

इकलौतों पर।





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Letter from the President of Sambhali U.S.



Every month, the staff at each of Sambhali Trust’s centers and boarding homes writes a report that includes the number of students, how they performed on tests, challenges faced, workshops, and special events. It is a wealth of information that helps the Sambhali Trust team in the continuous process of learning and growth. My favorite part is the success stories. Most often they focus on one or two participants—a girl who has learned her first letters, a woman who is now able to support her children, or a family that has found safety from an abusive relative. But each individual success is a part of a greater growth of sisterhood and strength, as explained by Asha who teaches at the Laadli Empowerment Center:



This month, I will not share about a single participant’s progress but share about all participants’ improvements and successes. In our neighborhood, there is an agency that runs welfare programs for women and kids with the support of the government. There, through these programs, they distribute free sanitary napkins to all women and girls of the area, but the madam of the agency was distributing sanitary napkins only to her acquaintances and by her own will. Then the participants talked to us about this and asked if the teachers would go with them to get them their rights. But we motivated them that you have to take action together about any type of discrimination you are facing and therefore, nobody can cheat you. And you all gather together and raise your voice, then they will provide you with your right. And all of them went together and as a result, they have started giving sanitary pads equally to all.

A group of women who a few months before didn’t know each other had joined together for collective action. They were a community.

The story of Sambhali during 2022 is the story of community.

It was a year of building a new community. In April 2022, Sambhali Trust opened four new Empowerment Centers and Primary Education Centers in the city of Jaisalmer near the Pakistani border. This expansion happened because the community joined together and asked. The first request was for food during the horrific Delta wave of Covid-19 when people in impoverished neighborhoods in Jaisalmer learned of the Sambhali Trust food bank through social media and asked Sambhali to help them. When neighbors came to pick up their food and other vital supplies, they learned about the programs that Sambhali Trust had for women and children in Jodhpur and Setrawa. They asked as a community: “After Covid, please come back.” And when the lockdowns of Covid ended, Sambhali returned.

It was a year to celebrate community. On International Women’s Day, the women and girls of Sambhali marched together for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Women, who just a few months earlier were barely able to leave their homes without permission, marched proudly shouting “Nari Shakti Zindabad” (“Long Live Women Empowerment”). See their power and joy on page 15.

It was a year of reaping the rewards of communities built in India. An independent assessment of the first five years of the Laadli Boarding Home for elementary school girls praised the many positive ways that Sambhali Trust had impacted the girls and their villages while recognizing that the key to the boarding home's success was the Trust's deep roots in the rural Setrawa community where most of the girls were born. Sambhali Trust first established an Empowerment Center for women in Setrawa, then a Primary Education Center for their children. The many problems with the local government schools and safety issues in the rural communities led to the establishment of boarding homes in Jodhpur. By then, as the evaluation states, the "spark of empowerment left behind due to their collective association with Sambhali fueled women's aspirations to seek a better future for their daughters." Equally important, the mothers "didn't have any doubt about the safety and upkeep of their daughters given the bonding they had established with [Sambhali Trust's] Setrawa Centre over the years. In fact, the mothers had implicit faith in Sambhali Trust's ability to transform the lives of their daughters." Learn more about Sambhali's boarding homes on page 11.

It was a year of communities built in the U.S. In 2019, students from the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at the University of Wisconsin visited Sambhali Trust and led workshops on engineering. The connection grew, even when Covid prevented another trip to India and even after the students who had visited graduated. New members of SWE turned to their university community by staffing concession stands at sporting events to raise \$7500 for Sambhali, and they switched to virtual learning to continue their connection with the girls at the Sheerni boarding home. For more details, see the donor spotlight on page 20.



And it was a year to save community. The delay in Sambhali Trust gaining recertification under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was an existential threat to the Trust and its many programs. As the Trust struggled to survive without access to foreign donations, it became clear just how much the communities Sambhali serves wanted—needed—it to survive. Staff, landlords, and schools deferred payments. Teachers brought in used saris to use as cloth so vocational sewing training could continue. Families opened up the small spaces of their homes for Sambhali projects. And when FCRA recertification was finally granted on December 21st, the joy was felt both in India and in other countries—like the U.S.—where organizations support Sambhali Trust. That joy translated into action when the end-of-year generosity of Sambhali U.S. donors made this our strongest fundraising year ever. See pages 18 and 19 for more information.

As I look back on 2022, it is tempting to focus only on the hard months and the frustration of waiting for FCRA recertification. But 2022 was much more than that. It was the bringing together of communities and connections. It was a reminder of how this work makes a difference every day in the lives of the women and girls of Sambhali. It was a year that brought to the forefront how grateful we are for the staff at Sambhali Trust, for the women and girls in the programs, and for all of you who give of your time and your treasure to keep this community strong.

