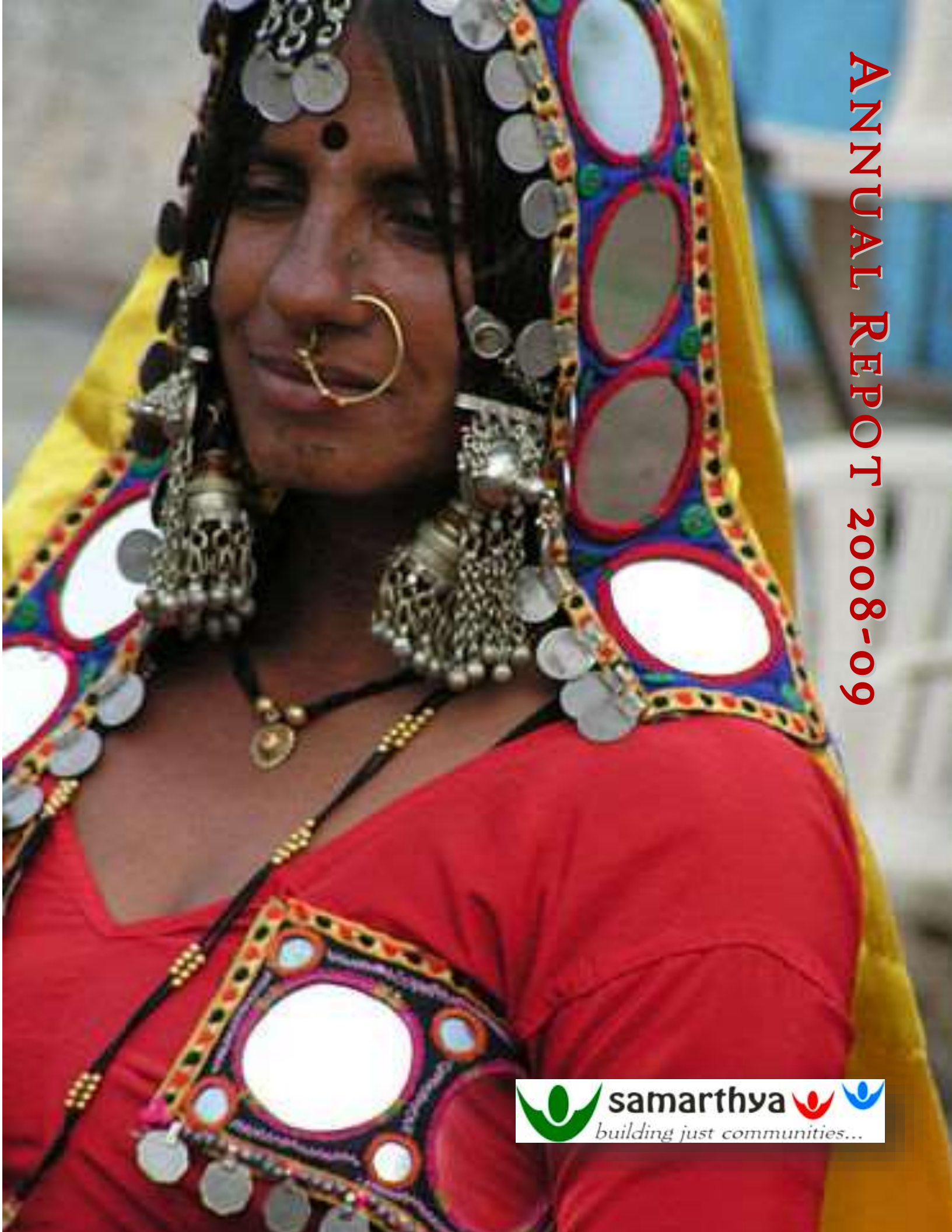


ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09



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 Phulabai Pawar from Sardarnagar Tanda in traditional Banjara 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.

