



Touching Lives, Making Change



Glossary

<i>Aanganwadi</i>	Centre for children under 6 years of age under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
<i>Abhiruchi Varg</i>	Classes where interests among children is cultivated through games, stories and songs.
<i>Baal Melava</i>	Children's Gathering.
<i>Dalits</i>	Scheduled Castes, communities which have been the victims of 'untouchability'
<i>Dnayndhara Vachanalay</i>	Flow of education Library
<i>Gram Panchayat</i>	Village council, consisting of elected representatives
<i>Gram Sabha</i>	Village assembly, comprising all adult residents of the village
<i>Kishori Mandal</i>	Adolescent Group
<i>Lakh</i>	Lac; 1,00,000, one hundred thousand
<i>Laman</i>	One of DNTs community, they are also known as Banjara.
<i>Shikshan Deep</i>	Flame of Education.
<i>Tanda</i>	Hamlet or habitation of Laman community.
<i>Yuvak Mandal</i>	Youth Group

Acronyms

CBOs	Community-based Organisation
DNTs	De-notified Nomadic Tribes
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
MDMS	Mid-Day Meal Scheme
PDS	Public Distribution System
RTI	Right to Information Act
SHGs	Self Help Groups
Samarthya	Samarthya Kalyankari Sanstha.
VAW	Violence Against Women

What will you see in the Report....

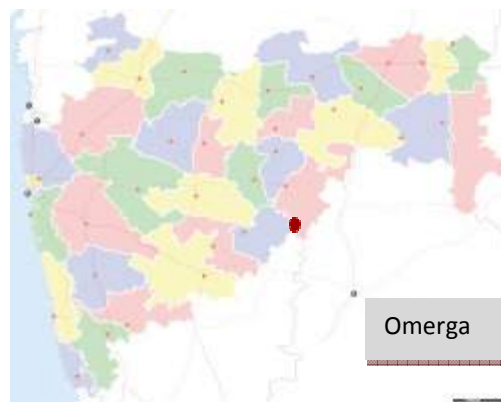
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Origin of the Samarthya:

Osmanabad district has been destination of large number of de-notified and nomadic tribes (DNTs) communities. Banjara is also known as Laman, is one of the communities found in every rural pockets of the district. Omerga has its more than 38 Tandas. They never became the priority for any developmental work except for vote banks. As a result the deprivation was reached to the level of that the community should

take the charge of their own development.

It began with the small initiative by local youth. Alcoholism is widespread in the community. No one knows how to stop this. One day few women along with youth raised the voice and called panchayats meeting to discuss it. Initially it was tough for women to put forth their concerns. After seeing the assertion of women, leaders especially men agreed to stop brewing, selling and consuming the liquor in the Tanda. This small victory made women and youngsters to do something more in concrete for community. A work on improving quality education in primary school was started. After seeing the encouraging results and participation by children, it was needed to continue. It became regular activity. Considering the SWOT, it became essential to formalize the initiative, and hence the Samarthya came into being in 2008.



It was formally registered on Jan 2008 under Societies Registration -1860 and Bombay Public Trust Act-1950.

Our Mission:

- To raise and maintain Samarthya as an organization committed to building a society for all based on the principles of truth, justice, freedom, equality in solidarity with the poor, marginalized and vulnerable sections of society such as de-notified nomadic tribes, dalits, tribals, minorities, women and children.
- To promote quality education for marginalised children resulting in social transformation based on transparency, accountability, pluralism, equity, justice, peace and respect for all.
- To promote women leadership to participate in the socio-cultural-economical-educational and political spheres actively.
- To eradicate caste based discrimination and ensure social equality and cohesion.
- To achieve our objectives in partnership with like-minded organizations and individuals.
- To enhance the capacity of our human resources in terms of integrity, attitude and orientation.

Our vision:

“We envision a society where de-notified nomadic, dalits, tribals, minority communities and women, live with dignity, have equal opportunity and social and economic justice.”

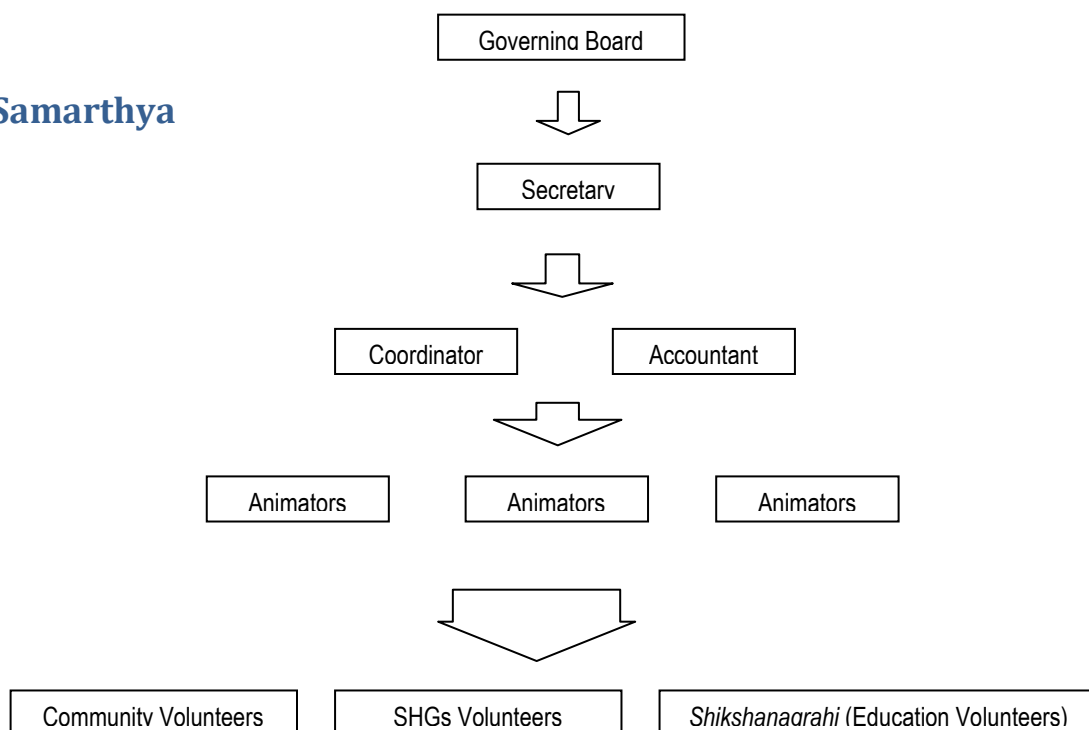
Registration Details:

