

**action india**

**2013 to 2015**



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*The Girl Child*



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## Sponsorship Children



## Child Rights Program



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**OUR VISION : A Gender Just Egalitarian Society**

**OUR MISSION : Empowering Women to Achieve Equality and Equity and the Right to Live with Dignity and Self-esteem.**

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**REMEMBERING SHARDA BEN - 1935 to 2013**

## From the Chairperson



As we approach our 40<sup>th</sup> year of founding I look back to reflect on how we as a civil society organization have grown, winding our way through myriad passages of change, influenced by ideologies and perspectives of development. Democratic institutions no longer ensure that the poor will get a share in the development of a fast growing economy. Democracy in its true sense includes peoples' participation planning bottom up, and continued vigilance on civil and political rights.

We can say, we have remained constant to our vision for a Gender Just and Equitable Society. This account traces the milestone which we have achieved.

What has made a difference?

In brief, promoting GENDER EQUALITY over a life cycle, "from Womb to Tomb", *Amrita*

*Pritam.*

We welcome the birth of a daughter- "Mubarak Ho Beti Hui Hai". Value the girl child.

Educate and enable her to be empowered, *gain her own identity and autonomy.*

Adolescence is a passage on girls on the threshold of womanhood on completing Sr. Sec. School. Life skills and career counseling have opened doors to the future. Digital literacy and accessing professional courses that is, qualifications to become employable. Our Nanhi and Chhotee Sabla programs challenge early marriage and motherhood. Change is inevitable when girls make choices and take their own decisions. They have become the GLI girls (Girls Learn International) connecting with GLI in schools in USA. Their confidence grew when interacting with the Benefits of Fashion (BoF) from the American School grade XII in New Delhi.

Action India's work has reached 9 Sr. Sec. Schools influencing 9,000 girls over the last 3 years with a campaign for Gender Equality, MHM (menstrual health and hygiene management), WASHE programs in 4 schools. And, more recently our focus on developing Peer Educators and Changemakers have reached 30,000 students including boys towards building a gender friendly environment to respect women and girls.

Today's generation have aspirations and we endeavour to create that opportunity for them towards upward mobility. We have reached a large pool of young men and women, educated and smart, with ambition wanting to get rich! It is our role to remind them that only a few can survive the cut throat competition, we have to build communities to survive together. From ME to WE is the message carried by our Nukkad Natak group of young boys and girls promoting non-violent collective actions that question inequality, discrimination, and demand a life with dignity.

Our flagship program Women, Law and Social Change has established innovative ways to addressing gender based violence empowering victims to emerge as survivors. Over 16,000 women have been supported by our Mahila Panchayats since 1994. Now we are building the capacity of our paralegals to enable survivors to access the law.

Last but not the least Action India is creating awareness about the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution which charts the devolution of powers to citizens, Action India is facilitating active and effective citizenship to shake up clean up, join hands to collaborate with the government to make the system responsive to the needs of children and youth, and meet the demands of citizens providing civic services to vulnerable sections of women and elderly.

Self-governance, autonomy and freedom are the essential elements for social transformation and together we will make a difference.

*Gouri Choudhury*  
*Chairperson*

## Enabling and Empowering Adolescent Girls

There is little doubt that over the last 25 years, that is since the inception of our girl child program, we have discovered the tremendous potential in working with and for the girl child. Given the space and opportunity to be herself girls are achieving amazing heights in every way. We can proudly claim that more than 20 girls from our scholarship program for dropouts, have graduated and they are the first graduates from their respective families over the last decade. Now the challenge lies in accessing professional courses to upgrade their skills and capabilities to a career path. Action India's involvement with girls from less privileged homes has created that space in the Chhoti-Nanhi Sabla forums and a big exposure to the world outside in connecting with Girls Learn International (GLI) in the U.S.A.

### Kriti Paliwal our youth coordinator's overview

In twelve resettlement colonies and JJ slums of Delhi, where we are working we find that a substantial number of girls are going beyond middle school. We are reaching out to them through our scholarship program to continue studies and finish school. A different future for them may be possible, but a concerted effort is required, to fill the gaps and meet their needs after middle school to mainstream them to the senior secondary school. Although an increasing number of girls are in schools today, our major concern is how to provide career guidance that is relevant to their lives. We are creating a girl friendly environment, where boys and girls value and respect each other and thrive through healthy competition as future citizens knowing their rights and responsibilities.

### Mridula has motivated girls for economic independence

With a little support from our scholarship program we are proud to say that more than 500 girls have completed senior secondary school and now striving to find a vocation. Economic independence has become a goal for every girl, thereby they gain respect in their family, self confidence and self esteem.

### Sheela strenghtehn community participation in school Management Committees

GLI provides girls with both the tools and the knowledge to become engines of change in their communities. Individually the girls have acquired education, life skills and technological skills, empowering them to become active agents of change both in their personal lives and in their community.



**Shivani** is a brilliant girl who is living her dream of standing on her own feet. However, her dream is often shattered by the lack of money. Her family has a modest income which is not sufficient to feed the entire

family adequately. Her father's rigid views on educating girls was another problem, even her mother did not have a say. All of this changed when she met a few women working for GLI program (Girls Learn International) in Action India. Shivani got involved in GLI activities where she was encouraged to fill the scholarship form to fund her education. She convinced her parents that there are a lot of problems which can be eliminated with education. Initially, her parents were reluctant to let her pursue her dreams, but her they soon got convinced on seeing the positivity and hard work of their daughter. Things became better when her mother got a government job, and her sister started working for the 181 HELPLINE for women in distress. Shivani made sure that her sister also benefited from the knowledge and experience which she was getting in GLI. After completing her XIIth, she is pursuing a Fashion Designing courses. She said, "I want to become a designer and have my own boutique, *wants to become a Designer and open her own boutique*".

*Making Girls Leaders*



Sheela

Shamim

Mridula

Kriti & Soni

Action India's facilitators who joined our program as adolescents are today leading our youth program. They are the pillars of the GLI program guided by Kriti.

## Making Girls Leaders

*Action India acts as the catalyst to facilitate this process.*

In 2014, Restless Development introduced the seeds of Making Girls Leaders on a fertile ground formed and founded by Action India which sprouted overnight and reached Sr. Sec. Schools in their areas with a campaign for gender equality and working along with boys to build a youth movement. They have amazingly brought the girls and boys from the urban slums to the mainstream with great confidence and pride.



### Successful School Intervention in South Delhi

- \* The Gender Equality program has had a positive response from the Principals in 3 schools.
- \* Parents were glad that the program includes boys in the community.
- \* Rapport building by the youth of the community has established good relations with the community, creating a conducive environment to talk about gender and sexual violence.
- \* After the street play on “sexual violence”, the girls shared their own experiences of molestation and abuse. The boys agreed there was a need to talk about such issues.
- \* The Changemaker club is coming up successfully. Behavioral change among the boys is emerging. They now share their learnings with their family and friends.

### Soni speaks of the importance of Life Skills

Life Skills of vital importance to youth to be enriched beyond the formal school education. We are promoting gender responsiveness in education, enhancing critical thinking and informed decision making. Anger management and asserting themselves in the presence of elders with respect has been a part of learning negotiating skills. Life skills has played an important part in growing up to be free. Girls face additional challenges to continue schooling, they are often trapped within household tasks or early marriage. Our GLI girls forum provides a safe space for them to share their dreams and fears. They participate in various activities which motivates them to step out, find their autonomy and assert their identity in the family.

**Peer Educators** are the pillars of our gender equality

program in Sr. Sec. Schools in South Delhi, identified and trained under the Restless Development program. 20 Students from each school have developed the ability to motivate fellow students and strengthen the outreach to large numbers of girls and boys emerging from high school to become Young Changemakers. Sensitized on gender issues the boys have learnt to respect girls as partners. The girls are beginning to feel more safe in the changing environment and gaining confidence to step out and carry forward gender issues at home, in school and public spaces. This has contributed to the success of our Safe City campaign in these locations.

**200 Peer Educators are making a difference.**

## Gender Mela

Gender Mela is an effective medium for reaching out to a community of people in schools and colleges where we engage with youth, students, teachers on the issues of gender parity and sexuality. These melas are exhibitions presented through different stalls on various forms of violence, and women and girls right to live free of violence and free of fear of violence. Gender Melas help the young women to understand. This develops an understanding of self-worth and realization that they are not alone and girls need their own forum and voice. Moreover, the visual presentation on these subjects have been much appreciated by the youth.

We organized our gender melas in Miranda House, Delhi University and in 3 Government Sr. Sec. Schools in our communities - Dakshinpuri, Dwarka and Madangiri. These events and activities helped us to assess the confidence and understanding of our Changemakers, and peer educators have developed after participating in our sessions on Making Girls Leaders. Also, we were able to assess their enhanced capacities through FGDs and questionnaire, the change in their mindset. We were surprised by the psychological empowerment of our Changemakers and their ways to communicate the same to others and spread the message in the community.



**Making Girls Leaders** has generated awareness on gender equality and women's empowerment in Dakshinpuri, Sanjay Camp and Dwarka Sect 15 in South Delhi.

## Career Counselling

The new mission of digitalizing India is creating scope for employment. It is the need of the hour to make the youth aware of the opportunities and the skills required to access them. Options are limited for children and youth from low income communities. Their problem does not stop with finances, educational background, language skills and mobility are important factors to benefit from the knowledge and information boom. Counseling helps the youth to view all the possibilities and measure their interest and capability to choose a career path. This activity began with our youth programs in 2006. Every year we bring experts from different fields to guide the children who are



in their X and XII standards. The experts from Etasha organization and Urvi Vikram Charitable Trust each year have counseled at least 150 students who are able to select a stream of studies to follow a career path.

### Feedback from students:

- \* *It gave me information about selecting a career.*
- \* *It helped me to choose the right subject after class X taking into consideration my interest.*
- \* *The workshop helped me to realize my potential and how I could make use of it.*
- \* *This workshop provided the different steps to be taken to choose a career.*

## Benefits of Fashion, 2015

In 2015, Action India received a donation from the Benefits of Fashion organized by the American School at Chanakyapuri. The donation was given to the GLI girls for the Education of girls and empowering them to access higher education. The Star Award is the scholarship program initiated by BOF for girls to be enrolled in professional courses. In 2015, this has been given to two girls. Benefits of Fashion also support Computer Learning Centers in 3 communities with the objective to give the girls who have acquired basic computer skills to practice as they do not have the facility at home.



Higher education is still a challenge for most of the girls who have joined Action India's GLI program. **Seema Rana** from Janta Mazdoor Colony wanted to be a doctor but had to compromise to become a Lab Technician. Chandani from New Seemapuri wanted to be a Chartered Accountant, she was one of the 6 sisters, was not allowed to step up outside the "chalk circle". That is we were promoting 6 scholarships for professional courses but only one could make it, Pria Narwal who has received a scholarship of Rs 25,000 to be trained as a Sanitary Inspector.

Basic computer education is now widely available to most of the youth through GRCs and other NGOs. This is preparing them to enter the digital world and in a year or two we should be exploring new technologies as we can offer a large number of girls ready to join the work force.

On the social front educating girls have impacted parental thinking and delaying the age of marriage and early motherhood. This also opens avenues for choice of partners and facilitates decision making not without its inter-generational conflicts. Social norms and customs are changing and the change needs to be recognized.



