




Sambhali Trust

Annual Impact Report 2015-16





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Our mission and values

Welcome to Sambhali Trust! We are a non-profit, grassroots charitable organisation based in Jodhpur whose mission is to empower, educate and encourage women and children in Rajasthan.

We believe passionately in gender equality and challenging the discrimination faced by women and girls on the grounds of their sex, caste and socioeconomic status. The impact of these three factors for women and girls can often mean a high level of verbal, physical and sexual abuse from within their family circle and community. Sambhali Trust exists to give strength to these women and girls and help them break the cycle.

Our goal is to improve their lives through educational programmes, empowerment centres, vocational training and legal, emotional and financial support. Our projects are diverse and tailored to the needs of the community we serve, from running Sewing Centres to funding scholarships, and from forming self-help finance groups to providing an SOS helpline for women in trouble.

While we were established to work primarily with underprivileged women of the Dalit community, our work has expanded to include women, girls and boys from many other communities who come to our door wanting help. We never discriminate and will always do what we can.

Next year will be our tenth anniversary. In that time, we have welcomed over 8000 women, girls and boys to our charity. We look forward to another ten years of adapting and growing to meet the needs of the evolving communities we serve.



A message from our founder

Khamaghani friends of Sambhali!

Having just spent a wonderful month in Europe visiting many of our valued donors and supporters, I write this message to you with a renewed gratitude for what we have achieved together and a fresh optimism for the future.

For me, this has been a year of learning and reflection, consolidation and resolve. Following the tragic death of my brother two years ago, I was saddened to lose my dear uncle in December – a loss that touched me deeply and provoked such kind and thoughtful messages from my Sambhali friends around the world. Yet out of this tragedy, my dear wife and I were blessed with the most beautiful gift when our baby daughter was born soon afterwards. Where our god closes a door, somewhere a window is opened. Nothing prepared me for the immense wave of love and devotion I felt towards my daughter, and I felt as though a fire had been stoked beneath my feet. I see the face of my baby in every Sambhali woman and girl: every participant in our projects is someone's daughter. My commitment to improving the plight of women in my community, my city, my region, my country, has never been stronger.

That is why this year I wanted us to be bolder in our mission and our methods. We have reached out to the poorest Dalit girls and boys in the slums of Jodhpur with our support of the Sambhal project, taking them off the streets for a few hours a day and giving them hope of a future. We have been loud and proud and had our voices heard on the streets in support of gender equality, gaining fantastic community support through our UN Orange Day march and International Women's Day activities. And, perhaps most importantly, we have opened ourselves up to feedback and improvement like never before. I want our charity to grow, mature, develop and ultimately deliver the best possible help for everyone involved – and that is why we have welcomed a more hands-on approach from our donors and visitors. I want to hear how things can work better, how we can be more efficient and have a greater impact for the money we spend. I want to make the most of everyone's talents and build lasting partnerships. I want to continue to attract enthusiastic, feisty, committed volunteers, brimming with ideas and the drive to see them through. This is how we will improve.

For all these reasons, I am proud and honoured to introduce our annual impact report. I hope you will celebrate with us the progress made, welcome the enthusiasm and hard work of all our staff and volunteers, and commit with us to making next year – our tenth anniversary – even better. I remain ever thankful and ever humble at your continuing support.

With kindest regards,

Govind Singh Rathore

Our impact, Our reach...

100 women graduating with sewing machines

Nirbhaya telephone helpline

114 telephone calls

53 verbal harrasment

43 domestic abuse

9 sexual abuse

3 forced marriage

6 other issue

Sambhali graduates now working in our Sewing Centre
192¹⁹

Over 2 years

7000 children and

500 parents/teachers involved in No Bad touch project

children being funded at private schools

120 Lakh rupees raised in this financial year to fund

90.5%

of every rupee we raise goes directly to fund our projects, leaving only 9.5% admin costs

17 different projects

Women and children currently attending our empowerment centres

205

120

women helping themselves and each other through our microfinance project

Sheerni microfinance project

41 women took loans and bought:

17 goats

16 shops

7 cows

1 other

28

loyal Indian staff working hard to do their best for our Sambhali women and children



Sambhali projects at a glance

Empowerment Centres

Jodhpur Empowerment Centre

Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre

Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre

Abhivyakti Empowerment Centre

Shakti Empowerment Centre

Laadli Empowerment Centre

Setrawa Empowerment Centre (Setrawa)

Shanti Empowerment Centre (Setrawa)

Sewing Centres

Sambhali Boutique

Graduate Sewing Centre

Brothers for Sisters Sewing Centre

Special Projects

Sheerni Education Project (Boarding Home)

Sambhal Education Centre

Scholarship Programme

No Bad Touch

SOS Project

Sheerni Microcredit Project (Setrawa)

Sambhali Empowerment Centres: what's new?

Our empowerment centres are our core frontline work: educating women and girls in English, Hindi, Maths and Sewing to give them a better chance of gaining financial independence and working their way towards a brighter future. Each empowerment centre is responsive to the needs of the community it serves and is therefore slightly different! Some are based in predominantly Muslim communities; others have a higher proportion of Dalit attendees; and others deal with the challenge of catering to a wide age range. But it is these quirks that makes the empowerment centres work and keep the women and children coming back to learn and grow in safe and secure surroundings.


