around Setrawa village, (photo below).



We were awarded by the Veer Durga Das Rathore Smriti Samiti, Jodhpur for Sambhali's Women Empowerment work. The honour was presented by HH Maharaja Saheb of Jodhpur, (photo above).



In May we met with the Hon. Ms Deepak Kalra, Chairperson State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. She visited the Sambhali Sisters for Sisters Project at Balikah Grah, (photo above).

Visit to the cinema to see English Vinglish by girls of the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre, (photo below).



The students from Sambhali gave a theatre performance at the mini auditorium in Jodhpur to an audience of politicians, UNICEF, local administration and Department of Women and Child Development, (photo above).





We are so thankful to Chris Pye, for donating the money he raised in a 24 hour challenge he took part in, to Sambhali Trust. They walked 134km!! in Gurgaon, India

Himani Shivpuri, Bollywood actress visiting Sambhali Trust to meet the students on 31 July 2012, (photo below).



Celebrating Mother's Day programme at Sambhali Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre. Chief guests were the Hon. District Collector and D.F.O. Ma'am, (photo above).



Our friends Natalie Aebischer and Rahel Kauer from Switzerland helped our latest 6 girls to graduate from the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre with sewing machines they donated, to enable them to work from home, (photo above).

On invitation by the Times of India, we attended a forum on the Safety and Security of the Women in Jodhpur, (photo below).



On 12 May all the women of Sambhali Trust including those from Setrawa and Solyankiyatala celebrated the Foundation Day of Jodhpur, by going to the unveiling ceremony of the statue of the city's first Maharaja, Rao Jodha, next to the Mehrangarh Fort, (photo above).



Volunteer Support



To all our volunteers: a huge thank-you for all your energy, expertise and tremendous contribution that you have all given to each and every one of the women and girls at Sambhali.

Mary Phillips
Anna Camilleri
Claire Hosterman
Tricia Taormina
Mathilde Noé
Courtney King
Andrea Reuther
Renate Massmann-Krei
Evelien Goeman
Marion Brossier
Sacha Janssen
Souad B
Beth Thomas
Johanna Boegel
Marianne Preisner

Global Village Volunteers (University of New South Wales)
(Sophia D'Ambra, Angela Ng, Sydney Cormier, Diya Pacheco,
Lauren Cooper, Sarah Weiner, Alex Choy Siew Fong, Adele
The, Ruthius Us, Dissa Syakina Ahdanisa)



Emily Lawrence and Sarah
Anke Kraatz
Katja Kuhlmann
Dimple Ruparel
Hannelore Tittman
Claudia K
Susanne S
Ann Woodward
Margit Wicher
Heidi Martin
Margarit Nobs
Vanessa Rindchen
Marlies Brand
Heidi Panicke
Elke Guillarmain
Kenia Baumgarten
Jule Visel
Caspar Schlegel
Helga Zaddach
Rita Baldassarre
Petra Bauman
Evelyn Wittmund-Hahlbohm