**Anjum Alam** is a strong girl. She had faced tragedy in her childhood. The loss of her father at the time when Babri Masjid demolished was a jolt to her entire family because he, along with many others, were killed when a political rally at the site turned violent. The family picked up the pieces in order to reconstruct their lives. It was difficult for her mother to raise three children who were all girls. Her mother's wish to educate her children compelled her to take up job in a factory.

Anjum, the eldest child, never compromised with her studies. From the beginning, she had the desire to educate herself and become independent. She was determined to complete her education despite ongoing financial problems. Her mother, the sole guardian of her family, was her strongest support.

Anjum came to know about the GLI program from Shamim our field worker, who encouraged her to get a scholarship from Action India, and that was the first step towards a future. It has been several years and Anjum is now a 23 year old young woman. Her determination also led her to resist social pressures of marrying early. She has completed her graduation with the support of her family, and is now earning a living and support her mother and siblings. Anjum has a long way to go and dreams of a brighter future.

**Volunteers from CRY are showing us the way. Educated young professionals come every weekend to participate in our community activities our the last 3 yrs. Realizing the importance of a solid base for education they have focussed on 5 bright students at the high school level and are providing tuition fees at good institutes so, that they can score high marks to compete at the University level, Technological Institutes and even appear for the IAS.**

## Safe City Campaign, 2015

This intervention was based on the information that was aggregated during our engagement with the Safe City campaign by collecting reports on the issues, conducting focus group discussions with community members and mapping safe and unsafe spots in Sanjay Camp with other people of the community including men and boys. The Jan Sunwai, a large scale community gathering was addressed by the police and local leaders and the interaction between the Stakeholders was participatory but heated. At the end of the meeting it was jointly decided that cooperation was important to address the key neighbourhood problems, and we agreed that we needed to look for relevant social and systemic solutions to counter sexual violence in Sanjay Camp.

## Positive Change

The impact of the Safe City Campaign has been powerful and visible. Through community interaction we were able to assess that loitering, commenting, staring and intimidating young girls and women by the boys and men has reduced. Earlier they would gang up in big numbers and sit outside the toilet complex, making it difficult for girls and women to easily access the toilet, this has reduced. Bikes and auto rickshaw used to be parked outside the toilet where the men and boys gathered, and they too have moved.

“For safer inclusive cities, we need to come together as a unit including our systems, institutions and all of us as stakeholders. To influence changes far and wide, across communities and neighborhood, it’s important for us to be that unit, but will systems be a part of it?” *Salini Sharma*

The Safe City Campaign has strengthened the confidence of our adolescent girls and they are motivated to address other social issues in the neighborhood. More and more boys from the community are coming forward with the desire to join our program and learn more about perspective of gender, and the concerns the boys have on being deemed as ‘perpetrators’ of violence in the society. The community is eager to participate in this process of changing the mindset and questioning social norms which put restrains and constrains on girls, while boys are not made accountable for their attitudes and disrespect of girls. The Safe City Campaign team submitted the specifics to the MLA, Counselor and SHO of Sanjay Camp and Dwarka area.



***Lessons learnt from the campaign were that at every step it is important to involve the community and ensure they realize their leadership potential in addressing their neighborhood issues. It is important for the youth to propagate the message to the larger community and ensure their initiatives are inclusive.***

# Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

## *Understanding Challenges & Gaps in Implementation*

“Woman Law and Social Change” provides 30 years of living experience of an organization working with women and for women, addressing IPV in dysfunctional families and violent homes. The changing social norms and evolving structures of the family plays a major role along with the social, economic, political and cultural devolution form the basis of our understanding and analysis of domestic violence.

The term “domestic”, clearly implies that the violence is inflicted and experienced in the home, that is within the family. A woman or girl, child and infant may be subjected/experience violence in her natal home or after marriage in her marital home. In her old age she may be dependent on her son and his family. Therefore, it is imminent that domestic violence be traced and mapped over the life cycle of a woman measuring and covering all aspects of her physical body, mental health, psychological and biological needs like food, love and care, sex and satisfaction, respect and self esteem, participation and recognition, decision making and control over her life.

Domestic violence has been acknowledged worldwide within the structures of the patriarchal family be it natal or marital. Domestic violence can take many forms beginning with discrimination, deprivation, exclusion, subordination, humiliation or elimination of the fetus in the womb and its repercussions on the mother.

In particular, we will identify the roots of IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) to restructure power relations with the aim to create violence free homes, eliminate the fear of violence and break the silence on the perpetuation of IPV suffered by women over centuries in the history and development of the human Society and the State.

### **Role of the State**

The enactment of PWDV Act in 2005 and its notification in 2006 created euphoria indicating that the GOI was committed to fulfill its role and responsibility to prevent domestic violence and protect and respect women to enable them to live life to its full potential. However, a decade has gone by with little of the fulfillment of the promise.

The act envisages and recognizes the right of women to live free from violence in domestic relationships. During the enactment of this law, the focus was laid upon changing the traditions and norms of our society, which often make it impossible for a woman to approach the court or police to address her problem. Exposing domestic violence and abuse brings shame, disrepute and dishonour to her and her family. Furthermore, a woman is dependent on her perpetrator for social and economic support. Considering the scenario and the whole connotation of violence, this law has laid a special focus on immediate relief and *single entry access to services*.

In 2014, the Wajood Project set out to implement and enforce the PWDVA,2005 in NCT Delhi and enable the survivors of domestic violence to access justice through the law. Keeping in mind the importance of the use of DIR (Domestic Incident Report) Action India particularly emphasized the need for education on the law and role clarity of all the stakeholders.

## Over 16,000 women survivors have been helped to resolve domestic conflict by the Mahila Panchayats

The Mahila Panchayat till now was founded on the concept of “women helping women” to address the unequal power relations in the patriarchal system.

Mahila Panchayat a community based redressal mechanism initiated by Action India in 1994. Today there are 9 Mahila Panchayats with Action India in New Seemapuri, Sundernagari, Janta Mazdoor Colony, Jehangirpuri, Bhalaswa, Dakshinpuri, Madangir and Dwarka. Over 16,000 women survivors has been helped to resolve domestic conflict by the Mahila Panchayats which have been sustained through thick and thin proving that women provide effective support structures to women in crisis and must be acknowledged as service providers, an essential component of the State machinery.

The Wajood project initiated in Nov 2014 gives us a boost to give the Mahila Panchayat program greater visibility and branding. There has been enormous energy and inputs that have gone into this project making Wajood a dynamic force to address gender based violence in collaboration with four partner organizations.

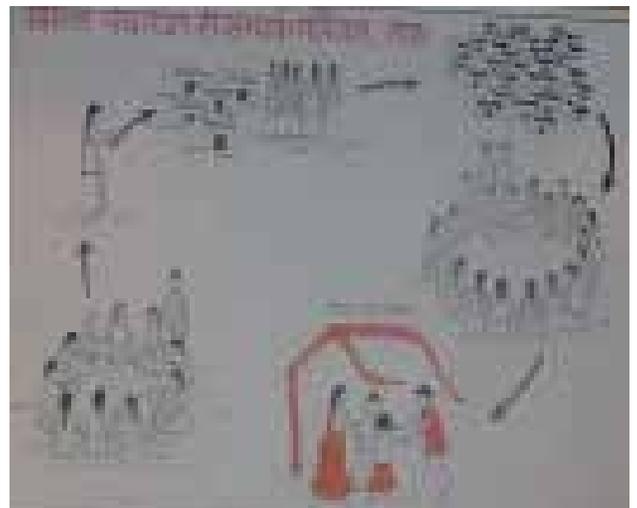
### **Sampark Family – No Violence Zone**



**A visit to the Mahila Panchayat in**

Mahila Panchayats working on the Wajood forum is supplemented with a 100 Sampark Families to create “No Violence Zone” in each area expanding the community outreach. At the same time, reaching out to men and boys in these families have begun to have a multiplier effect in and around the community. Most of all, engaging with members of the “Sampark Family” has led to intensive awareness generation on gender issues at the community level. As it happened the discussions have ranged from domestic violence and women related laws, water, health & hygiene and environment and also issues of right to education.

Engaging with the members of the “Sampark Family” was an new experience which has for the first time brought adult men into the fold. Secondly, by integrating our discussions on domestic violence, we had moved to activating them as citizens to address other concerns of public health and civic amenities. This is an example of how organically Action India’s work evolves within a framework of gender justice and social development issues, a major achievement of the Wajood program strengthening women’s agency to reduce GBV.



**Sampark Family - Road Map**

*Women Helping Women- She is not alone*

## CASE WORK

Our Mahila Panchayats reaffirms that a community mechanism has been a very effective redressal method for domestic violence. As we see approx. 500 to 600 cases per year have resolved domestic conflict. Most of the women who to bring GBV evidence for a hearing to the Mahila Panchayat refer other women, because they are satisfied with the impartial process of arbitration which has enabled them to take steps to better their lives without compromise.

Action India - Jan 2013 to Oct 2014 (6 Mahila Panchayats)		Background – Action India supported 6 Mahila Panchayats without any project funds. The commitment and strength of our paralegals is laudable.
Total cases in Mahila Panchayat	755	
Cases resolved through Mahila Panchayat	233	
Cases in Court	69	
Number of cases referred - (CAW Cell, DCW, NCW, Mediation Cell)	237	

Delhi Commission for Women - Jan 2013 to Dec 2015 (3 Mahila Panchayats)		DCW came forward to support 3 Mahila Panchayats – in Dattshimpuri Madangir and Jehangirpuri
Total cases in Mahila Panchayat	544	
Cases resolved through Mahila Panchayat	312	
Cases in Court	91	
Number of cases referred - (CAW Cell, DCW, NCW, Mediation Cell)	87	

Wajood - November 2014 to Dec 2015 (5 Mahila Panchayats)		Nov 2014 Population Service International came forward with funding from Indrani Ugm Foundation to support 6 Mahila Panchayats.
Total cases in Mahila Panchayat	534	
Cases resolved through Mahila Panchayat	335	
Cases in Court	49	
Number of cases referred - (CAW Cell, DCW, NCW, Mediation Cell)	33	

## Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

A training conducted by PRAXIS, consultants on research, monitoring and evaluation has contributed to strengthening the process of project implementation to all the Paralegal workers involve in counselling and case work to achieve the project goals and objectives.

**“A violence free home and the right to live without fear of violence is every woman’s right”**

Watch group a great deal of effort was made by the Paralegal Workers (PLW) and the Unit leaders to motivate them to take on an extended role beyond “hearings” of the Mahila Panchayats and case handling . This in turn is creating a new enthusiasm in the community engaging men and boys to resolve domestic conflicts which we believe will ultimately lead to a No Violence Zone.



Action India established a tools of communication have effectively worked to create consciousness on gender issues. Building on the existing framework of messages on GBV, the Wajood program redesigned and fine tuned them to create men friendly tools, which have made a great impact and helped the PLW to dialogue with the men and boys.

### Legal Education and Awareness

Resource persons from MARG, professional advocates undertook a two day training of all the PLWs and unit leaders on the women centric laws enacted over the last 10 years. This was carried forward by our paralegal team to each of the areas to train the members of Mahila Panchayat. Approximately, 250 Mahila Panchayat members are now educated on all the women centric laws, including PWDVA,2005, PCNDT Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, Sexual harassment at workplace and POCSO.



