

Sathi All for Partnerships (SAFP)
Annual Report 2010-2011



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The SAFP work during the year has validated our vision of reaching out to the vulnerable and the excluded. This has been phenomenal in terms of gains at getting voluntary support from different quarters.

In the work of disabling mental illness, SAFP was able to develop a network of trained counselors who during the course of the year established their services but related with each other for learning. The counselors planned joint programmes for schools in Delhi and represented the organization in events organized by others.

Similar trend have continued to develop the work for the women and resources program. Both the programs have got known for the quality of discourse they are promoting. This has resulted in a our survival way out as SAFP personnel have been invited by resource agencies and stakeholders to train others on issues that have been developed by us as a team.

The above is a validation of our vision and values. We believe that good work gets supported and that many individuals and organization get together for cause and concern they feel not for the resources alone that may be associated with it.

Strengthening our partners in all we do has been the core of our work. Therefore SAFPs dealings with Habitat International Coalition, Food water and Security Network, Organizations working on mental health and wellness , National Alliance for Labor Rights, Pravah and CWLR members have contributed substantial input.

The National Commission for Women had supported SAFP with a research study that was submitted to them in November this year. This research got a significant finding of a gender resource gap figure of 16% whereby a methodology was suggested by SAFP for planners. SAFP has been particularly satisfied with this finding as it helps promote the work on gender sensitive planning of local areas it has worked on.

Through the year we had applied for work in different agencies and ministries and one project got a sanction from ministry of women and child towards the end of this financial year.

SAFP team 2011

Executive Director Ms. Deepika Nair:

She had worked on Research, training and monitoring of development projects related to child rights, health and education issues for the past 25 years. She has also undertaken assignments world wide on disability. She is the focal point to develop the Disable mental illness and the care givers urban consultation program for SAFP, which will link the resource rights agenda of the marginalized of the rural and urban areas. Ms Nair is also a board member of Rashmi an organization working in the field of mental health.



Programme Director Ms. Shivani Bhardwaj

An M. Phil in women's studies Ms. Bhardwaj looks after the programme management for SAFP. Ms. Bhardwaj is also on the board of the Habitat International Coalition with a mandate to strengthen its Women and Habitat Network.



Account Officer Ms Vijay Luxmi

Vijay takes care of financial management and accounting. Her work includes accounts, budget monitoring of current projects and banking.



Administrator Mr. Vishal Khewa

Mr. Khewa's core responsibility is managing hospitality. He also takes care of the administration responsibilities, undertakes field work and maintains office documents and records.

Programme Associates



Ms Geeta Govil: A graduate in Engineering (Hons) with an MA in History & diploma in Computers, Geeta is responsible for website development, human relations and information management for SAFP. Geeta has co-authored training manuals & documents.



Ms: Medha Shekar Program Associate SAFP. A law and economics graduate, Medha is the founder of Poor Urban and Rural Women's Association (PURWA). At SAFP she works on its women and governance and research assignments.



Ms. Bridgit Hartland-Johnson: An Engineering Graduate, Bridgit provides experience from the corporate world and develops proposals, concept notes & presentations for SAFP.

Chapter 1

Introduction

SAFP has been supporting women in securing access to and managing livelihood resources through its lobbying and advocacy work since 2004. It has also been supporting families affected by disabling mental illness. SAFP has also continued its work as the Secretariat for two International forums; Consult for Women and Land Rights (CWLR) and Women and Habitat Network (HIC WAHN), by working on projects to increase resources and ease access to property for marginalized segments of society. This work involved working with members of the two networks through out the year and this resulted in ensuring communication between the network members.

In its effort to revive the HIC-WAHN network which had been inactive for some time, SAFP also submitted several project proposals to various funding agencies for the organization of international workshop and meetings meant to encourage strategy making and networking amongst members. Considerable time was spent by SAFP to discuss issues across Africa, Latin America and Asia region to rationalize a need to have global coordination of activities. Through these discussion the fact that financial resources have shrunk and global coordination and communication is possible through the internet and skype, it was decided that focus will be local activities led by members rather than collaborating globally across regions. Thus a better way of functioning evolved that is now understood to be more sustainable and individual centered rather than coordinator led.

SAFP activities have, for the most part, revolved around collating learning and build knowledge by sharing it across the world. On top of its networking and role as a knowledge exchange platform, SAFP has also been conducting research and training in the field of gender equality in India, along with partner NGOs. True to its philosophy of creating partnerships to better achieve its objectives of a more just society, SAFP has also engaged young people, academics and concerned citizens in several project initiatives. For example, SAFP has continued promoting the Women Resource Zone (WRZ), a concept it pioneered some years ago. In the year 2010, SAFP has successfully moved from conceptualizing the WRZ as a gender equal urban or rural development plan to developing an actual pilot project to develop existing infrastructure in marginalized neighborhoods, create opportunities for women entrepreneur groups, and creating links between these economic opportunities, local and regional markets.

Chapter 2

Advocacy and lobby for women resource rights

2.1 CWLR

2.1.1 CWLR background information

Consult for Women and Land Rights secretariat is presently held by SAFP. It was entrusted as the secretariat by CWLR members at the National Workshop in Allahabad in May 2004 and reinforced at the international consultation organized at UNDP hall in November 2005. The secretariat is the coordinating and implementing body of CWLR's activities and policy objectives as formulated by the executive committee. It works in close collaboration with the executive committee and, at present, all CWLR members work as honorary members.

