



Sākshi

EQUALITY IS INCLUSIVENESS

ANNUAL REPORT FY. 2018-2019

www.sakshi.org.in

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| SAKSHI

Sakshi, a capacity building organization, pioneered work on Gender, Equality and Responsible Sexuality in India in 1992. Through Research, Advocacy, Publications & Campaigns – Sakshi has been the backbone for Judicial Education on Gender Equality in the Asia Pacific Region, and has informed several laws including POSH, POCSO, JJ Act & Sexual Assault Bill.

| VISION & MISSION

Sakshi strives to make equality a reality for vulnerable groups by empowering youth, women, children, and marginalized groups, focussing on diversity & inclusiveness, gender & sexual rights, mental health & hygiene, peaceful coexistence and leadership through offline experiential learning initiatives and online immersive learning portals.

| FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

This was an eventful and exciting year. Perseverance, focus, and conviction bore fruit and in July 2018, the Directorate of NSS, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India finally gave Sakshi a mandate to skill-build 4 Million NSS Volunteers across 40,000 Colleges Pan-India to address and prevent Gender Based Violence with a focus on Child Sexual Abuse. The idea was to work with young adults to create an empowered, informed, and educated generation, present in each family and capacity built to **Recognize, Address, Identify, Deescalate, Resolve and Report**. A RAIDRR Rakshin in every home.



For this to become real, we needed to create course material that addressed the root issue, such as patriarchal entitlement and access to women and children's bodies, rape culture, or an environment that socialises men to be violent and abusive towards men, women and children. This was not an easy ask. The patriarchal beliefs that are interwoven into the social, cultural and political fabric of our nation is vast, which would necessitate a robust investigation and dismantling of narratives that continue to harm those disproportionately affected by patriarchal violence, that is women and children.

When equipped with the fact that current systems are inadequate in holistically addressing the trauma experienced by the victim, or the fact that excessive punitive punishment creates a society that fears accountability — which also applies to bystanders or those complicit in the community — a change in approach and attitude regarding the social issue of domestic violence and child sexual abuse was required in order to proliferate youth and community led accountability, whilst not just relying on punitive and retributive justice afforded by the criminal justice system.

This would enable communities to centre the needs of the victim/survivor and create a more holistic form of restorative justice, and accountability of the perpetrator. With this idea as an end goal, The Rakshin Project needed to be designed as a Youth led movement to put an end to intimate and systemic violence against the powerless.

Envisioning a just world requires the idea to liberate communities and individuals from cycles of violence. It is, therefore, crucial that in order to transform our society, a clear vision imagining the future we want for the generations to come is needed whilst honestly interrogating the current conditions that do not align with that vision. The path to meaningful change is possible when actions and policies are in place that work to examine and close the unequal gaps between the future we wish for and the realities we reside in.

The axis of The Rakshin Project needed to rest on the recognition that violence begins at home. The 'home' is typically and universally considered a space of care and love for those living in a family. Unfortunately, this does not consider the fact that the home has also historically been a site of violence — those that are physical, emotional and sexual.

It's a long journey to accountability. We had to begin this journey by changing the direction in which we were looking. We had to start by examining own backyards, and address the denial, silence, shame and stigma that were blindsiding us.

SMITA BHARTI
Executive Director

| THE RAKSHIN PROJECT

The purpose of The Rakshin Project is to have One Informed, Skill Built Rakshin (Preventer) In Each Home to Make Homes A Safe Space, Free from Child Sexual Abuse.



PROGRAMME DESIGN

If through The Rakshin Project, Sakshi was aiming to build a young generation of informed citizens, equipped with knowledge, understanding and language to interrupt the cycle of sexual violence and build compassionate communities that offer transformative interventions to address the complex root causes of child sexual abuse, located within the families, the programme design detailing required an alternate approach that interrogated root causes, but most importantly retained the students and kept them engaged beyond the initial activation workshop.

