




# ANNUAL REPORT

2013-14





Founded in 1997 as an interfaith cricket club, SAHER shaped up into an organization addressing the impact of communal conflict, and focuses on rebuilding faith between people. Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and the Bombay Public Trust in 2005, SAHER's work started in Jogeshwari, Mumbai where settlement patterns, even otherwise demarcated across communal lines, were completely ghettoized after the '92-93 communal violence.

Our interactions with children and youth over many years have helped us realize that growing up in segregated communal settlements has not been equipped young people to develop competencies to operate in a diverse world. Communal violence and mob frenzy is momentary and ends within a few days. What linger on are deep scars of alienation, discrimination and mistrust across communities. Over the years, people residing in communal ghettos have made little efforts to know the 'other' and this has resulted in apathy towards shared concerns for civic and social development. This has led to a very limited understanding of identity manifested in violence based on religion, gender, class and caste.

To address this concern, our emphasis has been to work with adolescents and youth who are still at an impressionable age and open to accepting ideas. A continuous exposure to multiple realities and contextual situations enable young people to recognize and respect differences more easily as they build critical perspectives about the self, history, society and politics. This leads to expressions and actions that challenge socio-political structures that divide people.

All our programmes are relevant in socio-economically marginalized communities that have experienced conflict with young people growing up to construct the 'other' as the adversary based on stories and interpretations of conflict situations. These communities are microcosms of a deeper social malaise that inflicts violence through stereotyping, structural deprivation and discrimination on the basis of religion, culture, gender, caste and class. We aim at educating various stakeholders to understand the need to work on peace building at different levels

- with young people, educators, government institutions and communities so that peace does not merely become an absence of war.

SAHER's model is that of integrated community development based on:

- Creating opportunities for accessing quality education through Integrated Technological Education (ITE), Life skills through sports, exposure
- Enabling men, women, boys and girls to build their capacities as aware and competent citizens who make informed decisions related to family, society, civic issues and livelihood
- Nurturing community spaces that are interactive, democratic and based on critical thinking





### *Our Vision*

*SAHER's vision is to build a world where differences are recognized, accepted and appreciated.*

### *Our Mission*

*SAHER work towards empowering communities, by enabling people to aspire, lead and contribute in bringing meaningful changes in the society, effecting a shift from social conflict to a just and equitable society.*

# PROGRAMMES INITIATED BY SAHER

## ITE

A three year project aims at creating access to quality education through an ITE approach for 600 children from schools and madrasas in community based coaching centres in Jogeshwari (East) in Mumbai.

Most of the students from socially, economically and educationally backward sections of the Muslim community begin their education from madrasas and maktabas, where education is relatively cheap and in some cases free. The students and teachers of these madrasas also get a euphoric feeling that they are performing their religious duties by learning Quran by heart, no matter whether they understand it or not. The community of Jogeshwari east is no different. The schools placed in the area do not offer good quality education, as a result of which the students suffer. SAHER recognised that there are gaps in the current education system available to the community's children and thus decided to intervene. The premise of this programme is that adolescents

need to be proficient in basic computer skills for them to be able to develop professional expertise later in life.

Through the ITE programme, SAHER aims at working with adolescents in the Jogeshwari community at two levels:

- a. Working with teachers and children going to neighbourhood schools to integrate technology through supplementary coaching to impact the learning curves of children
- b. Working with teachers and children attending madrasas to integrate secular and technological education with existing theological curricula

The Sunflower Learning Hub was inaugurated in March

2014 to teach Integrated Technology Education to students from Urdu Medium Schools. They are now run on a daily basis with one child going through structured ITE sessions once a week. Children are distributed in three different locations across two centres - Sunflower Learning Hub and Al Falah School and Darul Uloom. SAHER will start with 2 supplementary coaching centres to guide 200 (100 academically weak children and 100 from Madrasa) from neighbourhood schools in Jogeshwari East community with emphasis on children from minority and Dalit background. The ITE approach will be integrated in subjects such as English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science only.



## SPORTS FOR PEACE



**120**

student participants  
from an earlier target of 100

**62**

sessions held  
with three indoor workshops

**50**

gatherings organized  
to brief parents and teachers

SAHER is using football to conduct sessions with adolescents and youth. This is because it is an inexpensive instrument for community mobilisation, bringing groups of people together and galvanising them around issues as diverse as gender, women's rights, health, etc. Team spirit and trust can be built quickly in the context of a football match. Suspicions and personal barriers can drop and doors can open.

Thus, for SAHER football is more than a game.

In January 2013, SAHER launched Sports for Peace program, reaching out to 150 participants, which uses football as a means of reaching out to young girls and boys, from various religious, socio-economic and caste backgrounds. Children interact to know each other and the process enable them to challenge personal and

# PROGRAMMES INITIATED BY SAHER

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communal stereotypes based on socio-religious identities.