Type of Registration	Registration Number	Date of Registration
Societies Reg. Act 1860	Mah/08/2008	07/01/2008
Bombay Public Trust Act 1950	F 9553	03/03/2008
PAN Number	AADAS6459B	07/01/2008
Registration certificate U/s 12 A Income Tax	135/61/2009-10	19/02/2010
U/s, 80-G of the Income Tax	ABD/CIT/TECH/80G/SKS/135/61/2009-10	19/02/2010

Details of Governing Board:

Sl	Name of Members:	Designation	Sex	Age	Edu.	Address
1.	Ms. Babita Rathod	President	Female	27	B Com	Bramhapuri Colony, Omerga
2.	Ms. Vaishali Chavan	Vice-President	Female	34	BA	At Chavanwadi Tal. Shirur, Pune
3.	Ms. Ranjita Pawar	Secretary	Female	26	D. Ed	Bramhapuri Colony, Omerga
4.	Ms. Shyamal Shinde	Treasurer	Female	42	HSC	Bramhapuri Colony, Omerga
5.	Ms. Vandana Patil	Member	Female	38	SSC	At Post Kader Tal Omerga
6.	Ms. Raeesa Mujawar	Member	Female	34	SSC	Kader Tal. Omerga
7.	Ms. Tereasa Lasrado	Member	Female	54	BA	Kondwa Khurd, Pune

Structure of Samarthya





Ensuring Quality Education Among Children:

Samarthya continued the work on quality education. The pedagogy of Pratham was adopted. Pre-testing of students studying in Primary Schools based in tanda was undertaken. Followed with the capacity building training of Shikshanagrahi was organized for three days from 15th to 17th June 2010 at Sardarnagar. It was to orient Shikshangagrahi on the pedagogy of primary education. Total 17 participants participated in the programme. Shri Shantaram Gaikwad and Shri V.V. Chavan, Extension Officers, Pachayat Samiti-Omerga Tehsil were invited for inaugural session. They liked the voluntary spirit of the youth from the Tanda towards improving the quality of the education of primary schools. The support from primary schools were in all the efforts of Samarthya assured by the officials during the programme.

The action plan was prepared for all the schools of 15 Tanda. Accordingly pretesting of language and math for children studying in primary schools (1st to 7th std) were undertaken in 15 Tanda between 23rd to 26th June 2010. The results of the same are shown in the tables.

Sr. No	Name of Tanda	Total Students	Language				
			Story	Simple para	Words	Letters	None
1.	Sardarnagar	31	12	2	5	6	6
2.	Sewanagar	30	3	7	8	7	5
3.	Vyankatnagar	21	3	2	4	5	7
4.	Nishariagar	15	2	3	4	3	3
5.	Maharanapratap Nagar	25	3	5	6	5	6
6.	Sudhakaragar	15	2	2	1	2	8
7.	Krishnanagar	19	3	1	3	3	9
8.	Jadhavnagar	19	4	3	5	2	5
9.	Vadarvasti	27	3	5	7	5	7
10.	Sewalalnagar	21	4	4	3	2	8
11.	Jetalalnagar	25	4	10	4	4	3
12.	Sheetalagar	30	5	7	5	7	6
13.	Anandnagar	27	3	5	4	8	7
14.	Manoharnaiknagar	30	6	5	4	7	8
15.	Vadarvasti Turori	35	7	8	9	5	6
	Total	370	64	69	72	71	94

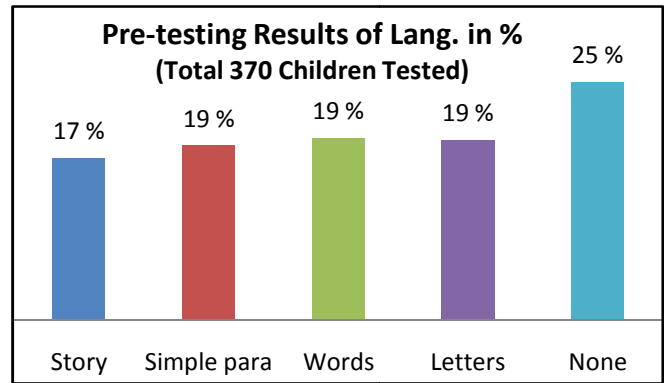
The above mentioned table shows the number of students brought under the activities of improving the learning levels of students in Language. The categories of 'Story' 'Simple Paragraph' ' Words' 'Letters' and 'None' are of Language that speak about the level of student. Similarly the below mentioned table also shows about the 'Math' with six categories.

