

The background of the cover features a stylized illustration of a woman in a patterned dress, possibly a sari, with a tree-like structure behind her. The woman is depicted in a light purple and green color palette. The tree has a thick trunk and many thin, branching limbs. A large, semi-transparent pink circle is positioned behind the woman's torso, partially overlapping the text.

ASSOCIATION FOR ADVOCACY AND LEGAL INITIATIVES TRUST (AALI) ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2021-MARCH 2022



ASSOCIATION FOR ADVOCACY AND LEGAL INITIATIVES TRUST (AALI)

**ANNUAL REPORT
MARCH 2021-APRIL 2022**

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INTRODUCTION

The covid 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown led to many migrant workers returning to their hometowns which had disproportionately impacted the lives of marginalized groups i.e. women and children. Women were trapped in close vicinity of the perpetrator and had no avenue for their redressal. During the reporting period of April 2021 to March 2022, the two deadly waves of Covid'19 were witnessed-in the month of April 2021 and January 2022. The National Commission of Women acknowledged the drastic increase in the number of complaints received regarding the domestic violence meted out to them.[1] Despite the manifold increase in the number of cases pertaining to the domestic violence as well as sexual violence within the family during the Covid'19 imposed lockdown, both stakeholders as well as the courts disregarded women-centric violations as pressing issue.[2] In addition to the apathy of the stakeholders, the Covid'19 imposed lockdown put a complete halt on the functioning of the non-state actors i.e. NGOs leaving women completely "paralysed" to their surroundings.

In these times, the social security entitlements that were granted to the marginalised increased but most of the people for whom these entitlements existed were not able to avail its benefits. This was a result of malfeasantbehaviour on the part of the officials from the departments in charge of the distribution.

The AALI team also got new opportunities to engage and participate in trainings which focused on extending support in community and recouping from mental trauma caused by the second phase of the pandemic. NIMHANS provided session on mental strength, COVID action collab trained our caseworkers to reach in community for vaccination drive and talk about the vaccination as there was lot of myth around it.

The courts functioning during the Covid'19 Pandemic considered "bail matters" as an urgent issue, thereby completely neglecting women-centric violence. The women and the children who had reached out to courts for asserting their right to maintenance both prior and post Covid'19 Pandemic, faced a huge setback through the decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Rajnesh vs. Neha, (2021) 2 SCC 324. The Court laid down certain guidelines for disclosing the assets and liabilities of both the parties for deciding the quantum of maintenance amount.

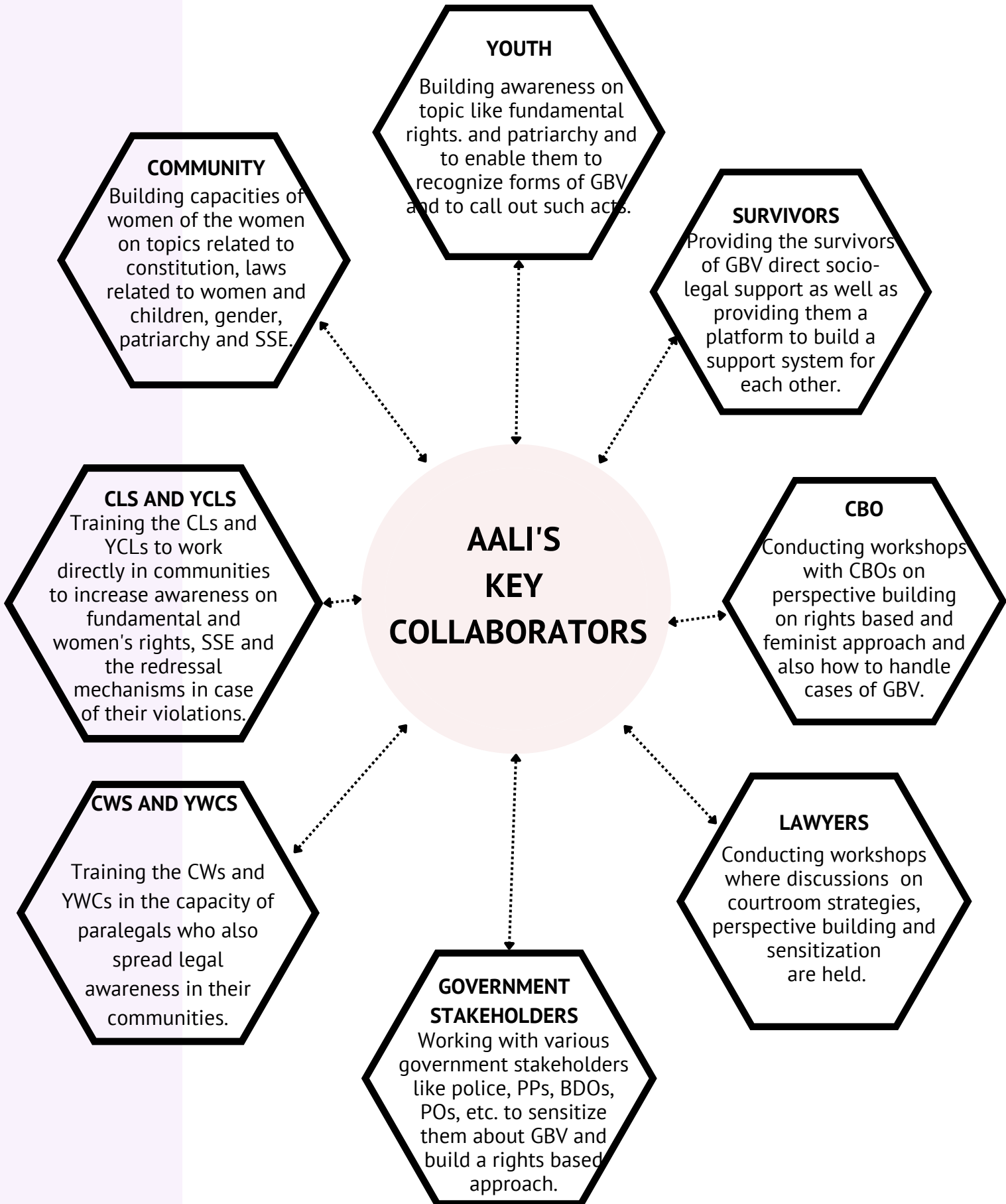
[1] Domestic violence complaints against women spiked in year of lockdown: NCW data <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/domestic-violence-complaints-against-women-spiked-in-year-of-lockdown-ncw-data-101616665002984.html>

[2]Jagriti Chandra, 'Covid-19 lockdown | Rise in domestic violence, police apathy: NCW' <<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/covid-19-lockdown-spike-in-domestic-violence-says-ncw/article31238659.ece>>

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANM	Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery
BDO	Block Development Officer
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CL	Community Leaders
CWs	Case Workers
CWU	Case Work Unit
DV	Domestic Violence
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IPC	Indian Penal Code
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
OBC	Other Backward Castes
PP	Public Prosecutors
PO	Protection Officers
SC	Scheduled Castes
ST	Scheduled Tribes
SSE	Social Security Entitlements
SHW	Sexual Harassment at Workplace
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
YCL	Young Community Leaders
YWCs	Young Women Caseworkers





AALI'S STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES

AALI works within a tripartite framework viz. Access to Justice, Active Citizenship and Addressing the Knowledge Gap. AALI's key focus during the year was-