CWLR members operate through the Secretariat. The latter is responsible for developing a program to support women and resource rights by:

- 1 Building alliances with CWLR members.
- 2 Building awareness on Women's Land Rights.
- 3 Protection and promotion of Women land and resource rights.
- 4 Organizing and carrying out state-level meetings and one national-level workshop in collaboration with other grass root organizations as part of the Consult on Women and Land Rights.
- 5 Organizing civil society and NGO interface with the government.
- 6 Developing pilot initiatives on women and resource rights.

2.2 HIC Habitat International Coalition: Housing and Land Rights Network

2.2.1 HIC and HIC-WAHN Background Information

SAFP has been a member of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) since 2004. HIC is an independent, international, non-profit alliance of some 400 organizations and individuals working in the area of human settlements. The strength of the Coalition is based on its worldwide membership that includes social movements,

grassroots organizations, civil society organizations, NGOs, academia and research institutions, and like-minded individuals from 80 countries in both North and South.

SAFP has played an instrumental role in upholding women and land rights issues within HIC. For this contribution, A shared set of objectives bind and shape HIC's commitment to communities working to secure housing and improve their habitat conditions.

HIC's strategic focus includes:

- *Developing relationships* inside and outside HIC, through advocacy, promotion, facilitative, supportive and direct action; and strengthening civil society's role in improving housing and settlement development.
- *Strengthening people's processes* by supporting community based efforts to improve housing and settlements and alleviate poverty by assisting a broad range of people's actions, addressing a set of core issues: housing, governance and poverty.
- *Advocacy for recognition, defense and full implementation of housing rights*, to improve the quality of life of the poor through improvement of housing conditions, in addition to income enhancement and social empowerment; and to move toward sustainable environment.

Besides actively participating in the World Urban and World Social Campaign, this year, HIC's activities have continued to focus on:

- Solidarity actions for the Right to Housing.
- The global implementation of popular and democratic strategies towards the planning, financing, construction and governance of human settlements called Social Production of Habitat.
- The discussion and implementation of the Charter of the Rights to the City, which has been initiated in Latin America.
- The participation at the World Social Forum and the Regional Social Forums.
- Information and experience exchange regarding social habitat issues all over the world.

SAFP took on the global Coordinator role for HIC – Women and Habitat Network in February 2009 for a period of two years. Through the year, this network was represented at UN habitat meetings, as well as women and safe cities campaign.

The Women and Habitat Network (WAHN) is a group of organizations that have focused, at one point or another, on women's struggle to access land and housing and gender issues within the larger theme of human settlements. Most member organizations support and work with low-income communities. WAHN is further sub-divided into

active regional networks (WHN Latin America, WAHN Africa and WAHN Asia). The network has developed initiatives highlighting and strengthening women's participation in the struggle for land and urban services, and has had a formal consulting relationship with UN Habitat since 1989.

The regional or sub-regional networks that together form WAHN, have been working separately for the past few years, concentrating on different priorities according to the local and regional context, without following up with international coordination.

WAHN's overarching goal was to foster healthy, improved and sustainable human settlements for women in low-income communities, by coordinating between the local, national, regional and international levels:

- to promote and strengthen horizontal exchanges among members
- to support lobbying for women's land and housing rights
- to link global processes with local action
- to provide greater access to information and training on human settlements
- to create public awareness about the priorities of women and habitat
- to voice the concerns of women in low-income communities
- to ensure women's concerns are policy priorities for agents working in human settlement development
- to develop and deliver campaigns that ensure policies support women's priorities
- to promote the development of disaggregated data and clear indicators that measure women's access to land and shelter

Throughout 2010, SAFP has taken on the task of reviving the inactive Global Network. Indeed, it had been very difficult to coordinate between regional networks due to language barriers, different focus areas, activities, and a general lack of interest to go beyond regional work. The objective was to re-establish communication between regional hubs, HIC's General Secretariat, and members; to organize a meeting in order to devise long and short term strategies for international coordination; to discuss the network's legal identity.

Rooftops Canada – Abri International, a HIC-WAHN member, agreed to send an intern as part of CIDA's International Youth Internship Program, to assist SAFP with the Coordination and Revival of WAHN global. From the intern's arrival in late April 2010 to January 2011, attempts were made at communicating with members to organize an international meeting, in which a strategic workshop would have been planned to discuss an overall strategy for the Network. A proposal for funding and logistical support was drafted and sent to several funding agencies, including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Global Fund for Women. Unfortunately, neither proposal was successful.

SAFP's attempts at getting information from the members and board of WAHN were also mostly met with silence. We did receive input from CONGEH (Cameroon), COFEPE (Mali), Development Initiatives Network (DIN in Nigeria) and CISCESA (in Argentina, although responses from Latin America were sent after a report was drafted based on SAFP's own research). SAFP then collated as much information as possible on the 45 member organizations, and put together an activity and strategy report, written along the lines of HIC's gender mainstreaming areas of focus. We were hoping to highlight WAHN's role as a coordination pole for the regional networks and its relevance in HIC's gender mainstreaming process.

Following the circulation of the report, a Skype conference meeting was organized between 2 members, the General Secretariat, and HIC's President, Mr. Lamba.

The meeting's agenda was the following:

1. What is the future of HIC WAHN:

- What should its strategy be, considering the different areas of work taken on by the different regions and members
- How to facilitate communication that there has been within the global network
- How to strengthen relationship between members and regional autonomous networks?

2. Logistical issues:

- Where should the Secretariat be and who should the responsibility rest with? Or modify the structure to make into three autonomous regional networks with representatives to act in one global council?
- What about registration of HIC WAHN (the issue doesn't arise if the second option is chosen)?