Team sports are seen as powerful tools to unify and mobilize youngsters, as they work together in achieving the same goals, learn to share space and equipment and show respect for each other. This teaches them how to cooperate and compete in a sportsmanlike manner and how to respond to conflict constructively. These are crucial aspects for peace-building, which drop suspicions and personal barriers, opening doors for new opportunities.

As youth in these communities are often not given the space to express themselves, the discussions held at the end of each session encourage participants to share their own thoughts and experiences. The outcome is confident teenagers who contribute positively enabling the larger society to also view them as responsible citizens with potential.

This program touches various topics, including citizenship action and reproductive health, leading them to take up social action projects in their communities. Weekly football sessions with 150 adolescents from across various faith based backgrounds studying in four neighbourhood schools were held. Out of these

150 participants, 49% were Muslim, 39% were Hindus and 12.5% belonged to different religious faiths. Developmental sessions on topics such as team building (acceptance, respecting each other, being in a team), communication, anger management, knowing our emotions, identity, stereotypes, gender roles, etc were also part of the programme. We were been able to create a buy-in with parents from the community to send their children for these football sessions which has led to a zero drop-out rate among participants. Meetings with parents were organized to understand their perception regarding sports and to build their perspective on the importance of sports in a child's life.

Engaging with adolescent children through football has helped us address some very important issues in the community. Issues such as open space for children, importance of sports in child's life, understanding values of mutual respect, and acceptance and appreciation for fundamental human rights came to the fore.

Children from different religions have come together to play on the field, surpassing their differences. Many were vocal and shared that it was

for the very first time that they have befriended children from different religions. The sports program has given us much needed visibility and trust within the community. Participants' parents accept that this program has helped their children to enroll in high school.

A sense of responsibility has developed amongst participants. They are able to resolve minor conflicts positively without our intervention. Many adolescents have shown leadership skills in volunteering and have successfully managed conflicts, not just at home, but also in the spaces outside the boundaries of their homes. Girls were not vocal earlier and now have confidence to debate and express. We see girls negotiating their spaces in their family to come and participate in our programmes. Many have overcome the fear of interacting with opposite sex.

One of the most rampant issues in the community is substance abuse, making the adolescents susceptible to these vices. However, the session on the effects of substance abuse helped them understand the concept and make correct life decisions.



# Iram

It is believed that with perseverance and directed motivation, one can follow one's dreams to their full realization. We at SAHER are also firm believers of this. It has been our dedicated effort to encourage the young members of the community that we are placed in. It is fairly easy to understand that the adolescents of our society are the future harbingers of change. This is why SAHER emphasizes on empowering them. In the course of our presence in Jogeshwari east we have come across various adolescents who possess exceptional talents but have been waiting for the right opportunities. One such individual was 18 year old Iram.

Iram was a school dropout and had enrolled herself in Yashwantrao open school. Her father had just returned from abroad as he had quit his job. He was not supportive of her education and the number of times Iram went outside the house. Meanwhile, he also fell ill and was hospitalized, leaving the house responsibilities on her shoulders. Due to such circumstances, she quit the open school too. The team at SAHER discussed this issue with her parents and counseled them on the significance of education. Her mother had an integral part in supporting Iram. The challenge was her father's objection with sending her to Bandra to inquire about the enrollment as the centre at the nearby Ismail Yusuf College had been closed. The team then contacted her brother who was willing to help her out and accompanied her to the centre. In the meantime, we also kept a close track about the admission dates and continued informing her. As a result of our incessant efforts and her own determination, Iram was enrolled for the 12th standard examinations.

In another instance, we noticed that Iram was a talented, shy girl when her mother approached SAHER for her participation in sports in one of the community meetings. Though the age limit for membership was 17, Iram was allowed to join the football team as her mother made a persistent request to take her in. There has been no looking back ever since. She attended the practice session regularly with a strong support from her mother. Wearing her burqa, she would play enthusiastically among other members. Realization to her talents came after she participated in the cooking competition during our annual Peace Week. SAHER felt it was important to encourage Iram's talents and the combined efforts of the team and Iram, she gained confidence. The skills which were never appreciated before were now being recognized and showcased in front of the entire community. Iram was elated. A slight speed bump came in her journey when her father, who was working abroad, came back home to find his daughter playing a sport which was not commonly played by girls. He insisted that Iram stays at home as he was not in favor of her activities beyond the boundaries of the household.

