



Head Office: C8, Surendra Garden,  
Bagmughaliya, near Bagsevaniya police station,  
Bhopal - 462026

S A M V E D N A



Contact Number: 0755-2422795  
Email: [Samvedna.society@gmail.com](mailto:Samvedna.society@gmail.com)  
Website: [samvednaindia.org](http://samvednaindia.org)

**Annual Report 2021-22**

## Introduction

Samvedna works to combat caste-based commercial sexual exploitation and human sex trafficking specifically in the Bedia community by working with both State and non-state actors in rural Madhya Pradesh. The organisation works in the area of Education, Livelihood, Gender Equality and Protection to achieve its long term goals against human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Presently, Samvedna is working in 60 villages across 6 districts – Bhopal, Guna, Raisen, Rajgarh, Vidisha and Sagar – in Madhya Pradesh with 5063 children.

C8, Surendra Garden, Bagmughaliya,  
near Bagsevaniya police station,  
Bhopal - 462026.

Contact Number: 0755-2422795  
Email: [Samvedna.society@gmail.com](mailto:Samvedna.society@gmail.com)  
Website: [samvednaindia.org](http://samvednaindia.org)



## The Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Samvedna for 2021 -22. It has been yet another year of concerted efforts toward realizing our vision of working with the Bedia community in the State of Madhya Pradesh to combat caste-based commercial sexual exploitation and human sex trafficking. Samvedna has so far been able to reach 60 Villages and work closely with 5063 vulnerable children for the protection of their rights.

This year was remarkable in a number of ways, one of them being the visit by Mr. Bhiku Ramji Idate, Chairperson of Development and Welfare Board For De-notified Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India to one of our project villages in Bhopal district and had a community meeting in the village. He appreciated Samvedna's work which motivated us to make our endeavors stronger.

This year we are one step closer to our goal by connecting 13 new Bedia children to higher education under our Program Lakshya. These are the change agents of Samvedna in the community to guide, inspire, and be role models for their peers. They are bringing about a change of a future, that is decided by them and for them.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone at Samvedna for their deep commitment to achieving our goals. We are also grateful to all our partner institutions, individuals, and governmental organizations for their unstinted support in accomplishing our shared mission.

The road ahead for inclusive development presents extraordinary opportunities along with significant challenges, which call for bringing scale and speed to our initiatives, We look to the future with optimism in our ability and conviction in our intent to unlock our potential for development and stand by the Bedia community's aspirations for a better tomorrow. We seek everyone's support in shaping lives and spreading smiles.

Best,

**Dr Trupti Jhaveri Panchal**  
**Chairperson, Samvedna**

## Contents

Introduction.....	2
The Chairperson's Message.....	3
Highlights.....	5
Thematic Interventions	
• Education.....	13
• Livelihood.....	19
• Gender Equality.....	23
• Protection.....	31
Networking and collaborations.....	35
Our Partners and Contributors.....	41

## Highlights

582 children are enrolled with Pankh classes

301 new admissions through education and documentation drives

31 children are staying in hostels in Bhopal

18 students are connected to Samvedna's higher education program Lakshya

1200 dry ration kits distributed in 600 households

1682 masks, 600 soaps and 24 sanitizers distributed in 12 villages across 5 districts in Madhya Pradesh.

1870 vaccinated through vaccination drive  
52 households are connected through the Goat Rearing Project

122 children are connected to Digital Learning Centres

1521 children are part of children's and adolescent's groups

626 children are part of our career counselling program

91 children are connected to our theatre in education activity



# Covid-19 Pandemic and Our Response

In the last two years, the world has witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic, which was in many ways unprecedented and the most difficult times of our lives. Though we are now living in the post-covid world, and slowly have returned to normal, some things have permanently changed.

Our ways of connecting with people, working methodologies, interventions have been diversified since then. But the lives of marginalised communities are impacted the most. Children, who had been orphaned or lost their custodial guardians, are the most vulnerable group among all. They are vulnerable to hunger, malnutrition and dropping out from the formal education system. Adolescent girls and women from the community have become more vulnerable to entering into intergenerational commercial sex work. With the loss of income, young bedia boys might feel forced to join their traditional occupation.

During the first and second wave of coronavirus, Samvedna has worked in the area of providing ration kits, communicating correct information, raising awareness against coronavirus, distributing masks, sanitizers and medical-equipments and giving information related to government testing centres. Samvedna worked with people of the community to complement their efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus.



Our representatives coordinated with local government bodies to distribute dry ration and hygiene kits. We distributed thermal scanners and oximeters in every village and trained our staff members how to use the same. Wall paintings, daily corona updates and whatsapp groups created to disseminate fake news and share correct information sourced from government news portals.

After the second wave, the organisation has started the vaccination drive at the village level to encourage people from the community to get vaccinated. Through our vaccination drive and awareness spreading initiative, 1870 people got fully vaccinated. With the onset of the third wave in september 2021, the threat of another wave is still there. Given the situation, the organisation is like everyone is coming back to normal but with caution.

