

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS - BUILDING A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO PREVENT AND REDUCE GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Kishangarh Block, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India
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Title: Qualitative Analysis - Building a coordinated response to prevent and reduce Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Kishangarh Block, Ajmer, Rajasthan India

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Abbreviations

1. ADJ - Additional District Judge
2. ANM - Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
3. AWCs - Anganwadi Centres
4. AWW - Anganwadi Worker
5. CAP – Convergent Action Plan
6. CFAR - Centre for Advocacy and Research
7. DLSA - District Legal Services Authority
8. EWR- Elected Women Representative
9. GBV - Gender-Based Violence
10. GPs - Gram Panchayats
11. ICDS - Integrated Child Development Services
12. IDRF - India Development Relief Fund
13. MSSK - Mahila Salaha evm Suraksha Kendra
14. OSC - One-Stop Centre
15. PLV - Para Legal Volunteer
16. PRI - Panchayati Raj Institution
17. PTF - Partnership for Transparency
18. SDM - Sub-Divisional Magistrate
19. SHG - Self Help Group
20. WCD - Women and Child Development
21. WE - Women Empowerment

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS - Building a coordinated response to prevent and reduce Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Executive Summary

Gender-based violence (GBV) has been a prevalent issue which undermines dignity of women, and is a threat to equality and development. Though the Indian Constitution provides equal status and opportunities for both men and women, the reality on the ground remains far from it and GBV is one of the biggest deterrents in achieving it. As part of advocacy efforts to increase the attention paid towards the issue and evolve strategies to combat GBV, the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) in 2022, initiated a project that aimed at addressing GBV in Kishangarh Block, Ajmer, Rajasthan. This pioneering project is funded by PTF and IDRF, and is part of a broader campaign across the state and seeks to shape both systemic and grassroots responses to tackle GBV.

Targeting a population of 68,397 across 10 Gram Panchayats (GPs), the project endeavours to raise awareness about legal recourse and available services for those affected by GBV. Accordingly, CFAR had identified and empowered potential change agents within the community, facilitating the formation of Gender Forums led by women. These forums collaborate with local service providers and decision-makers to ensure a gender-sensitive and responsive justice system.

To understand the current GBV situation the project commenced with a baseline study which revealed significant concerns regarding GBV in public spaces and transport, alongside low awareness of rights and government initiatives. However, after the launch of the project, a midline assessment showed improvements in awareness levels but highlighted persistent challenges such as violence related to dowry demands and alcoholism.

CFAR has commissioned a qualitative assessment of the three-year intervention through the project. Key impacts of the project can be seen in the following manner:

1. Transformative impact on survivors, enabling them to rebuild their lives and reclaim their autonomy.
2. Active involvement of gender champions contributing to shifting societal attitudes and creating safer environments for women and girls.
3. Translation of community voices into tangible actions, leading to meaningful change at local levels.
4. Convergence-centric approach has fostered effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, ensuring a unified response to GBV.

However, persisting practices such as working in silos, and poor coordination among departments highlight the need for a Convergent Action Plan (CAP) to streamline efforts, enhance accountability, and sustain progress in combating GBV. Through actionable recommendations, the project sets the stage for continued collaboration and collective action, ensuring that the momentum for change remains strong and enduring. Some of the recommendations include strengthening community-based models, engaging with Women Safety and Counselling Centres, and enhancing frontline worker training. Additionally, the assessment identified gaps in government scheme awareness and urged urgent intervention to enhance awareness.

Looking ahead, the findings of this impact assessment will explore the project's expansion plan, strategy improvement, and identification of existing gaps, processes involved, virtual consultations, qualitative analysis, and stakeholder consultations to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the project's impact across various levels and dimensions.

Project Background

The project, "Building a Coordinated Response to Prevent and Reduce Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Kishangarh Block, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India," was conceived and funded by PTF and IDRF. It has been implemented by the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), India, since 2021. The primary objective of this initiative is to shape an effective grassroots response mechanism to comprehensively address the issue of GBV by enhancing the preparedness and capacity of both the administrative and legal systems, and also the community.

Targeting a population of 68,397 in 10 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Kishangarh Block, the project aims to raise awareness about legal recourse and available services for women, girls, and groups affected by GBV. Simultaneously, CFAR had identified potential change agents and leaders within the community, facilitating the formation of Gender Forums led by women. These forums have been supported to collectively engage key stakeholders in creating an enabling environment and processes to prevent and reduce GBV.

By adopting a dual approach of self-organization and collaboration with the governmental system, Gender Forums have been working with local service providers, duty-bearers, and decision-makers at various levels to ensure that the justice system becomes not only gender-sensitive but also responsive. For this they are utilizing administrative and legal address systems effectively. By empowering grassroots groups and making the elimination of GBV a collective responsibility, they are breaking the notion that GBV is a personal or isolated women's issue. However, these collaborative efforts are facing challenges in neutralizing local power structures established by dominant groups and self-appointed leaders.

The baseline study, which sought to comprehend the prevailing situation within the specified geographic area, was key in identifying and recognizing the underlying causes of GBV in local rural settings. Additionally, it aimed to ensure that the state is obliged to implement laws, policies, and services to prevent GBV. On the other hand, the midline study had specific objectives, including evaluating the output of a set of indicators to obtain reliable evidence on

how the intervention helped. Furthermore, it aimed to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of all project components and understand the sustainability of the activities conducted to achieve the set targets under the project.

The key findings of the baseline study further notes, the concerns regarding GBV in public spaces and public transport, along with insights on awareness of rights and the willingness to file formal complaints. Notably, 88% of participants identified the fear of GBV by men as the primary reason for avoiding solo visits to public places, with 73% extending this reluctance to venturing outside their villages. The study revealed a significant disparity in perceptions, with 49% believing that less than 50% of men misbehaved with women in public, while 18% thought more than 50% did. Disturbingly, 40% of women reported experiencing discrimination or molestation in places like markets and streets. Despite these challenges, 77% felt safer in public spaces when accompanied by husbands or friends/relatives.

On public transport, 50% of respondents expressed hesitation, with 25% feeling totally unsafe, 38% considering it generally unsafe, and 29% felt somewhat safe (see Annexure A). Regarding awareness of rights and readiness to file complaints, 67% expressed a willingness to lodge formal complaints in the face of GBV, while 33% cited societal shaming, fear of retaliation, and distrust in the judicial system as deterrents. Educational initiatives were emphasized, with 59% underscoring the importance of education in raising awareness about rights, and 57% advocating for increased awareness of women's rights. Notably, only 20% attended awareness programs, indicating a gap in community engagement.

Regarding intervention and government schemes, 14% of respondents reported approaching political leaders with GBV issues, and awareness about existing government schemes addressing trauma resulting from violence was found to be too low. Urgent intervention is recommended to enhance awareness about these programs. A mere 14% reported open discussions on GBV issues in their communities. The study concludes with recommendations, including continuous community engagement, institutional support to combat GBV, improved access to redressal mechanisms and essential services, and the creation of safe spaces for women and girls. Additionally, addressing the impact of COVID-19 on GBV is identified as a crucial aspect of any intervention strategy.

The midline assessment also evaluated the outcome of the interventions, assessed project components' appropriateness and effectiveness, and understood the sustainability of activities. A mixed-method approach was employed, with a sample size of 120 individuals representing 10 Gram Panchayats. Demographic data revealed varied age groups and marital statuses among respondents, with widows comprising a notable portion (see Annexure B). Educational profiles showed diverse levels, with a majority completing primary education (see Annexure C). The midline assessment further showed improved awareness levels about government initiatives addressing women's issues due to information materials distributed during awareness meetings (see Annexure D).

The report highlighted an increase in violence attributed to dowry demands and alcoholism. Perceptions of sexual harassment in public transport improved, with fewer respondents feeling it was "Not at all" safe. Perception about women's safety in markets and while in traveling also improved, reflecting positive shifts in perceptions.

Recommendations included strengthening community-based models, engaging with Women Safety and Counselling Centres, developing Gender Resource Centers, and providing paralegal volunteer training to Gram Sakhis. Stakeholder recommendations encompassed access to legal aid, awareness campaigns, and coordination between departments. Strengthening police initiatives, promoting education in panchayats, and enhancing frontline worker training were also suggested for GBV reduction strategies.

About Current Study

The primary aim of this study is to assess and comprehend both the tangible and intangible effects, outcomes, and changes resulting from the interventions. By evaluating the project's effectiveness in meeting its stated goals and objectives, this assessment offers insights into its overall impact on the targeted communities or areas. Looking forward, the findings of this impact assessment will be instrumental in shaping the project's future trajectory.

