



# Annual Report 2009-10

## **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

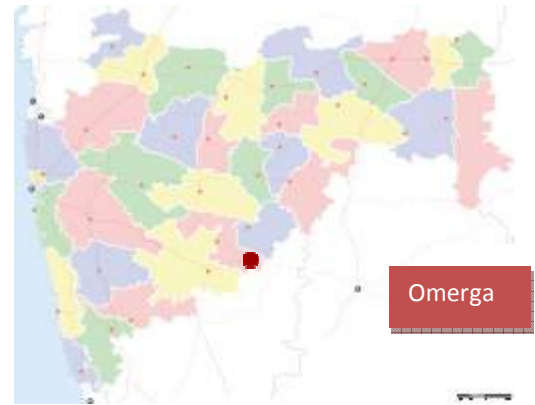
## What we will see in the Report...

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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:

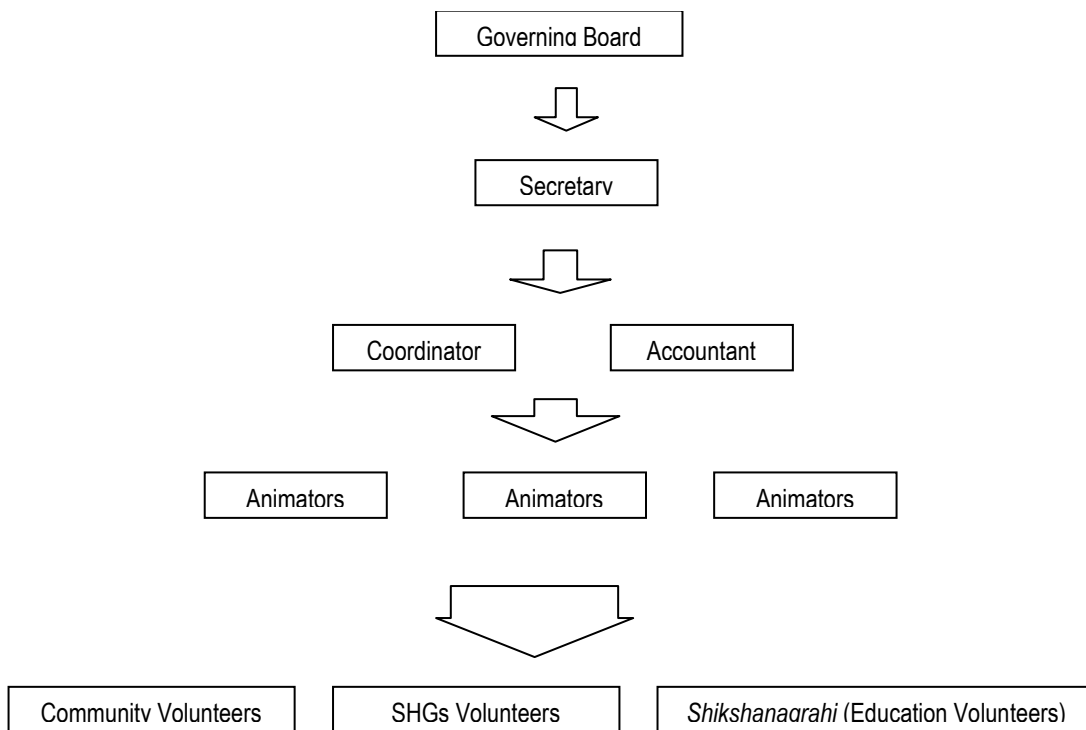
Type of Registration	Registration Number	Date of Registration
Societies Reg. Act 1860	Mah/08/2008	07/01/2008
Public Trust Act	F 9553	03/03/2008
PAN Number	AADAS6459B	07/01/2008
Registration certificate U/s 12 A Income Tax	135/61/2009-10	19/02/2010
U/s, 80-G of the Income Tax	ABD/CIT/TECH/80G/SKS/135/61/2009-10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



## Organising Women Through Building SHGs:

The patriarchal system in rural areas is more evident as women are not allowed to participate at household and panchayat levels decision making process. Samarthyaa tried to organize these women through SHGs.

Motivational camps were organized to encourage them to join in SHGs. Training programmes on book keeping, management of SHGs were conducted.



