VANI
Celebrating 30 Years
VOICE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Defending Democracy and Civic Space in Asia

Final Project Report: 2022-23

The Project

Title: #Strong Partnerships through Promoting SDG 16 amongst Indian CSOs for Enhancing Civic Space

Introduction:

SDG 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The 2030 Agenda aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity.

Objectives of the Project:

This project was aimed towards strengthening leadership and recognise the importance of collaboration. This was to invoke among them and focus on furthering Goal 16.

Thus, the objectives for the project included:

i)   To create awareness about SDG 16 amongst Indian CSOs especially those working at grass-root levels

ii)   To recognise and popularise the stories of collaborations

iii) To collectivise Indian Civil Society Leaders and urge focussed efforts towards achieving of Goal 16 towards strengthening partnerships

iv)   Collectively identify ways of enhanced CSO role play in achieving of the following identified targets:

To achieve the above objectives following activities were carried out.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR SDG 16 +

VANI will undertook a Social Media Campaign (series of five social media posts) to create awareness about SDG 16, generate interest and role CSOs may play in furthering it.

The Campaign informed the CSOs that VANI along with JANIC believes in mutual collaboration and strengthening leadership to respond to humanitarian issues. This was only possible by creating awareness and strengthening partnerships of CSOs. Further it was informed that the aim of this Campaign was to induce partnership spirit of collective action and ownership by the CSOs for uplifting the human rights and make it clear that sustainable development cannot be achieved without ensuring civil and political rights.

So the campaign began with:

First of all efforts were made to understand the importance of SDGs and the SDG 16.

1. **The importance of SDGs and SDG 16 +**

   Duration of Campaign 1: 10 *October – 16 October 2022*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

SDG 16 addresses the need for major intervention to promote peace and inclusive institutions and contribute to the other Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goal 16 is about "peace, justice and strong institutions. The Mission of SDG 16 is to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Its Status in India is that while international processes around the 2030 Agenda to date have experienced unprecedented levels of engagement by civil society, and a growing involvement of civil society and grassroots communities at the regional level, a significant gap still remains in the national level. The Social Media Post:

2. **Importance of SDG 16.B in India**

   Duration of Campaign 2: **21** *October – 30 October 2022*

It is to "promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development".

Chapters III and IV of the Constitution of India guarantees Fundamental Rights and outlines the state's obligation to provide equal opportunities to all its citizens. India also has instituted policies of job and education reservations for minorities and the disadvantaged. However, discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, and skin colour continues.

Discrimination is understood as "the unequal treatment of an individual or group on the basis of their statuses (e.g., age, beliefs, ethnicity, and sex) by limiting access to social resources (e.g., education, housing, jobs, legal rights, loans, or political power)."

The most discriminated in India are women (48.46 percent of the population), SCs (16 percent), STs (8.6 percent), Muslims (14.2 percent), Christians (2.3 percent), denotified tribes/nomadic tribes (8-10

percent), disabled (7-9 percent) and LGBTQ (0.6-3.8 percent). Also facing discrimination are people from the North-Eastern states (414,850 living outside the North-East).

In the absence of a codified anti-discrimination law, data on the proportion of population to have felt discriminated against remains unavailable. Institutional discrimination— bias built into the operation of society's institutions— manifests in how people interface with and their access to education, health care, the criminal justice system and employment, among others.

3. **Women - The most discriminated in India**

   Duration of Campaign 3: 10 – 20 November 2022

The 3rd part of our Campaign of SDG 16 and particularly 16.B. is highlighting discrimination with women. According to the 2011 census, women constitute 48.46 percent of India's population.

In 2011, the national census recorded India's overall literacy rate at 74.04 percent, with an almost 17 percent gap between sexes— for men, the literacy rate was 82.14 percent while for women it was 65.46 percent. The National Sample Survey 2014 found that "in rural India 72.3% males and 56.8% females and in Urban India 83.7% males and 74.8% females are literate." Girl dropout rate is higher than boys, with over 20 percent of girls dropping out after they reached puberty.

In 2015, 3.7 million eligible girls were out of school and in rural areas girls receive an average of less than four years of education. In the World Economic Forum's 2015 Global Gender Gap report, India was ranked 125 out of 145 countries in education equality (which is measured by female literacy and enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education).

Women's participation in the labour force continues to be low— only 29 percent of women are in the work force compared to 83 percent of men.

4. **Scheduled Caste – suffering age-old practice of untouchability**

   Duration of Campaign 4: 21 – 30 November 2022

According to the 2011 census, 16.6 percent of the population— 201 million people— are classified as Scheduled Castes (SCs). The National Commission for Scheduled Castes defines SCs as those who "suffer from extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of age-old practice of untouchability." Article 17 and 18 of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of caste.

