



**Sambhali Trust
Annual Report 2007**

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



Mission of Sambhali Trust

Sambhali Trust, a non-profit grassroots effort based in Rajasthan, works to empower women and children in Jodhpur and Setrawa village, who endure oppressive social and economic situations, in order to promote a sense of independence and self-worth.

We achieve our mission by offering English language classes and arts & crafts intensive workshops, finding markets in which to sell the textiles produced by the project's women, encouraging personality development, building self esteem, and creating strong women's networks within their communities.



Govind Rathore celebrating Holi with Sambhali Trust Jodhpur participants. Holi is a national holiday that celebrates the coming of spring and is celebrated by throwing various colors of paint on each other.

Letter from the Founder and Chairman of the Board

Khamagani Friends,

Two years ago, I decided to start a non-profit project in India to do something good for my own society and especially for the women of the Dalit community, also called “the untouchables.” In the Hindi language, the name “Sambhali” stands for the self-consciousness of women. My intention is to help women become more outspoken, especially when they are abused in a mental and physical way by their husbands, brothers, uncles, even in-laws. I want girls to learn to speak up for themselves and openly ask for a change, for a compromise, for help. I want them to recognize they are not alone and that people dealing with similar troubles can create a unity, a network, a force with which to be reckoned. This takes a lot of work and cannot be achieved in only a few years, but imagine how future generations will benefit. A change has to start at some point.

It’s important for us to have this project because after many years of meeting people affiliated with not for profit organizations from other countries my family and I were inspired to do something for our own country. We want to make a change in people’s lives, especially women and children. Women in all social layers of this culture have a powerless position towards their husbands and families. Sambhali Trust chooses to work with the weakest group of all. Members of the Dalit community are outcasts and avoided by society. It is extremely difficult for them to get a job and acquire a regular income. My vision is to help these women face the new India of the 21st century.

The fundamental goal of Sambhali Trust is to empower our participants by providing basic education in literacy, math, English language, and textile skills. Ultimately, we dream for women to experience a life of stability, financial independence, and equal opportunity. This annual report reviews the efforts of Sambhali Trust thus far – where we began, how far we’ve come, and what we hope for in the future. Without the commitment, passion, and support of so many different people, none of this would have been possible. And this is only the beginning!

Warmest Regards,
Govind Singh Rathore

Current Sambhali Trust Projects

Literacy Program

Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Created January 2007

13 Participants

Women's Empowerment

Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Created January 2007

26 Participants

Setrawa Project

Setrawa, Rajasthan

Created October 2007

51 Participants



"We are 5 people in my family. My father was murdered 5 years ago, my mother is unemployed, I am learning these skills so that I can be independent and not beg for money, I want to be self-reliant when I am married. I do not want to depend on anybody." Saroj Jod, 16 years old, Jodhpur participant



History of “the Untouchables”

Jodhpur, the second largest city in Rajasthan, rests in western India surrounded by the Thar Desert, nomadic tribes, and poverty. Widows, abandoned wives, and women of the Harijan “untouchable” caste are significantly affected by impoverishment and are among India’s most exploited and oppressed populations. Anti-Harijan religious and superstitious beliefs, combined with grossly inequitable traditional gender roles, dictate the pitiful role the Harijan woman plays in modern society. Harijan women face worse health and hygiene conditions, greater challenges to literacy and further education, and more obstacles to financial and social independence than any other group.

In male-dominated Rajasthani society, women are often powerless to their husbands despite playing a key role in raising a family. Women are denied basic human rights such as decision-making, education, healthcare, and family planning options. They lack confidence and basic socializing skills and their health, self esteem, and emotional status is greatly affected. Furthermore, these women are often subject to physical and emotional abuse that they are helpless to prevent or, without contrary knowledge, even object to. Girls who attend Sambhali Trust programs have endured cheating husbands, divorced parents, murdered parents, stepmothers treating them like slaves and totally ruined family backgrounds.

“I wanted to study but there was nobody to look after my younger brothers in our home. Now my brothers are grown and I realize I’m way behind in life. I now want to study but it is too late and there is no money for me to study. I found out about Sambhali Trust through a friend. I think that there can’t be anything better I can do with my life than learning the skills here and support myself and make my future strong in every way.” Lajwanti Dharu, 18 years old, Jodhpur participant

Sambhali Trust Past, Present, and Future

Govind Singh Rathore and four trustees started the Sambhali Trust, a non-profit charitable organization, in January 2007 with financial support of friends from the United States. Soon after, the group developed a Memorandum of Understanding with two non-profit organizations based in United States, *Sambhali International* based in Arizona and *Sambhali International (USA) Incorporated* based in Virginia. Both of these organizations support Sambhali Trust with their 501 © 3 tax exemption status.

