

# Annual Report 2015-2016





## Vision

*To develop the awareness and capabilities of individuals who have been deprived of their fundamental rights as a result of the inequalities that exist in our society.*

## Mission

*To provide rescue, rights and rehabilitative services to the communities in most need. To offer a safe exit point to women and their children trapped in the crippling cycles of poverty and abuse.*

## History

At 14-years old Girish Kulkarni turned up to his school friend's home. He did not know until he arrived that his friend and her mother were living and working in a brothel, in shockingly violent conditions. The brothel keeper was displeased by his visit and in a rage, inflicted indescribable abuse on the girl and her mother, making Girish stay to watch.

Appalled by the brutality he had been forced to witness, the young Girish made a promise to himself. He resolved there and then to devote his life to ending the atrocities faced by trafficked and enslaved women and children convinced that:

*"Every child and woman have the right to live a life free from inequality, cruelty and discrimination. This is the key to our nation building."*

Now an esteemed scholar, recognised by the nation and the Indian President for giving a voice and platform for change to India's hidden

population, it is Girish Kulkarni's vision that inspires Snehalaya in all our work.

We have come a long way since 1989, when we started education programmes for a handful of children of sex workers and palliative care for people affected by AIDS. We now serve over 29,000 beneficiaries each year running 16 key projects across four key areas, education, healthcare, rehabilitation, and awareness, that help them thrive in life.

Our services are primarily for women and children in communities affected by poverty and the commercial sex industry. We help to fight HIV and AIDS and to end human trafficking, improve education for deprived children and campaign for justice to bring rescue, rights and rehabilitation to those that need it.

We never give up because we know, first hand, just how resilient our beneficiaries have to be, we've been there every step of the way..



# From our Secretary

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2015/16.

Volunteering with Snehalaya brings me great personal joy, and I visit our projects almost daily to see first-hand the difference your support is making. We couldn't do any of this without you so, first and foremost, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your contribution.

Narrowing down what to include in this report is always difficult, so much happens in a year that it's impossible to cover all 16 projects and 29,000 beneficiaries' stories in one publication. Therefore, I'd urge you to pick up a copy of *Parivartanachi Pahat\** (*Dawn of Change*), which beautifully reveals our journey from innovative social initiative to leading non governmental organisation (NGO) for our HIV/AIDS work and for Women and Child Welfare. *Parissparsh\*\** (*Midas Touch*) is another compelling read sharing the deeply personal and inspiring motivations of the thousands of dedicated and passionate staff, well-wishers, donors and volunteers who have been the backbone of Snehalaya for the last three decades.

Among the good news for this year is the opening of Smiile and Snehbandhan, further improving the lives of our women and I'm especially delighted to report there were no HIV-related deaths at our Rehab Center this year. It's thanks to the health interventions and innovations such as the introduction of a Child Parliament in January that

we are able to enrich and save our children's lives. Our outreach programmes were given a huge boost when we were invited to join the year-long Students Stand with Malala campaign. Raising awareness in our local communities is at the core of our mission and creating a movement to improve girls' education has surpassed all of our expectations.

For those interested in the figures I'm happy to report another financially sound year with growth in our corpus and valuable new funding and CSR partnerships secured. We've also recently received 35AC accreditation which means corporates can claim 100% tax relief on donations, good news for them and even better news for Snehalaya.

With new developments including improved facilities for HIV health and adoption provision in development, we need your help in spreading the news of our great work even further. Please do get in touch if you would like us to speak with your organisation or if you can introduce us to potential funders and donors, our team is ready and waiting to share our life-changing projects and future plans.

From all of us at Snehalaya, thank you once again for your belief in our cause and continued support in continuing to improve the destinies of all of our beneficiaries.