Iram approached SAHER for support and encouragement in order to convince her father to let her continue playing football. The organization did everything in its capacity, conducted regular counseling sessions and home visits to talk to her parents, and following many discussions, her father allowed her to play football on the pretext that she finishes all household chores before going for practice. Iram has come a full circle since her association with SAHER. She feels accepted for who she is and leaves the office with new hope and strength to pursue her dreams every time. Iram has now completed her secondary education with SAHER's support and now works with Magic Bus as a mentor for the football team. Even though she still juggles between household work and her job, she feels happy for the fact that she is pursuing her dreams. The shy girl has emerged as a strong personality who displayed immense finesse in her skills and showed her parents how important pursuing one's dreams is.

# PROGRAMMES INITIATED BY SAHER

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

The objectives of the sessions were based on the Youth Development Programme, that is, to educate the youth about the connection between the self and the society, reproductive and sexual health, and about democracy and citizenship. The focus was mainly on these three aspects.

### 1. KHUL JA SIM SIM

#### 22 PARTICIPANTS

The session of Khul ja Sim sim was initiated with 22 children from the community. The themes of the subsequently conducted sessions were on communication, self-awareness and creative thinking.

### 2. PARWAAZ

#### 192 PARTICIPANTS

Parwaaz focuses on building capacity of youth to realise their potential to bring about meaningful change in society through processes of self-exploration, collective learning and exposure to multiple realities and on using tools of democracy to ensure accountability in governance. This year we organized 39

capacity building sessions with 192 youths from different backgrounds. These sessions were on identity, stereotypes, reproductive health, democracy and citizenship, values enshrined in Preamble to Indian Constitution, Fundamental Duties, Fundamental Rights, Law, and structure of the State etc.

50 students were taken to an exposure camp to Ahmedabad which built deep relationship among them. Several participants made special mention of their learning in terms of political awareness, knowledge on Mahatma Gandhi's life and work etc. Many participants said that the experience exceeded their expectations in terms of the learnings from it. Many acknowledged that they will apply what they learned about politics in the camp to their personal and social life. Few also shared with

us that every state and place have different traditions and lifestyles and that they need to respect it. The experience has also built confidence among youth to speak in a group. Youth participants understood the various facets of social discrimination, whether on the lines of religion, caste or gender. They said that they would interact with society and their family members and urge them to refrain from practicing discrimination of any kind.

### 3. FILM MAKING

#### 20 PARTICIPANTS

We, at SAHER, believe that creative arts can be used to build peace. They can be used to reinforce cooperation and develop proficiency in communications. They can overcome language barriers and make people more aware of diverse points of view.



Creative therapies also allow individuals to feel connects to the community's history and tradition thereby developing their own sense of constructive purpose. This initiates a process of long lasting peace because when individuals are at peace with themselves and with their histories; conflicts are less likely to arise within the community.

Taking this as cue, SAHER engaged 20 youths in a film making activity. All participants were from different colleges and different communities. They all belonged to marginalized communities with no or less interaction with people following different religious faith. Out of the 20, four were Muslim, one was Christian and 15 were Hindu. The experience has helped them express their ideas and views. The stories that were developed were from the real life. All the girls shared that they had never interacted with boys in the past, but this experience helped them gain confidence to interact with them to the extent that they shared food from the same plate. All the participants shared that they did not have friends from interfaith backgrounds and after interacting with other participants they realised that they are similar in many ways. On one of the occasions some of the participants visited a Hindu temple and the other faith background participants also accompanied, though with much apprehension and fear.



## **NEENV: ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY**

### **25 PARTICIPANTS**

SAHER launched 'Entrepreneurship Development Program' with Patuck Gala College in Vakola, Santacruz East. The programme creates platforms and processes that identify, incubate and invest in youth led enterprises in urban communities to address the key need of young people to have a fulfilling life in addition to addressing their livelihood needs.

The programme aims to increase the prevalence of entrepreneurship as a career option for youth.

The program started with approximately 48 participants however with drop rate being very high; at the end we had 25 participants. More than 50% were girls. Majority of the participants were from lower economic background with both the parents working to make two ends meet. Parents work as driver, waiter in some restaurants, selling garments from road side small shop, etc. These young participants were keen to start a small enterprise or assist father in their small business and hence joined the program. All the participants are pursuing graduation in different field. Most of them in first or second year in graduation.

A holistic curriculum was delivered over 25 days. The group has gone through sessions those relating to entrepreneurship character/ attitudes/skills such as systems thinking, leadership, conflict resolution, team building, risk taking and communication skills, costing, market survey, etc. The journey had classroom cum experiential learning.

## Osama

“Didi, do you know that this girl is just 14 years old and her marriage has been fixed? Can we not do anything to stop it?”

Concern was written all over his face for an unknown girl for Osama had suddenly become the thinking adolescent!

