

PROGRESS REPORT



**SOOFI SACHAL SARMAST
WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

2023

Soofi Sachal Sarmast Welfare Association



Mission, Vision, Values

Our Mission

“A struggle for the realization of a prosperous and egalitarian society and strives to manage and develop natural resources enabling and developing the community to fight against the drought, poverty, and hunger. The organization’s main thrust is to create a sustainable livelihood for the most marginalized and deprived groups of their community i.e., small farmers, peasants, farm labourers, and rural women, and also provide the knowledge and services of Reproductive Health”.

Our Vision To strive for economically viable, educated, and vibrant rural communities, particularly rural women, and their involvement in the decision-making process at all levels.

Our Goal

To empower marginalized communities through education and sustainable development initiatives.”.

Our Values SSSWA is working under several organizational values to ensure transparency and reliance on the organization such as:

- ✓ No discrimination based on religion, caste, creed, color, class, ethnicity, language or gender.
- ✓ Peace and tolerance as prerequisites for development and social change.
- ✓ Promoting democratic values at all levels.
- ✓ Responsive to community needs and quality-conscious in all aspects of our work.

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Qutub Din

Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Guhram Ali

Program Manager

Mr. Ghulam Nabi

Member

Mr. Assadullah

Member

Ms. Khalida

Member

Ms. Sabeeha

Member

Mr. Hydatullah

Member



About Organization

Soofi Sachal Sarmast Welfare Association (SSSWA) was established in 1996 to undertake social welfare activities through community participation. The organization was registered with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh under the Social Welfare Act 1961 in 1997. It is an honor for the organization that 40 persons including 25 males and 15 Females from different walks of life are the organization's originators and contribute Rs: 10 per month to run the organization's affairs.

Hence, the community is the main backup of this organization. Since its establishment, the organization has been working for deprived groups such as illiterate masses of the area on a self-support basis. Since then, the organization has organized several awareness programs in villages to motivate rural communities to take self-initiatives to resolve their problems. This organization is dedicated and committed to working for the needy and deprived people in backward areas of Sindh.

The organization believes in a feasible, knowledgeable, and energetic rural community. SSSWA is accountable to those who support it and those whom it works for as we believe in transparency. Transparency is not the same as looking straight through a building: it's not just a physical idea but also an intellectual one. Similarly, gender equality, supremacy of law, political participation, civil society, and transparency are among the indispensable elements that are the imperatives of democratization.



Awareness sessions with women's labour Rights



Women & Girls Friendly Spaces



Distribution of relief goods to flood-affected population

Acknowledgment

SSSWA is grateful to the local community of the areas where various programs were implemented during the year. The organization is also thankful to INGOs, Clusters, UNOCHA, UN Agencies, District Government and local district representatives, who kindly supported the SSSWA and this process succeeded. SSSWA special thanks to Board of Directors for their kind support and continuous guidance to management at the step of this journey toward the achievement of its objectives. The organization greatly values and acknowledges the services of its all-staff members who worked very hard to meet the challenges of various projects and made it a success.

Qutub Din
Chief Executive Office

Objective of SSSWA

- Educate men and women as well as public representatives and public officials for a more constructive role.
- Eliminate discrimination among men and women belonging to oppressed classes, castes and clans.
- The socio-economic uplift of the deprived sections of the rural community especially women irrespective of their caste, religion and sex etc.
- Create awareness among civil society on the issues of national interests of Sindh.
- Promote health and economic activities of the community in the communities where the organization is currently working.
- Address human rights issues such as social discrimination and injustice meted out against women and other marginalized groups by launching advocacy and campaigns and initiating development discourse.
- Creating awareness for female education, reproductive health, family planning and conservation of natural resources.
- Social welfare of deprived people through intervention in health and education sectors.
- Develop linkages with GOs, NGOs and support organizations to promote sustainable development.

