

# Samvedna: Annual Report

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## 2015-16



***To change the tradition of oppression,  
we need to nurture untraditional revolutions.***

***- Trupti Panchal,  
Chairperson, Samvedna***

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## **From Chairperson's Desk**

*Dear Friends,*

*The past year has been nothing less than a milestone for Samvedna, and before I begin this conversation I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your guidance and support.*

*I will start by welcoming our new team members – four village coordinators, into our family. I am assured they will fuel the tradition of going beyond all the challenges and complications we face with the issues as complex as Samvedna combats and help us achieve the goals we are headed to.*

*The last year was exciting, as we progressed a lot on our path despite a few disappointments. This year witnessed expansion of our reach to more issues in our field areas related to health, livelihood, community development and most importantly education. I'm certain all these challenges will make us more committed to stand for our cause.*

*We are strong on our intention to fight sex-trafficking, to emancipate the Bedia community and the world around them in all the villages we reach, and also to mainstream more lives from other villages in the coming year. An awakening is not an easy thing to achieve, but we will make sure to see a day when the world won't need us anymore. And I hope all of you are on board with us in this journey.*

*With Best Wishes,*

*Trupti Panchal  
Chairperson, Samvedna*

## *Vision and Mission*

**Vision:** Prevention of commercial sexual exploitation by enabling the vulnerable target groups and battling the oppressive forces.

**Mission:** Samvedna fights commercial sexual exploitation and human sex trafficking working closely with the communities at the target of it. It values education and community development as the devices to emancipate the marginalized sections of the society. Samvedna also works dedicatedly to ensure child rights, women rights, and the empowerment of weaker sections through participative development and with an overall objective of working for the welfare of children, youth and women through participative development at the individual and group level.

## *About Bedia Community*

Mainly present in MP, UP and Rajasthan of India, Bedia is a de-notified community and thus falls under criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes ACT of 1871. Bedias' livelihood depends on serving sex commercially, which keeps them off the mainstream society. Women earn for the family, while men either choose to pimp them or sit idle. According to the rules of the community, at least one daughter from a family should join the flash trade; otherwise the family faces social exclusion from the community. Women who prostitute are not allowed to get married at all, and women who are married are not allowed to prostitute at any circumstances. If any of these rules are broken, the action invites a punishment from the Community Panchayat either in the form of heavy monetary fines or social exclusion. The nature of the profession is as such that the women who indulge into prostitution, and do not get married, cannot ignore pregnancy. And as they value children, they go through the pregnancy. These children are considered illegitimate children.

## ***Governing Body***

### ***Ms. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal – Chairperson***

*Director, Special Cell for Women  
Chairperson, Vikalp (Rajasthan)  
Director, Resource Center for Violence against Women  
Assistant Professor & PHD scholar at TISS (Mumbai)*

### ***Mr. Suresh Mishra – Secretary***

*Experience of Author & Historian, Executive Member, Eklavya Board Member, Samavesh & Jal  
Biradari Retired as Professor of History*

### ***Ms. Aparna Shinde – Treasurer***

*Advisor, Birla Sunlife Insurance (past),  
Director, Sonic Adventure*

### ***Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui – Member***

*Director, UN Global Compact  
MA – Women's Studies, Mumbai Univ.  
Further Studies: University of Nortidan Development Sector with  
Pioneer Organizations WRAG*

### ***Dr. Varsha Chandra – Member***

*Eminent High Court Lawyer,  
Developmental Researcher,  
Advocate of Legal Empowerment  
Visiting Member, HIPA & UAA*

### ***Ms. Sudeepa Das – Member***

*MSW, TISS (Family & Child Welfare)  
Diploma in Gender & Law - NLIU MA*

### ***Ms. Qamar Fatima – Member***

*Social Worker,  
Over a Decade of experience in Grassroots  
with Keen Interest, on Gender, Child Rights, Advocacy & Empowerment*

## *Foreword*

Samvedna began its year on a higher note with the primary objective of strengthening its foothold in the field advancing its work with education and the children, which has been one of its fortes. With the help of efficient village coordinators, the presence among the community has been better than ever before, which is why there is great focus on the capacity building of Balmitras who can redefine our reach and take our approach ahead at the places we are needed most.