The 2011 census recorded 66.1 percent literacy rate for SCs— 75.2 percent of SC men and 56.5 percent of SC women were literate. The average literacy rate for SCs is 6.9 percent lower than the national average.

In 2014, the Ministry for Labour and Employment recorded 58.3 percent (76.1 percent SC males and 35.3 percent SC females) Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for rural populations among SCs older than 15 years of age. SCs also have the lowest land ownership rates of any rural groups— 45.15 percent of SCs are landless and depend on manual casual labour, compared to 29.84 percent STs, and Others at 26.02 percent.

Manual scavenging refers to the practice of manually cleaning excreta and waste from private and public dry toilets (outhouses) and open drains.

As per the SECC 2011 data of manual scavengers released by the Ministry of Rural Development on 3 July 2015, there were 1,82,505 manual scavengers in the rural areas of the country.

5. **What can be done for protecting the fundamental rights?**

   Duration of Campaign 5: 1 – 10th January 2023

This is the last post of this important campaign where in knowledge on different approaches of protecting fundamental rights are being shared.

The concept of SDG16 *plus* is so persuasive (prevalent) because the multifaceted disempowerment of those who are left behind will not be adequately addressed if we adopt fragmented approaches, designed in silos and applied as Band-Aids. We need integrated approaches, grounded in broad participation, which build on the mutually reinforcing work of many communities.

Some innovative approaches are support networking, exchange of knowledge and ideas and develop learning and sharing platforms. Identify common issues and challenges and make lobby and advocacy. Support for innovative solutions to the obstacles to meeting the SDGs and realizing 'leave no one behind'.

Freedom from fear and freedom from want, cannot be achieved in isolation from each other?

The multiple and overlapping structural impediments (policies and practices) that prevent justice from being done, express the relevance of indivisibility (impossible to separate) and interdependence of all human rights.

   Source for this content:

   1. *Monitoring and Review of SDG 16 Plus at the National and Regional Level (2015-2020) in Asia-ADA Report*

   2. *SDG 16 INDIA MAPPING THE DATASCAPE - Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative*

Media for the Campaign: This Campaign was run on email, Whatsapp and Facebook.

Poster 1

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Why SDG 16?

SDG 16 addresses the need for major intervention to promote peace and inclusive institutions and contribute to the other Sustainable Development Goals.

What is Sustainable Development Goal 16?

It is about "peace, justice and strong institutions

What is the Mission of SDG 16?

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"

What is its Status in India?

While international processes around the 2030 Agenda to date have experienced unprecedented levels of engagement by civil society, and a growing involvement of civil society and grassroots communities at the regional level, a significant gap still remains in the national level.

16

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

I SUPPORT SDG 16

Poster 2

CAMPAIGN 3.
Women - The most discriminated in India

What is the population of women in India?

According to the 2011 census, women constitute 48.46 percent of India's population.

What are the national literacy figures for women in India?

In 2011, the national census recorded India's overall literacy rate at 74.04 percent, with an almost 17 percent gap between sexes— for men, the literacy rate was 82.14 percent while for women it was 65.46 percent.

What are the literacy rates of women in rural and urban India?

The National Sample Survey 2014 found that "in rural India 72.3% males and 56.8% females and in Urban India 83.7% males and 74.8% females are literate."

Why there is discrepancy in the literacy rates of women?

Girl dropout rate is higher than boys, with over 20 percent of girls dropping out after they reached puberty. In 2015, 3.7 million eligible girls were out of school and in rural areas girls receive an average of less than four years of education.

What is the percentage of women in the work force?

Women's participation in the labour force continues to be low— only 29 percent of women are in the work force compared to 83 percent of men.

Source: SDG 16 INDIA - MAPPING THE DATASCAPE by CHRI

I SUPPORT GIRLS EDUCATION IN INDIA!

@UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Poster 3

What is SDG 16.B?

It is to "promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development".

Why is SDG 16.B important in India?

Chapters III and IV of the Constitution of India guarantees Fundamental Rights and outlines the state's obligation to provide equal opportunities to all its citizens. India also has instituted policies of job and education reservations for minorities and the disadvantaged. However, discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, and skin colour continues.

What is meant by discrimination?

Discrimination is understood as "the unequal treatment of an individual or group on the basis of their statuses (e.g., age, beliefs, ethnicity, and sex) by limiting access to social resources (e.g., education, housing, jobs, legal rights, loans, or political power)."

