

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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MANTHAN
A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Manthan is a non–profit organization based in Kotri village, Roopangarh Tehsil, Kishangarh Block, Ajmer District, Rajasthan, India. Most of the villages where Manthan operates are on the banks of the Sambhar Salt Lake. It was started on August 22, 1998, prior to which it was a field Centre (1981-1997) for the Social Work and Research Centre (SWRC) at Barefoot College, Tilonia headed by Bunker Roy. Manthan works on diverse local issues related to sustainable development along with empowering marginalised and excluded communities in 150 villages of Ajmer, Nagaur, Jaipur, Didwana-Kuchaman districts of Rajasthan, India. Besides Manthan has implemented solar electrification project in 6 states (Odisha, Gujrat, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttarakhand, and Bihar).

While working in the community for education, organization recognized that water was the main basic need of the community as the areas are surrounded by Sambhar Salt Lake due to which ground water is salty. Besides this major issue, communities also face severe social, economic, political and other environmental challenges.
Considering these challenges, Manthan started working on issues related to water conservation, health access, education facilities, energy and provision of basic amenities through the Back to Basic Program.

Our Vision

All the deprived and backward people should have access to quality and adequate resources and live a good life with justice and self-respect

Our Mission

Our Mission is to support communities through skill development, gender equality, health, youth leadership, social security, sanitation, livelihood and climate resilience for sustainable growth

MANTHAN PROGRAMMES 2023-24

S.NO.	PROGRAMME	UNIT	NO OF VILLAGES	BENEFICIARY COUNT
1	Manthan Night School	2	2	51
2	Manthan Sikshan Sansthan	1	1	69
3	Manthan Women Night School	1	1	37
4	Water Tank	19	6	100
5	Back To Basic- Blankets	240	5	658
6	Smile Internship programme rural	38	13	3620
7	Pravaha internship programme	6		82
8	Youth Development		25	450
9	Coro India Fellowship			2
10	Community Library	1	1	
11	Jan Bhagidari (Panchayti Raj)		6	1950
12	Child First (Residential hostel)	1		5

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Women Night School

The Women's Night School empowers last-mile community women by bridging educational gaps and fostering awareness, independence, and participation in a rapidly changing world. Designed with a practical, relevant curriculum, it combines traditional learning with rights awareness, enabling women to open bank accounts, access government schemes, gain essential skills, and even start businesses. Beyond academics, the school offers a safe, supportive space for recreation and emotional well-being, strengthening community bonds. A unique aspect is the participatory approach—women actively help design and run the school, ensuring the curriculum meets their real needs. The teaching model includes gamification, experiential learning, and problem-solving to create a dynamic, student-centered environment.

Learning also happens outside the classroom through field visits to Panchayats, health centers, banks, and police stations. Expert-led sessions on micro-finance, health, and governance give real-world context. The Village Education Committee oversees the program, adapting it to evolving community needs. Currently, 37 students aged 16 to 68 are enrolled. Many graduates become role models, inspiring others to value education, thus creating a ripple effect of empowerment. The Women's Night School is more than a learning space—it's a catalyst for change, nurturing confident, informed women who uplift their communities.

S.NO.	ACTIVITIES	NO	NO OF VILLAGES	BENEFICIARY COUNT
1	**Puppet shows**	2	1	200
2	**Curriculum with women participation**	1		37
3	**Monthly Meetings**	3		37
4	**Women writing started**			37
5	**Important Day celebration**	2	1	100

Women night school in Bherwai



Activities collectively showcasing transformative impact

Community Mobilization through Puppet Show:

A vibrant puppet show was organized to raise awareness and engage the community, emphasizing the importance of education and women's empowerment.

Participatory Curriculum Design at Manthan Campus:

The school's curriculum was thoughtfully developed with active participation from women, ensuring it reflects their real-life needs, interests, and aspirations.

Foundational Learning in Counting, Hindi, and the Alphabet:

Women enthusiastically engaged in learning basic literacy and numeracy skills, including counting, reading in Hindi, and writing letters such as "Ka" and "Kha."

Writing Their Own Names – A Milestone in Empowerment:

A significant achievement was seen as women began learning to write their own names, a powerful step toward self-reliance and identity.

Cultural Enrichment through Traditional Song and Dance:

Women actively took part in traditional song and dance sessions, balancing learning with cultural expression, which strengthened both personal growth and community ties.