Sr. No	Name of Tanda	Total Students	Math					
			Div.	Subtraction	51 to 100	10 to 50	1 to 9	None
1.	Sardarnagar	31	-	08	05	04	11	03
2.	Sewanagar	30		07	03	06	04	10
3.	Vyankatnagar	21		02	03	05	05	06
4.	Nishariagar	15		02	03	04	03	03
5.	Maharanapratap Ngr	25		02	04	05	07	07
6.	Sudhakaragar	15		00	01	02	05	07
7.	Krishnanagar	19		03	07	03	04	02
8.	Jadhavnagar	19		02	03	04	04	06
9.	Vadarvasti	27		02	05	04	08	08
10.	Sewalalnagar	21		04	04	02	04	07
11.	Jetalalnagar	25		02	03	04	14	02
12.	Sheetalagar	30		05	08	05	04	08
13.	Anandnagar	27		02	02	07	11	05
14.	Manoharnaiknagar	30	02	05	05	06	06	06
15.	Vadarvasti Turori	35		05	07	07	08	08
	Total	370	02	51	63	68	98	88

Samarthya used tools of Pratham that exactly ascertain the level of student.

The results of Language (Marathi) shows that :

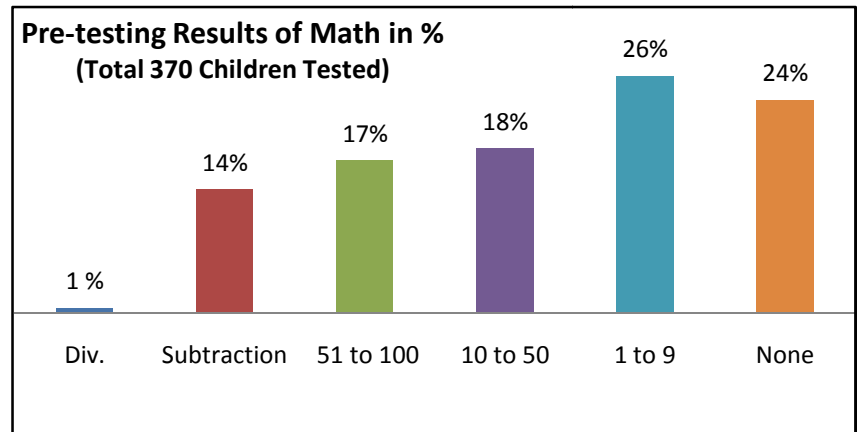
- 25% (94) children were unable to read neither word nor letters.
- Merely 17% (64) children are able to read Story.
- Similarly 19% children could read Simple Para and 19% could read Words and 19% could recognize the letters.
- The challenge is to make 100% children read story.



The results for Math are given below in table form.

The results of pretesting of Math are also discouraging. It shows that :

- 24% children were not able to recognize numbers properly.
- 26% children could understand and recognize the numbers between 1 to 9.
- It is interesting to note that there was only one student who could do division.
- Overall the findings of Math are very discouraging.



Based on the results a team of 17 youth are shouldered with the responsibilities of teaching children using simple methods. A three months time given to teach children (those are identified as slow learners) to bring them on the desired levels of learning. Support classes are being run in all 15 Tandas to teach children. The retention levels from 87% to 94% is achieved in mostly all the schools.

Priyanka Rathod informed that, "...my confidence is really enhanced in the training programme..."

"I liked teaching children, but how to teach them systematically was the difficulty I was facing. Thanks to these three days intensive training that helped me to teach children easily and properly." Shares Rekha Rathod.

"I used to frighten while speaking before people. This training helped me in boosting my confidence." Says Pooja Jadhav.

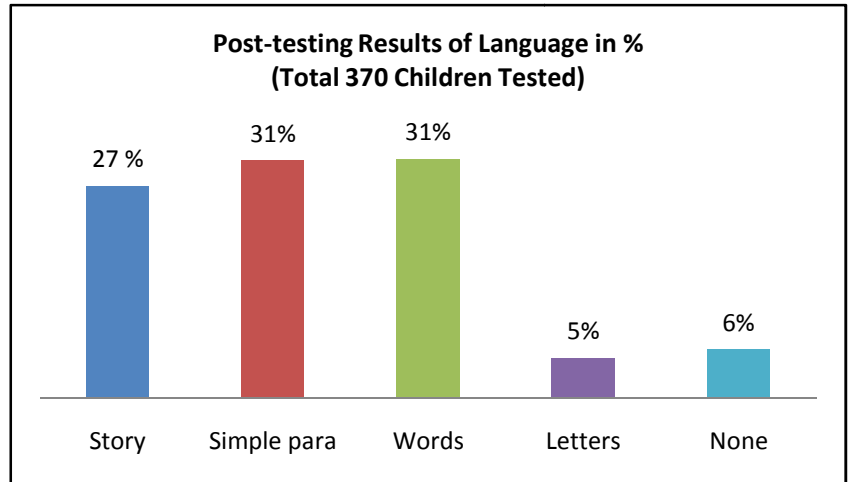
"It was amusing to teach math in practical way with..." says Shivaji Rathod.