Who are discriminated in India?

The most discriminated in India are women (48.46 percent of the population), SCs (16 percent), STs (8.6 percent), Muslims (14.2 percent), Christians (2.3 percent), denotified tribes/nomadic tribes (8-10 percent), disabled (7-9 percent) and LGBTQ (0.6-3.8 percent). Also facing discrimination are people from the North-Eastern states (414,850 living outside the North-East), and Christians (2.3 percent). These population groups are most susceptible to discrimination.

Why is discrimination prevalent in India?

In the absence of a codified anti-discrimination law, data on the proportion of population to have felt discriminated against remains unavailable. Institutional discrimination— bias built into the operation of society's institutions— manifests in how people interface with and their access to education, health care, the criminal justice system and employment, among others.

16

TARGET 16·B

PROMOTE AND ENFORCE NON-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND POLICIES

I SUPPORT PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION IN INDIA!

Poster 4

SCHEDULED CASTE – SUFFERING FROM EXTREMESOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS

What is Scheduled Caste population in India?

According to the 2011 census, 16.6 percent of the population— 201 million people— are classified as Scheduled-Castes (SCs).

Who are defined as Scheduled Castes?

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes defines Scheduled Castes as those who "suffer from extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of age-old practice of untouchability."

What is the literacy rate for the Scheduled Castes?

The 2011 census recorded 66.1 percent literacy rate for SCs— 75.2 percent of SC men and 56.5 percent of SC women were literate. The average literacy rate for SCs is 6.9 percent lower than the national average.

What is the labour force participation rate for the Scheduled Castes?

In 2014, the Ministry for Labour and Employment recorded 58.3 percent (76.1 percent SC males and 35.3 percent SC females) Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for rural populations among SCs older than 15 years of age. SCs also have the lowest land ownership rates of any rural groups— 45.15 percent of SCs are landless and depend on manual casual labour, compared to 29.84 percent STs, and Others at 26.02 percent.

Does Indian Constitution protects discrimination on grounds of caste?

Yes, Article 17 and 18 of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of caste.

Source: SDG 16 INDIA-MAPPING THE DATASCAPE by CHRI

I will support education of the Scheduled Castes!

VANI
Celebrating 30 Years

WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR PROTECTING THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS?

JANIC

Why is the concept of SDG16 plus is so persuasive (prevalent).

Because the multifaceted disempowerment of those who are left behind will not be adequately addressed if we adopt fragmented approaches, designed in silos and applied as band-aids.

What approaches are needed?

We need integrated approaches, grounded in broad participation, which build on the mutually reinforcing work of many communities.

What can be some more innovative approaches?

Support networking, exchange of knowledge and ideas and develop learning and sharing platforms. Identify common issues and challenges and make lobby and advocacy. Support for innovative solutions to the obstacles to meeting the SDGs and realizing 'leave no one behind'.

Why freedom from fear and freedom from want, cannot be achieved in isolation from each other?

The multiple and overlapping structural impediments (policies and practices) that prevent justice from being done, express the relevance of indivisibility (impossible to separate) and interdependence of all human rights.

Source: SDG 16 INDIA-MAPPING THE DATASCAPE by CHRI Monitoring and Review of SDG 16 Plus at the National and Regional Level in Asia by ADA