Access to Justice

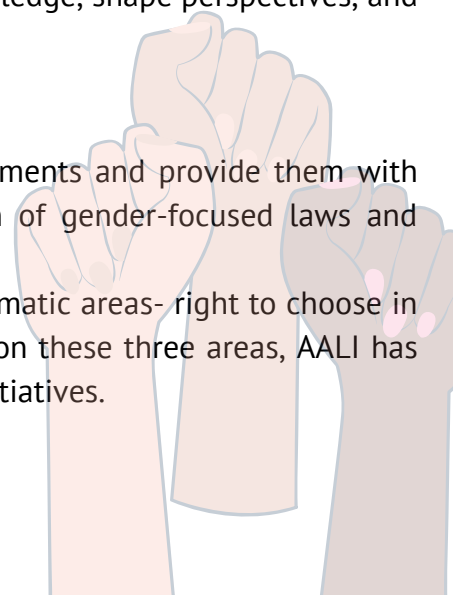
- To make the justice system accessible to the most marginalized group i.e. women and children in furtherance of the core vision of AALI which is to create an egalitarian society.
- Case intervention: Through its case intervention program, AALI planned to provide socio-legal support to the survivors of human rights violations belonging to marginalized groups. Keeping the feminist approach in mind, providing direct legal assistance like drafting and filing of cases, registration of 'First Information Report', looking after both court and out of court mediation was planned.
- AALI also aimed to conduct and document 'fact-findings' on violations of women's rights issues and extend socio-legal support wherever required.
- To provide legal mentorship to One Stop Centre across Uttar Pradesh.
- Conducting District as well as State-level Lawyers' Workshop for sensitizing advocates about women-centric issues as well as building their capacities all over Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Bihar, thereby creating a coalition of advocates who could strengthen the vision of feminist lawyering and make better use of the law at the level of the lower judiciary.
- Capacity Building of Community Caseworkers was planned to be held in two batches with an objective to increase the leadership role among women and build capacities of CBO partners for establishment of new casework centres.
- District visits to Casework centres for providing handholding support to the caseworkers.

Active Citizenship

- To enable the members of society, especially those belonging to marginalized identities, to assert their rights and claim the same.
- To work towards making employment available for marginalized communities at local level.
- For making it easy for the people from the marginalized communities to access the social security schemes
- To ensure the health rights of women and children.
- To build perspective on civil, political, social, economic and constitutional rights among Young Community Leaders (YCLs) so that they become agents of change for their communities.
- Developing key resources that improve access to information, increase knowledge, shape perspectives, and precipitate action.

Addressing the Knowledge Gap

- To regularly engage with various national and state institutions & departments and provide them with technical input and hand-holding support for the proper implementation of gender-focused laws and policies.
- During the last financial year, AALI's work concentrated on three major thematic areas- right to choose in relationships, women & economic justice, and women & family. Focusing on these three areas, AALI has been engaging with different stakeholders through various programs and initiatives.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

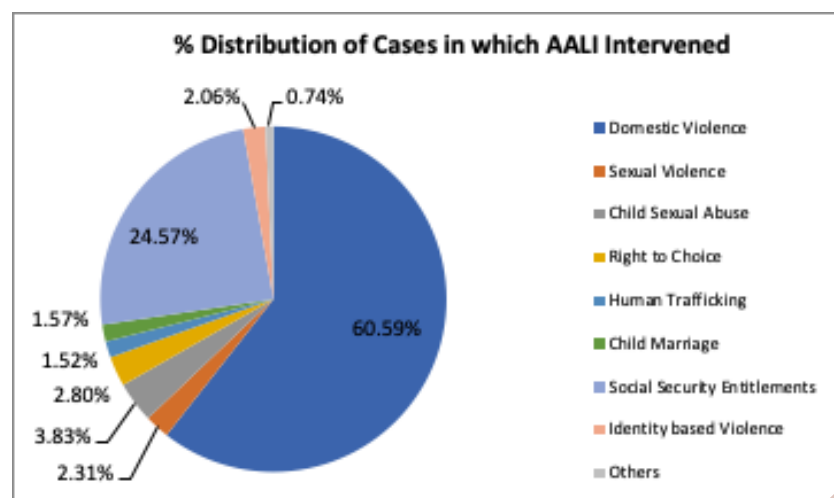
Through 'Access to Justice' strategy, AALI aims to ease the process of accessing the justice system for women, children and other marginalized sections of the society. This is done through various interventions like direct socio-legal support to the survivors of VAWG, capacity building and sensitization of lawyers, engaging other CBO's & women's rights organizations and increasing their capacities in order for them to take up such cases with rights-based approach & feminist perspective. For the same, AALI creates Case Work Centres through which AALI directly provides socio-legal support to the survivors as well as works in the community to generate awareness about the rights of women and children as well as to connect them to social security entitlements.

Case Intervention by the AALI team

Over 12 months, from April 2021 to March 2022, AALI intervened in total of 2274 cases of human rights violations across 52 districts in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Bihar. Apart from direct case intervention, AALI also provided socio-legal counselling to survivors of violence virtually by leveraging technologies. AALI team provided them with legal advice or linked them to stakeholders in their respective districts wherever required.

The socio-legal counselling provided to the survivors helped in recognition of various forms of violence meted out to women & other marginalized sections of the society, both in public and private spheres. Through the court intervention, women's right to seek maintenance/alimony for themselves as well as for their children were ensured which not only helped them in moving ahead from the violent surroundings but also provided them the much needed financial and individual autonomy.

The chart below shows the distribution of types of cases in which AALI directly intervened –

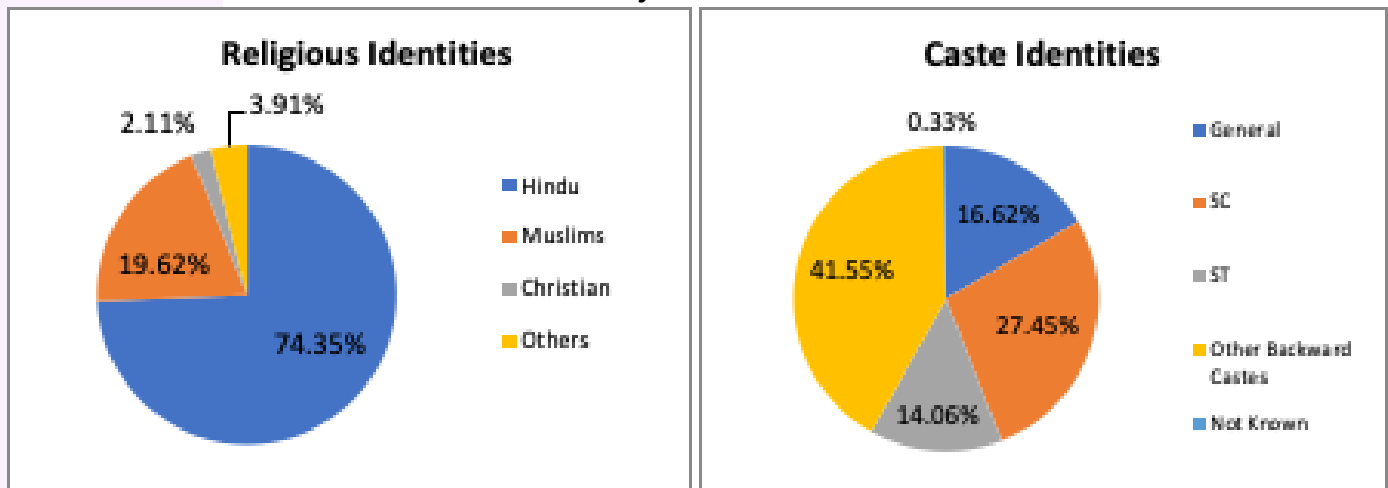


Out of the total cases where AALI directly intervened, most of the cases (about 60%) were related to domestic violence, both at natal as well as marital families.