Thus the detailed programme design included a structured sustained engagement over a period of 2 years, ensuring an ongoing capacity building of the participants, urging them towards sustained SMART actions, indicating behavioural shifts. The interventions included 5 levels of the Rakshin Fellowship, 3 Resolution Mechanisms, (creative expression, online counselling, and legal aid) and an awareness campaign, followed by an invitation to the volunteers to generate their own content based on the knowledge acquired during the session. Nurtured through interventions by knowledge partners from the therapy, healthcare, and legal fields, the programme was designed to create offline and online 'safe-space' communities to hold difficult conversations around emotional and mental health issues, building a resilient emotional fabric to counter the impact of CSA.

The activation workshop was further detailed to encapsulate an awareness session on Rights & Responsibilities for Gender Equality covering 5 Critical Messages: Equality, Consent, The Law, Barriers & Creating Safe Spaces. Survivors were offered free-of-cost Resolution Mechanisms (Online Counselling, Legal Counselling & Creative Expressions).

The 5 Level, 18 Module and 12 Certificate Rakshin Fellowship programme with Sustained Engagement over the programme cycle, ensured an ongoing capacity building of the Rakshins through multiple platforms and forums, urging them towards sustained SMART actions, indicating behavioural shifts.



| THE RAKSHIN PROJECT

DIPSTICK TEST RUN OF ACTIVATION WORKSHOP: RELEVANCE AND RESPONSE

Sakshi tested the relevance of the content for the first activation workshop with the direct beneficiaries across 5 states and catalogued the response of the indirect beneficiaries (their families) for stepping up as allies within the families, accepting the prevalence of child sexual abuse within families and communities, owning the language of sexual rights and committing to prevent child sexual abuse.



DELHI

Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi

MAHARASHTRA

KC College, Mumbai

ASSAM

Handique Girls College, Guwahati

Karnashree Hiteshwar Saika, Guwahati

Pashchim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, Guwahati



CHATTISGARH

IG Government Arts & Commerce College, Bhilai

CMD College, Bilaspur

MADHYA PRADESH

Sagar College, Bhopal

Barkatullah University, Bhopal



| THE RAKSHIN PROJECT

TESTIMONIALS

I got to know about CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND POCSO Act. This webinar has changed my perception for a child. I know now what the importance of a safe space is and how it is to be created.

Arpan Dey

Child Sexual Abuse is a real social evil and I thank The Rakshin Project to have equipped me with the right knowledge, information & awareness.

Jayraj Jalavadia

From this webinar I learnt that we should know how to talk with the child and what is going on with them. We should create a safe space for a child so that they share their problems. Being a Rakshin I should never feel shy to call out my body parts such as penis, vagina, breast and anus. I also learnt that we should make others aware regarding this.

Preeti Gupta

Through The Rakshin project I got to learn that we should never hesitate to speak up or react, if we are not feeling comfortable enough by the unwanted touch of anybody.

Supriya Kumari

This webinar made me realize the responsibilities which I hold. Not only parents or teachers are responsible but also we as grownups are responsible.

Harshita Shreya

The hidden pain of having gone through child sexual abuse suffocates the survivor, and destroys their self-confidence, self-esteem and self-identity at the same time. This is not a pain of one day but a painful life throughout. I would thank Sakshi for giving me this opportunity to attend this workshop.

Riya Singh

IT WAS NOT A WORKSHOP WHERE WE HAD TO SIT AND JUST LISTEN AND MAKE NOTES. IT ADDRESSED A VERY SENSITIVE TOPIC IN A VERY FUN AND CREATIVE WAY.

Vaishali

| THE RAKSHIN PROJECT

TESTIMONIALS

I have attended many workshops but this was the best workshop I ever attended because in most of the workshop we only had to sit and listen for several hours but this workshop conducted by Sakshi was so different, there were many activities through which we understood things which were otherwise hidden in plain sight.

AAKRITI

After attending this interactive workshop of The Rakshin Project I realized the importance of prevention over protection which essentially is the difference between being proactive and reactive. This workshop has also highlighted how big a barrier language can be, especially when someone is trying to access their right to equality.

Charanpreet

It's only because I attended The RAKSHIN PROJECT Workshop, that I know now about the prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and how it is a privilege to not have been sexually abused as a child.

AVNI

I finally understand how much power my voice has and the amount of responsibility and power that I as a citizen of this country have.