## DIGITAL LEARNING CENTRE

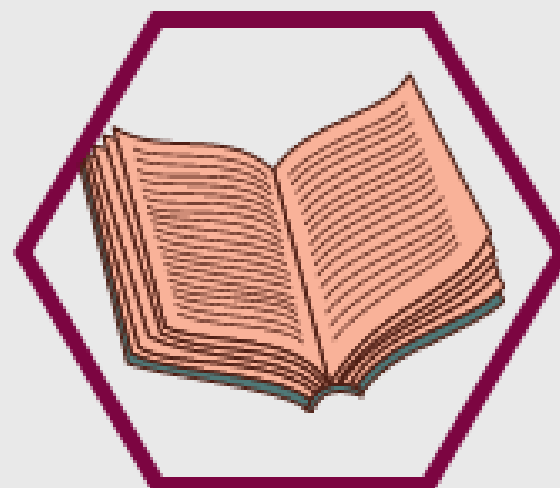
The pandemic forced us to adopt newer ways of connecting and working. We diversified our system in the changing world conditions. During this time, the gap between urban and rural, privileged and underprivileged became more visible and apparent. The education of children belonging to marginalised communities has been vastly impacted by the pandemic. With the schools remained closed for a long time, children left far behind in their academic curriculum. Samvedna is constantly working towards bridging these gaps.

After the second wave, Samvedna opened 4 new digital learning centres in 4 villages- Kolukhedi, Chhapariyai, Sukha and Jamunia. In Jamunia the centre has 7 computers and a mini community library for all children. As of now, close to 50 children and young people, between the ages of 15-22 years have enrolled in the centre to learn basic computer skills. A program was organised to inaugurate this centre in Jamuniya in the presence of children and community members from not only Bedia community, but also other communities in the village as well.

# SAMVEDNA'S THEMATIC INTERVENTIONS

## EDUCATION

Tool of Social Transformation



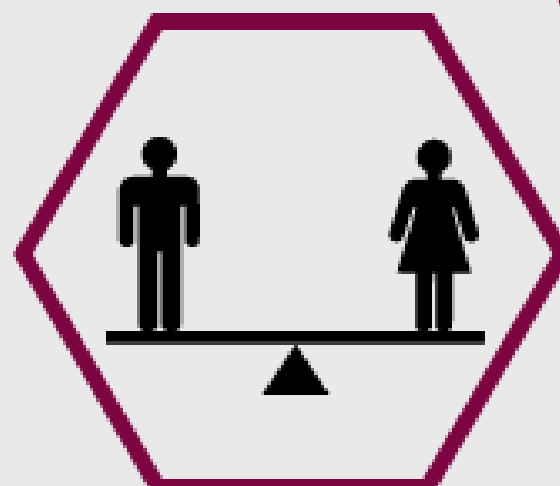
## LIVELIHOOD

Economic Independence



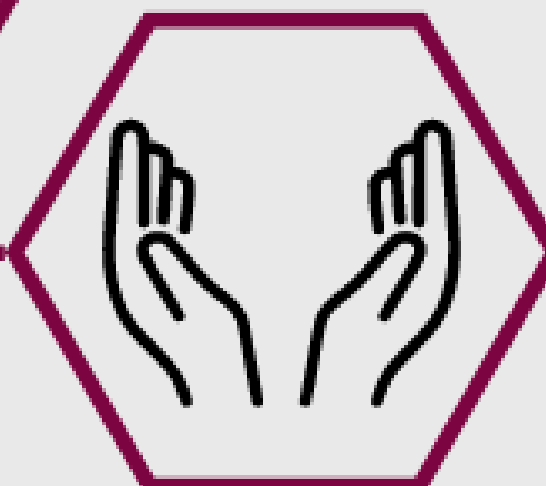
## GENDER EQUALITY

Behavioural Change



## PROTECTION

Prevention and Rehabilitation





## Education

Through our programs that focus on education, Samvedna promotes equal access to educational institutions and opportunities to Bedia children, from the time of school enrolment till their higher education. We believe that regardless of one's caste, gender and class locations, all children and young people get access to education and have equal right to choose their careers. We believe that education acts as a significant tool of social transformation, and when children get access to educational opportunities, they determine their own career paths and fulfil their potential.

## Livelihood

Our livelihood program explores the possibility of alternative livelihood within the Bedia community and supports women in becoming financially empowered. Moreover, by connecting young Bedia girls and boys to vocational and skill development institutions, we aid them in exploring multiple employment opportunities so they are able to break the cycle of intergenerational prostitution prevalent in the Bedia community. Through our interventions that focus on livelihood, we make sure that all children falling within the school-going age are getting access to educational institutions.

## Gender Equality

Gender equality is a seemingly new thematic intervention in our organisational journey, although the value and the ethos are based on what was always present in our previous programs on education and livelihood. The gender equality program aims to work with boys and men from the Bedia community, who act as promoters of intergenerational prostitution in the community and thus, tries to break this cycle by recognizing their imperative role in the prevalence of intergenerational prostitution in the community.