3. How will HIC WAHN be involved in HIC's gender mainstreaming process?

- Prepare for the upcoming board meeting by defining its structure
- What will be its responsibilities in the implementation, monitoring or follow-up of HIC's gender mainstreaming and auditing?

Based on previous attempts to revive WAHN and the difficulties this entailed, it was decided to focus on strengthening regional networks and electing representatives for the networks who would chair a Committee. Therefore, the HIC gender mainstreaming process would engage the regions. SAFP's opinion remains, however, that the modalities of regional network coordination need to be clarified within the WAHN and HIC constituencies. SAFP believes the regional networks are not as strong as they could be, seeing how none of them has a formal, legal

entity. Each, including WHN LA, depends on agencies outside of HIC structures for funding and human resources. The Asian network depends on another network that so far is linked to HIC through SAFF. The African networks also operate in three separate geographical blocks.

SAFF has communicated with HIC's general board that it will cease acting as Secretariat formally in Dakar as of February 2011 (on the sidelines of the World Social Forum). At this point, elections were held to elect the regional representatives and discuss the way forward as parallel regional networks.

2.3. SAFF Representation of CWLR and WAHN at meetings and events, proposals sent and projects

a. Meetings with State Commission for women in Uttaranchal

SAFF had developed a concept note for GTZ for work in Uttaranchal. The discussions with GTZ did not take off as planned, as the bilateral agreement of GTZ was with the Industrial Development Board of the state to begin and sustain work on SMEs in the state. SAFF then approached members of the state's Industrial board, requesting them to find spaces that woman groups could use for their activities. The board member got SAFF in touch with the State Commission for Women who asked for a formal proposal. This proposal was then submitted to the state commission for women with the request that it should take the initiative as an internal program of the commission, as SAFF realises that the WRZ would become a reality only as a government led initiative.

b. Post World Urban Forum (WUF) meetings

After the World Urban Forum which took place in March 2010 in Rio, which SAFF attended as WAHN, SAFF shared the WUF meetings outcome with the government functionaries in India. Delhi as part of the 100 Cities initiative of WUF document was also submitted in April to UN habitat. SAFF informed the town planning and school of architecture and local elected leaders the context of discussions and its relevance to gender equality in area planning.

c. Meetings with National Labor Institute in preparation for a National meeting for space for women workers.

SAFF work partners on Ajala project linked SAFF representative with NLI to develop concept note for a meeting for women workers spaces. This concept note was utilised later for awareness raising among labor and workers networks through NALR meetings during the year.

d. Inception workshop of NCW study in Bhopal

Through the year SAFP had just oen funded activity of a research on gender resource gap. The Inception workshop of this research study was held in Bhopal in April 2011 in April. In preparation for the workshop the conbtext of Bhopal was to be understood in terms of gender and planning and for this reason, SAFP met town planners and DFID project staff in Bhopal. Substantial discussion took place with the TPMP Mr. SS Rathor, who welcomed the idea of inclusive planning with a gender perspective. Mr. Rathor was of the view that the research is best placed to look at micro level to detail needs of a population in an area. Mr. Rathor welcomed the ideas presented by SAFP and its associate TAAL on inclusive planning. Upon our request for an area, he suggested that we could look into MANIT in situ resettlement area but he said that it was better to involve the City planner of the Municipal Corporation, Ms. Sunita Singh. He also suggested that the researchers could meet with people, including Under Secretary Department of Housing Mr. Subhashish Bannerjee. In conclusion, Mr. Rathor offered full cooperation to provide technical support in his professional rather than official capacity.

The research team then met with City Planner Municipal Corporation Ms Sunita Singh who suggested feeder lines to be serviced by home based industries that link residential and commercial areas. She suggested Areas that can be taken up for projects in Baghmogalia and Shyam Nagar resettlement colony, in addition to the MANIT area.

On April 28, 2010, SAFP met with Action Aid and Mahila Adhikar Sandarbh Kendra in Bhopal. The Mahila Adhikar Sandarbh Kendra is a women resource center which began as a direct initiative of Action Aid and now has its own independent legal entity. Action Aid welcomed the participation of the research team in the resource mapping exercise that would be undertaken to find out gender data gaps in its access, use and control of available resources.

The research team met Program officer Ms Maria Fernandez and Urban Program Officer Ms. Reshma Dixit from Water Aid Regional Office West. Areas of cooperation discussed was whether the research team could use the areas where Water Aid is active and whether there may be a possibility for developing work together in the future based on the research findings.

SAFP also met with UN Habitat Technical Advisor Dr. Pradeep Nandi, who informed the researcher that UN Habitat began its work in MP in 2005 under the water for Asian cities programme. The researcher team should recommend that this fund be used to build care services, migration centers for placement and training and developing livelihood spaces in the women's neighborhood that is in control of the women.

