

Sathi All for  
Partnerships  
Annual  
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**SATHI ALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS**

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## CHAPTER I

### **Preface**

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SAFP continued to develop work on women resource rights and disabling mental illness in this financial year in spite of lack of core funding for its work. In fact lack of funding has been positive as it let the voluntary action develop in a ways that were not limited by the framework of a funded project constrain. Volunteers both from overseas as well as within the country contributed quality time to develop work mentioned in this report. SAFP however did raise resources from consultancy projects from Plan India, IGSSS and UNIFEM to pay professional expertise as well as manage its administrative expenses. Strengthening financial base of SAFP remained a challenge that was often forgotten due to excitement of possibilities of normative work being recognized for involvement of different people. The list of events in this report is an evidence that SAFP is invited to different forums for its capacity to input quality recommendations and its ability to call upon people for appropriate impact at different events.

## CHAPTER II

### Advocacy and lobby for women resource rights

#### 1. Thematic work

##### Urban

SAFP focused on developing thematic work on urban women and resource rights this year. Different consultations were held in cities where newer groups were enrolled in developing the discourse and resulting recommendations. Not many groups were working on urban women and resource rights. Therefore, SAFP undertook specific research agenda to develop empirical evidence for this work. The National Commission of Women support SAFP in studying the viability of a programme concept called Sansadhini. This research got together three groups of marginal women groups to think about accessing resources from the government.

Sequel work was supported by UNIFEM to develop Gender advocates thinking such that subsequent action could be designed to reach resource increase benefit to excluded women. This year has also marked the beginning of SAFP relating with town planners. Series of discussion with the chief town planner of India informed numerous policy recommendations that were sent from his office to the Urban Development Ministry. The vendors policy for example had specific mention of women vendors spaces to be considered as a result Delhi government announced the women vending area ( mahila haat), women empowerment centres was announced by the state of Haryana. SAFP through the year has clarified and developed concept notes on women resource zones.

SAFP has identified partner agencies to work in different wards. These partners have not worked on women resource increase which requires mentoring to develop gender equity concept through an area based approach. It has also linked partners to UNIFEM to lead the establishment of Women Resource Equity Zones" (WREZ.) for example a Sustainable Development Zone with the support of 15% budgets set aside by the State Government has been sanctioned in Kochi. Within this planned initiative is the opportunity to place gender equity resource zones SAFP advocates.

#### Muslim Women and Resource Rights

SAFP has kept alive the Muslim women process by inviting participation of Muslim women in all its work. Discussions with members of WRAG, Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan and members within CWLR continued through out the year. The Delhi research study includes Muslim women as a constituency. Dialogue on specific need of Muslim women for resources has been informed by queries to UN habitat on Islamic tools that have been fed to the Muslim women leadership on demand. To get leadership among Muslim women to understand and demand for resources from their own community leadership and administration *SAFP developed a proposal and action framework with three groups of Muslim women leadership such that they could organize their own programmes at local level on Muslim women resource rights. Towards*

this end, Parcham participated in Chandigarh consultation, Navbharsat Samaj with IGSSS support organised an event in Nov 2008 in Moradabad and Saharanpur in Feb 2009. In March 2009 SAFP contributed to ongoing programmes of JWP India, through local meetings articulation of Muslim women's resource rights discourse in Jamia Millia Islamia area of Delhi. Muslim women represented their concerns to other women groups as well as government and resource agencies on their unfulfilled livelihood and information needs. Sans the availability of a center one of the community women lends her personal space for women to gather to avail of any charity extended to the community. The women reported that they did not know of any government scheme or programmes. The meeting helped the women to know was available within the Delhi government and how they could apply to gain resources from the government through existing social welfare schemes. They were also introduced to ideas around developing women resource zone in their block to place demands in context of gender equality through local governance systems.

