



SAMVEDNA

A n n u a l R e p o r t



T W E N T Y T W O

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INTRODUCTION

Samvedna works to combat caste-based commercial sexual exploitation and human sex trafficking specifically in the Bedia community by working with State and non-State actors in rural Madhya Pradesh.

The organization works in the areas of Education, Livelihood, Gender Equality, and Protection, to achieve its long-term goals against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Presently, Samvedna is working with more than 5000 children in 60 villages across 6 districts – Bhopal, Guna, Raisen, Rajgarh, Vidisha, and Sagar.



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CONTENTS

Dedication	1
Introduction	3
Chairperson's Message	6
Highlights	7
Bedia Community	9
Our Vision	9
Our Belief	10
Our Strategy	11
COVID Response	14
Education	22
Livelihood	30
Our Gratitude	35



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to present the Annual Report of Samvedna for the year 2022-2023, reflecting our continued efforts in empowering the Bedia community and improving the lives of vulnerable children.

Throughout the year, we have seen remarkable progress in our various programs. A total of 599 children have enrolled in our Pankh classes, paving the way for their holistic development and brighter futures.

Under our program Udaan, 45 children are pursuing their school education with determination and enthusiasm, while 26 children are now on their path to higher education through our higher education program Lakshya. Their dedication is a testament to the transformative power of education.

Beyond academics and sports, we are nurturing talents in sportsmanship as well. Ten Bedia children showcased their skills at the Volleyball and Kabaddi National Tournament in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, while four children proudly represented us at a National Level Sports Tournament in Nagpur, organized by the HCL Foundation.

Our commitment to holistic growth also extends to nurturing the potential of adolescents, with various groups and initiatives. We are delighted to share that 131 children are actively engaged in our career-counseling program, while 29 children find inspiration and self-expression through our theater in education activity.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team and the generosity of our partners and well-wishers. Your continuous belief in our cause has been the driving force behind our success.

As we reflect on the past year, we look forward to the future with renewed zeal and determination. The road ahead presents new opportunities, and with your continued support, we aim to create even greater impact and touch more lives.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey towards a brighter and more empowered tomorrow.

Warmly,

Dr. Trupti Panchal
Chairperson, Samvedna

HIGHLIGHTS

599 children enrolled with Pankh classes

45 children are pursuing their school education in Bhopal

26 children are pursuing college education

301 new admissions through education and documentation drives

82 families are connected to Samvedna's Goat Rearing Project

472 children across 13 villages participated in the Summer Camp

10 Bedia children competed at the Volleyball and Kabaddi National Tournament

4 children participated in a National Level Sports Tournament in Nagpur

202 adolescents participated in a 2-day state level sports meet on the occasion of

Children's Day



THEMATIC INTERVENTIONS

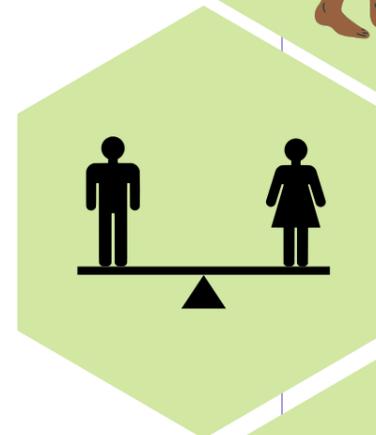


EDUCATION

Tool of Social Transformation

LIVELIHOOD

Economic Independence

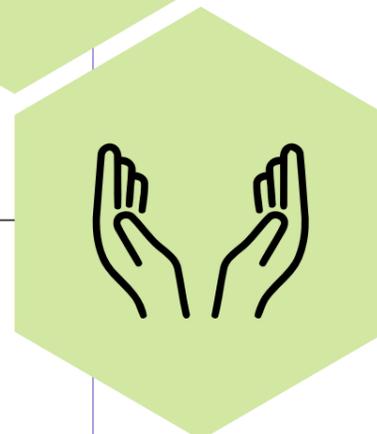


GENDER EQUALITY

Behavioural Change

PROTECTION

Prevention and Rehabilitation



THEMATIC INTERVENTIONS

EDUCATION

Samvedna believes that education is a powerful tool for social transformation that enables people to build equitable futures and fulfill their potential. Through our programs focused on education, Samvedna promotes Bedia children's access to educational institutions and opportunities from the time of school enrolment till their higher education. We believe that all children and young people, regardless of their caste, gender, and/or class location should have equal access to education and the right to choose their careers.

