

Samvedna



Annual Report
2016-17

*“Neither freedom has an alternative,
nor the conscience that graces the understanding of existence.
But flaws of our society have robbed some of our friends off the freedom of having a conscience.
We fight for them.”*

- Trupti Panchal, Chairperson, Samvedna

From Chairperson's Desk

Samvedna is entering a new year on its fight for the freedom from sex-trafficking, and with a great year behind us, we are convinced that we will get stronger this year, with firm steps towards our aim.

I want to seize this opportunity to thank the team at Samvedna, which has been giving its best on the field. You work like a bridge between our supporters and the community, between our intentions and the execution, and I hope to have your excellence between all the beginnings and the endings.

I want to express my gratitude to all our supporters and contributors, who have kept faith in us. The year 2017 saw Samvedna expanding its focused area to 12 villages from 4. It could not be possible without you sharing our vision of a better world, of a world where no child will be forced into prostitution and will have an equal opportunity to build a bright future. You fuel inspirations to our aspirations.

I cannot end this message without thanking Dr. Suresh Mishra, Ms. Advaita Marathe and Mr. Prashant Dubey for their guidance and suggestions to the team to concrete and prune the idea of change we work with.

Thanks again for believing in Samvedna!



- Trupti Panchal
Chairperson, Samvedna

Vision and Mission

Vision: Prevention of commercial sexual exploitation by enabling the vulnerable sections & helping them battle the oppressive forces.

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

About Bedia Community

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

Governing Body

Ms. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal – Chairperson

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

Mr. Suresh Mishra – Secretary

Author & Historian,
Executive Member, Eklavya
Board Member, Samavesh & Jal Biradari

Ms. Advaita Marathe – Treasurer

Senior State Consultant – UNICEF (present)
Lead Specialist – Gender Justice, Oxfam
Coordinator – Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan

Ms. Aparna Shinde – Member

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

Dr. Varsha Chandra – Member

Eminent High Court Lawyer,
Visiting Member, HIPA & UAA

Mr. Prashant Dubey

Esteemed Writer & RTI Activist
AAWAJ, Bhopal (present)

Foreword

Samvedna began its year on a higher note with the primary objective of strengthening its foothold in the field advancing its work with education and the children, which has been one of its fortes. With the help of efficient village coordinators, the presence among the community has been better than ever before, which is why there is great focus on the capacity building of Balmitras who can redefine our reach and take our approach ahead at the places we are needed most. Samvedna is firm to craft a space for itself, which is respected as the shelter of human rights among Bedias, and it can't be achieved without an apt strategy to bridge the gap between community and the mainstream society, which brought in our secondary objectives of a few programs in their first stages related to exploration of agricultural possibilities, development of an idea of a healthy and clean environment and inception of the platforms that can set examples of exemplary success and inspire people to strive for a dignified life within mainstream social priorities. Samvedna unfolded its vision strategically across the year, in coming pages we will have an in depth look at the intent, content, progress, outcome and the future of these activities.

