

# SAFP Annual Report 2019-2020

SAFP

Sathi All For Partnerships

Content	Page	
	Executive Summary	
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
Chapter 2	Training vulnerable to lead communities	3
Chapter 3	Consultancy and learning	7
Chapter 4	Awareness and policy impact	11
Chapter 5	SAFP collaborators and people	16



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

Contact: 00 9910536717 email: [safp.sb@gmail.com](mailto:safp.sb@gmail.com) | [www.sathiallforpartnerships.org](http://www.sathiallforpartnerships.org)

[ Sathi All For Partnerships is a registered organization since 2004 that has 80G, FCRA and Darpan Id ]

## Annual Report SAFP 2019-2020

### Chapter 1 Introduction

This year SAFP, its partner organizations and networks were training leaders to develop their organizations by strategic planning. This work was done through mentoring and coordination of processes. Learning took place through research done during consulting assignments that SAFP leaders undertook. The organizations that SAFP worked with were Paryaya, Rashtriya Dalit and Adivasi Mahila Andolan, The National Alliance for Labor Rights and Youth Care Leavers Association.

SAFP secured consulting assignments with Caritas India to develop its safeguarding policy and practice. This work was done by a three member team that conducted one safety and security audit and two trainings as part of the assignment. Towards the end of the year Mittika offered SAFP member training on applied theatre to orient a training methodology for police on being sensitive to Gender based Violence (GBV) cases that were being reported.

The SAFP legacy support programme added support to legacy building for two more women leaders from the field of literature, Dr Krishna Sobti and Ms Santwana Nigam. The work of developing legacy of Ms Rajni Tilak continued this year too.



The research and development portfolio developed further this year and concepts were refined during the year. The SAFP member contributed to youth blogs submissions for web publications this year.

The partnership of SAFP with Indian Aces to define and organize awareness campaign on Asexuality concluded this year. The support from Planet Romeo-Foundation assisted Dr Pragati to take on the work on awareness raising on Asexuality independent from SAFP from the current year.



In December SAFP work made it to the shortlist of the NITI Aayog Women Entrepreneurs award. SAFP made a presentation for the Fourth Edition of the Women Transforming India Awards 2019. The NITI Aayog recognized the 100 women who were shortlisted from over 13000 applicants to be winners. Some of these winners were chosen for further round where venture capitalists would hear the pitch from these entrepreneurs to consider support of around 25 lacs. The recognition of being on first shortlist itself was energizing. On the mental wellness portfolio the clubhouse continued and this activity made community felt supported. SAFP partnered with Bhor Foundation to co organize an event. It approached support organisations for funding and developed work for pilot in Thalasseri in Kerala. This work too has local stakeholders now. In November 2019, work in Kerala too took off as an independent initiative. February and March got the world focus on Covid 19, so did we work on outreach to the vulnerable in March.

## Chapter 2: Training vulnerable to lead their communities

**Field Work to assist conceptualisation :** The first group SAFF worked with this year were Dalit and farmer women. A field trip to Osmanabad showed that women consider that person as a leader who takes their concerns to appropriate authorities for resolution. The women understand that their leaders have to be tolerant and non reactive as a leader has to be deliver justice and develop social, cultural and political leadership besides strengthening the economic base of the people and the land that natures them. Leadership according to the women of rural Osmanabad is to empower the marginalised and not only for self gain. The women are aware that youth are not getting jobs and land does not produce enough to make ends meet. They thus try to set up economic activity to get more resourced. They were clear that they have to reach out to make networks with those who are weaker than them. The orphans and the destitute. They could build alliances with members of the other communities from outside the village through CSR and help from colleges. When outsiders come the entire village does seem to become one. Isolation can be broken with the phone and the technology. People in the cites should reach out to include them.

Sunanda in the photograph has draped the green saree is the Paryaya's community mobilizer for single women and women finance work. Paryaya has been a Consult For Women and Land Rights (CWLR) member since its inception. SAFF has related with Paryaya as a coordinator of CWLR since 2004. Paryaya now works with Makkam a women network of farming women. Women trained by Paryaya have reorganised their basic needs to save and be part of thrift society. Sunanda is an example of a rural woman leader. She was a child bride who experienced desertion but she continued to still meet her married family and look after them as well as her mother. This got her positive return as her brother now offers her land that belonged to their father and the husband is a visiting fellow when he wants a break from his other married family. Sunanda built her financial base herself and says that there is to be no sharing of resources between marital and her own family. With this clarity there is peace and no confusion between feelings of trespass. Her work keeps her busy and travelling far and wide. When SAFF met her in August 2019 in her village in Osmanabad, she had returned from a sharing session with a National single women's network meeting.