Identified outcomes will serve as a foundation for devising an expansion plan, determining where the project can be scaled for broader impact. It is envisioned that recognizing successful interventions and their impact will highlight opportunities for strategic improvement, paving the way for enhanced effectiveness. Moreover, the assessment will identify areas for strategic improvement, allowing for refinements and adjustments to maximize efficiency and build upon successes while addressing shortcomings.

Systematically identifying any existing gaps in the current project implementation will be crucial. These gaps, once identified, will serve as critical indicators for areas requiring attention and improvement. Addressing these gaps will be integral to the project's evolution, ensuring a more comprehensive and effective approach moving forward.

An analysis of what is working and what is not will be essential for navigating the project in future. By determining successful elements and areas that may need adaptation, the project can tailor its approach for optimal impact. This reflective process will contribute to ongoing project refinement, fostering continuous improvement in its implementation. In essence, the future direction outlined in the impact assessment includes expansion planning, strategic enhancement, identification of gaps, and an evaluation of pros and cons. These are essential for the project's continued success and relevance in the targeted communities.

Processes involved:

Virtual Consultations: The methodological approach encompassed a series of virtual meetings to discuss different aspects of the project aligning with the organization's expectations. These sessions, attended by key stakeholders including the organization lead, project lead, team members, and consultants, employed a participatory framework to facilitate healthy discussions, and foster a mutual understanding of the impact assessment approach. The virtual consultations also provided a platform for interactive engagements to explore the project's intricacies.

Qualitative Analysis: The impact assessment method embraced a qualitative analysis framework, employing a multifaceted approach that included in-depth interviews, focus

group discussions, and case studies. This qualitative methodology was instrumental in assessing the impact the project created. By delving into individual stories, collecting testimonials, and extracting personal opinions, this qualitative analysis sought to provide a comprehensive view of how the project has influenced individuals and communities, and the intricate dynamics at the local level. This approach aimed to go beyond statistical measures, uncovering the qualitative essence of the impact.

Stakeholder Consultation: The evaluation strategy prioritized stakeholder consultations to ensure an inclusive assessment of the project's impact across different levels. Perspectives from various stakeholders, including project beneficiaries, implementing partners, and other relevant actors, were actively sought. Notably, interviews were conducted with key stakeholders such as the Department of Police, Women and Child Development (WCD), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Judiciary, and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The insights from these stakeholders enriched the evaluation process and provided a broader understanding of the project's impact.

Findings of the Study

Outcome 1: Increased awareness in the local community on laws to combat

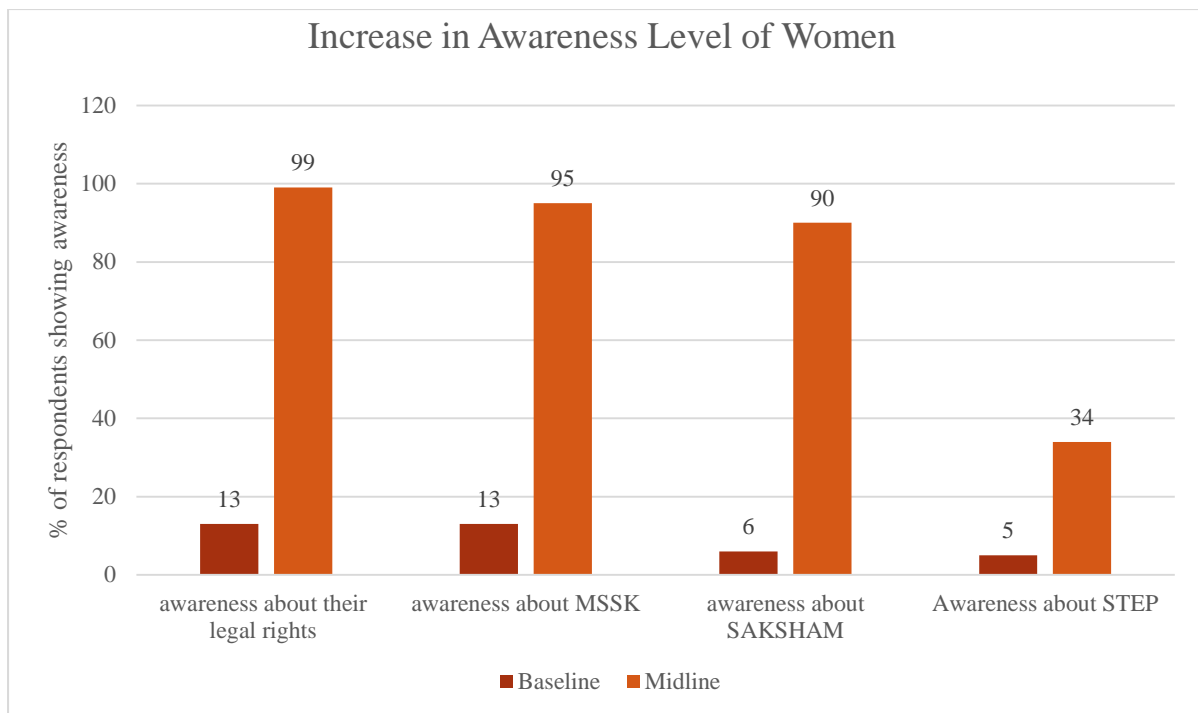
Key Questions:

1. To what extent has the project increased awareness of laws combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the local community?
2. How effective have the outputs, such as issue-based experts emerging from GPs and improved access to key schemes/services?
3. What impact has the project had on empowering individuals to demand accountability from duty bearers and actively participate in creating a safe environment free from GBV?

GBV

The “Outcome 1” focusing on increasing awareness on laws combating GBV in the local community has created positive impacts. An analysis of quantitative data shows that there was a substantial increase in awareness levels among project beneficiaries regarding legal rights related to GBV after the launch of the project. Prior to the project, only a 13% percentage of respondents were aware of their legal rights whereas post-project surveys shows big jump (99%) in awareness levels, underscoring the effectiveness of the project's interventions. Further, awareness level on Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra (MSSK) went from 13% to 95% and for Self-Defence Training Programme for Girls (SAKSHAM) it jumped from 6% to 90%. Similarly, the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) saw substantial increase from 5% to 34% while Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat (PMLK) and Family Courts exhibit noticeable progress. The awareness level for rehabilitation, Swadhargreh, Short Stay Home/Nari Shala, and the Victim Compensation Scheme also saw positive shifts. These findings suggest effective awareness campaigns and

highlight the imperative to continue the efforts to enhance knowledge about these government initiatives.



Interaction with SHO Police Station, Madanganj Kishangarh 29 February 2024, Endline Assessment

The project conducted six targeted awareness campaigns, directly engaging 357 beneficiaries and indirectly reaching 4552 individuals in the local community. These campaigns were helpful educating the community about GBV, its consequences, legal recourse, and available support services for survivors. The result of the awareness activities can be seen in the following manner:

1. Emergence of issue-based experts from each GP

The project has empowered 20 experts on different issues, including 10 Gram Sakhis and 10 Help Desk workers through trainings. Both Gram Sakhis and Help Desk In-charges play pivotal roles in supporting survivors of VAW, raising awareness about available resources and legal rights, and advocating for a safer environment for women. As trained subject experts, they create a conducive environment where survivors can speak comfortably. They are instrumental in crisis intervention, safety planning, providing emotional support, and referrals to essential services such as mental health counselling, economic empowerment programs, and legal aid. With their active engagement with survivors and their families, they build trust and confidence of the affected people and create a safe space for them to seek help and support. Their knowledge, dedication, and accessibility enable them to effectively address challenges faced by women, thereby contributing to the broader goals of gender equality and empowerment. The following testimonials from the field will vouch their contribution:

These testimonials from adolescent girls and women further reinforces the fact that subject experts, such as Saraswati Didi and Priyanka, are making a positive impact on communities.