In April 2007, Sambhali India, a handicraft company, was formed in Jodhpur as a platform to provide income to the participants of Sambhali Trust who excelled at art and craft. A workshop was constructed and a space for Sambhali Trust was created in Jodhpur to support its initial programs – Literacy and Women’s Empowerment. In October 2007, Sambhali Trust expanded to provide a program in Setrawa village, a small community 100 km away from Jodhpur. Setrawa holds much significance to Govind’s family as this is the village his father grew up in. In light of the success and joys of the Sambhali project in Jodhpur he was encouraged and wanted to do something of importance for his own village.

In just a short period of time, Sambhali Trust has garnered international attention, attracting volunteers from all across the globe including Australia, Germany, United States, Mexico, Austria, France, and Finland to work with the projects. Additionally, international volunteer organizations, such as Worldwide Helpers, Global Experience, Independent Volunteers, and Foundation for Sustainable Development have recommended volunteers to Sambhali Trust as its gained international recognition as a reputable organization.



Fundamental Goals of Sambhali Trust:

Identify and organize young Harijan ("untouchable") women from urban slum areas into groups for academic and practical education, vocational training programs, and group confidence-building activities

Build a cooperative utilizing the skills of trained Dalit women that will operate both domestically and internationally.

Provide educational opportunities to poverty-stricken rural youth



LITERACY PROGRAM

Many of the girls from our program in Sambhali Project Jodhpur, have had little or no education. In an attempt to help these girls and their families we have set up the literacy program. Through sponsorship we send some of the girls, who are eager to learn more, back to school. Currently 13 students are participating.




“We are two sisters, a brother and my parents in my family. Due to lack of money and not paying the fees I had to

leave school. Now I am sponsored and back in school, which I love! Confidence is the key to success and I am a strong and confident person I want to be an airline hostess and I’d like to see other girls get into this glamorous field as well. I hope that all of my friends can make their families proud of them. I will learn English so that I can move ahead in life.”

SUBJECT	1st TEST			2nd TEST			3rd TEST			HALF YEARLY EXAM			ANNUAL EXAM			GRAND TOTAL		
	Max. Marks	Obtained	Percentage	Max. Marks	Obtained	Percentage	Max. Marks	Obtained	Percentage	Max. Marks	Obtained	Percentage	Max. Marks	Obtained	Percentage	Max. Marks	Obtained	Percentage
HINDI	10	8	80%	10	9	90%				70	62	88%						
ENGLISH	10	6	60%	10	8	80%				70	51	72%						
MATHS	10	7	70%	10	6	60%				70	39	55%						
SCIENCE	10	10	100%	10	10	100%				70	62	88%						
SOCIAL SC.	10	9	90%	10	6	60%				70	63	90%						
SANSKRIT	10	8	80%	10	9	90%				70	61	87%						
S.SURV.	10	8	80%	10	7	70%				70	50	71%						
ART EDU.	10	9	90%	10	8	80%				70	69	98%						
HEALTH EDU.	10	8	80%	10	7	70%				70	51	72%						
MORAL SC.																		
G. K.																		
COMPUTER EDU.	10	10	100%	10	10	100%				70	55	78%						
GRAND TOTAL	60	48	80%	60	48	80%				400	308	77%						
PERCENTAGE	80%			80%						80-87%								
DIVISION	I			I						I								
RANK	III			II						I								
ATTENDANCE	48/50			48/50						33/35								
CLASS TEACHER'S SIGNATURE	R.B.			R.B.						R.								
PARENT'S SIGNATURE	[Signature]			[Signature]						[Signature]								

REMARKS	
1st TEST	Good! Keep it up.
2nd TEST	Good! Keep it up.
3rd TEST	
HALF YEARLY EXAM	Excellent it is important study must be regular.
ANNUAL EXAM	
FINAL RESULTS	
1. Passed/Failed by Grace :	
2. Failed :	
3. Supplementary / Re-Exam :	
Examination Incharge	PRINCIPAL