On April 29th 2010, SAFP met with Under Secretary Dept. of Housing and Environment Mr. Subhashish Bannerjee. On hearing the research team, Mr. Bannerjee suggested that SAFP present the concept to Principle Secretary Housing and Environment Mr Alok Srivastav with short key action agenda. On the same day, SAFP team met with the DFID Uday Program officer Mr. Pramod Dabruse. He gave areas where women and infrastructure for livelihood is already developed, within relocation sites. This was seen as an opportunity for researchers to see what was the vision of the Uday team and how are they working towards its implementation. The areas discussed were Durga Nagar and Adarshnagar where the infrastructure for livelihood has been developed and Oriya Basti, and Vikasnagar in Gandhi Nagar.

e. Visit of Dr. Gabriela Dietrich in Delhi

Dr. Dietrich is an learned member of CWLR and has been a known academician and social activist of India. During her visits to Delhi SAFP staff takes on advocacy and lobby work that is required to present the cause of women members our coalition represents. SAFP provides her facilitation for meetings with Mr. Jairam Ramesh (Environment Minister), Mr. Jai Pal Reddy (Urban Development Minister) to highlight evictions in Madurai and Chennai based on JNNURM funding, evictions were stalled for some time and government organised poverty alleviation programs.

f. Meetings with AISEC Delhi

The meetings were arranged to build the Youth, Women and Habitat campaign. The objective would be to secure funding to administer research on youth in Delhi, and how they relate to their city. Two proposals were written and submitted to UN habitat and EU but these did not fetch a response. The project also envisaged youth volunteers from AISEC to help develop SAFP work vision with WAHN. AISEC interns who have worked with SAFP continue to provide short term assistance from their own home base after returning from India. This year however, SAFP had more youth interns from non AISEC placements.

g. UNDP conference on UN information day (April) on the rights of aging people

Organized by Anugriha, this meeting showcased work done by the organization to neighborhood half way centre for the elderly. Corporate agencies and government representatives highlighted issues and concerns that are being addressed for the welfare of aging people in the country. SAFP partnered with Anugriha in this initiative as care providers for the elderly are very much a part of the WRZ concept enterprise zone, especially as the people catered to within these centers are also encouraged to take on productive roles and activities, which keeps them occupied and satisfied, while stimulating the economy.

h. Campaigning and meeting with NCW for the WRZ proposal on national consultation on women and planning in Chittorgarh

SAFP was invited by NCW Chairperson to present the WRZ concept. To get a better understanding of the context in the area, an SAFP representative met with NGOs and Town planners. She found out that planning has been done only in a few pockets in the area. Local NGOs have not worked on issues around women and access to infrastructure before. The local NGOs and elected representative were contacted and the concept of WRZ explained to them as it is best that the concept is promoted by different people from their locations after they own the issue as their organisational mandate.

i. Proposal UNDP-IKEA project

SAFP spent a considerable time responding to advertisement as proposals through the year. This exercise becomes a process of self training wherein the staff becomes more aware of what processes are being promoted by which agency. SAFP developed a manual on women empowerment for training and submitted it for as bid to UNDP. This manual was handy in the days to come as it was shared with members of the coalition through the year.

j. Various:

- Meeting with Ministry of statistics for gender desegregated data study, which is still pending: SAFP's objective here is to push the Ministry to initiate gender desegregated data collection, in order to obtain an accurate depiction of women's access to resources in the country.
- National Alliance for Labor Rights meeting (April)
- Rockefeller proposal for WAHN meeting and strategy (May, see in HIC-WAHN section for more details)
- Christian Aid/Oxfam meeting (May)
- IGSSS meeting for the HIC-HLRN report on the homeless and Commonwealth games (1st June): SAFP's objective and role in this meeting was to represent the situation of women which is disproportionately dire during instances of displacement and dispossession.
- Dalit Rights, NACDOR meeting (23rd June)
- MSSRF meeting on the Women resource bill (SAFP called CWLR members to participate)
- National Consultation of Food, water security network (June)
- Setting up Jamia context for the NCW study: surveys done in Vinod Nagar with Savera staff and in Jamia with CEQUIN staff (June-July).

- Meeting with Suruchi Aggarwal and others at the Delhi Mission Convergence office, and inspection of canteen for reproduction within future WRZ (June-July)
- Meetings in Jamia with Zakir Hussain Society and Jamia Millia Islamia Faculty (Architecture especially) and Aman Trust, and Muslim Women's Forum to get support and association for WRZ project (June- July)
- Ahmadabad National Meeting on Women and Land rights and Agriculture (6th August)
- Barcelona Students: meetings and workshop (July 21-22nd)
- Grassroots meetings of the Barcelona students in Delhi and Kerala which gave material to the Project (July-August)
- Case study work in Bilaspur and Delhi with Ms. Winfrey from Anglica University, looking at the experience of activist, tribal and Muslim women in obtaining and managing resources (July-August) see Internship section for more details)
- SAFP Input on national report on bonded labor by National campaign for unorganized sector workers
- Meeting with Dr. Syeda Hamid from the Planning Commission to discuss WRZ related work in Jamia and to get her support. Meeting at ISI on domestic workers' rights (July)
- Meetings in Chhattisgarh (with the Mayor, local NGOs and women) (July and January).
- Meetings with political leaders, Mr. Asif (elected councilor) Mr. Dixit (MLA of Okhla) to discuss WRZ work in Jamia and how it relates to current government schemes they must be applying (Sept. 8th)
- Meetings with Ashoka Foundation and the Changemakers (July- December).
- Meeting with Dr. Bulbul Dhar of Sarojini Naidu Centre for women (Sept 24th)

k. PACS meeting (24th Sept.)

Objective: To gain attention from a bilateral supported programme to look at woman and land rights and resource increase within the SAFP perspective. Outcome: SAFP worked with four cwlr members to develop proposals for PACs with an offer to be taken on as consultants, if the projects gets through. The result was good as NIRMAN (Delhi) and NAVRACHNA (Chhattisgarh), were selected by PACS for support. Space for SAFP to work actively could not be kept as the expanse of the project required more local presence personnel and less of national advocacy experience.

l. Meeting with Oxfam (20th Oct.)