This financial year, we have tried to increase both the numbers of women and children we can reach and the quality of teaching within the centres. While our existing centres continue to flourish, we have opened a new empowerment centre: Laadli, which is already thriving under the watchful eye of our experienced Hindi teacher Lovely Choudhary. We have also taken on board incredibly valuable feedback from some of our international sponsors and other expert visitors over the year regarding the content of our lessons. With a greater focus on a core syllabus and testing across the different centres, we are making it easier for our teachers and volunteers to track students' progress and see who needs special help. As we look to introduce more textbooks and stricter timetabling in the coming months, we will hopefully see these changes bear fruit in better outcomes for our students.

While our academic and vocational teaching remains the focus of the empowerment centres, we have also emphasised the importance of our students' cultural and social development. When our international volunteers and Indian teachers come together to teach, a special bond is formed between them and with their students. They are not just teaching theory: they are sharing life experiences and learning about each other. That's why in addition to our standard curriculum, we provide the women and girls with a programme of workshops to open their eyes to a wider world, covering nine diverse and engaging topics. But we also encourage the volunteers to use their own skills and talents – whether in the field of art, psychology, music or many others – to devise their own workshops and build another bridge with the women and girls around them.

Workshops:

1. First aid
2. Women's health
3. Nutrition
4. Gender issues in society
5. Banking
6. Politics and geography
7. Communication
8. Future goals
9. Business skills

To give an insight behind the scenes at our empowerment centres, we have asked four of our volunteers – two in established centres and two in the new projects – to talk about their experiences.



Tabea Linzbach

Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre

“There is only one thing I’m sure of at Brothers for Sisters: every day I teach there will be memorable. Beyond that, who knows! The number of girls, the age profile and the nature of the work – all these things change with the seasons. But you know what? That’s what creates the challenge and that’s what drives us to succeed.”

Tabea is one of several volunteers from Germany who applied through Volunta – one of Sambhali’s international partners – to spend a year in Jodhpur with our organisation, working as English and Maths teachers and creating innovative workshops to challenge their students’ perceptions of the world outside their community. She works with Sambhali teacher, Lovely Choudhary, at Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre – one of our centres in Jodhpur’s Muslim community.

“I have seen Brothers for Sisters centre at its best and at its most difficult. When I first arrived, I was the only volunteer, working with about thirty women and girls. The turnover of students makes it difficult sometimes to complete a curriculum and the students’ absence during religious holidays can be quite disruptive. But I have seen the centre blossom into a wonderful environment over my time here. We are getting more and more young girls arriving at the centre and they love it so much that they encourage their friends to come. At first, Sambhali staff had to knock on doors to encourage the women to come back; now they are so enthusiastic to come and learn!”

“I think what’s changed is the diversity of the lessons we offer. The core subjects are so important: English, Hindi, Maths and Sewing remain the bedrock of our weekly les-

son plans. However, Govind has also encouraged us to be more imaginative with our teaching and this has led to some incredibly memorable workshops and conversations with the girls, where they really get the opportunity to open up to us.”

“Several of the workshops stick in my mind. I did one presentation on the theme of ‘oceans’ – given that Jodhpur is surrounded by desert, I wanted to give the girls a glimpse of something new and exciting – and their reaction was amazing! They kept shouting for more photos, more videos: they had no idea that such environments existed and were fascinated by the creatures that inhabited these dark and mysterious worlds.

“Similarly, I did a biology lesson with the group and they were incredulous about the human body, especially inside them! They couldn’t believe how much blood was in their bodies and kept protesting, ‘no mam, it’s not possible!’ I just love the look on their faces when I’ve taught them something completely new and I know that they are going to tell their friends and family about the wonderful new facts they learned today. It’s that intellectual curiosity that keeps them coming back and allows us to broach more sensitive topics. Talking about blood allows us to introduce the sensitive topic of menstruation and pregnancy. We are always mindful of religious and cultural sensitivities in class – this is of paramount importance to maintain the support of the community – and it is wonderful to see how the women and girls help each other to understand some of the choices that lie ahead. This is what Sambhali does so well.”

“It is not our job to tell the women and girls what they should do – no one can do that. Instead, we give them an education, create an environment in which they can speak and encourage them to help each other as they navigate their way through life. For that, I am very proud of Brothers for Sisters and what we’ve achieved this year. I just love my students and I wish every one of them the best for the future!”



Jessica Mühlemann Jodhpur Empowerment Centre

"I had one student who told me she had been engaged to be married since the age of nine and it was now time for her to fulfil that promise. This meant she was leaving Sambhali and finishing her education. She didn't want to go and it broke my heart. This is the reality of life for the women and girls I teach. Although it is painful to see some girls drop out as the months go by, many still stay and I focus all my energy on giving them the best possible chance in life. That's why I'm here, after all."

Jessica Muhlemann is another Volunta student from Germany and has done an excellent job as Sambhali's volunteer coordinator for the year, ensuring each project has the right resource and skilled staff to succeed. Jodhpur Empowerment Centre is located in Sambhali's main office, giving it a unique place as the flagship centre, often open to visitors to see some of Sambhali's work.

"The exposure Jodhpur Empowerment Centre gets to visitors is a double-edged sword in some respects. It's fantastic for people to see what goes on inside the centre and to experience the women and girls and all that they

have to offer. Showing visitors their exercise books and sewing samples, and hearing them belt out 'We Shall Overcome' every morning is a really emotional experience for many of the people we meet. It is also amazing for the students' confidence – to hear praise and encouragement from international visitors is a great source of pride for the girls and they are so keen to show off their achievements. However, it is sometimes difficult to keep a regular routine and strict timetable when there are so many distractions for the girls. We've had some really useful feedback from our donors this year on how to improve in this area so I'm confident that things will only improve in the coming months."