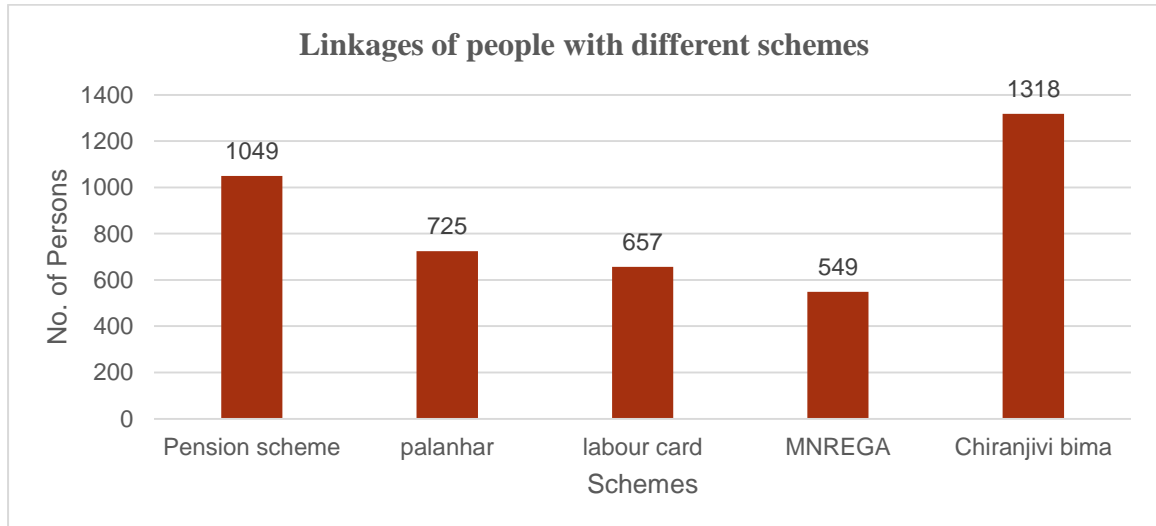
Saraswati Didi, the Gram Sakhi from Roopangarh, is a reliable source of support and guidance for the adolescent girls and women. Her expertise and dedication have empowered numerous women, providing them with essential resources and assistance. Through her efforts, not only are women equipped to address issues like domestic violence, but even the perpetrators are deterred by the potential consequences, indicating a shift in societal norms and attitudes towards gender-based violence.

Priyanka, serves as a Mahila Help Desk worker in Mandwan and plays a crucial role in providing assistance to women in accessing government schemes, benefits, and documentation processes. Her presence beyond office hours and hardwork demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that women have a safe space to seek help and support when needed. By taking up issues concerning domestic violence and addressing bureaucratic hurdles in accessing schemes, Priyanka contributes to the empowerment of women and the improvement of their overall well-being.

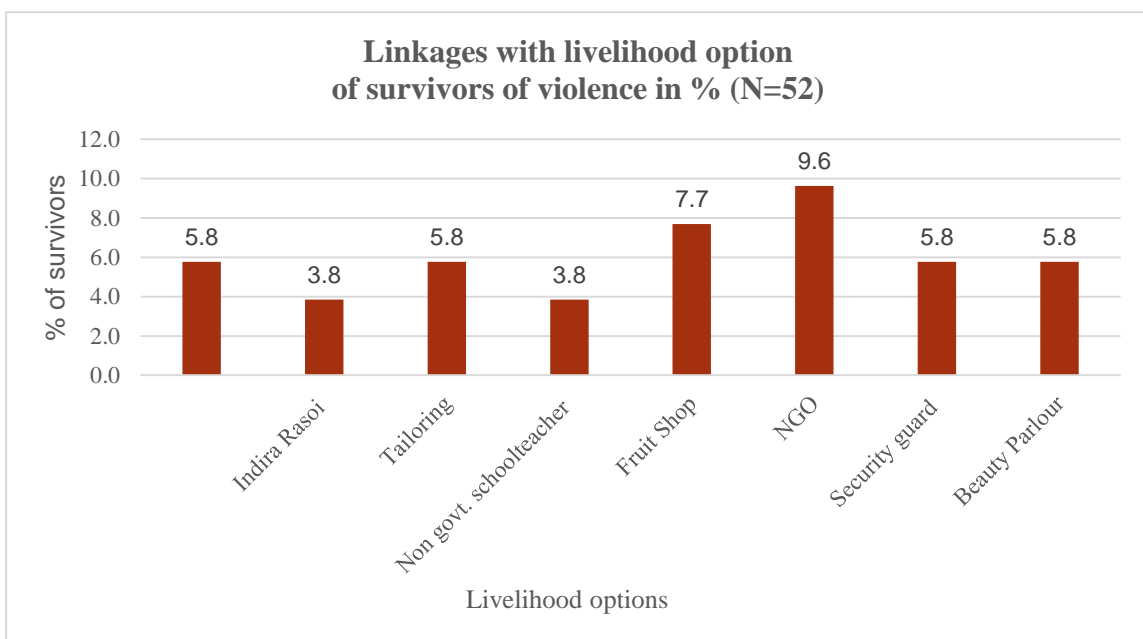
2. Increased Access to Schemes and Services

The project focused on enhancing women's access to essential services and promoting their empowerment, particularly for survivors of GBV. Various interventions were implemented, leading to increased utilization of healthcare, legal aid, counselling, and livelihood support services. A total of 4,298 linkages were established to connect

beneficiaries with government initiatives, covering pension schemes, orphaned children, employment programs like the Labor Card and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and healthcare services like Chiranjeevi Bima.



The project's interventions included linkages to various schemes thereby empowering beneficiaries both socially and economically. For example, linkages to pension schemes targeted elderly women and economically marginalized survivors to provide financial assistance. Similarly, linkages to the Palanhar program focused on supporting orphaned children's welfare and growth opportunities. Linkages to the Labor Card and MGNREGA job cards aimed not only to provide employment opportunities but also to promote financial independence thereby reducing beneficiaries' vulnerability to economic exploitation. Linkages to Chiranjeevi Bima underscored the commitment to addressing healthcare needs, crucial for the well-being of survivors and their families.





A Beneficiary involved in IGA through Indira Rasoi

"The project's efforts to link survivors with livelihood programmes have been life-changing for me. Through their support, I was able to secure a job as a security guard, providing me with financial stability and independence. I am now empowered to support myself and my family, thanks to the project's interventions."- A Project beneficiary

Further, 37 survivors have become members of Rajivika clusters of which five are holding important positions in the clusters (1 Cluster In-charge, 2 Bank Mitra and 2 Pashu Sakhi). Besides the survivors, several women were linked with income-generation activities (IGA), out of which a total of 665 beneficiaries are currently earning through various initiatives, including the (MGNREGA), tailoring, and Self-Help Group (SHG) loans.

The allocation of beneficiaries across different income-generating activities reflects a diversified strategy to cater to the varied skills and preferences of beneficiaries. Notably, MGNREGA, with 149 beneficiaries, serves as a crucial avenue for income generation. Tailoring emerges as another significant IGA, with 153 beneficiaries currently earning through this skill-based activity. Tailoring not only provides a source of income but also offers opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-reliance, particularly for women who may possess sewing skills or aspire to enter the garment industry. Furthermore, the substantial number of beneficiaries accessing SHG loans (363) highlights the importance of microfinance and group-based approaches in making women financially independent. SHGs enable women to access financial services, build savings, and invest in income-generating activities, thereby promoting sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience.

Impact Analysis:

An analysis of the project interventions found demonstrated impact on people with a positive shift in their perception about women's safety in public places. These interventions emboldened women to speak out against violence. The analysis further indicates a strong association between exposure to intervention components and the change in behaviors and attitudes which is necessary for the realization of positive social change. This positive changes in people's attitude is attributable to the increased awareness level facilitated by the project interventions. Further the emergence of issue-based experts coupled with increased access to schemes and services has not only enhanced the well-being of survivors but also contributed significantly to their empowerment in combating gender-based violence in the following manner:

A. Leading the Charge: Empowered Women at the Forefront Against Violence:

The emergence of 20 transformative leaders within the project has been instrumental in enhancing the fight against VAW. By empowering these individuals to demand accountability from duty bearers and actively participate in creating a safe environment, the project has fostered a sense of confidence among women.

"I used to think that gender-based violence was just a part of life, something we had to endure silently. But after attending the awareness campaigns organized by the project, I realized that it's not right. We have rights, and there are people who can help us. Now, I feel more empowered to speak up against violence and seek help if needed. I have also pasted the helpline number near my Mandir"- A beneficiary of the awareness campaigns.

During the study, several participants expressed their newfound confidence in asserting their rights and holding duty bearers accountable for addressing GBV. The testimonials from a number of beneficiaries exemplify the transformative impact of the project's leadership and activities:



Raising awareness on Helpline, gram panchayat Nal, 22 May 2023

An example of demanding accountability comes from the Harmada village where one of the women beneficiaries emphasized the urgent need for collaboration with the police to conduct safety audits in our communities. Identifying high-risk areas and strategizing to enhance safety for women and girls in public spaces is imperative for accountability and creating a safer environment for all.