## 2. Events and Outcomes

### a) Local and National

1. **Meeting with UNIFEM Delhi office on the completion of UNIFEM Project:** April 2,2008). Sathi had successfully organized different meetings with support of a *UNIFEM called : Increasing Access of vulnerable women to property rights meetings to formulate a demonstration for Women to gain entitlements to property and inheritance rights*  
**Objective:** This project support built sisterhood among Positive women's groups and unorganized sector worker women's organization. UNIFEM representative invited Sathi to understand how it could participate in strengthening the understanding of vulnerable women who are HIV positive on their access to property right, so that Sathi and UNIFEM could share work approach on women and property right work.  
**Outcome:** The meetings SAFP organized through this project initialed dialogue with different groups provided a space to identify needs of women in a given community with regard to their access and control over resources collectively. This dialogue increased learning of the leaders from the exploration and generated a set of proposals on resource rights of women based on the needs of positive women and women workers.
  
2. **IGSSSS western region consultation** in Pune (April 9-11, 2008)  
**Objective:** IGSSSS programme got together different groups together to share work on women housing and land rights in four states of western region of IGSSSS.  
**Outcome:** Each participant took away a lot from the sharing in terms of strategies and contributed towards drafting recommendations to develop work on the issue. SAFP presented the report it had drafted on women and land rights in Madhya Pradesh.
  
2. **Meeting on bettering sex ratio in Punjab** organized by Voluntary Health Association of Punjab ( 27th -28th April, 2008)  
 This event got Government, faith leaders, medical practitioners and NGOs to discuss ways to stop the female infanticide in the state.  
**Objective:** To delve into strategy for increasing sex ratio in favor of women in the state

**Outcome:** CWLR work was shared to emphasize that situation of women in the state could alter with increased resources that women can own. A plan to develop work on women and land rights was discussed where six people volunteered to gather information that could be fed into a report on the status of women and ownership in the state such that a local group could develop to carry forward tasks in the state. Participants at the feticide meeting shared their field experience went back with hope to work on the issue and report to a collective in two months time.

3. **The CWLR meeting** held at UNIFEM Delhi (April 30, 2008)

**Objective:** To update members on CWLR activity and discuss its ongoing plans.

**Outcome:** In the meeting, SAFP organized the sharing of work done by CWLR members, thematic work of women groups (Rural : Geag and others, Tribal : GLRF and others ,Muslim: Parcham and others, Urban : Nirmana , JWP , PWN and others) ,discussion on strategies for work ahead , firming plans to work together and revoking at role of the executive committee, general body in light of discussions

4. **Three meetings to input on the NGO report to the UNCESCR (United Nations Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights)** coordinated by PWESCR (May, 2008).

PWESCR (Program on Women's Economic Social and Cultural Rights) initiated a collective process under the broad umbrella of the People's Collective on Economic Social and Cultural Rights to articulate the myriad voices from India's civil society. The goal for the Collective was to develop an NGO Report in response to the Government of India's Report. SAFP is one of its contributors.

**Objective for SAFP:** To contribute the women land and housing right part of section on livelihood and resources in the report.

**Outcome:** The report was submitted to United Nations and the process was shared in a manner that inputs could be sent through out the process of lobby effort. Subsequently the learning from the process and follow up in country work was decided at a National Consultation held on July 7, 2008 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. SAFP contributed to this process as well.

5. **Punjab report for IGSSS with PWN on women and right and consultation** (July 6, 2008)

**Objective:** to draft a status report on women housing and land in Punjab and developing a group that could take on work on the issue in the state

**Outcomes:** The above objectives were achieved. The result of this experience local NGOs drafted their proposals on women and land rights, UNODC linked up with SAFP on supporting in centre for women in Hoshiarpur and Punjab activists gave information about the issue in a way that it motivated some of them to speak on women's land and housing at public event as a matter of priority in the state.

6. **Ms Geetha Ramswamy and Ms Shivani Bhardwaj had Meeting with Dr. S Hameed at National Planning Commission office** (July 6, 2008)

**Objective:** To consult for asking for a presentation time with NPC state advisor's, NCW and all concerned Ministries to get the women resource rights policy and implementation mechanism discussion rolling.