**Total SHGs promoted: 43**

**Total Women in SHGs: 479**

**Total Loan mobilized through financial institutions: 8,10,000**

**Women started income generating activities: 21**

**SHGs preparing ICDS's mid day meal: 4**

**Krantikari Mahila Sangh (Village Level Federation) formed in Kader village: 13 SHGs are members of the Sangh.**

## Livelihood with Dignity:

With a squeeze on social welfare, accompanied by diminishing access to economic assets, major shifts in production patterns and shrinking common property resources, women and girls are losing their source of livelihoods and becoming the 'face of poverty'.

Samarthya tried to mobilize women through SHGs and build their capacities to take income generating activities. Loans from financial institutions were mobilized.



### ***She has not looked back since...***

Asha Chavan, 32 yrs old, used to work as agricultural labour in the surrounding villages. Her husband, Ramesh, was construction labourer working on the sites of bridge, school building and houses. The work was never regular. It was tough for them to sustain themselves.

Asha was introduced in SHGs six months back by Samarthya. She was worried about her family. She wanted to start her own enterprise. Samarthya helped in realizing her dream. She got Rs 12000 from SHG and started a home based snack making activity. Her husband also joined in her effort.

Today Asha is earning Rs 7000 pm from this....Asha has big hope from this small initiative...





## Expanding business..widening opportunities: Story of Walabai

Walabai Rathod, 65 yrs old, had never thought that she would be able to earn Rs 12,000 from a goat.

Walabai has three sons and two daughters, but today nobody care for their wellbeing. So she had to take the lead and stand up onceagain. She joined in Ravishankar SHGs a year ago. A loan of Rs 3000 received from the SHGs to start any suitable income generating activity. Walabai had previous experience of rearing goats. Purchased a goat of Rs 3000.

The goat gave her two baby goats after six months of purchasing the goat. She was happily raising three goats. Gradually two more baby goats she got from the earlier one. Demands for selling were coming to the Walabai, however she thought to wait another six months.

Recently she sold four goats and earned Rs 12000. It had all come surprisingly to her. Thanks to the SHGs...

## ***Invisible We Are Not..working with Muslim women.***

The condition of Muslim community in rural areas deserve special attention. Associated with relatively low status occupations; less landholdings than other communities, particularly 'upper' caste Hindus. They Complain of discrimination, indifference and neglect by government authorities. Disproportionate large number of people engaged as agricultural labourers, casual unskilled labourers, skilled labourers, farmers, and domestic or household workers and other marginal occupations. Comparatively lower in government service,private service and small business. Over 60% of do not own any land. The annual domestic income is less than Rs 6000. Institutional credit to Muslims is very low. Here Samarthyaa started its work. Women were mobilized from Omerga, Kader and Bhosaga through SHGs. Total 7 SHGs include 76 women were promoted. Livelihood options were explored to make them self-sufficient.



### **Selling Sarees of Prosperity..**

*Shakeela Pathan, 43 yrs old, was never thought that she will gain economic independence so soon and will have good money. She started her business through the loan from SHGs.*

*Shakeela with her husband purchased sarees at wholesale rate from Bidar, Karnatak and sells to neighbouring women. She is in demand when any festival comes.*

*Today she is earning Rs 4500 pm from.*





Expanding business..widening opportunities of SHGs products:  
 Women say 'Jay Ho!' in the Kasagi fair...  
 Women from SHGs put up their stalls of selling handmade products and eateries..



## Ending Domestic Violence Against Women:

Samarthya helps women resist violence. Women from Laman community face dual violence, one from the caste ridden and other from the patriarchal structure. Women participate in SHGs meeting that increase their knowledge of the law and criminal justice system as well as building their skills and confidence to address violence and support other women.

The broad objectives of organizing street plays were as follow:

1. To spread the awareness on Domestic Violence Act 2005
2. To provide platform to discuss the health related issues at public forum and mobilize public support on the same
3. To encourage women to discuss and debate over the mental and physical torture they face in the in-laws house.
4. To help women participate in local self governance.

To make public forum available to women who 'fight back' and stood up with successfully running micro enterprise.

The topic covered are Infant mortality, Gender bias in

Yes, I've suffered!

