



CROSSING BARRIERS BREAKING DIVIDES

making Delhi a safer place for youth



CROSSING BARRIERS, BREAKING DIVIDES

MAKING DELHI A SAFER PLACE FOR YOUTH IN A
RESETTLEMENT COLONY: Madanpur Khadar, Delhi

Acknowledgements

JAGORI gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

UN Habitat

Cecilia Andersson and Pasquale Capizzi for their support and technical assistance.

.....
Suneeta Dhar, Kalpana Viswanath, Madhu Bala and Surabhi Tandon Mehrotra for their vision and work on the project. Sunita and Hirawati for mobilizing the youth and all Jagorians for their support to the project, especially in organizing events.

JAGORI

Jaya Shrivastava for her support.

Youth team of Madanpur Khadar, especially, Rama, Geeta, Lalita, Asha, Savitri, Ritu, Radha, Anita, Neelam, Rahul, Amit, Vinod, Raj, Omprakash, Niraj and Virender for their proactive participation.

Madhavi Menon for support in organizing events.

One World South Asia

.....
Geetha Bharadwaj, Mahipal Rawat, Sanjay Kumar and Satish for partnering on the communications and training strategy.

Feizal Alkazi, Vishwakant, Manish and Mahender Pal for their expert inputs on theatre, movement and poster making,

Government

.....
Dr. S D Singh, Delhi Parks and Garden Society; Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

NGOs working on youth issues

.....
Prayas, PHD Family Welfare Foundation, ASRA, Social Action Foundation, Green Force, Goonj, Nirantar, Sahara, Tehelka Foundation, Muskaan, Action India, Nacdor, Haq, Pravah, Wada Na Todo Abhiyaan, Breakthrough, Vacha. NGOs working within Khadar: Mobile Creches, Casplan, Sahyog, Deepalaya, Aurobindo Memorial Foundation, Itasha, Agrabami. Resident groups in Khadar: Residents Welfare Association; New Ekta Samiti.

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CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Madanpur Khadar and the Community

Madanpur Khadar JJ¹ Colony is home to 15,000 families relocated from slums around South Delhi² in year 2000. It is near the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border. The community residents largely work as cleaners, sweepers, office helpers and labourers. As a consequence of displacement, many of them lost their jobs resulting in livelihood options becoming a great challenge. Close to a decade later, the community still faces challenges in accessing civic amenities such as clean water, sanitation, garbage disposal and adequate street lighting. Transportation is a key concern as there are no government bus services; women and girls complain of harassment in private buses. Residents in Phase III say toilets are grossly inadequate with only three of the seven public toilets functional³.

Large numbers of women work as domestic workers and in other informal work. Men are engaged in diverse informal sectors including as wage labourers. Until recently, the school within Khadar in Phase I was only upto Class 8. The first batch for Class 9 has been enrolled this year. For higher classes, the closest school is over an hour's walk away in neighbouring Sarita Vihar. Thus, there are concerns about higher drop-out rates among girls as parents don't feel safe sending daughters that far. Girls also face familial pressures for early marriages⁴.

Parents as well as young people are concerned about issues of crime: petty thefts, neighbourhood fights, drug abuse, domestic violence etc. Girls experience sexual harassment and feel safe only if escorted at all times, even to go to the toilet⁵.

1. Jhuggi Jhopdi – low income group authorised colony

2. Nehru Place, Raj Nagar, East of Kailash, Alaknanda, Hanuman Camp, VP Singh Colony

3. Field notes, safety audits, 2009

4. Observation by JAGORI staff; testimonies by girls who seek counseling at JAGORI, March 2009

5. Baseline undertaken by JAGORI, March 2009

JAGORI's Work In The Community:

Established in 1984, JAGORI – a women's documentation, training and communication centre – has its roots in the women's movement. It is one of the few women's organisations of India known for its strong feminist philosophy and practice and consistent quality work for over 25 years. It is credited with creating and consolidating feminist space and use of innovative protest forms. This fact is well echoed even by organisations and networks other than those working on women's issues. Further, JAGORI is expected to provide leadership and continue its role in movement building⁶. Over the past 25 years, it has led campaigns on issues such as domestic violence, dowry, rape, sati, personal laws, sexual harassment, rights of single women, reproductive health rights. JAGORI has successfully articulated the continuum of violence that women face, whether in their individual homes, in the public spaces that they inhabit as workers / citizens or when they are uprooted from their homes by the urban planning processes. Ending violence and addressing women's safety have thus been core areas of JAGORI's work.

JAGORI began working with the community in Madanpur Khadar in Phase III in 2005, primarily among women and adolescent girls. Gradually, it expanded its scope of work to youth – girls and boys – addressing issues of ending violence, and empowering them through information on gender, rights and sexuality. The enthusiasm of the youth led to a pilot initiative on Youth and Safety in early 2009 supported by UN Habitat with the aim to raise consciousness about various dimensions of safety faced by young people. The project would create a platform for youth to voice concerns and seek accountability from all stakeholders.

Campaign On Safe Delhi: 2005

JAGORI's core message over the years has been to ensure that 'women and girls in Delhi live a life free from violence and fear of violence'. The cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore together account for more than one-third of all crimes reported in Indian cities having a population of over a million people⁷. Delhi, the national capital, experiences violent crimes, including murder, rape, dowry death, molestation, kidnapping

6. JAGORI: external strategic review report, July 2009

7. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Annual report—Crime in India: 2006.



and abduction⁸. According to the latest statistics by National Commission for Women (NCW), of the total 2,000 complaints of crimes against women received till mid-December 2008, 535 were of rape, 338 of molestation and eve teasing, 361 cases were related to gender and caste based discrimination and 21 for attempt to rape among others⁹.

The defining characteristic of violence against women and girls is that it is deeply entrenched in the everyday life of women and girls and normalized as part of regular life. Violence and fear of violence reduces women's and girl's access to mobility, safety within their homes and the public spaces, as well violates their right to bodily integrity and access to their fundamental

freedoms. In 2005, a Public Perception Survey of 14,000 households undertaken in preparation of the Delhi Human Development Report 2006 showed that half the respondents felt the city is not safe for women and that nearly 90 per cent felt that public transport is not safe for women commuters. According to the Report, Delhi leads the four metropolitan cities of India in crimes against women: For every 1,00,000 persons, there are 14 crimes against women in Delhi. In Chennai, it is 7, and in Mumbai and Kolkata, it is 4.

In 2006, JAGORI addressed the pervasive violation of women's rights, specifically in the public arena. It undertook a survey among 500 girls and women and found that over 90% said they had faced sexual harassment in public spaces¹⁰. Select public spaces in Delhi that were considered unsafe for women and girls were identified using the safety audit research methodology. The audits focused on the built spaces, infrastructure (lighting, trees, pavements, parks etc), locations of police stations and relevant public facilities, including

8. The report also notes the disturbing trend of young people taking to crime in a big way. It shows that 44.6% of the total arrested criminals during 2006 belonged to the 18-30 year age group. In 2005, the figure was 44% and the trend was uniformly high across the 35 big cities under survey. The figures for the previous year show that Delhi is unsafe for women too. It has the highest rate of crime against women, 27.6 per lakh population, which is twice the national average of 14.2. Delhi accounted for 37 percent kidnapping and abduction cases, 33 percent rape cases, 23 percent molestation cases and 19 percent dowry deaths, the highest for any metro city.

9. <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/crime-against-women-on-rise-in-delhi-ncw/405037/>

10. *Is this My City? Women's Safety in Public Places in Delhi*, JAGORI, New Delhi, 2007

spaces that were exclusively seen to be male-dominated as well as those that were more accessible to women and girls in the community¹¹. The findings of the study were showcased in the Delhi HDR 2007 which highlighted safety as a critical concern. Further details are available on JAGORI website: www.jagori.org

In response to this concern, JAGORI's Safe Delhi Campaign targeted different sets of people in the city to take responsibility to address the issue of safety for women and other vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the disabled in public spaces. Activities included media campaigns, public outreach, awareness sessions with young women and men across different settings and classes, and sensitizing the

service delivery system including the police and transport authorities. The Safe Delhi Campaign has sought to highlight the issue of everyday sexual harassment in public spaces, and especially, that solutions to lack of safety and security must put the burden on different sets of actors who use and are responsible for the space.

Based on the study and campaign, JAGORI has scaled up its interventions which also include reaching out to the youth in the two resettlement communities in Delhi that it works in. One of these is Madanpur Khadar Phase III, with a population of 2,300¹² households.

11. The findings of the safety audits have been published in JAGORI, *Is This My City*

12. 2355, JAGORI field report 2009; The second area is Bawana, north-west Delhi, which homes people relocated from the banks of the river Yamuna

WHAT MAKES DELHI UNSAFE FOR WOMEN?

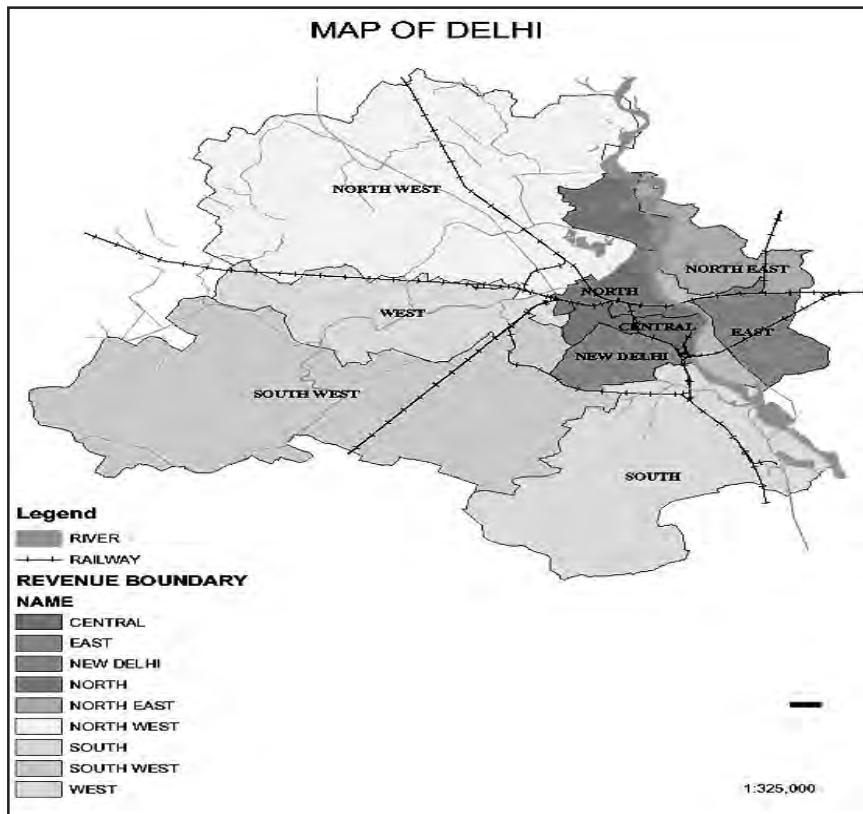
Many non-governmental organizations have been addressing the issue of women's safety in Delhi. Their work has become more intensive in recent years, given the escalation in crime against women. JAGORI, for instance, a Delhi-based women's resource centre working for over two decades on issues of women's rights with a particular focus on violence against women, has been conducting participatory 'safety audits' of various areas in Delhi, including residential areas, shopping centres, government buildings, educational institutions, and cinema complexes. The audits are a means to identify 'unsafe' factors in the area, as well as to sensitize participants (who include members of the local community and clients/users of services) to the issue of women's safety. Some of the following factors have been identified as constituting a risk or creating a feeling of vulnerability for women.