Children from slum populations in Jogeshwari East have grown up in a vulnerable environment which hampers their holistic development. It is a difficult situation as they sometimes give in to the hardships and give up on their education. One such example is Osama who is one of the participants from our Sports for Peace programme. Osama was enrolled in the ninth grade when he faced an issue during his final results. He was not one of the high scorers of the class, however, he was not one of the most careless either. When he received his final examination results, he was filled with disappointment as he had been failed. He informed the team at SAHER that he had studied enough to pass the exams and that he must have been failed by the teachers because he was a mischievous student. Although his sister agreed with him too, Osama was overwhelmed with annoyance and decided to discontinue his education. This is when Sandhya didi – the Programme Coordinator – intervened and counselled him, reiterating the significance of education. Osama reentered the education system through National Institute of Open School (NIOS). We felt that continuing in the open school would not make his peers judge him and would give Osama the opportunity to learn better. He agreed to joining the school and now continues to work hard. He is also attending private tuitions so that he finishes class ten with good grades.



## Rizwana & Imtiyaz

"I'm going to Hyderabad and Heena has said that she will sponsor this trip"...meet Rizwana (Heena)'s proud mother-in-law. Rizwana now works as an ITE facilitator with SAHER, balancing household and work even as her mother-in-law can be seen taking care of her two children. Rizwana began participating in SAHER's Youth Development Programme since 2008 as her husband Imtiyaz inducted her into this group. Imtiyaz, one of SAHER's founding youth members went through a transformational experience through one session on self reflection.

Before this session, he belonged to the school of thought that women are to be restricted within the walls of the household, and education will take them away from their supposed duty of taking care of the home. This session "Self" focused on discovering oneself, answering questions about our personality, our goals, etc. It encouraged the participants to question the motives behind their everyday actions. Imtiyaz used this space to reflect on his attitude towards other people. He realized that he had been biased towards women. He understood that the gender stereotypes he held towards his wife and sister had to be discarded. Thereon, he encouraged his wife to pursue her education and stayed with her through tough times, assisting her in studies. With time, he was able to make his mother understand the importance of education even after marriage and change her perspectives. Rizwana was able to complete her graduation and he too was able to attain a diploma course in Electrical Engineering. She joined the SAHER team in 2014. Imtiyaz is a pillar of strength for his wife and Rizwana is any day a role model for young women in the community – a mother who studies sincerely, eats paani puri with her kids and goes for bike rides with her husband!



# PROGRAMMES INITIATED BY SAHER

## ANNUAL PEACE WEEK

The Annual Peace Week creates platform for children from different backgrounds to play, interact and know each other. Every year, this week reinforces the need to celebrate diversity to intensify peace building efforts. Amidst a community setting where children from different religious backgrounds are not encouraged to interact and play with each other, this event brought them all together. 2293 children, youth and adults participated during Annual Peace Week. Many new events and cultural activities were included. A community cooking competition was organised to involve the girls and women of the community. The event received an overwhelming response. The cooking competition was the only window of hope for women to participate on a community level. It proved to be one of the only platforms for them to come out and exhibit their talent.

11 interfaith schools from Jogeshwari participated in athletics, football and other sports events. Around 350 to 400 children played and interacted with each other during this event held at the Dominic Savio School Grounds in Andheri East. 98 youth volunteers helped organise this event.

We also conducted a half day workshop with 8 school teachers on building their





**2293** people directly reached  
**+5000** people indirectly reached  
**11** participant schools  
**98** volunteers

perspective on peace, sports etc. It was very well received and teachers invited SAHER to conduct similar workshop in their schools with other teachers and students as well. This has helped them understand the objective of peace week.

Peace week had been a small community event up until last year. However, this year we decided to scale it up immensely in order to become a platform for advocacy of interfaith dialog. It has addressed concerns of lack of space for children to play, has encouraged gender equality by actively engaging girls and women to participate in public spaces and has showcased potential of young people as film makers. The increased number of youth volunteers is testimony to the impact of SAHER's work in inspiring volunteerism. It is the people's responses and positive feedback about our work that encourages us to start new events.

Conducting felicitation on a public ground helped us build good rapport with local politician thus hoping to make them understand the importance of open spaces for children. Many mothers

also shared with us that they are happy that their daughters are performing during felicitation programme since they have missed out on it in past. The campaign also saw participation of people from the film, theatre and media industries that recognize this as important work. We observed that several children had previously been seen as difficult children, but had now proved themselves to be talented and responsible.

For the first time ever there were many Muslim women from the community who came along with their children without hesitation. Many parents acknowledged that they have never seen their children perform or participate in anything and that they felt good seeing their confidence.

