

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

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ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Action India, founded by the Late Gouri Choudhury in 1976, is a non-profit organization focused on empowering women and promoting gender justice. For 46 years, it has worked with a clear goal: to ensure all women and girls can live with dignity, free from discrimination, and achieve gender equality. Action India has led several groundbreaking initiatives driven by grassroots women, showcasing their potential to bring about social change. The organization balances community-level work with the larger fight for women's rights, not only opposing injustice but also creating pathways for self-help, confidence, and empowerment.

VISION

A Gender Just and Egalitarian Society

MISSION

Empowering Women to achieve Equality and Equity and the Right to Live with Dignity and Self-esteem.

We aim to Eliminate Discrimination Stop Violence Against Women and Girls.

We say "Women's Rights are Human Rights".

GENERAL BODY MEMBERS

1. Dr Imrana Qadeer- Retd. Professor, Director, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, Delhi
2. Dr. Ritu Priya- Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, Delhi
3. Soma K. Parthasarthy - Researcher/Advisor -Gender, Development and Livelihoods
4. Sushmita Mukherjee
5. Kalyani Menon Sen- Feminist Researcher and Activist
6. Renuka Mishra- Educationist, Founder of Nirantar
7. Kalyani V.- Developed Modules on Life Skills, HIV/AIDS, SRHR
8. Abha Joshi- Advocate and former Executive Director of MARG
9. Rajesh Kumar Pachauri- Family Planning Specialist - Clinical Services, India Health Action Trust

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

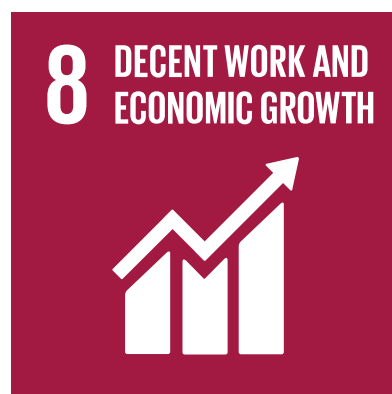
1. V. Kalyani - Chairperson
2. Gyanwati - Co-Chairperson
3. Devendra Kumar Sah - General Secretary
4. Saroj Sager - Treasurer
5. Pritam Kumar - Member
6. Shalini Singh - Member
7. Maharani - Member
8. Sangeeta - Member
9. Rampyari - Member
10. Sulekha Singh - Member

Areas of Intervention

- Women, Law and Social Change
- SRHR and Economic Empowerment

- Education
- Agriculture

Alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030



PROGRAMMES

Action India is involved in a range of initiatives across different locations in New Delhi. It also operates on a nationwide scale, running programs in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

1. MAHILA PANCHAYAT PROGRAM

Action India's Mahila Panchayat program, launched in 1994, is rooted in the traditional concept of 'community organization' aimed at promoting social justice. While it is not a substitute for the formal legal system, the Mahila Panchayat provides an effective platform for resolving disputes, often eliminating the need for legal intervention. In more severe cases, it may serve as a facilitator, guiding women toward legal options..

The Mahila Panchayats primarily handle cases related to verbal and emotional abuse, divorce, dowry demands, dowry retrieval, physical abuse due to alcoholism, sexual violence, extramarital affairs, second marriages, restrictions on female mobility, bigamy, infertility, child custody, violence in live-in relationships, and sexual harassment in public spaces.

LOCATION: The Mahila Panchayat project operates in six areas of New Delhi: Seemapuri, Sunder Nagri, Jahangirpuri, Dharampura, Janta Mazdoor Colony, and Dakshinpuri, with a hub coordinator assigned to each location.

MAHILA PANCHAYAT HUBS- New Delhi

South East District	North East District	North East District		North East District	
Hub 1	Hub 2	Hub 3	Hub 5	Hub 4	Hub 6
DAKSHINPURI	JAHANGIRPURI	JANTA MAZDOOR COLONY	SUNDERNAGRI	NEW SEEMAPURI	DHARAMPURA
Madangir	Samaypur Badli	Sanjay Colony	Shastri Park	Kalandar Colony	Ajeet Nagar
Khanpur colony	Mukundpur	Kachhi Khajoori	Nand Nagri	Sonia Camp	Chand Bagh

Currently, 25 Mahila Panchayat members operate across six hubs, offering support to victims of violence and handling case investigations and follow-ups. Each panchayat includes a hub coordinator, a paralegal, and a facilitator.