I Support Networking & Exchange of Knowledge!
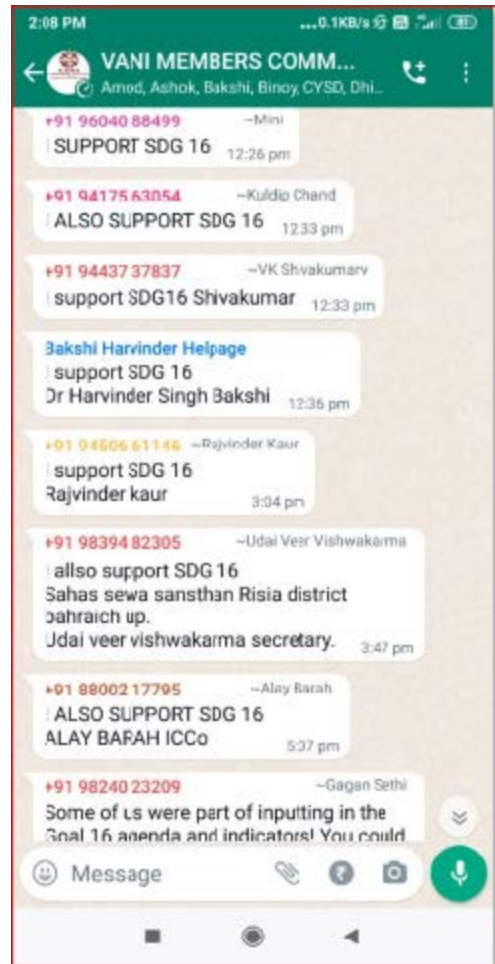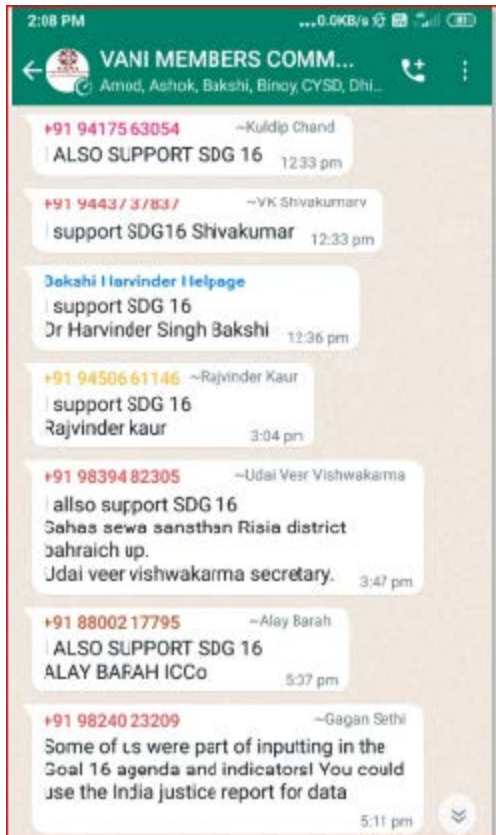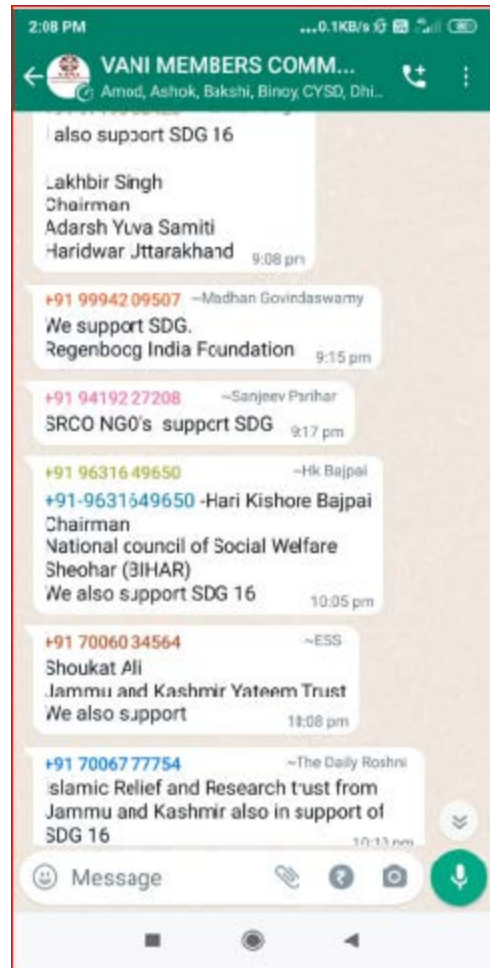
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Fundamental Rights

EQUALITY   FREEDOM

Support for the Campaign from VANI Members:

VANI MEMBERS COMM...
Amod, Ashok, Bakshi, Binoy, CYSD, Dhi...

Ram Krishna
Excutive Director
Name of NGO Aulia Adhyatmik
Anusandhan kendra Aulia Darbar
At &Po , Pauni Hasanpur District, Vaishali
State, Bihar
Pin Code to 844123
Mobile No, 7488431654
Watsapp No, 9801067668
Email ID, auliakendra@gmail.com
5:59 pm ✓

Forwarded
I support SDG 16 6:59 pm ✓

+91 9958836412   ~Sanjoy
⊘ This message was deleted 8:11 pm

+91 9838593884 ~Reeta Kaushik
I also support SDG 16
Reeta kaushik   8:28 pm

+91 9719255509   ~R.B SAINI DIRECTOR YDS
My organization support SDG 16, R B
saini, CEO, Village Development Society,
Haridwar, Uttarakhand   9:00 pm

+91 9719008423   ~Lakhbir Singh
I also support SDG 16

Message

VANI MEMBERS COMM...
Amod, Ashok, Bakshi, Binoy, CYSD, Dhi...