Expansion of Intervention Area

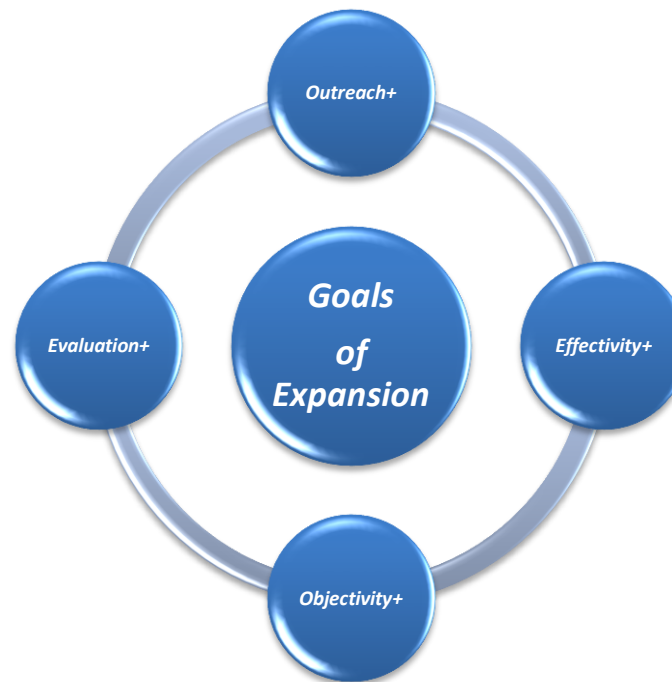


Image 1.1

With Samvdena establishing its long term goals along with the efficient and requisite tools, the strategy of expansion of its impact areas has been a shadow of our conversations, intents and steps among both team and mentors. To achieve the objectives of expansion, a research took place in the potential villages in the district Raisen and Vidisha of Madhya Pradesh. The villages chosen to visit are restricted to places within 100 KM of Bhopal so that the first phase of our expansion can be done with little or no extension of programmatic support system, competent supervision and minimal addition of human resources.

Samvedna now works with 12 villages in 4 districts of Madhya Pradesh – Bhopal, Raisen, Rajgarh, and Vidisha, all of which impregnate unique socio-economic and political dimensions. The villages can be understood in details in the table below:

Table 1: Demographics

S.N.	Village	Panchayat	Tehsil	District	Total Population	Total House Hold of Village	Total Bedia House Hold	Active Sex Workers
1	Ratanpur	Raipur	Nateran	Vidisha	435	60	42	23
2	Padriya	Padriya	Nateran	Vidisha	1758	277	30	25
3	Dulai	Dulai	Basoda	Vidisha	637	108	55	60
4	Sukha	Amacher	Sanchi	Raisen	756	150	150	55
5	Mehra	Thanway	Basoda	Vidisha	813	135	25	0
6	Barkheda	Thanway	Basoda	Vidisha	687	109	18	0
7	Pathari	Pathari	Raisen	Raisen	850	120	15	10
8	Chapariya	Jhikariya	Bairasiya	Bhopal	659	85	17	13
9	Salai	Sarana	Narshingarh	Rajgarh	296	59	23	19
10	Jamuniya	Jamuniya	Narshingarh	Rajgarh	1569	325	13	12
11	Kolukhedi	Kolukhedi	Bairasiya	Bhopal	234	64	64	30
12	Bahirawal	Bahirawal	Bairasiya	Bhopal	1416	153	13	6
Total					10110	1645	465	253

Impact: It is certain that the expansion is an increase in our and our supporters’ responsibilities towards Bedia Community, and can result into impacts that we have been looking forward to since long. It not only spans our outreach but extends the effectivity of programs and tools of change which are capable of being implemented at a wider scale. This expansion also enriches our objectivity and motivates us to be more target-oriented in our approach. It provides us better scales to evaluate ourselves and goals at intervals and equips us with indicators to facilitate comparisons.

Education

Education is a vital device to restore the basic human rights, and Samvedna uses it to help Bedia community by fueling their villages with uplifting opportunities for children till a certain age and then with an option of sending their children in a positive, safe and motivating environment in Bhopal, for their higher studies. By educating Bedia children away from their villages, we add possibilities in their lives. Bringing children out of the village is a radical approach because it's important to give them a motivating environment – in the mainstream world, and to set an example that people among them can achieve feat with the help of education, which they are kept away from so far. And to be able to make this bridge, we have also launched programs in the villages that make the children capable of making this journey.

Samvedna started its educational program in 2011 with four children, and dialogues with community helped it expand the program over the years. Samvedna also had to go through a long process of advocacy with the concerned departments of the state government to benefit these children. In 2016-17, following are the educational programs we worked with:

1) Education Drive: Samvedna ran its education drive from 15th of June to 15th of August to assure that just like the last three years we achieve **no-dropout** of children despite the issues that we generally face in the form of proximity of schools and other related reasons. Samvedna makes visits to all the houses which children in the school and makes it certain that they opt for education in the coming educational year. Samvedna also tried to help candidates in eliminating any process related hurdles.

2) Educational Aid: From September 2016, Samvedna also started to aid students in all the villages it works in with educational aid. Under this program the Bedia students are offered free tuitions for the subjects they find difficult. Two separate batches run at a certain point where the children from class 1st to 5th and class 6th and above are taught according to the priorities. Educational Aid is actually a program that goes beyond its overt outlook, it adds to the positive atmosphere we seek in the villages for the children helping them to be more poised in their studies. It also serves as a tool to prepare the bridge on which they can prepare themselves better for their higher education. In 2016-16, educational aid was provided to 56 Bedia Children.