Case Hearing

Between April 2023 and March 2024, the Mahila Panchayat program has directly benefitted 2534 individuals. During this time, the initiative provided critical support to victims of violence and played a significant role in resolving community disputes. By facilitating mediation and offering guidance, the Mahila Panchayat helped many individuals find justice and protection, contributing to the safety and empowerment of women and families.

2534 direct beneficiaries
Mahila Panchayat Program



Trainings with Mahila Panchayat members

2. YOUTH AND MEN ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Launched in 2020, Action India's Youth and Men Engagement Program aims to challenge the existing patriarchal structure in society. The program is based on the idea that involving men and boys, both adolescents and adults, in the movement for change will accelerate the process of dismantling patriarchy. Action India creates opportunities for men and boys from all walks of life to engage as allies and partners in advancing gender justice and supporting the women's rights movement. The program promotes equality in relationships and works to reform patriarchal attitudes, practices, and social norms, emphasizing that gender equality benefits everyone. Through this initiative, Action India is developing approaches to engage males in gender issues from a feminist perspective.

Achievements

The program has led to significant results, including a reduction in violence against women, a shift in discriminatory gender norms, and changes in traditional gender roles, with men and boys increasingly taking on domestic and caregiving responsibilities and supporting women in leadership and decision-making roles.

Youth Participants: 120

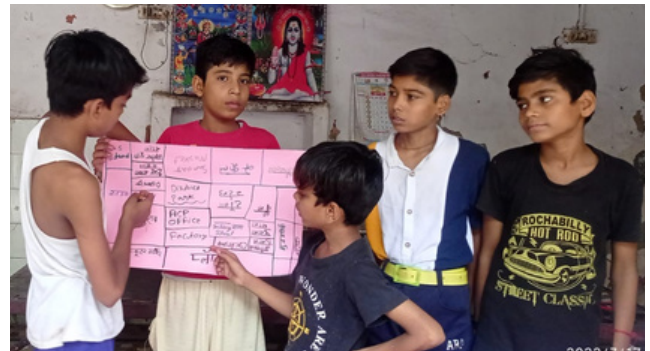
Men Participants: 120

Location:

The program operates in 12 communities across Delhi, including areas such as South Delhi (Madangir, Khanpur), North West Delhi (Samaypur Badli, Mukundpur), and North East Delhi (Kachi Khajoori, Kalandar Colony, Sonia Colony, Chandbagh, Nand Nagri, Ajeet Nagar, and Shastri Park).



Sports Tournament



Activity Sessions



Group sessions



Exposure visit to a police station



Games and activities

3. PACE PROGRAM

PACE, short for Parwaz Adolescent Centre for Education, was launched in 2018 as an education initiative specifically for school dropout girls and never enrolled women. The program uses a standardized teaching module aimed at increasing female literacy and promoting education among women in various communities.

The key objectives of PACE include:

- Providing sustained learning opportunities for school dropout girls from urban poor and marginalized communities, aged 15 to 25.
- Promoting sex education and improving access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services.
- Organizing and fostering leadership skills among adolescent girls.
- Addressing malnutrition and focusing on the nutritional needs of adolescent girls.
- Raising awareness of mental health, reducing stigma, and promoting emotional well-being.
- **As of 2023-24:**
- **530 girls** have enrolled at our centers and successfully completed their courses.
- **92 alumni** are actively engaged in leadership roles within their communities, helping with outreach and the enrollment of new batches.

Location: The PACE program operates in two communities of Delhi: New Seemapuri and Janta Mazdoor Colony.





4. DOMESTIC WORKERS PROJECT

Since 2021, Action India has been working with 548 women domestic workers aged 25 to 60 to raise awareness about their rights and foster leadership development. These workers are organized into 25 collectives, each with an identified leader, and advocate for key issues such as:

- Basic respect for domestic workers
- 4 days leave in a month
- Rest breaks during working hours
- Ensuring safety and security at workplace
- Access to social security schemes

Achievements:

- Trust-building efforts have led women to approach the core team with personal issues such as domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Cases involving sexual violence, physical assault, and divorce are referred to the Mahila Panchayat team, which specializes in handling such issues.
- The team has supported several women in admitting their alcoholic husbands into rehabilitation centers.
- The project has also helped women access ABHA cards under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, ensuring better healthcare for themselves and their families.
- **Location:** The program is active in Dwarka and Jahangirpuri, New Delhi.
- **Beneficiaries: 548** domestic workers.