"The creativity and resourcefulness of both the Indian staff and international volunteers continues to amaze me. We have all worked really hard to ensure the lessons are as engaging and meaningful as possible, and sometimes people have the most wonderful ideas to get the students excited. I have seen teachers using colourful flash cards, memory games, mime, photography, dance and so many other different media to engage the girls and get them thinking. And it works! I've had some of the most exciting lessons on the stalest topics – fractions and division, for example – come alive as a result of a change in teaching methods. With the introduction of textbooks to support the teachers across the different empowerment centres, I think we will be able to see a higher standard of teaching around Sambhali and take more time to learn from each other and pick up all the tips we can!"



Michael Morris Abhivyakti Empowerment Centre

“It’s not often I’m in a minority as a young, white male – I admit it was strange at first. But spending my day surrounded by women, girls and boys who often cross such hurdles to come here to listen to me teach them – now that’s quite a humbling experience. Until you’ve walked a while in their shoes, you have no idea of the hardships they face. The smiles I see every day hide a multitude of stories and stigmas. All you can do is do what you are there to do: teach them and help them grow.”

Michael Morris is a British student who has spent nine months with us in Jodhpur at one of our newest centres, Abhivyakti. He has been instrumental in getting the centre up and running, alongside our Sambhali teacher Divya Choudhary, putting some structure into the centre’s operations where we welcome a diverse range of students of all ages and backgrounds.

“The main challenge we’ve had in getting the centre going is to ensure we had the right number of classes and grouped all the students by ability where possible. When the women have their Sewing lesson, that’s when Divya can take the children for their Hindi practice. But was more difficult to get the English classes up and running because we wanted to stretch the advanced speakers without leaving the beginners behind. I think we’re getting there!”

“What has worked particularly well is taking a common theme – for example, learning about the inspirational

Malala Yousafzai – and creating different activities for the different ability groups. That way, everyone is challenged in their own way, but everyone also comes away with an understanding of the main topic. For the children, we might ask them to copy some of Malala’s famous quotes translated into Hindi and then think about what their education might enable them to do in the future and draw it! For the more advanced women, we might ask them to write a letter to Malala in English, explaining why educating women and girls is so important and describing how her words have affected them. This works as a great way to develop their level of English but also to get them thinking creatively and not just memorising words and phrases.”

“Where I think Sambhali can really make an educational difference is in encouraging the women and children to use their imagination and think about how to apply what they learn in different situations. I understand that there is a great deal of emphasis on memorising facts and regurgitating them in Indian schools, and while this is obviously important, I think Sambhali’s lessons can complement this official schooling by nurturing the right side of the brain too!”

“I hope that the women and children see me as a kind, gentle, helpful man. It is difficult to know how to act sometimes, especially when the women experience hardships in their personal lives. There have been a number of occasions where some of the women haven’t arrived at class and I know something is wrong, but I have to be respectful and not get too involved. That’s why I feel glad to have Divya and some of the other female Sambhali staff who can help the women in a more practical way. For some of my students, Sambhali is all they have to look forward to, and my job is to make sure I do my best for them.”

Anita Toutain

Laadli Empowerment Centre

“I only have three months with the girls here. I know already that I will miss them terribly when I leave. My dream is to come back in a few years’ time and hear one of the women say ‘my daughter is at university’. That’s when I’ll know things have started to change. For many of the women at the centre, it is too late – their dream has disappeared. But they can still inspire their daughters and that’s what I’m working towards...”

Anita has been teaching maths in one of Sambhali’s newest Empowerment Centres, Laadli (named after Govind’s beautiful new daughter), for three months and has been overwhelmed by the power of the place to encourage, motivate and inspire the women and girls to open up and share their experiences.

“This place is such a wonderful sanctuary for the women and girls. Many of them don’t have a safe space to speak and ask important questions at home and they can’t voice their opinions for fear of saying something inappropriate or wrong. Here, they can speak about their life. The amazing thing about this centre is that the students learn in two ways. They learn English, Hindi, Maths and Sewing from us, the teachers, but they also learn cultural and social lessons from each other. They are so proud of what they learn in the centres – you can hear it in their

voices. Whenever we have visitors to the centre, the girls are so enthusiastic about demonstrating their abilities, showing off their beautiful sewing samples and introducing themselves in English. They make me so proud!”

“Laadli has had such a busy beginning. We only opened in January and have already moved to a larger building due to the demand for spaces. It has been an exciting few months for the girls but I’m looking forward to giving them a bit more stability now. Slowly but surely, we are creating a curriculum for them that will challenge and inspire them. We want to stick to the core subjects but teach them in new and exciting ways! One of the highlights so far for me was when all the women and girls involved in Sambhali projects went to the cinema to watch Neerja – a film about an inspiring woman who saved several people during a hostage situation on a plane. Using the film in our English and Hindi lessons over the next few days was amazing as the girls were so enthusiastic and wanted to talk about what the film meant to them.”

“Our focus over the next few months must now be ensuring that the women and girls come to the centre as frequently as they can. Sometimes attendance fluctuates due to religious holidays or their commitments at home, and it is difficult for the students to catch up on the work they have missed. Ultimately, Sambhali is looking for greater consistency in assessing students’ attainment across all the centres and testing will only be meaningful if we can get the girls coming on a more consistent basis. I know they want to come – it’s just difficult for them to balance Sambhali with their other pressures. But I know we will find a way!”

