



Project Saloni

Engaging, Educating and Empowering Adolescent Girls



Project Saloni Report
June 2022



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1. About Project Saloni

Sarathi Development Foundation is implementing Saloni Adolescent Girls Project, with **Grant Support** of **SHCIL Foundation** in Dewa block of Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh. The Project aims to Engage, Educate and Empower adolescent girls (in the age group of 10-19 years), their families and wider community in 31 villages of Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh.

The project Saloni implements community based innovative strategies such as Integrated Village Planning, Community-based Resources and Systems, Adolescent and Youth Reporters, Life Skill Education through Community Resource Centers and forming linkages with government schemes and Communication platforms such as Community Radio Stations.

The project Saloni targets 4744 children and adolescent girls, 3637 families and total community population of 21349 in 31 villages. It engages with the stakeholders such as schools, gram panchayat, Anganwadis, public health facilities, government department, and community radio stations to impact the communities effectively and sustainably.

31
Villages

4744
*Children and
Adolescent Girls*

3647
Families

89
*Institutions-
schools, AWCs,
Gram Panchayats,
government
officials*

2. SHCIL Grant Support : Key Highlights of the Project Saloni

- **1215 Community based resources** including 114 community youth volunteers, 578 adolescent girls organised in 28 groups, 108 Adolescents and youth reporters and 415 women forming 36 Self Help Groups are emerging as major strength of the project on ground. These resources are trained, facilitated and engaged to enhance their knowledge, skills and opportunities for community mobilisation, social and behavioural change communication, forming linkages with the government schemes and sustainability of the project impact.
- **114 community youth volunteers and 104 adolescents reporters** have gained knowledge and skills to identify, write stories and communicate with communities and service providers such as school teachers, Gram Panchayat Members, ASHAs, ICDS workers and government officials on local issues such as children drop out and retention in schools, gender discrimination, mother and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene needs.
- **19 community Resource Centres (CRC)** as source of information dissemination on community entitlement and government schemes, life skill education for out of school girls, meeting space for children, girls, youths and wider community members have been established. **942 adolescent girls in age group pf 10-19 years** gained life skill education through 53 sessions conducted in 22 project villages.
- **13 Menstrual Hygiene Sanitary Pads Depots** are established to address social stigmas, misconceptions and myths associated with menstrual hygiene practices and insecure availability of the sanitary pads within the community so that adolescent girls and women can easily purchase sanitary pads at the time of requirements.
- Awareness building on community entitlements, basic rights of children and adolescent girls and community entitlements through the community volunteers and groups is carried out covering **2328** families in 31 villages.
- **Linkages with government schemes** such as Samarra Siksha Abhiyan, ICDS, National Health Mission, Swacch Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Skill Development Yojna through innovative tools including Suchna Chaupal, Integrated Village Planning, and Community Resource Centers in project area.
- Project Saloni engaged with **192 government service providers** including school teachers, Anganwadi workers, ASHAs, ANMs, school management committee members to build linkages with government services such as education, health, social security provisions.

3. Community-Based Resources and System

COMMUNITY RESOURCES	NUMBERS	Brief Description
Community Volunteers	114	Community Youth including female and male are being developed as volunteers for community mobilization, behavioral change counselling, supportive environment for children and adolescent girls and supporting linkages with the government services such as education, health, water sanitation hygiene in 31 project villages. They are trained and facilitated by Sarathi to built their knowledge, motivation and skills.
Child & Adolescent Reporters	108	Children and Adolescent have inherent potential to advocate on the issues effective them, their families and wider communities if equipped with opportunities, skills, and resources. Therefore, children and adolescents are being developed as community reporters min all project villages.
Adolescent Girls Group	28 (578 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.
Women Self Help Groups	36 (415 members)	Women Self Help Groups including old and new are engaged in their own saving and credit activities and availing financial resources under National Rural Livelihood Mission. Through these groups women are able to address their financial requirements for themselves, their families and livelihood activities.
Menstrual Hygiene Sanitary Pads Depots	13	Menstrual Hygiene Sanitary Pads Depots are established as women managed social enterprise to build awareness among girls and women and ensure availability of sanitary pads in their villages. Adolescent Girls and Women are able to purchase sanitary pads at their door steps. While ensuring availability of the pads to girls and women these depots are also contributing in women livelihood in the villages.
Community Resource Centers	19	Community Resource Centers are functioning as hub of the information on government schemes, a place for adolescent girls to gain life skill education, conduct their meetings, and maintaining community data and updated village action plans. These centers are providing





Project Saloni Adolescent Girls in State Tournament



Training Child and Adolescent Reporters



Celebrating International Yoga Day



Building Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene

Integrated Village Planning exercise being carried out in the project villages to bring issues of children, adolescent 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.



