

Simorgh

Women's Resource and Publication Centre, Lahore

Annual Report

2018

Attested & Verified

[Signature]



Contents

1. Introduction
2. Politically Empowered Human Rights Leadership Program for Women (PEHL)
3. Amplify Change 2 (Body Politics; breaking the season of silence)
4. Amplify Change 3 (The worlds in the making; pushing the boundaries)

Introduction

The year 2018 has produced some valuable work as a result of the terms' efforts; despite time and budgetary constraints and Pakistan's extent security crisis, project outcomes have been rewarding and some have reached towards its completion. This year Simorgh has been concerned mainly with participatory learning workshops, seminars and activities with community members including women, men, youth and transgender people, local councilors, journalists, parliamentarians, government officials and different stakeholders, to enhance the understanding of gender sensitization, action research on gender based violence, physical and reproductive health, to challenge stigma discrimination, attitudes and laws.

Several workshops, activities, seminars and baseline surveys have been carried out in the year 2018 and have been productive for Simorgh in terms of meeting deadlines and reaching out effectively to its target audience. Amplify change 2 and Politically Empowered Human Rights Leadership Program for women have been completed and Amplify Change 3 is undergoing completion via workshops, baseline surveys and activities.

Politically Empowered Human Rights Leadership Program for Women (PEHL)

Despite supportive measures and some progress, gender inequality persists as a widespread problem because structural conditions obstruct women's agency as rights-claiming citizens, provides impunity for gender-based violence and excludes women from accessing and controlling economic resources, decision-making and leadership positions. Inequalities are also caused by women's lack of access to information and to the State's service and justice institutions, as well as the gender biased implementation of seemingly equitable laws and policies.

Politically Empowered Human Rights Leadership program for women, (PEHL) a national level project undertaken in Mardan, Jaffarabad, Hyderabad and Vehari, began in January 2016 and was completed in December 2018. Conceived and designed with the aim to amplify women's voices in the public and political arenas especially, though not exclusively at the grassroots level, it was designed to build women's knowledge and skills and create a conducive environment to promote their participation in political life through the involvement of community and local media workers.

Activities held in the year 2018 are as follows:

As partner organization with ShirkatGah, Simorgh's work focused on the media-awareness workshops and alliance building between local journalists and concerned communities.

Three day training workshops on Media and Gender perspectives were organized by ShirkatGah women Resource and Training Centre with the support of local partners at:

1. Toru hotel, Mardan on the 6th – 8th February, 2018.
2. Indus Hotel, Hyderabad on the 13th-15th March, 2018.
3. Usta Muhammad, Jaffarabad on the 17th – 19th April, 2018.
4. Flame and Coal, Vehari on the 11th – 13th May, 2018

Workshops were facilitated by Neelam Hussain as lead resource person from Simorgh Women Resource and Publication center, Maheen Khan from ShirkatGah was there for monitoring purposes and Feroza Batool was the focal person from ShirkatGah. The overall objectives of these workshops were to develop gender sensitivity among media practitioners through case study based situation analysis, examination of women's representation in mainstream media and to forge alliances between local journalists and electronic media workers and communities including mainly women Union Councilors.

Consequently, the first two days of these workshops were set aside for media analysis and gender-based issues with the third day being set aside for joint discussions with media workers and community representatives.

Care was taken to design each workshop:

- i. in a way that would build journalists' capacity in objective and fairly news reporting/writing
- ii. entail discussions on mainstream patriarchal perceptions of women's and men's role in society for enhanced understanding of issues from a feminist perspective
- iii. in accordance with the geographical and cultural location of participants

Samples of the exercises undertaken with media representatives are given below. All exercises included a writing component viz News Reports and Features. These were individual exercises preceded by a quick exercise on News Report and Features, followed by presentations and group critique.

1. Jirga in performance

This exercise was based on a case study initially provided by participants at the Vehari workshop of a marriage of choice involving competing claims to inherited property.

Participants were divided into four groups and asked to enact the jirga decision with different members taking on the roles of the people involved including local influentials.