- Poor lighting. Back lanes of markets and service lanes in residential colonies are badly lit and often obstructed with rubbish or debris. Underpasses and subways on main roads have non-functional lights. Parks within residential colonies seldom have any provision for lighting.
- Poor signage. Road signs and house numbers are either missing or unreadable. Helpline numbers are not clearly displayed in public buildings. Signboards bearing the names and contacts of elected representatives do not have addresses and emergency contact numbers.
- Poor infrastructure. Women's toilets few in number, dirty and ill-lit if free. Public phone booths are few, especially in affluent colonies. Private phone lines do not permit calls to toll-free helpline numbers. Bus stands are dilapidated, and the area behind them is a de facto urinal for men.
- Deserted and derelict spaces. Few women are visible in public spaces after dark, unless accompanied by a man. Most public parks are deserted after dark. Vacant plots obscured with debris and building materials are scattered across residential areas. In affluent colonies, houses are hidden behind high walls and no people are visible in the lanes.
- Macho behaviour. Verbal and physical aggression from police, car and bus drivers, bus conductors, parking attendants, and people on the streets is a visible feature of public spaces. Sexually coloured and abusive language, provocative remarks and physical harassment are a constant element.

(SOURCE: DELHI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2006)

1. Map of Delhi (Source Delhi HDR)
2. Map of South Delhi indicating Khadar (source Google maps)

1. Map of Delhi



2. Map of South Delhi indicating Khadar



CHAPTER 2: GOALS, STRATEGIES AND METHODOLOGY

Project Goal

The goal was to empower a cadre of 60 youth leaders – both boys and girls – towards creating a safer and violence-free environment in their community.

Youth leaders would be trained to explore and understand issues of ending violence, building resistance and confidence, gender roles and relations. They would build strong bonds among them and address issues of inequality; limited and unequal access to public spaces for women and girls. They would examine issues of unsafety and reclaim unused public space for their use wherever possible. They would work towards equality, tolerance and respecting rights of all people.

Special attention would be given to engage young men and boys in the process.

Key Strategies

The Key Strategies Adopted Were:

- *Mapping and training* by using an innovative Safety Audit Methodology: A team of young girls and boys from the community mapped both public and private spaces in their neighbourhood (including parks, streets, wasteland and dump grounds) in an attempt to *reclaim* them and shape them *for their use*, on principles of gender equality and equity.
- *Critical sensitisation of key stakeholders* such as the transport sector operating in the neighbourhood; park management authorities; relevant district officials; civil society, community representatives and policy makers, to ensure that they collaborate with the youth in the development of a gender-equitable space and safe environment.
- *Developing competencies of youth* to be able to demonstrate leadership and ownership in the community. This also included development of a communications strategy for wider outreach and use of creative media. Youth would create media products, and use them for advocacy with their families and community members.

METHODOLOGY

1. Establishing the Baseline: JAGORI and OWSA

JAGORI and partner organization One World South Asia (OWSA <http://southasia.oneworld.net/>) developed the baseline process.

a. JAGORI:

Thirty-one initial representative interviews were undertaken (10 boys, 11 girls and 10 parents). The youth and residents complained of lack of basic civic amenities such as clean drinking water, sanitation, garbage disposal, healthcare facilities, and electricity. Proper sanitation and water supply, appropriate street lighting and garbage disposal were their chief demands. They said the atmosphere was unsafe for women and girls; roads were broken and badly lit; thefts were common; substance abuse was high among men. Youth complained of discrimination in schools.

Response of the girls

Girls demanded that toilets be open 24 hours and men and boys should not hang around toilets. They said they had to play in the street outside their homes as their mothers didn't let them play in the park (because it is used for defecation, garbage dumping and gambling). Their wish list

included sports facilities like cricket, *kabaddi*, *kho-kho*, badminton; a separate park for girls; more cycles. Clearly, many of the girls had never played games and sports outside the house. They asked for recreation facilities like dance training and a music system, and also for computer training.

Besides studies and going to school, girls do household chores, stitching and 'piece work'¹. Leisure activities include reading story books, jokes and magazines; watching television and talking to friends.

Girl, 14: *The boys whistle and sing dirty songs. I have to go to the toilet with my mother. If I am alone they stop me and harass me.*

Response of the boys

Boys were afraid of lumpen elements and criminal activities in the basti. They said gambling and substance abuse were problems, with boys as young as 12 indulging in drug use. This went unchecked by the police. The problem of older boys bullying younger boys was common. Boys said lack of bus services was a problem and they had to walk long distances to school. Bus services should be free for school children, they demanded. Their wish list for the neighbourhood included banking services and a place to

1. Embroidery or bead work on garments done from home; wages are paid per piece.

deposit electricity bills. Boys suggested that parks have guards so that they are not used for gambling and garbage dumping.

Boys asked for a library with comics, story books, books on general knowledge and books related to the school curriculum, newspapers. They asked for access to sports equipment such as football, cricket kit, volley-ball, badminton, as well as theatre workshops and exposure trips. They said they would like to learn how to use the computer, as well as skills in English speaking and vocational training.

Parents response

Lack of proper toilet facilities and undrinkable water were the topmost concerns. Residents said water was dirty and the government tanker which came once in a while to the *basti* always resulted in community fights. Women's safety was a major issue. Women said lack of street lighting made places inaccessible to them at night; they had to defecate in the open because toilets shut at night. There was constant fear of assault. They complained local police was ineffective and did not respond to complaints. Most mothers said it was unsafe to let girls go out alone; they escorted girls even to go to the toilet.

Mother, 36: *"There is a lot of harassment so whenever the girls go outside I go with*

them. There is a lot of gunda gardi (fighting among boys)."

Parents wanted their children to learn computers. As for sports and games, some parents wondered whether it was necessary to play. Some opined that poor children should study and not waste time playing: "After finishing school, boys should get jobs and girls should be married."

Mother, 40: *"I don't know about the boys but the girls don't have time to play. I don't send them out of the house alone. I don't know which games they should play – I have never played myself."*

b. OWSA

OWSA's rapid baseline survey of about 131 residents of Madanpur Khadar revealed that although unsafety was commonly experienced by residents in public spaces (~60%), it did not emerge as an issue of concern (6%). It also revealed that 77% of people surveyed watch television, 25% read the newspaper and 14% listen to the radio. Respondents were interested to listen to radio programmes on issues of access to safe water and sanitation, electricity and cleanliness. The most popular formats were song, drama and discussion.

It was evident that although violence is experienced or seen by many of the

respondents, it is not seen as a predominant issue of concern. Low utilisation of public spaces is also significant from the perspective of the current project. The gendered nature of access to spaces has also come up in forums outside this study.

Thus, there was a need to raise awareness around the crucial nature of safety as a state of existence that fosters mobility, participation, access to opportunities and development in a context of marginalisation and deprivation. The availability and appropriation of common public spaces was also significant in that they offer facilities for expansion – recreational, environmental, and social – otherwise not accessible in congested localities.

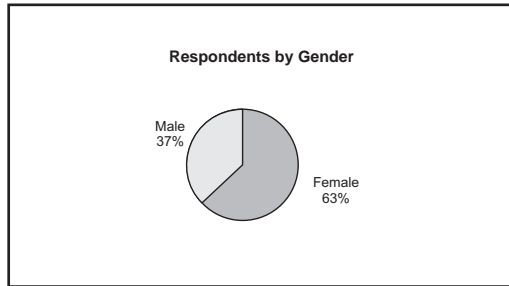
In terms of media usage, radio was not a popular medium, though television was. Much focus and energy could be directed towards the promotion of radio as an inexpensive two-way medium that could be appropriated by poor marginalized communities and groups to enhance their capabilities, facilitate information and knowledge sharing and to mutually influence perceptions, voices and actions towards a set of identified development problems. One option was to broadcast radio programmes on the national radio channel (AIR FM Rainbow India 102.8

MHz), and to harness the interactive nature of radio through the establishment of regular listener's clubs, extensive inclusion of community voices in the creation of radio programmes, and focus on some of the local issues raised such as water, sanitation and cleanliness. The programmes needed to be humorous and entertaining, including attractive formats such as discussion, drama and song.

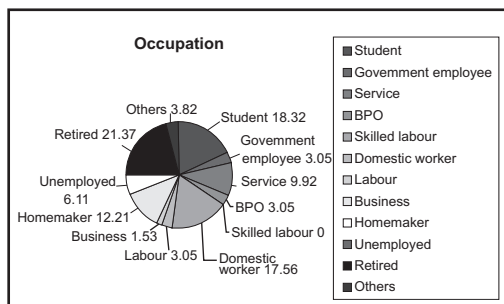
Another format with potential was the digital story on television – which can be done by producing digital stories of local relevance and screening them through the local cable television channel. Yet another option that can be explored is to promote the listenership of radio programmes through the audio channels on television. This obviates the need for a radio in households that already own a television, but not radio.

The strategy would be to train youth in production radio programmes and digital stories in popular formats on identified issues, while developing a vocabulary of safety around these and other issues for example gender equality, mobility, and access to rights; and to broadcast, narrowcast and cablecast them locally. The idea would be to foster discussion and action for safer, better lives through these interventions.

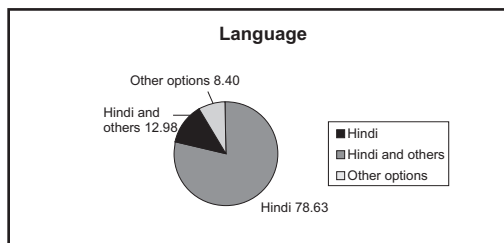
Survey Findings



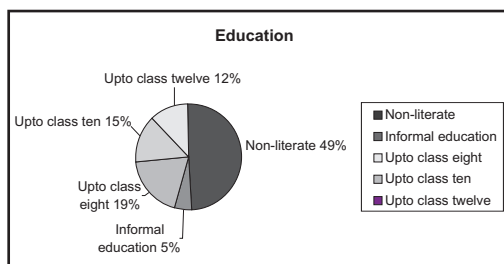
- Sex:** Of 131 respondents, 83 (63%) were female.



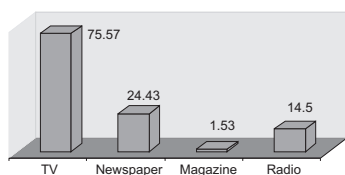
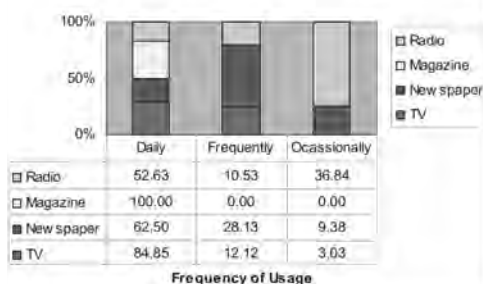
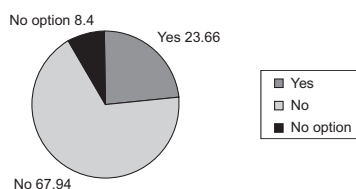
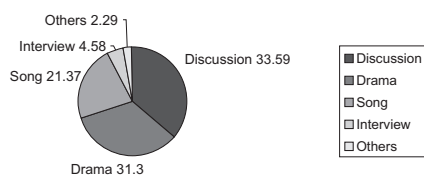
- Occupation:** Most people interviewed were retired (21%), domestic workers (18%), students (18%) or homemakers (12%). People in service (10%), business, labour, BPO including those unemployed constituted remaining 43%.



