

# **BHUMIKA WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE**



## **Annual Report**

**2019-2020**

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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 Helpline for Women in Distress (1800 425 2908), which is first of its kind in the State. We also run Support Centres for Women in distress, located in Women Protection Cell –

CID office, Hyderabad; Women Police Station, Karimnagar; Special Prison for Women, Chanchalguda; Women Police Station, Gachibowli; and Women Police Station, Saroornagar, Hyderabad in Telangana State; Women Police Station, Labbipet, Vijayawada and Women Police Station, Rajamahendravaram of Andhra Pradesh State.

With these interventions, Bhumika has reached to more than 70,000 women and girls across both the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. They were provided with support (Counseling, 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.

The Support Centre in the interest of women try to sensitize their men and family members, negotiate for ending violence and empower women through counseling to access their rights.

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 also engaged in counseling the offenders caught by SHE Teams (State Police initiative to keep a check on eve-teasing / public harassment. The offenders are counseled in the presence of their parents / family members. Through counseling, the counselors 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 towards concentrating on their studies / career; improve family's situation and contribute towards a violence free society.

Bhumika is also operating 2 One Stop Centres (SakhiCentres) in Karimnagar and Rajanna Siricilla districts, Telangana in collaboration with the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare and with the technical support of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad.

From November 2017 Bhumika is working in Vijayawada and Rajamahendravaram towns in Andhra Pradesh State with the interventions of Support Centres in 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's focus is also on prevention of early and child marriages by empowering the adolescents and young people, and sensitizing the community. It also works closely with the line departments and tries to strengthen the capacities of the concerned to ensure an immediate support system to the adolescents for accessing their rights and making their choices.

Bhumika is engaged with Federations (confederation of Women's Collectives at Mandal level) in supporting them mobilize the Adolescent Girls and Young people towards empowerment while strengthening their grassroots structures.

## PROGRAMMES INITIATED

### Training to Police:

- a) *Trainings to Police of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate:* On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019, a training programme was organized to the 235 women police staff of 36 police stations, SHE Teams police and ministerial staff of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate in the Mini Auditorium of Commissionerate office, Cyberabad zone. Mr. Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police, Ms. Anasuya, DCP, Ms. Indira, Addl. DCP, Ravi Chandra, ACP were present in the training. The theme of the programme was to orient the police about the Workplace Harassment (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. Ms. Satyavati, Director, Bhumika was the resource person.

The director first oriented the participants on gender sensitivity, protection laws and support systems available for women. They were made to understand that they have to be sensitive towards the issues of women who approach the police stations and understand the issues from gender lens. She then explained the term sexual harassment, the



evolution of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013, the sexual assault incident at the workplace of Banwari Devi and the evolution of the Act, the problems that women face at workplace and the redressal mechanism that is available through internal complaints committees for the women working in the organized sector and local complaints committees for the women working in the unorganized sector. She had also explained them about the constitution of Internal complaints committee, the role of the members and how the complaints were dealt. She had explained with the reference of few case studies.

Later, Ms. Anasuya, DCP informed the participants that an internal complaints committee was constituted and gave them the details of the members of the committee. The Commissioner, Mr. Sajjanaar also added that the women staff can bring any of the issue related to harassment to his notice or to the notice of DCP without any hesitation and he gave them the assurance that they will resolve their issue with utmost confidentiality. He also told them that he had arranged a complaint box and they can drop their complaints even through the complaint box. He told them to be careful and cautious at their workplace as their negligence or innocence will affect their work and sometimes they may also lose their career. The telugu translated book and the posters on the Act and the Helpline cards were distributed to the 36 police stations.

**b) Trainings to CISF Police:** On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019, a training programme was conducted to the Central Industrial Security Force, NISA, Hyderabad, on Gender sensitisation, women related Acts and Support Systems with a focus on the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013. About 60 Police officers (58 men and 2 female officers) have participated in the session and they are from the 6 zones of the country. The meeting was conducted in the training centre of NFC. The session was facilitated by Ms. Satyavati, Project Director, Bhumika Women's Collective and also the external member of their Internal Complaints Committee. The concept of gender, gender discrimination, Patriarchy, reasons for gender based violence, women related Acts, Support Systems for women and related Acts were explained. Further, the discussions were focussed on understanding the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013 the provisions under the Act, the role of Internal Complaints Committees, its functioning and need for creating awareness to all the staff. The resource person emphasized on the need for providing safe and secure workplace for the women employees. The officers expressed their views. Few of the case studies were also shared with them. The officers were also provided with IEC material related to the Act, Helpline and support systems and informed to guide the Women survivors to the Helpline and other support systems.