Thematic Area

- Sustainable livelihood
- Health and Education
- Democratic Governance and Human Rights
- Gender equality and Development
- Issue based advocacy
- Climate change and DRR/Disaster Emergency Response/Relief
- Women empowerment
- Rehabilitation of disable person

Technical Resources

- ✓ SSSAW has a network of computer system fully equipped with Inkjet/Laser Printers, scanners etc to meet the current professional, technical and administrative requirements of the organization such as design, drafting, Word-processing, data analysis and research, project management, finance and general computing. Internet facility is also available to meet the requirement of latest sources of communication

Strength

- Qualified/Skilled staff (35)
- Donor trust (Increased portfolio within 2 years)
- Volunteers (trained Community members 160)
- Community support/ Participation (throughout project Cycle)
- Commitment
- Membership of CSOs thematic networks
- Accountability transparency through feedback mechanism
- Close coordination with district Govt: INGOs, Clusters, UNOCHA, UN Agencies.

Outreach

Since the year of establishment 1996 SSSWA has been involved in different programs to ensure Sustainable livelihood, Health, Nutrition, Education, Democratic Governance, Human Rights, Gender equality and Development, Issue based advocacy Climate change, DRR/Disaster Emergency Response/Relief, Women empowerment and Rehabilitation of disable person in different districts. SSSWA started the work District Kashmore @ Kandhkot and with time it spread its network to other districts including District Jacobabad, Sukkur, Ghotki and District Shikarpur of Sindh and Jafferabad and Sibi of Baluchistan. It has very strong coordination with 100 community groups

Executive Summary and Achievements

The main purpose of the organization is to educate women because a woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform, if we mean to have heroes, statesmen, and philosophers, we should have learned women.

SSSWA focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human rights but also because gender equality is critical to the development and peace of every nation. The organization has come forward to light a candle in the darkness of illiteracy, deprivation, and oppression to give illumination to oppressed, deprived, and dim people importantly women. As we were born to make and manifest the glory of God that is within us, it's not just in some of us; it's in everyone, and as we let our light shine, we unconsciously permit other people to do the same.

Focusing on rural women, the Organization launched an "educate women" campaign in the project area. Despite stringent cultural norms, the campaign met a marked success. Organization does not wish women to have power over men; but over themselves. The main goal of the organization has been to operate this exertion based on bringing to light the oppressed and victimized women of society. Organization for eternity creates opportunities and makes platforms for a woman to raise their competence and values.

At the Inception of this struggle, the organization launched a project under the banner of "Establishment of Rural Health Dispensary" for the Management of healthcare facilities and provision of healthcare services in rearward areas of District Kashmore funded by Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO) in 2001. From the podium of this project, SSSWA strived to identify training needs and impart training in selected areas for the establishment of a rural health dispensary to aware the oblivious people of rustic people. SSSWA's establishment of the Rural Health Dispensary program has provided health services to bucolic people directly in the community. The Rural Health Dispensary program was intended to increase primary care services for Medicaid and Medicare patients in rural communities. The main advantage of Rural Health Dispensary status was enhanced reimbursement rates for providing Medicaid and Medicare services in rural areas. With blessings from God, the organization thrived and achieved its intention in the meantime.

After the success of the initial initiative, the organization succeeded in catching another project bannered as the "Farmers Development Program". The cited project was funded by South Asian Partnership (SAP) Pakistan in 2002. The Farmers Development Program was made possible for the enhancement and fortification of farmers in rural areas of District Kashmore. This project has consisted of awareness sessions, training, and support of farmers. SSSWA made enormous efforts to assist some underprivileged farmers of district Kashmore. SSSWA offered a variety of resources to help the needy peasants.

In year 2000, along with Establishment of Rural Health Dispensary project, SSSWA succeeded to obtain another project also under the banner of “Women Participation in Local Government Election”. This project was launched in District Kashmore @ Kandhkot. Such program was initiated to glorify and elevate the role of women in local government election. As it is mentioned above that SSSWA believes in the empowerment of women in all aspects of life, not to have power on man but over themselves. Such program was an endeavor to drum up women for their rights and to realize their strength. This project was a long-term program consisted on 5 years from 2001 to 2005. The donor organization was Aurat Foundation.