Monica Jod, 15 years old, Sambhali Trust Jodhpur participant
She was first in her school class, January 2008



"I'm married and I'm living with two children. My husband is a little confused with our marriage, He doesn't stay at home and doesn't support the family financially or emotionally. I want to be independent and I want to secure my children's future. Coming to Sambhali Trust has given me the strength to do this." Meera Dharu, Sambhali Trust Jodhpur participant

Sambhali Trust Goal #1

INDEPENDENCE

Meera Dharu was badly treated by her husband and they have two children together. He was continuously throwing orders, beating her, and was treating her like a slave. She had to work and bring in money for the family while he sat at home and drank alcohol. One day, after she received some money from the project she went home and prepared some rice and lentils. Her husband wanted to eat mutton and have alcohol instead. He forced her to give him the money, so she stood up from the place where she was cooking, took a big piece of stick and started hitting him until he had to run off to save his life. Since that date he has never returned. Meera is so happy to be alone and living happily raising her 2 children. Sambhali Trust also helped her find a job at a guesthouse.

EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Sambhali Trust seeks to empower Harijan women from urban slums in Jodhpur through a holistic 6 days-a-week program including academic and practical education, vocational training and income-generating opportunities, and self-esteem and confidence building.



The project is currently nearing the finish of its first 2-year cycle, which has seen the education and empowerment of 22 young Harijan women, both married and single ranging from ages 8 to 38. The girls attend the project from 10am to 3pm Monday through Saturday. Some participants also receive six months of textile-production training from local Jodhpur artisans in block printing, screen-printing, tie-dye, and embroidery.

Fundamental Goals:

- Academic training in math and basic English
- Creative courses in arts & crafts and design
- Training on practical topics like basic rights, opening a bank account, visiting a health clinic



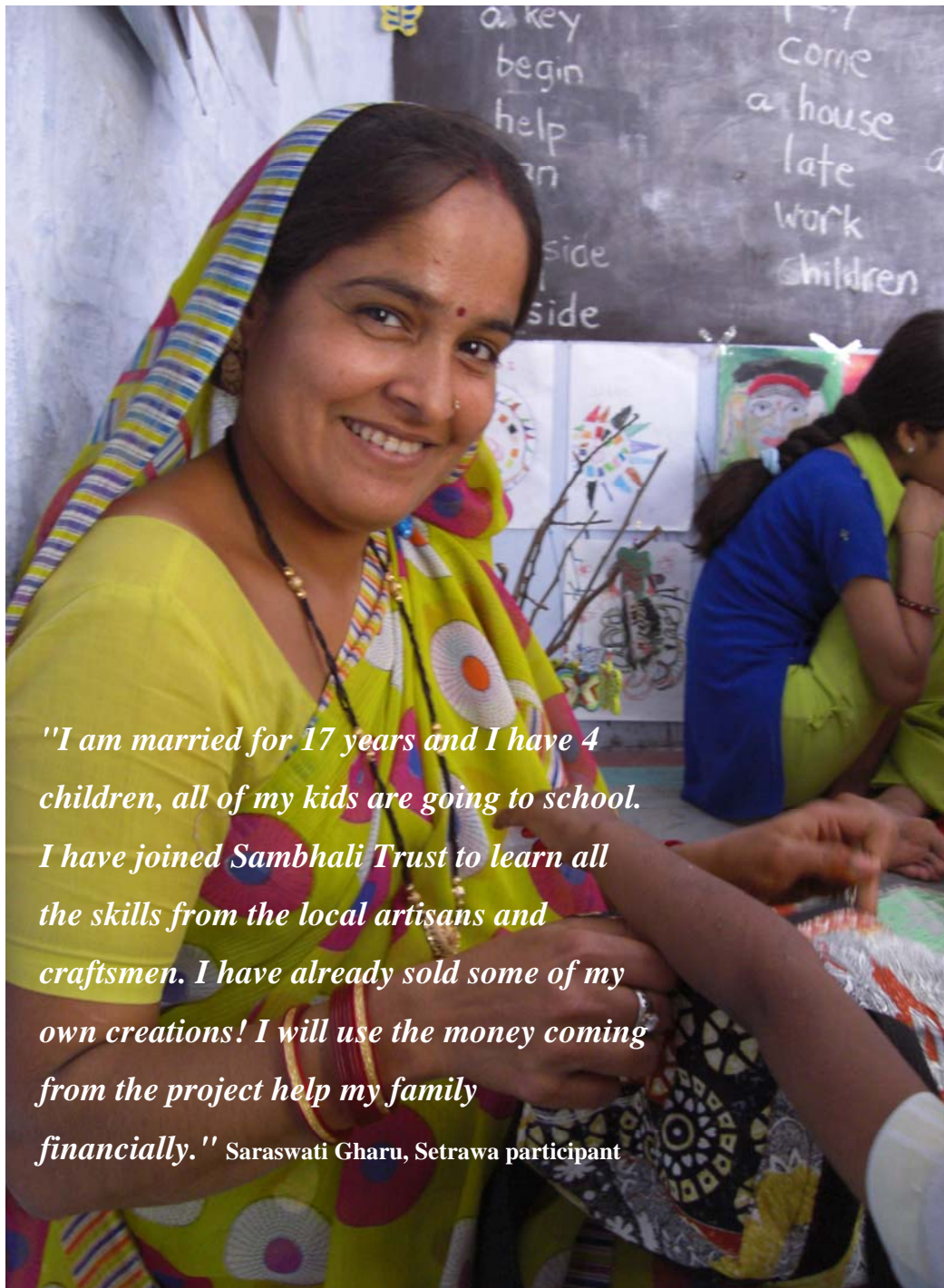
- Occasional special workshops by guests including health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS education, specialized art classes, music, women's rights in India, anti-domestic violence information, development in urban and rural areas

