



Final Report

Project Sabla: Girls Not Brides

Time: April-June 2019

Implemented by

CINI ITALIA O.D.V.



Some photos of the activities implemented with the adolescents, nutrition and health workers, the community, members of local authorities:



Adolescents Resource Hub inauguration by DPO Cooch Behar



Exposure visit for AG under Sakhi Saheli (adolescents' peer leaders) training, Kolkata



AGs and ABs height weight measurement and BMI calculation



Kishori Diwas (general health check-up of all adolescent girls) organized at COB II Block



Adolescents are participating in Gram Sabhas and submitting their plan. Murshidabad

Adolescents are participating in Gram Sabhas (village meeting to discuss government and local development) and submitting their plan, Murshidabad



Social resource map preparing by AGs, Cooch Behar



Drop box concept shared with DM by CDPO Falakata

Drop box concept for anonymous complaints and requests for help shared with DM by CDPO Falakata



AGs take sanitary napkin from Anwasha clinic regularly from Cooch Behar II BPHC.

AGs take sanitary napkin from Anwasha clinic regularly from Cooch Behar II BPHC

Background

During 2011, Government of India launched a comprehensive program focused on adolescent girls, known as SABLA with a comprehensive adolescent agenda in selected districts of India. This scheme addresses the multidimensional problems and challenges being faced by out-of-school adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years. Recently the program has been renamed as Schemes for Adolescent Girls or SAG. The main objective of the programme is to ensure knowledge and empowerment of adolescent girls on health, nutrition, education and protection issues. It uses the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) centres as a platform, with support from other related programs in a convergent mode. The State Government [West Bengal] has adopted this Central Government Scheme in 2012 and was implementing this program in 8 districts of West Bengal – viz. Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Purulia and Kolkata.

Parallel to this, the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare (WCD&SW), Government of West Bengal, has initiated the 'Kanyashree Prakalpa [KP]' in 2013, a conditional cash transfer scheme, with the aim of improving the status and well-being of the girl child by incentivizing the schooling of all adolescent girls [aged 13-18 years] and delaying their age at marriage to 18 years.

Considering the common objectives of these two schemes for the adolescent girls, the state of West Bengal is implementing SAG-KP Convergence Program as one adolescent girls empowerment program for the age group of 11-18 years, using ICDS platform and the Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare is the Nodal department to implement this program.

In view of the above, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Dept. of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare (Govt. of West Bengal) and Child in Need Institute (CINI) in the year of 2015 where the Department on boarded CINI as its strategic partner to provide technical support for smooth implementation of SAG and Kanyashree Prakalpa convergence program.

The technical support is carried out through 1) Capacity Building of Adolescent Girls, Frontline Workers of ICDS and NGO partners, 2) Facilitating convergence among different Government programs of WCD, Health and Family Welfare and Panchayat & Rural Development Departments, 3) Monitoring and Evaluation, 4) Documentation and sharing process, 5) Ensuring visibility of SAG, Kanyashree, WIFS etc. through Information Education Communication/Behaviour Change Communication Materials. According to the MoU, CINI has different roles in the village, district and state levels in this program.

Currently CINI is working in 8 districts of West Bengal. The major activities include formation of Adolescent Girls' Group, their capacity building through conducting sessions on Nutrition Health Education (NHE), Life Skill Education (LSE) and

Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) based on the training manual, 'Learning Games for Girls', jointly developed by CINI and UNICEF. Along with these, adolescent girls are also informed on IFA consumption, prevention of early marriage, and need for continuing education.

Recently, Government of West Bengal has decided to scale up this SAG-Kanyashree Prakalpa convergence program in all the 23 districts of West Bengal and has approached CINI to provide technical support in all these districts in the likes of what the Institute did in the 8 earlier ones. Here CINI has a dual role to take part in the SAG-KP convergence program. As a technical partner to the Department, CINI has the role to monitor overall program of the district in close coordination with District ICDS Cell, who are responsible for the implementation of the program. Side by side in the districts CINI also has some direct implementation areas. The Department has also shown interest in replication of CINI's Resource Hub model in all the AWCs of the districts and have suggested CINI to provide support accordingly.

