



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

**Seva Mandir**

TRANSFORMING LIVES

# Our Mission

Seva Mandir's mission is to make real the idea of society consisting of free and equal citizens who are able to come together and solve the problems that affect them in their particular contexts. The commitment is to work for a paradigm of development and governance that is democratic and polyarchic. Seva Mandir seeks to institutionalize the idea that development and governance should not just be left to the state and its formal bodies, such as the legislature and the bureaucracy, but that citizens and their associations should engage separately and jointly with the state.

The mission, briefly, is to construct the conditions in which citizens of plural backgrounds and perspectives can come together to benefit and empower the least advantaged in society.



'Where there is sorrow,  
where there is poverty and oppression,  
where man is inhuman to man,  
where there is darkness of ignorance,  
it is here Seva Mandir must reach out.'

Dr Mohan Sinha Mehta  
Founder, Seva Mandir  
(1895-1985)







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## President's Foreword

Seva Mandir is approaching its fiftieth year as a functioning institution and it is now close to 87 years since it was conceived. The founders of Seva Mandir felt that, as privileged members of society, they had a moral obligation to alleviate poverty and make society more democratic. Post-independence, this feeling abated for a time, but it renewed itself when the founders recognized that even a democratically elected and welfare-minded state could not possibly, on its own, fulfil the agenda of building a free and fair society. With the passage of time, it must be said, this insight is profoundly reaffirmed not only in India, but the world over. So many of the state's programmes meant to benefit ordinary people have low impact. This is a societal failure and not just a failure of state institutions. Citizens have failed to use their democratic franchise to crystallize agendas that make society less prone to patronage and divisive politics.

Exercising power and freedom responsibly are not easy tasks to perform, neither for state functionaries nor for citizens, rich or poor. For this to happen, democratic and duty-bound sensibilities have to be nurtured and practised on an everyday basis. One area where tending of such values is critical is the safeguarding of common property resources. From experience, Seva Mandir has discovered that merely giving responsibility to local communities to conserve forests and pastures is not enough; they need to be engaged in recognizing the contradiction between their own aspirations to preserve common property resources and the temptation to privatize these resources for private gain. Likewise, it is not always the case that when our

staff are made service providers such as health workers and teachers they are spontaneously moved to perform their duties and are free of the pathologies of high levels of absenteeism characteristic of government staff.

Seva Mandir's multiplicity of programmes, such as the provision of health services, early childhood care and education, improving gender justice, protecting the environment and building self-governing community institutions, has created context for ordinary people and professionals in Seva Mandir to close the gap between practice and precepts.

The year covered by this report has been a good year. Colleagues at Seva Mandir have worked hard and imaginatively to raise resources to continue its programmes. They have improved the quality of their programmes and they have exercised patience when disappointed with the response of the state or colleagues within. The government could be more responsive in allowing local communities to make a bigger contribution by giving them the chance to act as trustees of natural resources. While their reluctance is understandable, it is shortsighted. If communities are not given a stake in protecting forests, their potential to become custodians of forests and natural resources is undermined.

Whilst there have been instances of the organization being let down by colleagues who failed to uphold institutional norms of probity and duty in performance, Seva Mandir realizes that they, like state functionaries, have reasons to place personal interests above institutional

interests. At the same time, their behaviour needs corrective action, most of all through counselling. Seva Mandir does not doubt that even those staff members who violate norms care for the organization's mission and that their being made aware of their misdeeds leads to self-correction, if not atonement.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the donors, researchers, volunteers and well-wishers of Seva Mandir who motivate and enable us to carry on. We have been especially fortunate to receive increasing support from corporate donors such as Colgate Palmolive India Ltd, Mumbai; Hindustan Zinc Ltd, Udaipur; Larsen and Tubro Ltd, Mumbai; Max India Foundation, New Delhi; Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd, Mumbai; Oracle and a host of others. They have gone beyond the call of duty to support work where they have no business operations. One of our most cherished partners, Canada Village Aid Association, decided this year to close the institution. CIVA was among the first institutions to make grants to Seva Mandir and it represents one of the finest examples of philanthropy across borders. George Woodcock, a writer and its founder, gathered friends in Vancouver to support work in India because he felt an affinity to Gandhian ideas. For more than two decades they supported Seva Mandir's comprehensive plan. Special thanks are due to Bread for the World and Plan International for carrying on supporting Seva Mandir's

comprehensive plans. There is need to thank especially the Friends of Seva Mandir UK and USA, led by Chris Wiscarson and Poonam Abbi respectively. They have, in faraway places, raised money for Seva Mandir consistently over the years. Our special gratitude to Chris for his exceptional efforts to promote the work of Seva Mandir in so many different forums.

The support and faith of donors, state officials and well-wishers in Seva Mandir is infectious and gives hope to thousands of villagers and townspeople that they are not alone in their struggle against oppression and poverty.

My profound thanks to colleagues in Seva Mandir for their hard work and leadership, and for their diligence and decency. Even when decisions are not to their liking, colleagues have not flagged in giving their best.

My special thanks to Priyanka and Narayan ji and other members of the senior management team for inspiring so many and being attentive to staff members' concerns regarding job satisfaction and career prospects. To expand the scope of work and deal with new partners is to add to their worries and to ask them to juggle more balls in the air. Last but not least, my thanks to the board of trustees for their guidance and encouragement to me and to others in Seva Mandir.

**Ajay S. Mehta**  
President



## Overview

The report you hold in your hands describes the ongoing journey of Seva Mandir and its partner communities, with the achievements and challenges of the year 2015-16.

Seva Mandir has been fortunate in having an uninterrupted engagement with about 700 villages of southern Rajasthan since 1968.

The interventions and strategies have evolved and changed over these last decades, but the vision continues to be one of creating a just society, a society that can come together to work for self-improvement and the common good and bring about lasting changes in the communities. We are proud that our different programmes have converged well in moving towards this vision.

Our work on developing and rejuvenating natural resources has led to sustainable improvements in food, water and fodder security. In the watersheds we have worked on, people are able to grow food for nearly the full year, and, as a result, migration from these areas has decreased considerably. This has allowed families not only to till their land productively, but also to look after their children and enjoy family life with dignity and self-respect. Both men and women have benefited from the men not having to migrate and work in oppressive conditions in the cities. Working on shared resources like land and water has also allowed communities to overcome their internal fragmentation and cooperate. This is particularly laudable as the larger societal trend is towards privatization, often illegal privatization, of

common resources and a scramble for personal gain even at the cost of societal gain.

However, such pockets are few and there is an urgent need to take such programmes and experiences to a wider area. Had there been more support from the state in developing land, especially forestland, there would have been some magnifying of results.

While finances are definitely a major constraint in upscaling such programmes, other factors slowing our progress include the time and processes necessary to get communities to cooperate, to clear up the messy issues relating to land ownership (especially common land), and to adapt to the changing climate. The nature of finance available for undertaking ecological restoration with a focus on securing livelihoods has also become challenging. More and more, the funding available for such development is becoming result-obsessed within rigid time frames. The flexibility required to engender the above processes is diminishing and Seva Mandir has walked a tightrope in getting the balance right between the demands of the funding and the vision it holds. But at the same time, we must thank our donors. At a time when funding is becoming difficult for organizations such as ours, Seva Mandir's budget and expenditure grew, allowing it to increase its outreach to its partner communities.

Our other programmes of deepening human capabilities in the areas of education, early childhood care, health, women's empowerment,

clean drinking water and sanitation have shown great promise. The education programme reached out to more than 6,000 out-of-school children. The programme has led to more children accessing schools. A recent study carried out in four villages of Girwa block found that 83% of the children are in school (whether in a government or Seva Mandir establishment). Three years ago, in the same villages, 67% of children were in school. Hence, the out-of-school percentage has reduced by nearly half.

However, the pattern varies from block to block. Girwa, being close to the city, has more functional government schools than the more remote Kotra block, which still has a huge number of children out of school. The education programme can also be proud of its pupils' results, but we have not, alas, been able to carry this excellence over into the government schools where our pupils go for higher education.

For example, in Sarupal village, the students of Seva Mandir-run Shiksha Kendras scored an average of 35 out of 60 in a test in maths and Hindi, whereas the government school children got no marks. In these comparative tests, the average mark of class 5 government school students was 42%, while it was 63% for the level A students of the Shiksha Kendras. The low learning levels in government schools are an ongoing challenge. We prepare children to access these schools, especially at a higher level, but, once there, they find very little teaching.

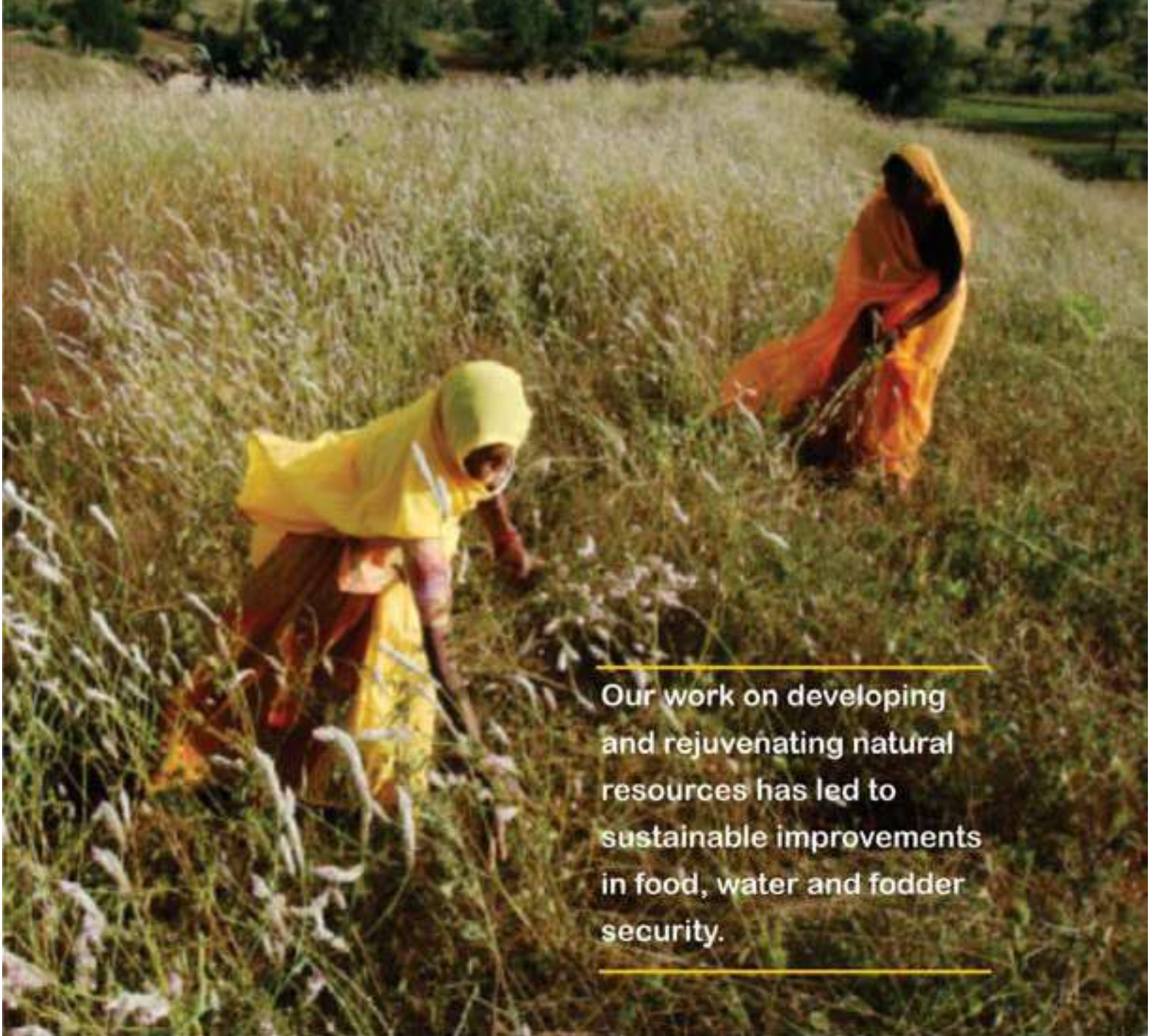
Our sanitation programme, which has become unique due to its emphasis on Ecosan toilets, which are more appropriate for such water-stressed areas, also shows great promise, with about 75% of the toilets being regularly used. In addition to appropriate technology and good



design, one major reason for the high acceptance and use of toilets in our programme is because of our huge investment in helping families make a habit change, allowing them the time and offering the gentle support needed for a family/community to let a practice become a habit and slowly a culture. Our experience has been that rushing such interventions may lead to scale but not sustainable changes.

Emerging programme challenges include addressing malnutrition, especially amongst children, and engaging young people more





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**Our work on developing and rejuvenating natural resources has led to sustainable improvements in food, water and fodder security.**

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effectively and creatively. We are uniquely poised to address the former as our programme of early childcare, in the Balwadis<sup>1</sup>, has been successful in improving the nutritional status of children attending these preschool centres, at the same time as our agriculture programme has been increasing the food basket and the WASH interventions showing good results. What we need to do is to integrate these different strategies and embed them in a community awareness programme. We are hopeful that, in the coming years, we will be able to move ahead in this direction.

Seva Mandir has been a seat of learning, questioning and undertaking studies. In fact, one such research study put us in the limelight this year. Professor Angus Deaton, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for his analysis of consumption, poverty and welfare, had been associated with the large baseline survey done in Udaipur in 2003-04. Professors Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo were the other prominent collaborators in this study. We should continue this trend of hosting research, with external and in-house collaboration, so that we sustain our



learning and are prepared to identify and possibly address new challenges. Our study on the impact of the Balwadi centres continued with the Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai, and McGill University, Canada. So also the study with Georgetown University on the impact of cooperation on developmental outcomes. The third major study is now being anchored by Udaipur Urja Initiatives Ltd, a producer company promoted by Seva Mandir. This study, being carried out in collaboration with Duke University, USA, focuses on cookstoves, drinking water and hygiene.

But Seva Mandir has not seen success and smooth progress in all areas of its work. There were external challenges, like the nature of funding. Even though, in absolute amounts, our funding grew, it was fragmented, project-oriented, short-term. Stitching this kind of funding together so that it can allow the organization to deliver on its vision and not only project outcomes was stressful and extremely challenging. Not receiving full cooperation from the state to work on forestland also forced us to look for alternative strategies to promote community protection of forests; perhaps this will prove to be a boon in disguise.

We have also had a few internal setbacks. Seva Mandir, while strong on systems and processes, is also a culture- and value-driven organization. There have been occasions when staff and community members transgressed these values, with impropriety in relation to either financial dealings or power, and others have been witness to these transgressions. Whilst we can take satisfaction from the fact that such setbacks are few and rare, we need to reflect on what it will take to embolden more and more people to speak up and refuse to be spectators to abuses of power or opportunity.

The question is important as we not only endeavour to make meaningful changes in the lives of the communities we serve but also make ourselves more accountable in the process.

In the last decades, Seva Mandir has been able to create a healthy space and balance between people of different social and economic backgrounds. With patience, systems, leadership and culture, we have been able to create an ecosystem in which people from very diverse backgrounds are able to cooperate at work and learn from each other. It has been possible to craft work and systems that amply reward diverse and plural skills. However, there are repeated threats to this cooperation and diversity. For example, servicing current funding requires more creative reporting, stricter adherence to timely results, strong communications. People who can deliver on this may become more privileged than others, and we have to be cautious that we do not end up privileging one group over the other while creating capacities to deal with the new external requirements.

But, in conclusion, I can say that the year had more ups than downs. The future holds challenge and promise and Seva Mandir seems well equipped to deal with some of them.

Seva Mandir's progress and its success have been made possible thanks to its numerous donors, friends, supporters, volunteers, its board, the staff and the communities we partner with. I take this opportunity to thank each one of them who has helped us stay our path of seva, sadhna and kranti (service, dedication, change), the motto given by our founders.

**Priyanka Singh**  
Chief Executive





## Strengthening Village Institutions

As Seva Mandir's experience of working with the communities deepened it realized that its programmes aimed at solving specific problems faced by the communities could also be used to alter social relations, making them less hierarchical, more equitable and non-patronage based. These constructive programmes showed promise as mechanisms for introducing norms of participatory decision-making and fostering dialogue, and gradually Seva Mandir saw its role as not simply helping to solve problems but also transforming social relations.

However, in the early years, despite adequate funding support from enlightened donors, committed and trained staff and a favourable policy climate, Seva Mandir found it difficult to get local communities to cooperate and take greater responsibility for safeguarding and developing their common resources. They were more vertically aligned with the powerful than horizontally aligned amongst themselves. It seemed that political and social institutions had adjusted to poor governance and development outcomes. We found that the process of rural development had shifted the



balance in favour of state functionaries and eroded solidarity amongst the poor. On the one hand politics and the governance of control and divisiveness had made people incapable of working for their own development, and on the other hand this led to the reproduction of self-destructive behaviour among the poor.

Constructive work such as running small schools and preschools or developing pastureland provided a powerful rallying point for people to come together. Each of these programme's processes necessitated that planning and implementation be carried out collectively and transparently, thereby creating opportunities for people to learn to work together. Sustained opportunities and interaction slowly helped the communities internalize the norms of cooperation and transparent, democratic functioning. Making sure that these norms gained deep roots and were sustained beyond programme interventions necessitated having a reason for people to meet regularly and also their capacity building for governance and management.

The Village Institutions programme was initiated for this reason with two main objectives. The first objective was the creation and deepening of norms and capacity development for the common good. Secondly, the village fund was created as a common property resource around which people could meet regularly, while also providing financial autonomy to the village.

**The major components that make up the Village Institutions programme are:**

- **Gram Samuh**, a general body of which every citizen of the village is a member. The gram samuhs elect an executive body called the Gram Vikas Committee (GVC).

- **Gram Vikas Committee** (GVC or Village Development Committee), responsible for leading the local development process and finding solutions to the problems facing villagers in a collective and democratic manner
- **Gram Vikas Kosh** (GVK or Village Development Fund), built up through contributions from the communities, and serving two critical objectives: giving the communities the ability to fund some of their needs, and also providing a reason for the whole community to meet and discuss the allocation of funds on a regular basis

**The specific objectives of the Village Institutions programme are to:**

- Build and enhance capacities of village-level institutions for self-governance
- Create and strengthen the management of village funds which will include investments earning a higher rate of return, better use of funds, and record-keeping
- Deepen the inclusion of women, young people and children in community institutions
- Assess the functioning of community institutions as democratic, non-partisan institutions and share results with the rest of the organization
- Facilitate better linkages between community institutions and the panchayat and carefully study and share outcomes

This programme aims to create an ecosystem where the positive forces of cooperation, transparency, equity, justice and responsible autonomy within the community can help lead the villages towards comprehensive development.





- Seva Mandir is associated with 723 village groups at present
- There are 577 elected Village Development Committees
- The total membership of the village groups is now 64,800
- 647 groups have a Village Development Fund, of which 583 have bank accounts
- These 647 Village Funds hold a total of Rs. 57.4 million
- Rs. 2.6 million of this was used this year

**Seva Mandir's presence in the villages:**

- Seva Mandir is associated with 723 village groups at present
- 647 have a GVK, 583 of which have bank accounts, and there are 577 elected GVCs (since GVCs are often set up after GVKs)
- The total membership of the village groups is now 64,800, an increase of 1,751 in the last year, with growth mainly occurring in Kotra and Kumbalgarh blocks where Seva Mandir's intensive activities are now increasing

**Gram Vikas Committees**

GVCs have overall responsibility for village-level development and there has been considerable progress towards making them fully representative of the communities they serve.

- 20 new GVCs were set up in 2015-16 making the total 577
- 83 re-elections were conducted this year, including re-elections which were due in this period as well as some that were long-overdue. 183 re-elections are still outstanding.
- 43% of the GVCs have women office-bearers this year, a rise of 2% from last year. More than half of these occupy the position of treasurer.

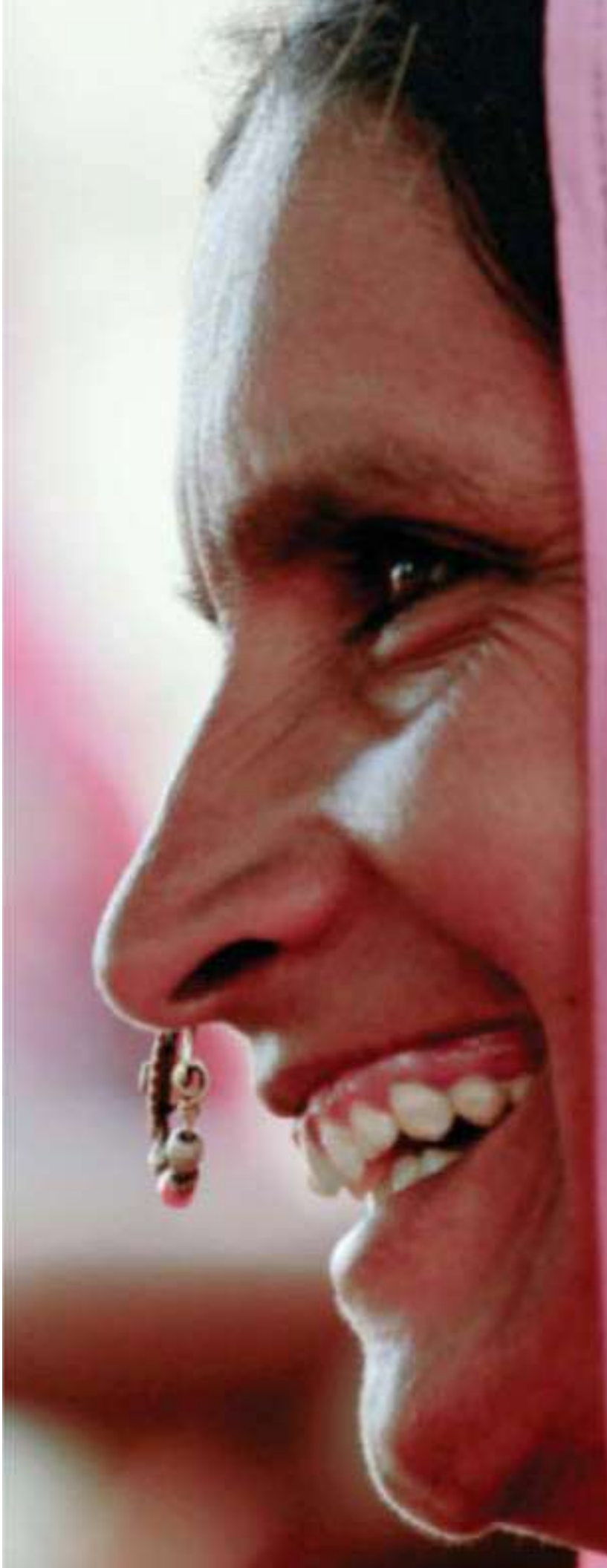
**Support to People Initiative**

All the village-level para-workers or volunteers like the Balawadi Sanchalikas<sup>1</sup> and Shiksha Kendra instructors are appointed, monitored and paid by the GVCs. Seva Mandir assists the GVCs in these tasks through its Support to People Initiative (SPI).

The objective of promoting this social relationship is that this will make village volunteers more accountable to the communities they serve. The GVCs' capacity to monitor ongoing programmes, objectively evaluate workers and make payments is developed in the process.

