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SAMBHALI SOS PROJECT FUNDING PROPOSAL

Submitted by: Sambhali Trust

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Govind Singh Rathore
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Statement of Need

Times of India 2 July 2014 (edited)

“JAIPUR: More than 40 women are approaching the police every day with complaints of domestic violence in the state. Nearly 10 cases of rape are being reported in every 24 hours and three women are being killed for dowry in 48 hours.

Shocked? Here is more: Rajasthan reports third highest number of 'crimes against women' cases like rape, sexual harassment, kidnapping, dowry harassment and domestic violence in the country, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. In terms of incidents of rape, the state has gained notoriety, reporting the second highest number of cases following only Madhya Pradesh.

As many as 27,933 crimes against women were reported in Rajasthan in 2013. In terms of total number of cases, the state is behind only Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh where 32,809 and 32,546 cases of crimes against women were registered last year. The cases of kidnapping also soared with the state ranking third following Uttar Pradesh and Assam. Rajasthan also reported an alarming number of dowry deaths ranking fourth in the country

Senior police officers argued that the high rate of crime is owing to easy registration of cases. "We have made it mandatory to register FIRs in cases of crime against women immediately. Earlier, the police used to lodge a complaint and FIR was registered only after the complaint was found to be true in preliminary investigation. Now every case reaching the police is being registered," said a senior police officer."

Incidences of crime against women in 2013 in Rajasthan (The National Crime Records Bureau)

Crime reported	Incidence
Rape	3285
Kidnapping and abduction	4047
Dowry deaths	453
Domestic abuse	15094

Sambhali SOS Project

This project has now established itself as a service that Sambhali is offering to all women and girls who need help, advice, counselling and support. Many women have been having difficulties paying medical bills for serious operations or treatment required by themselves or their families; women have asked for help who have been receiving abusive behavior from their husbands or their in-laws, due to dowry-related incidents or even by just becoming a widow and under threat of being thrown out of their house. There have been many cases during the year, where women have approached Sambhali for medical reasons, but also in cases of threatening and maltreatment from husbands and needing help to get legal advice as to which course of action to take. Women often find it extremely difficult to be listened to, accepted and understood as a woman alone and having Sambhali as a support system, helps to put forward their case. Sambhali has also helped babies suffering from malnutrition and one requiring an operation for a 'hole in the heart' operation.

This project is a combination of more than two projects which have now combined as one project to help serve a widespread need in the community:

Panaah Shelter Services

Nirbhaya HelpLine

Balwaadi Street Project

Panaah Shelter Services

Established in August 2012, this project was a response to a growing number of women approaching Sambhali Trust for help and advice in cases of domestic abuse, divorce, medical help and family disputes. This service aims to provide a needs-based approach to help these women who require help, through our co-ordinator Mrs Manju Mehta who will assess their need and provide counselling, medical and legal advice and support where necessary including accommodation on a short-term basis. Sambhali Trust has direct contact with a psychologist, Dr Reena Bhansali who is also on the Trust's national advisory board who acts also as the professional advisor in our 'No Bad Touch' Project. We have access to professionals from all the legal, police and medical services in Jodhpur that might be required to solve any particular issue.

All cases are individual, but most can be dealt with through an assessment interview, provision of professional help and continued support in their own community/area or through Mrs Mehta's follow-up calls. There is a budget for this project, and we have developed a set funding criteria; all medical and legal cases are taken on a case-by-case basis. It is firstly considered by Mrs Manju Mehta evaluating each case, and using the set criteria; then she then discusses the case with Govind Singh Rathore who gives the final confirmation.

Nirbhaya HelpLine

This is the first Tollfree phone line to be established in Rajasthan, which launched on 23 August 2014 aimed at providing help, advice and counselling to any women or girls who suffering. Mrs Manju Mehta is the primary person who receives the calls, who has a dedicated mobile phone with Mrs Vimlesh Solanki deputising as necessary. In a short term absence, Vimlesh deals with the calls and informs Mrs Mehta who later listens to the recording (all calls are recorded) and notes down the information. In a long-term situation, Vimlesh records all the information in the register.

The **HelpLine** is available between 9.00am-9.00pm, 7 days a week and people can arrange an appointment to meet Mrs Mehta in Sambhali on Mondays- Saturdays between 10.00-7.00pm.