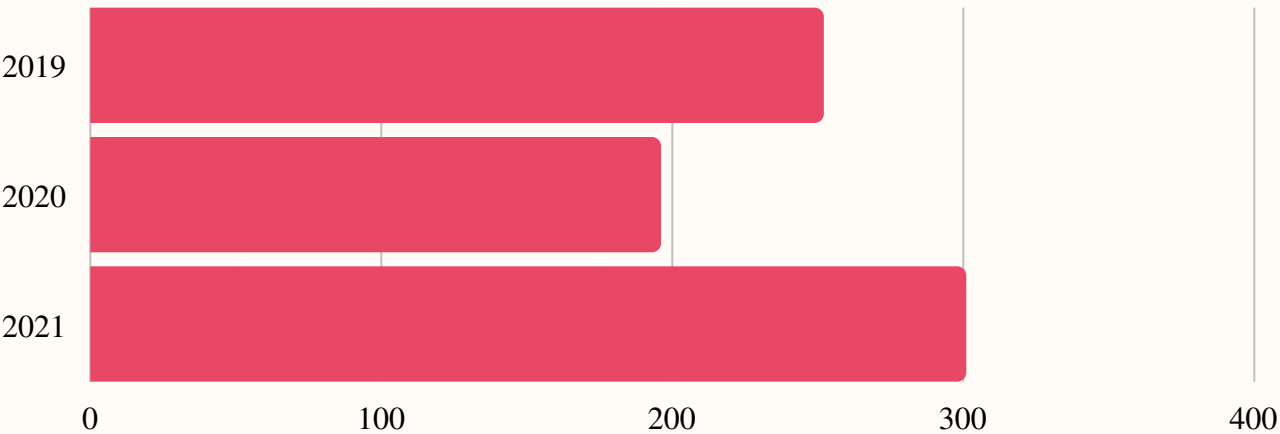
## Protection

Protection and prevention as a thematic area is deeply connected to all other themes of education, livelihood and gender equality. Samvedna does not have a separate program related to protection and prevention, but this theme informs all other programs in one or multiple ways. Caste-based intergenerational prostitution in the Bedia community often makes minor girls susceptible to being pushed into the sex-work trade economy by their families in order to sustain the community custom. In all the villages where Samvedna engages with the Bedia community, we make sure that these minor and young girls who are either vulnerable or are susceptible to vulnerability are identified, regularly tracked and connected to our interventions and activities.

# Our Programs



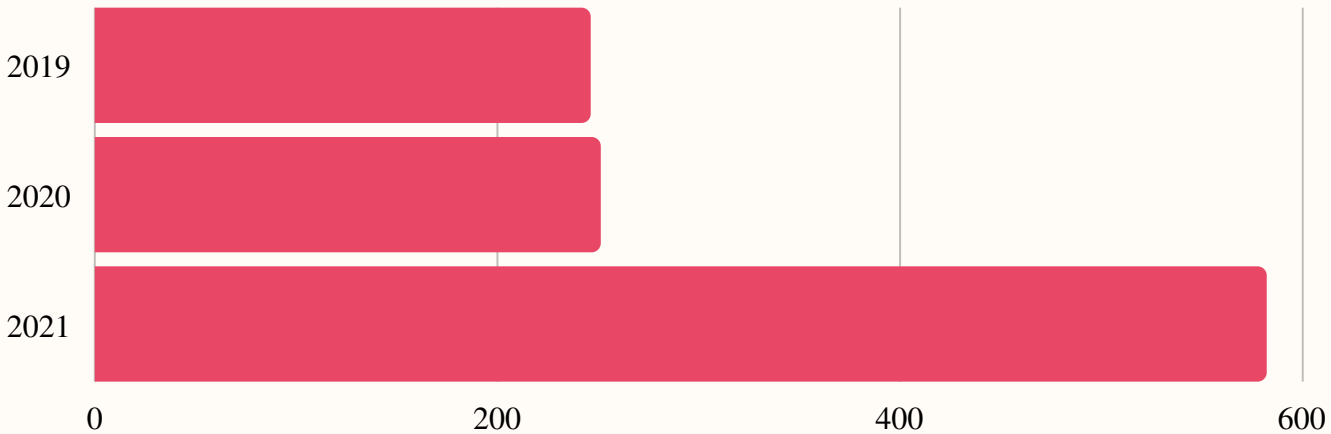
Program Pahal is our first step towards ensuring a bright future for all children associated with us by connecting children of school-going age and reconnecting school-dropouts to formal systems of education. As a part of this program, we conduct Education Drives which bring together various stakeholders such as parents, teachers, the State Education Department, etc. We also conduct Documentation Drives aimed at correcting existing or making new identification documents requisite for accessing various government schemes and benefits. In 2021, we helped to enroll 301 children in government schools through our education and documentation drive.



Number of children enrolled in schools at the end of our Education Drive and Documentation Drive.



