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# Chairperson's Message

Dear friends,

As we approach year-end, a wave of emotions sweeps through us. It's a time of intense activity as we wrap up our tasks, but it's also a period of deep introspection and heartfelt reflection. Our annual report preparations are not just about numbers and achievements; they are a testament to the passion and dedication that fuel our every step.

My team, the heart and soul of Samvedna, fills me with immense pride and gratitude. Their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts ensure that we continue to make a meaningful impact. I am profoundly moved by their dedication to Samvedna's mission and each other. I extend my heartfelt thanks to them, knowing that without their support, none of our achievements would be possible.

A special mention goes to our students, the future torchbearers of our mission. Your involvement and contributions have added depth and meaning to our work, touching countless lives along the way.

Every small step we take is a testament to our shared vision and the lives we've touched. Despite the challenges we face, we continue to evolve, adapt, and grow stronger.

As we look ahead, filled with hope and determination, let us carry the spirit of compassion, resilience, and unity. Together, we will navigate the uncertainties and seize the opportunities that lie ahead, making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Best,

Dr Trupti Jhaveri Panchal Chairperson, Samvedna

#### 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 organization has a two-pronged approach – working with the survivors for their rehabilitation and reintegration, and prioritizing prevention for the vulnerable members of the community through advocacy and direct intervention. Presently, Samvedna works in 60 villages across 6 districts - Bhopal, Raisen, Rajgarh, Vidisha, Guna and Sagar – in Madhya Pradesh with over 1000 Bedia families and 5000 Bedia children.

## About the Community

The Bedia is a Denotified Community that is engaged in intergenerational community-based commercial sexual exploitation. In the community, a 12 to 13-year-old girl is commercially sexually exploited to earn money to support her family. Most engage in prostitution and some are sold to work in dance bars in cities.

Men in the community become pimps for the women in their families engaged in commercial sex and young boys run errands — buying liquor and cigarettes — for customers.

The community is doubly marginalized – discriminated against because of their position in the caste hierarchy and stigmatized because of their traditional occupation



# ighlights

- 343 women connected to social security schemes
- 1659 new enrollments in school education across 20 villages
- 799 students enrolled in Pankh classes across our villages
- 263 students benefiting from Digital Literacy Centres
- 36 students connected to continue their education through open schooling
- 1141 students reached out through Eureka
- 28 students enrolled to continue higher secondary education in Bhopal under Udaan
- 28 students enrolled for Undergraduate programmes under Lakshya
- 78 Bedia family engaged in our goat-rearing initiative
- 906 Bedia women reached out through Legal Literacy and Health Awareness camps in 16 villages

## 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.

#### Thematic Interventions

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.

At Samvedna, prevention and protection are

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.





Our programme Pahal, is our first step towards ensuring a bright future for all children associated with us. The program brings together various stakeholders - parents, teachers, education officers, etc. to ensure unbridled access to quality 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.



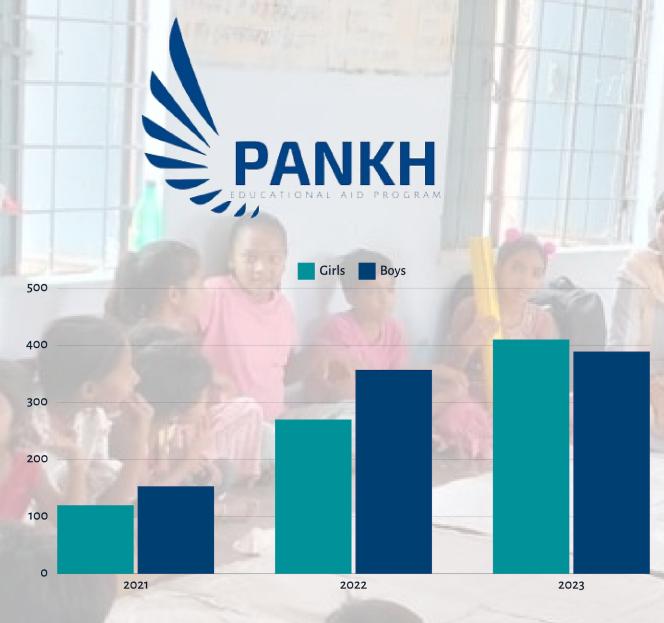
New Enrollment

Educational Document 347





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.