- Languages:** More than 92% of the people understand Hindi.



- Education:** Nearly half the respondents were non-literate. 19% were educated upto class eight, 15% up to class ten and 12% had studied up to class twelve. 5% of the interviews had access to some form of informal schooling (for example schools run by NGOs and charities)

Preferred Medium**Usage of Media in Madanpur Khadar****Radio Ownership****Most Preferred Format**

Media Habits

5. Preferred Medium: Television is the most preferred medium with over 75% of the respondents watching it. 24% read newspapers while less than 15% listen to the radio.

6. Frequency of Media Usage: Television is the most frequently used medium with over 84% of the users watching it on a daily and 12% on a frequent basis.

Amongst those who do listen to the radio, 53% report that they listen to radio daily and around 47% of people report that they listen to the radio either frequently or occasionally.

62% of the newspaper readers are regular and read them daily, and 28% of the respondents read newspaper frequently.

7. Ownership of Radio: It is said that the radio is the medium of the masses, owing to its low cost, however, only a quarter of the respondents own a radio in Madanpur Khadar.

8. Favourite Radio Programme: Humour and entertainment are preferred channels, both on radio and television. Formats preferred include discussion (33%), drama (31%) and song (21%). On television popular soaps had more viewership than other programmes.

9. Issues of Concern

Primary issue

Almost 44% of the respondents identified the need for regular and clean water facility as a primary concern, while 25% of the respondents felt that poor electricity is their primary concern. Very few respondents (2.94%) felt that transport (RTV) is an issue, and similarly, only 1.9% felt that safety as a concern in Madanpur Khadar.

Secondary issue

Almost 29 % of the respondents felt that the non-existence of a proper sewer system in Madanpur Khadar is the second most important issue of concern; nearly 23% felt lack of good water facility was a problem. Very few respondents (3.96%) felt that transport (RTV) and similarly 3.96% felt safety as a concern in Madanpur Khadar.

Cleanliness seems to be another issue of concern for the residents of Madanpur Khadar.

10. Use of Public Spaces

Park: 60% of the respondents of Madanpur never go to park in their locality. Around 14% of the respondents go to park regularly. Around 26% of the respondents go to park occasionally or rarely.

Play ground: More than 72% of the respondents never use the play ground

in Madanpur, but around 19% of the respondents use the play ground regularly.

Violence: Around 60% of the respondents have heard about violence take place in public spaces like park, play ground at Madanpur. Also around 28% of the respondents have faced violence/ harassment in those places.

While several residents see the violence and lack of safety in their residential locality, few recognize it as an important issue of concern. Water, sanitation, electricity and cleanliness are the issues that are easily recognized as problems. Public spaces are not adequately leveraged for constructive purposes.

2. Mobilizing the Youth

A core group of 35 girls and 25 boys in the 13-20 age group were identified to be trained as activists. Among the girls, most had been associated with JAGORI's earlier intervention in the community. The boys were selected from among those who showed interest in the activities and were sensitive to issues of gender and violence. Girls' and boys' formed informal groups – *Shakti Samooch and Dostana Samooch* respectively – and involved themselves in activities such as discussions, and reading books and newspapers from the library. While most of the youth are school-going, some are also engaged in occasional work as decoration helpers, waiters at weddings

and get-togethers. The groups meet at the JAGORI office for a two-hour workshop every Wednesday.

Intensive household visits were undertaken by the JAGORI team to enhance community participation. This resulted in youth accessing services such as the library, computer training, games and sports facilities. Where girls were unable to come to the JAGORI office, library books were taken to their homes by the team.

3. Mapping the Area: Safety Audit Methodology

Youth activists were trained on the safety audit methodology by the JAGORI team. This involves walking through a definite geographical space and analyzing key factors that cause areas to be safe or unsafe. Built spaces and infrastructure (lighting, trees, pavements, and parks) is examined, as well as location of police booths public telephones, shops, and other vendors. Spaces that are exclusively male-dominated are identified as well as those relatively more accessible to women and girls in the community. The audit gives equal importance to perception of unsafety as to actual threat to safety. Therefore, the safety audit records if lighting is proper, view is clear or obstructed, if roads are broken or garbage is strewn around as this may be a safety hazard. Findings of the audit are then used for advocacy with relevant authorities.

Observation walks were undertaken over a period of time at different times of the day. (Please see the safety audit guidelines attached in Annexure 1.)

Young people noted the following:

1. Roads:

- The Pushta road was unsafe as it was unlit and was used by women and girls to reach the canal area for defecation.
- The lights on the road leading to the field were broken.
- Some of the inner roads were clean as residents clean the area around their houses.

2. Parks and grounds:

- A part of the park had been taken over for cattle. Debris of demolished houses was lying in the park.
- The park adjacent to Gaddha Colony was clean and used for marriages.
- Two areas which were demarcated by a wall for a school were used by men for gambling.
- Largely boys and men were seen in most of the open areas.

3. Drains, Toilets, Garbage and Others:

- The toilet on that road was not operational and had been vandalized.
- The community marriage hall was not operational.

- The garbage dump was spread over a large area; residents said it was seldom cleaned.
- The office of the Junior Engineer was surrounded by garbage from the nearby dump. A resident used a portion of the area in front of it meant for a park to keep goats.
- Drains were dirty.
- They also noted that the community had not taken substantial collective action to address the above issues.

Photographic documentation was done of the vacant areas and garbage dumps as part of the baseline. When asked, MCD² workers said there was no point in cleaning the dump as residents would litter again.

Lighting audit

The lighting audit indicated that several electric poles had no bulbs: 4 out of 7 on Pushta Road; 3 out of 6 on the dispensary park road; 8 on Phase III main road, 9 on Khet Road. Roads were either dimly lit or in total darkness. The youth researchers spoke to some men and women during the walk: Women returning from work said they feel unsafe on the main road as it was not lit; they said facing harassment there is common. Others said they fear sexual assault when they go for defecation in the open at night; proper lighting in the area would reduce the feeling of unsafety.

Women were afraid of neighbourhood thefts and men involved in substance abuse. Men said they felt unsafe as thefts and neighbourhood fights were common; badly lit roads compounded the feeling of unsafety.

Documentation of drains, parks and garbage dumps

Strewn garbage can be a potential safety hazard making it difficult for someone being chased to escape quickly; isolated parks are also potential threats to safety. Observations were done by the youth on a regular basis. Over a period of 6-7 months the park meant for playing was found to be clean and there were no instances of gambling. The dispensary park was littered with garbage on many occasions and plants were not watered regularly. No pattern of clearing the garbage dump was observed. Often, the garbage was found spread around the dump.

On the basis of these observations, the youth team approached local authorities to demand a more effective system of garbage collection.

4. Critical Sensitisation of Key Stakeholders

Youth leaders were helped in seeking support of government and other

2. Municipal Corporation of Delhi

stakeholders such as the MCD, police, park management authorities, transport operators and the community groups in the neighbourhood. Collaborations with other NGOs working on health, community radio and disability were formed. Community events such as tree plantation, public meetings and health camps were organized³.

Since Madanpur Khadar has no healthcare facility, a health camp was organised with the Department of Health and Family Welfare and collaboration with NGOs⁴. One gynaecologist and two physicians were present. Community response was excellent with over 270 people attending the camp of which 60% were women and young girls; 30% were boys/men and 10% were children. NGO Goonj conducted a session with women and girls on myths and misconceptions related with menstruation and distributed sanitary napkins. NGO Aasra discussed issues of disability; and Saaf's nutritionist spoke about diet and nutrition. Free medicines were distributed. Residents have asked for more such camps.

JAGORI team and youth activists planned a plantation drive. The team met authorities from the Delhi Government's Park and Garden Society. They in turn

visited Khadar to see the type of soil in the area. With their support a plantation drive was held on Earth Day, April 22, where more than 60 saplings were planted. There was great enthusiasm among the community, specially youth and women.

Since Khadar does not have any DTC⁵ bus services, and sexual harassment in public transport run by private operators (RTVs⁶) was flagged as an issue, a meeting with RTV owners, drivers and conductors was organised. RTV operators complained about inability to raise fares, police harassment, refusal by older schoolboys to buy tickets. They asserted they made all efforts to prevent harassment and take action against offenders. Some denied any form of harassment takes place in their vans while some refused to talk about it.

Youth leaders observed that government schools in the community did not have proper seating provisions and children sit on the floor even in winters; and fans did not work during summer. Youth were trained on various government channels they could use for filing complaints such as the *bal ayog* (facility in police stations where separate personnel addresses matters of children and young people). NGO support can also be sought.

3. See Youtube links <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI4XS0K51GQ> for Health Mela; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riaYujw8acA> for tree plantation; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8myJMZUCzvY> for Night Walk

4. ASRA, SAHARA, GOONJ, SAAF

5. Delhi Transport Corporation, Govt of Delhi

6. Rural Transport Vehicle - the main mode of transport in Madanpur Khadar

5. Outreach Through ICT

The use of Information, communication and technology (ICT) was seen as a strategic intervention to build skills of youth, especially girls, in non-traditional new media such as radio and video. In addition, it would enhance their capacity to observe, analyse, and articulate their concerns and advocate for them. It would empower them to create media products they could use as powerful advocacy tools with authorities and the community.

JAGORI partner One World South Asia developed a communications strategy using narrow-casting radio technology as well as mainstream radio to feature programmes by the youth.

The objectives of OWSA's intervention were:

- To contribute to the project's core strategy of developing the competencies of youth so that they demonstrate leadership and ownership in the community.
- To build youth capacities in audio and video production, and to integrate them with other popular and current modes of information sharing like street theatre, posters and wall papers, so that local voices and local issues are rendered visible to a much

larger audience.

- To enable and motivate the youth to take forward the issue of Youth and Safety in an effective manner.
- To document the project for informing stakeholders, monitoring and archiving.

OWSA trained 18 young people in developing radio programmes including using digital cameras. This included identifying the issue, writing scripts, recording community voices, anchoring, and finally editing. Programmes were created on issues such as safety in schools, water and sanitation, sexual harassment on RTVs, caste discrimination, how to deal with sexual harassment (See Annexure 3 for more details). One episode on children's safety in schools was broadcast on AIR FM radio in the programme *Ek Duniya Ek Awaaz* hosted by OWSA. The programme covered issues such as lack of furniture in schools, obscene graffiti on desks and toilet walls, harassment of girls.

The youth members also documented community events such as the Health Mela and tree plantation, which they used to trigger meaningful discussions with the community and seek their responses. They also reached out to other collectives and smaller listeners' groups. The videos have been uploaded on YouTube⁷.

7. YouTube links <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl4XS0K51GQ> for Health Mela; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riaYujw8acA> for tree plantation; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8myJmZUcZvY> for Night Walk

Using ICT not only gave the youth a feeling of a positive power and of being in control of their lives, it also helped them experiment with a new technology. The initiative generated a lot of enthusiasm and facilitated their engagement with development issues around them from the lens of an observer and an activist.

6. Exploring Notions of Safety Through Innovative Forms of Interaction

The office space and the library room became a hub for the youth. They were encouraged to read books and newspapers. The library gets two Hindi newspapers daily – *Amar Ujala* and *Hindustan*; there are over 200 books ranging from story books to knowledge-based books, comics and magazines. On an average 50 books were in circulation each month. Girls read more than boys. Coaching facilities and sports equipment were made available for volley ball, badminton, *kho-kho*, cricket, running and shot put. Girls learnt to cycle and taught newcomers.

