

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR 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.

OUR 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 cycle of poverty and abuse.



Rehabilitation
6,080
beneficiaries

Health
5,147
beneficiaries

Education
870
beneficiaries

Awareness
2,55,249
beneficiaries

COVID Relief
5,110
beneficiaries

Total 2021-22
2,72,456
beneficiaries

OUR HISTORY

Girish Kulkarni grew up in Ahmednagar enjoying life in a middle-class, loving and supportive family. At eight years old he was taking a shortcut between classes. This took him through one of the city's red-light areas where wandering through the narrow alleys, he saw girls his own age sitting outside brothels selling their bodies to the highest bidder. Even at this young age, the injustice of being born into a poor situation had a profound impact on him, especially when he saw a naked child being beaten and tortured. Her crime? She had contracted syphilis and was no longer able to work. The young Girish felt powerless to help and his inability to intervene haunted him into early adulthood.

When Girish started college, he was reminded of what he had witnessed when a friend took him to the red-light area to meet his mother, sister and grandmother, who were all sex workers. Youth volunteer organisations' slogans of changing the world didn't seem to offer the direct action he felt was needed for these women. Realising his own time and resources were limited, but also wanting to ease his conscience he decided to think globally but act locally. He thought: "How can I change the lives of at least a few people?" He approached some sex workers to ask them how he could help and they said, "Take our children".

Each day Girish would pick up two children to take them to a park, buy snacks, tell stories or teach them how to ride bikes. Word soon spread and within four months he was entertaining 80 children and building the trust and respect of the sex worker community.

In 1989, Girish founded Snehalaya, appointing three sex workers as trustees. When HIV and AIDS started ravaging the community, a Death with Dignity program, a few roadside huts and a bike and cart, provided palliative care to some of India's first AIDS casualties.

Girish's interventions over three decades ago prove that small actions can have a large impact. Today, over 300,000 people have benefitted from our 20+ projects, saving countless lives and giving dignity back to those marginalised by society.



FROM OUR SECRETARY

Greetings from Snehalaya family! If the first wave of COVID was challenging, this year's second wave was devastating. In urgent response to the pandemic a COVID Care Center provided free isolation and care of not so serious patients, treating 900 patients. Our hospital converted to a COVID care facility, complete with oxygen cylinders and ICU. Regular check-ups and testing ensured our children and in-house staff were treated immediately they showed symptoms. With the help of Give India, we provided monetary support to over 300 families who lost their main breadwinners. Our founder Girish, sat on hunger strike outside our Collector's office to address the shortage of oxygen and Remdisvir in the city. The pandemic was closely followed by devastating floods in Chiplun where we were the first to provide relief.

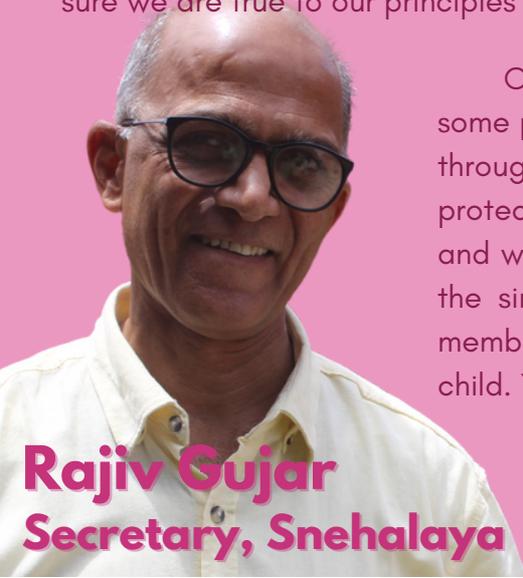
Our annual bicycle rally reached beyond borders. Marking the anniversaries of 75 years of Indian and 50 years of Bangladeshi independence, 150 cyclists joined the 'Sadbhavana' rally from Ahmednagar to Noakhali, Bangladesh. Travelling across five states, they visited tribal regions and social organisations, spreading the message of unity in diversity and brotherhood beyond borders.

A game changer for the oldest slum in Ahmednagar, our Sanjay Nagar Slum Development completed its first phase of 33 homes; the remaining five phases will soon follow (298 homes in all). This all-inclusive housing project is not only a story of converting slums to apartments, but truly fulfills the dreams of a self-sufficient community of 900+ stakeholders and is a unique replicable model for all.

Taking forward our work in education, our 'Vidya Sahayog Scholarship' program provides financial support to scholars from challenging economic backgrounds pursuing higher education. We welcome donors to support this program. Donate Kart, a funding platform, provided groceries for our shelter projects, fulfilling our annual nutrition needs. The introduction of non-traditional energy sources like solar power and drip irrigation has helped us save on recurring costs as well as natural resources. Newer projects aimed at environment conservation, supporting tribal and local indigenous populations in places like Kinhavli, Fonda Ghat and Kudal, are in development as we expand our work. Many new initiatives have led to the smoother running of our organisation. What started with developing a CRM system for data management has now moved forward to implementation of other systems like a helpdesk and store, school and volunteer management. Many more will follow in the coming years, enabling qualitative and quick services to all stakeholders. I feel proud to share that we have been certified as a 'Great Place to Work', helping us attract a talented workforce and with our FCRA renewed for the next five years, you can be sure we are true to our principles of transparency and due diligence.

Our five-year plan includes a major revamp in our administration, making some projects self-sustainable, aiming at qualitative work, creating role models through replicable projects, introducing newer concepts of child care and protection, and many more. Last but not the least, I appeal to all our supporters and well-wishers to build our monthly giving program 'Jeevansparsh'. Based on the simple concept that, 'It takes a village to bring up a child' with each member of a village contributing something, it ensures the holistic growth of a child. Your 'Jeevansparsh' will provide a magical touch to our children.

Thank you for being with us on this wonderful journey.



Rajiv Gujar
Secretary, Snehalaya

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Sanjay Gugle
President, Snehalaya

I have a lot of mixed feelings while presenting this yearly report. The sad demise of Vishal Ahire, our capable youth volunteer co-ordinator left the Snehalaya family in shock. He managed our Yuva Nirman in a great way and organised the Sadbhavana cycle rally from Ahmednagar to Bangladesh. His accidental death on the way back was devastating.