The Results:

Samarthya conducted Post Test during 13 to 16 Feb. 2011 in selected 15 Tanda. The same i.e. 370 students were enrolled in post-test exercise. The tools developed by the Pratham were employed to ascertain the data.

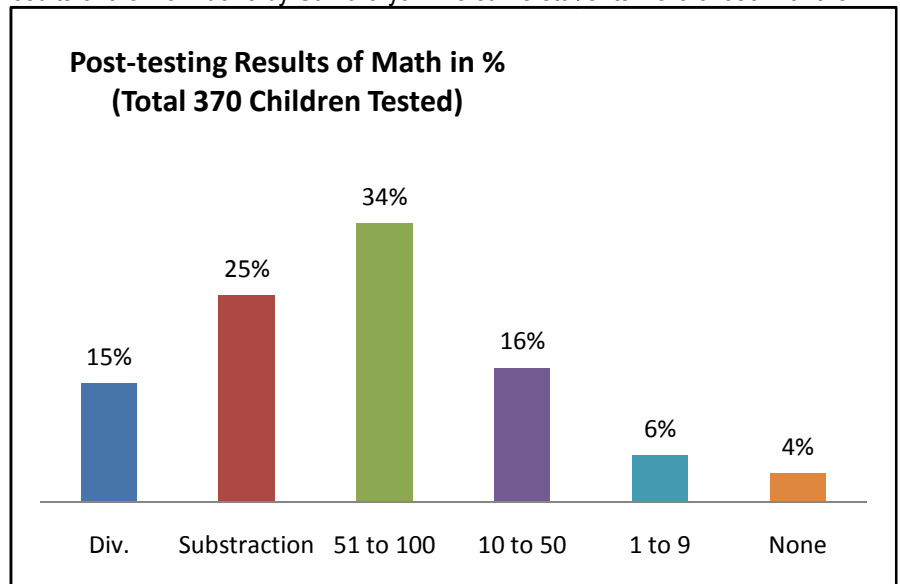
The results were very encouraging:

- There were 25% students were in the 'None' category during pre-test conducted six months back. Only 6 % remained in this category.
- Earlier there 17% students in the category of 'Story' during pre-test, 27% are now.
- Similarly there were 19% percent students were in the letter category which after the intervention decreased to 5%.



The post-test of Math was also used to see the results of the work done by Samarthya. The same students were chosen for the exercise. Total 370 students undergone the test. The results are as follow:

- There were 24% students in 'None' category, the results observed during post-test are 4%. Total 20% moved to next level.
- 26% students were in '1 to 9' category observed during pre-test, it is seen that 6% remained in this category.
- Most of students i.e. 34% are in '51 to 100' category and 25% students can do subtraction compared with 14% of pre-test results.



Overall, the programme was useful in terms of increasing the levels of learning among students of primary school.

However the English language and comprehension needed to be incorporated. Samarthya is trying to putting its efforts to get the assistance from other organizations working on this subject.

Summer Camps for Children:

Summer camp of two days was organized by Samarthya for children from 15 tando of Omerga block of Osmanabad district. More than 70 children participated actively. They were trained on making toys from papers, waste material, earthen. They were also helped to draw pictures from waste clothes, leaves etc.

Games were also organized to cultivate the team spirit, boost their confidence and increase communication skills. Opportunities were given to develop their potentials.





Helping children find education interesting through Abhiruchi Classes:

Samarthya understood the importance of interest while forwarding the educational activities for children. Hence Abhiruchi Classes have been organized in 15 tanda. Games, songs, stories and reading are the key elements while undertaking activities of Abhiruchi Classes. Children enjoy these twice in a week. Total 558 children are benefiting from Abhiruchi Classes.

Lightening the candles of Education: Shikshan Deep Rally for Promoting Enrolment

Poor retention, high drop out rates and poor quality education are the key problems face by the primary schools located at tandas. Samarthya planned to address these concerns and make parents and children active in the education process. शिक्षण

दिप प्रचलन rallies were conceptualized to awake parents and children. The rallies were organized with the view to:

- ✓ Enhance the understanding over education
- ✓ Sensitizing parents especially Fathers on their daughters' education
- ✓ Ensuring 100% enrolment
- ✓ 0% drop out

Rallies were organized in 15 tanda from 26 June to 2nd July 2010. More than 1000 families were touched on the issues of education and urged to send in their children to school. Children participated to make this event happen were trained to make banners and slogans on education. It had helped in various ways:

- Parents do understand that importance of education, however sensitization on girls education is essential.
- Need of education in ones life is reinforced among children.
- Parents have become more active in Tanda Education Committees.

Mothers seem to be more active in sending their daughters to schools

Encouraging students to Pursue Education Further:

Motivation to dalit students to pursue higher education is further strengthened by Samarthya by felicitating them at community level. Students who have achieved good rank and scored high were listed out from each Tanda. A common program was held at Sardarnagar Tanda the eve of birth anniversary of late Shri Vasantaroaji Naik, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra 1st July 2010. Students who have been able to secure good marks in 10th, 12th, D Ed. Total 10 such students were felicitated.