At the village level, our programs Pankh empower children in villages with wings of knowledge and transform them into agents of change within their immediate realities of village and community life. Pankh Classes, conceived to address a variety of concerns, are classes guided by Educators appointed by Samvedna in each of our project villages. This caters to children between the age group of 6 to 18 years. After 2020, the organization has mainly focused on Pankh classes due to covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in more children getting enrolled in Pankh classes than previous years.



Number of children enrolled in our Pankh Education Aid Classes

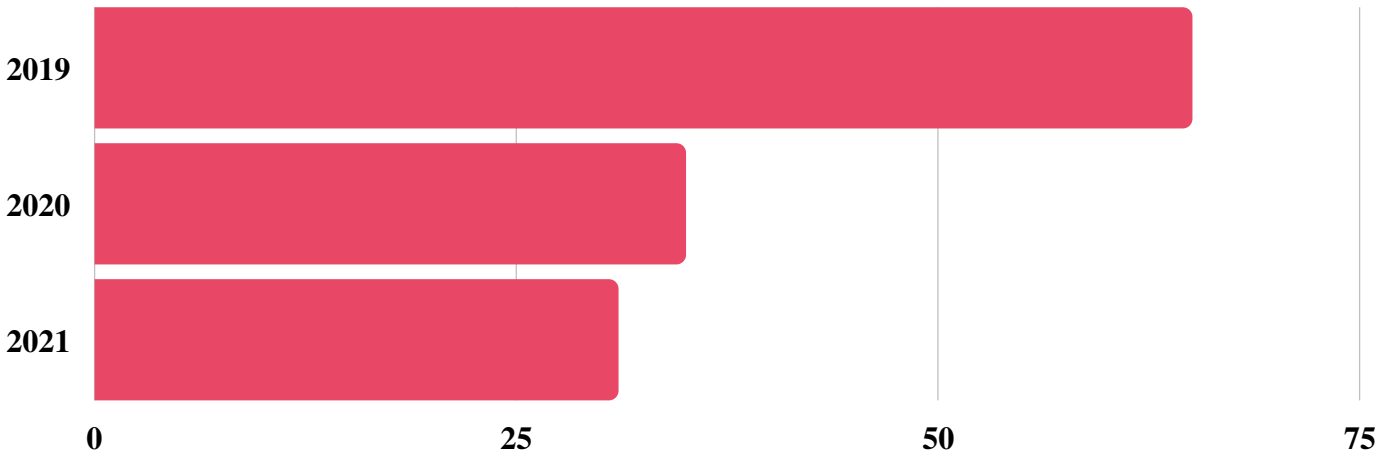


# Our Programs



Our program Udaan seeks to remove vulnerable children from situations of distress in their home-villages – an imminent threat of being pushed into commercial sexual exploitation or dropping out from school – and bring them to Bhopal.

In Bhopal, the students are enrolled in government schools and hostels. Samvedna provides supplementary academic support, medical care, and travel expenses. We also conduct exposure visits and personality-building workshops to ensure the well-rounded growth of children. During pandemic, children studying in class 6th to 8th were sent to village centres due to safety purposes. This explains the declining trend of children studying in Bhopal in the last two years.



Number of children enrolled in Government schools and Hostels

# In Pictures





## Our Programs

### Our Programs



Lakshya, an extension of our programs Pankh and Udaan, aims at making Bedia children who pursue higher education self-reliant. Samvedna believes that it is only through education and an alternative source of livelihood that this vicious cycle of caste-based prostitution can be broken. Samvedna

facilitates their access to professional courses, such as Law, Nursing, Fashion Designing, ITI, Teaching, etc. This year, 13 students are currently enrolled in colleges for courses such as LLB, B. Com, BHSc etc. In Bhopal with the support from Samvedna through the Lakshya fellowship program. Regular meetings are conducted with these students to discuss their concerns, assess their educational needs and to explore various vocational courses or activities that they can undertake. In these meetings, the students discuss their progress in various course subjects and give updates about their classes and assignments. Students who are in their final year also talk about their preparation for final examinations. In the last meeting, internship and fellowship opportunities were also discussed, as students mentioned their various interest areas. Many students also expressed interest in connecting with vocational courses offering short time professional degrees or diplomas, such as PGDCA, Tally, English Language, Basic Computer Class, after their final examinations. Three students have been enrolled in vocational nursing courses. One has been enrolled in a beautician course.

These students who are pursuing their higher education are identified as leaders within their peer groups. As a leader, it also becomes their prerogative to encourage and motivate other students from their village to apply for and pursue higher education. These leaders have been given the task to talk to their peers in their respective villages, and motivate and guide two students each who are interested in pursuing their higher education in Bhopal.

### Success Story



18 years old Kumkum is the definition of making one's dreams into a reality. Coming from a village like Kolukhedi, where roads are flooded very often resulting in students being irregular to their schools, she has myriad of experiences in her educational journey. Currently pursuing BA LLB from Rajiv Gandhi College, Bhopal, she managed to secure a whopping 85% marks in her board exams which is exemplary not only to her community but to all of us. But this is not the only thing she has achieved so far, her brilliance stems from her ability to question the system she is part of. Having a critical mindset, she always stands for things she thinks are her constitutional right, whether it is about fighting for her rights within her family or expecting quality education from her college administration.