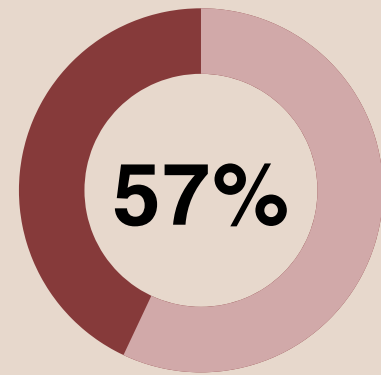
With abundant thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shereen".

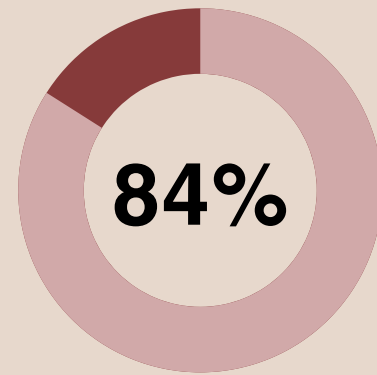
Shereen Arent

A Community on a Mission

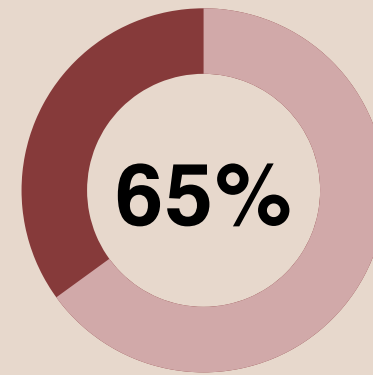
The mission of Sambhali U.S. is to support the courageous women and girls of Rajasthan, India, who seek to raise their voices with dignity and self-confidence, build a road to economic independence, and ultimately determine their own destinies.



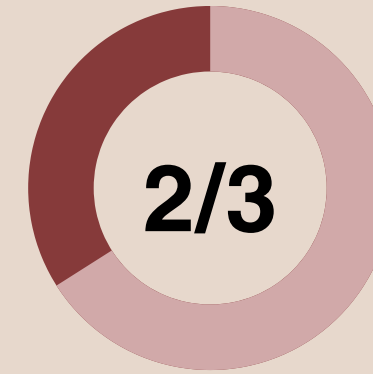
of women are illiterate



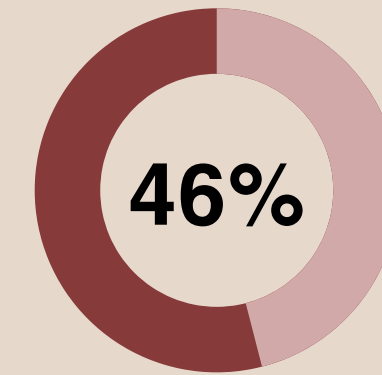
do not finish secondary school



of young women today were married before the age of 18



of women do not work outside the home



of women who marry experience spousal, physical, or sexual violence

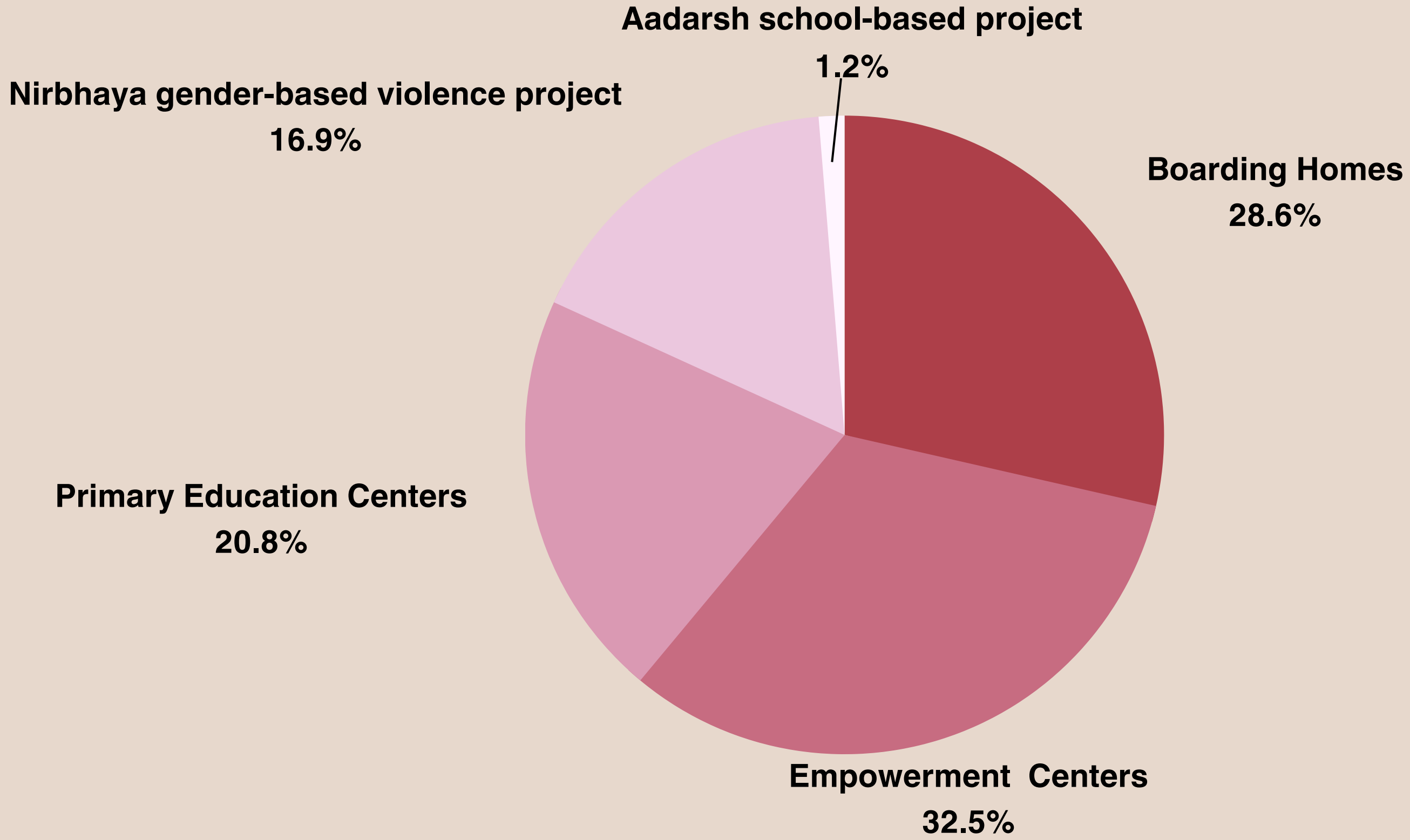
These grim statistics reflect the reality of life for women in Rajasthan. But, though impoverished and isolated, Rajasthani women are rising up to transform their lives and those of their daughters.

