

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA (SAWF IN)

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021



ABOUT SAWF IN

South Asia Women Foundation India (SAWF IN) is a national women's fund in India that mobilizes and directs resources to grassroots initiatives led by marginalised women and trans* persons.

SAWF IN advances women's leadership to claim economic rights and develop sustainable livelihood options.



We also support initiatives to end gender-based violence and women led efforts to build gender-just, inclusive communities. We do this by mobilising financial and non-financial resources for constituencies of women that are most marginalised and in need of flexible and sustained support. We believe that resources should increasingly flow towards changing power structures that deny justice to women marginalised due to caste, class, gender, religion, sexuality, ethnicity, age and disability.

Vision

Our vision is a world where women, girls, trans* and gender non-conforming persons realise their constitutional rights and freedoms to equality and non-discrimination.

Mission

We believe that we will be able to realise our vision by mobilising indigenous and other resources, to support movements and initiatives led by women, girls, trans* and gender non-conforming persons, towards the realisation of their human rights.

SAWF IN's key guiding principles are equality, diversity, accountability, and transparency.

**For SAWF IN, trans* refers to a wide range of gender identities. This umbrella term includes but is not restricted to agender, genderfluid and gender nonconforming identities, and this report will use it to convey this ideological stance.*

TRACING OUR JOURNEY



South Asia Women Foundation India emerged as an organic movement to meet the demands of a complex, diverse and dynamic development landscape in India. An idea put forward by senior thinkers and experts with a rich history of working on social justice issues in the region, SAWF IN took the shape of a non-profit organization in the year 2015. It was registered in August 2015 under Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013.

SAWF IN was set up with the full recognition that bringing a feminist lens and experience to philanthropy, especially within grant making processes, would enrich and deepen its effectiveness. It emerged from the need to focus on intersectional approaches centred on women's constitutional rights and ensuring inclusion of voices from the communities that are being marginalised.

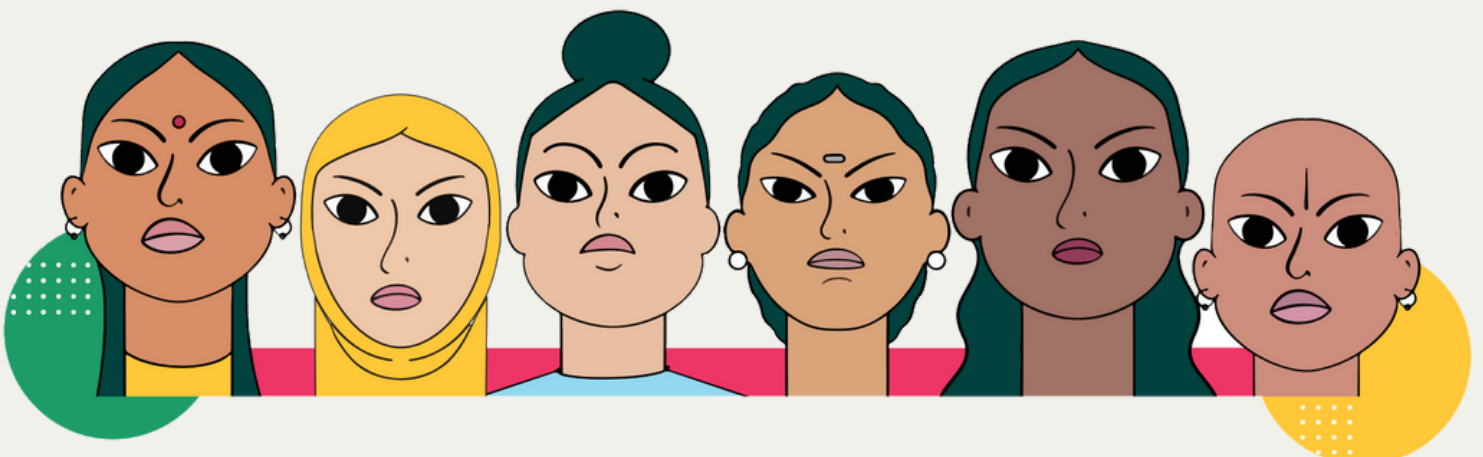
The founders of SAWF IN built processes to raise resources and advance grant making using feminist principles. They also engaged in influencing the philanthropic sector in India to finance women's rights work.