SAFF travelled to stay at the Paryaya campus to prepare itself for leadership trainings it conducting during the year. For this it was essential to learn from the leadership on women and land that has carried on its work on its own after CLR was formed a decade ago. The movement for womens right to land has had its own trajectory that will be written in 2020. Focussing on Sunanda, who shared her work by narating that that last year multistate greaving meeting or *Shouk Sabha* was held in Mumbai. The sharing at public events is done developing a constituences understanding. The women were asked to mourn the farmers who committed suicide due to poverty and debt, leaving their widows alone as heads of household. Political party representative heard depositions not just from these widows but from all categories of single women - the never married, the married and deserted, separated, divorced, widowed and those whose partners have gone missing. These singles were more than 7% in the

2011 and in the past some years this number will have only increased as marriage gives more pain than gain, Not many single choose to marry again and they rather fend for themselves. Single or people in relationships supported by their community, are valued as members to contribute to another, by caring, providing opportunities or by earning and spending.

However, to earn or be productive one has to be supported and cared for. To perform care roles people need to be at home or work near home. workplace near home are therefore desirable for the caregivers. Not every one has a home, the homeless and those abandoned by families or institutions like orphan youth at 18 years of age, have unmet dependencies and often require support before they can become contributors within a community. The excluded like the differently abled, dalits and minorities, collectivise or change identities to get included in development process. Arrangements to nurture collective responsibilities to earn and care are different for each age bracket. Different needs require different support services. Communities develop their service networks as decided by their leaders who clarify priorities such that their community is visible entity that contributes to social and environment evolution. SAFP, supported three different constituencies this year to understand the issue of how leadership can be nurtured to suggest collaborations between different groups to cocreate joint and interdependent asks.

### **Mentoring leaders**

Armed with the understanding from the field area such as mentioned above, SAFP organised an All India women' leaders convention called Justice from the margins invited dalit and tribal women leaders from ten states to develop strategies to strengthen themselves and their constituencies. The event was a call from the Rashtriya Dalit and Adivasi Mahila Andolan (RDAMA). It also participated in the Support For Youth Leaving Care (SYLC) group to generate discussion on how leadership would be strengthened among care leavers in India. The ongoing work on mental health that organised support for those affected by illness continued as much as constant interaction among the members of Consult For Women and Land Rights to deepen knowledge base on women resource rights discourse with vulnerable women.

### **Leadership of vulnerable women**

From April 2019 intensive work was carried out to get together different networks to nominate women and young girls to consider training opportunity to develop as leaders. SAFP planned a women leaders summit in 2019. Different avenues were explored to revive RDAMA with NACDOR, NALR, SAFP and ISI. These agencies invested their own resources with only a small part of the expenses supported by Water Aid. The event report on the SAFP website mentions clearly that it was an attempt to carry forward the leadership created by RDAMA founder member Rajni Tilaks legacy. Members of RDAMA spent three days to plan to agree on solutions for addressing Dalit Women Resource Gap. Thus through this sixth National RDAMA convention held on 13-14 September 2019, at Gandhi Peace Foundation in Delhi, an executive committee was nominated to carry forward what their leader Rajni Tilak had envisioned that many leaders train themselves to

be social entrepreneurs. Existing RDMA members gave a call to other members strengthen its membership and leadership to become like Rajni Tilak.

### Setting up the National Aftercare Leadership

Rehabilitative services for children who grow up in child care institutions (CCI) or orphanage are required as at the age of 18, these ‘youth leaving care’ (YLC) of their CCI, lack functional efficiencies, education, technical skills and stable health to live independently. YLC support when they age out of care are sporadic as Government functionaries, philanthropists, civil society and NGOs are not able to focus on the welfare of those who complete their term in the CCIs. The rights of youth who grew up under the State’s protection and care were articulated in terms of continued wardship of the State by SAFF. The existing legal basis of aftercare entitles YLC both financial and non-financial support for their settlement should be comprehensively detailed. Since the YLC themselves are not organised, they do not have an agency to focus on asks from their corporate parent that is the State. SAFF through the year focused on a process to organise the YLC. While associating with Mr Aditya Yatri, a care leaver scholar at Tata Institute of Social sciences SAFF learnt through out the year. It was able to draft a vision document for aftercare work due to this association. The association focussed on providing advice to set up an autonomous national platform of Youth Leaving care. Mr Yatri announced the establishment of YCLA in December 2019 and referred to the vision paper drafted by SAFF which can be downloaded from the SAFF web site. Mr Yatri has worked largely on his own guided by the struggles of the care leavers he is in contact with.