*Rajiv Gujar, Secretary, Snehalaya*  
bhai@snehalaya.org

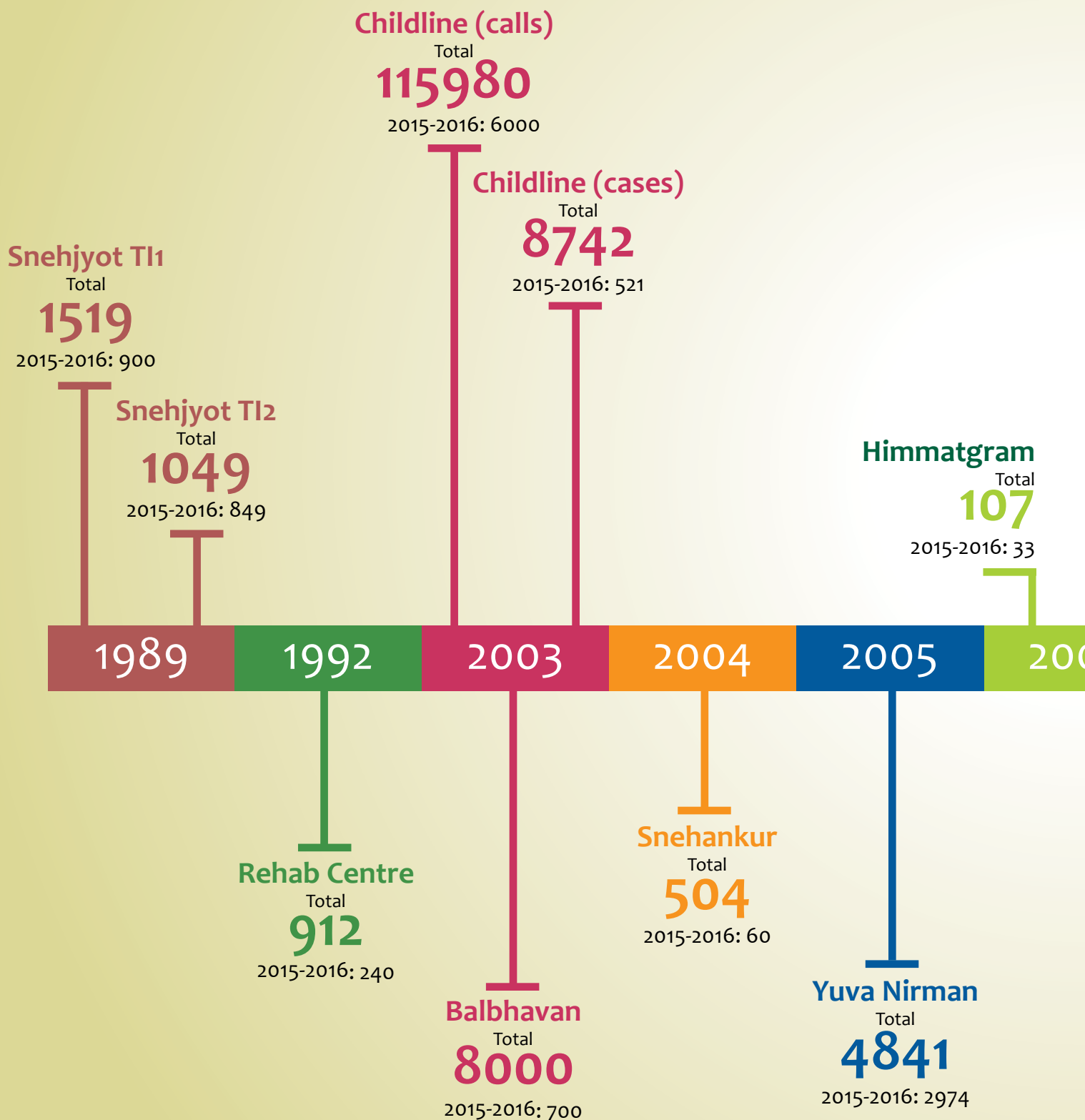


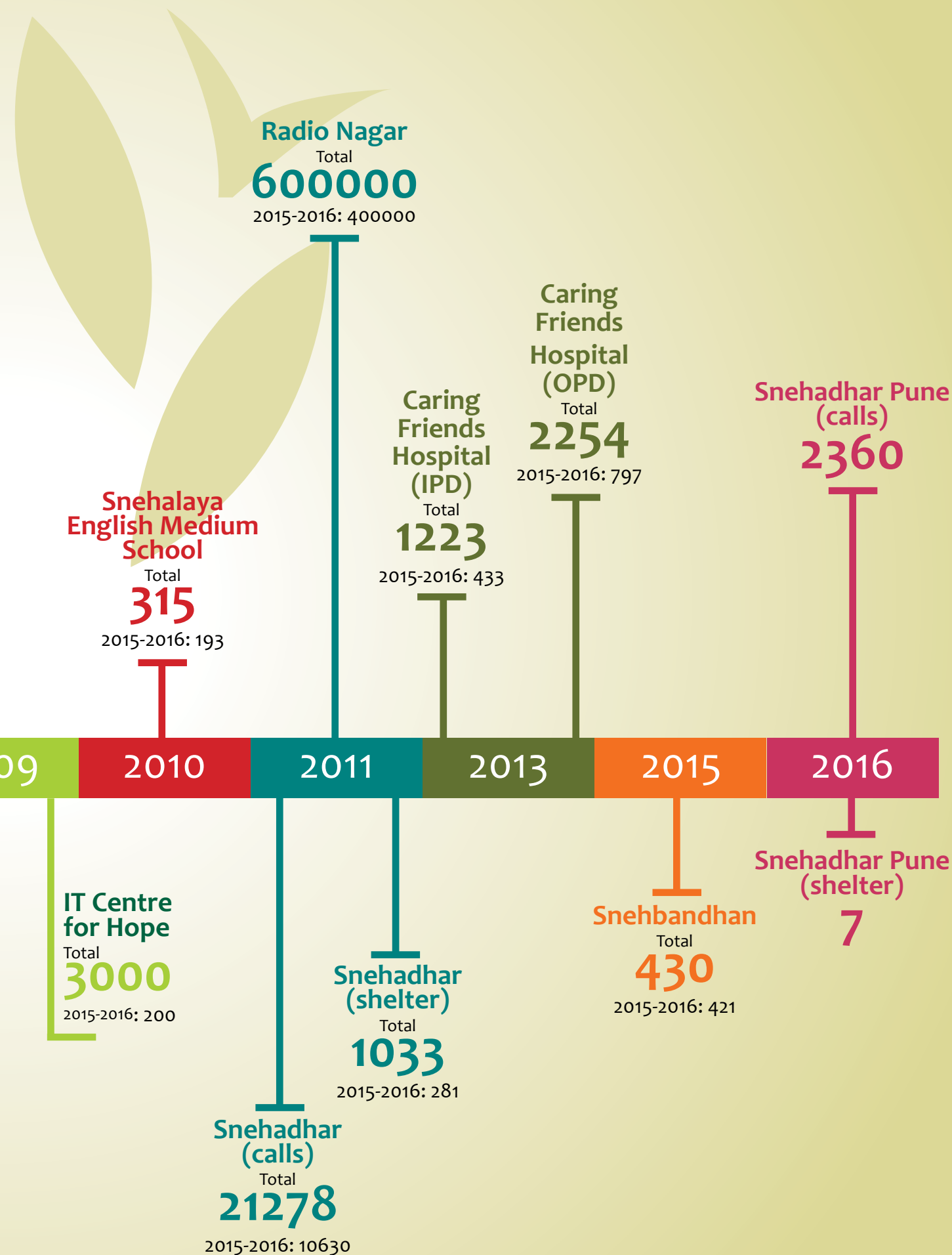
\* Written by Mrs Shubhangi Koparkar, trustee of our recently opened Snehadhar in Pune, it's proving so popular we're already onto our third reprint!