- Advanced vocational training by a full-time teacher including tailoring, embroidery, block printing, screen printing, and traditional tie-dye
- Confidence-building activities and individual counseling, build socializing skills
- Extracurricular activities such as sports, picnics, movies, and field trips to city and area sights
- Keeping Indian traditional skills alive by spreading it by teaching others



“The participants have changed. They became more outspoken,

they came to realize that they are more than only what society reduces them to. They are individuals. They have dreams and wishes and now there is hope. They now know that they can make a change in their own life. They are the next generation to come.” Johanna Johnes, Jodhpur volunteer



"I am married for 17 years and I have 4 children, all of my kids are going to school. I have joined Sambhali Trust to learn all the skills from the local artisans and craftsmen. I have already sold some of my own creations! I will use the money coming from the project help my family financially." Saraswati Gharu, Setrawa participant

Sambhali Trust Goal # 2 SELF-ESTEEM

"I am a dreamer of many dreams! I want to have my own tailoring shop and to help shape the careers of my five sisters as well. I love learning new things and I hope to continue with my education. I want to ride my own motorbike!" Reena, 19 years old, Jodhpur participant

Our priority is to teach women that they are able to do more than just housekeeping. We teach them craft skills so they will be able to sell their products; in addition, men see this and understand the importance of women in their family economic life. We also focus on self-dependency, self-confidence, and self-consciousness, to think independently and not to beg for a single penny.

"I could see what wonders Sambhali had done for their self-esteem. They told me stories about things they learned here, skipping lunch to come to Sambhali so that they do not miss anything. This was their safe haven, where they all made friends, laughed, shared ups and downs and learned together. This is where their life was transformed from nobody to someone special."

Annuradha Jain, Setrawa guest

SETRAWA PROJECT

Setrawa is a small village 110 km west of Jodhpur, Rajasthan with a population of approximately 3000 people. Sambhali School was opened in Setrawa in November 2007. Our aim was to establish a free school for the local children in Setrawa village and incorporate an art and craft program to enable the local women to become financially self-sufficient.



Fundamental goals:

- To aid children already attending school with extra English classes
- To initiate schooling practices and opportunities for the children who can't afford school
- To promote basic hygiene and

etiquette practices that will help alleviate misconceptions about different castes' cleanliness and presentation and will also aid in self-confidence and promote more job opportunities in the future

- To integrate castes

- Encourage eco-friendly practices and recycling

- Improve general infrastructure and appearance of Setrawa village including drainage systems, improved roads, health awareness programs, hygiene, education to help stop child marriages, equality, and integrate a community assembly group.



“There were so many children filling the streets when we arrived. It was soon established that this project would be very welcome in their village. Within minutes of suggesting our ideas, the local leaders and respected members of the community were sweeping us around from place to place that were available for rent. We also were told around 30 - 50 children were already interested. This was meant to work.”

