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CAF Charities Aid Foundation India



Project Saloni: Annual Report April 2019 to March 2020



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Section 1: About Project Saloni

Sarathi is implementing Saloni Adolescent Girls Project with **Oracle grant support** in partnership with the **Charities Aids Foundation** in rural areas of Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh. The project brings proven and interconnected strategies to impact adolescent girls along with their families, wider community and stakeholders like schools, ICDS centers, health workers, local governance institutions, government, communication platforms to empower them with holistic aspirations.

Project Saloni targets 12883 adolescent girls and 23848 families in three blocks (Nindura, Banki and Deva) of Barabanki district. Project Saloni is rooted in ground realties reflecting on biased behaviours and mindsets, wide spread gender inequality environment, low levels of education, child marriage, lack of skills, lack of agency for advocacy on their rights, entitlements and needs especially in rural areas. They suffer twice: firstly due to their gender position and secondly due to social and economic conditions of their families. Project engages multiple stakeholders such as school teachers, public health workers, vocational training providers, local governance institutions, government departments to achieve the intended impact with sustainability perspective.

Addressing Covid -19 Challenges

This year is marked with unprecedented Covid 19 spread and lockdown affecting everyone particularly daily wage earning and poverty-stricken families including children, adolescent girls youths, women and men who constitute target groups of the project. They faced the challenge like Covid 19 risk spread, food insecurity, closure of wage sources.

Community volunteers (543), child and adolescent girl reporters (219), group members 3055 (Adolescent Girls and Women) developed under the project played praiseworthy role in generating awareness on Covid 19 risks and preventive measures (handwash with soap, physical distancing, use of masks/face covers, helplines contacts), information dissemination on entitlements under relief schemes, ration distribution through public distribution system and monetary provisions. Sarathi trained and facilitated these community volunteers and groups to engage with PDS shopkeepers, Village Pradhan, ASHAs to build linkages with relief schemes.

I-Project Saloni Core Interventions

Sarathi Development Foundation has evolved **Saloni Adolescent Girls Project** as powerful model to empower adolscent girls as an individuals, family members, community members and service seekers with integrated community development approach.

- Integrated Village Planning utilizing participatory tools to engage children, adolescent girls, women and wider
 community for assessing and establishing their thematic needs and problems, identifying reasons, planning actions
 at family, community and government levels, allocating responsibilities and timeline by which problems will be
 addressed.
- Adolescent girls and community development specific resources like community volunteers, adolscent girls
 groups, child and youth reporters, women self help groups for community mobilization, behavioral change
 communication, demanding and accessing services like education, health, water, sanitation, influencing decisions,
 cooperating with the government and sustainability of the impact.
- Establishing Gram Unnati Kendras(Community Resource Centers) to provide development resources like life skill
 education to adolescent girls, community data base on development indicators, village action plans, behaviour
 change map, details of government schemes and services, contact details of public authorities. It is a meeting place
 for adolescent girls, women and community volunteers.
- **Life skill education** to the most disadvantaged and out of school adolescent girls through in-house sessions at Gram Unnati Kendra, home visits for family counselling and feedback and group meetings.
- **Social and behavioral change communication** at family level by community volunteers and adolescent girls groups to build a supportive environment for education, prevention of child marriages and safe menstrual hygiene, handwash with soap at critical timings to prevent infectious diseases like Covid 19, diarrhea.
- Mainstreaming and linkages with government schemes and services through village action plans, feedback, convergence planning, suchana chaupal, advocacy stories by child reporters.