Mandated to influence greater philanthropic commitments to gender justice work, SAWF IN aims to make resources more accessible to gender rights organizations working at the grassroots.

We recognise that there are several challenges and structural barriers in women and trans* persons accessing their rights. However, we know from our experience that access to justice and women's economic participation are critical to shift power structures and bring gender transformative change. Therefore, we believe that there should be strategic focus on these two issues in advancing the rights of women and trans* persons.

In these two thematic areas, SAWF IN supports innovative models of change and works with organizations led by women and trans* persons, ensuring that they receive engaged support.



OUR BOARD

Our Board comprises of diverse and respected experts from the fields of human rights, feminist organising, business and entrepreneurship, and organizational development.



Suneeta Dhar is a Co-Founding Director of SAWF IN, an eminent feminist and has worked across several organizations. She is a trainer and facilitator of change processes for many women's rights groups. She serves on select committees of government and civil society organizations.



Priya Paul is a Co-Founding Director of SAWF IN and a renowned entrepreneur, a Padma Shri awardee and Chairperson of the Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels.



Tulika Srivastava is a prominent human rights lawyer and Co-Founder of Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives (AALI). She is presently the Executive Director of Women's Fund Asia.



Gagan Sethi is a renowned development practitioner, organizational development expert, a gender trainer and co-founder of several organizations, networks and alliances at the national, regional, and international level.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-21

A. Legal Fellowship Programme

SAWF IN's fellowship programme is aimed at supporting women lawyers working at primary (district) courts to provide pro bono litigation support to women and trans* people seeking legal redress. In January 2021, a call was put out inviting applications from women lawyers working in district courts for the legal fellowship programme. An engaging webinar was conducted on January 16, 2021, with Tulika Srivastava as the speaker, for a wider dissemination of the launch and iterating the importance of feminist lawyering in India. Distinguished lawyers, Renu Mishra and Geeta Ramaseshan were part of the selection panel for the legal fellowship this past year.

66 applications were received from the states of Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala. Two rounds of shortlisting and an interactive selection process was carried out by a screening committee and SAWF IN's internal team. The fellowship was awarded to six women lawyers, two of whom were SAWF IN's senior fellows.

Senior Legal Fellows of SAWF IN

- **Priti Murmu, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand**- a well known Santhali woman lawyer, litigating for the rights of indigenous people.
- **Romita Reang, Agartala, Tripura**- the first woman lawyer from the Reang, a primitive tribal group from a remote village in Gomati district. She is an active advocate for the rights and leadership of tribal women.

New Legal Fellows of SAWF IN

- **Chethana V, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**- works on cases of domestic violence, gender-based violence, sexual abuse and gender identity issues.
- **Y. Shaophen Phom, Dimapur, Nagaland**- works in the area of tribal women's welfare, taking up cases related to abuse and violence against women.
- **Bulia Pulu, Tezu and Roing, Arunachal Pradesh**- is one of the first women lawyers from her tribe, advocating for women's rights and providing free legal services to many women.
- **Shanchobeni Lotha, Wokha, Nagaland**- specialises in working with women and girls and their issues of violence and abuse.

B. Economic & Environmental Justice Fellowship Programme

This year SAWF IN launched a new initiative in January 2021, aimed at advancing women's economic participation and leadership. Titled the Economic and Environmental Justice (EEJ) fellowship, the initiative identified several promising innovations developed by women and trans* people from different regions.

Eminent feminist scholars, Dr. Soma Parthasarathy and Dr. Padmini Swaminathan, were part of the selection panel of the EEJ fellows. We received 78 applications, of which nine were from trans* persons. A majority of the applications were from the eastern, northern and southern states of India. After a rigorous selection process, the fellowship was awarded to six individuals for the financial year starting April 2021.