\*\*compiled by Professor Daya Bhor

# Snehalaya's Growth from 1989 to 2016

*After 27 years, when we look at our work and the numbers, we realise that it's just not numbers; behind each number is a story of life transformed and hope restored. We are happy to have touched so many lives.*





# Health Care





# World AIDS Week

Living with HIV brings various challenges, perhaps the hardest of which is living with the stigma attached to the condition. Finding a suitable marriage and family who accept you is another hurdle. Factor in HIV and AIDS and being an orphan or rejected by your family and community and the chances of finding a suitable match can seem impossible. This is why our activities to mark World AIDS Day, running for a week from 1 December each year, include a unique match-making event.

Invites are sent out to NGOs, ART and ICTC centers and the District AIDS Prevention & Control Unit (DAPCU) who help promote the event in the farthest corners of our state. More than 300 people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA) registered for our 2015 state level bride and groom interaction program on 2 December. Much like speed dating, attendees had three minutes to introduce themselves to their potential brides and grooms sharing their hobbies, incomes, the kind of person they were looking for and their future plans.

This was followed by a program with medical professionals offering advice on living with HIV/

AIDS after which there was an open session to get to know them a little bit better. Most had families to help in the ensuing negotiations and our Snehadhar and hospital staff were there to mediate for those who didn't. As a result, 14 couples found their life partner and on 15 December four couples sealed the deal with a wedding celebrated at our Rehab Center.

Other activities over National HIV/AIDS week included a rally, street plays and poster competition and exhibition, working with partners such as DAPCU, the Rotary Club of Ahmednagar, CSRD College and Amrutwahini NGO, reaching over 50,000 people. Over 150 MSM also attended an AIDS awareness programme, Gulabi Melawa, while over 400 female sex workers found out more about social schemes and rehabilitation processes at our Veer Ran-Ragini, and more than 30 advocates received information about HIV/AIDS.

Radio Nagar also interviewed a range of experts, including civil hospital doctors, counsellors and patients to bust some of the myths around the viruses.



“ Meeting and marrying Nilesh was the best thing to happen to me. When I was diagnosed with HIV, I thought I would never find someone who would want to marry me. Finding out about Snehalaya's programme offered me some hope. When I met Nilesh and heard his plans for the future I knew he was the one. Now I have a partner who truly understands and loves me.” Shubna

# Shrirampur Brothel Riots

Expanding from our Ahmednagar base, our Shrirampur office opened in 1996 in a small rented office in the city's red light area. In 2002, with generous support from the US NGO, Association for India's Development, we began our work with our group meetings, night care and clinics essential for educating sex workers on their health and rights..

A committee established by the women themselves soon started looking after the day-to-day running, administration and maintenance of the office to support the marginalised women, under the guidance of a former beneficiary and his wife, a trained nurse. They in turn were supported by a network of committed local volunteers. The project was a success in reducing STIs including HIV and helping women to understand their rights and alternatives to sex work.

In April 2015, land developers frustrated by their construction projects being devalued by their proximity to the red light area made a dramatic move. We believe they conspired with community leaders and authorities and fundamentalist religious groups, inciting them to take action not against the clients or brothel keepers but the women themselves.

One fateful Tuesday, Shrirampur's sex workers were rounded up and arrested by the police, under the Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act for soliciting in public places, and were moved over 100 miles

to Aurangabad where they were sentenced to one year in prison. Just three days later, following Friday prayers, an angry mob of over 1,000 flooded into the area demolishing their fragile tin and mud brick dwellings and looting their businesses. While the removal of the sex workers guaranteed no casualties, it also meant they were unable to defend their property. Fortunately, we were on hand and our office remained unscathed by the marauding crowd.

However, the impact was devastating; the whole area was completely demolished. The contractors had successfully achieved their aim of removing the red light area at the expense of the victims of the trade, the sex workers. Now homeless, those that did try to return after being bailed from prison were harassed, terrorised and beaten. They had no option but to relocate and try to rebuild their lives in nearby Kopargoan and Shirdi.

We implored the police to take action against the rioters, many of whom were given suspended or very light sentences. Unsatisfied, we completed freedom of information requests to find out further details, but were provided the bare minimum information. Eventually given the fact that the victims were either still in prison or had moved on we submitted to the inevitable outcome that in this case justice will not be served. However, our office continues to offer a strong base to support those sex workers who have moved to nearby areas such as Shirdi, where we also plan to open a new office soon.





“ We plan to provide a comprehensive package of prevention, care, support and treatment services to help these women overcome the darker side of their life. ”

Rahul Jewant is leading our outreach team building trust and our relationship among the closed Tamasha community



## A New Stage

In 1989, a teenage Girish Kulkarni took positive action to change the destiny of one female sex worker and her family. Nearly 30 years later our organization has grown substantially, but the plight of those forced, coerced or born into sex work remain at the core of what we do. Since April 2015, much like Girish did all those years ago, our Snehbandhan project has been working to form a relationship with a vulnerable and closed community where the health of women is at risk.

Tamasha is a hugely popular traditional Maharashtran theatre with singing and dancing performed by local theatre groups. Jamkhed in Ahmednagar District is one area known for this art form. Behind the veils, bright and shiny sarees, colourful flowers and heavy make-up lies a dark side. When the curtain falls, the crowds flocking to the nightly performances are increasingly demanding after-show entertainment in the form of sex workers.

Expanding our projects into a new community takes time. We can't simply turn up and expect to change lives overnight. First, we have to build trust with the sex workers, theatre owners and authorities.