Finally the last event was part of Mumbai's city wide Kabir festival that celebrates the 14th century mystic poet of India. The journey through a stunning diversity of social, religious and musical traditions which Kabir inhabits, explored how his poetry intersects with ideas of cultural identity, secularism, nationalism, religion, death, impermanence, folk and oral knowledge systems. The event was well received with almost 400 community members enjoying a two hour concert where singing minstrels sang, conversed about and spread the eclectic spirit of Kabir's poetry.

The event was covered by the media house DNA and talked about SAHER's efforts and contribution in encouraging communal harmony.

Coverage by Chintan Girish Modi for the 5th Space Series very aptly records the essence of Peace Week.



# CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVES

## UN – MANIFESTO

SAHER along with 45 other civil society networks across the country engaged young people in creating their own manifestos that aimed to influence the manifestos of various political parties. Through workshops and door-to-door visits involving around 30 young volunteers we were able to collect nearly 1500 promises from people. We have also created an understanding among the youth regarding what is politics, how the system works and how

they can empower themselves and as citizens influence the decision making process. Greater awareness among the general public especially the youth regarding what is a manifesto, how is it made, and what are the promises made for the youth were looked upon.

The idea of the Un-Manifesto campaign was very well received by young people. They felt that no one has ever sought them out to engage in

political processes and they never felt important enough to be contributing to how the country is run.

Possible influence on party manifestos was achieved by engaging different political party representatives in the dialogue and presenting the young people's manifestos to them.

### Promises of Jogeshwari (E)

The most recurrent promises which the residents of Jogeshwari east wished for were reduction of inflation, better living conditions, regular water supply, etc. Apart from these, it was interesting to see that the residents wished for a better infrastructure too. Some of the other promises were:

"Infrastructure in schools should be improved." – Zebu Nisha

"Better employment opportunities for everyone." – Shujauddin Khan

"Free medical services to be provided to the public." – Salma Khan

**1500** people reached  
**30** volunteers



## IFTAAR CELEBRATION

150 people from various religious denominations, civil society groups and communities participated in the Interfaith Iftaar. People from the film fraternity, academicians, clergy men, Muslim groups (Shia and Sunni), Sikh groups, Hindu groups, Tamil groups, Christian groups came together for the event.

The 'interfaith Iftaar celebration' was an important programme which led to a discussion on certain issues which need collaborative action regardless of religious identities. This is an effort to develop an ecosystem and a platform where people meet and collaborate and develop an understanding of the

issues, and also understand the fact that unity is the need of the hour. Taking into consideration the current debate on the educational structure in India, this year SAHER focused on the 'Importance of Education within Different Faith Backgrounds'. People from various walks of life such as academicians, NGO representatives, school trustees, representatives from Minhajul Quran (Islamic clerical association), youth and adults from the community participated in the event. We also conducted sessions on citizenship and democracy with youth who participated in this event. Indian Express covered the event with much enthusiasm.

One of our key supporters and guest speaker, Sukant Panigrahy was invited by another Community Based organization to advocate sanitation drive in one of the open spaces in the community which at present is also being used for Sports for Peace. Sukant Panigrahy is an Art Director and engages and inspires community groups to become aware of Nature using eco sustainable, recyclable materials.

The event strengthened our bond with one of the schools in the community. The trustee of this school invited women from the Self Help Group (SHG) that SAHER initiated to talk and inspire women from their locality to start a similar group.

The food made for the event was organized by the interfaith women's Self Help Group from the community. This move was appreciated by a large number of participants thus motivating the SHG to show more commitment towards a business venture

We have successfully created a space for people from different walks of life who have begun volunteering for SAHER's programmes and activities. They are spearheading the execution part of our events and it is exhilarating to see this.



## Taslima

It was the loud and persistent sound of banging against a wall that finally broke the reluctance of Hamida Baig to interfere in her neighbour's affairs. That sound was of 13 year old Taslima Shaikh being physically abused by her older step brother's wife. When she later saw Taslima with a sore eye, her fears were confirmed.

Hamida later spoke to Taslima's sister-in-law Mehraj, but to no avail. At that time, Hamida used to teach Taslima the Quran Sharif. Taslima, along with Mehraj and her husband were tenants in Hamida's house. In early 2013, Hamida began to observe a change in her. She saw that she had become very quiet and would begin to cry for no apparent reason.

Some time after the incidences of physical abuse started, Taslima would secretly meet Hamida and tell her about the treatment meted out to her. She pleaded with her to take her away from her stepbrother and his wife's house and to give her some kind of job. Hamida found that Taslima had been taken out of school and forced to do most of the household work. That is when she decided to approach SAHER for help.