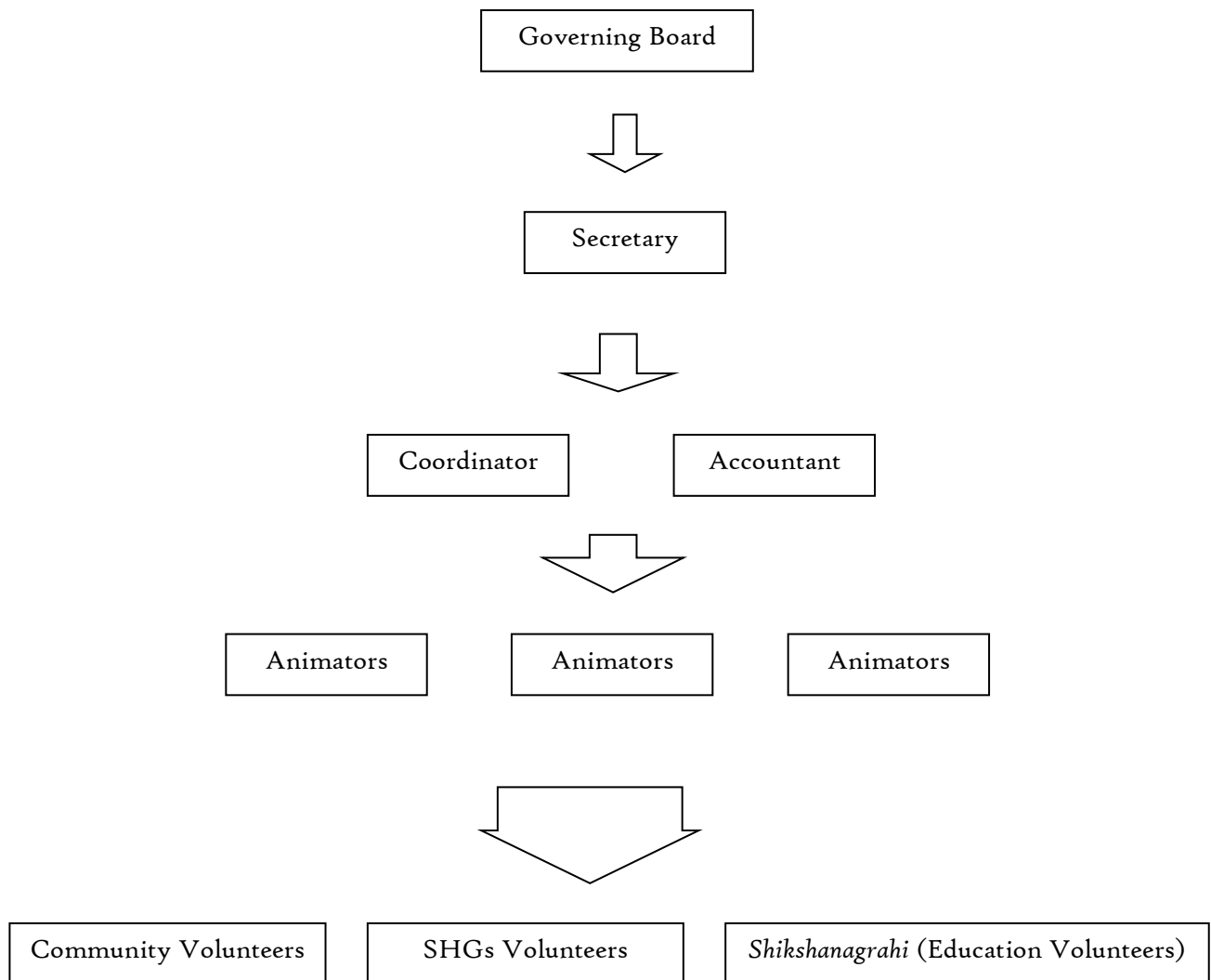
Our vision:

“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:

<i>Type of Registration</i>	<i>Registration Number</i>	<i>Date of Registration</i>
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

Structure of Samarthya Kalyankari Sanstha



Promotion of SHGs:

Samarthya has been able to work properly with women. The work started with conducting various motivational camps. It helped women to learn the importance of SHGs. . Training programmes on book keeping, management of SHGs were conducted which helped women to acquire the skills the managing SHGs independently. Total 263 women participated in the training events.