LIVELIHOOD

Our livelihood programs explore the possibility of alternative livelihoods within the Bedia community, and support women in becoming financially empowered. Moreover, by connecting young Bedia girls and boys to vocational and skill development institutions, we aid them in exploring intergenerational sexual exploitation 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

While all our programs have been guided by the value and ethos of Gender Equality, it is a comparatively new thematic area of intervention for Samvedna. Our Gender Equality program recognizes the imperative role that Bedia men and boys play in the prevalence of intergenerational sexual exploitation in the community, and aims to work with them to break this cycle.

PROTECTION

At Samvedna, prevention and protection are the cornerstone of all our programs. We have designed our interventions with a thematic focus on this area, ensuring that our work aligns with these principles. We recognize that young and minor Bedia girls are vulnerable to being forced into caste-based intergenerational sexual exploitation as a means of sustaining the community custom. To address this issue, we identify and monitor vulnerable girls, and we prioritize keeping them connected to our interventions and activities.



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.



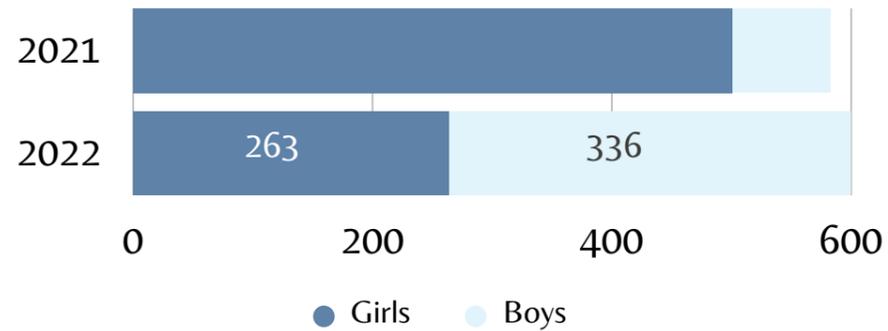
Setu is a program designed for children who have disengaged from education, either due to dropouts or non-enrollment, resulting in a significant gap in their educational journey. This gap often hinders their pursuit of formal education. To address this challenge and reconnect these children to the formal education system, Samvedna has developed a bridge called Setu. Through this program, students are enrolled in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), which offers quality education up to the pre-degree level through Open and Distance Learning systems. NIOS provides courses at the Elementary, Secondary, and Senior Secondary levels. Once the children successfully clear their exams through the Open School, they are reintegrated into the regular system of schooling.



PROGRAMS



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The program aims to introduce sports among the community youth and children to promote physical fitness and make stronger peer groups in the villages. By nurturing a sense of community, the program seeks to prevent commercial sexual exploitation in the community. Ban Patang is designed to complement Samvedna's broader efforts to promote education and improve academic performance, retention rates, and overall well-being of Bedia youth.

A 2-day sports meet for 202 adolescents from 6 districts and 24 Bedia villages in Madhya Pradesh was held on World Children's Day. Boys and girls aged 14-18 competed in 6 games including sprinting, kabaddi, long jump, and carrom. The event aimed to promote sports amongst the Bedia community and was attended by Mr Pradip Singh Rawat, District Sports and Youth Welfare Officer, as well as international and national level athletes such as Rusha Tumbat, Gulafsha Khatum, and Akbar Siddiqui.



PROGRAMS

Several adolescents and children actively participated in the "Sports for Change" event organized by HCL Foundation in Guna district. They enthusiastically competed in various games such as short jump, long jump, badminton, kabaddi, and volleyball.



Four students, comprising three boys and one girl from our project villages' adolescent groups, had the opportunity to compete in a national-level sports tournament held in Nagpur, organized by HCL Foundation. Among them, one participant achieved the first runner-up position in Badminton, while the remaining three showcased remarkable performance in Badminton, Long Jump, and Running events.



Ten children from our project villages excelled in kabaddi and volleyball, earning the opportunity to represent their teams in the national tournament held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The boys' kabaddi team achieved an outstanding second place nationally, surpassing teams from four other states.



य से Eureka is an anthology of ideas, and an eclectic mix of tools to convey those ideas to children. Devised as a non-formal education (NFE) platform, Eureka aims to create awareness among children about their social context, and empower them to approach their immediate reality from a rights-perspective. With an aim to increase retention in primary schools and integration among children from different communities, the program introduces elements of NFE in the very formal setting of formal education – a school.