At the village level, our program Pankh empowers children with wings of knowledge, transforming them into agents of change within their immediate realities of village and community life. Pankh, also known as Education Aid Classes, supplements children's regular school education, bridging the gap between age-appropriate classes and learning outcomes.

Since its inception, the Pankh classes have successfully encouraged children to continue their education despite various challenges. The program has witnessed an improvement in children's grades and learning outcomes, empowering them to pursue their dreams.

Currently, 799 students are enrolled in Pankh classes across all project villages.









The program aims to introduce sports among the community outh and children to promote physical fitness and make stronger peer groups in the villages. By nurturing a sense of community, he 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.

For the years 2023-2024, At village-level sports 159 students have been engaged through Ban Patang, At the district level 73 students participated and played games, 42 students participated in Ban Patang state-level sports competitions.

Under the banner of Ban Patang, SAMVEDNA organized a District-level sports event aimed at providing education and the right to play for children of the Bedia community. The event showcased the innate sporting talents among the children and spanned significant days in November 2023. The first competition occurred on November 20 at Latif Stadium in Guna district, coinciding with World Children's Day. Subsequent competitions took place on November 25 at Narsinghgarh Stadium (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), November 26 (Constitution Day) in Vidisha and Rayasen, and November 27 in Sagar district.



SAMVEDNA organized a two-day state-level sports meet at the District Sports Complex in Vidisha on December 24th and 25th, 2023. It involved 287 participants aged 14-18 from six districts in Madhya Pradesh and was supported by the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, Bhopal. The event was inaugurated on December 24th, 2023.

#### विदिशा खेल मैदान में 6 जिलों के 45 से ज्यादा गांव के 300 बच्चों ने भाग लिया



ग्रुप की अलग अलग प्रतियोगिता की गई। इस



के बच्चो की गर्ल्स और बॉयज विभाग से दिलीप थापा सचिव वीआरसी शमुकेश शर्मा नटेरन, जिन्होंने तायकांडो में पुरस्कार

मीटर दौड़, कैरम, खो खो जैसे लिया और पड़िरया जागीर से 6 ने निदिशा जिले से सीनियर एवं भोपाल से अजय ,रतनपुर खेलों का समावेश था, जुनियर बच्चों ने भाग लिया दोनों गांव के खिलाड़ी साथियों ने रेफरी के तौर चक से अर्चन कलावत और



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 rights-perspective. 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.

This year we conducted 431 Eureka sessions in 35 primary schools across 5 districts in Madhya Pradesh in through which we were able to reach out to 1131 students.



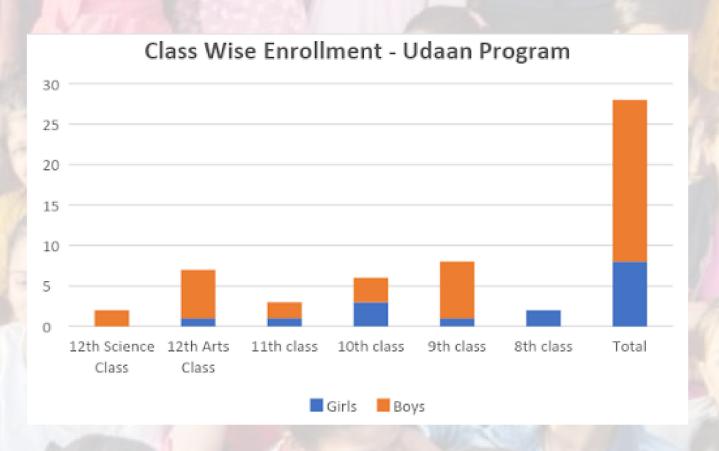






For our children to be able to imagine a reality that is not characterized by experiences of marginalization, they must be removed from their prevailing environment and placed in a setting that is replete with possibilities and opportunities. To achieve this, we bring children to Bhopal and get them enrolled in schools and government-run hostels. These hostels not only give children a much-required distance from their villages but also provide them with an atmosphere where they can concentrate on their studies.