Objective: To seek support on Women and Food Security Plan for Chhattisgarh. Outcome: We were asked to do a concept note on Chhattisgarh for a scoping study. Meena Bilji a CWLR member agreed to be a Principal Researcher for Food Security and Resource increase in the region. These ideas generated fresh thinking on the basis of

research on food security dimensions of SAFF work. These learning were further parked within SAFF work with Food and Water Security Coalition India.

m. Attended Conference on Gender Based Violence in Public Spaces: Challenges and Solutions organized by NCW-UNDP-CEQUIN (26th -27th Oct)

Objective: To understand Gender Based Violence on women in Public Spaces and the reasons behind it. SAFF was invited to this event as a representative of women's right to access public space free of fear, in order to participate in and contribute to the market, which is also a means for women to become more empowered and emancipate themselves from violence.

The Panel Discussion on Laws and responses from Police and CSO's concluded by saying that there is a need for social audits of police, NGOs and the media which should be funded by the Ministry of Women and Child or the Ministry of Law. Indeed, one outstanding issue which remains is that there is no systematic research on the impact of laws. NGOs need to be involved in the audit of family courts, for instance. Citizens' right to information about performance was also underlined, and, in accordance with SAFF's mission to make youth involvement a flagship of its gender equality action, it was suggested to make social audits of courts and police mandatory projects for law students, thereby completing the necessary task without incurring additional costs.

The Panel Discussion on Understanding Gender Based Violence in context of Public Spaces outlined how the separation of the public and private spaces into gendered, superior and inferior spaces, contributes to the patriarchal control over material goods. The same goes with institutions, which are separated into "public" and "private". This makes women who are victims of violence in public spaces culprits for not conforming to male rules of behaviour. This is even apparent in the judgements of Indian Penal courts, which have routinely passed judgement on female victims' characters. By encouraging women to re-claim their right to public space, SAFF wants to make women visible in all spheres of life, which will contribute to changing enduring sexist attitudes which stem from the absence of women in the first place.

The panel which addressed housing issues and GBV underlined how homelessness in Delhi affects women disproportionately, as they are the ones who bear the brunt of the hardships associated with living on the street. Providing neighborhoods with proper migration centers and community centers run by women's groups, under government schemes such as the RAY, would greatly alleviate the difficulties faced by homeless women.

Another interesting contribution of the conference was made by a researcher from ICRW, who spoke of the costing of physical violence, whether it is direct or indirect economic effects (loss of productivity, health expenditures, loss

of household income, etc.). This was interesting as it made evident the link between GBV, the economy and the empowerment of women, as women who are economically empowered to begin with are less likely to stay in abusive situations.

Finally, a link was also made by a representative of the Ministry of Women and child between GBV and urban planning, encouraging the geographical mapping of crimes to address mentalities or infrastructure gaps which make violence against women more likely in certain neighborhoods.

n. 2nd October meeting with Suzlon and partners in Indore (civil society organisations) and discussion of WRZ concept note for Madhya Pradesh

- SAFFP with assistance from Suzlon Foundation met their CSR partners working in Devas, Ratlam and other locations. These meetings were held in the first week of October 2011. On Oct. 5th in ratlam a feild trip was organised based on which a WRZ note for rural area was drafted by SAFFP.
- Meetings in Bhopal furthered the concepts developed during feild visit with Economic advisor of Madhay Pradesh government. A visit to the slum settlement of Bhopal clarified for SAFFP that WRZ pilot could begin better in a state capital rather than our country capital..

o. Met Oxfam on food security and Jagori for Youth and Women Campaign (October)

This meeting, along with others which took place between October and December, was meant to recruit partners to organise the Youth for Women and Habitat Campaign, including the Re-claim the night walk.

p. Attended the Third International Conference on Women and Safety: Building Inclusive Cities (22-24 Nov.)

The Conference on women and safety was held in Delhi, and SAFFP sent a representative. SAFFP was also meant to represent WAHN and establish communication with the other regional representatives present. The event was also a launch for UNIFEM's Safe Cities programme, and Plan International's "Because I am a girl" campaign.

The conference included many keynote addresses from prestigious women activists, including Inés Alberdi, Executive Director of UNIFEM, and Syeda Hameed, Member of the Planning Commission of India. In addition to the sessions on topics relating to women and safety, there were many interactive workshops in which SAFFP got the chance to actively participate, including Gender and Essential Services in Low-Income Communities, Urban Planning and Design, and Using the Gender Equality and Inclusion Lens. These smaller workshops gave SAFFP the

opportunity to take back some lessons and good practices to better take forward its gender equal planning agenda, but it was also a chance to impact the international agenda of women and safe cities to include the perspective of increasing women's access to resources as an essential component to promoting their safety within cities.

Some comments which were raised of relevance to SAFFP's work were that women and men create communities differently. Women's experience of the city is also very different to that of men. Yet women are consistently denied their right to basic services, to participating in the planning of cities, and they are restricted in their movement within them. This curtails the inclusiveness of cities for all of its citizens. Just as SAFFP has done with the help of women groups and students in Oklha and Edakochi, safety audits were performed as part of the Safe Cities project. Thanks to such tools, as well as the Gender lens used for policy making and planning, cities and resources can be better planned for, keeping women's specific needs in mind. According to many presentations which were made, and in accordance with SAFFP's line of action, communities where both the participation of men and women has been valued and encouraged, resource management has been more efficient and sustainable, and communities have prospered.

