

2015-2016

# ANNUAL REPORT



**SAHER**

Society  
for Awareness,  
Harmony  
& Equal Rights





SAHER IS DEDICATED TO TRANSCENDING COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES TO PROMOTE PEACE, DIVERSITY, AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP BY MOBILIZING YOUTH THROUGH LEADERSHIP, CREATIVE EXPRESSION, AND EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMS. THE FUTURE OF SOCIETY DEPENDS ON THE YOUTH, AND THEIR POTENTIAL TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE SHOULD NOT BE WASTED DUE TO A LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES.

SAHER AIMS TO EMPOWER CAPABLE YOUTH WHO ARE ESSENTIAL FOR FOSTERING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY, TRANSFORMING SOCIAL CONFLICT INTO OVERALL PRODUCTIVITY, AND INSTILLING VALUES OF LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DRIVE SOCIAL ACTION. OPERATING FROM A DIVERSE AREA IN MUMBAI, SAHER BEGAN ITS WORK IN 1997 IN RESPONSE TO THE UNCERTAINTY AND DIVISION FOLLOWING THE COMMUNAL VIOLENCE OF 1992-93. THIS VIOLENCE LED TO INCREASED ISOLATION AMONG COMMUNITIES, RESULTING IN EMOTIONAL WOUNDS AND UNPLEASANT MEMORIES, PARTICULARLY AFFECTING CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS. SAHER'S INITIATIVES FOCUS ON BRIDGING DIVIDES, FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING, AND CREATING A HARMONIOUS, INCLUSIVE FUTURE FOR ALL.

GROWING UP IN ISOLATED ENVIRONMENTS WITH CONSTANT CHALLENGES, MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE NOT HAD THE CHANCE TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS NEEDED TO THRIVE IN OUR DIVERSE WORLD. RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF YOUTH TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE IN BOTH THEIR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, SAHER STRIVES TO INSTILL A SENSE OF UNITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND SENSITIVITY IN THESE INDIVIDUALS. WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO EXPRESS, REFLECT, ANALYZE, AND ACT ON THEIR THOUGHTS, HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND THEIR STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS, AND EMPOWERING THEM TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THEIR IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS.

WE AIM TO PROVIDE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES. OUR GOAL IS TO EQUIP THEM TO ADDRESS DIVERSE SITUATIONS AND REALITIES, AND TO INTERPRET HISTORY, SOCIETY, POLITICS, AND THEMSELVES WITH A CRITICAL AND INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE.

**THIS YEAR, SAHER WITNESSED A WIDE ARRAY OF IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:**

- **ITE (INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION)**
- **SPORTS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **PEACE WEEK CELEBRATIONS**
- **TEACH FOR INDIA**
- **WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE**
- **CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAM BY THE INDIAN CANCER SOCIETY**

**THESE INITIATIVES HAVE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MOTIVATING AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, ALLOWING THEM TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. SAHER IS HONORED TO SERVE AS A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR THE COMMUNITY, FOSTERING POSITIVE CHANGE AND AWARENESS. THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SHIFTING MINDSETS AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT VARIOUS IMPORTANT ISSUES. OUR EFFORTS HAVE HELPED INDIVIDUALS BECOME MORE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND MORE ENGAGED IN ADDRESSING COMMUNITY CHALLENGES.**



## ITE PROGRAMME

IN 2015-2016, THE ITE PROGRAMME ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES:

- **PARTICIPATION:**

- 250 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND 150 CHILDREN FROM MADRASAS ATTENDED TWO COACHING CENTRES.
- 100 SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATED FROM WITHIN THEIR SCHOOL PREMISES.
- A TOTAL OF 321 CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED IN THE ITE PROGRAMME.

- **RETENTION AND PROGRESS:**

- WE OBSERVED A 95% RETENTION RATE OUT OF 256 CHILDREN COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
- AT AL-FALAH HIGH SCHOOL, 81 STUDENTS ADVANCED TO GRADE IX AND ARE NO LONGER COVERED BY THE ITE PROGRAMME.

- **RECRUITMENT:**

- ITE FACILITATORS VISITED LOCAL SCHOOLS TO RECRUIT 250 CHILDREN.
- FIVE SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED FOR NEW ENROLLMENTS, RESULTING IN 173 NEW STUDENTS JOINING THE PROGRAMME.