Under Udaan, Samvedna provides robust academic support to Udaan program students, employing diverse strategies. This includes education drives at the village level, parental meetings to enhance involvement, and home visits to identify and assist vulnerable students. For those in precarious situations, Samvedna facilitates relocation to Bhopal for a conducive learning environment. Supplementary support encompasses medical care and workshops, fostering holistic growth and resilience. Through these initiatives, Samvedna empowers Udaan students to succeed academically and pursue a path of dignity and opportunity.

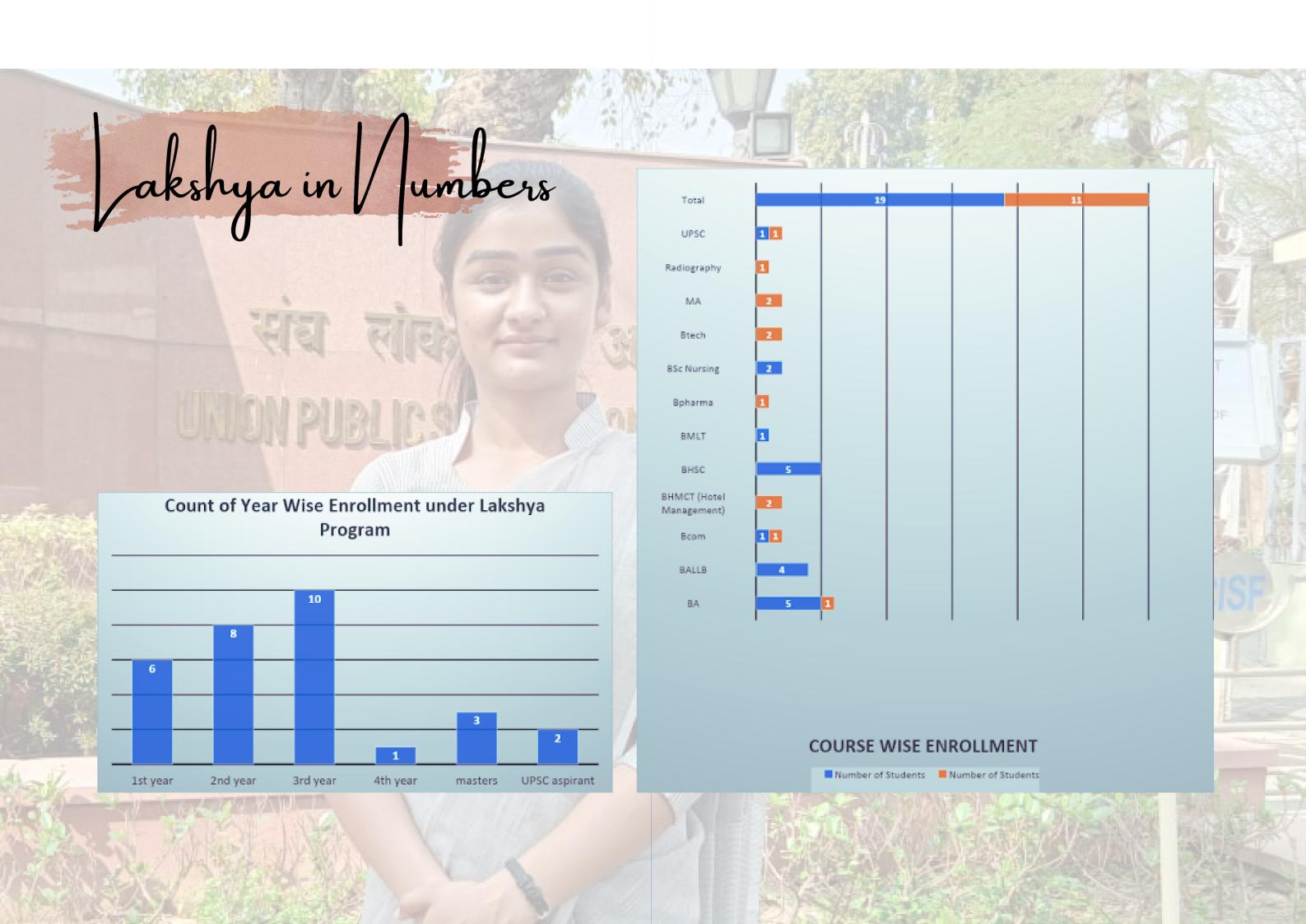




Program Lakshya is an extension of Samvedna's programs Pankh and Udaan. Lakshya aims to connect Bedia students to career-oriented higher education. Lakshya is rooted in our belief that children and youth of the Bedia community can change its future. We believe that it is only through education and an alternative source of livelihood that this vicious cycle of castebased prostitution can be broken. Thus, Lakshya helps lay the foundation of a dignified life by connecting Bedia students to alternative sources of livelihood.

Samvedna's Lakshya program stands as a beacon of hope for Bedia children, aiming to break the cycle of caste-based prostitution through higher education and alternative livelihoods.

By providing access to professional courses like Law, Nursing, Engineering, and more, Lakshya strives to empower the youth of the Bedia community, offering them a path toward self-reliance and dignity. Lakshya is driven by the belief that education is the key to breaking the vicious cycle of castebased prostitution. By facilitating access to professional courses, Lakshya aims to equip Bedia children with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue mainstream employment opportunities. Through this, the program endeavours to transform the future of the Bedia community, with educated youth serving as role models and agents of change



From Adversity to Achievement:

Nainsi Lavariya's journey from the Bedia community in Madhya Pradesh to become a beacon of resilience and hope is a testament to the transformative power of education. Born into a context where intergenerational prostitution is a social norm, Nainsi faced immense challenges but persisted with determination and courage.

Despite societal pressures discouraging girls' education, Nainsi pursued her studies relentlessly. Her academic excellence shone through as she scored an impressive 91% in her 10th-grade board exams. Driven by her dream of becoming a nurse, she continued her education despite financial constraints and societal expectations, studying biology in the 11th and 12th grades.

## Mainsi's Journey

Even after marriage, Nainsi's passion for education didn't waver. She enrolled in a B.Sc. program, although her nursing dreams initially seemed out of reach due to financial limitations. Fate intervened when she crossed paths with Dr. Veerendra from the Samvedna Foundation. With their support, Nainsi's dream of nursing education became a reality as she secured admission to the Divine College of Nursing and Paramedical Courses in Haridwar.

Nainsi's remarkable journey serves as an inspiration to her community and beyond, highlighting the importance of education in breaking cycles of exploitation and paving the way for a brighter future. Her story embodies resilience, determination, and the transformative impact of support from organizations like Samvedna in empowering individuals to achieve their dreams despite adversities.

### Digital earning Centre





The Digital Literacy Center (DLC) began in 2022 with 88 children (41 boys, 44 girls), teaching basic computer knowledge like computer parts, history, data management, and Microsoft Office. In 2023, 144 children (68 boys, 76 girls) learned practical skills like internet usage, government portal navigation, and graphic design with Canva. In 2024, 36 new children (19 boys, 17 girls) are focusing on advanced topics like Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Canva, resume building, studying online, and AI tools for future job prospects.