This year, realizing the importance of providing financial support to women so as to empower them and enable them to fight against any form of violence, AALI focused on linking women to Social Security Schemes. The Case Workers and AALI team provided handholding for the same and intervened in 500 cases and made sure that women are linked to respective Social Security Schemes like the Pension scheme, MGNREGA, etc. Also, this year case workers intervened in human trafficking cases in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand and brought trafficked girls safely back to their homes.

Through direct intervention and regular analysis of cases, the team identified that caseworkers have also started intervening in women's property rights cases and cases of domestic violence from natal families during the pandemic period.

Analysis of Cases



Analysis of the cases shows that 19.6% of cases which came to AALI belonged to Muslim Community which indicates that after Hindu Community, Muslim community is most represented at AALI. We can also see that of all the cases registered; about 83% belonged to SC, ST and OBC communities, which means that to an extent AALI is able to reach to the marginalized sections of society.

If we see the state-wise analysis, in case of Jharkhand, since there are a lot of tribal communities residing in the state, most of the cases which came to AALI also belonged to Schedule Tribes (37%) & OBCs (42%) whereas in case of Uttar Pradesh most of the cases belonged to Scheduled Casts(37%) and OBCs(42%) .

It was also seen that a larger number of women with higher education were able to approach AALI in cases of violence as compared to uneducated or less educated women. Also, most women who approached AALI for legal support were mostly unemployed. This clearly shows the direct relationship between economic dependence and the likelihood of facing violence in any form. This is not to say that economically independent women do not face violence, but the probability gets reduced to some extent

As per AALI's objective of engaging with other stakeholders in achieving access to justice for the

survivors of violence, AALI works as a legal mentor to One Stop Centres in Uttar Pradesh. For the purpose, AALI regularly provides trainings to their team members and also provides handholding support in cases that come to One Stop Centres, especially in Lucknow.

- AALI conducted a home visit along with One Stop Centre in a matter pertaining to a Domestic Violence case, where, the matrimonial family of the survivor was forcing her and her husband to live in one small room without any access to other parts of the house. With AALI's intervention, the survivor got a completely separate portion with the proper partition of the house and separate entry and exits of the house.
- A missing survivor, who was suffering from mental health concerns along with a pregnancy of 4-5 months, was successfully connected to her home in Barauni through AALI and One Stop Centre's direct intervention.

Lawyers' Workshop

Creating legal awareness is at the heart of what AALI does. AALI strives to increase the access to justice for women and the marginalised sections of the society and we believe that lawyers are an important group which need to be addressed if we really want to make a positive impact in the justice system. Acknowledging this fact, AALI has developed a group of lawyers in U.P., Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Bihar, and frequently organizes Lawyer's Workshops in different districts. Through these workshops, AALI develops capacities of lawyers on different .



Legislations and Acts related to women's rights which in turn help them in effectively handling the cases of violations of women's rights which come to them.

As planned, AALI organized 3 State-level workshops in Varanasi and Lucknow and Phase I & Phase II of the District-level Lawyers' workshops in 14 districts of Uttar Pradesh. In Jharkhand, 8 Lawyers Workshop- 4 State-level and 4 District-level workshops were organized in Ramgarh and Jamshedpur districts. Topics for the workshops ranged from 'Criminal Procedure', 'Muslim Law on Marriage and Divorce', 'Laws related to Maintenance and Alimony of Muslim Women', 'The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005, Hindu Personal Laws to challenges & role of advocates in enabling women in accessing their rights through personal and family laws.



Many lawyers shared that the courtroom strategies that were discussed during the workshops were used by them in their cases and they also discussed the same among other lawyers since these proved to be very useful in the courtroom. Also, the dockets which were distributed to them, containing information on new and relevant cases have also helped them in the handling of their cases. Also, lawyers who are connected to our coalition have started taking up pro-bono cases

In Jharkhand it was seen that before these workshops, lawyers did not take up domestic violence cases because of inadequate knowledge of the law. However, after these workshops, the lawyers have started taking up these cases as well.

Major Outcomes of Direct Case Interventions

- Favourable judgments were passed in 4 cases of AALI which had been pending for 4 years in the court. The survivors received their 'Streedhan' and also received compensation of up to Rs.11,00,000/- along with mutual divorce, wherever desired.
- 08 court cases by Lucknow Case Work Unit were disposed off after settlement in the court.

Capacity Building of Community-Based Organization

Every year AALI invites few CBOs who are then trained and provided support in terms of how to handle Case Work. Due to the second wave of Covid-19 and subsequent lock-down, AALI initially conducted **online training** with CBO participants on their perspective building on feminist and rights- based issues, various laws and IPC sections related to women and case work interventions. Later, in-person trainings were also held in which capacity building of new participants was done on various concepts like gender, patriarchy, constitution, substantive equality, fundamental rights as well as on laws related to women.

Based on these trainings, out of total 68 new participants, 8 new CBOs from UP, 4 from Jharkhand and 2 from Bihar were selected for our new Case Work Centres this year

As a new initiative in March 2022, four-day Refresher Training was conducted with the already trained CBO partners, in which case work protocols were discussed through various case studies, as well as strategies on how to intervene in various cases was discussed.



Major Achievements

- The CBO participants (who were not selected as our case workers) have also started regularly intervening in women's rights cases and they have individually intervened in 114 women's rights cases in the last year.
- They have also started conducting community meetings and bilateral meetings with stakeholders.
- AALI had already had its casework centres in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, but this year AALI expanded its work in Bihar by establishing new casework centres in 2 districts of Bihar & 11 new centres in 11 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

District and Handholding Visit at casework centres

Visits were organized with an objective to analyse the established casework centres and document the challenges faced by the caseworkers while intervening on cases. Initially due to the second wave of pandemic it was a challenge to travel for district visits, but by the end of the year team managed to conduct 25 district visits as planned.

In these casework centres, we observed an increased understanding among the caseworkers on matters of VAWG. Also, in the last year, the number of women who are accessing these centres has increased. Survivors felt that the casework centres were safe places for them to ask for help and trusted that their confidentiality will be maintained.

During these district visits, AALI team visited One Stop Centres in those districts along with the Case Workers, because of which the case workers have been getting full support from the One Stop Centres in their respective districts.



Sensitization Workshops

In order to improve the perspectives on gender equality, increase gender sensitivity & legal literacy, and expand awareness on women's rights, AALI organizes Sensitization Workshops with various State and non-State stakeholders. In the last year, a total of 432 meetings were held with different stakeholders in Jharkhand.



It was noticed that those State and non-State stakeholders who attended our workshops, have started cooperating with the Case Workers and Young Women Case Workers for speedy disposal of cases, which shows that the sensitivity of officers has increased.

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ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Engagement with Youth

AALI believes that engaging the youth to become active citizens of the country helps in creating a long-term impact on the society.

During the last financial year, AALI conducted youth workshops in schools and colleges in Lucknow, Varanasi, Azamgarh and Ranchi. The program has introduced youth to fundamental constitutional concepts such as substantive equality, rights and justice by placing it in the context of gender and other marginalized identities. The engagement is oriented towards creating sustainable platforms for the youth that concentrate on orientation for social-political issues.

