

# **Annual report and Plans : Sathi all for partnerships (2007-2008)**

## **Chapter 1**

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Sathi recognizes that effective reform comes about as part of a two-way process, both from the bottom-up, as well as top-down. Firstly, grassroots initiatives should promote local ownership and decision-making. This should force policy changes at the state, national and ultimately international level. However, at the same time, it is also necessary to engage with international institutions and civil society to promote women and land rights, in order to sustain pressure on governments from both directions. This year Sathi redefined its role to consulting, advising and initiating action. Most direct work was done by partners where Sathi advised or participated to maintain focus of activities on the two areas it works on:

### **Sathi focuses in the current year remained on developing :**

1. Work on women and resource rights and
2. Refining thrust for work on Disabling Mental illness ( DMI)

In the 2007-2008 Sathi has actively got its work to get to stage where newer beginnings needed to be fostered. The support for sathi from Action aid on its women and land work concluded in November 2007 after an enriching experience of an evaluation. The members of CWLR evaluated sathi's role as a secretariat of cwlr. Some felt that woman and land rights agenda needs to be taken up by organizations who have a stronger resource base. In three years of support Sathi got from Action Aid learning was consolidated and human resource developed. Action Aid today supports many of CWLR members individually for state and local projects. It has initiated its own women and land rights campaign internationally. This indicates that role for sathi has been to motivate others to take the responsibility to build the agenda organizationally. It also tried to develop work with IGSSS who was assisted to develop their women and land campaign  
CWLR is since trying to function on the strength of its individual member's efforts.

# Advocacy and lobby for women land and resource rights:

## Introduction

Sathi is the secretariat for the Consult for Women and Land Rights (CWLR). CWLR is a global forum of local national and international NGO's and Networks, lobbying and advocating for policies, law reform, programs and administrative mechanisms to increase resource base, including land rights for vulnerable and disadvantaged women.

When Sathi set up CWLR in 2004 not many groups were working to ensure equal access to, control and ownership over land and resources for women. Sathi organized many events and participate in different events to uphold women's housing and land and resource rights. Towards December 2007 sathi began documenting who has done what in women's access to productive resources. It was a revelation to see that work on the issue has increased in the past four years of Sathi's existence. A large number of people are taking this issue as their own agenda. Different groups – some of who are cwlr members, have taken up work on women and land rights in four different thematic areas.

## Thematic Areas

*Muslim Women*

*Tribal Women*

*Urban Women*

*Women in Agriculture*

## Each thematic group has ideas on how to increase women's ownership on land and resources rights

This achievement has come about due to individual efforts of constituents of cwlr but the information sharing between members has definitely enriched each organizations strategy CWLR members continued to advocate for a single window approach to women's land and resource rights in different events through out the year. Most support has been to develop other organizations to strengthen their agenda and developing sathi's own experience and research in urban women and land rights.

## Events and outcomes

### *Local*

1. **Bhopal consultation** with IGSSS partners, action aid partners AKF and groups working in MP (28<sup>th</sup> March, 2008)  
objective: To share report on the status of women and land work in MP written by

Samvad and Sathi all for partnerships for IGSSS  
*outcome: Discussion with local groups took place*

2. **Developing demonstrations for WRRRA** with Nirmana, positive women network, Women struggle committee, UNIFEM, GWLO, GNSP, Navrachna and Steps.( 18<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January, 2008)  
objective: UNIFEM supported meetings between CWLR members and Positive women to see how demonstrations can be drafted for women to get resource rights  
*outcome: Women at local level do not have support to develop project proposals to submit locally to authorities. Most women do not want to work collectively as they are not trained to function that way*
3. **Unorganised sector workers and resource rights Seminar organized by Nirmana** with Nirmana, Jagori, Mahila Daxita Samiti, NAPM, Workers Solidarity Front, Sathi, and other workers groups deposed to NCW representatives (20<sup>th</sup> November, 2007)  
objective: This national seminar and lobby effort supported by DCA introduced the aspects of resource rights for women workers and lobbied NCW member to consider the advocacy for the same  
*outcome: Newer groups got introduced to the link of women workers resource rights and a petition from the workshop was given to the Members of parliament*
4. **Interfaith Journey I** supported by ICP got together Sathi, Parcham, Adithi, Bahin, Disha and GEAG (15<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> November, 2007)  
objective: CWLR members from three different religions traveled to explore for themselves resource rights in relation to their lives.  
*outcome: The women discovered dividers and connectors between themselves to strengthen their own ideas for search for resources*
5. **CWLR members meeting** with 18 CWLR members (18<sup>th</sup> October, 2007)  
objective: Members met at CWLR to develop joint action programs  
*outcome: The journey for interfaith was planned as well impacting discourse with DFID supported PACs program*
6. **Tribunal against Poverty organized by WNT campaign** with WNT campaign members (17<sup>th</sup> October, 2007)  
objective: CWLR members spoke at tribunal on lack of land rights increasing poverty levels of community  
*outcome: A delegation spoke to the President of India and media. CWLR participated as one of the core team of the organizers*
7. **Evaluation of Sathi as a CWLR secretariat** with CWLR members Prayaya, Parcham and Disha who were met during two field trips. 30 Members got together at UNIFEM office in Delhi to discuss future work (1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> July, 2007)  
objective: To look at strengths and challenges faced by the secretariat in supporting CWLR  
*outcome; 35 Members got an opportunity to review Sathi's contribution for CWLR and mandated extension of the role till the next three years*