There are several evidence as above, which display the **transformational impact of these experts**, who not only raised awareness but also facilitated access to support services and legal aid for the survivors of GBV. A few testimonials from the beneficiaries are given below:

*One such example is of **Sakhina Bano of Patan GP**. Sakhina's collaboration with a support group member from Chundari village illustrates the ripple effect of community engagement, as she disseminates information about **laws prohibiting witchcraft** to local bhopas, gradually fostering awareness and bringing about positive change. This participatory approach to decision-making empowers communities to take ownership of GBV prevention and response efforts, ensuring that interventions are responsive to the needs and priorities of those most affected.*

Through the project's initiatives, these exemplary women have gained awareness of their rights and available support services, leading to increased empowerment to speak out against violence and seek help when needed. At the same time, they have significantly contributed to creating a more informed and empowered community that is actively engaged in combating VAW. Utilizing various platforms, including 108 community meetings with 9042 participants, as well as focus groups and participatory workshops, the women leaders have sought avenues to share perspectives, identify priorities, and co-create solutions to tackle GBV.

B. Transformative Impact of Improved Access to Essential Services and Livelihood options in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

The project's holistic approach towards improving access to essential services has enhanced the well-being of survivors and empowered them towards a path of recovery, independence, and resilience in the fight against GBV.

"Before, I felt isolated and helpless after experiencing gender-based violence. But thanks to the project's efforts, I now have access to essential support services like healthcare, counseling, and legal aid. The project linked me with resources that have helped me heal and rebuild my life. I am grateful for their support during my moment of crisis." - A survivor of GBV who benefited from improved access to services.

The impact of increasing access to key schemes and services such as food, social security, health, counseling, legal aid, and livelihood has been profound. Access to essential services like healthcare, counseling, and social security has contributed to better physical and mental well-being among individuals. Survivors who previously faced barriers in accessing healthcare due to financial constraints or the absence of medical care available in their close proximity, have been able to receive medical treatment and counseling support to reduce psychological distress, leading to improved recovery and healing processes. The case of Manbhar is a perfect example.

*Jamila Bano, a gram sakhi in Chundari village, has played a pivotal role in addressing sexual harassment at workplaces through community engagement. Her efforts have brought about significant change by raising awareness about safety issues and empowering women to speak out against harassment. Beyond awareness-raising, Jamila actively negotiated with factory workers to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) and ensured their visibility. This grassroots initiative not only addressed immediate concerns but also empowered women to assert their rights and demand accountability. Jamila's initiative highlighted the **importance of ICCs in addressing workplace harassment** and integrating them into broader GBV prevention efforts. These committees play a crucial role in supporting survivors and ensuring accountability for perpetrators. By strengthening the link between workplace policies and GBV prevention efforts, the project has fostered a culture of zero tolerance for GBV across different sectors, enhancing effectiveness and promoting accountability.*

The impact of increasing access to key schemes and services such as food, social security, health, counseling, legal aid, and livelihood has been profound. Access to essential services like healthcare, counseling, and social security has contributed to better physical and mental well-being among individuals. Survivors who previously faced barriers in accessing healthcare due to financial constraints or the absence of medical care available in their close proximity, have been able to receive medical treatment and counseling support to reduce psychological distress, leading to improved recovery and healing processes. The case of Manbhar is a perfect example.

*Neetu Khatik, an 18-year-old from a marginalized community, challenges prevalent child marriage practices. Despite societal norms, she advocates for **girls' education** and has rescued and connected 10 girls to school, up to classes 10 and 12. Engaged with CFAR for a year and part of the Sursura village girls' group, Neetu now counsels parents and spread the message on the **adverse effects of child marriage** through live examples. Recognized by the Gram Panchayat, she has helped to create a supportive environment for education and fights against child marriages in her community, making a significant contribution in promoting girls' rights and*

The fact that GBV survivors are now seeking healthcare access and counselling is worth telling considering the dismal state in the practice of seeking medical care post gender-based violence, including sexual violence. As per data of NFHS-V over 98% of GBV survivors do not access healthcare in India.

The project's focus on expanding livelihood options for women was critical in fostering their economic empowerment and resilience. By offering a diverse range of income-generating opportunities, such as the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, tailoring, and engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women are equipped with support services. This not only provides stability but also reduces their vulnerability to exploitation and GBV. When women have access to stable income and entrepreneurship opportunities, they become less reliant on others for financial support, enabling them to assert greater control over their lives and make decisions that benefit themselves and their communities. Therefore, interventions that increase economic security of women, together with approaches that foster equitable gender dynamics, serves as a protective factor against GBV.

“Before the project, I felt trapped in a cycle of dependence and vulnerability. But now, with the skills I've gained through tailoring training and access to the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, I can stand on my own feet. I'm not just earning an income; I'm reclaiming my independence and taking control of my life.” – A beneficiary from Chundari

Manbhar Meghwanshi, a 30-year-old disabled woman from Kheda village in Ajmer, was subjected to severe abuse by her alcoholic husband. The abuse was stemmed from their troubled marriage rooted in the Atta-satta customary practice. After staying at her sister's house for three years, she faced further brutality upon her return home and found herself living in dire circumstances. Manbhar reached out to the Gram Sakhis for assistance. The Gram Sakhis took up her case and helped her to lodge an FIR. Gram Sakhis also facilitated her stay in a short-stay home before referring her to the Sakhi center for further support. After attempts to reconcile with her family failed, the SDM, Ajmer, intervened, and ordered her transfer to Nari Niketan Home for long-term stay and assistance. With legal assistance, Manbhar is now empowered to fight for her rights. She expressed gratitude for the unwavering support the CFAR team provided throughout her journey.

Furthermore, by providing access to financial resources and opportunities, the project contributes to broader efforts aimed at promoting gender equality within the community. Economic independence strengthens women's ability to challenge traditional gender norms, assert boundaries, and demand accountability from perpetrators. This also lays the groundwork for long-term empowerment and social change. Overall, the project's intervention serves as a catalyst for advancing gender equality.

Outcome 2: GBV survivors have been emboldened to seek medical, legal, and social services and get justice following incidents of GBV

Key Questions:

1. How do GBV support groups initiate and facilitate micro-planning processes with local service providers (LSP)? In what ways do the micro-plans developed by GBV support groups address the unique needs and challenges faced by GBV survivors in gram panchayats?
2. Have any of the micro-plan been accepted by the department? What changes has this brought about? Were there any challenges in getting the micro-plan accepted by the department?
3. Are there any examples of male engagement initiatives in addressing GBV? What role do support group play in promoting and sustaining male engagement initiatives for GBV prevention? Has male engagement programs contributed to shifting attitudes and behaviours related to gender equality and violence against women?

The targeted Outcome 2, aimed at empowering GBV survivors to access medical, legal, and social services, has seen big improvement with survivors increasingly utilizing services offered by various departments. Across all 10 selected Gram Panchayats, micro-planning initiatives have been implemented to address the issues concerning GBV, and for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. These initiatives begin with the formation of youth groups in each GP, engaging young men in community initiatives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Frontline workers play crucial roles in these efforts, providing valuable insights into the needs of GBV survivors and facilitating communication between support groups and departmental leads. Despite challenges such as limited resources and bureaucratic processes, **micro-plans developed by GBV support groups are tailored to address the specific needs and challenges faced by survivors.**

Departmental Acceptance of Micro Plans:

During the discussion with Supervisor, WCD, it was noted that different departments evaluate micro-plans based on their feasibility, alignment with departmental priorities, resource availability, and potential impact on service delivery for GBV survivors. They also consider input from frontline workers, (for example, the WCD depended on inputs from Sathins) community members, and other stakeholders during the evaluation process. One major achievement has been the acceptance of the micro plan by line departments such as-

1. Women Empowerment Department
2. Women and Child Development Department
3. Health Department
4. Gram Panchayat (Panchayatiraj)

For instance, girls from Cheetakhera village identified the urgent need for a nearby senior secondary school to ensure safe access to education. This initiative, aimed to address the problem of high dropout rate among girls, also attributed to get rid of the harassment and stalking they face while traveling long distances to reach schools.

Actions Taken in Gram Panchayats after adopting Micro Plans:

In many Gram Panchayats, proactive measures have been taken to address GBV and support survivors. In Roopangarh, while strategic installations of road lights and cameras enhanced safety, 455 women were linked with welfare schemes to get access to healthcare facilities, financial assistance, and social services. Besides, the successful resolution of reported GBV cases reflects the efficacy of community-driven initiatives in providing justice and support.

While the project intervention contributes to the efforts of ending GBV from which early child marriages and different forms of violence against women are tackled. The rescue of girls from child marriage in Sursura is a case in point. Their rescue and integration with mainstream education and vocational training not only safeguarded their future but also empowered them to lead a better life. Furthermore, safety measures like installing cameras in schools and increasing police patrolling reinforce protection, especially for vulnerable individuals like GBV survivors.