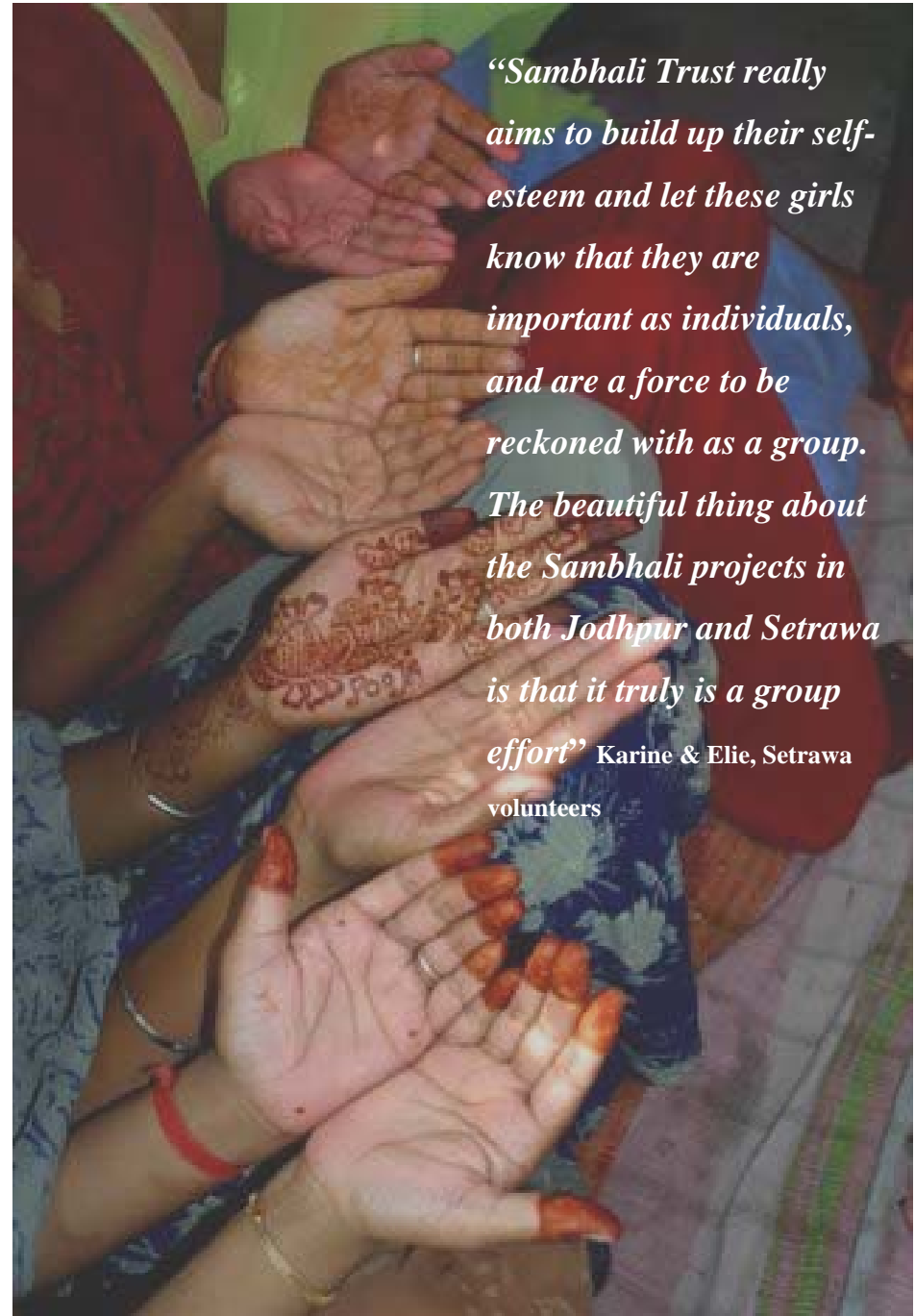
Amanda Humphries, Volunteer

Sambhali Trust Goal #3

UNITY

“I’m not sure how common it is to see 15 girls chasing after men through Mandore Park, but I certainly know how rare it is to see woman standing up for themselves to Indian men. After some men yelled cruel words to them in the park, the girls gathered together muttering ‘Let’s go teach them a lesson’ and began to chase the men through the park. They are becoming more independent and have the ability to stand up for themselves in social situations. It proves that the Jodhpur project is certainly working at empowering woman.” **Charlotte Madden, Setrawa and Jodhpur volunteer**

