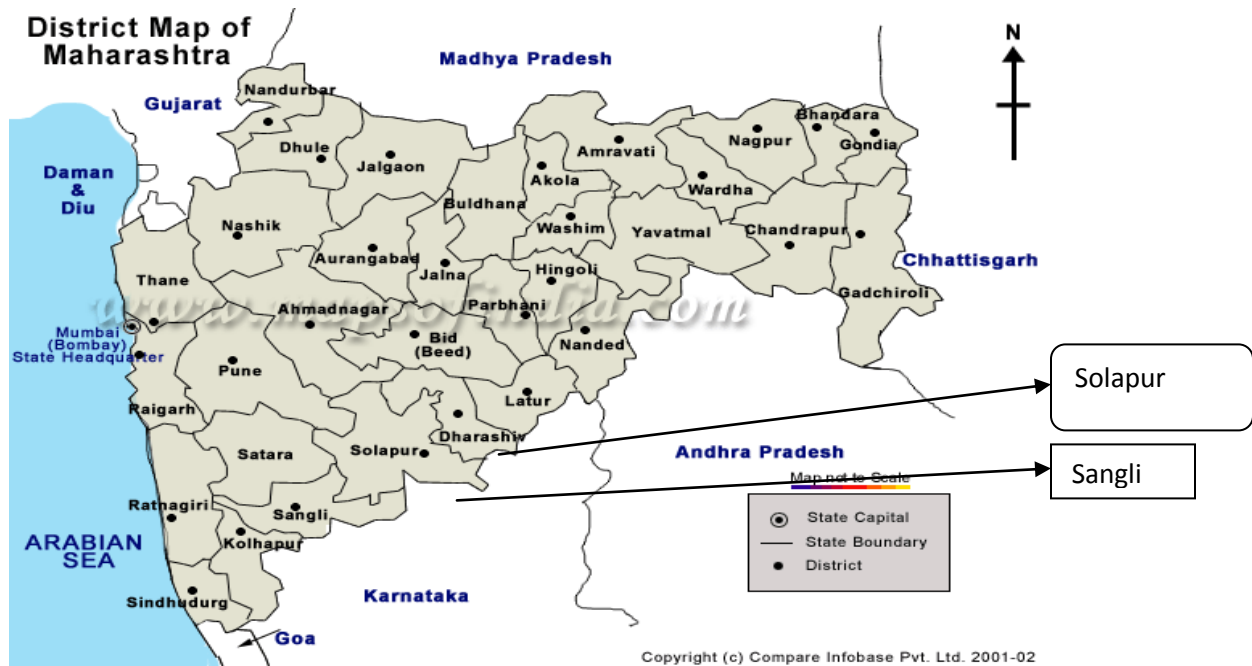


Profile of the Organisations and Summary of the Programmes Engaging Men and Boys

1. Name of the organization: Astitva Samaj Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha			
2. Year it was founded: 2003		3. Complete mailing address: Karim Complex, 2nd Floor, Miraj Road, At.Post.Tal. Sangola, District: Solapur, (Maharashtra India) Post Code 413307	
4. Primary e-mail address: astitva.org@gmail.com		5. Postal address with PIN code: Karim Complex, 2nd Floor, Miraj Road, At.Post.Tal. Sangola, District: Solapur, (Maharashtra India) Post Code 413307	6. State: Maharashtra
7. Secondary e-mail address: shahajigadhire@gmail.com		8. Office phone number: +91 02187 220054	9. Website: Not yet
10. Name of the contact person: Mr. Shahaji Gadhire, President			
11. Title of the project/s engaging men and boys (if any): Present Project - Enhancing male participation improving gender equality in Maharashtra. Earlier we implemented the project titled " Towards Equality working with men".			
12. Name of the contact person of responsible for men's/boys' engagement programme or project or initiative : Ms. Sunita Dhanavade.		13. Mobile Phone number of the person: +91 0637864504	

14. Geographical area of work: (Please mention State, districts, block and number of villages)

- 35 villages of 3 blocks in Solapur and Sangli Districts of South East Maharashtra



15. Available human resources in the organization:

A	Total	Women - 19	Men - 30	TG -
B	At management level	Women - 01	Men - 06	TG -
C	At programme level	Women - 03	Men - 04	TG -
D	At support level	Women - 15	Men - 20	TG -

16. Brief history of the organization (Rationale for its creation, Vision, mission and goals,.)

Astitva has been working amongst dalits of Solapur district in Maharashtra for the past ten years addressing their issues of livelihood, health, education, employment and VAW. A group of youth from the community came together to form the Astitva and since inception has been working on issues of exploitation of dalits at the hands of non-dalits and establishing their rights over lands received from the erstwhile rulers of Hyderabad state. The area is one of the highly drought prone areas of India and every third year here is drought. The communities are largely dalits, nomadic tribes and other backward castes who are unable to sustain themselves due to poor fertility of lands, lack of local employment sources and forced migration to cities and towns. Women and children are worst sufferers who alongside suffering malnutrition also face more brunt due to social status. Women face gender discrimination in all walks of life within community and society at large. Astitva has been addressing the issues of livelihood by empowering communities and addressing gender issues at community level.

