



Project Udaan

Child Rights & Gender
Justice in Murshidabad

2023

**PROJECT
UDAAN** 



About The Project

Project Udaan was initiated in the year 2022-23 in Kandi blocks of Murshidabad, West Bengal. The program aims to cover 700 adolescent girls in the area for a period of three years.

Before initiation of the project a baseline study was done in the area to get an idea about the "knowledge, attitude, and practices" regarding sexual & reproductive health and menstrual health. It was found that the area has a very high rate of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Family Planning was an alien concept to most of the married women. After the study the project was initiated. In the last year we successfully created 33 adolescent centers in 33 villages. Our community mobilizers made house visits to mobilize the community and adolescent girls. The girls were enrolled through giving a roll number and attendance was taken in every session.

We also did a stakeholder meeting in the area for letting them know about the three year project and asking for cooperation. A training unit was set up where 20 women are enrolled for a skill development training on tailoring. The project is in partnership with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives.



Highlights from the Baseline Survey 2022

Age at marriage (%)



64%

We surveyed 458 married women from the age group of 12-35 years. When asked about their age at marriage, 64% of them told that they were married before reaching the legal age.



36%

"According to NFHS 5 (2019-20) data, 41.1% women in West Bengal gets married before reaching 18yrs whereas the same for Murshidabad is 55%."



3 out of 10 women were married before reaching 16 yrs of age. - primary data (survey)



5 out of 10 women were married before reaching 17 yrs of age. - primary data (survey)



6 out of 10 women aged 15-19 years were pregnant or with children during the survey (source: primary data)

"According to NFHS 5 (2019-20) data, 20.6% women aged 15-19 yrs in Murshidabad were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey (%)."

Age of mothers at first birth (in %)



53.4%

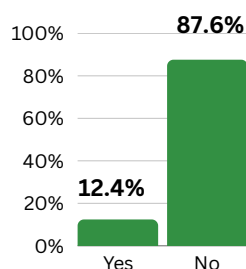
Among our surveyed respondent, 53.4% had given birth before reaching 18yrs



94.3%

Among our surveyed respondent, 94.3% had given birth before reaching 21 yrs

Around **90.8%** said that they didn't meet the health worker last month. Also, they mentioned that the health workers have never spoken about contraceptives with them.



Around 87.6% said that they do not have idea about where to obtain family planning methods whereas 12.4% knew where to go for family planning



7 out of 10 respondents said use of contraception should be decided by the husband.

Our theory of change

- When stakeholders (families, friends, communities) are sensitized on gender-based violence and discrimination, young adults in the environment find themselves educated and empowered to recognise the same.
- The young adults are also sensitized against all kinds of gender based violence and its impact.
- This leads to young adults recognising their role in perpetuating discrimination and violence, as well as their ability to make a difference. All the above comes together to create both an enabling environment as well as momentum to take action.
- Therefore, Young Adults will transform themselves, build healthy relationships, influence their peers and drive social change by impacting social norms that perpetrate violence.
- The end result: Reducing violence and discrimination against women and girls.



Our approach



A community level awareness program is taken every month on gender-based violence, SRHR since the rate of child marriage is very high in the area. Through these awareness sessions the stakeholders are informed and empowered to protect themselves and the adolescents from child marriage and gender-based violence.



Adolescent meetings are conducted every month in the area in 33 centres to generate awareness on gender-based violence and life skills. Through these meetings they are empowered to take right decisions in their life.



A vocational training unit is set up where 20 local beneficiaries are now being trained in basic stitching and tailoring techniques. These women belong to households having monthly income less than Rs7000/- per month. The training aims to develop alternative skill among these women so that they can earn their own money.



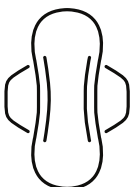
Under the project Udaan, govt health workers are trained on Sexual Reproductive Health and menstrual health. Capacity Building sessions are conducted every quarterly along with proper IEC materials



Celebrating important days as events to mark the importance of women and child rights in the area. Under the program, three important days are celebrated along with the community to mark the importance of the program.



A girls' football team is formed under the program comprising girls from the tribal community and minority background. Our initiative provides a means to break stereotypes and build confidence among young girls through Football For Her (Football team for girls) program.



In the training centre, the women will be trained in reusable cloth pad making after completion of their tailoring course. They will be making 2000 reusable cloth sanitary napkins which will be distributed in the local community.

FOOTBALL FOR HER - MURSHIDABAD

One of the most important component of the project is - **Football For Her program. The initiative help us to provide a means to break stereotypes and build confidence among young girls through Football.** It is also a means to break the common stereotype that "Only boys can play football".

We selected **30 girls from the community and started the training center from last year November.** At the initiation, we experienced a lot of dropouts from the team which was then addressed through repeated home visits and counselling session of the parents and the girls. **The team has gained considerable popularity from the local newspaper and media channels.** These players were also provided nutrition support every day after practice through an individual donation. Beside football training, gender sensitization and lifeskskill classes are also taken with them to keep them motivated for the game.

To show support and encourage these young girls, the German Consul General in Kolkata Mr. Manfred Auster handed over donation of sports equipment under the 'International sports promotion policy' of German Federal Foreign Office.



Childrens' Day Special Friendly Football Match at Mahalandi

Our girls geared up for a friendly girls' football match between "Team Udaan & Team Jabala". It's all about joy, talent, cheering on our little stars and standing for gender Justice!



Our Mission

A society where women and girls enjoy equal Rights and entitlements.

Our Vision

To create an enabling environment for women and girls by equipping the society with knowledge, life skills and capability development. skills and capacity development.

ANAHAT FOR CHANGE FOUNDATION

28, DIAMOND HARBOUR ROAD, KOLKATA-700060, WEST BENGAL.

PH. NO. - 9836015001/8197271333

Email: info@anahatngo.org

Website: www.anahatngo.org
www.anahatunnati.com