The rally proved to be a rich source of experience and inspiration. More than 100 youngsters participated, and the route led to new social projects and networks and new thoughts and experiences that will open up new pathways for all. In memory of Vishal and to share and inspire others, our Sadbhavana Cycle Museum's pictorial tribute has proven to be an energy source for all. We lost a few great people this year. To keep their memories alive in our hearts, we're planting trees in a space curated for this, *Smrutivan*.

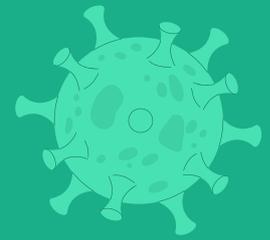
When the second pandemic wave hit, many were helped through our COVID care centers, made possible with guidance and help of organisations like Give India, Crompton, Wishing Well and StepUp. Give India also helped us support 300 families with groceries and financial aid for families who lost their main wage earner to COVID. To help reduce deaths, we conducted a vaccine campaign for sex workers, a proud moment for Snehalaya. When massive floods hit our state, our yuva helped hospitals, schools and people in need by supporting with much needed materials and labour.

Despite the challenges, there are many positives to report. We have been recognised as Great Place to Work and were able to reduce our expenses to a certain extent by working on strategies like solar light and water heaters. Our Snehadhar women empowerment project is collaborating with APPI for three years and Alfa Laval is supporting children's education in our Balbhavan project for another two years.

Planning and encouraging our kids' various talents paid off as our songbird Sakshi won 'runner up' in Secret Superstar - a national competition - increasing her confidence which will definitely help her succeed in the future. We were able to help 70 kids under our 'Sahayog' education scholarship. Our newest projects include a competitive exam center in Mehekari for children and we will definitely soon see more capable officers in villages and smaller towns. Our Manobal De-addiction center is filling the gap for the many kids from financially backward families who have become addicted, with the unavailability of help and the high costs of treatment, putting their health at risk.

Many more great things happened which helped our beneficiaries to stand strong and many things we're still learning. This journey towards perfection will be walked with the help of you all.

COVID RESPONSE



When the first wave of COVID-19 struck in 2020 we reached over 300,000 people. As the second wave approached in 2021, we felt confident we would be able to manage it again, following the same rules. Little did we know the catastrophic events that lay ahead.

In March 2021, India which recorded over 26 million cases. Ahmednagar District, where we operate, was one of the worst hit areas with no beds, oxygen or medicines available to our largely rural population of nearly five million. Already experiencing a severe lack of statutory healthcare, people were literally dying on the doorsteps of our hospitals and *Times of India* reported Ahmednagar was in the top ten worst affected districts in India and the highest in Maharashtra with over 1,000 new cases a day.

Our founder Girish led the way, staging protests and issuing media releases pressuring authorities, including Maharashtra's Chief Minister and our District Collector, to take direct action to provide proper access to hospitals and supplies of oxygen and medicines for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. As a result, our District Collector initiated a 24/7 helpline to control the chaos and scramble for treatments.

As the world shut down again, we leapt swiftly into action with our projects on call for those affected 24/7. We took direct action, adapting, expanding and initiating new projects to provide vital support to as many of the 150,000+ positive cases in our district as possible. Our Caring Friends Hospital & Research Center became a COVID center with around 70 patients a day, around 325 of whom were critically ill. A further 728 asymptomatic patients were offered eight

days of residential medical and quarantine facilities in our Covid Care Center, all free of charge. We adapted our mobile health unit into an antigen testing facility detecting, treating and preventing serious illness in over 1,600 industrial workers and villagers.

Radio Nagar broadcast up-to-the-minute news and health advice. We performed last rights and funerals for families who had tested positive making them unable to carry them out for their loved ones themselves. As the government-led vaccination drive moved slowly across the country, there remained a sizeable population from marginalised and neglected communities who had yet to receive their first dose. We ran group sessions about the importance of vaccination, possible side effects and why completing both doses was so important. This included our frontline workers and beneficiaries and we were in urgent need of sponsored vaccinations particularly to protect our sex workers and transgender communities, as soon as possible. Once again, StepUp Foundation stepped up, funding the first doses for 160 sex workers and transgenders.

Reflecting back, it was shocking and frightening as we watched our Mother India struggling to breathe. Having survived the first wave with no cases in our Rehab Center, we weren't so lucky second time around. Two of our staff members were critically ill - happily now fully recovered - and around 50% of our residents tested positive, although there were no fatalities here, many lost loved ones. It was huge task for our teams and supporters and we are grateful to each and every one of them for their brave and tireless work 24/7 ensuring our health and wellbeing.



1,500 GROCERY KITS

₹ 550 FAMILIES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

160 VACCINATIONS 

In July, large areas of Maharashtra, including Konkan, already drowning from the second wave of COVID, faced the worst floods in four decades, which further washed away people's hard-earned belongings and homes. Our Yuva Nirman leaped into action, despatching volunteer teams to areas where water had risen to the first floors of buildings.

Roads, rail lines, electricity and phone connections were washed away, further isolating the region, already in lockdown. With no immediate help available, the lowest-income families, already drowning in debt, were worst affected.

With a massive death toll and many people missing, we took emergency supplies and helped with clean-up operations, often arriving on the scene before anyone else. Together, our teams cleaned and cleared over 100 houses and buildings, including a 100-bed COVID hospital and the Rural District Hospital, flooded with dirt, mud, water and the odd aquatic animal.



CHIPLUN FLOOD RELIEF

SHADOW PANDEMIC



The term 'shadow pandemic' was coined to describe the growing rates of violence against women and girls amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Working on the ground, we saw a sharp rise in domestic violence as our Snehadhar team took calls requesting immediate medical care, shelter, counselling and guidance. We also made outbound calls to around 250 previous cases to make sure they were safe and not facing any additional challenges. We provided long-term, safe shelter to 136 women unable to return home.

There was more sexual violence, evidenced by a significant rise in orphaned and unwanted babies, many women unable to safely access maternity care, unmarried mothers and rape victims. As always Snehankur offered an Immediate free service to all those in need.