DAY SCHOOL

Manthan Educational Institution was founded to provide education to girls from economically and socially marginalized backgrounds who had no access to formal schooling. Many of these girls were burdened with household responsibilities, such as fetching water and caring for younger siblings, which prevented them from attending school. To address this challenge, Manthan launched a Night School in the village, allowing girls to learn in the evenings after completing their chores.

In 2009, the Night School evolved into a full-fledged Day School, officially named Manthan Educational Institution, with the goal of offering consistent, quality education to children of daily wage laborers and disadvantaged families. Since then, the institution has successfully integrated over 350 girls into the formal education system. Many of them have progressed to higher education and are now attending college.

Currently, the school has 66 enrolled students, including 45 girls and 21 boys. Originally exclusive to girls, the school began admitting boys in 2018 to foster inclusive learning.

Manthan focuses not only on academics but also on holistic development. It incorporates games, interactive learning, and extracurricular activities into the curriculum to keep students engaged and motivated. The school continues to serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity for rural children.

S.NO.	ACTIVITIES	TYPE	NO OF SCHOOL	BENEFICIARY COUNT
1	**Digital Learning**	**Gadgets**	**1**	**45**
2	Special Day Celebration	**National days**	**1**	**66**
3	**Farewell ceremony**		**1**	





Students Details

Class-Wise Enrollment Details -

Class	SC		ST		SBC		General		OBC		TOTAL		
CLASS	BOY	GIRL	BOY	GIRL	BOY	GIRL	BOY	GIRL	BOY	GIRL	BOY	GIRL	TOTAL
1	2	2	~	~	1	2	~	1	~	2	3	6	**9**
2	1	0	~	~	1	~	~	~	1	5	3	6	**9**
3	3	1	~	~	1	~	~	~	1	2	5	3	**8**
4	~	2	~	~	~	1	~	~	2	4	2	7	**9**
5	~	4	~	~	~	1	~	~	~	4	~	9	**9**
6	4	2	~	~	~	~	~	~	1	1	5	3	**8**
7	1	4	~	~	~	1	~	~	~	2	1	7	**8**
8	2	3	~	~	~	~	~	1	~	~	2	4	**6**
TOTAL	**13**	**18**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**5**	**20**	**21**	**45**	**66**

Teacher Details

Sr.No.	Name	Father/Husband	Caste	Educational Qualification	Date of Joining
1	Roopa Ram	Nathu Ram	Mali	Bed , MA	20.6.2015
2	Nanda Ram	Bodu Ram	Meghwal	B.A	16.8.2013
3	Nisha	Harkaran	Jat	Bsc Bed	25.6.2018
4	Bindu	Roopa ram	Mali	M.A	25.6.2018
5	Rekha	Gordhan Lal	Prajapat	B.A	25.6.2018

Manthan Children Night School

In Rajasthan, many children from marginalized and tribal communities such as Kalbelia, Bhopa, Bagariya, Banjara, and Gadia Lohar are unable to attend school due to the long distances from educational institutions. These children, residing in small settlements called Dhaniyas, often spend their days helping with household chores, looking after livestock, or caring for younger siblings, which prevents them from attending regular school. To bridge this educational gap, Manthan Sanstha launched the Night School program, specifically designed for children aged 6 to 14 who cannot attend school during the day. The program offers these children an opportunity to pursue basic education and integrate into the mainstream school system. The Night School also promotes democratic values, health awareness, and leadership skills. Its curriculum emphasizes holistic development, encouraging children to learn through interactive and engaging methods. So far, over 1,500 children have benefitted from the initiative, with many continuing their education in government schools and colleges.

School and Class-Wise Enrollment

School and Class-Wise Enrollment				
Sr. No.	Name of School	Class 1		TOTAL
		BOY	GIRL	
1	Padampura Bagariyo ki dhani	11	11	22
2	Aau Bagariyo ki Dhani	12	17	29
TOTAL		**23**	**28**	**51**

Teacher Information -					
Sr. No.	Name	Father/Husband	Age	Caste	Educational Qualification
1	Pooja	Kishori Chand	24	Meghwal	B.A ,Bed
2	Sunita	Mohan Lal	20		B.A,
3	Kamal Kishore	Mohan Lal	36	Meghwal	12