We conducted 912 Eureka sessions in 35 primary schools across 5 districts in Madhya Pradesh in 2022.

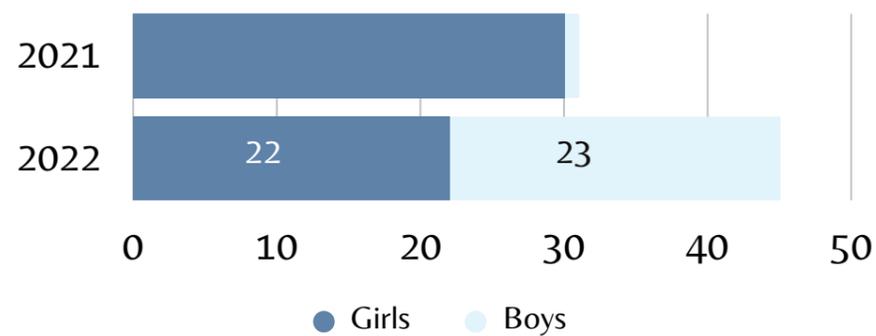


PROGRAMS



Udaan seeks to remove vulnerable children from situations of distress in their home-villages – imminent threat of being pushed into commercial sexual exploitation or dropping out from school – bring them to Bhopal. The children are enrolled in government schools and hostels in Bhopal. Samvedna provides supplementary academic support, medical care, and personality-building workshops to ensure well-rounded growth of children.

45 children, staying in 3 hostels are currently pursuing their school education in Bhopal.



Lakshya, an extension of our programs Pankh and Udaan, aims at making Bedia children self-reliant. Samvedna believes that it is only through education and an alternative source of livelihood that the cycle of caste-based sexual exploitation can be broken. Samvedna facilitates their access to professional courses such as Law, Nursing, Fashion Designing, etc. These students are identified as leaders in their groups who motivate and guide at least two of their peers in their respective villages to pursue higher education in Bhopal.

Nurturing Dreams: Manvi's Journey of Education and Empowerment with Samvedna

Manvi* completed her education in Bhopal from 10th grade onwards with the support of Samvedna.

Initially, she faced challenges adjusting to hostel life and being away from home. However, with the guidance and assistance of the Samvedna team members, she gradually overcame her difficulties. The teachers at the school provided excellent education and special attention to her studies, which increased her interest in learning. Samvedna also offered coaching facilities, further enhancing her educational journey. Despite facing obstacles, she passed her exams and gained confidence in herself. Through Samvedna's programs, she also earned a certificate in Microsoft Office skills from the NIIT Foundation.



The COVID-19 pandemic brought additional challenges, but Samvedna ensured her education continued through online classes. She actively participated in various competitions organized by Samvedna, which boosted her self-esteem.

She initiated the formation of a children's group in her village, the 'Ekta Baal Samooh'. The group addressed social issues through street plays, earning recognition and appreciation from the community.

Despite initial resistance, she pursued her higher education in Bhopal, thanks to the understanding and support of her family. Currently, Manvi is pursuing her B.A. at Gitanjali College, with the aim of becoming a successful lawyer. She is grateful to Samvedna and its team for enabling her to fulfil her dreams and make her parents proud.

*Name changed to protect the student's identity

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.

As a part of its efforts to promote alternative means of livelihood in the Bedia community, Samvedna started a goat-rearing project with 20 families.

About the Project

Samvedna started the project with a group of motivated women who were interested in goat rearing. Samvedna provided every woman with INR 25,000, allowing them to purchase a unit of five goats consisting of one male and four females. The beneficiaries returned INR 20000 to the group in ten instalments. The remaining amount of INR 5000 was contributed by Samvedna as a subsidy. Samvedna assisted the group in collecting the instalment amounts. This amount was utilised by the group in supporting the next round of vulnerable families identified for goat rearing.



Objectives of the Project

As part of our commitment to safeguarding the well-being of children and promoting education, Samvedna implemented stringent measures within our program. We strictly prohibit any child below 18 years of age, whether from the recipient's family or residing with the recipient, from being subjected to early marriage or coerced into engaging in commercial sexual exploitation. Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of education by ensuring that all children in the recipient's family below 18 years of age are enrolled in formal educational institutions. To ensure their regular attendance and active participation, we require that all enrolled children maintain an attendance record of at least 75% of the educational institution's sessions.

