Saroj and her family – featured story inside.

SAMBHALI TRUST
Annual Report 2013/14
Mission Statement

Sambhali Trust is a non-profit grassroots organisation based in Rajasthan. The main objective of the Trust is to provide support and education to all underprivileged people of urban and rural areas.

We achieve our mission by providing Empowerment Centres for women and children and offering vocational training in sewing and embroidery skills as well as tuition in Hindi, English and Maths. We hope by teaching these skills it will help to enable them to achieve economic independence in the future. We wish to provide income-generating activities for more women and access to employment opportunities.

We support the need to develop women’s awareness in medical health and hygiene issues, nutrition and diet through the provision of medical health camps and outreach work. We understand the need for a good education and the provision of scholarships for children unable to go to school and for children from rural areas improving their educational standard to further their development. We seek to educate children, parents and teachers in the local community to raise awareness about child sexual abuse and provide a telephone HelpLine.

We also provide refuge, counselling and support in cases of domestic violence; financial help to support women in need of legal aid and in cases of urgent medical care. We strongly pursue and encourage the aim of gender equality whilst being sensitive to cultural norms and encourage personality and social development, creating strong women’s networks within their own communities.
Letter from Founder/Managing Trustee

Khamaghani!

After a difficult year for my family after the loss of my brother earlier in the year, I want to dedicate this letter to my grandmother, who inspired me from an early age to see women as having a strong personal identity and capable of great things. It was my grandmother who brought the family to Jodhpur from their roots in Setrawa and it is to her I look to for strength, when I see the multitude of problems the underprivileged women and children in Rajasthan are subjected to.

One of the proudest achievements for Sambhali this year, was being able to start our new “No Bad Touch” project in earnest with the help of our very generous donor, who has provided funding for one year enabling Sambhali already in 3 months, to reach almost 1000 children, young people, parents and teachers, educating them on the subject of Child Sexual Abuse. This is such an important topic that hasn’t been discussed openly before in Jodhpur; so following a successful conference last July with enormous gratitude to our volunteers from UNSW in Australia we were able to bring this issue into the open and are now gradually engaging the support of head teachers and staff and taking this topic into schools and colleges.

We are always reviewing our projects as to their success and sustainability and sadly, we needed to close our Sisters for Sisters Project at the Balkiah Grah Government Shelter Home on 31 December 2013, after being part of the lives of the girls at this orphanage for nearly 2 years. It was a very sad day for us to need to leave these children, but it was necessary as we were not able to implement certain processes in our Sisters’ Babies’ Project which we felt were beneficial. At present we are applying for registration through the Juvenile Justice Act to be able to run our own orphanage in the future. Another closure, was our small stall we used to run in the Mehrangarh Fort, which was linked to the Sewing Centre we had there where we trained women of the male workers at the Fort in Sewing and Embroidery techniques, but we are happy to say that the women developed their skills sufficiently to be able to earn a living. This project was entirely funded through the many smaller individual donations that we receive throughout the year and it’s our grateful thanks to all those people, who by their continuous generosity we are able to fund these extra projects which would not have got off the ground.

This year, Sambhali has a growing presence in Europe and along with Sadhvi Shanti and Renate Massmann-Krei who are doing fabulous work for Sambhali in Austria and Germany respectively, we now have also have Sambhali officially in Switzerland through our kind long-time friend, Natalie Aebischer. I cannot thank all the supporters on their respective boards enough for all the work they are doing behind the scenes including various events, talks, activities and discussions, all in aid of helping to fundraise for Sambhali and its many projects. The support has been tremendous and it has helped to make Sambhali even stronger as an organisation. I am very indebted to you all.

Our very grateful thanks go to all our many volunteers who have travelled from all over the globe to provide inspiration and education to all the women and girls in our empowerment centres. In every project they have worked so hard to find exciting and interesting ways to teach English and Maths and apply it to everyday life. They have also created a variety of valuable educational workshops both in Jodhpur and Setrawa which have enriched the lives of the students and given them a broad general knowledge as well as making the lessons fun! We have also been very fortunate to have a series of psychology interns volunteering with us, who have been working with
Dr Reena Bhansali, a professional psychologist in Jodhpur (who is on Sambhali’s Management Committee) and have helped to put together the programme for the No Bad Touch Project and it is through their dedication and persistence that this project is taking off.

My sincere thanks goes to Frères de nos Frères, Planet Wheeler, Antenna and Global Foundation for Humanity for their solid support in helping many of Sambhali’s projects to continue for another year. We are also very thankful to Roberta Freymann in New York and Ramona Saboo, Director for Forty Red Bangles for supplying our Graduates with work and keeping them very busy! My thanks also goes to Dragoman, Sans Frontières and to Durag Niwas Guest House.

In August, I was very happy to see our second sewing centre established with our first 10 graduates of the Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre, who are now refining their skills and working hard to be able to produce items of a standard equal to our graduates of 5 years. I am very thankful to Mr Raghavendra Rathore, for giving us an opportunity to produce embroidery for his highly prestigious fashion label and by April 2015, we would like this Centre to be of a high-enough standard to be self-sustainable by fulfilling more orders through the Boutique.

This coming year we look forward to the progress of 2 new empowerment centres that we opened in early April 2014, the Abhivyakti Empowerment Centre (funded through the hard work of Sarah Harrington, ex-volunteer through a Fundraising Ball in the UK) and our new Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre in the Mertya Gate area of Jodhpur as well as the Shanti Empowerment Centre on the outskirts of Setrawa village, funded by our supporters in Sambhali Austria to be opened in June 2014.

With our dedicated staff, volunteers and increasing support through our associate organisations in Europe, I look forward to another year, building on our successes, learning from our disappointments and strengthening Sambhali to provide more services to both students coming through our centres as well as more involvement in our community programmes.

Govind Singh Rathore
**Current Projects**

*April 2013 - March 2014*

As Sambhali’s projects are continuously expanding, we would like the reader to be aware that Sambhali’s current projects are on the Sambhali Trust website and these are the projects which relate to this annual report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jodhpur Empowerment Centre</strong></td>
<td>Sambhali’s main base, this empowerment centre started in 2007 and provides a vocational training programme for 35 women and girls as well as tuition in Hindi, English and Maths.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre</strong></td>
<td>Established in February 2013, this has been providing a vocational training programme, literacy and educational workshops to around 80 women and girls in a neglected area of Jodhpur.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre (Balikah Grah)</strong></td>
<td>Established in March 2012, Sambhali Trust provided an educational and recreational programme of activities for girls in this shelter home run by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Setrawa Empowerment Centre</strong></td>
<td>Opened in 2007, this is Sambhali’s centre for children in the rural Thar desert area. We provide an after-school programme, as well as a literacy programme for un-educated children from the Dalit community and a Sewing Class for the older girls and women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheerni Micro-Credit Project</strong></td>
<td>Started in 2009 and based in the rural area of Setrawa, there are 101 women in 9 Self-Help Groups who are supported in saving money on a monthly basis and have access to loans to enable them to start a small business.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sheerni Educational Project</strong></td>
<td>Created in June 2012, this project is funding 22 girls (5-13 years old) from Setrawa and Solankiyatala desert villages to educate them in a good school in Jodhpur. They live in a family-run house and volunteers provide English classes as well as recreational games after school.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scholarship Programme</strong></td>
<td>This project is now supporting 112 girls and boys through direct sponsorship to provide a good education in a private school.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduates’ Sewing Centre</strong></td>
<td>Created in 2009, this Sewing Centre is for graduates of the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre, who earn a regular income by producing a variety of soft-toys, clothes and accessories for Sambhali Boutique as well as for international orders.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mehran Sewing Centre</strong></td>
<td>Established for a year, this centre provided wives of the men working in the Mehrangarh Fort with a vocational training as well as the opportunity to earn an income by producing items for the Sambhali Mehrangarh Fort Stall and participating in international orders.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brothers for Sisters Sewing Centre</strong></td>
<td>Opened in August 2013, this centre is helping 10 graduates from the Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre to refine their skills with the assistance of a dedicated tutor; they are also receiving work through the Boutique.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sambhali Boutique</strong></td>
<td>Created in 2010, and based in the Clocktower area of Jodhpur, our shop sells garments, accessories, soft toys, cushion-covers, table linen, embroidered and block-printed items to a passing tourist trade. All these items are handmade by our graduates in the Sewing Centres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Panaah Women’s Shelter Service</strong></td>
<td>We provide a short-term refuge for women suffering from any type of violence plus counselling support, medical help and legal advice to rehabilitate them back into their community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Bad Touch Project</strong></td>
<td>We are providing a programme of educational awareness workshops on the topic of Child Sexual Abuse to children, parents and teachers in schools and colleges throughout Jodhpur as well as holding a local annual conference for all interested professionals.</td>
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Jodhpur Empowerment Centre

There are an average of 30 women and girls throughout the year, with 9 students graduating and receiving sewing machines and 8 new students arriving in January. Some of the women have attended school to 2nd/3rd or 8th standard. Anju Choudhary is the Sewing tutor and Divya Choudhary is the Hindi tutor. We have been very fortunate in having so many volunteers both international and local, who have helped to teach the students English and Maths as well as give a variety of workshops. The women have all received an eye check-up; received the full 3- dose hepatitis vaccinations in a series of vaccination health camps as well as joining in with the various Sambhali activities of Independence Day and team outings.