The girls' group brought out a wall magazine, *Hamari Baatein*, once every three months. Each issue was based on a theme such as child marriage, anti-dowry, domestic violence. The group decided the theme collectively; they wrote articles and poems, sourced content from other books/magazines, and selected images. Over 10 issues of the magazine have been created. Copies of the wall magazine are pasted

in different areas of the neighbourhood and have evoked community interest and triggered discussion.

Regular meetings, workshops, film screenings and exposure visits were organized. Issues of gender equality, notions of masculinity and sexuality were discussed through creative forms of expression such as theatre, dance, movement, and poster making. Other issues of anti-dowry, anti-alcoholism, domestic violence, and how to tackle all forms of discrimination and build solidarity among the diverse community members were explored. Legal literacy workshops on rights were also held. Special sessions on body literacy were held for girls. Issues of disability were discussed. Drug use was also dealt with – its impact on health; how it makes people lose their capacity to think clearly and hence impacts their role and contribution as active citizens.

In one of the drawing workshops, participants depicted their daily life in Khadar. They were concerned about growing alcoholism, how to survive in a kuchha house or hut and ensure better security for their family members. They were keen to be in greener environment and protect open areas. Their aspirations included learning the computer and even owning a car.

Youth developed short plays on the above-mentioned content and made

presentations to the community. For example: one of the themes of the skit was the weekly market and the various forms of harassment faced by women and girls, including harassment faced by petty traders from the local authorities.

Exploring theatre was a new and novel experience for all members. Theatre exercises and voice modulation gave them a new confidence, energy and expression. It allowed them to explore, articulate, express hitherto issues shrouded in silence; it demonstrated how spaces could be inclusive and respectful. It provided youth an identity and respect in the community as they presented their plays to the audience. They held presentations at various events around the city such as the Dilli Haat⁸, March 8 Women's Day celebrations and at the University of Delhi.

Several study tours and exposure visits were organised to historical sites, museums and public parks. This enabled youth see how Delhi is growing as a city, as well as the diversity. For many girls this was a unique experience as they had never stepped out of their community settings.

7. Policy Advocacy

With peers: Besides ongoing advocacy with local authorities through dialogues

and meetings, including with the Nagrik Haq Samiti, women survivors of violence and the NGO Forum working in Khadar were reached out to. In addition, a state-level workshop was held to share learnings and experiences with NGOs working on youth issues in Delhi. These include Prayas, Haq, Pravah, Goonj, Nirantar, Action India, Asra, Sahara, Nacdor, Vacha, Tehelka Foundation, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan. Participants shared the importance of working with boys and young men; use of self learning processes and activities such as theatre; need for qualitative indicators along with quantitative to determine impact. There was some discussion on whether the NGO should play a lead role in advocacy with local authorities, or if the youth should be trained to take ownership. Most participants felt the latter was more appropriate. (See Annexure 2 for Workshop Report.)

Public meeting: A public meeting was organized to provide the youth a platform to raise issues and share strategies for change. They highlighted the need for healthcare facilities⁹; a functional clinic with adequate medical staff; basic amenities such as clean drinking water in schools, regular garbage disposal and cleaning of drains. They demanded night patrolling by PCR¹⁰ vans; prompt and efficient attention to women's and girls'

8. A popular exhibition area which replicates a typical Indian rural market where traditional Indian goods are sold. It also has a performance space.

9. There is no health care facility within 4 kms radius of the community

10. Police Control Room

complaints by the police personnel. In particular, young girls demanded a space to play. They urged the community to jointly maintain the parks in partnership with the civic authorities and ensure plantations and provision of swings.

The community endorsed the leading role played by the youth team and assured their cooperation.

8. Process Monitoring

The Youth and Safety programme was monitored internally and the monitoring process focused on its progress against the predefined plans¹¹. The duration also defined the nature of activities planned for the period. They were selected on the basis of the interest of the youth and their potential short-term impact. The activity plan became the reference point for the monitoring process. The activities were monitored to ensure that the schedule of activities was followed, they meet the purpose for which they were planned, level of participation, and the format of the activities.

Baseline interviews were conducted with parents of the youth in the community and with the youth – both boys and girls. Concerns in the area ranged from inadequate services to issues of safety.

The latter included: safety of girls in public spaces owing to the harassment by boys and men, lack of proper streetlights, substance abuse and gambling in public areas. The movement of girls was restricted due to the above mentioned factors – including going to community toilets. They either moved in groups or with older women. Most parents of girls did not allow their girls to play. Parents of boys were worried that many of them roamed around aimlessly or played on the streets. Some were also concerned about the fights that they get into with other boys. Similar interviews with boys mapped their concerns of safety – fear of older boys, fear of the police and fear of alcoholics. At the end of the Project, these were compared with the endline interviews (discussed later in this note).

A fundamental part of monitoring was participatory process documentation by the members of the youth team. They documented all activities such as workshops, meetings, daily record of maintenance of the sports park and the dispensary park, garbage removal and drain cleaning patterns, documenting the library usage, and special events such as exposure trips, health and safety mela, etc. Different and detailed documentation formats were drawn for all activities and the team was provided

11. The plans were drawn keeping the goals of the Project as the focal point.

a brief training on the importance and process of documentation. To begin with, all workshops and meetings were documented. Two members of the youth team noted the theme of the workshop/ meeting, names of the participants and details of the activities including special events such as exposure trips or melas. These details were used to monitor the activities and also the composition of the group that participated – were the same youth participating in the events, was it a fluid group, or was it a mix of consistent participation and some who attended few events. This feedback enabled the team to identify the core members and their strengths.

The initial discussions with the youth on issues of safety in their community indicated that garbage dumps, drains and parks lead to their feeling unsafe as the were garbage strewn all around the dump and they have to circumvent it by walking through dark areas at night. Similarly, they have to avoid overflowing drains and cannot play in parks due to the garbage strewn in the area and its usage by boys and men for gambling and substance abuse. These discussions led to the decision to observe the solid waste management, cleaning of drains and maintenance of parks over a period of time. This was documented on a regular basis – in the initial weeks it was documented two to three days a week and subsequently five to six days a week. These will be used in the next phase

of the Project to work with the service providers. The findings of the safety audits will also be used to work with the service providers in the next phase of the Project. Similarly, the youth, especially the girls did not play and participate in sports and games, as the park was used by men for gambling and substance abuse. Once the youth team started discussing the issue with community members, the pattern of use and cleanliness of the park was documented regularly indicating a clear pattern of change in its usage.

Larger events such as the safety and health mela were documented by the youth team members in terms of number of people who participated and the details of the doctors/ other specialists present. Senior team members observed the pulse of the events and this was documented in the process document. The pulse of the events will assist the team to shape the focus and the events for the next stage of the Project.

Some workshops such as the ones on safety, safety audit methodology, map making, poster making were observed closely to monitor the understanding of gender and safety. The change in the depth of understanding on these issues of the youth was an indicator to plan subsequent workshops and discussions. Besides the understanding, the level of enthusiasm of the youth members was crucial to decide the format of activities. Detailed documentation of the radio

workshops was also done.

On the basis of this documentation process, monthly process documentation and monitoring was done by a JAGORI team member. An analysis of activities facilitated a feedback process to the team with respect to the predefined goals of the Project, the planned milestones and the response of the participants and community members.

The short duration of the pilot initiative allows only for a rapid analysis of critical changes as perceived by the community participating in the process. Endline interviews were conducted with parents to chart out the impact. Parents were of the view that the confidence and knowledge base of their children, especially daughters, had increased in this short span of time. Almost all parents pointed out that their girls were now confident of moving out alone and also speaking with boys and tackling harassment. Also, lesser number of groups of boys are seen on the streets now. Parents noted that all activities were planned to increase the knowledge and confidence of the youth. In particular, parents mentioned the radio programme

training as an atypical/ unusual exposure – one difficult to find.

Endline interviews with the youth indicate that the impact is different for both girls and boys. Girls are more confident and able to negotiate/handle harassment. They also are more confident in terms of the knowledge about their bodies. As far as the boys are concerned, they now have an understanding of gender and that they can make a difference to safety of girls and the community. They also have an understanding of discrimination. Both boys and girls gave a positive feedback of the radio trainings. As far as the community is concerned, it can be said that there are safer spaces in the area as gambling has reduced in parks, especially the sports parks. Decline in harassment on the streets can also be seen. Radio training as skill training is breaking gender barriers.

The monitoring process in the Project enabled the team to monitor the progress against the predefined goals and monitor the short-term impact of the activities, which, in turn, has enabled the team to plan the next phase of its work.



CHAPTER 3: CRITICAL OUTCOMES

1. The initiative led to interesting process outcomes:

Opening new spaces

The process emphasised consciousness-raising and perspective building on ending violence in public spaces; and ensuring a proactive role by men and youth in the community. The opening of spaces ensured that young men were not just seen as perpetrators but as partners in understanding how they could address the ‘politics of silence’ over issues of gender inequality and violence; that they could no longer be observers and had to support actions against injustice and mediate processes to interrupt the cycle of violence. It emphasized that young boys needed an opportunity to reflect and think about their behaviours, roles and actions. This change has thus also reflected in the young women and girls displaying a quiet confidence and dignity about how to change their environment and family attitudes.

Deepening understanding of violence and gender

It helped young people understand that violence is not just physical in nature; its various forms and manifestations need to be understood. Violence can take various forms – physical, emotional, economic, political. Whistling, passing comments, staring are all forms of harassment and violence that cause great stress to girls and women. The youth were encouraged to challenge patriarchal notions and gender roles such as the stereotypical roles of care giving and housekeeping for women and breadwinner for men. They were challenged to break the myths that men are expected to be aggressive and assertive in order to be ‘masculine’.

Learning new ways of analyzing

Safety walks helped young boys/men understand how spaces are gendered: why some places were privileged for boys and girls had no access; how public parks seemed so much easier for boys to play in while girls have limited mobility. They began to comprehend the structural barriers to girls within the family and community; the fact that even public toilets become sites of harassment and crime; that poor lighting increases women’s and girls’ vulnerability to sexual violence; that how much more

secure they were in contrast to the girls and some fundamental changes needed to be made in the community.

Advancing youth leadership

The cadre of 60 youth leaders is strong, has developed its identity and is empowered to address community issues. They have the confidence of the other young people in the community and ready to take this process to scale.

Reclaiming public space

The most impressive of all gains has been the reclaiming of the public park by the youth for recreation and sport. Where earlier girls were confined to homes and having to use the street outside their home to play, they can now play in the park. Many of the girls had not participated in any form of sports activity; they now play cricket and cycle. The community has seen the changes in the space and is more careful about dumping garbage here. The walls of the park have been painted and slogans such as '*Ho har kaam mein sajjhedari, Yeh purushon ki bhi zimmevari*' (on male participation) have been displayed.

Girl, 16: *"We play cricket in the park. Everyone watches in amazement. Earlier, boys didn't let us play. We had never played cricket before."*

2. Endline Survey

Endline survey was done by JAGORI and OWSA.

a. JAGORI

Rapid endline surveys with key representative boys, girls and parents were undertaken. Indicators included: changes in understanding the notions of safety; and how it affected their lives in this period; changes in interactions between the boys and girls (specific to girls experiencing harassment); and changes in the physical infrastructure – usage of parks, improvements of lights and other basic services.