Following a similar model to our first interventions in Ahmednagar, in Jamkhed we have opened a drop-in center and have been conducting outreach work to identify and register the sex workers and provide them with information about our project and the health risks associated with their work. We are progressively building a great relationship with the women. Conducting medical camps to test for STIs and HIV and the distribution of free condoms have helped them realise that our intentions are sincere and we have already identified and helped one woman with HIV. We currently have over 400 registered with us, some of whom we plan to recruit as peer workers to help promote our educational outreach and rehabilitation.

# Education





# Building the Future of Children in Slums

Our Balbhavans are unique models of social change for children living in seven of Ahmednagar's slums. Over 800 children are currently attending our extra-curricular classes and to date over 20,000 slum-dwellers have enjoyed access to our other support services.

## Saba – voicing a future for education in her community

*Saba, the energetic 19-year old has a never-say-die attitude. Living with her mother, brother and two sisters in a small one room hut just a stone's throw from our Mukundnagar Balbhavan, which is one of our seven slum community centres, Saba has stood firm and fought fervently every challenge that was thrown at her. "It was a difficult time for me, but I never gave up," says the steadfast Saba.*

*She entered our balbhavan playroom when she was in 6th standard. Saba soon became a regular attendee encouraging other children to get involved. Seeing how naturally she related to and influenced other young girls, Hanif our Project Director took her under his wing, and she became an official volunteer three years ago.*

*This year has been particularly challenging for Saba. Her father died around the time she first started coming to our centre, and his parents and brothers began finding a husband for Saba. Feeling pressured Saba turned to Hanif for guidance and support. Hanif approached her mother, a peer volunteer for our projects who knows the value of education. After intense negotiations, the in-laws finally agreed to postpone her marriage till Saba completes her studies and gains one year's work experience.*

*Saba is a real role model for other teenage girls, and to the Muslim community she lives in. She has won their respect by balancing her engineering degree with supporting her mother at home, encouraging others to stay in school, while also studying the Quran and attending to daily prayers*

*Her limitless energy and passion for education made her a natural choice to represent our balbhavan at an NGO Balparshad (child parliament) in Mumbai. Besides, she has recently enrolled in several of our IT Center courses to learn office computing skills, animation and a foreign language, which she hopes will help her secure a good government job once she graduates.*



“ Saba is a natural social worker, not afraid to stand up for her belief. She keeps me on my toes, always questioning and challenging the way we do things.”

Hanif Shaikh, Assistant Director Education



# Connecting Classrooms

Our English medium school delivers lessons in English for pupils primarily from our Rehabilitation Centre and surrounding slum districts. Since 2013, we have enjoyed a hugely beneficial partnership with Welland Park Academy in Leicestershire, UK, through Connecting Classrooms, a global education programme to help young people develop the knowledge, skills and values to live and work in a globalised economy, funded by the British Council.

Welland Park's school motto is 'learn for life' and their teaching practices focus on developing life skills as well as academic attainment and internationalism which plays an active role in school life. Each year, teachers from the UK school have spent a few weeks at our school with three of our teachers then visiting their institution to learn more about the UK education system. Through this partnership and those they have with 15 other schools in the UK and India, Welland Park was awarded the International Schools Award in 2015. The school also encourages their staff to take up continued professional development (CPD) opportunities in many different areas of teaching and learning which has influenced our school too.

During our teachers' visit in January they observed classes using different teaching methods and innovations, seeing how practical lessons with

teachers acting as guides to help children develop their own knowledge makes pupils more self-dependent and creative. They also learnt more about learning objectives, teaching aids, lesson planning, sharing of best practice, peer observation, student wellbeing, language teaching and the value of constructive feedback in a positive learning environment.

Through this exchange our school has learnt and introduced new skills which have led to the development of specialized teaching areas including maths, language, science, drawing and music sections and play rooms.

While in India, Welland Park teachers have observed and taught classes, set up a school library, conducted teacher training and decorated the school walls with designs to improve our students' English skills. The team from the UK has also monitored the school's progress over the years, playing an active role in developing strategy and providing our school principal with reports on their observations and recommendations while also providing regular reports to the British Council.

Although the funded partnership has ended, we look forward to continuing to work with Welland Park and are exploring a new partnership with St Margaret Primary School, for ages 3 to 12, in Stock Golding close to the academy.



“ This partnership allows students from different parts of the world to communicate, reflect upon their personal and professional identities and develop skills for their future work.”

Sarah Kenning, Welland Park Academy



# Rehabilitation



# A Reason to SMIILE!

Taking action to address the menstrual hygiene of our beneficiaries and raise awareness of good menstrual hygiene, we opened our latest vocational training initiative in January. SMIILE, our sanitary napkin project uses equipment provided by social entrepreneur, Arunachalam Muruganantham's who designed the world's first low-cost machinery to produce sanitary towels with the mission to create: "One Million livelihoods for poor women and make India a 100% sanitary napkin using country from its current level of only 2% use in rural areas."

*Mahi who has witnessed only misfortunes in life – loss of her first husband in an accident and her second husband in a depression for the past ten years – now has a reason to SMIILE! Working at our new project has given her a glimpse of hope that there's future for her three children. "I am independent and can take care of my family. I am happy that I am working on a project which is helping young girls to be clean during menstruation" says the steadfast Mahi.*

*Headed by Mahi and Prema who are supervisors, the SMIILE production centre has provided employment to them and two beneficiaries who work six days a week. Another three beneficiaries work part time.*

*The production is simple yet cost efficient and effective - machine operators can learn the entire towel-making process in three hours. Initially, the regular and maternity sanitary products are being manufactured to supply beneficiaries living in our Rehab Centre, Snehadhar and Snehankur. As production expands, the aim is to take the surplus to market in local hospitals and clinics, generating a small income to support our other projects.*

*As well as providing cost-effective healthy and hygienic products to the women and girls of Snehalaya, it is providing some with a wage and is also helping us to break down the taboos surrounding menstrual health as we showcase the production plant to our many visitors. We are hoping that it will also provide the means to make more of our beneficiaries financially independent in near future.*

“ It's good to have something to fill my days with, I would be bored otherwise, and I'm saving the money I earn which will help me in the future.”