The increased participation of women in community meetings are the reflection of the efforts wherein women are equipped with essential skills to propel them to combat GBV. Similarly, in Patan and Harmada, initiatives such as linking girls with education and installing safety infrastructure like road lights contribute to creating safer environments and addressing systemic issues. Grievance registration and collective action through women's groups highlight a responsive approach to survivors' concerns. In Bandarsindri and Kadha, similar efforts were also made to provide safety and promote economic empowerment of the survivors. Overall, these initiatives address GBV and promote gender equality at the grassroots level.

*In Harmada Village, women from SHGs teamed up with CFAR to address prevalent issues by proposing **the installation of CCTV cameras in public spaces**. This joint initiative led to increased police vigilance and a notable reduction in harassment incidents. The proactive collaboration between women, the Gram Panchayat, and the police administration resulted in immediate assistance, instilling a sense of joy and heightened security within the village. Sarpanch Chetan Chotiya Ji commended the women's initiative, emphasizing their active role in combating violence, while Rekha Kanwar expressed relief at the enhanced police response. The story from Harmada Village underscores the significant impact of community collaboration in fostering a safer environment*

GPs	Action taken as the result of adopting Micro Plans
Roopangarh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Road lights and cameras were installed to enhance safety and protect women from harassment ◆ So far, 14 cases of violence against women have been reported in the Gram Panchayat, with 4 cases resolved. ◆ 455 women from three Gram Panchayats have been connected with various welfare schemes.
Sursura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regularization of VHSNCs and Increased participation of women in VHSNC and Jajam baithaks ◆ 10 girls rescued from child marriage and linked with mainstream education ◆ Police patrolling has been increased in 5 villages ◆ Cameras have been installed in Kasturba School so that stray persons can be monitored.
Patan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 15 girls linked with mainstream education ◆ Mini anganwadi centres opened
Chundari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The long-standing problem of ration of village women got solved through women's group.
Hadmada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Road lights and cameras were installed in Harmada ◆ Panchayat has registered grievance cases of women
Bandarsindri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Women have been linked to the cooperative bank for self-employment.
Kadha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Women have given proposals for 3 road lights in the Panchayat. ◆ 705 people have been linked with government schemes by the panchayat

*In Chundari village, adjacent to the bustling Jaipur-Bombay National Highway, women's groups voiced concerns about the hazardous location of the **PDS shop** during a meeting with CFAR. Many accidents took place while people crossing the busy highway to buy ration and the perilous task of crossing the highway, endangered the villagers' safety. Inspired by a shared commitment to community well-being, the women, supported by CFAR, took proactive steps and submitted applications and met the SDM, escalating the issue to the district level in Ajmer.*

Through persistent advocacy and unwavering determination, the women's efforts bore fruit as Chundari village successfully secured its own ration shop, and now villagers need not cross the highway to buy ration. This struggle exemplifies the power of collective action and advocacy, highlighting the positive impact of CFAR's intervention in enhancing the lives of Chundari's residents.

Challenges in getting the micro plans accepted by the departments

During discussions with the project team, following challenges regarding acceptance of micro plans at district level were highlighted:

- **Complex Administrative Structures:** District administrations often oversee multiple sectors and departments, making it difficult to coordinate efforts and allocate resources effectively for GBV initiatives.
- **Bureaucratic hurdles and frequent transfers:** Decision-making processes within district administrations can be slow due to bureaucratic apathy, delaying the approval and implementation of GBV micro-plans. At the same time, frequent transfers of officials, who have been sensitized on the issues, also creates problems.
- **Geographic challenges:** Districts encompass vast geographical areas with diverse populations, making it difficult to reach remote or marginalized communities with GBV interventions.



Girls celebrating on the display of Helplines by auto and bus drivers autos and buses, Chundri village, Patan gram panchyat, 20 October, 2023

Male Participation in addressing GBV

This study found significant best practices initiated by boys' groups to promote women's empowerment and gender equality within the community. Through targeted interventions, at least 100 men and boys, with representation from each Gram Panchayat, were identified and equipped with the knowledge, skills, and tools to champion gender equality and combat GBV within their communities. These gender champions underwent training sessions on the root causes of GBV, challenging stereotypes, and promoting positive masculinity. Armed with this knowledge, they were empowered to initiate conversations, challenge discriminatory practices, and advocate for change within their social circles.



'Hum Ladke badal rahe hai'-Engaging boys with Speak –up app campaign MIS School, Kishangarh, campaign held on 19th August, 2023

Best Practices Implemented:

- 1. Ensuring Functioning of Gram Sabha through Boys' Groups:** The boys' groups, through their active involvement, have ensured that the meetings of Gram Sabhas are held regularly and discussed matters concerning women' safety. These meetings have been instrumental in discussing action plans and addressing community concerns, with a specific focus on the women safety. Initiatives such as installing streetlights, cameras, and public bathing facilities have been prioritized based on inputs from these groups.
- 2. Engagement of Boys in Household Chores:** A cultural shift is underway as boys actively participate in household chores within their homes. Under the slogan "We Boys Are Changing," efforts are made to challenge traditional gender roles and promote equitable sharing of domestic responsibilities. Moreover, boys are engaging in dialogue within pressure groups to sensitize men about the detrimental impacts of violence against women, contributing to a safer and more supportive community environment.
- 3. Raising Awareness on Women's Safety:** Extensive awareness campaigns have been conducted by the boys' groups to address the issue of women's safety in public spaces. These initiatives aim to prevent incidents of violence against women by raising awareness about available support mechanisms, including helplines and one-stop centres. Additionally, efforts are made to provide rapid response and assistance to women in distress, ensuring their safety and well-being.

Impact Analysis:

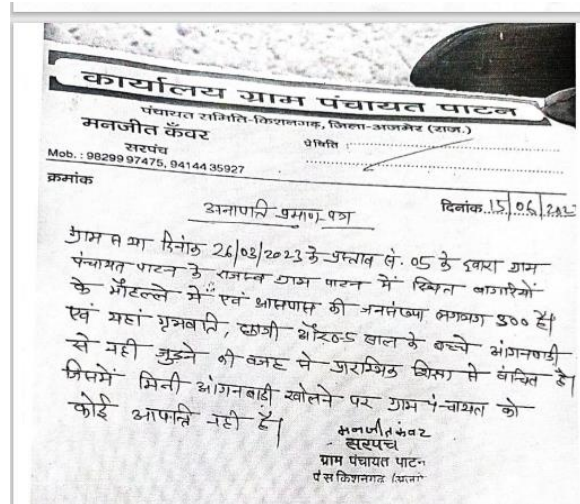
The "Outcome 2" has significant impacts on survivors, communities, and gender equality initiatives:

A. Fostering Community Engagement for Improving Delivery of Services through Micro-Planning and Coordination

Micro-planning initiatives across 10 Gram Panchayats have empowered the GBV survivors to access vital support such as medical, legal, and social services. As a result these GPs saw increased engagement by the survivors in accessing these services. Further, formation of youth groups also helped to promote gender equality.

Regular meetings with panchayat and ward representatives have improved service delivery and support mechanisms, with resolutions focusing on strengthening

schemes for survivors and vulnerable individuals. Documented resolutions serve as valuable resources for monitoring progress and identifying areas for improvement. Discussions with stakeholders indicate tangible improvements in scheme delivery in 60-70% of Gram Panchayats, reflecting the success of micro-planning strategies and coordinated efforts.



B. Empowering Gender Champions to Engage Men and Boys

While making efforts to enhance service delivery, initiatives were also launched to engage men and boys to tackle GBV. These initiatives were designed to mobilize their involvement in advocacy, awareness-raising, and community outreach activities. Considering that male engagement is critical to end GBV as they are the principal

A group of auto drivers showed a strong determination to make a difference in their community. They recognized the urgency for action and decided to utilize their autos as platforms for raising awareness. By prominently displaying helpline

The "Hum Ladke Badal Rahe Hai" campaign, led by Gram Sakhi Ambika and Nikita in Kadha Gram Panchayat, aims to reshape societal norms by encouraging young men to actively engage in household chores and oppose gender-based violence (GBV). By challenging traditional gender roles and advocating for shared responsibility within households, the campaign promotes gender equality and fosters respectful attitudes towards all genders. It empowers young men to become agents of change in their communities by embracing their role in promoting equality and rejecting violence.

perpetrators of violence against women and girls, these initiatives focused on to establish positive gender attitudes. As gender champions they are motivated to exhibit positive gender relations by emphasising gender-sensitive behaviour. They are encouraged to speak up against violence, share domestic workload with women and help them to seek health and other support services. This strategy has helped in evolving coping mechanism to address issues concerning GBV and creating safer environments for women and girls.

