

BHUMIKA WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE



Annual Report

2018-19

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ABOUT BHUMIKA WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE

About Bhumika

Bhumika Women's Collective has been working in the area on Violence Against Women and Girls since past 24 years (registered in 1995) with main office at Hyderabad.

Vision: Promoting Violence Free Lives for Women and Children in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Mission: Bhumika's focus is on gender equality, and women and children accessing their rights through advocating a life of dignity and justice.

Objectives of Bhumika Women's Collective:

- To support women by providing counselling in health, legal, psychological and social issues
- To enable women to take informed decisions to lead a life with dignity
- To empower adolescents to emerge as sensitized second generation and evolve as peer leaders
- To sensitise and educate young generation to evolve as gender sensitive volunteers to address issues of violence against women and children
- To create a common forum for network of academicians, activists and students from different fields by organizing discussions, seminars and workshops
- To build a centre for resource facility in pursuance of the above objectives
- To also undertake publication of occasional research papers and booklets.

Organizational Profile

Legal Status	: Registered under AP Societies (Act I of 1350 F)
Registration No.	: 78/95
Income Tax Registration No.	: F No.DIT(E)/HYD/12A/28(02)/07-08 (Under 12 (A))
Income Tax Exemption	: F No.DIT(E)/HYD/80G/28(02)/07-08 (Under Section 80 G)
FCRA Registration No.	: 010230508
Permanent Account No.	: AATB6590L
Registered Office Address	: HIG-II, Block-8, Flat -1, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad – 500044
Auditors	: K SUSHEELA &Co.,
Bankers	: Canara Bank, Narayanaguda, Hyderabad

Areas of Concern

Bhumika runs a Toll Free Helpline for Women in Distress (1800 425 2908), which is first of its kind in the State. We also run special cells to support Women in distress, located in Women

Police Station, Gachibowli; Women Police Station, Saroornagar; Special Prison for Women, Chanchalguda, in Hyderabad and Women Police Station, Karimnagar in Telangana State. The Support Centres in the interest of women try to sensitize their men and family members, negotiate for ending violence and empower women through counselling to access their rights.

From November 2017 Bhumika started working in Vijayawada and Rajamahendravaram towns in Andhra Pradesh State with the interventions of Support Centres in Women Police Stations, working with the urban communities and students in educational institutions by creating awareness and sensitizing them in maintaining gender equality, women and children rights and empowering them towards a violence free society.

Bhumika also focus on prevention of early and child marriages by empowering the adolescents' and sensitizing the families and the communities in more than 100 villages. One of the key strategies is to collectivise the adolescent boys and girls and building their capacities to evolve as peer leaders. Another key strategy in this intervention is working closely with the line departments and trying to strengthen the capacities of the concerned to ensure an immediate support system to the adolescents for accessing their rights and making their choices.

With these interventions, Bhumika has reached to about 1 lakh women and girls in the two States. They were provided with support in Counselling, giving information, explaining about rights and provisions related Acts – in specific about Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, available Support Systems, and Free Legal aid. Bhumika is having a network of Volunteers and panel of Advocates. A forum with like-minded NGOs is also facilitated by Bhumika and focusing to strengthen the capacities of the forum to transfer the skills to the grassroots functionaries and reach to women and girls. Bhumika is advocating with the Government for proper implementation, influencing Policy changes and budgetary allocation for the PWDV Act, 2005, and building a Civil Society Alliance at the State level. For the purpose of improving gender perspective and sensitization among the personnel of line departments, Bhumika organize trainings to all the stakeholders under the PWDV Act, 2005, viz., Police, Judiciary, Department of Women and Child Development and Shelter Homes.

Bhumika is engaged in counselling the offenders caught by SHE Teams (State Police initiative to keep a check on eve-teasing / public harassment). The offenders are counselled in the presence of their parents / family members. Through counselling, the counsellors try to make the offenders sensitize on the impact of violence against girls and women; make them aware of the stringent punishments under the recent Acts; motivate them to concentrate on their studies / career; improve family situation and contribute towards a violence free society.

Bhumika is also implementing One Stop Centres (Sakhi Centre) in Karimnagar district of Telangana State in collaboration with the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare and with the technical support of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad.

PROGRAMMES INITIATED

i) **Sessions in Educational Institutions:** Sessions in educational institutions were planned to sensitize the students and prospect towards promoting violence free life within their families, educational institutions and the society at large. It was planned to conduct two sessions each in three colleges. However, after having one round of sessions in two colleges, further sessions were conducted in ADP supported schools according to the suggestions given by the ADP team during the review visit to Bhumika. The details of the sessions held in the following educational institutions.

S. No.	Name of the Institution	No. of Students reached	Topics covered
1	Government Junior College for Girls and Boys, Kachiguda	60	Gender equality and discrimination, patriarchy, need for equality, women protection laws and support systems.
2	Andhra Mahila Sabha Degree College	32	Gender equality and discrimination, patriarchy, need for equality, women protection laws and support systems.
3	Government Girls High School, Shaalibanda	27	Gender equality and discrimination, patriarchy, need for equality, women protection laws and support systems.
4	KVK Government School, Baghlingampalli	28	Gender equality and discrimination, patriarchy, need for equality, women protection laws and support systems.
5	Government Girls High School, Shaalibanda	36	Violence, Forms of violence, gender based violence and support systems available for children and Women
6	Venkat Rao Memorial School, Gowlipura	29	Violence, Forms of violence, gender based violence and support systems available for children and Women

For the first session, the students were oriented on gender equality and discrimination, patriarchy, need for equality, women protection laws and support systems. They were made to

understand the issues of women and girls like child marriages, girl child education, public harassment, dowry harassment, mobility, decision making capacity, reproductive rights, etc., through gender lens. Efforts were made to help them challenge the gender stereotypes. They were made to understand that the family system in which we live promotes patriarchy and gender inequality and thus they were made to introspect on the need for equality to protect the rights of the women and girls. Few of the students negated and raised questions and the resource persons clarified their doubts. Later, they were informed about the various support systems like SHE Teams, Women Helpline-181, Bhumika Helpline, Childline, Bharosa Centre, Support Centers, and protection laws that protect children from sexual abuse, child labour, exploitation, etc. In the second session, the students were made to understand the term violence, its forms and the support systems available for children. They were also informed about the Child Protection Committees and its role in protecting children within and outside the school apart from other support systems.



It was initially planned to take up 2 sessions in 3 educational institutions each with about 300 students. Initially, 3 institutions, Government Junior College for Girls and Boys, Kachiguda, Andhra Mahila Sabha Degree College and Government Girls High School, Shallibanda were selected to organise 2 sessions in each institution. But, due to different reasons like elections, exams, accreditation team visits to colleges

and so on, it was not possible to take the second sessions in Government Junior College for Girls and Boys, Kachiguda, Andhra Mahila Sabha Degree College. Only in GGHS, Shaalibanda, 2 sessions were conducted as planned. Hence, sessions were held in the other 2 institutions - KVK Government School, Baghlingampalli and Venkat Rao Memorial School, Gowlipura.

Apart from the planned sessions, another two (2) unplanned sessions were held in two (2) of the ADP partner institutions that work in educational institutions.

- a) A session was held at Venkat Rao Memorial School, which is one of the Pratham's MIDAS Community Programme and supported by ADP. Ms. Satyavati, the Chief Functionary was invited by Ms. Sunitha, Coordinator of Pratham. About 35 students of 9th standard were briefed about Bhumika Helpline and other support systems like SHE Teams. She had also made the students practically call the Helpline and speak to the counsellor.

b) Invited as a resource person to the story telling workshop to Amanvedika run Rainbow Home, which is also an ADP partner NGO. About 30 students were informed about Helpline and other support systems.

ii. Workshop with Media and NGOs on Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act with support of PLD and Population First.

iii. Forum Meetings: On 23rd January 2019, a meeting was organised with the forum members at Hotel Minerva, Hyderabad. The forum members from the organisations like Gramya, Ankuram, Amanvedika, Shaheen, Amoomath, Telangana Transgender Hijra Samithi, POW, SWARD, Sayodya, independent activists and writers attended the meeting. The Project Director, Ms. Satyavati explained about the progress made by the forum members from the last year. The meeting was organised to discuss and plan to move ahead constructively in the next phase. One of the forum members, Ms. Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli expressed that it is also important to focus more on creating awareness on the various burning issues while another member suggested that there is a need to include more number of active members into the forum by keeping the network loose. Ms. Prasanthi, Director of Bhumika while speaking to the forum members expressed that it is also important to de-stress ourselves and plan to make strategies in a new way, develop advocacy material, etc. She told that the expertise of the members have to be taken into consideration as each one have their own area of expertise. The members expressed their ideas in strengthening the forum and the following action points were framed from the discussions and they are as following:

- Development of advocacy material
- Development of policy briefs
- Encouraging the members to read poetry and feminist literature
- Development of theatre group
- Inclusion of young feminists into the network

iv. Dignity March: Dignity March is an initiative to end sexual violence against women and children. Under this National March survivors and other stakeholders have travelled 10,000 Kilometers in 200 districts of 24 States /Union Territories in India. March was to kick-off from Mumbai on 20 December 2018 and culminated on 22 February 2019 in Delhi. Dignity March is a call for Women and Children to speak out their experiences of sexual abuse without shame. It is also an appeal for the stakeholders and the larger community to create a healthy, non-judgemental and a safe environment to support the voices of the survivors and to take the fight for justice forward. The Dignity March is a response to what is happening around us. It is time to speak up, condemn the act of sexual violence and to end the culture of victim shaming / blaming and shift the blame. Collectively, we must hold the state actors accountable to ensure

justice to survivors. Dignity March is a platform for the survivors to tell their stories in their own voice to represent their own narratives. It is a call to end the culture of shame and fear, to encourage others to speak up, and demand zero tolerance for sexual violence in our society. It is to hold society and the State accountable towards punitive action against the perpetrator, through effective implementation of legal guidelines, and ensuring rehabilitation facilities for survivors.

Bhumika was part to support this March in Hyderabad. On 5 January, the group reached Hyderabad. Bhumika took initiative in Hyderabad and organised meetings with the survivors, State-level stakeholders meeting, Awareness and sensitization Programmes at community level, educational institutions, Survivors' Convention at the State level and Resource material was also distributed. Further, the Project Director, Ms. Satyavati have participated in the Culmination Event at New Delhi and received Award of "Dignity March" for the support of Bhumika in Hyderabad and Rajamahendravaram (Town in Andhra Pradesh).

v. Session to ADP Support Staff: On 23rd February 2019, a session was organised at ADP office to the housekeeping and security staff. About 33 female staff participated in the session. Two resource persons from Bhumika took the session. It was an interactive session. The objective of the session was to help the participants understand the terms sexual harassment at workplace and to create awareness about the provisions of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013.

The participants were made to understand the term harassment, when, why and to whom the harassment happens. The participants shared their views and efforts were put to help them the harassment could be caste based, gender based and even based on the sexual orientation of the person. They were informed about the forms of harassment that happens both at home, public places, workplace and made to understand that sexual harassment happen either due to insensitiveness of the persons or to exercise power or to take away the opposite person's rights to equality and freedom and it is the violation of their human rights. Then they were oriented about sexual harassment at workplace with the support of a case study and informed them about what constitutes sexual harassment. Later they were informed about the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013, the evolution of the Act, its provisions and about the constitution and role of internal complaints committee.

The participants involved actively and when asked how can the harassment be prevented, they first they have to be brave, maintain solidarity among themselves and support each other. They were told that they should also have information about the existence of the ICC in their company and approach the same when required without hesitation. They were also informed about Bhumika Helpline and told to spread the Helpline number to the needy women survivors.

vi. Trainings to Community Women at Jeevika Centre, Borabanda

As part of the planned activities, a session to the community women undergoing skill course was held on 28th August 2018 at Jeevika Centre, Borabanda. About 18 women taking up the tailoring course were part of the session. The resource person for the session was Ms. Devi, Social Activist. The main objective of the session was to discuss about gender equality and women empowerment. The session was held in interactive mode.

The participants were made to brainstorm why inequalities exists within their homes. Efforts were put to change their perception as most of them were of the opinion that the women should be submissive and dependent on men. They were made to understand the difference between sex and gender and how the patriarchal norms oppress women and even make them accept such oppressive norms. As most of the women were from muslim community, the discussion was on the issue of Triple *Talak* and the Right to choice and explained that one has the right to live one's life irrespective of caste, creed and religion, as every religion oppresses the women. The session ended with the discussion that we, the women are not less than anyone and we are equal humans.

vii. Capacity building to the counsellors:

a.Exposure visit: The counsellors at the Helpline had an exposure visit to Visakhapatnam and visited SOS Children village, Support Centre for Women in Women Police Station and Day care Centre for Aged in Polavaram displacement affected areas. The visit helped the counsellors to understand the work of the support systems that support children, distressed women and the aged people, who were most affected by the displacement under the Polavaram project.



b.Training to the Counsellors: The counsellors attended the 3 days training on Counselling Skills, Psychological Aspects and Cyber Crimes organised by Bhumika. The counsellors were trained on professional counselling skills by Prof. Vindya, TISS, understanding adolescent issues by Ms. Devi, Social Activist, Anger management by Mr. Niranjana Reddy, Psychologist, Mental Health and Mental Illness by Dr. Suneetha, Psychologist, Cyber Crimes by Prof. Shanti, NALSAR University and understanding adolescence by Dr. Veerender, Psychologist.

c.Training on Documentation Skills, legal Acts and Adolescent issues: The counsellors attended a 2 day training programme at Henry Martin Institute, Shivarampalli on documentation skills,

legal Acts and understanding adolescent issues. The training helped the counsellors to improve the documentation skills, especially writing case studies and in understanding the PWDV Act, 2005 from different perspectives.

d.Ikyathaa Raagam: The counsellors at the Helpline attended the 3 phase training of trainers programme, which is a residential programme for 13 days. The phase-1 programme was for 5 days and the counsellors were trained on Gender and Sexuality. The training helped them to understand the issues of women with gender perspective that help them to overcome the situation of powerlessness. The phase-2 programme was for 4 days and the counsellors were trained on different topics like sexuality, understanding transgender issues and developing the training skills. Based on the training, the counsellors took sessions with students and community women to put the knowledge and training skills into practice. The phase-3 was also for 4 days at Kurnool. The counsellors were trained on developing training skills and understanding about the *Jogini* system, which is a social evil that is prevalent in our country. The entire training programme helped to build the capacities of the counsellors in gaining knowledge about gender perspectives, sexuality and improving the training skills.



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HELPLINE ANALYSIS

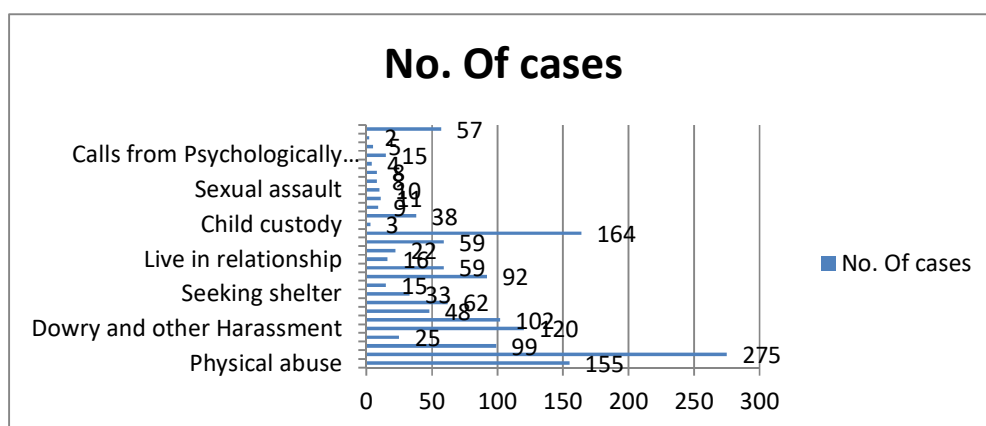
The functioning of Helpline is carried out 24x7 Hours with 4 Professional Counsellors in 4 shifts (8am – 2pm; 2pm – 8 pm; 8pm-11pm and 11pm to 8am) and two panel advocates on Saturdays in two shifts. During the reporting period a total of 2,185 women received support through Helpline during the reporting period April 2018 to March, 2019. Below is the monthly wise number of calls:

April 2017 – March 2018	From April 2018 - March 2019												
	Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	March 2019	TOTAL (2018-19)
1,817	176	156	138	143	112	122	205	176	177	223	281	276	2,185

Helpline analysis and impact:

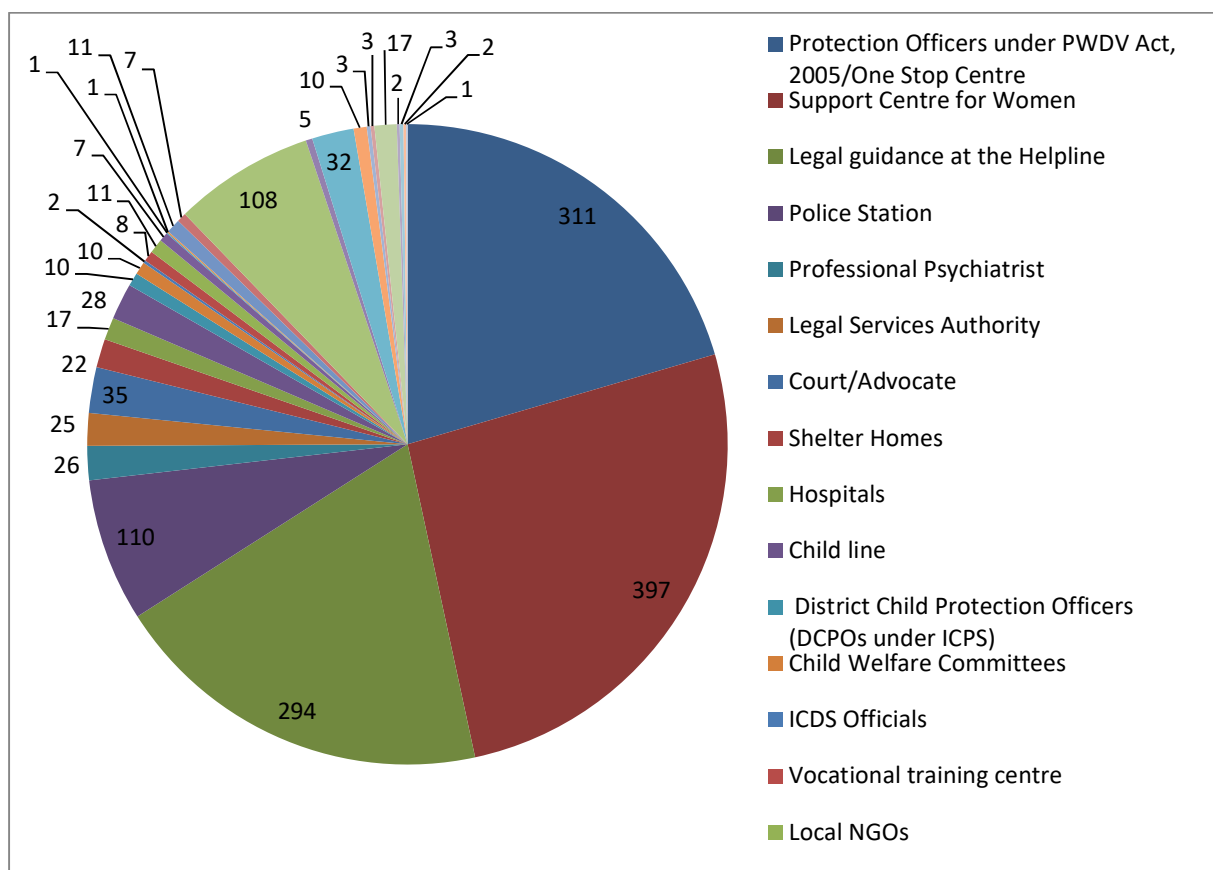
During the reporting period, 2,185 calls were received in which 1,677 were from Telangana State, 495 calls from Andhra Pradesh and 13 calls from other States. The callers approached the Helpline with varied issues as mentioned above. All the callers were provided space to share their issues bothering them. Efforts were made to build their psychological self and self esteem through counselling. They were also informed about the Acts and Sections and also the support systems available to help them overcome their issue. They were motivated to make informed choices and based on their issue and choice further referrals were made.

Nature of Calls received on Helpline:



Majority of the callers expressed that they were harassed by their husbands and in-laws and face many forms of violence. In the case of domestic violence, the women were harassed irrespective of the years of married life. In the recently married couples, egoism, irresponsible behaviour of the respondents and high interference of parents of both the sides seemed to be the few of the major reasons for the differences between them. The counsellors also observed the mandatory need for pre-marital counselling to the 'to be married couple' to help them plan for their future, understand their differences and accept each other, etc. There were also cases from the women who expressed that they were cheated in the name of love and issues in live-in relationship. Few of them even got married and later learnt that the offenders were already married. It was also learnt that these survivors do not have any proofs of their relationship and marriage. They blindly trusted the offender and got exploited in one or many ways.

Referrals:



Most of the survivors opted for counselling. Hence they were referred to the Support Centres (397) run by Bhumika in various locations; and other organisations. In the districts where the Support Centres were not available, the survivors were referred to Sakhi Centres for availing counselling (311) and Bharosa centre (7). But there were also callers, who do not want to take

any action against their husbands, but they prefer to share their grief and vent off their sorrows and pains. Hence they were counselled and strengthened to be emotionally strong to handle their issues. In the cases of issues of alcoholism, 11 survivors decided to join their partners in rehabilitation centres, hence they were referred to alcohol de-addiction centers.

On the other hand, there were many calls from the survivors seeking legal guidance related to the cases of divorce, maintenance, return of articles & dowry amount, property related issues and child custody. It was also observed that due to increase in the number of support systems and awareness, the survivors had already approached different support systems and phoned to know the further procedure. Hence, in the case of legal guidance, the survivors were linked to the panel advocates (294) and in other cases they were informed about the procedures. There were also survivors who were referred to Sakhi Centers who have decided to file domestic violence case under PWDV Act 2005. About 25 survivors were linked to Legal Services Authority and 35 survivors to court.

There were also cases from the women employees complaining about sexual harassment at workplace (11). They were informed about the provisions of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act and the role of Internal Complaints Committee.

A good number of survivors phoned seeking shelter (33). Based on their choice, they were informed and referred to the available shelter homes (22) and Sakhi centres (10).

There were cases related to child marriages (38) from the students and villagers where the helpline number was promoted. After receiving the information, the counsellors immediately alerted the local systems that were responsible for the prevention of Child marriages. Hence, the district child Protection Officers, Childline, Child welfare committee and ICDS officials were informed to stop and postpone the child marriages. At times, the adolescents phoned and requested the counsellors to counsel their parents to postpone their marriage. Accordingly, the officials were informed about the need for counselling and the callers were strengthened to negotiate with their parents to express their aspirations.

There were cases related to cyber crimes (15) who complained that they were receiving offensive messages and calls or issues of cyber crime. Hence they were informed about Cyber crime cell (7) or to local police stations and made them aware of the provisions under IT Act.

20 cases from the survivors were psychologically depressed or with suicidal tendencies. Few of them complained about extreme level of anger and expressed it as the main cause of disturbance in their marital life. Hence, these survivors were linked to professional psychiatrists / psychologists (26).

Coming to the issues of elderly women, 9 calls were related to harassment of aged by the family members and 8 other calls were related to the rescue of elderly or mentally challenged women found on roads. 4 Cases were related to house arrest. Consequently, the women were rescued and placed in Homes with the support of Police and 181- Govt. Women Helpline. Also there were 10 cases related to sexual assault, 2 callers seeking support in joining their children in homes.

A good number of calls were enquiry calls (362) where the survivors phoned to enquire about the Acts and Support Systems related to women, the services available at Bhumika Helpline and Support Centres. Another 467 calls were follow up calls by the survivors who approached the Helpline repeatedly.

Apart from the above support systems, based on the need, the survivors were referred to different support systems like police stations for filing 498A, in the cases related to cyber crimes, sexual assault, house arrest, vocational training centres (8) like Nirmaan's Jeevika Centres, Tech Mahindra, Yashoda Foundation, etc, as the survivors decided to undergo vocational courses, 11 to the local NGOs for local support in dealing their cases, 17 survivors to hospitals in case of health issues or for availing medico legal certificates, etc. One caller was referred to the NGO working abroad, one survivor to State Women's Commission, 32 callers to Women Helpline, 10 to SHE Teams, 3 to Dial 100 and 2 called to children homes.

Direct intervention cases: Apart from counselling, there were many direct intervention cases during this period, where the counsellor took part in rescuing the women and girls from house arrest with/without the support of local police; in few cases home visits were made to counsel the family members of the violated family members, where the survivor was not able to come out of the house; few of the survivors were rescued and placed in the shelter homes; and in other few cases, the counsellors accompanied the Survivors to the police station to help them register the cases. In all, about 23 survivors required direct intervention and received support during the reporting period.