We took the whole group to get ice cream one day. Some men on the street curiously asked “Why are so many women walking on the street together? This is very odd.” Our girls responded, “Do you have a problem with that?” The men shook their head no, and the girls said kindly “Well than mind your own business.” Classic. **Mary Polizzotti, Jodhpur volunteer**



“Sambhali Trust really aims to build up their self-esteem and let these girls know that they are important as individuals, and are a force to be reckoned with as a group. The beautiful thing about the Sambhali projects in both Jodhpur and Setrawa is that it truly is a group effort.” **Karine & Elie, Setrawa volunteers**



VOLUNTEERS

“We believe the Sambhali Trust has made some excellent progress to date and has admirable intentions. From this small seed we hope that a great tree will grow” **Edwina Alva and Marion and Stanley Valladares-Smith, Setrawa volunteers**



“The Setrawa project has so much potential because there are so many girls who want to be educated. There were very few girls absent over the 2-week period. In the case where one girl was unable to attend school, she wrote out an application explaining why she needed time off. The help of local teachers to help has also been a huge help. There is so much heart in the people of Setrawa.” **Charlotte Madden, Setrawa and Jodhpur volunteer**



“I told my students Sambhali School is a different place for a different experience: empowering women, learn how to learn, try your skills, improve them, work together, appreciate the qualities of classmates...explaining something to someone else helps both to better understand...accept the mutual dependence and the challenges encountered.” **Anna Waterkotte, Setrawa volunteer**



“If you have the possibility to teach someone to think for herself, be more open-minded, to show her the possibilities, and, the most important thing from my view, to get some more love and sunshine in her life you just have to try it. You have to start somewhere and maybe some day the project will not only take roots but also fruits. And I’m happy and grateful that I had the chance to join in the growth.” **Sophie Haensel, Jodhpur volunteer**



Rise above the Dust!!!

*United with a common vision
Perfumed with inspiration
Blessed with good intentions
and spiritual vibration.*

*Seedlings with potential
to be strong & mighty trees
are nurtured with the elements &
the kindness of the breeze.*

*Sweet women of this land
must grow in equality
to feel empowered by their right...
to be as free as me.*

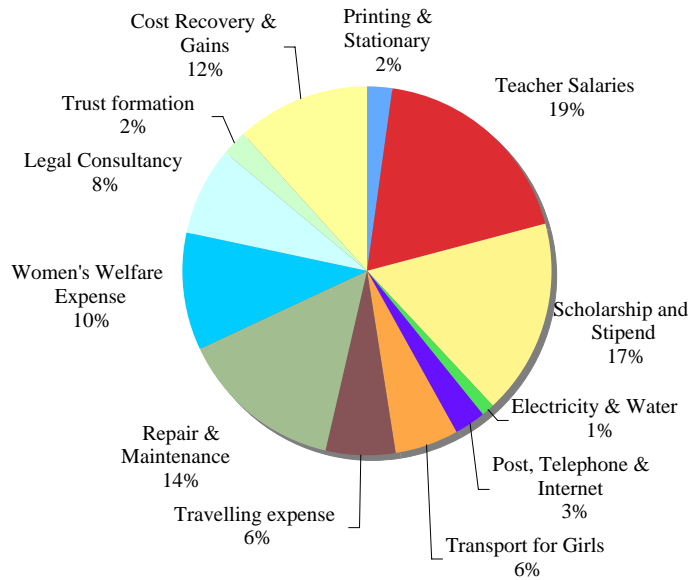
*Sambhali, will you hold
a simple remedy for us?...
to unlock the gates of oppression
and rise above the dust.*