Hindi

Divya has been supported by Vimlesh Solanki, another of Sambhali’s tutors, which has helped with the 3 groups, Advanced, Medium Advanced and Beginners. The beginners have started by drawing pictures of simple fruits; learning the alphabet, simple words with symbols and signs, days of the week and gradually building up to form small sentences; they are now able to recognise signs in the street and understand what they mean as well as reading the headlines in newspapers. The Middle and Advanced groups, have been working on paragraph construction, writing a variety of letters to various people; story writing (about Independence Day) to eventually writing an essay on ATMs and fashion development as well as a letter to their father congratulating him on his birthday.

English

This has been divided into 3 groups and taught by the volunteers who have found lots of innovative ways to teach English to their various students. The basic aims are the students being able to have a simple conversation in English; developing their grammar, vocabulary, reading and writing exercises according to the ability of their group. They have used games to aid learning and given them creative writing tasks, so that all the students have progressed well with the incremental style of teaching. Also those students who required more attention, the volunteers found they got to know the students well and an improvement could be seen on a daily basis.

Maths

Again, divided into 3 groups and various methods of teaching by the volunteers that focussed on the application of the arithmetic in everyday life, so the women understood the value of learning it; calculations of prices, lengths, weights etc.

Maths group: “The students I had from the beginning (October) are now secure in all calculations regarding fractions and mixed fractions... Since my group grew bigger, I started 3-step-calculations (cross-multiplication and rule of three) with high numbers. They are related to their daily life and some of them need ‘thinking around the corner’ It seems to me like a new, clever and completely different approach to this topic. All the students are learning quickly. Maths is their best subject.”

Phillip Käding, volunteer
Sewing and Embroidery

Anju Choudhary, the tutor has also been helped by a few volunteers who have taught the girls how to use the electric sewing machine, making bags as well as teaching them knitting and crochet, which is very useful in the cooler winters! Anju has been teaching the girls the regular syllabus of embroidery stitches plus how to make a variety of Indian garments, as well as blouses and skirts, pattern-making, cutting and sewing. She has also included making a variety of soft toys and bags and the application of embroidery on these items. Some of the girls have been very artistic in producing designs of Ganesha, Radha and Krishna, which could then be framed. Students have been encouraged to visit the Graduates Sewing Centre to see how they finish products and the standard of work they are aiming for.

Workshops

Geography
Climate zones
Animals of the world and the food chain
Plants
Self-esteem workshops
talking about their own characteristics and feelings;
“About me”...what are my favourites? My qualities?
The small groups were able to focus and was good
for encouragement of learning and thinking.
Book-binding workshops
producing note-books
Environment
different types of energy, waste and pollution
Sports
athletics/ball and water sports and where you
can do them
Gymnastics workshop
Dance and Drama workshops
History of India
leading up to Independence, which was followed by
a good discussion and was followed the next week
on a workshop of the 5 main religions and comparing
their customs.
Waste products
HSBC Bank
came to give the women information on banking
First Aid classes
one general one and one on burns
Singing class
NDTV
New films for 5 women and girls about the
Indian Election 2014
Safety for girls
Meena Barzasa

Meena is 27 years old and has been attending Jodhpur Empowerment Centre for the last 10 months. She is married and lives with her extended family of father and mother-in-law, two brothers-in-law, their wives and 10 children. Meena, lives in one room with her husband and two children.

Before she came to Sambhali she did a little bit of sewing, but mainly housework. She was told about Sambhali by an older student who was coming here. She wanted to come to learn how to sew and study; the best thing she likes is the sewing classes, especially embroidery and the English lessons. She has made many friends here and is really happy to come and spend time with them. She dreams about having her own business where she sews and embroiders from home to make an income. She would also like to teach or help to teach the new students that are not used to studying.

Moona Dwarka

Moona is 15 years old and has been attending the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre about 7-8 months. A relative of hers (Saroj), who was a Sambhali student and now works at the Graduates Empowerment Centre, told her about Sambhali and the empowerment centre.

She lives with her large family, consisting of her grandmother, 6 uncles and aunts with their children as well as her own parents and 5 siblings, of which, one brother is married and so his wife lives there also.

Before coming to Sambhali, she used to chop wood for the fire and do household work. She comes to Sambhali to learn and get some education. She is very happy here and dreams about being capable of earning her own livelihood and being able to send her brothers and sisters to school, so that they can also get an education. Besides this, she is also very happy to come because she has made lots of friends and ‘sisters’ at the centre. The best thing she loves is going to all the classes, and loves the workshops especially the ones involving dancing. She says her life has changed a lot since she started coming; she feels a more civilised person, is able to read and sees the world in a different way. When she leaves Sambhali she wants to look for a job and make sure that her brothers and sisters go to school.
Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre

This empowerment centre opened in February 2013 and after an overwhelming initial response has settled down to about 45 women attending on a regular basis, receiving tuition in Hindi, English and Maths as well as a similar vocational training programme in Sewing & Embroidery skills. Anju Choudhary has been the main Sewing tutor with Kritika Bihal, taking over the Hindi lessons from Divya Choudhary, who is now working in another centre. In March 2014, they moved to new rooms about 150m away, where they now have more space for all their classes.

The English class has been divided into 3 groups, with the Beginners group struggling, which was then sub-divided into a further 2 groups which has been a real success. The many volunteers working here have all worked very hard to teach the women at an appropriate level, so that they can all progress at the same pace within each group. The Advanced group have improved their English using conversation games, forming sentences and practising different tenses in verbs, whilst the Beginners Class were beginning to say and spell their names, as well as colours, emotions, days of the week etc. This class is struggling because many of them are illiterate and have no knowledge of Hindi and so are starting with the basics also in their Hindi lessons. In Maths, a similar story, where the Advanced group are writing Maths exercises in English and the Beginners are counting up to 20 etc.

Anju has taught the women a variety of embroidery stitches as well as training them how to draft, cut and sew Indian garments, including kurtas, salwaars, skirts and blouses; plus various soft toys, bags and cushion covers.
Numerous workshops have been held by the volunteers including:

- Geography of India and the world
- Telling the time
- Music
- Origami
- Climate
- Water Circle
- That’s Me poster
  (expression of the self)
- First Aid

They were also given a workshop on awareness of child sexual abuse as part of Sambhali’s “No Bad Touch” Project. The Centre has the benefit of receiving health check-ups and workshops as with all the empowerment centres in Jodhpur and women received an eye check-up in January in conjunction with Shared Vision, with 25 women now wearing glasses and had visits to Mandore Gardens (team games) with the whole of Sambhali Trust as well as a visit to the cinema.

In August 2013, 10 of the women who were the best at sewing transferred over to the newly established Brothers for Sisters Sewing Centre, where under Kavita Bihal’s guidance they can refine their skills, do more product-orientated work and start to receive orders through the Sambhali Boutique. Then in September 2013, 25 new women started in the Empowerment Centre.
**Rucksar Bano** (photo right) is 15 years old and lives with her mother, father, 4 brothers and 3 sisters. Her brothers are 11, 5, 3 and 18 months old. She has 2 elder sisters aged 17 and 19 years old. Her two sisters and herself as well as her older brother went to private school for 5 years and after that their father could no longer afford to keep them there. When asked why they then didn’t go to government school, she said it was too far away. Her father is a labourer and does stonework, bringing in an annual income of 7000-8000 rupees per month, which is their only source of income.

Rucksar and her two elder sisters all attend the Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre and have been there since it started 18 months ago. She is literate but would like to improve her Hindi and Maths. She also likes to sew and makes bags and salwaar suits. She would like to be able to sew at home, and hopes to get her own sewing machine in a few months’ time, if Sambhali has funds to be able to donate some sewing machines to those attending regularly and finishing the course.

