

Support to Community Mobilization & People Driven Response For Preventing Sex Selection.

Annual Report

Reporting period: May 2009 to December 2009

Background:

Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan is thankful to Womenpowerconnect, New Delhi to support to undertake initiative to address the sex selection issues and mobilizing communities for work collectivity to address and stop sex selection. Previously VSP was working on gender and women issues and basically perspective level interventions were undertaken in a form of material development, training exposure etc.

This project has given opportunity to keep focus on the sex selection issue and extend scope to analyze the social aspect and perspective on the patriarchal culture and impact on women rights and health issues. It was also opportunity to find the gaps in implementation process of PCPNDT act through the state level and district level events as well as to collaborate the government agencies to make impact on the proper procedure to taking actions on the lacunas.

The experiences of the first phase implementation of project initiative were positive and we got support from individuals, NGO's, academicians, government officials, social activist as well as education institutions. Also the shareholder from the communities has extend their support to the project activities therefore the outcome of the processes was realized.

The issue was very sensitive and there is low understanding of the communities therefore, in this first phase there were number of challenges at organizational level, community level as well as collaboration with government officials, we tried our best to meet the challenges and implement the project. This is annual report which contend achievements and process undertaken during May 2009 to December 2009.

Project details and activities

1. **Name of the organization: VIKAS SAHYOG PRATISHTHAN**
2. **Geographical area of the project:**
District - 4
Block- 2
Villages- 40
3. **Population of target area:** 4290 people (approx. 5000 people)
4. **Three main stakeholders in your area (which is the strength of the NGO or where you expect maximum participation)**
 - Stakeholder 1: Women
 - Stakeholder 2: College youth
 - Stakeholder 3: Government officials & Media persons

5. Activities During The Reporting Quarter :

Activities/ stakeholders	Number of sessions/ events planned	Number of sessions/ events completed	Total Number of participants			Report attached (Yes/ No)
			Ratnagiri	Sindhudurga	Satara	
District level workshops on sex selection issues.	4	3	65	55	74	N. A
Training of youth volunteers at block level.	2	1			22	N. A
State Level Workshop on “ Sex Selection: Policies, Issues, Law Enforcement & Social Responsibility	1	1	Total number of the state wide 35 members was presented			Yes
Sensitization meetings with collage youths	20	14	780	670	965	N. A
Exchange meetings with Media persons	4	3	10	9	10	N. A
Community Level meetings (Village) to share the information about issue	120	43				
Printing of reference Material on sex selection issues	1	1				Copy of material attached
Any other events (specify)						

State Level Workshop on “ Sex Selection: Policies, Issues, Law Enforcement & Social Responsibility”

- This workshop helps to deepen understanding on sex selection issues for representatives of 14 organizations.
- The reasons and possible alternative for enforcement of acts was articulated in the workshop.
- The collaboration possibilities explored with the SNTD University to work collectively in Maharashtra.
- 8 media persons linked with the campaign and advocacy initiative of the project in Maharashtra.
- Special media coverage by electronic media of the workshop and is has broadcasted in TV channels.
- A series of experiences of declining sex was shooting by IBN - Lokmat TV of the participants which was present for the workshop and it will broadcast on the TV channels shortly.

District Level Workshops on “Sex Selection: Policies, Issues, Law Enforcement & Social Responsibility”



(Mr. Mahival, CEO Sindhudurg expressing his views on Sex selection issues)

Three district level orientation workshops was conducted in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg & Satara districts. The Ratnagiri district workshop held on 15th Nov, Sindhudurg district on 16th Nov and 29th December 09 district level workshop held at Satara. The Perspective of the workshop shares the situation of declining sex ratio in respected regions. Also the issues of enforcement of laws and act to stop prenatal sex determination and follow the regulation bounded under the act. It was also focus on the community and government department initiation to stop the declining sex ratio at wider level. The community actions and assertion on the enforcement of law was the key area of the workshops.



(Anant Kadam, Program Director, speaking about intervention on sex selection issues in District orientation program)

The workshops addressed issues of declining Sex ratio at respected regions and deliberated on the male dominant perspective of community and its impact on the equal sex ratio. Issues such as preference for son is due to traditional perspective of maintaining patriarchy and property

rights to the male, the cultural aspects are also there, the segregation of the land assets and ownership also the issues behind the sex selection.