Few survivors who already approached the police stations, called on the Helpline complaining that the police were reluctant to file cases or rude to them, in such cases, the counsellors phoned the police station and explained the issue of the survivor to the police and requested them to provide enough support in fighting her issue. The police in all the cases responded positively and supported the survivors.

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SPECIAL CELLS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Bhumika run special cells to support Women in distress, located in Women Police Station, Gachibowli; Women Police Station, Saroornagar; Uppal Police Station; Alwal Police Station; Special Prison for Women, Chanchalguda, in Hyderabad and Women Police Station, Karimnagar in Telangana State and in Women Police Station, Vijayawada and Women Police Station, Rajamahendravaram of Andhra Pradesh State.

Special Cells is one of the strategic responses to address the needs of the women facing domestic violence. It is an initiative resultant of the commitment and collaboration between Police Department and Bhumika Women's Collective to address the issues of Violence against Women. The Support Centres are aimed at providing a multi-pronged support required for survivors and complainants of violence, to prevent and counter crime against women and engage with the youth, families and communities on the issue of violence against women. The strategic location of the Special Cell within the Police system helps to create emotional, physical, mental and legal space for the violated women within the criminal justice system. 2 trained, Professional Counselors will be available throughout the day in the Special Cells to provide support to the survivors of Violence.

The Counselors work in coordination with the Police Department. The Special Cell engage to work in building the psychological self of the women, build support system and negotiate with men and their family members in ending violence against women (only towards the interest of the women survivors).



SUPPORT CENTRE AT CHANCHALGUDA WOMEN'S PRISON

Support Centre was established on 5th November, 2015 at Women's Prison, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad. The Support Centre aims to empower and rehabilitate the women in conflict with law. The objectives of the project are

1. To extend counseling support to inmates (both convicted and under trials)
2. To facilitate and create an enabling environment in the respective families and neighborhood to accept the women back by overcoming their stigma
3. To help the convicted women to develop positive thinking towards life by involving them in creative and recreational activities
4. To provide guidance to the inmates for their rehabilitation

With the above objectives a support centre is operating with two qualified counselors to provide counseling services to the prisoners.

Project Developments (Interventions):

1.

A. Baseline survey – During the reporting period, the baseline of 32 new convicts and 420 under trailers and 22 detenues was completed. Till date, since the inception of the project, the baseline of 251 convicts, 1708 under trailers and 35 detenues was done.

B. Counselling – Counselling is an ongoing activity and one to one counselling is one of the main activities under the project. All the inmates are given space to discuss their concerns, family issues and any other issues bothering them. Emotional support is provided to all the inmates in order to help them gain confidence and self esteem so that they can retrieve back to normal state. Efforts are made to bring change in their attitudes and behaviour so that they will not repeat the crime after their release and also would not trouble the fellow inmates during their stay in the prison. More emphasis is also given on the well being of their children to ensure that their children are safe under elderly care.

In some cases, due to lack of proper adult care some of their children dropped out of school or irregular to school. While few others were not in proper adult care and were left with their relatives or friends, few were forcefully staying in the custody of the in-laws of the inmates. In few cases the children were reluctant to accept their mothers because of the crime they made / attempted.

The counsellors also focus on understanding the support systems that the inmates have; viz., family support for emotional and legal support.

During the counselling a workable plan was evolved jointly by the inmates and the counsellor to help the inmate to overcome the issues bothering them. Accordingly, house visits, phone calls were made and counselling was given to the children and the in-laws to accept the inmates and also to support her legally. Based on the need, visits were made to the children homes by coordinating with the Child Welfare Committees of the respective districts, concerned home in-charges and jail authorities. Visits were also made to the houses of the inmates wherever necessary.

In addition, the skills of the inmates were identified and they were encouraged to make use of the skill based training courses that are provided by Nirmaan organisation within the prison.

During the reporting period, 1252 counselling sessions were held to the convicts (249), under trailers (868) and detenues (135). Of these total 1252 sessions, 539 counselling sessions (convicts – 41, under trailers – 478 and detenues – 20) were held for the first time, while 713 were repeated sessions (convicts – 208, under trailers – 390, and detenues – 115).

Repeated sessions were provided to the inmates to elicit right and reliable information as they have a tendency of giving false or cooked up information during counselling session. Some of them tend to give a pathetic picture about their family and request the counsellors to support them. Few others are very much depressed with their situation and not in a state to accept the reality about the murder / suicide incident on which they are arrested and do not open up. Hence, in both the cases, continuous and repeated counselling sessions were held to probe into the facts and to bring back the depressed inmates to the normal state.

- C. House visits** – Facilitating and creating an enabling environment in the respective families and neighbourhood of the inmates, for their acceptance is one of the main objectives of the project. Based on the need, home visits were planned in the cases where the inmates are not accepted by their family members, especially children. During the visits, the family members, the extended family and the neighbourhood were sensitized to accept the women back into the family and community, so that she can lead a happy normal life after her release. The family members, especially the children were motivated to visit the inmate in the prison. In some cases, more than one visit was

required to counsel and sensitize the family members and the children of the inmates. During the reporting period, 19 home visits were made to the houses of the inmates to enable the inmates to reunite with their families.

D. Institutional visits: Apart from home visits, the counsellors also visit different institutions like police stations, observation homes, children homes, schools, courts etc to support the inmates according to their need. During the reporting period 17 institutional visits were made for facilitating reunion of the concerned inmates with their families.

Besides, to support the needy inmates with information or referral the counsellors have visited four agencies / organisations during the reporting period. These include 1) TSSACS office to request for conducting awareness session on HIV AIDS prevention and control, 2) Saathi Organisation, as it is one of the partner NGO to TSSACS, they were given the responsibility to organise the awareness session in the prison, hence a follow up visit was made, 3) New Hope De-addiction Centre, to know and pass on the details to the needy inmates, 4) Amma Old Age paid home to refer the needy inmates and their family members.

In all, 30 inmates got benefitted with the visits to their houses or children's homes or schools or other concerned institutions.

E. Placing a survivor in Shelter Home:

i) A survivor name Tunti Datta is a native of Assam. After her release, she had 2 days of time before boarding the train. Hence, she was placed in a shelter home as she had no one locally to provide her shelter and later supported in boarding the train. She was also provided with Rs.2000/- to meet food and other expenses till she reaches her home town.

ii) Another inmate named Anamika hailing from North Eastern State got arrested in NDPS Act and imprisoned for 6 months was placed in the shelter home after her release on bail, before heading to home. Initially her mother was informed about her arrest and the status of her case. Her mother expressed that she cannot come to Hyderabad since it is far away from her native place. The counsellor also supported Anamika in contacting her cousin who lives in Bangalore and the advocate regarding her bail. Anamika approached the Advocate of prison and got bail. Her cousin helped in paying the bail amount and she got released on 28th March 2019. She approached the counsellor for shelter and support in reaching her cousin in Bangalore. The counsellor placed Anamika

in a Shelter home and later she spoke with her advocate who informed that she was given some amount by Anamika's cousin to help her travel to Bangalore and further handed over the money to Anamika at shelter home. Hence, after the court hearing on 2nd April Anamika left to her cousin's place.

F. Support to the Children of Inmates

1. **Joining of children in Children Homes:** During this period, 3 children of 2 inmates, named Godavari, a released prisoner and another convict named Gowri, were joined in school through the Child Welfare Committee, Hyderabad. These 3 children were recent school dropouts and the inmates approached for support.
2. **Child mulakhat:** The children of the inmates were brought to Prison to see their mothers and spend some time during summer and Dussera vacations.
3. **Other Support:** Given whether condition during this winter sweaters and monkey caps were provided to 18 children of the inmates who resides in the prison. These children do not have warm clothes. Few of them were young babies suffering from coldness and they were provided with woollen pants also. The inmates felt very happy and appreciated the gesture.
4. **Input sessions:** In order to create healthy environment, constructive use of leisure time and to motivate the inmates to develop positive attitude towards life, input sessions were organised in the prison. During the reporting period, 14 input sessions were organised on varied topics.
5. **Phone calls to the families of the inmates:** Phone calls were made to the families of the inmates for two, three reasons. One is, the families are not aware of the arrest of the inmate and is critical to inform them over phone about their arrest. Second, none of the family members visit the inmates for long time for various reasons and in such cases calling them over phone and convincing them to visit the inmate also becomes critical. Third, in some cases the children of the inmates are not in safe custody or not attending school, and in such cases also it is crucial to call the family members and pursue the issue to join the children in schools / hostels. During the reporting period, **583** phone calls were made to support the inmates. The family members were informed about their arrest, while few others were motivated to visit their family members in the jail, and yet few others to bring the children to the prison to show them to the inmate. Subsequently, family members of many of the inmates have visited and the inmates received support.