Vision: Improved capacity of marginalised communities to make qualitative change in their living conditions by themselves.

Mission: Facilitating empowerment of marginalised communities and to work for participatory development of people by the people and with the people towards achieving health, livelihoods

and improvement for all from gender and social perspectives. Also, to support and enable the most disadvantaged women, men and children in rural areas to help them meet their needs and rights with a view to mainstream them.

Please attach brochure, organizational structure or other documents if available.

17. Outline of different Programs/projects/initiatives of your organization: Please list all the programs of your organization.

Program	Major Activities of the Program
Enhancing Male Participation in Improving Gender Equality: The project aimed at creating gender awareness amongst men and women in rural areas which included awareness camps of students in schools/colleges, villages and hamlets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with Two Primary Health Centers 2. Formation of groups of married men and unmarried youth and their sensitization on gender issues – men women equality.
Drought support Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. De-silting of open wells: 2. Drinking water tanks: 3. Ground Water storage tanks: 4. Grain Banks: 5. Fodder for the goats: 6. Health Camps: 7. Village level Drought Relief Committees: 8. Drought Convention: 9. Project Orientation Training:
Sustainable development measures for communities residing in Sangola'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non- Agricultural Income Generating Activities for most needy women 2. Group Formation amongst women and youth 3. Training of Youth Groups: 4. Training of Women's Groups: 5. Agricultural Income Generating Activities through women and youth 6. Village Level Group meetings:
Community Based Monitoring Program – Health Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness amongst women about health issues 2. Working closely with Health Department and activate them
1. Strengthening of Scheduled Castes Program through Development of Mahar Vatan (Award) Lands in Solapur District: Introduction of improved technologies for setting up Demo Plots on agri lands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Training of dalit farmers on soil and water conservation techniques 3. Introduction of improved agriculture technologies to increase crop production on dalit lands.

of scheduled castes in two villages of Sangola block of Solapur District (Supported by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi and AFARM, Pune)	
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18. Brief history of the boys / men’s involvement program (When the program was created / launched; How it came about – what were the contexts of girls / women and boys/ men in terms of gender equality and masculinity Who were the key stakeholders in the conceptualization, creation and implementation of the program? How the program evolved as it is now.)

Solapur and Sangli districts, part of western Maharashtra are known for practicing caste systems, feudality and masculine society where women are treated merely as commodities at family and community/society. Blocks identified by Astitva for our intervention on gender issues have lowest sex ratios in Maharashtra State - Sangola in Solapur district has 780 and Jat in Sangli is at 862. The child sex ratio is also shocking at 846 and 885 (0 to 6). Poverty amongst resource poor and landless communities is acute who also suffer due to recurrent drought conditions. In recent months number of sex detection clinics are sealed by ‘State’ due to increasing tests of gender before the babies are born (PND Tests).

Rural poor women face major brunt of the violence due to social hierarchy, drought and deprivation. As per one estimate every third woman face one or other type of domestic violence which is due to polygamy, dowry demands, deprivation of property rights and negligence.

Two districts are also known for sex workers and sending maximum number of girls for sex sale in different parts of India. According to Indian Health Organisation, at least 15,000 and National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) 16,624 girls were dedicated to temples last year (2010-11) from the boarder districts of Maharashtra and Karnataka states. Poverty, long droughts, widespread alcoholism and hounding loan sharks, miseries amongst low castes families, poor enforcement of prevention laws alongside continuing rise in demand from organised traffickers for young girls are main reasons for continuation of devdasi who are easy targets of traffickers.

Although number of laws and policies are in place the enforcement is a major issue in protecting women and children from, female foeticide, domestic violence, child marriage and trafficking. To empower women and activate government machinery there is need of creating community awareness about gender equality, rights of women, development schemes, gender justice and sanitize law executing and rural development agencies and demanding implementation of legal provisions.

Keeping this background in view Astitva decided to work on empowerment and development of women by actively involving women, men and youth at village and PRI level and sensitisation of government and police administration sensitisation.