Samvedna is firm to craft a space for itself, which is respected as the shelter of human rights among Bedias, and it can't be achieved without an apt strategy to bridge the gap between community and the mainstream society, which brought in our secondary objectives of a few programs in their first stages related to exploration of agricultural possibilities, development of an idea of a healthy and clean environment and inception of the platforms that can set examples of exemplary success and inspire people to strive for a dignified life within mainstream social priorities. Samvedna unfolded its vision strategically across the year, in coming pages we will have an in depth look at the intent, content, progress, outcome and the future of these activities.

## Education

Education is a vital device to restore the basic human rights, and Samvedna uses it to help Bedia community by enabling them with an option of sending their children in a positive, safe and motivating environment in Bhopal, for their studies. By educating Bedia children away from their villages, we add possibilities in their lives. Bringing children out of the village is a radical approach because it's important to give them a motivating environment – in the mainstream world, and to set an example that people among them can achieve feat with the help of education, which they are kept away from so far.

Samvedna started its educational program in 2011 with four children, and dialogues with community helped it expand the program over the years. Samvedna also had to go through a long process of advocacy with the concerned departments of the state government to benefit these children.

### Details of Children Supported by Samvedna at Bhopal in 2015-16

| S.N. | Name of Student  | Class                      |
|------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.   | Rahul Rathor     | B.Sc- 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |
| 2.   | Jyoti Rathor     | BE- 1 <sup>st</sup> year   |
| 3.   | Bharti Yadav     | 12 <sup>th</sup>           |
| 4.   | Kiran Rathor     | 9 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 5.   | Ravi Kalawat     | 9 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 6.   | Hemant Rathore   | 9 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 7.   | Roshni Kalawat   | 7 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 8.   | Kumkum Kalawat   | 7 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 9.   | Priyanka Kalawat | 7 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 10.  | Kajal Kalawat    | 4 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 11.  | Sahil Kalawat    | 5 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 12.  | Manoj Chauhan    | 4 <sup>th</sup>            |
| 13.  | Kashish Rathor   | 4 <sup>th</sup>            |

Children's accommodation has been arranged in the age appropriate government hostels with rigorous advocacy with school administrations, and at the time of exams educational aid is facilitated to the children with needs.



## *Activities with Children at Bhopal*

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 children supported with education at Bhopal were taken to an amusement park – *Sair Sapata*, on an exposure visit.
- An outing of children was organized at Aura Mall for the movie Chalk and Duster on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- Group counselling session of all the children at the office was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> of January by Ms. Shabana Khan, a renowned psychologist.
- Casework on Kashish Rathor and Kumkum Kalawat was conducted to have a better understanding of their issues related to school, studies, health, hostel etc.
- Eye check-ups of Ravi Kalawat, Manoj Chauhan and Sahil Kalawat were facilitated at Kamla Nehru Hospital.
- Ravi Kalawat, who had a minor accident resulting to an injury in foot, was provided a consultation at Hamidia Hospital.
- Every Saturday visits to children were made to make their psycho-socio profiles.
- Provided all the supporting documents to authorities for admission in hostels.
- Initiated the process for preparing caste certificates of the Children sans it.
- Provided Books and stationery to all the children above class 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Attending *Pratibha Parv* of Children at various schools on behalf of their parents.

## *Child Rights Centre (CRC)*

Child Rights Center (CRC) – a unique non-formal education module; is an initiative taken by Samvedna that focuses on children’s wholesome development by blending education, enlightenment and entertainment. CRC is an invention out of the in depth understanding of the field at the hour of the need of a fundamental change. In this program, sincere and systematic efforts are made to ensure that community’ each child’s participation, during his or her initial school life. Before turning CRC into a fully-fledged project, Samvedna ran a pilot of it between November 2012 and March 2013 successfully. Its great potential of connecting children with activities and bringing long term changes motivated Samvedna to take it forward.