**Outcomes:** We got her to agree to organize civil society window on the unorganized sector issues in relation to the bill before the next parliament session. But the NPS presentation didn't happen, we are still trying to get an audience such that women resource right presentation can be made to a government body.

7. **Seminar on women and agriculture in south Asia ICCAR Delhi** organized by Aga Khan Foundation (August 12-14, 2008)

Ms Noor Jahan Momin and Timea Ballo prepared the presentation SAFF made at the workshop.

**Objective:** To present the "Sansadhini: A community plan that increases women's resources base through livelihood programmes and neighborhood services"

**Outcomes:** The response to this presentation ranged from appreciation to cynicism. Women from grass roots appreciated the presentation that village and urban commons may be managed by women.

8. **National Seminar on Women's Concerns in Land Reforms** organized by NIRD (Hyderabad, 17 to 19 September 2008)

**Objective:** To deliver SAFF views and study ongoing work on women and land reforms to ascertain and influence the recommendations.

**Outcomes:** SAFF invited CWLR members (Anita Tagore, Raj Mohini Sethi, Sujata Madhok, Praveer Peter and JarJum Ete) to participate the workshop and affected the recommendation. SAFF pulled together the draft recommendations from the seminar and presented it to a small committee that was drafting input for the land reform committee set up by Ekta Parishad. Recommendations from both the seminar and the committee were sent to Prime Minister who headed Land Reform Committee.

9. **Workshop on Single women and land rights at Dharamshala organised by Sangat** (Oct 4-5, 2008)

**Objective:** The seminar got together groups who have worked on women and land rights especially related to single women's claim on family property. A wide range of issues and work of different organizations and individuals were shared.

**Outcomes:** The definition and criteria of who can be termed as single women was debated and formalized. After understanding different obstacles and strategies it was understood that patriarchal control of resources and marriage as its single corner stone of control stood as the force to deal with. The feminist perspective on this was shared with those who had not earlier been introduced to the thinking. This sharing concluded that by the dint of this singular factor those women who have by choice decided not to get married( never married) rank high on priority to get gains and leadership than those who have become single women after walking away from patriarchal ways or fell prey to circumstances such as widowhood, desertion etc. In the light of the discussion it was stated that single women have the right to lead the struggle to gain land and housing rights movement. A follow

up workshop of this process was organized by Sangat and Disha at Saharanpur on February 24 and 26 , 2009 in which SAFP contributed by sharing it work and facilitating session.

10. **Final Delhi Report for IGSSS on Woman and Land Rights – Towards Gender Just Policies and Housing Rights in Delhi** (September – November 2008)

**Objective:** to draft a status report on women housing and land in Delhi and developing a group that could take on work on the issue in the state

**Outcomes:** The above objectives were achieved and a meeting to share the recommendations of this report was organized at the IGSSS office on November 1, 2008. The need to call a multi stakeholder meeting was felt at this sharing.

11. **National Consultation on 'Strengthening Women's Voices in the Budgets and Policies'** at WWF-India Auditorium, New Delhi (12th and 13th of November 2008)

Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) jointly with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and with members of People's Budget Initiative organized the event and invited SAFP/CWLR members.

**Objective:** The event is to bringing together women from across length and breadth of the country, from different walks of life, representing different segments of the society and various constituencies.

**Outcomes:** Through the Consultation we debated and try to build consensus around 'Women's Charter of Demands' which would articulate in concrete terms women's demands from policies and specifically from the forthcoming Budget 2009-10

12. **National Workshop Organized by IPAC** in Kurukshetra on 18-23 December 2008

SAFP was invited as a facilitator in the training to train NGOs and national forums so that a national forum on lobby originations can be set up

13. **Meeting with TISS , YUVA and CWLR members in Mumbai** (Jan 16, 2009)

**Objectives:** Pilots in different countries need to be initiated such that different experiences can inform what combination of efforts can work to provide women increased resources.