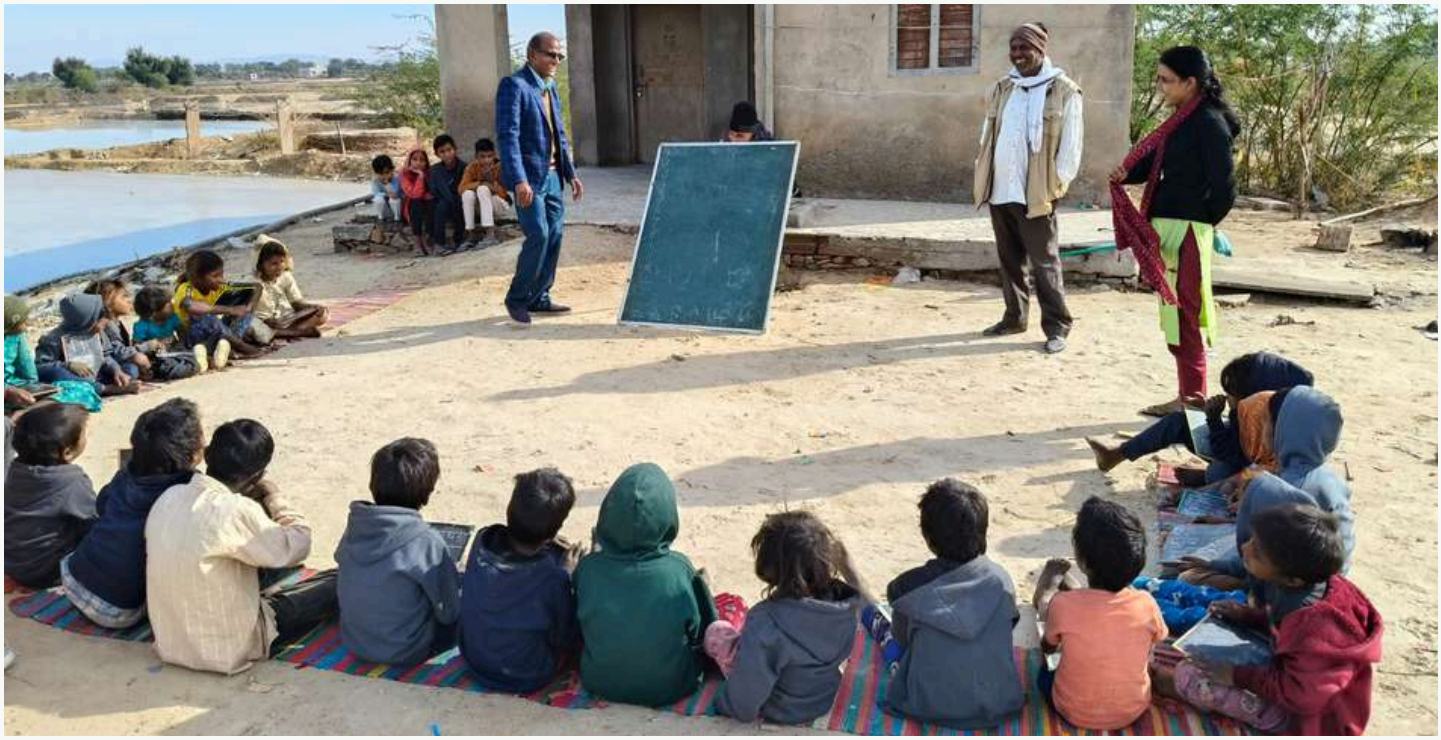






NIGHT SCHOOL

Students of the Night School have made remarkable progress in their learning journey. They have developed the ability to write, work and stay together harmoniously, and actively engage in studies through interactive games and activities. One of the most significant changes observed is their growing ability to sit with focus and interest during study hours—something they had never experienced before. This environment has not only enhanced their academic skills but also fostered discipline, teamwork, and a genuine interest in learning.



Progress of Night School

- Subjects taught include Hindi, Mathematics, English, Environmental Studies, and Bal Pothi (children's foundational book) for First- and Second-Class levels.
- Community Meetings – 4 community meetings were conducted.
- Parent Meetings – 8 parents attended meetings focused on increasing their interest in education, awareness of government schemes, and the role of School Managers.
- Teacher Training – Monthly meetings held for one (1) day every month and a five (5)-day training session.
- Visit by German Guests (Filming) – Guests from Germany visited and filmed at Ramishala, Bagoriya Ki Dhani.