Students who have excelled in the education and exams			
Sr.	Name of student	Tanda	Education
1.	Ankush Pawar	Sardarnagar	D.Ed.
2.	Pravin Pawar	Sardarnagar	D.Ed.
3.	Sharad Pawar	Sardarnagar	D.Ed.
4.	Sunil Pawar	Sardarnagar	D.Ed.
5.	Pooja Jadhav	Sardarnagar	HSC
6.	Babu Rane	Sardarnagar	SSC
7.	Minakshi Rathod	Sardarnagar	SSC
8.	Asha Rathod	Sevanagar	SSC
9.	Vidya Pawar	Sardarnagar	MPSC
10.	Vikram Pawar	Sardarnagar	Jawahar Navoday Vidyalay for IX



Spreading the Education through Mobile Library:

In order to reach out more numbers of children in Tandas, mobile libraries were introduced in the five Tandas. 30 books of children given to each Support Classes. Small story books, cartoon books, books on scholarships and autobiographies kept at each Support Classes. The books are rotated through classes. 375 to 500 books are circulated so far. Presently 142 persons have read books of their interests. Total 365 persons include youth, adolescent girls and children will benefit from the mobile library.



Campaigning Through Comics:

Campaigns were organized in 15 tando. Domestic Violence Act 2005, Right to Information Act 2005, Panchayati Raj were the topics covered under the campaign. It was organized with the use of Comics. The procedure of getting rationing card was demonstrated through the Comics. They were prepared by the local youth

Leadership Development Workshop for Youth:

Workshop for youth on various socially relevant issues, legal aspects and personality development was organized from 22nd to 27th Sept. 2010 at Omerga. The workshop was based on the yoga. The response from youth was overwhelming. Most of them were from the deprived and marginalized communities. It was aimed at making them to contribute towards their community development. The topics covered were SC, ST Prevention of Atrocity Act 1989, Domestic Violence Act 2005, Right to Information Act 2006 and Citizenry Rights etc. Mr. Arun Renke, a Communist and Dalit Activist was invited for the talk. Total 25 youth participated in the workshop.



Empowering Youth...Making Kishori Mandal Voice Up Their Concerns:

There are 5 Kishori Mandals comprised of 75 adolescent girls promoted by Samarthyaa in five tanda. Adolescent girls meet in *Kishori Mandals* to gain knowledge of personal hygiene and nutrition. They are also made aware on the rights of adolescents girls. Weekly meetings are held at respective Tanda. Games and songs are taken to make them event entertaining. The resource persons are invited to increase their knowledge on health and hygiene. Informative documentaries are screened. Besides, skills based training are provided them to learn Jardoshi, dress designing and communication skills.



Motor Cycle Rally:

Motor cycle rally was organized in Tand of Omerga block with the view to make all people understand the relevance of making



all Tanda with revenue status. The rally moved on to the Tanda of Lohara block.

Entitlement to Govt. Welfare Schemes:

Samarthya facilitated the entitlement of election voters ID in the light of Panchayat election held recently in the Maharashtra. Left out and fresh applicants were informed about its importance and camps were organized to get the election voter ids. The following are the details:

Total beneficiaries of Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Shrawanbal Old age pension scheme: 13

Facilitated to avail caste certificates : 05 persons

Sr.#	Name of Tanda	New Cards	With Photo	Total Cards
1.	Sewalalnagar-Achaler	13	13	26
2.	Jetalalnagar	24	30	54
3.	Sewanagar Kader	2	12	14
4.	Sardarnagar	16	12	28
5.	Vyankatnagar	9	9	18
	Total	64	76	140

No of beneficiaries availed rationing cards		
Sr.#	Name of Tanda	Beneficiaries
1.	Balajinagar –Omerga	37
2.	Vadaarvasti Turori	27
	Total	64



Organising Women Through Building SHGs:

Samarthya has been able to promote 110 SHGs in 15 Tanda of Omerga and Lohara block. SHGs were helped to avail the loan from Banks to start income generating activities. Goat /cows/ buffalos rearing, grocery and general stores, garment shops were initiated by women.

Presently women are earning in the tune of Rs 1500/- to 2500/- PM.

7 senior persons helped to avail the pension @ Rs 250 PM. Krantikari Mahila Sangh (Village Level Federation) formed in Kader village: 13 SHGs are members of the Sangh

Total SHGs promoted: 110

Total Women in SHGs: 1461

Total Saving: 12,27,550

Total Loan mobilized: 18,20,000

Women started IGAs: 26



Filled application for the compensation...

Houses of four families in Jetalalnagar damaged due to downpour. Animators arranged to report to the Tehsildar for the compensation. The victims will receive the compensation within next six months.

Entitlement of life insurance to landless families...

In a rural landless household, when everyday living is a struggle, it is difficult to face life with a smile. And it becomes even more difficult when the future of family is uncertain. Aam Admi Bima Yojana, a prestigious scheme of the Central and State / Union Territory Governments and administered by LIC brings a ray of hope and smile to these households.

In the event of death of a member prior to the terminal date, the Sum Assured of Rs. 30,000/- will become payable to the nominee. In the event of death by accident or Total / Partial Permanent Disability due to accident, the following benefits shall become payable: a) on death due to accident Rs. 75,000/- b) Permanent total disability due to accident Rs. 75,000/- c) Loss of one eye or one limb in an accident Rs. 37,500/-

Twelve families were helped to avail the life insurance under 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana scheme.



Women Lead Total Sanitation Drive: Success Story of Sardarnagar Tanda.

Sardarnagar, predominated by Laman, a denotified nomadic tribe has been devoid of basic amenities, even after attainment of independence however the Self Help Group (SHG) of local woman formed by Samarthya whose determined efforts have changed the face of Tanda and brought an honour to it.

Remotely located Sardarnagar a Tanda of Kader Gram Panchayat, with barely 44 households of Laman community, falls in Omerga block in Osmanabad district. It has six active SHGs formed in 2008, when Samarthya began to work with the community.