The bulk of our funding supports Sambhali Trust programs that directly serve women and girls through traditional and vocational education, life skills, self-defense training, and physical and mental health assistance. Armed with these new skills and knowledge, recipients take the first steps toward economic self-sufficiency. And through supportive community environments fostered by Sambhali Trust, women and girls are empowered with confidence to forge their own unique paths.

Sambhali U.S. also funds Sambhali Trust programs aimed at breaking the cycle of gender-based violence through legal services and counseling, emergency assistance, safe havens, and education, thus enabling women and girls to develop options to maintain their safety and security.

Change doesn't happen overnight. But with your help, the courageous women and girls of Rajasthan are tearing down boundaries and reconstructing their world, and their future is looking much brighter.

In 2022, Sambhali U.S. allocated \$77,000 in grants to the following programs:



Empowerment Centers: Communities that Nurture Self-Sufficiency and Sisterhood



Nidhi, outside of the Fatima Empowerment Center

“The goal I want to achieve is to be able to be financially independent and not have to beg my abusive husband to support education expenses for my children.” These words, spoken by Nidhi, encapsulate the purpose of the Sambhali Trust Empowerment Centers. Illiterate and forced into marriage at an early age, Nidhi, like hundreds of other women in Rajasthan, finds refuge and resources at one of Sambhali Trust’s ten Empowerment Centers.

Sambhali U.S. helps fund these Empowerment Centers, where 300 women receive basic instruction in Hindi, English, and math, and vocational education in sewing and embroidery. They also take classes in self-defense and attend weekly workshops on a wide range of topics from health and safety to legal rights and environmental protection. After one year, participants graduate with a sewing machine and a marketable skill. As Nidhi explains, “Learning to sew is a blessing for me. The dress I am wearing was sewn by me and now I get to save all that money that I used to pay to my tailor. Not only this, I can sew dresses for my daughter.” And with the money she has earned by sewing for others, she can pay for schooling for her young daughter and son.

All of this occurs in a nurturing environment with the peer support necessary to encourage women to sustain their progress. Nidhi sums it up: “Coming to the center is like therapy for me. The chit-chats with my fellow classmates and inspiration from my teachers keeps me positive. When I am here I forget all the hardship I have to face at home.”



A Community Made For Learning

Abandoned by her husband when she was just 22 years old, Muskan struggled to find a source of income to provide for herself and her young daughter. Sambhali became Muskan’s safe harbor—a supportive community where she developed skills to sustain her family. Through the Sambhali Trust Empowerment Center, Muskan makes money at the local market. Reflecting about the Center, she says, “It is a place of joy for me, where I can meet my friends and have a few nice hours every day that I can spend to learn.”