Meena, 17





# Safe Care for Babies

We run a government-accredited centre to protect and save unborn and abandoned newborns, premature infants and toddlers. We also help in the rehabilitation of unwed mothers, rape victims and minors - giving them education, vocational studies and remarriage options. By sitting on the Committee of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) we also contribute to enforcement of the law against sex determination.

We take pride in finding safe and loving homes for our rescued children. However, we are concerned that the Indian government is now in the process of making drastic changes to the current adoption guidelines. By moving the process online and removing some of the current vetting processes it will now be easier and quicker for anyone,

including traffickers, to adopt a child. We would like to see a stricter and more controlled system in place that allows for continued dialogue before and after children have been placed in adoptive homes. Subsequently, we have been petitioning the government to ensure a smooth, ethical and transparent adoption policy.

*As the night shift was ending, around 4 am in the morning, they heard a peculiar wailing from near our front gate. When they went outside to check, they found a tiny baby girl trembling and crying in the cradle which sits outside for mothers to safely leave their unwanted babies.*

*Our chief caretaker and duty nurse established she needed immediate medical attention. Meanwhile, the abandoned child had been reported to the police who, realising the critical nature of the infant's condition, advised the team to take her straight to the hospital and complete the legal formalities later.*

*Three staff rushed to our nearest intensive care and neonatal unit where the baby was immediately ventilated and prescribed with such a long list of medication, her chance of survival seemed slim. The doctors explained that she was two months' premature and having been exposed to the elements and pollution had developed pneumonia and was experiencing difficulty in breathing.*

*She was a fighter though and following extreme precaution and with proper medical care and nursing our premature girl started responding to treatment, and within 15 to 20 days her health had improved and she is now happy and healthy and awaiting adoption.*





## Putting the Child in Childline

We were the first toll-free telephone line and listening service for children to call in India and are still recognised as the number 1 best-managed service in the country's national network of 499 Childlines. Over 300 calls are received from our district every day, from children themselves or concerned adults who consider a child to be at risk. Our team works with local emergency services, counsellors, juvenile courts and the legal authorities to rescue any child in danger. We are also unique in conducting night patrols of transport hubs, temples and other areas where runaways or abducted children end up.

Our extensive network of volunteers plays an essential role in reporting those in vulnerable situations and raising awareness of the 24/7 1098 number and this year, building on our existing network of adult volunteers, the Balmitra Prerna scheme was launched to 'Seek the help of children to help helpless children.'

We started by running a series of camps for young people with an interest in social work. Many of those participating come from our slum communities where conflicts with the law, sexual abuse, trafficking, child labour, child marriage and bullying are a part of daily life. Camp workshops and activities explored these crimes in more detail to help them find out more about how individually and collectively they could play their part in supporting disadvantaged and at-risk children.

They had opportunities to hear from experts working at the grassroots in their communities,

lawyers and child crime and sexual harassment professionals who shared their insights, advice and guidance. They, in turn, were able to share their stories, experiences and realities of a child living in a disadvantaged community. Alongside the talks and workshops, we also ran practical self-defence classes and interactive games to put into practice some of the tools and skills they had learnt.

As well as gaining greater insights into youth culture and issues, we were also able to recruit a new generation of volunteers, boosting our existing network. They are a great addition, enthusiastically participating in our regular outreach activities conducting street plays to highlight children's issues and sharing advice on how to seek help. Living alongside and able to directly relate to the children we exist to serve, they are opening the doors to even more at risk children who they can then refer on to our professional team for further advice and support.



# Nirbhaya Kanya Abhiyaan

Snehadhar, our women's shelter and helpline, works to ensure 'Dignity for Women'. We offer refuge, legal aid and alternative futures to women who have survived rape, domestic violence, acid attacks, verbal abuse, illegal human trafficking, kidnapping and other traumas.

Even today when Pallavi remembers the eve teasing incident that happened a few months back, it sends shivers down her spine. Snide remarks and lewd comments that she received on the bus that day forced Pallavi to become bold. Pallavi is not the only woman in Ahmednagar who faces this kind of harassment. Not just on the bus, even walking freely on the road is often uncomfortable. However, today, thanks to the positive intervention of Nirbhaya Kanya Abhiyaan – a new Snehadhar initiative, Pallavi and many other girls are being armed with skills to face any challenge and seize control of their lives back.

The programme focuses on the challenges faced by women and empowers them through self-defence courses, counselling and information on legal aid. "We work with female groups to identify and find solutions - from counselling to legal aid we are giving them the support and knowledge to be fearless and informed when dealing with the problems of female foeticide, dowry harassments, rape and acid attacks," says Shilpa Khendare who heads the project.

One area of concern is on eve teasing, a form of sexual aggression that ranges in severity from

sexually suggestive remarks, brushing against women in public places and catcalls to groping, as experienced by Pallavi. By visiting schools, women's shelters, girl's homes and other female groups we are reinforcing that this behavior is not acceptable and explaining the legal procedures, laws and rights should they encounter it.

Another element is teaching the women and girls self-defence, including precautions they can take to minimise risks and how to use their bodies and everyday objects that they carry with them to defend themselves in an attack. The programme seeks to bring positive change, for example by arming girls and women with the facts which they can use to argue their case and educate others against female foeticide where the female sex ratio of their community area is already low.

By recruiting local volunteers and training them to help spread the word further through follow up sessions we are ensuring that the initiative is sustainable. They are playing a key role in building the confidence of women and girls to seek legal help and also promoting the services and support available through our Snehadhar helpline.