“My name is **Rani Parveen**, I am 20 years old and I have been coming to Sambhali since February 2013. My father is a stone mason. I live with him, my mother and two younger brothers, who both go to school, and my sister, who has to work at home. I was able to go to school until 12th class but college is too far away and my family can’t afford me to have any more education. I loved school and wanted to keep learning, I was very unhappy to stay home, work and do nothing. I heard about Sambhali from my friends and the teachers who work there. They told me I could learn English and to sew and embroider. I’m now able to make things for myself and my family and I love English class because I have learnt so much and can talk to people who don’t speak Hindi. I think that Sambhali is very important as it gives women who have to stay at home an occupation and skills that can help them support their family and most of all themselves.”

“My name is **Sakina Bano**, I am 13 years old and I have been coming to Sambhali since July 2013. I live with my father, step-mother and two younger sisters, My father divorced my mother and I don’t see her anymore. My father makes flower garlands and I sometimes help him to do this. I went to school for two years but I had to stop as my mother told me it was too far away and we didn’t have enough money, so I had to stay home and help. My neighbours told me about Sambhali and I came because I want to learn Hindi and English and learn to make useful things. I can now make clothes for myself and my little sisters, but my dream is to go back to school and become a teacher. Already I teach my sisters and family the lessons I learn at Sambhali, and maybe one day I’ll be able to be a Hindi teacher. I love Sambhali because here I can work and play and learn with my friends.”
This centre was opened on 9 April 2012 where Sambhali worked with the Child Welfare Committee of Jodhpur to establish a centre with the Governmental Shelter Home, called *Balikah Grah* where there were 33 young girls between 4-18 years old. When we arrived we immediately brightened up the home, painted the walls and provided an atmosphere where the children felt love and warmth and conducive to being able to provide them with an education.

Our aims were to improve their English and Maths in combination with their schoolwork and develop their reading and writing in Hindi. However, it was found that the government school that they attended daily wasn’t teaching them satisfactorily and we found many mistakes in their workbooks, which was an issue we discussed with their teachers. After some time, the teachers began to take their work more seriously and Sambhali provided a Hindi teacher who could support their learning, so that after 2 years all the girls could read and write Hindi. Sambhali’s volunteers taught the girls English and also Maths where the girls unfortunately were below the standard for their age, because of the low level of teaching in their government school; helped them with their homework and preparation for their exams.

The dedicated staff and volunteers from Sambhali helped the girls continuously with different creative workshops; they were given clothes, (ready-made and hand-knitted), by Sambhali’s supporters; as well as other equipment, received benefits of Health Camps and had regular lice treatment done by the volunteers.
Sambhali made special provision for 2 girls, Jyoti and Shilpa who were deemed to be mentally ill and saved them being transferred to the psychiatric ward of the Shelter home, as they were seen by a psychologist and were deemed to be special needs requiring more attention. They gradually stopped their bad attention-seeking habits, once they were understood.

There were also 6 babies in the Shelter Home, who needed more care and attention than they were receiving. With the help of a generous donor, Sambhali was able to fund 3 care assistants and a nurse to provide 24 hour care for these babies. Unfortunately after 3 months, this project needed to close down due to not being able to agree with the management in Balikah Grah as to the running of this project; however, we are pleased to say that 2 of the babies were adopted in the time we were there.

On 31 December 2013, after being in Balikah Grah for nearly 2 years, unfortunately we needed to close this project due to the various problems arising between the management and Sambhali Trust. It was with great sadness that we left, but we know that these girls’ lives have improved over the time we have been there, their educational standards have improved and they have had their eyes opened to a wider world. In the wake of this decision, Sambhali Trust has applied to register with the State Government through the Juvenile Justice Act which would allow us to set up an orphanage ourselves.
Setrawa Empowerment Centre

Our main change this year is our long-standing manager of the centre, Usha Sharma left to get married in November and is now living in Bangalore. Everyone enjoyed being at her marriage and we wish all the best for the future. Pooja Sharma, an ex-student and tutor at the Empowerment Centre has now very ably taken over as Manager and has much energy and enthusiasm to achieve the very best for her students including improving their skills and searching for orders for the women’s sewing group. Also, there have been 2 long-term volunteers, Merle Schröder and Antonia Wolff, who have done a vast amount to improve the educational standard of the children and provide so many different workshops. Suman Jain, an ex-student and Meera Khatri (Sheerni Self-Help Group member) have also joined the team in Setrawa.

Education: Butterfly Class

There are about 20 children between 4-12 years old who come from the surrounding hamlets. They all have Hygiene class when they arrive to sort out the lice in their hair, wash and shampoo, brush their teeth and cut their nails. They then have “Circle time” where they are asked in English about their favourite things, their family and where they live. Some of the children now go to school and so know how to write and calculate, whilst others don’t know the alphabet or numbers, so the English class is divided into 2 groups according to their ability. Those that are too young to learn Hindi (between 3-5 years) are given educational games such as drawing, kneading and playing. In the Maths, the level is so varied that the whole group take part in one session and then each child gets an exercise for his/her own level of ability. The older children can construct phrases and small sentences in Hindi, whilst in English they are still focussing on the alphabet, vowels, consonants, numbers and colours. Also clothes that have been donated to Sambhali go to this group of children.
**Peacock Class**

This class is for the children who go to school and is always very well attended, approx. 50-60 per day. There are 5 groups of which Peacock A is able to learn grammar (all the tenses, comparatives and superlatives); they are really intelligent children and the volunteers have encouraged them to focus on having a full reading week at times as well as a full Maths week. They all start at between 4.00-4.30pm with Entertainment Time doing dances, games, praise time and singing, by which time they have all arrived from school and then settle down to their classes in English and Maths. More volunteers in Setrawa have helped enormously to improve the English skills of some children who need more attention to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the class, which has been invaluable, as well as improving the children’s self-confidence.

“Besides Hindi, English and Math the kids learned how to handle conflicts in a non-violent way. This was very difficult because the opposite often is normal in the families.”

Antonia Wolff, volunteer

**Sewing Group**

This now has about 20 women and older girls learning to sew and the class is taken by Jasu Devi, who has been there for 2 years now as well as Pooja, the Centre Manager. Together they teach them how to do kaccha and button stitching followed by how to use a sewing machine, making Indian salwaars and kurtas as well as Rajasthani/Marwari dresses. They practise a lot and Jasu and Pooja take care over their work and give lots of advice. Many of the women are now earning money at home through producing garments in their community. One woman stitches 3-4 suits a day and earns 4000/5000 rupees per month, which is a better than average wage in the rural village of Setrawa. Suman Jain was donated a sewing machine and has been earning 2000-3000 rupees per month through sewing garments in the village. They are all very happy to be able to receive these free sewing classes which has brought them an income.

They have also produced 700 little dolls to be attached to all the items in the Sambhali Boutique as little gifts.
Workshops have included:

Sambhali’s No Bad Touch workshop (one week)
- Sports
- Animals
- Friendship
- Handicrafts
- Health & Medical
- First Aid
- Waste (week’s workshop on recycled waste with a competition!)

First Aid Workshop

Pullovers from Switzerland

Waste recycling workshop
Jeetu Devi

My name is Jeetu Devi and I am 15 years old. I have been coming to Sambhali for over 4 years, for the last two years I have been coming to the sewing classes. I have four brothers and one sister. We live with my mother, and two of my brothers are married and so their wives live with us as well. My father is dead and one of my brothers is very sick with a liver problem. Only two of my brothers are able to work, and this is only rarely so we have very little money and find it very hard to support ourselves. My mother became part of the Sheerni Self-Help Group project and was able to get a loan for a flour machine and a shop and sometimes I work there. I was sponsored by Sambhali to go to a good school but I have too much to do at home and am unable to go most of the time, so a better option was for me to attend the sewing classes. Before I started, I had no idea how to sew or make clothes, but now I am able to make clothes for my family and to sell. This is one of the most important things I have learned – although I think the most important thing is to respect myself and others around me. It is important and something all women and girls should learn.

Madhu Devi

My name is Madhu Devi and I am 14 years old. I have come to Sambhali for four years: two years in Butterfly Class and the when I became older I started to come to the Sewing Class. I have two brothers and two sisters. My father works in a stone mine and my mother is a housewife. We are a big family and I need to help out a lot. I was told about Sambhali by Poojaji and Ushaji (tutors) and came because I wanted to learn things like Hindi and English as well as skills I could use at home. I used to go to the government school and would come to class afterwards, but the school was very bad so I stopped. At Sambhali I can play, eat, learn, talk, joke and learn to make things I can use at home. Now I can make clothes for myself and my family and make money to support them. I never want to stop learning, and even on Sundays want to come to Sambhali. I am so excited because Sambhali will be giving me a sewing machine for my home, so I will be able to be even more independent.
Rekha Devi

My name is Rekha Devi and I am 13 years old. I have two sisters and one brother. My sisters are married and live with their husbands and my brother is married and his wife lives with us. My father is old and doesn’t work, and my mother doesn’t have a job. Only my brother is able to work in a stone mine and so we have very little money to support ourselves. I have never been to school because we have no money and the government school is very bad. Every day I have to walk half a kilometre to get water, as we don’t have any running water near our house. Before Sambhali this is all I did, as well as housework.