Special Events

UN Orange Day celebrations, November 2015

Sambhali volunteers, staff and students took to the streets of Jodhpur for the 2015 UN Orange Day to protest against the treatment of women and girls and urge the community to join them in condemning violence. Women marched through the city with placards and signs, encouraging men of the Jodhpur to photo themselves with messages of solidarity. It was a fantastic opportunity for the women of Sambhali to unite on such a vital cause.

International Women's Day, March 2016

International Women's Day is a chance both to celebrate the women of Sambhali and to look beyond our borders to women around the world and feel connected across land and sea. This year, Sambhali volunteers turned a day into a week, with five days of workshops and celebrations that gave our students a chance to think about their role in their families, in Indian society and in the wider world. On International Women's Day, all the female students of Sambhali were invited to a special event where prominent, professional women of Jodhpur gave inspirational presentations about their work and their lives – a chance for our students to see what they can achieve. Every day for the following week, the students participated in Women's Workshops focusing on:

World

Opportunity

Mothers

Education

Next generation

They spent the week creating artwork, writing letters, singing empowerment songs, role playing and speaking about their hopes and aspirations. Such activity created a very special bond not just between the students themselves but with the teachers and volunteers also.



Graduation days, January & February 2016

The students graduating Sambhali in 2016 were very honoured this year to be gifted a sewing machine upon leaving, thanks to the incredible generosity and fundraising efforts of our sister organisation in Austria. One hundred women were given a machine at two ceremonies, bringing together all the students and demonstrating beautiful singing and dancing in honour of our special guests from Europe. We were particularly honoured to receive the former Austrian Ambassador to India as part of the delegation and hear her inspiring words to our eager students.

The importance of English

Hansha

"Hello, my name is Hansha and I'm 11 years old and study at Galaxy School. My favourite subject at school is English. English is an international language that everyone speaks, so it is important to me that I can speak it too."

"When I finish school, I want to attend university and then become a dance teacher! My dream is to open my own dance school and teach Bollywood-style dancing. I also want to help poor people come as well so they can learn to dance too. I have been coming to Abhivyakti for two months and my English has really improved. I hope that I can use my English to help me reach my dreams."

Urmilla

"My name is Urmilla and I am 12 years old. I am in 8th class at Galaxy School and my favourite subject is English. I have been coming to the Abhivyakti Centre for two months and coming to class each day has helped me practice my English. I really enjoy learning and speaking English because many countries in the world speak it."

"When I finish school I want to become a teacher and teach the poor people that live in villages in the Rajasthan desert. I know that many children don't have teachers or don't have the money to go to school."

"I think education is very important, especially for girls, so I want to be able to help everyone get educated."

Krishna

"Hello, my name is Krishna and I am 13 years old. I attend Govind Public School in Jodhpur and my favourite class is science. I live in Jodhpur with my mother, father and younger brother and sister. My father works in a hospital and my mother is a housewife."

"I having been attending English class at the Abhivyakti Centre for just one month and I really enjoy learning and speaking English. I practice my English at home by listening to songs that have English lyrics – this helps me a lot. When I finish school, I hope I can be a police officer and use my English to help people."


Mumal

"Hello, my name is Mumal and I am 14 years old. I am in 11th class at Galaxy School and my favourite subject is English. When I finish school, I want to attend University and prepare for a job in the army."

"I have been coming to English classes at the Abhivyakti Centre for three months and coming to classes each day has really improved my English. Learning from a native English speaker has helped me hear words better and improve my grammar. Learning English is very important to me as the whole world speaks English and I want to be able to participate. I also really enjoy speaking English!"

This year, all the girls in our empowerment centres have had the opportunity to think about why learning English is so important and how it can help them in the future.

We could tell you what they say, but we'd rather you heard it from their own lips...

A woman with long dark hair and a bindi on her forehead is standing in front of a large, ornate green door. She is wearing a long-sleeved, knee-length dress with a blue and white floral pattern and a blue shawl draped over her shoulders. Her right arm is raised, resting against the door frame. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Sewing Centres and Sambhali boutique: an update

Our two wonderful Sewing Centres – Brothers for Sisters Centre and the Graduates' Centre – continue to improve as the women work with dedication and commitment to produce a beautiful array of products to be sold in our boutique, through our catalogue or for specialist international orders. Our boutique manager, Sanju Jawa, has worked hard to keep the shop looking pristine for all our visitors and we must thank the many volunteers who gave up their weekends to man the shop in her absence. The new 2016 catalogue is now complete and boasts a more diverse collection than ever before, with stunning new bags, cushions, toys and much more. When customers buy these products, they are buying into an idea, a dream – they are supporting the fundamental goals of our charity to give women the tools to empower, educate and earn themselves a better life. We thank our dear customers for every rupee they have spent keeping this dream alive.



Gracie Sutton

Product Development Director

"These women at the Sewing Centres aren't just workers. They are part of the Sambhali family – Govind and the team help them in every part of their lives, from schooling for their children, and medical expenses, to emotional support. That's why the Sewing Centres are such an amazing resource, not just for Sambhali but for Jodhpur. All we have to do now is think a little bigger..."

Gracie Sutton has spent the last nine months as Sambhali's Product Development Director, designing new products for our catalogue and supporting the Sambhali graduates employed in our two Sewing Centres to bring her ideas to reality. Creative, energetic and bursting with ideas, Gracie was schooled in arts and fashion in the UK and wants to use her knowledge and skills to develop and improve the range of products being created by Sambhali graduates, which are then sold online and in our boutique in central Jodhpur.