## Democracy in Action

We believe it is our responsibility to equip our children with the life skills they will need to stand on their feet once they leave our care. Living in the World's largest democracy, we know that educating them on their rights to have their say on their lives and environment is essential. Therefore, we are proud to announce the inauguration of our Child Parliament.

Mahesh, a sixth standard student, animatedly and vividly expresses his ideal home. "Our home should be clean and neat. We must keep our dormitories too clean. Each room should have a leader, and the leader must be a role model. The leader needs to help the caretaker in collecting homework books as well as ensuring the students maintain discipline." He leans forward as he speaks, his eyes widening as if he is looking directly at the place he envisions.

It's a beautiful evening at Snehalaya's Ahmednagar school premises. A dozen children sit cross-legged around Mahesh on the carpet spread across the floor of Alliance Hall and nod in agreement. It's just not their dream home they discuss but wider issues such as school attendance and the menu for an upcoming celebration.

It all began with support and guidance from a Bangalore NGO with a similar initiative. Our children created their government structure and held independent elections. All 11 dormitories

now have a Chief Minister, and a Cabinet made up of Health, Education, Cultural, Sport, Law and Opposition Ministers, who each have two helpers, ensuring that everyone has a role to play.

The Chief Ministers, Cabinet and full Parliament all meet separately, twice a month, consulting with their constituents to bring forward matters for wider discussion or the attention of our staff. The children are loving being able to have their say and air their issues openly and we are learning so much more about how we can better support and develop them. With dedicated representatives able to directly discuss issues with those experiencing them, they are also finding their solutions to problems, and we are reaping the rewards with radical rises in school attendance and a 100% pass rate in this year's 12th standard exams. New sports such as soccer and badminton also mean that more children are taking part in daily exercise while also developing their teamwork and communication skills and there has been an overall increase in their health and wellbeing.

# Himmatgram – Hamlet of Courage

Snehalaya's Himmatgram or 'Hamlet of Courage' stands in 25 acres of beautiful land and the bio farm is run entirely by our beneficiaries in an ideal setting for rotating crops, cattle grazing and respite care. We have housing on the farm and a medical facility providing HIV families with a home, a vocation and access to life-saving medicines while promoting sustainable living.

When AIDS first hit in the 1980s we offered 'death with dignity' as people fell in the dust. Now, we are proud to promote 'life with dignity'. Our bio farm empowers our beneficiaries to fight AIDS and enrich their lives.

Our Himmatgram is no ordinary farm, it truly is a family and the staff there fulfil a number of roles beyond managing the farming project. The health and well-being of the beneficiaries who live and work on the land is the top priority. Living with HIV/AIDS can be debilitating without the right diet and regular medication. When it was noted that some of the beneficiaries were lacking the energy

or too ill to work, doctors and other experts were consulted. This year we have been regulating the timings of medication and using natural therapy to regulate sleep, exercise and diet which has seen one beneficiary's CD4 count rise phenomenally from 169 to 369, an amazing result from something as simple as starting the day right.

*The most recent addition to our Himmatgram Family is Ganesh. We were so relieved when he was born free of the HIV, his mother and former sex worker Sangeeta, had been terrified of transmitting to him during her pregnancy. Thanks to the administration of Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) medication, nevirapine, which can be used to prevent transmission of HIV from a pregnant woman to her new child and also means she can breastfeed him. As well as being healthy he is also an incredibly happy little child and always ready with a smile for our 32 beneficiaries and many, many visitors and a very loved and treasured member of our family.*



“ Just one year ago my family and me had little to look forward to. Now, thanks to our new family at the Himmatgram, I have a happy and healthy baby and my daughters are back in full-time education. Thank you for giving us a future.”

Ganesh's Mother



# Awareness





# Malala: Inspiring Equality in Education

Despite the immense progress that has been made in the last 15 years with nearly universalising primary education, the state of secondary education in India, particularly for girls remains troublesome. In Ahmednagar, there is much need to advocate for girls' education amongst Dalit, tribal and nomadic communities, as well as Muslim groups and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Sadly, young girls are often kept out of school to support low-income families.

With education being at the core of our mission, we know that when women are educated, their whole community benefits. Therefore, we were proud to be chosen as one of only five Indian NGOs to join with Students Stand #WithMalala (SSWM) A year-long and worldwide campaign with Malala Fund and Participant Media, to empower the next generation to raise their voices for all girls' rights to 12 years of quality education that is safe and free. We started our collaboration with SSWM in November 2015, bringing the premiere of *He Named me Malala*, Academy Award-winner Davis Guggenheim's intimate

portrait of the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, to Mumbai.