Toll-Free Helpline Number -18001200020

This is listed on Google, and apart from a mass advertising campaign when it first launched, now spreads by word-of-mouth.

Cases are either resolved with advice on the phone-call, or if they become active, it will be normally followed up for about 10-days or until completion. There have been no instances when longer follow-up is required as yet.

Mr Sunil Dutt, Chief Inspector of Police in Jodhpur said that in the absence of such a mechanism, the last resort for women, subjected to crime, harassment, or cruelty, is either to continue being a victim or to approach the police. *"Many of these women hardly have access to police stations or courage to approach agencies and will be comfortable in making a call to the HelpLine,"* Dutt asserted, assuring that the help of police would always be there to make this HelpLine meets its objective.

Mrs Mehta maintains a directory of all helpful contact numbers which is being developed into an SOS Handbook and also maintains a register of all telephone calls/ cases.

Our Staff

Mrs Manju Mehta has been with Sambhali Trust for 6 years and has plenty of experience in dealing with women's issues and has developed many professional contacts in Jodhpur over several years working in this sector. Sambhali is linked with various State Departments concerned with Women and Child Welfare both in Jodhpur and Jaipur and we are connected with the latest developments and legislation through invitations by various government departments.

Mrs Mehta has attended workshops in Jaipur at the invitation of the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) to be updated on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012. Another invitation came from the Resource Institute for Human Rights for Third State People Consultation which was for a workshop on 'State Action and Charter of demands for Children 2013-14.' More recently, she attended a Divisional level

workshop about Child Rights organised by Department of Child Rights and District Child Protection Unit, Jodhpur and strengthened by Child Welfare Committee, Teenager Justice Board and supported by UNICEF, Rajasthan.

Balwaadi Street Project

The Balwaadi street children project was developed in 2011 to address the education and health needs of children living in Jodhpur. The volunteers designed a programme that specifically focused on three families in the area. They would deliver food and medicine in the morning and evening, along with teaching the family about different hygiene routines and family planning. The three-month long project focused on providing nutrients to malnourished members of the family, especially infants. These nutrients were provided by a doctor beforehand to ensure that the children would receive the proper amount of vitamins and minerals. Another element of the project was getting children living on the street to attend classes at the Jodhpur Centre. Prior to class the children were able to brush their teeth and take a shower. At the Centre classes focused on learning basic Maths skills along with improving their literacy in Hindi and English. At the end of the day when the children have returned to their families the volunteers would use this time to not only hand out more food and medicine, but also to play games with the children and offer some “free-time.” At one point the families found jobs in other areas so they would take their children during the day, but the volunteers would still go in the morning and evening to deliver food and medicine.

For the last 3 years, we have had donations of hand-knitted caps, scarves, socks and sweaters from the volunteers in our associate organisations in Germany and Switzerland. This way we are able to make sure the families who live in the tented shacks on the streets of Jodhpur are able to keep warm through the cold winter months. Sambhali has also been able to provide 40 people of the Scheduled and Dholi Castes from the Ratanada area of Jodhpur a series of 3 Hepatitis injections.

Sambhali joins the Girls Not Brides Partnership

Sambhali Trust has been invited to join Girls Not Brides in their global effort to abolish child marriage.

India currently has the largest number of child brides in the world with one in three child brides worldwide being Indian. Sambhali Trust has taken several child brides participating in our empowerment centres, providing them with an educational and vocational training providing them with the skills to transfer into an adult life.