**Leadership of women and youth in WASH :** was organised for consulting key vulnerable populations and engaging all segments of society to support ODF+ LNOB goal from 2020 onwards. SAFF supported FANSA in collaboration with WSSCC, by training a team of 22 youth and women leaders to participate in this summit that took place in Rishikesh, 16-18 December 2019. The report from the women group is available on the SAFF web site to review recommendations that emerged from the discussions on one of the groups during the summit. This summit was a unique experience for SAFF youth team led by SAFF. As seen in the photograph SAFF got together youth leaders from eight states for the summit. The young leaders voiced their concern on their voice that as heard last. Even as they spoke they registered their recommendations represented by Ms Isha Shandailya who was the youth coordinator for the summit from SAFF. She asked why all the VIPs were allowed to take more time and why youth who were heard last got less time. The people on the dais informed that it as an unplanned unfortunate truth that the youth did speak towards the end and assured that the next time they were to organise such events the young people’s concerns will be taken on a priority and not related towards being the last. Rakhe and Ravi Rabbo led a team of women for this summit on behalf of SAFF.

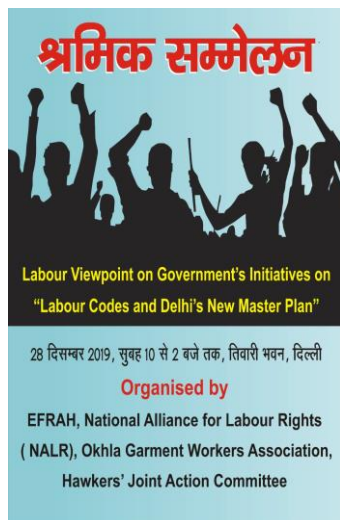


## Work with Youth

SAFP representative Mr Imran Khan Husseini was invited to attend a number of events in Delhi this year. He provided input in the civil society preparatory meeting for the HPLF in 9 June 2019 organised by the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan at the India International Centre in Delhi. He mobilised youth participation for another meeting on environment consciousness to support SDG attainment at Visha Yuak kendra on 20 June 2019. Mr Imran Khan has contributed by writing in the vernacular by interacting with youth participants for youth centred meetings on behalf of marginalised youth. The Divya Youth Manch invited Imran to lead group discussion at the International summit for the youth organised in July 2019. At the American centre Imran contributed to the post Article 377 times discourse. His writing got published in the hindi feminism blog where he wrote about women visibility in the labor and work market. This invisibility makes labor of women go unrecorded and thus female participation in workforce in India is reported as declining. This contribution of Imran got attention of others who have requested him to write in Hindi for their blogs like youth ki aawaz. He also contributed to developing content for the Feminism wikipedia in Hindi.

IGSSS invited SAFP to write a strategy paper on youth work in India. This was a result of a meeting organised to celebrate 60 years of its functioning.

**Work with the unorganised sector workers** A continuous dialogue was carried out through the year with workers.



Different meetings were organised by members of National Alliance for Labor during the first week of May. Specifically, the two mandatory annual programmes on May 1 and on the birth and death anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh were held this year too. **Shramik Sansad** or Workers Parliament 2019 was organised to mark the 112<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh. The event took place at Indian Social Institute where workers were updated on the impact of the changes being made in labor laws through codification. The meeting concluded with a visit to the Firozshah Kotla maidan to garland the statue of the youth leader along with his comrades.

platforms. On 28 December 2019 another programme was organised to discuss the workers input to the Delhi master plan. The recommendations from most of the meetings were formally shared with the central labor ministry representatives.

When Covid 19 threw many workers in crisis and most of them were fleeing from destination areas to their source areas. SAFP contributed by linking relief and essential services to the migrant workers along some migration routes. The Yamuna khaddar housed some agricultural workers that were included in the services and food

provisioning as they stay near the SAFP office. Mr Imran Hussaini represented SAFP in the relief work for migrant workers. He also worked

for senior citizens during MARCH 2020.