6. **Newsletter:** The monthly newsletter is being developed on regular basis. Some of the inmates expressed that this has been an avenue for them to ventilate their inner feelings and find pleasure in creative activity. Many more inmates were showing interest to get involved in the preparation of the Prison Newsletter.
7. **Overall direction of impact and the numbers benefitted**

No. of counselling sessions completed	1252
No. of sessions with convicts	249
No. of sessions with under trailers & detenues	868 & 135
No. of inmates received 1 st counselling	539
No. of inmates received repeated counselling	713
No. of home & institutional visits made	56
No. of children of the inmates identified and rejoined/joined in school	3
No. of inmates whose children were brought to the prison for Child Mulakhat	4
No. of children brought to the prison	6 children (3 of them twice)
No. of inmates placed in Shelter home	2
No. of inmates received phone support	583
No. of input sessions conducted	14



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EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENTS'

Bhumika also focus on prevention of early and child marriages by empowering the adolescents' and sensitizing the families and the communities in more than 100 villages. One of the key strategies is to collectivise the adolescent boys and girls and building their capacities to evolve as peer leaders. Another key strategy in this intervention is working closely with the line departments and trying to strengthen the capacities of the concerned to ensure an immediate support system to the adolescents for accessing their rights and making their choices.

Project Objectives:

The present project will focus on:

1. To develop perspective and capacity building of DWCD functionaries of the selected mandals to look at girls empowerment in a holistic manner
2. To enable the AWWs to build convergence between various institutions / functionaries addressing girls issues, viz., girls' health (ASHAs), girls education (SSA and KGBV link) and domestic violence with a view to make the implementing agency realize the value of investing in girls' agency to prevent domestic violence.
3. To give this a bottom up push and community support by building linkages and networks with Anganwadi center, ASHA worker, Mahila Samatha Sanghams, IKP groups and Schools in the selected area.
4. To address girls' needs in the context of helpline.

Activities Conducted:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Identification and Strengthening of model villages through: | 8. Meetings with Sarpanches |
| - Village level Meetings with Gram Panchayat Members (VRO's, Panchayati Secretaries, Sarpanch, Ward Members, MPTC, MPP, ZPTC | 9. Women's Day Meeting VO, MMS |
| - Rallies | 10. Gender Training to Balala Dandu |
| - Gram Panchayat Level Meetings & Committee members | 11. Trainings to Anganwadi Teachers |
| 2. VO Meetings | 12. Trainings to the newly joined members in Balala Dandu |
| 3. Bala Dandu Meetings | 13. Trainings to School Teachers |
| 4. Adolescent Boys and Girls Meeting | 14. Mandal Convergence Meeting |
| 5. Village level Meetings | 15. Peer Educators Training |
| 6. Gramasabhas | 16. Institutional Visits |
| 7. VO, MMS members Gender Training | 17. Orientation to Balala Dandu |
| | 18. Observation of Girl's Day on 24 th January |
| | 19. Nutrition Abhiyan Programme |
| | 20. PLA and Evaluation Visit |

- 21. Camps on Local Religious Celebrations
- 22. Workshop with Youth
- 23. Follow up of Child Marriages

- 24. Cluster level Mela & Observation of 14th November
- 25. Mandal level Mela

Results of the Key Activities:

- 10 rallies were held in 10 villages with 1,660 participants in which there were school students, teachers, Asha workers, villagers, Anganwadi teachers on creating awareness on the issues of School, the ECM. The Head Masters took the responsibility of holding Awareness Programmes at the community level. In an Upper Primary School, the Head Master suggested to organise regular gender sensitization sessions to the students.
- In 5 villages, village level meetings were held with 124 Youth members. They are now cooperative and participating in all the activities of Bhumika and supporting us. There were about 12 Volunteers identified for the project CPAN (UNICEF Project)
- In 5 villages, there were VO meetings participated by the staff. There were about 123 participants in these meetings. The women responded that, they could complain on Bhumika Helpline or the staff if they come across any ECFMs.
- In 35 villages, meetings were held with 1008 Balala Sangham children. The Balala Dandu children took a pledge to conduct their programmes through Balala Dandu. They had fixed a meeting date, 1 day on every 2nd week there will be meeting of Balala Dandu. Resolution of the Balala Dandu to maintain a record and set up goal of Balala Dandu.
- The Balala Dandu children are now able to raise their voices in the family and prevent ECFMs.
- The Caste Elders in Village level meetings shared that, by attending Bhumika meetings they have learnt many things and observe changes in few of the villagers.
- In 12 villages, Village level meetings were conducted in Model Gram Panchayats with participation of 332 community members. The Parents of the children were informed of prevention of child marriages and violence against women and children.
- Gender trainings were conducted to VO and MMS members in 2 mandals and from 10 villages, 36 members were part of the training in 2 mandals. The Cluster Coordinators assured to discuss about the issues of women and children in their regular meetings and take role in reducing the same is their responsibility.
- 165 adolescents of Balala Dandu were trained on Gender equality, available support systems and their role. The girls expressed that, they will study equal to boys and participate in the meetings on par with the boys.
- Gracing the Occasion of International Women's Day, a meeting was held with the VO, MMS members and were oriented on the rights and acts of the women. The gender committee members were given inputs on gender equality. 2 meetings were conducted in

- 2 mandals and 135 members have participated at mandal level meetings.
- 4 mandal level meetings were held with 203 newly elected Sarpanches and Ward Members discussing on their role in prevention of Violence against women and girls in the villages. The Elected Representatives resolved for formation of Child Protection Committees in all the villages.
 - 5 Trainings were conducted with 165 Anganwadi Teachers on understanding Violence Against Women and girls, support of AWWs and their role in ending VAW.
 - The AWWs took the responsibility of creating awareness among the women in the villages. Watch Committees and Child Protection Committees will be formed.
 - They will keep an eye on the unsafe areas and ensure safety to women and girls.
 - In 8 villages, 8 Balala Dandu are formed with 197 adolescents membership. Each Balala Dandu titled their group on the name of eminent leaders.
 - 2 Trainings were conducted to School Teachers and 72 Teachers were participated in the trainings. The Teachers took the responsibility of giving freedom to the children for bringing changes in the students. Allotted a separate day every week for orienting the students. The Teachers also took responsibility of maintaining cleanliness in School surroundings towards safety of children.
 - 2 Mandal Convergence meetings were conducted with 50 officers at the mandal level in various departments. It was assured to maintain safety in public transportation that, boys take the back door and girls the front door of the bus and no teasing.
 - 1 Training was conducted to the Peer Educators for 2 days and there was participation of 37 members from 17 villages.
 - On 24th January International Girl's Day was celebrated with 210 participants from Students, Teachers, Asha Workers, Anganwadi Teachers, Villagers, Volunteers.
 - Institutional Visits were held for the Balala Dandu children to the Government agencies and institutions at district level to have a practical learning and aware of the services and facilities with all the departments. 63 children were representing 31 villages.
 - There was an orientation to the Balala Dandu children to have an awareness and understanding between the old and new children in Balala Dandu, their roles and responsibilities. 276 Children have participated in 7 orientations held at village level in 2 project mandals.
 - Nutrition Abhiyan Meeting was participated by the staff held by the ICDS department.
 - PLAs were conducted in 20 villages of 2 mandals – identified the school dropouts, issues of child labour, seasonal dropouts, impact of TV serials and smart phones on children.
 - Participated in local regional traditional festival "Bahaji Jatara Camp" and IEC material was distributed creating an awareness on issues of Violence against women and children and prevention of ECFMs.
 - 2 mandal level Workshops were conducted to youth members of about

86. They were discussed on Bhumika, Project activities, objectives, role of youth in combating VAW, ECFMS, etc.

- 1 Cluster level Mela was conducted with the Children of Balala Dandu. They were informed about the problems VAW and gender discrimination. There were about 512 participants from 39 villages.
- 1 Mandal level Mela was conducted constituting the Balala Dandu children from 2 project mandals for 2 days. There were about 290 children participated.
- There was a Meeting held with the Balala Dandu children to know the

changes among the children's attitudes and discussed about the children's rights, the concerns and challenges of the children.

- There was a meeting held with the adolescent girls whose ECFMs were made to stopped / postponed.
- There was a meeting held with the officials and shared about the project interventions for the last 3 years and the success of the Balala Dandu and other activities. 20 ECMs were made to postpone / stop.