2. Budget making exercises

Participants were asked to prioritize community needs and work out and present a budget based on a given sum of money to meet these needs.

This was a group exercise for mixed groups' i.e. female and male working journalists, Media Studies students and women and men from the community.

It was interesting to note that in instances where women and men were divided into different groups, there was a marked difference in budgetary priorities. Men tended to prioritize issues along the broad categories of education, health and transport, while the budgets presented by women included parks, tree planting schemes and also paid greater attention to rural and urban differences.

3. Advertisements and their analyses

Video clips of selected advertisements were shown to track gender biases followed by discussion and analysis. Where possible actual news reports of incidents that reflected the gendered message of given advertisements were reflected in reported incidents of gender based violence.

The 'Choti ki Gol Roti' advertisement for kulfi that project the idea of happy families where girls' achievement is the making of a gol roti is a case in point as highlighted by the case of the 12 year old girl beaten to death by her father for failing to make a 'gol roti'.

Less mainstream ads that challenge gendered stereotypes viz 'Boys don't cry' were also shown and discussed.

4. Examining Violence Against Women through case studies

To increase the ability of writing and let them think critically, participants were provided with case studies. One of the case studies provided was, an eight year old girl who faced molestation and rape victim by her own uncle. Participants were required to read the case study thoroughly to bring out the facts behind the rape of an innocent girl and discuss how this rape could have been prevented. Group presentations had to be prepared in the form of Panchayat's decision and participants had to highlight the reasons of molestation, most children face at home including action to be taken.

5. Meaning Making

Different combinations of colors and pictures were shown to the participants and were asked to identify the meaning of the picture for example if a gun was placed in front of the picture of a working woman, what meaning did it portray and what sign does a red color, yellow color etc, depict.

6. Report and feature writing

Reports and news paper features were assigned to the participants to write in a way that did not put a negative impact on the image of a women, in other words, gender sensitize it.

7. Stereotypes, clichés and language use

Participants were asked to identify the attributes of a man and a woman so as to highlight how language use and stereotypes shape gendered identities and gender biased perceptions of women and men.

Amplify Change 2

Project title: Body Politics- Breaking the Seasons of Silence

Funding: Amplify Change 2

This is an eighteen month long project, implemented at 2 districts of Hafizabad and Lahore. This project was designed to address issues of general and reproductive health including underage marriage and its negative implications for maternal and child health. Based on focus group discussions and workshops on health, hygiene, the importance of life skills regarding personal safety and health for children and separate awareness raising sessions for mothers/fathers and young adolescents. This project created a space where the hitherto neglected subject of adolescent and women's health and safety could be discussed.

A detailed breakdown of project activities from the first quarter (17th Jan to 18th July, 2018) to (1st July to 31st December, 2018) is given below:

The following activities are from the first quarter of this project:

Research Methodology and Baseline Survey-Evidence Gathering

1. Activity: Baseline Data Tabulation/Analysis to gather information regarding awareness level on health and hygiene among target groups.

Increased individual awareness on health and hygiene as human rights

1. January- April 2018, Activity: One day awareness session with mother – safe /healthy daughter, two in each union council, on health and hygiene and behavior in young children and to build a healthy mother-daughter bond.

These sessions were held at District Hafizabad and Lahore, to build a healthy mother-daughter bond and enable mothers, to raise their daughters to be confident and aware of the importance of their bodily health.

2. January-April 2018, Activity: One day awareness session with father – safe/healthy son on health and hygiene and behavior in young children and to build a healthy father-son bond. Sessions were held at District Hafizabad and Lahore, to sensitize the sons on adolescent health and safety.
3. May- July 2018, Activity: Two day parent to parent guidance workshops, to train the child on personal health and hygiene and improved parent child relations for children's safety matters and health including mother, father and teachers. These workshops were held at District Hafizabad and Lahore.
4. May- July 2018, Activity: Two day sessions for adolescents and youngsters on health and hygiene awareness for a healthy life were held at District Hafizabad and Lahore.
5. Activity: Collated research findings and Amplifying Change Project updates have been placed on Simorgh's website and social network page. Latest project updates are available on www.simorgh.org.pk, face Book page: Simorgh and Simorgh Blog.