My friends came first to Sambhali and told me about it. I love coming because I get to learn things such as English, Hindi and Maths. A lot of girls are educated and I want to be one of them so I can be stronger and people won’t try to cheat me. I really love the education games we play and the chance to play with my friends. I want to keep coming to Butterfly class because I know I will learn even more, and I want to be clever especially when I have a family of my own to look after.

Kelash Kanwer

My name is Kelash Kanwer and I am 11 years old. I have been coming to Peacock class for three years now. I live with my grandmother because my father, mother and sister live in another village. My father works far away as a servant and we have very little money. My grandmother is a widow and had very little but now she is part of the Sheerni Self-Help group and has been helped a lot by Sambhali. She wanted them to help me as well. I used to go to the girls’ government school in Setrawa but this was not good, I didn’t learn anything. Since coming to Peacock class, I have learnt so many things I love it! I love when the volunteers come to teach us new things and I always want to know more. This year Sambhali has sponsored me to go to a good private school in Setrawa and so now I can learn even more. I want one day to be an English teacher in a school, because I think everyone should learn it and there are not always good teachers.
Sheerni Micro Credit Project

As at 1 June 2013, there were 89 women in 8 Self-Help Groups. 7 groups are in Setrawa and 1 is in Solyankiyatala, a nearby hamlet; 45% of the women are widows. Since January 2013 there have been 7 loans ranging from 5000-9000 rupees maximum. From June 2013, the women were able to have a minimum loan of 4000 rupees and a maximum loan of 15000 rupees, which would enable them to buy a cow. With a 5000 rupees loan the women would need to pay installments of 500 rupees per month; with a 10,000 rupees loan they would need to pay 1000 rupees repayment per month. Per 100 rupees there is 1 rupee decreasing interest.

The women attend monthly meetings, taken by Manju Mehta, Sambhali Trust’s Project Co-ordinator, although some months the women needed to attend to the crops in their fields, but the women in all the groups have attended regularly except unfortunately Solyankiyatala, who found it difficult to attend. Apart from this group, 99% of the women have been increasingly active and confident on wanting to take out loans of up to 10,000 rupees to purchase goats, cows, flour grinding machines and start small shops and even to buy equipment to help with the construction of their house. Loans couldn’t continue at the pace the women wanted them, as there still needed to be enough cash balance in the bank; so by January 2014 they needed to wait until some of the loans had been repaid before more could be given. However, the groups have been very successful in paying their loans and the table below (next page) shows how many loans have been given out to all the groups in 2013-14.

Some donations have also been provided in the form of goats and cows which have been given to selected members of the groups and also Sambhali has helped some members to pay their electricity bills where they have been unable to do so.

The women are very happy, motivated and empowered by their increased ability to be able to help themselves by starting these small businesses and that also many of their children are either attending Sambhali’s Empowerment Centre in Setrawa or are being sponsored to go to school as well as 20 children from Setrawa going to school in Jodhpur as part of the Sheerni Educational Programme.
In January 2014, a new group started (Group 9) with 12 new women. We explained to them how the groups work and the rules, opening a bank account and starting to deposit monthly savings. Another 10 women are also keen to join in this project and so we are looking to develop Group 10 in May 2014. They are all keen to take loans through Sambhali because the interest is low.

### SHEERNI MICRO CREDIT PROJECT 2013 - 2014

#### Table of Internal Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount (INRupes)</th>
<th>Purchase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jul-13</td>
<td>Muni</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shanti</td>
<td>7000</td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov-13</td>
<td>Pushpa</td>
<td>13000</td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-14</td>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>May-13</td>
<td>Phool</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Raju</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug-13</td>
<td>Renu</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>2 goats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov-13</td>
<td>Sayar</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr-14</td>
<td>Raju</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jul-13</td>
<td>Darhu</td>
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<td>Herpiari</td>
<td>8000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Champa</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>Cloth for business</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chandu</td>
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<td>Apr-13</td>
<td>Samda</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug-13</td>
<td>Fuar</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indra</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bhanwari</td>
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<tr>
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Leela Devi

My name is Leela Devi and I am 30 years old. I am married and have three sons aged 10, 12 and 13. My husband owns a small stone mine and works there to support us. We are unable to save any money as we need to send my boys to school and there always seems to be a problem so we have just enough to keep us going. It’s very important to me that all my sons receive a good education and have a good life, although it can be very hard to make this happen. I heard about Sambhali from Mrs Mehta, who came to my home and explained to me how the project would work. The chance to support my family and have some independence sounded great. It has been five years since then and I know that joining the Sheerni Self-Help Group was the best decision I could have made. I have taken two loans from Sambhali, one to buy some goats and another to open a shop. The goats give my family milk and I am able to sell the kids once they have grown. The shop was a good source of income, however now I use the room to house a teacher who pays me rent. As he is a government teacher he may leave for another school at any time, so it is good to know I have the back-up option of opening the shop again.

I have also joined the sewing class at Sambhali, so I can make things for my family and for myself, and sometimes even to sell. I love having these skills as it gives me even more options, and I feel like I have more control over my life. The community of women I have met through Sambhali are always there to support me and I them, and I hope to continue with the projects for many years.

Samda Devi

My name is Samda Devi and I am 35 years old. I have three sons aged 13, 15 and 17, and one 10 year old daughter. My husband has a shop in Setrawa that sells Marwari shoes. My oldest son goes to a government school and my youngest son to a private school; however my other son has a mental disability making it impossible for him to go to school or work. He requires a lot of care. My daughter has been sponsored by Sambhali to go to a good private school, and this has been a blessing as she is very bright and very happy, and I know that she will be alright. Before I came to Sambhali I would work to build roads, this was very hard work and I wasn’t paid much. Jasu Devi, the Sambhali sewing teacher, is my neighbour and she told me about The Sheerni Self-Help Group. I liked the idea of working with a small community of women who have similar problems to me, and it’s reassuring to know that they are there to support me and I them. Here I have friends who I can talk to, joke and relax with and this has made my life much happier. I have taken two loans from Sambhali – one to buy goats for milk and to sell their kids and one to help set up my husband’s store. In the four years since I came to Sambhali I can already see the improvements these investments have made in my family’s life and I know that they will only grow more successful. In the last five months I have also joined the Setrawa Sewing Centre and am learning to make clothes that I can use and sell. At Sambhali there is a lot of energy and something interesting to do every day and I am so happy that I have this new support and the chance to do many different things.
This last year has seen an increase in the number of girls at the boarding home, so that by July 2013 the number had increased to 20 and then in April 2014 another couple of young girls, Alfisa and Nosil, also joined who come from Jodhpur and whose father, Chinu is a single father and unable to manage them at home on their own. Alfisa and Nosil are already being sponsored to go to school, but they have also received donation support to keep them in the boarding home on a yearly basis. Extra facilities are being made to accommodate all the extra girls, who already after a couple of weeks have settled in very well and enjoy being with their new family. The dining area is now downstairs where they keep all their study books, work, play and also hold workshops. Upstairs is where the volunteers help the girls with their homework and the tutor Vimlesh is able to give them classes outside on the terrace area. The girls have been very fortunate in also having some clothes generously donated from well-wishers, which were distributed to all the girls during the year.

Education

The exam results came through in May 2014 and we’re very happy that 18 out of the 20 girls who took the exams passed with over 70% average results and the other 2 girls passed with over 60%. The subjects the girls are taking at present are mainly English, Hindi, Maths, Sanskrit and General Knowledge.
English

The girls have been improving their English by reading books with the volunteers, who found books that best suited the level of each girl; giving the girls more individual support where necessary. Vimlesh, the tutor worked mainly with the older girls whilst the volunteers worked with the younger girls and those who were struggling, (Anu, Pushpa and Rekha) were given extra reading and writing lessons. Ashu is one of the best girls in reading and drawing, so next year the school will put her in 5th Standard instead of 4th, because she is so good.