Total SHGs promoted: 22

Total Women in SHGs: 226

Total Amount of Loan mobilized through financial institutions: 2,05,822

No of loans availed: 19

Women started income generating activities: 14



Ms.Hunabai Jadhav who could start a general stores with the loan availed in SHG

Bank linkages and helping hand to start livelihood activities:

Samarthya organized 13 training events on Bank linkages and livelihood. It was observed that women were not able to leverage benefits from Bank through loan schemes. Samarthya helped women to update the books of accounts and held SHGs meetings regularly. Women wanted to start any livelihood activities; however the

timely loan was the main difficulty they used to face, The volunteers and staff of Samarthya visited SHGs regularly and oriented them on the management of SHGs.

The efforts culminated in getting 19 SHGs linked with Banks. Total Rs 2,05,822 were mobilized through various financial institutions notably from Gramin Bank of Omerga. The loan money was exclusively spent on generating livelihood activities. Total 14 women benefited from the loan amount. Today they are earning more than Rs. 2500 pm.

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Making Women Speak Up!

Samarthya has witnessed cases of domestic violence in villages and tanda. SHGs meetings the only forum where women share their suffering and get emotional support from other members. Women wanted to fight against violence. Samarthya designed a program and trained few SHGs women to help victims to ventilate their sorrows. A resource person Ms. Anjana Pandit, a counselor, was invited to train women on counseling. One day workshop was arranged accordingly on 23 Sept. 2008. Total 27 women participated in the programme. Ms. Pandit informed participants on ways of ventilating the emotional suffering and coming out free. The techniques of helping were demonstrated through role play.

7 women were found to be able to provide emotional support to the victims of domestic violence.

A case of Ms. Sangita Shinde made Samarthya take a step forward to end the violence. Ms. Sangita Shinde was beaten up by her husband demanding money from in-laws. She was beaten up black and blue after she refused to bring the money. She rushed to contacted a staff of Samarthya and asked for assistance. A case was filed against her husband and put him behind bar for two days. This made him realise that Sangita is not helpless.

Samarthya handled total 13 such cases.

Say No To Domestic Violence Against Women

Samarthya started its informal counseling and handling cases of wife-beating. However this was not enough. People need to be sensitized on gender and how couples can live peacefully was the challenge before us. Hence Samarthya organized campaign in various tanda and villages. The skits of children and volunteers designed to convey the message to say no to domestic violence against women.

Total 17 programmes were conducted in various tandas and villages by children and volunteers. More than 1300 people especially male members were sensitized on the gender related issues.

The cases of domestic violence were observed to be reduced.

Combating Anemia

Women in rural areas are often seem to be ignorant about the own health. It is largely because of the patriarchal system and the share they get after finishing the male members food. The left over food is remained for women. As a result, women face fatigueness, tiredness, weak, suffering from headache etc. These all are symptoms of anemia.

Samarthya with the help of Rural Hospital conducted camps to check the levels of anemia. Total 231 women were screened of which more than 80 percent women were having HB level below 9. It was alarm to do something against this.

A nutrition demonstrations were organized to make aware of the use measure easily available at house. Various kinds of recipe were prepared containing rich source of iron. Groundnut was one of them. We taught women of SHGs how to make nutritional diet making use of vegetables available readily around them.

Demonstrations of nutrition were organized during SHGs programme.



This helped women improve their diet.

Doctors from Rural Hospital checking anemia level

We rechecked HB levels of women after 3.5 months and surprised more than 60 percent women had HB levels above 10. Total 174 women benefited from these programmes.