8. **IGSSS North India Consultation on women and Land in Lukhnow** with IGSSS partners in North India (28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>June, 2007)  
objective; Two CWLR members were invited to speak on the work at national level  
*outcome: Organizations talked of women and land rights work experience and developed work in their work to report back at a similar workshop after two months in Lukhnow*
9. **Peoples Conclave, Action Aid, Hyderabad. CWLR representatives attended the conclave** with Action Aid staff and partners, CWLR- Samreen Usmani, Siddmma, WRAG, Vakeel Ahmad (11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2007)  
objective: To impact Action Aid's agenda on Women and Resource Rights  
*outcome: Demand for women's land and resource right were presented in the plenary session on both the days*
10. **NCW workshop on Resource rights ,Ita Nagar** with Ms Seema khot represented CWLR and Ms Jarjume Ete invited seven commission for women from NE states(7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June, 2007)  
objective: Exploring what women and land rights exist in North east states of India  
*outcome: The state commission for women got recommendations on women and land rights for further action*
11. **Resource mapping training, in Orissa** with Seema Khot, Vishwanath Todkar , Sharanya and partners (25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> May, 2007)  
objective: To train Action Aid partners to include women and resource issues in resource mapping at local level
12. **Ekta Parishad National consultation, VYK, Delhi** with Ekta Parishad, National Forest Forum, WGWLO, MVLM, Sathi, Bharthi Trust, DFID Pacs partners and others (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May, 2007)  
objective: to organize Janadesh events  
*outcome: Sathi Demanded that women should lead Janadesh*
13. **NCW meeting on women and resources** with WSC, PI ,NCW and CWLR(4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April, 2007) in Chennai  
objective: review recommendations on Tsunami follow up  
*outcome: Government asked why NCW recommendations provide relief to women under Tsunami was not followed up*

### ***International***

1. Commission for sustainable development , New York ( March 2008 ). Intensive email and phone discussions took place between representatives of UN habitat, WOCAN, and others to raise issue of women and resource rights at the CSD. Meena Bilgi represented CWLR to speak on the issue at the CSD.

2. Women and housing seminar organized by HIC in Barcelona (Feb 2008 ): **HIC consultation on women and housing** with HIC members, COHRE and others were invited by DESC and government of Catalonia.( February 2008)  
 objective: Summation of UN Rapportuers consultation on the issue across the globe  
*outcome: Sathi shared CWLR experience at this international forum*
  
3. The Outreach event for The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 . 55 CWLR members across 6 states from India got together on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2007) with presentation on four thematic areas.  
 objective: CWLR members clarified agenda according to the thematic focus they created for them selves for.  
*Outcome: A report was drafted for a presentation to the international conference on Federalism*
  
4. Lobby for representation at global land tools meeting of the UN habitat at Nairobi Kenya (October 2007 ). Dr Abbey Ziwa was prepared to present tools prepared by CWLR. The attempt to gain larger representation was got constrained due to resource crunch
  
5. **ICCO food rights consultation in Nepal** with Seema Khot participated on behalf of CWLR. Ms Tanushree Saxena organized the participation (17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April, 2007)  
 Objective: on Input to develop ICCO strategy to include Women and land rights  
*Outcome: Issue taken up by ICCO*
  
6. **Meeting at UNIFEM,Katmandu** organized by Tanushree and Shivani with CSRC, WOREC, Action Aid, Paryay (23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2007)  
 objective:CWLR lobby in Nepal  
*outcome: Groups in Nepal got interested to do resource mapping*

# DMI

## Introduction

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Sathi 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 for Sathi in the past two years apart from the Land Rights work. Sathi has continued to share the concept with organizations it sought partnership on the issue.