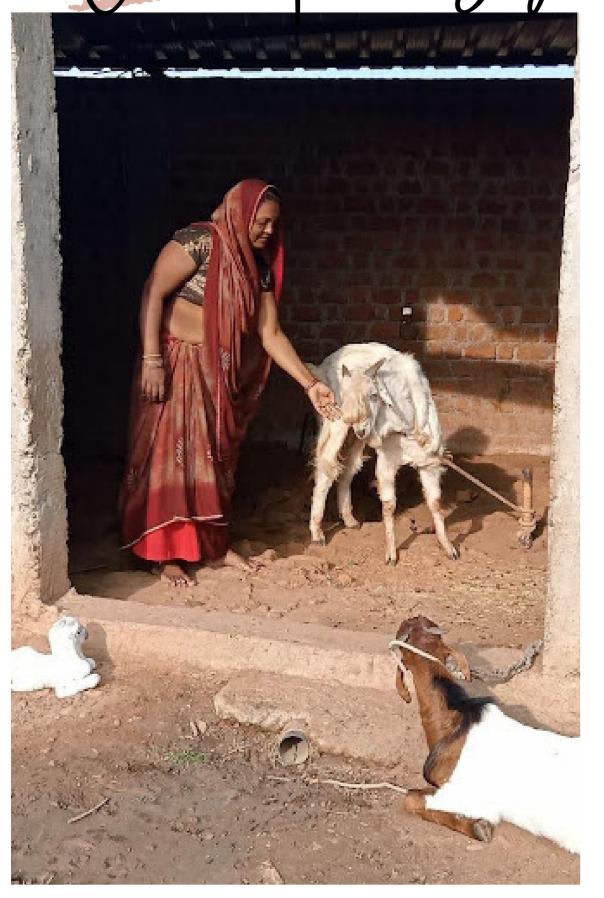
Since its inception, the DLC has made significant strides in empowering children with essential digital skills. The program has witnessed increased enrolment each year, indicating its growing relevance and impact. Children participating in the DLC have demonstrated improved digital proficiency and confidence in navigating digital tools and resources, laying a strong foundation for their future success.



commercial sex-based economy. To address these challenges, a livelihood initiative was necessary to

provide community members with a sense of security and stability for the future.

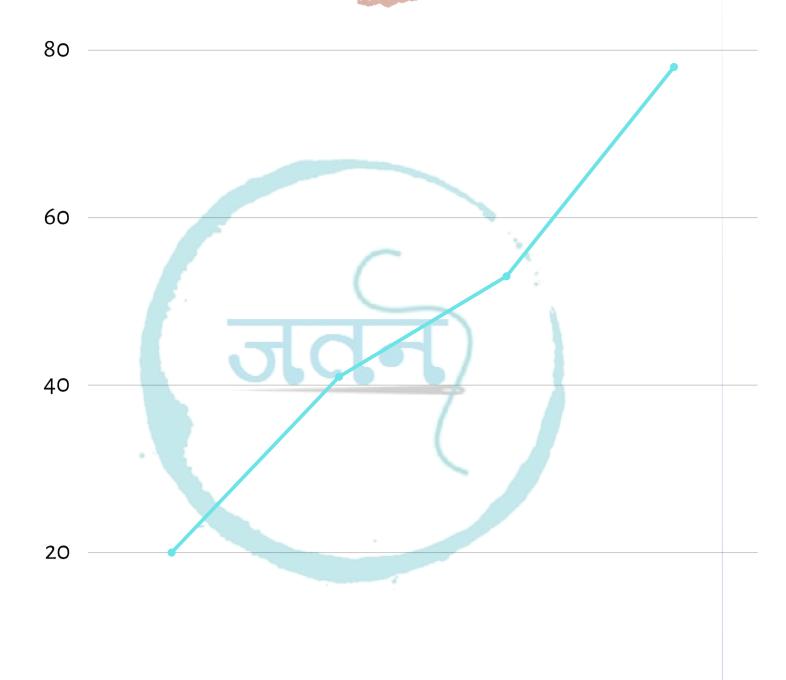
Joat Learing Initiative



Samvedna's Jatan initiative aims to empower the Bedia community, especially women, by offering alternative livelihoods that provide viable alternatives to commercial sex work. One of the key projects under Jatan is the goat-rearing initiative, initially involving 20 families and now covering 78 households. Each woman received INR 25,000 from Samvedna to purchase five goats, with one male and four females. The beneficiaries returned INR 22,000 in ten instalments, with Samvedna contributing the remaining INR 3,000 as a subsidy. This model not only supports sustainable livelihoods but also facilitates community support as funds from instalments are utilized to assist more vulnerable families.

