

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES



2022-2023

The Society for Agriculture Health Environment Literacy Innovations (SAHELI)

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2022-2023

1. Introduction

SAHELI completed 19 years of existence in 2023 as an organization of poor rural and tribal women and 15 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 Indian Income Tax Act. It holds a PAN card and has got registered with the competent authorities for the payment of professional tax. It has fully complied with statutory requirements as a legal entity. The organization got registration with NitiAayog too. It is a member in the District Child Protection Committee and the state unit of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

2. Organisational Affairs

The Governing Body of SAHELI met twice this year and 12 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 2021 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. Madhusmita Mohanty	Vice-President
3	Mrs. Sonali Sahu	Secretary
4	Mrs. Sumati Mohanty	Joint-Secretary
5	Mr. Shaju V. Joseph	Treasurer
6	Mrs. Malati Hasdha	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 in its activities. Accordingly, SAHELI has not only plunged into action to extend relief to the families affected by COVID-19 and it undertook activities to ensure livelihood support to the families affected by COVID-19. The latter part of the changed activities continued during the year under report. The advantage for the organization was the organization continued to retain and further build on the improved relationship with all departments of local administration that had been strengthened during the period of COVID-19.

4. Projects Under Implementation

The organization was implementing only one project. One for preventing child marriages and gender-based violence. This project continued to get support from MISEREOR Germany. This project operated in nearly 150 villages. Presently, an extended phase of this project from 2021 to 2024 is in operation. And the area of operation expanded from two CDB blocks to five CDB blocks.

The new CD Blocks added to the existing ones (Basta and Rasgovindpur) are Jaleshwar, Morada and Betnoti. The support it had received from the SPDK, the Netherlands to run a project to extend educational facilities for tribal girls got expired. One project to prevent child marriages and gender-based violence and another one to strengthen the agency of adolescent population in Mayurbhanj district have been under consideration of MANOS UNIDAS, Spain and Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore, India.

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 effort 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 previous years and it was put into practice in the new project approved by MISEREOR for 2021 - 2024. 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 the earlier projects of SAHELI. 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 whereas the role of the latter got changes as facilitators. This changed strategy continued during the period under report.

1.1. 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. The roles played by the VVCs during the previous years were shifted to Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPCs)-cum- Village Task Forces (VTF) consequent to the strategic shift referred to above. There were 124 VLCPCs with 1646 members when the year under report commenced. SAHELI took up the role of capacity enhancing of these VLCPCs and tried to ensure regular meetings as per the periodicity suggested in the scheme.

1.2. Gram Panchayat 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 organization has activated 30 GPLCPCs, facilitated holding of periodic meeting often GPLCPCs and extended guidance to intervene in 120 reported cases of child

marriage and gender-based violence.

1.3. 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.

1.4. 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.

1.5. 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 45 AGGs with 503 members continued to function.

1.6. Adolescent Boy's Group (ABG)

SAHELI ceased to promote new AGGs. But the 30 ABGs with 412 members promoted by the organization continue to operate in the year under report. No meetings of ABGs were held during the period under report.

1.7. Self-Help Group (SHG)

There had been 174 with total 1842 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. Thereafter 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 642 such sessions were held and these sessions were attended by 12226 persons.

2.2. Mid-media Activities

As part of public awareness generation 152 mid-media cultural programmes were held and the same were viewed by 13420 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 organizations for motivating them.

2.4. YouTube Channel

SAHELI has started its own YouTube channel. It has been named as SAHELI Media. The organization identified a social media expert and studio to shoot YouTube programmes. So far 65 videos have been broadcasted by it.

2.5. Learning Site

The organization has opened learning sites in two villages and set up a facility in its office for disseminating its learning to other villagers elsewhere. Selected villagers (members of VLCPCs) from new villages pay visit to both office and learning site villages to understand the process adopted by the organization to control child marriages and GBV. Fifty persons in five batches visited the learning sites and the office during the year under report.

2.6. Women Cultivators' Collectives (WCC)

The organization initiated works to start a WCC in the lines of Farmer Producers Organisation (FPO). It has identified nearly 100 women from 28 women SHGs to form WCC/FPO. Initial meetings were held for 11 times and these meetings were attended by 167 women. Cultivation of vegetables and paddy was encouraged by the organization under the auspices of WCC. It also initiated storage of non-perishable produce.

2.7. Linking women with Social Welfare Schemes

With a purpose of strengthening linkages with government schemes, 126 women were supported to apply for various social welfare schemes.

2.8. Garment Making Unit (GMU)

A tailoring training and garment making unit was established by the organization. Nearly 25 women and girls have undergone training in tailoring and 10 among them started working with the GMU.

5.2. Net Result of All Activities

1. Gender based violence

SAHELI intervened through VLCPCs and directly through its own project staff in 425 of the instances of reported gender-based violence and successfully settled 297 cases.

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

The organization intervened in 440 of the 555 reported instances of early marriage of Adivasi girls and 334 of these were successful because no marriage among these cases was reported.

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. 30,93,463.00. 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. It has been decided by SAHELI to extend its operation to the entire district of Mayurbhanj.

One line of action is to replicate the strategies along with the activities hitherto carried out. An application has been submitted to MANOS UNIDAS, Spain for this purpose. Another strategy is to strengthen the agency of adolescent population to say NO to child marriage and GBV. A project for this purpose has been submitted to the Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore. The third attempt is to strengthen the human rights-based interventions to reduce child marriages and GBV. Another project for this purpose has been submitted to MISEREOR, Germany.

Through the activities proposed in the above projects, SAHELI is expected to emerge as a leading organization to prevent child marriages and GBV and as a strong as well as reliable partner of the Government of Odisha in its noble target of stopping child marriage by 2030 as stated in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) published in 2019.

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 adoption.

Basta,

Sonali Sahu

20/06/2023

Secretary, SAHELI

Mrs. Sonali Sahu, Secretary, SAHELI