SSSWA persisted to put on pedestal the women rights and consecutively launched Women Rights Project funded by Global Human Rights USA I 2006. This program was in addition to above project to boost up the values and potency of women, equal access to education and pathway to decent work for women. With collaboration of Oxfam GB Sufi Sachal Sarmast Welfare Association launched a campaign under the banner of “WE CAN”. This campaign was a long-term campaign consisting of 6 years from 2005 to 2011.

The 2010 Super Flood Pakistan began in late July 2010 ensuing from heavy monsoon rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan regions of Pakistan and affected the Indus basin. The 2010 super floods, which literally ravaged many rural parts of the country, brought countless miseries to the inhabitants of a large number of Pakistani populations. The floods in Pakistan have caused horrific damage to 25% of the country (roughly equal to the size of Italy). Homes, businesses, crops, and lives have been lost.

An estimated 1,600 people are dead, 3.5 million children are at high risk from deadly water-borne diseases, and more than 20 million people have lost their homes, their food, and have no sanitation. Floods submerged 17 million acres (69,000 km²) of Pakistan's most fertile crop land, killed 200,000 livestock and washed away massive amounts of grain.

A major concern was that farmers would be unable to meet the fall deadline for planting new seeds in 2010, which implied a loss of food production in 2011, and potential long term food shortage. The agricultural damage reached more than 2.9 billion dollars, and included over 700,000 acres (2,800 km²) of lost cotton crops, 200,000 acres (810 km²) of sugar cane and 200,000 acres (810 km²) of rice, in addition to the loss of over 500,000 tons of stocked wheat, 300,000 acres (1,200 km²) of animal fodder and the stored grain losses. Where flood hit other regions of Pakistan and districts of Sindh, there Kashmore district also faced a huge loss due to massive flood. Kashmore was the first district affected in Sindh.

The rate of the flood was such, that the population were not afforded sufficient time to have an orderly evacuation. 1000 villages were flood-affected, displacing 260,000 households. Of these 164,568 HHs settled in 47 IDP camps within the district (PDMA December 2010)

During this emergency situation SSSWA giving priority on other activities, started the activities for the relief of flood victims of Kashmore District on emergency basis. Emergency relief of flood affected people was a prime task for SSSWA and it launched Emergency Relief to Flood affected people program in 2010 with assistance of Action Aid. During relief period SSSWA provided facilities and relief goods to flood victims and also with cooperation of NATPOW SSSWA launched Mobile Health Service Unit for Flood Affectees. Measuring the importance of health of flood victims SSSWA provided health facilities to victims. This program was initialized in the start of 2011 after flood emergency response.

After emergency relief phase it was an instant for the recovery and rehabilitation of affected communities, that's why SSSWA launched a 2-year project under the banner of "recovery and Rehabilitation of Flood Affected communities of District Kashmore.

SSSWA constructed houses with water, sanitation and hygiene being the integral part of all houses and handed over to flood survivors. SSSWA supported flood sufferers with livelihood, livestock, home-grown trades and agriculture belongings and also provided far-reaching skill trainings, grant support and technical support in developing these enterprises.

To ensure the endurance with livelihood of flood sufferers SSSWA launched a program under the banner of Cash for Work for Flood Affected Communities in District Kashmore funded by Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in 2011.

During this project a strong coordination with the stakeholders were created. The rallies, workshops and seminars successfully held and reached at destination. In the History of Kandhkot first time women took part in the rallies.

All the citizens witnessed the rally peacefully and cooperated with SSSWA. In seminars and workshops women took part equally and actively. Though it was very difficult to bring women from their houses due to strict religious and cultural barriers but SSSWA succeeded to make their participation available.

The formation of Community Based Organizations was a major tool to implement the project smoothly, because SSSWA believes in the transparency and participation of the communities. CBOs were formed in targeted villages. Women and Child Friendly Spaces (WACFS) were used as focal points for several activities at community level.