### Leadership Development

A consultation with over 90 members of the Mahila Panchayat at Gandhi Peace Foundation was held in Oct 2015.

**Where do we go from here?** Should we upscale horizontally from NCT to NCR Delhi? Should we institutionalize vertical action to enter the legal system through DLSA to implement the schemes set out by the National Law University.

### Non Violent Communication (NVC)

NVC helps us connect with each other and ourselves in a way that allows our natural compassion to grow. It guides us to reframe the way we express ourselves and listen to others by focusing our consciousness



on four areas: what we are observing, feeling, and needing, and what we are requesting to enrich our lives. Non violent communication fosters deep listening, respect, and empathy and engenders a mutual desire to give from the heart. Chitra Panchkaran and Mona Yadav, the resource persons have specialized on non violent communication.

Objective of the training was to:

- \* Cultivate respectful and empowering connection with oneself and with others.
- \* Transform judgments and criticism into understanding and connection.
- \* Listen in a way so others are really heard.
- \* Get what you want more often without using demand, guilt or shame.
- \* Hear the need behind whatever one does or says.
- \* Create a quality of connection that embodies unconditional love.
- \* Learn more about the non violent communication approach to connect empathically with yourself and others.

**A Press Conference was organized by Action India on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

With the Domestic Violence Act is nearing completion of a decade on October 26 next year, several NGOs today demanded the government to declare the day as a National Day to protest against the social evil. Protection of Women from Domestic

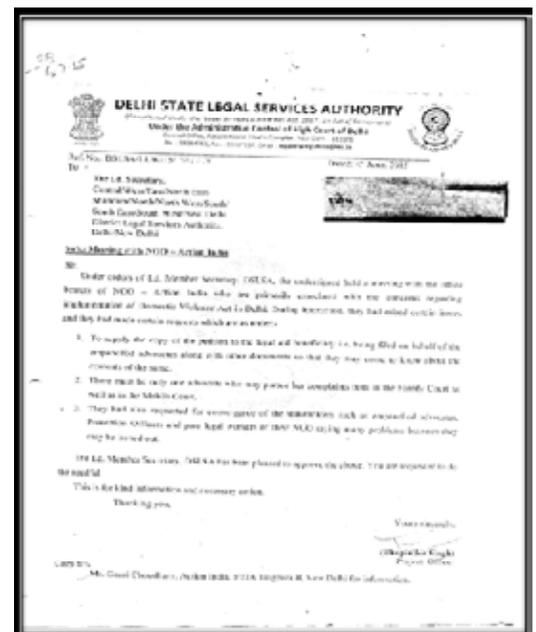


**Successful advocacy towards procurement of an order on PWDVA, 2005**

The Ld. Member Secretary has approved the below mentioned points for needful action by the DSLSA on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 Ref. No. DSLSA/LLW/15/5428:

- To supply the copy of the petition to the legal aid beneficiary i.e. being filed on behalf of the empanelled advocates along with other documents so that they may come to know about the contents of the same.
- There must be only one advocate who may pursue her complaints both in family court and as well as Mahila court.
- Also the convergence of the stakeholders such as empanelled lawyers, Protection officers and Paralegal workers of the NGO.

This is the first step taken by us to procure an order in future on the above stated guidelines for better implementation of the PWDVA, 2005.



## **Right to Information - A Tool for Accountability**

RTI is a powerful tool that provides us evidence based data in order to seek accountability from the State for the lack of proper implementation of the PWDVA,2005. We have managed to put in place the findings below to demand change for better and effective implementation of the PWDVA in Delhi. Under the Wajood project, Action India undertook to file 6 RTI's to assess the response of the legal machinery to the ACT.

This study asks six main questions on the role of various stakeholders.

- \* Whether the Ministry of Women & Child Development has any allocated budgetary provision for the implementation of PWDVA, 2005 Act in the last four years.
- \* How many Direct Incidents Reports (DIR) have been filed in the courts and by whom?
- \* How many cases have been filed and present status of each individual case?
- \* How many safety plans have been developed under rule 8 (1) of PWDVA?
- \* List of service providers as notified by the DWCD
- \* Have welfare experts been appointed under section 15 of the PWDVA?

### **Action India undertook to file 6 RTI's to assess the response of the legal machinery to the PWDVA,2005. Here are few of the observations made:**

- ✓ Throughout the data there is no mention of a single DIR filed by any other service provide except PO. This can imply that the Service provider does not have information regarding their duties under PWDV Act, 2005. Notified list of 20 Service providers were contacted by the organization to clarify their role under the Act. When contacted, many of the organization's number as mentioned in the service provider list, are either not functional or they were not aware about their role as a service provider, they were only functioning as family counseling centers.
- ✓ There are 18 POs in Delhi as oppose to 23 posts available as per department. With increasing number of cases, number of Mahila Courts has increased, however, human resource to assist a woman in need is very low. Total number of registered cases as depicted through RTI, is also not a real picture of the enormity of the problem.
- ✓ Number of DIR filed as oppose to the total number of the cases filed is very low. As reflected by the data nearly 50% of the case are without DIR. This can infer that the timely record maintenance and follow up of the case are not carried out.
- ✓ PWDV Act provides 5 orders of relief in which currently only Monetary orders are given to the aggrieved, no compensation order or custody orders are given in the cases. Monetary orders are given on the basis of the Minimum wages as a base without considering that the number of person to be supported on the relief provided under the monetary relief order. Survival of the supported family become a big issue.
- ✓ PWDV Act, 2005 has a given time frame for disposal of the cases, i.e. with the 60 days from its first hearing; however, experience shows that even after 1 year of filing a case no interim order is granted by the courts.

These are the major gaps found in the implementation of PWDVA, 2005 and adequate budget allocation is required with proper orientation of multiple stake holders and service providers for better implementation and functioning of the act.

### **The Mahila Courts setup in each District Court in Delhi has been found to be a major challenge as the reponse from the filing of the RTI Act reveals.**

Violence Act 2005 was enacted by the Parliament to protect women from domestic violence on October 26, 2005 and was brought into force by the Indian government from 26 October, 2006. Criticizing the government and judiciary for its “failure”



to properly implement the law, the NGOs claimed that the Centre had failed to appoint appropriate number of protection officers.

“There are only 17 Protection Officers for 23 family courts in Delhi that means one protection officer is handling around 2,000 cases of domestic violence. So, this is impractical to even think that they would handle all the cases efficiently,” said Leena Prasad Advocate.



Highlighting the fact that the security of these protection workers was also at stake, Leena said, “There are some reported cases where these Protection Officers were beaten up. Government should provide security to them as well.”

“And also there are only two states which have appointed full-time Protection officers. Some states have appointed Revenue officers as Protection Officers which completely ridicules the law”.

The organisations demanded a single-window system for the clearance of domestic violence cases pending in courts and sought a periodic monitoring of the data collected on such cases.

**“There is no central body to monitor cases of domestic violence. We demand the government to constitute a body for it. The delay in getting justice is the main reason why women do not choose to report such cases,” said Monika Saroha, Judicial Officer, Delhi Legal Service Authority, Patiala House Court.**

*Timely intervention with support from Mahila Panchayat and a sympathetic family enabled access to the courts and gain the reliefs granted by the PWDV Act, 2005 to the survivor.*



**Lakshmi** like any other woman dreamt of a caring and loving husband. She was married to Yashpal in 2005 at the age of 20, and lived with her in-laws in Sundernagari. Lakshmi had a good relationship with her husband for three months, and then things changed when Yashpal and his parents started harassing

her for dowry. Lakshmi was reluctant to tell her parents and tried to adjust to the situation. She was blessed with two children in due course of time. After a while Yashpal left his job, and he started consuming alcohol regularly and the physical violence on Lakshmi became unbearable. Unable to remain silent, Lakshmi informed her family members who were sympathetic and started helping her and Yashpal by sending money every now and then. They even gave Rs.70,000 to Yashpal to help him start working again, but Yashpal refused to cooperate and blew the money in alcohol. Lakshmi spent several years, hoping that her husband would become good-natured again. However, things became uglier with time, and she decided to go back to her parents in 2010. Many years of coping with stress and physical violence had started taking toll on her and children's health, which prompted her to take an action. Lakshmi came to Manila Panchayat along with her mother, where she was counselled by a paralegal worker. She confessed that her husband has AIDS. She herself was diagnosed with tuberculosis after Yashpal's diagnosis. Mahila Panchayat intervened in the matter. Her husband and mother-in-law were confronted. They accepted their mistakes and promised to behave nicely with Lakshmi, after which the case was temporarily closed unfortunately, their promise didn't last long.

Domestic violence with Lakshmi started again, apparently because of the financial problems of the household. Lakshmi again kept her silence in the hope of a change in the behaviour of her in-laws. She tried to be optimistic and ignored their ill treatment of her. However, the day of 24th May (2015) proved to be the final nail in the coffin as her husband had beaten her badly because she asked for money for household expenses. Yashpal had hurled derogatory words after beating her as well. This time, Lakshmi took things in her hands and immediately called Police on 100. Her case was reopened in Mahila Panchayat, where she narrated her ordeals to Geeta the Paralegal worker. The case was taken to court and the lawyer from DLSA and Protection Officer took the case to the magistrate. On 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2015, the court ordered Yashpal to provide maintenance to Lakshmi. He was ordered to stop the violence failing which there would be a complaint to the police. His behaviour was observed for few months before the case was finally closed. Now, Lakshmi is safe and secure in her marital home, her in-laws have realised their mistakes and have been treating her with respect.

**Archana** had a happy childhood she received a lot of love and affection from her parents because she was the daughter of the house with two brothers. It has been 20 years since Archana's marriage, her in-laws had started mistreating her when she was pregnant with her first child, her husband also became physically violent without considering that she was in a delicate situation. He did not provide sufficient financial support nor he treated her with spousal respect. What made the situation worse for her was the involvement of her mother-in-law and sister-in-law who disliked her and constantly provoked her husband against her. He always acted under the influence of his mother and sister and gave no time to Archana. Whenever she asked for money he would abuse her. Their fights would eventually lead to physical violence. Archana would try to reason with her husband to no avail. She began to doubt his fidelity. Hell broke loose on her when she checked the journal of her husband and got to know that Dharmvir (her husband) had married another woman in court. When she tried confronting him, he left without saying anything and did not come back to Archana. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law threatened her with eviction if she told anyone about second marriage of Dharmvir. Archana was forced to remain silent for 6 long years because no one was supporting her.

Constant pressure of her parents fell on their deaf ears which did not help her in any way. They refused to sort out the matter and blamed all on Archana. Dharmvir agreed to provide her financial support but his relationship with her did not improve. With the help of Mahila Panchayat she went to Karkarduma court where she pleaded her case in front of the legal counselor (Amit Kumar) who after hearing her problems asked if she wanted her husband to be counselled or would prefer filing a case under PWDV Act 2005. Archana and Dharmvir appeared on the suggested dates along with his family members but blatantly refused to provide any financial assistance to Archana; after which she was asked to file a case. Archana demanded her right to stay in her marital home but her mother-in-law wanted to sell the house and she was threatened by her in-laws regularly. The Judge ordered her in-laws to pay Rs.50,000 after 3 hearings, so that she would get some help in raising her children. Archana is living in the same house, but separately. She is educating her children, her elder daughter is pursuing B.A. and she makes a living as a daily wage labour. The attitude of her in-laws has not changed. Archana is waiting for the next order from the court, she expects a monthly amount would be fixed which her husband would provide her.