*Vanita Chavan from Krishanagar came forward after the skit was over and narrated her story. "I was married to a person from Karnataka in 2005. I came to my mother's house in 2006 to deliver baby. After delivering a baby girl no one came from husband's house to take me back. People from husband's house conveyed that my husband does not want me. I was shocked to learn this. What was my fault? I went back in 2006 to see what he wanted from me. I was not welcomed. They used rough language and thrown out of the house. I came back to my mother's house. My relatives supported me. I went to Omerga Police station and filled a case against him. Advocate took fee around Rs. 15000. There was no progress on the case till date. I am worried now. Please help me to go back to my husband's house. Recently I learned that he got married with other woman' said Vanita crying.*

servicing food & educational opportunity, child marriage, dowry death & domestic violence, consequences of alcoholism. The skit was designed in own Laman dialect to reach out more people especially women who are illiterate. The skit was written by Ms. Babita Pawar, a Samarthya activist. The name was given as 'Why is it so?' ('हे असंच क्व ? -मराठी , इ हनुच क्व? लमाण बोलीभाषा)

The skit was designed in such a way that the reality of community should reflect and measurement on the same can be easily understood and implemented.

*Children in Tanda where street plays performed started emulating songs on dowry like सासु इ छळच मन, ससरोइ मारच मन, शेवटी पती मारो हुंडासारू, बाळच मन...*

The response was overwhelming. It was seen that many women during the programme were crying literally. They shared that, 'it is the reflection of our lives, it was done as it happened in our houses'. During the programme it was even experienced that women come forward and narrated their stories. There were more than 20 cases narrated before us while performing the skits.



Women agreed to the fact shown in the plays. Biasness in serving food to boys and girls, preference on sending schools and buying cloths for boys etc were few that audiences agreed to.





- Women do have ignorance on legal issues. They bear the all kinds of injustice meted out to them by in laws. If they understand that the courts are made to help them and fight the injustice, it will surely help reduce the incidences. Hence I request all women to kindly see what the Domestic Violence Act -2005 says. People are there to help them fight the cases.
- Similarly the role of legal aid is to help women lodge the cases and get right justice. Women do not need to go to Advocate who sit there to make money on your struggle. She further guided that the volunteers from Samarthya are in my touch and has been approaching for cases. But women are scared to approach. I feel you all should not be scared with court. It is all for you to live life with pride.
- Women have to work day and night to look after families. But no one is there to take of their health. More than 70 % adolescent girls are anemic. It is happened because of the biased treatment given to girl child.  
The increasing cases of marriage below 18 years of girls is very serious. No one understand the issues crop up after the delivery. Hence it is needed to give some importance while placing our girls for marriage in tender age. SHGs women should take oath not to allow such practices. Inform police if both the parties do not understand this.
- There are various schemes launched by Govt. for women to stand up in their lives. However the no of application we receive are less.
- The awareness is required. Samarthya members do come and invite us in such programmes and ask us to extend support. Today I am asking all women to take the benefits of all schemes meant for you. It is your right.





### **Enabling Women to Participate in Gram Sabha:**

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 Sardarnagar, Vyankatnagar, Sheetalnagar tanda today attend Gram Sabha.



## Learning to Read Program (L2R) on Quality Education:

### Background of the initiative:

Poor comprehension, difficulty in recognizing numbers, doing simple arithmetic, recognizing letters, making sentences, paragraph and story are the difficulties faced by students of primary schools. Samarthya approached Pratham for helping in this initiative. Pratham took responsibilities of building capacities of the staff of Samarthya. Accordingly two days training event at Lohara on 2-3 May 2008 was organized. A field visit was also arranged to learn the process of undertaking pretesting of children. This helped to facilitate the process of identifying slow learners. Pratham had already designed curriculum to help children improve the levels of learning. Language and math, these two subject were primarily taken for this purpose.

Based on the training, a pilot was undertaken in Sevanagar, Maharanapratap Nagar, Nisharinagar, Sardarnagar and Vyankat Nagar Laman Tandas of Umarga block. Total 114 children of 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> std from these Tandas were selected on the basis of pretest and admitted them into classes. The classes were conducted from 10<sup>th</sup> May up till 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008. Daily two hours were devoted for these children to improve their levels of learning. Comprehension, Marathi language and simple arithmetic were the key areas taken for helping to enhance their levels.

After having finished the classes for 45 days, the results were assessed through undertaking post tests. The results were very encouraging and underlined the importance of continuing this work.

### Present Work:

The process was further carried out in Lohara block. Five Tanda viz Sevalalnagar, Jetalalnagar, Anandnagar, Sheetalnagar and Manohar Naik nagar were selected as Laman was predominantly living in these tandas. Table No.1 shows the no of children enrolled in this class from five Tanda. Local animators who were interested in teaching children were selected. The capacities of assessing and teaching children were built up through series of training events and field exposure. Pratham had already devised the system of identifying slow learner and ways of improving the same. This was oriented to animators. The pretest were conducted in five tandas with the help of animators during July 2009. Total 142 children from primary school were assessed for Language and math.

