

4

Increased Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity



Access to community level platforms



96.1 %

increase¹

compared to

0.14%

in FY16



SHOUHARDO III has women and girls at the heart of all its activities and integrates gender equality and women's empowerment across all purpose areas.

Decision making score



36.38%

increase²

compared to

20.8%

in FY19



194

Couple's Dialogue sessions facilitated

To improve relationship and space for women within their HH, the program implemented Couple's Dialogue sessions and engaged in conversation with their husbands. that helped harmonize the relationships and ways of communicating between the husband and wife. This resulted in increased women's participation in selling their produce (i.e. livestock, milk, eggs, vegetables, fruits etc.), and allowed women more time to engage in activities they wanted to engage in when husbands shared the load of daily chores, for instance, leisure time, small business, playing with children, learning about and buying nutritious food etc.

Increase in care for pregnant and lactating



66.9%

women received pregnancy care support (day-time rest, extra food)³



Women were more involved in buying and selling livestock, land mortgage/lease-in, house repair, starting a new business, engagement with VSLAs and equitable food consumption.



90.1%

women reported¹ knowing a neighbor or a friend who faced gender-based violence (GBV)

The rise in percentage might have been attributed by the pandemic during the lockdown when husbands stayed more at home due to movement restrictions; the violence against women (VAW) also said to be instigated by mothers-in-law (MIL). Awareness sessions on GBV prevention and prevention mechanisms at the local and national level were held to inform the community in specific groups, such as MILs and daughters-in-law. SHOUHARDO III is mobilizing community group leaders to watch out for any issues surrounding GBV. Messages around eliminating VAW (EVAW) are also embedded in the discussions taking place in the villages, which include coordination with men, boys and religious leaders, and in consultation with the Union Parishad Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee (UP-NNPC) (VAW prevention committee at Union Parishad level).



Community mobilization is a key factor to stop child marriages, mainly through the solidarity platform, engaging men and boys, couple dialogues, and discussion with religious leaders, that were done in those villages which resulted in the prevention of child marriage. A study on child marriage was conducted through 10 webinars in district and regional level which yielded many recommendations from the participants (adolescent girls, parents, civil society representatives, policy makers, stakeholders etc.) –

215

child marriages prevented

- correct birth registration certificates

- digital registration of marriages

- finding ways to hold accountable marriage registrars involved in enabling child marriages

- follow-up or support mechanisms for the adolescent girls and her family who declined/canceled a planned child marriage

- developing more women community influencers to work as role models

- including and engaging men in the discussions regarding the prevention of child marriages, as most cases are triggered by men in the families.

Future plan

- SHOUHARDO III plans to link up with the local protection cluster and referral services for VAW cases that need legal action.
- Supporting the EVAW campaign by conducting door-to-door counselling and discussions focused on men and youth to increase conversation on challenging the GBV and other norms with local organizations and people. This was delayed due to pandemic and will be renewed in January 2021.

1. Participant-based Sample Survey FY20, 1,024 out of 1,047 of PEP women responded
2. PaBS FY20, survey respondent was 1,045
3. PaBS FY20, 261 out of 390 of women
4. PaBS FY20, 957 of 1,050 of interviewed women