ANNUAL REPORT

SAKAR-2021-2022



As we complete 16 years of learnings, achievements, challenges and hope, we bring together some stories of change, motivating us to strive forward with a mission to fulfil our dream of a society, based on knowledge, information, awareness and gender equity.

Starting with 8 villages in one block, spreading to two districts and now concentrating on 5 blocks in Bareilly district, SAKAR has strong field presence, has facilitated the formation of a community based organisation (CBO), known as mahila shakti sangathan which aims to bring an end to violence against women caste based discrimination. The CBO has established its independent identity and has also emerged as an organisation which had candidates for the panchayat elections. It has taken up cases of violence, early marriage and provided the much-needed support during Covid-19 pandemic.

Our work with adolescent girls has also gained strength and we have focussed on their right to education, right to recreation, their sexual and reproductive health, their right to access to public spaces, right to mobility etc. The girls have shown leadership everywhere and the organisation has tried to support some girls who have been wanting to study, but due to lack of money had to stop their studies in between. SAKAR has come forward to support the tution fee of 25 girls.

Access to government scheme by women and girls has helped the women in taking up leadership roles, supporting other women in the community and understanding the importance of collectivisation.

The participation of service providers, specially health service providers and teachers has been helpful in making the adolescent girls aware and has improved the relationship of the stakeholders with the girls. Collaborative events with the government and private schools of the intervention area have helped in deepening the work and the stakeholders have understood and supported our initiatives.

We have been able to move ahead with the backbone of the organisation- Our Team, which has continuously strived to move on despite challenges. Our board members have always supported us and have also been critical of the work that we do on ground. The field interventions could not be possible without the consistent support of our donors. We are grateful for their support and faith on our ability to make some positive changes in the lives that matter.

With hope, determination and dreams we stive to perform better.

Thanking you all,

Nitika Pant

Secretary

SAKAR

**OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS**

SAKAR has been working on issues related to violence against women and adolescent girls and learning from the experience, one of the important programs has been awareness on the issue and taking up cases if and when required. In the year 21-22 we worked with the Mahila Shakti Sangathan (CBO of women), to make the women aware about the issue. Meetings, workshops, day’s celebrations, 16 days activism was organised. Along with this, sessions with women and girls on types of violence, legal aid, power, patriarchy, gender and gender-based violence was all conducted for information and awareness generation. Focus was also on taking up individual cases of domestic violence, sexual and psychological violence be it with women or girls. The CBO and its leadership were instrumental in bringing up the cases and taking it to the one stop crisis centre, where the cases were registered and as per the nature of the case, it was dealt by the OSC. Cases related to child marriage and early marriage were also taken up. A total of 20-30 cases were taken up.

The focus last year was on promoting leadership of women and girls. They engaged with the service providers at the village and block level and also took up issues related to government schemes, education and health, to the panchayat and got them resolved.

In this juncture, the role of the CBO becomes important and it in the leadership of the CBO that women are able to engage with the administration, in their own identity and their terms.

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It has not been easy after the second wave and the third wave of covid-19. But, we could see that girls and also women raised issues related to education, violence against women, reproductive health, sports for them etc.

Another important visible change is that the girls are going in for higher education. They are also opting for higher education and are becoming role models for others.

40 girls have continued their education even after class 12 and are opting for courses like ANM, ITI, GNM, beauty parlor course, zarizardozi (handicraft work). Some of the girls are also going in for private jobs in small companies. Girls are supporting their younger siblings in studies.

Girls are working on issues related to reproductive health and they started being vocal about them, to Aasha, ANM and their mothers relate to irregularity or increase blood flow during periods. They also start discussing about family planning. For example a girl got to know that her neighbor was pregnant, but did not want a child. The lady thought of taking medicine from the nearby medical store, but this adolescent girl motivated the lady to go to the doctor and only after proper checkup get the abortion done. The lady understood and consulted the doctor for further investigation.

The girls are influencing their own parents and parents of other girls who play sports and access to public spaces for playing sports. 2 girls have emerged as good players over the past years and are teaching football to other girls in the villages. Coaching to girls in the villages has also been thought of as a new profession.

Adolescent girls are becoming aware and using help line numbers like 1112, 181, 1090 an even 1098. Also if they are not able to take lead, they take the organization into confidence and share the cases.

Rukhsaar lives in Majhauwa Gangapur, is eighteen years old and her father is a laborer. She belongs to the Muslim community and along with daily wage earning; they work in the field and earn a living for the family. Rukhsaar studied till class 8, but rope off due to ill health. But she is an active member of the girls’ collective and raises issues in the group and is a leader in the village. She participates in all the activities organize by SAKAR. Her participation in the leadership camp, affected her positively and she raise the issue of violence in her own family. Her elder sister faces violence through her husband. Rukhsaar has become involved as an active member, so she took up the issue and spoke to her parents and the organization about this. She contacted one stop crisis centre, where a case was filed against the man under domestic violence act 2005. Infact the case was registered in which she took the lead and went with her sister. She is actively following up the case, so that her elder sister gets justice. She has become a role model in her village.

 Nazia lives in village Tanda and is eighteen years old. Her father sells vegetables and she has a brother and a sister. She is in class twelve and wants to continue with her studies, she hopes to do nursing course as a part of graduation. In her village girls hardly study after five , but now Nazia has emerge as an example and she herself had to fight a battle in her family, as they were desperate to get her married off. But she did not budge off from what she had decided. Now she is taking tuitions an earning 2000 rs. Per month and also continuing with her studies. She says, “mere gaon ke log ladkiyon ko nhi padhne ete hain aur kehte hain ki ladkiyan chullah hi to jhonkengi, unhein padha kar kya hoga? Lekin main ek baat nahi sunti aur doosri lakiyon aur unke parivaron ko bhi prerit karti hoon ki wo aage badhen aur apne pairon par khaden hon.”

In the field of governance too women from the intervention area have started coming up and are understanding their role as a panchayat representative. There have been interface events between the women elected representatives and the community, training of women elected representatives, school events in collaboration with the school, women elected representatives and health service providers. There have been interface events between the women and the girls. Lastly there have been meetings with the family members of the women elected representatives, so that they are a support the latter in different activities. Through this program we reached out To 50.WERs 10schools 1500.Adolescent girls 50-60 .service providers.

Another important program promoting leadership and movement building is the young women leadership program, which focusses on capacity building of young women leaders from the organisation, through a feminist lens. The idea is to develop and nurture the young leadership within the organisation. This leadership will identify more leaders like her from the ground and help build her capacities, so that they evolve as feminist leaders and help in movement building.

This program has strengthened the second line leadership which is taking lead in decision making and taking things forward, like representing the organization at district and state level platforms. Designing campaigns and directly implementing them at the grassroot level etc.

Community Based Organization and community leaders have started taking up issues like liquor ban, child marriage cases, domestic violence which not only shows leadership initiatives but also their understanding of issues and commitment towards the cause.

On issues and rights of women we as an organization are committed to make the larger community, men and other stakeholders sensitized and accountable. We organize campaigns on Early girl child marriage, Gender based violence, lack of access to public spaces to young women and girls. Conduct signature campaigns etc for building a conducive environment for women and girls in our society etc.

While working for the rights of women and girls directly it is also important to connect with likeminded organizations and groups/activists to keep joining hands and derive strength from each other. If required support in our fight for justice and become each others strength.