Responses of the girls:

- Fear in moving around in public places has reduced; they were not scared of moving around alone and felt confident to retaliate if they faced harassment



- They learnt about their bodies; for the first time they learnt about menstruation; dealt with misconceptions and felt a sense of self confidence to handle such issues without hesitation nor embarrassment.
- They and other girls now go out to play in the park; garbage is not being thrown in that park anymore and respect for the youths space to play games and sports has been enhanced.
- That this has inspired them and they would like to take their learning journey to other parts of Khadar as well.
- They do not waste time hanging around anymore, have learnt to respect others and be more sensitive – talk properly with people of all ages.
- As far as changes in the community are concerned, they observed that harassment has reduced and girls can go out alone now.
- Further, they also felt that with the increasing community vigilance, some lanes are cleaner now and people are more careful about disposal of garbage in the bins and not on the streets.

“Earlier we never stepped out at night. We were afraid of boys. Not anymore. Now if someone says anything we know we can respond”¹

“Earlier we didn’t go out of the home. Girls could earlier not stand in a public space with a boy, let alone talk to him. Now, it is possible, we talk to boys; they even come to our homes.”

Responses of the boys:

- Following a deeper understanding of safety and harassment issues, they have stopped harassing girls on the roads and in schools.
- They communicate to other boys and share their new understanding

with other friends in the neighbourhood and school. They now have an understanding of gender discrimination.

- They do not waste time hanging around anymore, have learnt to respect others and be more sensitive – talk properly with people of all ages.
- As far as changes in the community are concerned, they observed that harassment has reduced and girls can go out alone now.
- Further, they also felt that with the increasing community vigilance, some lanes are cleaner now and people are more careful about disposal of garbage in the bins and not on the streets.

Both girls and boys observed that garbage disposal had improved.

Responses of parents:

Interviews with select parents (6 mothers and 2 fathers) of 8 youth (5 girls and 3 boys) indicated that the confidence and knowledge levels of their children, especially daughters, had increased in the short span of time. Almost all of them said that their daughters were far more confident, able to move out alone and also speak and interact with boys. Parents also noted that increase in the knowledge and confidence of young people. In particular, they mentioned the radio programme training as an atypical/

1. Quotes from group discussion with youth members

unusual exposure – one difficult to find. They expressed that this was only a beginning and JAGORI should continue this process.

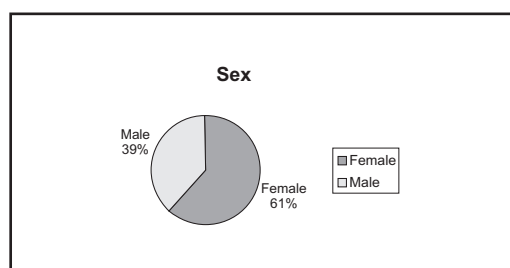
b. OWSA

Of the 109 respondents who participated in the endline survey, 40% had listened to the radio programmes produced by the group of 18 youth, and 32% had viewed the digital stories made by them. They were appreciated most for information component (27%) and awareness component (24%). As indicated in the baseline survey, programmes and digital

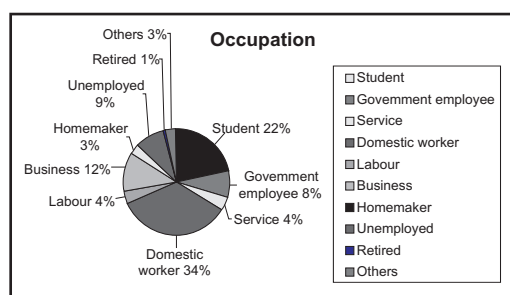
stories highlighted issues of water, sewage, school safety and use of the play ground.

According to the survey, audience identified some important messages in the programmes, relating to the regular use of garbage bins, ensuring cleanliness in parks, ensuring equality between women and men, drinking clean water and highlighted important concerns such as the need for a sewer line, need for good infrastructure at Madanpur Khadar, need for well lit streets as well as eve-teasing in public transport.

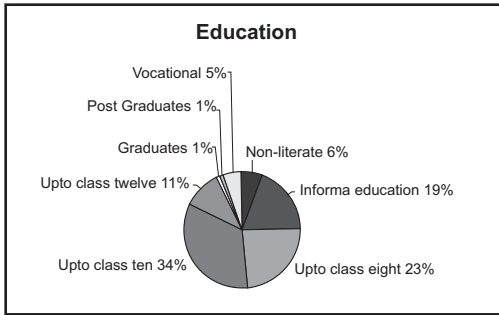
Survey findings are presented below:



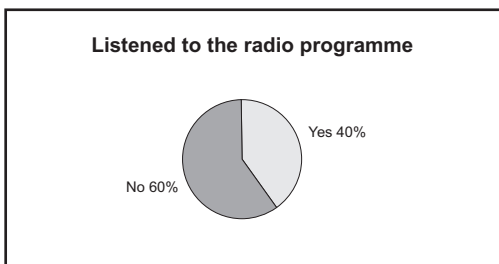
- Sex:** Of 131 respondents, 66 (61%) were female and 43 (39%) were male.



- Occupation:** Most people interviewed were domestic workers (34%), students (22%), business (12%), unemployed persons (9%) and government employment (8%).

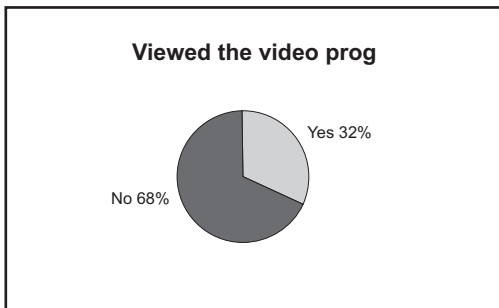


3. **Education:** Several of the respondents (68%) were educated and had studied up to class twelve. A small percentage of respondents 2% were graduates and post graduates. 19% of the respondents had access to informal education but only 6% were non-literate. 5% of the respondents had undergone some sort of vocational training.

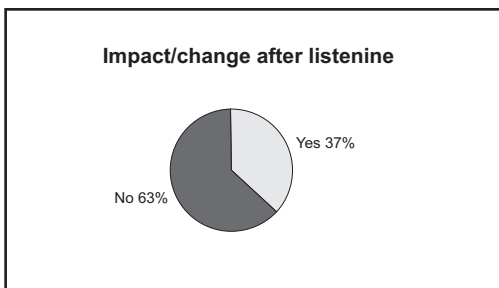


Listeners and Viewers

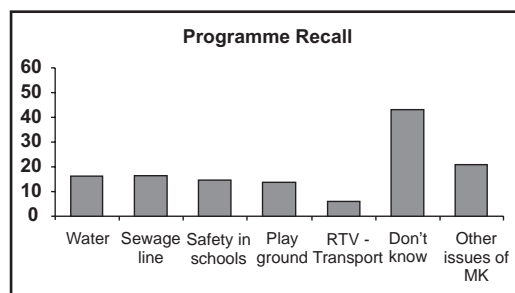
4. **Number of people who have listened to the radio programme:** 40% of the respondents had listened to a radio programme produced by the youth team.



5. **Number of people who have watched the digital stories:** 32% of the respondents had watched the digital stories produced by the youth team.



6. **Impact of the programmes:** 37% of the respondents said they were influenced by the programmes.



The information (27%) and awareness (24%) components were appreciated most by the audience.

3. Way Forward

Given the positive response of youth and their families and the visible signs of an emerging model, JAGORI plans to upscale the project. In its second phase, the initiative will cover 7 Blocks in Madanpur Khadar comprising over 8,000 households. More work will be done with boys on issues of masculinity and involving them in preventing violence. Ongoing leadership building of girls will be done to ensure they have continued access to a safe home and community space and that they speak out on abuse and discrimination and against early marriage.

More thrust will be on peer learning. Youth who have been part of the intervention will train youth in new areas. A group of about 15-20 trainers – both girls and

In programmes that were focused on water and sanitation, safety in schools, need for youth (young boys as well as girls) to use the playground constructively, and need for safe and reliable public transport, several messages were highlighted, including the regular use of garbage bins, ensuring cleanliness in parks, equality between women and men, drinking clean water. The programmes also highlighted important concerns such as the need for a sewer line, need for good infrastructure at Madanpur Khadar, need for well lit streets as well as eve-teasing in public transport.

boys – will be developed to support the next phase of safety audits. They will use the safety guidelines and train new trainers from each block. A cadre of at least 100 youth will be trained to undertake rapid mapping and use the safety audit tool/methodology and feedback findings to their community. Attention will be given to greater engagement of local authorities with community safety issues.

For JAGORI, this initiative has meant making powerful strides. Recent collaboration with the Delhi Government on the safer city initiative with support from UNIFEM, UN Habitat is enabling a scale-up of work in the city. Other cities too are keen to learn from JAGORI and this process will be taken forward during the period 2009-2010. (For more details see www.safedelhi.jagori.org)



YOUTHSPEAK: Young people on how they have benefited from the intervention

Geeta, 17, youth researcher, has learnt radio skills



As a youth researcher, Geeta does a daily walk in the community, monitors garbage disposal and helps in organising programmes and activities. She has enjoyed being part of the radio training immensely and has developed excellent skills in scripting and voice recording.

Geeta dropped out of school after Class 8 because her family didn't want her to study further. Now, she has enrolled herself back to school, and even finances her own education. She values her new-found independence and mobility. She is confident of not just moving about on her own, she even takes younger youth with her to other parts of the city for project-related work such as radio training and recording. Her dream is to be a television reporter.

"I think we should go on progressing, learning more and more. We should always keep learning."

Lalita, 18, youth researcher, intervenes in community fights



Lalita has been part of activities such as night walk, field survey, daily monitoring. She says she learnt about domestic violence and the various forms of violence. Today, she is quick to raise a voice against violence in the community. A school-drop out, she has also enrolled herself back again. The Project has given her maturity.

"Coming here has given me the confidence to fight back. If someone harasses me or passes a comment, I can fight back. The other day a boy was mercilessly beating a woman old enough to be his mother. The others kept watching, but I jumped in to help. The boy still wouldn't let go. Then others came, men intervened, and the woman was saved."

Rama, 16, has found she can now express herself

Rama studies in Class 9 in regular school. She says she learnt that women have rights, she is no longer afraid when her father beats her mother and is quick to support her mother. She also values the friends she has made in the community. Girls seek help and advice from each other. When asked what she would like to be when she grows up, she says, “When I see all the violence around me, I want to be a police officer. But then I see that police officers are corrupt and arrogant, so I want to be a lawyer.”



“First I just didn’t speak in front of people; now I can, and that is a gift from JAGORI. Here we openly discuss things, that helps us find our voice. Normally girls are very afraid to speak up.”

Virender, 16, encourages other boys to get involved

Virender studies in Class 8 in regular school. He first came to the Project when a friend said they teach computers here. He is respectful of girls around him and has helped bring in other boys into the Project by reinforcing the value of what youth learn here. When he came to know his sister was facing marital problems, he intervened and took a stance: “I told my sister that she must tell us her problems.” He believes girls must have an equal share in their parents’ property.



“I learnt that women are equal, they are not weak.”

Neelam, 15, participates actively in school activities

Neelam studies in Class 9 in regular school. She says the activities they take part in here help them be more active in classroom discussion; as well as games and sports in school. “First the teacher used to be always angry with me, but not anymore.” Neelam also takes initiative to encourage girls out of school as well as their mothers to enroll. “In my lane recently, six girls have started going to school,” she says.



5. Overcoming Challenges

The project team says that working with boys is indeed a challenge, and establishing a relationship of friendship and equality was the only way to get them involved. Earlier, boys used to carry blades and knives, and neighbourhood fights were common. They admitted that they whistled and passed comments at girls, but said that was because they did not see it as a form of ‘violence’. The boys valued the space they were given to express their concerns and doubts which they did not have elsewhere.