II-Project Basic Details

Key Points	Details
Project Location	Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh, India
Proposed Number of	Direct: 3200 Adolescents Girls and 5000 Households
Beneficiaries	Indirect: 6000 Adolescent Girls and 8000 Households
Target Group	Children, Adolescent Girls, Women, Households, Public Schools, ICDS Centers, Government Officials
Total Beneficiaries	Direct: 3955 Adolescent Girls, 1073 women, 12883 Households.
benefitted during	Indirect: Adolescent Girls 8405, 19093 Households (95465 family members
reporting period	including parents, siblings),93 ICDS centers, 36 Primary and Upper Primary
	Schools, 10 Girls high school and Intermediate Colleges.
Setoral/Thematic Focus	Education, Child Protection, Prevention of Child Marriage, Reproductive
	Health, WASH, Livelihood.
Total Project Budget	Rs 35,26,688/-
Utilization	Rs 34,32,521/- (97.32%)
Project Period	1 st April 2019 to 31 st March 2020

III - Community Mobilization and Behavioral Change

Project implements a range of community mobilisation activities including engaging with community change agents like community volunteers, adolescent girls groups, child reporters, women self help groups etc.

During the reporting period, we conducted suchana chuapal, My School My Dream, Girls Education Events, children rallies, household contacts, behavioural change map, group meetings, home visits across 75 villages and schools in close coordination with line departments of government such as education, health, ICDS, Panchayati Raj etc. We also observed specific global days like Menstrual Hygiene Day, International Youth Day, International Girls Day to build conducive environment especially among adolescent girls and youths.

The impact of these community mobilization activities is reflected with increased enrolment and retention of children in schools, reduced drop out, stoppage in early marriage of girls and positive growth on several other health and development indicators.

Mobilization Activities	Outreach and Participation
Community Mobilization Meetings and Events	12418 including Children, Adolescent Girls, women, men, frontline service providers, PRIs.
Kishori Utsav, My Dream MY School, Girls Education Festival, International Youth Day, Menstrual Hygiene Campaign, Toilet Days	7436 Adolescent Girls and 4500 care givers and community members.
Behavioral Change Counselling at Households level by community Volunteers, Adolescent Girls Groups, project team	19093 Households (95,465 family members including care givers, siblings)

Participatory tools like home visits, social mapping, venn diagramming, suchana chuapal to engage, sensitise and mobilise the target groups and community effectively.

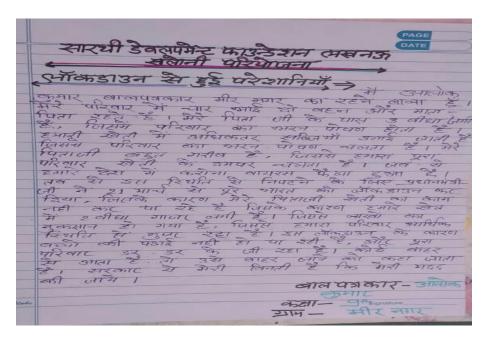






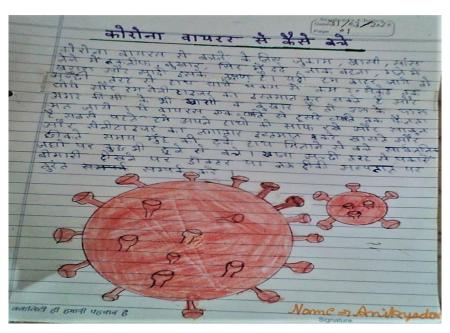


Children mobilised the community through their stories during Covid 19 Lockdown









IV: Community Based Micro Planning System (Integrated Village Planning)

Integrated village planning is a participatory process of community mobilization, identification of community needs, evolving solutions to address identified needs/issues, formulating village action plan, allocating responsibilities plan and setting timelines for tracking progress. Integrated village action plan visually demonstrates the status of Key performance indicators at the household, community, and systems (government) level.

- Integrated Village Planning Exercise is completed in 62 villages including 40 villages during this year. It
 covers thematic areas including education, child protection, child marriage, water, sanitation and
 hygiene.
- 12883 households with total population of 64415 were engaged five days village planning processes
 including assessment of needs, data collection for internal base line, establishing thematic needs
 ,household, community and service delivery actions, allocating responsibilities for follow up and
 deciding time lines to address the problems.
- Community mobilization, parents counselling, coordination with service providers, capacity building of community volunteers & groups, supportive supervision processes are integrated with the implementation of village action plans.
- Village Action Plans are updated monthly by the community volunteers on charts. Indicator wise progress is written on village action plans painted on walls.
- Village planning data files, updated village action plans, details of government schemes, contact details of government officials and helplines, behaviour change map are maintained at Gram Unnati Kendra (Community Resource Centers established in project villages.

