



# ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08



## 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

*Cover Photograph: Ms Ranjita Pawar from Sardarnagar Tanda in traditional Maharashtrian attire.*

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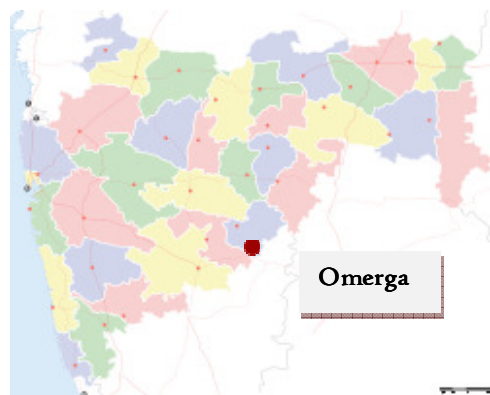
## Origin of the Samarthya:



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 Kalyankari Sanstha 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.

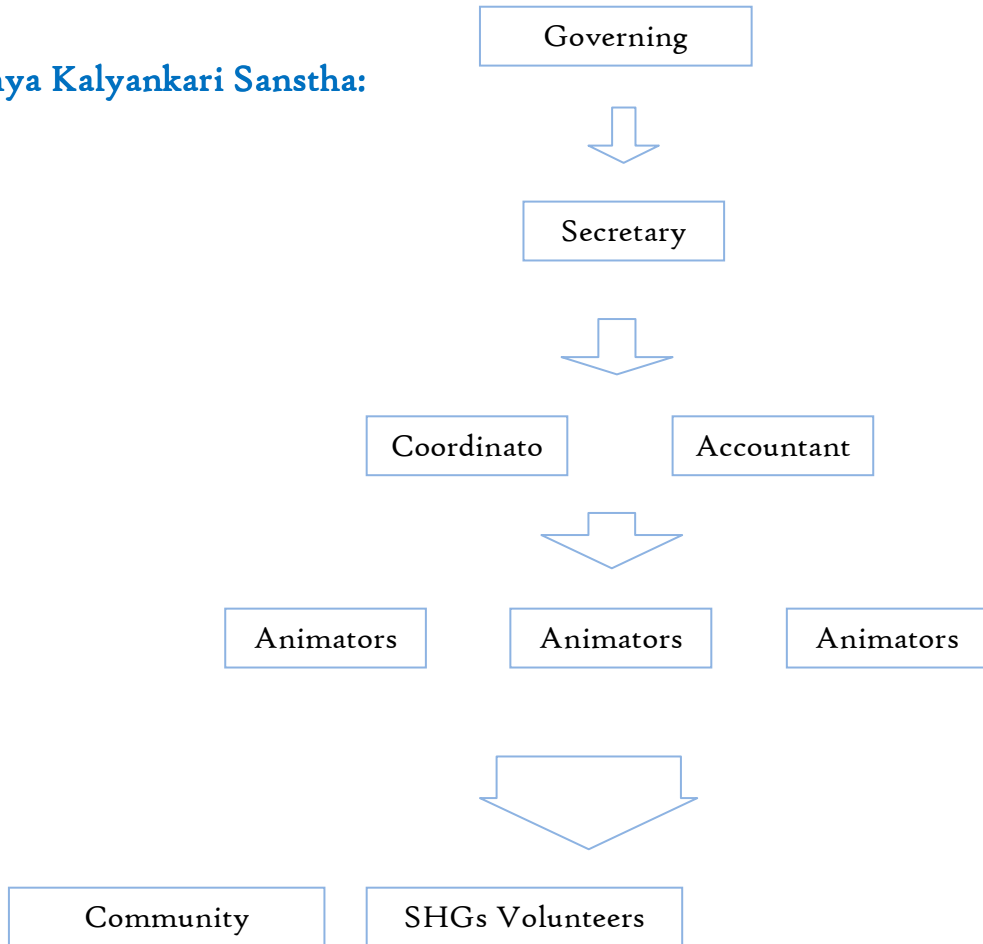
**Our Vision:**

“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
<b>Societies Reg. Act 1860</b>	Mah/08/2008	07/01/2008
<b>Bombay Public Trust Act 1950</b>	F 9553	03/03/2008
<b>PAN Number</b>	AADAS6459B	07/01/2008

**Structure of Samarthya Kalyankari Sanstha:**



## Organising Women Through Credit and Thrift Groups:

Samarthya mobilized women through SHGs. In order to make women independent and have their control over economic resources, SHGs were seen as medium to promote credit and thrift habits.