For SAHER, intervening in such cases was not the organization's usual area of work. However, the members of the group decided to take up this case and delve deeper into Taslima's story. Taslima Shaikh, now 14 years old, originally hails from Bijnour, Uttar Pradesh. In Mumbai, she used to live in Prem Nagar, Jogeshwari (E) along with her elder step brother Aminuddin Shaikh and his wife Mehraj. Her mother works as a bar dancer and left Mumbai after the death of her husband. She was his second wife. After the mother left Mumbai, Taslima began to live with Aminuddin and Mehraj. According to her neighbours, after she turned thirteen years old, Mehraj would force her to get up at 4.30 in the morning and do the household chores. She also forced her to drop out of school. For a brief period, she even used to sell eggs at night after 10 p.m outside a local alcohol bar.



To resolve the situation, a meeting was arranged at SAHER's office with the girl and her family. According to Sandhya Panaskar of SAHER, Mehraj said that she was "hitting her for her own good" and asked the members of SAHER not to interfere in the matter. After the meeting, Taslima again came on two occasions to SAHER's office in secrecy and asked for help. However, later she suddenly began speaking in a different voice and insisted that she wanted to go back to her hometown. Sensing that her family might be forcing to go away from the city and possibly to get her married off, SAHER immediately approached the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The CWC sent Taslima to a children's home in Dongri and also summoned the senior police inspector of the Meghwadi police station. The police later recorded the statements of three of her neighbours, Hamida Baig, Suvarna Naik and Shraddha Salvi. The senior police inspector also recorded the statement of Mehraj to the effect that she would not mistreat Taslima in future. However, Taslima had to stay in the children's home for about a month in detention. She naturally became agitated because of this. She saw that there were several children who had been in conflict with law in the children's home, and wondered why she was being kept there although she had not committed any crime.

The CWC eventually directed her release, after ordering her family to make a fixed deposit account in her name and deposit Rs 45,000 in it. The committee also put a condition that she should be enrolled back in school and that she should not be forced to go back to her hometown. At present, Taslima is back in school and studies in the seventh standard. She does not stay in Prem Nagar now, but lives with Aminuddin and Mehraj in a distant part of Jogeshwari. One day Taslima was the teacher at the community centre teaching origami to children. She had learnt this during her stay at the Children's home and was proud to share her skills!

# TEAM MEMBER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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## **Sandhya**

Sandhya was selected for International Volunteers Leadership Program on "Combating Gender-Based Violence" from February 3 to 21, 2014, organized by US consulate. She has visited many non profits in different states such as Washington DC, San Francisco, Atlanta, Denver, Minneapolis.

## **Manasi**

Manasi visited Casablanca, Morocco for 5 days training organized by United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations in June 2013. Manasi was invited by UNAOC for a Capacity Building retreat held in Casablanca, Morocco. This exchange between UNAOC partners was meant to deepen learning around resource sharing and use of communication tools for enhancing project implementation.

## **Rama**

Rama was invited for a GFC Knowledge Exchange retreat in Delhi in May 2013 that aimed at building capacities of non-profits in raising funds and utilising M&E tools for strengthening programmes



# A matter of faith and friendship

Excerpts from an article by Chintan Girish Modi...

A couple of months later, I got to know of SAHER, an organization in Jogeshwari doing some wonderful interfaith work with young people, and strengthening local capacity and resources for peace building. SAHER is an acronym for Society for Awareness, Harmony and Equal Rights, and it runs out of a small office in Prem Nagar, a locality in Jogeshwari. They bring together children and youth from different religious communities to participate in programmes that involve sports, teambuilding, leadership initiatives, communication skills, career guidance, social awareness, and much else. According to them, the energy of young people is too precious a resource to be wasted or inappropriately channelized. This realization is what fuels any 5th Space project.

"The place where you got off the autorickshaw, that police chowki, is located at the dividing line between Hindu neighbourhoods on one side, and Muslim neighbourhoods on the other. Where you are sitting right now is a Muslim ghetto. Many people refer to this place as 'mini Pakistan' in a derogatory way. And the dividing line is called the LoC, or Line of Control," shared Manasi More, Co-Director of SAHER, as I tried to imagine what this place might have looked like in 1992.

"In 1992, the police were picking up a lot of young people and putting them in prison, often without verifying. False charges were pressed on Akhtar. He was in Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail for 21 days. What was his crime? The fact that he was born in a Muslim family! It did not matter to them that Akhtar's father brought him up in a home that celebrated all festivals, and that Akhtar's circle of friends was not limited to people of his faith. The fault lines in our society run much deeper than we are aware of," added Rama Shyam, SAHER's Co-Founder, who is also married to Shaikh Masood Akhtar, the other Co-Founder.

Anyone who is engaged in peacebuilding work knows well that peace does not mean merely the absence of direct, visible, or violent conflict. Violence is entrenched in many of our social structures and cultural practices in such insidious ways that we almost forget that it is unacceptable. Peace building involves changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, and moving towards nonviolent and creative responses to conflict.