KANIKA

It is imperative for each one of us to create safe spaces and empathetic environment at a micro level within our family, friends and communities and counter each barrier from the root and only then we can achieve the goal of The Rakshin Project by Sakshi.

Anonymous

I got to know a proper definition of child sexual abuse, now I will make my friends and family members aware about this issue in every possible way so that every other child feels safe around us.

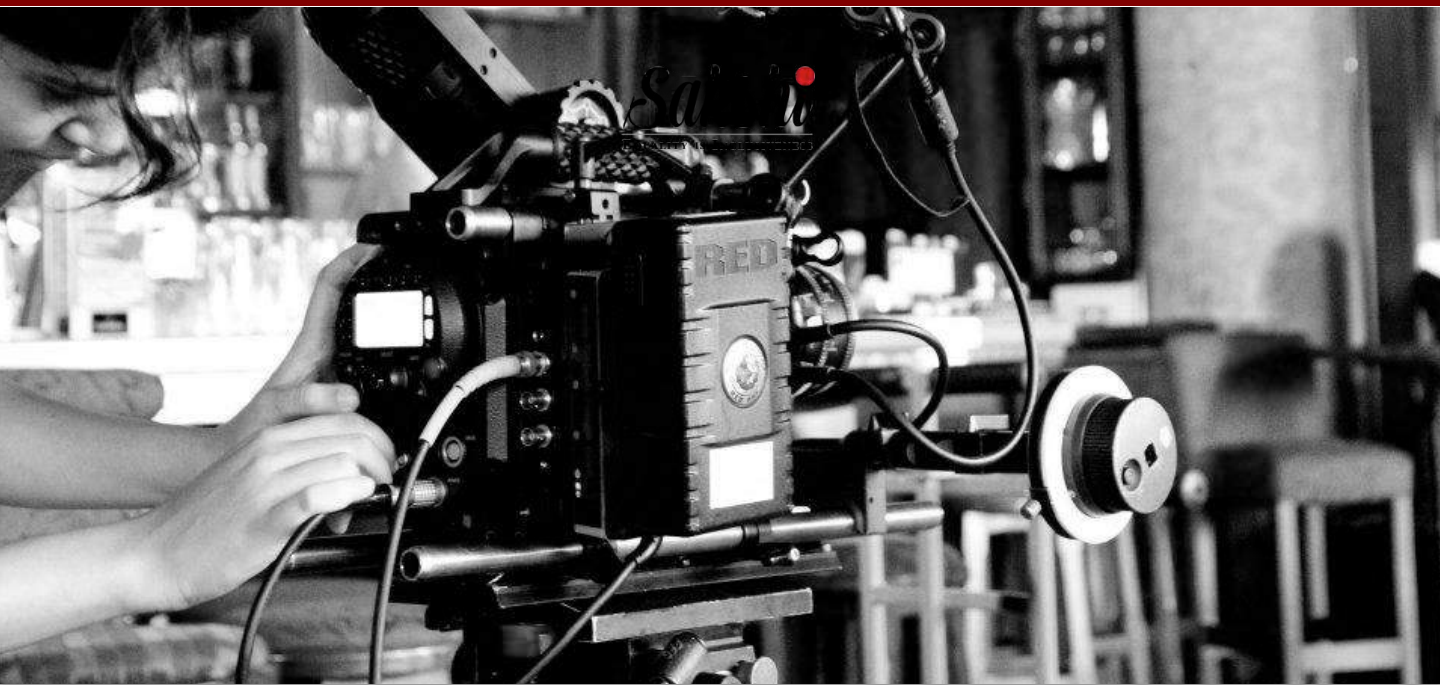
GAGAN

We do say that CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE is happening throughout the country but no one is taking responsibility for it to stop it. In today's workshop I have learned how to stop it and which steps should we take to stop this. We did have a prior knowledge about this issue but after attending this workshop we came to know about our responsibilities regarding this issue.

GAGANPREET

I was so moved by the webinar that I immediately felt the urgency to change my perceptions and address the language barrier that even I unknowingly had. I have already successfully engaged and sustained a conversation with both my younger brother and mother so that we can spread the message of The Rakshin Project by Sakshi as far and as effectively as possible.