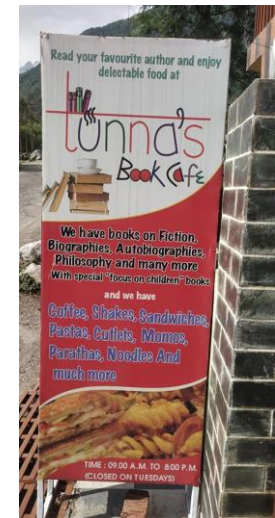
### Chapter 3 SAFF Consulting and Learning

#### Work with women and enterprises in India



Women Enterprise Connect India (WECI) was conceived this year by SAFF to promote the resource increase agenda for women. This activity comprised of outreach to both educated and non-educated women who have been running their own businesses. Proposals were discussed to highlight their work and raise demand collectively to develop women resource zones in each neighborhood. Ms Rakhi Gupta worked with a group of small scale entrepreneurs who had set up service agencies to provide home care workers and domestic cleaning service. Ms Akta Sehghal invited SAFF members along with others to a session at Russian cultural centre where an informative session on women and financial planning was undertaken. This programme was first among many other awareness seminars and webinars organized by a team of young women who work with Akta to form the Global Women Entrepreneurs Cliques. Similarly, Ms Sonya Tyle another SAFF associate from Club House group

invited SAFF to develop core programmatic interventions to economically empower the poor by increasing their access to the cash transfers made available through existing government programmes and schemes. This group initially called themselves Women and Wealth (WOW). This English name was replaced in favor of the name Sathi to make it understood to the those who did not follow English. The WOW team researched on different schemes that each vulnerable was entitled and narrowed on a list of schemes that members could have tracked as availed by the vulnerable section of society. A base line survey needed to be undertaken to understand who would be the vulnerable and who should WOW/Sathi empower financially. Towards this end SAFF shared a questionnaire with the WOW team. This questionnaire was developed by a professional team under the banner of Awara Guftar.



Team Awara Guftar was set up with SAFF association to germinate enterprise ideas in 2018. It has organized budget travel and tours for development professionals ever since. These tours are undertaken to explore new places and review business proposals among its members. One of the members shared the business of setting up food vans and renting it out as a mode of income generation for a woman led group. Other members have long term plans to set up natural farming marketing network. One such network called RMVS incubated marketing plan for tetra pack juice in East Delhi. Another women and land network planned that land should be brought at market rate to begin farming. This was done in Lucknow by two women entrepreneurs. The Awara Guftar members travelled to understand the model of Book Café set up by Ms Swati Kundra in Dharamshala in Himachal. This book café has successfully enrolled students and remote

workers to regular foot fall. Local youth have been trained to carry of work as usual and Ms Swati Kundra is ready to replicate this enterprize in different places. Women entrepreneurs in different states were encouraged to replicate this model.

## **SAFP Consultancies**

Girl First Fund had given a global call for proposals on ending girl child marriage. The response to this call was over whelming. Consultants were hired in different regions in the world to select the proposals for consideration of support. Dr. Shivani Bhardwaj as hired by Geneva Global Inc as a proposal reviewer for proposals that were submitted by Nepal and Uganda. The terms of reference of the work was to reduce child marriage through a set of selected intervention matrix. The work started with a training that was provided by Geneva Global inc. The task for SAFP was to select proposals with a team of seven consultants operating from different countries.

SAFP team consisting of Ms Rita Upadhyaya and Ms Pranjali Malhotra assisted Dr Bhardwaj for training purposes in this assignment as this was a time bound short-term work that was completed in April. The selection as based a very well laid out selection criteria that had a digital platform to submit work.



The second consultancy SAFP undertook was with Caritas India. Ms Deepika Nair and Dr Bhardwaj worked on this consultancy together where Ms Nair provided the content for the safeguarding policy and practice for this client. This assignment involved work from June to December 2019 which included three training events. Mr Amod Khanna was enrolled as the SAFP resource person for an Orientation and a training session in Delhi. The policy of safeguarding was field tested through a training programme of staff and Caritas partners that was held at Baripda in November 2019. Caritas India Safeguarding Policy and practice guide developed by SAFP has a training module that can be applied to other organizations as well. This was a pathbreaking work for our organization as we were able to offer perspectives for safeguarding both adult and children who could face vulnerable

situations from the exposure to an institution intervention. Based on this learning SAFP drafted its own safeguarding manual which can be referred to on the its website.