The need for more transparency and availability of information has been identified as key to bettering cities. Related to this, the lack of good and detailed data (GIS data, data on government expenditures, mapping of infrastructure, etc) is a significant obstacle to building inclusive communities. Only with the availability of such data, specifically, gender desegregated data, can women be taken into account in policy making. Incidentally, SAFFP underlined the fact that while safety is crucial, planning to move women away from the position of 'victim' to productive members of society, notably by creating spaces for them to manage, conduct income generating activities and sell products, is essential to empowering women enough for them to be independent enough to leave violent situations.

Work on Disabling Mental Illness (DMI)

SAFFP has been creating partnerships to support people and families affected by mental health/illness. SAFFP has shared the concept with organizations and sought partnerships on the issue. Our aim was to create new ways to redefine care and rehabilitation strategies and initiatives, both of which are direly needed in India.

Three SAFFP counselors work in three different part of Delhi to provide services to those in need. These SAFFP associates have actively conducted workshops in schools and engaged with doctors and families that require care.

Chapter 3

International internship program

SAFP promotes the involvement of Youth in its work. Indeed, it has been students and young professionals, encouraging them to become the leaders of tomorrow. This is an integral part of the NGO's work, as no change can take place if societal norms, attitudes, gender stereotypes and expectancies don't change. The only people who have the power to do so are the latest generation.

For this reason SAFP has had partnerships with different organizations to include young people in its activities, including through volunteering and internship programs, both international and national. A partnership initiated with AIESEC in 2007 has given SAFP opportunity to work with the organization to relate with youth from different countries.

Besides AIESEC, Architecture students from Barcelona participated in SAFP activities as volunteers, thanks to SAFP's work in CWLR. Another CWLR member, Dr. Zaida Muxi, who is a distinguished architect and teacher at the Barcelona School of Architecture, has been working on gender and urban planning issues, and agreed to send students of hers to work on SAFP's WRZ pilot in Delhi and Kochi.

Rooftops Canada, another HIC and HIC-WAHN member agreed to place a Canadian youth intern with SAFP under the Canadian International Development Agency's International Youth Internship Program, which is part of the federal government's youth employment strategy. The internship lasted 8 months, from April 2010 to January 2011.

Youth for Women and Habitat Campaign

Following the success of these initiatives, SAFP launched a Youth for Women and Habitat Campaign, to formally engage young people's networks (Manzil, Pravah, Community Youth Collective) to intern and volunteer to work on a women resource increase plan (the WRZ) in different parts of India. Through this campaign SAFP and its partners reached out to groups in universities and schools in Delhi to organize discussions and workshops with the goal of sensitizing future leaders and professionals to women and habitat issues.

The Youth for Women and Habitat Campaign began with a launch event to create a momentum in the city of Delhi around women's productivity and safety issues. To achieve this while raising awareness in the general public, SAFP went about organizing a re-claim the night walk, for which it partnered with several other NGOs working at the

local, regional, national and international levels. A small group agreed to call themselves the organizers of the walk and invited support from others. The event's aim was to add to the transformation of core values and traditional patriarchal divisions of society, by linking aspects of gender equal sustainable planning as a solution to lasting safety.

To begin with, the goal was to hold a general, galvanizing event which would unite different feminist and youth movements and worker organizations around one issue: *Women's right to the city*, whether it is the right to move with no restrictions, whether these are psychological, safety related, or imposed; Women's right to access public space and services on an equal footing as men; Women's right to participate in the city's market economy as productive, independent citizens; Women's right to be active stakeholders in urban planning; and finally, Women's right to live a life free of gender based violence.

SAFP campaigned in universities, schools and colleges in Delhi. Discussions were organized in classrooms, with youth and student groups across the city. This was perhaps the most important bit of work done in the recruiting process. It gave an opportunity for young people to voice their concerns and reflect on what their city really means to them. They saw in this walk a platform to express their discontent, an opportunity to discredit the status quo situation which confines women to the private arena. Posters and brochures were printed by Plan India, and distributed in schools.

Youth groups and NGOs, such as Youth Collective and Manzil, prepared songs, slogans, video projections, and other activities to make the event a success, and to impact the thought process of the walk's participants. SAFP is hoping to continue tapping in this creative streak of today's youth in Delhi, to come up with innovative ways to plan the city, to suggest new sustainable means to manage resources and to use available government development schemes. Press releases were submitted to major newspapers, both in English and Hindi, circulating in Delhi, and radio and TV coverage were obtained for the event.

The "Claim your city by night" walk took place on December 10th, 2010, coinciding with International Human Rights Day, and the last of 16 day of activism against gender based violence. Several NGOs participated in this effort majority of them were student groups. Hundreds of people joined us, most of which young people concerned about women's situation in the National Capital. The event also touched upon a recent wave of violent crimes against women, and drew attention to these issues across the board. The turnout was a great success, and although the organization ran into some difficulties in trying to obtain police permission, everything ran smoothly on the day itself. Indeed, after several visits to the Parliament Street Police Commissioner and the Traffic Police, permission was implicitly given, yet on the eve of the event, a rogue officer called to demand a change in the schedule. With the support of the Police Commissioner's office, the event ended up unfolding as planned.

Hopefully, this event will be a first step towards getting people to question the current accepted situation and established gender expectations, when it comes to women's place in the city, their role in the public vs. private sphere, and their right to move safely and freely, as a basic human right.