“They asked for newspapers, we got it for them. When we asked them what they read in the paper, they said film gossip. We did not tell them to read politics. We hoped that once they form a habit of reading, they would read other things in the newspaper as well. They asked for cricket equipment, we provided it to them. But we also led a discussion – Is cricket only for boys? Is the skipping rope only for girls? It was important to challenge stereotypical gender norms and force young people to think beyond taught notions.”

-- Madhubala, Project Co-ordinator, JAGORI

Annexure 1

Guidelines

How to do a Safety Audit Addressing the Issues of the Youth in Resettlement Areas

Background

Women and girls in Delhi need to live a life free from violence and fear of violence. This has been the core message of JAGORI and other women's groups in the city. The notion of the violence of 'normal times' structures and controls women's and girls' everyday lives and thereby reduces their access to mobility, safety within their homes and the community, as well as impacts their access to bodily integrity and rights. Deeply entrenched patriarchal violence is also used as a means to control, exclude and deny women and girls their rights.

Recent research studies highlight that women are often seen and see themselves as illegitimate users of public space¹. In fact even when women use a street for a 'legitimate' activity such as going to work, they give way to men or avert looking into their eyes, a 'symbolic representation' that urban space 'belongs more to men than to women'². Women's access to and visibility in public is determined by several factors including time, place and purpose. In order to be seen in and use public spaces without censure, women have to manufacture legitimacy. Thus, if they are on their way to work or study, to drop or pick up children, walk in a park (at certain times), or shop (at certain times), they are seen as legitimate users of the space. This legitimacy does not necessarily prevent harassment, but it does categorize them as "decent" and "respectable" women. Thus many spaces that woman access during the day becomes inaccessible or more difficult to use during the late evenings and night-

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1. C. Andrew, 'Resisting Boundaries? Using Safety Audit for Women', in K. Miranne and A. Young (eds), *Gendering the City: Women, Boundaries and Visions of Urban Life*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, 2000, pp. 157-168; C. Whitzman, 'What Do You Want To Do? Pave Parks? The Planner's Role in Preventing Violence', in M. Eichler (ed), *Change of Plans: Towards a Non-Sexist Sustainable City*, Garamond Press, Toronto, 1995, pp. 89-110; Elizabeth Wilson, *The Sphinx in the City*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1991. There is no health care facility within 4 kms radius of the community
 2. C. Andrew, op. cit., p. 159.

time. Women therefore have to be conscious of time and space while negotiating their movements³.

The ideology of respectability influences the ways in which women handle harassment. Usually women do not report violence to the police for fear of being questioned on their reasons for being out in public spaces. Young women and girls often do not tell their parents about harassment that they face in public for fear that their movements would be curtailed.

The state and other key stakeholders, including families, blame women and girls for not exercising any restraint and caution. In this conventional understanding of safety, women are told to live within the limits prescribed by patriarchy to dress modestly, stay away from 'unsuitable' places, not to go out at certain times. This conventional understanding of safety puts the burden of protection and prevention on women and girls themselves.

Under such circumstances, women and girls are expected to be responsible for their own safety. Given the sexual form of harassment, the notion of 'virtue and honour' gets foregrounded and invariably the burden to control behaviours and movements fall on women and girls. Women and girls don't have the right to just 'hang out' or occupy public spaces without a clear purpose or a clear destination or as mandated by the community. Thus while it is common to see men and boys enjoying leisure in parks, women and girls use parks somewhat differently, specifically those from the poorer and marginalised backgrounds: either playing with children, as a cross-over to reach another place, with a group of similar other women taking care of children, or maybe sitting and talking.

Safety Audits and Resettlement Areas

The issue of women's insecurity, risk of violence in public spaces and the concern with creating safer urban environment became a focal point in Canada in early 1980s after a series of brutal sexual assaults and murders of women created widespread public concern. Women's groups demanded that steps be taken to stop the violence. The Metropolitan Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) was a collaboration between the police, government bodies, community agencies, support services, and individuals. They started the use of Safety Audit

3. Shilpa Phadke, 'Dangerous Liaisons. Women and Men: Risk and Reputation in Mumbai', *Economic and Political Weekly* 42(17), 28 April-4 May 2007, pp. 1510-1518.

to identify the issues which make women feel unsafe and vulnerable and to make changes to reduce the chances of assault. Besides, Canada, this methodology has been used in several countries to work towards women's safety involving the local level of governance.

In its initial form, the tool has been used “by groups of people to assess the safety of their community in both the physical and social environments. It is done from the perspective of those who live, work, and play in the area. The Safety Audit is based on the simple fact that people who live or use an area are the experts on safety in that area. The Safety Audit has been used to assess the safety of neighbourhoods; public transit systems; housing units; parks; parking lots and garages; college and university campuses; workplaces and schools” (Source: <http://www.metrac.org/programs/safe/audits.htm>)

However, the tool has been modified by different organisations and used in a range of environments. Women in Cities International, (WICI), uses it as a participatory tool which “...has the unique ability to portray the lived emotional and physical experiences of residents whose views are often marginalized to key decision-makers” (Source: <http://www.womenincities.org/pdf-general/Women%20Safety%20Audit%20complete%20publication.pdf>, page 8 of 51).

Jagori has undertaken a series of Safety Audits in Delhi (2005-2006) to identify the issues of unsafety in different parts of Delhi. The problems of each area such as middle class residential areas, university campus, commercial areas, industrial areas and resettlement areas were identified and analysed. As in other studies, it was found that the mobility of women and girls is affected not only from the actual violence but also the fear of violence.

Given Jagori's work with women in resettlement areas, our recent efforts have focused on the development of a more gender-equitable safe space in the community that enables girls/young women and boys/young men to shape a violence-free community and advance their rights to a life free from violence of all forms, including from fear of violence. A two-fold strategy has been deployed:

- Support the building an enabling environment in the community by using the safety audit methodology in mapping public and private spaces that can be transformed by young girls and boys (including parks, streets,

wasteland and dump grounds) in their neighbourhood, and to reclaim it if possible and to shape it for their use, on principles of gender equality and equity as well as being free of any form of violence, sexual harassment, teasing etc.;

- Critical sensitisation of key stakeholders, such as the transport sector operating in the neighbourhood, park management authorities, relevant district officials, community representatives and policy makers so as to ensure that they collaborate with the youth in the development and creation of a gender-equitable space and a safe environment.

How to do a Safety Audit

Initial Steps

- The process of walking in an area to note issues which make a place unsafe/safe is known as a Safety Walk. However, before the Safety Walk, discussions on the issue of safety can be held with the youth. These can be in the form of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) or sessions on issues of safety. The point is to explore the issues which make the youth, (especially girls), feel unsafe in an area. Once the group has a shared understanding of the issues, Safety Walks can be planned.
- Safety Walks can be planned over a few days. Same area can be covered on different days to bring in diversity of experiences. Further, walks can also be divided during the day time and night time. This will enable you to identify issues related to accessing community toilets during day time; or accessing public transport while going to work or school outside the community; or identifying issues around schools located within the community.
- **Select a group of women, girls and young men**, including residents or users of the area.
- A group should not be of less than 3 persons and ideally be of 7-8 persons.
- **Identify the area of audit and the route.** . Get a map of the area or make a rough map
- Organise a **discussion with local residents/users** of the area to gain an understanding about the local issues such as street lighting issues or specific areas where incidents of sexual harassment take place.
- If the area is large, then the group can be divided otherwise the group can walk together.
- Carry paper and pen as one or two members should make notes of the **observations**.
- If available, carry a camera and take photographs.

- It is a good idea to start just before it gets dark. But one can walk and make observations along the audit route before dark and then trace back the route after dark to map the functioning of streetlights and the differences in usage of space by women and men/ girls and boys before and after dark. It might be useful to carry torch lights.
- Before doing the Safety Audit, it is useful to **identify the local authorities** and establish contact with them. If possible, inform them about the process you are about to undertake and invite them for the walk.
- Identifying the concerned persons and establishing contact will make the process of giving them the **recommendations** smoother and faster.

Observing the Infrastructure

- You could begin with the **condition of roads and streets** - are they well paved, or full of potholes, or have they been dug up for laying of pipes or some other reason. Further ask yourself questions like, 'Will I be able to walk fast here? If someone is chasing me, will I be able to run from here?'
- Another important aspect of infrastructure is **streetlights**. Observe and note whether the area is well lit/ brightly lit/ uniformly lit. Are all the lights working? If not, ask people in the area whether they are not functioning at the time of the audit only or have they been not functioning for some time? Are the lights covered by trees? Observe the main roads, inner roads, streets and open areas meant for parks etc.
- If there are any parks, observe the **condition of the parks?** Are they well maintained and well lit? Or do they have overgrown bushes and grass? Do they have boundary walls and gates? Do they have closure timings? Ask the users whether the timings are adhered to?
- Are there any **green areas/ agricultural land/ vacant land** in the audited area? What kind of access do they have?
- Observe the condition of **bus stops?** Are they well maintained and well lit? What is the source of the light?
- Note if there are any **demolished or abandoned buildings**, especially with an easy access. Ask yourself whether it will be easy to drag anyone into these spaces.
- Is it possible for you to see ahead clearly when you are walking on the roads or inner streets? Or is your **vision obstructed** by trees and bushes?
- Observe the isolated areas? Will someone be able to hear if you shout or see if you are being harassed?
- Observe the **markets** closely, especially in terms of lights, phone booths, the kind

of shops (are there any Liquor shops?). Further, make a note of the location of general stores, vendors, and milk booths.

- Observe the **location of cigarette and paan shops, and dhabas**.
- What is the condition of **signage**? Are the boards indicating the numbers of the houses etc?
- Make a note of the **location of phone booths, police outposts, guards**.
- Make a note of community buildings such as **community center or barat ghar**?
- Also note the **location and condition of garbage areas**.
- **Make note of location of urinals, and public toilets**. Are there any attendants in the toilets? If girls/ women use open areas for defecation, observe the walk to the open area? Is it lit? What is the state of the streets to the open area? Or is it all kuchha way?
- Are there any **water bodies** around? Observe their surroundings.
- Make a note of the **presence of autos and rickshaws**. As the walks can be spread over a few days, one of the days can be the weekly market day. Observe the market area in light of the applicable infrastructure issues mentioned above. Also, observe the differences in the usage of other parts of the resettlement areas.
- In course of the entire walk, make a note of the places in which you feel safe and why?

Observe the Gendered Usage of Space

- In all the areas mentioned above, observe the number of men and women (including young boys and girls) using the area. Note whether women are present at the bus stops, on the roads, markets and till what time. Observe whether there is a pattern in the usage of space according to time.
- Note areas where men are present in large numbers - cigarette and paan shops, dhabas, liquor shops, street corners, and any other areas. Note/ discuss the differences in perceptions of safety of boys and girls.
- Note the areas where women and girls are present in large numbers. They could be present in markets, near general stores, in areas with vendors and near temples.

Speak with the Users of the Space

- Speak with the girls and women in the area about their perceptions of women's and girls' safety in that area. Do they feel safe and comfortable here? Have they heard of any incidents of sexual harassment in the area? Have they been harassed in the area? Are there any places which they avoid? At what times of the day? Do they

avoid using spaces when they are alone? Are there any changes which will make them feel safer?

- Ask yourself the same questions as you are using the same space.

Writing the Audit Notes and Discussions with Local Authorities

- Discuss the observations of the group and write them according to the areas observed. This could be done street wise, or block wise. .
- Write details about all infrastructure issues such as lights, pavements etc for all areas.
- Once the notes have been finalised, identify the main problem areas and discuss the recommendations with the local authorities.
- Pursue the local authorities till satisfactory changes have been made.