As reported by Childline India, Ahmednagar already has the highest number of child marriages in Maharashtra. These numbers rose dramatically as wedding became more affordable with restrictions on guest numbers and with girls out of view of teachers, relatives and friends. Our Childline team proved why they are consistently rated number one in India, as they successfully stopped 137 child marriages, accounting for over 40% of the state's total rescues during the second wave!



44
COVID
ORPHANS

Our Family-Based Care team is committed to ensuring children with families to support them are not taken into care. With the best interests of children at the fore, our team offered it's support to our government child protection stakeholders and we were happy when our Child Welfare Committee ordered us to do the home visits of 44 COVID orphans. We visited them all to complete social investigation reports and individual care plans and are glad to report that they are all living safely and in good conditions with their extended families.

1800
ANTIGEN
TESTS



OVER
900
PATIENTS



My father was very ill with COVID in the first wave of the virus and my whole family was affected in the second wave. Thankfully, our Balbhavan family stood behind us, fully supporting me to complete my B.Com, Tally and MSCI. They also gave me a part-time teaching position where I am able to inspire other young people while I complete my masters in commerce.

Pratiksha, Laltaki, Ahmednagar



37

आजादी
75 वर्ष
सद्भावना
सद्भावना
सद्भावना

21

आजादी
75 वर्ष
सद्भावना
सद्भावना
सद्भावना

₹200
SHOPPING VOUCHER
FREE
Shopping of ₹1499 & above

SADBHAVANA CYCLE RALLY

Starting on 2 October, our Sadbhavana Bicycle Yatra (Goodwill Bicycle Rally) aimed to raise awareness about the contributions, thoughts and the ideas of nation-building both fathers of India and Bangladesh, Gandhi and Bangbandhu, inspire, while also celebrating the 75th and 50th anniversaries of Independence of the countries. The 2,070km bicycle ride from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra finished in Noakhali, Bangladesh on 26 November. Noakhali is where, in 1946, Gandhi spent four months on his mission to restore peace and communal harmony.

Considering the growing social divisions and hatreds of present times, our youth cyclists followed in Gandhi's footsteps, encouraging goodwill to bridge the hearts of people from all regions and states they passed through. They experienced different geographies, religions, traditions, languages, social customs and values. They also learnt about the great history, social progress and culture of Bangladesh while instilling values such as nationalism, democracy, secularism, non-violence, equality and humanity along the way. Messages from the freedom movements of India and Bangladesh were also shared with younger generations in both countries, through street plays, songs of social harmony, selected bhajans, literature and displays of cultural values.

We are committed to sharing best practice and our experiences of developing projects that empower women and children. Many of our former youth volunteers have been inspired and supported by us to create their own social initiatives. By talking with youths, students, rural women, farmers, slum dwellers and tribal communities, including Dalit and nomads and other minorities, cyclists enjoyed a unique experience and gained real insights into the real, on-the-ground issues affecting people in tough circumstances. Our hope is they too will be inspired to be the change they wish to see.

Our rally started on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi from the historical Ahmednagar Fort. Cyclists stayed in temples, mosques, gurdwaras and a range of social institutions during their expedition, which provided a greater understanding of secular values.

Traveling for 55 days through Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bengal, and after 4280km and 55 days, it ended at Mahatma Gandhi Ashram in Naukhali, Bangladesh. Over the course of their journey, they visited 100 villages and interacted with 500 social workers who have become changemakers, learning about their work and organisations. More than 100 individuals and students participated in the rally.



We were devastated when one of the main drivers of our rally died in a tragic car accident on his way back from Bangladesh. The 28-year-old grew up at Snehalaya and managed our Yuva Nirman project, worked night and day on our Mission Rahat and always helped those in their hour of need with love and enthusiasm.

Please visit our Vishal Center which pays tribute to this remarkable young man and documents the cycle rally.





DOUBLE ACTS

You can never assume the reasons why someone arrives in Snehalaya, for each individual will tell their own personal story. Such was the case of Shrouni, who arrived with her baby boy Pratik in 2017. She was the illegitimate daughter of a famous musician and growing up was tough as her single mother tried to make ends meet.

She had an arranged marriage and not long after tying the knot, her husband became violent, usually after drinking. She persevered and fell pregnant, learning that she had contracted HIV from her husband. She feared for her future and that of her new born son, and when a friend told her about Snehalaya she finally found the courage to leave her abusive husband.

It didn't take long for them to settle here, however, it was unsure whether Pratik had also contracted HIV; despite his mother taking medication to prevent this (it's impossible to give the all clear until a child is 18 months old). When the time came for him his final test, Shrouni asked everyone she saw to start praying for a negative result. These prayers were answered and Pratik was given a clean bill of health.

The young mother could finally relax and there was no doubt of the strong bond between her and her son. Wherever there was laughter, Shrouni was never far behind. Pratik was a mischievous toddler with a cheeky smile and winning personality. In no time they became firm favorites with everyone and were thoroughly entertaining. Shrouni became a caregiver for our very young charges and was settled into life at Snehalaya. Over the years Pratik's birthdays were always celebrated with great anticipation with many invited to join the festivities. Although Shrouni was enjoying a good life at last, she longed for Pratik to have a father.

So, in 2020, she signed up for our unique matchmaking program for people living with HIV. This allows prospective brides and grooms to find marriage partners. On the big day Shrouni made sure she and her son were wearing their best clothes as she prepared to introduce herself with him to the assembled bachelors and their families. Unsurprisingly, she was soon selected by a man who wanted to learn more about her. The match was made and our team checked his credentials, including a home visit, to make sure he was suitable and they were soon given the go ahead. He was happy, she was happy and it looked like their marriage was a few days away. Unfortunately, at the last minute, his family refused to accept Pratik and the marriage was called off.

Although disappointed, Shrouni refused to give up her dream for Pratik to have a Dad and the dedicated and determined mother signed up for the matchmaking program the following year. Kartik, a young widower from Mumbai arrived for the program with his baby daughter, Priyanka. He had high hopes that he would find himself a wife who would also be a mother to his daughter. The chemistry between him and Shrouni and Pratik was immediately evident. Passing all the essential safeguarding checks, everyone was happy including his family. A few weeks later they tied the knot at our annual 15 December marriage ceremony and the family of four set off to Mumbai to start their new lives together.