KHUSHI RAWAT- Faculty



| S-BOX



It was decided that apart from bringing in all the expertise that Sakshi has acquired over the years for behaviour change communication, the resources generated from SBOX will be used to further the object and purpose of the Society.

The projects undertaken through SBOX in the first year itself, served the critical purpose of providing The Rakshin Project the much needed resources to create proof of concept for the design of the programme and the content of the workshops.

| SERVICES

AUDIO- VISUAL

- Documentary
- Video spots
- Photography
- Advertisements
- Audio spots
- Radio jingles
- Music production

PERFORMATIVE

- Stage Plays
- Street Theatre
- Festivals & Events
- Music concerts
- Dance recitals

DESIGN

- Branding
- Installations
- Campaigns
- Publications
- Training material

| AWARDS



Laadli Media Award
Best Play on Gender Equality
2013



Karmaveer Puraskar
For Social Change & Justice
2016

| WE HAVE WORKED WITH



| S-BOX PROJECTS – FY. 2018-2019



DECEMBER 2018 – MOHRD BHASHASANGAM

India is the land of celebrations. We celebrate festivals, cultures. Diwali Holi and other festivals are celebrated beyond language caste or creed. Isn't it time that we We celebrate the learning of new languages and position it as an Independent festival.

The purpose of the film was to celebrate the wonder of the whole new world that opens up when we learn another language. The treatment was candid and documentary where children were trying to learn each other's language, and having so much fun in the process. They had not heard of certain languages, like Bodo, Maithili, even Manipuri was alien for many.

The film opened with shots of children learning each other's language.

The film was tied together with the following lyrics.

Bhashaon Ka Mela Hai, Sangam Albela Hai, भाषा जो मिली तो देश एक हो गया, हर कोई यहाँ पे up to date हो गया.. चलते चलते राह में मिले हम, मैं कहूँ नमस्ते तुम वाणक्कम, मैं तेरी बोली बोलूँ aur तू मेरी, मेल हो दिलों का ज़रूरी

| S-BOX PROJECTS – FY. 2018-2019

JANUARY 2019 – MOHRD KALA UTSAV

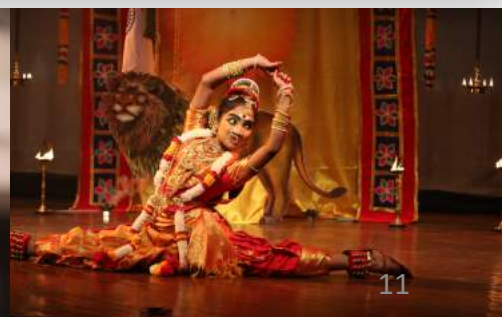
The creative documentary film on Kala Utsav, shot over the span of the event, captured the excitement, the talent, the spontaneity, the laughter, joy, interactions amongst participants, as they prepared to perform, then as they performed and right after they had performed.

Interspersed with interviews, candid conversations about their journey and their experience, the film gave a deep insight about the relevance of Kala Utsav in the lives of those participating in it, and its impact on their lives, hopes, and aspirations.

Intersecting visuals of audiences' responses, and the Jury Bytes giving their expertise and assessment of what they are witnessing, added drama and excitement to the performing participant's journeys captured during this documentary.

JANUARY 2019 – MOHRD KALA SANGAM

In order to create a National Platform and to recognize the best talent among the Music & Art Teachers, KVS and NVS planned a joint Concert Cum Exhibition of Music Teachers and Art Teachers named KVS-NVS Sangeet Kala Sangam - 2018 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The documentary framed the talent from the Music Teachers' Competition, Art Teachers' Competition Cum Exhibition and showcased best Music Teachers, Art Works and Artefacts. Selected teachers from KVS – NVS were facilitated with certificates and prizes.



| CONCLUSION

The Rakshin Project is ready for Pre-Pilot in 2019-20. The coming year is going to be about creating the films for the modules, processes for the three pillars, and SOPs for rolling out The Rakshin Project in a 100 colleges. One year at a time. We are getting ready for building the model to scale up to reach the 40,000 colleges.

S Box has had a brilliant start with 3 prestigious films that were appreciated by the PMO. We are looking forward to creating much more content in the coming year.

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