

Voice of Women Organization

Quick Facts

- Informally Active since 1998
- Formally Registered in 2002
- Head Office Located in Herat City
- Sub Offices in Provinces of Ghor & Badghis
- Recently Established in Farah Province
- Overseas Office in Australia



Mission Statement

**Empowering Women To Actively
Participate In Decision Making
Process At All Levels Through
Education, Awareness and Their
Socio-Economic Uplift**

Goals

- **Protect women from domestic violence**
- **Provide legal aid to troubled women**
- **Enhance awareness of women's rights**
- **Build capacity of women to contribute to the society**
- **Sensitize sections of community about gender equality**

Challenges

- **International Isolation**
- **Lack of Proper Interaction**
- **Lack of Security**
- **Unaware Communities**
- **Social Stigmas**
- **Centuries Old Traditions**
- **Lack of Sufficient Funds**

Target groups

- Women/Girls at risk of violence
- Women/ Girls victims of violence
- Unaccompanied women/ girls in need of a temporary accommodation
- Women/girls victims of arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention

Our Natural Resource

- **Scarce and ill-managed water resources**
- **Shortage of forests and vegetation due to lack of water**
- **There is no utilization of whatever deposits of fossil fuels are there**
- **The land-locked country is mostly comprised of barren mountains**
- **The arable land is negligible and does yield much to contribute to the national economy**
- **Extreme weathers do enhance the need of fire-wood that further affects forests**

Women and Natural Resource

- Afghan women live a much more natural life in comparison to other countries
- Foods, clothing, medicines, household items and even travelling modes are natural
- There is a shortage of fuel not only in rural areas but in parts of urban areas as well
- Hundreds of people died of cold in Herat in the winter of 2008-9
- Women suffer the most as the provision of firewood is part of their job
- Women have to collect and bring the firewood from faraway places
- Clothes are washed in streams by women which is extremely laborious
- Lack of boiled water restricts the maintenance the physical hygiene of children

Impact of SARI Initiative

- The SARI Project will greatly enhance the capacity of Afghan women in energy utilization
- They will be able to give more time and attention to their children
- Their daily workload will be reduced and will make them healthier
- The use of solar energy will significantly improve the financial conditions of families
- The improved heating facilities in average household will directly benefit mother-child health
- Solar electricity will improve the living standards as more electrical appliances will be utilized by housewives
- Improved socio-economic and psycho-social relations among community members

Lessons Learnt

- **Proper surveys were not conducted prior to project designing and implementation**
- **Technologies introduced were not fully developed and did not prove beneficial**
- **Projects were often one-time interaction and no long term follow-ups were carried out**

Suggestions

- **Project goals and activities should be designed specifically for Afghanistan**
- **Only proven equipment and methods must be introduced to the beneficiaries**
- **Local people should be provided training as a Technology Transfer approach**
- **Model villages should be established to inspire other areas**
- **Equipment and methodology should be launched on commercial basis**
- **Long term project follow-up procedures must be put in place**