## EVENTS



**8<sup>th</sup> March International Women's Day**



**Human Rights Day - CHRI presents Virtual Police Station 360 degrees**



**One Billion Raising Revolution in Community**



**Rally on Sadbhavna Diwas**

## Save the Girl Child Campaign

*Enhance the value of girls*

Action India works relentlessly to change social norms and attitudes on many aspects of gender inequality. A sustained grassroots movement to address the issue of declining child sex ratio has evolved innovative ways of strengthening the voice for gender equality from the grassroots through women's collectives. A sponsorship program of 700 children in its 5<sup>th</sup> year in the urban slums of Delhi is supported by Action Aid. Mothers groups, brought in a fresh batch of young mothers of the sponsored children, Nigrani Samuhs strengthen local leadership to initiate community watch groups. At the same time Action India became an active member of Girls Count a national coalition to widen the scope and understanding of the multiplicity of the issues and change in the domains of inequalities to ensure that we are working in the right direction. Here is the story that gives us the reason to believe that change is possible and girls are taking steps to change their own lives and that of their families.



Mothers Groups have taken particular interest in visiting the Anganwadi



**Meena** is a leader in our Nigrani Samoh group formed in Kalender Colony. She is a very strong headed independent women. She is a mother of a daughter whom she has given all love, care, support and education.

She married her to a good and able guy and a financially sound family in her native village. When her daughter got pregnant she told her to come to Delhi because of the lack of medical facilities there. Her daughter had a complicated pregnancy and an operation was required and the Doctor told Meena that he can only save one of them either the mother or the child. Meena asserted that her daughter should be saved. Both the mother and the child were saved and were perfectly healthy. It was a boy. The son-in-law was there for all the course of pregnancy but his family told him that if the child is a girl leave your wife and come back. Meena told her son-in-law to say that her daughter has given birth to a daughter and leave. But he stayed and took care of the mother and child and after 6 months he took back his wife and daughter. Meena says that it is important to stand up against these inequalities in the society and with constant rebel against these discrimination the people and society will eventually surrender and understand.

Centers (AWC) and ensuring proper nutrition and immunization for children 0-6yrs, and pregnant and lactating mothers. It was found that Sundernagri had 300 AWCs, but very few were functioning. In Kalandar Colony the quality of food given to children was questionable. On the other hand in Janta Mazdoor Colony and Dwarka the AWCs delivered proper services. In Bhalaswa the AWC was run by young educated women who took special interest in caring for pregnant women. They also took special interest in health, hygiene and cleanliness of children providing nutrition at the right time and insisting on hand wash before eating. We can conclude that the intervention of mothers makes a difference and thereby they need to be given more information and strengthened in order to bring about positive change.

- \* Birth registration camps were organized in collaboration with SSSK-GRC respectively. Information on related documents and the procedures were explained to them. In some cases our community worker accompanied the community women to get the birth registered. In turn these women took initiative and now they assist other women in the community to ensure that births of boys and girls are registered.
- \* Nutrition camps were well attended by women wanting to learn "how to make low cost nutritious food at home" organized at the SSSK-GRC.

### **New Women's Collectives are emerging as young leaders**

Women's agency is visibly emerging as collectives for social action

and the beginning of women's active participation in social change at the community level. A sense of community is created in the alienated environment of urban slums where conflict and crime is common, where over population and inadequate proportions of facilities given by the State creates incidents of violence as a daily happening. The role of the police rarely offers solutions to such problems. "Nigrani Samuhs" and New Mother's Groups are emerging as leaders with two different roles, the first as "community watch dogs", on government functionaries and the Mother's Groups who are focussing on access to child health, nutrition at AWCs and primary education in the MCD schools.

### Community Mobilization

In the past year we reach out to over 1100 women across nine resettlement communities. Door to door visits, small gali meetings, culminated in regularizing the monthly meeting with community women and the mothers of our sponsored children. 108 meetings were held each year and over two years women became alert and informed and began to play an active role as "Nigrani Samuhs". Particularly, watching the functioning of the water and sanitation services in their immediate locality. To give an example, poor road construction was observed in New Seemapuri and the contractor had to rebuild the same with adequate mixture of sand and cement.

### Nigrani Samuh - Community Watch Group on PCPNDT Act

There are 9 Nigrani Samuhs in 9 communities, a total of 180 members focussed on implementing the objectives of the PCPNDT Act that is prevent misuse of the ultrasound technology. Two leaders from each group have further been trained to be alert to keep an eye on the family where the first child is a girl and to make sure that no woman is being forced or victimized to undergo sex selective abortion. They also keep a check on recently born girls to ensure they are given attention and care. In the case of pressurization on the mother of a girl child by husband or in laws demanding a son, the family is counselled on the value of the girl child and how she can be their support in their old age. Introducing the concept of YY and XY chromosome, Nigrani Samuhs try to educate the family of the biological reasons for the birth of a male or female child and why the mother should not be blamed or persecuted.

The most important development is that Nigrani Samuh members have become aware of the value of the girl child. They keep a check in their surrounding areas on diagnostic centers where ultrasound is conducted, inspite of the board which says



that sex detection and sex selective abortion are punishable offences. They ensure the registration of the pregnant women with AWC as to get monitored about her routine checkups and avail of the nutrition, iron and folic tablets provided by the ICDS.

We have built a good rapport with ASHAs, ANMs, and Aaganwadis workers in almost all nine communities. 20 ANMs, 91 Aaganwadis Workers, 40 ASHA Workers and 8 doctors are presently working with us. As a result timely immunization of 0-6 yrs children and a regular checkup of pregnant and lactating mothers has improved. The capacity building of Nigrani Samuh has ensured that take responsibility to implement the PCPNDT at the community level.

### *Community Watch Group succeeds in creating political will*

A signature campaign was conducted in 2014 by community women at monthly meetings for the re construction of the community toilets in Sanjay Camp and Dakshinpuri. An application was signed by 140 women and submitted it to area MLA and MCD Department. With sustained follow up and struggle, the budget was passed by the local MLA. Now, 80% of the construction work has been completed.

## **Celebrating Beti Utsav - Changing Mindset**

Beti Utsav is organized to celebrate the birth of girl child within the community. It has been observed that the practice of celebrating the birth of girls every three months has become a popular and effective way to communicate the value of the girl child. Celebrating the birth of a girl child also gives a mother her moment to feel proud. This directly combats the stigma and blame of giving birth to a girl child. We celebrate the Beti Utsav at three level, at the house of the newly born girl child; at the AWCs where the mother had registered herself as a pregnant women; and at the dispensary where girl child took birth. We involve all the above the key stakeholders in the celebration so as do develop the link between new born girl child and the health service providers. Greeting the family with “Mubarak ho beti hui hai”, a box of ladoos is presented to claim her and equal right to celebrate her birth at par with the son. All the girls born in the vicinity over the last three month are brought together to celebrate with the doctors and members of the community. 18 street plays were organized, two in each community. The birth of 186 girls were celebrated this year “Beti Utsav” was organized also in collaboration with the government District Health Department.

## **Mothers Group Linking with the Mahila Panchayat**

New Mothers Group members are very active and they are mostly mothers of children enrolled in our Child centers. Their main function has been to support pregnant women who were the victims of domestic violence. The members of the New Mothers Group counsel the family members regarding the problems facing the pregnant women and if not resolved they are taken to our Mahila Panchayats and paralegal workers take over. During the meetings women also discussed the issues related to their child especially on birth registration and importance of school education. Women participated with great enthusiasm knowing both the issues, they gained knowledge on the procedures for school enrollment and the required documents for admission. As a result 266 girls were registered at birth and 500 children were enrolled in the primary schools. Gender sensitization of community women on different issues like PWDV Act 2005, PCPNDT Act, Child Marriage Act, Anti Dowry Act, Sexual Harassment at Workplace to build their capacity and strengthen their knowledge on legal rights.

## **Collaboration with the Samajik Suvidha Sangam Kendra-GRC**



Our aim in partnering with SSSK-GRC is link the governments schemes and programs intended for the under previllaged through providing information and generating awareness of the benefits available for them at no cost. This also reduces corruption and mal practices which have corroded the system and provides oversight by the beneficiaries themselves. 9 Health camps were organized in 9 communities. Total of 758 persons benefited from these health camps including 435 children and 323 adults. The camp was attended by three doctors general physician, pediatrics and gynecologist. Anemia test, Sugar and BP measuring test were conducted in these camps. Nutrition guidance is provided to the identified malnourished children. These camps had an impact on the local dispensary in providing



vitamins and iron & folic supplements to anemic children and pregnant mother on a regular basis.

### Bal Sabhas

Bal Sabhas provide the opportunity to children to get involved in creative and fun activities, questioning and learning about their body and good practices, and sensitizing them on bad touch & good touch. 216 Bal Sabha's in the past year were conducted reaching over a 1000 children.

### Exposure Visit

Most children from the urban poor communities have no opportunities to move out of their drab surroundings in the slums. Trips were organized for 780 children who were taken on educational tours to Nehru Tara Mandal, Rail Bhawan, Bal Bhawan and India Gate to give them an exposure to the highlights of the capital city.



### Implementing the PCPNDT Act at District and State level

**District Advisory Board of Shadara** - We have attended meetings at the District Advisory Board of PCPNDT Act, Shadara every alternative month. Action India is also a part of three Sub-Committees at District Level. These three Sub-committees are 1) Form F Audit Committee 2) Committee for monitoring of Ultra Sound Clinics 3) Committee for Sting Operations with Decoy customers. We have actively participated in the monitoring operations as and when required and audited F Forms periodically.

**State Supervisory Board** - Action India is a member of the State Supervisory Board to oversee effective implementation of PCPNDT Act. We have attended 4 meetings in 2014-2015 and was given the responsibility to audit form F (1 day every week). We have realized the importance of alliance building and an NGO network to make any kind of impact on the issue.

### Strengthening of Campaign on Declining Child Sex Ratio

A Core Committee has been created in two of our working areas i.e. Janta Mazdoor Colony and Jehangirpuri, having 18 members and 23 members respectively. These members are from different NGOs working in their own districts on declining child sex ratio. Action India has also initiated a process for creating a larger alliance with 56 NGOs to build a campaign on "Save the Girl Child", at District and State level. To take this forward we plan to work in tandem with Girls Count.

## Towards Good Governance

### *Grassroots Women Claim Citizens Rights to Basic Services*

Action India undertook a water and sanitation project in Nov 2008 which brought about measurable change ensuring that the urban poor live a dignified life with access to adequate essential services in six resettlement/JJ colonies in North-east district. Bhalaswa in the North-West was included in 2012. WATSAN (Water & Sanitation) committees in each colony took action on issues where RWAs have watched in silence.