### **C) Baseline Survey:**

Baseline survey was conducted in the selected 10 urban slums in the project location. Initially secondary data about the socio economic conditions of the households were collected from the Anganwadi centres, elderly people in the slums and women federations. Based on the secondary data, data collection tools like semi structured interview schedule and Focussed group discussion schedule were prepared. It was planned to take 11 Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs) and 8 individual interviews from each urban slum. The data collection team were identified and oriented on the tools. The tools were also tested in the field. The data was collected from the following individuals/groups from the 10 slums. Base line survey conducted

in 10 slums in the form of Focussed Group Discussions (661 community members were covered) and Semi Structured interviews (45 persons).

The objective of conducting FGDs has been to understand the ground level situation of gender based violence, discrimination patterns within the family and society, availability of the institutions including government to address GBV, their accessibility to the community, awareness levels among the community on the Rights, Laws, Acts and existence of institutions for safety and protection of women and girls against gender based violence.

**FGDs were conducted with the following categories of people and locations:**

1. School going children – Boys, Girls separately
2. Out of school children – Boys, Girls separately – could not be mobilized as they were not available – girls married/boys and girls migrated/boys and girls working.
3. Youth (18-25 years) – Male, female separately
4. Men – 26 to 45 years, 46 – 60 years (2 separate groups)
5. Women - 26 to 45 years, 46 – 60 years (2 separate groups)
6. Samakhya members – both in Baghlingampally area and Saroor nagar area

Individual interviews are conducted as part of base line survey with the slum leaders, front line workers like Auxilliary Nurse Midwife, ASHA (Government Health Workers), Anganwadi Workers, Support institutions like Police, Government and /Non-Government agency representatives and School teachers.

Based on the above survey and collection of information, the following socio-economic situation were identified in these areas:

- ✓ Caste composition is distributed in accordance with the families that live in these areas – we find clustered families belonging to one caste forming majority of the population such as Scheduled Tribe families dominating in few, Scheduled Caste and Backward Caste in others and Muslim minority in another.
- ✓ Access to educational and health institutions is good - within the reach of 0.5 to 2 km radius in most areas.
- ✓ Community / Slum leaders are influential in managing most of the social aspects including settling disputes.
- ✓ Both men and women work for wages. The nature of employment is varied from Safai (Cleaning) works to flower decorations for men and for women from domestic works to cleaning jobs in hospitals and colleges. Boys and girls too work at very young age in most slums to supplement family income.

- ✓ Educational level of parents ranged from illiterate to degree majority in the range of 8th class to tenth class. Majority of children and youth are also discontinuing mostly after 10th class or intermediate.
- ✓ Both girls and boys are getting into petty employment/business.
- ✓ There have been social restrictions and taboos, particularly in upbringing of girls, their education, marriage, menstruation practices. In most slums, age at marriage is still below the legal minimum age. Girls reported that they had to follow restrictions on their mobility, dressing and food during menstruation period which causes a lot of inconvenience and irritation.
- ✓ Wide spread presence of SHGs and Samakhyas is noted but limiting to economic activities and not addressing gender issues.
- ✓ Politically influenced slum leaders taking up issues and settling through panchayatis
- ✓ School going boys are taking up petty jobs like distributing milk packets, paper, and go for flower decorations to earn money for their education.

**Root causes for Gender Based Violence:**

- ✓ Gender stereotypes are very strongly rooted in the slums. Girls do most of the domestic works and boys do outside works. Mobility of girls is restricted. This status has been clearly came out in all the FGDs and SSIs.
- ✓ Still there have been issues like teacher behavior, sexual assaults on girls, influence of friends, lack of employment become reasons for GBV.
- ✓ Mobile and TV play a great role in shaping the attitudes and personality of the boys, girls and youth members. Games, movies are watched continuously.
- ✓ Difference of opinion is noticed in men and women's attitude towards girls' higher education beyond class 10. Men opined that if girls are educated, they can support their children in studies. Women said that girls should be educated to get economic freedom, widen their information levels and understand what is going on in the outside world.
- ✓ Family disputes and harassment by in-laws, leaving women after children are born are some of the concerns reported continuously. Approaching Police or Slum leader for resolution is the general practice.
- ✓ Love marriages are most commonly happening. If parents are not convinced, children elope and get married. However, these marriages seem not very successful as the girls are left by their partners subsequently for various reasons.
- ✓ Excessive drinking, beating, abusing, drinking and harassing people on the road by youth, teasing, stalking, commenting on dressing, touch, harassing on phone, passing comments etc. are root causes for GBV.