Sessions on rights of domestic workers



Awareness sessions



Domestic Workers Day celebrations on 16th June

5. THE PAD PROJECT

Action India launched the Pad Project in 2017, focusing on the production of affordable sanitary pads by women, for women. This initiative includes both a manufacturing unit and awareness programs, with the following core objectives:

- To provide women with an affordable, women-friendly product, available at their doorstep, produced, marketed, and sold by women. To raise awareness about menstrual hygiene and reproductive health, promoting best practices.
- To enhance skills and develop financial independence for women involved in the production unit.

Location: The project operates in two blocks of Hapur district (Uttar Pradesh) and Ramgarh district (Jharkhand).

Beneficiaries: A total of **9,622** girls and women were reached in 45 villages, alongside **806** girls from 8 schools in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh. In Ramgarh district of Jharkhand, we were able to reach **301** girls and women across 9 villages and **686** girls across 6 schools.

We have devised a meaningful curriculum which addresses puberty and SRHR. Topics such as the fertility cycle, conception and contraception including family planning have been developed for schools and communities separately. Two awareness sessions for children in classes VI-XII are conducted in schools by master trainers of Action India. These children then also work as peer educators spreading awareness in target villages. Similarly, awareness sessions are conducted for the community in villages. Some participants of these trainings are developed as peer educators on the issue. Pads are produced in our units to bridge the gap in availability of economic and good quality pads. Local community workers like SHG members, ASHA workers, Samooh Sakhis, etc. are included in sales processes at the doorstep of the users. The project has received support from local organisations such as Vibhanshu Social Development Society in Jharkhand.

Achievements:

- Training and development programs have empowered girls and the wider community to apply their knowledge in everyday life. An ongoing connection is maintained with participants even after the training.
- Participants have learned safe and eco-friendly methods for disposing of sanitary napkins, with significant positive impacts on schools and the community.
- Peer groups have formed as a result of the training, where participants share and discuss the information they've learned with their peers.
- The regular availability of sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in schools and communities has greatly improved, with pads now easily accessible at their doorstep.



6. NANDINI PROJECT

The Nandini Program focuses on Menstrual Hygiene Management, aiming to educate girls aged 10–19 about menstruation. The program empowers girls to navigate puberty without fear or shame, helping them confidently transition into womanhood. By providing knowledge of biological facts, it enables them to understand their bodies and the menstrual cycle. The program also works to dispel cultural and traditional myths around menstruation, promoting safe and hygienic practices while addressing the silence surrounding this topic.

Interventions: The program uses pictorial charts, posters, flashcards, and songs to educate, followed by interactive Q&A sessions.

Topics covered include:

- Physical and emotional changes during adolescence
- Reproductive health and internal organs
- The menstrual cycle

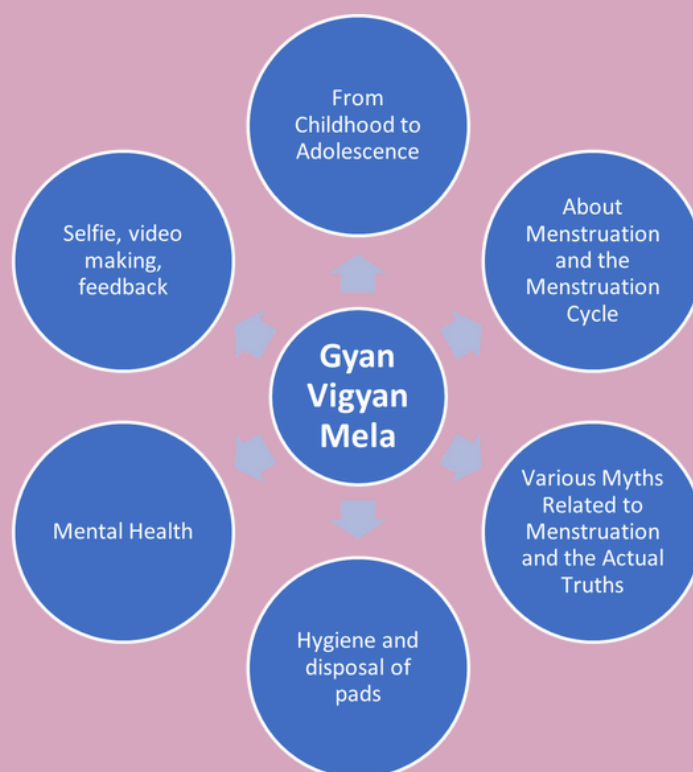
Location: Schools and hostels in Budni, Madhya Pradesh.