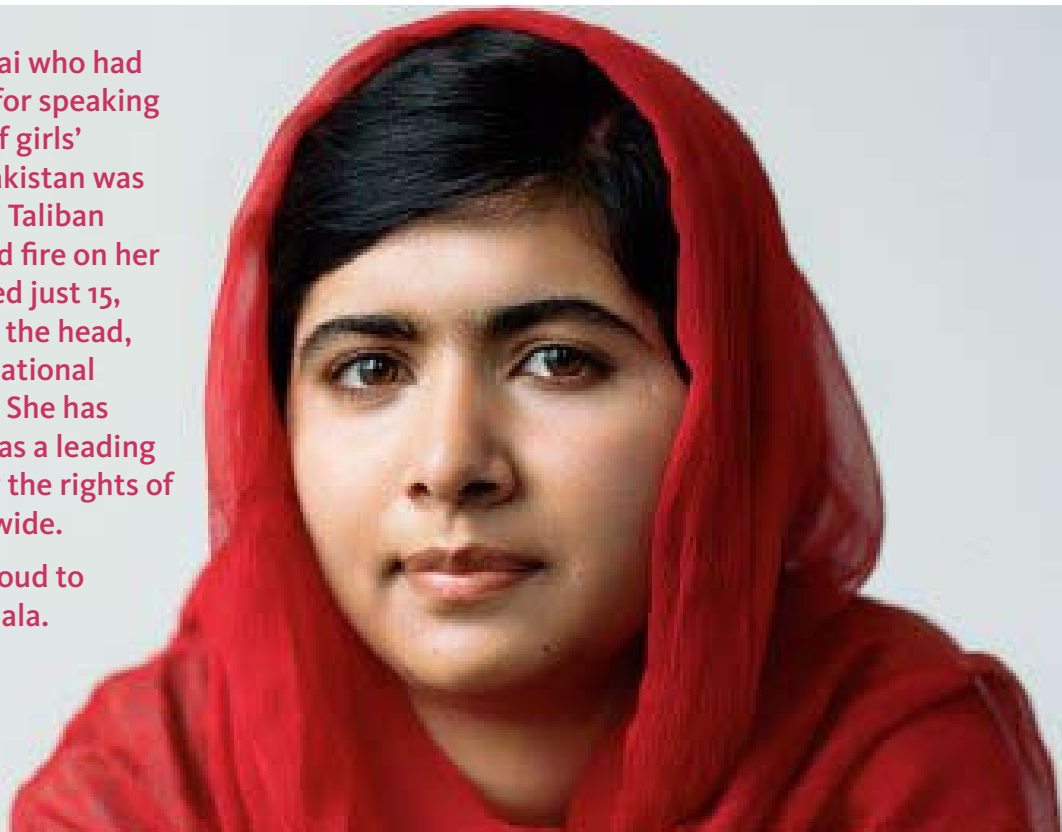
During our Gala for Malala at the University of Mumbai, Education Minister of Maharashtra, Vinod Tawade, pledged his much-needed support to ensure all girls in our state complete their 12th Standard education. This cabinet level, along with grassroots support, is vital as currently, only 47% of our state's girls start secondary education and a mere 2% of girls complete it.

In 2016, we have continued to promote equality in education through DVD screenings and roadshows reaching out to high-risk young people across Ahmednagar to help them gain access to better futures through equal education. We are happy that key influencers who have joined our campaign help make education for all a reality. We've received many thanks for bringing a programme focussed on their education needs directly into our beneficiaries' communities.

We plan to reach another 30,000 people, including girls, through our roadshows to make education an easy access for all.

**Malala Yousafzai who had been targeted for speaking out on behalf of girls' education in Pakistan was wounded when Taliban gunmen opened fire on her school bus. Aged just 15, she was shot in the head, sparking international media outrage. She has since emerged as a leading campaigner for the rights of children worldwide.**

**Snehalaya is proud to #StandwithMalala.**



# Youth in Action

Twice a year Yuva Nirman opens its doors to welcome 300 university and school students to a 3-day youth camp to learn about our work and wider society issues. These camps are complemented by other youth activities throughout the year which raise not only important issues in our larger community, but also introduce social work as a subject and as a vocation.

The devastating floods that hit Chennai city and other parts of Tamil Nadu during November to December 2015 claimed more than 400 lives and caused enormous economic damage. Our youth relief team left Ahmednagar on 12 December and two days later was on the ground in Chennai and its surrounding areas with relief materials for families devastated by flooding.

The team that visited Chennai gives their first-hand experience and lessons learnt:

*“For those of us, watching the images on television from many miles away, the situation created both empathy and a sense of helplessness. We couldn’t stay put watching the people suffering and decided to gather materials and set out to Chennai. What we saw and experienced will stay crystal clear in our minds as will the realisation there are no tailor-made solutions in disasters such as this. The torrential rains and floods not only inundated the areas but turned upside down the lives of people, rich and the poor.*

*We quickly swung into action, wading through three to four feet of water to reach and assess the areas of Ambikaburam, Pattabiram, and Chennai. With water having burst into most houses, living conditions were deplorable. Belongings including important documents were lost, fresh, clean water was scarce, medical emergency services were stretched, and many were without electricity –anger, sadness, grief and concerns about the future escalated day by day.*

*With support from local volunteers and police to ensure a smooth process, we distributed coupons to the needy before beginning the distribution of our kits containing groceries, clothes, grains, oil, soap and sanitary pads. We experienced great satisfaction from playing our small part in the relief process and learnt that material wealth is not permanent - we saw first-hand how it could be destroyed in a split second. Of more value is the human relationships we form and a will to support each other. The calamity brought out the goodness in each of us – especially the youth who emerged as heroes –proudly echoing the lessons we share through Yuva Nirman and our collective duty to support and serve those most in need within our society.”*



Rohit Pardeshi, Nitin Waware, Amruta Jadhav, Ajit Jagtap and Pratik Gadakh

# Future Plans

## Hospital

Dedicated to the care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA), our 50-bed hospital will be the first in the country to provide much needed surgical care solely for PLHA.

HIV and AIDS patients require a range of specialised services, depending on the progression and stage of their infection, including care, treatment and support. Our current 30-bed hospital is the only facility specialising in the care of these patients in our state, and our new hospital will expand our existing facilities to include a new surgical unit, pre- and post-natal care, respiratory and laboratory testing services.



## Agricultural Training Center

Developed in partnership with Syngenta Foundation India (SFI), which works to develop Indian agriculture and the welfare of farmers, and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, our new Agricultural Training Center will deliver Agriculture Technology Assistant courses.

Located next to our bio-farm, a 45-day residential course will offer class-based learning complemented with practical sessions in the field. Backed by the Government of India, the aim is to create a new generation of agri-entrepreneurs and agriculture technology assistants with the functional knowledge and skills to apply agricultural technology in rural farming communities..