Activity: Increased individual awareness of Health and Hygiene as human rights

1. Activity: 50 Free Mobile Medical Camps were arranged in direct response to public need especially their low access to health services and medical aid. Dr Maimoona from Lahore was engaged on a contract basis for this purpose. 30 out of 50 mobile camps were conducted in the

target locations of District Hafizabad & District Lahore. During 30 camps 1768 out of 2000 patients were targeted. This activity is continued to next quarter.

The following activities were held in the 2nd quarter of this project, 2018:

Activity: Project Inception (Budget Reallocation)

1. 6th-8th November, 2018, Activity: Three day, In- house capacity building workshop of project and Simorgh staff on health and hygiene. A three day capacity building training was organized at O' Spring Murree. In which 11 staff members participated. First day Ahmed Raza Khan (Shirkat Gah) presented current strategies of research in health and hygiene and male involvement. Second Day Sidra Hummayun (health and hygiene trainer) was the resource person on the subject of health and hygiene.

Activity: Increased individual awareness of health and hygiene as human rights

1. Sep-Oct 2018, Activity: Two day workshops on health and hygiene and general health education for LHW/LHVs and midwives to create awareness among mothers and daughters on health and hygiene on large scale (20 participants from two districts). Two day workshop on health and hygiene and general health education for LHW/ LHVs and midwives was conducted at District Hafizabad and Lahore, for awareness among mother and daughter on health and hygiene on a larger scale.

Activity: Access to health and hygiene resources, information & services

1. Activity: 51 Mobile Medical Camp with local and head office team + Dr/gynaie plus general health and LHW to provide health advice and services of health and hygiene.

51 mobile camps were conducted in the target locations of District Hafizabad & District Lahore. During 51 camps 3069, the actual target was 2000 patients that were targeted. This activity was success of this project for availing health and hygiene services and show changing attitude towards health and hygiene issues among community.

Activity: Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Activity: Data Collection visits to the target sites of District Lahore and Hafiz-a-Abad to assess an increase in self-confidence, mother's training impact on daughters, Women/daughters access to health and hygiene services, access to health facilities and Education.
Sample: 350 respondents Comprising: (20 visits to target sites)
In-depth Interviews: 120 Family interviews (Interviews/ Life Histories) from target population including Father, Mother, adolescence daughters and Sons, (20 interviews from each union council)
Interviews with Teachers: 20
LHWs/ LHVs: 10
2. Activity: 200 post evaluation questionnaire from youth (boys and girls) to assess the level of confidence and awareness of health and hygiene.
217 instead of 200 post evaluation questionnaires from youth were held (boys and girls) to assess the level of confidence and awareness of health and hygiene, from the target sites of Districts Hafizabad and Lahore.
3. Activity :Tabulation of research findings
Data was compiled by Simorgh's 'Body Politics- breaking the season of silence' project team members.

4. Activity :Consolidation of research findings

Data collected through M&E visits and compilation on health and hygiene was completed.

Amplify Change 3

Project Title: Worlds in the Making: Pushing the Boundaries

This grant is in continuation of the work undertaken in Amplify Change 2 and build on lessons learned on health and hygiene needs among local communities at new projects sites at selected 6 Union Councils in Districts Lahore and Gujranwala.

Project Activities comprise

1. Skill development workshops for economic independence
2. Cross religion Action Research on marriage rituals combined with Interactive theatre to challenge and open up debate on stigma, discrimination, attitudes, and laws regarding health and hygiene issues, GBV and anti-women cultural practices.
3. FGD/sessions on general health, hygiene, self- sufficiency in menstrual hygiene through home produced sanitary napkins, including the importance of women's access to public/political space with a focus on the need for acquisition of National Identity cards for women for voting rights and to enable them to undertake legal/financial transactions.
4. Information dissemination/discussions with Local Body members on laws pertaining to GBV and related matters for informed action.