Celebrating Women's Day :

8th March was celebrated as Women's Day in 4 tanda viz Sardarnagar, Vynkatnagar, Sheetalnagar, Jetalalnagar. A rallies were organized in all Tanda. A common program at Sardarnagar tanda was held in which women from all the 10 tanda invited to participate.

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Resource persons like Dr. More, Ms. Pandit and Ms. Patil were invited to guide women on their rights.



More than 300 women participated in the programme.

Promoting Culture:

Laman they are also known as Banjara in India. The community has its own intrinsic and inward looking culture. The attire of the Banjara is very attractive and fascinating. In recent time, coming generations do not prefer to wear Banjar attire. Similarly the participation in cultural programmes were also observed to be low.

Samarthya organized programmes in which children were asked to perform dance with traditional attire. Children from Sheetalnage, Vyankatnagar, Sardarnagar and Jetalalnagar were motivated to participate in the programmes.

The programmes were conducted in all the tanda. The performance of children was highly acclaimed by community. The present members of community realized the importance of culture they have.



Enabling Women to Participate in Gram Sabha:

Children from Vyankatnagar practicing folk dance of Laman.

Women from villages and Tanda are lagging behind in all sphere including participation in the Gram Sabha. Samarthya mobilized women through the SHGs and raise their awareness on the rights to be realized through Gram Sabha.

Basic facilities in the village are often found to be either nil or not provided with the quality. The services provided by ICDS through Anganwadis are untimely, inadequate and even not reached to the women.

Women do put these concerns in the Gram Sabha.

Women from Vyankatnagar, Sardarnagar, Vyankatnagar, Sheetalnagar tanda today attend Gram Sabha. The issues of water supply, electricity connection, separate crematorium grounds for tandas were raised during gramsabha.



Pratham's Learning to Read (L2R):

Women addressing their needs and issues in Gramsabha.

L2R is the campaign initiated by Pratham to improve the levels of language and math of children of 6-14 yrs age group. It has certain methodology and material to help child know letter, make word, read simple paragraph

and then read story fluently. In math, it helps to identify 0-9 numbers, then get familiar with 10-50 and 51 to 100 numbers. Once child is easily recognizes numbers, does subtraction (carry over) and simply division. Ideally child learns both language and math in 45 days.

Table-1

Tanda	Popul- ation	Availability of schools		Teacher- students ratio 1-4 std	Whether belongs to Laman?
		1-4 std	5-7 std		
Sevanagar	600	Yes	2 km	36-2	Yes
Maharana Paratapnagar	375	Yes	14 km	14-1	No
Nisharinagar	325	1 km	12 km	-	No
Vyankatnagar	525	Yes	2 km	16-1	No
Sardarnagar	650	Yes	1.5 km	30-1	No

Colourful and joyful material

attracts children to read it. This supports interesting and entertaining songs and stories. These all helps retain children and learn language and math.

Pratham extended its support to Samarthya in the form of training and material. Training organized on 3rd -5th May 2008 at Lohara. Seven members from Samarthya benefited from training programme. Report on training on training workshop was submitted on 8th May 2008.

A field visit to Shitalnagar Tanda in Lohara block was organized. After seeing the successful application of learning in field detail plan of teaching children was prepared. Five tanda from Kader and Aurad village of Omerga block were chosen. They are Sardar Nagar tanda, Sevanagar tanda, Vyankat Nagar of Kader village and Maharana Pratap Nagar tanda and Nishari tanda from Aurad village. The details of each tanda is given in above Table-1.

Pre-testing levels of learning:

Total 114 children (boys 60 + girls 54) belong to 6-14 years age group studying in 1st -7th std were selected and pre-tested. Following table-2 shows tandawise number of children participated in classes. They were pre-tested at the beginning of classes and post-tested after completing 45 days of teaching them two hours daily. Initially children studying in high school also

participated in pre-testing. They were 7 children studying in 8th and 10th std. They were excluded after beginning classes and kept only 114 children studying in 1st to 4th std.