A Community of Support

For Payal, a skill developed out of necessity became one of passion. At age 19, Payal was the only income earner in her family. Employed as a sweeper and dishwasher, she never had the opportunity for education. Payal joined a Sambhali Trust Empowerment Center to learn sewing because her family couldn’t afford to have their clothes tailored. Now, Payal has a passion for new patterns and designs and sewing new clothes. She recently completed a Rajasthani dress for her mother—a prideful project for Payal. With the help and steadfast support of those at the Center, Payal continues to thrive and learn lifelong skills, like writing and signing her name.

A Community Created to Support Financial Independence

Parveen, 40 years old, joined a Sambhali Trust Empowerment Center to learn to make clothes for herself and her three children, eliminating an expense during financially challenging times. Parveen’s sewing skills became a way for her to supplement her husband’s inconsistent income as a construction worker. Today, Parveen owns her own business using the skills and support she gained at the Center.

Primary Education Centers: Building Communities of Literacy and Hope



Education is key to fighting poverty. Yet while primary school is mandatory for Indian children between the ages of 6 and 14, it is far from the reality for many poor children. In the neighborhoods of Sambhali Trust's new centers in the city of Jaisalmer, 25% of the children are not enrolled in school at all. Of those who are enrolled, many do not attend regularly, fall behind, and drop out, thus perpetuating a cycle of illiteracy and poverty.

Fighting back, Sambhali U.S. is funding Sambhali Trust's Primary Education Centers, or PECs, that prepare children for public schooling, support them as they navigate the school system, and raise the community's awareness of the importance of education. The ten PECs serve 250 children per year, providing classes two hours per day, six days a week. They foster a creative, communal, and joyful atmosphere, generating a love of learning. Besides instruction in basic literacy and numeracy, the centers also offer workshops on the prevention of child sexual abuse, children's rights, health, daily hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition. Many of the children have mothers who attend the Empowerment Centers in the mornings in the same locations, thus reinforcing the positive lessons and experiences through generations.

A Community that Builds Confidence

When Kavita started at Laadli Primary Education Center, she did not want to be part of the Center's community. She struggled with her studies, handwriting and socializing. Kavita comes from an extremely poor household and her home life is challenging. It was difficult for her family to make ends meet, surviving on income from her father's work in the mines and her two oldest sisters' work as housecleaners. The community at Laadli rallied around Kavita, showering her with support. Now she comes to the Center daily to study, improve her skills, and find fellowship with other classmates.

A Community Where All Are Welcome

At age 12, Taranum did not know the alphabet. Since joining the Abhivyakti Primary Education Center, Taranum enjoys learning and focusing on her studies. She comes to the Center daily and recruits others to join because she understands the value the program brings to her life. For Taranum and many students, not needing to pay to join the Center is a relief. It allows them to concentrate on learning and setting themselves up for a successful future.

A Community that Supports Your Dreams

Simran hopes to become a doctor one day. This dream comes from an overwhelming passion to help others. Simran's mother, who attends the Empowerment Center, works at the local market and is the family's sole income earner. Simran is a happy participant in Abhivyakti Primary Education Center classes and has proved to be a brilliant student with an impressive aptitude for learning new things. As Simran continues her education and works towards becoming a doctor, she has a community at Sambhali Trust cheering her on.



Simran

Boarding Homes: Learning and Support in School-Based Communities

Tarani, age 11, lives in the Sambhali Trust Laadli boarding home. Described by her tutor as “the most hardworking girl of class 5,” Tarani says “my life changed after joining Sambhali. I never used to go to school or attend classes in the village.”

She is not alone. Approximately half of Rajasthani girls enrolled in school drop out before they reach secondary school. As a result, the state’s female literacy rate is the second lowest in the country.

Sambhali Trust’s Laadli Boarding Home for elementary school students and Sheerni Boarding Home for secondary school students provide girls from rural Rajasthan with stability, nurturing, and communal and educational supports to enable them to complete secondary school. Each boarding home has a housemother, cook, and tutors who together work with the girls to place them on a trajectory for success. In addition to a traditional academic curriculum, the girls receive computer instruction, take classes in self-defense, develop sewing skills, and attend workshops on topics such as health, legal rights, and the environment. And through the communal environment of the boarding homes, the girls develop leadership skills and a tight network fueled by mutual sustenance and encouragement. Says Tarani, “Here there is so much support and so many fun things to learn. I love school and learning difficult and new subjects.”

When the girls came to the boarding homes, they didn’t even dream of going to college. Now they plan for what they will study when they get there. In response, Sambhali Trust created a third boarding home, Abhayasthali, which today is home for ten young women who previously attended the Sheerni Boarding Home and are now pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees, the first women in their families to do so.



Tarani

A Community that Develops Lifelong Skills

Sisters Nura and Amena joined Sambhali Trust's boarding homes and discovered an unexpected passion: Martial Arts. As young girls, they learned this discipline through the self-defense classes hosted by Sambhali, which led them to join their school's Martial Arts team and begin competing in state championships. Emboldened by their new skills and the competitive spirit that they share, Nura and Amena have big dreams for the future. Nura wants to continue her studies and become a doctor. Amena hopes to become the chief of police and with her earnings open a boarding home for girls like her.