Emerging Results of Integrated Village Planning (Based on Data from 62 Villages)

Education especially among Adolscent Girls

- 819 (42%) against 1951 drop out adolscent girls in age group of 10-19 years rejoined upper primary and secondary schools. Regular attendance and transition to higher classes among other enrolled adolscent girls has also increased.
- 2092 (69%) against 3021 children in age group of 6-14 years enrolled but not attending schools regularly, started to go their primary and upper primary schools regularly.
- 52% of drop out children in the same age group are re-admitted. They started to attend schools Regularly.

Child Marriage, Health and Menstrual Hygiene Management Among Girls

- Child marriage among girls reduced from 15 % to 4% during this years in 19 project villages and no child marriage is found in 43 villages during this years.
- 4672 (63%) against 7384 adolscent girls who were not using sanitary pads, started to use sanitary pads for safe mesntrual hygiene management
- 4738 (69%) against 6908 adolescent girls who were not aware of anemia causes, symptoms and preventive measures
 are aware. 4005 among aware adolescent girls started to demand and receive iron tablets from the ASHAs and
 ANMs.
- 3884 (66%) adolescent girls against 5905 non vaccinated, received TD vaccine (Tetanus and Diphtheria) to prevent form the diseases.

Integrated village planning has contributed in enhancing WASH facilities in schools and villages, institutional delivery for safe birth, routine immunization among children below 2 years, enrollment of children 3-6 years in ICDS centers. It is due to participatory village planning which interconnects community mobilization, behavioral change communication, life skill education, Gram Unnati Kendra, capacity building of community volunteers, child reporters, adolescent girls groups and linkages with the government schemes and services.

Integrated Village Planning has emerged as a best practice to bring issues of children, adolscent girls and women in center of community development and interconnect self, family, community and government level actions on education, child marriage, health, nutrition water, sanitation and hygiene.



V- Life Skill Education: Building Foundation among Drop Out Adolscent Girls for Empowerment

- 1703 the most vulnerable 10-19 years adolescent girls like out of school, belonging to poverty stricken and socially marginalized families received life skill education.648 such adolescent girls who received life skill education during this year.
- It has impacted them in terms of confidence building, enhancing participation and communication skills, thematic knowledge, access to development services like education, health, hygiene, vocational skills, postponing early marriages to improve their present conditions and shape their better future.
- Out of 648, 124 (19%) mainstreamed with formal education system, 118 (18%) facilitated to receive vocational training like nursing, computer, fashion designing. Remaining will also be linked with schools and vocational training providers during this years.
- These adolescent girls are emerging as community change agents, 208 have joined adolscent girls groups, 24 are selected as community volunteers. Child/Early marriage among 99.5 % these adolescent girls is delayed or postponed.



Life Skill Education shapes future of the most disadvantaged and out of school 10-19 years old adolescent girls through in-house sessions, home visits for parents counselling & feedback and group meetings.







VI: Community Based Communication, Support System and Capacity Building

Community volunteers, Child reporters, Adolescent Girls Groups, Women Self Help Groups and Gram Unnati Kendra are emerging as community resources to institutionalize impact processes and sustainability. They are actively engaged in community mobilization, behavioral change communication and advocacy on their issues. They have been introduced to the wider community, schools, ICDS centers, health workers, local governance institutions to function as a vital link between community and public service providers.