The newspapers report greater interest in the field of mental health this year and this is due to efforts made by sathi and its partners in sending messages to different ministries and speaking at events organized by others. Yet gaps exist in understanding the issues from the perspectives of those affected and their families. The gap in this understanding is reflected in the policies, strategies and approach to work be it rural or urban areas, cutting across all economic classes. These are most often developed on an understanding developed from individual case profiles and anecdotal evidences. The strategies continue to have a strong medical approach. A non-medical resolution needs to be worked upon to integrate those affected and their families in a manner **that brings them dignity, improved quality of life and long-term security.**

There is a need to innovate and create opportunities to achieve the highest levels of wellness and dignity. It will be much more than helping individuals just stay well. In most instances the current approach is to silence them through medication so that the families and those around can get on with their lives and in extreme cases abandoned on the roads or in institutions.

Our aim is to create opportunities to try out new ways to **redefine care and rehabilitation strategies and initiatives.**

This could be done through a pilot programme comprising of a center with outreach services in close partnership with those affected and other primary stakeholders (medical fraternity that includes psychiatrists, general physician, nutritionist, alternative health therapists, sports physicians and tie ups with local services where the family lives; social development and rehabilitation professionals; prospective employers, HR networks and mentors). This center will evolve into a resource and referral center in time.

For the past year efforts were made to convince funding agencies as well as corporate houses to support this idea. Discussions at KPMG and Areva made us prepare different kinds of presentations on how we could get supported. No agency can spend precious resources to develop concepts but they could support tangible and visible out put from work.

Thus we tried to develop the idea of a centre that will innovate and create opportunities to build on the strengths of the individual/family. Even though Sathi does not want to engage with the day to day administration and management of an institution, we do not know if we can develop education programs for the patients and their family members on illness management in institutions that may be managed by others. The diagnosis of the illness needs to be done by professionals such that efforts to increase the functional capacity of patient and cares can be a reality. We continue to dream that Sathi will facilitate the process reclaiming lives of those affected by mental illness by gathering support for them to develop methods towards integration into healthy and productive living.

For the patient and the related family the pilot centre or different Sathi interventions may encourage the formation of an informed, proactive self-help group. We are not yet sure how to gather the critical mass of people who could initiate other community based family groups in different parts of a city. These will promote the role of the patients and the families as partners in care and rehabilitation by promoting family education on the illness and its dynamics, its day-to-day and long-term management and related coping strategies for support and care leading to better quality of life.

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 proactive support group at city / zone level.

## **Project ideas taking shape**

### **Aditha 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.

This is implemented through medication need assistance to patients which is highly qualified by large number of societies. As well as the entire medical treatment provided, we would devote to any kinds of aptitude towards patients in terms of education. We organize number of workshops and mentorship programs to help patients, their families and friends understand the nature and consequences of the mental illnesses. This is a kind of non-medical life time treatment to every single individual. This life time approach in developing country is not only focusing on medication, but also looking at them at people's needs. We will then help them achieving their goal in life by means of social relationship and employment. Self confidence can be established by making more friends outside the world as well as getting a job in their favourite field. This is entirely come out of conservative doctor and patient relationship.

Studies have shown that paid employment speeds their recovery process with enhanced self-worth and confidence. Aditha will enable them towards a career path either working as a employee in a company or establishing their own business by self-employment, which is built on their skills, talents and their individual capacity. Aditha accomplishes this by providing one to one mentorship with service sector along with group training according to what they favours to do. Aditha is about creating and offering services and supports that are individualized, flexible and responsive to this person's changing needs.

#### 1. Select areas that the Project will focus on to get to the Outcome.

##### a. Life skill building

- We will train the patients on attaining normal daily living or life activities and help them set short-term, long-term goals and pathways.
- expanding their social sphere can help them to immerse themselves in normal social life.
- we will also deal with education on Budgeting, Finance and Economics as well as Relationship management
- We will take charge of their self-esteem and confidence building, independent thinking and action

##### b. Income generation

- Assessment of existing skills, experience and aptitude allows them to build their own business with respect to their own talents and specialities.
- Plan to build from there – different pathways
- Existing and potential opportunities – employment, group enterprise, entrepreneurship etc
- Approach to the individual person and individual groups
- Working with employers, associations



## 2. For Implementation

### a. Assessment of needs and planning

Individual level

Group formations

Supported education and employment

Set standards, protocols, procedures, responsibilities – self, group, family, faculty, employers, center,

Entry, exit and transition strategies

Supervision, support and monitoring parameters

### b. Wherewithal needed

Tools, games, techniques, practical steps, guidelines

Training material

Trainers, facilitators, mentors

Operational people, systems

Manuals, ready reckoners

Two volunteers for at least one year to help coordinate and roll out the project

## **Lobby with stakeholders**

### **Work with the groups on UN convention on Disability**

Ms Deepika Nair, Executive Director of Sathi has actively engaged with the lobby and drafting of the UN Convention on of Disability to increase language to address concerns related to mental illness and recovery from it.