THE ITE PROGRAMME'S SUCCESS IS LARGELY DUE TO POSITIVE WORD OF MOUTH, REFLECTING THE HIGH SATISFACTION AND TRUST WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.



# PEACEWEEK

JAN 2-3: PEACE WALL

WITH THE SUPPORT OF ART DIRECTOR SUKANT PANIGRAHI, CHILDREN AND YOUTH FROM THE COMMUNITY PAINTED 2 PEACE WALLS ON A SCHOOL WALL AND LOCAL PUBLIC TOILET. FOR THIS EVENT, STUDENTS WHO USUALLY WOULD NOT INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER, BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS SEGREGATION IN THE COMMUNITY, CAME TOGETHER TO BEAUTIFY THEIR COMMUNITY. AS QUOTED BY EXPRESS INDIA ON JAN 4, 2016, LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENT ARCHANA REDDY EXPLAINS: "IN TODAY'S WORLD, COMMUNITIES TEND TO STAY INSULATED IN THEIR OWN WORLD. THIS INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, HELPED BREAK BARRIERS. I INTERACTED WITH GIRLS FROM THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY. GENERALLY WE GET VERY FEW INCIDENCES TO INTERACT IN OUR LOCALITY." IN ADDITION TO BRIDGING COMMUNITY DIVIDES, LOCAL STUDENT MUSTAFA MANDASOURWALA EXPLAINED THAT THE MURAL PAINTED ON THE LOCAL PUBLIC TOILET WALL WAS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS AND CALL OUT DRUG USAGE THAT FREQUENTS THAT AREA. MUSTAFA ATTESTS THAT AFTER THE MURAL WAS PAINTED, THE AREA CHANGED AND NOW DRUG USERS RARELY, IF EVER, FREQUENT THE AREA. THE PEACE WALLS ARE A PERMANENT REMINDER IN THIS COMMUNITY OF THE TYPE OF COLLABORATION THAT IS POSSIBLE. PEACE WALL HIGHLIGHTS:

- DIRECT REACH – 60 PARTICIPANTS
- INDIRECT REACH – 500 LOCALITY RESIDENTS



## JAN 5: INTERSCHOOL SPORTS DAY

SPORTS DAY IS ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED EVENTS OF PEACE WEEK. THIS YEAR, EVEN BEFORE THE PEACE WEEK SCHEDULE WAS ANNOUNCED, BOTH NATIONAL SCHOOL AND FAROOQ GIRLS SCHOOL APPROACHED SAHER TO SIGN UP THEIR STUDENTS FOR SPORTS DAY. WHEN THE EVENT FINALLY COMMENCED, 12 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED, INCLUDING 4 URDU MEDIUM, 6 ENGLISH MEDIUM, AND 2 MARATHI MEDIUM SCHOOLS.

STUDENTS FROM THESE COMMUNALLY SEGREGATED SCHOOLS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK AWAY FROM STEREOTYPES OF SEGREGATION. ON SPORTS DAY, THEY ENJOYED RUNNING, PLAYING, LAUGHING, AND CELEBRATING TOGETHER, TEMPORARILY SETTING ASIDE THE COMMUNAL DISPARITIES AROUND THEM. NOTABLY, BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS WERE GIVEN EQUAL IMPORTANCE AND INCLUDED IN ALL EVENTS, PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY.

SPORTS DAY PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH PEERS FROM VARIOUS COMMUNAL BACKGROUNDS. FOR MANY GIRLS, IT SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN EXPLORING THEIR OWN STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

### SPORTS DAY HIGHLIGHTS:

**DIRECT REACH: 450 PARTICIPANTS**

**INDIRECT REACH: 1,800 LOCALITY RESIDENTS**



## JAN 7: KABIR AND QAWWALI EVENT

SAHER ORCHESTRATED A CAPTIVATING MUSICAL EVENT FEATURING BOTH BHAJANS AND QAWWALIS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KABIR PROJECT. PADMA SHRI PRAHLAD TIPANYA, A RENOWNED SINGER FROM MADHYA PRADESH, OPENED THE EVENING WITH A FUSION OF FOLK KABIR BHAJANS AND INSIGHTFUL EXPLANATIONS, ENTHRALLING THE AUDIENCE WITH HIS PERFORMANCE.