It has also realized that there are certain issues in enforcement of the laws established by the government to protect girl child and also the human right of women's, the issues related to the functioning of AA at district level. The participant has realized that the sex ratio is disturbing community balance and there is need to enforce policies and laws and accountability of the communities.



(Ms. Sunita Gandhi Explaining workshop perspective at Ratnagiri program, the government officials on the stage)

The NGOs and media representative raised the issues about the implementation of acts through the health authorities and the health authorities responded on the same. The plan was made with NGO's and Government authorities to work collectively on the following issues:

- The government authorities should take proper action or legal measures to band on the illegal scanning centres and effective monitoring of the permitted scanning centres. The periodical review to be undertaken at district level.
- To be find gaps within the implementation process of PCPNDT Act work collectively for the enforcement.
- The NGOs should be part of the consulting committee at district level to assist Appropriate Authorities. There was effective support from the government authorities especially health department for the events. The civil hospitals have provided their infrastructure for the events.

Exchange meeting with Media persons.

1. Event on Sex Selection

During the reporting period 3 media events have been conducted in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg & Satara districts to address the issues of sex selection with the media persons. The dates of the media events are follows:

District	Date	Venue	Participation
Ratangiri	15/11/2009	Civil Hospital	Media persons Civil Surgeon NGO representatives
Sindhudurg	10/12/2009	Nath Pai Sevangan, Malvan	Media persons Civil Surgeon NGO representatives
Satara	29/12/2009	Civil Hospital	Media persons Civil Surgeon NGO representatives

The press conference address by VSP staff members and Civil Surgeons cordially and appealed to the media to highlight the issues through their medium. The detailed discussions on the declining girl sex ratio were held with the media and the also deliberated on the issues of law enforcement such as PCPNDT Act. In Satara Media event Dr. Jagdale, Civil Surgeon has provided information that they have sealed 35 scanning centers in Satara district and monitored 290 scanning centers. At the other places the participation of government officials was meaningful and it helps to plan. In the some of the districts especially Ratnagiri district we find the District committees on PCPNDT act was not formulated properly and such issues were highlighted in the media and events with the media.



(Lata P.M responding in Press conference at Ratnagiri)

There is positive response from the media persons in the discussions and understanding the issues. The local channel has relay the video recordings of the media events and broad casted special program on the interventions on the sex selection issues by Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan. The positions promoted during the media events are follows:

- Media advocacy should be done on the sex selection issues for the enforcement of Laws.
- Lobbying on to formulate or active role of PCPNDT Act committees.
- Continuation in the district level meetings to take review of birth ratio at district level and active role of media is required.

The material distributed in the events was very effective to sensitize media persons to take the issues on priority basis.

Sensitization meeting with College Students

14 Sensitization sessions with college students was conducted in Satara, Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts. Get good response from colleges In Satara district college meetings they taken this issue serious and committed that they will take initiative on sex selection issue in Satara, Sangali & Kolhapur colleges who are undertaken by Shivaji University & they are ready to work with Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan.

Training of Youth Volunteers

One training program with youth leaders conducted in Satara district. 22 youth take training on sex selection issue & they understand the deepness and seriousness of the issue ready to take village meeting on respective issue. They change own mind and ready to make change makers on sex selection issue Youth are ready to do grass root level education and awareness.

Village Level Community meetings

43 village level exchange meetings conducted in Satara District, this village level meeting taken by youth volunteer on the context of social perspective, patriarchy systems & welcome of birth of girl child

6.1 Constraints faced in the implementation of the activities:

- Plan of actions of the project was suggested to revise on 13th July 2009 in the brief orientation meeting which is conducted in UNFPA office, Thane therefore the field area revised and focus made on Satara district. The building up connection and selection of villages taken more time.
- Availability of the dates from the government officers for the program.
- Time frame of the project activities and farming seasons do not matched therefore it was critical to initiate grassroots and village level processes.
- Due to flood situation & cyclone in Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg the government machinery was busy in relief work so the programs date was postponed.
- Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan has taken initiative for the relief work to the families affected by fayan and flood situation in Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg district so the major concentration was given on relief activities.
- Availability of dates of college due to Exam period and gathering in college
- Time frame of the project activities and farming season do not matched therefore, it was critical to initiate grassroots & village level processes.