Status of women in Laman community is considered to be lower most. They are never allowed to move freely. The literacy level among women is also worrisome. Even today, hardly 10% girls continue their education after 7th Std.

Samarthya team members hail from the same community, so aware of the issues. Hence work started with mobilizing women through building their SHGs. Total six SHGs formed in 2008. The management of SHGs and orientation over development issues are the key areas involved in building the capacities of women.

Lack of toilet was one of the major issues faced by the women. They face lot of hardship during night and especially in monsoon. Male members go both the time. However women had choice of evening. So it was more important for them. The need was always discussed during the meetings. In one of the meetings all women urged Samarthya team member to take it forward and help to have their own toilet. Meanwhile women had been to an exhibition of products of SHGs organized by Zilla Udyog Kendra and Panchayat Samiti, Omerga at Khasagi. A cost effective household latrine was demonstrated. Women liked it. They made their mind to have such at their house. The demand of having own latrine increased. Women were passionate for having it.

“Sitting in our own latrine in Tanda is an experience of swarg (heaven)” shares Balaji Pawar smilingly

The possibility of constructing toilet was explored. Total 30 toilets to be set for which total Rs 160,000 was estimated. The team of SHGs thus contacted senior officials of Panchayat Samiti of Omerga for some financial assistance. There was reluctance initially, however officials agreed to provide some interest free loan to SHG. After putting all the pressure officials agreed to release Rs 40000/- . Sum of Rs 2200/- for each toilet was planned to receive as grant from the Scheme for making open defecation free tanda. About Rs 6000/- was estimated for constructing one toilet, still there was Rs 54000/- was needed to cover all the construction cost. Women were ready to bear the remaining cost as it was coming around Rs 1800.

There were unemployed youth in the Tanda. Six youth were willing to undergo masonry training while constructing toilet. They were asked to devote their time and labour.

The construction work was started. The involvement of male member who were initially not interested started helping in carrying material to the sites and also did shramdaan. The construction work is completed with setting up total 30 individual toilets.

Another interesting fact in this Tanda is that 14 households already had toilets. But most were inadequately constructed and used as storage or bath rooms. The women got these toilets repaired and brought them in proper use. The SHG women understand that any behavioral change is even more difficult to sustain than to initiate. Therefore they evolved a system of community monitoring to ensure that the toilets are being used and maintained well. The women frequently visited houses to ensure proper usage and maintenance of toilets. They also appointed a village senior for two months to watch and warn people against open defecation.

“There was day when I used to be afraid of going out during monsoon. Farmers used put thorn fencing. It was very risky sitting in farm. Today I don’t have words to express the relief!” Says Walabai Pawar happily.

. Ms. Komal Jadhav, a member of SHG of Kader Panchayat said, “really good to see that women of Laman have availed privilege to use toilet, our women of main Panchayat are still deprived.” She with the help of Samarthyaa took initiative and helped three women to set up their own toilet at their house.

There are total 36 Tanda in Omerga block. The socio-economic condition does not allow to prioritise for having their own toilet. The initiative of SHGs of Sardarnagar is pioneer and guiding direction to all the other Tanda.

Thanks to the efforts, together with the determination and persistence of the steadfast SHGs, that have led to make Sardarnagar a tanda free of open defecation.



Collectively we can clean up: Success Story of Women Banning Liquor in Achaler Tanda.

Sewalala nagar and Jetalalnagar tanda are two Tandas situated in the Achaler panchayat of Lohara block of Osmanabad district. Total 165 households comprising 734 populations reside in the two Tandas. The agriculture has been the mainstay of the economy of the Tandas.

Shankar Pawar one of the persons from Jetalalnagar was engaged in the brewing liquor illegally since many years in both the Tanda. It is said that he used to make ` 15,000 in a day by selling liquor. People were habitual of having liquor daily. As a result many families used to have quarrel in evenings. Beating wives and children is usual scenario of the tandas which cost seven lives of persons from the same Tanda in the past!

Samarthya had started its work. Krishna and Banjara SHGs formed with 20 women from the two Tandas. Regular meetings with SHGs helped boost their confidence. Tanda level issues were used to discuss in the meetings. Liquor was the issue touched in every meeting by the members, but afraid to be the one to bell the cat. Samarthya promoted the discussion and encouraged to resist the sale of liquor in the Tanda.



Women showing destroyed rubber tubes of liquor.

On other day Shri Zapu Soma Pawar, husband of Ms Ranubai Pawar, a member of Krishna SHG of the Jetalalnagar, had taken away ` 28,000 of SHG in the morning. She was waiting for him. He came drunk. After asking about the money, the quarrel began between them. He started beating her up. She felt so helpless and despair which led her get hanged to the tree and put the end to the life. Meanwhile other women from SHGs rushed to her rescue. Somehow she was saved on the day.

Next day, a meeting was called by Ms. Rekha Pawar, animator of Samarthya to discuss the incidence and decide the action against such menace. All women gathered. They already lost their temper so all decided to take stunning action. They all moved to the place where brewing was going on. The avatar of women was so frightening that the persons selling liquor ran away leaving all the material behind. Women along with youngsters destroyed shop. Everyone was feeling satisfied about the doing...

It is been three months now and no one dare to either sell liquor or come drunk!