The project's objectives include safeguarding children's well-being and promoting education within the community. Samvedna strictly prohibits child marriage and commercial sexual exploitation of children under 18, emphasizing enrollment in formal education for all children in recipient families below this age. To ensure educational participation, enrolled children are required to maintain at least 75% attendance, reinforcing the program's commitment to holistic community development





0 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24

- 78 Bedia family pledged to stop putting their girl's child into community-based sexual exploitation/intergenerational prostitution.
- 106 children are enrolled and retained in the school education system.
- 52 children are protected from child marriage.
- 62% of families spend INR 1.59 lakh rupees for the supporting education of their children.
- 18% 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.

# hreads of Change

In Ratanpur, guided by Archana Kalawat, 12-13 women stitched 958 school dresses, securing a contract from DAY-NRLM. One woman earned 10,000-12,000 rupees, benefiting her family. Samvedna expanded to Padariya in 2023, establishing a stitching centre that empowers women previously engaged in prostitution, promoting economic independence and community upliftment.



SAMVEDNA diversified its activities by venturing into mushroom cultivation and vermicompost production alongside goat rearing. An exposure visit to explore vermicompost production in Misrod, Bhopal, on February 23, 2024, involved both men and women from 20 villages. This initiative aimed to promote sustainable livelihoods and gender equality in agriculture by introducing alternative options and emphasizing inclusivity and equal opportunities. The visit highlighted the importance of gender equality in farming, ensuring both men and women have equal access to training, resources, and decision-making. This fosters a more equitable and inclusive farming community, empowering rural areas and contributing to long-term socio-economic development.





Gender equality is a relatively new thematic intervention in our organizational journey, although the value and the ethos are based on 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, as promoters of intergenerational who prostitution in the community and thus, try to break this cycle by recognizing their imperative role in the prevalence of intergenerational prostitution in the community. Through Samagra, We work with adolescent girls and boys, adult men and women to initiate conversations around gender, power, and violence to eventually initiate leadership and change through collective action within the community.



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 with education and livelihood aligning programs, Samagra promotes holistic behavioural change within thecommunity.



Young unmarried girls and women engage in intergenerational prostitution (IGP) while boys and men become promoters and facilitators of IGP in the community. This vicious cycle of IGP continues as men and boys become a part of the sex trade economy in the community by soliciting customers and selling alcohol and cigarettes. Women are, simplistically, doubly burdened with financial as well as household responsibilities, while men maintain a financial dependency on women but also have a stronghold on decision-making in the household and community. There is an apparent normalisation of these roles and structures within the community which eventually makes young and minor girls and boys vulnerable to exploitative customs and systems in the Bedia community.

# SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp was organized in 29 villages, with close to 600 children and adolescents participating for a month. The camp took place from May 2nd to May 30th, with each village hosting a 5-day session. This was the second iteration of the camp, following its successful debut in May 2022. After its initial success, planning for the second camp began in January 2023. This ear, the team decided to focus all activities and games around a central theme.

Among many suggestions, science was chosen as the theme due to its intimidating reputation among students. The team aimed to change perceptions about science, making it more approachable and intriguing. Consequently, the summer camp was themed

"Let's be friends with Science"

## Peer leader Training(s)

A three-day workshop was held with 27 girls and 18 boys from 20 villages in Bhopal, Raisen, Vidisha, Rajgarh and Guna Districts. The program aims to equip change agents with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognize and identify different forms of gender-based violence, physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. Additionally, the program provides training on how to provide adequate support to survivors and connect them with relevant resources, including crisis hotlines and shelters. The legal framework related to gender-based violence, including laws and policies for prevention and prosecution, is also covered in the program. Furthermore, the program provides an understanding of human rights, including civil rights, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as key provisions of the Child Rights Convention, to ensure the protection, well-being, and development of children. This includes their right to education, healthcare, and a safe environment. With the knowledge and skills gained from this program, change agents are better equipped to promote gender equality, combat gender-based violence, uphold human rights, and protect child rights within their communities and organizations.