- **Bujji Pallepogu, Andhra Pradesh** - For developing a self-sustainable, ecological-economic model based on solid waste management in villages of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Raina Roy, West Bengal** - For capacitating a collective of trans* waste collectors collective to learn safer solid waste management practices in Dhapa, a garbage dumping ground in Kolkata city, and to develop innovative sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Arpitha Bai MS, Madhya Pradesh** - For developing a women's entrepreneurship model around products made from local forest produce sourced by women's collective in villages from the Panna Tiger Reserve area.
- **Kirti Vartha, Maharashtra** - For promoting social and economic leadership among women from the Warli tribe by reviving women led, traditional livelihood practices in Palghar and Dahanu blocks in Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- **Rehena Molla, West Bengal** - For supporting adoption of organic farming and animal rearing practices by women's collectives in villages of Joy nagar district in the Sundarbans region.
- **Manisha Chaudhary, Himachal Pradesh** - For capacitating a women's collective in Kangra district to establish and run a handicraft oriented economic activity that utilises locally available pine needle leaves and, in the process, build ecological awareness in the community.

FEMINIST LEADERSHIP BUILDING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

DIYA WELFARE SOCIETY



SAWF IN has been supporting Diya Welfare Society (DWS), an eleven-year-old organization led by Mamta Soni, a Dalit woman leader, in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. DWS works in 12 villages of Karwi block in Chitrakoot district, for advancing Dalit women's rights and leadership.

DWS has established a peer support network across these 12 villages, which connects over 1,200 Dalit women under the banner of Diya Mahila Manch (DMM). This platform acts as the first responder to a situation of violence against women, adolescents, and children in their villages.

A wide influx of returning migrants from the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, etc. was seen by these villages in the lockdown phases of the pandemic. The families faced a severe economic crisis due to the loss of livelihood and food security. This was amplified by the lack of access to essential services such as cattle fodder, health care, and public transport.

DWS reported an increasing number of women facing extreme forms of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. With restrictions on mobility and access to police and judicial services, many women and girls had to remain silent despite becoming victims of multiple forms of violence.



DWS and members of Diya Mahila Manch jointly intervened through door-to-door visits in the villages, to track incidences of violence and support survivors through face-to-face discussions and counselling over phone.

DWS core group members made themselves readily available to the Diya Mahila Manch for any assistance. The active presence of an NGO was a deterrent to further incidents of violence in the villages. The home visits by the DWS team were reassuring for woman survivors and provided them confidence and support.



Apart from supporting DWS's work, SAWF IN reached out to several women and trans* rights activists and organizations who promoted local initiatives through the pandemic. Many of these organizations, faced severe challenges due to a lack of resources, especially during the lockdown phase.

SAWF IN has initiated a process of enhancing its feminist agenda and strengthening its resourcing strategy for the future, through a series of dialogues with women and trans* persons led organisations.

BUILDING A FEMINIST FUNDING AGENDA

As COVID-19 cases surged across the globe and the country, the strict lockdown in March 2020 resulted in a devastating impact on the national economy and exposed its most marginalised citizens to financial and physical precarity. Against this backdrop, a scoping study between November 2020 and March 2021 helped SAWF IN strengthen her feminist funding agenda. A review of 86 research papers, articles and media reports within



the first year following lockdown (April 2020 to March 2021) highlighted the following critical areas for resource support for women, trans* persons and their communities.

These included:

- Rebuilding livelihoods and economic dignity.
- Development programmes that would enable them to have access to, and ownership of economic assets, political voice, and digital resources.
- Building inclusive leadership that place decision making of the change agenda in the hands of women and trans* persons.
- Developing a collaborative and gendered crisis response measures to address the pandemic.
- Re-building local and transregional knowledge systems between women's and trans* persons' collectives to share strategies of dealing with the gendered face of the humanitarian crisis.



NETWORKING, LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS

SAWF IN was represented at the following events and workshops during 2020-2021:

- The Asia Pacific Regional meeting of Prospera - International Network of Women's Funds, held between August 10-14, 2020 was attended by Board members of SAWF IN, Suneeta Dhar and Tulika Srivastava.
- A webinar hosted on 25th September, 2020 by DevelopAid on amendments to the new Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).
- Prospera Financial Resilience Workshops held between 1st October, 2020 and 4th January, 2021 on resource mobilisation.
- #ShiftthePower ideology and strategy workshop organised by Global Fund for Community Foundations on shifting the power of agenda setting during COVID to community-based organizations.

