

SAARATHI

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – FEBRUARY 2012

Partners:	Sadhana
Location:	Andhra Pradesh, India
Target Group:	Workers who are in contact with children
Number of Beneficiaries:	1,500 frontline workers
Grant Period:	1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012
Grant Amount:	£88,988 (1 year)

Objectives

- To train 1,500 frontline workers working with the Juvenile Justice Department (JJD) of Andhra Pradesh, Women and Child Development Department (WCDD), Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and child development agencies.
- To train a selection of 25-30 master trainers from across Andhra Pradesh
- To conduct pre and post assessment of skills of frontline workers working in the Juvenile Justice Department homes and child development agencies.

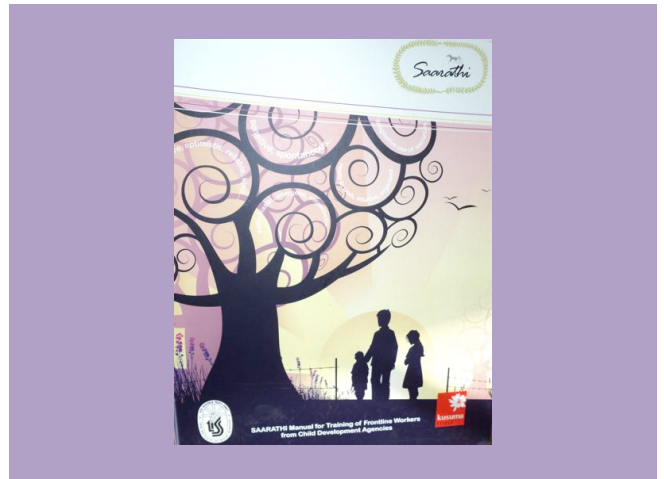
Description

Saarathi is a training manual that was developed by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) with the support of a £19,131 grant from The Trust from November 2009 to April 2010. In this period, 150 senior staff from child development agencies and universities from 20 States were trained on how to use the manual, to enhance their professional skills.

The manual's aim is to improve the counseling skills and understanding of legal issues for frontline personnel working with vulnerable children. It equips these workers with the necessary skills to deal effectively with vulnerable children, and the knowledge and confidence to initiate early intervention.

Progress

The positive impact of Saarathi led UNICEF and the Juvenile Justice Department of the government of Andhra Pradesh to request a roll-out of the training to 1,500 frontline government social welfare workers.



In July 2011, the Trust signed a new grant agreement enabling Sadhana, as the lead agency, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Juvenile Justice Department and TISS to scale up the project. The training is to take place in 10 cities across Andhra Pradesh.

32 master trainers were selected from NGOs that work on child protection issues, and the first phase of the Training of the Trainers took place from at TISS in Mumbai. In October 2011, The Trust commissioned Dr Reshmi Thomas, to evaluate the impact of Saarathi.

Challenges

There were problems initiating the training programmes due to government employees striking as part of the State's political agitations, instigated by the Telangana separatist movement.

New Development

From 19-21 January, 26 Juvenile Welfare Department officials and three NGO workers participated in Saarathi training in Hyderabad – inaugurated by Dr. Sukumaran, Joint Director of Andhra Pradesh's Juvenile Welfare Department. The training is designed to develop workers who support children at-risk – helping them facilitate the children's rehabilitation and reintegration back into society.

As part of the research into the impact of the Saarathi project, Focus Group Discussions in 18 children's homes in Andhra Pradesh have taken place. The research aims to demonstrate improvement in frontline workers' legal knowledge and counseling skills when supporting children at-risk. The project aims to train 1,500 government social welfare workers across the State.