

# REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES



2020-2021

## **The Society for Agriculture Health Environment Literacy Innovations (SAHELI)**

### **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2020 - 2021**

#### **1. Introduction**

SAHELI completed 17 years of existence in 2021 as an organization of poor rural and tribal women and 13 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 2020. 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 NitiAayog too. The COVID 19 pandemic adversely affected the implementation of all activities

#### **2. Organisational Affairs**

The Governing Body of SAHELI met once this year and five members were present in these meetings. The annual meeting of the General Body held twice in this year and it was attended by 21 members. The year under report witnessed the change in the leadership of SAHELI. The team of Governing Body elected during the annual meeting of the General Body in the previous year 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.

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Name</b>          | <b>Designation</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1              | Ms. Dalia Antony     | President          |
| 2              | Mrs. Minati Ghoshal  | Vice-President     |
| 3              | Mrs. Sonali Sahu     | Secretary          |
| 4              | Mrs. Malati Hasdha   | Joint-Secretary    |
| 5              | Mr. Shaju V. Joseph  | Treasurer          |
| 6              | Mrs. Champabati Tudu | 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 forced SAHELI to make changes not only in the activities, but in the field work arrangement also. SAHELI out of the project fund organized skill training to 35 women and adolescent girls. The organization supported the local administration to provide quarantine support to 110 persons kept in institutional care and it collaborated with the local administration to provide dry ration to 74 destitute persons during the period of the pandemic.

#### **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 falling for extension and the application for the same is getting ready. 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 were given residential

educational support and care out of the own resources of SAHELI. Enquiries were sent to various government and non-governmental organisations for project 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.

##### ***1.1. Women's Forum (WF)***

The WF had been formed in the 2015 and it continued to function during the period under report. The number of members in the leadership remained to be 12. No meetings of the WF were held during the period under report.

##### ***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 20 VVCs in the year under report. With the formation of new 20VVCs, there were 40VVC with 409members active in the end of the period under report. These VVCs met 78 times attended by 1041 members.

##### ***1.3. Youth Club (YC)***

The year under report started working with 10 YCs having 154 members. Eleven new YCs with 150members were created during the year under report. Thus, there were 21YCs with 304members when the period under report ended. Fifty two meetings of YCs were held and 539 young men attended these meetings.

##### ***1.4. Adolescent Girls' Group (AGG)***

The organisation started with 45 AGGs having 528members and five AGGs with 39 members were newly formed. Thus, when the period under report ended, there were 50AGGs with 567members. AGGs met 223times and these meetings were attended by 1770adolescent girls.

##### ***1.5. Adolescent Boy's Group (ABG)***

The promotion of ABG has newly been taken up considering the criticality of engagement with adolescent boys for influencing gender roles and concepts and to shape their masculinity. The organisation started

forming the ABGs and so far created 21 ABGs with 261 members. No meetings of ABGs were held during the period under report

### *1.6. Self-Help Group (SHG)*

There had been 140 SHGs having 1501 members and 20 new groups with 194 members were newly promoted making the total number of SHGs 160 with total 1699 members. These groups held 1306 meetings attended by 13272 members.

## **2. Awareness Generation**

### *2.1. RCH Discussions*

The organization conducted 564 sessions of discussion on RCH. These sessions were attended by 3200 women, 992 men, 884 adolescent girls and 521 adolescent boys. Altogether 5612 persons were reached with messages on RCH.

### *2.2. GBV Discussion*

It held 727 sessions of discussion on GBV. These sessions were attended by 3902 women, 1388 men, 706 adolescent girls and 1264 adolescent boys. Altogether 2205 persons were reached with messages on GBV.

### *2.3. Mid-media Activities*

As part of public awareness generation, 32 mid-media cultural programmes were held and the same were viewed by 1466 persons. Themes of public interest including RCH GBV etc. were presented in the mode of street plays

### *2.4. 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.

## **5.2. Net Results of All Activities**

### **1. Gender based violence**

SAHELI intervened through VVC, WF, SHG, YC, ABG and AGG in 429 of the 630 instances of reported gender-based violence. Eighteen out of the 262 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 466 of the 970 reported instances of early marriage of Adivasi girls and 356 of these were successful because no marriage among these cases was reported. Community based mechanisms got involved in nearly 700 cases of the 970 reported instances.

### **3. Access to sexual and reproductive health services**

Five hundred and seventy-six women and girls got connected with local or state health care providers and 300 out of these 500 women and girls reported to government health care system and got enrolled to government schemes for RCH.

### **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 Positions**

There were 10 full-time paid staff members for SAHELI during the year under report. When the Project Coordinator left and when no suitable hand was found in the interview held, the President with the permission of the Governing Body worked as the Project Coordinator. 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 some one 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 Kamardiha branch of Canara Bank. But as per the directive of the Home Ministry the bank account to receive foreign funds has been opened in the New Delhi Branch of the State Bank of India (SBI), consequent to which the bank account with Canara Bank Kamardiha has been retained, but as a field account. The change of bank account was intimated to the Ministry of Home Affairs as mandated by the FCRA. This new bank account has now become operational. Payments for all activities including organizational governance was Rs.2502542.00 The closing balance for the financial year 2019 – 2020 was Rs. 266, 949.22 from all bank accounts and Cash in hand –14,662.00. 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**

The organization 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. Keeping this in view, application to MISEREOR to extend the ongoing project will be submitted and the same is under consideration. An application submitted to Manos Unidas to address the livelihood challenges of women and girls in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts is in pending with the donor organization. Hamlyn Foundation for gender equity is under process. 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 and SPDK, the Netherlands. 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 adoption<sup>10</sup>

**Basta,**

**20/06/2021**

**Mrs. Sonali Sahu,**

**Secretary, SAHELI**