**Outcomes:** YUVA in Mumbai had agreed to develop its past work

14. **GEAR-Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign** of United Nations (UNDP HALL , New Delhi ,February 12,2009)

**Objectives:** To give support on the Gender equality Architecture Reform Campaign of United Nations.

**Outcomes:** The GEAR campaign committee was lunched and SAFP its partner.

16. **Rajasthan consultation on Women and Land Rights ( March 19-20 2008)**

IPAC invited SAFP to provide overview of women and land work in the country and in internationally. This consultation was part of the state level processes organized with support of IGSSS women and land campaign.

15. **Stakeholder consultation on Delhi women and resource rights** March 27, 2009

SAFP is organizing the Delhi consultation in partnership with IGSSS and UNIFEM

**Objectives:** The purpose of holding this consultation is two fold, firstly, to understand how women empowerment can take place through enhancing opportunities targeted at increasing women resource base through self help and secondly, to clarify the existing and projected roles of state agencies and the civil society in increasing resources for women through joint and collective efforts.

**Outcomes:** The consultation invited five groups of women (Positive women, Muslim women, Tribal women, Unorganised sector women and home based workers) and groups working on issues related to housing rights, workers placement and women's land rights. It presented an opportunity to capture suggestions of the different stakeholders to inform future work with women to increase their resource base in Delhi.

## **b) International**

1. **Follow up work on International Seminar on Women and Housing Rights: Building Habitat for Human Dignity** organized by the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and the Observatory DESC, Barcelona, Spain (February 12 to 14, 2008)

The seminar was open for all those interested in contributing their experiences and knowledge and attracted participants from different regions of the world, including Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and North America.

**Objective:** This seminar was to formulate strategies for the fulfillment of women's rights to housing through the participation of representatives from various organizations working for housing rights and women's rights.

**Outcomes:** Different studies utilized the recommendation from this seminar as they were cumulative knowledge of work done over two decades on women housing and land rights. The follow up work included sharing of these recommendations for their application at country level through WAS and CWLR membership. This work assisted in developing lobby and advocacy at the World Urban Forum in Nanjing in Nov 2009 and in developing the work of SAFP to develop a pilot to ground the applicability in a city. As a participant, SAFP helped the formulating and structuring of numerous strategies.

2. **Meeting commonwealth association for support at World Urban Forum** (July 1 and 2)

**Objective:** To enroll the CW Foundation on the agenda of DMI or WLR.

**Outcomes:** Series of emails and meeting with different staff members of the foundation has lead to building of a relationship with this organization. The Youth program of CW was actively involved in developing work along with SAFP team for Punjab study. Sathi staff addressed a south Asia youth meeting on Dignity and Diversity in Chandigarh in November and the Punjab consultation was hosted at the Common Wealth Youth Secretariat office that was involved as a co host of the event. SAFP could also associate with the common wealth associations of planners with whom lobby work on WLR was taken up at the World Urban Forum.

3. **The 29th FAO Regional Conference in Islamabad ( May 19-23)**

**Objective:** Ever since SAFF had organized its members to impact the ICCARD conference it gets invitations to FAO conferences. These invitations do not have a travel reimbursement offer. Thus on getting such invitations SAFF it is circulated to members who begin preparing to impact the conference and raise resources to travel.

**Outcomes:** Four CWLR members and SAFF associates( PODA, GEAG, Anita Tagore and Common Wealth Youth Ambassadors) agreed to participate in this conference but conference kept getting postponed and most networking and preparation done by SAFF was wasted.

4. **Women's Major Group statement at Land session of United Nations Commission for Social Development Conference** in New York (May 7).

Ms Meena Bilgi, as a representative of CWLR, was given an opportunity by FAO and UN habitat to make a statement at the land session of CSD conference in New York.

**Objective:** To make a statement about women's rights to land and buildings, ask governments how they are going to allocate more resources to educate women to better understand their legal rights, resulting in greater land ownership by women, how they are going to ensure the allocation of spaces for women in their development plans, both in urban and rural areas, And how they are going to sensitize policy makers about the effect of insufficient land rights to women and act on it.

**Outcomes:** Meena was able to stress of rights women have within the urban and rural the continuum. The women major group wanted to focus on the allocations for rural development as a priority yet the development of urban areas and needs of migrant population can not be ignored. Meena was requested to promote the ideas around developing pilot to develop safe migration centers as an institutional mechanism at a neighborhood level that women could manage and own.