It's safe to say they are living very happily ever after with Kartik's family. We can say this with confidence as Shrouni is in regular contact with her Snehalaya family sending photos and updates from her new family and always ends her messages with: "Pratik and I are very happy".





OUR SECRET SUPERSTAR

Fifteen-year-old Sakshi has been living at our Rehab Center since 2008. She initially started singing to pass time, but her unique talent and hard work paid off when she was one of 50 shortlisted from over 150 competitors in Care for You Foundation's prestigious 'Secret Superstar' competition in Pune.

Sakshi chose to perform the Marathi song *Gorya Gorya Galavari* made famous by Yogita God Bole in *Tuzya Mazya Sansarala ani Kav Hav*, and *Zindagi Pyar ka Geet Hai*, originally sung by legendary Lata Ji in *Souten*, resulting in a standing ovation for Sakshi.

Sakshi says: "Singing has been my passion for a long time now and taking part in Secret Superstar still feels like a dream come true. I had practiced a lot but when I received the award my heart missed a beat and I couldn't believe what I was hearing. It was also an honour to share the stage with many renowned artists like Avdhoot Gupte Ji, Vaishali Samant Ji and all the judges. They encouraged and applauded me, also joining me on stage, something I will remember for the rest of my life.

"I am grateful to all who have encouraged me, helping me to realise that I can achieve miracles and build confidence through singing. Special mention goes to my first caregiver, Chandrakant Shembade, who heard me singing to myself and taught me the patriotic song, *Mera Mulka Mera Desh*, which was the first song I performed in public.

"Initially, I imitated whatever I heard, learning a song by heart. One day, Payal Sarada from Care for You Foundation, heard me singing and, seeing my talent, introduced me to renowned Ahmednagar teacher and singer, Angad Gaikwad, Anjali Gaikwad's father. This was a turning point as he agreed to train me. He made me fall in love with singing in a whole new way, giving me much-needed motivation and support.

"I listen to all types of songs and music. But what I listen to depends entirely on my mood. One of my favorites is from the '90s film *Imaandaar*, *Aur Iss Dil Mein* sung by the legendary Suresh Wadkar and Asha Bhosle. I love both the music and the lyrics, it is very emotional and the words have a magical effect. When I sing a song associated with a particular actress, I feel like I am the actor playing the role on screen. I really love the songs I sing.

"Music has taught me so many life lessons such as waking up early to do my Riyaz or study music. I have learned that success only comes through hard work and tremendous practice. Music and public performing help me believe in myself, improve my body language, especially the way I should stand, hold the microphone and dress and give me the confidence to achieve something. Most importantly, I have learned to enjoy my life and its beautiful journey.

"My dream is to become a professional singer, but I also want to help people so they too can live better lives and survive against all odds."



HOUSE PROUD



This year, we saw the slum residents of Sanjay Nagar, Ahmednagar, move into 33 new homes in a unique pilot project to address gaps in low-income housing.

According to Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation, 15% of the city's total population lives in slums. One of these is Sanjay Nagar, the only slum built on government land, covering 2.09 acres previously crammed with 209 dwellings of varying quality ranging from *kachcha* homes to corrugated sheet shacks. With a population of 873, it has a unique social structure with nearly 22 different communities living side-by-side.

We have been working in Sanjay Nagar since 2004, when we set up our first Balbhavan (slum school). As there were no health care facilities or stormwater drains, Snehalaya also brought in doctors and mobile clinics to address health and hygiene issues.

Working under the Government's *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* (PMAY) 'Housing for All' scheme with Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation, Sanjay Nagar residents, and Community Design Agency, an initiative of 'Housing for All' scheme with Sanjay Nagar residents, Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation, and Community Design Agency, an initiative of Curry Stone Design Collaborative, on 8 March, the first 33 families moved into their new, healthy homes.

Designed with input from the community, some of whom have been employed on the project, slum-dwellers have taken on the economic and social responsibility to take ownership of the development. This process is unique, with the result of providing 300 square feet of homes to every homeless family for just INR 1,00,000. It is important that the families invest in their own futures, so we helped them secure loans to purchase their new homes. Our aim is to establish a new benchmark for housing for communities living on the margins.

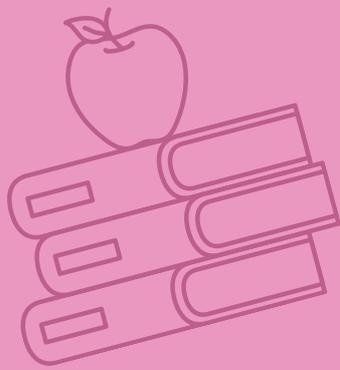
The multiple housing combinations are structured around seven courtyards, connected through corridors and walkways at the first-floor level, based on the preference of the families to retain the social fabric and cohesion of the community. We are now developing the subsequent phases of the project, which will see a further 265 homes constructed on principles including social, economic, and environmental sustainability, inclusive process, social cohesion and infrastructure, and solid waste and wastewater management.



"The answer to housing inequality lies in building thousands of vibrant communities, not in mass producing millions of individual units."

Sandhya Naidu
Managing Director, Community Design Agency





ROLE MODEL

Seema lives in Sanjay Nagar, one of Ahmednagar's slums where we operate. She is from a tribal community where, before our intervention, girls only completed their education as far as 4th or 5th standard and were married by ages 14 to 15. Seema saw many girls getting married like this, including her elder sister who was a child bride. As she approached her teen years, Seema was terrified she would suffer the same fate.

She approached our Balbavan team who counseled her parents about the laws around marriage and shared Seema's wishes to continue studying. They explained the benefits of education that would enable her to stand on her own feet. They also advised that if her family forced her to marry, they would encourage Seema to inform the authorities. Once they understood the law and that to marry their daughter would be a crime per parents agreed not to do so. Seema knew that education would give her more options in life and having escaped marriage she committed to going to school every day.

Seema embraced school, where she made friends with many boys and girls from different communities. She enthusiastically participated in every activity and was often number one in sports and attended our Balbavan after school classes. Whenever she had a problem, she would come to our Balbavan team immediately and would not go home until the problem was resolved.

Building confidence, Seema started to explore the independence education was giving her.