The third consultancy offered involved sensitizing police officers in Bihar on Gender Based Violence. This work was commissioned to an NGO called Mittika that trained SAFP representative on applied theatre techniques in February along with other professional trainers. This was a unique experience to brush up training skills that were to be applied in a sequel assignment with Mittika. This assignment was the work of IFMR lead which had invested itself on analysis of a study conducted on the Gender based Violence of response of Bihar police. The research found that the police did not support the victim as they are themselves from a culture rooted in patriarchy and feudalism. A training module was designed for attention of Mittika trainers such that a training framework on GBV could be discussed. SAFP was requested to suggest Bihar based trainers for an assignment to conduct training of police offers in five different locations. Two trainers



suggested by SAFF were take on for the assignment. This assignment however could not commence to conducting the actual training due to the Pandemic.

### **Seminar on international widows' day**

Ms Pranjali Malhotra represented SAFF along with Ms Rakhi Gupta to present the findings of research conducted on the status of middle age women. The course of the research had a good number of separated and widowed women. She had a very meaningful dialogue with different forum representatives. In particular her meeting with Ms Meera Khanna of Guild of services focused on practical difficulties widows shared in the course of SAFF and Jamia Research. The guild of service observe June 23 every year as the international widow's day with the UN women. This year the Guild of service formulated a specific programme around the Supreme Court judgement for women in distress. The challenges in its implementation were discussed at a National meeting organised by Ms Pranjali Malhotra and Rakhee Gupta where the issue was highlighted to get a response from the ministry and the NCW. Guild of service had further taken upon reviewing the recommendations made as they expressed their plan to prepare a white paper for it. Minister of WCD was been invited to chair the session while representatives from various ministries like health, social justice, skill development and panchayati raj were to respond on the progress made on the recommendations Supreme Court made on the welfare of all omen in distress. A sequel event which was a round-table consultation was held on Monday 24th June at UN women office. Ms Malhotra lobbied for Sathi all for partnerships to be given time and presence in this meeting as SAFF had hosted the previous review to understand status of compliance on Supreme Court representation. Ms Malhotra was able to recall the recommendations such that government accountability could be understood better. Along with her Rakhee and Onkar Mittal did speak about their field experiences in Delhi, as well as in Vrindavan.

### **Seminar on declining Women Participation in Force in India. The executive director of SAFF Ms Deepika Nair and Imran Khan represented SAFF at this seminar organized at Eros Hotel Delhi.**

SAFF was invited by breakthrough to hear esteemed panel discuss the serious concern on the declining Female Labor Force Participation (FLFP) in India on sequel meetings. The invitation was given to leading stakeholders and SAFF was invited to the event as we had organized the consultation on proposing solutions to the impasse. The event that was organized by SAFF has invited women workers leaders and trade union organizers. The information from the field was thus captured by the consultation that preceded this one. In the build up to the consultation different stakeholders had agreed that this issue is a major concern and that this shall be a worthy of further work. SAFF representative had a important information to contribute however the organizers had invited too many resource people and panelist. Thus the voices from the ground went unheard between the legal, academic and the theoretical discourse.

## Chapter 4 Awareness and Policy Impact

**Advocacy for Domestic Workers :** SAFF represented workers movement organized by the NGO Nirmana to advocate for the rights of domestic workers at an official event. Organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). This event was a Regional Conference on ‘Human Rights of Domestic Workers: Issues and Challenges’ which was organized in collaboration with ILS Law College, on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in Pune. Through this Conference, the Commission aimed to mainstream domestic workers and their right to decent work. The Conference was held under the chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Mulay, Hon’ble Member, NHRC. It was also attended by Shri Jaideep Govind, Secretary General NHRC, Ms. Soso Shaiza, Hon’ble Member, National Commission for Women, Ms. Vaijayanti Joshi, Principal, ILS Law College, Pune. The Regional Conference covered nine States from the Western and Southern Regions of India which are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It was attended by representatives from the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment and representatives from the State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC), Labour Departments of the State Governments, Domestic Workers’ Unions, Academicians, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and domestic workers from the said regions. Faculty members and students of ILS Law College, Pune were also in attendance. The Draft National Policy for Domestic Workers, has not been finalized but has been discussed since the year 2000 in India. The Unorganized Social Security Act, 2008 identifies domestic workers as wage workers under Section 2(n). This enables them to avail various social security schemes run by the Centre and the State. Through this participation SAFF understood that the government had not considered the recommendations that had been submitted by the trade unions of domestic workers and unorganized sector workers.