Livelihood With Dignity

Ours initiatives have helped many out of a life fraught with hardship and poverty. Here are some encouraging stories of the difference we have made. This is only the beginning

Restructuring Life: Success Stories of SHG women.

Hirabai Kasabe

- Age: 30 years
- Marital status: Married
- No of children: 3 Girls
- Location: Omerga.
- Loan amount: Rs 20, 000/-
- Occupation: Grocery Shop & Providing bicycles on rent.

"I was almost penny less, Samarthyia has uplifted me from the miserable condition and made my life livable", says Hirabai Kasabe. Hirabai and her husband almost had no means of income. She used to go to farm as daily wager and her husband was engaged in painting. But most of the days their income was really low, even on few days there was no income. It was difficult for them to meet the daily expenses. They wanted to make their life better, but they had no idea what they could do.

Hirabai got the hope from her Gautambuddha SHG formed by Samarthyia. She used to attend all the meetings and also undergone various trainings organized by Samarthyia. "I learned how to face the society, though I was poor but information made me rich and overcome complex" says Hirabai.

She availed a loan of Rs. 20,000 and invested in starting grocery shop. Since there was no other shop to meet the needs of grocery, people find it easy to buy things required daily. The demand increased and business grew. Gradually she asked her husband who used to go to work as daily wage worker for painting work to join in. Hirabai started one more income generating activities of providing bicycles of small children on rent. Her husband also got the regular job with her wife.

Today both earning around Rs. 6000/- pm. With this income new television set is purchased on installment.



Hirabai says, “ I have three girls. People used to remark on being mothers of three girls. But today I can tell them being girl has positive aspects also..they can stand on their feet. Thanks to all the women of Samarthya and also Gautambuddha SHGs who extended their helping hands...”

Rajeshri Mane

- Age: 35 years
- Marital status: Married
- No of children: 2 Girls and a boy
- Location: Omerga.
- Loan amount: Rs 45, 000/-
- Occupation: Saree shop.



Rajeshri's husband was working in local medical shop.

It was tough to run family and raise 3 children. The income used to get from after working in shop was not enough to even cover the food expenses. Rajeshri

realized the situation and availed loan of Rs 45,000 from her Aadarsh SHG and started a Saree shop. Women from SHGs came forward for purchasing Sarees from her. The stock was used to be emptied within fifteen days. The sell increased. Women and College girls used to come to her house.

With the growing sell, Rajeshri purchased sewing machine. She was unable to manage the shop and tailoring business. She asked her husband to leave the job and take care of Saree Shop. He happily joined.

Today more than Rs 15000/- pm is coming regularly to her house.

“ I have not done any great thing, just managed to perform my role as SHG member and meet the purpose of Aadarsh SHG...I followed the path...and now enjoying the fruits...”

Mangal Mamde

- Age: 30 years
- Marital status: Married
- No of children: 2 Girls and a boy
- Location: Omerga.
- Loan amount: Rs 6, 000/-
- Occupation: Shoe & chappal repair shop .

“We migrated from nearby village, had taken loan from moneylender to start chappal repair shop. But neither could repay loan nor earned anything...difficult to even live...” recalls Mangal Mamde member of Prachi SHG of Omerga.



Mangal Mamde a resident of Chakur village, married, having three children, came to Omerga in search of job. Her husband has a shop of repairing chappals/shoes. Mangal used to sell the pair of chappal on the streets and bazaar. They had taken a loan from moneylender in Chakor to start a shop. However the shop was failed as there was no demand for purchase of new chappals. The interest was increasing and both were not able to repay anything. They finally left the place committing moneylender of repaying it in one year.

Initially both used to work as daily wage worker. Mangal came in contact with Samarthyia. The work of SHGs attracted her to be one of the member of SHGs. After regular attendance in meetings and depositing savings built her credibility. She was offered Rs 6000 as a loan to start a shop of chappals on the street. The location of shop is very good. Shop was started with the money and asked husband to remain there.

Within a year, they both repaid the loan with interest and also expanded the shop. Today husband is earning Rs 4000/- PM.





Ending Domestic Violence Against Women

Although efforts have been taken to improve the status of women, the constitutional dream of gender equality is miles away from becoming a reality. Even today, 'the mainstream remains very much a malestream'. The dominant tendency has always been to confine women and women's issues in the private domain. The traditional systems of control with its notion of 'what is right and proper for women' still reigns supreme and reinforces the use of violence as a means to punish its defiant female 'offenders' and their supporters. Hence it is of no surprise when the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) predicted that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2010. However it is important to mention here, the data presented here is only a partial reflection of the extent of crimes against women as most incidents of violence go unreported particularly communities those are away from the mainstream society...

- ♀ 49,237 women faced domestic violence in their marital homes.
- ♀ 135 women were tortured by their husbands and in-laws every day.

- ♀ 1 woman faced torture in her marital relationship every 11 minutes.
- ♀ Domestic violence constitutes 33.3% of the total crimes against women.
- ♀ A steep rise of 34.5% in domestic violence cases was witnessed between 1997-2002¹.
- ♀ Over 40% of married Indian women face physical abuse by their husband 1 in every 2 women faces domestic violence in any of its forms_physical, sexual, psychological and/or economic².