Action India’s strategies to access public health services and improve delivery of water & sanitation to the deprived populations has gained recognition. 350 WATSAN members led the movement to claim their entitlements. Water was reached to 40,000 people and 4,00,000 were served with improved basic facilities. Funds leveraged from the Delhi government in 2013-14 Rs.4,39,37,500 and 2014-15 Rs 2,56,46,660 for construction, repair and maintenance.

### Leadership with a Difference - from Me to We

In the next phase we aim to explore the road to promote elected Ward members and contribute qualitatively to make the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution a reality. Women’s political participation is the one area where Action India has not entered and this is the time to take our citizenship program to improve and strengthen active and effective local self-governance. Action India has promoted a model for good leadership and democratic participation. A printed manual has been put together to be shared with any other groups working on gender and women’s agency. We continue to believe that women make good leaders and we need to reinforce their capabilities by engaging them in different campaigns and events. These women are also role models in their community and given the opportunity they could be trained to enter the field of local self-governance as Ward Members.

## Strengthening Democratic Institution

Sustained belief and faith in strategies to organize people to claim their rights and entitlement has developed participatory democratic practices. Strengthening democratic institutions is a major goal in all our activities for social and cultural, political and economic rights.



The “phad”, depicts step by step how our outreach workers mobilizes community participation forming WATSAN Committees to take action.

## Strengthening Leadership through Workshops with Old and New WATSAN Leaders

Information and knowledge sharing on importance of sangathan and need to work at Ward level

- Management of community toilet complex and its implications – need to work with DUSIB
- How we can participate in Swachh Bharat Mission?
- Manifesto of political party – studied and recommendations for inclusion
- Water policy of Delhi Govt. – will this include all the population?



Interaction between self help groups(micro savings) and Mahila Panchayats(gender based violence) brought together multiple stakeholders at the community level indicating growing public support to the WATSAN members and the campaigns initiated under Swachh Delhi Swasth Delhi.

*Active and Effective Citizens*

## Behavioural Change - 2087 Students Reached in MCD Schools

Behaviour change in personal hygiene and change for a clean environment has been promoted in MCD Primary Schools. 43 sessions were organised in 8 schools. More than 2870 students (Male-850, Female-2020) of III, IV & V classes participated in the program. The school teachers have given full support in organising the sessions. The school teachers continue to follow up the activities with the students. The importance of hand wash in relation to health has been learnt by all. Demand for improved water and sanitation in MCD schools to be underscored.



## Jan Sunwai - Culmination of our Public Action Strategy

A public hearing on “Swachh Bharat Mission and Women’s Safety” was held on 20 Feb 2015 at New Seemapuri. The Jan Sunwai highlighted women’s concern for security and issues related to availability of clean water and sanitation. The meeting was attended by the area officials from Delhi Jal Board, representatives from the MLA Office, Add. SHO and Sub Inspector - Delhi Police and members from Citizen Solidarity Forum for Water & Sanitation, NGO representatives and WATSAN committee members from all the working area of SDSA project.

WATSAN committee members voiced the problem of low pressure of water supply in most of the clusters of Jain Mandir, New Seemapuri, Sundernagri and Nandnagari. Replying to the problem, representatives from area MLA Office ensures “the problem will be solved soon and directed the DJB officials to prepare a plan on the same and present it to the MLA for the solution”.



Women highlighted the issue of security in the area, incidents of teasing girls are very common in the urban slums of Delhi. Girls and women had to face violence on the streets, on the way to schools and from school and most of all using the community toilets. They face harassment all times of the day which is a constraint on their mobility. They demand that duty bearers take action to create a safe atmosphere in the communities. In reply to this demand, Add. SHO asked the community members to identify the danger zones where they feel insecure and send the information to him and assured them he will definitely take action in this matter. A member of Citizen Solidarity Forum for Water & Sanitation also requested the officials of Delhi police to design the activities that will increase positive community interaction with the Police, and this would be a good way to fill the gap between the police and community.

## Youth Clubs

The youth clubs played a major role promoting the WATSAN Campaign organizing rallies, distributing leaflets and performing street plays

generating wide spread awareness in North and North East Delhi in the most underserved communities. Street plays had played a major role in generating awareness on Right to Water- ensure water as a human right and the need for rain water harvesting to address the decreasing ground water level. Also the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution on local self governance and its proper implementation was disseminated to the people.

**From July 2014 to Feb 2015, each month 14 street plays were held in all seven areas of SDSD project.**



**Members of our youth group were trained by the Asmita Theater Group**

**Dissemination of Information on Water and Sanitation**

The leaflet on Right to Water and Sanitation is distributed with a feedback slip. The leaflet contains the following issues:

- \* Availability of clean and safe drinking water per person/per day as per norms of Delhi Government.
- \* Water should be provide 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the evening.
- \* Water cost should be affordable.
- \* Regular water quality testing should be undertaken by the MCD/DJB.
- \* Privatization of water was strongly objected.
- \* Education on ground water depletion and importance of rainwater harvesting was to be propagated widely.
- \* Number of toilet seats to be provided in ratio to the population.
- \* Safai Kramcharis were entitled to better service conditions and provided adequate tools as per standard and rules of the MCD.

**मैंने अपनी पहचान बनाई है**



**Neelam**, 32 years old woman like many other women in her slum, was very shy, passive and lacked in confidence. She became a WATSAN group member in 2009 and participated in trainings on leadership, conducted by Action India. Gaining confidence, she

trained to become an ASHA worker, and now plays an important leadership role in her community – making people realise their rights and promoting collective action. To quote Neelam, ^igys okVlu xzqi ehfVax esa eSa vkrh Fkh rks ifr ekjrk Fkk--- lcds lkeus---rks eSaus cksyk---?kj pydj ekjuk---- vc dksbZ fnDdr gh ugha----- eSa fdruk Hkh dke djrh gw; ifr bTtr nsrk gS vkSj ?kjokys HkhA xzqi esa eq>s cgqr le> feyh gS eSaus viuh ,d igpku cukbZ gS----\*

## EVENTS



### World Toilet Day

Drawing competition in 7 MCD schools with 25-30 students on the theme of “Ideal Toilet” were held with support of school administration. Students draw their views on ideal toilet. They have explained their drawing with students of their class. Principal of the school have judges the best artist of the drawing competition. Prizes were distributed to three best student and consolation prize to all the participating students.



**WATSAN leaders presented a charter of demands to the newly elected government to the functionaries who joined our program on World Water Day. They promised to cooperate and take note of our demands.**



**The 7190 students have participated in the Global Hand Wash Day program from 8 to 18 Oct in 14 primary schools and community level in all the 7 areas. Puppet shows were presented to create awareness on the benefits of hand wash. The school administration greatly appreciated these activities and invited us to work on our health and hygiene program with their students.**

# GYAN VIGYAN MELA 2015

*Creating the spirit of a festival*



**Menstruation Chart**



**Did You Know? - Quiz**



**Show me - Menstruation Booklet**

The MHM (Menstrual Health Management) Program was started in 2013 has reached 16000 women and girls over the last year. After working with Sr. Sec. schools and at community level, the concept of the MHM Mela evolved over a month to create an interactive process with women, adolescent girls and boys with the aim to recall the participant's learnings of MHM Session. In order to ensure a larger number of participants, we designed an attractive invitation card to show that this was an important event in the spirit of a festival. We gave importance to the invitation card as such invitations are really received by women and girls at the grassroots. Most of them carried the card and proudly showing it to gain entry to the Mela. However Mela was open to all.

The Gyan Vigyan Mela was organized at three SDDS centers with the full cooperation of all our community workers. In



order to cope with the large numbers who came to the Mela, our staff and youth volunteers played a very supportive role. Visitors were registered, a feedback form was given out to collect responses from the visitors.

There were eight stalls displaying visuals on the following topics:

1. From childhood to adolescence (for girls)
2. From childhood to adolescence (for boys)
3. About Menstruation and related ethics
4. Nutritious food -Special needs of adolescents
5. Menstrual Hygiene and safe disposal
6. Sexually Transmitted diseases/ HIV-AIDS (for female)
7. Sexually Transmitted diseases/ HIV-AIDS (for male)
8. Gender Roles a game of Snakes & Ladders for men

Men and boys discussed around gender and the need to sensitize the boys and men on menstruation. The small number of men participating in the Mela shows that a great deal of effort has to be made to engage with the men in our communities in the future. At Seemapuri the MLA of the constituency had come to the Mela. He spent a fair amount of time at each stall, and finally played the Snakes & Ladders game to show that he was sensitive about women's issues.

SDSD Areas	No. of People visited Mela
Seemapuri	1169
Sunder Nagri	997
Bhalaswa	730



Other Visitors at Mela were Mr. Athar from PSI, Ms. Indrani from Restless Development and Mr. Naved from Wateraid India. All of them appreciated the role of the facilitators and their ways of communicating messages and initiating the discussions. Over all they were satisfied with this event and also convinced that this mode of taking issue like menstruation to the public without shame in the form of Gyan Vigyan Mela is commendable.



**A "Menstruation Cup" was displayed on a poster and most of the women and girls asked to see the real cup.**

## **A Review of SDSD - Dec. 2015**

**By Shipra Saxena and Pooja**

The whole exercise of evaluation concludes that Swachh Delhi, Swasth Delhi project has been successfully implemented and executed at the ground level, thereby achieving the required number of beneficiaries. The efforts put in by Action India has opened a Pandora of opportunities for the government to upscale the model and increase their outreach.

### **Water and its Access**

The organization has put in water as one of the basic right of the citizens and supported them to achieve it as their basic right to live life with dignity. The interventions has definitely made an impressionable work in the segment of increasing water access to the community. All the intervention areas have got access to water through new pipeline connections or repaired old pipelines after the implementation of SDSD. While at Janta Mazdoor Colony and Bhalaswa where the access was improved by increasing the number of water tankers in the colony.

### **Household waste and its Access**

Action India has worked on the issue of solid waste, occurring mostly through households, in the intervention area. This has amounted for the changes at both the level, i.e., behavioral level and the system level. At the system level, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has introduced small vehicles for waste collection to visit even the smaller lanes in the areas was facilitated with the awareness at the level of individual households to dispose their garbage.

## **Women's Initiative for Community Management towards a Clean Environment and Better Health**

*The frontline workers have been working with the organization for a long time (a few being involved since the inception of the organization). They are a success story in themselves. They have struggled for upliftment in their lives, and after overcoming such hurdles, have now raised themselves to a leadership position of making a positive difference to the lives of hundreds of women in their community. They have been such experts in the community mobilisation with exceptional interpersonal skills that they could be placed in any new*

## From SHGs to Federation Building

### *Rural Women's Initiative*

#### Hapur Expansion

Action India's reach had been covered 18 villages till 2014.

In 2015, 22 new villages were added increasing our outreach to 38 villages.

#### Sabla Mahasangh - Strengthening Leadership

Sabla Mahasangh a Federation of SHGs members is building women's leadership in a society where women have no recognition as farmers, where child sex ratio has declined to 856 females to 1000 males. We are attempting to combat the high incidence of domestic violence against women and girls, where there are no safe spaces not even at home.