"In vulnerable communities, the idea of fun is often associated with having power over others. That can be very unhealthy and harmful. SAHER activities promote the idea that people can come together to have fun but

that occasion can also be turned into something that has meaning. You can have fun while scripting a play, etching out characters, putting up a performance for the community. Fun need not be at someone else's expense," said Rama. In order to take this idea further, SAHER runs a life skills programme called 'Parwaaz' for college youth, and a football programme called 'Sports for Peace' for school children.

The SAHER team views the young people they work with as partners or collaborators, not merely consumers of an experience made available by experts. The office itself functions more like a community centre, with people free to walk in and out, seek resources, volunteer their services, or stop by for a conversation. In fact, one of their programmes is called Mohalla Hamaara, meaning 'Our Neighbourhood'. Taking ownership of the space and coming up with fresh ideas for community activities is explicitly encouraged. This home-like feel seems like an extension of the people who founded this space. Rama and Akhtar come across as people without pretensions, happy doing their work quietly.

# OUR PARTNERS

## Collaborators

### Schools

National Urdu High School, Gurunanak English High School, People's Welfare School, Balvikas Vidya Mandir, other Schools in Jogeshwari

### College

Burhani College of Commerce and Arts, UJJ Mahila Mahavidyalaya (women's college), Patuck Gala college and Shrimati Parmeshwari Devi Durgadutt Tibrewala Lions Juhu College of Arts, Commerce & Science (Bagadka college), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Anjuman I Islam College Of Education (Navi Mumbai)

### Non – Profit

NIIT foundation, We the people, Modern youth association, Magic Bus, Mafia (Group of Media People), Manav Seva Sangh (Ahmedabad), Trimandir (Ahmedabad), United Way of Mumbai, CBO in Jogeshwari East, Modern Youth Association.

## Financial Support

Global Fund for Children (GFC)  
Pravah  
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)  
United Nations Alliance Of Civilisation  
Youth Reach

## Consultants

Archana Bagra (Finance)  
Shaikh Masood Akhtar  
Rama Shyam  
Frank Fredericks (Online Marketing consultant)  
Hardik Kumar Suresh  
Shomali Johri (M & E)  
Rajiv Mohite (Film Maker)

## Resource support

Pravah, Delhi  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
Sukant Panigrahy (Art Director)  
Bhushan Patil  
Kanthari  
Pritish Palekar  
Monica Sakhrani  
Bina Wagle  
Urmila Solunkhi  
American Consulate in Mumbai

## Individual Donations

Sushila Gopalkrishnan  
Sheikh Masood Akhtar  
Rama Shyam  
Mubarak Ibrahim Atpale  
Farhan Ansari  
Sahira Iqbal Bawgan  
Sandhya Panaskar  
Manasi More  
Prof. Farukh Waris  
Prof. P.K. Shajahan  
Dr. Manish Jha

## Implementation team

Manasi More  
Sandhya Panaskar  
Gausuddin Sayyed  
Shahnaz Bagwan  
Anjum Nakhwa

## Interns and volunteers

Kanushikha Yadav  
Neerad Pandharipande  
Chamdanlung Panmei  
Thomas Sarko (Liberia)



# CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE NORMS COMPLIANCE REPORT

## Governance

Name	Designation	Gender
Prof. P K Shajahan	President	Male
Farhan Akhtar Ansari	Vice President	Male
Prabhu Chettiyar	Secretary	Male
Sana Jalgaonkar	Joint Secretary	Female
Roshani Sakpal	Treasurer	Female
Ravi Gulati	Member	Male
Gurpal Singh	Member	Male
Prof. Ram Puniyani	Member	Male
Dr. Rama Shyam	Member	Female

## Staff Details

Gender	Paid full-time	Paid part-time	Paid Consultant	Unpaid volunteers
Male	1	0	3	3
Female	2	2	2	1