Hindi

Vimlesh, the tutor has been working a lot with the girls in preparation for their exams. She has helped them to understand words they didn’t know the meanings of and Vimlesh helped teach a couple of girls who were having a lot of difficulties learning Hindi and gave them strategies as to how they could improve. Nirmala also helped tutoring the girls how to pronounce vowels and with reading books in Hindi. She has also been assisting the older girls in their Social Studies and Environmental Studies as well as in Science and ‘Moral Science’ (those stories they have read in school which have a moral behind them).

Maths

The girls have practised tables, counting in English. Roman counting, addition and subtraction with the younger girls being helped taught using Maths games, but the older girls prefer to practise on their own. Vimlesh has taught them fractions and helped the younger girls with general arithmetic. All of the girls needed to learn their times-tables and they devised a competition to check who was able to learn them the fastest; a few girls were able to do them up to 20 easily. The older girls have been taught elements of geometry.
Health

Lice workshops were given in May 2013 by Claudia, a volunteer. Rekha needed an operation for an ear-drum problem, which was successful. The girls received vaccinations for Hepatitis A & B, Tetanus on 2 September at Jadan Hospital in Pali. Here they also had a haemoglobin test which showed a better level than last year and showed they were less anaemic and they also received a dental check-up. The height and weight of the girls is recorded regularly and the girls have all gained a steady weight since July last year, on average 3 kg. After Diwali, Mrs Jaqueline de Chollet (Global Foundation for Humanity, one of the sponsors of this project) visited and established new rules, containing jogging daily, eating fruits daily, to provide a separate room for sick girls and wearing tracking suits etc.

Workshops

Geography of Rajasthan, memory cards, puzzles and interactive games; sewing and crochet.

Gerti one of the Volunteers put together a lot of First Aid boxes and gave a workshop to teach them to look after their health and safety. All the girls were given the No Bad Touch Project video presentation by Sonja, (one of the volunteers involved in this project), regarding education and the prevention of child sexual abuse.

General Activities

Four ‘houses’ have now been created within the boarding home to make it easier for the girls to do daily routine activities, like eating, cleaning and washing on a rota system and we have tried to involve all girls in the sports activities at least twice a week, in the local playground close to where they live.
Scholarship Programme

This year we have been able to help 112 students with scholarships from donors in 10 countries around the world.

We now have a new manager of the Scholarship Programme, Shravan Bharti who is working with Govind Singh Rathore to manage the increasing number of sponsor- ships and their associated administration. He visits the schools, talks to the teachers and children; reports on the attendance performance and any problem that a student has at school. He collects the reports cards from the parents, scans them and keeps records as well as helping to provide regular feedback to the individual donors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of students</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Nursery to 5th Standard</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle 6th to 8th</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary 9th to 10th</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr Sec. 11th-12th</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Hotel Management</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in Urban Areas</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in Setrawa village</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year we are very happy that 5 of our students are now doing a Hotel Management Course and have already started doing a placement in Ajit Bhawan hotel where they do a rota- tion in the different areas to get good work experience. Three students also went to the local college to study Business and Marketing for 3 months to support their vocational training.

We have had the exam results back from 86 students for their end of year exams. All students except for three passed:

- 35 passed with 36%-55%
- 22 passed with 56%-69%
- 29 passed with over 70%

Scholarship Students from Setrawa

Shravan Bhati with students

Senior High School students, who graduated 2014
**Kirti Bhati**

She is 18 years old and is in 12\(^{th}\) Standard in an English medium school. Her father is in a private job and works for a pharmaceutical company in administration. He paid for her to go to school until 11\(^{th}\) standard, but then couldn’t afford to keep her in school any longer. Her mother is a housewife. At present she is studying Arts, English and History, Economics and Geography She took her CBSE exams during the whole month of March and gets her results in June. When she finishes school she would like to continue her studies and do a BA in all subjects and an MA in Economics. She would like to be able to support her family financially and feels there are a lot of opportunities in Jodhpur for her to get a job in her chosen field. She thinks she will probably have an arranged marriage when she is 25/26 years old, but would still like to continue her career once she is married.

**Jeenat**

She is 15 years old and was at school for 11 years, before being sponsored by Sambhali. Her father is an auto rickshaw driver and was not able to continue paying for her to go to school. Jeenat is in 9\(^{th}\) Standard and is concentrating on sciences – Science, Biology and Maths. She would like to go to college after school and become a teacher.

**Zeba**

She is 15 years old and is in 10\(^{th}\) Standard and has been 12 years at school. She is Jeenat’s sister. She would also like to finish her studies and go to college to do commerce and business studies.
Graduates’ Sewing Centre

This year has seen continuous orders for the graduates working in this centre; 26 small and large in total. There are now 14 graduates; one graduate left as her family needed to move away and we have 2 new graduates, Manju and Saroj, who are learning fast.

The women have been producing a range of items that make-up our Boutique catalogue (with many thanks to Cornelia Uebscher for designing it), which can be found on the Sambhali website. We are very grateful to Roberta Freymann in New York for providing us with constant work throughout the year, for whom we have made a variety of soft toys. Forty Red Bangles have also provided us with a new product design, and the women have produced well-sewn products of a high standard. Other orders have come from all around the world and we are very grateful to all those who have supported centre, by making orders for various items in an effort to market our products abroad. The women now earn 3500-5000 rupees a month and are very happy to be producing orders and working in the centre. They have transport provided through the Sambhali minivan, as well as funding the Sewing Centre, so they have no expenses.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have worked hard to maintain the running of the centre this year in Corinne’s absence, including Christa Holland, Barbara Rohde, Cabiri Calisto and Sorcha Bradford, who all managed to maintain the production and make sure all the orders went out on time!

We arranged all the women to go for an eye-check up with the help of Shared Vision and they received free glasses if they required them.
Corinne Rose, Manager of the Graduates’ Sewing Centre and Sambhali Boutique with the Graduates
Saroj (in white-red) is 16 years old and was married as a child bride, but is still living at home with her own family until they feel she is old enough to go and live with her husband. She lives with her mother, (her father has died), her 4 brothers, 3 sisters, their respective husbands and children, making a total family of 17 people.

They live in a dwelling with 3 tiny rooms and an outdoor space all with a roof made of old wooden slats and plastic sheeting. There is running water from a tap, a small toilet and place to wash. In these conditions it’s hard to believe it’s possible to have a daily living existence; that they are able to feed or clothe themselves. One of Saroj’s brothers works as a rickshaw driver and the other has a menial job so that they have a joint income of about 5000-6000 rupees per month, for the whole family. Their diet consists of chapatti and dhal (lentils), with some potatoes and a variety of local vegetables, but no rice. They cannot afford to use gas for the stove, so they cook using wooden sticks to make a fire. Despite these primitive conditions, the whole family manages to have a cheerful aspect and the older children encourage the little ones to learn to count or sing songs. All the small children go to a government crèche at present.

Saroj learned about Sambhali through a friend and went to the empowerment centre in Jodhpur where she learnt to do sewing and embroidery as well as English, Hindi and Maths. She can understand and speak English well enough to converse, even though she cannot fully write in Hindi yet, nor can her siblings. They are all illiterate.

Since Saroj started at Sambhali, her sister comes as well and also some of her friends, many of whom are child brides. Saroj got on so well at the empowerment centre, an opportunity was given to her to join the graduates in the Graduates Sewing Centre, where she is now. She has only been there a few months, but the standard of work she produces is beautiful. She has a wonderful patience and attention to detail, and takes everything in her stride. She is so happy to be there, that every day when she is picked up in the Sambhali minivan to go to the Sewing Centre, she is smiling by the roadside waiting as the van draws up beside her. She is now earning between 2000-3000 rupees per month, which will increase as she gets faster in her work, but the potential is there and as her work is so good, she will be able to make a good income and so help to support her family.
Saroj is very quiet and doesn’t say a lot, but we know through her smiles that she is happy and content. One day she came in late and could hardly speak and burst into tears. We asked her what was wrong and she was so emotionally traumatised that she couldn’t say anything at first... then after a few minutes she said that her uncle had been to visit the family and had said that she could not go to the Sewing Centre anymore and had been emotionally abusive towards her. The uncle had also just left and fortunately her own family support her in coming to the Sewing Centre, so it is not a problem, but it showed just how much it meant to her, to be able to take her out of the desperately poor circumstances she lives in, transport her to another world where she can hear joking and laughing and different conversations about women’s lives and experiences... as well as expressing her talent and being able to make an income.

Saroj showed me a painting she had done in her house, made from paints she must have scratched together from somewhere, so her artistic and creative talent is obvious to those who know her. We are so glad to have made this young girl’s life a little better and for her to develop her sewing skills as well as having the social support from the other women in the Sewing Centre.