Child First Programme

Manthan Sanstha has launched the Child First Program to support children from economically marginalized and nomadic communities. These children often face severe challenges—some are orphaned, while others have parents who migrate for work, leaving them without consistent care or access to education. Through this initiative, Manthan identifies and selects such vulnerable children, offering them a safe and nurturing environment through residential education. This means the children live at the Manthan facility, where they receive not just quality education, but also shelter, nutritious meals, and emotional support.

This year, five children from the Bagariya community have been welcomed into the program. These children now live at Manthan's residential campus, where they are given the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically and socially.

The Child First Program is designed to empower these children by breaking the cycle of poverty and exclusion.



WATER PROGRAMMES

Water Tank Project

Access to clean drinking water remains a critical challenge in Rajasthan, especially in areas like Sambhar, where communities are forced to rely on saline water sources. This reliance on fluoride-contaminated and chemically unsafe water has led to widespread health issues among residents, particularly affecting children and the elderly.

Recognizing this urgent need, Manthan Sanstha launched its Water Tank Initiative to support economically disadvantaged and socially marginalized communities such as the Bagoria, Kalbeliya, and Banjara. These communities often cannot afford to build water storage tanks in their homes, leaving them dependent on unsafe sources and unable to harvest and store rainwater for drinking.

To address this, Manthan Sanstha has successfully constructed 430 individual household water tanks, enabling families to collect and store clean rainwater. This has provided a sustainable solution to the drinking water crisis in these regions. Notably, in the year 2023–24, the organization built 19 water tanks across six villages in Ajmer district, further expanding the program's reach and impact.

Before this initiative, women and girls spent hours each day fetching water from distant sources—often 1 to 2 kilometers away—waiting in long queues. This not only affected their health but also limited their time for household responsibilities, education, or income-generating work.





List of 6 Villages Where Water Tanks Have Been Built

Water Tank

Sr.no	Name	Village	Capacity	beneficiary
1	kanta	kotri	10000 L	5
2	pana	paladi	teenshed	7
3	meenakshi	kardala	8000 L	5
4	marbada	kotri	8000 L	6
5	ganga	raghunathpur	10000 L	5
6	madan lal	kotri	10000 L	6
7	govt s.s nosal	nosal	10000 L	170
8	Mohanlal	kotri	10000 L	6
9	babulal	kotri	10000 L	5
10	kanta	nosal	10000 L	5
11	chidiya	kotri	10000 L	6
12	susila	kotri	10000 L	5
13	parmaram	paner	10000 L	7
14	parkash sankar	paner	10000 L	5
15	shimbhu nath	paner	10000 L	6
16	kailash nath	paner	10000 L	5
17	foji nath	paner	10000 L	6
18	chotu nath	paner	10000 L	5
19	omprakash	kotri	10000 L	5
	19	6	176000 L	270

Meeting with farmers

To help farmers in the surrounding fields understand the impact of the watershed project, meetings were organized to discuss the development of barren land, rising water levels, and support in availing Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). A total of 240 farmers participated in these meetings. Additionally, villagers were encouraged to submit proposals in the Gram Sabha to further expand the watershed project.



Sucess Story of a Farmer

Narayan Prajapat, a local farmer, shares that earlier, he used to live in the village and earned a living by making clay pots or doing daily wage labor. After the construction of the Nosal pond, water became available in their fields. He then installed a borewell in his field, and water was found just at 100 feet—whereas earlier, water was available only at 300 feet and even then, it was saline and unusable. After the borewell began supplying usable water, he and his family moved to live near their farm. They began cultivating wheat, barley, green fodder for animals, and various vegetables. As a result, their yield improved significantly.

Before the pond existed, the land was of little value—no one was interested in it. Today, the land value has increased to 2–3 lakh rupees per bigha. Inspired by this success, several farmers have now installed borewells in their fields and started farming. One farmer is even supplying water to 3–4 nearby villages through tankers, and the pond is now a drinking source for livestock from 67 villages.

Smile Internship Program (Rural)



Manthan has launched the Smile Internship Program for youth living or studying in rural areas, especially those preparing for competitive exams or higher education. The goal of this program is to help young individuals go beyond textbook knowledge and gain practical experience, while also focusing on their personal growth and development.

Under this program, some youth stay in their own villages for a duration of three weeks (21 days). During this time, they identify a local issue, build an understanding around it, and work collaboratively with the community to address it. This year, 38 youth from 13 villages participated in the internship and fellowship programs facilitated by Manthan. Through their efforts, a total of 3,620 people benefitted across different communities.