Key Achievements

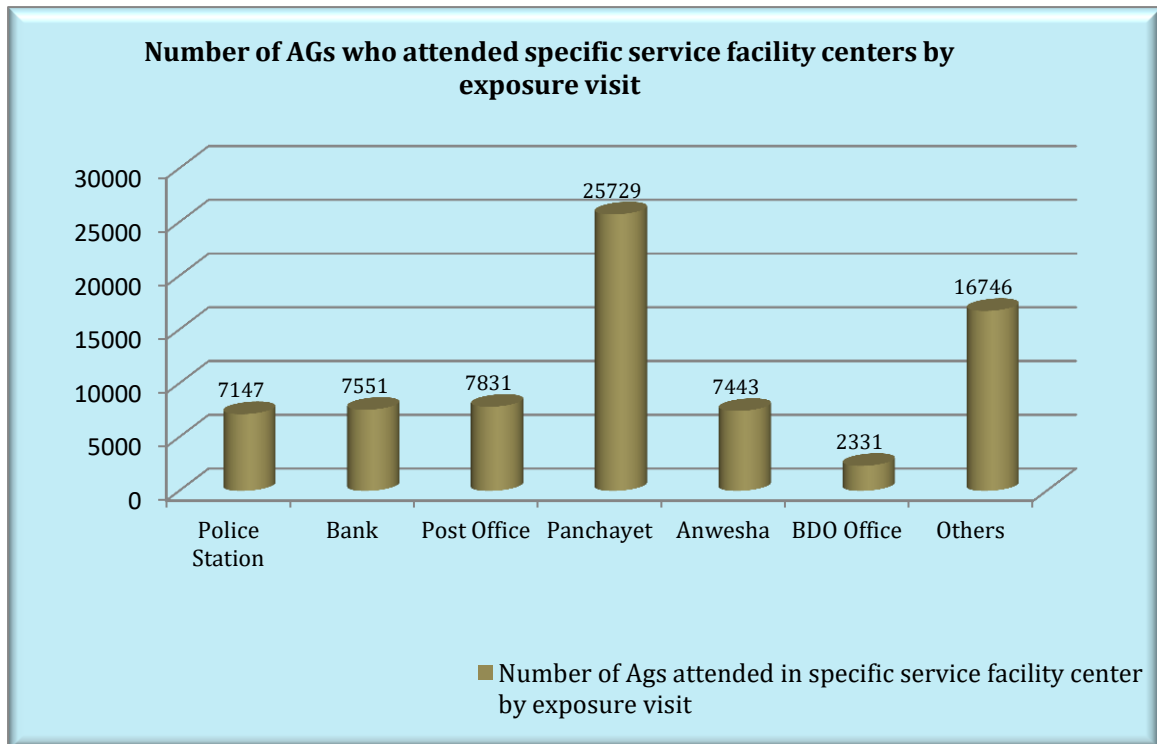
- ✚ Sexual reproductive health awareness is increased among the adolescent girls in the intervention area
- ✚ Sakhi Sahelis (Peer leaders of the girls' groups) are now much more aware and have grown their leadership quality to undertake AG sessions on their own
- ✚ Kanyashree [Girls under Kanyashree program] *Yodhya* [warrior] *Bahini* [group] from SABLA girls' groups are taking initiatives to stop early marriage incidents in their locality in different districts
- ✚ Adolescent girls are now sharing their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights related issues at AWC & are increasingly using drop boxes for sharing their confidential issues
- ✚ Adolescent Girls' participation has increased at various levels, like in Panchayat, Block, V/WLCPC (village/ward level child protection committee) meetings, 3rd & 4th Saturday meetings for sharing and raising their voices on the issues of Health, Nutrition, Education and Protection
- ✚ Adolescent Girls (AGs) have become aware of the importance of using the sanitary pads and thus, the usage of sanitary napkin by adolescent girls has increased
- ✚ Informed by sessions on nutrition many of the adolescent girls from different areas are now preparing nutrition garden in their courtyard.