# FINANCIALS

Abridged balance sheet as on 31st March 2013

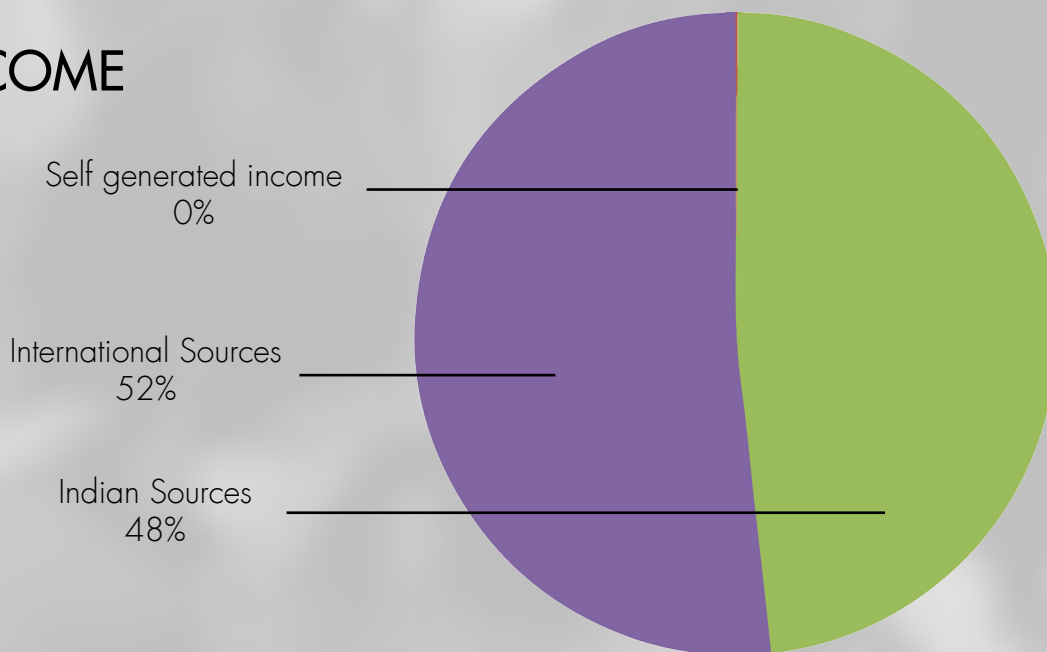
Particulars	Amount	%
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed Assets	3.52	21%
Deposit and advances	0.64	4%
Cash & Bank Balances	12.77	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.93</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities and provisions	1.5	9%
Income and expenditure Account	15.43	91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.93</b>	<b>100%</b>

Abridged income and expenditure account for the year ending 31st March 2013

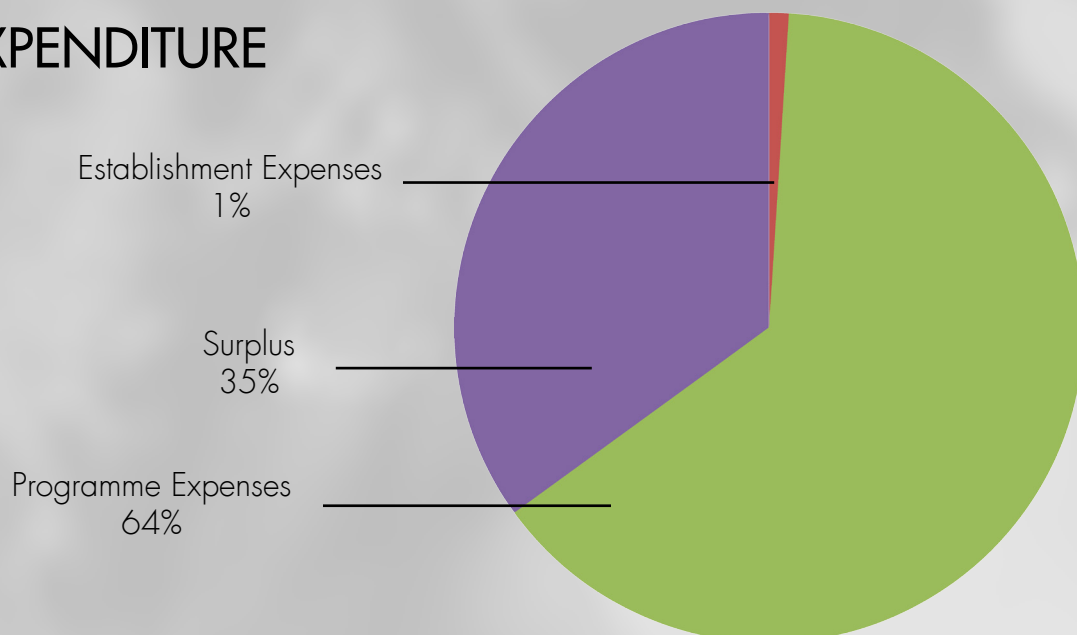
Particulars	Amount	%
<b>Income</b>		
Self generated income	0.04	0%
Indian sources	20.04	48%
International sources	21.56	52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.64</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Establishment Expenses	0.68	1%
Programmes Expenses : Other Charitable Objects	26.45	64%
Deficit/ Surplus	14.51	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.64</b>	<b>100%</b>



## INCOME



## EXPENDITURE





Society for Awareness, Harmany & Equal Rights

G/4/64, Prem Nagar, Jogeshwari (E),  
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 400060  
022 28244386 saherorg@gmail.com

[www.saherindia.org](http://www.saherindia.org)