Annexure 2

WORKSHOP ON YOUTH AND SAFETY

Organised by JAGORI, New Delhi

September 14, 2009, India Islamic Centre, New Delhi

Introduction

A one day workshop on youth and safety was organized by JAGORI with support from UN Habitat on 14th September, 2009. Around 11 NGO's participated in the workshop.

Participating organizations

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights works towards the recognition, promotion and protection of rights of all children. It aims to look at the child in an integrated manner within the framework of the Constitution of India, and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, which India ratified in 1992, and contribute to the building of an environment where every child's rights are recognised and promoted without discrimination. HAQ believe that child rights and children's concerns have to be mainstreamed into all developmental planning and action, and must also become a core developmental indicator.

Action India: Action India endeavours to support adolescent girls in forums that encourage leadership, emphasize self-help models of learning, and promote skills that will catalyze long term sustainable action from the grassroots level. Its programmes enable adolescent girls to gain awareness of their rights through body knowledge, legal literacy workshops, and life skills training. With an emphasis on developing leadership skills, the forums open a space for girls on the brink of womanhood to articulate their hopes and fears, assert their own identity, and claim their individual space - to step out into the world with confidence.

Nirantar: Nirantar works towards empowering women through education – by enabling access to information, promoting literacy and engendering education processes. It achieves this through direct field interventions, creating educational resources, research and advocacy, and training. Actively involved with the women's movement and other democratic rights movements, Nirantar brings concerns central to these movements into its educational

work. Nirantar was set up in 1993, has offices in New Delhi, and in three districts of Uttar Pradesh.

The Action for Self Reliance and Alternatives (ASRA): is a registered trust, registered under Trusts Act 1992, with registration number 3850. It came into existence on 12th August 1992, when a group of likeminded people came together with a common objective of serving the marginalized segments of society with a special focus on persons with disabilities living in the slums, resettlement colonies, tribal and rural areas. It is a group of researchers, social activists, lawyers, academicians, social workers, doctors, planners and rehabilitation professionals.

National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR): was formed in December 2001 in New Delhi. NACDOR is presently comprised of more than 300 organisations from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal states of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. It has a nationwide network of committed volunteers working selflessly for the empowerment of the Dalits. The NACDOR work for ensuring the educational, social, economic, political and cultural equality of Dalits (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes) and marginalised group of citizens through democratic processes. It believes in equal dignity of all and considers dignity as non-negotiable.

Sahara: is a 28 year old organization whose mission is to empower people facing difficult situations due to substance use and HIV/AIDS. Sahara has implemented a range of strategies to empower people, strengthen communities, to encourage safer behaviours and to aid in the reintegration of people into society. Sahara has 36 projects most of which address substance use and HIV/AIDS. Sahara is run almost entirely by former substance users and PLHA. Sahara runs services for men, women, children and the transgender community.

Prayas: was founded in 1988 by Delhi police chief Amod Kanth after a fire ravaged the North Delhi slum of Jahangirpuri. "Prayas" is a Hindi word, derived from Sanskrit, meaning "endeavour". The organisation initially focussed on providing shelter and education to children affected by the disaster. Since then it has expanded into many other areas. It now provides alternative education, shelter homes, health and nutrition and other services to marginalised children across India. Disadvantaged women and teenagers also avail of services offered by Prayas, in particular vocational education. In response to crises, such as the 2001 Gujarat earthquake and the 2004 tsunami, Prayas has expanded its services outside of Delhi in recent years and now operates in seven states across India.

Vacha: is a term in the feminine gender in several Indian languages. It means speech, verbal expression or articulation. Established as a women's library and cultural center by a small group of women, Vacha has today evolved as a resource center for women and girls. It is part of various autonomous women's networks and groups. Its major focuses are women's rights and girlhood issues.

Pravah: registered in 1993, is a registered non-profit organization based in New Delhi, India. It works with adolescents, youth organizations and institutions working with young people to impact issues of social justice through youth citizenship action. Through its active citizenship and youth development interventions, it build with and in youth respect and understanding of citizenship, attitude of ownership for common spaces, skill of leadership for social change and behaviors to develop strong relationships as the foundation. After a decade of intensive work, it has expanded our portfolio to include teachers training, incubating new initiatives and facilitative work with other organizations working on youth development. Together with these partners Pravah currently advocating for youth development and citizenship action.

The Tehelka Foundation: believes in Youth. It has faith in the power of young people to bring about social change, by not accepting the corruption and rot prevalent in our society today, or the passive acceptance of our citizens who have allowed these systems to flourish. We believe in the dynamism of youthful energy to engage with community issues and demand accountability from governance that has to deliver now.

The Foundation sees Youth as Agents of Social Change. A not for profit Trust started four years ago its Vision is one of Social Equity and Justice. It has a range of programs that bring together young people from different socio-economic backgrounds onto a common platform, so that they can share and learn from each other. It uses tools of theatre, creative visualization and interactive discussions to break barriers of class and language with the groups. Given the opportunity and the adequate tools, our hope for a sustainable planet with inclusive growth for all, rests with our Youth.

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan is a national campaign to hold the government accountable to its promise to end Poverty, Social Exclusion & Discrimination. Wada Na Todo Abhiyan emerged from the consensus among human rights activists and social action groups who were part of the World Social Forum 2004 (Mumbai) on the need for a forceful, focused and concerted effort to make a difference to the fact that one-fourth of the world's poor live in India, and continue to experience intense deprivation from opportunities to learn, live and work in dignity. It aims to do this by monitoring the promises made by the government to meet the objectives set in the UN Millennium Declaration (2000), the National Development

Goals and the National Common Minimum Program (2004-09) with a special focus on the Right to Liveihood, Health & Education. We work to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of Dalits, Adivasis, Nomadic Tribes, Women, Children, Youth and the Differently Abled are mainstreamed across programs, policies and development goals of the central and state governments.

Aims and objectives of the workshop

- To discuss and share the experiences of different organizations working on the issues relating to youth and safety.
- Discuss about the different methodologies used by different organizations and taking lessons from each other
- Building wider networks with each other and taking joint campaigns for more successful mobilizations on different issues

Introductory general presentation by JAGORI

Area of work: Madanpur Khadar

Methodologies involved: Safety Audit, monitoring tool, tree plantation, career-counselling in non conventional vocations.

- We realized that working with girls alone is not enough. Boys are also needed to be roped in. so we began our work with boys as well.
- Different sets of safety issues raised by boys and girls:

For girls the issues were – lack of proper public spaces for them, insecurity, violence etc. The question of discrimination in homes around different issues was also important for them. On the other hand – the issue of discrimination in homes or restriction on their mobility was not the issue for the boys. However, the presence of hooligans in the neighbourhood creates an environment of fear for them as well.

- The lack of civic amenities in the neighbourhood – hospitals, proper toilets, roads, public parks, proper roads etc was the common problem of all of them. These issues are also related to the question of safety and here one can see the convergence of gender and class. For instance, non availability of toilets forces women to go outside at night and added with the problem of proper lights makes the question of their security a very fragile one.
- Rampant practice of drug abuse in the neighbourhood. The involvement of huge vested interest creates problems for effective action on these issues.

- Complete apathy of police and other stakeholders about the condition of the people in the area. The element of class seems to work here.
- We organized tree plantation programmes to reclaim the existing public spaces in the area. We involved boys, girls as well as the local residents in these programmes.
- Safety in the schools: condition of the schools in the area is in a horrific condition with no light, fans, or even sitting arrangement. We trained our young activists about the different government channels where they can take the complaints about such issues.
- More than mere lectures or meetings, self learning processes or practical activities like play etc are more effective vehicles for training and sensitizing the youth. In the process, a group of around 30 youths developed a play which touched upon a whole range of minute as yet important issues viz. sexual harassment in the market, extraction of illegal levies by the police on small traders, how power is exercised there etc. The play was then performed in many places during our campaign.
- We focused on developing unconventional skills among the young girls. In collaboration with One World Foundation, they were taught to handle cameras, preparing radio programmes etc.
- Preparation of wall magazines by the youth: they help in creating consciousness about different issues in the locality and also provide spaces for creative minds. They are then pasted in different locations of the locality.
- At least once in a day, we take a walk in our areas and examine if garbage has been dumped in the proper places, if gambling or other such sorts of activities are going on in public spaces etc. Due to our interventions, gambling and drug use have seen a sharp decline in the area for some time.
- Our youth team uses another method called monitoring tool. Here the young activists observe 2-4 things in a week and examine the times of their supplies. These facts are then used for further advocacy.

Discussion

- It was found that how even seemingly small issues like toilets are linked with the question of safety. The provision of fee at the toilets becomes a problem for the poor. A proposal was mooted that lets have a provision of family cards whereby each family irrespective of its members will have access to toilets at a fixed and affordable rate.
- It was also proposed that other methods like budget analysis, inviting different stakeholders –police, politicians etc can be done. The problem of sensitizing boys about the issues of masculinity etc was also discussed.

Presentation by HAQ

- HAQ works with children under 18 years of age.
- It has two components: Child Protection Unit (CPU) and Child and Governance (CG).
- CG includes budget analysis – the money spent on children – of both union as well as select state budgets- with *development, protection, education and health* as four indicators which are further used for advocacy.
- Parliamentary Board: documentation and recording of questions raised in parliament around child right issues. It also includes advocacy with parliamentarians – requesting them to ask questions in the parliament around crucial child right issues.
- Publication: three issues of *Status of India's Children* have been published so far; the most recent one is being in 2008.
- Providing Legal Aid: to children who are in need of security and also to children who are involved in crime. We work with them with on 'capacity building' to ensure their proper participation in judicial and other matters.
- Training and Capacity Building: with various stakeholders involved in child affairs viz. – police, judiciary, child homes, educational departments and work on *child rights, violence on children, child development* etc. The element of child participation and the rampant instrumentalist use of children for various purposes are specially focused on.
- Child Participation (CP): three elements of CP; CP as a tool, as a concept and as a right. We work with different NGO's and governmental institutions to build awareness about it.
- Child Safety and Violence on Children: often certain forms of violence on children in schools or homes are regarded as legitimate. We are trying to develop critical understanding about it among different stakeholders and exploring new possibilities around it.

Discussion

- A respondent raised the perplexing question of child labour and during the discussions it was found that the aspect of '*the child as the sole bread earner*' is often exaggerated. Child labour cannot be always seen in economic terms – which may often vary from father's drunkenness to agrarian distress. There are also other reasons at work. The problem is - there is a lack sufficient institutional structure to accommodate even those children who are often 'rescued' by different concerned

parties. The apathy of police, judiciary and other stakeholders are important factors making the question a real complex one. So it was felt that a multi-pronged strategy is needed to address the question more efficiently which could address all these aspects.

- it was felt that the mere use of the term ‘children’ from a 2-year to a 18 year old indiscriminately can sometimes camouflage the other identities and thus the other aspects of the oppression and exploitation of the concerned group for instance an 18 year old girl is not just a children; she is also a women). So a more careful use of categories would be appreciable.