Impact

- 40 Bedia family pledged to stop putting their girl's child into community-based sexual exploitation/intergenerational prostitution.
- 90 children are enrolled and retained in the school education system.
- 48 children are protected from child marriage.
- 62% of families spend INR 1.59 lakh rupees for the supporting education of their children.
- 17% of families invested INR 1.85 lakh rupees for setting additional livelihood options for male members of the house.
- 80% of the total households have live goats worth INR 250,000.



Samagra aims to foster gender equitability within the Bedia community. This comprehensive initiative utilizes diverse strategies to initiate discussions on gender roles, gender-based violence, discrimination, and societal expectations related to gender. By aligning with education and livelihood programs, Samagra promotes holistic behavioral change within the community.

Summer Camp

A summer camp was organized in **13 villages** from May 9th to May 30th, 2022, with a finale on June 2nd, 2022. The camp spanned 20 days and took place in three clusters, dedicating five days to each village. Various activities were conducted daily for children, adolescents, and young people, combining creativity, fun, and thoughtful engagement. The camp aimed to enhance participation and engagement among children and adolescents in these villages, as part of the School Enrolment Campaign and School Chalo Abhiyan.



It also served as a platform for social integration, welcoming participation from children of different communities and vulnerable young children at risk of entering intergenerational prostitution. The camp received an overwhelming response with **472 children (around 214 boys and 258 girls)** actively participating across the villages. The finale featured a video conference with **TV actor and renowned personality, Mr. Dilip Joshi**, who shared his life journey, answered questions from the children, and offered best wishes for the organization's efforts.

PROGRAMS

Digital Learning Centre, Ratanpur



A digital learning centre was successfully established in Ratanpur village, located in the district of Vidisha. Through extensive discussions with children and community members, the vision for the centre was shared and embraced, resulting in the setup of a facility equipped with five computers and a small library.

The adolescent groups of Ratanpur played a pivotal role in mobilizing their community and driving the establishment of the DLC. They actively engaged with their parents and other community members, advocating for the allocation of space for the centre. Additionally, the group collectively made decisions regarding the location, while assuming full responsibility for its maintenance and security.

Book Club @ Ratanpur DLC

The digital learning centre and children's library in Jamuniya also doubles as a book club space for the adolescent group and DLC students. They meet weekly, borrow books, and engage in discussions, activities, and games centered around the characters, lessons, and questions from their readings. It promotes a love for reading and provides an intellectually stimulating environment for the adolescents.



PROGRAMS

Peer Leader Workshop

A 3-day workshop was held with 23 girls and 12 boys from 11 villages in Bhopal, Raisen, Vidisha, Rajgarh and Guna districts. The aim of the workshop was to explore how social and popular media shapes gender socialization. It focused on various portrayals of gender in media, cyber abuse and how peer support groups can be formed at the village level. On day one, the participants were introduced to various media and divided into groups to discuss how media affects them. Day two focused on the Internet and the importance of collectives, and groups were given a scenario to act out. On the third day, the themes were summarized and peer leaders presented their group's activities and plans.



'Kissa Kahani' - Our Story Telling Module

A storytelling module was initiated with adolescent groups in 15 villages to facilitate conversations on patriarchy, gender roles, power dynamics, and violence. Adopted from Girls Not Brides and Project Khel, the module, called 'Kissa Kahani', comprises stories from various Indian states addressing topics like gender discrimination, family power dynamics, and violence against women. Each story is read aloud, followed by discussions among the adolescent group, allowing them to relate the narratives to their own experiences and foster sharing. In-depth reflection and documentation were also undertaken to evaluate the module's impact, including changes observed and encountered challenges.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Samvedna believes in and thrives on the power of people. We believe that the true test of our efforts is people's participation, and the ownership that our people show towards our programs. Our community engagement initiatives are thus aimed at ensuring participation in the change process since inception and growing their involvement at every stage.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Awareness Meetings with Stakeholders and Community Members



Samvedna organized three community awareness meetings in Vidisha's Lateri, Nateran, and Bhopal's Berasia blocks. A total of 141 community members from 15 villages participated, and representatives from government departments like Women & Child Development, Education, State Rural Livelihood Mission, and Block Parishad were present. The meetings aimed to disseminate information on government schemes and establish a direct dialogue between community members and government officials.

Establishment of Anti-Trafficking Network in Madhya Pradesh

Samvedna team members held a meeting with representatives from India Working Group against Trafficking, Hifazat Network, and Childline Madhya Pradesh to discuss the formation of a network of organizations that work on the issue of trafficking in Madhya Pradesh. India Working Group is a national-level network of civil society organizations that work towards the eradication of trafficking and bonded labor.