Nura and Amena

A Community that Nurtures the Next Generation

At ten years old, Manisha's life took a striking turn when she moved from her village to Sambhali Trust's Sheerni Boarding Home in Jodhpur. There she thrived—finding freedom, a space to cultivate friendships, and educational opportunities. Today, as a college student living at the Trust's Abhayasthali Boarding Home, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with plans to get her teaching certificate and a Master's in Geography and History. But she still finds time to give back to the community, teaching at the Trust's Fatima Primary Education Center, and presenting workshops on sexual abuse and puberty in Jodhpur schools. Through these experiences, Manisha is a role model inspiring hundreds of young girls to fulfill their dreams.



Young Manisha learning



Manisha teaching today

Nirbhaya:

The Impact of a Caring Community on Those Who Feel Most Alone

With your generous support, Sambhali U.S. funds the Nirbhaya Project, which operates a toll-free helpline providing direct assistance to women facing gender-based violence. Nirbhaya offers critically timed psychological intervention and legal support as well as access to medical and other crisis services. During the first six months of the 2022-2023 grant, which began on April 1, 2022, Nirbhaya fielded 340 calls from the state of Rajasthan and provided direct services to 56 women in the city of Jodhpur. These services included aid in filing police complaints, direct legal assistance, and trauma and couples counseling. Nirbhaya also delivers a robust educational program, holding workshops and distributing information to advise women about their legal rights and the support available through Sambhali Trust, including the Empowerment Centers and emergency shelter for women and their children facing gender-based violence.

M. was in deep distress when she arrived at Nirbhaya's office, accompanied by her father and covered in scars and bruises. Separated from her abusive husband, she described years of physical and verbal abuse directed at her, her son, and her mother, including a time when her husband attempted to set fire to her mother's house. Her husband had also taken out credit in her name without her knowledge or permission, using the proceeds to feed his alcohol and drug addiction. Working with the Nirbhaya team, M. received psychological and legal counseling as she pursued a divorce.



According to R., her marriage was fine until she became pregnant with the couple's third child, a girl. Her in-laws pressured her to take medication that resulted in a miscarriage. R.'s husband, an alcoholic, isolated her in the home, preventing her from accessing education and safe shelter, and prohibiting her from contacting her own parents. Deeply depressed, R. discovered the Nirbhaya helpline through a pamphlet she received during a leafletting campaign. The Nirbhaya Project provided R. and her husband with psychological, addiction, and legal counseling. Now R. has options and sees a path forward.

Aadarsh: A Community of Safety

Through its Aadarsh program, Sambhali Trust brings two workshops to children in public and private schools aimed at improving their health and well-being. One teaches young children how to prevent and respond to sexual abuse, and the other provides teens with information on the physical, mental, and emotional effects of puberty. It also covers the reproductive system, menstruation, staying safe online, sexual harassment, and mental health. Thanks to your support, these programs are intervening early in young people's lives, providing essential information so that they can navigate childhood and adolescence safely.



The Sambhali Community Celebrates International Women's Day

On March 8th, the Sambhali community came together to commemorate International Women's Day with a joyous march through the city of Jodhpur. Because of the pandemic, it was the first public celebration of International Women's Day in three years, and it was a testament to the persistence of the women who pursue self-reliance and empowerment for themselves and their daughters.

In the crowd was Mumtaz, who said she joined a Sambhali Trust Empowerment Center so that she could stand on her own two feet. And Asha, a Sambhali Trust teacher, spoke of building trust so together she and her students can stop the violence women routinely experience at home.

As they marched through the streets, the women and girls of Sambhali shouted and sang with courage and joy, repeating their demand:

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
(Save Daughter, Educate Daughter)

Together they chanted:

Nari Shakti Zindabad
(Long Live Women Empowerment)

Boarding home girls, march veterans who had been attending International Women's Day celebrations for years, joined with new students in the empowerment centers, staff, and volunteers. Together they formed a strong and exuberant community that owned the streets of Jodhpur.



The Sambhali U.S. Community: Volunteers and Donors Across the Country Working Together

In 2022, our ten-member Board of Directors and numerous volunteers and interns brought their diverse experience and talents to drive Sambhali U.S. forward. Seven of our Board members had either visited Sambhali Trust's centers in India or completed a minimum ten-week volunteer engagement with the Trust. One member has family in Jodhpur. Our team has decades of experience and expertise in fundraising, communications, volunteer engagement, and non-profit-management.

Collectively, these professional and on-the-ground experiences provide the Sambhali U.S. leadership with a greater understanding of how best to support programs in Rajasthan and direct funds to achieve the greatest impact. Our six committees encompass board members and other devoted volunteers. They meet regularly, strategize, and work to advance our mission. The committees include Communications, Development, Executive, Finance, Governance and Board Development, and Volunteer Engagement.