A three-day residential training program focused on leadership skills with total of 49 participants, comprising 15 males and 21 females. These participants were selected for their proficiency in drawing and writing and their active involvement in creating newsletters in their villages. The program also included 13 staff members from SAMVEDNA, with expertise in content creation and communication, serving as mentors. The Peer Leadership Workshop, using comic design as a communication tool, fostered leadership skills through visual storytelling and interactive This sessions. innovative approach promoted collaboration, creativity, and effective communication among participants, empowering them to become influential leaders in their communities. The workshop's blend of peer-led discussions and comicbased exercises created a supportive environment for skill development and personal growth, emphasizing the importance of creative communication in youth development programs.

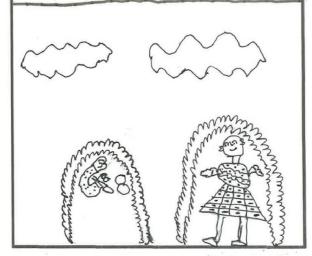
## Comics

#### ईज्जान की बात

अरे-अर स्तीच वहां श्रीचंद्रय अरे-अर स्तीता अरे हिन्दमा अधामती यो, यो शामके 504 गण्हें! सुबह असी सुझे काम करता हैं!



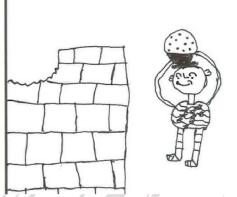
2.) शीचांत्य की आमने सामने की बर्गाः केया खुदे में श्लीचंह्रच करता अच्छा होता है तही होता हैं! ही तो धर प्रही श्लीचंह्रिय होता तो होने खुदे में तजाता प्रता!



3 शिचालण कि पंचायत रार्पच जी आधे और बीतेक्या सप्तस्या हैं! महिन और जांब जाते बोटे हमारे जांब में भार्यां जम नहीं हैं, सर्पच जी-बाटे श्रीचां प्रय का काम सुरूकरा जाये!



पः श्रीचालप के विप्रणि अन स्रिपचनी के अवसा सभी लोगों की बात सुकी गई और श्रीचंद्र में का पता चान कर दिया गांवमें भिद्दराओं को भिनी इसता !



#### राई

#### न्त्य जला

रुई साल पहले हमारे समुराय में रेड डांस होता था जिसका पहनावा श्री अलग उनार का होता है।

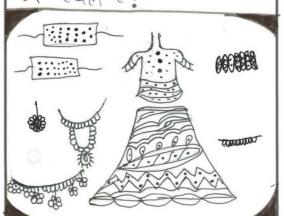




सम्दाय की महिला नृत्य कर के जब विषय अपी हैं में परिवार के स्युक्यों के विष्ट जहरमें का समान लागे हैं।



सम्वाय की महिला अपने प्ररे परिवार की जिम्मेरारी स्वंध उठानी है। और रहे न्टर्थ की जो समग्री को सीजन खटम होने के बाद बहुन ही संभाव कर रखनी है।



नाम नीलू छलाव्य



RACE Lab, within Samvedna, is India's first anti-human trafficking lab, dedicated to combating human trafficking by conducting research, advocating for policy changes, and building stakeholder capacities. It aims to end human trafficking by 2030, aligning with Goal 8.7 of the UN SDGs, and is well-equipped for studies with closed DNT communities involved in intergenerational prostitution.