During the reporting period 199 GVCs received 24 SPI follow-up training courses with the main focus on increasing villagers' skills in effectively monitoring and making payment to village volunteers. The training sessions were designed to make the GVCs capable of managing on their own the development projects running in their village. Issues like loans, cash in hand and Management Information System updating, introduction to government schemes with a special focus on pensions were discussed in these sessions.





### The rise of a leader

Ambavi Bai, a member of Badanga GVC, was born into a poor tribal family. As a result of poverty and marriage at a very early age, she was not able to attend school. A few days after her marriage her husband fell ill and was paralysed, requiring his wife's care. Before her marriage Ambavi Bai had participated in Seva Mandir's patchwork training programme, which in addition to teaching her a new skill also boosted her confidence. She was chosen by the GVC to take responsibility for the Balwadi run by Seva Mandir in the village. Because of her other responsibilities she did not take up this offer and instead trained another woman in the village to do the job. But she continued to be engaged in development activity in her village, like the plantations.

In 2013 a pastureland in Badanga village was encroached upon by two influential families. Under Ambavi Bai's leadership the local women mobilized to put social pressure on these two families, ultimately breaking the boundary wall which encroached upon the pastureland and restoring the area to its true common nature. Now she is also making village women aware of the dangers of selling individual lands to the local land mafia.

Ambavi Bai has taught herself to read and write and now works as a cook in Udaipur. She is one amongst several ordinary villagers who have become community leaders and fought for the common good of their village.





(4-15 years) were performing near the average in all categories; whereas the groups older than 15 years performed best in the leadership and the overall category, but not so well in the resource category. The newer groups (3 years or less), for obvious reasons, performed below average in all categories.

### Village Development Funds (GVKs)

- 647 GVKs hold a total fund of Rs. 57.4 million, an increase of 14% from the last year. Most of the increase was

from interest earned on fixed deposits.

### Village Cohesion Index

The objective of the Village Cohesion Index (VCI) is to serve as a tool for evaluating the cohesiveness and performance of the village institutions in four areas: participation, leadership, resources and management.

Once every three years a sample number of GVCs are assessed on the VCI to review their status and performance on all of these parameters. It is an opportunity for the GVCs to evaluate and compare themselves with their peers and, on the basis of their findings, design an action plan.

- This year 106 GVCs were rated on a scale of 1-100 overall and in each of the parameters and then classified into A, B and C categories based on the score
- 30.18% of GVCs were rated as good (A), 69.81% as average (B). The best performance of the GVCs was in the leadership category where 56.6% were rated as good. However, in the resource category only 49.05% of GVCs were ranked good. Another interesting comparison was the relationship between the age of a GVC (from the year of formation) and its performance on various parameters of VCI. Here the middle-aged groups
- This year Rs. 22,270 came into GVKs through 8 MGNREGA sites, which is very encouraging as the contribution from MGNREGA had dwindled last year because the wage payments were delayed
- Rs. 2.6 million from GVKs were used this year, which is 161% more than the previous year's usage, primarily because less money was used in the previous year for Balwadi and SK expenses. This year's expenditure includes Rs. 581,375 on Balwadis and Rs. 932,826 on SKs.
- 87% of the funds were used for community support and development, including repair and maintenance of community centres, pasturelands or Joint Forest Management, purchase of land for school playgrounds, and purchase of clothes for SK and Balwadi children
- 49 cluster-level accountants in 5 blocks have so far updated 80% of the records. Accountants' record-keeping is improving in most of the clusters. Seva Mandir is working towards improving the capacities of the accountants, who will be further trained as in-house auditors so as to maintain transparency in GVK records.
- GVCs of geographically contiguous areas are federated as zonal federations. One zonal federation has 15-20 member-GVCs. 14 zonal



### **Strengthening inter-community collaboration**

Magra-1, a GVC in Bavalwada zone in Kherwara block, produces a good crop of tuar dal (lentils) every year. Local farmers usually sell their produce to the Falasiya Mandi, 40 km away, which adds to the costs of transportation and labour. Farmers are unable to bargain with traders because most of them are either illiterate or not up-to-date with the current market price. For the most part, they have to sell their produce through an unorganized market chain and receive low prices per weight. The Magra-1 GVC decided to take the initiative and held meetings on dal procurement at the village level, where the farmers would receive much better returns. The estimated cost of procuring tuar dal from the farmers was between Rs. 100,000 and 150,000. They had only Rs. 15,000 in the Village Development Fund and borrowing from other sources would have incurred high interest charges, so they approached other, richer GVCs like Depur Nichla. Depur Nichla GVC agreed to lend money for three months at an interest rate of 9%. The existing rate for tuar dal was Rs. 82 per kg in the local commodity market and a total of 1,105 kg of tuar dal was procured at village level by Magra-1 GVC which then sold its tuar dal to Udaipur Urja Company at the rate of Rs. 87 per kg, thus earning Rs. 96,135 against the Rs. 90,610 spent on procurement. This produced a net profit of Rs. 5,525 of which Rs. 3,000 was paid to Depur Nichla GVC as interest along with the principal amount. The remaining Rs. 2,525 was deposited in the Magra-1 GVK. While this process did not produce a large profit this year, it had other benefits such as working together, establishing links and trust with another village, sowing the seeds of enterprise and establishing the principle of fair prices. Perhaps in the coming years Magra-1 will also succeed in generating more profit.



federation meetings were conducted with 336 federation members (109 women). Subjects discussed include improper implementation of government development programmes like MGNREGA, strengthening the role of the federation and linkage, coordination with Seva Mandir and panchayats, participation of GVC members in meetings, effect of influential people on group functioning. Issues such as grass cutting, Community Forest Rights, pastureland management, increasing token money, guard payments, re-election, membership, depositing loans and cash-in-hand amounts in GVKs were also discussed.

## Training

Capacity building is an important part of empowering communities to deliberate and make decisions on local issues and development action. To further this goal:

- 79 training sessions and 35 meetings were conducted for different purposes with 3,801 participants from GVCs, federations, community and PRI members and cluster accountants
- Trained village volunteers helped in sanctioning 1,100 applications for social welfare schemes, of which 416 beneficiaries have received their claims. These included widows' pensions (22), old-age pensions (185), palanhar (26), chief minister Aawas (19), rain-damage to houses (50). The total benefits claimed were approximately Rs. 2.9 million.
- Fund planning was undertaken by GVCs (with funds of over Rs. 100,000) through 13 training sessions in which 565 community members including 202 women participated. Based on the assessment of sources present in the village, usage of GVK funds, ownership, group working etc., each committee was assisted in

preparing a long-term fund management plan. Once a plan of action was decided on, responsibilities were allocated during the discussion to ensure that the plan was followed through.

## Samuh Chetna Shivir (Awareness Camps)

66 Samuh Shivir were held this year in all the blocks with the objective of forming new committees and initiating the process of re-election. Around 3,137 villagers (including 1,233 women and 322 children) participated in these camps. Prior to this, one-to-one household visits and group meetings were conducted to create awareness.

The main agenda of such camps is to promote the role of GVKs and the importance of re-elections, disseminate information on government schemes such as MGNREGA, and provide information on legal entitlements like Right to Information. The participants also discussed the monitoring system and role of GVCs, Shiksha Kendra and Balwadis, timely submission of GVK income/beneficiary contributions and Community Forest Rights.

## Key Challenges

Finding the best ways to invest and use GVK funds remains a challenge. There are several legal restrictions on aggregating them, and more work is needed on finding the best way to balance good earnings from GVKs with the ability to use them for local development. As the GVCs become mature and strong there is also a danger that their leaders become gatekeepers and power brokers. And lastly, a big effort needs to be made to engage young people with the GVCs.





## Developing Natural Resources

Seva Mandir's work area is characterized by a semi-arid climate, an erratic monsoon pattern and the rugged landscape of the Aravalli ranges. While the local population is largely dependent on natural resources for its livelihood, many of these resources are severely degraded.

About 70% of the land here is common, in other words under state ownership but intended to be accessible to the entire community living around that land. The commons play a significant role in sustaining the livelihoods of rural people, but degradation of the land and indiscriminate

encroachments on it greatly reduce the benefit people derive from this land. The degraded condition of the commons, usually located uphill, also affects the productivity of private agricultural land as monsoon water running unchecked from these commons results in soil erosion, breaking of bunds and crop damage downstream. In turn, poor returns from agriculture force people to supplement their income with casual labour. Daily and seasonal migration of men in search of casual labour is therefore high, and often leads to frustration, undignified living conditions and disrespect.



Climate change has added to agricultural vulnerability. Exploitation and privatization of ground water has seen unprecedented growth in recent years. High economic returns are being achieved at a very high ecological, social and environmental cost. Another critical emergent challenge has been the sale of land by local peasants. On the one hand this deprives people of a sustainable resource, and on the other hand productive land is being used for other purposes

like mining, housing and building resorts. Moreover the land is often sold below market value.

With the clearing of green forest spaces there has been an increase in human-animal conflict, with reports that leopard attacks and crop destruction by blue bull or nilgai (large antelope) are on the rise.

**Water curing process  
for channel line -  
Koldara**





This year again the monsoon was erratic. Delayed rains meant that there was a drinking water shortage from March to June-July. The production of crops in both kharif (monsoon) and rabi (spring) seasons was less than last year due to the uneven distribution of rainfall. In this adverse climatic scenario Seva Mandir's natural resource development work became more critical and the benefits more striking. Seva Mandir has worked to develop and manage common lands, provide sustainable watersheds and help farmers improve their agricultural yields. The effort has been to balance economic gains with environmental concerns. Seva Mandir's work has strengthened farm-based livelihoods, ensuring that farmers have food and financial security, and nurtured a demand for better, more ethical management of the common environment.

Seva Mandir's work on natural resource development has three main components:

- Improving returns from farm-based livelihoods
- Ecological conservation with a special focus on commons
- Using the commons to foster social solidarity and cooperation

## Work on Commons

As already indicated, more than 70% of the land in Seva Mandir's working area is common land, to be used by the entire community, but in many places illegal private encroachments render them common in name only. The commons are mainly of three types: pastureland (or grazing land) owned by the village panchayats, revenue land owned by the Revenue Department, and forestland owned by the Forest Department.

## Pastureland development

Seva Mandir supports the communities in undertaking negotiations and dialogue to free the commons from encroachments. In most cases dialogue, often quite long drawn-out, is sufficient to restore the commons. But sometimes, depending on the background and need of the encroaching families, compensation is offered to them. Seva Mandir then supports the community in building a boundary wall, undertaking soil and water conservation works and plantation of the pastureland. The communities also devise management systems to protect the sites and share the proceeds of the pastureland equitably amongst themselves. The fodder from the developed pastures is of immense value to these families. The process of restoration also brings the community together and adds to its cohesiveness.

In the last year:

- Against a target of developing 200 ha of pastureland, work was completed on 168.64 ha
- Resources from 47.8 ha were leveraged through MGNREGA<sup>1</sup>
- Advance action work was initiated on 230 ha of pastureland
- When a Village Development Committee develops, protects and takes benefits from a pastureland they must secure a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the panchayat as the land is under their control. An NOC is received usually for 4-5 years and must then be renewed. NOC renewals were due for 166 community pastureland sites of which 88 were granted. In one village a water tank and girls' hostel have been developed so the

chances of that land becoming grazing land again are slim.

- Of the total 241 pasture sites developed, grass-harvesting data was collected from 82 sample sites, covering 1,223 ha
- Over 1 million kg grass was harvested from these sites, which was shared across 3,425 families
- Assuming a rate of Rs. 3 per kg, the monetary value of this grass would be around Rs. 3.62 million
- Rs. 200,200 was contributed to the respective GVK funds from this benefit

### Forestland

The Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) provides for both individual rights and community rights. Implementation of the FRA was initiated in the area in 2008. According to the law, all tribal dwellers occupying state forestland (up to 4 ha in the case of an individual household) before 13 December 2005 were entitled to receive legal rights over it. The act also has provision for granting Community Forest Rights (CFRs) to the communities which have traditionally been protecting and managing their village forestland. No limit of area is prescribed for granting CFR under the act.

While there are some genuine cases where individual rights are necessary, indiscriminate granting of individual forest rights (IFR) will motivate more people to encroach and detract from the common value of the forests. A pilot study carried out in 2012-13 in Jhadol block of Udaipur district indicated that encroachments in forest areas had increased following the announcement of the FRA. Yet the government's response on granting CFR has been very slow, indeed almost nonexistent. Against the 34,956 IFR claims

that have been granted in Rajasthan, only 69 CFR claims have been granted.

Seva Mandir and Van Utthan Sangh (a federation of 100 local Forest Protection Committees, FPCs, of Udaipur district) have worked on 68 claims since 2012-13, but not a single one of them has been granted to date, despite regular follow-ups.

There was no progress on Joint Forest Management either. JFM allows the Forest Department to involve local communities in forest management, usually through local FPCs, with or without the help of NGOs working as facilitating agencies. The FD made it clear that an external agency could get involved in the development of forestland only under the provision of Compensatory Afforestation Management Planning and Action (CAMPA), which means that an NGO or community wanting to be a partner in JFM has to deposit money with CAMPA and only

### Van Utthan Sangh

A critical contribution made by Seva Mandir in the field of forest management has been the formation and strengthening of Van Utthan Sangh, an independent federation of more than 100 Forest Protection Committees, based in Jhadol block.

Van Utthan Sangh organizes dialogue and provides guidance and technical support on a wide range of forestry issues. This year it engaged extensively with the implementation of MGNREGA and the Forest Rights Act.



### **Villagers unite to save their pastureland**

The village community in Peepad (Badgaon block) has been experiencing difficulties due to two mines operating in the village. One of the mine owners has been depositing his debris on the pastureland, causing harm to the stone boundary wall, and uprooting many saplings. Around 250 villagers volunteered to repair the boundary wall.

The pastureland covering 24 ha was developed in 1990 under the Forest Department's Aravalli afforestation scheme. Fresh work was carried out on the land in 2012 by Seva Mandir under MGNREGA. The villagers have been protecting and managing the site for twenty-five years and received a No-Objection Certificate from the panchayat in 2010 allowing them to protect and manage the pastureland for another ten years.

In order to stop dumping of debris in the pasture, the villagers and Seva Mandir reported the matter to the panchayat, Tehsil (administrative division) and District Collector's office. After regularly following up for 3 months, the Tehsildar (administrator) ordered a site demarcation survey which was conducted in January 2016 in the presence of villagers. The survey confirmed that the area covered by debris includes a part of the pastureland site and that the debris has permanently damaged the quality of the soil. Even after this, no action was taken to stop the illegal quarrying, so the matter was reported and publicized through the media. Seva Mandir has also helped the village group to hire a lawyer who was finally able to get a stay on the dumping within the pastureland in March.

Peepad villagers have also triumphed over another mining agency which was undertaking blasting activities very close to the settlement. This led to deep cracks in nearby buildings, including the government school, causing risk and damage to both life and property. Peepad villagers have obtained a written statement from the mine owner that he will not undertake any further blasting activities, and this has stopped for the moment at least.

In another incident in Kotra block, the boundary wall of Kaucha pastureland was constructed under MGNREGA by Seva Mandir in 2011-12 but one villager stole stones from the boundary wall and used them to build his house near the site. The village committee immediately conducted an urgent meeting under the leadership of newly chosen committee president Hamira Ram and decided to file an FIR against the person. Out of fear, the family members repaired the boundary. This quick group action saved the Kaucha pastureland.

**Village people having a discussion with Seva Mandir staff at the Peepad encroachment site**





then will the Forest Department undertake the implementation of JFM at that site.

### **Village-level consultations to review National Forest Policy**

The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, was engaged in the review and revision of National Forest Policy. Seva Mandir participated in the exercise by organizing consultations in 3 villages: Madla, Adkalia and Ambavi. The following are the main points that came out of the consultation.

In Madla and Adkalia villages no encroachments were found on the forestland and no IFR has been filed. Ambavi village has only been associated with Seva Mandir for four years, and here 33 IFR claims had been conferred. However, after association with Seva Mandir and Van Utthan Sangh, no fresh encroachment has occurred in Ambavi and people have submitted a proposal for CFR. In all the three villages, people want the government to confer CFR titles immediately. In all three consultations people reported stray incidents of conflict with nearby villages, mainly due to illegal felling of trees from developed forest areas under JFM. People have sought help from the Forest Department to stop this.

A number of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like leaves, flowers, fruits, gums, resins and medicines are being harvested from the forest areas. Older people understand the importance of these products and are knowledgeable about their uses, but the younger generation has no interest in NTFPs and knows very little about the different products and their importance. It is feared that this loss of knowledge may result in weakening of forest-livelihood linkage. Some people also reported problems posed by Forest Department officials relating to collection of NTFPs, which they want the future policy to address.

## **Watershed Development**

The major portion of Seva Mandir's working area is covered with barren rocks and hills which are part of the Aravalli mountain range and were at one time well stocked with forests. Farmers in our work area must cope with a semi-arid climate, erosion-prone hills, and irrigation on just 20% of productive land. In this context conserving soil and water can contribute significantly to the ecological health of the area and aid in agricultural productivity. To address these problems Seva Mandir undertakes watershed development activities as a precursor to strengthening livelihoods.

Seva Mandir has so far helped develop sustainable watersheds in 37 villages covering an area of 12,075 ha via soil and water conservation works through building bunds, loose-boulder gully plugs and check dams, land levelling and vegetative measures such as grass seeding and plantation of local forest species. This year:

- Watershed development work was carried on at 638.5 ha at 3 sites
- 2 watersheds are in their final phase, while Kumbhalgarh was initiated this year
- In addition to soil and water conservation works, plantations, horticulture development, animal vaccinations and agricultural training were undertaken in the watershed areas

**Jhabla watershed** is in the Final Implementing Phase (FIP). The following were the major activities carried out in the period:

- Contiguous contour trenches, stone-cum-earthen bunds and loose-stone check dams were constructed in a 350-ha area
- To demonstrate augmentation of water availability in the watershed, 1 roof-top water harvesting structure was constructed
- To improve availability of clean drinking water,



2 wells were lined and a parapet built around them.

- To enhance productivity of both public and private non-cultivable land, 2,088 head of livestock (both small and large ruminants) were vaccinated and treated in the livestock camps organized in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry.
- 8 farmers cultivated Safed Musli crop under the technical guidance of National Guni Mission and were able to produce 269 kg musli worth Rs. 151,800. Most of the produce has been kept as seed for next season.
- A cluster of women's SHGs (Self-Help Groups)

is functioning in Jhabla. This year the cluster undertook collection and marketing of seeds of Puand or Cassia tora and Jetropha, and earned a profit of Rs.13,110.

- 18 farmers were linked with the banking plan scheme of NABARD. This plan aims to cater to the banking needs of farmers to allow them to take up production activities. There will be follow-up in the next year to make the banking plan work in the field.
- On 8-9 April a Women's Day celebration was organized in which 764 people including 523 women participated. The CEO of Zila Parishad was the Chief Guest.

## Construction of a watertank, Jhabla







## Channel lining construction, Budhia

**Dob-Nevaj-Atwal watershed** was in its last year as a model watershed supported by ICRISAT and the national Ministry of Rural Development.

The following are the important activities undertaken in the watershed:

- Work related to building a boundary wall and soil and water conservation was carried out on Nevaj pasture land. However, the work on the pastureland could not be completed before the planting season because the villagers did not turn up for work as their earlier MGNREGA wages had not been paid.
- 1.5 ha non-cultivable land was developed by soil and water conservation and plantation activities in the period
- Farm bunding was carried out in the agricultural fields of 50 farmers
- 86 loose-stone check dams (LSCDs) were built in Atwal and 5 LSCDs were built in Nevaj under the gully plugging activity
- In production enhancement trials, 25 farmers cultivated green gram following an improved package of practices. They harvested green gram worth Rs.115,050. The average sum earned by farmers was Rs.4,602.
- 69 farmers were issued with 200 kg seed of black gram and maize in the kharif (monsoon) season from the local community seed bank. Farmers returned to the seed bank, as agreed, 1.25 times the issued seed (250 kg).
- 4,083 head of livestock were vaccinated and treated in 6 livestock camps (2 each in Dob, Nevaj & Atwal villages)
- 6 farmers were also involved in cultivation of vegetables under the Harit Dhara scheme through MGNREGA



### Medi-Budhia-Cheekla watershed

- 4 new water-harvesting structures (WHSs) were constructed, 3 repaired and 3 ponds repaired. Of these, 1 WHS in Koldara was completed before monsoon and 40 households were able to irrigate their wheat crop using it
- 3 WHS were repaired in Medi, Gura and Cheekla villages. All these structures had previously been unable to hold water due to damage and seepage problems.
- Work on 3 ponds was completed in the year while work on 1 pond was ongoing
- Soil and water conservation activities were carried out on a 160-ha area, benefitting 212 farmers. Mainly check dams and field bunds were constructed during the reporting period

- 30 Farmers of Medi cluster in Kotra were selected for improved backyard poultry farming and underwent training at the Rajasthan College of Agriculture

### Kumbhalgarh watershed

- A watershed of 1,500 hectares has been initiated in 10 villages of Kumbhalgarh. During the reporting period, 68.5 ha were treated.
- An exposure visit to older watersheds was organized for 48 farmers to familiarize them with holistic natural resource development through watershed development activities
- 8 training sessions were held on development and integration of common land in the watershed




Inauguration of a solar lift at Kumbhalgarh



## Water Resource Development

In addition to water resource development in watershed areas, the following additional works were undertaken:

- 1 lift irrigation system at Budiya was completed and work on two is in progress at new sites, Gura and Dehri
- Construction of a pump house in both the sites was completed, one of which, at Dehri, will be a solar lift irrigation unit
- 1,536 metres of channel line was also completed



An anicut built by  
Seva Mandir in Ramaj



## Agriculture

93% of the rural population of Udaipur district are farmers, but only 4% of their crop is grown for sale. Most are unable to grow food to last them all year round. Agriculture is thus an essential component of food security, and there is great scope to improve farming livelihoods through better access to irrigation and more efficient farming practices.



So, alongside physical development activities on land and water, Seva Mandir tries to support the rural population through agriculture and allied activities in order to improve food security in the region. Seva Mandir has also worked with farmers to improve agricultural yields by promoting eco-friendly best practices, such as communal seed banks with improved crop varieties, diversified vegetable cultivation, vermi-composting and livestock health camps.

It must be clarified that most of the agriculture work is being undertaken in areas where work on water augmentation has either been done in the past or is ongoing. A volunteer is experimenting with developing a mobile app to track individual farmers' vegetable cultivation. The app will also be a means of sending information about pest attack or any other advice.

In the period under report:

- Activities were undertaken with 956 new farmers and follow-up done with 1,000 wadi farmers
- Horticulture plantation was taken up with 308 farmers. This year we started the process of selecting farmers in advance. Proper training on layout and digging of pits was provided to ensure establishment of mini-orchards on scientific lines to ensure crop survival. The survival rates ranged from 60 to 70%.
- 2 papaya nurseries were established to promote cultivation of a Taiwan hybrid variety of papaya in 2 villages of Girwa. 26 farmers planted these and raised papaya saplings in their fields.
- Vegetable cultivation was also supported in all 3 seasons: 141 in summer, 161 in the rainy season and 230 in winter. Apart from peas, all the vegetables have done well. People have



benefited from adding vegetables to their diet (which was not the case before) and also selling them.

- Drip irrigation is being promoted with vegetable cultivation
- 24,367 livestock were vaccinated, which has reduced animal sickness
- 53 livestock camps were organized in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department

## **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**

MGNREGA is a government initiative to provide employment via development activities. Seva Mandir is among the few NGOs in Rajasthan since 2011-12 to have been selected as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for MGNREGA activities in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts.