*Total 41 sessions are organized in two villages of Narsingarh block. Session related to hand writing improvement, remedial classes, recitation of poems, celebration of deworming day at school met an overwhelmed response.*

CRC comprises of nine genres of programs, which leads to the holistic progress of the child. The genres are: 1) Basic Rights 2) Civic Pride 3) Education 4) Enlightenment 5) Games and Arts 6) Health and Safety 7) Life Skills 8) Nature and 9) Social Issues. All the activities are executed in the primary school campus, which helps us to present school as a fun place with lots of learning and ignites enthusiasm in the children. Clearly, CRC’s objective was never to function parallel to an existing system of school and its learning, but to strongly support it.

With its vast coverage of subjects and sessions conducted by experienced professionals, CRC exposes children to the wonderful world of knowledge and at the same time enlightens them about life, necessarily in an entertaining way. As mediums of presentation, it depends on short and interesting stories, skit, mime, pictorial tours, games, dance, posters, short cartoon movies and documentaries. The mediums for the presentation are chosen on the scales of their connectedness with the children, creativity and uniqueness for the children. Most importantly, each medium of presentation is a stair towards achieving CRC’s objective of connecting children with education, awareness, knowledge, moral values and sensitivity towards various issues that affect them – directly or indirectly.

*“Bedia Children are more engaged in the school now... have regained confidence and show aspiration just like children from other communities.” – A Teacher*

## Activities on Health

- Led the efforts for a woman from the community (name hidden) with her struggle against acute low haemoglobin, liver problems and damaged one eye.
- Represented a patient of HIV Positive (name hidden) with the whole process of her medication and hospitalization. The case is duly followed up.
- A follow up of Rachna's case, a mentally disable girl Treatment has been duly pursued. Ms.Rachna's case is being dealt by Samvedna for the past four years. She is now aged ten years and stays at village Salai. She was facilitated check-up at OPD of Hamidia hospital at Psychiatric department at Bhopal. She was given medicines for one month.

## Networking

- Ms. Divya Parmar attended a planning meeting on 5th February for One Billion Rising campaign on behalf of Samvedna, organized by Action Aid.
- The whole team facilitated the visit of Ms. Rochelle from Nebraska University USA to the field (villages and Surajpol hamlet in Narsingarh block).
- A one-day-workshop organized by Azeem Premjee University at Lucknow regarding placement of students for internships was attended by Samvedna's representatives.
- Gram Sabhas were attended by the representatives of Samvedna.
- Advocacy with Block Resources Centre Narsingarh to arrange books for children.

## Online Campaign

An online campaign on the crowd-funding portal Milaap.org was created in the month of October to find sponsors for the children studying in Bhopal, which met a moderate response. Seeing the vitality of the issue, Milaap urged to restart the campaign again in the month of March, and it has been live on the site post that.

## *Media*

- The popular online news portal, which focuses on delivering just the good news and happenings in India, covered Samvedna's campaign on Milaap. The story can be found here: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/37287/bedia-community-madhya-pradesh-samvedna-prostitution/>
- Samvedna established its online presence this year with Facebook and Twitter page.
- Milaap.org covered the campaign again and did second story on the basis of our online campaign, shifting its focus more on organization and its cause. The story can be found here: <https://milaap.org/stories/supportsamvedna>

## *Internships at Samvedna*

- Ms. Preeti Verma from Azim Premji University (Bangalore) interned with Samvedna from 16th May 2015 to 23rd June 2015. She conducted a study on "*Understanding the impact of Commercial Sex-Work on Reproductive Health of Bedia Community Women*".
- Mr. Jobin Xavier from Bhopal School of Social Sciences interned for a month in February 2016.
- Ms. Tehreem Samee and Ms. Shefali from Bhopal School of Social Sciences interned between April and May.