The members of the Board of Directors also share a commitment to responsible and transparent management. This is reflected in the gold ranking we have earned with the charity rating organization GuideStar. [Read more about our Board of Directors here.](#)



Sambhali U.S. Board Members

In-person left to right: Carlea Bauman, Dina Baker, Esther Pujol Rodriguez, Shereen Arent, Sarah Ahmad Abedin, Ginka Poole; on-screen clockwise from left: Tanmay Juneja, Laura Iwanyk, Donna Arons

Volunteer Spotlight: Ananya Potluri

Building the Sambhali U.S. Social Media Community

Ananya Potluri is a 17-year-old high school student living in Florida. Her family immigrated to the U.S. from southern India three years before she was born. “I see these images of young women [at Sambhali Trust] studying,” she says. “It makes me feel connected to them. I have family in India. My ancestors came from the rural side. A lot of the women in my family didn’t have educational opportunities. Yes, my family moved on from that, but there are still many in India who don’t have access to education.”

Ananya serves on the Communications Committee for Sambhali U.S., where she creates social media posts. She uses tools like Canva and Adobe Photoshop, but much of the work is research, pouring over success stories from the Trust and statistics from the United Nations and other resources.

Ananya found Sambhali U.S. in the spring via Volunteer Match, a nonprofit website that connects organizations and volunteers. After finishing school in May, she jumped right in, researching the background and mission of Sambhali. She was looking for a nonprofit related to India and a way to use her interest in technology to raise awareness. She soon created her [first Instagram post](#) highlighting literacy rates for women in India.

“Ananya came on as our youngest volunteer. My reservations about her youth quickly disappeared with our first interview. Ananya is accomplished and assertive. She puts her heart into her work, making sure she communicates the needs and accomplishments of the women and girls of Sambhali,” says Ginka Poole, Vice President of Sambhali U.S. and chair of the Communications Committee.

“It’s amazing to have an international impact,” says Ananya. “It’s a way to give back to my [family’s] native country. I’m helping in a small way, and that’s super important to me. I have a close tie to my country now. Instead of just being from India, now I’m actually helping people in India.”



Ananya celebrating Diwali

FCRA—What It Is and Why It Matters

In 2022, Sambhali Trust, and by extension Sambhali U.S., confronted a critical external threat to continuing the programming described throughout this annual report.

Under an Indian law known as the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, or FCRA, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must receive governmental approval every five years to accept foreign funds. While Sambhali Trust's applications were routinely approved in prior cycles, in the past few years foreign funding came under increased scrutiny in India. As a result, thousands of organizations' applications for recertification have been denied, and that is what happened to the Trust this year.

This did not prevent Sambhali Trust from continuing as a registered NGO in India, but it did prevent it from accepting and using funds from entities or people who are not Indian. The impact was devastating; over 90% of Sambhali Trust's operating budget is derived from foreign sources. While the Trust appealed the decision and implemented numerous layers of contingency plans, the community rose up to help so that the valuable services the Trust provides would continue. Staff helped by deferring salary, arrangements were made to delay rental and tuition payments, and, where necessary, services were relocated—at times to spaces provided by community members themselves.