A decade ago rural women in Hapur did not know their legal rights. Legal awareness has empowered them to take collective action. Sabla Mahasangh successfully create pressure on the police to take action in a case of dowry harassment and registered a case for killing his wife. Domestic violence is now being heard by the Mahila Panchayat in 2014. In Ghungrala, Sadiqpur, Kathikhera, Chittoli, Salai, Sudana, Kharkhari, Mansoorpur, Bajhilpur, Imptori and Ayadnagar 15 domestic disputes were resolved.

#### 16 Days of Activism to Stop VAWGs

Every year, 25 Nov-10 Dec is observed with growing protest against alcohol and drug use. It has taken ten years of relentless struggle to address gender based violence in Hapur. Collectively, women are breaking the chains of oppression demanding an end to violence. They have gathered 2557 signatures from 16 villages which was presented to the District Magistrate. Women's voices was heard as a result all unlicensed liquor shops were closed in 3 villages. Attempts to reopen the shop failed as the women sustained the pressure.

#### Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

In 2014, Sabla Mahasangh organized a meeting to discuss the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Domestic violence as a personal and private experience often escapes punishment because of the apathy towards women in the patriarchal family. **For the first time,**

**the women from the SHG network learnt that there was a law to protect women against GBV and women had the right to live in their homes free of violence.**

### **Make Birthing Safer in Collaboration with the Public Health System**



Action India's belief that women's right to life and the highest attainable standard of health cannot be achieved without addressing the compounding discrimination against girls and women from birth, through childhood and adolescences, which motivated us to initiate a rural program in the year 2000 in Hapur District, U.P.

Action Indias' employs a community based approach in order to attain sustainable solutions and aims to create a synergy between the government agency and the agency of the people because the task at hand can at best be addressed when both cooperate. Through the existing project in Hapur, our strong network of over 1800 women members across 16 villages has successfully demonstrated the strength of this model. This network has ensured accountability from the government agencies and allowed the system to work for increased institutional deliveries and better child birth conditions using existing resources and keeping in mind local conditions and situations to prevent discrimination against pregnant women.

During our work here, we experienced poor maternal health among women and understood that a lot of social and systemic factors further aggravate this situation. Therefore, we organized women through mothers groups and provided education, information and awareness on pre-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care to ensure safe birthing and infant care till 6 months. We understood that addressing systemic limitations is complex, but what is also true is that success in reducing maternal mortality is dependent on both the strength of the overall health system and the means by which services are made accessible and service users encouraged to use them.

### Monitoring ICDS through Mothers Groups at Anganwadis

We have focussed on pregnant women and children under 6 years, to address the causes of MMR and IMR.

In 2013-14, Mothers Groups meetings - 363 meetings were conducted with 1812 women and 34 Mothers Group (pregnant women), who had regular checkups, nutritious food and safe delivery information. They were informed about the prevention of malnutrition and encouraged to take food from anganwadis under the ICDS.

In 2014-15, Mothers Groups meetings - 317 were conducted and direct contact was maintained with 3809 women. 56 pregnant women's groups were informed on immunization of their children to ensure that they took the complete course.

Year	Home Births	Institutional Births
2013-2014	45%	55%
2014-2015	40%	60%

**Members of Health Consultant Committee**, pressurized the Health Department to cover all women and children from village level to the district and improved and safe vaccinations were the result.

The **Village Health and Sanitation Committee** in 7 villages were strengthened in collaboration with the Health Department who provided the training on health issues to the village pradhans. **On the basis of the government order, 87 villages, old and new, were made part of the Block meeting, thereby including them to join the campaign for Potable Drinking Water with the help of Block Administration.** As a result of extensive participation and pressure of people, improvement in functioning of the Anganwadi centers and overall, the services provided by Anganwadis for 0-6 yrs, pregnant and lactating mothers and nutrition for malnourished infants and adolescents has made a difference.

### District Task Force at Village, Block to District level

Action India's community workers became members of **District Task Force at village**, block and district level.

In 2013-14, the District Level Evaluation Committee was provided with a report on village to district level work management.

## My Vote, My Right - Panchayati Raj Institution

The campaign for Panchayat Raj awareness program reached 38 villages in Hapur District. Several cluster meetings were organized in 2014-2015, and women realized as they conveyed to others the importance of the right to vote. Women enthusiastically participated in spreading awareness, and 28 women registered themselves to stand for election. Typically women depend on the consent of the head of family to vote, but these empowered women vowed to exercise their rights individually. Extensive campaigning resulted in increased awareness. As women became aware of their role as citizen they were encouraged to form groups and support electoral candidates who they found reliable, as per their understanding and knowledge. The patriarchal mindset of the society frowned upon the active participation of women in areas which were contested by males. The confidence of women was often crushed by their husbands who thought that it was useless for women to contest in elections. However, the campaign had influenced many women who wanted to vote irrespective of the disapproval of family members. They made it clear that their votes would go to a candidate who did not consume alcohol and is not involved in any illegal or unlawful activity. Women of 16 villages were encouraged to contest elections. The Panchayat Raj awareness campaign resulted in 28 members of the SHGs contesting the election and winning all the seats reserved for women.

*Political participation brings women to the fore front in changing society.*



### अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पखवाडा धूमधाम से मना

हापुड़ (ब्यूरो)। एक्शन रीटिविटा के तत्त्वज्ञान में सबला संघ की महिलाओं ने नगर महिला परिषद स्थित मण्ड में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पखवाडा धूमधाम से मनाया। इसमें महिलाओं ने अपने अनुभव व्यक्त किए। संघ की अध्यक्ष महिला ने कहा कि संघ से जुड़ने के बाद उन्होंने गंध की महिलाओं को एकत्र करके ग्राम प्रधान पर दबाव बनाकर गंध में विकास कार्य कराया है। संघ की लगातार मेना ने कहा कि महिलाओं को मतदान के मामले में जागरूक करना चाहिए। महिलाओं को एकजुटता के साथ कार्य करना चाहिए। सुदना ने संघ लीडर रामकुमारी ने कहा कि वह जम्बरतमंद महिलाओं को लोन पिलाती है और एक-दूसरे को ताकत बनती है। ग्राम सचिवों की अंगु ने कहा कि महिलाएं घर से लेकर बाहर तक चुनौतियों का सामना करती हैं। यदि महिलाएं ठाम ले तो वह एकजुटता के साथ इसका भी परलट सकती हैं। कार्यक्रम का संचालन शबाना खान ने किया।

## Samajik Suvidha Sangam Kendra(GRC)

SSSK(GRC), was initiated by Mission Convergence, Delhi government, in partnership with Action India in January 2009. In the initial years the SSSK was working to link communities with government schemes, facilitate ration cards and aadhar card to the unprivileged etc. There was financial support received from the government but this could not be sustained after 2013. With the change of government the budget allocation came in small amounts with great uncertainty. In spite of sustained struggle of NGOs, Mission Convergence was likely to be discontinued. Around 140 SSSK-GRCs and their staff were affected and a substantial program to address the needs of the vulnerable sections came to an end. Nevertheless, with all of these problems prevailing the SSSK-GRC staff in every single year achieved their targets and joined hands with the Delhi government to deliver services to the community. Some activities and skill training for girls at GRC are given below:



**Basic Computer Training**



**Dress Designing Course**



**Information on govt. schemes**



**Lady Doctor for consultation**



**Preparing low cost nutritious food**

## Grants and Utilization

Financial Year 2013-2014

**R. K. SHARDA & ASSOCIATES**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

309, DELHI CHAMBERS  
DELHI GATE, NEW DELHI-02.  
PH. (O) 23283005, 23274795  
(R) 27561184, (M) 9811195522

### AUDIT REPORT

\*\*\*\*\*

I/We have audited the Balance Sheet **ACTION INDIA** as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. These Financial Statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the accompanying statement based on our audit.

I/We have conducted our audit in accordance with Standards on Auditing applicable in India. Those Standards require that I/We plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence, supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I/We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Subject to the Accounts attached, we report that:

- a) We have obtained all the information and expenditures, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by the law have been kept by the Company so far as it appears from our examination of those books.
- c) The Balance Sheet, the Statement of Profit and Loss, and the Cash Flow Statement dealt with this report are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the accompanying statement gives a true and fair view :

- i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named \*trust/institution as at 31st March 2014 and
- ii) in the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31st March 2014