After these workshops, the students have been able to recognise the things happening around them and refer cases to AALI. Many students have also approached AALI for internships and individual mentorship.

Survivor Meetings

The purpose of these meetings is to show the survivors the importance of coming together and how working alongside enables them to break barriers for each other. These meetings provided a safe, dignified and non-judgmental space for women survivors of violence to share their experiences and find solidarity. It not only gave women the opportunity to share their journey of empowerment with others but also helped to build camaraderie and a support system other than AALI.

It was through these survivor meetings that they found about s like One Billion Rising, which is a global campaign to end rape and domestic violence and International Women's Day.



In the last one year it was seen that after these rehabilitation meetings, 50% of the survivors started working and became financially independent and 10% went back to complete their education.

CASEWORKERS AND YWCs

Refresher Training for Caseworkers and YWCs

The trainings held with caseworkers in this reporting period were mainly about how they can support the community during the pandemic. Women's property rights were also discussed. In which the caseworkers made an understanding on the property and land rights of Hindu and Muslim women and made a strategy for related cases.





As an outcome of these trainings, it was observed that Case Workers have started discussing on issue of 'Property & land rights of women' during their community meetings and have also started intervening in such cases.

During the interaction with the YWCs, the team observed that the YWCs needed more knowledge and skills on how to function in the community.

For this, discussions on leadership and community meetings were held.

After this training, it was observed that YWCs were better equipped to conduct the training sessions with youth in their districts and started conducting the sessions with better planning of activities and content to be delivered. The youth have started looking up to them as their 'Role Models'.

Mentorship Program

This was started with the aim of providing support to case workers and helping them strategize about their work. In these sessions, the capacity building of caseworkers was done on constitutional values and how they can connect these values in the course of their work.

After the initiation of this program, it was seen that the CWs and YWCs gained more confidence and were able to speak to the various stakeholders involved on the issues faced by the communities. They also learnt to effectively write applications for complaints, gained a better understanding of how to identify which rights have been violated and what protection can be granted.

Community Engagement

AALI has 52 Case Work Centres in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Bihar. These Case Work Centres are managed by the Case Workers who work in the communities by organizing regular meetings with women, discussing on issues like domestic violence, sexual violence, child marriage, right to choice, etc. They also provide them information on the Constitution, Fundamental rights and the social security entitlements. Community Leaders and Young Community Leaders also hold such



community meetings in Azamgarh and Varanasi districts, where AALI's Women Leadership Program is being carried on.

AALI team initiated the process to analyse the on-ground conditions in a post COVID setting. To this effect, the CWs initiated meetings in new communities and replicated the community initiatives program there as well. A total of 1221 community meetings were conducted by Caseworkers and Young Women Caseworkers and 1328 were conducted by Community Leaders and Young Community Leaders with an objective to empower the community and strengthen them by making them aware of their rights.

सरकारी योजनाओं में न मिड -डे मील मिलता था न महिलाओं को पोषाहार मिलता था। किसी को कोई जानकारी भी नहीं थी। पहली बार जब आंगनवाडी गए तो वहां पूछने लगे कि क्या आई हो? तुम्हारा क्या अधिकार है? बहुत परेशानी का सामना किया पर हम जाते रहे। अब महिलाएं अपने आप जाति हैं और पोषाहार लेती हैं, नहीं मिलता तो शिकायत भी करती हैं। -फिरोजा (गाँव गजहरा)

["Neither mid-day meal was available in government schools nor did women get nutrition in Anganwadi centres. No one even had any information. When we went to Anganwadi for the first time, he started asking why have you come? What rights do you have? Faced a lot of problems but we kept going for monitoring. Now women are themselves aware of their rights and avail nutritious food, and if they don't get it, they register their complaints with concerned authority." - Firoza (Village Gajhada)]

Women Leadership Program

AALI runs 'Women's Leadership Program' in the districts of Azamgarh and Varanasi to enable women from marginalized communities of these districts to assert their citizenship and claim their rights & entitlements from the State and prevent their exclusion. Direct community level work is carried through the Community Leaders and Young Community Leaders who are selected from within the communities.

Perspective Building

In this reporting period, 32 YCLs and 42 CLs were identified from marginalised communities across Varanasi and Azamgarh. They were trained on various laws and provisions granted by the Indian Constitution for the protection of women, the concepts of equality, non discrimination, etc., and the social security entitlements.





After these trainings, the women held meetings in their communities on these issues and helped the women of their communities to gain access to their SSE and take legal action in cases of VAWG.

“पहले हमारे गाँव में बच्चियों को कोई पढ़ाना नहीं चाहता था की बच्ची पढ कर क्या करेगी, इनको तो चूल्हा चौका ही करना है। अब हमारे समझाने के बाद से लोग पढ़ाने लगे हैं। लड़कियां भी पढने लगी हैं।”
-नसरीम (गाँव जंसा)

As an outcome of this, in this reporting period, women were seen to have become more aware of the State's accountability towards ensuring that the citizens are able to avail their health rights.

Around 219 women from districts of Uttar Pradesh have applied for and accessed the social security schemes.

13 women from a village in Azamgarh identified the domestic violence faced by them and registered domestic violence case in the court which is a major achievement considering that women initially never went to police in such cases of domestic violence.

It was a result of these meetings that

Community women were able to ensure that clean drinking water was available in 3 villages.

500 women were able to ensure that their social security entitlements were ensured.

55 women who demanded jobs in MGNREGA got the jobs.

Bilateral Meeting and Monitoring of Govt Schemes

The CLs and YCLs along with women from the communities conducted bilateral meetings with different State Stakeholders, including- Gram Pradhan (Village Head), Block Development Officers, ICDS Department, Education Department, Food Supply Officer.

COVID 19 Initiatives

In this year, 6 new CLs were identified to work during the pandemic. These community leaders started awareness on COVID 19 vaccines and its guidelines, continue follow-ups and bilateral meeting with health departments, village heads etc. Started surveys in villages of the women who were vaccinated and those who were not. Thereafter, along with the Gram Pradhan, they organized vaccination camps. In these camps, 900 women got COVID vaccinations.

Major Achievements

Two community leaders named, Santara and Nargis from Azamgarh district Participated in the UP Panchayat elections for the positions of Block Development Council and Panchayat member. Santara was unopposed and elected as Gram panchayat member and Nargis lost the election by just 10 votes. This is extremely significant because women coming forward and taking up leadership roles is very crucial for the society during these times.

ADDRESSING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

- A meeting of AALI's Caseworkers, Lawyers & CBO partners in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Bihar was conducted under the broad theme of promoting "Women's voice for women's rights." During the meeting, AALI brought up discussions regarding 'How did the second wave of Corona affect the lives of women.' The meeting focused on recapitulating how the caseworkers and lawyers have intervened at the grassroots. The meeting also set targets for the upcoming 6 months and decided to continue working on the above issues, as well as on protecting rights of marginalized communities, and building evidence on usage of section 498A of the Indian Penal Code.

AALI also contributed to action points on building the capacity of women's rights organizations to remotely navigate the justice delivery system in response to gender-based violence in crisis situations.



- Two Consultation Meetings with casework partner organizations were organized in this reporting period with the objective to ensure the organizations are aligned with the vision of AALI as well as to make sure that they were engaging in the efforts to raise voices against the violation of women's rights. **These organizations agreed to work in cooperation with AALI and take forward the issue of violation and create safe space for women in their district.**

These engagements have strengthened women's access to justice through a multitude of strategies. In the last financial year, the organizations had intervened in 98 cases of right to choose and 145 cases of sexual violence. The collection members had worked with 5600 women and young women on their leadership building.