Community Resources	Number	Key Role Areas
Community Volunteers	543	Community youths including 500 female and 43 males are trained and engaged in integrated village planning, behavior change communication, demand generation and linkages with government schemes in 75 villages and 149 hamlets.
Child Reporters	219	Child and Adolescent girls Reporters including 182 females and 37 males selected from 46 schools and communities are trained in creative writing, story writing, communication and advocacy skills. They have 1021 real stories based on the issues like out of school children, girls education, child marriage, Covid 19, drinking habits, service delivery gaps, local governance, water and sanitation facilities.
Adolescent Girls Group	150(2026 members)	These groups have provided platforms to adolescent girls for participation, learning and communication on their issues and awareness raising on government schemes and interface with frontline service providers like ANMs, ICDS workers, ASHAs.
Gram Unnati Kendra	37	Gram Unnati Kendra s (Community Resource Center) have been established to provide ,life skill education, community data and information, government scheme details, village action plans. These centers are providing place to community volunteers, groups and reporters to conduct their meetings.









Child and adolescent girl reporters are communicating on the issues such as education, child marriage, water, health, sanitation, hygiene, domestic violence, gender disparities through their stories at family, community, schools and government service providers levels. Their skills are being continuously being honed up by training, facilitation, exposure and wider disseminating of their stories on local issues specifically related to children, adolescent girls and community.



VII: Mainstreaming with Government Schemes and Linkages

Project Saloni is building linkages with the Government schemes like National Rural Livelihood Mission, PM Skill Development scheme Sarv Shiksha Aabhiyan, Swacch Bharat Mission, National Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Scheme, among others.

Integrated village planning, life skill education, demand generation for public service provisions, Gram Unnati Kendras (community resource centers) community volunteers, child reporters developed under the project are integrated with the community processes and government system including schools, ICDS centers, Primary and Community health centers, block and district officials to build linkages with the government schemes and services.

Child and adolescent girl reporters have been introduced and their exposure visits were organized at government offices, health centers, Community Radio Stations for learning communication channels and government systems, feedback on community development issues and sharing the stories on their needs and issues like education, health, school facilities.

Activities	Details
Integrated Village Action Plans	62 Villages
Interface and Feedback Meetings with Government	09
Suchana Chupal (Demand Generation on Govt Schemes & Services)	64 (6905 Families)
School Chalo Abhiyan/ Mera School Mera Sapna/ Girls Enrolment Utsav	29 Villages, 45 schools
Child Reporters Exposure events with government officials	16 (Block and District level)
Linkages with community radio stations	2 Radio Stations

Convergence and linkages with government functionaries and departments









Section 2: Project Saloni Outcomes

Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Current Achievement
conditions including early marriage, low nutrition levels, drop out from the schools, low transition from primary to secondary education. • Number of Dr vulnerable social gr	Adolescent girls (10 to 19 years) is increased in schools.	 819 (10 - 19 years) drop out adolescent girls rejoined primary, upper primary and secondary schools. Total Drop out rate among adolescent girls reduced from 26% to 19% during this year.
	including girls in age group of 6-14 years is increased.	Increased from 66% to 89%.
	primary and secondary level is increased.	 1773 (84 %) out of 2105 adolescent girls enrolled but not attending school regularly and vulnerable to drop out, started to attend their schools and colleges regularly. Retention and transition to upper primary to secondary education among adolescent girls in age group of 10-19 years increased by 20% from 7181 to 8954.
	Number of Dropout girls from vulnerable social groups is reduced.	 21401 families (90%) against 23848 total families covered belong to vulnerable families including scheduled caste, minority, OBCs. Therefore, majority of the drop out adolescent girls benefitted are from vulnerable social groups only.
	 Parents are demonstrating change in their behaviour in terms of sending girls to school, delaying their marriages as per legal age, gender discrimination. 	 It is reflected in outcome data given in this sheet. Parents and wider communities were mobilized and engaged through community meeting, home visits, integrated village planning, community volunteers and groups developed across the project villages.
	·	 Child marriage (Before legal age of 18 years among girls) has reduced from 15% to 4% in 19 villages. In remaining villages, no child marriage is observed.

Section 2: I Project Saloni Outcomes...

Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Current Achievements s
Outcome 2:- Established Adolescent girls friendly Platforms for learning, participatory planning, Advocacy, Feedback and collective actions.	actions plans are developed and implemented with support of their families, community volunteers, wider	 62 villages have developed Integrated village action plans with children, adolescent girls and community participation. These plans are updated on monthly basis and all progress data is maintained at Gram Unnati Kendra. All 62 village action plans are painted on community walls for display.
	 Community level resource centers and platforms for adolescent girls are developed for participation, information and convergence planning are developed. 	 •37 Gram Unnati Kendra (Community Resource Centers)are established in project villages. •150 Adolescent Girls Groups with 2026 adolescent girls are formed in all project villages.
Outcome 3: Enhanced capabilities of adolescent girls to achieve their aspirations facilitate access public service provisions and protect their rights.	 Adolescent Girls have gained life skills, abilities and knowledge on issues affecting their life and aspirations. 	 1703 adolescent girls received life skill education through community resource centers established in their villages. 473 adolscent girls received vocational training on nursing, computer education, fashion designing under government schemes.
	 Adolescent girls are communicating and advocating on the issues related to them, their families, schools and communities. 	 •219 children and adolescent girls reporters are trained. They are advocating on issues affecting them, their peer groups, families, schools and communities. •They are raising issues through their stories include girls' education, child marriage practices, school conditions, social norms and behaviors, governance, gender inequality, WASH, environment and community development issues like water, sanitation, hygiene, road, electricity. • 543 community youth volunteers are supporting adolescent girls' empowerment and community development processes.

II Project Saloni Outcomes

Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Current Achievements
Outcome 4:- Integrated model on adolescent girls and community development.	 Integrated village action plans spelling out needs adolescent girls, their families, schools and wider community are developed and implemented 	families, schools, community), actions, linkages, responsibilities are developed and being implemented in 62 villages. Effectiveness of
	systems for behavior change	•Community based resource including 543 trained youth community volunteers, 219 girls reporters,150 adolescents girls groups with 2026 adolescent girls, 97 women self-help groups with 1073 women members are developed.
	families and community to	 Immunization of adolescent girls increased from 35 % to 78%. Immunization among adolescent girls increased from 3125 to 7135. Use of household toilets increased from 55% to 83%. Awareness among adolescent girls on nutrition and their access to IFA tablets through ICDS centers increased from 0% to 74%.

Section: 3 Challenges Faced and Solutions Evolved

Challenge Faced	How They Were Addressed
■ Covid 19 Risks affected the collective	■ Safety measures like handwash with soap, social
community processes. It affected participation of	distancing and small group meetings contributed in
community, PRIs and stakeholders.	dealing with this situation.
•We also had to postpone some activities	Presence of community volunteers, groups and child
scheduled in March 2020 due to Covid 19 and	& youth reporters developed under the project
State directives	played an effective roles during this period.

Section 4: Way Forward

- Sarathi is leveraging community resources, processes and linkages to respond COVID 19 situations. Community based grain banks, soap banks and linkages with government relief schemes are planned and being implemented to address Covid 19 situations.
- Sarathi is focusing on scaling of the Project Saloni model for wider outreach and impact on children, adolescent girls and women with community development approach. Sarathi is also providing training support on the participatory strategies being implemented
- Sarathi will develop the road map document which captures salient features of participatory tools and integral approach with evidence of impact generated for scaling Saloni model in entire district of Barabanki.
- Sarathi is leveraging and will strengthen further global social development platforms like Campaign against Child labour, National Initiative for Children Parliament, Girls Not Brides, Global Giving, Feedback Lab. These platforms will be leveraged to enrich Project Saloni impact and its scaling.

Stories of Change: Breaking the silence and social taboos on menstrual hygiene

Adolescent girls face the brunt of sociocultural barriers, superstitions, communication constraints and lack of knowledge about menstrual hygiene safety particularly in rural areas. Aafrin, a 16 years old adolescent girl from project village Piprauli in Banki block of the district says that she was following age old practice of using old cloth and not going out of the home during the period. She was not aware of the risks. She heard about sanitary pads but never asked and discussed with any one in the family and community due to shame and fear. This is not the case about Aafrin only but 12000, 10-19 years adolescent girls across the project villages.