PLACE : NEW DELHI  
DATE : 24.09.2014

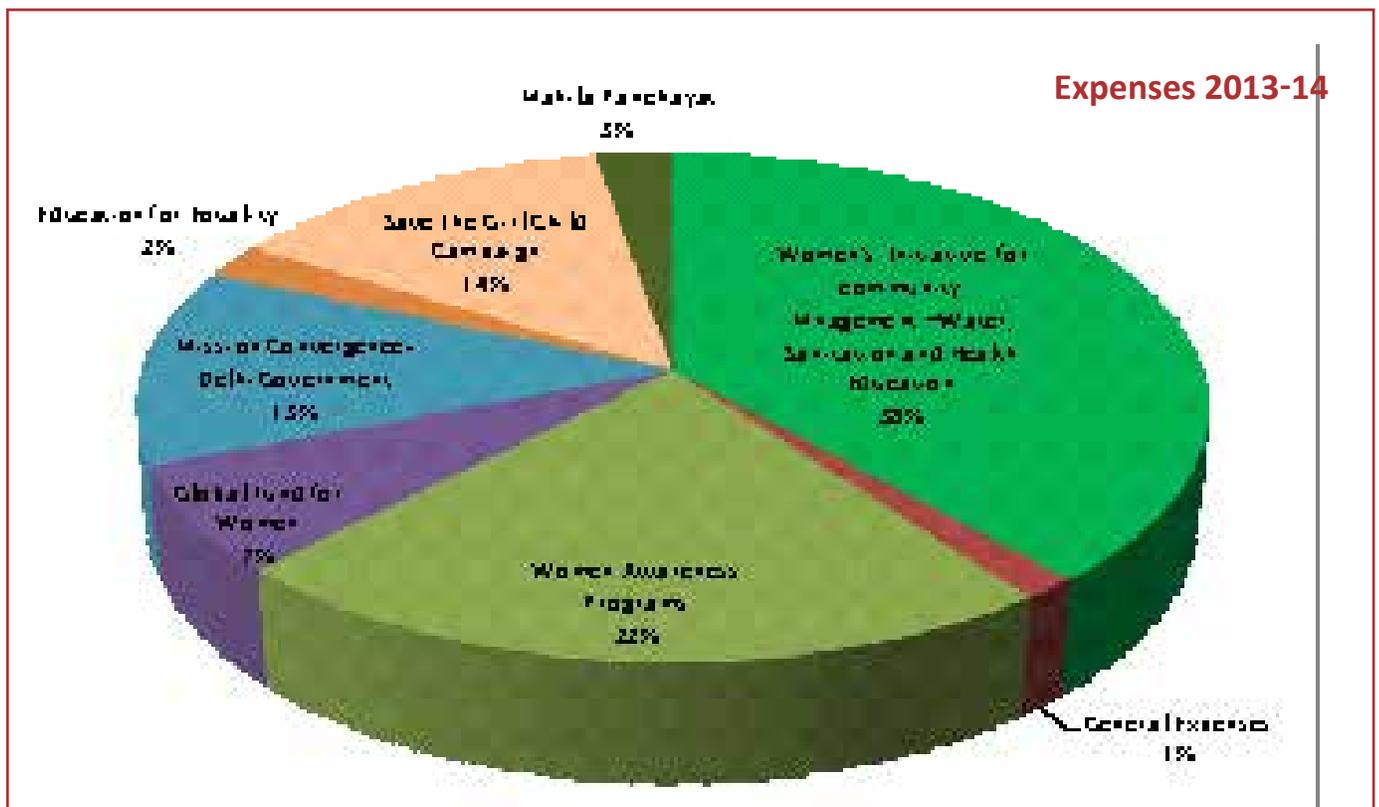
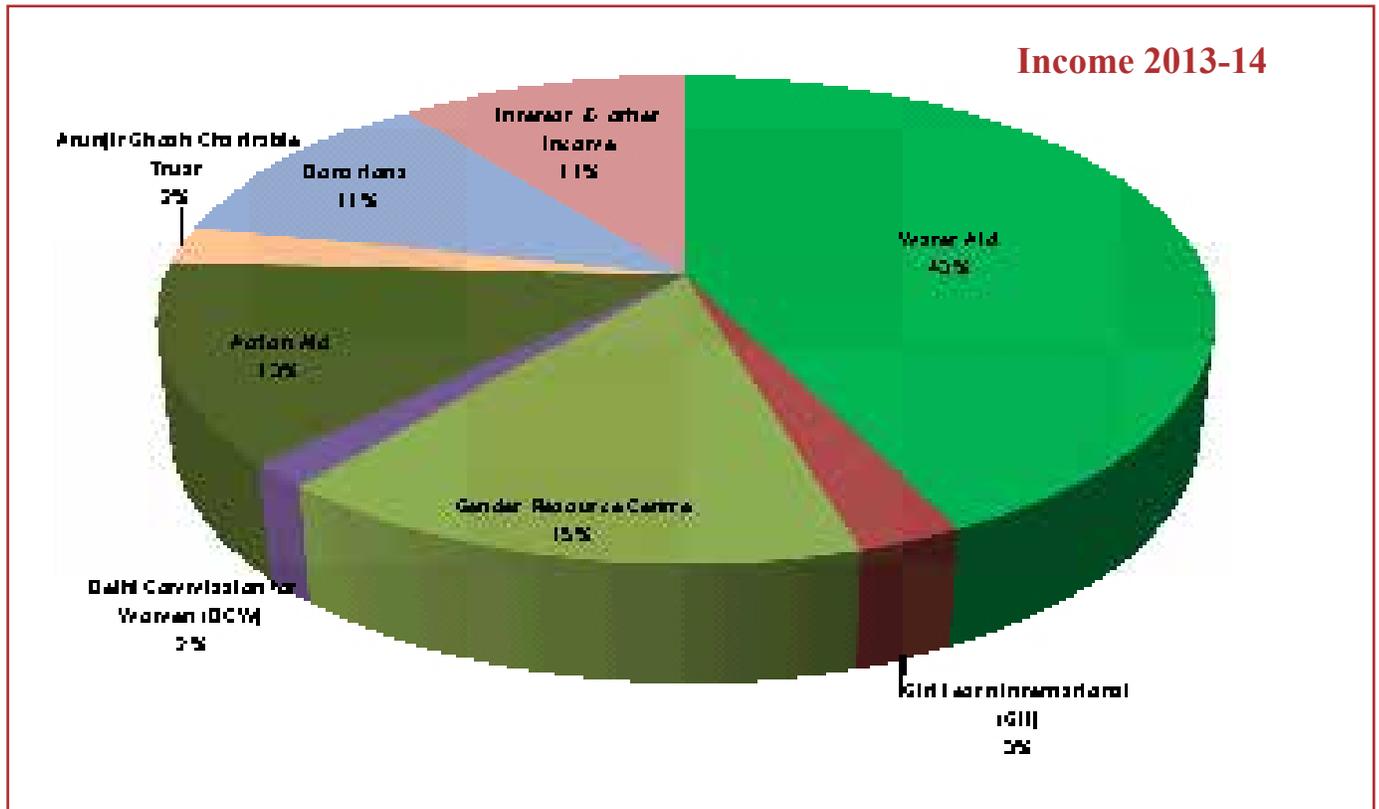
**R.K.SHARDA & ASSOCIATES**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
FRN No.006226N

*R.K.Sharda*

**R.K.SHARDA**  
M.No. 084847



## Financial Year 2013-2014



**FORM NO. 10B**

[See rule 17B]

**Audit report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions**

I have examined the balance sheet of **ACTION INDIA (PAN- AAATA0921C)** [name of the trust or institution] as at **31<sup>st</sup> March 2015** and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Trust or institution. I have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above named trust/institution visited by me so far as appears from my examination of the books, and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by me, subject to the comments given below:

In my opinion and to the best of my information, and according to information given to me, the said accounts give a true and fair view-

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named \*trust/institution as at **31<sup>st</sup> March 2015** and
- (ii) in the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on **31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Place : New Delhi

Date : 24.09.2015

*R.K.SHARDA & ASSOCIATES*

*Chartered Accountants*

*FRN No.006226N*

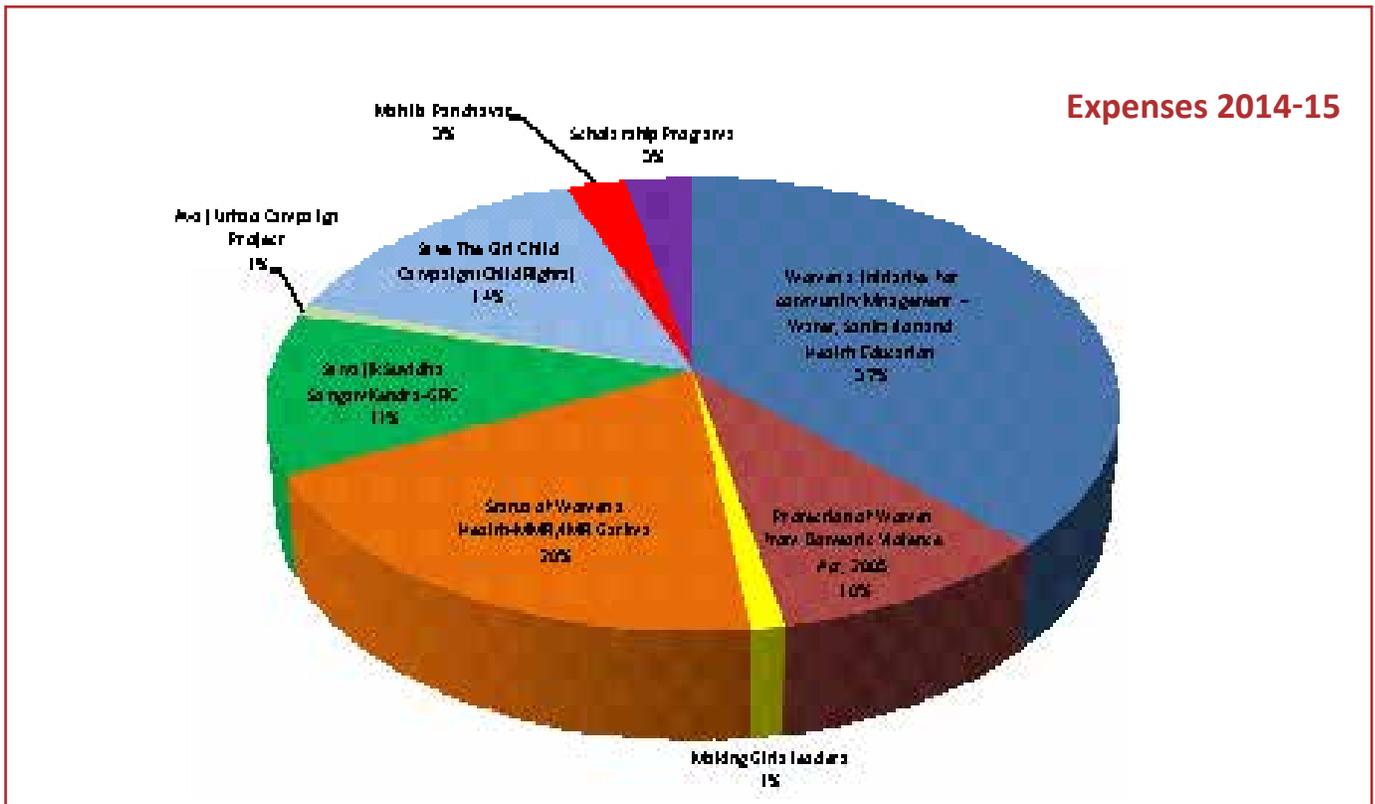
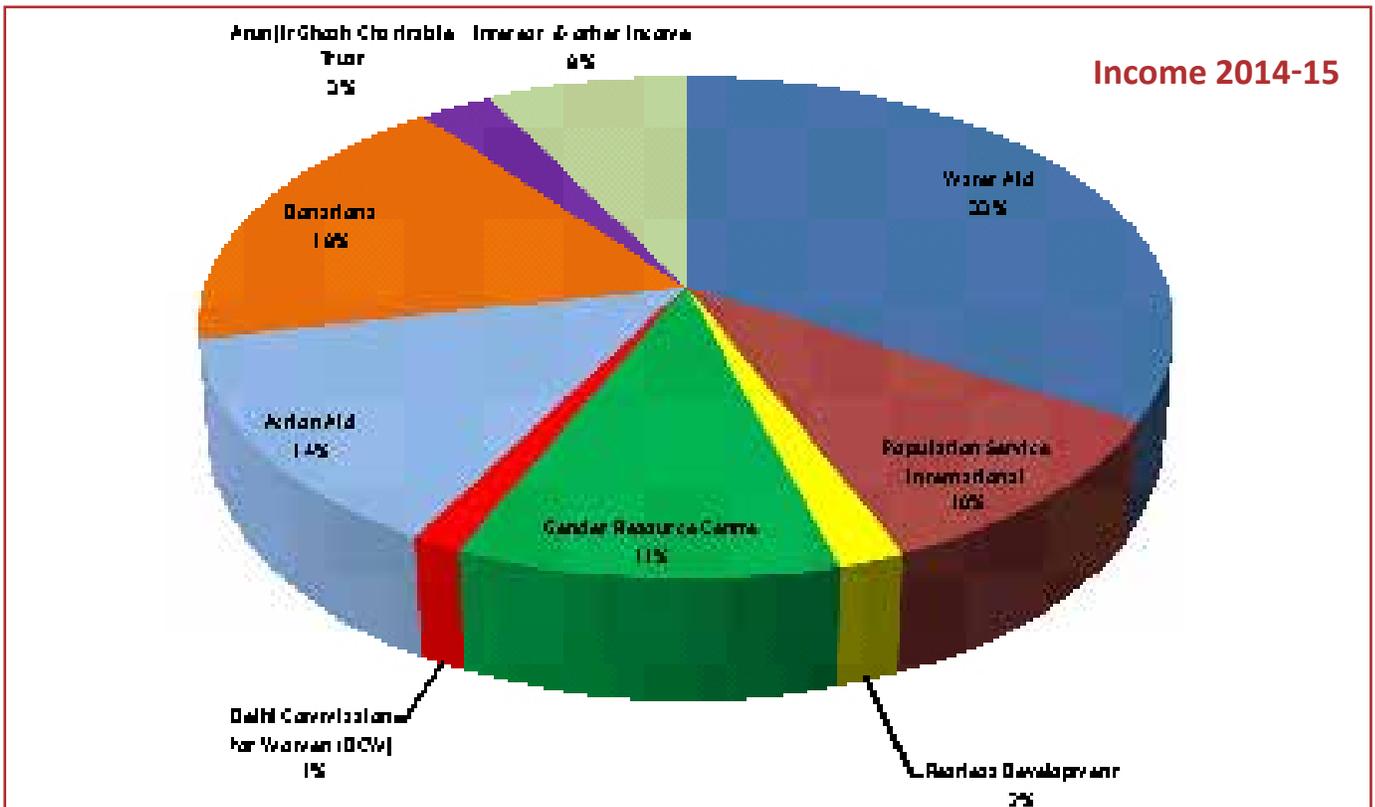
*R.K.Sharda*