Impact: The Chief Minister of Delhi released a statement that “Delhi was a safe city and statistics show that crimes against women happen more within the neighborhood and at home”. The Chairperson of National Commission for Women spoke a parallel event organized by another NGO that picked on the call SAFP has given since 2004 asking for women's space in the City Master Plan. Production and retail areas that only women can own, rent and sell were asked for as part of a planned process from the government. The police authorities through an official communication warned the employers to organize for safe transport of female staff should they need to stay back for work at late hours of the night.

The media coverage gave the Youth Campaign for Women and Habitat enough exposure for the organizers to agree to make an annual event. Following this success, a year-long collaboration between organizers should be sustained to foster the interest of young people on gender equality issues.

Follow-up of the event: SAPF and its collaborators are now focusing on approaching local and regional community and political leaders, ministers, municipal corporations and other relevant authorities and get them to agree to earmark available land for a Sustainable development zone, which will include a WRZ. To do so, the momentum gained from the “Claim your city by night” walk will be used to make our demands heard by local leaders.

What we are now looking forward to is the organization of thematic workshops in target areas where SAFP wants to implement a WRZ. These workshops would unite local women, NGOs, elected representatives and volunteer students and youngsters. During this time, participants would have the opportunity to voice their ideas on how to improve the neighborhood layout, infrastructure, activity, market connections and resource management process. With the support of government schemes, these workshops would be followed by implementation of the changes sought.

SAFP Interns 2011



Emmanuelle Paris-Cohen, a graduate in International Studies and Psychology came to SAFP for internship from the CIDA youth internship program. She worked on the revival of the WAHN network, on the design and lobbying for a WRZ in Delhi and Kochi, represented SAFP in conferences and meetings, co-organized the launch of the Youth for Women and Habitat Campaign, participated in the NCW study on gender desegregated data, and wrote notes, reports and communication on behalf of SAFP on a day to day basis.

Internship from April 27th 2010 to January 3rd 2011

Naisan Siddiqui, a student in Conflict Resolution at LSR college, has been volunteering with SAFP to help coordinate the implementation of a WRZ in Jamia, and has been instrumental in organizing the ‘Claim your City by Night event, by recruiting students and women’s groups across the Jamia area in New Delhi. She also writes concept notes and reports on a day to day basis.



Trisha Nailwal and Harmeet Bhatia, two economics majors, volunteered at SAFP during the summer 2010, to assist in collecting gender desegregated data for the NCW study, by conducting interviews, questionnaires and case studies in the Jamia area of Okhla, New Delhi



Harriet Winfrey, an international development student in England, interned at SAFP thanks to the CWLR networking, as her professor, Dr. Nitya Rao, agreed to send her to administer case studies of marginalized women in both rural and urban context. Ms Harriet travelled to several places in Delhi and Chhattisgarh to interview many women and study the context in which they live, their access to land and resources, and the obstacles they still face in being independent women.



Lorena Ruiz Jimenez, Alexandra Klein Forno, Julia Goula, Carla Amat, Laura Monforte, and Dafne Saldana came from the Barcelona School of Architecture, thanks to their professor, Dr. Zaida Muxi being a CWLR member. They worked for 2 months in Delhi and Kochi on the design of women resource zones, based on a survey of the neighborhoods and infrastructure and focus group discussions with local women. Their proposals suggested infrastructure changes and new ideas for women run enterprises that would fit into the greater market and ensure the community is self-sustaining.

Chapter 4

The Women Resource Zone

1. Inception of the WRZ concept

The concept of Women Resource Zones (WRZ) was born out of the will to rectify the gross imbalances in terms of resource allocation, be it land, water, housing or income, between men and women in India. Urban planning, resource allocation and management, although provided for by the law, have in practice remained male dominated areas.

Women are not consulted or taken into account in policy making; neither do they participate in the implementation of these policies on the ground. The idea, as imagined by the leaders of SAFFP in collaboration with Consult for Women and Land Rights (CWLR) members across India, was to come up with a concrete solution by which women could be empowered through increased participation in and implementation of urban planning. It is important for woman to be taken into account in both these stages, not only as users of land and resources, but also as managers and suppliers. Giving women *easy* access to livelihood resources is a first step, but it is not enough. They must have control over these resources, because it is a known fact that by allowing women to manage assets such as water, land, income, etc., not only is women and children's health improved, but the entire community and economy benefits.

The WRZ as a theoretical concept emerged as a women-friendly neighborhood development plan which could be developed as part of a global, district or city-level/rural sustainable development plan. It would take in consideration local women's needs and aspirations, the available infrastructure, the prevailing culture, spatial and geographical characteristics, as well as structural problems that need to be resolved. Panchayats and Local authorities must be convinced of the necessity of such an initiative and adopt it as their own policy. It has been, and continues to be necessary to recruit and unite other stakeholders, such as NGOs, women's self-help groups, universities, students and other community leaders, around this project which seeks not only to empower women, but to improve the neighborhood as a whole, to create sustainable community development.

SAFFP founder, Ms. Shivani Bhardwaj, met with Dr. Zaida Muxi Martinez of the Barcelona School of Architecture during the Habitat International Coalition's meeting on Women and Housing in Barcelona in 2009 and decided to cooperate on the development of the WRZ concept. Following Ms. Bhardwaj's visit to Barcelona, several of the students decided to initiate a trip to India in order to draw up an architectural pilot for what could be a WRZ. It

was agreed with Ms. Bhardwaj, based on their specific interests and her past lobbying activities that they would focus on 2 districts: Okhla in Delhi and Edakochi in Kochi.