Sr. No.	Rural Internship				Fellowship		
		I	II	Total	I	II	Total
1	kerala	4	4	8	2	4	6
2	Jajota	3	4	7	2	2	4
3	Nosal	3	3	6	1	1	2
4	Parbatsar	1	~	1	~	~	~
5	Manwa	1	~	1	~	~	~
6	Aau	3	1	4	1	~	1
7	Bakarwaliya	2	~	2	~	~	~
8	Sinodia	3	1	4	1	~	1
9	Kotri	1	~	1	~	~	~
10	Kathoda	1	~	1	~	~	~
11	Ringi	~	2	2	~	~	~
12	Mithadi	~	1	1	~	1	1
13	Paladi	~	~	~	~	~	~
		22	16	38	7	8	15

Pravah Internship Programme



Under the Pravah Internship Programme based in New Delhi, students from various colleges and universities stay with Manthan for 21 days (3 weeks) to work closely with rural communities. During their internship, the volunteers not only gain an understanding of community life but also engage with Manthan's ongoing initiatives. They actively participate in fieldwork and make efforts to understand the challenges faced in these settings at a deeper level.

This year, 40 students from 6 universities completed their internship with Manthan through this program. Additionally, two National Camps, each lasting 5 days, were also organized under the same initiative. A total of 37 student volunteers participated across both batches, further enriching their learning and exposure to rural development work.

Sr. No.	College/University	Location	Student	
1	pravah	delhi	19	Orientation camp
2	ashoka university	delhi	18	Orientation camp
3	ISDM	delhi	8	Internship
4	Sardar Patel University	delhi	8	Internship
5	Kerala University	kerala	4	Internship
6	Hindu College	delhi	5	Internship
7	pravah intern	delhi	20	Internship
	6		82	

Youth Empowerment



In its efforts toward educational and social upliftment, Manthan has been working with youth from economically disadvantaged and Dalit communities in rural areas. As a result of these efforts, Dalit youth have become more educated, aware, and motivated to think about their own development. They are beginning to set aside internal divisions and come together on a common platform to discuss the development of both their community and the youth within it.

From this initiative, a tehsil-level organization was formed, named the Ambedkar Awareness Mission. This year, 10 meetings of the organization were held, and it currently has 450 active members from 25 villages.

Objectives of the programme

1. To connect youth to a collective platform through organized efforts.
2. To develop smaller awareness groups led by youth at the village level.
3. To improve the standard of education and organize recognition ceremonies to honor achievements.

Coro Fellowship Programme



The CORO Fellowship is a one-year program aimed at identifying grassroots leaders and organizations with strong leadership potential. The fellowship focuses on nurturing leadership qualities, encouraging the emergence of capable new leaders at the community level, and fostering development and social transformation through their efforts. It also aims to strengthen the capacities of the organizations driving such change.

Under this program, two fellows were selected from Manthan's operational villages: **Shivraj Bakrawaliya and Komal Khinchi (from Jajota village)**

The fellows received intensive training every three months. They were encouraged to choose an issue they were passionate about and work on it within their communities. Both fellows chose to address caste-based discrimination. Komal initiated discussions in her village on the discrimination faced by Scheduled Caste (SC) women in MGNREGA (rural employment scheme), where only women from the OBC (Other Backward Classes) were being assigned tasks like providing drinking water, while SC women were excluded from these roles.

This fellowship has empowered local leaders to raise their voices and take action on deeply rooted issues, paving the way for a more equitable society.

Community Library



The community library operated by Manthan is a space dedicated to promoting education and knowledge. This library is especially beneficial for children attending the Manthan School, as it offers a wide range of books covering various subjects and age groups. Children come here to study, gain new information, and broaden their understanding.

The library is not only for children but also serves as a valuable resource for Manthan's field workers. They can visit the library to study, access updated information, and enhance their professional skills. In addition, the library is open to the local community. Residents from nearby villages and neighborhoods can come to read books, access educational materials, and explore subjects of their interest.

The main objective of this library is to make education and knowledge accessible to every section of the community, helping to foster a culture of reading and learning, and bringing about positive changes in people's lives.

Public Participation (Panchayati Raj)

The organization has worked to raise awareness among community members about participating in Gram Sabha meetings held by the village panchayats. People were encouraged to voice their concerns, present development proposals, and get actively involved in local governance. Efforts were made to inform them about various government schemes and connect as many people as possible to these benefits.