Sr. No	Name of Tanda	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Sewalalnagar	17	12	29
2.	Jetalalnagar	16	12	28
3.	Sheetalnagar	12	17	29
4.	Anandnagar	13	15	28
5.	Manohar Naik Nagar	19	9	28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>142</b>

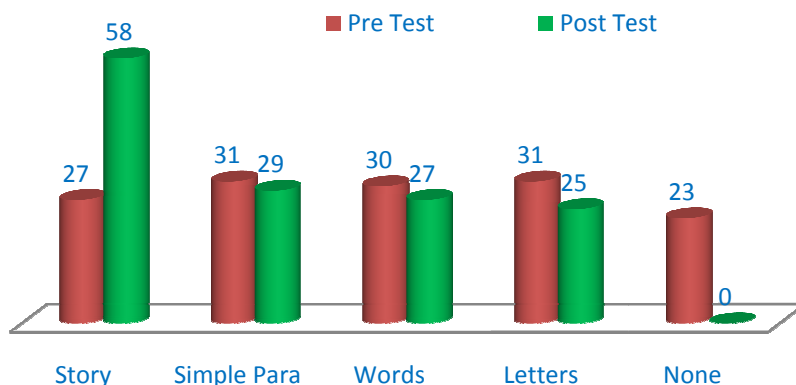
The data collected by each animator was collated and compiled to analyse the levels of learning. Total 142 children from Primary school participated in the pre testing. Based on the results of pretest,

- It was found that out of 142 children, 27 were able to read comprehend the stories.
- 23 were not able to understand anything.
- 31 were able to identify and understand letters.
- 31 children assessed found to be able to read simple para.



- And 30 children could identify and understand words shown to them.
- While seeing the results of math, it was found that 24 children knew 'nothing', they were neither understand single figure nor double.
- Merely 11 children were able to do subtraction.

**Comparative analysis of pre & post test of learning of Language (Total 142 children from 5 Tandas)**



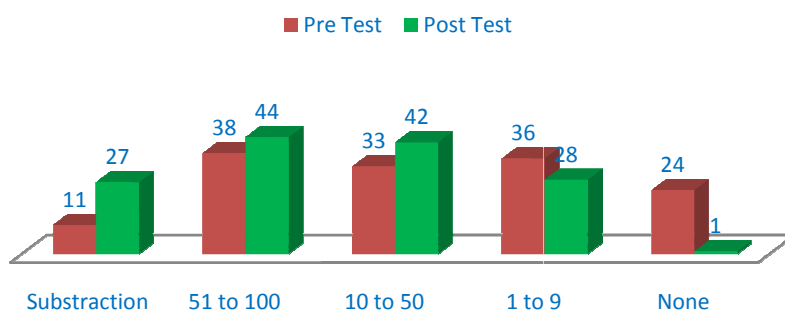
With this baseline data, we started five classes in five tandas of Lohara block. The animators were given training inputs on how to teach children using teaching aid. Different books were given to them. Daily two hours were asked to teach the children. Accordingly animators started teaching them in July 2009.

A peer pressure was also generated among children to learn language and math. Supervisor used to visit Tandas weekly to see the progress of children. The progress of classes were also presented during monthly staff meeting.

After having finished 8 months classes, a post tests were conducted in Feb.2010 in all five tandas to see the status of learning. The following are the results of post tests (see the Graph of Comparative Analysis of Pre & Post Tests):

- It is observed that 23 children who were in 'None' category of Language ('None' indicates that child does not understand and identify letters), have jumped to letters and words. They are now able to understand the letters and words; some are even able to read simple para.
- It is interesting to know the progress that more numbers are increased in 'Story'. Children who were in 'Words' and 'Simple Para' have benefitted greatly from the classes and today able to read 'Story'.

**Comparative analysis of pre & post test of learning of Math (Total 142 children from 5 Tandas)**



- Similarly the math which was bit threatening for children, has also shown good results. It was observed that 24 children were not able to recognize numbers. However after attending regular classes 23 children have moved on to next different levels.
- Merely 11 children were able to do subtraction. However, after this intervention 16 children are added in this category.