Poem by Gemma West, Jodhpur volunteer

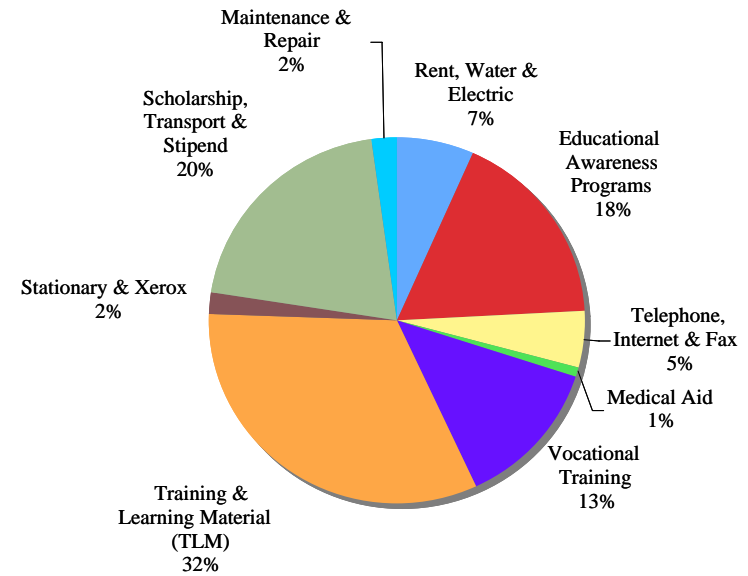


Statement of Activities

**Sambhali Trust Operating Expenses
January 1 – March 31, 2007**



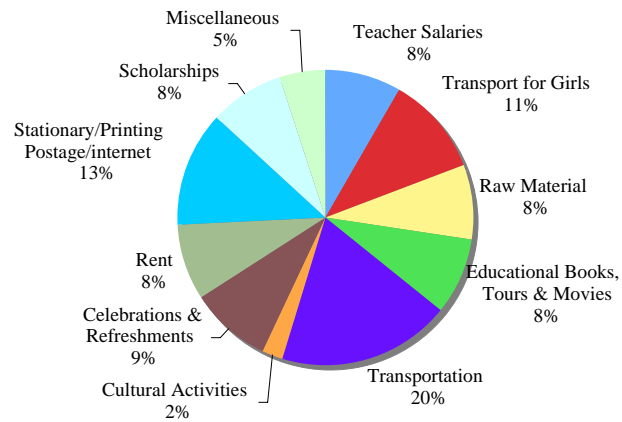
**Sambhali Trust Operating Expenses
April 1 – March 31, 2008**



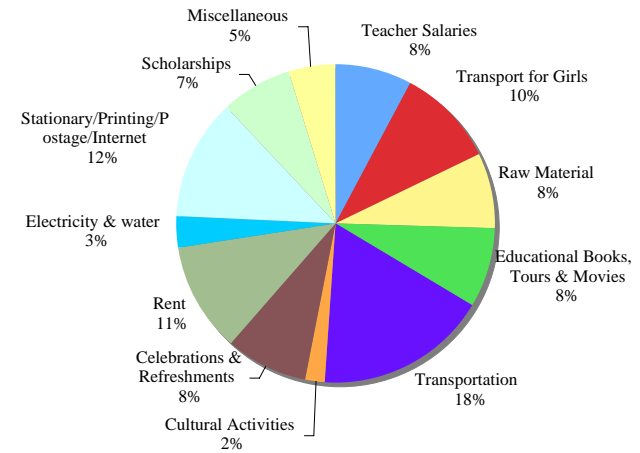
The complete audited financial statements of Sambhali Trust for fiscal 2007 may be obtained by contacting info@sambhalitrust.org

Sambhali Trust Budget 2008-2009

Setrawa Project Planned Operating Expenses 2008-2009



Jodhpur Project Planned Operating Expenses 2008-2009



INDEPENDENCE – SELF ESTEEM - UNITY

In October 2007 some of the Sambhali participants were granted the rare opportunity to walk the runway in a local fashion show at the NIFD Institute. Sambhali Advisory Board member Kamlesh Ratnu was one of the designers.

“Can you imagine some girls from the “untouchables” - whom usually nobody cares whether they are alive or dead, who arrived at Sambhali Trust project and did not even look into anybody’s eyes - to walk as professional models? I couldn’t, but now I can.” Sophie Haensel, Jodhpur volunteer



Chandani is one of the Sambhali Trust girls who walked the runway. Her mother was murdered by her father when Chandani was 8 months old because she didn't bring enough dowries. She burned to death. Chandani was raised by her mother's parents and eventually her grandfather also passed away. While he was alive, he always wanted to see Chandani as a princess, a star in the world. Her grandmother came to the fashion show to witness Chandani on the runway. She could not hold back her tears and thanked us so much as she saw her husband's dream come true. She felt they had also fulfilled the promise she gave to Chandani's mother that they will raise this girl in a very excellent manner.

Newspaper article featuring the fashion show where Sambhali girls participated



Sambhali Trust in the News...