Number of AGs who attended different service/ facility centers through exposure visits under SAG KP Convergence Program

Districts	Police Station	Bank	Post Office	Panchayat	Anwasha	BDO Office	Other	Total
Kolkata	<i>(Exposure Visits Not Started Yet For Kolkata)</i>							
Purulia	596	581	609	4208	1930	331	3564	11819
Nadia	521	1484	2324	5824	215	855	8909	20132
Malda	3104	2072	2158	2627	2151	0	1977	14089
Jalpaiguri	1913	441	293	6596	1317	407	552	11519
Cooch Behar	393	2140	1508	4867	1068	391	279	10646
Alipurduar	620	833	939	1607	762	347	1465	6573

The total number of adolescents who have been able to visit public offices and the above services is 74,778. These adolescents, through exposure visits, have been strengthened in their ability to take advantage of services and request that their rights as citizens are respected.

For example, visits to banks have served to make the girls with very disadvantaged contexts become familiar with banking services, a fundamental element for being able to access the Prakalpa financial support program for schooling. This program requires the opening of a bank account. For a girl from very poor backgrounds, entering a bank and opening a current account is not easy at all. Through these visits, the main problem of access to the program, and therefore to the right to schooling, has been eliminated.

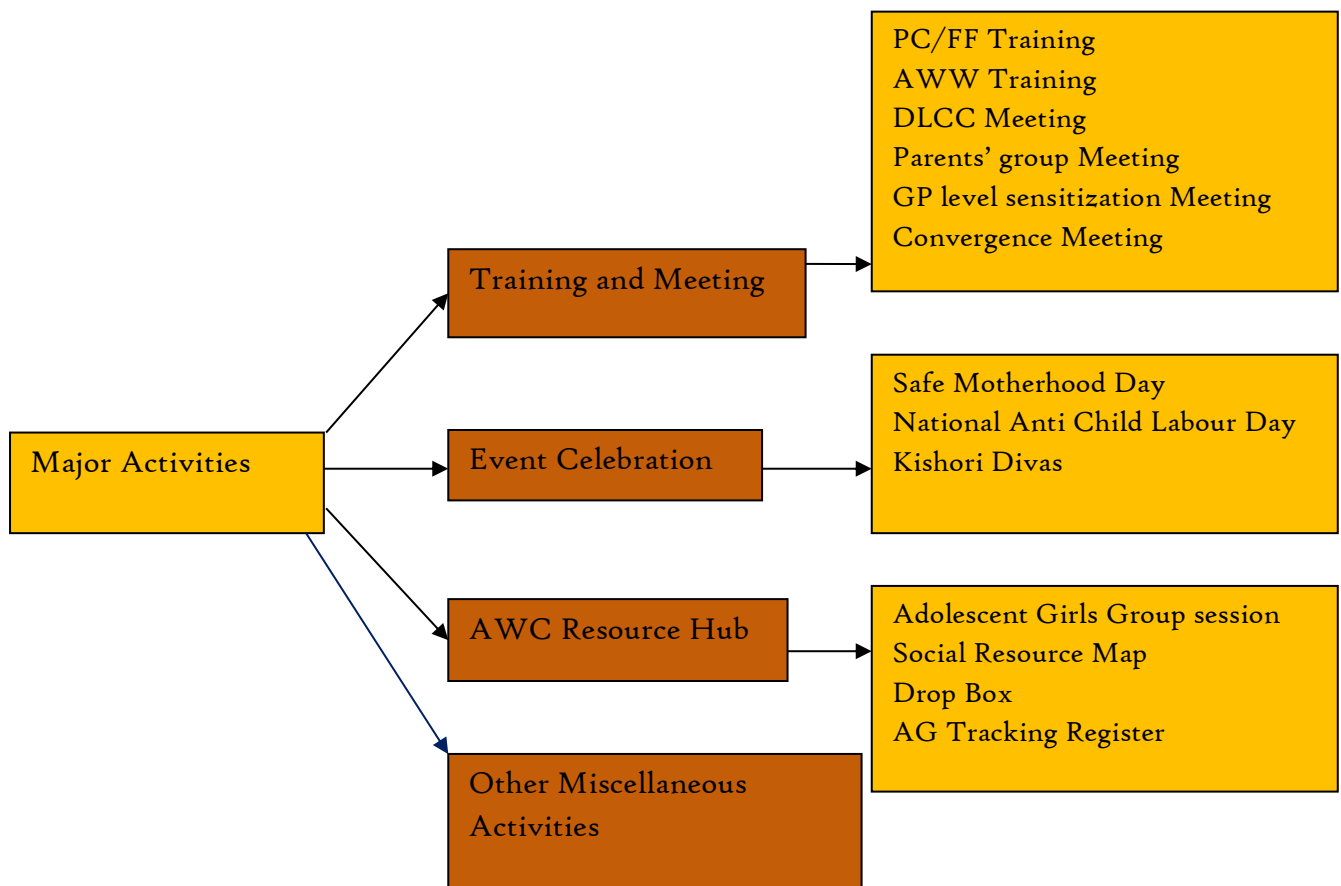


Facts & Figures (April to June) – SAG Implementation Area		
Total Coverage of AGs	TOTAL 727892	%
No. of AGs received health check-up	292781	40.22
No. of AGs screened for anaemia	287380	39.48
No. of AGs aware about their BMI	530607	72.90
No. of AGs knows about Sanitary Napkin	639926	87.91
No. of AGs use Sanitary Napkin	592090	81.34
No. of Adolescents aware of any Contraceptive Method (At least one)	426405	58.58
No. of Adolescent Girls aware of Legal Age of Marriage	577758	79.37
No. of AGs participated in the special event conducted	412450	56.66
Target of AWC Resource Hub for the District	700	
Completely transforming AWC as Resource Hub as functional (Cumulative)	659	94.14

The above numbers refer to the services accessed by the adolescents, which are equivalent to 3,759,397 services used by a total of 727,892 adolescents, which is equivalent to an average of 5.16 services (in the field of health, nutrition, education and protection) for an adolescent in the last 3 months of the project (April, May, June).

This is the great and fundamental goal that we have managed to achieve together thanks to your support!

Major Activities (During April – June 2019)



Under SAG-KP Convergence Program, a series of activities are carried out at field level which can be categorized through different parameters like Training and Meeting; Event Celebration; AWC Resource Hub; and other miscellaneous activities.

Training and Meeting:

- Project Coordinator and Field Facilitator Trainings under SAG-KP convergence program has been completed in Alipurduar district in the month of April 2019. Rest of the districts have completed these trainings within March 2019.

- ✚ Anganwadi Training also took place in Alipurduar district in the month of April. Training contents covered the basic ideas about LSE (Life Skill Education), NHE (Nutrition Health Education) and ARSH (Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health). Moreover, training was also provided on the SAG-KP reporting register.
- ✚ District level core committee meetings were organized in different districts regarding initiation of SAG KP convergence program. The meetings called DLCC, were represented by ADM (SW), OC-Kanyashree, DPO (ICDS), DSWO, Dy. CMOH III, District Project Manager for Utkarsha Bangla, representative from State level NGO Partner (CINI). Parents' Group Meetings were organized on nutritional awareness on village health and nutrition day (VHND) camps in different villages of the districts.
- ✚ Gram Panchayat level sensitization meetings were held in different areas in the presence of GP Pradhan, Panchayat members, ICDS Supervisors, Anganwadi workers, school teachers, self help group members etc. regarding Village Level Child Protection Committee formation and concept of SAG-KP convergence program.
- ✚ In Cooch Behar district, convergence meeting was held to merge together AWC resource hub and Drop-in Center through SAG and RKSK project activity. In this meeting frontline health workers of ICDS, Health, PRI members, mothers, adolescent girls and boys attended and discussed various adolescent issues.

Event celebration:

- ✚ National Safe Motherhood day was organized on 11th April in all districts. The events were organized in collaboration with District Health and District ICDS Cell. BMOH, MO, BPHN, Health Supervisors, ANMs, and ASHAs; Pregnant and lactating mothers were present in such events in different districts.
- ✚ National Anti-Child Labour Day was celebrated on 30th April in the working districts. In different districts it was celebrated in various ways, like in Cooch Behar district poster competition on child rights were held by adolescent girls with a huge gathering of school teachers, students, health workers etc.
- ✚ Kishori Diwas – There is no uniform day for celebrating Kishori Diwas. This is a special day, once in three months when general health check-up of all Adolescent Girls would be carried out by MO/ANM. IFA and de-worming tablets to the girls are provided on this day. Referrals shall also be made on this day, if required. Basically, in the districts, haemoglobin test, BMI measurement, Kishori Card update, general discussion regarding health and hygiene are organized for the adolescent girls.