*R.K.SHARDA*

*M.No. 084847*



## Financial Year 2014-2015



## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014-2015



Gouri Choudhury  
Chairperson



Pritam Kumar  
Treasurer



Saroj Kashyap  
Convener



Deepmalika  
Joint Convener



Ramzan  
Member



Gyanwati  
Member



Shabana Khan  
Member



Geeta Rani  
Member



Shanaz  
Observer

### GOVERNING BODY/ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr Imrana Qadeer-Retd. Professor, Director, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, Delhi

Dr Ritu Priya-Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, Delhi

Soma K. Parthasarthy- Researcher/Advisor -Gender, Development and Livelihoods

Renuka Mishra-Educationist, Founder of Nirantar

Sushmita Mukherjee-Senior Manager, Program Quality-Restless Development

Mamta Dash-Advisor, Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Kalyani Menon Sen - Gender and Urban Planner, Independent Researcher

Kalyani V.- Developed Modules on Life Skills, HIV/AIDS, Sexuality and Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health

Abha Joshi-Advocate and former Executive Director of MARG

Rajesh Kumar Pachauri- Family Planning Specialist -Clinical Services, India Health Action Trust

### PROJECT COORDINATORS

Devendra Kumar, Kriti Paliwal, Sulekha Singh, Priyanka Singh, Pratibha

### PROJECT FIELD STAFF

#### Swachh Delhi Swasth Delhi

Kaushalya, Manorama, Maharani, Meena, Pramod, Ramzan, Rajdulari, Saroj, Usha, Vidya Thapa, Ramkishan, Murti Devi, Meena, Veermati, Bishnu, (Savita, Bramwati, Uma Devi Gupta, Shanu)

#### Hapur Rural Intervention

Anita, Shabana Khan, Sushila, Suman, Shashi Devi, Usha, (Sunita)

#### Women, Law and Social Change

Unit Leaders – Sushila, Gyanwati, Shahnaz

Paralegal Workers – Geeta Rani, Rampyari, Shahnaz, Santosh Thakur, Shakuntla, Uma, Reena Chouhan, Geeta, Sangeeta, Sunita, (Bhanwari, Poonam, Hemlata, Anita, Bimlesh, Aarti, Kalawati, Krishna),

#### Making Girls Leaders

Deepmalika, Mridula, Shamim, Savitri (Sarita, Shabana Zaidi, Kalawati, Rajni)

#### Samajik Suvidha Sangam Kendra- GRC

Farman Ahmed, Rinku Singh, Anju Tomar, Basanti, Gulista Parveen, Kavita Parmar, Shahida Bano, Sunita, Sangeeta, Shabnam Nazli (Sharaddha Rawat, Gayatri, Savitri)

### ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTS TEAM

Dharmender Kumar, Dinesh Kumar, Artist, Saroj Sager, Saroj Kashyap, Shibu Pathan, (Sudhanshu Ray)

# Team Building

Every decade since 1976, we have stopped to take stock of ourselves as an organisation. Where are we going? Are we growing as an organization and as individuals? Do we function collectively as a team?

From 8 to 10 July, 2014, about 30 of us in Action India participated in a 3 day development training program facilitated by Ramakrishnan (RK) introduced to us by Action Aid. The group consisted of 30 young and experienced members of Action India from the field and the administration. This is a synopsis of the 18 page report.

RK : These three days we will focus on three things. During this time, reflect on how these things are being done in Action India right now. One day we will focus on work, one on the individual, and one on the team. Work is what has brought us together here.

Making your work successful is very important. But the development of the person who is working is also important. And all the people who are linked to the work being done, it's important that they move ahead, too. We'll think about these three points from different angles. There are positives and negatives to each of these points (for example, if successful take credit, if not then blame others). But we will work on how to bring out, foster, and maintain the positives, and minimize the negatives.

No matter how long you have worked, how much experience you have, you have to give some and take some and work with your team. You aren't perfect. They say, "cooperation starts by giving." If you block yourself out and say I don't need to learn anymore, you're gone. Observation is the biggest thing — what piece do you need, who might need a piece that you don't need — don't pass aimlessly. We all have something, but we all need something, too; we all have something to contribute and to take away. The more you give the wrong pieces aimlessly, the more stuck you get. (A Tangram set of squares and triangles was given to each group to assess how much cooperation worked to complete the task.) In this game, *observation skills* are more important than *communication skills*.

So you've gotten trapped in the *past experience trap*. The way you worked 20 years ago can't be the same way you work now. You have to change with the times. You have to bring something new. For the first time I'm seeing that not a single person cut the square differently.

But in our organization everyone learns by seeing/observing their seniors, so how can we do/bring something new? This is worth thinking about — yes, respect and learn from your seniors, but that doesn't mean you have to do exactly what they do. This is a simple task .....

**In the work that we do, we often think about others, but we forget to think about ourselves. And then we look back 20 years later and say, why did this happen?**

Everything is about thought — given whatever funding I have, can I do something new without breaking the rules? Keeping in mind the rules of Action India, can I do something? What can I do? Can I be different? Make your mind dynamic. When we can't do something, we start to blame — there's something wrong with the cards or with someone else. We get stuck when we try to be someone we are not. Even highly educated people have trouble with this task. It's important to learn from older colleagues, but don't get stuck there — you have to change things a bit and be able to properly explain things to older people.

## Day 2

How did the day go today? Two people from each group share, one male and one female (or two females)

### Group A

- male: helped evaluate ourselves and see where we are today
- female: helped us see where our weaknesses are and what we need to work on
- Female: forced us to think in new ways; became more aware of our weaknesses
- male: trust is important to do work well; if given the opportunity, one should step up

### Group B

- female: helped look at how we work to see how we can work better; working in a team can allow us to benefit the community to the best of our abilities
- female: important to have good teamwork to be successful and achieve the goal

### Group C

- female: understanding things from different angles, different perspectives is important; it's important to change your views.
- male: people work in different ways; if a person wants to do something in a different way, the old person may say no or does not support. We have to face this challenge.

## Day 3

Types of workers — Every group will have participants at different stages that make or break team work.

- *Detractor*
  - don't understand your goal
  - talk bad about the work you do and work against it
  - negative influence
  - based on RK's experience, they make up about 5% of people in a group
- *Observer*
  - neither negative nor positive
  - based on RK's experience, they make up about 10% of people in a group
- *Participator*
  - they understand what you are trying to do, but they won't do anything until they are pushed; they know everything but won't take initiative
  - based on RK's experience, they make up about 50% of people in a group
- *Contributor*
  - don't need to be told anything, they can tell when something needs to be done and do it
  - based on RK's experience, they make up about 20% of people in a group
- *Leader*
  - they know what to do and who to do it with/get it done from
  - they run and make others run with them
  - leaders don't just dictate, they help others become leaders, too
  - based on RK's experience, probably about 15% of people are like this

## How Can We Bring Everyone Up to The Next Level?

Process Sustainability - need at least 60% of your group to be contributors to sustain and maximize your efforts.

A final reflection at the conclusion of the three days revealed that the participants left the training with a renewed energy towards and commitment to themselves and their work.

## Remembering Shardaben



She was born a humanist. Shardaben came from a “cfu;k” family in Aligarh district, U.P. Her father was a lawyer, who in her eyes, exploited the poor. At the age of 5, she was thrashed by her mother and given a bath, she knew not why. She had played with the girl from a Balmiki house, without realizing that she was challenging the caste system.

Rooted in her community and culture, she spoke in a dialect of rural U.P. and had never learnt a word of English. She came to Action India to work with the migrants from West Bengal on the banks of the Jamuna below the yksgk iqy. A staunch vegetarian she could not stand the smell of fish cooking outside of the Bengali jhuggis, but she never refused to drink the glass of water or tea. The first test of a grassroots worker when you accept to drink the water from a jhuggi dweller.

Shardaben was a feminist to the core. She joined the anti-dowry campaign, to protest the killing of brides. She acted in a 100 performances of “Om Swaha” in 1981. In the same year we had formed the first Sabla Sangh in Jehangirpuri. She would sit with the crotchet workers and read to them from the newspapers or the first women’s magazine Manushi in Hindi. She herself wrote short poems of protest or sorrow and sometimes sent letters to an editor.



Shardaben had only studied in a primary school, but she passed on her literacy skills to adult women and one of them Shanti remembers how she taught to read and write. In 1994, when Action India’s first Mahila Panchayat were formed. Shardaben

motivated women to become members with a deep conviction that women must help women to stop violence in the home. Her understanding of the law came from a sense of justice. She very much believed in women’s collective strength and brought ordinary women out of “the four walls” to march to police stations. Shardaben demonstrated how women could hold the respect of the community and the men who came to the Panchayat hearings went home satisfied with the agreement reached in the presence of witnesses.



In the decade of the 1990s the divide between Hindus and Muslims was growing across the country. The demolition of the Babri Masjid was disastrous. Shardaben had started a study group with Shah Jahan Aapa from Shaktishalini to read the Quran the chapter on Surat-an-Nisa the woman. She also brought the i=k on Hindu marriage vows and discussed the role of “vkn’kZ ukjh”.

Action India participated actively on the Sampradyakita Virodhi Manch where professors from Delhi University met with grassroots workers to build the “I;kÅ” to serve water to all. (Shardaben gained the respect of the academics) She moved across communities with the street play to show how it was the poor who suffered the violence erupted by the communal divide.

This story would not be complete without the nutrition project for T.B. patients being treated by the DOT scheme. Each patient was fed milk, eggs and a fruit for Rs 10 per day for 6 to 9 months till they were back on their feet. Where did the money come from? In true Gandhian spirit Shardaben collected Rs 20 or 30 from staff members every month and from those who wanted to contribute more was able to find the friends who gave Rs 300 p.m. for one patient. 49 Men, women and children regained their normal lives teaching us a lesson that tuberculosis is curable and that treatment for T.B. must be supplemented with a protein diet.

*Shardaben continues to be in our memories as the woman with silver hair who never grew old. Her spirit lives on an inspiration to all our Mahila Panchayats continuing to seek justice for women to live in violence free homes.*



*Sharda Devi*

1935 - 2013

*Recognizing Change*  
Evolving feminist perspectives with  
grassroots women  
redefining roles,  
regaining control over our bodies  
re-imagining our future

Action India founded in 1976, has taken many big and small path breaking initiatives by grassroots women, which clearly indicates the strong potential in women to become change agents in the process of social