- AALI worked with the Lucknow Police Commissionerate in an advisory role on a case-to-case basis to strengthen police responses to cases of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence in marital and natal families.
- AALI's COVID-19 response and support team was formed during this reporting period. Since its inception, the team has been working on assessing the situation of the public health infrastructure at the district level through a survey conducted by AALI's community-based caseworkers.

Further, during this period, the team collected data regarding COVID preparedness and vaccination plans and statistics from the health departments at the state and district levels. The support team had also worked on developing IEC material about vaccination and disseminated it among community members.

- AALI participated in the annual meeting of the 'AMAN', comprising like-minded Community Based Organizations, which was conducted virtually during this reporting period. The agenda focused on imagining how one may diversify the role of the 'AMAN' during COVID times. AALI shared its experience of intervening in cases of gender-based violence during the pandemic.

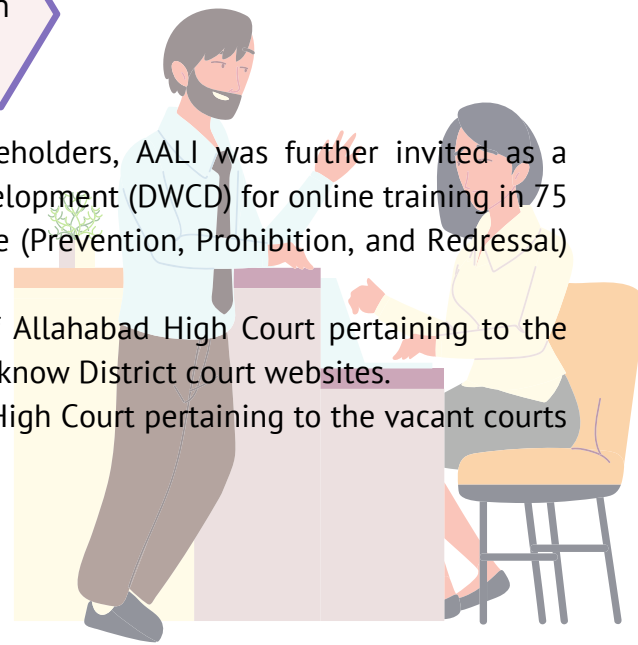
It has contributed positively towards sensitizing the police with regard to cases on gender based violence especially focused on sexual assault and POCSO.



- In terms of interaction with state and judicial stakeholders, AALI got the opportunity to conduct a number of interactive capacity-building workshops in Uttar Pradesh during this period. We were invited by the District Probation Officers of Banda, Lakhimpur and Hardoi districts to conduct workshops on legal rights of women with district-level stakeholders. Convergent groups of police personnel, para-medical staff, ASHA and ANM workers, teachers, lawyers and social workers from various community-based organizations came together on a single platform for the sessions.

AALI is now seen as a leading technical resource by district stakeholders and is regularly invited by District Probation Officers for conducting workshops with stakeholders.

- Due to the impact which these trainings had on the stakeholders, AALI was further invited as a Resource Person by the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) for online training in 75 districts of UP on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (also referred to as the "POSH Act").
- As an initiative, a letter was written to the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court pertaining to the incorrect information regarding cases being shown on the Lucknow District court websites.
- Another Letter was written to the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court pertaining to the vacant courts at Family Court Complex.



- AALI works as a Legal Advisor to One Stop Crisis Centres of all districts of UP. Under this role, AALI visits One Stop Centre of Lucknow once every week. This can be seen as one major impact of AALI's initiatives. Through these visits, AALI is able to closely work with the OSC staff in providing socio-legal support to the survivors.
- Under the objective of evidence-based , AALI undertook a research project on the implementation of the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' in states of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. The studies aimed to document the best practices, gaps, and challenges in implementation of the special law in the states between the years 2015 and 2019. Findings of the study highlighted the actions taken by the state and the judiciary to facilitate access to justice through usage of the law and reflect on the extent to which they have been successful.



- In alignment with AALI's thematic concentration of women and economic justice, AALI has piloted and launched a study on the Implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 in Jharkhand. The study focuses on the prevention and redressal systems at the district level by exploring the role of district officers and local committees. The experiences of the women working in the informal sector shall be captured in this study.
- AALI also completed a baseline survey to identify challenges of marginalized communities in 8 districts of Jharkhand and finalized the report for the same. The baseline focuses on the perspectives and insights of young women in the communities regarding a range of issues such as health, education, employment, political participation, choice and decision-making, and impact of COVID-19.

- AALI is appointed as external member in Local Committee of Lucknow under SHW.
- AALI is also appointed as external member in Lucknow collectorate, Department of Women and Child Development UP, Secretariat, Revenue Department, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Amity University, KKC College LKO, Labour Commission, CRPF and NIPCCD.

- As an outcome of the various initiatives taken by AALI, the Women and Child Development Department of U.P. had approached AALI to prepare the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Protection Officers who are appointed under 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' in each district.
- State level Monitoring and Mentoring Committees has been formed for implementation of 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012' and as a support person, AALI is doing its monitoring and mentoring.

Resource Development and Communication

- Resource packs were developed for training and workshops with various civil society partners such as community-based organizations, community leaders, teachers and young women caseworkers. These resources improved legal literacy of the civil society members, state actors and general public at the grassroots regarding the rights of women and marginalized communities and ways to ensure access to justice for them.
- New posters have been developed on revised vaccination policy for dissemination in the community by the COVID-19 support and response team. Existing posters on CEDAW, domestic violence, and challenging justice have also been redesigned.

**सुप जल्दी रहना है जब बात हमारी सुन लो सब,
सहला हमले जोड़ दिया है, टुक जे जात जोड़ दिया है,
कहेमें वही हम बार-बार, हिसा मुक्त जीवन है हमारा अधिकार!**

घरेलू हिंसा कई तरह की हो सकती है :

शारीरिक हिंसा: मारपीट, बुराई बोलना, टोकना बोलना, पीट से बोलना, जल मारना, कुत्ता मारना, धक्का देना या किसी अन्य तरह की पीट पहुँचाना।

बौद्धिक हिंसा: बदमाश, अश्लील संव्दिप या अन्य बुराई देखने से हिंसे भङ्गुर करना, पीटित का उपचार दुसरो के सन्देशन से हिंसे करना, बौद्धिक दुर्व्यवहार।

भौतिक हिंसा और सभ्यतात्मक हिंसा: कालक जलना, दुसरो काटना, मसाला उड़ाना, पीटने जदि से हिंसे उपचलित करना, बुराई बोलना न होने का दावा देना, हिंसा में जलनेवा जलना, पीटारी करने से रोचना, मारत जाने से रोचना, जलने परार के बौद्धिक से बुराई करने या न करने का दबाव डालनाया जलना।



अधिक हिंसा: बलात्कार, बलात्कार, दुसरो जदि का दुसरो न देना या उपचार उपचलित न करने देना, परर का हिंसा न देना, परर में न रहने देना, परर से किसी मार में न जाने देना, पीटारी न करने देना, बलात्कार या मारदुही पीट लेना, हिंसा पुणे सौजन्य या अन्य बौद्धिक बसु को बंध देना, हिंसे का मुतासल न करना या जलना।