The work started from Sardarnagar tanda and later covered Kader, Murum, Gunjoti, Nisharinagar, Murali etc.

<i>Total SHGs promoted</i>	13
<i>Total Women in SHGs</i>	176
<i>Total Amount of Loan mobilized through financial institutions:</i>	1,11,319
<i>No of Loans availed</i>	07
<i>No of livelihood alternatives started:</i>	06

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## Learning to Manage SHGs:

Women were not exposed to managing SHGs. Samarthya organized 7 capacity building events to help women understand the functioning of SHGs and book keeping. Total 113 women benefitted from the training.

## Livelihoods through SHGs:

Initially it was difficult to make women understand the importance of SHGs and use of loan for starting livelihood activities. However facing all the difficulties and exposing women to various activities in and around the Omerga block. This helped immensely to motivate women and start micro level livelihood activities like goat rearing, general stores, garment selling, bangle selling etc in the adopted tanda and villages. Total 06 livelihood activities initiated from the loan amounting Rs. 1, 11, 319 availed from Gramin Bank. Presently women are earning around Rs 2000 pm. This has made difference in the lives of deprived women.

## SHGs: Change Agent-Campaigning on Child Marriage:

Strong patriarchal tradition and lower women's status resulted in child marriages in Tanda. Samarthya tried to work case by case however it was difficult to cover all the cases at once. Hence a campaign through SHGs were started. Different informative events were organized. Total 13 such meetings were held at tanda levels to make them understand the repercussions of the child marriage. Women from SHGs could understand what Samarthya wanted to convey. However, the male members of families saw it as threat to their dictatorship.

The campaign were organized in such fashion so that male members also could not oppose in public. The skits of children were used as tool to convey the message of child marriage. The consequences of child marriages were shown through emotionally charged plays. It made many male members to peep into their own minds. More than 350 persons were covered through these activities.

### **Combating Anemia:**

Samarthya with the help of Rural Hospital organized few camps to check up the levels of anemia. Women were mobilized through SHGs meetings. The importance of checking up HB levels were conveyed to women. Total 74 women were screened. Of which more than 70% women found to be victims of anemia. The level of HB was low as 7!.

### **Making Education Interesting through Abhiruchi Classes:**

The interest of children is one of the key factor in enrolment and retention in primary school. In order to retain the interests of children in school and study well, abhiruchi classes started in in 11 tanda viz Sevanagar, Sardaranagar, Nisharinagar, Maharanapratapnagar, Krishnanagar from Omerga block and Sheetalnagar, Anandnagar, Jaibhavaninagar, Chincholi, Khedtanda and Jetalalnagar from Lohara block. With the help of games, songs and stories the children were taught in daily in the evening. More than 370 children are benefiting from Abhiruchi Classes.

### **Our Panchayat-Balpanchayat:**

#### ***Making Children get organized through Baal Panchayat:***

Baal Panchayat is a platform for children to express themselves in a democratic way. The interests and concerns are voice up in community and see that their rights are realized.

Samarthya has organized children in three tandas through games and songs. Their interests are discussed and prioritized. Children themselves felt to have their own group to meet up regularly and do something that will give them happiness.

#### ***Process and activities of Baal Panchayat:***

Children from abhiruchi classes were oriented on the Baal Panchayat. The process of electing their representatives were discussed, accordingly few children contest election. The candidate who contest election shares his plans and aspirations as what he wants to do for the interests of children.