## Helping children find education interesting through Abhiruchi Classes:

In order to retain the interests of children in school and study well, abhiruchi classes are run 15 Tandas. Sevanagar, Sardaranagar, Nisharinagar, Maharanapratapnagar, Krishnanagar from Omerga block and Sheetalnagar, Anandnagar, Jaibhavaninagar, Chincholi, Khedtanda, RamanbaugTanda, Sewalalanagar, Jetalalnagar, Rajegaontanda 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 600 children are benefiting from Abhiruchi Classes.



## 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. Samarthy planned to address these concerns and make parents and children active in the education process. शिक्षण दिव 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





## Securing Rights, Empowering Children Through 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.

### **What are the roles of Ministers:**

#### **Prime Minister:**

Prime minister addresses the children and guides all the other ministers for the meetings and activities.

#### **Education Minister:**

It is the responsibility of education minister to plan out various activities pertaining to the education. This include story telling, reading books and studies.



#### **Manohar Naik Nagar**

Sr	Name of children	Designation
1	Reshama Rajendra chavan	Prime Minister
2	Rahul Uttam Rathod	Education Minister
3	Vijay Bansi Chavan	Sports Minister
4	Sonu Rajendra Chavan	Health Minister
5	Rajabai Sheserao Rathod	Cultural Minister

#### **Sevalalnagar**

Sr	Name of children	Designation
1	Manisha Suresha Rathod	Prime Minister
2	Ashavini Kant pawar	Education Minister
3	Amol Kisan Rathod	Sports Minister
4	Amita Kisan Rathod	Health Minister
5	Babu Rathod	Cultural Minister

#### **Jetalalnagar**

Sr	Name of children	Designation
1	Joti Babu Pawar	Prime Minister
2	Renuka Motiram Pawar	Education Minister
3	Manisha Suresha Rathod	Sports Minister
4	Balashaheb Kisan Rathod	Health Minister
5	Puja Chavan	Cultural Minister



#### **Health Minister:**

Health Minister monitors the cleanliness of surrounding. He undertakes *shramdaan* to clean the surrounding place. Similarly he keeps watch on the clothes, regular bath and nails are cut regularly.

#### **Cultural Minister:**

National festivals and Days are planned.. Songs are organized to bring happiness to the children.

#### **Sports Minister:**

He organizes all children, ask others to seat quietly and upholds peace. Total order is maintained by the Sports Minister. His main work is to plan and undertake various games.

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

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

Marathwada was freed from the clutchtes 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:**

63<sup>rd</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. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010. Children from Sevanagar, Jetalalanagar, Manoharnaiknagar, Sardarnagar, Sewanagar and Vyankatnagar tanda participated in the event. Around 250 children took part in the celebration.

One act play by local journalist Shri Khandu Suryavanshi performed in the programme. How the wrong practices in education spoils the children was shown through his play. Besides he also focused on addiction and corporal punishments in school sarcastically.

Children organized few plays based on superstitions, addiction, domestic violence and parents role in schools. These all plays performed by the children.

A local Banjara dance was performed by all children.

Few games were also organized like eating rice, fixing Bindi and race through standing in bag etc.



## Spread the 'words' of education... Dnyandhara Library (ज्ञानधारा वाचनालय) in Sardarnagar Tanda:

A group of employees of IT firms, Aksharbharti, supported Samarthya to start a community library in one of Tandas of Omerga block. Saradarnagar Tanda of Kader village in Omerga block was chosen for starting the library. Books worth Rs. 30,000 were donated for the library. It was inaugurated by one of the community members who got the education through hardship and struggle. Adv. BB Jadhav, a Public Prosecutor, serving for more than 15 years in Omerga, was invited for the inauguration. It was inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The programme motivated children and youth to cultivate the habit of reading. Well wishers from the community spontaneously supported the cause by donating few materials needed for library. Table, chair, wooden almarhi, monthly subscription for local newspapers for a year etc worth Rs. 9765 were contributed by community.

"I have never seen such a big and colorful book. I liked it very much..."

-Vaishnavi 1<sup>st</sup> std



"I like this very much, how great stories written...I will read it all..."

-Vicky 4<sup>th</sup> std.



"Reading fairy tell has still a different taste..."

-Dadarao,







### Putting up issues through Comics: Children's Initiative

Children were trained on how to draw comics. Everyone liked it. The experiences at Laman tanda were drawn up by children through comics.