### **Consultation in Ashoka hotel**

The consultation organized by Manas and Sathi for Delhi based people took place in May 2007 to discuss the UN convention on disability and the related rights of people with mental illness. Participants were family members and representatives from medical practitioners and other NGOs. Different strategies and approaches to be worked upon on to redefine rights of those troubled with disabling mental illness.

## Future plans

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### **DMI**

Sathi plans to develop DMI based on learning from the women resources advocacy experience. A corporate consultancy firm has agreed to develop a business plan for the Aditha project and we are seeking partnership and participation in activities related with mental health advocacy and action. In this process we reached out to the Common wealth foundation, GTZ health programme and VSO.

### **Women and resource Rights**

The women and resources work has to reach a logical conclusion of establishing a policy and related pilots. Local processes will be followed in four countries, while Sathi will pursue its own feils demonstration in Delhi. Without core funding support needs to be got through event based and consultancies work till Sathi business plan for itself eveolves.

## Events and plans for 2008-2009

### *Local*

#### *Other countries*

- **CWLR campaign Nigeria, Johannesburg, Kathmandu, Islamabad, Dhaka, Bishkek, Kampala, Edinburgh and Vancouver**

### *India*

- **Sathi all for partnership interfaith Journey with Gujarat**
- **Advocacy to Indian national commission for women and national planning commission**
- **IGSSS national consultation and campaign,( January 2009)**
- **Delhi consultation ( 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>) September 2008**
- **Punjab consultation on women and resource rights ( 6 August 2008 )**
- **IGSSS Uttranchal state workshop** with IGSSS partner, Sainio Ka Sangathan got together different networks working on forest rights, Dalit and women groups(22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2008) objective: NGOs from different regions in the state updated themselves on how to strengthen work in the state . CWLR experience was presented to let groups know that work in other states was progressing towards making women resource owners  
*outcome: Groups listed and agenda for themselves*
- **Delhi Sansadhini meetings** with JWP, Nirmana, PWN and Sathi all for partnerships.( 6<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May, 2008)  
objective: Develop demonstration framework for Sansadhini or a resourced

woman pilot in Delhi

*outcome: Six meetings were held with three organizations field workers to explain to them how they could develop their work on women and resource rights that could be presented to NCW*

- **CWLR meeting** with GEAG, IGSSS, GLRF, Sabiha Hussain, Vinay Bhardwaj, Dhivya David, Shivani Bhardwaj, Manmohan Singh, Govind Kelkar, Seema Khot,( 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008)  
objective: To meet members to know update of thematic work
- **Presentation of discussion paper on who has done what on women and Land rights.** The paper authored by Dhivya David and Shivani Bhardwaj was presented to a small group of people at UNIFEM office. UNIFEM was urged to take the issue on beyond its focus on HIV Aids and Property (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008)  
objective: UNIFEM commissioned Sathi all for partnerships to document and present civil societies engagement with the issue  
*outcome: Sathi wrote about different actors work on the issue to understand the gaps. All work indicates that policies and laws need to be turned into land and property grants such that resource base of women across the globe increases in earnest.*
- **Meeting on bettering sex ratio in Punjab** organized by Voluntary health association of Punjab this event got Government, Faith leaders, medical practitioners and NGOs to discuss ways to stop the female infanticide in the state.( 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> April, 2008)  
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. Women from field experience went back with hope to work on the issue and report back in August 2008.*
- **Two-day Workshop to ‘Understand the Steps Taken for Bettering Sex Ratio in the State of Punjab: New Challenges & Tasks Ahead’** organized by Voluntary Health Association of Punjab, Chandigarh with Indo Global Social Service Society, New Delhi at Indira Holiday home, Chandigarh ( 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 )
- **Western regional consultation on women’s right to land and housing** organized by Igsss and Action Aid at YMCA, Pune ( 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

### ***International***

- **FAO meeting Islamabad , Pakistan ( November 2008)**
- **World Urban Forum in Nanjing.( November 2008)**

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