She is enthusiastic about education in the truest sense as she looks deeply into it. Now, she is looking forward to become a practising lawyer in the future.



# Our Programs



Jatan is our alternative livelihood initiative to empower members of bedia community, especially women through a business model that offers them sufficient returns that can be choice against commercial sex work. Around 10 women's groups have been formed in project villages and regular meetings with women's groups are being conducted to explore the alternate livelihood options within the community. Approximately 110 women are connected to these groups.



## GOAT REARING PROJECT

One of our most prominent livelihood initiatives is the Goat rearing project, which has now connected 52 Bedia families to the project. Under this initiative, Samvedna gives a loan of Rs. 25,000 to interested women who utilise this loan to buy 5 goats. An amount of Rs. 22,000 will be due and payable to Samvedna by the recipient over a period of 11 months in equal monthly instalments of Rs. 2,000. Further, families are informed about the conditions they have to fulfil regarding their children's well-being and education. These include enrolment of all children in a formal institution of education below the age of 18 years residing with the recipient, no coercion to children below the age of 18 years for getting married, enagement into sex work or Rai dance, or any other form of child labour. All children enrolled in formal institutions of education should have an attendance rate of either 75% or above. The Goat Rearing Project offers an innovative and unique approach to achieve Samvedna's goals towards the education and prevention of child sexual exploitation within the Bedia community.





## LIVELIHOOD: BUILDING PERSPECTIVES

Samvedna organised a two-day residential workshop in Bhopal in March 2022 on 'building perspectives on livelihood.' This workshop was facilitated by Ms. Arundhati Dhuru who has close to three decades of experience of working with women's collectives, gender rights and livelihood programs in rural communities. 14 women from the community and 6 team members, who work at village, cluster and district levels, participated in the workshop. The objectives are to create understanding within the women's group regarding the need of alternate livelihood sources in the community and to explore the possibilities and potential of women's collectives at village level.



Workshop on 'building perspectives on livelihood'

## *Success Stories*

Ayodhya Bai is a 48 years old Bedia woman who lives with her 5 children in Salay village. Her husband died 5 years ago due to liver cirrhosis. He was a daily wage worker and lone breadwinner of the family. After him Ayodhya Bai and her eldest son started working as a daily wage labourer but the family struggled with financial hardships. In 2020, Ayodhya Bai and other women from her village took part in a meeting related to the Aajivika Mission with Samvedna's team members. After this meeting, Samvedna took an initiative and formed a women's group in the village to look for alternative livelihood options for these women. Soon, Ayodhya Bai was given five goats (4 female, 1 male) for rearing and she and her eldest son Rahul took charge of taking care of them. Now, she has 12 goats and earned over 1 lakh 20 thousand Rupees after selling 10 goats in the last two years.

Similar to her story, Vimla Bai, who is in her late 50's and lives in Sukha village, was struggling financially as no one in her family was employed in any job. Her husband does farming but that doesn't give him much returns. In 2020, Vimla Bai got in touch with Samvedna's team members and she was given 5 goats under the goat rearing project of the organisation. Her family's financial conditions started to improve and soon she paid off her loan to Samvedna. Earlier her youngest son used to roam around aimlessly, now he works with her mother to take care of their animals.

These stories remind us of the importance of our work and give us hope to keep working towards our objectives ending intergenerational commercial sex work.



## Gender Equality

While other programmatic interventions focusing on education and livelihood cater to access and providing opportunities, this thematic intervention specifically focuses on building agency for young people so they are able to make their own choices. This program started with the aim of educating young boys and men of Bedia community to recognize their roles in changing the norms of their society and enable them to become change makers within the community.

### Parivartak

A two-day residential training was organised on 13th-14th October, 2021 in Bhopal to build perspectives on gender, human rights and constitutional rights. Parivartak saw the participation of 22 girls and 16 boys from 11 villages. Day one of the training entailed discussions around rights - their existence, need and importance, with the introduction to human rights and fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Day two began with the discussion on gender, which included gender socialisation, gender expression and stereotypes.



## Theatre workshop

A three-day residential theatre workshop was organised in Bhopal with out-of-school children and youth from 3rd-5th March, 2022. In this workshop, 45 participants (25 girls and 20 boys) took part from 10 project villages. Through this workshop, we wanted to increase our involvement with dropouts as well as to initiate conversations with them in order to instil some confidence and motivation in the hope to reconnect them to education or to connect them to vocational and creative activities. This workshop focussed on finding dreams, taking collective actions and exploring one's creative side. This workshop was facilitated by theatre actors and trainers, Hozefa Ujjaini and Atish Indrekar from Ahmedabad. This workshop gave an opportunity to these adolescents and youth to be a part of a space where they were encouraged to think about their aspirations, and explore their interests. During this workshop, many young boys and girls expressed their interests to rejoin or resume their education, either through regular schooling or through open school. The atmosphere was invigorating, as many young children expressed their desire to follow their dreams.