4. MERA SAPNA MERA SCHOOL – PADHEGA INDIA TABHI TOH BADHEGA INDIA

Encouraging education among children and adolescent girls is the corner stone of their empowerment, shaping their life pattern and future, preventing abuses of their basic rights, child labour, child marriage and building accessibility to government schemes and services.

An innovative community-led campaign "**NERA SAPNA MERA SCHOOL CAMPAIGN**" was implemented in the project villages. This campaign included community driven activities such as identification of the households having out of school children and adolescent girls, listing of out of school children and adolescent girls, coordination meeting with schools and school management committees, community mobilization focused on education, leading to enrolment and retention of children and adolescent girls in schools located in vicinity of the villages.

"NERA SAPNA MERA SCHOOL" campaign engaged wider community members through community mobilization activities such as awareness raising rallies by children and adolescent girls, home visits, ward meeting and community meetings, coordination meetings with school teachers, Anganwadi workers and school management committee members. It created supportive environment for sending children to Anganwadi centers and schools, generated family, community and institutional togetherness for enrolment and retention of children and adolescent girls.

This campaign covered children and girls in the age groups of **3-6 years, 6-14 years and 15 -19 years** to facilitate their enrollment and continuing their participation in anganwari centers, primary schools, upper primary schools and colleges. Communities, schools, and Anganwadi Centers appreciated the campaign in larger interest for encouraging education and supporting their institutions in enrolment process.

This campaign will have long term impact in terms of ensuring education of the children and adolescent girls. **As an immediate outcome of the campaign, 537 children and adolescent girls and boys** were enrolled in **20 Anganwadi Centers, 24 primary and upper primary schools, and 5 government inter colleges**. The campaign has built the foundation for encouraging education and bringing children, adolescent girls, community, school teachers, and Anganwadi workers together. The impact data given below is related to the campaign period in month of April.

Encouraging Education through Community-led Campaign



Continued.....



5. LIFE SKILL EDUCATION

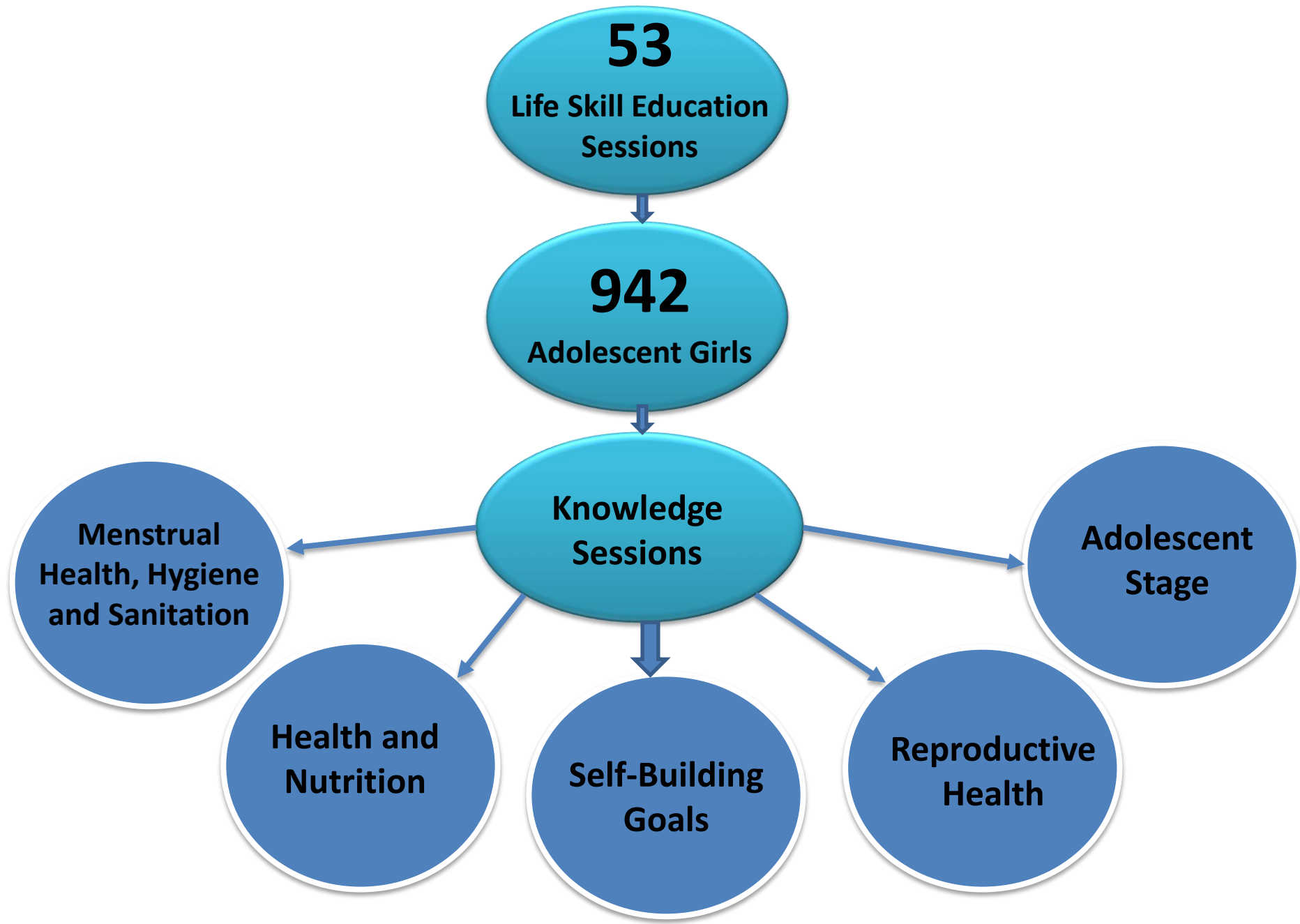
Life skill education is a behavioral change communication to engage, inform, motivate and mobilize the community to understand, adopt, sustain and have complete knowledge about their basic needs, their rights, issues, environment and surroundings which is essential for their mental, physical and livelihood growth.