Other inputs like livelihood, water and sanitation, health and hygiene, construction of shelters, education and trainings, trainings and sessions were conducted smoothly and successfully.

Scope of Interventions

1. Social Mobilization

Even as new advances in science and technology promise new vistas on the horizon of human development and welfare, our ability to apply these advances lags, particularly for the benefit of those who need them most. This dilemma and challenge have preoccupied the international development community for some time. Methods to improve the management of centrally planned programs, endeavors to generate critical political will to provide appropriate direction and support to development programs, and efforts to involve communities as decision-makers and implementers of their development have received considerable attention. Communicators, educators, and marketers have contributed to efforts that aim at the application of knowledge. Change agents and grassroots organizers have urged the empowerment of those segments of society whose participation and involvement are crucial in the effort toward equity and justice.

There is no escape, however, from the fact that development involves change, and change involves a complex interaction among groups in different segments of society who hold different attitudes, values, and interests. Changes made within one group affect other groups. Isolated attempts to involve various groups are not enough. There is a need to tackle these complex tasks in a broader strategic framework. Training and applied research in mobilization work for development are necessary.

Social Mobilization is a broad-scale movement to engage people's participation in achieving a specific development goal through self-reliant efforts. It involves all relevant segments of society: decision-makers and policymakers, opinion leaders, bureaucrats and technocrats, professional groups, religious associations, commerce and industry, communities and individuals. It is a planned decentralized process that seeks to facilitate change for development through a range of players engaged in interrelated and complementary efforts. It takes into account the felt needs of the people, embraces the critical principle of community involvement, and seeks to empower individuals and groups for action.

Gender is the differences between women and men within the same household and within and between cultures that are socially and culturally constructed and change over time. These differences are reflected in roles, responsibilities, access to resources, constraints, opportunities, needs, perceptions, views, etc. held by both women and men. Thus, gender is not a synonym for women, but considers both women and men and their interdependent relationships. SSSWA does not believe in gender discrimination and believes that men and women are an equal part of society. Women have the right to participate in the development of the community and decision-making in a male-dominated society.



2. Gender

Broad definitions of governance are often rather vague. There is a very considerable literature that discusses how, precisely, the concept of governance might be defined; for this paper, this literature may be summarized as emphasizing the following:

- The processes by which governments are chosen, monitored, and changed.
- The systems of interaction between the administration, the legislature, and the judiciary
- The ability of government to create and implement public policy.
- The mechanisms by which citizens and groups define their interests and interact with institutions of authority and with each other.

3. Women Empowerment

SSSWA focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human rights but also because they are a pathway to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. SSSWA coordinates efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and sustainable development. SSSWA works to ensure that women have a real voice in all governance institutions, from the judiciary to the civil service, as well as in the private sector and civil society, so they can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision-making and influence the decisions that will determine the future of their families and countries.

4. Community Physical Infrastructure

Community Physical Infrastructure plays a pivotal role in development. SSSWA has a firm belief in a participatory approach. It identifies, prioritizes, and implements projects with prior consultation of communities for whom the project is designed. Community Physical Infrastructure programs are designed and implemented as both on-farm and off-farm interventions including conventional irrigation water supply/channels, efficient irrigation, and off-farm livelihood, vocational skill, and enterprise development training programs.

SSSWA is Implementing Community Physical Infrastructure schemes in various districts including Kashmore @ Kandhkot, Jacobabad, and Shikarpur. SSSWA activities have significantly contributed to poverty alleviation and the development of livelihoods through the provision of infrastructure for water, sanitation, irrigation, and agriculture and off-farm livelihood development initiatives through vocational and skill development training.

5. Environment and Natural Resource Management

The thematic program for Environment and Management of Natural Resources including Energy helps developing countries and partner organizations to address environmental and natural resource management issues. Moreover, it helps to meet their obligations under multilateral and to take international policy leadership in such areas as fighting climate change, tackling land degradation and desertification, biodiversity protection, and proper management of chemicals and wastes.