## Peer leaders workshop

A three-day residential workshop was organised in Bhopal for selected peer leaders from 8 villages who went through a peer leadership training in the month of October 2021. This workshop was organised from 13th-15th March 2022, in which 46 adolescent children took part. Out of these 46 participants, 32 were girls and 14 were boys. This workshop began with the discussion on the idea of dreams, individual and collective. It also focused on collective understanding and how it is advantageous to form collectives. The participants also went through various sessions that discussed the importance of various communication skills. During this time, we also introduced the game of Ultimate Frisbee to the group of participants, with the help of players and trainers from the Muskaan organisation. This workshop was facilitated by trainers Atish Indrekar and Ruchika Kodekar from Budhan Theatre, Ahmedabad. who have experience of teaching theatre to adolescent and young children from DNT and other marginalised communities. A separate session was also dedicated to talk about Denotified Tribal communities, through the medium of documentary film.

## Capacity Building

### Gender-aware conversation and planning a gender-aware methodology to work with the Bedia community

One day training on initiating a gender-aware conversation and planning a gender-aware methodology to work with the Bedia community was conducted at Vidisha project office. In this training, gender was introduced as a sociological concept to the team, while also initiating reflection towards personal experiences in order to understand how gender affects our expression, our identity, our relationships, our behaviour, our aspirations, etc.

### *Sexual Harassment at Workplace*

Training on understanding Sexual Harassment at Workplace conducted on October 22, 2021. This training was facilitated by Dr Shewli Kumar, Chairperson, School of Women Centred Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. This training focused on understanding consent and power within the workplace, along with the roles and responsibilities of the Internal Complaints Committee.

### *Gender based violence (GBV) and responses to state mechanisms*

A two-day residential training was also organised in January 2022 on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and responses to state mechanisms, organised and facilitated by trainers from TISS, Mumbai in collaboration with UN-Women, UNHCR and WHO. This training aimed at building conceptual and practical clarity for concepts such as consent, forms of violence, masculinity and gender based violence. The training saw participation from 40 team members and members from the community, who discussed how we are socialised into our gendered roles, how masculinity affects us in toxic ways and how consent functions.



The digital learning centre and a children's community library was established in Jamuniya, one of our project villages. This centre was set up with contributions from both Samvedna and the rural community in the village. Although, the inauguration of the centre was a feat in itself, what highlighted the event was not the centre, but three young girls from the Bedia community who swept everyone off their feet at the inauguration event with their courage, confidence and leadership.

The digital learning centre and the community library was set up in Jamuniya with the objective of not only creating a space for learning but also a space for interaction, discussion and social integration of children and youth from different communities in the village. This has been a demand from the children, adolescents and young people from the community in Jamuniya and they also mobilised support from the village to set up the digital learning centre. Their excitement knew no bounds when the centre was inaugurated in January 2022, for which they mobilised community members and their peers to attend the event. This event saw attendance from members of different community, along with panchayat members and representatives from the Kalawat Mahasabha as well. In this event, three young girls from the Bedia community took the opportunity to speak to their peers and community members regarding the low instance of education in their community and how it is changing with Samvedna's support. They also questioned their fellow community members and Samvedna team members regarding the entry of minor girls into commercial sex work that is sanctioned by community customs.

Anita, who is now pursuing nursing from a college in Bhopal, shared her journey with others. She talked about how she never imagined herself to go Bhopal and study while living alone, as she never considered herself confident. When she went to Bhopal for the first time to study, she was quite nervous but she got support that encouraged her to explore life in Bhopal and concentrate on her studies. If Anita thinks she was underconfident the first time she came to Bhopal, she has completely transformed into a self-confident young woman who articulates her journey quite well. Rajeshwari, who is currently studying in class XII, discussed how she had been connected with different programs of Samvedna, such as Pankh, children's group and she is now an active part of the adolescent group as well. She shared that she has been able to see a shift in herself and her peers, as they got opportunities and access to study and even think about their careers and ambitions. Sandhya, who recently gave her XII board examination and is now preparing to come to Bhopal for her higher education, showed exemplary strength when she used this gathering to address issues that grapple the Bedia community and affect children and young girls. She questioned why children, especially girls are not encouraged to study and pursue a career and are rather influenced to become sex workers. She also asked team members regarding Samvedna's interventions with and for young girls, who get pushed into sex work at an early age.

The opportunity to pursue their dreams, getting access to higher education in Bhopal and the formation of a forum also serves as a safe space in the form of an adolescent group has surely encouraged young and adolescent girls in the village to reflect and question their surroundings, systems and structures around them. These girls are showing exceptional leadership skills and are potential change agents from within the community.