पदि जलप या जलपकी जलपकारी में कोई सौजन्य या जलपकी, मारपीट में, सभ्यतात्मक में, काल की जलप पर, बसुज में या किसी भी अन्य जलप पर किसी भी प्रकार की हिंसा का विकास है या हिंसा से सभ्यता कर रही है या जलपकारी का हलका हुआ है तो जलने जलपकार प्रारंभ करने से लिए निशुद्धक मारदुही सहायता से लिए जलपी सभ्यता से सभ्यता कर सकते हैं।

 Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives Trust (AALI)
सहयोग से सभ्यतात्मक और शरीर सभ्यतात्मक प्रारंभ


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Guaranteeing Liberty

‘Custodial torture .. is a calculated assault on human dignity and whenever human dignity is wounded, civilization takes a back step.’
DK Basu vs State of West Bengal 1997
Cr L.J.743 SCC

‘Torture is not merely physical, there may be mental torture and psychological torture calculated to create fright and submission to the demands or commands. When the threats proceed from a person in authority and that too by a police officer, the mental torture caused by it is even more grave.’
Arvinder S. Bagga vs State of U.P.
[AIR1995C117]
(Writ Petn. (Cr L) No.271 of 1993)

‘The Police Officer must be able to justify the arrest apart from his power to do so. Arrest and detention in police lock-up of a person can cause incalculable harm to the reputation and self-esteem of a person.’
Joginder Kumar vs State of Uttar Pradesh
AIR1994SC1349

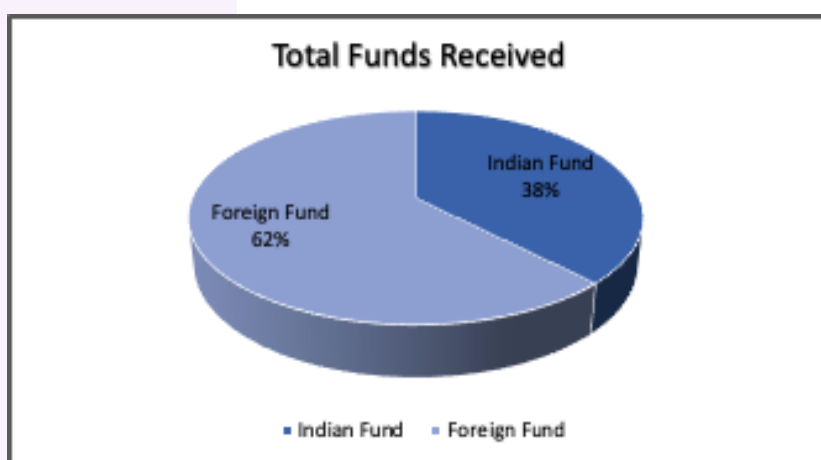
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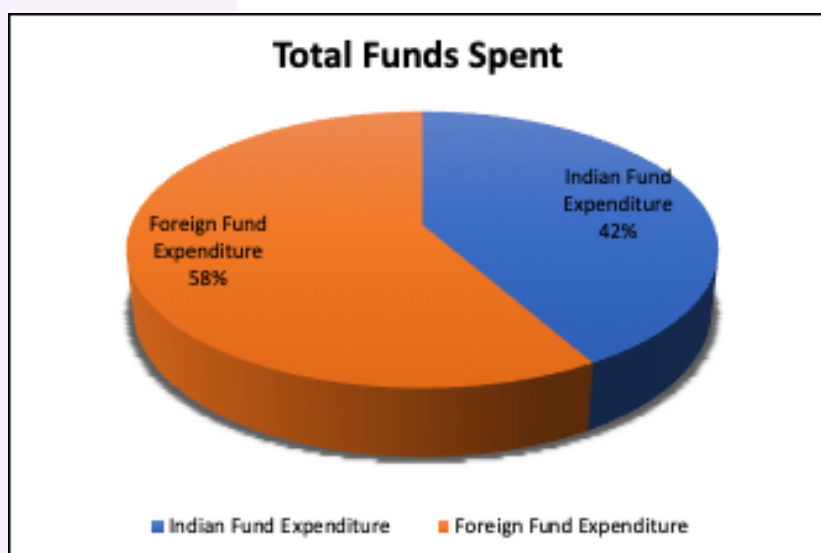
ORGANISATIONAL INSIGHTS

Financial Dashboard

For the financial year 2021-22, AALI received funds from all three sources i.e., the Funder Agencies, CSR initiatives of various organizations as well as from individual donors. The funds received from international funding agencies were 24% more than the funds received from national agencies (as shown below).



The total Indian Funding received was Rs. 2,29,31,897.53/- and Rs. 3,78,48,431.23/- from Foreign Funding.



The total expenditure from Indian Funding (Last year Balance + Current Year Receipts) was Rs. 1,77,09,186/- and Rs. 2,46,63,361.63/- from Foreign Funding.

The total expenditure includes Consultancies, Operational Costs, Program Costs (costs of project interventions like trainings, workshops, etc.) and travel costs.

Statutory Compliances

- The new FCRA 2010 has limited the validity of the registration certificate for a period of 5 years. As per the provisions, the application for renewal has to be submitted within six months from the date of expiry of certificate for registration. We have filed the renewal of FCRA on 30th March,2021 & waiting for the approval. The extension has been granted till 31st March'22.
- The charitable institutions are eligible for certain tax exemptions and benefits in India. The exemptions and benefits are dealt with under Sections 12A/12AA and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The institutions availing benefits under Section 12A and 80G had to revalidate their registrations under these two sections before August 2020 to continue to obtain the benefits. We have applied for the renewal of 80G & 12AA & received order of approval for 80G, 12AA from AY 2022-23 to AY 2026-27.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) mandated entities undertaking Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to file eForm CSR-1 for all their CSR projects from 1 April 2021. The NGOs must register with the Central Government to undertake CSR activities funded by corporations and companies. This registration ensures effective monitoring of the CSR spending in the country. We have received the approval of the same.
- The Government had no effective mechanism to trace whether the claim of deduction u/s 80G made by the taxpayer (donor) was true and correct. In order to bring transparency to the system, the CBDT came out with a Notification no. 19/2021 dated 26th March 2021 prescribing a Form 10BD to be filed by specified institutions providing specific details of the donations made by the donors. After filing a statement of donations in Form 10 BD, the institution has to download the certificate in Form 10BE certificate of donation and provide the same to the donors. The due date for the same is 31st May of every year. The first year of implementation of these forms will be with effect from FY 2021-22.
- Donations received during the year has been intimated in Form 10BD & Form 10BE has been generated & issued to the donors.

Team and building its strength

There were about 36 members in the core team of AALI during the last Financial Year, which includes 17 new consultants hired during that period. AALI also engaged 158 fellows, 2 volunteers and 18 interns during last year. The team comprises of lawyers, professional social workers and people of other relevant educational backgrounds.

Since not all members are at the same level of knowledge and understanding, AALI conducts weekly sessions of Capacity Building for its team members across all offices so as to enhance their understanding on feminist perspective and rights based approach. Following topics were covered in the last financial year during these sessions-

a) Understanding on Gender, Patriarchy, Sexuality and Spectrum of LGBTQIA+.

b) Fundamental rights laid down in the Constitution of India.