Accordingly children fight for Health Minister, Sanitation Minister, Education Minister, Cultural Minister and Event Managers posts. Each child votes for the child he wants to be minister.

### ***Activities of Baal Panchayats:***

#### ***Celebration of Marathwada MuktiSangram Din:***

Marathwada Mukti Sangram is celebrated all over the Marathwada. It was remember the martyrs who sacrificed for freeing the region from Mughal empire. Children of Baal Panchayat celebrated this Day with performing various skits and group songs. Families of all tanda participated in the event and praised the performances of children. Flag hoisting were conducted at Tanda levels.

#### ***Independence Day:***

61<sup>st</sup> Independence Day was celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> January by all Baal Panchayats in their respective tanda with the collaboration of primary school. Flag was hoisted. Various entertaining programmes were organized.

#### ***Celebration of Savitribai Phule Birthday:***

A Baal Melava was organized to commemorate the birth of Savitribai Phule on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. Children from Sevanagar, Jetalalanagar, Manoharnaiknagar, Sardarnagar, Sewanagar and Vyankatnagar tanda participated in the event. Around 125 children took part in the celebration. A local Banjara dance was performed by all children.

### ***Encouraging Girls to Pursue Education Further:***

Many students make their waive in getting higher score in exams. Girls were seen as forefront the achieving good marks. Hence Samarthya organized felicitation programmes on 23<sup>rd</sup> July '07 to encourage girls who have secured distinction in SSC and HSC exams. 11 students were honoured by the Sarapanch of Kader village. The speeches on motivating children specially girls to continue education.

### ***Campaign on De-addiction for Youth:***



Bad habits like tobacco chewing, cigarette, guthaka, alcoholism are rampant among youth. Samarthya organized rallies of small school going children and meetings to convey the message of quitting bad habits. Various thought provoking banners were displayed during the rallies. Slogans containing the consequences of bad habits were included during the rallies. Series of meetings were held in four tandas. The participation of youth was considerable. Many youth themselves talked over the consequences and appealed the rest to quit the bad habits.

An Advocate Mr. Pawar and Dr. Rathod were invited to address the youth. The personal experiences of hardship faced while studying remained motivating factor for youth. He emphasized over leaving bad company. More than 160 youth benefitted from the meetings.

### **Youth for Environment:**

Samarthya organized a camp for youth to devote their time and labour for the environment. A day was fixed on 13 Dec. 2007 and activities were planned which included mass cleaning of tanda and plantation. 100 saplings were purchased from Forest Department. As decided on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2007 youth from Sevalalnagar, Kader and Sardarnagar tanda were mobilized. A mass cleaning was started early in the morning. The entire tanda were cleaned up. Places surrounding to Tanda were fixed for plantation. Volunteers were selected and dug up to plant the saplings.

### **AIDS Awareness Programme:**

HIV/AIDS is becoming more widespread and the prevention is the only remedy. Samarthya designed 4 skits on the HIV/AIDS. Youth from Laman tanda were trained on all the skits. Samarthya mobilized posters from government primary health centres.

Programme was organized on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2007 on the occasion of World AIDS Day. In order to cover maximum persons, rallies were organized in all the Tanda. Total 38 youth participated in the rallies. The skits were performed in the Tanda. An informative discussion was arranged after each skit is over. People used to ask certain queries pertaining to the infection and medication.

More than 370 persons were touched during the rallies.

## Samarthya Team



First Standing Row (from left): Prem, Ranjita, Asha, Rekha, Babita, Balaji, Umesh and Anil

Second Seating Row (from left): Priya, Kavita, Puja and Priya

*For more details, get in touch:*



**Samarthya Kalyankari Sanstha**  
Sardarnagar Tanda, Post. Kader  
Tal. Omerga Dist. Osmanabad Pin-413606  
Email: [maha.samarthya@gmail.com](mailto:maha.samarthya@gmail.com)  
Phone: +91 9403091816, 9765363734