The activities undertaken under MGNREGA include pastureland development and de-silting of WHSs, land levelling, vegetable cultivation and toilet construction. Work under MGNREGA has slowed down over the years for many reasons, including delayed government sanctions and loss of interest by communities as a result of delayed wage payment.

This year 125 projects were executed, which included pastureland development, de-siltation of WHS, and vegetable cultivation (Harit Dhara scheme). All of these were ongoing activities as no new sanctions were received this year. A sum of Rs. 2.9 million was leveraged through MGNREGA activities this year. After much effort we were successful in getting the authorities to pay the Rs. 1 million owed to villagers.

## **Capacity Building and Training**

22 on-site training courses and 4 exposure visits were conducted for programme staff, community-level para-workers and villagers on technical inputs for

pastureland maintenance, training in accurate data collection of grass and wheat production using scientific methods including quadrat sampling, training on vegetable cultivation and masonry. 2,354 people participated in the training sessions.









## 2017

### Ummedmal Lodha Memorial Awards

The Ummedmal Lodha Trust (UML) was constituted in the memory of the late Shri Ummedmal Lodha who gave a new direction to Seva Mandir's wasteland development programme from 1986 to his death in 1999.

The UML Trust holds an award ceremony and memorial lecture every year on 12 February, Shri Lodha's birth date. The awards are given to ordinary village leaders and communities who have shown exemplary dedication and commitment to the restoration of their common property resources.

This year the 17<sup>th</sup> Ummedmal Lodha Memorial Award Ceremony and Memorial lecture was organized in Vidya Bhawan Auditorium, Udaipur, on 12 February 2016. Renowned environmental historian Professor Mahesh Rangarajan was the Chief Guest and main speaker of the ceremony.





## Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation

Lack of clean drinking water (CDW) and sanitation continues to be a big problem in Seva Mandir's work area. The sources of drinking water are far from homes and it is often the women who are subjected to the drudgery of fetching water from these sources.

Predictably, poor availability of these facilities coupled with improper practices leads to a high incidence of disease and undernutrition. The reasons for this poor availability are known: they include families attaching low priority to these matters, old practices, lack of awareness of the damage caused by lack of these essential services, inappropriate technology, external agencies focusing on creating infrastructure without any attention to behavioural change.

In 2014 the Indian government launched Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a national campaign which aims to eradicate open defecation by 2019, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. The plan is to achieve this by constructing 12 million toilets in rural India at a projected cost of Rs. 1.96 lakh crore (USD 29 billion). The government machinery is currently occupied with making all villages open-defecation free (ODF). While this is a laudable goal, it is being chased like a target with no attention being paid to whether the toilets are being built properly, where the water for toilets will come from, and ensuring that toilets are used. Instead of persuasion and counselling, fear and shame are the dominant means being used to bring about behavioural change.





**Repair work of handpump in process**

Seva Mandir has continued to contribute to this national agenda, which was initiated long before 2014, with a special focus on creating appropriate and simple technology for CDW and sanitation, helping set up sound management norms at household and community level, and helping people change their behaviour and practices vis-à-vis CDW and sanitation.

### **Clean Drinking Water**

CDW has been ensured to households through a mix of interventions which include:

- Repair of wells and building of linked tanks to allow chlorination
- Biosand filters
- Repair of handpumps

During this reporting year, the provision of CDW was extended to 449 families by the following means:





Of the 63 installed drinking water systems, 41 (65%) are being used well. There was partial use of the remaining systems. Some of the tanks and wells could not be used in summers.

Some of the reasons for non-usage were as follows:

- In some villages the groundwater level went down substantially just before the rains and therefore the tanks could not be filled
- In some villages like Dhala (Jhadol) and Bichiwara (Kherwara) some farmers have dug bore wells. These households and their neighbours have stopped collecting water from the installed systems as water from bore wells is believed to be cleaner.

## Sanitation

Seva Mandir has continued to encourage families to opt for Ecosan toilets as they use little if any water and turn waste matter into odourless manure for agriculture. In addition, their design has now been adapted to take further account of the needs of women and older people and to reduce construction costs.

During the year 241 households were provided with toilet facilities. To date Seva Mandir has facilitated construction of 785 toilets, of which 527 are Ecosan toilets. Our field reports suggest that 75% of the toilets are being used regularly.

Toilets have been particularly useful to women, especially pregnant women. In selected villages toilets are built with bathrooms attached. This facility was found to be extremely beneficial to women during their menstrual cycle because now they can have both privacy and hygiene.

- In 5 villages 10 wells were restored and 12 tanks constructed, benefiting 440 families
- Following liaison with panchayats<sup>1</sup>, 9 handpumps were repaired which ensured clean drinking water for 75 families
- 72 candle filters were distributed to households who couldn't be reached through the wells, tanks and handpumps, and they were trained in their use



## Working hard to build an Ecosan

Lahudra village is quite close to Udaipur. It takes just over an hour to reach the village, but once there you have to cover the village on foot, and it is a minimum of half an hour's walk from one hamlet to another. It takes almost a full day to walk from one end of the village to the other. The village is spread out and hilly, so getting from one place to another is not just about time but also navigating hilly areas. Seva Mandir's relationship with the village, though old, has not been continuous.

Lahudra had a severe drinking water crisis in 2014 and Seva Mandir helped them deal with that. During that work Lahudra restarted its community meetings and discussions on sanitation also ensued. Seva Mandir shared with them the idea of building Ecosan toilets.

Vanni Bai, who is 45, didn't have a toilet at her home and had faced severe problems as a result. She not only agreed to build an Ecosan toilet for her daughter-in-law and son but also motivated others. Following her example 20 other families constructed Ecosan toilets.

But this wasn't an easy process. The women of the community provided hours of labour but they had a tough time convincing the men to do the same. They did eventually succeed. Both men and women had to carry loads of building materials on their heads and walk the hilly terrain covering distances varying from half to 2.5 km.

One expert from Seva Mandir trained community members in maintaining and handling the toilets as women from the community wanted quality assurance. Now 100% of the toilets built are in use.

Vanni Bai and her family don't now have to go into the open to defecate, and her daughters-in-law are particularly pleased with the new facility. She says: 'I have suffered a lot from the absence of proper sanitation facilities, but I'm happy that my children don't have to suffer any more.'

The following section gives an account of issues associated with the use of toilets and our efforts to address these.

- The major obstacle to the use of Ecosan toilets is inadequate and inappropriate behavioural change among households. It has been observed that young people and women are keener to use the toilets, while adult men still prefer to defecate in the open.
- Sometimes, due to improper use and lack of maintenance, the Ecosan toilets become difficult to use.
- Many households are apprehensive about the manual removal of compost from the filled chambers, as handling of human excreta is still considered a taboo. So a lot of our time is spent encouraging families to open the manure chamber and extract the manure.

To ensure effective monitoring of the programme and to increase the usage of created assets, an interdisciplinary Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) team has been set up comprising representatives from the various programmes as well as field staff. Two capacity-building events were organized for this team.

Through interactive meetings and training sessions, participating families were persuaded to use and maintain the toilets. The Gram Vikas Committees (GVCs) and para-workers were also trained to develop norms to ensure usage of toilets by households and to follow up regularly on built toilets.

Masons were also trained in design and technical aspects of toilets to ensure that they are well built.





## How an Ecosan works

The Ecosan toilet keeps dry and wet waste separate. One pan is used until the tank below is full; that pan is then closed and the other used while the collected dry waste, treated with ash or sand, turns to odourless manure. The liquid waste can be used as pesticide.

## An Ecosan success story

Shri Lakshmi Chand is a farmer living in Dedafala in Madla village. His family comprises his mother, wife and two small children. His total landholding is 12 bigha (approx. 4 acres). Despite making a decent living from agriculture, he and his family didn't have a toilet before 2014. They went out into the open to defecate, which was embarrassing for his young wife and dangerous for his old mother given the hilly terrain. Open defecation also exposed his children to many disease-causing organisms.

So he sought his village committee's and Seva Mandir's help to build an Ecosan toilet. He and his family contributed labour, materials like stone and sand, and gave a token amount of Rs. 500 to the GVK.

The family uses the toilet regularly and after a year they opened the chambers to get organic manure. A total of 96 kg manure was produced which was spread on 1.5 bigha of land before wheat was sown. Before, Lakshmi Chand used to get 8-9 quintals of wheat from 1.5 bigha of land (a quintal is 100 kg) but after the use of organic manure this amount increased to 12 quintals.

The women in the household feel safer and more confident now and children fall ill less often. The family has also earned an additional income of Rs. 1,500 from the manure produced. It has raised Lakshmi Chand's status in society. Seva Mandir has now asked Laxmi Chand to encourage others to build and use toilets.





## Empowering Women

In Seva Mandir's work area women play a major role in sustaining families and communities, in addition to their domestic responsibilities. They are engaged in agriculture and allied activities and also seek casual labour near their homes. Since most women are illiterate, they can only undertake unskilled and semi-skilled work, which restricts their chances of earning a reasonable income. Traditionally, women have not been involved in many entrepreneurial activities, which further limits their opportunities. As sources of income are limited, there is considerable need for credit in these areas, but very few means of securing it. As a result women mostly borrow money from traditional moneylenders, usually at

exorbitant rates of interest (typically between 60 and 120% per annum) and most of their income goes towards repaying their loans.

The status of women has changed considerably in the last few decades in rural Udaipur region. Yet the change remains inadequate. Illiteracy in Seva Mandir's work area is still high: the survey of Kumbhalgarh found literacy for women at 57% against 77% for men. Women continue to face violence, with more female foeticide and trafficking of young women than before, while domestic violence continues to be prevalent.



Even if change to date is inadequate, it is nevertheless meaningful. Women are more confident, more visible in social and political spaces, and young women in particular are aspiring to a better education, more autonomy and striving for a better future for themselves and their communities.

Seva Mandir's engagement with women and their communities over the last three decades can be seen as at least partially responsible for the change. The Women's Empowerment programme seeks to enhance the status of women through a variety of interventions, described in subsequent sections. Working in collaboration with women, men and their communities, the programme tackles multifaceted inequality at each level in order to cultivate more just and gender-equal relations, norms and practices. By helping women run well-governed and self-governed institutions such as the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) the

programme also develops solidarity, governance and management capacities among women.

## Social Empowerment

A primary aspect of Seva Mandir's work towards women's empowerment has been the creation of an array of public spaces where women can participate confidently. These collectives are platforms for mutual support, mutual learning, solidarity building and interface with external stakeholders. They have enhanced women's confidence and awareness of issues surrounding violence. In many areas these collectives have successfully raised and addressed issues of violence which include spousal violence, sexual harassment, witch accusations, female foeticide, infanticide and trafficking, along with property disputes. Furthermore, women's negotiation skills have improved so that they are able to deal with the issues of violence and discrimination effectively and strategically using non-violent means.



Hopeful for a positive future



The women's collectives have also led to the emergence of many women leaders. Many of these leaders, who are experienced and respected in the community and have been trained by Seva Mandir, are elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions<sup>1</sup>, work as SHG accountants, run Balwadis, work as healthcare providers, support women in accessing social security schemes and ensure effective implementation of government development programmes.

### Women's groups and cluster associations

Seva Mandir introduced women's solidarity groups in the mid-1980s to encourage women out of their homes to meet regularly, especially important given that they could not at that time attend group meetings with men. This has resulted in strong membership of women's groups in Seva Mandir's working area. At present there are 665 women's groups (up from 612 last year) with a membership of 10,675 women (up from 9,503).

While the women's groups were very successful in resolving village-level issues, there were some issues that needed higher-level resolution either at the panchayat or block level. So women's groups in geographically contiguous areas were federated as cluster associations. Currently there are 43 cluster associations. These associations have continued to meet regularly and have raised around 106 issues related to SHGs, livelihoods, violence, MGNREGA payments, early childcare, sanitation, social security schemes, functioning of PDS, clean energy mechanisms etc.

### Women's Resource Centres

Some of the women's groups and cluster associations showed exemplary leadership in resolving problems faced by women. In order to strengthen this initiative and give women a

structured space for resolving the problems facing them, especially violence, Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) were started in 2006.

The WRCs are run by experienced and trained leaders who offer effective and sensitive help to women facing violence by involving different stakeholders, including the police, government officials and caste panchayats. The WRCs provide much-needed space for women to deal with issues which are difficult for them to raise in their communities, notably gender-based discrimination and violence. Here they can come together with their peers to voice their suffering, seek support from one another, and unite to challenge gendered violence and economic inequality. These centres are especially important given the often ineffectual, time-consuming and costly processes associated with bringing cases to the police or courts.

- Currently 12 WRCs are run and managed by 46 local women leaders and a total of 260 women approached WRCs for support this year
- 221 of these 260 cases were registered in the current year and 39 in the previous year. 196 of these cases were resolved and 64 are ongoing
- 77% of the cases registered in the current year were of spousal and family-based violence, 19% cases of violence against young girls, 15% cases of property dispute, 7% cases of witch accusation, and 4% belonged to other categories.
- In comparison with last year there has been a 23% increase in the number of cases registered. Cases of spousal and family violence have increased by 14% while other categories have decreased by 9%
- In order to review progress and enhance the capacity of WRC leaders on the concept of gender, structure and functioning of WRCs, functioning of police, process of First

<sup>1</sup> Terms such as this are defined in the Glossary at the back of this Report



### Malariya WRC leaders handling complex cases

Vaktaram and Homaram, two brothers from Chali Bhilwara, had been arguing for four or five years about how to divide up two bighas of land. Vaktaram was unwilling to share the land with his brother, so Homaram sought help from the caste panchayat and the police to resolve the dispute, but without success. Vaktaram had bribed the caste leaders as well as the police. Once he even tried to kill his brother with an axe. Homaram and his wife ran away and hid in nearby pastureland for a whole night. The next day they went to the caste panchayat leaders, who told them to resolve the dispute amongst themselves.

Finally Homaram approached Chandribai, the leader of Chali's WRC. She asked him to visit the Centre and promised that they would help the couple. The next day Homaram's wife registered their case at the WRC. The four leaders of Malariya WRC then went to Chali Bhilwara and talked to both brothers. Vaktram was initially hesitant, but finally agreed to the meeting. The WRC leaders visited the disputed land and, using a rope, divided it into two equal parts. All those who had gathered to witness the proceedings approved of this decision. At last Vaktaram too accepted this equal division of the land.

Because Seva Mandir has been working in the village for a long time the community trusts the NGO and respects the selfless work of the WRC members. Property disputes are complex and challenging to deal with, but the WRC leaders of Malariya found a way resolve it equitably.





Information Report, laws (domestic violence, sex selection and maintenance<sup>2</sup>) and counselling, 3 training sessions were carried out for women leaders running the WRCs. 46 women leaders participated in these workshops. As part of the training, the leaders also visited the Short-Stay Home and Women's Advisory and Protection Centre to understand support structures for women in distress.

### Strengthening capacity of women leaders

23 training sessions were held for the women leaders of cluster associations. 863 women benefited from these courses, mostly aimed at building women's understanding of gender, violence, social security schemes and the importance of women's collectives. These sessions have helped enhance women's confidence and also their knowledge and skills, and allowed them to raise a variety of issues.

### Creating an enabling environment for women

In an effort to help create an enabling environment for women, regular dialogue was held with men and boys in the communities. The specific efforts were:

#### Community sensitization:

- 9 training sessions with 170 caste panchayat leaders were conducted to sensitize male leaders
- 44 women leaders also attended the sessions
- 3 meetings were held with caste panchayat leaders to discuss cases of violence against women
- Discussions were initiated with caste panchayat leaders to get their support for the opening of a new WRC



<sup>2</sup> According to Section 18 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956 a Hindu wife is entitled to be provided for by her





**There are 665 Self-Help Groups at present, of which 539 have their own savings account.**

#### **Youth sensitization:**

- 14 training sessions, 6 workshops and 2 events were held involving 799 young people (621 girls and 178 boys)
- The training covered gender and life skills, menstrual hygiene and advocacy. The workshops were on theatre skills, self-defence, career counselling and solar lighting.
- In this period 2 consultations (sammelans) were held for young people
- Seva Mandir conducted a survey on menstrual awareness with 50 women and adolescent girls. It was found that only 6% were aware of the reasons for menstruation and 70% of them used unclean cloths at the time of their period. Following the survey about 250 women and girls were taught about menstruation and 10 women and girls were trained to make cloth sanitary napkins. 3 girls and 3 women continued to make

cotton cloth napkins and they have also started selling them. As a result of these intensive efforts around 50% of the trained school-going girls have started using cotton cloth pads during menstruation.

**Solidarity event for women:** A two-day event was held to discuss issues raised by women and young girls from three clusters. The event consisted of group discussion on girls' education, migration, maternal health and addiction, and it included 523 women and 241 men.

#### **Short-Stay Home**

The Short-Stay Home (SSH) is a shelter for women victims of violence. It helps rehabilitate and support women and girls facing different forms of violence through the provision of shelter, medical aid, legal aid, counselling services and educational support to children staying with their mothers. It is an integral



### **Selection of youth leaders for the Youth Advisory Panel**

Plan India constituted a national-level Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) to give advice on youth issues to the country and state management teams of Plan India. Two youth leaders from Seva Mandir's work area, Harish and Rekha, have been selected for this panel to represent southern Rajasthan. The selection was carried out through a voting process in a six-day workshop organized by Plan with support from the NGO PRAVAH in June 2015.

component of Seva Mandir's strategy to deal with violence against women and is therefore a very important intervention.

- The SSH provided refuge and shelter to 99 (87 newly registered and 12 existing) women with 53 children this year
- 15 other women approached the SSH for counselling support
- Of the 87 women who were given shelter in this period, 54% were from rural areas and the rest from urban areas
- 39% of the women belonged to SC/OBC category, 31% from the tribal community and the rest from other castes
- The data shows that women from all sections of society are facing violence and coming forward to speak out against it and seek respite
- 61% of women approaching the shelter home were literate
- Of the 87 women who were registered this year, 60% had faced violence from their partners, parents-in-law, son- and daughter-in-law and their own family
- 22% of cases were of young women who had either married or eloped against the will of their parents
- 18% came for other reasons (mental illness, addiction, homelessness)

As a result of prolonged harassment and violence, most women coming to the SSH are depressed, so various activities are undertaken to help them find a way out of this. As well as activities like yoga classes, self-defence, craft, drawing, reading and writing and

running a kitchen garden, a volunteer psychoanalyst also worked with them and gave some useful advice. Volunteer support in the SSH has been regular and valuable. Women were also helped to find employment, and a crèche is being run in the shelter to enable the residents to seek work outside the shelter.

## **Economic Empowerment**

While social empowerment of women has long been an area of prime focus for Seva Mandir, it was realized that there was a need to enhance the capacities of women to bring about financial independence and security. The savings and credit activity helps in this as well as providing a chance for the women to meet regularly.

### **Promoting savings and credit activity**

- There are 665 Self-Help Groups at present, of which 539 have their own savings account. In this period, 86 new SHGs were formed.
- The net owned fund of 665 SHGs up to March 2015 is Rs. 74 million, an increase of 20% compared with the previous year
- Total savings (compulsory and voluntary) amounts to Rs. 66.3 million
- The efforts towards strengthening capacity of SHGs were continued in this period. 91 campaigns were carried out for SHGs, involving 2,924 women. They focused on performance indicators, income generation, formation of new SHGs and opening bank accounts.
- In the urban block 2 training sessions were held for SHG leaders to discuss forming federations. The women leaders understood the importance of forming federations and have agreed upon a structure.

### **Supporting other income-generating initiatives**

As discussed in the following chapter, the SHGs work with Seva Mandir's Natural Resource Development unit to set up and support several income-generating activities.





## Income Generation Cell

As part of Seva Mandir's Natural Resource Development and Self-Help Group programmes several income-generating activities have been started, some of which have yielded relatively small but significant additional incomes at decentralized levels, while others have needed scaling up and more specialized backup in order to realize their full potential. The Income Generation Cell (IGC) was set up in May 2012 with the objective of strengthening such activities.

### Dal Mill

The dal mill, the IGC's major activity, was set up in 2011 and has made considerable progress in the last five years. The mill procures organic pulses (dal) from local farmers at competitive but fair rates and sells the dal after processing. It is expected that the

### Udaipur Urja Initiatives (UUI) Producer Company Limited

UUI is a recently formed social enterprise which aims to enhance the access of rural communities to clean energy technologies and to trading mechanisms for local agro-produce. UUI is a membership-based company and currently has 200 equity members, half of them women. The thrust of the enterprise is improving the lives and livelihood sustainability of its members.

profits (once achieved) will be distributed to the farmers, but even before this happens the mill is beneficial to the farmers by giving them a fair price for their produce on their doorstep and thereby raising the market price in the area.



The scale of procurement and production in the dal mill has increased in the year 2015-16, and the year has witnessed a different approach in the overall functioning of the mill. Most existing clients have continued to place repeat orders.

This year the mill produced 43,104 kg of dal from 478 farmers. 40,485 kg was sold at a small surplus. The farmers who deliver their pulses to the dal mill save at least Rs. 250 per 100 kg of raw material. With the scale of the dal mill increasing there is a need for larger storage space and a search for this is ongoing.

While the dal mill has certainly helped the farmers of the region by giving them a fair price at the local level, it is still not self-sustaining. In order for this to happen we urgently need to upgrade our machinery and acquire a new warehouse so that the scale of operations can be increased.

## Activities involving Women's Self-Help Groups

### Fisheries

The fisheries programme was started in Jhadol block with five women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs – see previous chapter) in 2009. Four of them continue with their fishing and this year the programme made a good income compared with last year, especially at the Mohd Phalasiya pond. The total income from the four ponds was Rs. 93,727 this year.

### Washing powder production

This project involves a few women in Shishvi village buying and combining mild chemicals to make washing powder. The powder was tested in an ISO certified laboratory in Delhi and the results were very positive. The washing powder has eco-friendly properties and is eligible for ISO 4955:2001 certification. In the last year a total of 1,000 kg of washing powder was produced. Each woman involved in this activity has received Rs.1,000 from the surplus after deducting all expenditure.

The project has gradually been empowering the women from SHGs and helping them demand transparency as they take more ownership. A comparative analysis of the cost of the raw materials will be carried out as a step towards increasing profits on future sales.

### Sale of fruit

In Gundi ka Bhilwara village of Kumbhalgarh block households have begun to collect and sell custard apples. This year they sold 325 kg to Udaipur Urja Initiatives (UUI), earning the SHG Rs. 2,393.

### A better deal for farmers

Four farmers from Dehri Village, Kotra, came down to Medi village to sell their dal at the mill in December 2015. They told us that selling dal at this mill has made life much easier. Before, they had to travel to Khed Brahma market (approx. 30 km) to sell their produce and they found they were being cheated on the weight of their pulses, regularly having 20 kg deducted, as well as getting a poor price.

Since 2011 they have been selling their dal at the mill in Medi village, which is only 4 km away. They save on transportation costs, get a fair price and receive payment immediately. The dal mill is more than just a business platform to them now: they feel at home there and know they are getting a much better deal. One farmer told us that the time he saves by not having to travel with his dal allows him to help his wife with the household chores.







## Early Childcare and Development

Seva Mandir works in one of the poorest areas in India, where young children are often left unattended or in the care of young siblings, and lack adequate care, nutrition, safety and a stimulating environment at home and elsewhere.