Traditionally, the women in her community wear Punjabi dresses, but Seema wanted to dress in her own style. There was a backlash from her close-knit community who called her names for her fashion choices and couldn't understand why she wasn't married yet. Girls in her community were not allowed to pursue higher education.

None of this deterred Seema and no matter what people said, she would not stop her education. Having listened to us, her father now fully supported her decision and wanted his daughter to study, make a name for herself in society and stand on her own feet.

Seema wanted to break from tradition to provide a role model for other girls in her community. Initially, not all of the girls studied or were interested in education, but when they saw Seema participating in the Balbavan programs and games and receiving rewards for it, more of the younger boys and girls also started coming to our classes.

Seeing their children flourish, slowly, the people of the old society started seeing the positives in Seema and more parents started sending their children to our centers.

Presently she represents the girls of Balbavan and her Shikal Kari Samaj, as well as working as a team member in our PMAY project to transform Sanjay Nagar into an ideal slum. She is a shining example to her whole community as well as all of our staff and beneficiaries. She takes part in all activities and has taken over the financial responsibility of her house and family while also pursuing further education. Seema is an inspiration to all.





STYLING FUTURES

Manoj first came to live in Snehalaya with his sister in 2013 when he was just seven years old and his sister was three. Unfortunately, their single mother was really struggling to look after them and felt that Snehalaya was better placed to provide her children a good education that would guide them to successful lives.

Manoj soon made lots of friends and, with his mother's wish at the fore, took his studies very seriously, completing his 12th standard exams along with his MSCIT computer education. When not in the classroom he could be found on the pitch fuelling a passion for football which paid off when he was one of the team chosen to represent Ahmednagar District in a state level football tournament.

He also had a special interest in hair dressing and styling, volunteering to help with cutting the younger boys' hair at every opportunity. Obviously, his first goal was to become an international footballer but hairdressing came a close second. While we have less experience in nurturing soccer talent, seeing how serious he was about hairdressing we sent him to Pune to learn the art under the guidance of Dr Vinay Koparkar, founder of the first chain of Papillon unisex salons in Pune.

The salons specialise in hair transplants and Manoj threw himself into learning the trade and specialist treatments required. Under the encouragement and mentorship of Dr Koparkar he was a quick study and developed many new skills while also growing into a young adult with confidence.

Having completed his training, he is now employed in one of his mentor's salons while he also continues his graduate studies in commerce. On top of that, he is supporting his younger sister who is pursuing her own higher education in engineering and is as keen as her brother to reach new heights in her career. We are so proud of Manoj's achievements and are also grateful that he hasn't forgotten his roots, still regularly returning to bring the latest Pune styles to our children.

Today, at age 20, I have fulfilled my mother's wishes with the confidence to be successful in life. I have a lot of opportunities beckoning me and I am ready to grab as many of them as I can. The future in hairdressing is bright and really happening right now. I still I have a long way to go, but I am sure I will create my own path to success.

Manoj

REPORT CARD

We have been delivering education projects since 1989, starting with small after-school classes for the children of sex workers. Over the years, we have expanded and diversified our academic portfolio to enable children from the most marginalised communities to succeed in their studies and break the vicious cycles of inequality that they were born into.

Unfortunately, despite our efforts, educating their children, particularly girls, is not always a priority, especially for daily wage workers struggling to make ends meet. However, we believe that education is key to improving our society and we are committed to ensuring every child has an equal opportunity to learn. From working with Malala Fund to promote girls' education to the running of our own English medium school and after-school classes in slums, our results are improving every year. Our achievements include slum dwellers becoming successful entrepreneurs and doctors and the children who have grown up under our care realising their dreams of becoming digital natives and sports coaches. Over the next few pages we share some of our success stories and latest initiatives and developments.

Our Snehalaya English Medium School (SEMS) is committed to providing a safe, healthy and empowering experience for all its students. Initially established to fulfill the special needs of our Rehab Center beneficiaries, in recent years it has opened its doors to children from our neighbouring communities of low income workers. As well as making education more accessible to all through subsidized fees and free materials, the school plays an active role in breaking down the stigmas associated with children living with HIV and the sons and daughters of sex workers.

This year we invited supporters to give the gift of education, which will transform lives and empower communities by providing a lasting solution to address poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy. Rs 9,000 a year covers all expenses for one student and sponsors are provided twice-yearly updates on their progress. We are sincerely grateful to all those already supporting our children you are ensuring positive futures. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please get in touch at info@snehalaya.org.



I was born and raised in the slums, and my mother does household work to earn a living. With the Snehalaya scholarship, I will soon be completing masters in geo-informatics and looking for a job. My life will be changed completely.

Aishwarya



"I lost my father to COVID in 2021, bringing my family's life to a standstill. I passed my HSC with good marks and wanted to study pharmacy but our financial condition was poor, my mother barely earns enough to make ends meet. I was thrilled to be chosen for the SVS and have completed my first year with a good percentage which was only possible with this support."

Anuj

In our experience, children are curious and naturally want to learn more about the world by attending school and college. Unfortunately, financial constraints and health issues often prevent this. Seeking to address this, and with the support of Tom Leavitt founder of the Canadian organisation, Harvest for Humanity, and Mrs Anita Kahate, we have launched a Sneha-Vidya Sahayog (SVS) scholarship to help young people complete their higher education.

The scheme welcomes students from low-income backgrounds to apply after which we conduct verification of their living conditions, academic potential and financial needs. If they pass these checks they are then invited to do an aptitude test and interview. Successful candidates are required to sign a contract and their fees are paid directly to their educational institution. Our support goes beyond the financial, to ensure their academic achievement we support their full length of study and regularly check in with them to review their academic performance and are there to offer extra support should they be struggling.

In the first year of the scheme, we supported 97 students from 11th standard to post-graduation. Our focus is in building the skills that will change the destinies of those who would be unable to study without our support. Therefore we focus on those pursuing subjects that reflect our own vision and mission, as well as STEM subjects and skill development courses such as ITI and fashion design. As we continue to support those advancing from last year, we also plan to recruit another 50 students this year.

One casualty of COVID was our IT Center. With lockdowns, it was impossible to continue our IT classes designed for people without access to computers. Fortunately, our center coordinator, Sandip, has many skills and in the first wave was deployed to help support daily wage workers and migrant workers. In the second wave, he helped our Give India campaign for families whose main breadwinner passed away. He was one of the frontline team that helped identify those in need of financial relief provided by the fundraising platform and visited their homes to collect the required documentation to release the life-saving funds.