"I have seen demand for our new products grow over the past year and we've taken on four new clients in the past few months. It's a really exciting time. Sambhali products are being sold all over the world and it really helps to draw attention to the fantastic work of the charity and the women, staff and volunteers who make it all happen. But there's always more we could do. I'd like to see the new catalogue have a greater online presence – that will help us attract new clients and bring in revenue to support the charity's work. That's the goal.

"I try to ensure that each of our centres plays to its own strengths. In the Brothers for Sisters Sewing Centre, the women have the most incredible dexterity and concentra-

tion, making the centre perfect for delicate embroidery projects. They are prompt and efficient, and they work so hard and conscientiously – I couldn't be prouder of them! At the Graduates' Sewing Centre, I have seen some real improvements over the last few months. Some of the women are so precise in their work and I think there's a real opportunity to have some of the newer recruits learn from those who are more experienced. We have lost several graduates to marriage and staff turnover makes it more challenging to ensure consistency. However, I'm confident that the systems we've put in place are working and the centre can grow with the orders!

"The challenge for me as a product designer is to strike the right balance between creating products that are practical, swift to make, attractive and marry Indian design with Western tastes. No small task! But this for me is the future for the Sambhali boutique and catalogue. With the right products, we can attract more international interest and take on more women to the sewing centres, providing them with a sustainable income, job security and help for their families.

"I would encourage anyone thinking about ethical fashion to consider a placement with Sambhali Trust. While I have been able to bring so much to the organisation and help them grow their operations and product lines, I feel as though I have developed personally in so many ways. I have learned so much about different manufacturing methods and getting a true appreciation of what it means to produce something ethically, from the fabrics to the production. The experience has also developed me as a manager, learning how to motivate women so far removed from me linguistically and culturally. It is a huge communications challenge but, you know what, we get there and I love them all dearly. They are my stars and I hope the Sewing Centres go from strength to strength next year."

Special Projects: get involved!

Sambhal Centre

We are so proud to present our newest project in Sambhali: the Sambhal Centre, which opened in September last year. This project marked a new direction for Sambhali in the way that we partnered with four local men who originally conceived the idea to help the street children of the Dalit rag-picking community in the poorest area of Jodhpur. When Sambhali joined forces with these brave young men, we were able to invest in greater resources and a more structured environment, with the generous ongoing assistance of some of our American donors. The Centre welcomes about 60 children daily and provides a mixture of education and basic skills to enable the children to lift their eyes and ambitions above their surroundings. We try to equip them for school, focusing on attributes such as concentration, punctuality and good attendance, as well as giving the children a grounding in Hindi, English and Maths.

Many of these children go unseen during the rest of their day, spending their lives picking at rubbish and

dealing with the daily difficulties of living in poverty. The Sambhal Centre gives them a future by working with rather than against the community in which they live. We have five local tutors who run the project and take the time to know the children's families and understand their backgrounds and individual difficulties. Sambhali volunteers teach English and Maths, and we are looking to roll out more local textbooks to help familiarise the children with a school environment. As the children progress and become more literate, we will start to explore individual scholarships to send them to school.

Ultimately, we want to ensure these children are as healthy and happy as possible, with a brighter future ahead of them. That's why we also work to address the children's malnourishment and lack of medical access. All children at the Centre have received Typhoid, Tetanus and MMR injections, paid for by the generous donations to Sambhali Trust. All our volunteers love being part of Sambhal Centre: the atmosphere in classes is fun, loving but hard-working. These children know they are being given a great opportunity and they are keen to make the most of it!

No Bad Touch

Sambhali Trust remains one of the only charities operating in Jodhpur to address this most harrowing and difficult topic: child sexual abuse. Through our strong links with the local communities in the city and surrounding areas, and our constructive partnerships with local agencies and schools, we are able to offer a programme of work that seeks to educate, empower and protect both children and the community leaders dealing with this sensitive issue.

So far, Sambhali has reached 7000 children and about 500 teachers and parents with our programme. With government agencies and community leaders, our workshops seek to raise awareness of the issue and encourage the officers and teachers to put in place systems to help identify and prevent child abuse. Of course, talking directly to children about this horrific subject requires a highly sensitive approach. With the help of our own National Advisory Board member, Dr Reena Bhansali, herself a psychologist, we are guided by Dr Bhooshan Shukla's No Bad Touch conversation workshops to create a playful but effective way of encouraging children to keep safe from inappropriate touches and to speak up rather than suffer in silence. We also provide a follow-up to this workshop that teaches children personal resilience and how to keep themselves safe physically and mentally. All these efforts combined has created a very effective project, now in its third year, which has reached the lives of so many children already and we continue to look for opportunities to reach new communities in our area. Sambhali will continue to offer support to those children and families who have experienced abuse but our goal is to ensure that this abuse never happens in the first place.

SOS Project and Nirbhaya Helpline

Through our emergency medical and legal care, Sambhali Trust ensures that the most vulnerable women of Jodhpur and their families always have somewhere to turn. With the addition of the Nirbhaya helpline, now in its second year, we are able to reach a wider community of women across Rajasthan and provide them with free advice and counselling on issues such as domestic abuse, as well as medical and legal issues.

As awareness of our helpline grows, we can see an emerging picture of the kind of abuse and other difficulties being faced by the women of Rajasthan. Almost half

of the 114 calls to the helpline were related to verbal harassment suffered by the woman, and almost 40% were to seek advice following domestic abuse incidents, shining a light on violence behind closed doors. Our helpline staff also report an interesting shift in the pattern of calls towards social media, prompting questions about the role that technology plays in facilitating this abuse. At Sambhali, we will continue to monitor these trends and ensure that we are equipped to help all the women who have the courage to call us.