**Digital Learning Centre, Jamuniya**



# Protection

Samvedna doesn't have any specific program to cover this thematic but all of the organisation's initiatives are designed with the element of protection in it. The embeddedness of this thematic is visible in our education, livelihood and gender equality programs, where we are working towards the empowerment of community members, especially women and children to achieve our larger goals and objectives, i.e., to combat human trafficking, sexual abuse and forced prostitution. Education, livelihood and gender equality programs are our tools to provide women and young girls a fair chance at life so that they can choose and make informed decisions for themselves. In this way, we are trying to



protect their constitutional rights and create a just environment where people from the community can thrive without stigma and discrimination.

This can be seen in the case of Priyanka, one of the Bedia girls from Chhapariyai village in Bhopal. When Priyanka was studying in high school, her parents forced her to drop out. They were struggling financially and they did not want her to continue her education. In 2017, Samvedna helped Priyanka to resume her studies through open schooling. Now, she is in B.A. second year and studying political science and history in one of the colleges in Bhopal.

But luck doesn't favor everyone in the same way. When Anshika was 13, she dropped out of school. Samvedna helped her to reconnect with formal education. At 15, she was about to finish class 8th before the first lockdown was announced. Anshika had to go back to her village and due to family reasons, she couldn't get enrolled in a local school either. Both of her parents were out of work at that time. Financial struggles led her to not continue her education. Meanwhile her grandmother kept pressuring Anshika to enter into the market as she herself had supported their family as a sex worker earlier. During the first wave, the family was supported with ration kits and constantly visited by the team members. But with the arrival of the second wave and subsequent lockdown being imposed, the team members couldn't reach out to her. Despite our efforts Anshika was initiated into the commercial sex work market by her family. She was only 17 years old at this point.

Samvedna's works are designed with the motive of prevention and protection, and these stories remind us of the importance of our interventions and the challenges we as social workers encounter on the ground, especially when we work against human trafficking and child exploitation.



# Networking & collaborations





# Women And Child Development Department

Our team members met with the representatives of the Women and Child Development department and gave recommendations to redesign Jawali Yojna for the betterment of communities engaged in commercial sex work.

## Jawali Yojna

Jawali Yojna was started in 1992 by Madhya Pradesh state government for the welfare and development of women, who were engaged or vulnerable to be initiated in the commercial sex work. The Jawali Scheme as it was conceived covers the area of education, protection, rehabilitation, financial provisions, awareness and health. The aim was to discourage women and girls entering into prostitution prevalent among the communities engaged in intergenerational sex work.

## Our recommendations

- A rights-based approach should be adopted to expand the objectives and the scope of the scheme to uphold the rights of women and children and strengthen the accountability of various stakeholders involved in the development process.
- For the effective monitoring and evaluation of the scheme, 2 officials should be appointed at the division level, a five members team should be present in Bhopal with one person responsible for every thematic component of the scheme and based on the population of members of communities involved in intergenerational commercial sex work, one person should be appointed at the district level for the implementation of the scheme.

- For the better implementation of the scheme, communities engaged in intergenerational commercial sex work should be located and profiled. This can easily be done with the help of Anganwadi workers.
- For the pre-school education, every village should have anganwadi centres. For class 1 to 5, children should be enrolled in government primary schools. RTE Act ensures the presence of government primary schools in villages. To prevent and protect young girls from entering intergenerational commercial sex work, it is imperative for Ashramshalas to provide hostel and school support to children from class 6 to 10. After the completion of high school, there should be provision of direct admission of Ashramshala students in the nearest government school in class 11 in their chosen stream. As students access higher education, they should be provided assistance to enroll for schemes that they are eligible for. Ex. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education, Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana, etc. Youth and adolescents from communities engaged in intergenerational commercial sex can be reconnected to education through the Madhya Pradesh Open School. Connecting youth with requisite qualification to skilling centres and vocational courses based on their interest under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna. In Ashramshalas, young boys and girls should be given career counselling especially to students of 9th and 10th. They should be given information about government assistance that they can avail if they chose to pursue higher education.
- Self-employment opportunities should be created for the youth of the communities. Ex. financial assistance to skilled youth of the community in coordination with the Nomadic, Semi-nomadic and Denotified Tribes Welfare Department.
- Self-help Groups of women belonging to communities engaged in intergenerational commercial sex can be formalized and connected to the State Rural Livelihood Mission.
- There should be awareness drive among various stakeholders working for the communities engaged in commercial sex work to minimize the instances of discrimination and stigma against the communities.

## Meeting with National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

The team members attended a meeting with Mr Bhiku Ramji Idhate, Chairperson, National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. In the meeting, the team presented Samvedna's work with the Bedia community. Mr. Idhate also visited one of the project villages, Kolukhedi and interacted with the community where the people presented their concerns. As a follow up of this meeting, 22 (14 men, 8 women) community members attended Denotification Day celebration at the Chief Minister House and submitted a demand letter specifying the concerns of their community, such as clean water, better roads and a middle school.