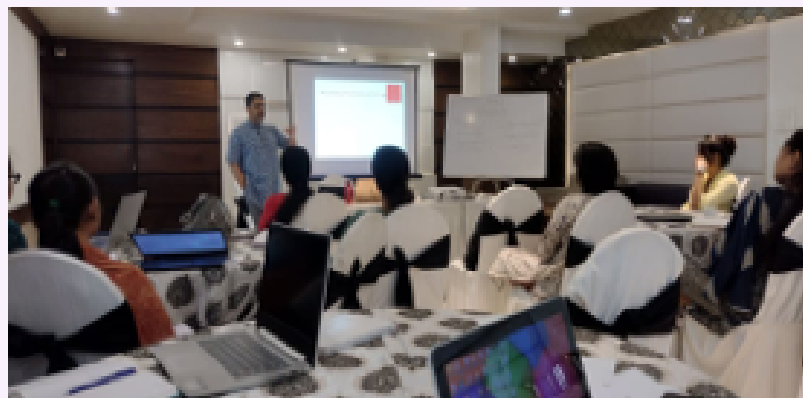
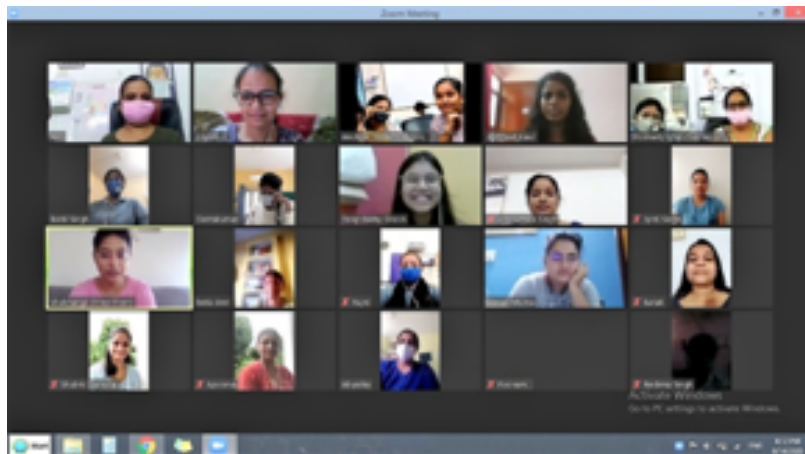
c) Laws related to women and children in India.

d) Mental Health- to help in dealing with post-covid effects.

e) Stress management- engaged specialist to find the root cause.

f) Framework of Report writing- for effective report writing and creating strong database.

g) Basic IT knowledge- to enhance technical knowledge of team's day-to-day work.



AALI also initiated the implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation of its projects last year. For the same, a Mentor was engaged for developing a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system, focusing both on qualitative and quantitative data based on AALI's different strategies and objective of the organization. The monitoring tools have been prepared for next five years and the implementation will commence from 1st July'22.

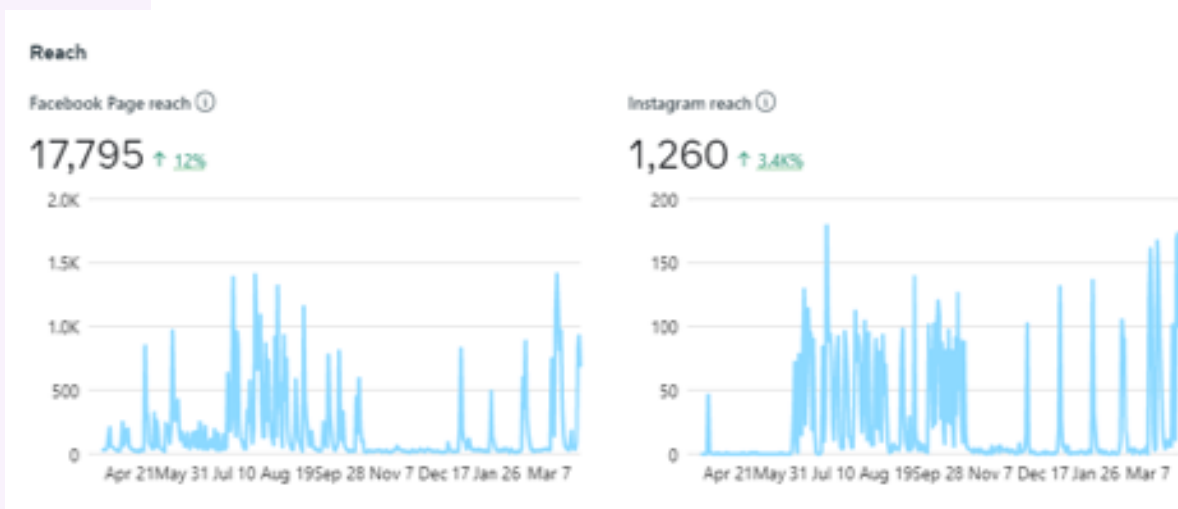
A mentor has also been engaged for improvement in the documentation skills of the team. She is helping the team in enhancing their skills in writing effective and impactful proposals and funder reports.

Strategic or Review Planning/Organizational Development was organized for the core team. It included various Team Building Activities. The objective of this meeting was to analyse the previous 5 years' organizational plan and to assess the impact created by the organization on the beneficiaries. Topics of the sessions were chosen such that it helped the staff in their work and also developed their understanding of the rights-based approach and feminist perspective in a better manner.

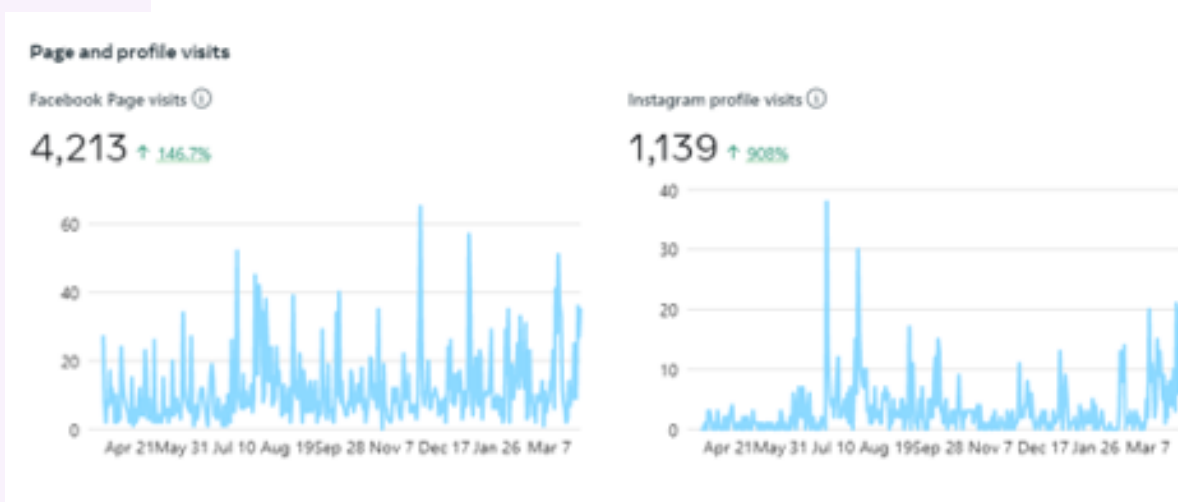
Social Media

AALI has its social media presence on various platforms like Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. The content is created and designed keeping in mind AALI's feminist and rights-based approach. Posts related to Constitution, Fundamental Rights, laws related to women's & children's rights etc. are created in a very concise form for social media platforms in order to create awareness regarding such topics. We also try to post news and information which is relevant and is related to current socio-cultural context. As people are spending more time on social media, working remotely and looking for virtual connections, we have set up a plan in place for three posts in a week across all platforms.