also support SDG 16

Lakhbir Singh
Chairman
Adarsh Yuva Samiti
Haridwar Uttarakhand 9:08 pm

+91 9994209507 ~Madhan Govindaswamy
We support SDG.
Regenbocg India Foundation 9:15 pm

+91 9419227208   ~Sanjeev Parihar
SRCO NGO's support SDG 9:17 pm

+91 9631649650   ~Hk Bajpai
+91-9631649650 -Hari Kishore Bajpai
Chairman
National council of Social Welfare
Sheohar (BIHAR)
We also support SDG 16 10:05 pm

+91 7006034564   ~ESS
Shoukat Ali
Jammu and Kashmir Yateem Trust
We also support 10:08 pm

+91 7006777754   ~The Daily Roshni
Islamic Relief and Research trust from
Jammu and Kashmir also in support of
SDG 16   10:13 pm

Message

VANI MEMBERS COMM...
Amod, Ashok, Bakshi, Binoy, CYSD, Dhi...

+91 9842472211   ~R.Kamalakannan
Yes We also support SDG 16 St Thomas
charitable and Educational Trust
perundurai Erode Tamilnadu 7:15 am

+91 9437940304   ~OSS
I support SDG-16
Darbar Sahitya Sansada,
Bhubaneswar,Odisha 7:45 am

+91 9394544244   ~A
We work for SDG 16
Mazher Hussain
COVA Pesce Network 9:10 am

+91 9381055589   ~K Panchu
We from SIPA support SDG16..
Panchu
SIPA Fair Trade
Chennai
sipapanchu@gmail.com 9:14 am

Campaign-1 Create awareness about SDG 16 [External] Inbox

Dr Shabeena Ara 11 Oct
Dear CSO friends, Greetings from VANI,
New Delhi! VANI along with JANIC believes

7

Rwng Songsama welf... 7:09 PM
to info, me

Thanks for the mail. i support 16 SDG1

Show quoted text

--
Mr. Sukudev Debbarma
(Secretary)
Rwng Songsama Welfare Society
Vill: Gachla Para
P.S + P.O.. Mandai
Mobile: (0)9436931007
e-mail: rwngwelfare@gmail.com

Reply   Reply all   Forward

Narayana Rao P <nraopotturi@gmail.com>
to me

I support SDG 16

Dr. P. Narayana Rao

...

Vds Hardwar <vdshardwar@gmail.com>
to me

Good initiative, thanks for sharing.
Rajbahadur saini
CEO
Village Development Society

...

JEEVANDHARA BAHUUDDESHIYA SANSTHA <ngojeevandhara@gmail.com>
to me

Thank you for your valuable inputs and time!
आपण दिलेल्या माहितीसाठी आणि मौल्यवान वेळेसाठी धन्यवाद।

Regards
Reception
NGO Jeevandhara, Pandharkawada- 445302
visit web: www.ngojeevandhara.org

BLESS YOU !
जाणीव झाली आता बदल घडवूयात ।

N.PeterPalaniswami
to shabeena, me

Dear All
Happy to join the meet
peter

....

Self Help Promotion for Health And Rural Developments (SHEPHERD),

SURABHIAGAM, NO 15, KARUNYA GARDEN,
12TH CROSS, RENGA NAGAR EXTN,
UYYAKODAN THIRUMALAI,
VAYALUR ROAD,

Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti <nbnvsballia1993@gmail.com>
to shabeena, me

Dear Vani Team
Heartiest greetings
I support SDG's

...

--

Institutionally yours

Director
Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti,
V&P-Baheri,District-Ballia(U.P.)277001,
+91-5498-220118, +91-5498-220141(1098), +91-5498-224691, +91-5498-210017,
+91-9450777864, +91-9621298540
@ballia_nbnvs

E-mail: nbnvsballia1993@gmail.com, childlineballia11@gmail.com, nbnvs2000@yahoo.

INFORMATION LEAFLET ON SDG 16

A Leaflet was designed with information on the SDG 16 and SDG 16+. It was also translated in Hindi for the wider circulation to the grassroot CSOs. The hard copy of the Leaflet will serve as ready reference for day today functioning.

The Leaflet in English and Hindi

ONLINE LEADERSHIP MEET

Two online zoom CSO Leaders meetings were organized.

1. **Women Leadership Meet:**

This meeting was to discuss strengthening of women leadership on the topic, 'Empowered Women of the Civil Society'. The Speaker was, Ms. Hemal Kamat, Director & Secretary, Center of Needy, Creative, Experiment & Participatory Techniques (CONCEPT) Society, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India. The meeting was conducted on Date: 6th February 2023.