A challenge for us is to make the helpline and emergency fund more sustainable. We need to think about how to support women with longer term medical conditions so that have peace of mind they will be cared for, regardless how long their treatment lasts. With the help of our wonderful donors, we will find a way!

SOS project:

Pooja, 21 years' old

Pooja came to Sambhali with a depressingly common problem: she came as a victim of domestic violence. Her husband had hit her many times and even thrown her out of their house. Despite registering complaints with the police, nothing had been investigated and she felt she had nowhere to turn. Events came to a head one night in May 2015, when Pooja's husband and her sister-in-law came to her mother's house looking for Pooja and began to abuse her, attempting to burn her with acid. At such a horrific incident, both mother and daughter rushed to the nearest police station and again made a formal complaint. However, a failure to record the precise details of the events meant no action was taken by the police for the next five days. All this time, Pooja was fretting and worrying about what would happen if her husband came back.

Fortunately for Pooja, she decided to approach Sambhali with her story and our SOS project leader, Mrs Manju Mehta, took immediate action. Mrs Mehta went to the police station and ensured that the horrific events of that night in May were fully captured and recorded, building a case of domestic violence and intent to kill. Her husband was arrested a couple of days later and a court-appointed mediator began to counsel both sides on finding a resolution to this case. Sambhali took care of all Pooja's legal expenses and ensured swift action was taken to protect both Pooja and her mother from any further harm.

We will continue to work with Pooja and her family to ensure that she is safe and happy.



Sheerni Self-Help Group

Our microcredit project in Setrawa has gone from strength to strength this year, with 120 women now involved and 41 new loans given out. That's 120 more women who, thanks to their ingenuity and courage, can look forward to a form of financial stability and sustainability hopefully for many years to come. This project works for two reasons. Firstly, we ensure that we get to know the background and circumstances of all the women who come to Sheerni for a loan. That way, we understand what they can afford, what problems they might encounter and we know the best way to help them if they fall on hard times. Secondly, no one takes the money and leaves! Every woman involved in Sheerni has access to a great network of women from whom they can learn and share experiences, ensuring that the decisions they make are the right ones for the longer term. As a result, we are proud that no one has ever defaulted on a loan. This is a sustainable project and we have no desire for it to grow exponentially. It works because of its size and the personal approach we can give to every woman.

This year, we saw over half of the new loans being used to buy livestock – 17 women bought goats and 7 bought cows. However, investment in shops were also popular, with 16 women deciding that this was the best route for them. It is positive to see this diversity to ensure that the women can find a niche to support themselves sustainably, while at the same time being able to benefit from the experiences of others in the self-help groups who have undertaken similar investments.

Sheerni Microcredit: a view from the field

“I’m so proud of what the women have achieved this year. Sambhali doesn’t tell them what to do or how best to spend their money – they make their own decisions and they travel their own journeys. It’s amazing to see them growing in confidence month by month. They have changed a lot...”

Not content with manning the SOS helpline all day, every day, Mrs Manju Mehta also leads our Sheerni microcredit project, acting as the manager of the groups and monitoring all the savings, loans and interest accrued. She gives the groups structure and support, but it is the women themselves who provide the momentum.

“I love to see the women face their problems together – they understand they are stronger in a group. And this strength gives them confidence, which breeds creativity and innovation. For example, some of the women trained themselves to make natural fertiliser from food waste and other materials and then turned this process into a business idea!

“As confidence grows, so does the ability to save more and invest more. The women in the groups have increased their monthly savings from 50 to 100 rupees, and many have started seeking larger loans, varying from 10,000 to 20,000 rupees. But still we see all the women paying their interest on time. It is a virtuous circle.

“But wealth without health is pointless. Sambhali ensures that all the women involved in the self-help groups in the Sheerni project have access to medical care in Jodhpur. The women are becoming more aware of their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of their daughters. They are placing more and more emphasis on ensuring their daughters receive an education and feel more confident in speaking out against child marriage, offering a more positive and progressive view to their families. This forward thinking will help the next generation in Setrawa and the impact will be felt for years to come.”

Sheerni Educational project: our boarding home

We now have 22 girls at the boarding home in Jodhpur – a project now in its fourth year to take the poorest but brightest girls from the villages surrounding Jodhpur and give them the chance of a decent education in a private school nearby. The age profile of the girls varies from about 7 to 15 years old but the camaraderie within the boarding house is a joy to behold! All the volunteers who attend the boarding home on a daily basis to support the girls with their homework and extra-curricular study build a special bond with the students – like they have new little sisters!

This year, Sambhali has invested a lot in trying to broaden the girls' horizons and giving them a sense of their future opportunities. Through workshops, song and craftwork, we have explored geography, history, politics, culture and many other topics of interest. We have created opportunities for the girls to travel within Rajasthan to see their own beautiful state – the highlight being a two-day trip to beautiful Udaipur for the girls to see the stunning lakes and mountains.

Scholarships

Sambhali is proud to report that we are currently funding 170 scholarships. We are so proud of our hard-working children and so grateful to donors for their continuing generosity in supporting these girls through their school careers. Literacy rates remain poor in Jodhpur and the surrounding areas and access to good local schools is a huge challenge for families. We are always looking to expand this project and support as many girls in their future education as we can.

