

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES



2021-2022

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2021 - 2022

1. Introduction

SAHELI completed 18 years of existence in 2021 as an organization of poor rural and tribal women and 14 years as a registered charity, got registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860. The organization has registration with the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. This registration was renewed till 2025. It has exemption under sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act. It holds a PAN card and got registered with the competent authorities for the payment of professional tax. It has fully complied with statutory requirements as a legal entity. The organisation got registration with NitiAyog too. The activities got resumed after the negative impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic and the activities were well received by the communities with which SAHELI works.

2. Organisational Affairs

The Governing Body of SAHELI met twice this year and five members were present in these meetings. The annual meeting of the General Body held once in this year and it was attended by 21 members. The team of Governing Body elected during the annual meeting of the General Body in the year 2017 continued to remain in the office without any change.

Given below is the list of the members of the Governing Body now in the office.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Ms. Dalia Antony	President
2	Mrs.MinatiGhoshal	Vice-President
3	Mrs.SonaliSahu	Secretary
4	Mrs. MalatiHasdha	Joint-Secretary
5	Mr. Shaju V. Joseph	Treasurer
6	Mrs.ChampabatiTudu	Member

3. COVID 19 Relief Activities

The COVID 19 pandemic changed the lives of all sections of the people in our country. The worst hit is the target population of our project. Further it had forced SAHELI to make changes not only in the activities, but in the field work arrangement also. But the year under report showed improvements in the situation and the organization could partly resume its activities. The advantage for the organization was improved relationship with all departments of local administration.

4. Projects Under Implementation

The organization was implementing two projects. One for preventing child marriages and gender-based violence. This project continued to get support from MISEREOR Germany. This project operated in nearly 50 villages. This project is got extension for another three years from 2021 to 2024. And the areas of operation expanded from two CD Blocks to five CD Blocks.

The new CD Blocks added to the existing ones (Basta and Rasgovindpur) are Jaleshwar, Morada and Betnoti. The number of villages under the project coverage enhanced from 50 to 100. The support it had received from the SPDK, the Netherlands to run a project to extend educational facilities for tribal girls got expired. However, 10 most needy tribal girls had been given residential educational support and care out of the own resources of SAHELI. This project got concluded for want of financial support.

5. Major Achievements

Presented below is an overview of the achievement of the organization during the year under report. Major Achievements of the organization are presented under two broader heads, viz. immediate results, and overall results of all activities.

5.1. Immediate Results of the Activities Undertaken

1. Promoting and Strengthening Community Based Mechanisms

The project put good amount of efforts in strengthening and activating community-based mechanisms or arrangements to ensure community responses to early marriages and gender-based violence. A paradigm shift was effected in the year under report and in the new project approved by MISEREOR. Instead of SAHELI directly promoting community-based groups (CBGs) such as SHGs, VVC, AGGs, ABGs, YCs and VVCs, it was decided to work with similar groups already in operations. SHGs and AGGs working under the aegis of the ICDS and attached to Angan Wadi Centres shall become one clientele group. The specialized community bodies promoted by government to protect the rights of women and children at the levels of local bodies constituted another clientele group. These groups replaced the VVCs in our earlier project. The third clientele group consists of block and district level government and government related departments and organizations working to protect the rights of women and girls. The basic strategy of stimulating community responses remains the same. But the modus operandi and allies got changed. In the new strategic shift, (Angan Wadi Worker (AWW) become key personnel instead of Community Mobilisers where as the role of the latter got changes as facilitators. The year under report was the first year of effecting this change and hence the progress has been found to be slow.

1.1. Women's Forum (WF)

The WF had been formed in the 2015 and it continued to function during the period under report. But following the change in strategy of the project, WF ceased to operate

1.2. Village Vigilance Council (VVC)

The organization promoted VVC as community responses to child marriage and gender based violence with a mandate to intervene in such situation to prevent the same. There had been 40 VVCs with 409 members. in the year under report and these continued to function till June 2021. Consequent to the paradigm shift referred to above, no more VVCs were promoted. The roles played by the VVCs were shifted to Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPCs)-cum- Village Task Forces (VTF). There were no VLCPCs when the new phase of the project commenced. SAHELI took up promoting the same and soon came the government decision to promote VLCPCs in all villages. Thus, it became a part of official programme.

SAHELI was requested to take up the role of capacity enhancing of VLCPCs and to ensure regular meetings as per the periodicity suggested in the scheme. Thus, SAHELI facilitated the formation of 122 VLCPCs with 1646 members in the year under report.

1.3. Gram Panchayath Level Child Protection Committees (GPLCPCs)

GPLCPCs were already promoted by Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPCs). But these were in dormant condition in all Gram Panchayat. SAHELI, in the capacity of member of BLCPCs volunteered to activate all GPLCPCs focusing on holding meetings, capacity strengthening, guiding on how to go about with the cases of child marriage and GBV reported to these GPLCPCs. The organisation has activated 30 GPLCPCs, facilitated holding of periodic meeting of ten GPLCPCs and extended guidance to intervene in 120 reported cases of child marriage and gender-based violence.