The focus of the Baseline survey was to know the awareness levels of the respondents on gender equality, gender based violence, violence against children, awareness on rights, laws and support systems and accessibility to approach the support systems. It was also focussed to



know about the measures to be taken to achieve gender just and violence free society. The additional data of the activities of the frontline workers with regard to gender based violence was also collected through individual interviews.

#### **D) Awareness Campaigns in Urban Slums:**

Introductory meetings in 10 slums:

As part of the project, 10 slums were identified and proposed based on the following criteria

- where other NGOs are not working on the violence issues
- where Bhumika's helpline and support centres are existing
- where there are a minimum of 250 to 500 households

Preliminary visits were made to all the 10 proposed slums by the project team and held one to one interactions, door to door visits and informal meetings with all the stakeholders at different stages. The stakeholders include women, Self Help Groups and women federation leaders, youth men and women, adolescent girls and boys, frontline workers (Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, teachers), community leaders, NGOs (APSA, Pradham, MOWO, Swacha Water, MARI), GHMC officials, Police, District Legal Services Authorities, School teachers and children.

Both primary and secondary data was collected to understand the status and circumstances of the inhabitants of the 10 slums. Based on the interactions, introductory meetings were organised as entry point activity to build rapport and create awareness about the goal and objectives of the project. About 546 community members including slum leaders, women, anganwadi workers, Asha workers and NGOs attended the meetings. The following are the details:

S. No.	Name of the Slum	No. of Participants
1	Nagamaiahkunta	45
2	New Achhaiah Nagar	60
3	Bathukammakunta	50
4	Palamuru Basthi	30
5	Banjara Basthi	25
6	Ambedkar Nagar	89

7	Rajeev Gandhi Nagar	15
8	NTR Nagar	30
9	Bhagathsingh Nagar-I	145
10	Bhagathsingh Nagar-II	57

As part of the meetings, the participants were informed about the work of Bhumika in supporting the distressed women through helpline and Support Centres/Special Cells. They were also briefed about gender based violence, available protection laws and support systems. The other invitees like District Legal Services authority Secretary, NGO representatives, PLVs, CBO leaders, etc shared their work which supports the women and youth in the urban slums. The community members were asked to involve and work collectively to attain gender just society.

The participants expressed the issue of alcoholism and its impact on families, sexual harassment at public places and gender inequality. The youth of the communities raised the need for CC cameras to combat sexual harassment at public places and the women raised the need for skill development and employment. Few of the members, especially in Saroor nagar slums proposed to set up family counselling centres and legal aid clinics through District Legal Services Authorities. They were informed about Para Legal Volunteers trainings to the community members and few of them had shown interest and one community members underwent training.

#### **E) Child Rights Convention Week in 8 slums:**

The Child Rights convention week was celebrated from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in 8 slums. Games and competitions were held to the 268 children. The women leaders of the Self Help Groups supported the team in conducting the competitions to the children of the 8 slums. The competitions include - drawing competition on Child Rights and the impact of social media for 6<sup>th</sup>& 7<sup>th</sup> class students; poster making on Child Rights, importance of girl's education and impact of social media for 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> class students; storytelling and story writing competition; games and sports – Kho kho, running race, lemon & spoon, skipping, musical chair.

Apart from the competitions, awareness meetings were conducted in the 8 slums on Child Rights, protection measures and importance of Child Rights Convention. The slum leaders, MLA and Women federation members of Self Help Groups attended the meetings.

The following are the details:

S. No	Name of the Slum	No. of Children participated in the competitions	No. of members attended the awareness meetings
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1	Banjara Basthi	25	45
2	Palamuru Basthi	22	
3	Bathukammakunta	30	60
4	Nagamaiahkunta	40	50
5	New Achiahnagar	26	40
6	Rajeev Gandhi Nagar	40	215
7	NTR Nagar	50	45
8	Bhagathsingh Nagar-II	35	40

Through the competitions and awareness meetings, a rapport was built with the community members and a platform was created for the implementation of other planned activities.