Personality of Khadi Will Change, Fashion Show Reveals

Sambhali Trust girls participate in the Khadi fashion show



Foreign Women Come to Defend Women Victims, Police are Shocked



Foreigners Understand the Children's Lifestyle

Sambhali Trust gains sewing machines, visiting American creates documentary featuring the girls



They Came As Travelers and Started Teaching



Foreigners Play Local Games

Featuring Sambhali Trust volunteers playing santoliya with the girls



Tarahana, a music band from Holland, visited Sambhali Trust and performed for the girls. Advisory Board member Colleen Wedding danced in the festivities as well.



Women Caught the Two Romeos!

Sambhali Trust volunteers witnessed men harassing local women on the street. They confronted them, and the men were eventually arrested and put behind bars.



City Happenings: Hair & Body Workshop at Sambhali Trust

Girls get a makeover from local supporter and friend from Xpose salon

SAMBHALI TRUST LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Govind Singh Rathore
Chairman and Founder – Sambhali Trust
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

Mukta Kanwar
Director - Durag Niwas Guest House
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

Badan Kanwar
House Mother
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

Rashmi Rathore
Professional Nutritionist - The Veerni Project
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

Virendra Singh Chouhan
Senior Front Officer - Hotel Ajit Bhawan
Managing Director - Rajput Cultural
Adventures
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

ADVISORY BOARD

Madhu Kanwar
Owner– Haveli Guesthouse
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

Mary Polizzotti
Sales Manager - Lonely Planet Publications
San Francisco, CA USA

Chloe Hart – *Strategic Management Consultant*
London, UK



Kamlesh Ratnu
Fashion Designer and Co-Founder - Marichika
Studio, Teacher - INIFD
Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

Dilip Singh Rajawat
CEO and Founder - Shree Narayan Bagh Aloe
Vera Products
Jaisalmer, Rajasthan INDIA

Colleena Wedding
Founder and Director - Shakti School of Dance
Pushkar, Rajasthan INDIA

Devi Sharan Singh Shaktawat
Attorney, Professor of Law - Neemuch Law
University
Jamuniya, Rajasthan INDIA

"Sambhali Trust's value lies in the fact that it targets the most vulnerable section of Rajasthani society, young low-caste women from impoverished families, in a way that empowers them to change their own lives. A truly grassroots initiative, the organization's staff shows dedication and involvement with its beneficiaries and seeks creative new solutions to addressing deep-rooted obstacles to its mission. The positive practical, emotional and social effects that the program impresses upon these young women are tangible and unmistakable to an outside observer." Lillian Langford, Program Coordinator, the Foundation for Sustainable Development, Jodhpur

SUPPORT

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

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

2007-2008 Volunteers

Gemma West
Johanna Johne
Sophie Haensel
Amanda Humphries
Edwina Alva
Marion and Stanley Valladares-Smith
Mary Quagliata
Gernot Rohrmoser
Karine Tchakerian and Elise Warner
Karelia Wilenius
Anna Waterkotte
Charlotte Madden
Mary Polizzotti

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

Specifically we wish to thank the following well-wishers:

Sambhali International (USA) Incorporated, Virginia, USA
Sambhali International, Arizona, USA
Lonely Planet Foundation, Melbourne, Australia
Mr. Max Lehmann, Switzerland
Mr. Bill MacArthur from the Brooksville Fund Inc. and Miss Olyvia MacArthur, NYC, USA
Mrs. Mirjam Vanderven, Oxford, UK
Mrs. Jacqueline de Chollet, Founder of the Global Foundation for Humanity, The Veerni Project, New York City, USA
Mr. François-Xavier Delmas from LE PALAIS DES THES, Paris, France
Ms. Joan Gurry, New York City, USA
Ms. Julie Allen, Liverpool, UK
Mr. Bill Clohessy, owner of Green Bag Pty Ltd., USA
Mr. Thomas Watts and Miss Susanne Spornberger, Vienna, Austria
Ms. Cornelia Uebscher, Cologne, Germany

Guests from Rajput Cultural Adventures, Sans Frontiers, Marty's Photo Tours, Dragoman Overland who have visited our NGO with their tour groups

This report was produced by Sambhali Trust Advisory Board member Mary Polizzotti. Photography credits belong to Francisco de Souza, Mary Polizzotti, and Govind Singh Rathore.



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

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

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

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

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