6. Social Services (Health, Education, Agriculture)

SSSWA believes in a discipline to improve the quality of life and well-being of an individual, group, or community by intervening through research, policy, community organizing, direct practice, and teaching on behalf of those afflicted with poverty or any real or perceived social injustices and violations of their human rights. This discipline is often focused on areas such as human development, social policy, public administration, program evaluation, and community development.

Interventions Strategies

Assessment process and procedures:

The project staff including the project coordinator and social mobilizers pay a general visit to the targeted areas for the assessment of households first. All of the villagers gather at a point where social mobilizers briefly describe the project objectives and goals, what they are going to intervene and how their needs would be met.

In this project awareness session, all of the beneficiaries are made satisfied and mobilized to cooperate and participate in heading the program. When all of the beneficiaries demonstrate their full cooperation and participation another visit is paid by the team to inform the community to set an agenda and point for the large community meeting where one householder from each house ensures its participation.

Formation of CBOs:

After the step of general visits and surveys, the next step is to form a Community-Based Organization (CBO). SSSWA Social Mobilization Program has been designed to form Community Based Organization (CBO) as its partner in community development, therefore all programs and projects are implemented through CBO to ensure the sustainability of the program.

Baseline Survey:

A baseline survey was conducted through the coordination of the community-based organizations CBOs in targeted areas for the assessment of right holders like peasants, widows, women-headed households, elder-headed households, disabled, and minorities.

All the collected data was evaluated and verified through door-to-door surveys, interpersonal interviews, and participation observations by the project team to ensure the most vulnerability.

Procurement:

All kind of procurement for the projects was done by the procurement committee of SSSWA which consisted of at least 5 senior persons of the project, members of Community Based Organizations, and Board of Committee members.

- √ Project team (Program & Finance)
- √ Board of Directors (BODs)
- √ Community-Based Organization (CBO)

As far as the participation of CBOs is concerned for the procurement committee a letter has been written to representatives of both male and female CBOs inviting their attention to select the members of the committee for the selection of vendors. The CBOs call upon a meeting of the general body to select procurement committee members with mutual consensus. A procurement committee is formed to get quotations from different vendors. Quotations were sought by advertising in a leading newspaper.

During the process of procurement, the consultancy and help of technical persons are also sought to ensure good quality. Ceiled quotations were received from different vendors and signed by all committee members. The technical committee reviews the quotations and puts in their suggestions. The vendors providing good quality and low cost are selected with the mutual consent of the committee. All the process is monitored by the senior management committee of the organization. After the finalization of vendors, an agreement with agreed vendors is signed by the procurement committee on terms and conditions.

Identification of Right holders:

As mentioned above the process of assessment is done by the project staff, and the identification of the right holders is done by the team according to the criteria of the project. At first, the criteria are made known to the CBOs and then all of the members of the CBOs select the rights holders in a general meeting with consensus.

The work of the project team became easier with coordination and extended support of the community to the project staff in all villages. Meetings were held with CBOs to discuss the criteria of right holders/beneficiaries. There were (100) volunteers from selected villages identified. These volunteers were members of CBOs. They were mobilized to assist the project team during the implementation process. It proved very helpful for the team to work with local volunteers. The local volunteers also showed keen interest in rendering their services for their community. After the selection of right holders by CBO members, the project team visited the area and verified the list of right holders.

After the flood people were living in the open sky, tents, broken shelters, etc, or at the banks of B S feeder, residing in the camps of schools or other government buildings. The condition of people living there was very miserable as they had lost their belongings including Shelters, toilets, hand pumps and livelihood. Initially, it was very difficult to identify vulnerable groups among the right holders. Thus, the people living there were first registered and later on assessed and identified as per the criteria of right holders' selection.

Keeping in view the identification carried out by the Project team (social organizers) and respective village CBOs, the senior management comprising of the executive director, project officer, and project coordinator reassessed and verified the process by conducting visits door to door Accordingly the identification of right holders was completed by the project team and SSSWA management.