**Understanding Aftercare-** A talk by Aditya Yatri at National Office of SOS Children’s Villages of India on Dec 16 2019 was held on the invitation of the Country Director of India SOS. Aditya presented to his parent organisation SOS, insight based on his doctoral research. He offered solutions to strengthen care and aftercare work for children who are abandoned and in orphanages in India. It was the first time that such a presentation was organised for SOS formally, and this is a welcome initiative that parent organisation is learning from their beneficiary child. Aditya shared that institutionalised children grow up as abandoned youth who don't belong anywhere. The institution that support them can shelter more vulnerable children who as young adults of 18 need to fend for themselves often sans an identity and a community network. Aditya is a member of the



Support for Youth Leaving Care or SYLC and is leading the Youth Care Leavers Association (YCLA - pronounced as ekla or alone.) For the past year Aditya is trying to raise resources to get together orphans to agree to an action agenda and get input from SYLC members on how to develop and strengthen the YCLA. The other SYLC members however have not been able to raise resources for this meeting. They get to involve care leavers like him to know more information. The CCI need to develop their institutional resources for younger children. The business of settling each abandoned child has not picked up as yet. The YCLA inception conference was to take place in April 2020. This was done virtually in March end.



**Meeting with Shivi Development on Security and women on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 :** Shivi Development society has organized annual event on women and security. Last year one such event was organized and the quorum had set up India forum for Violence against women. Ever since there was no follow up and this second meeting was organized to take stock of what transpired as action with the members of the forum. Each member refreshed their understanding of the optional protocol as well as UN CEDAW provisions and shared that there is high level of insecurity felt not just among women but also people of all sexual orientation. At the plenary suggestion were discussed between the members to increase security through self-protection and preservation. It was discussed that given the situation the framework of local area development.

### **Developing Legacy For Women Leaders**

For the past two years SAFFP has advocated for developing legacy of women leaders of India. The development of the legacy of Rajni Tilaks work as concluded this year after work on it for a period of two years. Two writer namely Dr Krisna Sobti and Ms Santwana Nigam were the focus of this year. Sobti Ji was a much decorated writer acclaimed for her vision of Hindi as a language of the people rather than academia or the puritans. Hindustani according to her genre of writing is to be preserved in a way it was spoken and widely used in the subcontinent. She wanted her own home to be used as a writers hub but her will has been disregarded. The Raza foundation is now to execute her will and SAFFP will support her legacy by writing about her stature and vision for the next year too such that her last wish is realized. Ms Santwana Nigam eminent writer and as a feminist contributed to the world of Indian theatre through her playwrights and translations. The legacy of her work was written in her own life time by her in her autobiography. Just before her passing away her family launched the book for private distribution and thereafter two meetings were organized by SAFFP to read from her book to celebrate her. Both these writers were pathbreakers in their own ways. Her theatre group Abhiyan produced a play based on four of her short stories.

**Continued work on advocacy for Vrindavan Widows :** The follow up with widows of Vrindavan on the challenges of implementation and monitoring of the order of the Supreme Court dated 11 August 2017 was carried on by Ms Rakhee Gupta who made six visits to the city during the year. The PIL related to Vrindavan widows and the report of the six-member committee constituted by the Supreme Court

submitted on 30th November 2017 has resulted in the recognition of this work as a living legacy for Ms Rakhee Guptas work. Honorable Supreme Court requesting the Ministry of Women and Child for action for all 'Women- in- Distress' such that they can turn towards for empowering themselves by developing their own resource base and social network. The gender resource inequality since independence calls for reparation. SAFP has been advocating a convergence programme for women to be implemented by the MoWCD and other Government Ministries. The visits to Vrindavan reported that the situation has not improved. To advocate for the rights of the women in distress SAFP continued to meet with implementation agencies of Swadhar greha policy and programmes to develop their system of demands in an organised manner. SAFP representatives invest brainstorming time with Rakee Gupta to keep her motivated to continue work with the widows of Vrindavan. The latest reports from the field was that during the Carona Pandemic the 1000 bed facility inaugurated by MWCD for widows in Vridavan has been converted into a Covid facility. The pandemic has set up different kinds of new barriers to get welfare to reach this vulnerable people. Ms Vanadana Mahajhan represented SAFP at a meeting organized by Red Dot on March 5 at the American centre on women security and planned spaces. This theme is linked with our efforts to develop the discourse on women and infrastrural design and its access.