There was a couple of fierce thunderstorms recently and Saroj couldn’t come to the Sewing Centre. The next day, she said that the wind had blown away all the wooden roof and the rain had come into the rooms where they were sleeping. Two of her elder sisters are going to Mumbai to be married, at a specially arranged marriage ceremony where many marriages take place at the same time. They have no mobile phones or any way of contacting each other... they can’t write and they have no way of knowing if they will see their family again, but they are happy and smiling about it, in the hope that it will help to give them a better life in the unknown. Sambhali wants to be able to help all the small children in Saroj’s family go to school and have already helped the little boy who has a medical condition (‘hole in the heart’), by paying for him to have an operation.

We are very proud of Saroj that she has all the beautiful attributes of patience and human kindness amongst the living conditions that she has been brought up in during her 16 years of life, and through Sambhali we are going to encourage and support her and her family by providing a means to independence as well as an education.
Mehran Sewing Centre

The Mehran Sewing Centre for 12 women developed from the Mehran Empowerment Centre which was training the wives of the men who were working in Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur. In February 2013, Kavita Bihal, the tutor took charge of the women, our aim was for them to be able to receive training in Sewing and Embroidery skills so they could make garments and items for themselves and their families as well as being having the potential to earn an income. We also wanted to increase their skills to be able to make products to sell at the stall we had at the Fort. A format was created where the women developed a new item each week, thereby working to a deadline and the women were paid on a weekly basis for the items that were felt to have reached a good enough standard to be sold.

After teaching the women to make Indian clothes, Kavita started by teaching the women embroidery, making purses and Christmas decorations but the women found embroidery difficult to do as well as trying to maintain the level of concentration and persistence needed to do it. However, Kavita then taught them how to make dolls and introduced the idea of making Punjabi dolls and then Maharajah and Maharani dolls. The dolls they created were very beautiful, the women really enjoyed making them and they turned out a great success as they could be sold both in the Fort stall and the Sambhali Boutique. They also produced orders for large amounts of sari bags, jewellery sari bags, as well as producing some sari shoulder bags and organisers.

Attendance during the summer months was erratic due to the women leaving to go back to their villages and then unfortunately Mehrangarh Fort said that Sambhali were only allowed to sell items from the Mehran Sewing Centre in the Sambhali Fort stall. We knew that this wouldn’t be feasible, as the women were not yet producing items of a high enough standard to warrant having a stall in the Fort, and so by the end of July, we needed to close the stall in the Fort, quickly followed by the Mehran Sewing Centre, which unfortunately Sambhali was unable to support any longer. The women very much appreciated Sambhali setting up this Sewing Centre for them, giving them some training and having at least the potential to earn an income from sewing garments for others in their community. It had also given them the encouragement, motivation and knowledge that they could do something more in their lives and now had the skills to move forward on their own after Sambhali’s involvement for the past 12 months.
This centre was opened in August 2013 as a Sewing Centre for 10 of the graduates of the Brothers for Sisters Empowerment Centre. Its aims are to improve and refine the skills of the graduates to be able to make products for the Sambhali Boutique as well as taking the overflow of orders from the Graduates Sewing Centre. They have a professional tutor, Kavita Bihal who is expert at developing products and teaching the women very quickly how to make an item. Over the last year, they have made dolls, purses, embroidered pomanders, hairbands, embroidered camels, elephants and cows, sari bags, jewellery, finger puppets, recycled hairclips and Christmas decorations.

There have also been given work by the Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur designer label, where 4 women are dedicated to producing work for his designs. We are very proud to be associated with this label. We now have 11 women in total who are happy to learn and keen to earn a living; as this centre is still being funded until March 2015, they have plenty of opportunity to be able to improve their skills and practise to produce items of the high standard we require to be able to market Sambhali’s products abroad; and thereafter be self-sustainable. The women have developed beautiful embroidered designs, which are uniquely different and are now producing all the embroidered soft toys for the boutique.

The Sewing Centre moved its premises together with the Empowerment Centre in February 2014 to another building just 150 metres away, so that there could be more room for all the different classes taking place. The Sewing Centre now occupies 3 rooms, one of which is for storing the raw materials, stock and orders.
Absana Bano

Absana is 38 years old and has been a widow for 13 years. Her children are 13, 16 and 20 years old. She lives with her in-laws family and there is no family income. He husband committed suicide by taking poison. They had family problems due to lack of money and she too took poison, but survived. She has a son who is a painter and decorator, but he doesn’t give any money to her, but spends it on herself. She used to do a quilting filling job in the area and was paid 30 rupees for 2-3 hours work. She has a 16 year old daughter who is illiterate and is living with her uncle and aunty, but won’t come to the empowerment centre because of the family rift with her mother.

Her 13 year old son goes to government school. She needs to earn a living to buy basic essentials like food and clothes for her younger son.

Sonu Khan

“My name is Sonu Khan, I am 23 years old and have been coming to Sambhali since March 2013. I was married when I was 14 and moved to Janta colony. I now have an 8 year old son and live with my husband and his family. I used to tie-dye dupattas at home to sell, but this didn’t earn any money. My family doesn’t allow me out of the house on my own; I can’t socialise or go shopping or work. My sister started coming to Sambhali and told me about it. I wanted to learn new skills and to be able to support myself. Now I can save money and give some to my child who is at school.

My teacher, Kavita and the other women are my new family and support network. I didn’t have this before I came here; I had no-one to talk to and no freedom. I hope to always stay with Sambhali; it’s perfect!”

Anjum Ansari

“My name is Anjum Ansari; I am 38 years old and I’ve been coming to Sambhali since July 2013. I am married and have 3 children, 11, 18 and 20 years old. Before coming to Sambhali I was only allowed to work at home, and it was a struggle to support my children. I heard about Sambhali from the teachers who work here and wanted to come so that I could learn new skills and earn some money. I have learnt so much since coming here; I can make different things and can keep some money for myself. The best thing are the women I work with – they are like my sisters and I have not had this kind of support before. Even if nothing can be done, they help me by understanding that we all have the same problems. Sambhali is good because it has given me independence and all women should have this.”
Sambhali’s sales throughout the year have been steady and successful in the Boutique, with an increase during the tourist months of September – April. We are happy that Sanju Jawa has returned to run the shop on a daily basis and works closely with the Sewing Centre Manager to make sure there is stock in place and the quality is of a good standard. Together with the help of Arts and Crafts volunteers working in the Sewing Centres, we have been able to put a few more products into the latest catalogue.

The Boutique is also a good venue to talk to customers about Sambhali Trust and the many projects we are running and we now have leaflets in German as well as a multi-lingual poster! All those interested in the projects are offered to meet with Govind Singh Rathore and see the projects for themselves. We are also very thankful to all the volunteers who have taken over on Sundays, when Sanju has a day off. We are very happy that the Boutique has now been running for 4 years since it opened in July 2010.

Our sales capacity increased by the addition of the Mehrangarh Fort stall, which unfortunately we needed to close in June 2013; but as the Sewing Centre has had continuous orders since October 2012, then the graduates themselves are still achieving orders and receiving a good income.

Sambhali Student Shop

Basanti is our ex-student from the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre who is maintaining the running of this shop. We are very proud of Basanti who has helped to maintain this shop as well as being the sole producer of all the Greetings Cards for the Boutique!

Basanti earns approximately 3500 rupees on average per month producing all these cards and so is quite happy! The Jodhpur Empowerment Centre made some lovely hand-made paper notebooks which also were sold in the Student shop as well as the Boutique and we are looking to put more examples of work in the Student Shop that have been produced by the students in the Arts & Crafts workshops in the future.
This project has now established itself well as part of a service that Sambhali is offering to all women and girls who need help, advice, counselling and support. Many women have been having difficulties paying medical bills for serious operations or treatment required by themselves or their families; women have asked for help who have been receiving abusive behaviour from their husbands or her in-laws, due to dowry-related incidents or even by just becoming a widow and under threat of being kicked out of her own house.

There are several poor areas of Jodhpur, where families live on the streets in very basic shacks with no amenities and a small camp fire to cook food. Sambhali has been able to provide the children of these families with knitted woolly hats and socks through Sambhali’s associate organisations in Switzerland and Germany, whose kind supporters knitted all these warm clothes for the chilly winter nights. Sambhali has also been able to provide 40 people of the Scheduled and Dholi Castes from the Ratanada area of Jodhpur a series of 3 Hepatitis injections.