Sambhali organigram

Sambhali Trust

Organigram January 2016

National Advisory Board

Dr. Reena Bhansali
Dr. Shakti Singh Khakhadi
Dr. Sudhi Rajeev
Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar
Madhubala Rajpurohit
Dr. Shiv Singh Rathore
Nain Kanwar
Smita Sawant
Th. Dilip Singh Rajawat (Jhadoli)
Adv. Firoz Khan
Rao Devi Sharan Singh Shaktawat
Dr. Gajendra Singh Rashdipura
I.P.S. Sandeep Singh Chauhan
Rawat Tribhuvan Singh Barmer

International Advisory Board

Mag. Ernestine Badegruber
Dr. Sadhvi Shanti Puri
Renate Massmann-Krei
Sarah Harrington
Jacqueline de Chollet
Ramona Saboo
Ralph Lewin

Board of Trustees

Govind Singh Rathore, Mukta Kanwar,
Badan Kanwar, Virendra Singh
Chouhan, Rashmi Rathore

Founder/Managing Trustee

Govind Singh Rathore

Central Services

Trust Administration	Corinne Rose
Office Co-ordination	Shyama Tanwar
Project Co-ordination	Manju Mehta
Accountant	Gulab Banjara
Volunteer Co-ordination	Current volunteers
Project Administration	Current volunteers

Empowerment Centres

Manager: Govind Singh Rathore

Jodhpur (Urban)

Jodhpur Empowerment Centre
Sambhali Abhivayakti Empowerment Centre
Sewing Tutor Anju Choudhary
Tutor Divya Choudhary

Sambhali Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre
Sambhali Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre
Sewing Tutor Rashmi Sankhla
Hindi Tutor Kritika Bihal

Sambhali Shakti Empowerment Centre
Sewing Tutor Bhawana Panwar
Hindi Tutor Lovely Chouhan

Setrawa (Rural)

Sambhali Setrawa Empowerment Centre
Manager Pooja Sharma
Tutors Meera Khatri, Suman Jain
Sewing Tutor Jasu Devi

Sambhali Shanti Empowerment Centre
Tutor Pooja Kanwar

Education, Self-Help Groups & SOS Project

Project Co-ordinator: Manju Mehta

Education

Sambhali Scholarship Project
Manager Ranjana Rathore
Assistant Manju Mehta

Sambhali Sheerni Educational Project
Housemother Nirmala Kanwar
Tutor Ranjana Rathore
Assistant Tutor Vimlesh Solanki

Sambhali No Bad Touch Project
Manager Vimlesh Solanki

Sambhali Sambal Project
Manager Govind Singh Rathore
Tutor Vimlesh Solanki

Self-Help Groups

Sambhali Sheerni Self-Help Group Project
Manager Manju Mehta
Fieldworker Meera Khatri

Sambhali SOS Project

Sambhali Panaah Service
Sambhali Nirbhaya Helpline
Manager Manju Mehta

Sewing Centres and Sales

Manager: Niyati Lodha

Sewing Centres

Sambhali Graduates' Sewing Centre
Supervisors Radha Tiwari
Saraswati Gharu
Assistant Santosh Barasa

Sambhali Brothers for Sisters Sewing Centre
Manager Kavita Bihal
Supervisor Praveen Bano

Sambhali Boutique

Assistants Sanju Jawa
Basanti Kandara



About Sambhali's Finances

Audit Report 2015-2016

BALIA CHOUDHARY & CO.
Chartered Accountants

FORM NO. 10B
[See Rule 17B]

**Audit Report under section 12A (b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in the case of
Charitable or religious trusts or institutions**

We have examined the **Balance sheet** of **SAMBHALI TRUST** as at **31st March, 2016** and the **Income and Expenditure Account** for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said trust.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the above-named trust as far as appears from our examination of the books. In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us the said accounts give a true and fair view: -

- i. in the case of the balance sheet of the state of affairs of the above-named trust as at **31st March, 2016**
and
- ii. in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the **DEFICIT** of its accounting year ending on **31st March, 2016**

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For **BALIA CHOUDHARY & CO.**
Chartered Accountants
Reg. No. 002347C