Cross Verification:

To further verify the list of right holders cross-verification was done by the project coordinator and by the Director Soofi Sachal Sarmast Welfare Association SSSWA.

Sharing of Data:

After completion of the verification process lists of right holders prepared were shared with right holders, CBOs, and the community as a whole so that nobody could raise a finger and question the transparency of the process.

Transparency:

The key Transparency and Accountability mechanisms practiced by SSSWA are given as follows: The list of right holders is displayed at least two days before the distribution at a frequently visited public place in a targeted village/area. It has been the practice of SSSWA to give rights to right holders of asking/questioning about the specification of support given to them. The people assemblies are called to know their individual and collective issues and find out their solutions. Regular meetings were held with CBOs to keep them aware of the latest developments happening from time to time regarding the program. Open information boards in Local languages are displayed at meeting points and WCFS about details of RHs, Specifications of material, and budget of activities, etc.

A complaint committee was formed at the village level comprising CBOs and SSSWA staff and cell numbers were displayed at meeting points. RHs were involved in the whole program's activities.

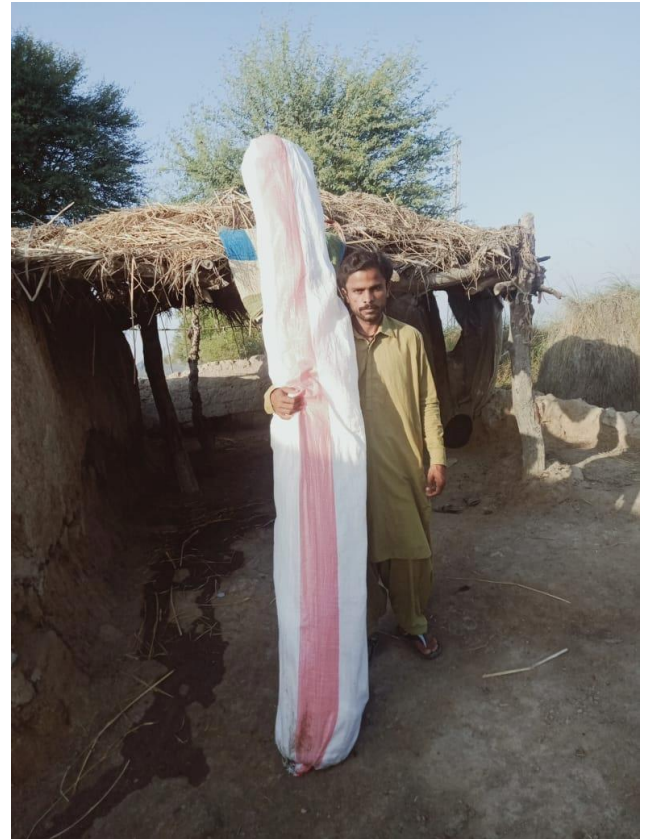
In this regard, SSSWA issued vouchers to the targeted right holders. Things like shelter material, toilet material, Goats, poultry, and Kitchen gardening tools, were issued to those who were issued vouchers only. At the time of distribution, vouchers were collected from the right holders for record purposes. We, the project team, ensured to display all information to ensure sure highest level of transparency and accountability.

Free Ambulance Services

SSSWA received an ambulance from the donor in 2022 regarding providing health services through Mobile Service Units for flood-affected union councils of taluka Tangwani were arranged to ensure the health services. In this project, SSSWA provided medicines to pregnant women, emergency delivery kits, TT vaccination, and general medicines for women and children. The figure of beneficiaries was about 2790.

Awareness Sessions on Voter Education

SSSWA was arranged for awareness-raising sessions with women regarding the importance of the vote and the role of women in the local-bodied election and general election with the support of the election commission and TDA-FAFEN.



Distribution of NFIs, Tents

SSSWA was distributed the NFIs kits, Ration Begg and Tents to flood affected peoples of district Kashmore specially Taluka Tangwani with the support of district Govt, Philanthropist, Donors and also provided cooked food to flood affected population.