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E09, Anand Lok, Mayur Vihar Phase I
New Delhi 1100091 India

Contact: 00 91 11 22756014 email: safp.sb@gmail.com | www.sathiallforpartnerships.org

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Annual Report SAFP 2011-2012

Chapter 1 Introduction

SAFP this year were focused on consolidating partnerships and contributing to networks that it has memberships of. SAFP has experimented with collaborative learning to establish partnerships across class, caste and gender. SAFP program director trained water engineers and staff members of DACCAR, an NGO in Afghanistan. Towards this she developed a training manual on sector wide gender mainstreaming mechanism. SAFP was also invited on 30 -31 May 2011 to an International Conference on land and housing in Ramallah Palestine. A paper on women and security was presented at this workshop by SAFP. These two were very significant experiences for SAFP as we could see SAFP work in context of conflict areas. IPAC training on women and conflict 1235 SRC was thus a process that got informed from the experience of SAFP staff members exposure to looking at conflict areas with a gender lens.

From the month of June SAFP intensively work on the Dalit study project. From 12- 13 July a training program on research methodology for MWCD dalit study was formalized through an inception workshop, jointly organized by GSDS and SAFP. From then on field work to gather data began with the first field trip that was organized on 10-13 August where in a team from NACDOR and SAFP traveled to Jodhpur and Jaisalmer and to Patna for dalit study data collection.

The work with Equal Saree and Zaida Muxi got to a formal collaboration. The Dalit Study for together five sets of NGOs to work together with SAFP on a specific funded process. While work with CWLR partners continued as before to take situation in local areas for advocacy and lobby at higher levels for example with the NGO called Towards Action and Learning (TAAL) in Madhya Pradesh, SAFP has developed work on women and land. TAAL invited SAFP to documents its work on 16-18 September in Shivpuri on child rights and convergence. The documentation of the report done by SAFP was further utilised for advocacy in Delhi. The work with Equal Saree and Zaida Muxi got to a formal collaboration.

This year thus saw SAFP partnerships strengthening

Chapter 2 : Partnering on work with vulnerable communities

Work with Tribal Dalit and Muslims from under poverty line

SAFP worked with CWLR member Ms Naheed Aqueel in Lukhnow and Barabanki to understand the livelihood initiatives by Prayatna Foundation. SAFP participated in a public hearing organize by the foundation to speak about gender district plans as well as livelihood infrastructure that needs to be provided by the government to communities that need to be included in local area development planning. Towards this end SAFP was introduced to the district magistrate of Barabanki to explain how designing a women resource zone could help in planning of the district in favor of the administration. The government did need to demonstrate how it is working to address gender inequality. The district magistrate shared their contact details and correspondence between Prayatna Foundation, SAFP and district administration ensued wherein SAFP provide technical input on how to make social infrastructure and production centres in a way they are accessed by women and managed by Dalit and Muslim women groups.

Similar work was developed by SAFP with CWLR members in Chhattisgarh. Mr Devjeet Nadi and Dr Debjani Mukherjee worked with SAFP programme director to draft concept notes that impacted the district Gender plan of Rajnandgaon. The ideas were then discussed with mayor of Bilaspur who invited architects and local NGOs to work on the redesigning of vegetable vending market that was allotted spaces where women could sell vegetables. These spaces were designed as plat forms raised from ground level to create storage space below such that the left over vegetables and equipment could be stored away when the vending tasks are over.

Work with Unorganized Sector Workers

SAFP has been one of the core members of the National Alliance for Labor Rights and as a part of this partnership it has worked with workers of different sectors and attended meetings to develop the alliance through the following activities

Work With Women : The 10 December SAFP claim the city by night walk aimed at sending the lieutenant governor of Delhi a petition entertaining all the demands mentioned above. Ms Shreya talukdar organsed this walk. To create a participation level that was enormous. People from all walks of life came out to voice their opinion. There were students, volunteers from non -governmental organisations like Manzil ,CYC, media as well as Social activists. With several slogans in hand we marched from Statesman House to Jantar Mantar. At Jantar Mantar we concluded with a short programme. People sang songs for the safety of women , movies were aired on recent episodes of eve teasing in Delhi. Social leaders spoke on behalf of their worker groups and the unfavorable environment and misery they are exposed to you. Students formed bands and sang for their rights. Several such issues were highlighted and the walk concluded with the signing of the petition. The walk was an indicator of SAFP work and collaboration on women empowerment.