As our teachers adapted to online teaching, Sandip was on hand to offer his expertise, and our IT Center was relocated to our school, significantly upgrading the computer lab where Sandip is the computer training teacher. He also has a passion for photography, video and design and can be seen capturing all the action at our events. On our Sadbhavana Cycle Yatra he took over 4,500 photos and videos, some of which are now on display at our Vishal Centre in Nimblak. Sandip says: "I'm really grateful to be part of our Snehalaya family and am always ready to work wherever I can help most".



WITH MALALA

Sadly, in Ahmednagar District, and especially after the pandemic, there remains much need to advocate for girls' education, especially among Dalit, tribal, nomadic and Muslim communities and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Girls are often kept out of school to support their families, and become vulnerable targets of commercial sex traffickers and child marriage. We believe in equal access to education for all, and when women are educated, their whole community benefits.

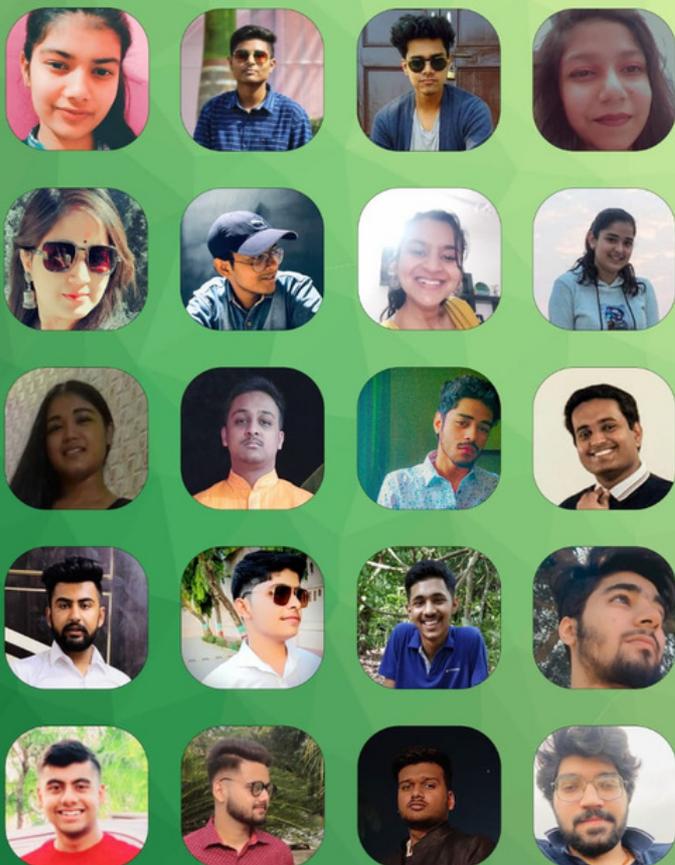
In 2015, Snehalaya joined hands with Malala Fund for three years running reaching over 30,000 children, their families and teachers and key stakeholders and influencers to promote equality in education. We recruited peer mentors, girls aged 13 and above, many of them children of sex workers, living with HIV/AIDS and/or slum dwellers. By involving them in the delivery of our workshops and presentations, they shared how to promote girls' education, what issues they face and their solutions to redress the balance in education. They also had the opportunity to present their views to change and policy-makers.

Since then, our peer mentors have continued to advocate for girls' education by celebrating Malala Day on the Nobel Laureate's birthday, every 12 July with activities and awareness-raising. This year, we were joined remotely by 20 interns from UPES Dehradun who worked with them to create a series of activities for the children 'locked in' our Balbhavan and Rehab centers. They helped us create two packed weeks of workshops, a music quiz (open to all) and activities for our beneficiaries. We also shared interviews and speeches from our girls.

Over the birthday weekend, our peer mentors organised more activities, including games and races, cooking and cake-making competitions and a quiz. At a time when we were still shut off from the world, highlights included celebrity judge and food blogger Sae Koranne-Khandekar and our Facebook and Instagram followers helping us judge our cake decoration competition. We also enjoyed a refresher self-defence class with Belle from Green Tara Project who had given in person training on a few year's ago. Enabling girls to protect themselves makes the world a safer place and we are grateful that Belle was available to go over the basics again.



MEET THE INTERNS



Everything we conducted is still available online (via this QR code) so you can enjoy our quiz or learn a new skill through one of our recorded workshops, there's certainly lots to choose from.



स केंद्र
Rotary Opens
Opportunities
नगर सेंद्रल
ईश्वर बोरा
ऑफ अहमदनगर सेंद्रल



tical Garden 1

HANDS ON LIFE SKILLS

Sagar's first introduction to Snehalaya was when he visited to help set up a multi-skills development centre and from that point on there was no going back. During his exploration of Snehalaya he really bonded with our kids who inspired him to stay and we were happy to employ him as the coordinator of the program he had set up for us.

Sagar had worked at Lend a Hand India, Pune as a full-time instructor in their Multi-Skill Development program after completing his ITI and Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. During his five and half years there he trained around 2,500 students and 500 teachers, gaining invaluable knowledge and experience.

At Snehalaya he soon became popular with his students, beneficiaries, staff and visitors. His training includes engineering, environmental, energy, agriculture and nursery workshops and he also delivers three-month courses for over 18s in welding, fabrication and automobile servicing.

The center is always a hive of activity with children making products including mobile stands, key holders and laptop stands sold at our Diwali mela. Students get real hands-on experience doing repairs and day-to-day maintenance of Snehalaya appliances like air coolers, fans, mixers, irons, water heaters and anything else that needs a tinker. They are even taking on two-wheeler repairs and servicing and the plan the same for four wheelers along with bike and car washing.

Sagar has recruited one of his trained students, Shubham, as his assistant and also oversees volunteers, Shraddha in our agriculture department and Smita who delivers beauty parlour training. We all need a little pampering

now and then and the 10 students currently on the parlour's four-month course love trying out their make-up, grooming, hairdressing and massage skills on the other children and staff!