The government runs Anganwadi centres, known as ICDS<sup>1</sup> centres, in many villages, but these open for only four hours a day and centre-based services are provided only to children aged three

to six. Thus most parents are unable to use the ICDS centres for day care, especially for children under the age of three, when it is needed the most.

Seva Mandir facilitates full-day Balwadis in 200 villages of Udaipur and Rajsamand districts. The programme ensures equal emphasis on day care, school readiness, safety, creativity and health, particularly nutrition.

<sup>1</sup> To understand this acronyms, see the Glossary at the back of this Report.



The main objectives of the Balwadi programme are as follows:

- Ensuring safe, loving and stimulating day care
- Ensuring children's overall cognitive and physical development, school preparedness, health and nutritional care
- Enabling caregivers, especially women, to carry out other important livelihood and educational activities.
- Enhancing the community's contribution to, and its ability to provision for, good day care and preschool education for young children

Seva Mandir has continued to build on each of the programme components, refining them over the years to take account of the needs of children and their communities.

## Balwadi Activities

### Day care

- 240 Balwadis (including 160 existing centres and 80 new centres) are running across 200 villages, serving 6,036 children (3,155 girls and 2,881 boys), up from 192 villages in March 2015
- In this period 80 new centres were opened, of which 78 are part of an action research project described later

### Preschool education

Seva Mandir has designed an activity-based and child-centred curriculum to address the preschool needs of children aged three to five. The curriculum is being followed at all the Balwadis and has better prepared children for school. By the time they leave the Balwadi to join formal school they have learnt social skills, the ability to work, colours etc. They are also able to take care of themselves and their personal hygiene. All of this helps them settle down faster in school.

- In an effort to understand the impact of the curriculum on the children, an assessment of 74 Balwadis of Kotra and Kherwara blocks was carried out, which included a survey of children aged 3-5 years and their parents. The results indicated that 50 Balwadis were in A grade, 19 Balwadis in grade B, 4 Balwadis were in grade C, and 1 Balwadi was in grade D.
- 927 children went on from Balwadis to enrol in schools this year, compared with 941 children last year

## Health and nutrition

In 2015, in collaboration with Plan International, we carried out a study of nutrition among children below five years of age in the rural communities of Udaipur district. This indicated that 67% children were underweight. This is very high in comparison with state and national data. A survey conducted by the government of India and UNICEF in 2014 found that 34% of children under five in rural Rajasthan, and 32% of under-fives in India as a whole, were underweight. To address this need:

- All the children in Balwadis are given supplementary nutrition
- The nutritive value of supplements provided is approximately 462 calories and 17-20 grams of protein (meeting 1/3 of a child's total calorie requirements and 1/2 of his/her total protein needs)
- The nutritional status of the children attending the Balwadis was tested twice in this period: September 2015 and March 2016
- In March 2016 a nutritional assessment was conducted using MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) tape
- A comparative study of the nutritional status of the same 1,477 children in March 2015 and March 2016 indicates significant improvement



- In the last year the percentage of malnourished children was reduced from 40% to 16%.
- As well as identifying malnourished children and offering extra nutrition at the Balwadis, efforts are made to treat those who need help. For the moderately malnourished children, parent-counselling sessions on nutritious diet are led by Seva Mandir's Bal Sakhis. The severely malnourished are referred for treatment and their parents given every encouragement to access and complete the treatment.
- 198 malnourished children were referred for treatment compared with 40 children last year.
- As immunization rates are low in the area, Balwadi Sanchalikas have been trained to ensure that children are immunized, either through Seva Mandir immunization camps or by government nurses. During the reporting period immunization was carried out at 203 out of the 240 Balwadis.



**Nutri Pops made of soyabean and other nutritional ingredients given at Balwadis**

### **Birth registration**

In this period efforts to register children's births continued.

- In 160 Balwadis 1,102 children received birth certificates, while registration of 2,181 children is in process, and it is hoped that they will receive their certificates in the coming year.





## Sanchalikas

### Attendance and Remuneration

Seva Mandir introduced a camera-monitoring system in Balwadis to ensure regular attendance of Sanchalikas (women trained by Seva Mandir to run the Balwadi in their own village). The Sanchalikas take pictures of the children three times a day with a gap of two hours between the first and the second photograph, and a gap of four hours between the second and third photograph. On the basis of their regularity and length of stay, as measured by these pictures, they are paid their monthly honorarium.

The Sanchalika must run the Balwadi for a minimum of 22 days a month, the base payment for which is Rs. 3,875 per month, and an incentive is given if the centre functions for more than the designated 22 days. A valid working day is one where the Sanchalika works for at least 6 hours, and there are 10 children in the first photograph and 15 in the second and third photographs.

The camera-monitoring system has been widely praised, and this year the district government visited Seva Mandir to understand the system in order to replicate it. While the technology part of measuring attendance is easily understood, what is not always understood or discussed is that, in order to make a success of this system, there is a need for a strong institutional framework and a motivated cadre of workers.

### Training

- 5 training sessions, 4 bi-monthly meetings and many cross-learning visits were held for Sanchalikas to strengthen their capacities
- 1 refresher training course was held for

experienced Sanchalikas and 145 out of 160 Sanchalikas participated

- 2 training sessions on camera-monitoring were held for the Sanchalikas of two blocks
- As part of the cross-learning programme, 57 Sanchalikas from well-functioning centres visited 55 weak centres, and 74 poorly performing Sanchalikas visited 46 well-performing centres
- 90 Sanchalikas visited the Malnutrition Treatment Centre (MTC) in Udaipur, which helped them understand how it works; it is hoped that they will now be better able to encourage parents to take their children to the MTC as they can describe how it functions
- In addition to capacity building of Sanchalikas, we graded them in March 2015 using written and oral examinations so that we could assess their knowledge of difference aspects of ECCD
- 216 of the 240 Sanchalikas participated in the grading process, 24 were unable to participate due to illness at home or other personal problems
- The results indicate that 53 Sanchalikas are in Grade A, 67 in Grade B and 96 in Grade C
- Based on the grades, specific inputs will be provided to Sanchalikas in the bi-monthly meetings. Those in C grade will be given extra training and time through monitoring visits and training sessions.

As a result of different capacity-building efforts, there has been an increase in the confidence and skills of Sanchalikas. This is reflected in the way they run their centres now. The Balwadis look very neat and clean and are well decorated. The Sanchalikas have much greater awareness now about undernutrition, preschool education, hand hygiene and child protection issues.



### **From malnourished to healthy**

Raveena is four. She has been a regular pupil of Nala Balwadi in Chanawada village for the last three years. When the children were assessed in March 2015 it was found that she weighed 6 kg and was in the red category, i.e. severely malnourished. The Sanchalika talked to her parents about proper care at home. She was so undernourished that she couldn't eat properly at the Balwadi, so her mother was encouraged to come and feed her there. The Sanchalika added extra hot oil to her cooked meal to enhance the nutritive value of her food.

In order to meet the calorie gap, along with regular supplementary nutrition, 10 kg potatoes, 5 kg peanuts and 15 kg ragi cookies (made of finger millet flour) were provided in this Balwadi every month. Soya bean oil was replaced with groundnut oil and its quantity was increased from 3 litres to 4 litres. As a result of additional nutrition and proper care at home Raveena gained weight. Today she is healthy (in the green group), she eats food on her own and participates in all the activities.







## Deepening Community Ownership

### Involvement of Village Development Committees

All the Village Development Committees (GVCs) continue to play an important role in addressing issues related to the functioning of Balwadis. Most GVCs have carried out monthly visits to monitor their Balwadis, and the system for recording these visits has improved. A few GVCs decided to use the interest from their village fund (GVK) to pay their Sanchalika's stipend and help with rent, fuel expenses and maintenance of the Balwadi.

- GVCs contributed Rs. 45,275 towards payment of Sanchalikas' and Sahayikas' stipend, nutrition, rent, and fuel in 19 of the existing Balwadis, up from Rs. 19,400 the previous year
- GVCs also helped Sanchalikas collect fees from parents, rally support from others and resolve conflicts

### Involvement of parents

- 652 parents' meetings were organized by the Sanchalikas as against the expected 874 meetings (75%)



- The parents of Balwadi children contributed Rs. 633,160 (80% of the total expected fees in 240 Balwadis)
- In addition, in 136 Balwadis (out of 160 existing Balwadis), parents contributed in kind, including fuelwood, wheat, rice, chickpeas, corn, floor mats, toys; mothers helped to clean and wash utensils and vessels, and parents helped to transport supplementary nutrition to 17 centres
- 14 meetings with 411 panchayat representatives and GVC leaders of 31 panchayats were conducted to discuss ICDS, the importance of early years, and monitoring of Anganwadis and Balwadis
- As a result of these efforts, the village committees and women leaders in many locations raised and addressed issues related to early childcare and development, and conducted regular monitoring of Seva Mandir Balwadis and government Anganwadis
- Parents of 602 children from 111 Balwadis regularly visit government Anganwadis to collect take-home nutrition for their children aged 1-3, which they were not doing earlier

### **Mobilizing communities to address quality issues in government Anganwadis**

- Information on the importance of early childcare and ICDS provisions was provided to 764 women from 25 cluster associations and 634 committee members of 75 GVCs through meetings and training sessions

### **Balwadis freeing mothers to work**

Amli Chapar Balwadi has been running in Gura Village of Kotra block since 2011. 26 children attend this Balwadi, which is run by Sumidevi.

Two of the Balwadi mothers, Moglibai and Sapibai, have been able to start work at the Forest Department's plant nursery in Lamakhatar hamlet, about 1.5 km from the Balwadi. They can leave their seven children at the Balwadi while they work to earn Rs. 150 per day to contribute to the household income. They are just two of many women who can now go out to work without worrying about their children.





## Research Studies

Three important studies have been carried out in the last year.

### Research to evaluate the impact of Seva Mandir's childcare programme

In collaboration with the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), India, and McGill University, Canada, a three-year action research study began last year on 'The influence of affordable daycare centres on women's empowerment in India'. This research is being carried out in 160 locations and it involves opening Balwadis in 80 locations to allow randomized control trials.

As part of the action research a baseline survey of mothers, qualitative interviews with parents, and anthropometric data of children from one to five was completed last year. The baseline captured women's economic status, their work profile and the immunization status of children. The baseline information was due in May 2016, midline in June 2016 and end line in 2017.

### Research on Undernutrition

Research details are reported in the chapter on Health.

### Study of Anganwadi Centres in Kotra block

Seva Mandir conducted a rapid situational analysis of 25 Anganwadis of Kotra block to identify areas of strength and those needing improvement. The assessment included consultation with community leaders and surveys. Key findings include:

- 57% of centres were found closed during random visits; however, the attendance records show improvement and all Anganwadis were open and functioning in the last month
- No preschool activity was observed in 48% of Anganwadis
- No growth monitoring in 48% of Anganwadis
- While 78% of Anganwadi workers said they advised parents, 48% of mothers said they were never informed if their child was found underweight
- There was no water facility in 21 Anganwadi premises

## Linkage with external agencies

### FORCES network

As part of the FORCES (Forum for Creches and Child Care Services) network, follow-up interviews were conducted this year to strengthen PRIs' role in implementing ICDS policies. These interventions were planned on the basis of the outcomes of the study 'Situational analysis of PRIs' role in implementing ICDS' conducted in 20 Gram Panchayats of four blocks of Rajasthan by Seva Mandir and its three partners in 2014. The study had indicated that only 3% of panchayats discussed Anganwadis in panchayat meetings or were aware of ICDS restructuring.





## Educating the Next Generation

In Seva Mandir's work area children face hurdles in accessing quality education. Despite steps taken by state and several non-state bodies, including the progressive Right To Education Act, government schools in remote and disadvantaged areas continue to operate in conditions of severe neglect, with high rates of teacher absenteeism, poor pedagogical methods, inadequate teaching materials and infrastructure, and, above all, an apathetic atmosphere.

A large number of teachers' posts are vacant (25% in Udaipur district) and those that are appointed prefer to be posted in or near the urban centres. The few who end up in remote areas do not go regularly and teacher absenteeism is a chronic problem in most remote rural areas. In addition, for a number of reasons, most government teachers are demotivated and seem to be engaged in non-teaching tasks. All of these factors lead to the erratic functioning of schools, uninspiring teaching and lack of comprehension amongst





pupils, which eventually results in children leaving school. In Seva Mandir's work area there is huge poverty and a child's time has a very significant opportunity cost. Once a child has left school he or she begins to work and it is then almost impossible to bring that child back to school. Moreover, this also deters other children from attending school.

In this context Seva Mandir's education programme seeks to reach the most vulnerable children who are out of school.

The programme has evolved and adapted in the last decades as the organization's understanding has deepened and the context has continued to change. In Seva Mandir's early years the demand for education was limited, but now many more people aspire to help their children access higher education.

As the government has not been able to keep pace with these rising aspirations, private schools (often of very substandard quality) have crept in. But there are still many pockets of vulnerability





where neither the government nor the private sector is fulfilling the need. Seva Mandir is largely present in such areas.

To improve access to quality education for children in the age group 6-14 years Seva Mandir implements different educational interventions according to the demand and need of the targeted communities. These interventions are Shiksha Kendras, Residential Learning Camps, Youth

Resource Centres, Scholarships to ensure continuity of education and Activity Centres at government schools.

The objectives of Seva Mandir's education programme are:

- To ensure access to quality education for rural and tribal children aged 6-14 years
- To help communities plan for and access quality education
- To give young people the skills, opportunity and confidence to play an important part in their and the community's development
- To inform education policies and practice through research and sharing experience

## Shiksha Kendras

Shiksha Kendras (SKs) or bridge schools are often single-teacher schools running in remote hamlets where no other schools are available. They operate in rented spaces with a local teacher teaching 25-30 children aged between 6 and 14. They aim to help pupils acquire basic skills in Hindi and maths, and to motivate children to enrol in government or other schools to continue their education.

The job of making SKs high-quality education centres has been a long one for Seva Mandir, the communities and Seva Mandir teachers. The teachers themselves have had little education and very few role models to inspire them to provide a quality service. In the early years these teachers were unable to provide quality education and they did not even come to work regularly. But, thanks to a combination of sound academic training, good management systems, motivation, creating an ecosystem of accountability and autonomy, and the input of experts in the field, above all with belief in the local teachers, the Seva Mandir team



has helped the SKs' modestly educated, modestly paid teachers begin to see themselves as trustees of their pupils' future.

To identify pupils' progress Seva Mandir has defined four learning levels from 0 to 3. Level 0 is when a child enters the SK and can barely read or write. The child has attained Level 1 when she or he can read and write short words, do simple counting and identify some numbers. When a child can start reading, understand simple sentences, write short/incomplete sentences and do basic counting and simple operations like addition and subtraction with small numbers, she or he is placed in Level 2. By level 3 children can read and understand simple texts, express themselves by writing a group of sentences and understand the concepts of multiplication, division, etc.

- This year 172 SKs educated 6,400 children, 44% of them girls
- The number of centres has increased by 2, however the number of children has increased from 6,090 to 6,377
- Of the 172 SKs, 138 have 1 instructor, 30 SKs have 2 instructors and 4 SKs have 3 instructors. In the last year the number of SKs with 2 instructors has increased from 27 to 30.
- This year 31% of the pupils in SKs were new, compared with 29% in 2014-15
- Of all the 5 blocks, Girwa has the highest ratio of girls (47% of new admissions), the lowest being Kotra with 38%
- In the annual evaluation of May 2015, a total of 5,095 children (2,238 girls and 2,857 boys) sat the exams, and 1,718 children (34%) achieved Level 3
- 1,156 (19%) children went on to enrol in other institutions to pursue higher education, nearly 55% of them going straight into Class 5 or 6

Every three years efforts are made to track down SK graduates, primarily to check whether they are still in school. This year a smaller-scale study was conducted in 4 SKs of Kherwara block, with the following results:

- 66 children (32 boys and 34 girls) who had passed out between 2003 and 2012 were tracked
- 28 were still studying
- 1 had completed college
- 10 stopped studying after completing class 12, and 10 after class 10
- 13 dropped out between classes 8 to 10
- Data was not available for 4 children
- So 74% of the children who graduated from these 4 SKs in the last 10 years have completed secondary school and beyond

### Capacity building of instructors

Seva Mandir has been investing in increasing the efficiency of SK instructors through training, the World Teacher Exchange programme and bi-monthly meetings. This year's annual instructors' training was organized in 3 rounds which mainly focused on multi-grade teaching and activities for teaching English, Hindi and maths. Along with conceptual discussions, use of teaching/learning material was the main agenda of the training session.

'Little steps leading to great achievements,' a worksheet for improving English, was introduced at the training session as English has now been introduced at all SKs. The teachers completed the worksheets during training to help them become confident in using them.





### **A village community decides to start a school**

In Raoji badla hamlet in Nayawas village there is neither a government nor a private school. The SK at Nayawas is very unusual in that it was managed by the community before being associated with Seva Mandir.

Veeram Chand and Shankar Lal, teachers who had been involved in Lok Jumbish (an innovation in grass-roots level management of primary education), decided a few years back that since the government schools in their village are more than 5 km away they would do something to educate the children in their village. Parents living in Raoji badla and nearby hamlets in Nayawas fully supported them in their endeavour and a small space was given to the teachers. The community was very happy with the results of the efforts of the two teachers and more and more parents started sending their children to learn.

At the beginning of 2015 the community decided that to further improve the quality of education it would be best to associate themselves with Seva Mandir. After the centre was established as a Seva Mandir Shiksha Kendra enrolment went up from 60 to 98. The teachers could not accommodate students in the existing space and had to move one set of students to the shade of a tree to conduct the class. Seeing the difficulty that students and teachers were facing, the community, panchayat and the parents are now pooling money, labour and resources to build a new community centre to accommodate the large number of students.







The World Teacher programme was organized with the aim of facilitating an informal exchange between education professionals from the Netherlands and our SK instructors. Such programmes offered new activities to the instructors, working on their existing capacities and giving them challenging tasks to help them learn. Like the instructor training courses, these meetings prioritized alternative ways to teach subjects at different educational levels, evaluated the mistakes regularly made by students, and revised issues such as teacher absenteeism and strengthening overall standards in the SKs.

### Instructors' attendance

Shiksha Kendra teachers' presence is captured through digital cameras. To ensure that instructor absenteeism does not become a problem Seva Mandir has initiated an award-winning camera-monitoring system whereby instructors' presence is monitored through date- and time-stamped photographs. The average payment made to instructors during the academic period indicates that the centres were open for 24 (92%) days on average out of 26/27 working days in a month. Last year they were open for 22 days.

### Community participation

A significant increase in fee collection, despite the fact that it was not a good agricultural year, is an indicator of the fact that more and more parents are starting to understand the need to educate their children.

- At 56 Shiksha Kendras in different blocks parents decided to contribute Rs. 200 instead of the expected Rs. 150 per child
- The parents of the remaining children paid a token amount of Rs. 150 per child in school fees for the year
- This year SKs received Rs 889,000 in fees, 13% more than last year





## Residential Learning Camps

Many children cannot attend school full-time because they must contribute financially to their families' income by working in agriculture, cattle rearing, wage labour and so on. As a response to this problem Seva Mandir started Residential Learning Camps in 2002. These are a series of three 60-day camps held throughout the year, teaching basic mathematics, literacy and hygiene to out-of-school children. The camps offer accelerated learning with one instructor to ten children. In addition to learning, sports, community living, leadership, teamwork, hygiene, cultural activities, nutrition and health are important components of the camps.

The camps' focus has always been on out-of-school children and this year, within that group, priority was given to orphans and children of single-parent families. These children were mostly engaged in cattle grazing, domestic and farm work, and a few were engaged in paid labour.

- 297 children from 38 villages participated in the camps
- 186 had never attended school
- 111 were dropouts

Recently computer classes have been introduced in level B, when children know some writing and maths. In the coming camps a written module will be introduced to the teachers and students in order to develop computer literacy and also to teach children various subjects through computers.

A professionally qualified sports teacher has been appointed so that children can learn games with proper rules and regulations. They learned volleyball and badminton and also did physical training every morning. They have shown interest in learning two very popular Indian games: Kho-Kho (a tag sport) and Kabbadi (a very ancient Indian

### Leaders creating leaders

A small boy named Pawan Gorana, from a middle-class family in Shishvi, Girwa, started coming to the YRC in 2009. He was very calm and always stayed until the end of YRC meetings and discussions, playing with the other kids and participating in all the activities. As the most regular student, and a good learner, the YRC found that the boy had all the qualities of a leader. He could take on responsibility and share what he learnt with others around him. He never left an issue unresolved.

Having continued his studies, he applied for the YRC facilitator post in Delwara, years later, at the age of 20, and was selected. In his own words, the YRC gave him the confidence and understanding of life's issues to learn quickly and efficiently. This influenced his entire perspective on life and helped his personal growth. Over the last year Pawan has shared his knowledge and training with those in Delwara. This is a wonderful example of the potential of YRCs to influence young lives.

contact sport) in the coming camp. This more structured sports activity gives children an opportunity to think about sport as a career.

### Scholarship programme

In 2010 Seva Mandir set up a scholarship programme to address the rate of dropouts amongst children who had attended the Residential Learning Camp. The teaching and the care provided in the camp motivated children to attend regular schooling and about 70% of them joined schools after the camp. But, soon enough, financial circumstances would catch up with them and they would drop out. Our scholarship programme was introduced to compensate families for the loss of children's income when they are in school. An amount equal to the child's earning is given as compensation to the family as a motivating factor. The scholarship programme is now in its fourth year.





- 214 children (110 boys, 104 girls) were covered at the start of the pilot
- At present 114 (53%) are continuing their education

Unfortunately those still in school had very low academic abilities, as the teachers were not really teaching. So 2 remedial camps were conducted for these pupils.

- The first camp was organized in May for 40 days, with 52 children pupils from classes 8 to 10
- The same children attended the second camp which was for two weeks

## Youth Resource Centres

The Youth Resource Centres (YRC) were started in 2005 to meet the rising need for a dialogue with rural youth. YRCs allow young people to address issues such as communalism, gender bias, education, migration and health. The project tries to make young people sensitive to these issues and encourages them to deal with them through individual and community efforts.

- This year 19 YRCs across 6 blocks catered to 3,916 youth (57% boys and 43% girls)
- While 2 YRCs had to be closed down for various reasons, a new YRC in Merpur, Kotra, was initiated. Many of the students currently studying in the Merpur school have graduated from Shiksha Kendras and Learning Camps and we expect high participation in the YRC. The panchayat has extended its support and the local community centre, now renovated and repainted, is being used as the venue for the new YRC. The YRC offers sports activities and conversational English
- Workshops on reproductive health and marriage, menstruation hygiene, safe sexual relationships, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, child marriage and health issues were held at the YRCs
- Sports, life skills and vocational training were also offered by YRCs with the collaboration of Aajivika Bureau (which provides services to seasonal migrants who leave their villages to find work in cities, factories and farms across India) and SM's Self-Help Groups



- Several young people went on to enrol in a government-approved IT course

## Activity Centres

Government schools even now cater to large numbers of poor children. However, as a result of various constraints, they are not able to do justice to their pupils. For this reason Seva Mandir has been supporting the teaching in government schools through activity centres.

During school hours, the centres offer children in classes 1-8 (so aged 6-14) alternative ways to learn through activity-based methods which include special teaching material, interesting texts, storybooks and worksheets. The centres also offer tuition classes after school hours to children who need them.