Domestic violence, practices of superstitions, environment concerns, health issues were depicted through the comics. A booklet of the comics was prepared by the children.

The posteres of the comics were displayed in tandas to make people aware on wife beating and its consequences, blind beliefs, health issues etc. It was made in Laman dialect.





## Encouraging Girls to Pursue Education Further:

A felicitation programme was organized on 1<sup>st</sup> July 09 by Samarthya to encourage girls who have secured distinction in SSC and



HSC exams. 14 students were honoured by the Police Inspector of Lohara block, Shri Harishchandra Rathod. Mothers of these girls were also invited and recognized their parenthood of supporting the education of their daughters.



25/07/2009

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

Adolescent girls at Laman tanda are not allowed to continue their schooling after completing primary education. They are pushed into married life even reaching 16 yrs.

Samarthya mobilized these girls through Kishori Mandal. There are five mandals operating in Sardarnagar, Sevanagar, Jetalalnagar, Sheetalnagar and Manoharnaiknagar tanda. Total 58 adolescents girls are members of the Kishori Mandals.

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.

### Situation of Girls In India

- Every year 20 lakh girls are killed even before they are born and in Maharashtra the sex ratio stands at 922, which means for every 1,000 men there is a shortfall of 78 women<sup>1</sup>.
- Nearly 40% of female children do not attend schools.
- 59% of women are illiterate
- Even though the legal age for marriage is 18, the Indian government estimates that 30 out of 40 lakh marriages every year involve underage brides.
- Girls who marry by 15 have 4 children by their early twenties.
- Young married women are often burned to death by their in-laws when they fail to meet demands for money and goods from the groom's parents. In 1994, there were 6700 registered dowry burnings.
- Preference for sons and a profound bias against girl children and women in India has led to one of the world's lowest women-to-men ratios: 922 women for every 1000 men
- An estimated 3.9 crores women over-all are missing in India
- Over 330,000 more girls than boys die each year
- Girls are four times more likely to suffer from acute malnutrition and 40 times less likely to be taken to a hospital





## Escaping Child Marriage...

Yashoda (15 yrs) lives with her mother and a brother in Sevanagar Tanda. Her father died when she was 12 years old. She and her mother work as agriculture coolies and her brother is a labourer. Her dreams of education were shattered due to wage work. She joined in *Kishori Mandal* in the Tanda. She used to enjoy meetings. There she used to learn new things, besides enjoying singing and dancing. As she was approaching puberty, her mother's fear led her to get Yashoda engaged. Yashoda came to know this. She had learned in the training on early marriage and its adverse effects. Her friends in the *Kishori Mandal* motivated her further to oppose the proposal. She did the same next day. And warned her mother she would be married only after she turned eighteen

## Addressing Atrocities Against Dalits – Monitoring & Fact Finding.

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.

### Rape victim got the compensation...

A news titled '*dishonored health services, a staff raped a daughter of another*' in the *Punyanagari*, Marathi daily of Latur edition dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The girl belongs to a Dalit staff of the same Rural Hospital of Ter of Osmanabad district. The complaint was lodged with the Dhoki Police Station. Mr. Umesh Mane who raped has been working as Ward Boy with the Rural Hospital and living in the staff quarters. The victim's father is working as attendant in the Osmanabad Civil Hospital and living in the same quarters. The perpetrator is acquainted with the victim since a year. The wife Ms. Ambika Umesh Mane has cordial relation with the victim.

On 14.03.09 at 8 PM the victim was called by Mr. Umesh on the pretext of getting dress of his wife. He forcefully pulled her in the room and raped twice. The perpetrator threatened her of death and warned not to tell the incidence to anybody. However the victim Ms. Rama Shivaji Mane informed this to her father on 02.05.09. The case is lodged on 03.05.09 with the Dhoki Police.

The case is going on. The compensation of Rs. 25000 was given to the victim.



## Looking within

In the past year; there has been a change at Samarthya – changes in the organization structures, functions, and processes and most importantly, changes in Attitude.

Samarthya has restructured its governing body. Women have given 100% place in the Body.

## Acknowledgements:

This year has brought achievement and satisfaction to Samarthya. 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, Commutiny – The Youth Collective, New Delhi and Aksharbharti. With our committed staff and focused aim we see Samarthya that will inspire many.



01/07/20



## Samarthya Team: Our Energy



Ranjita Pawar



Babita Pawar



Balaji Rathod



Prem Rathod



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

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

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