## Adoption Center

Our new 50-bed adoption center will provide improved neo- and post-natal facilities and space for unmarried mothers.

Many babies are left at our current adoption center, many of whom are very fragile, premature and/or require hospitalisation and intensive care. Our new facility will provide on-site medical facilities to ensure this care is provided immediately while also providing a haven for unmarried mothers to safely give birth to their child without prejudice.





## News in Brief

Thank you to ICICI Bank for donating the proceeds of their Rs 1 entry fee to their Creative Masters art competition to Snehalaya. Four of our children enjoyed the trip of a lifetime staying in a five-star hotel, visiting Essel World and the Mumbai sights before being invited on stage to dance with and receive the cheque for Rs 14,91,481 from Bollywood superstar, Madhuri Dixit.

Our community radio station, Radio Nagar, started 24 hour broadcasting in October 2015.

This additional air time will help further promote our work while discussing wider social issues and providing entertainment to an audience of 400,000.

We have amazing news! For the first time in our 27-year history we have completed the financial year without enduring the heartbreak of one or more of our beneficiaries dying as a result of HIV or AIDS. This is the lowest mortality rate our child HIV has ever been.

## Staff



# Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance

## Governing Body

### Executive Committee & Annual Gross Remueration Paid

S. No	Name and Address	Designation
1	Sanjay Gogle	Chair
2	Rajiv Gujar	Secretary
3	Arun Ramchandra Sheth	Trustee
4	Jaya Jogdand	Trustee
5	Rajiv Singh	Trustee
6	Jyoti Ekbote	Trustee
7	Suhas Ghule	Trustee
8	Sangita Shelar	Trustee
9	Naresh Katore	Trustee
10	Firoz Tambatkar	Trustee
11	Satish Kane	Trustee
12	Ramakant Tamboli	Trustee
13	Beharam Nagarwala	Trustee

No travel reimbursements were made to Board Members to attend Board Meetings.

Salary plus benefits paid to staff	Male	Female	Total
<5000	3	1	4
5000 to 10000	3	1	4
10000 to 25000	9	41	50
25000 to 50000	34	56	90
50000 to 100000	56	82	138
over 100000	36	8	44
Total	141	189	330

#### Remuneration of two highest paid employees:

Rs.276,000/- Senior Assistant Director

Rs.264,000/- Medical Advisor

#### Remuneration of Lowest paid Staff members:

Rs.3600/- For farmers

### Staff details as on March 31, 2016

Gender	Paid full time	Paid part time	Paid Consultants	Volunteers
Male	119	22	3	0
Female	151	38	0	0
Total	270	60	3	0

Total cost of International travel by all staff during the Year- Nil

## Identity

- Snehalaya is a voluntary organisation registered in 1991 under the Societies Registration Act 1960 (Reg No MH2220/A'nagar) and in 1995 under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Reg No 083720087.
- Snehalaya is registered with the Income Tax department under 12A Nsk/Tech/12A(a)93/1993-94 of the Income Tax Act 1961.
- All contributions to Snehalaya are exempt under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax No CIT(E)/12A(a)/80G/135/2008-09/1916) and 35AC (SO 2380 (E) of the Income Tax Act 1961.
- Income Tax Permanent No: AAETS3394M.
- Snehalaya has received Accreditation from Credibility Alliance (CA/82/2013), a consortium mandated to audit NGOs, for the standard of good governance organisation & transparency.
- We have ISO 9001/2008 accreditation and are certified by Charities Aid Foundation (F-2169).

# Financials

## Statement Of Income & Expenditure Accounts For The Year Ended March 31, 2016

Income	Rs. in Lakh
Grants & Donations	432.63
Bank Interest	32.83
Misc Receipts	57.6
Expenditure over income	17.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>540.47</b>

Expenditure	In lakhs
Food	50.55
Education	12.94
Medical	23.26
Salaries & wages	164.61
Repairs & maintenance (buildings, electrical & vehicles)	25.75
Establishment Expenses	14.25
Rent & Insurance	9.81
Other Misc Expenses	135.76
Depreciation on assets	103.54
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>540.47</b>

### Auditors:

ABHAY BHANDARI

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Pooja Complex, Chandani Chowk, Opp. Ahmednagar College,  
Ahmednagar - 414 001. Maharashtra.

Tel: 0421- 2342956, 2342960

## Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2016

Liabilities	Rs. in Lakh
Trust Fund or Corpus	357.42
Ear Marked Trust Fund	1,352.89
Income & Expenditure A/c	(131.73)
Other Current Liabilities	17.23
<b>Total (deficit/surplus)</b>	<b>1,595.81</b>

Assets	In lakhs
Fixed Assets	1,058.91
Fixed Deposits with Companies	395.16
Stock in Hand	12.34
Other Current Assets	60.66
Cash & Bank Balances	68.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,595.81</b>

Detailed Statement of Accounts are available on request





# Thank you!

Thank you to all of our supporters, we wouldn't exist without you. From the individual donating a small cash sum regularly or as a one-off, the fundraisers running events and those sharing our news through social media to in-kind donations of clothing or meals to celebrate a birthday or in memory of a loved one, we appreciate and thank every last one of you. It would be impossible to list you all, but you

and we know who you are, and we appreciate every contribution no matter how big or small.

We would also like to thank some of our funding and corporate partners who not only provide financial support to realise our ambitions but also offer guidance and reassurance that keeps us motivated, sustainable and successful. Thank you!



Stichting Geron



# Please visit us!

## Snehalaya

F- 239 M.I.D.C. Near Shree Tiles Chowk,  
Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India, 414111

Tel: 0241 2323772

Email: [info@snehalaya.org](mailto:info@snehalaya.org)

Find out more about our life-changing  
work at [www.snehalaya.org](http://www.snehalaya.org)

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