- 5 Activity Centres in the government schools of Badgaon have been functioning since 2009 with the help of village communities
- 797 children of grades 1 to grade 8 are being helped
- The centres aim to improve children's academic performance in school and also reduce the number of dropouts
- They are run for marginalized populations in urban areas
- The parents are generally not literate and thus not able to help children with their academic studies

## Bal Samuhs

We run Bal Samuhs (children's groups) in the slums of Udaipur city to help children with after-school coaching.

- This year a total of 203 children (115 boys and 88 girls) from 141 families attended 11 Bal Samuhs
- Enrolment of girls has observed a steep drop from 124 girls in the previous year to 88 this year
- 66 of the 203 children are in government schools and 137 (67%) children are from private schools (a significant increase from last year's figure of 55%)







## Improving Health

Seva Mandir's health programme works to bring a change in health practices and care-seeking behaviour through education, awareness and the experience of quality services. The programme has created a cadre of community-level health workers to increase local knowledge and promote preventive healthcare. It has also partnered with government, researchers, donors and other players to find solutions to some of the entrenched problems, such as lack of obstetric care, undernutrition, anaemia and lack of complete immunization of children. Solutions have been found for some of these problems and efforts to remedy the others continue.

Perhaps one consistent success has been the creation and training of community health workers, especially women health workers, who are leading the effort to nurture newer norms around health. The following pages describe some of this work.

### Maternal Health Programme

In 2005, with the launch of its National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the government made institutional delivery a priority and introduced incentives to boost demand. It also launched ambulance services so that women from remote areas could reach the government hospitals to



give birth. All these measures have had considerable impact. In Seva Mandir's field areas institutional deliveries jumped from 7% in 2004-05 to 13% in 2005-06, the year of the Janani Suraksha Yojna launch. In subsequent years the proportion of institutional deliveries kept going up and reached around 45% in 2012-13. It dipped to 37% in 2014-15, but rose again to 58% in 2015-16.

While this is indeed a considerable overall jump, there are still pockets where these interventions have not made much meaningful difference. Some villages are too remote and the roads too bad to allow easy access for ambulances; the Primary and Community Health Centres (PHC, CHC) are far away and do not have round-the-clock obstetric services, and most CHCs are not equipped to handle surgery or complications. The village sub-centres lack infrastructure and their opening times are unpredictable.

All these factors make a woman nervous of approaching a hospital, and even more so when it comes to the district hospital which is the only well equipped institution, but is large and far away.

At the community level, mindsets and myths surrounding diet and nutrition affect women's health. Given the difficult terrain and way of life, even in advanced pregnancy women are forced to undertake hard physical labour in routine jobs like fetching water and fuelwood. Tribal households are nuclear and scattered over hills, so a pregnant woman may often be alone or with only children while her husband migrates for work. In this scenario, the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), who are trusted in the communities, play a critical role. They help change community mindsets with regard to

nutrition, rest and other care necessary for pregnant and lactating women, and act as a bridge between the women and the health services. They help women and their families negotiate the labyrinth of hospital, take quick decisions on where to take women in case of complications, and save time which is otherwise wasted in rushing from one hospital to the other. Even when a woman has reached a health centre, especially at the primary level, there may not be a trained team and the TBA often proves to be of critical importance there as well. And, through all this, she is a source of comfort and psychological social support to the woman.

With training and experience, the TBAs have established a personal rapport with the ambulance and other transport services so they are able to ensure that women reach an appropriate hospital in time. By recognizing complications, counselling family members and accompanying them to the hospitals, the TBAs have saved the lives of countless women and remain the primary providers of maternal healthcare in most remote villages.

During the year:

- Seva Mandir trained and supported 307 TBAs
- These TBAs helped 5,674 women give birth safely
- TBAs conducted 2,383 deliveries at home and facilitated 3,291 institutional deliveries
- TBAs referred 372 pregnant women with complications to hospital: 72.3% were referred during pregnancy, 16.3% at the time of delivery and the rest post-delivery

The year witnessed five maternal deaths : major reasons were anaemia, postpartum haemorrhage, puerperal sepsis, and ruptured ovarian cyst.



## Training and exposure

Refresher training for 272 TBAs was conducted in order to increase the capacity and expertise of TBAs with the aim of reducing the maternal and child death rates in the region. Topics relating to menstruation, hygiene practices during menstruation, sex determination, diet, care and complications during pregnancy, safe delivery practices, postnatal care, neonatal care, immunization and family planning methods have been discussed with them.

## Village-level meetings

In 2015-2016 village-level meetings for pregnant and lactating mothers were facilitated by TBAs.

16,364 participants took part in 1,381 meetings, an average participation of 12 women per meeting (compared with 1,356 meetings attended by 13,265 participants in the previous year).



The following points were discussed during the meetings:

- Care during pregnancy and after delivery
- Importance of immunization for pregnant women and children
- Nutrition, rest and timely check-ups for pregnant women
- Importance of taking iron supplements and calcium tablets during pregnancy
- Dangers during pregnancy and why it is important to go to a hospital for delivery
- Importance of family planning and the different methods available

## Postpartum haemorrhage

Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is recognized as a major cause of maternal death, a fact borne out by verbal autopsies in our area. In order to prevent PPH deaths a select group of the best-performing TBAs in Kherwara block have been given misoprostol to administer to women after home deliveries.

- During 2015-16 there were 808 home deliveries in Kherwara block, and 214 (26.4%) of these mothers received misoprostol (compared with 28.47% the previous year)

## Child Health

It is widely accepted that deprivation during childhood can have an adverse long-term impact on a child's well-being. The status of neonatal and infant health in Udaipur district has been pitiful for many years.

Along with poor environmental conditions like the lack of clean drinking water, toilets or nutritious food, there are also behavioural patterns which affect children's health: an absence of basic things like colostrum feeding, exclusive breastfeeding,



keeping the baby warm, clean and safe, proper weaning, hygienic handling of the baby's food. Seva Mandir's field experience suggests that changes in behavioural practices can lead to significant results with respect to children's health.

Bal Sakhis are a cadre of young women selected from the villages and given intensive training on various aspects of childcare. They work with new mothers on childcare and health.

- This year 99 Bal Sakhis extended care to 3,677 children (up from 2,815 last year)
- 3,118 children were continually measured with growth-monitoring tools by Bal Sakhis and appropriate counselling given to mothers based on results
- A challenge for this programme has been infant deaths: whilst the 31 deaths this year are fewer than the 44 reported last year, the figure is still quite high

## Training

Refresher training courses for Bal Sakhis were held with the focus on strengthening their knowledge of child health, feeding practices, including colostrum feeding and breastfeeding. The training also improved their understanding of the tools used for monitoring, their role in children's health in the region and various government schemes. They also attended three review meetings that focused on data collection for undernourished children, discussion on problems they face in the field, distribution of medicines, referral and data on pregnant mothers.

## Immunization programme

A 2003-04 study by Abdul Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Seva Mandir and Vidya Bhawan revealed that

the rate of complete immunization among children aged 12-24 months was as low as 2.66%. The reasons for this low immunization coverage were poor supply of healthcare, especially preventive care, and low demand for immunization. So Seva Mandir and J-PAL implemented an action research project to try to improve immunization levels among children by addressing both demand and supply-side constraints. The action research was undertaken in cooperation with the district government.

The immunization programme dramatically increased child immunization rates in the hamlets where it was implemented. Results from the twenty months of the intervention in villages which had both reliable camps and incentives showed a significant increase to 38.3% in complete immunization. Based on these encouraging findings, Seva Mandir initiated its immunization intervention in 68 hamlets in April 2007.

This year:

- 1,024 immunization camps were held in 108 locations
- A total of 8,479 shots were administered
- 805 children completed their immunization
- 2,607 children suffering from common ailments such as fever, cold, cough, diarrhoea and skin infections were treated in the camps
- The camps also provided antenatal services and immunization to 2,764 pregnant women
- 1,181 women completed their immunization

Khushi Baby Inc. (KB) was founded in 2014 by four students to improve monitoring of child vaccination by digitizing individual vaccine records using low-cost technology that does not require high-level connectivity. To achieve this objective KB has designed an NFC- (near-field communication)



enabled mobile application which simultaneously stores vaccine records on a physical chip and sends them to a cloud-based database. KB approached Seva Mandir to try child lockets with NFC in the immunization camps. The first phase of the project has started and our nurses are being trained on-site to use the application on their phones.

### Research on addressing undernutrition

Given the high prevalence of malnutrition in the area, an action research project has been initiated to try out solutions. Plan India and Plan Japan are providing technical and financial support. The study is being conducted at two locations in Rajasthan: Bikaner with the NGO Urmul, and Udaipur with Seva Mandir. In Udaipur the research is taking place in 20 locations.

The project aims to deepen knowledge of health and nutrition so as to improve the nutritional status of children in the target area.

As part of the research, an integrated set of interventions is being made and their impact will be studied. These interventions include:

- Knowledge enhancement on nutrition, undernutrition, infant and young child feeding amongst staff and frontline community workers
- Provision of home-based and centre-based care (through Bal Sakhis and Balwadis<sup>†</sup> respectively) to children under the age of 5
- Enhancing the service and the environment of the Malnourishment Treatment Centre

To achieve the above, additional food items were piloted and introduced to meet the calorie gap in the Balwadis. Seva Mandir's advocacy

efforts led to the establishment of a government-run Malnutrition Treatment Centre (MTC) at Rishabhdev Community Health Centre. Repair and renovation work was carried out at 16 out of 25 Balwadis to ensure a safe and stimulating environment for children, including roof repair, floor levelling and toilet construction. This increases mothers' confidence in their child's security at the Balwadi and so boosts attendance.

In Bikaner, all the interventions are the same except that, instead of Seva Mandir's full-day Balwadis, they are working with existing government Anganwadis.

During the year the following key activities were undertaken as part of this programme:

- The government approved the MTC at Rishabhdev, an area closer to the research village, with support from Seva Mandir
- 668 children aged 1-5 were given supplementary nutrition through Balwadis
- 56 severely malnourished children were identified and referred for treatment to the MTC and other healthcare facilities
- A 1-day training course for community nutrition workers (Bal Sakhis) on nutritious recipes was conducted. They then demonstrated 30 different recipes for children and women to a group of 23 mothers.
- Breastfeeding week was celebrated to create awareness in the community
- All 20 project villages were provided with regular services for immunization along with antenatal and postnatal care on Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) every month
- 24 health camps run by 2 doctors were organized and attended by 842 pregnant women, nursing mothers, infant and children

<sup>†</sup> Terms such as this are defined in the Glossary at the back of this Report



### **Shanta Devi's efforts saved little Bheru's life**

Bheru Lal, son of Nawli and Dharma Ram, weighed only 1.5 kg at birth and no one could believe that he would live more than a month. Shanta Devi, the Bal Sakhi in the village, learnt about Bheru's condition and persuaded his parents to take him to the Malnutrition Treatment Centre (MTC) at the district hospital. He was admitted for a few days, checked over and given therapeutic food and micronutrients. His stay at the MTC helped Bheru move out of the danger zone.

Shanta Devi continued to follow up on Bheru's health after he went home. She made regular visits to his mother, gave her guidance on breastfeeding, when and how often to feed, including at night, and the importance of immunization. She weighed the baby every month to check his growth. With care, Bheru began to show signs of healthy growth. As he grew his mother was advised when and how to introduce new foods alongside breast milk.

Today Bheru is 11 months old and no longer malnourished. Had it not been for Shanta Devi's timely intervention, persistence and care, Bheru's life would have been at risk.





## Referral Health Centre

The Referral Health Centre in Kojawara continued to run this year with a gynaecologist visiting the hospital twice a week and a paediatrician available for consultation once a week. The hospital also provides medicines on a no-profit no-loss basis. Throughout the reporting period, a total of 3,766 patients were treated for general and gynaecological problems at the RHC.

## Adolescent Reproductive Health programme

It is imperative that young people of both genders are equipped with knowledge about reproductive and sexual health, but this is often not the case.

This programme lays special emphasis on building the capacities of our youth facilitators who then conduct one-day awareness camps with their peers through the Youth Resource Centres.

- 3 training courses on sexual health were conducted for 69 YRC facilitators





## Delwara: Peri-urban Governance

Delwara is a qasba or semi-urbanized settlement some 30 km away from the city of Udaipur. With a population of about 6,000, Delwara had clogged drains, scattered garbage dumps and contaminated wells, but also a wealth of rich cultural heritage sites including step-wells, temples and an 18<sup>th</sup>-century palace (now a luxury hotel).

In 2005 Seva Mandir, in partnership with the residents of Delwara and with the support of

the National Foundation of India and the Sri Dorabji Tata Trust, began work on water and sanitation, heritage conservation and restoration of public spaces, a solid-waste management system, youth engagement and livelihoods, along with formation of a women's forum and Self-Help Group. The backbone of all this work was the formation of the Nagrik Vikas Manch (NVM) or Citizen's Forum, which comprises 36 members, two



elected representatives from each of the 18 mohallas or neighbourhoods of the town. The objective was to put civic participation and ownership at the heart of Delwara's development process.

In the last ten years much ground has been covered in specific sectors in Delwara. This year has seen a number of training sessions, youth and community meetings and activities to help continue the process of development.

## Recent Progress

### Toilets

Over the last couple of years Seva Mandir has helped the communities construct toilets: 233 so far. There is minimal open defecation now in Delwara and 35% of the toilets were built through the support of the NVM and Seva Mandir.

### Town cleaning and waste management

Over the years Seva Mandir has been able to make considerable progress in cleaning the town. At present there are 9 Arogya Mitras (sanitation workers), 7 of whom clean the streets while 2 ride cycle rickshaws and collect solid and liquid waste from households. The Arogya Mitras deposit the waste at the solid-waste management site, where it is segregated and recycled, then processed into vermi-compost and sold to local farmers. 76% of Delwara's waste is collected by these Arogya Mitras.

### Youth Resource Centre

A YRC has been active in the town. It has conducted vocational skills training for young people. In recent years courses have included beauty therapy, mobile phone repairing, driving,

computer skills, English lessons and tailoring, and in this way the YRC also provides a space for young people from different socio-economic groups to come together.

The YRC organized a three-day Diwali winter camp in which 120 young men and women participated in town-wide sports and cultural activities.

The YRC is responsible for the Community Heritage Walks which give visitors a chance to see Delwara's historic sites as well as examples of community development. During the reporting year 63 paid walks and 11 free walks were led by 7 guides, raising a total of Rs 57,158. In a very positive development, Devigarh Hotel (based in the palace) entered into a contract for our guides to take their guests on the Heritage Walk in the period January-June 2016.

## Activities and Visits

**Voluntary labour programme:** To focus attention on cleanliness, voluntary labour or community work was carried out by 37 students from Harvard University at the public step-wells of the village: Trimukhi Baori, Baisa Baori and Inderkund.

**Bhoiwada common women's bathroom:** A common women's bathroom was built in Bhoiwada colony, with the cooperation of Seva Mandir's NVM and the Bhoiwada colony committee.

**MLA visit:** Nathdwara Assembly Area's MLA<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Kalyan Singh Chauhan, visited Delwara. He was briefed on the work done through Seva Mandir's

<sup>1</sup> Terms such as this are defined in the Glossary at the back of this Report.



NVM, and he congratulated it on winning the MP Model Village Scheme award for doing good works in the village. He talked about the need to work positively towards the overall development of the village in a politically disinterested way and promised his full cooperation.

**Visit to Short-Stay Home:** 30 women from Delwara were taken to visit to the Short-Stay Home (SSH), a shelter for abused women run by Seva Mandir in Badgaon. At the SSH they were given a talk on the situation of women in society, domestic abuse and women's rights. The visitors were also briefed on how women staying at the SSH are trained to be economically independent and the efforts made to help them remain positive.

**The Women's Forum** is an important part of the NVM but poor attendance has made it difficult to hold regular meetings. To encourage participation

a Self-Help Group training session in Kumbalgarh was organized for SHG members. After this, women's interest increased and the forum meetings were again held regularly and the members decided to organize various programmes in which 105 women took part.

## Work in Progress

Seva Mandir's interventions in Delwara were aimed at improving the quality of life, but, just as importantly, achieving this goal through civic participation. While practical projects have been quite successful in many sectors like solid-waste management or youth engagement, civic participation has been harder to achieve. There have been numerous instances when the NVM was taken over by the elite. In such situations ordinary citizens would stop participating as they found it difficult to voice independent opinions in front of the elite.





## The Delwara Heritage and Community Walk

The Delwara Walk started as a project to generate local jobs and publicize the development work accomplished together by Seva Mandir and the people of Delwara over the past 25 years. It has, however, had a wider impact. During the research and training stage a group of young people together with a volunteer researched the town's 18<sup>th</sup>-century palace, 1,000-year-old Jain temples, step-wells and other historical sites. But, unlike other heritage walks, this one went beyond physical heritage to ask and answer questions about women's rights, access to water and toilets, caste discrimination, livelihoods and other aspects of Seva Mandir's work. For example, the group asked residents of the tribal neighbourhood about the impact of having a toilet for the first time, visited a livelihood training session run by the textile cooperative Sadhna, and explored the many ways a water tank has dignified living conditions in the community (by eliminating the 2-3 hours of daily drudgery involved in fetching water from afar).

The Walk has had clear benefits in enabling people to take responsibility for their community. Seva Mandir staff shared experiences accumulated over long years in the community, and dozens of other Delwara residents had a public outlet to air their opinions and debate the development work and social changes in their town. The guides themselves learned an enormous amount about their town and explored their identity as citizens of Delwara in multiple new ways. For example, because of the Walk, the Muslim members of the guiding class visited the town's Jain temples for the first time, and a high-caste Rajput guide interacted at length with members of the tribal community as he never had before. The young guides also flexed their political agency through the Walk, for example when they presented to local government officials on the neglect they had discovered at the town's waste management site. Now that the guides are keepers of their town's history and social inheritance, the ultimate goal is for them to pass this knowledge, and sense of responsibility, on to others - not only visitors to Delwara, but also members of the local community. In this vein Walks are being organized with Delwara's schoolchildren so that they too can begin to learn about and take ownership of the development of Delwara.

# DELWARA HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY WALK



a seva mandir initiative

*ancient heritage. contemporary lives.*



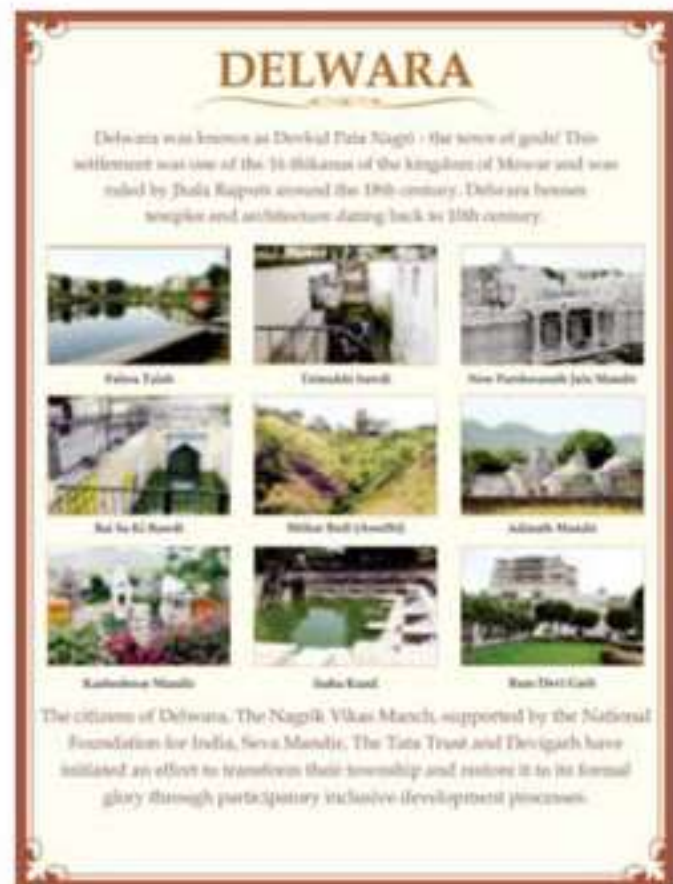
| [sevamandir.org/walk](http://sevamandir.org/walk) |

[delwarawalk@gmail.com](mailto:delwarawalk@gmail.com)



In this context it is important to remember that, in the absence of well-functioning institutions such as the police and welfare schemes, ordinary citizens have to depend on a political patron in order to have any chance of success when dealing with the authorities. This dependence explains their silence. One would expect the opposing political parties to keep each other in check, but we realized in Delwara that actually all political parties have common business interests and that there is in fact very little real opposition.

It is therefore not surprising that participation in the development forums of Delwara has seen ebbs and flows. But we have learned that, despite variable attendance, these forums offer the only prospect of a non-partisan, secular citizens' forum. So we keep on supporting them and wait for the time when citizens are able to break free of their dependence on powerful patrons.



Delwara has seen several such occasions when, in a crisis, its citizens have taken on the big political and business interests in the interest of their collective development.

Delwara is an exercise in reordering power relations and creating an autonomous citizens' space. Truly work in progress.





## Child Representative Programme

Since 2005, Seva Mandir has received support from Plan International to help the organization incorporate the idea of child-centred community development into its holistic integrated development framework.

The Child Representative programme pioneered a new kind of funding relationship that would combine Plan International's child-centred sponsorship approach with Seva Mandir's community-centred development approach. A new cell was formed to serve as an interface between the two organizations, integrating the different approaches of each. The process of integrating the two frameworks has evolved very successfully in the last ten years.

In this programme, children called child representatives are chosen to represent the status and concerns of all the children in a village. In addition, the child representatives serve as a medium through which Plan raises funds by finding sponsors for them, with all funds being used for the benefit of all the children in the village. This process has enabled us to study the impact of our work on the children of this area.

- 132 villages comprising 512 hamlets were selected across 5 blocks for the Child Representative Programme.
- In the initial stages children in the age group 3-8 years were selected as child representatives; today these children are in the age group 7-13 years
- There are currently 4,700 child representatives



## Child-Centred Community Development

### The Bal Manch

The Bal Manch or Children's Forum was created in villages as children do not usually have space or opportunities to express their views or explain the problems they face. The key objective of the Bal Manch is to create that space and enable the children to use it meaningfully.

So far 68 Bal Manch have been established, and a total of 2,872 children are actively engaged with the forums. In these meetings children learn about their rights and issues surrounding protection. The forums have raised some very significant village issues like drinking water, playgrounds, school dropouts, superstitions, and the children have had some success in solving the problems they have raised.

### A Bal Manch taking the initiative

The Bal Manch of Balwada zone, Kherwara, has a committee of 12 members and a membership of 300 children. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of every month they hold a meeting and discuss relevant issues. Recently, during a discussion of sports facilities in the village, the members decided to contribute Rs. 2 each, adding up to a total of Rs. 600, to buy sports equipment. They proposed this idea to one of Seva Mandir's field workers and asked for financial help from the NGO so that they could buy some sports equipment.

Seva Mandir thought this was a good idea and helped by contributing the rest of the amount needed. The Bal Manch is responsible for the equipment and it is kept in a local school. Now the children regularly use the equipment when they are playing games.





### Training and activities

- To enhance child representatives' participation in the programme, training sessions and workshops were conducted through the Youth Resource Centres. There were workshops on communication where children were exposed to newer media like videos, cartoons and theatre. 159 children participated in these.
- Child members of the Village Development Committee (Gram Vikas Committee<sup>1</sup>) were trained: 61 child leaders learnt about the role of GVCs and discussed important issues like the problem of drinking water in schools and building toilets for boys and girls.
- Bal Melas or Children's Fairs were organized to increase children's participation and create awareness of various issues through drawing competitions, self-defence training for young girls and races. 1,255 children participated.