Project Saloni has brought about notable change among 10-19 years old adolescent girls. Adolescent girls disseminating accurate knowledge, behavioural change counselling, participatory learning sessions and facilitating community volunteers/SHG members to establish Menstrual Hygiene Depots at community level. 150 adolescent girls' groups, 543 community volunteers and 22 MHM depots developed under the project are delivering this change at community level. As a result use of sanitary pad has increased from 24% to 80%.



Story of Change: Building Foundation for New Generation Advocacy

Children and adolescent girls themselves can deliver the change, build protective environment for them and support community development when they are equipped with opportunities, knowledge, skills, information and platforms for participation and communication. With this experience and core belief, Sarathi has developed 219 child and adolescent girls reporters including 37 boys and 182 girls selected in consultation with them, their parents and schools. They comes from minorities, scheduled caste and OBCs communities mostly.

Project Saloni implements a blend of activities including training, exposure, peer learning workshops, supportive supervisions, story writing & feedback, publication of their stories based on their issues and dialoguing with service providers. During the reporting year itself, these reporters have identified and written 1021 stories on issues like girls education, child marriage, out of school children, child labour, COVID-19 and lockdown, water, sanitation, hygiene, gender discrimination, alcoholism and community development needs. Out of 1021 stories, 172 stories on girls education, 28 on child marriage, 105 on schools, 75 on ICDS centres, 214 about WASH issues in their schools and communities, 108 on alcohol and other addictions affecting the children and families and 218 on community development and service delivery issues. They have provided feedback through their stories to the stakeholders like their families, communities, school teachers, health workers, ICDS workers, PRI members, academicians, radio station managers and many others. Their stories have been compiled into Newsletter Balvani – the voice of the children for wider dissemination and communication on the issues existing in their areas. It is encouraging to note that unbiased and real stories have started to demonstrate favourable results like mobilisation of parents to send girls to schools, postponing child marriage, use of toilets, electricity, provision of WASH facilities in schools and community.







Section 6: Media Dissemination and Recognition

- 1. Sarathi Development Foundation has presented Project Saloni as part of application for Care For Heroes National Award by Bajaj Alliance Group. Due Diligence for this award has been completed by Earnest and Young. Our Application for the Award is at Final Stage.
- 2. Sarathi Development Foundation is Awarded NGO Leadership Award 2019 by the World CSR Day and ABP Media Group. It is related to our credibility and effectiveness of our Model projects like Saloni supported by Oracle and CAF India partnership.
- 3. Sarathi Newsletter "Balvani" containing issue based stories of child reporters trained under the project supported by the Oracle has been widely shared and appreciated. It has reached out to above 2 lakh population including school children and teachers in 46 schools, PRI members and frontline workers like ASHAs, ICDS workers, block and district officials, community radio stations. It has provided feedback to wider community, government service providers and local governance institutions on issues such as basic facilities like water, toilets, boundary walls in schools, behavioural issues like child marriage, girls not going to schools.
- 4. Integrated Village Planning Practice being implemented under Project Saloni supported by Oracle Grant and CAF partnership is presented at national platforms and incorporated in Voluntary National Report.
- 5. Local news papers, social media and news channels were engaged in project events and activities like block and district level meetings, celebration of global days like Youth Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day etc. It has contributed in wider recognition and visibility.
- 6. Community led advocacy and feedback system including 543 community youths as volunteers, 219 child reporters, 37 community resource centers and 2029 adolescent girls organised into groups developed through the Oracle grant support and CAF India partnership are giving a large scale recognition to project role by escalating community issues, building developmental behaviours and forming linkages with government schemes.
- 7. Sarathi Development Foundation is associated with National and Global Movements and Networks Campaign against Child Labour in Uttar Pradesh, National Initiative for Children Parliament, India, Guide Star India, Netzkraft Germany, Feedback Lab USA, Girls Not Brides, UK. These association enrich our works and commitment to deliver the impact at community level.