AS THE NIGHT PROGRESSED, THE CROWD GREW, CAPTIVATED BY THE QAWWALI PERFORMANCES OF DEV NARAYAN SAROLIYA, BINDHU MALINI NARAYANSWAMI, AND VEDANTH BHARADWAJ. THE EVENT SAW LOCAL HINDU AND MUSLIM RESIDENTS COMING TOGETHER, ENJOYING BOTH BHAJANS AND QAWWALIS, BREAKING DOWN RELIGIOUS BARRIERS AND CELEBRATING A SHARED LOVE FOR MUSIC AND SPIRITUALITY.

THIS EVENT HIGHLIGHTED THE POWER OF MUSIC TO FOSTER UNITY AND INCLUSION AMONG DIVERSE COMMUNITIES. MOHAMMED IRFAN SHAIK, A LOCAL RESIDENT, SHARED HIS ENTHUSIASM WITH THE MUMBAI MIRROR, STATING, "THEY SHOULD ORGANIZE SUCH PERFORMANCES EVERY MONTH HERE, NOT EVERY YEAR."

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

DIRECT REACH: 300 PARTICIPANTS  
INDIRECT REACH: 500 LOCALITY RESIDENTS



## JAN 9: COOKING EVENT

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT STOMACH IS THE WAY TO CONNECT HEART AND BRAIN AND SO WHAT IS BETTER THAN THE FOOD TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER. IT WAS VERY EVIDENT DURING THE SAHER'S COOKING EVENT WHERE 19 WOMEN FROM THE VICINITY COOKED THE DELICIOUS FOOD ITEMS WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM BY SHOWCASING THEIR CULINARY SKILLS IN THE COMPETITION. THE JUDGES INCLUDED VISHAL VIJAY KRISHNA ACHARYA (DHOOM 3 DIRECTOR), ANUSHA KHAN, GURPAL SINGH (FOOD FOOD TV HOST), AND HABIB FAISAL (BAND BAAJA BAARAAT FILM DIRECTOR). THE COMPETITION WAS ENTHRALLED BY THE SMILES, GRACE, AND BUZZING EXCITEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS. MANY WOMEN EXPRESSED THAT THEY ARE CONFINED IN THE FOUR WALLS OF THE HOUSE AND HARDLY THEY ARE ABLE TO GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO FLAUNT OF THEIR TALENTS OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES BUT THIS COOKING COMPETITION GAVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK THE SHACKLES OF THE DAILY LIFE THEY ARE USUALLY LIVE TO. WE OBSERVED THE FOOD ITEMS REPRESENTING THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURE WHICH INCLUDED CABBAGE KOFTA CURRY TO KAJU KORMA AND CHILLI CHICKEN TO SHAMI KEBABS ETC. PREPARED BY THE WOMEN.

### **COOKING COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS:**

- DIRECT REACH - 60 PARTICIPANTS
- INDIRECT REACH - 500 LOCALITY RESIDENTS





## JAN 10: INTERCOMMUNITY PROGRAMME

IN 2016, THE INTERCOMMUNITY PROGRAMME WAS INTEGRATED INTO PEACE WEEK FOR THE FIRST TIME, REFLECTING THE CONTINUALLY GROWING AND EVOLVING NATURE OF OUR INITIATIVES. THIS NEWLY DESIGNED EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER AN INTERGENERATIONAL GROUP OF COMMUNITY YOUTHS AND ADULTS, ENGAGING THEM IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TREASURE HUNTS, MAZE GAMES, AND ONE-LEGGED COMPETITIONS.

SAHER STAFF METICULOUSLY DESIGNED THESE GAMES TO UNITE COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ALL AGES. PARTICIPANTS COMPETED ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOR A FREE DINNER AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT, RUNNING THROUGH THE "GULLIS" OF THE COMMUNITY AND ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF MANY ONLOOKERS. DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES, THE GAMES ENCOURAGED MIXED AGE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM DIVERSE RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS TO COLLABORATE, FOSTERING A SPIRIT OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY.