Examples of Case Stories

1. **Rekha**. Her son name is Sowabh, 4 years old. He is suffering malnutrition. Because of this he is not able to walk, speak or doing work. For one year Sambhali Trust has provided him with food and medicine.
2. **Sandhiya** Age 35 years. Both her kidneys have failed, and financially she is not in a good position to pay for the regular dialyses treatment she needs every week. So Sambhali has provided her treatment from a governmental hospital with the help of Dr. Vikas. Every week Sambhali provides her free treatment for dialyses.
3. **Sua** is a 55 years old lady, who has a prolapsed uterus. Due to shyness she didn't tell anyone in her family and also to the doctor about the pain she was experiencing. She used to take medicines against back pain and knee pain from the doctor. From the October she started coming to Sambhali (Setrawa) and complained about the pain she was experiencing. So we consulted the doctor, he told us about a part of uterus of her is out from the body and immediately needs to be operated on. So in November she got operated and she got relief from her problems.
4. **Bismillah** is 70 years old and lived in Sojat in Hariyabhali village. Four years ago her husband died and then her nephew torched her and told her that she should give the whole property to them. After this, she wanted to take this case to court so prevent the harassment and stay in her own house, but when she went to a lawyer, he wanted 50,000 rupees to take the case on. She searched the website and found Sambhali Trust and so approached us to see if we could help her. Staff from Sambhali went to the police station and told the inspector that she needed help. He telephoned the inspector in Sojat, who said that he would make sure the woman was protected. After filing a report, the police stopped those family members who were torching this woman, so she was able to return to her house. Bismillah was happy that Sambhali had helped her and given advice to her; she knows she has our contact number should she require any more help in the future.
5. A girl named **Komal** has had a stomach and backbone problem for one year. She went to the hospital many times. She got check-up and medicine, but she wasn't freed from the pain, so she told Sambhali Trust about her problem this month. Mrs Mehta went to the private hospital with her and she received treatment. After that, we went to the governmental hospital for the free facilities. They did an ultrasonography and other tests and gave medicine for one month. The report showed that she has a stone in her stomach. By using the medicine, the stomach stone was removed. Now, Komal is feeling better.

6. **One woman from Sojat** (120km from Jodhpur) approached Sambhali for help. Her family had thrown her out of the house and so she came to Sambhali for help, where she was provided with a refuge whilst she was giving counselling. Our support gave this Muslim lady right to live in her home with no pressure to be thrown out by talking to her local police and her family.

7. **A woman named Anita** got married 15 years ago and has two sons and they are 14 and 8 years old. One year ago, her husband told her to sign a paper. This paper was a divorce paper but she didn't realise this. He showed it to the High Court and they received a divorce. He took the permission from the court to get divorced but to stay with the family. He then told his wife that they are actually divorced and he sent her back to her family's house. After that, he threatened her to kill her and beat her up and told her to be quiet about this matter.
Anita has a cousin, Seema from Gujarat and Seema called Mrs. Mehta, who called Anita and gave her some advice and counselling. They contacted the **Women Helping Centre** in Jodhpur, (run by an NGO in conjunction with Rajasthan police as part of the Women's police station. It is to provide counselling (Security and Advice) between the two parties before any case is filed) and the Centre called the husband and Anita. Sambhali Trust put more pressure on police and through our lawyer we made Anita more informed about her rights and how we can get her justice. She is now pursuing this case by herself and is much confident that she is not alone in this battle.

8. **Aarti** is a woman from the Ratanada area of Jodhpur, who belongs to the Dalit caste. She has been very sick three times and has become very weak (hypothermia). She needed to go to hospital and so she was taken to the hospital in Paota to get the correct treatment.

9. **Gurpreet**, lives in Punjab. She called us at 9 pm and she told us about a child marriage in a village called "Dukiya" in Rajasthan, which is prohibited in India. The age of the children is 9 years and 14 years. She called us on the HelpLine to stop the marriage. We immediately give this information to the Jodhpur police station. The police in Jaipur gave us the number of the police in Dukiya and we gave the number directly to Gurpreet. After that we requested the police officer who is in responsible in this area to reach this marriage. The police officer arrived at 1 o'clock at night at the correct place and took information about this marriage. Then the family members covered up the child marriage and said there was no child marriage, just an adult marriage. The police officer called them early in the morning with the help of the village sarpanch and the family members replied with a letter which said that they wouldn't attempt to perform that child marriage again. They also gave all the information to the Collector and the Women and Child community (ICDS).

Sambhali SOS Project

Mission Statement

Sambhali aims to provide an Emergency Medical and Legal Support Service which helps women (and their families) throughout Rajasthan, who are unable to afford emergency medical treatment or legal representation.

Through the **Emergency Provision Fund**, we aim to provide emergency support in cases of critical need; this may cover emergency medical care, diagnosis, emergency medication, ambulance transport, emergency shelter accommodation and other similar critical expenses. The aim is to provide critical needs assistance and once the situation has stabilised the person is transferred if necessary to Government services or other suitable organisations operating in Jodhpur. This would include medical conditions such as tuberculosis and long-term medical treatments such as kidney dialyses and HIV medication which Sambhali would provide for in the short-term (up to 3 months treatment) after which another organisation providing these same facilities and treatments would need to be found in Jodhpur, (Government hospitals/clinics or NGOs).