3) Higher Education: To certain a child's transition from an exploited community to a world of equality, Samvedna offers the children with potential possibilities of Higher Education at Bhopal. With the support of local school and hostels, Samvedna gets children into colleges and higher secondary institutions. To further bridge the lacking capabilities if any, Samvedna again offers Educational Aid at Bhopal. Along with that, weekly counseling sessions by Samvedna staff and medical counseling at the hour of need is also arranged. We firmly believe that education will enable these children to fight out the oppression they face today and will help them pave their path to a better future in the mainstream society.

4) Mini-Libraries: To promote the habit of reading among the children in the villages, Samvedna has arranges mini-libraries in the four villages as a demo. The goal of this library is to give a window of learning too with the story books that along with the entertainment also teach children. Objective is to add another tool to bring positivity in children's life.

Children Supported at Bhopal in 2016-17

S.N.	Name of Student	Class
1.	Rahul Rathor	PSC Coaching
2.	Jyoti Rathor	BE – 2 nd Year
3.	Bharti Yadav	BA – 1 st Year
4.	Kiran Rathor	10 th
5.	Ravi Kalawat	10 th
6.	Hemant Rathore	10 th
7.	Roshni Kalawat	8 th
8.	Kumkum Kalawat	8 th
9.	Priyanka Kalawat	8 th
10.	Kajal Kalawat	5 th
11.	Kashish Rathor	5 th

Child Rights Center (CRC)

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

“Total 66 sessions of CRC are organized across four villages in 2016-17.”

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

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

In March 2017 remodeling of CRC began in Hindi so that more trainers can access the program and an expansion of the program can be achieved.

Health

Samvedna has worked on bettering the health facilities through bettering the access to health institutions and promoting their existence in the community ever since we started working with them. Due to their understanding of stigma their caste has, these institutions were excluded from the options of help otherwise. In recent years, with our support, we have seen the trend changing.

2016-17 saw 100% institutional deliveries along with Janani Suraksha Yojna.

2016-17 has 425 enrollments in Aanganbadis.

The efficiency and presence at Aanganbadi has been notable and institutional deliveries are a norm now. A conversation on health is not just a tool to ensure a better life; Samvedna also sees it as a stage to initiate conversation about things that we have not been able to reach so far with the community.

Counseling sessions for 102 children and Medical Counseling sessions for 6 Bedia children were arranged in 2016-17 across 4 villages.

Advocacy

In the last year Samvedna made it a priority that Bedia Community's presence should strengthen in the Gram Sabhas and local bodies so that their voices can be heard. Samvedna assures the representation along with its own presence in these meetings. Detailed surveys of Aanganbadis and Primary Health Centers were done to measure the efficiency of these institutions and make it certain that they are accessible to the community.

In last year education has come up as an issue that the community has started to care about and is concerned. Samvedna also conducted a large scale signature campaign in the Kolukhedi Panchayat for the construction of the Middle School. If successful, this will serve 6 villages as a middle school.

Networking

- 1) Collaboration with Goonj was solicited to avail sessions on menstrual hygiene to the community and the visit by the representative happened on 20th and 21st of February 2017
- 2) Spic Macay was contacted to explore the possibilities of building Rai dance as an art platform that can be taken to the world.
- 3) A workshop organized by Gramin Vikas Samiti at Damoh was attended by a team of 4 staff of Samvedna

Pictory



Future

- ✦ Expansion of operations to across 8 Bedia populated villages in Sagar and Mandasaur District
 - ✦ Building more trainers for expansion of CRC in all the villages
- ✦ Opportunity of Educational Fellowship to all the children between the age of 6-14 in 12 villages
 - ✦ Promotion of Vocational Courses as a tool of employment
 - ✦ Resuming work with Children Homes and JJB
 - ✦ Development of Information Centers in villages
- ✦ Establishing Health Check Ups as a norm among the community, including HIV tests
 - ✦ Career Guidance to the students in all the villages
 - ✦ Precautionary system to save girls from the cycle of exploitation

Our Supporters

Mr. Ashit Doshi

Ms. Shefali Jhaveri

Mr. Parag Shroff

Mr. Reto Seeholzer

&

Mr. Nishit Jhaveri



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