### Child Protection

In order to address the problem of child abuse in places where children should be safe, Seva Mandir has worked with children and adults. Training in child protection was carried out with parents, community members, including office-bearers of Village Development Committees, and grass-roots level workers dealing with and accountable for child protection. The following key efforts were made to sensitize the community with regard to child protection issues:

- 38 GVCs were trained in Seva Mandir's Child Protection Policy (CPP)
- SK instructors were sensitized and made aware of child protection issues.
- In the SK instructor training session, emphasis was laid on how to create a fear-free classroom
- 205 young people were sensitized on CPP
- The infrastructure of 42 Balwadis was made completely safe for children and work is ongoing in the remaining centres.

### Childline

This is India's first 24-hour free emergency phone helpline for children up to 18. It was established in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Childline Foundation. Seva Mandir has been operating Childline in Udaipur since 2002. The service offers protection to homeless, lost and abused children.

This year:

- Childline handled 3,741 calls
- Childline also helped rescue 169 children from exploitative working conditions, 28 from being forcibly married and 29 from an unsafe environment at home

A new District Child Protection committee has been trained and this has helped us to interact better with the children who call Childline.

<sup>1</sup> Terms such as this are defined in the Glossary at the back of this Report.





## The People's Management School

The People's Management School (PMS) was set up to help Seva Mandir become an important centre for learning, research, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building and nurturing the social environment. PMS has three main cells: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation; Capacity Building; Social Environment.

### Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Cell

#### Research

This includes in-house studies and those supported by external agencies. PMS also provides backup support to the different programme units for studies which are crosscutting across the organization. Work continued on the following study, which is

being conducted in collaboration with external institutions.

**Impact assessment of Seva Mandir:** Seva Mandir, in collaboration with Georgetown University, USA, is carrying out research to understand the impact of the NGO's work on community governance. In the first phase of the study a list of lead villages where Seva Mandir started working through Adult Education Centres was prepared in consultation with its former and retired employees. In the second phase IMRB International, a leading survey research firm, was hired to conduct a survey. Village schedules and household schedules were prepared in consultation with principal investigators Professor Raj Desai and Professor Anders.



The village survey was conducted in 1,096 villages, whereas the household survey was conducted in 100 villages. The IMRB team has submitted the cleaned data set for analysis. The preliminary results are due to be presented by June 2016.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Strengthening programme monitoring and evaluation systems to take account of the changing context and requirements has been an area of priority and PMS has supported the programme units with this process.

Outcome-based monitoring and reporting is a new concept for the organization's staff and assistance was needed to help them internalize it. Orientation and refresher training courses were organized for all concerned staff, including senior management, and detailed training sessions were held for the programme staff directly involved in monitoring and evaluation.

During 2015-16, impact evaluation studies of the indicators for the 7<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan<sup>1</sup> (covering 2012-15) and baselines for the 8<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan (2015-18) were conducted.

The following main baseline studies were conducted by PMS for different programmes for M&E purposes, using the targets of the 8<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan as a starting point:

**Natural resource management:** The survey was conducted to examine the production of food crops for their own consumption by families who live in the catchment area of the watershed management programme: the target of the 8<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan is to increase this by at least 4 months.

- 316 families were surveyed to assess self-cultivated grain availability in Kotra block. It was found that 41.46% of the families have food grains for less than 6 months, 28.80% for 6 months and 29.74% for more than 6 months.
- A similar survey was carried out with 714 families to assess the quantity of pulses they cultivated. 58.12% did not have any pulses for their own consumption, very few families had more than 6 months' availability and 36.4% had pulses for 1-6 months

**Women and Child Development:** The study was conducted to see whether, as per the goal of the 8<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan, 80% of women from the 730 women's groups had their own funds for emergency expenditure, assets and daily spending on things such as food, medicine, school fees.

- SM runs 627 Self-Help Groups with a total membership of 9,625 women
- 44 of these groups (i.e. about 675 members) are new so were not counted
- Of the 8,950 women surveyed, 80% have their own funds available for emergency expenditure, assets and daily spending

**Education:** The study was conducted to see whether 30% of children enrolled in Shiksha Kendras (SKs) and Residential Learning Camps reach level A (equivalent to grade 3) every year.

- There were a total of 170 SKs with an enrolment of 6,090 children
- 5,095 children (2,238 girls, 2,857 boys) sat the exams
- 1,718 (so 34% of the children) achieved level A; the breakdown was 58% boys and 42% girls
- Of the 116 children attending their third Residential Learning Camp, 53% had reached level A

<sup>1</sup> Terms such as this are defined in the Glossary at the back of this Report



**Village Institution Programme:** The study set out to establish how many of the community institutions had, in the last three years, followed the norms set for management and equitable distribution of benefits from common resources, such as village pastures, forestlands, village funds, Balwadis, water sources.

- A digitalized baseline survey was conducted through the Akvo application for 63 villages in all 7 blocks
- It found that 53% (against the 8<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan target of 70%) of community institutions have set up and are following norms for management and equitable distribution of benefits from common resources

## Social Environment Cell

### Internship and Volunteering

The programme welcomes volunteers and interns from across the globe and staff from corporate organizations, giving them an opportunity to gain valuable experience and knowledge of rural communities and development.

During the reporting period the internship programme hosted 163 volunteers and interns. This period saw an increase in volunteers who are non-institutional. These non-institutional volunteers are usually from different countries, for example the US, UK, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Mexico, Denmark and India. The institutional interns came

**The internship programme hosted 163 volunteers and interns.**







**The Chief Executive addresses NMBU students**

from educational institutions in India and abroad. 23 visitor groups were hosted in 2015-16, including approximately 470 people from India and abroad. They came from educational institutions from many parts of the country and abroad, government organizations, NGOs, etc.

We welcomed Fellows through fellowships given by India Fellow (1) and State Bank of India Youth for India (7). Seva Mandir hosted five students from the Indian Institute of Management Udaipur (IIMU) summer school and 140 students for a five-day rural immersion.

### **Semester Abroad**

Seva Mandir, in collaboration with Norwegian University of Life Science (NMBU) and IIMU, has been hosting a semester for undergraduates every alternate year. This year we hosted 17 students from NMBU who attended a month-long course,

'Understanding Development Challenges in Rural India'. The course was structured to allow students to focus on a conceptual understanding of these challenges through hands-on involvement with initiatives that seek to address them.

### **Public Lecture**

On the occasion of Seva Mandir's Institution Day on 19 April, the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of our founder, the late Dr Mohan Singh Mehta, a public lecture was organized in collaboration with the Mohan Sinha Mehta Memorial Trust and Vidya Bhawan Society. Senior journalist and political commentator Neeraj Chowdhury gave a powerful lecture on 'Changing Linkages between Civil Society and Politics.' The lecture focused on how the current political scenario is bringing about change in the dynamics of our society, with many factors acting as catalysts.





## Capacity Building

In recent years it has been felt that there was a strong need to support the organization's staff in adapting to the changing development context at community level as well as macro-policy level. The training cell is therefore engaged in capacity-building activities to assist staff in enhancing and building new skills, and in deepening understanding of development issues.

**Inductions:** Two inductions were organized for new staff and visiting Fellows who joined the organization. The aim was to help participants learn the history, programmes, structure and systems of the organization. 32 new staff, including an India Fellow and SBI Fellows, found the inductions useful and their feedback was used to improve subsequent training.

**Workshops:** Four workshops were organized during the reporting period focusing on improving staff skills in 'Writing Case Studies', and on 'Time Management'. A two-day training course was organized on MS Office, covering Word, Excel and PowerPoint and emails. A session was also held on basic maintenance of hardware, including efficient upkeep of computers, printers and projectors. To improve the Monitoring and Evaluation component of different programmes, a refresher course on Akvo software was organized. GIS Map-making training was also held.

A total of 96 participants from blocks and units benefited from these workshops.

### Photo Captions from top

- 1,2 The public lecture given on Institution Day by journalist and political commentator Neeraj Chowdhury
- 3 Seva Mandir's Kunzru Library
- 4 Students from Harvard Business School hold a discussion in SM Conference Hall





## **Rafe Bullick Memorial Foundation**

The Rafe Bullick Memorial Foundation (RBMF) was founded in 2004 in memory of Rafe Bullick, a former Seva Mandir volunteer who died in Dafur while serving with the Save the Children Fund. The Bullick family hopes that by continuing the work Rafe started among the needy and the disadvantaged, peace and justice may be brought to the lives of at least some people in some parts of the world.

The foundation, set up within Seva Mandir by Rafe's family, supports young, needy people in the fields of health and education, road safety, and also at the school for the deaf and dumb and the school for the blind in Udaipur.

Under the RBMF Scholarship fund aid was given to 29 needy students and a soft loan to another for education. The Foundation also continued to work with the school for the deaf and dumb and the blind school.

## **Other Activities**

### **Library and Documentation Centre**

The library was open for 349 days last year and the average daily attendance has been 125. A total of 208 new books and 63 reports were added.

In the current year, the documentation centre has converted audio CDs into DVDs. 448 Seva Mandir reports were converted to PDF format and linked to the library database. Some of this work was paid for through the legacy left by Shri Jagat Mehta, a former trustee.





## Resource Mobilization Unit

For almost two decades Seva Mandir was fortunate to have a donor base that supported its Comprehensive Plan (a three-year plan covering work across all the programmes). More than half of the organization's receipts were allocated to this Comprehensive Plan, allowing us the flexibility to innovate, experiment and respond according to the needs of the community. But this type of giving has slowly and gradually been overtaken by more project-based funding. In addition, some of the traditional institutional

donors have moved away from India. In order to help Seva Mandir adjust to rapidly changing funding scenarios, a dedicated Resource Mobilization unit (RMU) was set up in 2007.

The trend towards a changing donor profile continued in the reporting year. The RMU team helped the organization meet its funding requirements thanks to a combination of new and existing donors.





## A CSR event at Kaya

### Online Donations

Recognizing the increasing opportunities of online donation portals we have established Seva Mandir's presence on these portals to cater to our resource base. The sectoral priorities of international donors change, and disasters often take priority, as a result of which online donations have reduced this year.

Seva Mandir participated in various campaigns and challenges on the Give India and Global Giving websites. This required constant work to produce frequent updates and reports. New donation options were also created on both of the above websites and on AMMADO. We were delighted that one of our photographs was amongst the top ten in Global Giving's photo contest. Short films were also uploaded on the Global Giving portal.





### CSR: An Emergent Category

In 2014 the Ministry of Corporate Affairs introduced legislation requiring large companies to spend 2% of their profits on CSR.

This has had a mixed impact on Seva Mandir. While this CSR spending has and will continue to increase expenditure in the development sector,

so far most of it seems to be through companies' own foundations and government funds. At the same time we are seeing signs of a trend towards corporate-NGO partnerships aimed at alleviating poverty and tackling related challenges. Seva Mandir is fortunate to have been able to forge some such relationships.

### Friends of Seva Mandir

The Friends of Seva Mandir UK and later the Friends of Seva Mandir US were established to raise individual and institutional funds for the organization in their respective countries. Both groups continue to raise critical funding support for the organization. These contributions are mostly unrestricted funds, which increases their value and allows Seva Mandir to respond quickly to community needs.

### Special Events

The following events were organized in the last year:

- **King's College Event:** The Friends of Seva Mandir UK organized a London event with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, who spoke on 'The role of UK business in India'
- **Carrefour Event :** A CSR day-long event was organized at Kaya training centre, Udaipur, in which around 50 people from Carrefour's global management team participated
- **Photo Exhibition in aid of Seva Mandir:** A photographic exhibition, 'India: A Personal Perspective' by John Pheasant, was organized in Udaipur last year. Besides fundraising, it helped Seva Mandir gain good publicity locally and introduced the NGO to several overseas visitors.





## The UK Friends' King's College Event

### Other Activities

In addition to these activities, RMU continued to help service existing donors by preparing reports and conducting field visits. They worked to improve reports to make them more engaging and appealing to donors. They also sought prospective donors by preparing and submitting cold donation requests and showing Seva Mandir's work on the ground to interested visitors. They also continued to service both the Friends groups and regularly updated and maintained the website.







## Kaya Training Centre

Seva Mandir's residential centre, the Dr Mohan Sinha Mehta Rural Training Centre, is located in Kaya village, about 20 km from Udaipur.

The centre was built as a learning retreat for Seva Mandir and a training space for villagers, and has facilities for board and lodging. It is also available at reasonable cost for external organizations to hold training courses and workshops. One of the main uses of the centre is housing the children's Residential Learning Camp for six months of the year. This year 48 training courses were held in Kaya in which 33,729 people participated.

Major repair and infrastructure renovation has been undertaken:

- Maintenance work was carried out to ensure a continuous supply of clean drinking water and consisted of treating and repairing wells and a water tank
- Renovation work of the kitchen and mess hall is currently taking place to make the area more child-friendly
- Renovation and paintwork was carried out in the residential area damaged during the monsoon
- A playground for children has been constructed









## APPENDIX

- CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE NORMS
- COMPLIANCE
- MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT BODIES
- PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE  
2013-14 TO 2015-16
- OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS
- FINANCIAL REPORT



## Credibility Alliance Norm Compliance Report

### 2015-16

#### Identity

- Seva Mandir is a Voluntary Organization registered under the Society Registration Act 1958, (Reg. No. 149/1967 – 68 dated 12.02.1968) and also registered in Rajasthan Public Trust Act, 1959
- Seva Mandir's Constitution is available on request
- Seva Mandir is registered u/s 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- All individual & corporate donations are also eligible for exemption u/s 80-G. The exemption u/s 80-G is available vide their letter No. AA/Udi/Judicial/2010-11/3586 dated 14.03.2011
- Seva Mandir is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976 to accept any foreign donations & grants vide Registration No. - 125690002, dated 11.02.1985

#### Name and address of the banker

1. State Bank of India, Main Branch, 23-C, Madhuban, Udaipur 313 001, Rajasthan (FCRA Account), and
2. Union Bank of India, New Fatehpura, Udaipur 313 001, Rajasthan (for Indian money)

#### Name and address of auditors

- M/s D.S. Babel & Co., Chartered Accountants,  
101- Saral Plaza, 285-286, M 1 Road, Bhupalpura, Udaipur 313 001, Rajasthan.

#### Mission

Seva Mandir's mission is to make real the idea of a society consisting of free and equal citizens who are able to come together and solve the problems that affect them in their particular contexts. The commitment is to work for a paradigm of development and governance that is democratic and polyarchic. Seva Mandir seeks to institutionalize the idea that development and governance should not just be left to the state and its formal bodies, such as the legislature and the bureaucracy, but that citizens and their associations should engage separately and jointly with the state.

The mission, briefly, is to construct the conditions in which citizens of plural backgrounds and perspectives can work together to benefit and empower the least advantaged in society.



## Governance

### Details Of Board Members: (as on 31 March 2016)

Name	Sex	Age	Position on Board	Occupation	Meetings attended
Shri Ajay Singh Mehta	M	62	President	Mr Mehta retired as Executive Director, NFI. He was a member of State Planning Board, Government of Rajasthan.	2/2
Shri Venkatachalam Bhagavat Eswaran	M	87	Member	President, Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development	1/2
Shri Mohan Singh Kothari	M	80	Member	Ex-Chairman, Udaipur Division, World Wide Fund for Nature, India	2/2
Smt Neelima Khetan	F	54	Member	Vice President CSR, Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	2/2
Ms Pamela Philipose	F	62	Member	Director, Women's Feature Service	1/2
Ms Rajni Bakshi*	F	57	Co-opted Member	A Mumbai-based freelance journalist and author who writes about social and political movements in contemporary India	2/2
Ms Sunita Nadhamuni*	F	50	Co-opted Member	Director, Technology at EMC <sup>2</sup>	1/2

\* Co-opted Women Members are elected for a term of 2 years

- The Seva Mandir Board met twice in the Financial Year 2015-16, on 24 May 2015 and on 11 October 2015
- Minutes of Board Meetings are documented and circulated

## Accountability And Transparency

- No remuneration, sitting fees, or any other form of compensation has been paid since the inception of the Organization to any Board Member, Trustee, or Shareholder
- The following reimbursements have been made to Board Members:
  - Travelling expenses: Rs 158,675 (for attending Board Meetings)
  - No other reimbursements have been made to any Board Member, Trustee, or Shareholder
- Chief Executive's remuneration : Rs 1,020,000 (per annum)
- Remuneration of three highest paid staff members (per annum): Rs 1,020,000, Rs 840,000, Rs 713,616
- Remuneration of lowest paid staff member (per annum): Rs 72,000

### Staff Details (as on 31 March 2016)

Gender	Paid Full-Time	Paid Part-Time	Paid Consultants	Paid Volunteers	Unpaid Volunteers
Male	174	0	6	11	46
Female	86	0	6	20	86
Total	260	0	12	31	132



**Distribution of staff according to salary levels (as on 31 March 2016)**

Slab of gross salary (in Rs) plus benefits paid to staff (per month)	Male staff	Female staff	Total staff
Less than 5,000	0	0	0
5,000 – 10,000	21	19	40
10,000 – 25,000	113	47	160
25,000 – 50,000	35	19	54
50,000 – 100,000	5	1	6
Greater than 100,000	0	0	0

**Total cost of international travel by staff during the year (as on 31 March 2016)**

Name	Mr Himanshu Shekhar
Designation	Programme Coordinator, NRD
Destination	1. Jakarta, Indonesia 2. Andong, South Korea
Purpose	1. For youth programme water, sanitation and cities 2015 2. For youth 4 Asia solutions search for health and hygiene
Gross Expense (Rs)	0
Sponsored by external organisation	Yes

Name	Smt. Priyanka Singh
Designation	Chief Executive
Destination	United Kingdom
Purpose	For meeting with funders and to attend Friends of Seva Mandir UK event
Gross Expense (Rs)	160,454 (by our sources only)
Sponsored by external organisation	No

## Members of Different Bodies 2015 -16

**President:** Shri Ajay Singh Mehta

**Chief Executive:** Smt Priyanka Singh

**General Secretary:** Shri Narayan Lal Ameta

### Board of Trustees

- Shri Ajay Singh Mehta
- Shri Venkatachalam Bhagavat Eswaran
- Shri Mohan Singh Kothari
- Smt Neelima Khetan
- Smt Pamela Philipose
- Ms Rajni Bakshi
- Smt Sunita Nadhamuni

### Finance Committee

- Smt Priyanka Singh
- Shri Vijay Singh Mehta
- Smt Sunita Nadhamuni
- Shri Manoj Agarwal
- Shri Anubhav Ladia
- Shri Pankaj Ballabh
- Shri Narayan Lal Ameta

### Executive Council

- Shri Ajay Singh Mehta
- Shri Venkatachalam Bhagavat Eswaran
- Shri Mohan Singh Kothari
- Smt Neelima Khetan
- Smt Pamela Philipose
- Ms Rajni Bakshi
- Smt Sunita Nadhamuni
- Shri Vijay Singh Mehta
- Prof. Janat Shah
- Shri Suraj Jacob
- Shri Shailendra Tiwari
- Shri H.R. Bhati
- Shri K.L. Bapna
- Shri Nathu Lal Sharma
- Shri Narayan Lal Lakhara
- Smt Renu Singh
- Smt Priyanka Singh
- Shri Narayan Lal Ameta



### Advisory Committee

- Shri Ajay Singh Mehta
- Shri Vijay Singh Mehta
- Shri Hansraj Choudhary
- Shri Raghav Raj Singh Ranawat –  
Shivrati
- Shri Pankaj Butalia
- Smt Anjali Gupte
- Shri Anand Jha
- Dr Ashok Bapna
- Shri Chris Wiscarson
- Smt Sunita Jain
- Smt Riddhi Shah
- Shri Shiv Narayan Menaria
- Smt Ganga Bai - Jhadol
- Shri Rooparam Gamar - Kotra
- Smt Valki Bai - Kotra
- Shri Dhawra Ram - Kherwara
- Smt Bhurki Bai - Girwa
- Shri Ganga Ram Dangi - Badgaon
- Smt Devli Bai - Badgaon
- Shri Devi Lal - Kumbhalgarh
- Smt Lahri Bai - Kumbhalgarh
- Shri Kishan Lal Khatik - Delwara
- Smt Priyanka Singh
- Shri Narayan Lal Ameta
- Smt Swati Patel
- Shri Sanjiv Jain
- Shri Vimal Jain
- Smt Alka Bhardwaj
- Shri Manoj Paliwal
- Shri Kripashanker Joshi
- Shri Narendra Jain
- Shri Madhav Tailor
- Shri Mohammad Yakub Khan
- Shri Ranjeet Bijarnia
- Shri Narendra Thakur
- Shri Jagdish Bariwal
- Shri Shailendra Tiwari
- Ms Varsha Rathore
- Shri Ronak Shah
- Smt Laxmi Thakur
- Smt Kiran Pandey
- Dr Kusum Lata Mathur
- Smt Aarti Shah
- Smt Angela Jacob
- Ms Ratan Paliwal
- Smt Renu Tiwari
- Shri M.S.S. Ranawat

## Our Donors and Supporters

### Institutional Donors

- AGEH Germany
- AMBA Research India Pvt Ltd, Bangalore
- Asha for Education, USA
- Bread for the World – BfdW-EED, Germany
- Oracle (CAF India), New Delhi
- Canada India Village Aid Association, Canada
- CEC Hyderabad (ICCO)
- Central Social Welfare Board (SSH), New Delhi
- Chetna, Ahmedabad
- Child Fund India, Bangalore, Karnataka
- Childline India Foundation (CIF), Mumbai
- Colgate Palmolive India Ltd, Mumbai
- COPAL Research India Pvt Ltd, Gurgaon
- CWDS (Forces), New Delhi
- D Mart, Mumbai
- Edukans Foundation, The Netherlands
- Friends of Seva Mandir UK
- Friends of Seva Mandir USA
- Geisse Foundation
- Give India, Mumbai, India
- Global Giving UK
- Global Giving USA
- Hindustan Zinc Ltd, Udaipur
- ICRA Ltd
- ICRISAT, Andhra Pradesh
- IGWDP – NABARD
- IIM Udaipur
- Jagat S. Mehta's Legacy Grant
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd, Mumbai
- Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Mumbai
- Max India Foundation, New Delhi
- McGill University, Canada
- MGNREGA, Udaipur, India
- Monsoon Accessorize Trust, UK
- NABARD Wadi Project
- National Foundation for India, New Delhi
- Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan – TSC, Udaipur
- Noragric Norwegian University, Norway
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd, New Delhi
- Plan International (India Chapter), New Delhi
- Rafe Bullick Memorial Foundation
- RBS Foundation, Mumbai, India
- Saint Christopher School, UK
- SITE, Sweden - US
- SSA Infosystem Pvt Ltd
- Target International, USA
- Target Sourcing (I) Pvt Ltd
- The Personnel Development Trust, UK
- Vedanta Foundation
- Yatra Foundation, Australia