5. **Women's Caucus at the World Urban Forum** in Nanjing, China (4 and 5 November 2008)

SAFF coordinated participation of both Consult for Women and Land Rights (CWLR) and Habitat International Coalition (HIC) to organize the Women's Caucus at WUF IV. This participation assisted the expression of recommendations from Barcelona Seminar and advocacy of women resource zone at the WUF.

**Objective:** To impact ongoing formal and informal process to integrate a gendered aspect, so women migrants, workers, indigenous women's needs are represented in policy documents and processes; To lobby as a women and land group to feed into major groups activities, to engage in the gender and land discourse and process; Highlight women perspectives with their right's to land, resources, property especially in the context of working, migrant, and Indigenous women, etc.

**Outcomes:** The day one of caucus result in sharing common concerns and taking it to events at the forum. A working group drafted common recommendations and redrafted them as a "call for action". And the day two caucus concluded with organizing thoughts around how the Women's Caucus can be organized at the WUF V in Brazil. Huairou

Commission called for bilateral agreements within women's networks and housing-and-planners networks. CWLR called for a new name under which all could share work across areas of specialization. A document mentioning evaluation of this WUF with a gender perspective informed UN habitat what needs to be amended at the next WUF to include more women participation and share resources with women equally.

6. **Meeting of UN habitat Gender Equality Action Program** in Nairobi, Kenya (Jan 12-15 , 2009)

**Objective:** Impact UN Habitat on adapting normative and implementation mechanisms for increasing women's resource base with the CWLR learning and HIC learning that were circulated at the World Urban forum in November.

**Outcomes:** SAFP circulated concept notes for inputting the Gender Action Plan (GEAP) of UN-Habitat such that a plan for in strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment is suggested as a way forward for its Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008 – 2013 before, during and after this meeting.

7. **Attending the General Council 22 of UN Habitat in Nairobi (March 28-April 3)**

**Objective:** Impact UN meeting that had representatives from women's movement, housing finance groups and government to support elements of GEAP of UN Habitat.

**Outcomes:** SAFP represented both HIC and CWLR and provided solutions on issues.

## CHAPTER III

### **Refining Thrust for work on Disabling Mental Illness ( DMI)**

SAFP aims at partnership for a movement to achieve highest levels of `wellness' and coping skills for persons with mental health/illness and their families. DMI has been another planned area of intervention. We shared the concept with organizations and sought partnerships on the issue. Our aim to create opportunities to try out new ways to **redefine care and rehabilitation strategies and initiatives.**

For the past year efforts were made in meetings organized by different organizations and groups to convince funding agencies, DMI families, corporate houses as well as government of the belief that people with mental disorders can get to a state of living a life independent of many of their present crutches and barriers. We conceptualized and initial the programme in which KPMG liked the students in Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) (University of Delhi) with DMI families, to help them get an economic independence. We also have worked with Bapu Trust, Basic Need, and ANJALI on bill of rights for people with mental illness.

The Objectives of the DMI programme as seen by Sathi:

- ✓ Conduct situation assessment across economic classes and what is currently available to them
- ✓ Explore and pilot outreach mental health services in Delhi
- ✓ Resourcing and networking with scanning of the government, private and other charitable institutions.
- ✓ Sensitization workshops for various government depts./ministries, NGOs, family groups

The Intention in time is to build up partnership with and for the persons affected with mental health ailments, the related families towards addressing the cause of the affected groups of people. In order to reach the stated goal we intend to promote active involvement of groups, support capability building initiatives, counseling and sensitization at the family level, network and build alliance with people and larger institutions by forming an informal pro-active support group at city / zone level.

