



## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

### PRESS NOTE

#### NCW Chairperson meets women and children of Bedia community

**New Delhi, July 16, 2022:** Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Ms Rekha Sharma was on a 2 day visit to Bhopal to meet with women and children of the Bedia community, which has traditionally depended on sex work for a living.

On day one, Ms Sharma visited the head office of Samvedna, an organisation that works to combat human trafficking specifically in the Bedia community in rural Madhya Pradesh.

Ms Sharma, along with members of the State's Women and Child Development (WCD) department visited the office. Board members of Samvedna Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Ms. Pragati Pandey, Mr. Manish Khare, Mr. Prashant Dubey, Mr. Manish Gupta and Ms. Divya Parmar were also present.

Ms. Sharma interacted with Young Bedia students associated with Samvedna's Lakshya program, an initiative to make children of the Bedia community who pursue higher education self-reliant. During the interaction, these students made her aware about their life situations, struggles and future aspirations.

On Day two, Ms Sharma and members of state's WCD department visited two villages in Rajgarh district-Jamuniya and Salay-to get familiar with the

organisation's work on ground. In Jamunia, the Chairperson interacted with children belonging to the Bedia community at the village's digital learning centre and informed them at length about the rights of children and women and how the Commission works for them. The members of WCD department also informed them about various government welfare programs for children and adolescent girls and encouraged them to register with these schemes.

The Chairperson also interacted with the members of the community in these two villages who informed her about the changes they witnessed in their villages and how children of their community have started to focus on their education and career. Young bedia children, especially girls are now pursuing higher education in the fields of law, nursing etc. and preparing for civil service exams. Ms Sharma also met families who are beneficiaries of Samvedna's livelihood initiatives.