Presentation by Action India

- Have been working with adolescent girls since 1990 after a realization from experience that merely working with adult women is enough.
- It all started from a summer camp in 1990 where discussions were facilitated on issues generally not touched by school curriculum or home learning viz. sexual harassment, gender discrimination, patriarchy etc.
- Organising debate between two generations of women: a special debate between mothers and daughters was organized to enhance the understanding between the two. It was realized how often patriarchy is made to work through the medium of women itself and thus it seems as if women themselves are their own enemies while in reality it is the male domination which is at the heart of it.
- Capacity building among adolescent women: apart from art and craft, patchwork etc career counseling, law classes, health education etc have also been provided to these young women.
- Celebration of 23rd December as adolescent girls’ day: as a result of continued work with the adolescent girls this proposal for celebrating a day as their own came from themselves. It demonstrates the development of critical thinking among them. Since early 1990’s this day is celebrated every year.
- Work with adolescent boys: library programme, classes, sports meet etc. were organized as a part of the work with adolescent boys. Working with boys has helped in the development of a new generation of men and women to understand each other as well as the regressive structure of patriarchy.
- Leadership Training: Special training was provided to select boys and girls who had clear potential to emerge as community leaders. This helps in bringing in more boys and girls from the neighbourhood. Special programmes on drug abuse and narcotics were also arranged.

- Water and sanitation programme, newsletter: the activist boys and girls prepare a newsletter every week where the problems relating to water supply and garbage management in the area is highlighted. The newsletter is pasted in different parts of the area. The other stakeholders of the area – the local MLA, municipal councilor, residents, and government officials have also sought to be roped in the process.

Presentation by Nirantar

- Education as empowerment: Nirantar works on the issues of gender and education within the broad framework of empowerment and information.
- The work with the youth began two years back when lots of hues and cries were made about the introduction of sex education in schools. We studied the materials prepared by NACO-paradoxically an organization working on HIV-AIDS issues and not on education – and found they were rather informed by a fear driven approach. From then onwards, we began our advocacy with NCERT.
- Have been working in 70 villages in Bundelkhand for last seven years on *adult women literacy* with at least one educational centre in each village. \
- Last year a residential school was established along the lines of these educational centres with participation of 50-60 married as well as non married tribal and dalit women within the age group of 14-30, for eight months.
- Development of an alternative curriculum: an alternative curriculum was prepared which included mathematics, language, *jal-jungle-zameen*, market, society and bodies with special attention to the local contexts and placed within an inter-disciplinary approach.
- Breaking the taboos: intense discussions happened around issues of sexualities, stereotypes, pleasure, marriage, sexual harassment, taboos around ‘bad women-good women’, desire, modes of dressing and dress codes, shame etc.
- Deciphering interlinkages: discussions on the mutually reinforcing regressive structures caste, gender and class happened with simple examples taken from the local contexts.
- Letter writing program: participants were encouraged to write letters to teachers discussing their different issues often understood as intimate and taboos to come over hesitation
- Witnessing the change: by the end of the programme, the participants became more comfortable with their bodies, reflected in marked shift in their dressing ways, their conversations and their thinking patterns.
- Looking ahead: a new batch has been enrolled this year and Nirantar is looking for

more creative ways to impart education among people on gender, sexuality and all such taboos.

Discussions

- It was found that the general stereotype about village communities being necessarily hostile to discussions around sexualities was wrong as demonstrated by Nirantar's educational programme in Bundelkhand which didn't get even a single hostile response. So the real issue is about the proper approach to education rather the inherent hostility of the rural people.

Combined discussion on presentations by JAGORI, Haq, Nirantar and Action India:

The lessons

- It was felt that the works of Action India (Choti Sabla), Nirantar, Haq and JAGORI have been on similar grounds and can of help to each other. All of them work on different aspects of the same social totality.
- Use of quantitative indicators is necessary but not sufficient. Some qualitative indicators are necessary in order to grasp the real changes we have been able to make.
- One can have an audit on the 'dreams and desperations' (*sapna and nirasha*) of the youths. What are their dreams, desperations, expectations from the society? How can they be properly understood? We need to do something along these lines.
- As many of us have been working on the issue of safety we can now think about giving it some institutionalized form. Can we have, for instance, something like *suraksha mitro ki toli* where both boys and girls can be involved? We should think something along these lines.

Presentation by ASRA

- ASRA was formed in 1992.
- Have been working on the issues of disability and education
- Present work is mainly around 24 colonies of west Delhi.
- Our own work premised on the Personal Disability Act of 1985 which advocates for the making of a 'barrier free environment'.
- Bringing out girls to outside has also been a problem for us.
- For some time, ASRA has also been working on family planning. But rather than

lack of awareness, it is the issue of power relations within families which ultimately decides the fate of it.

- Girls with disability are more vulnerable than the boys. Providing with things like tricycles often doesn't help them due to family's apathy and hesitation about their mobility.

Discussions on ASRA's presentation

- People feel uncomfortable to relate the idea of sexuality with disabled persons. This creates much mental pressure and harms them. Recently some organisations have emerged who solely work on building networks among disabled person so that they can share their feelings and make friends. Working and building networks with such organizations will be beneficial.

Presentation by Sahara

- Sahara was formed in 1978 and has been working on the issue of drug abuse in different sections of the society.
- Work among street children as well; as this section of the people are often neglected by the agencies working on the issues of drug abuse.
- Method: use of oral substitution, counseling and then rehabilitation
- Sahara also provides career counseling as part of the rehabilitation program.

Discussion

- It is very difficult to work on the issues of drug abuse as huge vested interests are involved in them. JAGORI and Action India also have programmes on drug abuse in their work. So all different organizations need to come together to address the issue more effectively
- As many drug addicts are also women so gender counseling can also be a part of the overall counseling program.

Presentation by NACDOR

- Nacdor is a national platform of more than 250 organisations formed in 2001
- Guiding principle: we believe that the dalits are the real backbones of the society
- Sarva shiksha abhiyan - have been working in UP, Rajasthan and Haryana and ensures participation of dalit students in these programmes. In Haryana alone, we admitted more than 1, 40,000 students in schools; fighting against the discriminatory behaviour of the teachers and other authorities along caste lines.

- Since 2007, have been working in Madanpur Khadar. Started a school for a while but due to harassment from police and vested interests it closed down. We are planning to revive it again.
- Planning to work in dalit colonies around issues of basic amenities (water, electricity etc) using different methods – ballads, songs, plays etc.
- In 2007 a world wide “stand-up” programme was organised under the aegis of United Nations. We also organised around 200 people in the area and one can see a certain growth of consciousness in them.
- Letter writing program: at least one letter from each colony is sent to the political representatives asking them to address the basic problems of the colonies. It helps in the growth of consciousness among people as well as act as a pressure element on the political representatives

Presentation by Prayas

- We basically work with the children who are under unusual and difficult situations viz. children in insurgency affected areas (Assam), in places affected by natural calamities, like earthquakes (Gujarat), cyclones (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) etc. Our work also includes juvenile justice, child labour, orphan children, children under distress etc. We work on their care and protection, evacuation, rehabilitation, in some cases rescue and finally relocation. We have many shelter homes for these children. When they become fit for returning to their homes, of course under the condition that they will be fully secure and protected there, we follow the instructions of JJJB (Juvenile Justice Board) and CWC (Child Welfare Committee) – the two statutory bodies of government of India on this regard. Till when these children live with us, we have a programme of alternative education called Deputation Resource and Training Centre (DRTC). We have around 227 alternative educational centres under it.

Presentation by Vacha

- Have been working in ten bastis in Mumbai – in six only with girls and in four with both boys and girls
- Initially sought to work with teachers as well as parents – but they tended to be very conservative
- the class difference between teachers and students results in a complete apathy of the former towards the later
- We organize plays, film screenings, singing and other programmes on a regular

basis and also do service delivery and advocacy. However its difficult to separate them as they have become quite mixed in our work

- We work on women's empowerment and teach them different skills but tend to avoid those skills traditionally identified with patriarchal norms.
- The lanes in Mumbai are very narrow in comparison to other cities which makes the issue of safety a different and more difficult one
- The public spaces of Mumbai have seen an intense process of privatization – parks have been turned into joggers park – slums are demolished in the name of development – all these makes the condition of the poor and the marginalized section very vulnerable. The public spaces for girls from poor families have shrunked – making the question of their mobility a very complicated one. How we can fight against these forces remains an open one.

Presentation by Pravah

- Formed in 1992 after the demolition of Babri Masjid which saw an increasingly apathy and powerlessness among people.
- Pravah believes in *Active citizenship and intervention*. Even small initiatives can bring change
- We believe that experiential learning is more effective than conventional learning
- Work among the youth – in college campuses etc.
- Organize and give scholarships, internships, exposure trips etc.

Presentation from Tehelka Foundation

- Have been working with the youth for last four years
- Organize workshops, exposure trips, tree plantation programmes, reclamation of open spaces etc for the youth
- Children are regarded as equals in all these programmes and encouraged to take initiatives
- Interaction of children from different background is encouraged so that they can know and understand each other.
- Learning experiences: many children's of Delhi have never been to villages. So trips are organized so that they can learn about things lying outside their world. Living beyond the parental surveillance for some days also helps them to understand themselves better.
- Children love people with humour and those who regard them as equals and friends. They ask lot of questions and it's important to answer them patiently. They love appreciation.

- There is still a long way to go as different factors makes obstacles in the normal development of the children. It's important to remember that each child has her unique capacities.

Presentation by Wada Na Todo Ahiyan (WNTA)

- WNTA is a coalition of more than 3000 different grassroots organizations formed in 2004.
- Work on different issues : land rights, forest rights, NREGA, urban planning, environmental degradation, child rights etc
- Have been involved in programmes like Mission against Social Exclusion and Poverty and was instrumental in collecting the signature of around 3 lakh children in 2004 while preparing a reminder to UPA government about the promises it had made during the election time
- The experience of WNTA shows how even with a small secretariat, large mobilizations can be done through horizontal network building.

Extended Discussion on all presentations

The challenges:

- The element of accountability – to the self, society and the stakeholders can be seen in all the presentations. This is a very important aspect. It needs to be practiced constantly.
- All the organizations are working under the notion of right – as citizens, children's, dalits, women etc. We work against the discriminations exercised based on these different identities. However, it's important to understand how these different discriminations are interlined with each other and thus chart a proper way to address the complex interaction among them.
- The question of the role of the government has remained a vexed one. Though we will continue to work and implement policies at the ground level, but what about the responsibilities of the government? How more pressure could be put on the government? This question has remained an open one and more deliberations are needed on it.
- How can we make all our work gender sensitive? Or for that matter sensitive about other identities (dalit, transgender, class etc) and develop consciousness at the same time?
- We all have been working on similar fields. How can we help each other in more effective ways and thus carry forward the struggle to new levels?

Vision for the future

- During the discussions it was found that already on numerous occasions different organizations can together under some campaign or other. Such campaigns need to be increased. JAGORI is already involved in a campaign for safe Delhi. November 25th to December 10th is the ideal time for campaigns around issues of violence on women and other issues. The International Disability Day, Human Rights Day, AIDS day - all of them comes within these 15 days. So numerous campaigns interlinking these different issues can be developed around this time.
- These different organizations can have a regular learning forum hoisted by each organization once in a month or two. It will help in the sharing of experiences of each other and building more effective work.
- During their work many women organizations face cases of violence on children which needs separate attention. In such cases Haq can offer its services for them. Similarly, in cases relating to girl child help from JAGORI will be beneficial for HAQ. They can help in the capacity building and training of each others activists. Haq has some expertise in law which they can share with others. PRAVAH provides activists for different other organisations. Many youths do internship under it and then they are re-directed other organisations. This way, the organisations get some volunteers and these youths also get some exposure and at the same time. One World South Asia has a number of young activists trained in different skills viz. making films, performing plays and songs, using digital cameras. Other organizations can provide platforms for these artists to perform their arts. JAGORI has a huge archive of materials on gender training. Other organizations can take help from it.