#### **Aditha Project**

##### **1. the Intent of this Project**

*This project is based on a belief that people with mental disorders can get to a state of living a life independent of many of their present crutches and barriers. Therefore the project visualizes an outcome where many with mental disorders in India will live a life of activity, occupation, fun, taking care of themselves, connected-ness with other people and a part of the living a daily life in this country. We intend to grow the outcome larger over the years. The project intends to create/design a few breakthrough areas by which we can create such an outcome. The details are given below.*

People with mental disorders primarily live a life of isolation, humiliation and restraint. Those

affected can outgrow the role of a mental health patient needing welfare support if the person affected is perceived and related to as a 'person' and not just as a 'patient' – for life. To achieve this we need to change perceptions of everyone including of those affected, their families and friends and the larger society. We need to facilitate and create a range of choices and positive experiences to enable affected people lead their lives more successfully.

Studies have shown that paid employment speeds their recovery process with enhanced self-worth and confidence. Aditha will enable them towards a career path, which is built on their skills and talents. Aditha is about creating and offering services and supports that are individualized, flexible and responsive to this person's changing needs.

#### **b) SRCC-DMI family programme**

This student programme is conceptualized and initialed by SAFP, and KPMG linked the SRCC students with those DMI families who are already on a way to run business. Under the help of college students, DMI families can have a higher possibility to achieve economic independence and faster recovery from illness. The success of DMI families' business can set positive examples for employability of DMI family to fight for a larger space of policies and acceptance of society.

With this programme working with business school students, DMI families can hopefully get a professional knowledge of progressive learning tools, processes and environment from students ,innovate to work with the differently abled in different work settings and become mentors to individuals and groups of persons.

The programme has run for three months till writing this. SAFP had 3 meetings with students groups, they has been working with 2 families, helping them with identifying a business venture, marketing strategy, pricing input. One family is now running a candle making business, and the other is preparing for the two rooms they possessed in a shopping plaza.

More families has been talking with SAFP about accepting the way to achieve economic independence. Once any examples were set, it can provide our belief with particular cases.

#### **Bills of rights consultations for in mental health**

SAFP has worked with BAPU Trust , Basic Need , and NAAJMI on bill of rights for people with mental illness.

We have held "Bill of Rights"(BOR) consultations in each of the four regions including Pune, Calcutta ,Bangalore and Delhi. Through this collective brainstorming and negotiation process, a compilation was made of non-negotiable and absolute human rights that must prevail in the mental health sector. The BORs achieved success in the incredible number of questions thrown up for dialogue and the breadth of solutions sought by various stake holders, in coming up with a consensual human rights language for persons with psychosocial disabilities.

## CHAPTER IV

### Way Ahead

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#### Women Land and Resources Rights

i. Developing Women Resource Zone Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi

Developing work on specific pilot projects will continue. Sites in Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi have been identified for which programs will be developed in next financial years. Pilots in a few areas are proposed by inviting participation of communities in a programme SAFP calls *Sansadhani – a commitment to increase resources in women's name through a grant*. This grant needs to be apart of zonal area plans mentioned in the area development plans, monitored by civil society and UN agencies. A few cities in the west have already set aside budgets to revitalize areas with gender lens. Information for this will be sought to seek twinning and exchange programmes.

ii. The International internships programme

The international youth internships Program should be initiated in 2009 through the cooperation of SAFP and AIESEC. UN agencies will be asked to invite the young people to assume the responsibility of creating gender equality in habitat issues to learn, exchange views, and build up leadership on the issues by working in overseas NGOs that are members of two global forums CWLR and HIC. By providing internships opportunities and training in gender equality for the interns, the Program aims to enhance an international experience collation in the focus area of increasing women resources.

For now, SAFP is trying to seek fund and international partners of this programme to boost the influence worldwide.

#### Disabling Mental Illness

##### Fulfill Immediate need

Have volunteers through the International youth exchange platform of AIESEC to help coordinate and roll out the project with the following tasks.

- Clients to conduct a resource mapping in their living areas – plot available gyms, sports centers, recreation centers, community centers, parks, library, training centers, arts/dance and any other recreation/hobby source within a 2 km radius of their place of stay.
- Explore ways of getting these local resources interested and enrolling them in this project.
- Develop manuals, guidelines for care centers, outsiders, families, employers.
- Knowledge building interventions