RAKESH BALIA
(PARTNER)
M. No. 070798

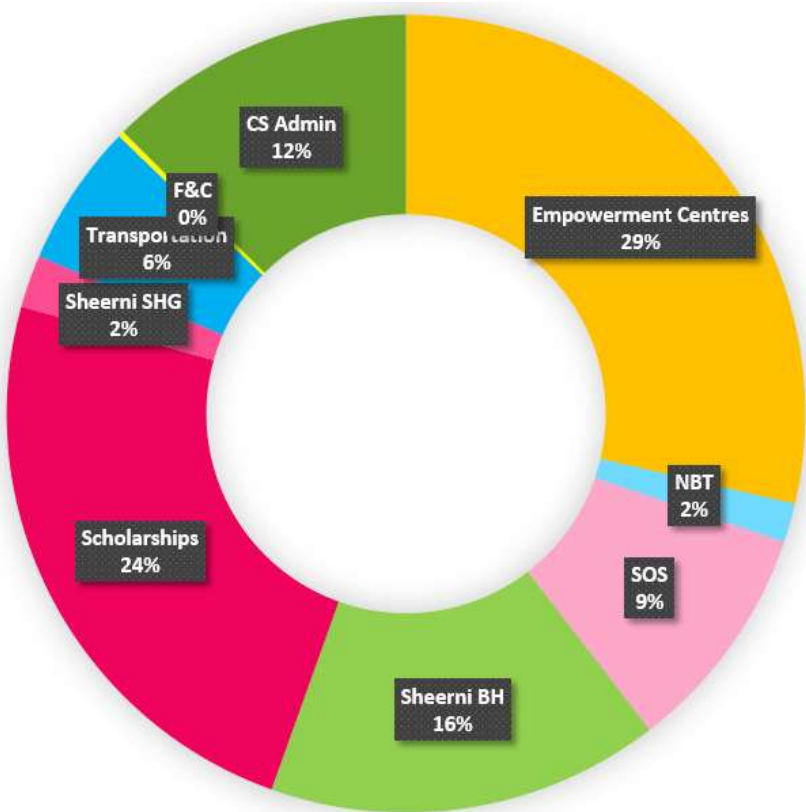
PLACE : JODHPUR
DATE : 28-09-2016

Address: Balia House, 737/B-1, Behind Oswal Community Centre, 'C' Road, Sardarpura, Jodhpur
Tele. No. +91 291 2628714, 2626332 Email: rgbalia31@rediffmail.com

If you wish to know more about Sambhali Trust's figures and finances, please, email us at info@sambhali-trust.org. We will come back to you as soon as possible.

About Sambhali's Finances

Expenditure in 2015-2016
Total : 8,565,739 rupees

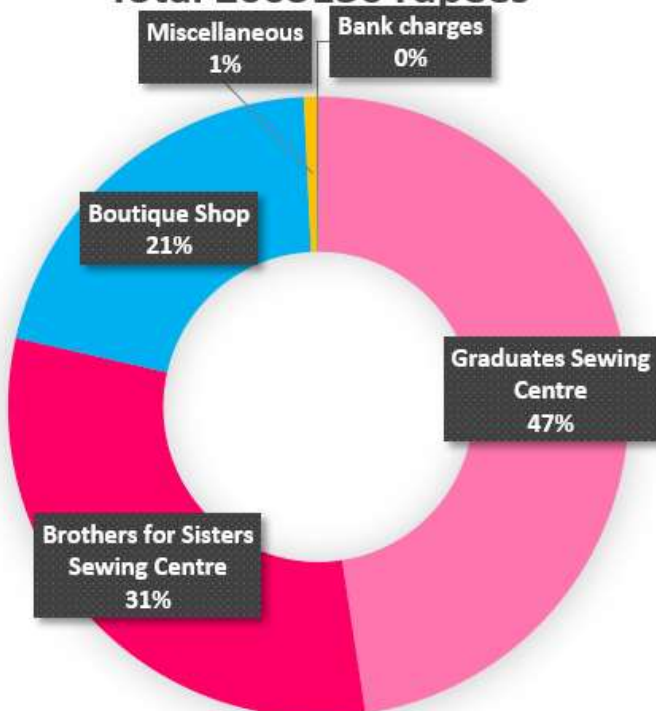


Keys

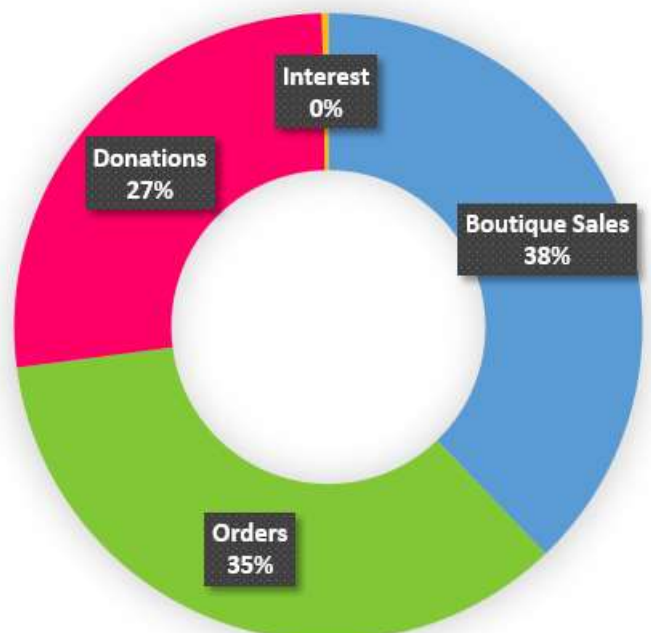
- NBT** – No Bad Touch Project
- SOS** – SOS/Nirbhaya HelpLine Project
- Sheerni BH** – Sheerni Boarding Home for Girls
- Scholarships** – Scholarship Programme for children to go to school
- Sheerni SHG** – Sheerni Self-Help Group Programme in Setrawa and Jodhpur
- Transportation** – Sambhali minibuses taking students/staff/volunteers to projects
- F&C** – Festival & Cultural Programme for Sambhali students
- CS Admin** – Central Services Administration for all Projects

Revenues and Expenses in 2015-2016 For Sambhali Boutique and Sewing Centres

Expenditure 2015-16
Total 2005136 rupees



Income 2015-16
Total 2005136 rupees



If you wish to know more about Sambhali Trust's figures and finances, please, email us at info@sambhali-trust.org. We will come back to you as soon as possible.



Our thanks

Sambhali Trust would like to extend a huge hand of gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers, donors, partners and visitors who have worked with us over the last year. Without your interest, commitment, generosity and spirit, we would not be looking forward to our tenth anniversary next year. We feel blessed to have had your support and look forward to a fruitful relationship for many years to come. Thank you.



Sambhali Trust 2016
Setrawa House,
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Raika Bagh, Jodhpur, India 342001
Phone: 0091-(0)-291-25 12 361
info@sambhali-trust.org