Vimukti Divas

Every year, August 31 is observed as Vimukt Jati Day, and this year, the Madhya Pradesh Government organized a commemorative event. Girls from the Bedia community studying in government schools as a part of Samvedna's program Udaan participated in this event. During the event, Samvedna team members presented a report on the Bedia community's status in their project districts and requested the DNT Department to improve the service delivery in the hostels it administers.



RACE LAB

Research Advocacy and Capacity building against Exploitation Lab

Research, Advocacy, and Capacity Building against Exploitation – RACE Lab is India's first anti-human trafficking lab, established with the mandate to combat human trafficking. We are the country's leading think tank producing cutting edge research, advocating for policy and systemic changes, and building capacities of stakeholders for ending human trafficking by 2030 in alignment with Goal 8.7 of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals (SDGs).



RACE LAB

Research Advocacy and Capacity building against Exploitation Lab

On October 19, 2022, Samvedna successfully launched RACE Lab, an initiative aimed at combating human trafficking and exploitation. The grand launch event took place at the prestigious RCVP Noronha Academy in Bhopal. The ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries including Ms. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), Mr. A Asholi Chalai, Joint Secretary of NCW, Ms. Anuradha Shankar, ADG Training, Mr. Viresh Kumar Bhawra, Chairperson of the Punjab Police Housing Corporation, Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director of RACE Lab, and Dr. Trupti Panchal, Chairperson of Samvedna.

Additionally, Dr. Himanshu Pandya, the Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University, also honored the event with his presence. Notably, RACE Lab and Gujarat University signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the ceremony, further strengthening their collaboration in the fight against human trafficking. The launch event marked a significant milestone in the collective effort to address this critical issue and pave the way for a better and safer society.



LAUNCHING IN AUGURATI ON

Reimagining Jawali Yojana

The Jawali Scheme has experienced a decline in its reach, mainly due to inadequate funding, limited awareness among targeted communities, and a lack of a comprehensive approach towards the beneficiaries' development. In 2021, Samvedna shared a list of recommendations with the Women and Child Development Department to enhance the scheme's outreach and impact. The department has initiated a redesigning process for the Jawali Scheme to improve its focus areas and targets. During the restructuring process, Samvedna has actively participated in meetings and has provided a set of enhanced recommendations to be included in the draft proposal. The WCD Department has welcomed these inputs and incorporated them into the revised scheme document.

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs

In August 2022, Samvedna team members participated in the launch of the SEED state chapter in Bhopal. The SEED (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs) is a central scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in February 2022 at the national level.

Capacity Building of Samvedna Team

On July 2, 2022, a training session was conducted for team members to enhance their knowledge of human trafficking and its socio-legal aspects. The training aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic definitions of human trafficking, its different stages, and the role of community workers in its prevention. Samvedna's founder member, Dr. Veerendra Mishra, facilitated the training.



Our Gratitude

We are forever grateful to the support that we receive from our generous funders and supporters for our work. We want to thank Ms. Shruti Shah, Dr.. Nishit Jhaveri, Dr.. Shefali Jhaveri, Mr. Parag Shroff, Mr. Sanjay Modi, Om Namō Narayan Public Charitable Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation T, Give2Asia, and Child Rights and for their support.

Governing Board

Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal (Chairperson), . Ms. Divya Parmar (Secretary)

Mr. Manish Gupta (Treasurer), Dr. Veerendra Mishra (Member)

5Dr. Pragati Pandey (Member) Ms. Shivali Sharma (Member)

Mr. Manish Khare (Member)

Our Team

Divya Parmar, Ramani Ranjan, Mrinalini Mishra, Ajay Kumar, Prema Mishra, Ritu Kamble, Mithlesh Yadav, Mahesh Nagar, Mohina, Karan Singh, Jaynarayan Gurjar, Anand Kumar, Archana, Sandhya, Jyoti Kalawat, Mansha Lavariya, Kailash Narayan, Premika Lodhi, Devendra Prajapati, Sapna Kalawat, Raju Ahirwar, Sandhya Vaishnav, Urmila Ojha, Kamal Bamaniya, Ajay Sharma, Balveer Singh, Narendra Bharti, Neha Kalawat, Devendra Kumar, Virendra Singh Tomar, Bhagyashree, Kailash Rathore