Mrs Manju Mehta is the Project Coordinator.
**Bismillah** is 70 years old and lived in Sojat in Hariyabhali village. Four years ago her husband died and then her nephew torched her and told her that she should give the whole property to them. After this, she wanted to take this case to court so prevent the harassment and stay in her own house, but when she went to a lawyer, he wanted 50,000 rupees to take the case on. She searched the web and found Sambhali Trust and so approached us to see if we could help her. Staff from Sambhali went to the police station and told the inspector that she needed help. He telephoned the inspector in Sojat, who said that he would make sure the woman was protected. After filing a report, the police stopped those family members who were torching this woman, so she was able to return to her house. Bismillah was happy that Sambhali had helped her and given advice to her; she knows she has our contact number should she require any more help in the future.

**Moona**, one of the students at the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre asked Sambhali to help her father who was suffering a lot of pain deriving from a blood clot in his chest. Raju was given medicine and treatment at the Goyal Hospital by Dr. Sunik Lehan for three months.

A girl named **Komal** had a stomach and spinal problem for one year. She went to the hospital several times. She had a check-up and was given medicine, but she wasn’t free from pain, so she told Sambhali Trust about her problem. So Sambhali staff took her to a private hospital and she received an assessment and after that, we went to the governmental hospital for the free facilities. They did an ultrasonography and other tests and gave medicine for one month. The report showed that she had a stone in her stomach. With the medicine, the stomach stone was removed. Now, Komal is feeling better.

**An old man** was found at the bus-stand, where someone contacted Sambhali as he wasn’t well. Sambhali immediately took him to the Mahatma Gandhi hospital where he immediately received treatment (3 hours on a glucose drip). He needed medicine and a place to live, so we contacted the NGO Abna Ghar so that they could provide him with a roof over his head.

Thanks to both **Sambhali Switzerland** and **Freunde für Sambhali** who provided clothes and hand-knitted caps, socks and jackets for the children on the streets in Jodhpur.
On 17 July 2013, a group of Australian students from ARC UNSW University, came to volunteer at Sambhali Trust and gave a generous donation to help Sambhali organize a community wide conference to promote awareness of child sexual abuse. The one-day conference which was organised in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Jodhpur and more than 50 local leaders and dignitaries were in attendance. The conference agenda included three presentations on child sexual abuse and a panel discussion followed involving 12 local community leaders which facilitated an animated discussion and what can be done to better prevent child sexual abuse in Jodhpur.

Following this conference and the interest and support that this topic had gained, we were keen to follow this up thorough a community outreach programme to help raise awareness and educate people about Child Sexual Abuse. We were very lucky to secure funding from a generous donor for one year and so developed a series of educational workshops for schools and colleges in Jodhpur, which began in March 2014 with the help of our Vimlesh Solanki, Manager of the Project together with one volunteer/intern that would be dedicated to this project at all times.

**Aims of No Bad Touch Project**

1. To hold preventative workshops for children and to educate the community on how to teach children about safety from abuse. This includes information about how to seek help in case of an abuse. We aim to provide:
   a. 2 workshops per week to schools/children’s homes/Sambhali participants/colleges (approx. 20 participants per workshop) for 1 year.
   b. To provide 2 ‘Child Sexual Abuse Education and Awareness workshops’ per month to parents and teachers at schools (approx. 15 participants per workshop) for 1 year.

2. To talk about the subject openly and encourage people in leadership and government positions to take action to prevent child abuse (Sambhali hopes to hold its second annual conference in Jodhpur later in the year).

3. Sambhali aims to be an advocate for families whose children have suffered sexual abuse, by means of a Telephone Helpline, which will connect families to medical, psychological and legal help and we hope will be implemented later on in the year.
Workshops

The main workshop given to children at schools and colleges, follows the basic theme:
The core element of the workshop is a clip from Episode 2 of the Indian talk show Satyamev Jayate. In the clip, the host Aamir Khan (a well-respected Bollywood actor) gives the Good Touch, Bad Touch workshop developed by Dr. Bhooshan Shukla to a group of children in Hindi. The workshop is interactive and the video is paused and the children answer the questions Amir Khan asks. Hindi translators are always present to interpret so that the workshop is given in both English and Hindi.

Extra content included in the workshop:
- A discussion is also held with children to identify “good touch” areas with the emphasis that if anyone touches them in a way that makes them uncomfortable they have the right to say no.
- Role-play exercises (including the use of a puppet show), are conducted with the kids to practise the NO-GO-TELL principle. We encourage kids to practise screaming “No!” and running away to tell a trusted adult. Children are also asked to name an adult who they would talk to in case a “bad touch” incident occurs.
- Children are taught that they are in charge of their bodies and that it is not their fault if someone touches them inappropriately.
- We emphasise that children are always pure and innocent, no matter what happens to them nothing can ever change this.

When giving the workshop to teenagers and adults, we emphasize that it is important for children to have a safe adult to tell if they are abused. We tell adults that they must believe the child and take them seriously if they say they have experienced bad touch. Additionally, we train adults to give the talk to their children every six months. Workshops for adults have included a discussion session at the end in place of role-play exercises. The discussions give the women a chance to talk about past experiences with sexual abuse or harassment and how the subject applies to them.

The Good Touch, Bad Touch workshops have been held at all the Sambhali projects and in local schools. In total over 300 participants have taken part from July 2013 until January 2014. Since the project was funded in March Sambhali has conducted 30 workshops until the end of May 2014, totalling 930 people, mainly children in schools and colleges; workshops for teachers and parents were just starting by the end of May.

After the "No Bad Touch" workshop, the programme was published in Local newspapers, a father read this and went to the venue of the workshop to enquire about Sambhali Trust and called us. His only child, a 12 year old girl was abused by a man living next door to some relatives. There had been police case filed against him. The lawyer from the girl’s side were bribed and unfortunately they lost the case after going through the court for two years. They came to Sambhali seeking help and to find justice.

The father of the girl was advised our lawyer, Mr. Firoz Khan, who helped them with legal advice and we introduced them to the Child Welfare Committee who fought their case. Unfortunately, it takes years in Indian courts to find justice. She is still waiting and her father has been visiting us often for legal advice.
Interview with Nicole Horwedel, Sambhali volunteer, April 2014

Why Sambhali?
The decision to work for Sambhali was mainly because I had to do an internship for my masters degree, and as I always wanted to go to India I thought it might be a perfect opportunity to combine both. I found Sambhali via worldunite.com where they offer internships for psychologists in collaboration with Dr Bhansali, a professional psychologist who works in Jodhpur. When I read about the project I thought I really wanted to be part of something that is not only unambiguous but is very important to talk about. Thank you Sambhali family for giving me this opportunity, and many thanks to the wonderful interns and Vimlesh who is a perfect project manager.

How has it been working with another culture, trying to communicate in another language?
I thought it was quite easy because we had Vimlesh to translate and this has worked perfectly well. Language within the workshop is not the problem, a more challenging factor was organising permission for the workshops at schools, as there is quite a difference between Indian and German bureaucracy. It was still a very important experience, and these kinds of experience are invaluable because it has given me an important insight into this culture, which is necessary to understand a lot more about the society and the people themselves.

How successful do you think this approach has been?
To be honest I think it’s very successful. In every school we were giving the workshop the teachers really liked it and emphasised how important this topic is and how most parents don’t talk about this with their kids. They really liked the concept. Many asked us to come back and have another workshop in July and after that every six months.

Highlights?
One highlight really was to get this permission letter, and all of the workshops so far have been a highlight. Every time it’s different, but every time, if you see that the girls/children are listening and interested, and they start to open up a bit, it’s nice to see them overcome their shyness.

How does No Bad Touch fit in with Sambhali’s core values?
I think it fits in perfectly because not only do they teach girls that they can say No, but also that they are the only ones who are in charge of their own bodies and no one can come too close as long as they don’t want it: an important issue for women’s empowerment.

Where do you see this project going? What are your aims for the project?
I would like to see this project continuing, so that it grows to the point that the workshop is given in all the schools in Jodhpur. It would also be nice to develop some kind of program to work as a follow up presentation, and also teach teachers to give this workshop – so that it becomes an important topic within the whole school system itself. I would also like there to be some project that educates boys not to become attackers: another important approach to consider.
Workshops

Freedom Workshop

Neha - one of our local Indian volunteers who has returned to volunteer for the second time running ran a workshop with the women in the Jodhpur Empowerment Centre asking about:
‘Freedom’ – what does it mean to you...?

There were various replies including:

Hina
“I would like to be a police officer and would like to do something big, but my parents don’t allow me to roam freely with my friends and spend time with them. I don’t want to be restricted within the 4 walls of my house. I want to be like a bird free to spend time with my female friends, like the world outside to be free to roam around...freedom for me..!!”