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ENGAGING IN COUNSELING THE OFFENDERS OF PUBLIC HARASSMENT (CAUGHT BY SHE TEAMS POLICE)

SHE TEAMS is a Telangana State Police initiative which is one of its kind in India. An initiative to make the city a safer place for women in Telangana, completed a year with a tremendous success. The SHE TEAMS in the Telangana is divided into two – Hyderabad and Cyberabad. The She Teams, Cyberabad got launched on 24.12.2014 and is currently headed by ACP Srinivas Rao, along with T Usharani, ACP heading the east zone and M Snehitha Heading the west zone. It has identified 350 hotspots(places of public where there is a huge gathering of women) and has 60 teams deployed to catch the perpetrators of public harassment. Women are encouraged to reach out for help by *dialling 100* or by *messaging on their what's app number (9490617444)* or through their *Facebook page* or by *leaving an email on sheteam.cyberabad@gmail.com*.

The police are vigilant the hot spots with a spy camera and catch perpetrators in action. When a perpetrator is caught, a petty case U/s 70 (b)/(c) of Cyberabad City Police Act or an FIR is booked. It is made mandatory for every offender to attend the counselling session along with a parent or spouse. The team collects the photos, finger prints, interrogation report, id proofs and contact numbers of the offenders. The counselling is scheduled to happen every Saturday in the premises of police Commissionerate, Cyberabad. The counselling takes place in the presence of the parents// spouses. The offenders are produced in the court and either made to pay fine or given imprisonment. Through counselling the counsellors attempt to understand the offender and talk to them about respecting women and the consequences under NIRBHAYA ACT. If the counsellor in that brief period of time notices any other problem she would suggest the parent or the spouse the method of dealing with the problem.

The Cyberabad police, Bhumika Women's Collective and Synchrony Financial got together, to give effective counselling to the offenders. the goals of every counselling session are to understand the nature of offense, to communicate the right and wrong behaviour towards women, respecting women, clearly explain the consequences of the Nirbhaya Act, and also make them realise their larger goals.

A. Counselling to the offenders caught by the SHE Teams:

During the year 2018-19, Cyberabad and Rachakonda Police Commissionerates organised 28 sessions to counsel the offenders caught by the SHE Teams police. Of these

28 sessions, 13 sessions were organised by Cyberabad Police Commissionerate and 15 by Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The counsellors from Bhumika were deputed to provide counselling to the offenders and their family members.

No. of offenders counselled: A total of 650 offenders were counselled during the reporting period, out of which 311 offenders were caught by Cyberabad SHE Teams and 339 offenders by Rachakonda SHE Teams.

Age and occupation of the offenders: The offenders were mostly in the age group of 14 to 55 years. In Cyberabad a 74 year old man was brought for counselling for demanding sexual favours from a woman. Many of the offenders were minors and brought for counselling. They were either students or dropouts from colleges while few of them were working. The offenders other than students were from different occupational backgrounds which include, self employed, private job holders, electricians, daily wage labourers, construction workers, photographers, government job holders, auto drivers, film junior artists, software employees, tailors, an animator, sales men, cab drivers, a lecturer, 2 RTC bus conductors and a person from postal department.

Nature of offence: The offenders brought for counselling were caught by the SHE Teams based on public vigilance operation by the SHE teams police, the complaints received through WhatsApp messages and at the police stations. Majority of the cases were related to i) public harassment, ii) stalking girls and women in the name of love, and iii) workplace harassment.



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INTERVENTIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Bhumika has expanded its scope of work to the State of Andhra Pradesh very recently, from 1st November, 2017 with the support of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, with major thrust on ending violence against girls and women. In collaboration with State Police Department, Bhumika is establishing Special Cells for Women and Children (Support Centres) within the premises of Police Stations – one in II Town Police Station, Kothapet, Vijayawada and the other in Women Police Station, Red Cross Building, Seshayyametla, Rajamahendravaram to support the survivors of violence approaching the Police Stations. We also envisage working with the community in Urban slums and also in some Educational Institutions to make aware and sensitize the community and the students for a violence free society.

1. Functioning of Support Centres:

The Special Cells are established (1) in Mahila Rakshna Kendram, Women Police Station, Labbipet, Vijayawada, Krishna district and (2) in Red Cross Society, Women Police Station, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari district on 13th December, 2017. 2 Social Workers (Counselors) are being appointed and working from 10 am to 5.30 pm.

During the Reporting period, 2,141 women approached the Special Cells (Support Centres). Among them, 837 were newly registered and 75 were one time intervention. 887 ongoing cases were also received support through the Special Cells.

Legal Guidance: 202 women were provided free legal guidance by the Legal Advisor and after the guidance, some were linked with local advocates, some were referred to DV case, and some for filing FIR in the local police stations.

2. Women Helpline:

Women Helpline is being in function in Vijayawada Support Centre from 1st June 2019. The Helpline is functioning in collaboration with the Police Department and is located in Women Police Station, Vijayawada. The Helpline (1091) is for women and girls in distress. From June-October 2019, there were received a total of 2,339 calls on helpline.

3. Awareness Programmes in Selected Urban Communities:

There are 2 Field Coordinators appointed for implementing field level activities in the selected communities of the project area. 1 in Vijayawada and 1 in Rajamahendravaram. The Field Coordinators have done a quick baseline survey (households coming under the purview of 1 Anganwadi Centre) to know about the conditions of the communities, facilities available, social status, situations of the girls and the women in 2 more new areas Ranigarithota in Vijayawada and Seethampeta in Rajamahendravaram. They were also able to identify the issues of violence against women in the communities.

4. Awareness Programmes in Educational Institutions:

2 Awareness Programmes were conducted 1 in Rajamahendravaram and 1 in Vijayawada with 695 students in 3 Educational institutions which are located in our project target areas. The Students were explained about Bhumika, the project, rights of children, need for protection of Child rights, acts related to children, gender equality, formation of gender desk, Committee for Protection of Child Rights, role of children and teachers, etc. were discussed

5. Sensitization Sessions were conducted in 4 communities in the project area wherein 202 participants (Women, Adolescent Girls and Men) were part of these sessions. These sessions are to be conducted 3 trainings in each community spread across the year and during the reporting period, 4 were planned and completed.

6. Visits to Organisations and Departments:

Visits were made by the Social Workers (Counselors) as well as the Project Coordinator and the Field Coordinators to introduce about ourselves, work of Bhumika in the project in addressing VAW and the support of the respective organisations and departments like Police Stations, Government Hospital, State Home, One Stop Centres, Shelter Homes, Municipal Commissioner, Childline, Child Welfare Committees, NGOs, Court, Legal Services Authority, Project Director, Women Development and Child Welfare, DGP office, Schools, etc. Some visits were also made in support to the women survivors.

7. Participation in meetings of other organisations and Departments:

During the reporting period, the staff have participated in the meetings of Government departments and local NGOs on different topics. The participation in these programmes gave a platform to Bhumika to introduce about our activities, the project interventions, awareness on the support systems under our project, develop a network with the organisations and convergence with the departments.

8. Discussion with the Panchayat Members ICDS functionaries, Health Workers and Zilla Samakhya Members of SHGs (through Participation in their regular meetings):

The Field Coordinator have participated in 2 meetings of Health Workers, 2 meetings of Anganwadi Workers Meetings (ICDS) and 4 meetings of SHG members in the local community in Rajamahendravaram.



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DOCUMENTATION

During the year 2018-19, we have printed the following IEC material was printed and used for dissemination purpose.

- i. Posters on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- ii. A set of Posters on Criminal Law (Amendment Act), 2013.
- iii. A set of Posters on Early and Child Marriages
- iv. Booklets on Early and Child Marriages
- v. Booklets on Support Systems for Women and Children in both the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

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SUCCESSSES – CHALLENGES

Challenges:

- Few survivors are very much depressed and were not ready to take up any step despite being counselled several times.
- Even in the needy cases, the survivors are not willing to file case against the respondents.
- Few of the survivors were not ready to take the support of other support systems and expect us to support them
- Few survivors approached the Helpline complaining about the pendency of the maintenance cases filed by them in the Police stations and asked to support them in getting orders.
- Few survivors, who have psychological issues phone the helpline and speak about their hallucinations. They often phone several times and request to support them.
- Lack of safe shelters within the reach of the survivors; be it geographically or economically, and is limiting us from referring the survivors to the respective homes.
- Non availability of free service de-addiction centres for rehabilitation
- Taking time for doing sessions in the same colleges due to different external reasons, viz., elections, accreditation team visits to colleges and so on.
- There was an increase in the number of cases received due to availability of FIR facility in the Women Police Station from the last month leading to referral of large number of survivors to the support centre for counselling. Since there is only one counsellor in the centre dealing with many survivors, the time for counselling is not sufficient. The survivors were made to wait for their turn to come. It also led to huge pendency in documentation of the cases.