The National Commission for Women and RACE Lab co-organized a regional seminar in July 2023 on "Challenges Faced by Women from De-notified Communities." The seminar addressed socio-economic conditions, historical injustices, and current struggles of women in these marginalized communities, emphasizing the need for inclusive policies, cultural preservation, and collaborative empowerment efforts. The Chief Guest at the seminar was Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel, Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Eminent guests included Ms Rekha Sharma, Hon'ble Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, IAS Shri Ashok Barnwal, Secretary of the De-notified, Nomadic, & Semi-Nomadic Welfare Department, and Rt. IPS Shri Rajiv Kumar Tandon, a distinguished Member of the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission.





RACE Lab with sponsorship from The National Commission for Women organized "Legal Literacy and Healthcare Camps" for Bedia women in Madhya Pradesh. These camps aimed to empower participants on legal rights, health awareness, and societal issues, benefiting 906 women across 6 districts, 9 blocks, and 20 villages. Considering an average family size of four members, this initiative impacted approximately 3,600 individuals across families.





- From May 11th to 14th, 2023, a delegation of 10 students from Samvedna was invited to visit NCW, NCST, NCPCR and NHRC Delhi and to explore the National Capital, visiting key governmental institutions and iconic landmarks to gain insights into governance and heritage.
- They engaged with the Governor of Madhya Pradesh at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal on May 26th, 2023, learning about state initiatives supporting education and community development.
- Their visit to Bhimbetka Rock Shelters on September 30th, 2023, provided a deep dive into India's ancient past and cultural evolution, appreciating prehistoric cave paintings and heritage.





- Celebrating Navratri on October 17th, 2023, with a vibrant Garba event fostered unity and cultural pride among Lakshya and Udaan students.
- Meaningful interaction with esteemed judges at the National Judicial Academy on December 17th, 2023, empowered students to share experiences and ideas, bridging the gap between legal luminaries and aspiring minds.
- Enjoying the Bhopal Utsav Mela on January 23rd, 2024, infused students with energy and joy, sponsored by generous donors for cultural immersion and entertainment.
- The journey concluded on February 28th, 2024, with a heartfelt farewell at Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule Bhawan, Bhopal, inspiring students to embrace new opportunities with confidence and determination.

#### Community Engagement Initiatives

Samvedna's community 2023, engagement initiatives, including events like Panchayati Raj awareness, campaigns child labour, against youth development, and celebrations of national and international days, engaged over 240 community members and 30 stakeholders, fostering unity and empowerment. These events led to impactful outcomes such as awareness among 442 adults on various rights and issues, engagement with 56 stakeholders from key departments, and participation of 521 adolescents from 42 villages, promoting dialogue and awareness within the community.







40 students from various project villages participated in a theatre workshop focusing on social awareness themes including "मतदाता जागरूकता अभियान" (Voter Awareness Campaign), Child Marriage, Education, Gender, and Caste Discrimination. The workshop included theatre exercises, scriptwriting, rehearsals, and performances. Participants staged street plays (Nukkad Natak) in local communities, schools, and public spaces, addressing key social issues in a relatable and impactful manner. The workshop aimed to raise awareness, empower participants, and engage communities in discussions on pressing social issues.





We are forever grateful for 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, Mrs. Asmita Sameer Sarangdhar, Mr Arshad Khan, Mr Dhiren Shah, Mr Samir S. Shah, S. Ravishankar, Sharda Goli, Mr. Rajendra Agrawal, Ms. Shilpi Sunil, Mr Ankur Gupta, Mr. Amit Kimti, Mr. Siddharth Yadav (Ravishankar College of Pharmacy), Mr. Arpit Sharma, Mr. Shyam Mangal, Mr Anshuman Mishra, Ms. Shikha Chibbar, Ms Neelam Shukla, Ms. Shivono Agarwal, Mr. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Ms. Renu Singh (Samadhan NGO), Ms. Sarika Chaturvedi, Mr. Praveen Kumar Reddy, Lions Club,

Aher Auto Prime Ltd., State Bank of India, National Commission for Women, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Give2Asia, and Child Rights and You(America) for your support.