## Aces in India



Dr. Pragati Singh, Founder, Indian Aces

This year Dr Pragati Singh had the honor of receiving the Anjali Gopalan Srishti Award for Social Justice yesterday, from none other than the revered Ms. Anjali Gopalan, founder of [The Naz Foundation India Trust](#), that initiated the PIL against and continued to fight section 377, starting 2001, finally leading to its scrapping in 2018, and Justice G. R. Swaminathan of the Madras High Court, who earlier this year, issued a decree to ban non-necessary surgical (cosmetic) interventions on intersex children in the state of Tamil Nadu. SAFP had supported Dr Pragati Singh of Indian Aces to set up a project called Aces Going Places last year and by 2019 this became an independent group as Dr. Pragati travelled to many cities across India with the support from PlanetRomeo Foundation as well as other organisations. The workshops in Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Goa, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal, Kolkata, Chandigarh, and Lucknow got an aware constituency together through these workshops on gender and asexuality. Dr Pragati Singh for over 6 years has become a recognised name

and she featured on mainstream media to express her placing asexuality perspectives on the BBC where she shared platform with 100 other eminent women achievers across the globe. Pragati Singh ho would rather be known as an @practivist was one of the 14 speakers at the BBC to share thoughts at the conference called the female future. She delivered an interactive session titled 'Beyond Sex: The Future Of Love, Intimacy, And Relationships' which was received rather well by the audience. The Royal family on Sweden met with Dr Pragati Singh on a luncheon get together when they were in Delhi this year. The Indian aces programme has taken off independently since the beginning of this work year.

Lucknow's  
FIRST & LAST  
**Gender, Sexuality  
& Asexuality fest**

with Dr. Pragati Singh

**28** LGBTQIA++ CRASHCOURSE  
3:00 PM-5:00 PM

**28** PLATONICITY MEETUP  
6:30 PM-8:00 PM

**29** A/SEXUALITY 101 WORKSHOP  
10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Organised by: PlanetRomeo Foundation, Indian Aces

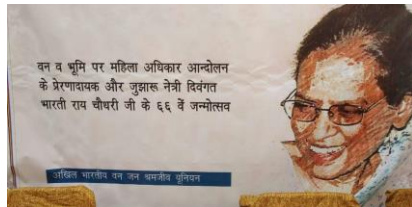
Hosted at: ANM NLU

Details and sign-up at [www.IndianAces.org](http://www.IndianAces.org). For Queries: [IndianAcesFTW@gmail.com](mailto:IndianAcesFTW@gmail.com). Contact person: Ahmed 9984652277

Dr Pragati has completed more than the events she had planned with the assistance of PlanetRomeo as she was able to conduct sessions on an invitational basis. She has been regularly recording and posting podcasts and uploading interviews. In one of her videos she very confidently advocated that it needs only one person to initiate and start a movement. There is no need to look for support those who want to stop and hear they will and the movement will grow. The work of Dr Pragati has been truly inspirational and energising for many including SAFF. She is a woman leader who has worked on her legacy in her own life time.

### Tribute to Bharti Roy Chaudhary and forest workers

The All India Union of Forest Working People (AIUFWP) organized a community women leaders meet on 1-3 November 2019, on the occasion of 66th birth anniversary of the women activist Bharati Roy Chowdhury at its Women Empowerment Centre, Village Nagalmafi, Saharanpur. SAFF



representative attended this meeting to update itself on how women are currently working on land, water and forest issues in relation to the Constitution of India such that solidarities are strengthened to understand strategies for follow up. Around 60 women, mostly young women activists, participated in this three day programme from the forest regions in the country. AIUFWP with its sister organization Vikalp Social Organization, in Saharanpur, UP, initiated in 1982, is working extensively on women empowerment, development of women leadership from marginalized sections of dalits, adivasi, minorities and from other subaltern groups, especially in forested region. The association with Bharti Chaudhary as an initiator of land struggle of women in UP for SAFF founder has led the focus of SAFF to work on resource rights, thus this tribute had a great significance. Attending this summit also connected SAFF to women leaders who shared their wins and learning that also had been documented.

### The Training On Social Role Valorization



The Key stone foundation India invited SAFF to a four day intense input on Social Role Valorisation or SRV. This input had a tremendous impact on the two SAFF representatives Ms Deepika Nair and Dr S Bhardwaj. Prior to this training Mr Vijay Rajkumar and Deepika Nair had conducted indepth planning to carry forward work on mental health in Kerala and Gurgaon through independent alliance with local groups in the state of Kerala. The reason behind this is that the culture and language along with the distance from Delhi proves to be more of a deterrent for collaboration. The learning from the training on SRV was that each intervention needs to be very person centred and focused. The benefit from this input was that SAFF got linked to the SRV forum



through this training event. It can now participate in the different surveys and dialogues that take place every day on a what's app group. The members of the Indian SRV group are largely focused on parents carers and services for people who live with autism.