Mr. Harsh Jaitli, Chief Executive Officer, VANI requested all members to join the meeting to influence partnership spirit and mutual collaboration in strengthening leadership of Women.

The Social Media Invite:

The presentation of Ms. Hemal Kamat covered: components of women's empowerment which consisted of women's sense of self-worth, determine choices, access to opportunities and resources, power to control their own lives, ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order. She also discussed the interventions required for the empowerment of women like gender analysis, equal leadership, right awareness, reducing drudgery, functional adult literacy, health services, financial services, halting child marriages, prosecuting gender based violence. The discussion emphasised the role civil society should play in facilitating the interventions for the empowerment of women. Around 50+ people joined the meet.

Some glimpses of the Zoom meeting:

Some feedback on the meeting in the chat box:
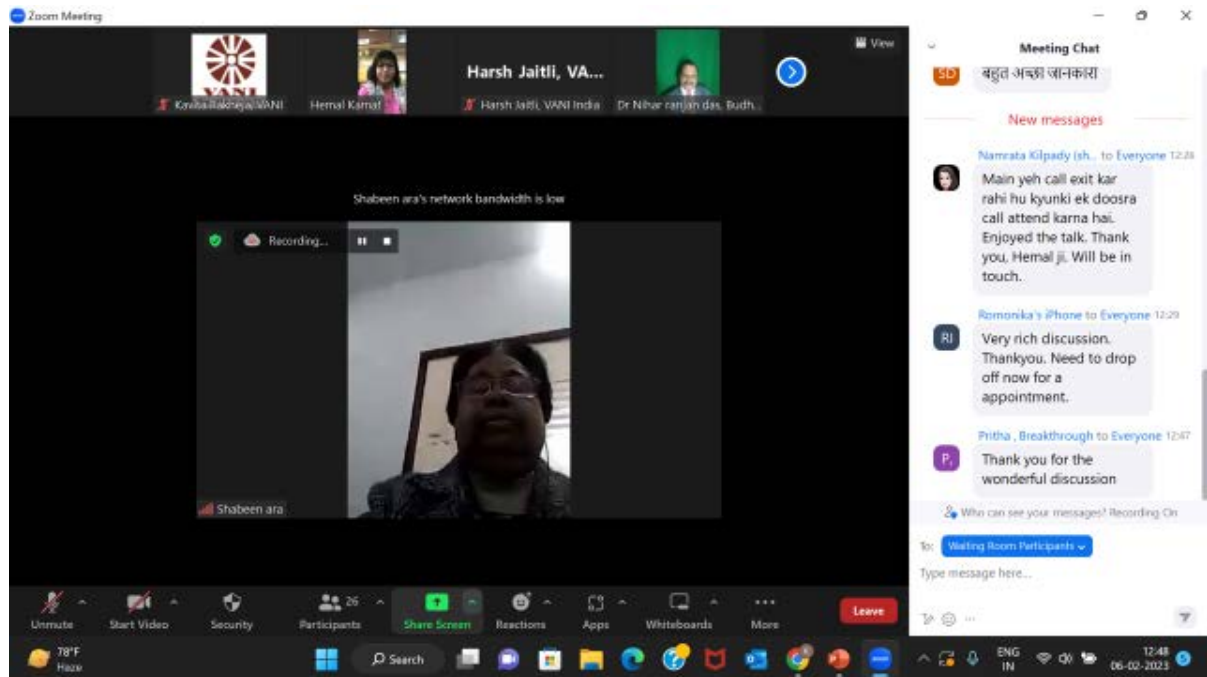
2. **ONLINE LEADERSHIP MEET**

The Second online leadership meet was an online conversation with the grassroot CSO members on the Government of India Annual Budget of 2023. The conversation was moderated by Mr. Harsh Jaitli, CEO VANI and Ms. Menka Sahoo, Chartered Accountant from S. Sahoo & Company. The online conversation was held on 10th February 2023.