Outcome 3 - GBV survivors have increased options for support and enhanced capacity to interact with local systems designed to combat/respond to GBV

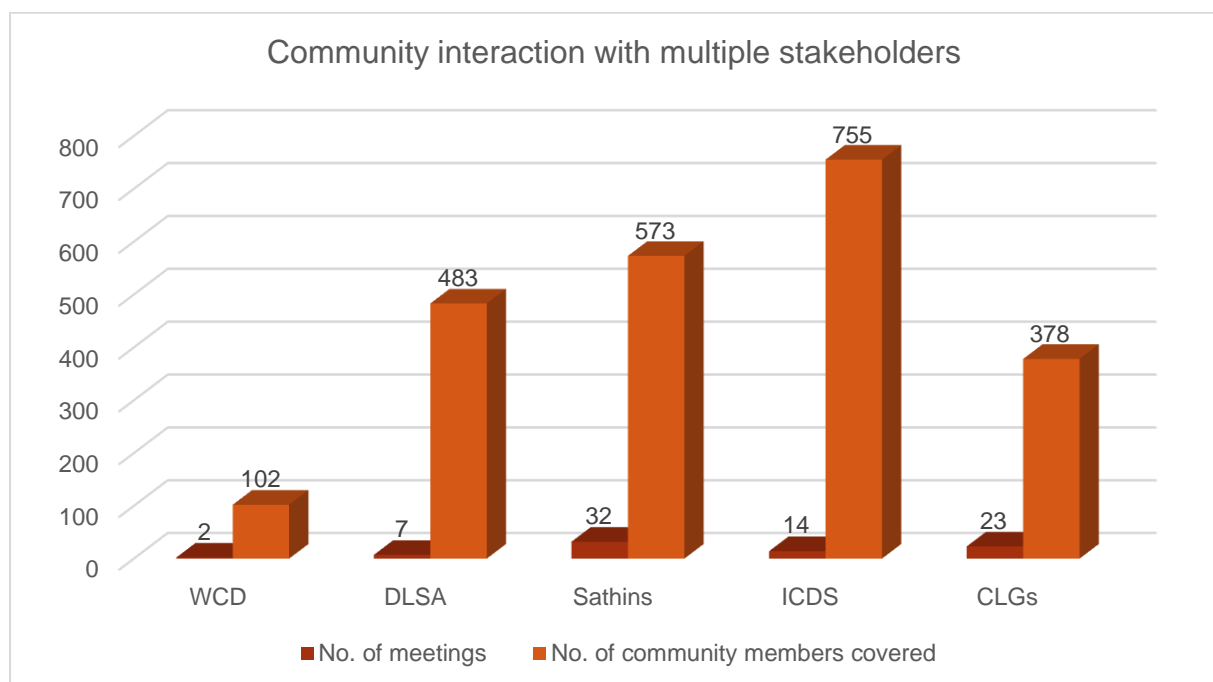
Key Questions:

1. Has there been any increase in options of support for GBV survivors?
2. To what extent have GBV support group members been trained and engaged as paralegal volunteers, and how successful are they in addressing VAW cases through counseling and legal aid?

As a result of the trainings of AWWs and ANMs, they are conducting "Shakti Diwas" and "MCHN (Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition) Days" in a more constructive ways to provide better care for adolescent girls and mothers from past two years. By focusing on these designated days, the community health practitioners can offer targeted and comprehensive support, addressing the unique needs of adolescent girls and mothers. These special days become meaningful platforms for empowering and promoting the health of the community's women and girls – shared by Ms Aruna, ANM, Bhadoon

At the outset, setting up 10 Mahila Help Desks and Resource Centers at AWCs provides a critical safety net for women. These centers offer counseling, guidance, legal aid, and access to essential resources, empowering women to navigate challenges and seek help when needed. Further, the Para Legal Volunteers are trained as legal advocates to provide free legal aid and assistance to marginalized communities, including survivors of GBV. Para Legal Volunteers also collaborate with WCD and ICDS departments to ensure that survivors have access to legal remedies, including protection orders, restraining orders, and compensation for damages. A total of 98 Suraksha Sakhis, including 10 Gram Sakhis, have been trained. Besides, 49 ASHA workers, 9 ANMs, 52 Anganwadi workers, and 10 Sathins were trained to enhance their ability to support survivors. This signifies a growing network of frontline responders who are equipped to address GBV issues, thereby increasing the availability of support for victims.

A large number of group and joint meetings have been organized for various service providers involved in GBV response and prevention efforts. These meetings involve stakeholders from Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Women and Child Development (WCD), education, police, judiciary representatives, and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) officials. These collaborative efforts facilitated discussions on legal frameworks, victim support services, and strategies for enhancing access to justice for survivors.



During discussions with PLV Kishangarh and Roopangarh for the study, it was revealed that they are coordinating their efforts to plan meetings in accordance with directives from DLSA, with the assistance of CFAR. They have mutually decided to organize awareness meetings at various locations such as MGNREGA sites, factories, and other suitable venues. By leveraging the support of CFAR and adhering to guidelines from DLSA, they aim to effectively reach out to diverse segments of the population and provide essential information

and support to those in need. The paralegal volunteers have successfully addressed 52 cases of VAW since their training.

On the other hand, the baseline assessment of 2021 had identified several challenges faced by women in accessing relief against GBV . One significant issue highlighted was the lack of budget allocation. Lack of free legal aid services and the appointment of Anti-Dowry Officers, Child Protection Officers and Protection Officers without fulfilling the legal requirements were other issues hindering women's access to justice and support in cases of GBV.

Overall, the data provides evidence of increased support for the survivors' community in strengthening the delivery of legal, medical and psychosocial services and eliminate GBV .

Impact analysis:

The project's efforts have boosted women's confidence and provided them with tools and resources to enhance their safety. However, addressing the complex and multifaceted challenges requires continuous collaboration between various stakeholders, including government agencies, community leaders, NGOs, and the local population. By working together to address gang violence, improve infrastructure and accessibility, and promote gender equality, a safer and more empowering environment can be created for women in Kishangarh block.

Overall, the effectiveness of the outcome can be inferred from its proactive engagement with diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and collective action to prevent and respond to GBV effectively at various levels of the community and governance structures.

The impact of the interventions are manifold:

1. **Access to Resources:** Access to essential resources such as healthcare, legal aid, counseling, and livelihood support for GBV survivors is made possible through collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. Increased interaction with service providers and community groups further make it easy to access support system to survivors.

2. **Empowerment:** After the project interventions women have more empowered views regarding domestic violence, how families should treat men and women, and women's economic rights. Both men and women started taking more active role in community affairs and spoke against mistreatment of women. The supportive community environments facilitated by the intervention instilled confidence in GBV survivors to seek help, report incidents, and access necessary resources without fear of stigma or retaliation. This is helping women to get back on their feet.
3. **Prevention and Intervention:** Collaborative efforts among stakeholders contributed to more effective prevention and intervention strategies for GBV. Increased awareness, education, and advocacy within the community help identify and address underlying factors contributing to GBV, ultimately working towards creating safer environments for all community members. In sum, the data reflects a positive shift towards increased support for the community, with tangible benefits for GBV survivors, including improved access to resources, empowerment, and strengthened prevention and intervention efforts. This positive outcomes provide hope and motivation for a safer and more equitable future for the affected community and women as a whole.

Outcome 4 - Local governments become more aware of existing GBV issues and help to create an enabling environment for victims and vulnerable individuals to secure their rights and entitlements-

Key Questions:

1. How effective are the collaborative efforts between the service providers and seekers in addressing GBV issues?
2. What is the overall effectiveness of awareness events and communication collaterals in increasing public awareness and collective action against violence against women and girls, and to what extent are these initiatives adopted by official agencies?
3. What has been the impact of trained mahila desks, and mahila chaupals?
4. What progress has been made in implementing model policing practices?



Surksha Sakhi meeting at Police Station Bandershindri, demonstration of 112 Helpline App, 6 January, 2024

In the fight against GBV, effective convergence and coordination among stakeholders are paramount. The project has exemplified this by fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders, and survivors. By recognizing the need for a multisectoral response, the project has created a **platform for stakeholders to come together**, share insights, and develop joint strategies to address GBV comprehensively.