IN THE MEDIA

SAWF IN's Co-Founder, Suneeta Dhar, published an article on the importance of investing in women's rights on Prajnya PSW Community's Aftermath - A Blog Symposium on Post-Pandemic Challenges and Opportunities for Women's Rights and Gender Inequality. The blog highlights the lack of sustainable funding support for women's movement building, despite the issue gaining global importance in the past few decades, especially post the World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

Read the entire article at this link:

<https://keepingcount.wordpress.com/2020/06/22/aftermath-invest/>

VOLUNTEERS AT SAWF IN

This past year, there were two volunteers working to promote the mandate of SAWF IN.

BOARD MEETINGS HELD IN FY 2020 - 2021

The Board met five times during FY 2020-2021:

DATE OF BOARD MEETING	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS PRESENT
April 17, 2020	4/4
August, 2020	4/4
September 1, 2020	4/4
November 25, 2020	4/4
March 15, 2021	4/4

Annual General Meeting was held on September 1, 2020.

In the year 2020-21, there were no payments, consultancy charges or salaries paid to the Directors of SAWF IN.

In the year 2020-21, there was no national or international travel undertaken by the Directors or staff members of SAWF IN.

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

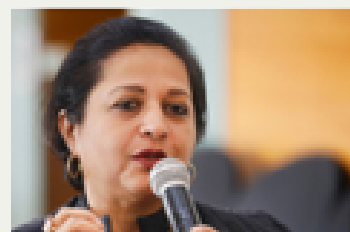
We are grateful to these passionate organizations and individuals for supporting our work and championing the cause of women's and trans* people's rights.



<https://vanillamoon.in/pages/impact>



<https://www.microland.com/>



Ms. Priya Paul

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priya_Paul

DONOR'S SPEAK



“ The strength of the South Asia Women Foundation really lies in the effectiveness of its team, the way in which it communicates, the reporting that happens. I see this whole thing as a three-way partnership, there's the donor, there's the recipient and there's the facilitator. And since you all are so strong in that area, don't lose it because it's very effective. And you all do such a great job (in facilitating the process). I'm just very happy to be part of this, a team that works so well. ”

- Deepika Mehra, Director, Leiner Shoes



“ The India legal fellows have so far supported 380 cases for women and over 500 in legal counselling and mediation. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction that the program has been able to make an impact across many different regions of India. The most powerful thing about this program is the learning that happens among all the fellows. Some of them are the first women lawyer in their community and they often navigate through spaces such as tribal courts and panchayats where people may see legal redressal as a last resort. A lot of these women need the help. ”

- Priya Paul, Chairperson, Apeejay Surrendra Paul Park Hotels

“ Delighted to partner with South Asia Women Foundation India to strengthen the efforts of women and trans* leaders to build economic resilience, while adopting ecologically sustainable practices. Excited to be part of the journey of the Microland Fellows. ”

- Karishma Bhuyan, CSR, Microland

FUTURE ROADMAP

Strategic Planning and Theory of Change

In 2020-21, SAWF IN embarked on a strategic planning process to map its role, scope and growth as an emergent women's fund in India. As a first step toward this process, SAWF IN initiated the process of a feminist agenda setting exercise by holding one on one discussions with senior activists, practitioners and members of women's rights groups. This is to feed into strategic plan in the upcoming year. Furthermore, initial brainstorming exercises and conversations with key internal and external stakeholders were initiated.