Ms. Sahoo covered in her presentation: Conditions to be fulfilled to keep 12A Registration intact, Reduction in the time limit to furnish Form 10 and 9A, Combining 12A & 80G Provisional and Regular Registration in some cases, Payment of tax on assets if an organization does not apply for renewal of 12A after getting "provisional exemption" or after "expiry of regular exemption", Sub-granting and claim of such expenses in Computation of Income, Replenishment of Corpus & Repayment of Loans/ Borrowings as Expenditures, Pre-Conditions for "Expenses" to be claimed as "Charitable" Expenses, Amendment of Section 194 R, and lastly Amendment in 206AB Declaration & TDS of non-filers of Income Tax Return.
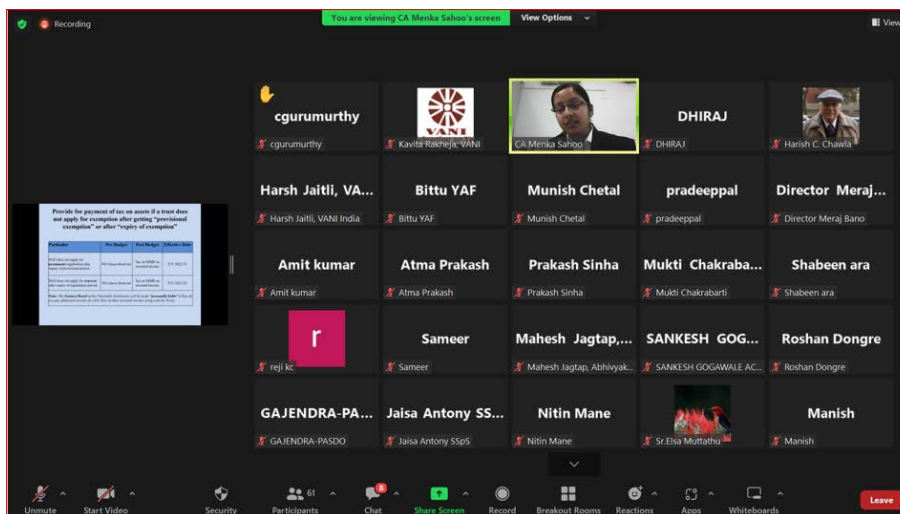
There were 60+ people from all over India. Many queries were raised by them. They were the civil society members. Ms. Sahoo clarified all their doubts.
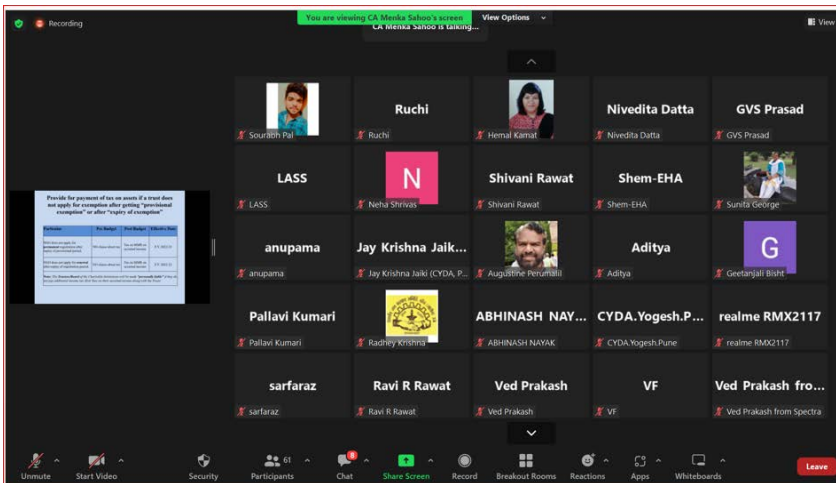
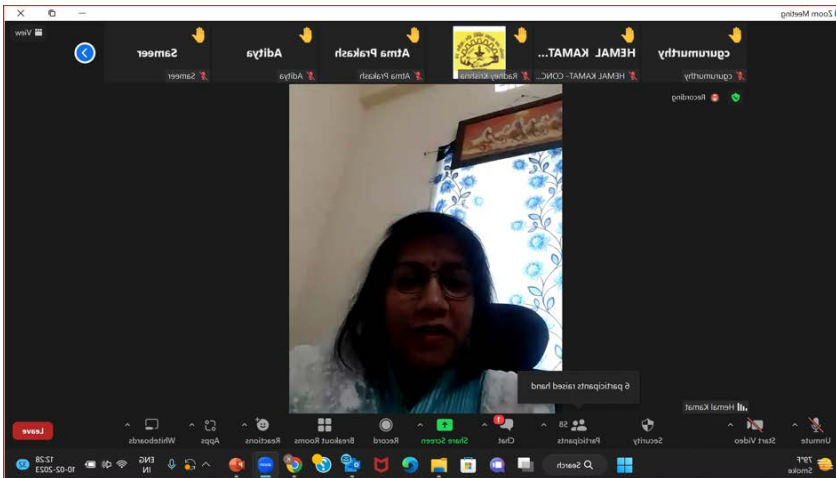Glimpses of the Zoom meeting.