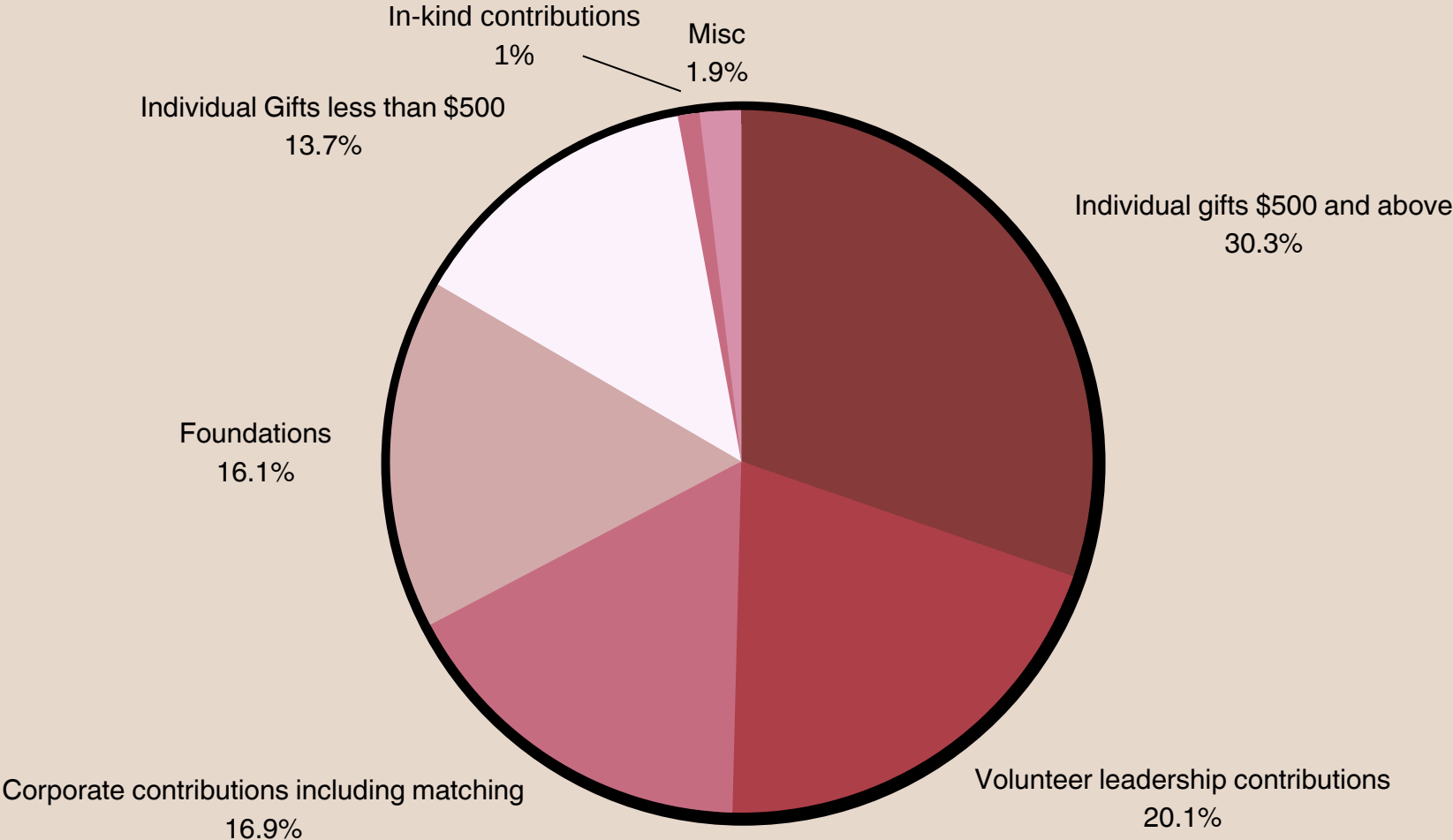
Meanwhile, halfway across the world, the Sambhali U.S. board decided to suspend all active fundraising until the FCRA issue was resolved and we would know when our donors' generosity could reach India. Instead of sending out our usual appeals for donations during this period, in December we informed donors of the situation and offered to refund any unspent donations so that they could be redirected by the donor before the end of the tax year. In response, our donors overwhelmingly voiced their support for Sambhali's work and said they stood ready to continue giving as soon as the Trust was able to receive foreign funds.

Finally, on December 21, 2022, the Trust received word that FCRA recertification had been granted. Sambhali U.S. quickly rushed funds to India to assist the Trust in satisfying its past due obligations. And Sambhali U.S. board members sprang into action, reaching out to donors with last minute requests so that we could make up for so much lost time in building funds for ongoing support to the Trust. The response was immediate and overwhelming. In a little over a week, we were able to turn 2022 into our best fundraising year ever.

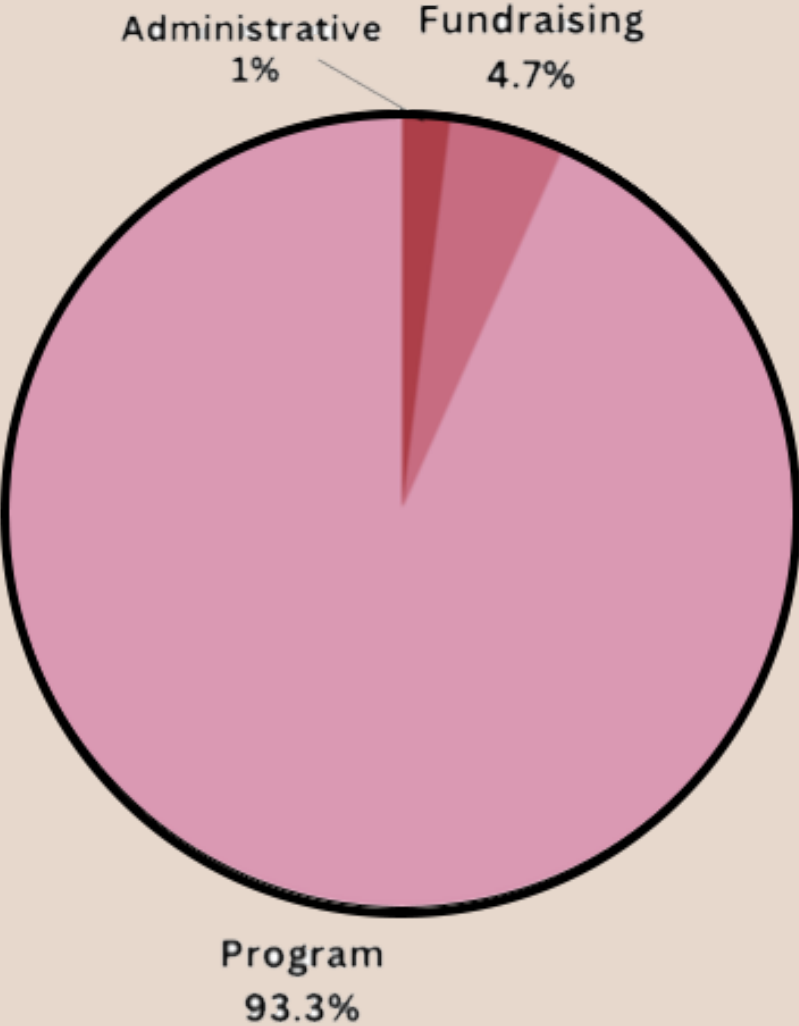
Out of crisis comes opportunity. The initial FCRA denial posed an unprecedented crisis for the two organizations. But the Indian and American communities rallied in support of our mission, and Sambhali Trust and Sambhali U.S emerged stronger.