Some efforts of sensitisation of community – women, men and youth – were already going on at all

level due to social structure of our caste, community and region. Our trustees, community leaders and volunteers and consultants were the mainstakeholders who decided to work on gender equality and that we need to work not only at community level but also with other stakeholders such as government agencies, police, schools and colleges. Our efforts were strengthened by joint planning with Center for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi.

Objectives of the boys/men’s engaging program (please give brief of each programme/ initiatives)

Create awareness amongst men and women about female foeticide, child marriage, domestic violence and illegal Devdasi practices leading to trafficking of women and girls and also support women and children in vulnerable circumstances in two blocks of Sangola and Jat blocks of Solapur and Sangli districts.

Enhance Capacities of Panchayat Raj Institutes to deal with the issues of female foeticide, Child marriage, Domestic Violence and Devdasi practices by building their capacities for fighting for rights of women.

Orient policy makers, rural development administration, media and civil society about measures needed at execution levels to combat the identified issues of violence.

19. Target population of boys/men’s engaging program (Please be specific: fathers, boys, leaders etc.)

20 Villages, 2 PHCs – per village form groups of 20 married and 20 unmarried men/youth.

- We are in the process of formation of adolscent boys groups in our area.

20. Program and activities of boys / men’s engaging program: what were the result/ impact since the program’s implementation)

Programs/ projects/initiaives	Result/impact
We the men for equality campaign	Increased understanding amongst villagers of 20 villages where we are implementing the project with the support from CSJH. New Delhi
Joint Owership of House Campaign	100% houses are in the joint names of Husband and wife in 1 villges 70% houses are in joint names of husband and wife in 19 villages
Animators Training	There is noticeable change amongst Animators. They are taking keen interest and initiative in looking after household responsibilities and child care at domestic level.
Gender Mapping	Because of gener mapping the facts and figures related to status of

	women participation, their movement in public places, who owns what power centers in community/society have come on the fore and there is increased awareness amongst men and women about the power centers and its control.
Youth group meetings	Very encouraging change amongst youth. Many of them (although not all at this stage) are now desisting themselves from any type of violence against women and are ready to fight where they see VAW.

21. What are the challenges faced by organisation on working with men and boys

- There was slow learning and response from men and youth initially. Their first priority is to earn for the day rather than learn something new about family and society.
- Patriarchy still exists in rural areas irrespective of class and caste.
- Migration amongst men and youth.

22. Any Resource materials that you have developed over the years while working with boys and men? (Please give a brief description as well as give the link if it is available online)

- We have printed posters on various themes mentioned here. Gender Equality – to stop Gender based Violence against women, to stop discrimination against girl child, equal opportunity to girls and boys, property rights of women, etc. The posters also include message on to stop and oppose any type of violence against women.
- We have also printed Slogan Stickers on 25 various themes focused on gender justice, gender equality and equal positive treatment to girl children at domestic level.

23. Is your organisation have any associassion with any networks/ alliences on gender equality and social justice Please give details of the network/ associations/ alliences)

- We are members of FEM, South Asia.

24. What relationship organisation hold with women 's movement organisation

- We are associated with networks promoted by Ms. Vidhya Bal and her organisation Milun Saryajani.
- We were also associated with TATHAPI, Shirur Promoted program namely Working towards equality with men (2004-2008)

25. Is your organisation involve in providing training on gender/ masculinity/ sexuality/ gender based violence to youth, men, activist as resource organisation. If yes please attach the CV of resource person

- Yes. We have two persons who are involved in training men and youth on Gender Equality and issues mentioned here. We have Shahaji Gadhire (Male) and Sunita Dhanavade (Female).

Their CVs are attached.

26. Do you have any procedure to respond to Gender based discrimination/ violence in your organization?

- We have not experienced such issues in our organisation. But in the event such thing happen then we have set up VISHAKHA Committee to deal with gender based discrimination or violence.

27. Expectations from Network:

- More and more gender related trainings, information on new laws (programs and policies), implementation strategies and exposure for grassroots women and men and youth.

28. What is it that you think you could contribute to the network?

- We can contribute in training on gender issues in Hindu and Marathi languages. Also we can help design training material, posters, stickers on gender themes.

29. What is that you think you could contribute to the field of engaging with men and boys for gender equality.

- Implement large scale projects and programs amongst men, youth and women. Design and implement such programs / projects.

30. Any other things do you want to share?

- For large scale impact on larger area and to attract attention of government agencies we need to work on a large scale. For this we need resources and opportunity. We need to add a component of advocacy at district and state level to influence government policy makers on sensitising all its development departments on gender issues.

Shahaji Gadhire

Astitva Samaj Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha, Sangola

18/03/2014