AWC Resource Hub:

AWC resource hub is a joyful and safe space for adolescent girls which is basically based in an ICDS Anganwadi center in rural areas and in clubs for urban areas.

Adolescent girls group session – Every week adolescent girls’ group sessions were organized in the AWC resource hubs along with other ICDS centers by our field facilitators. The sessions were mainly carried out in the topics of NHE (Nutrition, Health, and Education), ARSH (Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health) and LSE (Life Skill Education). The sessions are transacted followed by LGG (Learning Games for Girls) Training module. There are total 26 lessons in this module out of which only 11 are earmarked as syllabus for their sessions. These 11 lessons are:

NHE: Nutrition Flag, Anaemia and Hand wash

ARSH: Know your body, Reproductive rights, Health hygiene menstruation

LSE: Mental change, Inheritance, Land rights, Kanyashree, Insecurity

Social resource map, drop box and updating of adolescent tracking registers are routine activities during girls group session in every ICDS center by which the vulnerable issues are identified and get addressed accordingly.

Other Miscellaneous activities:

- ✚ Preparation of monitoring plan in close coordination with DPO ICDS
- ✚ Monthly meeting with partner NGOs of this program for overall discussion regarding current activity status, facts and figures etc.
- ✚ Keeping records of out of school adolescent girls (disaggregated between 11 to 14 and 15 to 18)
- ✚ Making advocacy with Health Department for free supply of sanitary napkins
- ✚ Providing exposure visit of the adolescent girls to the nearest Govt. service facility centers like post offices, police stations, Panchayats
- ✚ Referral of adolescent girls to the Anwasha clinics for the mental and physical issues and related counselling
- ✚ School intervention program for basic awareness among SRHR to the students of class VIII to X
- ✚ Monthly report preparation with AWW and compilation at ICDS project level as well as in district level

Conclusion

SAG-KP Convergence program is a holistic adolescent empowerment program which now is scaling up across the state of West Bengal. At the time of field implementation, CINI emphasizes on developing innovative interventions on education, protection, health and nutrition. CINI works extensively with adolescents and their families and communities to strengthen their capacities to contribute to the wellbeing of the adolescents. Side by side it also ensures that right-based, gender sensitive and inclusive approaches are incorporated within all capacity building initiatives. Through this program CINI enhances its engagement in networking and advocacy for building an enabling environment for adolescents with all related line Departments from block up to the state level.

Under this program a robust MIS sheet has been developed to capture field-based data from 8 districts of West Bengal. This helps to document many success stories, innovations etc. for further research and also so that this experience gives extra mileage to run the program across the State in collaboration with Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare.

Acronyms

AB	Adolescent Boy
ADM	Additional District Magistrate
AG	Adolescent Girl
ANC	Ante Natal Check up
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ARSH	Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWC	Anganwadi Centre
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BMI	Body Mass Index
BMOH	Block Medical Officer of Health
BPHN	Block Primary Health Nurse
CMOH	Chief Medical Officer of Health
DLCC	District Level Core Committee
DPO	District Program Officer
DSWO	District Social Welfare Officer
FF	Field Facilitator
FW	Family Welfare
GP	Gram Panchayat
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
IEC	Information Education Communication
IFA	Iron Folic Acid
KP	Kanyashree Prakalpa
LGG	Learning Games for Girls
LSE	Life Skill Education
MO	Medical Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NHE	Nutrition Health Education
PC	Project Coordinator
PNC	Post Natal Check up
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
RD	Rural Development
RKSK	Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram
SAG-KP	Schemes for Adolescent Girls - Kanyashree Prakalap
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
SRM	Social Resource Map
VLCPC	Village Level Child Protection Committee
WCD	Women and Child Development
WIFS	Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplement
WLPC	Ward Level Child Protection Committee