Beneficiaries (2023–24): 6,166 girls.



Gyan Vigyan Mela

The purpose of Mela was to spread awareness regarding Menstruation Hygiene Management techniques. Six stalls were set up at the Gyan Vigyan mela providing information about various topics. A total of 1,514 persons including 200 men visited the melas across five locations. Each stall was decorated with poster with messages that promoted menstrual hygiene. A total of 10 schools were covered by the melas. Participants from nearby schools also attended the melas. Two villages namely Jahajpura and Pilikarar were also covered. Feedback forms revealed that 27.88% visitors were aware of the myths and taboos mentioned in the Various Myths Related to Menstruation and the Actual Truths Stall, while less than 4% of the visitors were aware of various issues related to menstruation shared at the About Menstruation and Menstruation cycle Stall. 5% to 20% visitors shared that they obtained new information on topics such as the menstrual cycle, myths and taboos, appropriate methods of disposing used sanitary pads, and new menstrual products.



Six stalls on six important topics were set up at the Mela

7. VISIBILITY OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Through this project, Action India seeks to acknowledge the vital contributions of women to our food and farming systems. The primary goal is to enhance the visibility of women farmers, particularly smallholder and marginalized women, within a framework of social Justice and development.

Some core objectives of this program include:

- Establishing and securing rights over productive livelihood resources, particularly land.
- Ensuring that women farmers receive their rightful entitlements.
- Registering women farmers as 'farmers' or 'Women Agricultural Labour' on the E-Shram portal.
- Promoting the acceptance and adoption of natural farming through systematic and technical training for women farmers.
- Recognizing the work of women in agriculture and securing proper government accreditation for them to access various schemes, benefits, loans, etc.
- Ensuring equal participation of women farmers in decision-making processes across various institutions, starting from the family level, to promote empowered, self-reliant, and sustainable livelihoods for women.

Location: This program is currently active in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh.

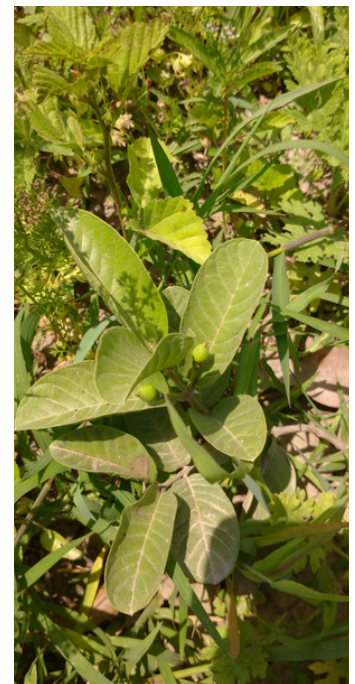
Beneficiaries: 180 women farmers.

Achievements:

- Women have begun to identify themselves as farmers, significantly boosting their confidence.
- With their newfound technical knowledge of natural farming and related schemes, women have started sharing this information within their families.
- They have successfully cultivated seasonal vegetables and fruits in kitchen gardens.

- Established connections with both government and non-government departments.
- During exposure visits, women farmers learned how to practice natural farming cost-effectively and how to secure better prices through crop processing and effective marketing methods.

Highlights from the Program



EVENTS

Saas Bahu Vartalaap

Held on 24th February 2024 at the Gandhi Peace Foundation, the event brought together participants from 18 Mahila Panchayat areas and allied organizations. It began with an introduction on exploring mother-in-law and daughter-in-law dynamics through a patriarchal lens. Participants reflected on personal experiences through forms, and role plays illustrated common challenges in these relationships. An open discussion followed, addressing issues like women's rights, financial independence, and mobile phone use. The event emphasized empathy, mutual respect, and the importance of unity among women in challenging patriarchal norms and building stronger familial bonds.



16 days of Activism



Sports Tournament

A one-week Sports Tournament was organised in the first week of January, 2024 in various areas of New Delhi as part of the Youth and Men Engagement Programme.