The Hans foundation and the National Trust had supported the training as Key stone India foundation has done extensive advocacy and partnership with developing policy and practice with them. The scope of work to deepen mental health intervention in Kerala or to apply SRV to women development work is very clear to SAFF people who are trained with Key Stone Foundation. Detailed proposal frame works were presented and emailed to the Key stone between December and January. There was a possibility that Keystone could have developed a context of work in Uttarakhand along with Hans Foundation. Towards the same proposition Dr Bhardwaj drafted specific proposals to work with existing SRV trained people within the state. However, after the initial discussion the government did not respond to the development of WRZ in the district Dehradun as proposed by SAFF.

**Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) Government of India** The NITI Aayog shortlisted Dr Bhardwaj of SAFF in its fourth round of the Women Entrepreneurship Award in Jan 2020. 130 participants were chosen from among 1300 applicants who have now been provided access to training resources and mentorship from this platform to develop as social entrepreneurs. These shortlisted candidates were invited for a networking event at NITI Aayog where each gave their introduction and shared aspirations. SAFF representative asked how many of these women owned property or had access to their own workplace. Of the 130 women, there were only 11 who has some asset base. On being interviewed by the NITI Aayog panel SAFF shared the aspiration to develop the woman resource zone in Dehradun district. The panel was looking for short term enterprise that could be supported as a market product. The woman resource zone idea again would have required much more support than the government as willing to allocate at that juncture.



Ever since SAFF has presented the proposal to government of Uttarakhand through Key Stone. This work agenda shall remain work in progress till it can be fully realized. SAFF is not on the mailers list of the WEP platform. It gets updates of opportunities and services.

### *Club House*

Clubhouse was successful in cutting across various age groups this year. This year its members have organised meetings on their own. Over the course of last year, the clubhouse has been consistent in its membership. No new member was added but old membership planned outdoor and indoor activities. These members have to further extend invitations to newer locations in NCR to increase the membership of their wellness activity. They need to reach to Psychiatrist and neurologists who could refer families to clubhouse activity. The Bhor foundation and SAFP Collaborated this year to hold listen in circles too. On December 11, 2019 the first collaborative meeting took place at the serene environs of the Agha Khan renovated Sundar Nursery. Subsequent meeting calls were shared by both the organizations. Ms Deepa Sahdev contributed to a Club house meeting organized at Ms Poorbi Menons home. She invited a motivational speakers to explain NLP to the club house members. Ms Pranjali Malhotra on her own initiate contacted fountain house USA to request for support toward this activity. A research concept note as developed to look at services currently availed by people struggling with mental health.

### *Faculty and Student Development Programme January 8 2020 Kalindi College*

The faculty of the Kalindi College of Delhi university and SAFP have a link through a CWLR member. The faculty invited SAFP Founder to deliver a presentation on its work with a view to open up internship opportunities for the students. Learning from this such information was shared with SAFP partners and constituents as such an opportunity is linked with SAFP vision and its realization.

### **Planning Ahead**

The year ahead will carry forward activities on safeguarding vulnerable communities that SAFP was able to reach out in this year. Research on youth and development is planned to develop strategies for youth work, to capture work done through the year.

## Chapter 5 SAFP Collaborators and people

### **SAFP Board of Trustees 2019-2020**

President : Dr Vinay Bhardwaj  
Program Director : Ms Sharmila Mahajhan  
Founder : Dr Shivani Bhardwaj  
Trustee : Ms Manu Tyagi Bajjwan

### **SAFP Team**

Executive Director: Ms. Deepika Nair ( until 2019 November)  
Ms. Pranjali Malhotra Director Projects SAFP India  
Ms. Sunita Gupta Kotnala Advisor SAFP Australia

### **SAFP Associates**

Dr. Sudeshna Roy – Research Associate  
Dr. Pragati Singh -Aces Going Places Project  
Mr Imran Khan – SAFP Youth and Child Rights Collective  
Mr Aditya Yatri – Youth Care Leavers Association  
Mr Ravi Rabbo – Program Associate Mari  
Ms Isha Shandaliya – Program Associate Mari  
Ms Shefali – Senior Care Associate

**Collaboration with Partners:** Planet Romeo Foundation, Jal Sansthan, Nirmana, Indian Aces, MARI, RDAMA, NACDOR, NALR, ISI and FANSA