Also:

Proud to be a woman
To learn to drive and have a car

Nina
“I want to stand on my feet and be self-reliant and independent. I would like to be able to spend money I have earned on myself and my children. I would like all women to study and get on with their lives without compromising with anything”.

First Aid Workshops

In January, Gerti Kopf and Sarah Günther, volunteers from Germany, gave a series of First Aid Workshops to all the students in the Empowerment Centres; first, a general First Aid class was held and then a second one focused on burns and stabilization. They also developed First Aid boxes to go in all the Empowerment Centres.

History of India workshop week

For one week, whilst Divya the tutor was getting married, the volunteers thought of a good idea for the students to learn the History of India, but with a difference. The first day, the volunteers taught them about the History of India, then for the rest of the week, it was about the students themselves teaching each other.

Monday, the volunteers held three presentations about the three main periods in Indian history. Tuesday, the women and girls were divided into three groups across the levels so each had one foreign volunteer and one Indian volunteer. Tuesday and Thursday they prepared a poster and a short presentation for Friday. Wednesday we held a dancing/singing workshop again, just to break up the intense workshop week and then on Friday the presentations were held and it went really well.

It was very new for the girls to work this way; not only did they have a good History lesson, but this method of teaching helped the women to remember it better as well as developing their self-confidence in teaching their fellow students in class. It proved very successful and we hope to develop further workshops similar to this model, when we have more Hindi-speaking volunteers.
Community Involvement

1 September 2013
A series of vaccinations took place for the poorer section of the community from the Ratanada area of Jodhpur.

25 January 2014
Whilst taking part in celebrating the biggest National Flag Hoisting, 100 feet high in the air, established in Mahaveer Park, Jodhpur in partnership with Flag Foundation of India and Jodhpur Municipal Corporation. We were invited by Mr Rameshwar Dadhich, Honorable Mayor of Jodhpur. Sambhali Trust took the opportunity to demonstrate problems of daily important issues.

17 January 2014
Thank you to Shared Vision Foundation (www.sharedvision.nl) for helping Sambhali Trust’s participants from Jodhpur projects with continuous eye camps for five days for more than 100 participants.
Thanks to some of our volunteers, Sonja, Matthew, Christa, Barbara and Anna, we were able to donate 35 sewing machines to the women and girls, participants of our Vocational Training programmes so that they can work from home and become financially independent. The day was endorsed by the Honorable Member of Legislature Assembly, Ms. Suryakanta Vyas from Sursagar, Jodhpur. Ms. Vyas has been a prominent person in politics and women’s empowerment for decades.

Happy to have been invited by the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra “Indian Assembly of Youth” in Delhi for attending a programme on the “Right To Information Act of India”. Sambhali Trust sent two of its volunteers Phillip K. and Johann W. from Germany to participate in the programme and represent Sambhali Trust.
Awards and Celebrations

We are delighted that Sambhali Trust has been awarded 4 honours in the last year:

15 August 2013 Independence Day:
A wonderful day had by all when the whole of Sambhali family got together to see Govind Singh Rathore receive his award for Women’s Empowerment by District Administration Jodhpur, in the Stadium of Jodhpur.
24 August 2013: Jodhpur Tourist Guide Association, Jodhpur for women’s empowerment honored by the Honorable Culture Minister Smt. Chandresh Kumari ji, Government of India.

Times Now TV Channel in India, which did a programme about Govind Singh Rathore and the development of Sambhali Trust in a broadcast on “Amazing Indians”, in November 2013.

29 January 2014 by Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, International Youth Centre in Delhi for acknowledging a talk given by Govind Singh Rathore on the occasion of "Talk with Amazing Indians".

9 February 2014: A motivational interview of the Founder of Sambhali Trust was printed nationwide for the youth of our country in Rajasthan – Patrika, one of the leading Indian Newspapers.
**Movie Outing:**
Our volunteers Louisa and Josselin helped us arrange resources for a documentary movie Gulaab Gang, which is about a fearless woman who fights social injustice, creating shelter for abused women while battling a politician. The whole theatre was hired for Sambhali participants, staff, volunteers and guests.

**24 January 2014**
We were honoured to have met with the Honorable chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Government of India, Ms Mamta Sharma, who was listening to us and took interest in Sambhali Trust.

**1 April 2014 - New Sambhali Logo**
We showed our new logo and the new look of our website. The logo was designed by Kamal Gohil and his graphic design team The Design Hub, Plymouth College of Art, UK.

On **2 April 2014** we celebrated the inauguration of Sambhali’s new Sisters for Sisters Empowerment Centre in the Old Town, Jodhpur and also the Sambhali Abhivyakti Empowerment Centre in Roop Nagar, Jodhpur. The Additional District Magistrate was attended by the Municipal Corporation Committee Councillor, Deputy Director Dept. of Women and Child Development, Deputy Director Dept of Social Justice and Empowerment and the President of Sambhali Austria. The new participants arrived and enrolled in the centres and this heralded a good teamwork day for Sambhali Trust.

**9 April 2014 – Mandore Gardens Outing**
Around 180 participants from 5 different projects in Jodhpur went to see the Mehrangarh Fort, tickets were complimentary, and were happy to be guided by Dr. Shakti Singh Khakhadki. The trip to the fort was followed by a picnic in Mandore Gardens.
Support and Fundraising

We are very grateful to all our supporters of Sambhali Trust who through all their individual and group fundraising efforts keep Sambhali Trust’s projects running. We are also extremely thankful to all our volunteers who have dedicated their time and support in coming to Sambhali and working with the students in the Empowerment and Sewing Centres. Your creativity, energy and enthusiasm is infectious; thank you for all your reports which may be read on the website: http://www.sambhali-trust.org/volunteers/reports/index.html

Sambhali Trust now has 3 associate organisations in Austria, Germany and Switzerland with one soon to be established in the UK. Their support has grown over the year and we are very grateful to the huge efforts all their members have undertaken to fundraise for specific Sambhali projects and also for additional items that the Trust requires. Here are just a few examples:

**Sambhali Switzerland**
Claro Fairtrade Weltladen Spiegel organised a „Soup Day“. Biscuits were made and sold by the children as well as soup and pasta. Sambhali Switzerland board members Rahel and Natalie were present with information and sold products from Sambhali Boutique. Also many thanks to Rahel and other friends, Ms Olga, Ms Staehli, Ms Verena and Ms Aerni, who organised two months of knitting to provide woolly hats for Sambhali’s participants.

We are also very grateful to Sambhali Switzerland and its supporters for raising enough money to allow us to purchase our second Sambhali minivan (photo back cover). It is of enormous help transporting students, staff and volunteers to all the projects and it has been a real boon in solving Sambhali’s transport problems.

**Sambhali Austria**
A beautiful music and dance event was held in Vienna, Austria on 30 November by our associate organisation, which has helped to raise money for Sambhali’s projects.

**Freunde für Sambhali**
(German „Friends for Sambhali“)
Thanks to Freunde für Sambhali and My Boshi for supplying wonderful woolly hats which went to the poor street children in Jodhpur during the colder winter months and to Sambhali participants.

**Sambhali UK**
Many thanks to Sarah Harrington one of our volunteers, who organised a fundraising ball in England in February, which included dinner, dancing, raffle prizes and auction. The funds raised have already established the new Abhiyyakti Empowerment Centre in Jodhpur and we are very thankful to all those who donated to this event.
Partners Organisations and Supporters

- Soziale Initiative
- Freunde für Sambhali (Indien) e.V.
- Sambhali Austria
- Sambhali Switzerland
- Frères de nos Frères
- Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Rajasthan
- Veerni Project
- Forty Red Bangles
- Femmes en Mission Humanitaire
- Antenna Nutritech Foundation
- Roberta Roller Rabbit by Roberta Freymann
- Planet Wheeler
- Volunta
- Granny Aupair
- Mani
- Frontieres
- Kirchenkreis Spiegel
- ATC
- Bethlehem Neukirchen
- Basel-Stadt
- WOMANGO
- AMASC: World Association of Alumni of and Alumni of the Sacred Heart
- Worldunite
- Foundation for sustainable development
- Vishnu Vyas Kreedna
If you would like further information on the financial expenditure, please email us and we will send you the Audit Report for 2013/14.
Sambhali Trust
Non-Profit Charitable Organisation &
Sambhali Boutique

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Photo credits: We would like to thank our volunteers and well-wishers of Sambhali Trust for allowing us to use their photos throughout this report.