The **Legal Support Fund** would be available to pay for legal costs in matters of divorce, for those suffering from or at risk of domestic abuse, forced marriage and similar situations, who are unable to afford to pay for legal expenses.

The **Nirbhaya HelpLine** is a Toll-Free HelpLine, established in 2014 which covers the whole of Rajasthan and is available 9.00am-9.00pm. A member of Sambhali's staff will be able to offer advice and counselling on issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse as well as providing help with medical emergencies and legal support. We can arrange an appointment with our staff and provide links to other organisations offering more specialised help. Callers living around Jodhpur can be helped directly and those from other cities in Rajasthan are directed to other suitable local services.

Applications for funding emergency treatment and legal support are considered on a case by case basis and is only provided for those who are unable to afford the costs themselves. The Project Co-ordinator will assess the presenting need of the person, obtain a recommendation by a medical consultant or take legal advice and use financial criteria set by Sambhali Trust (family income under 15,000 rupees) to ascertain the required level of financial support Sambhali can provide.

Funding Need

Sambhali Trust would like to continue to run this project in 2015 through providing:

1. Panaah Shelter Services

To provide funding for Mrs Manju Mehta, Sambhali's Project Manager, to be able to provide counselling, advice and refer women to the most appropriate organisations in Jodhpur for support and treatment where necessary.

Over the past year approximately 60% of the cases were for medical reasons, requiring urgent operations, dialysis treatment, short and long-term medication. These women have suffered for long periods of time, without being able to afford the treatment they need and so have come to Sambhali for help.

Legal fees required would be the professional help of an advocate in cases where it was deemed essential and necessary to the well-being of the woman who was asking for Sambhali's support, that her case needed legal advice and/or documentation.

We are expecting there to be more cases in 2015 as knowledge of this project becomes more widely known.

2. Nirbhaya HelpLine

This is to provide funding for Mrs Manju Mehta to operate a mobile-phone service 12 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide support and advice to all female callers requiring help. She will also arrange appointments to see them 6 days a week. Such cases could also involve the professional help of various organisations and contacts within Jodhpur as well as similar medical, legal and other professional advice to that required by the Panaah Shelter Services.

An annual event promoting both the telephone HelpLine and the Panaah Shelter Services is under discussion, but would probably take the form of part of an existing annual conference that Sambhali Trust already holds in Jodhpur for its 'No Bad Touch' Project.

Criteria for Funding

a. Hardship

To be able to fund emergency support, we needed to define some criteria that would apply to those suffering from hardship and wouldn't be based on a subjective decision as to an individual need. Therefore, to match the needs of having a measurable financial criteria to ascertain

hardship and the capacity in India to measure, it has been decided by those staff closest to the project that there will be a monthly household income limit. Families with an income below the limit will be eligible, those above the limit will not. The limit will be 15,000 rupees month.

If families are able to afford the costs, Sambhali can still help by recommending services and mentoring but not providing financial support.

b. Criteria

Therefore, applications to the emergency provision fund must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Family are unable to afford/pay costs without suffering hardship and they are under the monthly income limit of 15,000 rupees
2. There is a critical need which is causing distress
3. There is a realistic likelihood of an improvement to the situation by providing emergency provision support
4. The medical treatments have been recommended by a medical consultant.

If one of the criteria is not met then the family are not eligible for support. The legal support provision can be the same with no. 4 removed.

Also:

1. The maximum amount one person can receive is 20,000 rupees, except in exceptional circumstances.
2. No cash will be given. Bills will be paid directly to hospital/legal firm and often one of the Sambhali staff would attend.

Sambhali SOS Provision Table

We have developed some tables, which Manju Mehta will fill in to keep a track of all of people we have helped, if they need more treatment etc as well as giving a balance of funds. We have this in both Excel format and paper format, as Mrs Mehta would prefer to use it in a paper format.

Funding Request

Based on calculations from 2014 and an expectation of increase in numbers of women approaching Sambhali Trust through the above services, we calculate the need for 2015 (January to December), to be **682,000 Indian rupees**, for which a budget is attached.