Additionally, efforts were made to increase employment opportunities under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). The government also organized Inflation Relief Camps at the Gram Panchayat level, where the Manthan team raised awareness and helped people benefit from the following government schemes:

तारीख (Date)	गांव (Gav)	लाभार्थी	रजिस्ट्रेशन (Registration)	कलाकार रजिस्ट्रेशन (Kalakar Registration)
24-25 april 23	कोटडी	510	88	10
15-16 may	भीलावाल	380	60	~
23-24 may	भदूण	220	70	~
7-8 jun	सिनोदिया	480	80	3
21-22 jun	नोसल	360	80	7
1-2 may	जाजोता	350	67	5
		1950	**378**	**25**

Back To Basic

Manthan The poor, backward and Dalit communities of the villages of their work area like Bagaria, Kalbelia, Banjara, Bhopa etc. whose economic condition is weak, due to which they are not able to make tanks for storing rain water in their homes, due to which they have to drink salt water. Water-borne diseases have to be faced. There are many families who do not have a house to live in. They live by making thatch and slum.

In such a situation many problems have to be faced. Institution The selection of such poor families is done together with teachers, village education committees, women's groups, youth groups, etc. Keeping in view the above problems, Back to Basic program was started in which warm clothes, stitches, tinshed were provided.

Objective of the programme

- To provide clean and safe drinking water.
- To use time taken to fetch water for agriculture and labour.
- Increase in education of girls.
- To increase additional income of the family by doing animal husbandry.
- For better health and hygiene.
- Build strong relationships with the community.





SUCCESS STORY

Inspiring Journey of Sarju Devi



In the heart of Kalebelia Basti, Kotri, lives a woman whose story is nothing short of inspiring. Sarju Devi, a resident of the Bairwai community, has transformed her life through Manthan's night school education. Once unable to read or even recognize letters, she now not only manages her household but also runs a successful small business, proving that determination and the right opportunities can change lives.

For years, Sarju Devi struggled with illiteracy. She could not read letters, sign her name, or assist her children with their studies. Simple tasks like recognizing official documents or receiving communication were overwhelming. Her lack of literacy restricted her independence, making her reliant on others for even the most basic needs. But her dreams were bigger than her limitations. She wanted to break the cycle of illiteracy and set an example for her children.

she expanded her entrepreneurial journey by starting a small shop at her home, where she sells daily essentials. She not only provides for her family but also supports the community by ensuring they have access to necessities. To keep her shop stocked, she travels to nearby villages to source products, skillfully manages finances, and maintains an inventory —proving that she is not just a businesswoman but a true leader.

Through sheer determination and hard work, Sarju transformed her home into a small business hub. She has become a role model, showing other women that economic independence is within reach with the right mindset and effort.



Sarju Devi's story highlights a crucial truth—education is empowerment. It is not just about reading and writing; it is about gaining the confidence to navigate the world independently

Next Steps

With the devastation caused by the pandemic, women and adolescent girls have suffered disproportionately. They already bear the burden of childcare and all other household responsibilities. With the pandemic orphaning many children, we have restarted a hostel with 10 girls from the community so far. Women and girls are one of our priority communities in the next few years and we are seeking collaborations and project support with like-minded organisations that can support us in bridging the existing gender divide, creation of livelihood opportunities, linkage to government schemes and long-term behavioural change in society for women and girls.

MANTHAN'S POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR WOMEN

1. Providing basic digital literacy and mobile/computer skills
2. Providing vocational training to create livelihood opportunities
3. Providing mental health awareness and support
4. Enrolling children in school who are deprived of education
5. Connecting with government schemes and facilities like PDS, MGNREGA, Labour Card, Pension, Housing etc
6. Providing access to government facilities to pregnant and lactating women, awareness of reproductive health
7. Emphasis on making ANM or other government health workers reach these dhanis and families
8. Connecting orphan children with foster scheme

OUR TEAM



At Manthan, we have a diverse team ranging from experienced professionals, community workers and schoolteachers, under the supervision and support of the Founder and Director Mr. Teja Ram Mali and Operation Head Sanjay Malakar. Manthan's team over the years has built capabilities for data collection, surveying, financial management, project management, project reporting, excel based data reports, community building, facilitation and engaging with communities.

CONTACT US


barefootkotri@gmail.com


manthan_kotri


Manthan Kotri


Manthan Sanstha
VPO- Kotri, The -
Roopangarh, District -
Ajmer, Rajastha 305814