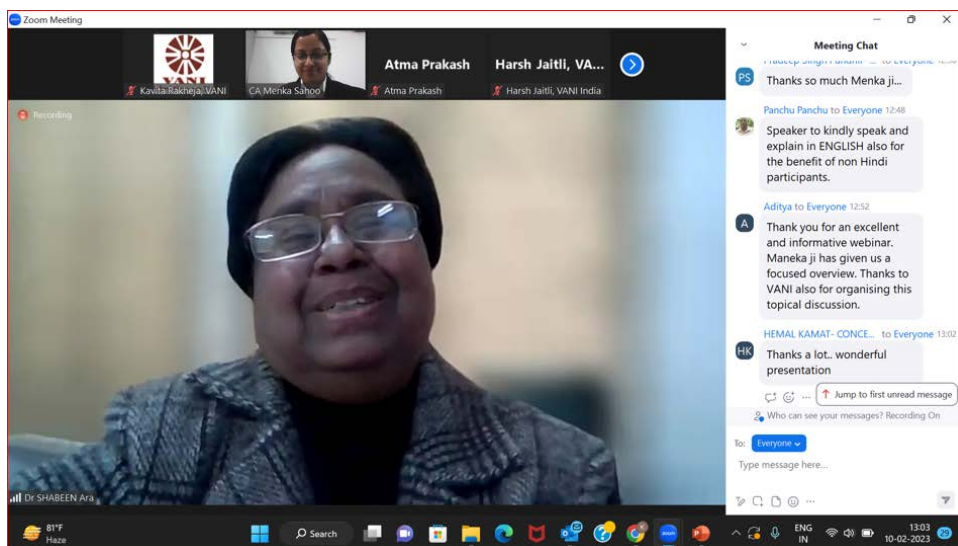**The speaker**
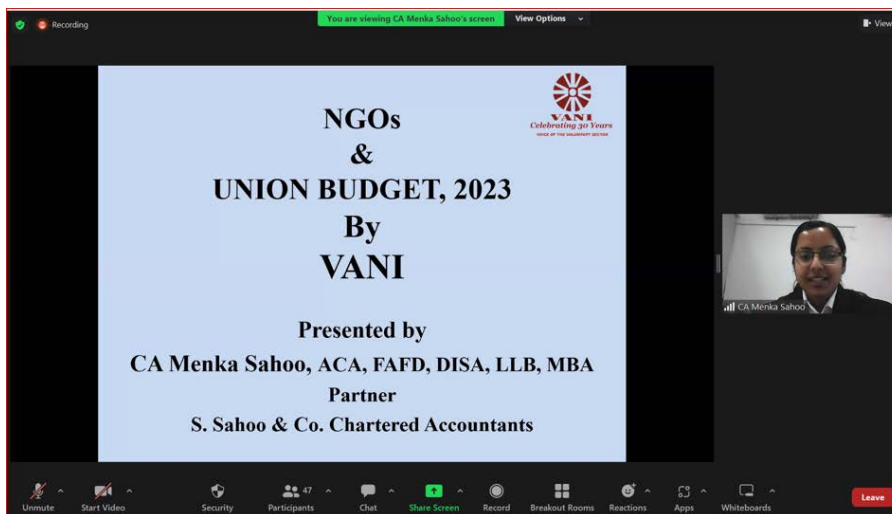
The participants

Hands raised

Some appreciation in the chat box

Summing up

VANI made all efforts through the campaigns to create awareness about SDG 16 amongst the CSOs especially those working at grass-root levels. They were explained in simple language about the SDG's and its importance. Further it was tried to explain them the role SDG 16+ played. Discrimination exists in the society and CSO's have to come forward to fight it through creating awareness in the society. Two issues were discussed in the campaign, one of discrimination the women face and second is fighting the old age practice of untouchability. Lastly few techniques and approaches of protecting fundamental rights were shared. The campaign encouraged and tried to popularize collaborations for better results.

Leaflets with the information on SDG 16 and its related issues were printed. These leaflets were translated in Hindi the national language of India. These leaflets were disseminated by post to the member civil society organisations. Northern belt which is mostly Hindi speaking Hindi leaflets were posted. South India is English speaking, hence English leaflets were posted. The organisations were advised to put up the leaflets on display in their offices.

VANI to collectivise Indian Civil Society Leaders and to strengthening partnerships organised two Zoom Leadership meets. The subjects chosen for the discussion were timely and very much required and appreciated by the national as well as grassroot leaders. In both the meets 60+ participants joined and raised their queries. The resource persons were very well known personalities.

In this way the project ended timely in February 2023.