1.4. Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPCs)

SAHELI has been inducted as NGO representative in Basta, Rasgovindpur and Morada BLCPCs. SAHELI attended six meetings in Basta, seven meetings in Rasgovindpur and two meetings in Morada in the year under report. Besides attending the meetings SAHELI was a part of four joint visits to various villages in connection with reported child marriages and GBV. It was in the team to visit various schools and shops to identify child labour.

1.5. Youth Club (YC)

There were, when the year under report commenced, 21 YCs with 304 members. These YCs continued to function during the year under report. The present project has not promoted any new YCs.

1.6. Adolescent Girls' Group (AGG)

SAHELI ceased to promote new AGGs. Instead, it decided to work with the Kishori groups promoted by the ICDS. But the 50 AGGs with 567 members continued to function.

1.7. Adolescent Boy's Group (ABG)

SAHELI ceased to promote new AGGs. But the 21 ABGs with 261 members promoted by the organization continue to operate in the year under report. No meetings of ABGs were held during the period under report.

1.8. Self-Help Group (SHG)

There had been 160 with total 1699 members when the year under report began. No new SHGs were promoted during this year.

All these CBGs and CBOs helped the project in addressing the child marriages and GBV in the villages where the project operated till June 2021. There after these community groups and organisations continued to identify cases and support in addressing the same. Apart from that, these were effective vehicles for dissemination of information.

2. Awareness Generation

2.1. Discussion Sessions

Discussion sessions to increase awareness of the target population were organized at different locations. Altogether 142 such sessions were held and these sessions were attended by 2606 persons.

2.2. Mid-media Activities

As part of public awareness generation 168 mid-media cultural programmes were held and the same were viewed by 12420 persons. Themes of public interest including RCH GBV etc. were presented in the mode of street plays

2.3. Home Visits

As a part of one-to-one sensitization and to prevent both early marriage and gender-based violence as well as to promote education and health in general, especially of the adolescent girls, the field staff visited 998 homes. They visited all community-based organization for motivating them.

2.4. YouTube Channel

SAHELI has started its own YouTube channel. It has been named as SAHELI Media. The organisation identified a social media expert and studios to shoot YouTube programmes. So far 28 videos have been telecasted by it

5.2. Net Results of All Activities

1. Gender based violence

SAHELI intervened through VVC, WF, SHG, YC, ABG and AGG in 187 of the 376 instances of reported gender-based violence. 126 out of the 376 reported instances of gender-based violence were successfully prevented or dealt with.

2. Early marriages (mainly of Adivasi girls below the age of 18)

The organisation intervened in 322 of the 424 reported instances of early marriage of Adivasi girls and 400 of these were successful because no marriage among these cases was reported. Community based mechanisms got involved in nearly 327 cases of the 424 reported instances.

4. Rapport with other stakeholders

The rapport already established by the organization with the Police, the DSWO (ICDS), the ICPS (DCPO), local governments, local educational institutions and rural media CDPO continued with more active collaboration with all.

6. Recognition by the local population

The organisation continued to enjoy a very high level of recognition by local population. People rightly identify SAHELI as the defender and protector of the rights of women and girls.

7. Staff Position

There were 11 full-time paid staff members for SAHELI during the year under report. Staff meetings were held once in a month on regular basis. Staff meetings reviewed the performance of the organization. The organization experienced very great difficulty in getting suitable hands to the senior positions like Project Coordinator and Assistant Project Coordinator. If identified someone at all, it would be difficult to retain them because the location is remote and underdeveloped where future prospects for such hands are very much limited.

8. Summary of Finances

The organization operates separate bank account for foreign funds. The bank account receiving foreign funds was with the State Bank of India (SBI), New Delhi branch. The utilization bank accounts are being maintained in Kamardiha branch of Canara Bank. Payments for all activities including organizational governance were Rs. 40, 72,284.00 The overall accounts were audited by M/s. A C Behera & Co. and the project accounts were audited by M/s. S. Sahoo & Co.

9. Future Directions

SAHELI has emerged as an organization for defending the interests of women and girls, especially women and girls among tribal population. It was focusing on gender based violence and child marriages during the last few years. The ideas for further strengthening its involvement in this sector were pursued by the organization. An application submitted to Manos Unidas to address child marriage and GBV is pending with the donor organization. The organization is in lookout for agencies interested to support projects in livelihood for poor women, encouraging education of tribal girls and promoting gender equity.

10. Acknowledgement

SAHELI acknowledges the financial support received from MISEREOR, Germany. The services rendered by Ms./A. C. Behera & Co in auditing the overall accounts of the organisation and Ms./S.Sahoo & Co in auditing project accounts are worth mentioning. All officers of the banks, ICDS, ICPS, Police, education department and CD Blocks whole-heartedly cooperated with SAHELI. Leaders of Gram Panchayats and local media persons too supported all activities of the organization. SAHELI places in record its deep-felt gratitude to all those who supported during the year under report.

11. Conclusion

It gives immense pleasure to present this report. With due gratitude to all who associate with SAHEI, this report is presented for consideration of all members of the General Body for discussion and adoption10

Basta,

20/05/2022

Mrs.Sonali Sahu,

Secretary, SAHELI