Total 53 life skill sessions were conducted engaging 942 adolescent girls. These life skill sessions are conducted in Community Resource Centers established in the villages. Pre and post life skill sessions test indicated that 75.3 % adolescent girls demonstrated increase in their knowledge on adolescence life stage, reproductive health, life goal settings, menstrual hygiene management, communication, participation, child marriage risks .

These Girls are becoming source of knowledge for their families, friends and other girls in their villages. These girls are now aware of their adolescent age, the changes they face, their rights and are ready to open up about themselves. They also gained knowledge of safe behaviours about the nutritious diet in take during menstruation, use of sanitary pads, hand wash during the critical timings and proper disposal of menstrual waste.



Life-Skill Education



Stories of Change: Recognising their needs and raising demand for it.

Problem

Khushbu, a 19 years old adolescent girl from project village Naimau in Dewa block of the district, with the help of her story expresses issue faced by every adolescent girls (122 girls in the age group of 10-19) in her village. Lack of awareness, social taboos, unavailability of sanitary pads in the village, they use old cloth. Khushbu say girls were hesitant and shy in putting their need for pads to their families, hence surrendering to use of cloth during menstruation. Local market is almost 6 km away from their village and they were not allowed to go that far. Also

Solution

During a session on Menstrual Hygiene by Saloni team, girls decided to raise their issue. A meeting with Women Self Help Groups and Adolescent Girls Group was conducted to figure the solution together. A Menstrual Hygiene Sanitary Depot was established in the village managed by one of the women Pappi Devi elected by the groups members themselves. Adolescent girls can now easily avail sanitary pads at less than market price in their villages itself.

Impact

Project Saloni has brought about notable change among 10-19 years old adolescent girls. They are able to buy and use sanitary pads from the Menstrual Hygiene Sanitary Depot established in their village. Adolescent girls disseminating knowledge on safe menstrual hygiene management and use of sanitary pads during the periods.



Story of Change: Becoming Voice of Community.

Problem

Komal Gautam, 17 year old girl of class 11th of Kayampur village of Dewa Block, Barabanki says that Integrated Village Planning has benefited their village in recognizing long pending issue of a non-functional hand pump. Families were facing problem in accessing water for their basic needs. It was identified as one of the this issues during village planning exercise .

Solution

Komal Gautam, community volunteer took the responsibility to put forward this issue. They wrote an application to the Gram Pradhan (Village head) with help of Saloni team addressing their problem and requesting for the required action. The application was signed by each family in the community and was submitted to the village head for the action.

Impact

The action was taken and non-functional hand pump was repaired. She felt exhilarated and empowered after their request was accepted and action was taken to repair the hand pump. She together other community volunteers are motivated to take further responsibility in interest of their community. They have learnt to identify issues, mobilize the community and generate demand for services in their villages.