Chapter 3 Research activities

GENDER URBANISM AND INCLUSION – Sustainability, participation and urban regeneration.

Urban planning can intervene to empower most vulnerable sectors of society, especially women. With this intension a research paper was drafted by SAFP interns from Spain who designed an international exchange program with university students, professionals and NGO's to discuss solutions through urban local planning to problems relating to management of resources and social exclusion. SAFP approached organization's in Spain, Italy and the Norway Embassy in Delhi and institutions like School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi University, Jamia School of Planning and Architecture and their Social Work Departments to host and train the international students as part of the co curriculum learning. As a result a literature review on gender urbanism was conducted by Clara Amat and shared with the Sarojini Naidu Women Studies Centre of Jamia Millia Islamia. This effort resulted in the possibility of Spanish students being hosted by Jamia University to exchange ideas on gender urbanism.

A study on safe city for children, youth and women

A study on safe city for children, youth and women was conducted in context of Delhi with the purpose of collecting data that could be presented at the safe city walk 2011 in December. SAFP interns used focus group discussions to collate data from “youth hangouts” in the city to understand which areas in Delhi are considered safe by the youth and women. This study was assisted in proposing to Ministry of Women Child to list this topic as a research priority for major cities in India. It is matter of satisfaction that the Ministry did include this research area as a focus area and advertised this issue in its call for research proposals for the year.

Women in agriculture and food security

A scoping study in context of state level policies and plans was conducted by SAFP as part of a network effort. Towards this end CWLR members were invited to present their work on women and agriculture in two consultations organized Food Water Security Coalition India. our agricultural policy, we fail to consider issues like nutrition and food security, climate change, and the significant but often unrecognized fact that 70% of the world's farmers are women. Women produce 90% of the staple food crops, such as rice and maize—the crops that feed the world. Women also prepare these crops for household and community consumption, eating last or not at all when food is scarce. And women do the majority of tasks that involve close proximity to the environment, such as farming and fetching water, and hence shoulder a disproportionate amount of the danger associated with pollution and climate change. Women's agricultural empowerment is an issue of economic as well as gender justice as women produce the majority of the world's food but own less than 2% of the land. Women have equal right to enjoy the profits of their labor and the peace of mind of knowing their daughters can inherit the land they farm yet effects from 2005 amendment of Hindu succession act have not been studies at a state level to understand if the law provision made a change. Women have the right to eat a full and balanced meal and to work in an environment not poisoned by toxic chemicals yet no base line figures have been collected to see if we have moved towards realization of this right.

Government has announced several programs to jump start the transformation towards gender equality yet targetted populations need to be studied to provide base line data on the change we seek. SAFF and its partners are engaged in work where NGOs are teaching women sustainable farming techniques that maximize profit and nutritional value while supporting environmental preservation, community agricultural, and economic development. Women with help of Suzlon foundation have been trained to farm a diversity of crops for household consumption and higher profits, at the same time as they are equipped with techniques that enhance the ecological balance of natural ecosystems. These pilot experiences need to be set against state level stock taking on women agriculture and food security context.

Research on Food security and Livelihood Generation Activities with Farmers in Jehanabad:

SAFF has worked on increasing resources for women since 2003 as a focus area in different states of India . All its work is in partnerships with local community based organizations. In 2009 SAFF and AMAN Trust signed an MOU to develop work on increasing women's resources through different programmatic interventions. This research was one such initiative. AMAN Trust, since 2003, has been working with communities and people affected by violence and conflict in states of Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Delhi and the states of North East India. The nature of programmes have ranged from providing humanitarian aid to victims of violence, action-research on conflict issues and advocacy on government schemes in conflict zones. A significant target group of all these programmes are rural, marginalised and minority communities like Dalits, Muslims, women and landless agricultural labourers. In Bihar, AMAN has been working in over twenty villages of Jehanabad and Arwal districts of South Bihar that have experienced large-scale caste and extreme left-wing related violence. The programmes range from micro-finance and land-leasing, campaign and advocacy on Right To Food, MNREGA, Right To Education and other government schemes. AMAN has conducted several advocacy research with the migrants in Delhi who work in the informal sector like waste-pickers, cycle-rickshaw pullers and construction labourers. Majority of these migrants are from Bihar. The research team conducted 6 focus group discussions with farmer producer groups who produced and marketed agricultural like Besan, Sattu, Rice, Atta and Dalia made by landless agricultural laborers in conflict affected district of Jehanabad, Bihar. This area is also considered to be rain-fed and endowed with highly fertile land. The products were sold out when Aman trust helped them market them in the local village markets and at an exhibition organised in Lucknow by crafts group Sanatkada. The research helped SAFF understand context in relation of food and water security issues such that these issues could be discussed with FWSCI for national level advocacy.

The above activity further helped SAFF and Aman to design a **socio-economic research to assess food security and initiate a livelihood generation programme** in the Bhaik village of Jehanabad in Bihar and Jamia Nagar locality in South Delhi will precede a set of activities in the project. **This project has the possibility of linking WRZ design created by SAFF with the intension of creating linkages between the production process in Bhaik and migrant communities living in Delhi who will benefit from the agricultural production as consumers.** A project team has been working in the village Bhaik and with migrant group from socially and economically vulnerable communities like landless agricultural labourers, Dalits, minorities and women. This programme however did not receive financial support and therefore provided conceptual clarity for future programme development.

Dalit Study : As mentioned earlier SAFF worked with its collaborators on this study through the year.

Chapter 4 Awareness, Trainings and Policy Impact

SAFP was invited to a number of events to speak and share experiences some of which are mentioned as under:

30 -31 May 2011 to an International Conference on land and housing in Ramallah Palestine. SAFP on Palestinian women's land rights was presented at the conference.

22 Sept 2011 at an event organized by India Alliance for Child Rights which was developing its CRC Alternate report for India and Child rights in the 12th five year plan. The lessons learn from this experience were fed back into SAFP central theme of resource gap reduction through lessening of gender gaps. Towards this end on October 10-11 meetings were organized in Bhopal to link convergence programme to the district gender planning process.

3rd November 2011, SAFP was invited to be a part of the panel discussion by Alliance India for Rio+20 (Air+20) at Dy. Chairman's Hall, Constitution Club Rafi Marg New Delhi. This National Consultation on Rio+20 got together 50 Academia and activist who are active in civil society to input to the Rio +10 process. SAFP representative was the first speaker at the event who provided input for the major stakeholder group of women with Ms Priti Darooka from PWSCER and Ms Ms. Anita Nayar, from DAWN. A joint statement from the participants of the workshop was later sent as an input from the Alliance to Rio outcome document.

11-13 November An International Conference on Islamic art and architecture invited SAFP and its volunteers to present their work on WRZ in Okhla on 12th November.

14- 16 November, 2011 Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, Disha and Women's Earth Alliance, USA (WEA) organised a three days training (women food security and climate change) from 14-16 November, 2011 focusing on the land entitlement and other rights of women farmers. SAFP was invited in this program on 15th Nov, 2011 as an expert and trainer.

On 24th November 2011 SAFP delivered a lecture at the UGC National Seminar on Human Rights and Social Inclusion to highlight contemporary concerns.

24th November 2011, SAFP Presentation at the National Women Empowerment Mission office at Janpath hotel, Delhi.

28 November 2011, ISST organized a launch of their research on domestic violence and invited SAFP to make a presentation. SAFP undertook this to demonstrate that Kalyanpuri domestic violence could reduce only when the valuation of women increases in eyes of the perpetrators of violence at home. The stature of women needs to increase in eyes of the society at large for men to see women as their equal to begin desisting from violent behavior.

28 November 2011, Public hearing on tribal women's claim on forest right by IGSSS . Tribal women present their experiences in applying for common and individual lands under Forest Rights Act before the eminent jury. The eminent jury gives their recommendations/ verdict which will be taken forward for advocacy. This event is the culmination of a series of advocacy events planned on the issues of literacy, land rights and gender, as part of the European Union-Welthungerhilfe project - 'Empowering Women: Access and Ownership over land and land based activities through education, legal literacy and advocacy in rural India'.