### INTERCOMMUNITY PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS:

**DIRECT REACH: 50 PARTICIPANTS**

**INDIRECT REACH: 500 LOCALITY RESIDENTS**

**THIS EVENT NOT ONLY HIGHLIGHTED THE POWER OF INCLUSIVITY BUT ALSO STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY BONDS THROUGH SHARED EXPERIENCES AND COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION.**

**ALL OF THE PEACE WEEK EVENTS LEAD UP TO THE FINAL CULTURAL EVENING.  
DIRECT REACH – 500 LOCAL RESIDENTS •  
INDIRECT REACH – 2500 LOCALITY RESIDENTS**

**OVERALL OUTREACH THROUGH PEACE WEEK 2016:  
1420 - PEOPLE DIRECTLY REACHED  
+6300 PEOPLE INDIRECTLY REACHED  
12 PARTICIPANT SCHOOLS  
70 VOLUNTEERS/COLLEGE INTERN**



**PROGRAM: ADOLESCENT INTERVENTION PROGRAM WITH TEACH FOR INDIA**

**PARTICIPANTS: 32 STUDENTS OF CLASS VII**

**TRAINING AIM: CONDUCT WORKSHOPS ON THE "SELF TO SOCIETY" MODULE FOR STUDENTS AGED 12-17.**

**OUTCOME:**

- **FOCUS ON RAPPORT-BUILDING, EMOTIONAL REGULATION, AND LEARNING THROUGH SPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS.**

**IMPACT:**

- **THE PROGRAM AIMED TO CHANNELIZE STUDENT ENERGY POSITIVELY, ADDRESSING UNDERLYING ISSUES AND PROMOTING SELF-EXPLORATION AND SOCIETAL UNDERSTANDING.**

**WOMEN COLLECTIVE FOR CIVIC ISSUES, SENSITISATION, AND CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**THE WOMEN COLLECTIVE INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING CIVIC ISSUES, RAISING AWARENESS, AND PROMOTING HEALTH EDUCATION AMONG WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY. THIS PROGRAM INCLUDED SEVERAL KEY COMPONENTS:**

**CIVIC ISSUES: WOMEN IN THE COLLECTIVE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS TO TACKLE LOCAL CIVIC PROBLEMS. THEY ORGANIZED COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO ADDRESS ISSUES SUCH AS WASTE MANAGEMENT, SANITATION, AND NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY, FOSTERING A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION.**

**SENSITISATION: THE COLLECTIVE WORKED ON SENSITIZING WOMEN TO VARIOUS SOCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING GENDER EQUALITY, EDUCATION, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THROUGH WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSIONS, PARTICIPANTS WERE EMPOWERED WITH KNOWLEDGE AND STRATEGIES TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.**

**CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: PARTNERING WITH THE INDIAN CANCER SOCIETY, THE CAMPAIGN AIMED TO EDUCATE WOMEN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF CANCER. THE PROGRAM INCLUDED INFORMATIVE SESSIONS ON RECOGNIZING SYMPTOMS, THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCREENINGS, AND AVAILABLE HEALTHCARE RESOURCES.**



AN APPEAL  
BY DONATING OR EVEN BY  
VOLUNTEERING  
WITH US, YOU GET TO DIRECTLY  
TOUCH LIVES  
OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE ACROSS AGE,  
RELIGION,  
AND GENDER. SAHER'S MULTI-  
DIMENSIONAL  
APPROACH TOWARDS BUILDING  
PEACEFUL  
COMMUNITIES, ENCOURAGES  
CITIZENS  
TO PARTICIPATE IN ISSUES OF  
EDUCATION,  
EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, LIVELIHOOD,  
AND  
GOVERNANCE. JOIN US TO  
CELEBRATE  
DIVERSITY AND STRIVE FOR A  
SOCIETY THAT  
THINKS CRITICALLY AND TAKES  
OWNERSHIP AS  
ACTIVE CITIZENS.  
WE APPRECIATE SPONSORSHIPS AND  
ALSO WELCOME DIRECT FUNDING  
FOR OUR  
PROGRAMMES. VOLUNTEERS ARE  
WELCOME TO  
SUPPORT US AND BE A PART OF OUR  
FAMILY TO  
ENGAGE WITH AND LEARN FROM  
PEOPLE FROM  
VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE



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SAHER (SOCIETY FOR AWARENESS HARMONY AND EQUAL RIGHTS) IS REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1860(732/2005 GBBSD) AND BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT, 1950 (F-28871).

ALL DONATIONS MADE TO SAHER ARE EXEMPTED FROM INCOME TAX AS PER ORDER NO. DIT (E)/MC/80G/58/2009. SAHER HAS BEEN ENTERED AT NO.42008 IN REGISTER OF APPLICATION U/S 12A OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961