*Mr. Bhiku Ramji Idhate on a visit to Project village*

A meeting with Dr. Dipti Kothasthane, Deputy Director, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes Welfare Department was also conducted to explore opportunities to work with women's groups on alternative livelihood options. We also discussed the conditions and number of hostels allotted for children from SC communities and how they can be made functional, after the schools and hostels reopen. Dr. Kothasthane has asked the team to provide them with a list of women who are part of Samvedna's women's groups, in order to plan meetings with these groups in collaboration with the department.

## Kalawat Mahasabha

Our team had a meeting with the head of Kalawat Mahasabha, Mr. Satyendra Kalawat to discuss several key issues. Kalawat Mahasabha is a network of Bedia community in the state of Madhya Pradesh. In the meeting our team had proposed to build a common platform for Bedia youth at village and block level to discuss the issues related to higher education and skill training. The team emphasised on the need to identify the change agents within the community. These change agents can interact with parents to ensure the education of girls.

Two of our team members are members of Kalawat Mahasabha, Ajay Kumar and Mansa, who is member of women's wing. On 6th March 2022, Samvedna's team members attended a meeting of state representatives of Kalawat Mahasabha, where government representatives were also present. The meeting was organised in response to the government's decision to redesign the jawali scheme to discuss the current provisions of it and future action plans needed to ensure the implementation of the same.



## Working as Strategic Partner

In 2021, CRY started a project based on Samvedna's work in Guna and Sagar. In this project, Samvedna helped the organisation to establish their centres in 20 villages in these two districts. Samvedna also provided help to train their staff members so that they can implement the same model Samvedna is working on in the rest of the four districts- Bhopal, Rajgarh, Vidisha and Raisen.

Moreover, the organisation conducts a career counselling program to help children to make informed choices regarding their career once they graduate. This program is based on a scientific approach, which assures us to get results. Through this program we map students' interests and aptitude related to specific career choices. This helps us to understand if students will be able to pursue the career of their choice and succeed. This process starts early when children are in class 9th standard. When the child gets informed from an early age about their aptitude, they are well equipped to take decisions about the choice of stream they want to opt in class 11 th . Moreover, once they get to know about their educational progress, they also have a chance to work hard for 2 years, i.e., class 9 th and 10 th, in order to take the stream they want to.

## Our Team Members

Sagar Sahu, Ramani Ranjan, Harshita Pandey, Mitthat Hora, Prerna Mishra, Ajay Kumar, Mithilesh Yadav, Mrinalini Mishra, Saba Khan, Ritu Kamble, Anarkali Dhurve, Ranjit Kushwaha, Premika Lodhi, Mahesh Nagar, Kailash Narayan, Kamal Bamaniya, Neha Kalawat, Ajay Sharma, Devendra Prajapati, Mansha Lavaria, Karan Ahirwar, Anand Kumar, Jaynarayan Gurjar, Mohina, Jyoti Kalawat, Chandan Singh, Sandhya Vaishnav, Devendra Kumar, Balveer Kalawat, Narendra Bharti, Bhagyashree Kale, Atul Kalawat, Archana, Aman Bediya, Shashwat Verma, Mankunwar Nagar

## Our Partners and contributors

For the financial year 2021-22, Samvedna received a total of 1,16,25,200 Rs. in donations from institutional partners and as well as individual contributors.

We want to thank our institutional partners Child Rights & You: America (33,03,297 Rs.), Give2Asia (14,68,786 Rs.), Paul Hamlyn Foundation (38,52,662 Rs.), Child Rights & You: India (14,43,975 Rs.), HPCL (2,45,000 Rs.), Advaita Charitable Trust (1,00,000 Rs.), Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City Foundation (1,50,000 Rs.)

We also thank our individual contributors Rupa Saha, Prabhat Kumar Sharma, Preeti Pandey, Mailree Ramesh Chandra, Gauri Potnis, Bhavya Jain, Dr. Nishit Jhaveri, Melissa Carmel Nazar, Balwant Singh, Dr. deena Jarigopala, Mr. Veerendra, Kruti Amit Shah, Dr. Ravi Khangai, Dhiren Shevantilal Shah, AC Choksi Share Broker, Sarthak Das Gupta, Pinal Narendra Shah, Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, Madhumati, Shivjeet Sanjay, Sharad Dattu Chandor, Abhijeet Ramesh Sangle, Vivek Dutt, Prabhakar V. Kulkarni, Madhusudan Ruia, Tushar Sanjay Karpe, Sonakshi Adhikari, K Ashar and co., Deepala Jayaut Patel, Yuvraj Chandresh Shah, Viraj Kishor Lal, Sadhya J. Merchant, Muktaji Mahadeo Auti, Runwal Foundation, Asmita, Yatin Hariram, Mohana, Nigel Jude Dixon, Karishma Shah, Sonu Singh, Parag Harshad Shroff, Abhay Dhondur, Anuradhaa Mathur, Mow Productions, Throat Shankar, Alka Yadav.

We are also thankful to Dr Shefali Jhaveri, Mr Reto Seeholzer and Mr Yogesh Patel for their constant guidance, and abundant encouragement!