2nd of December, 2011, SAFF was invited to set up an advisory group to support and strategize the advocacy activities with MPs associated with 'Jansatyagraha Yatra' a non-violent mass movement pioneered by Ekta Parishad. The Yatra is meant to ensure the enactment of 'Comprehensive National Land Reforms Act' to establish a society free from hunger, fear and corruption. The agenda for the Parliamentary-Advocacy Forum on the Land Reforms to enhance the parliamentarians' involvement and active participation to address the challenges were discussed where SAFF proposed that instead of asking for individual Pattas and implementation of laws peoples plan for developing and sustaining land for local use first should be drafted and defended.

10 December 2011: Ms Shreya Talukdar organized the claim your city by night walk and became the youth ICON. This interview captures the details <http://southasia.oneworld.net/archive/weekend/let-women-decide-whats-right-for-them#>

Feb 2012 WAGE Workshop Hotel Taj, Delhi : SAFF was invited to an event organize by WAGE in February 2012 to discuss recommendations towards women's role in promoting green economy. The participation of women in the green economy leads to both the empowerment of women, as well as to the sustainability of the environment. According to UNEP, the green economy results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reduces environmental risks and ecological scarcities. The constitution of several countries (including India) does not permit discrimination on the grounds of gender. However, capacity building of women through special institutions, programs, scholarships and educational courses is the need of the hour. The implementation of policies for women's leadership, where women have "real power" is crucial. Initiatives to enable this must be implemented. For example, the Rajputana Society of Natural History has supported women representatives actively participating in government meetings. SAFF suggested steps to enhance the participation of women in the green economy include earmarking 20% of donor funds under UNFCCC for women's adaptation priorities; empowering women through community -based projects; ensuring that financing mechanisms are flexible, transparent and inclusive; complying with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and UN gender rights commitments. Other wage recommendations were to facilitate the participation of women include safe working conditions; skill development and awareness generation programs; apprenticeships; vocational education programs and specific welfare facilities. Specific polices such as the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations (WANTO) Act of 1992 in the US could be replicated in other countries as well to increase the percentage of women engaged in non-traditional occupation including jobs related to the green economy.

Chapter 5 SAFP Collaborators and people

Funders : Ministry of Women and Child (MWCD),

Collaborators : IPAC, Women Struggle Committee, TAAL, Sewa Mandir, National Alliance For labor Rights, All India Kabri Mazdor Mahasangh, Nirmana, Nazmi, NACDOR, Barcelona School Of Planning, India Alliance For Child Rights and Drishti - The insight.

SAFP Team

Board of Trustees: Chairperson Ms Susan Koshy, Founder and Treasurer: Shivani Bhardwaj, Board Member Mr. Ravi Karkara

Program Consultants/ Advisors and Project staff
Waste Workers Process: Mr Shashi Bhusha Pandit, Mr Brijesh Gopalan and Ms Mansi Singh

Staff Members

Executive Director Ms. Deepika Nair, Program Director Ms Shivani Bhardwaj, Administrator Mr. Clement Ekka, Accountant Mr. DM Jha

Dalit Research study : Advisors and senior researchers : Dr. Ms Rajmohini Sethi, Ms. Rajni Tilak, Ms. Geetha Ramakrishnan , Ms. Mamata Dash , Ms. Tarakeshwari Negi , Statistical analyzer Mr. Rahul Bannerjee
Women Resource Zone team : Shivani Bhardwaj, Mansi Samdar, Ms. Chitra Khanna, Dafne Sadlana, Ms. Julia Gaula, Ms. Helena Cardona Tamayo and Ms. Carla Amat

SAFP Interns 2011-2012 Prakhar Bhardwaj travelled to Ramallah and assisted Ms Bhardwaj in drafting a paper on Palestinian women land and housing rights. Ms Sheya Talukdar interned with SAFP to carry forward work on the night walk and worked to document women and land rights testimonial.