Results of pre-testing and post-testing:

Data collected during pre-tests and post-tests are compared standardwise and subjectwise.

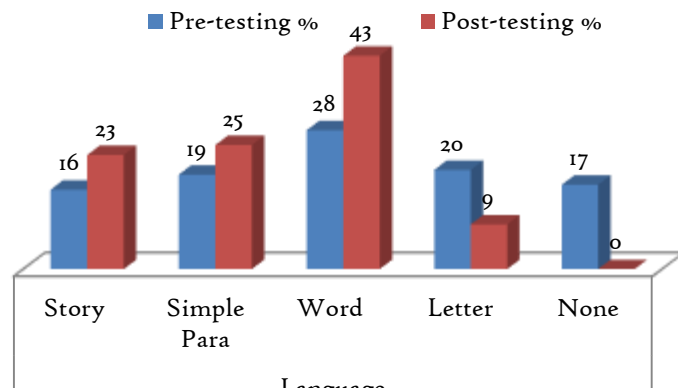
Analysis of 1-4 std children in Language:

Table-2

children attended classes				
Sr.no	Tanda	M	F	Total
1	Sevanagar	25	11	36
2	Maharana Paratapnagar	7	7	14
3	Nisharinagar	7	4	11
4	Vyankatnagar	5	11	16
5	Sardarnagar	16	21	37
Total	5 tanda	60	54	114

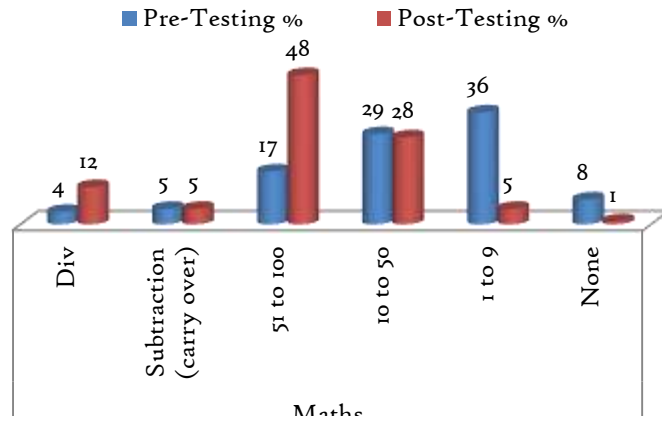
Graph-1

comparative analysis of percentages of children studying in 1-4 std - Language



- It is found that 17% children from 1-4 std were in 'none' category. They were unable to read and qualify further category. However after attending classes fairly all children able to jump in further categories.
- Merely 20% children were able to identify 'letter'. After teaching with Pratham method they tried to secure their positions in 'word', 'simple para' and 'story'

Graph-2 comparative analysis of % of children studying in 1-4 std -Math



- 28% children were in word category. They could read 'word' properly. Some children went ahead. Some children added in this category from remaining categories i.e. 'letter' & 'none'. Now total 43% children are in 'word' category. They are able to form 'word' and read it.

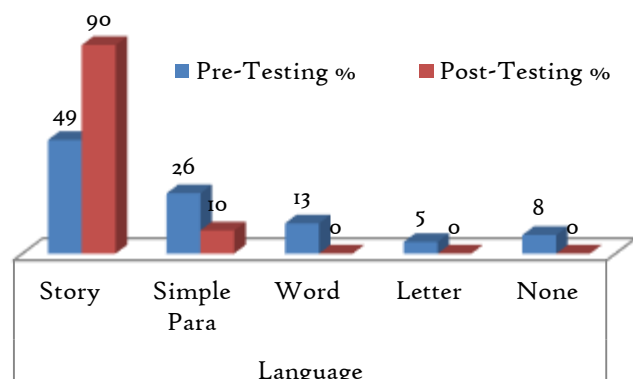
- 19% could read 'simple para'. However after the intervention 25% children from pre-tested 'word', 'letter' & 'none' category entered.
- Similarly in addition to 16%, 5% children entered from other four categories.