- 1st Jan- Cricket match in Ajeet Nagar and Kachhi Khajoori
- 6th Jan- Kho-Kho competition in Sonia Camp and Nand Nagri
- 7th Jan- Volleyball competition in Mukundpur and Khanpur
- 14th Jan- The final competition held in Nand Nagri



Audited Statements

ACTION INDIA
5/27A, Jangpura-B, New Delhi-110014
Balance Sheet for the Year ended 31st March 2024

Previous Year (March 2023) Amount in INR	Liabilities		Current Year (March 2024) Amount in INR	Previous Year (March 2023) Amount in INR	Assets		Current Year (March 2024) Amount in INR
45,73,800.80	Capital Fund As Per Last Year Add: Addition during the year Less: Depreciation Less: Assets Writtenoff/Dispose of	45,73,800.80 22,200.00 45,96,000.80 6,30,172.45 4,200.00	39,61,630.35	45,73,800.80	Fixed Assets (As per Schedule "19")		39,61,630.35
55,96,346.56	General Fund As Per Last Year Add: Current year	55,96,346.56 6,16,261.77	62,12,608.33		Current Assets Cash in Hand (As per Schedule "14") Cash at banks (As per Schedule "15") Fixed Deposits (As per Schedule "16") Deposits (As per Schedule "17") Other Receivable (As per Schedule "18")	1,044.00 67,33,254.33 - 25,400.00 14,851.00	67,74,549.33
57,618.00	Current Liabilities Expenses Payables FC (As per Schedule "12")		1,21,201.00	61,81,846.59			
5,27,882.03	Expenses Payables NFC (As per Schedule "13")		4,40,740.00				
1,07,55,647.39			1,07,36,179.68	1,07,55,647.39			1,07,36,179.68

For Action India

Dheeraj

Authorised Signatory



Place:- New Delhi
Date: 25.09.2024

For Action India

Kalyan

Authorised Signatory

For R.K Sharda & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No. 006226N

R.K Sharda

CA. R.K Sharda
(Proprietor)
Membership No. :-084847
UDIN:24084847BKCGCY5219



ACTION INDIA
5/27A, Jangpura-B, New Delhi-110014
Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March 2024

Previous Year (March 2023) Amount in INR	Expenditure	Schedule	Current Year (March 2024) Amount in INR	Previous Year (March 2023) Amount in INR	Income	Schedule	Current Year (March 2024) Amount in INR
3,85,301.70	Expenditure incurred out of projects' funds Expenditure FCRA Global Green Grant	1	5,49,042.88	39,32,223.00	Grant received -FCRA As Per Schedule	10	25,78,422.00
2,63,941.00	CCFD		5,48,472.00				
6,68,450.00	Human Capability Foundation		9,47,814.90		Other Income- FCRA Donation		-
7,83,122.00	Global Fund For Women		5,85,969.29	41,522.00	Interest Received on FD		51,883.00
9,10,399.61	The Pad Project India General A/c		1,97,223.64	62,308.00	Interest on Saving A/c		57,548.00
51,306.00	Expenditure Non FCRA AGCT Scholarship Program	2	-	1,17,98,670.00	Specific Grant -Non FCRA As Per Schedule	11	1,17,47,123.00
9,00,951.00	APPI Vaccination Drive	3	-	16,29,977.40	Other Income - Non FCRA Donations in cash		3,36,135.00
90,42,476.00	APPI (2022-25)	4	93,28,144.51	20,87,115.00	Donations in kind		3,05,973.00
7,45,219.07	Delhi Commission for Women (DCW)	5	-	2,09,220.00	Sale of Pad		-
1,70,909.00	Jivanti Welfare & Charitable Trust	6	-	1,088.00	Interest on Income tax refund		-
20,87,115.00	Dabur India-In Kind	6	-	81,547.00	Interest on Saving A/c		1,08,167.00
4,61,231.00	Nirantar Trust	7	11,71,232.31	1,31,147.00	Interest on Fixed Deposit		1,34,035.00
2,36,706.00	Vardhman Project - Nandini	8	9,79,696.90	1,860.00	Membership Fee		1,920.00
22,44,776.15	Action India Womes Program-General A/c	9	6,16,967.80	1,82,851.00	Misc Income		1,83,045.00
12,28,564.87	Excess of Income Over Expenditure (Transferred to General A/c)		6,16,261.77	20,940.00	Sale of Scrap		36,575.00
2,01,80,468.40			1,55,40,826.00	2,01,80,468.40	Excess of Expenditure Over Income (Transferred to General A/c)		-

For Action India

Dheeraj

Authorised Signatory



Place:- New Delhi
Date: 25.09.2024

For Action India

Kalyan

Authorised Signatory

For R.K Sharda & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No. 006226N



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