FINANCIALS

BALANCE SHEET 2020-21

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021			
(Amount in Rs.)			
Particulars	Note No.	As at 31st March 2021	As at 31st March 2020
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Shareholder's Funds			
(a) Share Capital	3	3,000	3,000
(b) Reserves and Surplus	4	(30,400)	63,550
(c) Accumulated Fund		-	-
(2) Current Liabilities			
(a) Short-term borrowings		-	-
(b) Trade payables		-	-
(c) Other current liabilities	5	59,000	76,700
(d) Short-term provisions	6	918,000	27,332
Total		949,600	170,582
II. ASSETS			
(1) Non-current assets			
(a) Fixed assets			
(i) Tangible assets		-	-
(ii) Intangible assets		-	-
(2) Current assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	7	949,600	170,582
(b) Short-term loans and advances		-	-
(c) Other current assets		-	-
Total		949,600	170,582
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		1 to 15	-

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.

For **KUMAR MITTAL & CO.**

Chartered Accountants

FRN:010500N

(Amrish Gupta)

Partner

M. No. 090553



By order of the Board
for and on behalf of

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA

(Gagan Siriram Sethi)

Director

DIN:02596268



(Suneeta Dhar)

Director

DIN:07147265



Place: New Delhi

Date: 08 SEP 2021

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2020-21

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021			
Particulars	Note No.	For the year ended 31st March 2021	For the year ended 31st March 2020
Income:			
Grants Income (To the extent utilized)		207,332	1,251,831
General Donation		8,000	118,000
Total Income		215,332	1,369,831
Expenses:			
Programme Expenses	8	185,000	1,146,732
Depreciation and amortization expense		-	-
Financial Cost		-	-
Other expenses	9	124,282	105,099
Total Expenses		309,282	1,251,831
Surplus/ (Deficit) before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax		(93,950)	118,000
Exceptional Items		-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) before extraordinary items and tax		(93,950)	118,000
Surplus/ (Deficit) before tax		(93,950)	118,000
Tax expense:			
Current Tax		-	-
Deferred Tax		-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		(93,950)	118,000
Earning per equity share:			
Basic			393.33
Diluted			393.33

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 to 15

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.

For KUMAR MITTAL & CO.

Chartered Accountants

FRN:010500N

(Signature)

(Amrish Gupta)

Partner

M. No. 090553



By order of the Board
for and on behalf of

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA

(Signature)

(Gagan Siriram Sethi)

Director

DIN:02596268

(Signature)

(Suneeta Dhar)

Director

DIN:07147265

Place: New Delhi

Date: 08 SEP 2021



FINANCIALS

CASH FLOW STATEMENT 2020-21

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA		
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021		
(Amount in Rs.)		
Particulars	For the year ended 31st March 2021	For the year ended 31st March 2020
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Grant/ Donations	1,106,000	1,278,000
Less: Payments towards Operations	326,982	1,294,399
Net Cash used in Operating Activities (A)	779,018	(16,399)
Cash Flow from Investing Activities	-	-
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities (B)	-	-
Cash Flow from Financing Activities	-	-
Proceeds from issue of Share Capital	-	-
Proceeds From General Donations	-	-
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities (C)	-	-
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents(A+B+C)	779,018	(16,399)
Cash and Cash Equivalent at the beginning of the year	170,582	186,981
Cash and Cash Equivalent at the end of the year (Cash & Bank Balance)	949,600	170,582
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		1 to 15

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.

For KUMAR MITTAL & CO.

Chartered Accountants

FRN:010500N

(Signature)

(Amrish Gupta)

Partner

M. No. 090553



By order of the Board

for and on behalf of

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA

(Signature)

(Gagan Siriram Sethi)

Director

DIN:02596268

(Signature)

(Suneeta Dhar)

Director

DIN:07147265



Place: New Delhi

Date: 08 SEP 2021

A Note of Thanks

SAWF IN deeply thanks the long-term support of individuals, institutions and companies who have contributed towards promoting SAWF IN's work on advancing the rights of women and trans* persons communities.



Registration Details

Registered under Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 vide
CIN: U74140DL2015NPL284509

Registered under 80G and 12AA of Income Tax Act, 1961
Registered under CSR-1 of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
Government of India for undertaking CSR activities
PAN no.: AAWCS6337H

Registered Address

2, Aurangzeb Lane, Delhi - 110003

Contact us:

Email: sawfindia@gmail.com
www.sawfindia.org



@Sawf India



@sawfindia



@sawfindia15



South Asia Women
Foundation India