Analysis of 1-4 std children in Math:

- It is clear through Graph-2 that 8% children were unable to identify 1-9 figures. However during post-test it was found that 7% and 31% children moved ahead in '51-100', 'subtraction' and 'division' category.
- 8% children entered in 'division' category. They learned to do math expected at 4th std.
- Overall there is need to emphasise on Math. Children find it difficult to do math. The method followed in classes is very traditional and do not find it interesting. Hence children remain as it is.

children could not read any figure, whereas 36%

Graph-3 comparative analysis of percentages of children studying 5-7 std - Language



Analysis of 5-7 std children in Language:

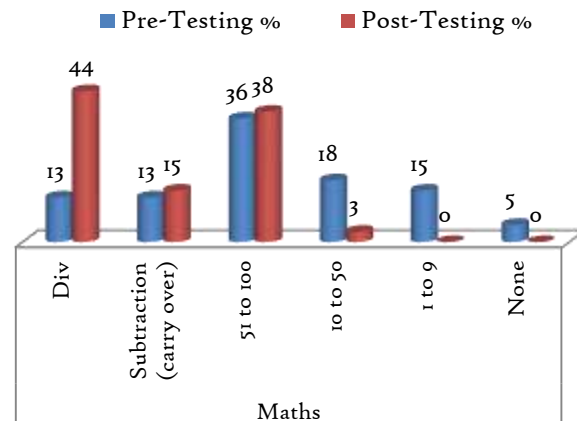
It is expected that by the end of 1st std children should read simple paragraph. However it is sad to notice (see graph-3) that total 26% children still remain in 'word', 'letter' and 'none' category. Merely 26% were able to read simple paragraph. Figures taken after post-test are very positive, 41% children entered 'story'.

Analysis of 5-7 std children in Math:

- Following graph-4 shows that 5, 15, 18 percentages children were in 'none', '11 to 9' and '10-50' categories respectively moved ahead in '51-100', 'subtraction' and 'div' categories.
- Total 31 percentages of children are now able to do 'div'.

Graph-4

comparative analysis of % of children studying in 5-7 std - Math



Making Education Interesting through Abhiruchi Classes:

In order to retain the interests of children in school and study well, abhiruchi classes are run in 11 Tandas. Sevanagar, Sardaranagar, Nisharinagar, Maharanapratapnagar, Krishnanagar from Omerga block and Sheetalnagar, Anandnagar, Jaibhavaninagar, Chincholi, Khedtanda and Jetalalnagar from Lohara block are where Abhiruchi Classes are running. Games, songs, stories and reading are the keys of Abhiruchi Classes. Children enjoy these twice in a week. More than 450 children are benefiting from Abhiruchi Classes.



Team member of Samarthya taking Abhiruchi classes at Sheetalnagar tanda.

Shikshan Deep -Lightening The Candles of Education:

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 प्रज्वलन 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 three tandas viz Sardarnagar, Sewanagar and Vyankatnagar tandas. Children 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

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.



Children appeared for trial exam.



Showing drawn pictures.

Activities of Baal Panchayats:

Celebration of Marathwada MuktiSangram Din:

Marathwada was freed from the clutches of Nizam of Hyderabad on 17 Sept 1948. Hence it was celebrated all over the Marathwada. Children of Baal Panchayat also celebrated this Day with Songs of 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha, Garja Maharashtra Majha' and 'Ae mere vatan ke logo, jara aankhomein bharo paani' were sang by all children. A flag was also hoisted on the school ground.

Independence Day:

62nd Independence Day was celebrated on 26th January by all Baal Panchayats in their respective tanda with the collaboration of primary school. Flag was hoisted. Games like Music Chairs, fixing the tail to donkey and Kabaddi were organized.