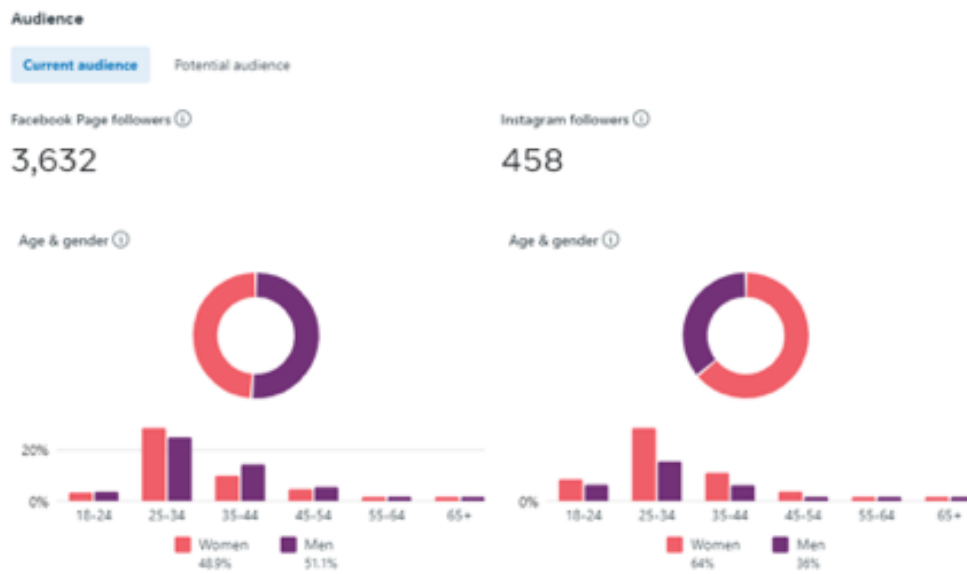
As we can see in the graphs below, our Facebook Page reach has increased by 12% and Instagram Page reach has drastically increased by 3.4K%.



Similarly, page visits have also increased by 146% and 908% for Facebook and Instagram, respectively.



The age and gender-wise distribution of our social site pages shows that on Facebook almost equal percent of men and women follow our pages but on Instagram more women (64%) follow us as compared to men (36%). Also, on Instagram we have more young followers (between ages 18-24) are there as compared to Facebook.



Realising that social media has to be turned around quickly, based on trending news, it has to be visually attractive, simple and extremely crisp, we have drawn a plan to create more visually appealing and interesting posts in the future. This will help in increasing our followers' base. More youth will benefit from the knowledge which we share on these pages. At the same time the organization will benefit by the positive word of mouth spread by the followers. For the same, we are in the process of recording podcasts and its launch on our social media platform where the basic legal terminologies can be explained in a very simple language and also it can raise awareness amongst Youth and Community.

We have also revamped our website during the last financial year to include details about AALI, its vision, objectives and strategies through which AALI works.

CHALLENGES

Internal Challenges

External Challenges

Major Challenges

The mobility of team and caseworkers was restricted due to the COVID pandemic, with limited access to the community making it difficult for CWs to approach the women who were facing any form of violence during that time period.

There had been no trial proceedings going on in Court from March 2021 till August, 2021, and no new filings were allowed until June 2021. The courts began to return to normalcy in September 2021, thus delaying the justice process.

Conducting online trainings became a necessity because of the lockdowns. The biggest challenge in this was that the women were not technologically confident. As a result, the trainings were not always very effective.

Survivors, in some of the cases, have faced severe forms of violence resulting in mental health concerns because of which, despite various counselling given to the survivors, they were either unable to form or sustain a decision.

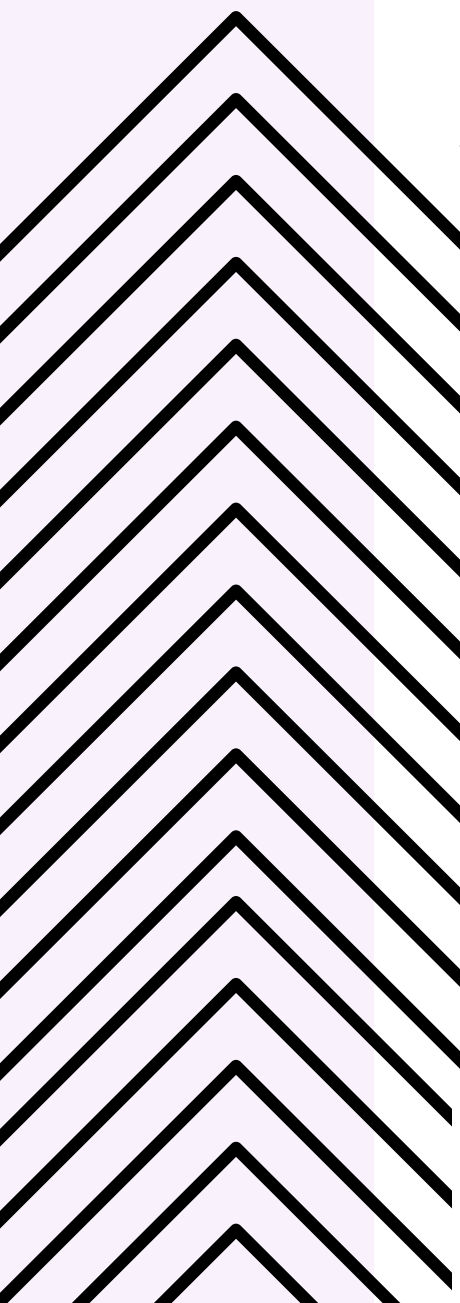
At present, the team is not very well-versed with how to bridge the gap between evidence-building and policy intervention efforts, because of which the large knowledge pool created through AALI's intervention efforts remains largely unused.

The dynamics between the caseworkers and the head of the organizations was not always smooth due to differing ideological perspectives, which sometime had a negative impact on the caseworkers' work.

Funding on women rights have been shifted and re-allocated towards health and other sectors.

It is worth noting that while Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts and Family Courts had begun to operate, 5 out of 10 courts (i.e. 50%) were left vacant, which affected the ongoing cases and led to anxiousness among survivors as the process of court cases got delayed.

WAY FORWARD



In 2018 AALI had approximately 21 centres across Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. As of 2022, AALI has 52 established Case Work Centres across four states, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Bihar. In the future AALI plans to increase its reach further to cover more districts and support more marginalized communities in availing their rights. AALI also plans to undertake the following in the coming year-

- Increase usage of electronic media for stating the court-related challenges faced by litigants and the consequences thereof.
- Making survivors aware about their property rights both in marital as well as in the natal family. It has been decided that legal advice in property-related cases will be given.
- Women prisoners will be identified and given pro-bono services in matters pertaining to bail, their rehabilitation etcetera.
- Judgements of the courts are to be translated in simpler language in order to make legal jargon more accessible.
- Connecting with concerning departments (Police, health professional, women welfare departments and state government) for victim compensation schemes.
- Policy intervention with the Bar Council of UP, the District Bar Association, Oudh Bar of the High Court as well as the concerned courts for listing women-related issues such as domestic violence, maintenance cases to be treated as urgent matters.
- Building knowledge and perspective in second line of leadership (Community women and youth in community).

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🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-for-advocacy-and-legal-initiatives-trust-aali/mycompany/>