“We can no longer ignore the increasing incidents of GBV. The response to the issue is not isolated or limited to that of government or civil society organizations. Given the stigma and societal discrimination associated with GBV, we need a collective approach”- Project Coordinator, GSVS

“The Justice Desk believes in the power of every person, especially in their ability to create lasting, impactful and effective change in their communities! Through this project, we hope to raise awareness on GBV and also to unite and inspire others in order to take action within their own spaces. Ending GBV is not the fight of some, but all of us!”- DLSA Official

Through regular meetings, forums, and working groups, stakeholders have been able to exchange information, resources, and best practices. This convergence-centric approach has allowed for a holistic understanding of the complexities surrounding GBV and facilitated targeted interventions. By bringing together stakeholders from various sectors, including government, civil society, and grassroots organizations, the project has ensured that efforts to combat GBV are coordinated, efficient, and impactful.

Through its collaborative approach, the project has fostered partnerships, networks and coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders who stand out as strong support to the victims of GBV. By working together towards a common goal, the project has leveraged resources, expertise, and influence to create a more comprehensive and sustainable response to GBV.

Despite this, it was highlighted by the government officials that they have observed lack of coordination among different departments in dealing the issues concerning GBV. Supervisor, WCD suggested that GBV is a pervasive and interconnected issue that requires a comprehensive and holistic response. Developing a Convergent Action Plan (CAP) at the departmental level is essential for enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of efforts. A

“The resources for addressing GBV are often limited and dispersed across multiple agencies and organizations, hence with multiple stakeholders involved, accountability can sometimes become diffuse, making it challenging to track progress and outcome” – Ms. Payal Chaudhary- Supervisor WCD, Kishangarh.

CAP brings together various stakeholders and resources to coordinate actions towards a common goal. The need for a CAP arises from the complex and multifaceted nature of the issue, along with the diverse range of stakeholders and resources involved in combating it.

A CAP establishes clear roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for accountability, ensuring that all stakeholders are held accountable for their contributions towards addressing GBV. This promotes transparency, oversight, and accountability in the implementation of interventions.

Engaging stakeholders in the development and implementation of a CAP empowers them to take ownership of the issue and become active agents of change within their respective domains. By working collaboratively and building trust between key players, CAP can create a stronger alliances that will lead to more sustainable and impactful interventions.

On the other hand, the help-desk led and staffed by trained forum/GBV support group members, coordinates with official teams at Sakhi – One Stop Crisis Centers, Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra or Women Safety and Counselling Centers. This initiative ensures seamless coordination and support for GBV survivors, facilitating access to essential services and resources.

The Women Support Groups (WSGs) have emerged as pivotal entities for reporting cases of gender-based violence at the grassroots level. Comprising dedicated volunteers who are active female members of the community, these groups play a crucial role in various aspects of GBV response. Their responsibilities include facilitating the referral of GBV survivors to different service providers, conducting follow-ups on cases, and providing support to individuals at high risk of GBV. Importantly, these structures serve as intermediaries between informal justice systems, ensuring that cases are appropriately addressed within the community. Throughout the duration of the project, WSGs have demonstrated significant reach, with more than 80% of the population being engaged by these groups. Efforts were made to enhance the effectiveness of WSGs through targeted orientations and training sessions. Following these capacity-building efforts, the WSGs intensified their activities in responding to GBV incidents and raising awareness within the community. An illustrative example of the impact of WSGs is their facilitation of referrals for 52 GBV cases to both the police and One Stop Centre. This highlights the proactive role played by WSGs in connecting survivors with essential support services and institutions.

The regularization of Mahila Chaupals in the project areas highlight the critical importance of increasing awareness about gender-based violence and empowering women with knowledge and resources to address it effectively. Prior to the initiation of Mahila Chaupals, many women in the community were unaware of their rights and the available support services for survivors of violence. This lack of awareness perpetuated a cycle of silence and acceptance of violence as inevitable.

The idea of organizing Mahila Chauplas was emerged from a comprehensive research endeavor conducted across ten Gram Panchayats, wherein CFAR uncovered glaring gaps in access to support services and awareness about existing mechanisms to combat GBV. Despite the presence of government-run helplines and support centers, women lacked crucial information about their rights and avenues for redressal. In response, CFAR organized Mahila Chapals in select Gram Panchayats, bringing together women and key stakeholders from various departments to address

Moreover, ten Mahila Chaupals or public hearings are organized with the support of the DLSA in each panchayat. These events serve as platforms to review gaps in existing systems and strengthen corrective actions to address GBV.

As per the information available, **there haven't been specific findings or evidence regarding progress made in implementing model policing practices.** It is important to acknowledge that without such evidence, it is difficult to assess the extent of progress in this area. However, it is essential to continue monitoring and evaluating policing practices to identify any improvements or gaps in implementing model policing approaches. Collaboration between stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and governmental bodies, may facilitate the exchange of best practices and enhance efforts towards implementing effective policing models. Evaluating the effectiveness



Mahila Chaupal (women's meeting) held on 10th August, 2023 at Barna gram panchayat involving Sarpanch (village Head), frontline workers and Officials from Women and Child department

Learning from the project-

- **Implementing a stand-alone GBV project has inherent challenges. The most feasible way of dealing with the challenges experienced is to include a livelihood component for the beneficiaries.**

Incorporating a livelihood component into GBV projects not only addresses immediate financial need but also promotes long-term empowerment, economic independence, and community reintegration for survivors. This holistic approach maximizes the impact of interventions and contributes to lasting positive change in the lives of beneficiaries. The

project linked up the survivors of violence with Rajivilka where they were provided tailored livelihood interventions that align with the skills, resources, and aspirations of the beneficiaries. These interventions include skills training programs, microenterprise development initiatives, vocational training, or access to income-generating opportunities.

An excellent example of integrating a livelihood component into a project addressing gender-based violence is the "**Annapurna/Indira Rasoi**" initiative. In this project, Annapurna Rasoi serves as a multifaceted intervention aimed at addressing both the immediate needs of vulnerable individuals and the underlying economic factors contributing to gender-based violence. Rasoi creates livelihood opportunities for women by employing them as cooks, kitchen staff, or administrators within the community kitchens. These employment opportunities not only generate income for the survivors but also reduce their vulnerability to GBV by enhancing their financial independence.

- **Inclusion of the most vulnerable section**

While the project interventions demonstrate a comprehensive approach to addressing GBV within the specified geographic area, there are notable openings in its inclusivity, particularly regarding the inclusion of sex workers.

Sex workers are among the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, facing intersecting forms of discrimination and violence based on gender, occupation, and socio-economic status at home, public places and work places. These sex workers are not only at a heightened risk of experiencing violence but also play a significant role in shaping community dynamics and social norms. Including sex workers in project activities would enable a more holistic understanding of GBV dynamics and facilitate the development of tailored interventions that address the specific needs of this population.

There is an urgent need to address their invisibility and erasure from discussions and interventions aimed at combating GBV. From an ethical standpoint also, it is imperative to ensure their inclusion in initiatives addressing GBV.

- **GBV at Public Places**

The project's learning about GBV at public places is the pervasive nature of the problem and its significant impact on women's safety and mobility. Through community engagements and data collection, the project has identified that GBV in public spaces, such as markets, streets, and transportation hubs, is most common and often goes unreported or unaddressed due to bottlenecks such as:

- **Underreporting:** Many incidents of GBV in public spaces go unreported due to fear of retaliation, social stigma, or lack of trust in law enforcement.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Poor lighting, lack of surveillance cameras, and inadequate public transportation contribute to an environment where perpetrators can operate with impunity.
- **Social Norms and Attitudes:** Deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and gender norms normalize violence against women in public spaces, making it difficult to challenge these behaviors effectively.

- **Limited Awareness and Capacity:** Communities and stakeholders have less awareness of GBV issues in public places, while service providers lack the capacity to respond effectively to incidents.

This brings the urgent need for targeted interventions to enhance safety measures and address the root causes of GBV in these settings.

- **Institutional Linkages**

Institutional linkages and collaborations established through the project have enhanced coordination and referral mechanisms for GBV response and prevention. By working closely with government departments, legal institutions, and community structures, the project has facilitated a more cohesive and integrated approach to tackling GBV.

The establishment of support networks, such as Gender Forums and Mahila Chapals, has institutionalized mechanisms for ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and collective action on GBV.