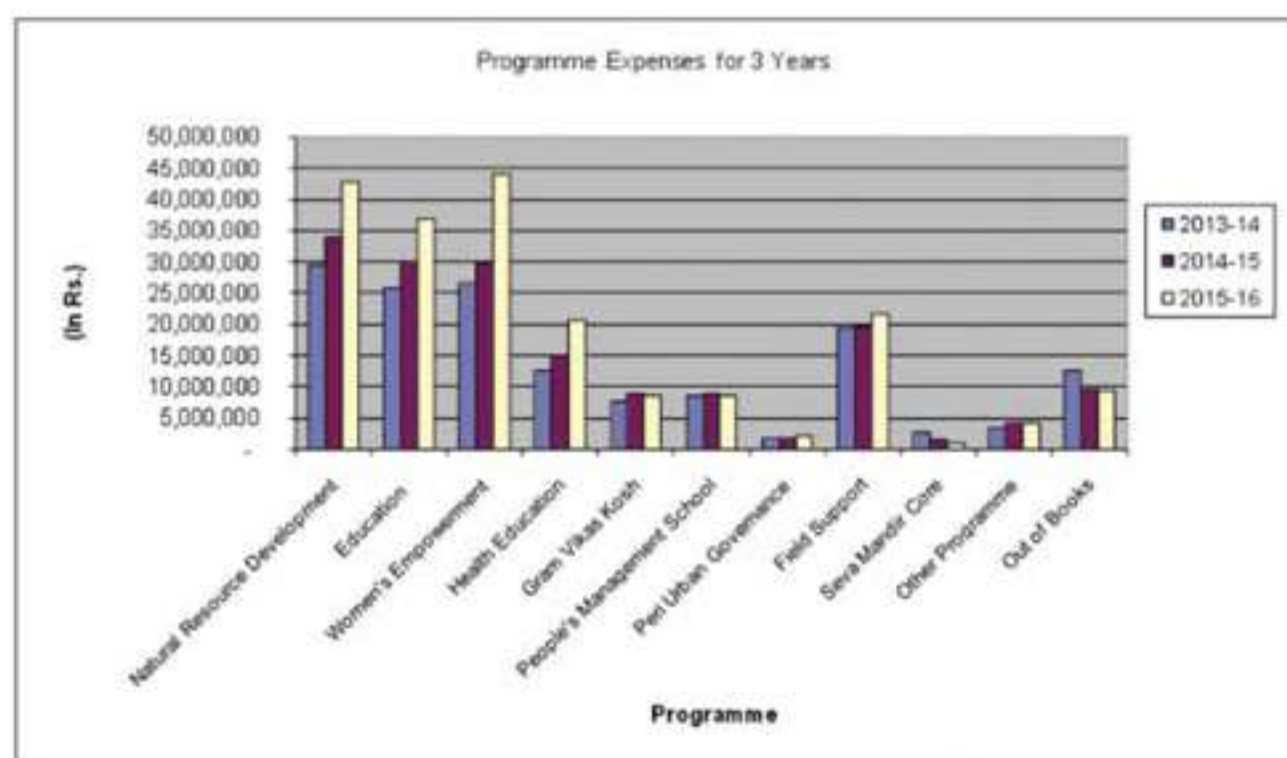


## Individual Donors

- Aditya Agrawal
- Agronic Food Inc. (Sidharth Sancheti)
- Aishwarya Srinath
- Ait Krishna Raj
- Ajay Singh Mehta
- Aarti Vora
- Ashish Agrawal
- Ashok Kumar Agrawal
- Ashok Mehta
- Bakhtavar Suresh Mahajan
- Bougain Villaea
- Carrefour Trading Ltd India (Th. Rohit Chhabra)
- Darina Allen
- Deepti Armeta
- Flickers - Project Pvt Ltd.
- Gautam Khetwal
- Gomathy
- Goodwill Association of America
- Gool Dinshaw Katrak
- Hitendra Bhargava
- IBRD
- Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Mumbai (Neera Bajaj)
- Jaspal Kaur
- John & Felicia Pheasant
- K. Arun Kumar Rai
- Kanhaiya Lal Bapna
- Kavita Shekhawat
- Library Members
- Mark Francis
- Misc. Small Donations
- Moiz Kapadia
- Narayan Lal Armeta
- Pamela Philipose
- Peter Patel
- Poulomi Das Gupta
- Priyanka Singh
- Raja Sabnis
- Rajesh Vora
- Rajni Bakshi
- Ravi Ramchandani
- Rosaleen Mulji
- Shailja Ghai
- Shamdasani Foundation (Ramesh Shamdasani)
- Siddharth Ravinutala
- Swarna Rajagopalan
- Syed Sharique Mashhadi
- Uma Rani Sikora
- Vandini Mehta
- Vijaya Khan
- Vimal Chand Jain
- Vishal Saxena
- World Learning India Pvt Ltd

## Programme and Funding Expenditure Statement 2015 -16

PROGRAMME	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	TOTAL
Natural Resource Development	29,630,822	34,100,879	42,817,523	106,549,224
Education	25,753,569	29,997,200	36,842,423	92,593,192
Women's Empowerment	26,661,168	29,823,123	44,177,539	100,661,830
Health Education	12,601,563	14,928,188	20,578,771	48,108,522
Gram Vikas Kosh	7,756,046	8,981,867	8,665,061	25,402,974
People's Management School	8,621,095	8,760,427	8,730,330	26,111,852
Peri Urban Governance	1,664,502	1,804,010	2,096,617	5,565,129
Field Support	19,373,968	19,615,749	21,659,426	60,649,143
Seva Mandir Core	2,629,721	1,404,300	1,067,122	5,101,143
Other Programme	3,506,950	4,147,780	4,269,431	11,924,161
Out of Books	12,444,000	9,714,000	9,435,000	31,593,000
Total Expenditure :	150,643,404	163,277,523	200,339,243	514,260,170







# ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET

2015-16



**SEVA MANDIR**

UDAIPUR (RAJ.)

TEL:-0294-2451041, 2450960, and 2452001 FAX: 0294-2450947

E-Mail [info@sevamandir.org](mailto:info@sevamandir.org)

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# D. S. Babel & Co.

Chartered Accountants

101-Saral Plaza, 285-286, M-1 Road  
Bhupalpura, Udaipur (Raj.) Ph. : 0294-2422289  
Mob. : +91 94142 96800  
E-mail : dsbabel@yahoo.com  
dsbabel@gmail.com

DSB/2016-17/A/05

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Seva Mandir  
Seva Mandir  
Udaipur (Raj.)

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of SEVA MANDIR, OLD FATEHPURA, UDAIPUR (RAJ.) 313004 which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2016, and the Income & Expenditure Account and the Project wise consolidated Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies, notes on accounts and other explanatory information.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Opinion**


In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts read with notes thereon, give a true and fair view:

- i. In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the above named Trust as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 and
- ii. In so far as it relates to the Income & Expenditure Account, of the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

**FOR D.S.BABEL & CO.**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**FRN: 005755 C**

Place : Udaipur  
Date : 20.05.2016



  
**(D.S. BABEL)**  
**Partner**  
**M.No. 074010**



# Seva Mandir

Rs.				
BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31,	Sch.		2016	2015
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>				
Corpus and Endowment Funds	1		128,665,701	125,896,338
General Reserves	2		47,524,216	42,523,774
Capital Fund	3		59,167,860	57,752,960
Specified Funds	4		39,179,822	36,108,604
<b>Total</b>			<b>274,537,599</b>	<b>262,281,676</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Fixed Assets	5		59,167,860	57,752,960
Investments	6		156,619,005	151,293,801
Current Assets Loans and Advances				
A) Current Assets	7	66,844,811		66,777,648
B) Loans and Advances		20,619,207		19,571,306
C) Overspent amount recoverable on Development Projects under execution	11	9,234,275	96,698,293	8,535,366
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
A) Current Liabilities	8	10,330,254		8,116,524
B) Unspent amount of Advance Receipts on Development Projects under execution	11	27,617,305	37,947,559	33,532,881
Net Current Assets			58,750,734	53,234,915
<b>Total</b>			<b>274,537,599</b>	<b>262,281,676</b>

Note:

Fund Based Receipt and Payment Account A/c

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Accounting policies and notes on accounts

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As per our report of even date

for **D.S.BABEL & CO.**

FRN NO:- 005755 C

Chartered Accountants

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016



**D.S.BABEL**  
(Partner)

ML.Noc-074010

*Anshu*  
President

*Rajendra Singh*  
Chief Executive

Rs.			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON MARCH 31,	Sch.	2016	2015
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants and Donations	9		
A. Grants		171,559,422	143,136,490
B. Donations		4,839,116	3,940,535
Interest Income		19,222,386	18,334,075
Other Income & Development Support Fees		520,397	643,321
<b>Total</b>		<b>196,141,321</b>	<b>166,054,421</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>A: Development Program Expenditure</b>	10	164,975,836	131,139,102
<b>B: Development Support Expenditure</b>			
Personnel Cost - Administration Staff		12,147,713	13,495,458
Consultancy Charges		1,858,419	1,305,470
Travel and Conveyance		281,119	357,182
Rent, Water and Electricity		1,688,698	1,525,742
Repair and Maintenance of Assets		5,269,833	3,710,800
Vehicle Running and Maintenance		5,768	8,061
Miscellaneous Expenses		1,019,809	893,292
Auditors' Remuneration		202,500	203,760
<b>Total</b>		<b>187,449,695</b>	<b>152,638,867</b>
Excess of Income over Expenditure		8,691,626	13,415,554
<b>ALLOCATION</b>			
Balance Surplus/(Deficit) brought down		8,691,626	13,415,554
Net excess of unspent/overspent balances carried to Balance Sheet - Difference over last year balances			
	11	(6,614,485)	1,488,490
<b>Allocable surplus (A)</b>		<b>15,306,111</b>	<b>11,927,064</b>
<b>Transfer of interest earned to</b>			
Staff Welfare Fund	4	196,470	197,340
Group Leave Encashment fund	4	1,194,944	999,556
Women Welfare Fund	4	19,893	21,435
Rafe Bullick Mem. Fund	4	223,034	289,645
R.D.Tata Trust	1	266,363	262,426
R.D.Tata G.V.K. Interest Fund	4	621,802	605,329
R.D.Tata General Interest Fund	4	1,871,762	1,822,173
<b>Total of allocation of interest to various fund(B)</b>		<b>4,394,268</b>	<b>4,197,904</b>
<b>Income transferred from Specified fund against fund utilization</b>			
Staff Welfare Fund(utilization charged from fund)	4	211,050	266,706
General welfare fund (utilization charged from fund)	4	122,097	125,245
Women welfare fund (utilization charged from fund)		10,000	50,000
<b>Total of Income Charged from Fund(c)</b>		<b>343,147</b>	<b>441,951</b>
<b>Net Excess of Income after allocation (A-B+C)</b>		<b>11,254,990</b>	<b>8,171,111</b>
<b>Other transfers</b>			
Capital Fund (Acquisition of Fixed Assets)	5	3,454,548	924,656
Corpus Fund	1	2,500,000	6,800,000
General Reserve (Balance)	2	5,300,442	446,455
Note: Fund Based Receipt and Payment Account a/c	11		
Accounting policies and notes on accounts	12		

As per our report of even date  
for **D.S.BABEL & CO.**  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants



Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016

**D.S.BABEL**  
(Partner)  
M.No.-478819

*Anshita*  
President

*Riyanka Singh*  
Chief Executive



Rs.		
SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS ON MARCH 31,	2016	2015
<b>SCHEDULE 1: CORPUS AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>		
<b>A: CORPUS FUNDS:</b>		
Opening Balance	83,728,820	76,889,820
Add:-Contributions received	-	25,000
-Life Membership fee	3,000	14,000
	83,731,820	76,928,820
Less: Utilization of Corpus	-	-
	83,731,820	76,928,820
Add:Transferred from Income & Expenditure	2,500,000	6,800,000
	86,231,820	83,728,820
<b>B: R.D.TATA TRUST -SEVA MANDIR CORPUS FUNDS:</b>		
-Opening Balance	17,757,518	17,495,092
Add:Transferred from Income & Expenditure/ Endowment Fund	266,363	262,426
	18,023,881	17,757,518
Total Corpus (A+B)	104,255,701	101,486,338
<b>C: ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>		
Ford Foundation	24,410,000	24,410,000
	24,410,000	24,410,000
<b>Grand total (A+B+C)</b>	<b>128,665,701</b>	<b>125,896,338</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 2: RESERVE AND SURPLUS</b>		
<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>		
Opening Balance	42,523,774	42,377,319
Add: Surplus/(Deficit) as per Income and Expenditure Account	5,300,442	446,455
Less: Amount transferred to Staff Welfare Fund	100,000	100,000
Less: Amount transferred to General Welfare Fund	200,000	200,000
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>47,524,216</b>	<b>42,523,774</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 3: CAPITAL FUND</b>		
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	57,752,960	58,299,675
Add : Assests Acquired during the year	3,454,548	924,656
	61,207,508	59,224,331
Less : Assets Written off	2,039,648	1,471,371
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>59,167,860</b>	<b>57,752,960</b>

As per our report of even date  
for **D.S.BABEL & CO.**  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants

*Anshu*  
President

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016



*[Signature]*  
**D.S.BABEL**  
(Partner)  
M.No:-074010

*Piyanka Singh*  
Chief Executive

Rs.		
SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS ON MARCH 31,	2016	2015
<b>SCHEDULE 4: SPECIFIED FUNDS</b>		
<b>A: RafeBullick Foundation Mem. Fund</b>		
-Opening Balance	6,806,532	6,516,887
-Contributions received	-	(0)
Add: Transfer of Interest from Income & Expenditure Account	223,034	289,645
Total	7,029,566	6,806,532
<b>B: Staff Welfare Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	1,546,791	1,516,157
Add: Interest for the year	196,470	197,340
Add: Trf. From General Reserve	100,000	100,000
Add: Contributions by Staff members	45,300	22,000
Less: Utilised during the year	256,350	288,706
Total	1,632,211	1,546,791
<b>C: General Welfare Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	507,655	432,900
Trf. From General Reserve	200,000	200,000
Less: Utilised during the year/(loan recovered against fund)	122,097	125,245
	585,558	507,655
<b>D: Group Leave Encashment fund</b>		
Opening Balance	13,801,522	10,499,233
Add: Addition during the Year	34,065	3,216,790
Add: Interest for the year	1,194,944	999,556
Less: Utilised during the year	1,047,605	914,057
	13,982,926	13,801,522
<b>E: Women Welfare Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	507,321	535,886
- Contribution Received during the year	-	-
Add: Interest for the year	19,893	21,435
Less: Utilised during the year	10,000	50,000
	517,214	507,321
<b>F: R.D. Tata Interest Fund</b>		
<b>i) R.D. General Interest Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	10,722,527	8,900,354
Add: Transfer of Interest	1,871,762	1,822,173
	12,594,289	10,722,527
<b>ii) R.D. G.V.K. Interest Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	2,216,256	1,610,927
Add: Transfer of Interest	621,802	605,329
Less: Utilised during the year	-	-
	2,838,058	2,216,256
Total	15,432,347	12,938,783
<b>Grand total (A to F)</b>	<b>39,179,822</b>	<b>36,108,604</b>

As per our report of even date  
for **D.S.BABEL & CO.,**  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants

*Anchita*  
President

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016



*[Signature]*  
**D.S.BABEL**  
(Partner)  
M.No:- 074010

*Riyanka Singh*  
Chief Executive



		Rs.	
SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS ON MARCH 31,		2016	2015
<b>SCHEDULE 5 :FIXED ASSETS</b>			
<b>Land and Buildings</b>			
Opening Balance	30,648,102		30,648,102
Add : Addition during the year	-		-
	30,648,102		30,648,102
Less : Written Off	3,725		
		30,644,377	
<b>Furniture ,Fixtures and Equipments</b>			
Opening Balance	18,140,959		18,979,860
Add : Addition during the year	1,496,741		548,155
	19,637,700		19,528,015
Less : Written Off	1,542,387		1,387,056
		18,095,313	18,140,959
<b>Library Books</b>			
Opening Balance	186,260		186,260
Add : Addition during the year	-		-
	186,260		186,260
Less : Written Off	-		-
		186,260	186,260
<b>Vehicles</b>			
Opening Balance	7,746,691		7,547,365
Add : Addition during the year	1,863,093		283,641
	9,609,784		7,831,006
Less : Written Off	493,536		84,315
		9,116,248	7,746,691
<b>Kaya Training Center Building,Furniture ,Fixtures and Equipments</b>			
Opening Balance	1,030,948		938,088
Add : Addition during the year-Kaya	94,714		92,860
	1,125,662		1,030,948
Less : Written Off	-		-
		1,125,662	1,030,948
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>59,167,860</b>	<b>57,752,960</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 6: INVESTMENTS (At Cost)</b>			
<i>Long term: Maturity Period over one year</i>			
Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks		128,086,553	115,285,155
Investment with LIC ag. Leave Encashment Fund		13,982,926	13,801,522
Interest Accrued on Investments		14,549,526	22,207,124
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>156,619,005</b>	<b>151,293,801</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 7: CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
<b>Cash and Bank Balances</b>			
In hand		-	-
In Scheduled Banks in			
Saving Bank Accounts		20,518,649	25,501,829
Fixed Deposit & OthersAccounts (Short Term: Maturing within a year)		46,286,335	37,695,000
Interest Accrued on Fixed Deposits (Maturing within a year)		-	3,509,964
Stock in hand (valued at Cost or Market value whichever is less)		39,827	70,855
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>66,844,811</b>	<b>66,777,648</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 8: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Sundry Creditors</b>		3,255,552	2,147,385
<b>Security Deposit - Staff</b>		3,738,828	3,595,051
<b>- Others</b>		1,116,003	872,092
<b>Gram Vikas Kosh</b>		913,356	1,350
<b>Outstanding Liabilities</b>		1,306,515	1,500,646
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>10,330,254</b>	<b>8,116,524</b>

As per our report of even date  
for **D.S.BABEL & CO.**  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants

*Anshu*  
President

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016



**D.S.BABEL**  
(Partner)  
AN.No-074029

*Riyanka Singh*  
Chief Executive

SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS ON MARCH 31,		2016	2015
<b>SCHEDULE 9: GRANTS AND DONATIONS</b>			
<b>A. GRANTS</b>			
<b>Foreign Contributions:</b>			
Global Giving	2,352,854		4,221,947
Plan India	34,200,000		29,176,000
Brut für die Welt -Germany(EED)	30,110,774		13,930,104
Friends of Seva Mandir, UK	16,674,962		7,882,013
RBS Foundation, India	12,317,985		7,004,500
CAF India - New Delhi	6,204,680		
UNWW Target International	6,198,489		6,432,600
Canada India Village Aid Association	5,583,058		1,969,360
Friends of Seva Mandir, USA	3,291,875		9,864,076
ICRA's LTD	2,771,180		
Monsoon Accessories Trust	2,768,648		2,584,544
The Personnel Development Trust	2,415,375		7,185,063
Monsoon Trust Bahari	1,952,562		1,952,562
Asha for Education, U.S.A.	1,545,000		2,345,000
The Monsoon Accessories Trust	1,512,700		1,512,700
Saint Christopher School, London	1,183,520		222,000
Edukans Foundation	1,157,267		3,252,801
Yatra Foundation	1,134,300		1,348,250
Noragric Norwegian Norway	736,019		205,035
Global Giving UK	330,580		104,132
AGEH Germany	262,088		310,175
EED Research Project	222,454		2,229,532
Child Fund	374,544		1,008,760
NFI-Deleware Project	200,000		-
Give Foundation - (Non USA)	154,710		-
Site, Sweden-US	199,950		51,650
Chetna	95,278		-
Give Foundation	21,700		20,138
CWDS(Forces)	80,000		50,000
McGill University	-		9,199,434
Ananda Trust	-		1,237,567
Rafe Bullock Mem. Foundation	-		14,777
	136,042,236		115,324,700
Add : Interest on unspent	-		14,695
	136,042,236		115,339,395
Less : Return of Unutilised Grants	-		-
		136,042,236	115,339,395
<b>Indian Contributions:</b>			
Colgate Scholarship	8,000,000		
Larson & Toubro- Mumbai	3,556,323		275,000
COFAL Research India (P) Ltd.	3,842,880		3298260
AMBA Research India (P) Ltd.	3,857,120		3032038
NABARD Wadi Project	2,902,500		4340300
Mahendra & Mahendra Ltd.	2,700,000		2911078
Colgate Palmolive Ltd.	2,044,680		1,655,340
ONGC	2,008,826		246,163
Give Foundation	1,615,939		3,739,656
Mex India Foundation	1,400,000		1398000
IGWOP - Nabard	1,113,108		1,282,050
Hindustan Zinc Ltd-ZSO	1,000,000		1,000,000
D. Mart - A Venue Supermarkets Ltd. - Mumbai	991,130		-
SSA Infosystem Pvt. Ltd.	925,000		-
Tanet Sourcis (I) Pvt. Ltd.	737,282		-
Central Social Welfare Board (SSW), New Delhi			
	398,730		977,688
IBM Uttarpr	384,916		351,902
Larson & Toubro- Mumbai(SAO.)	250,000		-
ICRSAT ANDHRA PRADESH	210,108		480,000
Others	48,110		3,644,549
	35,596,632		28,129,019
Add : Interest on Unspent	-		79,446
	35,596,632		28,208,465
Less : Return of Unutilised Grants	79,446		411,370
		35,517,186	27,797,095
<b>Total (A)</b>		<b>171,559,422</b>	<b>143,136,490</b>
<b>B. DONATIONS</b>			
Foreign Donations	2,574,166		2,724,974
Indian Donations	2,177,800		1,152,911
Membership Fees	87,150		62,610
<b>Total (B)</b>		<b>4,839,116</b>	<b>3,940,535</b>

As per our report of even date  
for **D.S.BABEL & CO.,**  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants

Udaipur,  
Date: May 20, 2016



**D.S. BABEL**  
(Partner)  
AL No-479619

*Anshika*  
President

*Rajendra Singh*  
Chief Executive



Rs.		
SCHEDULES TO ACCOUNTS AS ON MARCH 31,	2016	2015
<b>SCHEDULE 10: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EXPENDITURE</b>		
Material Purchased	20,233,149	12,210,725
Salaries and allowances to development staff	49,748,027	46,073,577
Wages	10,382,852	5,961,350
Support to People Initiative	37,949,527	24,646,481
Training & Meeting Expenses	19,152,373	18,043,359
Support for Income Generation Activities	446,848	361,600
Feeding and Food Expenses	8,744,010	5,360,584
Rent, Water and Electricity	891,357	793,180
Consultancy Charges	4,386,826	5,368,971
Travel and Conveyance	4,684,220	3,877,155
Vehicle Running and Maintenance	2,433,325	2,609,727
Books and Audio Visual Expenses	486,890	479,763
Communication Cost	347,896	460,053
Printing, Stationery and Data Processing Charges	3,575,510	3,192,110
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,513,026	1,700,467
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>164,975,836</b>	<b>131,139,102</b>

As per our report of even date  
for **D.S.BABEL & CO.**  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants



**D.S.BABEL**  
(Partner)  
M.No.-074019

*Anshita*  
**President**

*Rijanta Singh*  
**Chief Executive**

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016





Funding Agency		OPENING BALANCE As on 1.4.2015	RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE		CLOSING BALANCE			
			Receipts during the year	Others/ (Refund)	Total	Recurring/Adjust ment	Non Recurring	Total	Overspent as on 31.03.2016	Unspent as on 31.03.2016
Plan JMO PHASE-I	30	-	9,172,888	-	9,172,888	9,126,655	46,233	9,172,888	-	-
	32	17,443	2,271,465	-	2,271,465	2,288,908	-	2,288,908	-	-
	34	536,052	1,545,000	-	1,545,000	1,562,336	-	1,562,336	-	518,716
	36	(269,042)	-	-	-	-	-	-	269,042	-
Monsoon Accessorize Trust	38	(90,794)	2,768,648	-	2,768,648	2,754,469	-	2,754,469	76,615	-
Plan-Balrithinadhi	40	76,981	3,260,894	-	3,260,894	3,711,712	157,090	3,868,802	530,927	-
Rafle Bullick Mem. Foundation	41	40,179	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,179
Plan JMO Phase II	45	-	-	-	-	409,406	-	409,406	409,406	-
Plan India (2011-12)	46	-	10,836,360	-	10,836,360	10,756,166	-	10,756,166	-	80,194
Give Foundation	61	-	21,706	-	21,706	21,706	-	21,706	-	-
Give Foundation (Non USA)	62	-	154,710	-	154,710	154,710	-	154,710	-	-
Global Giving UK	FA	69,722	330,580	-	330,580	400,302	-	400,302	-	-
CEC, Hyderabad	FB	(370,581)	-	-	-	-	-	-	370,581	-
Plan Engendered	FC	217,718	522,498	-	522,498	740,216	-	740,216	-	-
CWDS(Forces)	FD	11,880	90,000	-	90,000	101,880	-	101,880	-	-
Target International	FK	-	6,198,489	-	6,198,489	1,247,720	-	1,247,720	-	4,950,769
The Personnel Development Trust	FL	87,328	2,415,375	-	2,415,375	2,502,703	-	2,502,703	-	-
Edukans Foundation	FN	178,928	1,157,367	-	1,157,367	1,332,277	-	1,332,277	-	4,018
Noragric Norwegian Norway	FO	(1,791)	736,019	-	736,019	830,307	-	830,307	96,079	-
AGEH Germany	FP	13,775	262,088	-	262,088	275,863	-	275,863	-	-
Monsoon Trust	FQ	4,659,272	-	-	-	4,659,272	-	4,659,272	-	-
Total Other Funds(Forgien)(A)		19,316,990	136,042,236	-	136,042,236	141,061,653	1,263,130	142,324,783	2,292,483	15,326,926



# Seva Mandir

Funding Agency		OPENING BALANCE	RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE			CLOSING BALANCE	
		As on 1.4.2015	Receipts during the year	Others/ (Refund)	Total	Recurring/Adjustment	Non Recurring	Total	Overspent as on 31.03.2016	Unspent as on 31.03.2016
OWN FUNDS										
Ford Foundation Endowment Fund - Interest (Reserve)	94	15,528,564	-	2,450,101	2,450,101	-	-	-	-	17,958,665
Seva Mandir - Foreign Non Corpus	98	6,625,627	1,400	4,616,526	4,617,926	4,002,639	-	4,002,639	-	7,240,914
SM Donations(Foreign)	83	-	2,574,166	-	2,574,166	2,537,766	36,400	2,574,166	-	-
Rafle Bullick Mem. Foundation Fund- Others	87	2,806,532	-	642,734	642,734	419,700	-	419,700	-	3,029,566
Rafle Bullick Mem. Foundation Fund	88	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Anglo American Fund	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ford Foundation - Endowment Fund	93	24,410,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,410,000
Seva Mandir - Foreign Corpus	91	37,395,240	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	39,395,240
Total Own Funds(Foreign)(B)		90,745,963	2,575,566	9,709,361	12,284,927	6,960,105	36,400	6,996,505	-	96,034,385
Total Foreign(A+B)		110,062,953	138,617,802	9,709,361	148,327,163	148,021,758	1,299,530	149,321,288	2,292,483	111,361,311
								Net Balance		109,068,828

for D.S.BABER & CO.  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants



A.S. BABER  
(Partner)

M.No:-074010

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016  
(Partner)

Piyush Singh  
Chief Executive

Anshika  
President



SCHEDULE 11: FUND BASED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Rs.

SCHEDULE 11: FUND BASED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS									
Funding Agency		OPENING BALANCE	RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE			CLOSING BALANCE
		As on 1-4-2015	Receipts during the year	Others/ (Refund)	Total	Recurring/Adjustment	Non Recurring	Total	Overspent as on 31-03-2016
<b>INDIAN AGENCIES</b>									
D.R.D.A S.G.S.Y. Program	JA	960	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vedanta Foundation	JB	-	23,520	-	23,520	36,000	-	36,000	12,480
Give Foundation	JC	1,995,521	1,615,939	-	1,615,939	4,029,429	-	4,029,429	417,969
Central Social Welfare Board (SSW), New Delhi	JE	(417,736)	398,730	192,958	591,688	668,825	-	668,825	494,873
IBM Unleash	JF	(273,260)	384,916	-	384,916	448,252	-	448,252	336,596
Min. of Panchayati Raj. (Dist Mil.)	JH	(38,515)	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,515
Charities Aid Foundation,India	JI	(43,663)	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,663
NAREEG- Jharkhand	JK	(43,534)	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,534
Hindustan Zinc Ltd-ZSD	JL	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-
Rafle Bullick Mem. Foundation	JN	154,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	154,520
Childline Foundation	JO	327,123	-	-	-	1,196,912	-	1,196,912	869,789
IGNDP - Nabard	JC	927,565	1,113,108	-	1,113,108	1,455,516	-	1,455,516	585,157
ONGC	ID	(45,679)	2,008,826	-	2,008,826	2,205,810	-	2,205,810	242,663
D. Mart - A Venue Supermarkets Ltd. - Mumbai	IE	-	991,130	-	991,130	734,340	256,790	991,130	-
NAUP-NBPOR	IF	(159,202)	-	-	-	-	-	-	159,202
Larson & Toubro- Mumbai	IG	(275,000)	3,356,323	-	3,356,323	3,797,565	1,067,006	4,864,571	1,783,248
SSA Infosystem Pvt. Ltd.	IH	-	925,000	-	925,000	-	-	-	925,000
CSWB - Swadhar Greh, N.D.	II	(612,204)	-	612,204	612,204	-	-	-	-
Target Sourcing (I) Pvt. Ltd	IK	-	737,282	-	737,282	737,282	-	737,282	-
Colgate Palmolive Ltd.	IL	-	2,044,660	-	2,044,660	2,044,660	-	2,044,660	-
Colgate Scholarship	IM	-	6,000,000	-	6,000,000	-	-	-	6,000,000



Funding Agency	OPENING BALANCE As on 1.4.2015	RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE			CLOSING BALANCE	
		Receipts during the year	Others/ (Refund)	Total	Recurring/Adjustment	Non Recurring	Total	Overspent as on 31.03.2016	Unspent as on 31.03.2016
ICRISAT ANDHRA PRADESH									
	(1,263)	210,108	-	210,108	208,845	-	208,845	-	-
Jagat Sh Library Grant	1,000,000	-	-	-	385,992	-	385,992	-	614,008
Larson & Toubro- Mumbai(BAD.)	(260,000)	260,000	-	260,000	-	-	-	-	-
NABARD Wadi Project	1,526,220	2,902,500	(18,575)	2,883,925	3,123,887	-	3,123,887	-	1,286,258
Max India Foundation	-	1,400,000	-	1,400,000	1,400,000	-	1,400,000	-	-
Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan-TSC	(240,304)	-	-	-	1,444,394	-	1,444,394	1,684,698	-
Mahendra & Mahendra Ltd.	2,532,995	2,700,000	-	2,700,000	2,508,519	-	2,508,519	-	2,724,476
COPAL Research India (P) . Ltd.	-	3,842,880	-	3,842,880	3,842,880	-	3,842,880	-	-
AMBA Research India (P),Ltd	-	3,657,120	-	3,657,120	3,657,120	-	3,657,120	-	-
Childline India Foundation -Mumbai	-	24,590	-	24,590	455,233	9,900	465,133	440,543	-
MGNREGA- BADGAON	(18,451)	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,451	-
MGNREGA-GIRWA	(9,324)	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,324	-
MGNREGA-KHERWARA	(133,681)	-	-	-	-	-	-	133,681	-
MGNREGA - JHADOL	(104,724)	-	-	-	-	-	-	104,724	-
MGNREGA- KOTRA	(96,333)	-	-	-	-	-	-	96,333	-
MGNREGA - KUMBHALGARH	(865)	-	-	-	-	-	-	865	-
MGNREGA - BHINDER	(10,138)	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,138	-
NREGS - GOGUNDA	(503)	-	-	-	-	-	-	503	-
<b>Total Others(Indian)(C)</b>	<b>5,680,525</b>	<b>35,596,632</b>	<b>786,587</b>	<b>36,383,219</b>	<b>35,381,461</b>	<b>1,333,696</b>	<b>36,715,157</b>	<b>6,941,792</b>	<b>12,290,379</b>
<b>OWN FUNDS</b>									
Seva Mandir - Non Corpus	14,342,812	85,750	3,670,597	3,756,347	1,170,529	726,608	1,897,137	-	16,202,022
STAFF WELFARE FUND	1,546,791	-	296,470	296,470	211,050	-	211,050	-	1,632,211
GENERAL WELFARE FUND	507,655	-	200,000	200,000	122,097	-	122,097	-	585,558





Funding Agency	OPENING BALANCE As on 1.4.2015	RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE			CLOSING BALANCE	
		Receipts during the year	Others/ (Refund)	Total	Recurring/Adjustment	Non Recurring	Overspent as on 31.03.2016	Unspent as on 31.03.2016
SM Donation (Indian)	84	2,177,800	-	2,177,800	2,177,800	-	-	0
Group Leave Encashment Fund	85	-	181,404	181,404	-	-	-	13,982,926
Women Welfare Fund	86	507,321	19,893	527,214	10,000	-	-	517,214
R.D.Tata Trust-Interest	89	12,938,783	2,493,564	15,432,347	-	-	-	15,432,347
R.D.Tata Trust-Seva Mandir Corpus Fund	90	17,757,518	266,363	18,023,881	-	-	-	18,023,881
Kaya Training Center	92	6,046,771	525,559	6,572,330	355,000	94,714	-	6,122,616
Seva Mandir - Indian Corpus	92	46,333,580	500,000	46,833,580	-	-	-	46,833,580
<b>Total Own(Indian)(D)</b>		<b>113,782,753</b>	<b>8,153,850</b>	<b>121,936,603</b>	<b>4,046,476</b>	<b>821,322</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,335,355</b>
<b>Total Indian(C+D)</b>		<b>119,463,278</b>	<b>8,940,437</b>	<b>128,403,715</b>	<b>39,427,937</b>	<b>2,155,018</b>	<b>6,941,792</b>	<b>131,625,734</b>
<b>Total Others(Foreign &amp; Indian)(A+C)</b>		<b>24,997,515</b>	<b>786,587</b>	<b>25,784,102</b>	<b>176,443,114</b>	<b>2,596,826</b>	<b>9,234,275</b>	<b>27,617,305</b>
<b>Total Own Funds(Foreign &amp; Indian)(B+D)</b>		<b>204,528,716</b>	<b>17,863,211</b>	<b>222,391,927</b>	<b>11,006,581</b>	<b>857,722</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>215,369,740</b>
<b>Gross Total (Indian and Foreign)</b>		<b>229,526,231</b>	<b>18,649,798</b>	<b>248,176,029</b>	<b>187,449,695</b>	<b>3,454,548</b>	<b>9,234,275</b>	<b>242,987,045</b>
<b>Over Spent Balances</b>		<b>8,535,366</b>					<b>9,234,275</b>	
<b>Un Spent Balances</b>		<b>33,532,881</b>					<b>27,617,305</b>	
<b>Net Overspent/unspent Project Balances Carried over to Balance Sheet</b>		<b>24,997,515</b>		<b>172,425,455</b>			<b>18,383,030</b>	
<b>Net Overspent/unspent Project Balances transferred to Income and Expenditure A/c</b>								<b>(6,614,485)</b>

Over Spent Balances

Un Spent Balances

Net Overspent/unspent Project Balances Carried over to Balance Sheet

Net Overspent/unspent Project Balances transferred to

Income and Expenditure A/c

for D.S.BABEL & CO.,  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants



D.S.BABEL  
(Partner)  
M.No.-474118

Pipal Singh  
Chief Executive

Anshu  
President

Udaipur,  
Dated: May 20, 2016

**SCHEDULE-12: ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016**

*A Significant Accounting Policies:*

*(Followed in framing the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2016)*

Accounting Policies on Development Activities:

1. In consonance with the aims and objects of the Seva Mandir-
  - a. takes up rural development projects to promote:
    - i Capital formation in the rural societies by creating basic infrastructure which could lead to improvement and sustaining their livelihood activities, such as land improvement, water supply for irrigation, water table management through water shed programs, other natural resource management activities, afforestation etc.
    - ii Human development activities which results in living standards such primary education, non-formal education, health care, Women and Child Development program etc.
    - iii Income generation programs for increase in the levels of income to the poor.
  - b. Promotes
    - i People's Organization in the form of Community Based Development Institutions to manage their own economic activities and maintenance of community assets built by the Trust.
    - ii Women's' mutual credit and savings groups, associations of such groups and federations to enhance the savings and borrowing power of the rural poor women with a aim to mobilize these funds for their income generation activities and to substitute their other credit needs from the local money lenders.
  - c. Works with the poor through these locally active Institutions and groups whether formally recognized under any law or not, in the accomplishment of its mission.
2. Of the above activities carried on the Trust
  - a. All expenses incurred whether for village infrastructure or for human development, in the services rendered to the rural poor have been treated as Development Program Expenditure and are so stated in the accounts.
  - b. In the case of rural development projects, which are in the nature of creation of capital assets for the rural communities, they are also written off as Development Program Expenditure. The community assets so created are handed over the village communities, which are organized as Gram Vikas Kosh in each of villages, where developmental activities are undertaken by the Trust.
  - c. In the case of development expenditure not resulting in creation of any community assets, but result in the general improvement in the livelihood or living standards, such as health care, family planning, women development, education etc. they same is charged off a revenue expenditure in the books of the Trust.
3. Wherever any of the above services results income generation to the community as a whole, the Trust plays a role of intermediary catalyst and institutes separate fund. This fund is treated as a separate entity with a view to transfer the same to the community at appropriate time of their maturity. Though this forms part of the Trust's operations for the time being they are more in the nature of cooperatives and hence the surplus or deficit are retained in the books of the entity, though the initial funds and subsidies provided are treated as liability in the books of the Trust.
4. The Trust has formed several Gram Vikas Kosh i.e. Community Based Developmental Institutions, as an entry point for directing its developmental efforts in villages or area where the Trust has chosen to work with. Most of the expenditure for creation of such village level community infrastructure are incurred in consultation with the Community and a portion of the cost of labor for such efforts by the





community is directed towards the Kosh to enable them to become sustainable in future for maintenance of such infrastructure created.

5. The Trust has also been actively promoting women's self help groups to promote savings and thrift among the poor. The groups are promoted and supported by the Trust but essentially managed by the groups themselves. The external financial assistance for the groups to meet their immediate financial needs are directly secured by the groups with the assistance of the Trust, though the Trust does not financially involve in these transactions nor provides any financial or operational guarantees to lenders of the SHGs.
6. The expenditure on projects taken up with the support of donor agencies is, as far as possible, incurred according to the plans and budgets agreed upon. However, deviations do occur some times at the time of project execution depending upon the circumstances, location, awareness among the beneficiaries, local customs, availability of inputs, legal restrictions etc. Such variations monitored regularly are generally intimated to the donor agencies in advance.

**Financial Accounting Policies:**

1. The Trust follows accrual basis of accounting for all expenses (to the extent known) and cash basis for grants and donations except to the extent otherwise stated. Interests on investments are also accounted for on accrual basis.
2. All the accounting standards as applicable to the operations of the trust are being followed.
3. The books are drawn up on historical cost convention method based on the concept of going concern.

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**B: Notes on Accounts:**

**1. Fixed Assets:**

- a. All fixed assets are stated at cost.
- b. No depreciation is charged on the assets.
- c. Whenever the assets are sold the sale proceeds are transferred to Income and Expenditure Account as profit on sale of assets.
- d. Except Land and Buildings, the Trust does not estimate any significant realizable value of the other assets held.

**2. Method of Accounting:**

- a. All the grants and donations received, other than for corpus, on execution of rural development projects are taken as Income and all expenses incurred on these projects are taken as expenditure. The unspent balance of funding agencies shown under current liabilities and overspent balance of funding agencies shown under current assets at the end of the financial year.
- b. Funding wise project wise receipts and payments are individually prepared and annexed to the main accounts in Schedule 11, which are co related to the consolidated main accounts.

3. **Corpus Grants:** Donations, grants and legacies received specially for the purposes of Corpus are credited to the Corpus accounts and principal grant is not utilized, but for the earnings on the investments of these grants.
4. **Development Program Expenditure:** The Trust is engaged in building its internal control systems to account for the Development Program Expenditure through appropriate ascertainment of utilization of material, labor and other efforts in respect of each of the micro projects undertaken, which results in community assets.
5. **Community Based Development Organizations:** The financial transactions of Community Based Development Institutions or the Savings and Credit Groups promoted by the Trust are neither reflected



## Seva Mandir

in the books of the Trust nor managed by the Trust. However, the Trust is making its efforts to support these groups to maintain the books of accounts and consolidate the same. As at the end of March 31, 2016 the finances of these groups were:

	No.	Net Owned Funds (Rs.)
a. Gram Vikas Kosh	647	5,74,01,148
b. Women Self Help Groups	665	7,41,72,016

6. Expenditure incurred by the Governing Board Members Travel : Rs.1,58,675.00

7. Auditor Remuneration Includes :-

Audit Fee (including service tax)	1,40,000
Income Tax	60,000
Reimbursement of Expenses	2,500
Total	2,02,500

8. Contingent liabilities:-

(a) In respect of liabilities of peoples' organizations and trusts where the trust is involved in the promotion and management of the same. - Not ascertainable.

(b) The Employees Provident Fund & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 applies to Seva Mandir and assessments of Seva Mandir have been completed up to Financial Year 2007-08. The disputed demand outstanding up to the said Financial year is Rs. 49.67 lacs (under section 14-B and 7-Q of Employees Provident Act, 1952) out of which whole amount of Rs. 49.67 lacs has been deposited by the Seva Mandir under protest after lose the case from Appellate authority. Now the said appeal has been placed before the Honable High Court, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The advance deposit balance of Rs. 49.67 lacs is shown under Loans and advances in Balance Sheet. The Raj. High court, Jodhpur has accepted our writ petition No.6631/10. The Honourable Judge was of the opinion that the interest/damages levied vide order no-RJ/UDR/DAMAGES/8350/56/7613 dated-15-09-2008 is unjust and the case has been remanded for review the order to concerned authority (RPF Commissioner) and the decision given in favour of Seva Mandir by the concerned authority subject to appealable by PF Dept. within stipulated time limit under the court of law. Based on the case file to the Honourable High Court and decision given by the RPF commissioner and the interpretations of other relevant provisions, the organization has been advised that the demand is likely to be either deleted or substantially reduced and accordingly no provision has been made.

9. As certified by the management Rs.94.35 lacs have been leverage under various schemes (such as MENERGA, ICRISAT and Jhabla Watershed from Nabarad) from the Government for the social welfare of the community. This amount has been spent directly for the welfare of the community and not accounted for in our books of accounts.

10. Previous year figures have been regrouped and rearranged wherever necessary to correspond to the current year figures.

At Udaipur, dated: May 20, 2016

For **D.S. BABEL Co.**,  
FRN NO:- 005755 C  
Chartered Accountants

**D.S. BABEL**  
( Partner )  
M.No.074010



*Anshika*  
President

*Piyush Singh*  
Chief Executive



- Anganwadi: government-sponsored mother- and childcare centre
- Anicut: dam
- ANM: Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
- ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist, government health worker
- Bal Manch: Children's Forum
- Bal Sakhi: woman trained by SM to provide care to children 0-5, identify problems and refer cases for further treatment as appropriate
- Bal Samuh: Children's Group
- Balwadi: SM-run preschool
- Bigha: approx. 1/3 acre
- Block: administrative division of a District
- Bride price: a sum paid by the groom or his family to the bride's parents
- Caste Panchayat: non-government decision-making body set up by a community along caste lines
- CCCD: Child-Centred Community Development
- CFR: Community Forest Rights
- CHC: Community Health Centre
- Chief minister Aawas: a benefit designed to provide affordable housing for all in Rajasthan
- Chokla: a committee formed by all caste panchayat heads (or mukhtas) from a cluster of villages
- Cluster: group of panchayats
- Comprehensive Plan: Seva Mandir's three-year plan covering work across all the programmes to be funded by unrestricted donations
- ECCD/E: Early Childhood Care and Development/Education
- FD: Forest Department
- FIR: First Information Report prepared by the police when a crime is reported
- FORCES: Forum for Creches and Child Care Services, a national-level network which does advocacy on child rights
- FPC: Forest Protection Committee
- Gram Panchayat: small village group below panchayat level
- Gram Sabha: Village Assembly
- Gram Vikas Committee (GVC): Village Development Committee
- Gram Vikas Kosh (GVK): Village Fund
- Gram Vikas Samuh (GVS): Village Development Group
- ICDS: Integrated Child Development Services scheme, the largest government scheme for young children
- ICRISAT: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
- IFR: Individual Forest Rights
- JFM: Joint Forest Management
- Khushi Baby: project to improve monitoring of child vaccination by digitizing individual vaccine records using low-cost technology that does not require high-level connectivity
- MGNREGA (sometimes NREGA): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, a government initiative to provide assured employment via development activities prescribed by the panchayats
- MLA: Member of the Legislative Assembly
- Mohalla: neighbourhood
- MWCD: Ministry of Women and Child Development
- NABARD: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- NRD: Natural Resources Development
- Nagrik Vikas Manch (NVM): Citizen's Development Forum
- Palanhar: a government scheme which provides scholarships to orphans for education and other basic care
- Panch: member of panchayat
- Panchayat: village-level elected government body
- Panchayati Raj: system of three-tier governance in which the panchayat is the basic form of administration, followed by an elected body at block level, and finally at district level
- PDS: Public Distribution System, a government-sponsored chain of shops distributing basic food and non-food commodities to the needy at very low prices
- PHC: Primary Health Centre
- PRI: Panchayati Raj Institution, an institution operating under the system described above
- Pradhan: head of the Panchayati Raj Institution at block level
- Quintal: 100 kg
- Revenue wastelands: land belonging to the Revenue Department but not under cultivation, and not pastureland or forest
- RTE: The Right of Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, more popularly known as the Right to Education
- Sahayika: assistant to a Sanchalika in a Balwadi
- Samiti: group
- Samuh: group
- Sanchalika: woman trained by SM to work with young children in the Balwadi in her local area
- Sarpanch: head of the panchayat
- SHG: Self-Help Group, a women's group set up by SM to provide credit and savings
- SC/OBC: Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, officially designated groups of historically disadvantaged indigenous people in India
- Shiksha Kendra (SK): a bridge school run by SM to provide quality education to out-of-school children between the ages of 6 and 14 in remote rural hamlets
- Shivar: camp
- Support to People Initiative (SPI): an SM programme to improve accountability and responsibility of GVCs in running, monitoring and evaluating village projects
- TBA: Traditional Birth Attendant, midwife trained by SM
- Village Cohesion Index (VCI): a scale developed by SM to measure the status of institutions based on 4 indicators - participation, leadership, management (of resources, funds etc) and decision-making
- Wadi: orchard
- WASH: water, sanitation and hygiene
- YRC: Youth Resource Centre
- Zonal Federation: a federation of the elected members of GVCs within one field area whose task is to ensure supervision of development issues in a group of neighbouring villages. Their focus is on issues pertaining to larger populations.
- Zone: SM subdivision of a block





## Seva Mandir

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