In anticipation of the students' arrival in Delhi in July 2010, SAFF staff contacted the Dean of the Jamia Millia Islamia Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics, which itself is located in the Okhla district. With his support, we reached out to students and professors of the faculty, as well as other JMI professors in relevant faculties such as Social Work and Dr. K R Narayanan's Center for Dalit and Minorities studies. With the help of their professors, the JMI students decided to team up with the Barcelona students studying the Okhla district. Thanks to their intimate knowledge of the area, the JMI students were able to guide the Spanish students to complete their proposal during the summer of 2010.

1.1. Okhla

In Okhla, the surveying of local women, the conduct of case studies and the analysis of the area (infrastructure, women's organizations, training centers, community centers, etc.) could begin before the arrival of the Spanish students, which helped set the stage for the design.

During the focus group discussion at Haji Colony and Abul Fazal areas we were told that a woman has to always stay within the neighborhood. For this reason women can't walk more than fifteen minutes away from their homes, otherwise they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Therefore, the given target was to create an economic and social self-sustainable zone with the neighborhoods which have been studied in the area, Batla House, Haji Colony and Shaheen Bagh, because they each have a specific function, using local resources and creating production and activity fluxes between each other. Creating a 'safe edge net' for women to walk to work and meetings without any limitations was proposed. What has to be established is what women do from their homes to the safe edge to further their community and productive roles. The means the influence area that the edges have would determine the number of edges and general configuration of the project for a local unit and its productivity.

In Haji Colony, women's groups have identified the need for clean water and better water management; they identified land belonging to the DDA which could be used for community activities. These women's groups would also like to apply for authorization to develop the entire park as a horticulture project, as well as using an available community hall to manage activities. Clearly, this will require user rights and involvement from multiple government agencies.

In Batla house, a community hall belonging to the MCD was also identified which could serve as a women-run catering service and audience hall. In Shaheen Bagh, women groups have earmarked a place where a horticulture

project could be undertaken, which would not only be functional in terms of providing additional resources, but would also contribute to the beautifying and up-gradation of the neighborhood. Local councilors have agreed to facilitate the process, but we need the Ministry of Urban Development to support us as well, to help move the system from within, and facilitate the process under the urban renewal mission of JNNURM. Under the RAY program this area can be identified.

1.2. Edakochi

For the study of Edakochi, the work settings were very much different, not only in terms of the area in itself, but also because the previous contacts that were made (i.e. with Kudumbashree, Inspiration, etc.) had been over a year before, and much networking as well as information seeking had to take place before any design could be drawn up for Edakochi.

One of the major possibilities would be the development of an eco-tourism village in Edakochi, as no such initiative exists in Kochi, most of it being concentrated in the Fort Cochin area. The beautiful backwater landscape which is also Edakochi's economic backbone could bring in some much needed funds from the booming tourist industry. Such a village should be built using environmentally friendly local materials, such as bamboo. Furthermore, it should be run as a women's cooperative, where they could also sell local productions of spices, fish products and traditional art crafts.

Then a proper bus route must be planned and additional boat embarkations to facilitate transport to and from Edakochi, with the boats being managed by women's groups, for them to be women friendly.

2. Where we stand today

Securing the support of JMI University was a very big step for SAFF and determined the success of the design experiment in Delhi. The guidance and expertise of students and professors, coupled with the fresh outlook and innovative ideas of the Spanish students made for a successful study and preliminary design. JMI's faculty of Architecture has expressed its interest in continuing the partnership with Barcelona, perhaps making it into an exchange program between the two schools, thereby fitting into SAFF's Youth for Women and Habitat Campaign.

The work is also moving along well in Delhi's Jamia neighbourhood, thanks to the support of local women's groups and NGOs, students and SAFF volunteers who live in the area. NGOs in Okhla in Delhi, Barabanki in UP, Bilaspur in Chattisgarh and Bhopal and Ratlam in MP have agreed to work on a WRZ in their areas. They will need student volunteers to document local women's concern, to propose their case to local and district authorities. Through the

Pravah exposure program if students can travel to the NGOs and develop the concept of WRZ they can apply what they have learnt when they are back in Delhi. The CYC work on gender based violence could also carry on contextual work in different area development plans.

SAFP has also been meeting with MLAs, Councillors and other elected officials in Okhla to discuss the WRZ, the demands made by citizens for better planned neighborhoods and the relevance of our project regarding available government schemes (JNNURM, RAY, etc.). SAFP has been lobbying relentlessly this year, pushing local authorities to see the payoff of endorsing gender equal planning, even if it means appealing to their political campaigning and drawing attention to the electorate such policies would bring in.

Once a provision for a WRZ is officially sanctioned within an area development plan or district gender sub-plan, as provided for by the Indian Constitution, we will approach corporations and builders who would fund and implement such a project. Private actors will be convinced both on the basis of future profit and by enhancing their corporate social responsibility profile, to invest in the building of WRZs. Partnerships with local community leaders will also keep being strengthened, not only to ensure the success of the project, but to have the political clout necessary to convince local and regional governments to take on the WRZ.

We will also continue working with youth, students and faculty members, and try to approach others, in order to continue our architectural plans, to keep building awareness through our Youth Campaign on Women and Habitat. What we are now looking forward to is the organization of thematic workshops in target areas where SAFP wants to implement a WRZ. These workshops would unite local women, NGOs, elected representatives and volunteer students and youngsters. During this time, participants would have the opportunity to voice their ideas on how to improve the neighborhood layout, infrastructure, activity, market connections and resource management process. With the support of government schemes, these workshops would be followed by implementation of the changes sought.