Sagar is really proud and happy to have already trained over 200 children. One, Suyash, completed his six-month fabrication while also completing his ITI college and now works at Classic Wheels. Another five have enrolled in ITI and engineering and two have been directly placed in industry. He currently has 115 students and their curiosity about how things work still inspire him to do more by providing industry-level training and upgrading the center to ensure our students leave qualified to get good jobs.

So many of his students are adapting and applying their skills into their daily lives, either in their careers or simply as practical life skills. He always has time for all his students, helping them to explore different options for their futures. His dedication towards children is incredible. Make sure to stop by the workshop next time you are in Snehalaya to meet Sagar and see our children in action, you will be amazed to see their work!



My reward comes from seeing my students complete their training and I am confident they have bright futures ahead of them

Sagar

FORGING AHEAD



Reshma and her older sister are from one of Maharashtra's tribal communities and, orphaned at an early age, were left in the care of their elderly grandmother. Feeding and supporting the two girls was a daily challenge for the older lady and, with no other options available, she often resorted to sending them out to beg for their daily food and shelter.

When Reshma was five and her sister was seven, a villager spotted them on one of their aimless searches for food when they should have been in school. Knowing about Snehalaya, he suggested that the grandmother bring them here where they would be able to enjoy a more secure childhood.

The girls soon settled into our Snehalaya family, regularly attending our onsite Snehalaya English Medium School. However, Reshma had a lot of unspent energy and was very mischievous, quickly engaging in petty quarrels and brawls with the other girls. Realising her attention required channeling and looking for what would spark her interest, her caregivers began encouraging her in

n sports and giving her small leadership tasks to fill her spare time. In 2019, when our new skill development project opened in our school, offering courses in welding, carpentry, mobile and bicycle repair to students in 8th standard and above, Reshma was one of the first in line to sign up. Trying it all, Reshma developed a special liking for welding, something rarely opted for by girls.

Learning all of the safety precautions and rules, she became a regular fixture in our center, often staying beyond the school bell to perfect her skills. Her enthusiasm never waned and by 10th standard and the completion of her SSC exams, her decision to continue welding as a career was cast in iron.

She enrolled on a Government Polytechnic ITI course, one of the few girls among her male counterparts. With a fiery passion to succeed, she soon stood out with the college Principal telling us how impressed they were with her dedication and skills. They added that she was one of the best students in the whole college.

The Principal's words rang true when Reshma passed her college exams with excellent grades, something that would have been unthinkable to her younger self. She isn't stopping there and will soon be leaving to pursue an advanced diploma in welding in Pune hoping to find a job in the manufacturing industry.

We are sure that Reshma will succeed in realising her dreams and carve her own place using her special talents in what is traditionally regarded as a male-dominated trade.



ADVOCATING CHANGE

Our Snehyot project operates from four offices district-wide, working with female sex workers they also support transgenders (TGs) and MSM. Traditionally, TGs live under a guru and are a regular sight begging on roadsides and transport, raising money to support their communities.

Laila is one of our TG peer mentors. Born as Vishal, she identified as a girl for as long as she can remember. Although he loved to be seen and act like a girl, societal pressures and his family meant Vishal was not free to do this. He dropped out of school preferring to contribute to female norms and tasks like cooking and helping his mother with the housework. As Vishal grew up and his body and behavior started to develop, his family grew more uncomfortable with his female traits. Tired of hearing the same complaints from them every day, 15-year-old Vishal ran away from home, taking a bus to Ahmednagar where he stayed with a friend.

Vishal started working in Ahmednagar MIDC where one day he met a TG who had come to ask for money. Identifying with the TG, Vishal developed a friendship with them, regularly visiting their home. Vishal wanted to be like his friend who took him to Pandharpur where Vishal performed all the required rituals to transform into Sheela.

Finally, Sheela was able to be herself, adorning herself in saris, make-up, jewellery, tikli and leggings. Having learned all the rules, customs and traditions of the TG society, she was living in her guru's house and her daily routine required her

to beg to help support her new family. After three years in Pandharpur, Sheela moved to Ahmednagar and with her two 'sister' started begging at a busy toll on Solapur Road.

Vishal's family had been searching for their son and one day arrived at the toll shocked to see Sheela, who fled as people around her tried to stop the shocked and angry family from attacking her. A few days later her brother, father and cousin returned on a mission to kill Sheela, again she ran away. Looking to save her life Sheela met Feroz, an MSM and TG field officer in our Snehyot project. Feroz brought Sheela to our office where she met our project manager and counselor. She was then taken to Laila Guru in Ahmednagar who took her in and renamed her Laila.

During discussions with Laila she shared that she didn't want to beg anymore and seeing her potential we hired her as a peer mentor. Laila wanted more, she wanted to complete her education. Feroz went to her old school to collect her certificates and she was admitted to Bhai Satta Night School. Laila was an excellent student, working on our project during the day and attending school every night. She soon caught up and was admitted to 11th standard commerce and the MSCIT. She passed both with good marks and is now in 12th standard after which she wants to study to become a lawyer.

Laila's begging days are a distant memory as she completes her education while working with us to encourage other TGs to follow her lead.

FINALLY FREE TO LOVE

Savita from Pune was 14 when she was forced her child marriage. Although the teenager gave birth to two beautiful and healthy girls, her in-laws weren't happy, they were only interested in having a grandson. Having failed them, her husband and father-in-law started physically and mentally abusing her. Her physical health came to suffer and with the family withdrawing her access to money, she was struggling to earn her own daily wages. Appealing to her own family they also refused to help her. Stressed and unsupported she fell into depression not knowing how to handle the most basic of tasks.

Desperate, she thought that if she could give birth to a son, everything would change. She grasped at the chance and fell pregnant for a third time, but even with the chance of a son, her husband continued harassing her. Unable to face the abuse any longer, the six-months pregnant Savita attempted suicide by taking poison. She survived and gave birth to twins, one was again a girl, but she had also finally produced the much-longed-for boy. Her happiness was short-lived as they received the news that the boy had severe

mental health issues. Her in-laws were furious and continued torturing her for the next four years.