# Pictory



*CRC Session in Kolukheddi*



*CRC Session in Salay*



*CRC session in Kolukheddi*



*Jyoti with Mr. Satyarthi*



*Visit to Sair Sapata*



*Visit to Aura Mall*



*Children on the day of Counselling*



*Children's visit at Board Meeting*

## *Future*

- *Expansion of operations to across 20 Bedia populated villages*
  - *Inclusion of surrounding communities as beneficiaries*
    - *Upgrading Child Rights Center*
    - *Resuming work with Children Homes and JJB*
    - *Development of Information Centres in villages*
- *Establishing Health Check Ups as a norm among the community, including HIV tests*

## *Our Supporters*

*Mr. Asbit Doshi*

*Ms. Asmita Sameer Sarangdhar, Mumbai*

*Mr. Fazlur Rehman Siddiqui, Mumbai*

*Mr. Himanshu Doshi*

*Mr. Jayesh Ashar, Mumbai*

*New Era School, Mumbai*

*Mr. Parag Shroff*

*Mr. Reto Seebolzer, Switzerland*

*Ms. Roopa Shah, Mumbai*

*Mr. Sandesh Shetty, Mumbai*

*Mr. Sanjay Shinde, Bhopal*

*Ms. Shewali Kumar*

*Ms. Shobhana Kiran Shah*

*Mr. Trushna Ranjan Jhaveri, Mumbai*

*&*

*Reliance Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai*

## Financial Year 2015-16

| M/s Samvedna Society                                    |                   |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
|---|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| E-3/147, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.) 462016             |                   |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
| BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.03.2016            |                   |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
| Liabilities   | as at 31-Mar-2016 |                  | Assets                                | as at 31-Mar-2016 |                  |
| <b>Society Fund</b>                                     |                   | 7,44,982.28      | <b>Fixed Assets</b>                   |                   | 117759.47        |
| Op. Balance   | 227799.40         |                  | (As per Schedule I)                   |                   |                  |
| Capital Grant   | 20440.00          |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
| Add: Excess of Income Over Expenditure:                 |                   |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
|   | 509006.88         |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
| Less-Transfer to Income & Expen. A/c from Capital Grant | 12264.00          |                  |                                       |                   |                  |
| <b>Unsecured Loan:</b>                                  |                   | 10,970.00        | <b>Current Assets:</b>                |                   | 662157.81        |
| Virendra Tiwari   | 10,970.00         |                  | <b>Cash &amp; Balances with Bank:</b> |                   |                  |
| <b>Loans &amp; Advances</b>                             |                   | 2,099.00         | BOI (FCRA A/c)                        | 4,53,233.06       |                  |
| Divya Parmar  | 2,099.00          |                  | BOI (Local A/c)                       | 1,88,500.10       |                  |
|   |                   |                  | ICICI A/c                             | 6,464.65          |                  |
|   |                   |                  | Cash                                  | 13,960.00         |                  |
| <b>Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions:</b>            |                   | 31,500.00        | <b>Loans &amp; Advances</b>           |                   | 9634.00          |
| Audit Fees Payable                                      | 11,500.00         |                  | CRY Child Rights & You                | 8,434.00          |                  |
| Salary Payable  | 20,000.00         |                  | Tour Advance                          | 1,200.00          |                  |
| <b>Total</b>  |                   | <b>789551.28</b> | <b>Total</b>                          |                   | <b>789551.28</b> |

For, Samvedna Bhopal

CHAIRMAN

PLACE: BHOPAL  
DATE: 23/07/2016

SECRETARY

Secretary  
SAMVEDNAFor AKHILESH TIWARI  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTAKHILESH TIWARI  
(PROPRIETOR)  
MRN NO.407524





### Head Office

*E-67, Nehru nagar,  
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Madhya Pradesh, India.*

[www.samvednaindia.org](http://www.samvednaindia.org)