Story of Change: Mera Sapana Mera school

Problem

Monika, 16 year old from Gauriya village in Barabanki shares her story of how Covid-19 impacted her and her brother's education. She had just passed her class 8th exams when countrywide lockdown was imposed in 2020 due to rising cases of Covid-19. Monika and her brother Ramji expected to retain their education once school reopens. Due to Covid-19 spread and mounting deaths, a fear got deeply rooted into her parents mind. They decided not to send their children to school as it was risky and not safe.

Solution

Community volunteers and Saloni team informed them about the Covid appropriate behaviours and safety protocols in schools, Covid vaccination and dropping number of cases, people countrywide taking step towards normalcy and how vaccination is helping fight covid-19,. But that did not change their mind. Even with a desire to continue their education, Monika and her brother had to surrender to their parents fear and household chores. Community volunteers and saloni team continued their efforts. During Mera Sapana Mera School campaign, awareness raising and behavioural change counselling activities motivated Monika,s parents for sending her to the school.

Impact

Monika is now enrolled in class 9th and her brother in class 11th. She is happy to be back in school and complete her education. She is a community volunteer now encouraging other families too to support their child's education. Other parents of the village were also motivated and started to send their children to school.

Story of Change: Breaking News

Anjali, 15 years, of Madhavpur village expresses her excitement and happiness of going to **Jahangirabad Radio Station 91.2 FM** for exposure and learning. She along with other child reporters was extremely excited as it was their first opportunity to visit a radio station. During the visit they met and interacted with child reports of other villages and explored the college campus together. She has never seen an engineering college and community radio station. Stepping inside Radio station recording room brought a sense of excitement and nervousness too in her. When she sat in the recording room in front of the mike and shared her story, issues of her village, and her views about the development in her village, she felt proud and confident about herself.



PROJECT SALONI: Emerging Outcomes....

1215

Community resources including youth volunteers, adolescent reporters and group members (girls and women)

1384

Adolescent girls are linked with 13 MHM Depots in 13 villages for sanitary pads.

537

Enrolment and retention of children and adolescent girls in institutions (Schools, AWCs)

2328

Households impacted through awareness raising activities (home-based behavioral change counselling, group meetings, Suchna Chaupal)

PROJECT SALONI: Emerging Outcome....

537

*Total new enrolment
and retention of
children and
adolescents*

154

*Children (3-6 years)
enrolled in
Anganwadi Centers*

187

*Children (6-14 years)
were enrolled*

196

*Adolescent girls (59%)
and boys (41%) 15-19
years enrolled and
retained in schools*

942

*Adolescent girls
received life skill
and knowledge
through 53
sessions.*

36

*Women Self Help Groups
with 415 members are
facilitated linkages with
National Rural Livelihood
Mission.*


506

*Families were facilitated to
submit application to avail
their entitlements under
government schemes.(SBM,
Sukanya, Social Security
schemes)*

2172


*Families stopped open
defecation and started
using toilets through
behavioral change
counselling*

Stories by Child Reporters




बाल विवाह

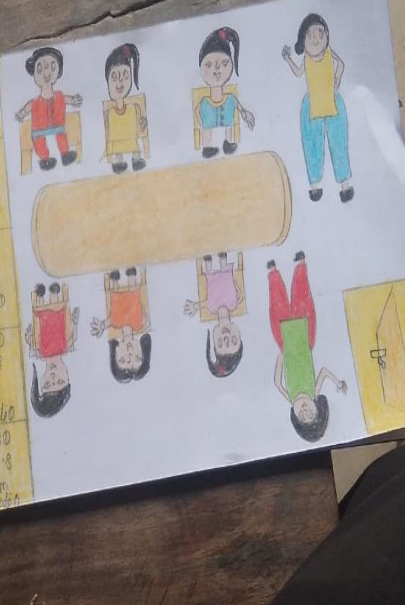
मेरा नाम कमल कुमारी है। मैं बाग कायमपुर में रहती हूँ। मेरा कक्षा 10 में पढ़ती हूँ। मेरे स्कूल का नाम भी आदर्श शिक्षा मन्दिर है। मैं एक बाल विवाह गरीब करना - गरीब उठ लड़कियों का विवाह करती हूँ। उम्र में ही जान दो जिससे अच्छी विवाह हो। मैं कारण वह राज्य ही मैं बन जाऊँ। जिससे उन्हें कोई समस्या का सामना करना पड़ता है। सभी लोगों से हाथ जोड़ कर विवेकन है। कि कृपया बाल विवाह न करें बाल विवाह कानूनी अपराध है।



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