- Some of the inmates give false information and do not reveal the truth. They expect immediate support by explaining pathetic situation about their family and request the counsellors to support them. In such cases it takes time to strategise a plan for rehabilitation of the inmate as multiple counselling sessions have to be conducted to elicit the right information.
- Few of the inmates are very much depressed with their situation and difficult to accept the reality about the murder/ suicide incident on which they are arrested.
- Few of the inmates approach the counsellors requesting to support them in contacting their families, but they couldn't recollect proper address. The counsellors have to identify their homes or their relatives or the children homes based on the landmarks or clues given by them. In such situation, it is very difficult to identify the homes by the counsellors during the visit.
- The inmates are engaged in different other activities and tasks assigned to them by the prison authorities. Hence, many of them are not available to the input sessions.
- Few of the inmates do not show interest in attending the sessions as they are very much depressed with their situation.
- Due to cleaning works for remand prisoners, they are called and forced to leave from the middle of the session, hence are unable to sit till the end of the session.
- Some of the inmates rely on their friends who don't show interest, and request the counsellors to convince them to visit them in jail and arrange for bail.
- Some inmates request repeatedly to bring their children multiple times which becomes very difficult to oblige or even to reject their request and make them understand that it is not possible.
- Understanding gender equality among the youth and the School Teachers is a big challenge and there is a need to sensitize them.
- Increasing School drop outs due to lack of awareness to parents on education.
- Impact of media on children in elopements and love marriages at an early age.
- No action is being taken against the culprits who are performing ECFMs by the Government entrusted members like CMPOs. The parents are performing the ECFMs secretly during night times and going to the neighbouring mandals, which are close to their place of residence.

Successes:

- Supporting to the Survivors of Violence through Helpline and Support Centre.
- Prevention of Child Marriages – complaints of Child Marriages were made to stop by informing the concerned prohibition officers and with the support of the other project team of Bhumika.
- Trainings to the Police officials in the State and making them sensitive towards women issues.
- Increased request for Resource Facility from different organisations and states to train their staff on Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act.
- Taking support of Police – 100 mainly in House Arrest cases.
- With the Advocacy efforts, Bhumika have been nominated as Member in different Committees both in Government and Non-Government agencies.
- Forum members active and responsiveness towards the issues of VAW in the State.
- Ms. K.Satyavati, the Project Director received Award of "Dignity March" in solidarity to the Survivors of VAW and Sexual Assault in the Country.

Case Studies / Success Stories:

Case Study-1: On 5th April 2018, a call was received from a survivor named Kavitha (name changed) from Bondugala village, Rajapeta mandal of Yadadri district. She is 23 years old. She had love marriage with Prasad in 2012. They have 2 sons, aged 5 and 4 years old respectively. The survivor is 2 months pregnant now. She and her husband were happy for 2 years. But later she got to know that her husband is into extra marital relationship with one of her co-sisters. She got disturbed and told the other family members of both sides but her in-laws abused and ill treated her. From then, she and her husband started having disputes between them. Her husband started to abuse her physically, economically and sexually. He does not give money for household expenses and if she insists him for anything he harasses her physically and mentally. Even her in-laws started to harass her. Therefore, she came to her mother's place, who resides in the same village.

Her husband continued to harass her; he used to come to her natal home in a drunken state and abuses her physically and sexually. He had hit her father on his head, when he intervened to rescue the survivor and it paralysed the father. Police complaint was lodged against him many times and was imprisoned twice. The survivor also approached a television program called "*Batuku Jatka Bandi*" for counselling but her husband did not change his attitude. She saw the Helpline number in a newspaper and called for support in bringing change in the attitude of her husband. According to her request, she was referred to Sakhi Center. At the Sakhi Center, she and her husband along with her in-laws were counselled. Both of them came into terms with each other and got reconciled. The respondent was good to her for a couple of weeks but the survivor noticed him speaking to her co-sisters, with whom she suspects extra marital relationship of her husband. When raised the matter, the whole family had beaten her. She left to her natal home and again phoned the Helpline and expressed that she had decided to come out of the village to live away from her husband. She had asked to provide her temporary shelter as her parents are also not in a situation to support her economically.

Based on her request, the counsellors made a visit to her village to bring her to Hyderabad and keep her in a shelter home. After picking her up from her house, her husband followed the vehicle. Hence, the counsellors approached the local police in Rajapeta and informed them the situation. The police told that the survivor had already filed so many cases on her husband and they tried to counsel both of them, but they both did not listen even to the police. The respondent also came to the police station. Hence, both of them were counselled both individually and jointly in the police station. The survivor told that she will stay with her husband only if he moves out of his parent's house due to the extra marital relationship with her co-sister.

On the other hand, the respondent said that the survivor imagines so much about her future. She does not mingle well with his family members and suspects him every minute. A joint session was held and both the survivor and the respondent couldn't come in terms with each other. The survivor wants to live in Hyderabad but the respondent expressed that he is not literate and can only work in his farm and hence cannot come to Hyderabad. He said that he should also take care of his aged parents. The counsellor tried to make her understand the cost of living and the difficulties she has to face in Hyderabad. The counsellors also spoke with the respondent's father. He asked for sometime to construct a house for them to live separately in the same village. But the survivor did not agree to it. Based on her request, she was brought to Hyderabad along with her two sons and placed in a Shelter Home. Her husband and in-laws were told to give the survivor some time and attend the counselling at the Support Centre. But the respondent continued to phone the helpline many times and requested to send back the survivor to the village. While staying at the home, the survivor suffered with severe pain in her stomach and decided to abort her pregnancy as she feels that there was some problem. She was told to take a decision with her husband after the counselling.

A date was scheduled for counselling and the respondent was informed the same but he did not come. The survivor then asked to send her back to her village to get over the pregnancy and expressed that she will come back again.

Based on her request, she was taken back to her village and linked to the women police station. The inspector of the Women Police Station told her to approach her if her husband troubles her. The counsellors also updated the situation to Rajapeta Police Station and requested to support the survivor. The police at the station said that they will take action if the respondent harasses her. The survivor phoned the Helpline again and told that she had miscarriage due to lack of Haemoglobin. She told that she had decided to join in degree course in distance mode and asked to support her. She was informed about the universities that provide courses in distance mode and was told to find some work instead of depending on her parents or husband in meeting her needs to which she agreed. She later phoned the Helpline and told that she had joined in a institution.

Case Study -2: Rescue of Elderly Woman from House Arrest

A survivor named Uma (name changed) phoned the Helpline and expressed that she is harassed by her elder son, daughter in law. She got the Helpline number from one of her friends. She is 65 years old retired employee. She has three children- 2 sons and 1 daughter. Her younger son and daughter live in abroad with their families. She stays with her elder son. Both her elder son and daughter-in-law are private employees. The caller gives a part of her pension to them. Her elder son asked her to transfer her house on to his name as they are taking care of her. But the

caller resisted and told them very firmly that she will gift the house to her grandson born to her younger son also along with them. From then, her son and daughter in law started to ill treat her. Her son uses bad words and abuses her verbally. Even her 12 year old grand-daughter, who was once very affectionate to her started to humiliate her based on the environment in the house. She left the house twice and stayed at old age home, but she came back to her house, based on her son's request. One day, there was a big fight in the house over food and the caller was abused verbally. She even got hurt when her son pushed her away during the argument. Her son suspected that she might again go away from the house and house arrested her. They had locked the house from outside while they went to work. After two days, he stopped locking the house, but told the neighbours to keep a check on her.

With this situation, the caller decided to move out of the house and asked the counsellor at the Helpline to support her in finding a house. The counsellor told her about the availability of old age homes but she expressed that she cannot live in the old age homes as they are not properly managed. She was given the details of the best paid homes but she was reluctant to stay in the Homes but asked to help her in finding a house on rent.

Based on her request, she was linked to Ananda Services, a paid agency that supports aged. They accepted to look for a house but asked for a week time. The survivor was told the same and till then she asked to support to place her in a temporary shelter home. Though she was asked to wait till a house was found, she doesn't want to stay at her son's place as he will not let her go if he get to know about her decision. Hence, accordingly to place her in a temporary shelter home, the counsellor approached the government run Women Helpline as the survivor is a senior citizen and the other Shelter Homes will not be able to admit her. The Women Helpline responded positively and linked the case to the Ranga Reddy, Sakhi Center. The Sakhi Center team responded positively and agreed to provide Shelter for 5 days. The same thing was conveyed to the survivor and she accepted it.