Again she attempted suicide, this time with her babies. She was saved, but her children were taken away from her, and she was sent to Yerwada jail for almost 15 years. When she was eventually released there was nowhere for her to go and she ended up at our Snehalaya Pune shelter. Unsurprisingly she was mentally unstable and aggressive, threatening to kill people. Fearing for her and others' safety, we admitted her to our Manoyatri project

The trauma Savita has experienced from such a young age will always be with her, but with our treatment and support, she is now slowly healing. Still with no family to return to, she continues to live at our project helping to take care of the other patients. Denied the opportunity with her own children she is now sharing her love and care with everyone here, providing a bridge between our center and patients.

Celebrating festivals strengthens the bonds between our Manoyatri staff and patients.



FINANCIALS

Statement of Income & Expenditure Accounts For The Year Ended March 31, 2022

Income	Rs in Lakhs
Grants & Donations	1,013.39
International Sources	642.29
Bank Interest Received	151.97
Misc Receipts	20.90
Expenditure over income (Deficit)	-
Total	1828.55

Expenditure	Rs in Lakhs
Food, Grains & Vegetables	54.66
Education & Skill Development	40.08
Health & Medicines	37.48
Livelihood	15.59
Program & Social Activities	195.47
Salaries & Honorarium	264.10
Farming	4.26
Other Expenses on the Object of the Trust	233.73
Repairs & Maintenance (buildings, electrical & vehicles)	68.95
Establishment Expenses	49.49
Rent	11.13
Insurance	5.31
Audit Fees	0.001
Depreciation on Assets	180.52
Excess of Income over Expenses (Surplus)	667.77
Total expenditure	1828.55

For deposits being made in ₹ INR. All deposits qualify for 80G tax exemption.

Bank Name : HDFC
Branch : Ahmednagar, Ambar Plaza Building - A, Opposite Old S T Stand, Station Road, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 414001
Name of Charity : Snehalaya
Account Number : 01811000053339 - Savings
IFSC code : HDFC0000181
MICR number : 414240001

For deposits being made in foreign currencies as per FCRA regulations.

Bank Name: State Bank of India
Name of Charity : Snehalaya
Account Number : 40153553940 - Savings
SWIFT code: SBININBB104

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2022

Liabilities	Rs in Lakhs
Trust Fund or Corpus	677.45
Ear Marked Trust Fund	2523.16
Depreciation Fund	188.70
Loans	0.05
Other Current Liabilities	30.02
Provisions	-
Rent Deposit	1.00
Income & Expenditure A/c	1790.64
Total (deficit/surplus)	5211.03

Assets	Rs in Lakhs
Fixed Assets	2098.67
Fixed deposits - banks & other	2422.03
Investments	
Other Deposits	9.06
Current Assets, Loans and Advances	77.73
Stock in hand	27.51
Accrued Interest on fixed deposit	288.52
TDS	45.35
TCS	0.47
Tax paid against Income Tax appeal	6.45
Rent Receivable	0.46
Grant Receivable	-
Other Current Assets	21.19
Cash & Bank Balances	213.60
Total	5211.03

Detailed Statement of Accounts is available on request

Auditors

ABHAY BHANDARI CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Pooja Complex, Chandani Chowk, Opp.
Ahmednagar College, Ahmednagar - 414 001.
Maharashtra, India
Tel: 0421- 2342956, 2342960

CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE NORMS COMPLIANCE

Governing Body

Executive Committee & Annual Gross Remuneration Paid

S. No	Name	Designation
1	Sanjay Gugle	Chair
2	Arun Sheth	Vice-Chair
3	Kaustubh Amte	Vice-Chair
4	Rajiv Singh	Vice-Chair
5	Rajiv Gujar	Secretary
6	Meera Kshirsagar	Asst Secretary
7	Suhas Ghule	Asst Secretary
8	Jaykumar Munot	Treasurer
9	Jaya Jogdand	Trustee
10	Beharam Nagarwala	Trustee
11	Shashikant Satbhai	Trustee
12	Sangita Shelar	Trustee
13	Firoz Tambatkar	Trustee

Monthly Salary plus benefits paid to staff	Male	Female	Total
<5,000	42	70	112
5,000 to 10,000	65	88	153
10,000 to 25,000	39	30	69
25,000 to 50,000	01	-	01
50,000 to 100,000	-	-	-
over 100,000	-	-	-
Total	162	199	335

Total cost of international travel by staff - Rs 1,36,290.

Annual remuneration of two highest paid employees:

- Rs 516,000/- Senior Assistant Director
- Rs 3,00,400/- Project Manager

Remuneration of Lowest paid Staff members:

- Rs 24,000/- Watchman

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

Staff details as on March 31, 2022

Gender	Paid Full Time	Paid Part Time	Volunteers Full-time	Volunteers Part-time	Paid Consultants	TOTAL
Male						
Female	87	2	43	13	2	138
TOTAL	75	9	31	68	5	191
	162	11	74	81	7	

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) of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Income Tax Permanent No: AAETS3394M. 80G certification: AAETS3394MF20214. 12A certification: AAETS3394ME20214.

Snehalaya has received Accreditation from Credibility Alliance (CA/82/2013), a consortium mandated to audit NGOs, for the standard of good governance organisation & transparency.

Snehalaya has Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar India, Three-Star Rating with Give India and is a Top-Ranked Organisation with Global Giving.



CREDIBILITY
ALLIANCE



www.guidestarindia.org
AWARDED TO GSN 299
Snehalaya
Subject to validity of registration under IT, FCRA and registration as NPO

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our supporters, we wouldn't exist without you. From the single person donating a small cash sum, the fundraisers running events and those sharing our news through social media to those giving in-kind donations of clothing or meals to celebrate a birthday or remember a loved one, we appreciate and thank every last one of you. It would be impossible to list you all, but we know who you are and we hope you realise that every contribution you make, no matter how big or small, is making a positive difference to our beneficiaries' lives. 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 us the guidance and reassurance that keeps us motivated, sustainable and successful.



Please visit us!

Snehalaya, 239 F Block, MIDC, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 414111, India

Tel: 0241 2778353, 9970982505, email: info@snehalaya.org

Find out more about our life-changing work at www.snehalaya.org. Follow us and share the love:

 @snehalaya

 [facebook.com/snehalaya](https://www.facebook.com/snehalaya)

 [instagram/snehalayaindia](https://www.instagram.com/snehalayaindia)