We are so grateful for the generous support of our growing and diverse community of donors who in 2022 invested nearly \$84,000 in Sambhali U.S. By maintaining an all-volunteer organization and keeping administrative and fundraising expenditures low, Sambhali U.S. ensures that these contributions have a direct impact on the women and girls of Rajasthan. Last year, 93.3% of our total expenditures went directly to Sambhali Trust programs.

Income



Expenses



Donor Spotlight:

The Society of Women Engineers and the University of Wisconsin Connecting Learning Communities Across the World



The Society of Women Engineers at the University of Wisconsin

For Olivia D'Souza, choosing a career in electrical engineering, stringing together a circuit board, and working with a potentiometer is easy. More challenging is navigating the time difference with a country on the other side of the planet so she could demonstrate her talents to girls at the Sheerni Boarding Home in Jodhpur. "Our first problem was the timing. How are we going to get over this ten and a half hour time difference?" Nevertheless, she prevailed. "It was pretty late at night for us (9:45 pm Saturday) and it was an early morning for the girls (8:15 am Sunday), but I think it worked out well."

Olivia, today a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin Madison, was carrying on a tradition started by her predecessors in the school's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). In 2019, students from the UW-Madison SWE traveled to Rajasthan and held in-person workshops on engineering at Sambhali Trust projects. The future engineers enjoyed it so much that, when they returned home, they immediately began fundraising for another trip the following year.

Then Covid hit, all travel was canceled, and the original group of students who traveled to India graduated and moved on to their next adventures. But SWE's commitment to Sambhali remained and the students continued to raise funds by working at concession stands at the University of Wisconsin sporting events over three years. In early 2022, they donated funds that they raised game by game, a total of \$7,500, to Sambhali U.S.

Still, they wanted to do more.

They found that giving worked best for them when it took two forms: both financial support and volunteering their time and knowledge. "We wanted to form personal connections with the girls at Sambhali; we wanted to create something interactive," states Olivia. In January, they connected with Sambhali U.S. president Shereen Arent who offered to help facilitate a virtual program when she visited India in March of 2022.

At the workshop, Olivia and her co-presenters, Loukia Agoudemos (Biomedical Engineering) and Divya Danthuluri (Industrial Engineering) wanted to show the girls "how vast and diverse and amazing engineering is and where you can go with it." Each of them explained different types of engineering including their specialties. Olivia, who remembered how enthralled she was when she created her first circuit board, demonstrated to the girls how changing wires can lead to different colors on LEDs. "As soon as I lit up the circuit, I just saw their faces light up with the biggest smiles and wide eyes. I felt so proud and happy that their reactions were the same as mine."

Following the demo, the students started sharing their lives with each other. "My favorite part of the workshop was the three of us talking with the girls of Sambhali. They have so much to give and provide their communities. It was a moment of inspiration for us. I really enjoyed designing the workshop, but the best part was getting to talk with the girls."

Olivia's involvement with Sambhali is personally meaningful, as she was born in Satara, in the Indian state of Maharashtra (about 750 miles south of Jodhpur) and moved to the U.S. as a baby. She was in Rajasthan five years ago when she and her family toured northern India while visiting relatives.

The students of UW SWE continue to raise money via concession sales at school sporting events, and they hope to visit Sambhali Trust in January 2024. In the meantime, they are designing an engineering project that the Sambhali girls can do remotely. The connections they have made with the Sheerni students help keep their passions for their studies going.

As Olivia explained, "The girls at Sambhali, I hope they know how inspiring they are. We get so caught up in our own whirlwinds that the small but great things are forgotten about. Working with them has re-inspired a lot of us here."



Olivia D'Souza

For more information about **Sambhali U.S.** visit our [website](#),
subscribe to our [newsletter](#), and follow us:



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