“Encouraging and supporting greater female participation in decision-making processes at the grassroots level, especially in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), Election Ward Representatives (EWRs), requires continued consultations, meetings, and capacity-building initiatives to effectively fulfil this objective”. - ADJ, Ajmer (During the study -discussing the coordinated response against GBV)

- **Use of Social Media**

“Utilizing social media could serve as a platform for sharing educational content and encouraging community members to report incidents of violence, thereby contributing to the identification of hotspots and patterns of violence in public spaces. – As shared by the Sub-inspector, police station, Kishangarh Rural (translated from local dialect)

While social media is not currently utilised, integrating social media into the work of Suraksha Sakhis is essential for amplifying the message on GBV and enhancing their efforts in combating violence and promoting safety in public areas.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the multifaceted approach in combating gender-based violence as outlined above underscores the collective effort required to effectively address this scourge. By empowering survivors, engaging gender champions, amplifying community voices, and fostering convergence among stakeholders, meaningful progress can be achieved in creating safer and more equitable societies. It is imperative that we continue to work collaboratively across sectors to uphold the rights and dignity of all individuals, eliminate gender-based violence, and build a future where everyone can live free from fear and discrimination.

Through sustained commitment and concerted action, we can strive towards a world where every individual can thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Overall, the project's impact is visible as under:

1. **Transformative Impact on Survivors:** By providing support services, resources, and empowerment opportunities, survivors of (GBV) have been able to rebuild their lives and reclaim independence. Through tailored interventions, survivors have gained access to essential tools for healing and recovery, enabling them to break free from cycles of abuse and regain control over their futures.
2. **Active Involvement of Gender Champions:** The active involvement of gender champions (both men and women) in addressing GBV contributes to shifting societal attitudes and creating safer environments for women and girls. These champions advocate for gender equality, challenge harmful norms and stereotypes, and promote respect and dignity for all individuals, thereby fostering a culture of gender equity and empowerment.
3. **Translation of Community Voices into Tangible Actions:** By amplifying community voices, tangible actions have been taken at the local level to address GBV effectively. Through community-led initiatives and participatory decision-making processes, community members play a central role in identifying priorities, implementing solutions, and driving meaningful change within their own neighborhoods and communities.
4. **Convergence-Centric Approach:** Embracing a convergence-centric approach has led to a unified response to GBV. By bringing together diverse players, including government agencies, civil society organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders, resources can be pooled, expertise shared, and efforts coordinated to provide comprehensive support to survivors, prevent violence, and promote gender equality across all sectors of society.

Recommendations for the way forward

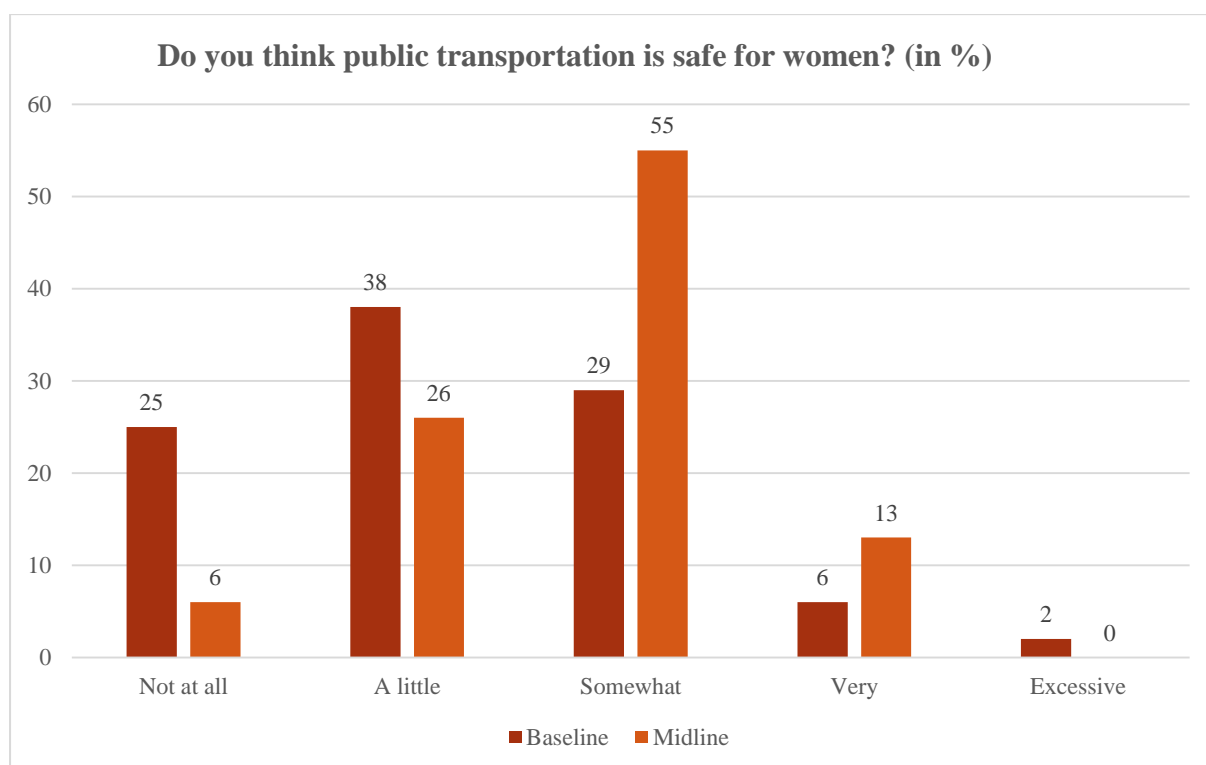
- The GBV project has opened the region to discuss issues which was hitherto considered as taboo. The project staff have gained valuable experience while dealing with GBV. It is recommended that the project be further supported by PTF and IDRF to continue with GBV activities in the region to make use of the experience gained and to consolidate what has been done at community level.
- To strengthen the impact of future GBV projects, a design that combines awareness creation, capacity building and a component of livelihoods or economic activities is recommended. This will support the communities involved in reducing their vulnerability that directly contributes to GBV. The economic activities should also target the youth.

- The project must actively engage with sex worker communities and sex worker-led organizations to ensure their participation in project design, implementation, and evaluation. Prioritizing building trust, establishing partnerships, and creating safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue and collaboration are necessary.
- Develop a coordinated (convergent) action plan involving government agency, law enforcement, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, sex worker-led groups, and other stakeholders to comprehensively address GBV at public places, outlining specific roles, responsibilities, and timelines for each stakeholder, as well as mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress.
- Undertake Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) training across various sectors, including hotels, marble factories, schools, and colleges. This is particularly concerning in Kishangarh, a male-dominated marble industry hub, where both genders need awareness about POSH regulations.
- The study also emphasizes the need for Life Skills Education (LSE) training for Gram Sakhis, Saathins, and Help Desk workers. This training could equip them with essential skills to better support and empower women in the community. The study recommends developing a cascading model and training modules for LSE to ensure its effective and sustainable implementation at the ground level.
- Discussions with stakeholders have highlighted the importance of constant and active interaction and capacity building of EWRs

Annexure A

Perception of safety in public transportation for women

Perception of Safety in Public Transportation for Women	Baseline		Mid-term	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
Not at all	169	25	07	6
A little	262	38	31	26
Somewhat	197	29	66	55
Very	43	6	16	13
Excessive	14	2	00	0



Annexure B

Educational Status of Respondents

Educational Status	Respondents	Percent (%)
Primary	47	39%
Secondary	13	11%
Higher Secondary	11	9%
Graduation	07	6%
Post-Graduation Degree	01	1%
Illiterate	35	29%
Literate	06	5%

Annexure C

Marital status of Respondents

Marital Status	Respondents	Percent (%)
Not married	02	2%
Married	86	71%
Separated/divorced	05	4%
Widow	27	23%

Annexure D

Awareness regarding Government Schemes

Awareness Regarding different Schemes (%)					
Name of Schemes/Services		Baseline		Mid-term	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
a.	Helpline for Women's distress	13	87	99	1
b.	Mahila Suraksha Evam Salah Kendra (MSSK)	4	96	95	5
c.	Self-Defence Training Programme for Girls (SAKSHAM)	6	94	90	10
d.	One Stop Crisis Management Centre	2	98	93	7
e.	Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP)	5	95	34	66
f.	Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat (PMLK)	14	86	80	20
g.	Family courts to adjudicate cases relating to maintenance, custody and divorce	13	87	87	13
h.	Facilitating rehabilitation for women survivors of violence	12	88	97	3
i.	Swadhargreh	5	95	97	3
j.	Short Stay Home/Nari Shala	5	95	82	18
k.	Victim Compensation Scheme	5	95	80	20

Annexure E

Reasons for Harassment or Torture (%)

Reasons for Harassment or Torture	Baseline		Mid-term	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Demand of dowry	74	26	82	18
Alcoholism	85	15	90	10
Incompatibility	46	54	75	25
Extra marital affairs	42	58	66	34
Ego conflict	35	65	53	37
Unsatisfied sexual relations	23	77	25	75
No reason in particular	13	87	75	25
Caste based abuse/witch hunting/customary rituals	35	65	74	26

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