As the arrangements for her temporary shelter is kept ready, the counsellors visited her house at Macha Bollaram and rescued her. The Survivor had packed her clothes and other utilities. The neighbours observed her and intervened but they had not stopped her. After rescuing her, she was taken to the local police station and the police were informed that she is moving out of the house on her own will. A written letter was also given to the police. Later she was brought to the Sakhi Centre for temporary Shelter. She was provided Shelter at the Centre for 5 days and the Sakhi team supported her in identifying a house. She was then shifted to the rented house. Follow up is made and it was learnt that the survivor is happy. She is in continuous dialogue with her younger son and daughter.

Case Study-3: Savitha (name changed), Shabad, Harijanawada (Released Prisoner): She was an under-trailer as her mother-in-law committed suicide 2 yrs back and mentioned Savitha's name in the dying declaration. She and her husband were not aware of it until she was arrested which was about 18 months after the incident. During the counselling session with her, she narrated the suicide incident of her mother-in-law that her in-laws fought with each other for property and as a result she committed suicide. But during the death declaration, her mother-in-law told the magistrate about the quarrel with the inmate and hence the inmate was arrested. From then, the relationship between her and her husband worsened. She was in the prison for 4 months but her husband did not come to the prison to meet her nor arranged bail. Based on the discussion, the counsellor phoned her husband many times to make him understand the situation of the inmate. Finally he got convinced and came to the prison to meet her. Meanwhile the inmate's natal family members arranged bail for her. After the release, the inmate stayed in her house along with her husband and father-in-law. But her husband did not talk to her properly. She was left alone in the house. She felt isolated and depressed. Even the neighbours stopped talking to her.

With that situation, the inmate phoned the counsellors and shared her issue. Based on the issue, visit was made to the inmate's house. Savitha was given emotional support and strengthened to help her handle her issue. Her husband who was not at home at the time of the visit came later and expressed that he is busy with his work and hence he couldn't spend much of his time. He also expressed that the inmate started to fight with him for not arranging bail. The counsellors tried to sensitize him to understand her state of mind and asked him to spend some time with her regularly and give her the confidence that they both are a team. He responded positively. They were told to attend counselling at the Support Centre for Women run by Bhumika at Women Protection Cell, CID Office or approach Bhumika Helpline. Later, the counsellors also spoke with few of the neighbours and tried to build solidarity among them and especially with Savitha. They spoke about the advantages of being together, sharing each other's happiness and sorrows. They reacted positively. Savitha thanked the counsellors for the support. Her husband had arranged an advocate to help her fight the case.

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NETWORKING, ADVOCACY & LOBBYING

A. Bhumika's Membership in Internal Complaints Committees under PoSHAW & other Committees:

- i. Cherec International School requested Ms. Satyavati to be part of their Internal Complaints Committee which was recently formed. They have around 500 employees. They have asked Ms. Satyavati to guide the team in implementation of the PoSHAW Act and its provisions as per the Act.
- ii. Ms. Satyavati has been nominated as external member in the ICC of the NTR Trust & Heritage Foods Ltd. It is an agency working in both the Telugu speaking States. They serve in the areas of health, education, empowerment & livelihoods.
- iii. Ms. Prasanthi is a member in the ICC of Sam Agritech Limited constituted recently. They do exports of processed fruits and it is located in Medchal. Their workforce comprised of around 100 women.
- iv. Ms. Prasanthi being the external member of the ICC of BHEL, she had conducted two awareness programmes on PoSHAW Act to the staff of BHEL – one for operational staff and the other for hospital staff during March & May 2019.

A session was organized to the support staff of SVP National Police Academy in July 2019. There is a huge gathering at the awareness campaign on POSHAW organised by the National Police Academy.

In the role of membership in various departments and agencies, so that there would be a scope of spreading the perspective and expertise of Bhumika on the aspects of gender based violence and promoting women's rights.

- B. Awareness Campaign in Indresham Village: On 10th May 2019, an awareness campaign was conducted in the weaker section colony of Indresham Village, Patancheruvu, Sanga Reddy district. Members from Rainbow home, CWC & Sakhi of Sanga reddy, Sarpanch and Ward members were the guests in the campaign. There were around 50 villagers gathered. The awareness campaign was started by sharing about Bhumika's work first and shared about support centres of Bhumika. Later, information was disseminated about the support systems like Sakhi centres, Shelter homes, CWC, LSA. Discussion also happened on Domestic Violence Act.

Ms. Prasanthi further shared that after the meeting in the village, father of a minor girl who eloped with her boy friend approached us and requested for support in tracing their daughter. They shared that before elopement, they had fights among their families and she was kept in a shelter home by the Police after filing FIR. They both eloped from the shelter home and a missing case was filed. But the police did not take any action. On suggestion they visited our support centre in women protection cell. The parents were taken to the higher officials and the case was moved forward and they found both the girl and the boy within few days. They filed a POCSO case on the boy which was not appropriate and opined that there is a misuse of the acts and laws. Responding to it Ms. Rachana said that the POCSO Act is re-victimizing the victim citing the example of Yadagirigutta case where the rights of the children were exploited.

- C. Capacity Building Session to Women Police: Ms. Satyavati shared that on 14th May 2019, an input session was conducted to the women staff from 36 police stations of Cyberabad Commissionerate on “Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013”. The guests were Mr. Sajjanar – Commissioner of Police, Ms. Anasuya – DCP, Ms. Indira – Adl. DCP and Ms. Sunitha – Circle Inspector. SHE team members also participated in the session. Around 230 members participated in the programme. The session was on the history of this Act, about ICC and LCC, the complaint procedure and the provisions available to the survivors of sexual harassment at workplace and so on. Helpline cards and material were distributed to the participants. Through this we reached out to all the police stations in the Cyberabad Commissionerate.
- D. Orientation to Margadarshaks: Ms. Satyavati shared that on 15 June 2019 an orientation about Bhumika Women’s Collective was organised to the Margadarshaks – a team created by SCSC (Society for Cyberabad Security Council). It is a forum created by the IT / ITES industry and Cyberabad Police Commissionerate together to take care of Safety and Security at Cyberabad. There were around 30 participants. All of them were software employees. This programme is aimed to provide support for every working woman in Cyberabad and Rachakonda IT Corridors in seeking police and legal support in a confident manner. They have regular interaction with law-enforcing authorities to help the distressed person to resolve issues. Margadarshaks have so far been able to help many women to reach out to the police to seek help in cases of domestic abuse, cyber harassment, stalking. Most of them have now become volunteers to Bhumika Helpline and started promoting the Helpline number.
- E. 3rd anniversary of Rachakonda Commissionerate: Ms. Satyavati shared that on 29th June 2019 celebrations have been organised by **Rachakonda Police commissionerate** on the occasion of its 3rd Anniversary and she was part of the meeting on the invitation of the Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mr. Mahesh Bhagawat. There were also SHE Team Psychological Counsellor Ms. Vasavi, SHE Team members, SHE FOR HER team, Margadarshak team, ACP Ms. Saleema, Addl.

DCP Ms. Shilpa, members of Infosys, Genpact, Accenture, Synchrony Financials, Cyber Crimes ACP and many others were part of the celebrations.

The commissioner appreciated the role of Bhumika in counselling the offenders caught by SHE Teams that helped in reducing the repeated offenders. Helpline number was shared with all the participants while briefly explaining about the activities of Bhumika Women's Collective.

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MAJOR LESSONS LEARNT

- Brainstorming to the counselors to explore different ways of counseling to make understand the people the various dimensions of understanding each other and developing respect towards each other for a happy married life.
- Increased ways for networking and formation of forum and agenda of the forum along with DV Act.
- By collaboration with other organizations and institutions and by providing resource support, Helpline number was publicized and there is a possibility of strengthening the forum, networking, spreading Bhumika's perspective and expertise to the grassroots through the forum.

Able to understand the various changing trends in violence and the usage of technology like social media, etc.

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IMPACT

- Opportunities for membership in Internal Complaints Committees in Government, Non-Government and Corporate agencies.
- Increased appeals for Resource Facility on concepts of gender sensitization, Women's Rights, Entitlements and various Acts.
- Transformation of capacities to the grassroots functionaries and organizations to enhance change in the society.
- Created a platform for advocacy efforts