

SANGINI AGM

Annual Report 2002

Presented at the AGM, May 2003

This report presents not only an account of the range of activities organized by Sangini, but also the remarkable journey and the subsequent transformation of this organisation and its members. At the beginning, Sangini's aim was clear, which was to raise awareness about the health issues among the women from the minority ethnic communities. However, within few months it became clear that Sangini was reaching a far wider group of women from different communities. This resulted in three courses of action.

1. Revisit the original purpose and evaluate what exactly was needed to be done and where the gaps lie
2. Recognize its own strength in reaching out to more people than the organization had originally envisaged
3. Respond accordingly – but without losing focus from the original aim of working for the betterment of women's health.

In the light of this, the first year's work has been ground building work, creating foundation for sustainability, forging links with other organizations, building relationship with members of the public, raising awareness about its work among the public as well as the statutory and non-statutory bodies and most importantly, learning about the management of a voluntary group.

As part of its work, a number of day trips, such as to the Buddhist Monastery, Metro Centre and Bowes Museum, were organized, encouraging women to come out of their environment and engage in a recreational activity. Initially the trips were aimed at women only, but based on their feedback, the trips organized later on, included families and friends. As a result, we had a huge response for the trip to the Bowes Museum. 54 people joined us that day.

One of the key objectives was to encourage participation of women in activities that improved the health. So far, two 10 week aerobic sessions have been organized, one of them currently running at the Jubilee Centre, Farringdon. These classes are attended by women from various backgrounds and ages.

One of the areas of growth has been the participatory workshops, such as Sari and Henna painting workshops. Over the past year, 8 sari workshops and three henna painting workshops were organized, accessing over a hundred women from different communities.

Sangini also took an active part in the celebration of International Women's Day, in partnership with other agencies and organized participatory activities.

The management committee consisted of women, who despite their busy lives, provided continued support and guidance to the organization. New members have also joined adding further strength to the organization.

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Funds: Sangini had not applied to public funds so far. All the finances were raised through its core activities and donations.

Sangini has now been offered an office space in the Swan Street Centre, Swan Street, Sunderland for free of charge until such time that sangini is able to raise appropriate funds, for this the members remain deeply indebted to the Wearmouth Development Community Trust and in particular, June Walsh and Jimmy Robinson. Sangini is also indebted to a number of volunteers who add great strength and provide a valuable service to the organization.

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Chair

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Date