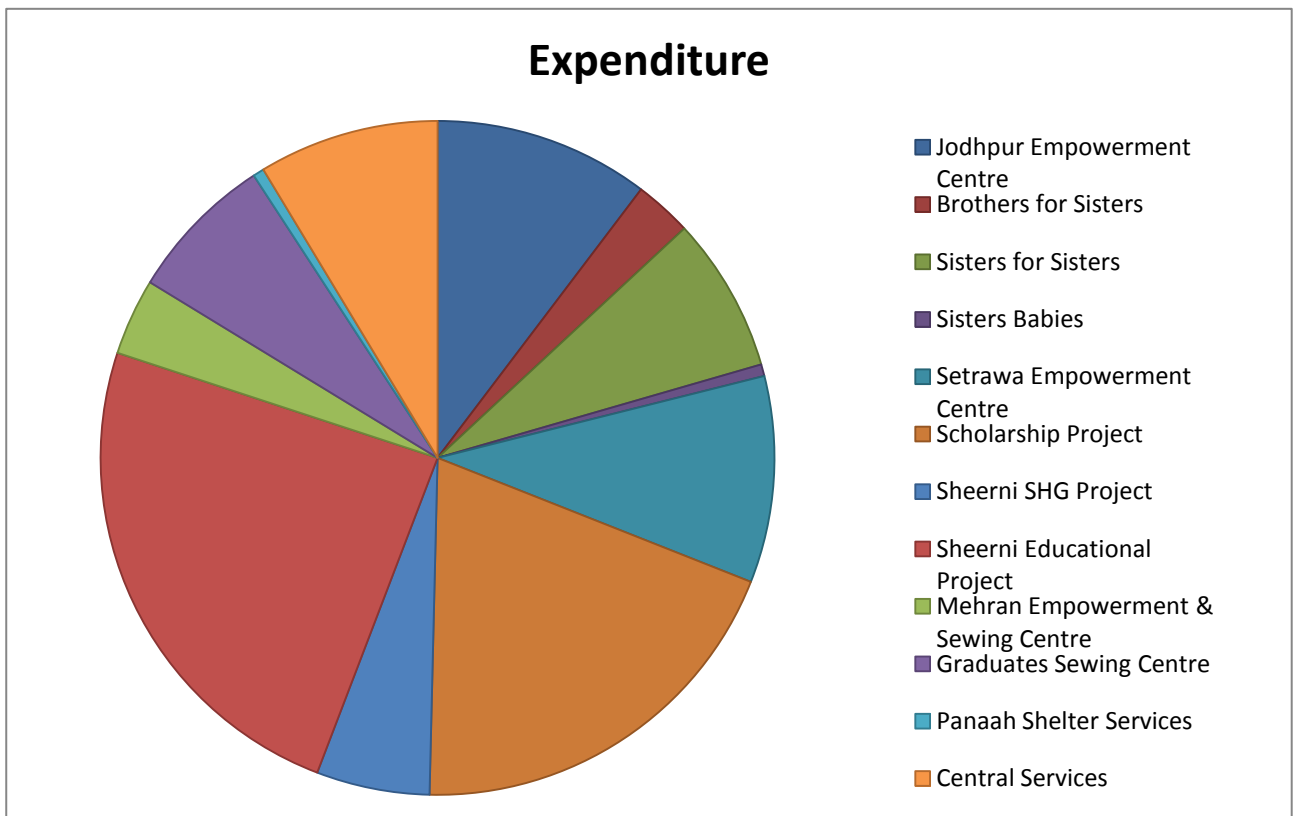
Marie-Therese Kuhn
Dianne Sharma-Winter
Corinna B
Emily Fredenberg
Sean Mills
Arnica Schaefer
Gala Samanta Soler Gonzalez
Gaelle Pinvidic
Vanessa Thomas
Rob Woodward
Laura Birkhead
Sophie Neuhaus
Marie Burton
Carolyn Truempler
Maria Frey
Sarah Harrington
Jean and David Carroll
Samantha Louise Wyman
Elise Guilloux
Thibault Chavignac
Marie-Paule Hardy

Babita Raj
Pauline le Bellec
Pauline Lassnig
Amy Cook
Louise Caroline Holt
Isobel Scott-Clarke
Randi Fjeldseth
Sally Dunn
Beatrice Lopez Lorenzo
Paula Ferguson
Petra Bauer
Gerti Kopf
Ute Pankart

Anna, Vanessa, Marie, Jack, Komal, Michela, Harsh, Pooja,
Shashank and Sophie



Sambhali Trust Expenditure 2012/2013



If you would like further information on the financial expenditure, please email us and we will send you the Audit Report for the year 2012/13



WOMAN POWER

New lease of life for mine workers' widows

Ajay Parmar TNN Times of India Jaipur 4 May 2013

Jodhpur: Widows of stone mine workers are scripting stories of entrepreneurship in the nondescript villages of Setrawa and Solankia Tala near Jodhpur. They are coming forward to start small ventures like shops and cattle rearing to become independent and bring up their children.

These women, who were earlier dependent on the local money lenders and their family members, are now, not only setting up new ventures but many of them have crossed the break-even point and are diversifying or adding services depending upon the needs that they identified during the course of business.

Dau Devi of Setrawa lost her husband who worked in a stone quarry. She said that life was miserable for her after her husband died. "I was shattered with four sons and an unmarried daughter to look after. But today I have my own flour mill," she said. "I had Rs 3,000 as saving and I borrowed another Rs7,000 from a non-profit charitable organization Sambhali Trust, to buy a wheat grinding unit," she added. Dau Devi paid back the loan in a little over a year and has now set up a fancy store of her own with financial assistance of Rs 20,000. Her daughter also goes to school now. Govind Singh Rathore of Sambhali Trust said that before this, these women were compelled to take loans from the local money lenders charging hefty interest rates without any business guidance. "The rural banks also avoided giving them loans. But now 92 women of these two villages have their own means of sustenance and are inspiring other women also to becoming independent", said Rathore.

Out of these 92 women, half are widows and the rest are those, whose husbands work in stone quarries and waste most of their earning in liquor. So it was difficult for these women to bring up their children and meet the home expenses. "But now some of the men like that of Meera Devi have shun stone work and have been assisting the women in their business", said Rathore.

Ganga Devi of Solankiya Tala village, who lost her husband 10 years back, has now four small grocery shops and Indra Devi, another widow, sells cow milk. She bought cows from her savings and got financial assistance from Sambhali Trust. "Since I have paid back the loan of Rs9,500, I am now looking forward for a second loan to open a fancy store", said a happy Indra.

Photo credits: We would like to thank Francisco de Souza, volunteers and well-wishers of Sambhali Trust for allowing us to use their photos throughout this report