Celebration of Savitribai Phule Birthday:

A Baal Melava was organized to commemorate the birth of Savitribai Phule on 3rd January 2009. Children from Sevanagar, Jetalalanagar, Manoharnaiknagar, Sardarnagar, Sewanagar and Vyankatnagar tanda participated in the event. Around 190 children took part in the celebration.

A local Banjara dance was performed by all children.



Phulabai Pawar inaugurates the programme .

Encouraging Girls to Pursue Education Further:

A felicitation programme was organized on 8th July 08 by Samarthya to encourage girls who have secured distinction in SSC and HSC exams. 09 students were honoured by the Extension Officer-Education of Omerga block, Shri Sakharam Bhosale. Parents of these girls were also invited and recognized their parenthood of supporting the education of their daughters.

Empowerment of Adolescent Girls through Kishori Mandals:

Adolescent girls at Laman tanda are not allowed to continue their schooling after completing primary education. They are pushed into married life even not reaching 16 yrs. In order to equip them with life skills and family life education, Samarthya started mobilizing them through building their Kishori Mandals. The work started from Sardarnagar, Sevanagar, Jetalalnagar and Sheetalnagar. Total 32 adolescents girls were became the members of the Kishori Mandals.

A meeting date was fixed on a day of a month. Information related to personal hygiene and nutrition were used to provide them. 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 were also screened.



Team member of Samarthya explaining the functioning of Kishori Mandal at Jetalalnagar tanda.

De-addiction Camp for Youth:

Tobacco chewing, cigarette, guthaka, alcoholism etc are seen as addiction among some youth. Samarthya organized a workshop. Youth from Sardarnagar, Sheeatnagar and Vyankatnagar tanda were invited. Total 32 youth took part in the workshop. Resource persons like Dr. More and Ms. Pandit were invited to guide these youth on adverse impact on their health.

Many youth were fall into trap of addiction just because of peer pressure. How bad company can ruin life was explained by Doctor. The willingness to quit the habit was shared by Ms. Pandit, who is practicing counseling. After two days workshop with youth, few youth themselves came forward and insisted on to take common oath of quitting the bad habits and addiction.

The concluding ceremony made all other people surprised by the oath ceremony. This brought good change among the youth. All youth will focus on physical exercise, sports activities and reading good books. A shramdaan was subsequently organized to clean the tanda.

Channelizing Youth Power: Shramadaan to care environment.

A workshop was held with 32 youth from three tanda viz Sardarnagar, Sheeatnagar and Vyankatnagar. The workshop was become successful event. All youth took oath for not to adopt any bad habit.

During vote of thanks youth made resolution to devote most of the time in studies, physical exercise, yoga and reading. As a part of this it was decided to clean the surrounding of tanda and plant saplings.

Accordingly all youth were present on 27 Nov. 2008 at Sardarnagar. All were oriented on the yoga. Youth liked the yoga.

Youth along with women cleaned the surrounding of Sardarnagar and planted 60 saplings.

Addressing Atrocities Against Dalits – Monitoring & Fact Finding.

Cases of domestic violence are handled by Samarthya. Persons who become victims of caste driven mindset also started coming to Samarthya for help. Staff used to extend them helping hand in lodging FIR in Police Stations and compensations from Social Welfare department.

Samarthya themselves started monitoring cases in local dailies and visit them for help. Total 09 cases were monitored and given them possible assistance.



Youth engaged in yoga, shramdaan and playing cricket at Sardarnagar tanda.

Looking within:

This is first year after getting legal sanction to Samarthya Kalyankari Sanstha. We see the beginning is good. However need to lay more emphasize on the vision building and institutionalizing the efforts we attempt for the good of underprivileged.

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Acknowledgements:

The beginning is good. We could at least make our reference communities feel some one is got up. We could send this message to women, children, youth and larger community to whom we are accountable. We must thankful to all our well wishers who always wanted us to kick off the spark of social change!



Women celebrating birth anniversary of Former Chief Minister Late Shri Vasantarao Naik

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:



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