What Samarthya is doing :

- Prompt assistance is rendered to the victim.
- Legal assistance, counseling services, psychological care, and income generation programme for the survivors and child care services are provided.
- Children of affected women are given special care and attention to enhance their education and social functioning.
- SHGs are encouraged to facilitate mutual sharing between women.
- Ensuring amicable settlement between spouses.
- Newspaper monitoring of cases of domestic violence and other crimes against women in Omerga block.
 - Total cases monitored and paid home visit to victims: 46 Cases
 - Suicide due to harassment by in-laws: 08 Cases
 - Atrocity against Dalit families: 01 case

Addressing Atrocities Against Dalits – Monitoring & Fact Finding.

Samarthya has been Team of Samarthya were trained on the human rights of Dalits and how to address the atrocities meted out against Dalits. Punyanagari and Samrat Dailies were monitored daily for such cases. Based on the cases reported in daily newspapers the incidences of atrocities need to be attended.

Total 67 cases were monitored regularly in two daily newspapers. Of which three cases were followed up to get the proper compensation.

¹ NCRB, 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India', between 1997-2001

² INCLEN Survey, 2000

Resolving Cases Through Jaat Panchayat

It's Time to Stand up: Case of Parvati

Parvati Rathod was married eight years back with Sandip Rathod a sugarcane cutter, resident of Krishnanagar Tanda of Omerga block. They had four daughters so husband Sandip and his parents wanted to have son. In-laws of Parvati used to torture her day and night.

Once she was beaten up black and blue by her husband and in-laws. One of the neighbors informed Samarthya team. Member of team reached the place and rescued from their clutches. Mental support was provided to the Parvati. She was given temporary shelter. Team informed her parents. After discussing and obtaining consent from her and her parents, the team members contacted members of Jaat Panchayat. Jaat Panchayat assured of hearing the case. A suitable date was fixed and asked both the parties to be present on the hearing.

Both the parties were given sufficient time to speak up and present their grievances. The Jaat Panchayat given their verdict after listening to both the parties and warned Sandip and his parents to behave properly and ensure peaceful living. The punishment for disobedience to the verdict of Jaat Panchayat is severe. It is the tradition that no one shows the disrespect to the verdict.

Today Parvati is living happily with Sandip. He is also understood the faults and agreed to keep his commitment with wife Parvati.

Speaking Up Against The Harassment: Case of Amrita

On 15th Sept. 2010, Amrita Jadhav, 18 yrs old, with her three daughters and her father came crying to Samarthya. She was not able to articulate the sufferings and pain she was undergoing through. Samarthya team member offered her water and tea and asked her to sit comfortable. She started the her story which was full of grief and anger...

Anita brought up in Aurad tanda of Omerga block. She dropped out from the school from 3rd std and continued helping her mother in household chores and farm activities. Seeing as liability her father fixed her marriage at the age of 13 yrs to Gyanaba Jadhav, 35 yrs old, teacher working at Primary School of Omerga block. Gyanaba Jadhav was already married, and his wife has been ill, they had two daughters and a son. Gyanaba had approached Anita's father. The marriage took place in 2005 without accepting any dowry.

The marriage life was going well for first one year. Soon after the birth girl child, Gyanaba started harassing her on account of suspicion of having illicit relation. Since last four years she was harassed mentally and physically.

Samarthya called Gyanaba Jadhav and asked to come for the talk. He came next day to the Office. After having listened to his version, Samarthya arranged hearing before Jaat Panchayat to settle down conflict amicably.

Jaat Panchayat members listened to the grievances of Amrita and Gyanaba. In order to make them live happily, Jaat Panchayat taken a oral and written assurance from Gyanaba that he will not harass her mentally and physically in any way. He too admitted and agreed. Amrita was happy with this and acknowledged the support extended by Samarthya.





Enabling Women to Participate in Gram Sabha.

Earlier times women from both Laman Tanda and main villages were never allowed to participate in the Gram Sabha. The reasons being male domination and social values ascribed to the womanhood. Hence in order to maintain the social status women never came out of the four walls. Very few of them tried, it was largely because of the caste affiliation and political background of the family.

Samarthya tried to make women understand the discriminatory practices based on the gender and the deprivation associated with. Women could understand the reality and started participating actively. Samarthya deliberately emphasized the need of building capacities of women. The results observed were further encouraged to take the process ahead.

The function of Gram Panchayat, roles and responsibilities of elected representatives, welfare schemes rooted through Panchayats, decision making process and women's roles in deciding their own development are some of the key topics on which women are made aware.

Exhibition of comics developed in Laman dialect was appreciated by people. It was done in four tanda. The response from women translated into action by addressing Roads, community hall, PDS, ICDS services, selection of beneficiaries for welfare schemes, electrification and education related issues. It helped attract the attention of community towards ensuring basic necessities of Tanda.

Samarthya insisted on all women of SHGs to attend the Gram Sabha and ask to meet the needs of their Tanda.

Special attention was given to women especially from Laman Tanda are encouraged and helped them articulate their needs. .



Looking Within:

Continuously responding to the needs of community especially from de-notified and nomadic tribe communities, reach out is spread covering more deprived and most marginalized communities. The capacities of team also enhanced in the light of response. More number of volunteers joined in hands with Samarthy. Minds are ignited to be more relevant to needs of children, women and communities.

Acknowledgements:

This year has brought achievement and satisfaction to Samarthy. The organization has mobilized children, women, youth from Tandas and villages towards realizing their rights. For this we thank all our well-wishers and supporters especially Dalit Foundation, New Delhi, Training Development and Scholarship Society (TDSS), Pune, CORO (Committee of Resource Organizations) for Literacy, Mumbai and Manuski, Pune.

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Ranjita Pawar



Balaji Rathod



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