#### **F) Trainings to women, CBOs, Youth Boys and Girls:**

*Trainings to Women:* Trainings were held to 45 women of New Achiahnagar (20) and NTR Nagar (25) community women. The resource persons were Ms. Padma and Ms. Jyostna respectively. The resource persons had made efforts to make the participants understand the term violence and its different forms and the need for equality. The women too shared different concerns like suspicion, restrictions on their mobility, physical abuse and dowry harassment, etc. The women were then informed about women's rights and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The reliefs like right to residence, protection, children's custody, return of gifts and articles given at the time of marriage, medical support, right to maintenance were explained to the participants. They were also told about the role of Sakhi Centres in filing domestic violence cases for claiming the reliefs. The participants cleared their doubts related to the Act. They were then informed about the availability of other support systems and their role which includes Bhumika Helpline, Women Helpline-181, Dial 100, SHE Teams, district legal services authority, shelter homes. The women expressed that they feel confident to gain knowledge about the protection laws and support systems available to them and asked for more input sessions.

*Trainings to Youth Boys and girls:* Trainings were held to 112 youth boys (63) and girls (49) of Nagamaiahkunta, New Achiahnagar, Palamur Basthi, Bhagathsingh Nagar-II, Banjara Basthi slums. They were briefed about gender discrimination and equality. When asked about their issues, the youth expressed that most of them were not able to pursue higher education due to various reasons which include girls facing sexual harassment at public places, lack of financial support from the family, ignorance about the available opportunities, poverty, etc. Most of the youth boys expressed that they work and utilise the amount with friends for watching movies

and alcohol consumption. They were told about the ill effects of alcoholism, misuse of technology and its implications and the consequences that they would face both legally and personally. They were informed about career opportunities.

*Trainings to CBO leaders:* A training programme was held to the 12 CBO leaders of Palamur Basthi. The resource person for the session was Ms. Varalakshmi, Training Coordinator. The participants expressed that they wanted to build and strengthen solidarity among themselves to address the issues of gender based violence. Hence the resource planned accordingly. A video document which explains the importance of collectivism and addressing the issues collectively was screened to the participants followed by the discussion. They were then briefed about the provisions of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013, 498A for Dowry Harassment and cruelty and about the support structures that are available for the safety of the women. They were informed to link the women in need to the available support systems.

Sl.no	Name of the Slum/School	Target group	Date	No of participants attended
1	Nagamaiahkunta	Youth - boys	7.9.19	25
2	New Achhaiah nagar	Youth-Boys	19.10.19	16
3	Palamur Basthi	Youth-Boys	24.10.19	15
4	Palamur Basthi	Youth-Boys	15.11.19	7
5	Bhagathsingh nagr-II	Youth-girls	25.10.19	17
6	Banjara Basthi	Youth-girls	31.10.19	12
7	New Achiah Nagar	Youth-girls	19.10.19	20
8	New Achiah Nagar	women	19.10.19	20

9	NTR Nagar	women	02.11.19	25
10	Palamur Basthi	CBO leaders	05.11.19	12

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### G) Awareness Campaigns in Educational Institutions

**Introductory meetings in 7 schools and 3 colleges:** During the reporting period, 10 schools and colleges surrounding the 10 slums of the project were identified. The children and the youth of the 10 urban slums of the project go to the identified schools and colleges. Preliminary visits were made in the month of July to the institutions by the project team. The team interacted with the school/college management and informed about the work of Bhumika and the project objectives. The management responded positively and welcomed Bhumika to conduct regular sessions to the students.

The team had initiated discussion with the students of 9th & 10th classes of the schools and youth of the colleges on gender equality and discrimination to understand the awareness levels of the students. In ZPHS Zamisthanpur personality development and communication session was held. The following are the identified schools and colleges:

S. NO	Name of the Institution	Location
1	Zilla Parishad High School, Zamisthanpur	Zamisthanpur
2	KVK High School	Baghlingampally
3	Zilla Parishad High School, Bathukammakunta	Bathukammakunta
4	Zilla Parishad High School, Saroornagar, Urdu Medium	Saroornagar
5	Zilla Parishad High School, Saroornagar	Saroornagar
6	Zilla Parishad High School, Rajeev	Rajeev Gandhi Nagar

	Gandhi Nagar	
7	Ambedkar Junior College	Baghlingampally
8	Ambedkar Degree College	Baghlingampally
9	Ekalavya Junior College	Ambedkar Nagar
10	Sagaraika Integrated School	Saroornagar

**F) Child Rights Convention Week campaign in 6 schools:**

The Child Rights convention week was celebrated from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in 6 identified schools. The team conducted games and competitions to about 515 students of 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> classes. The teachers of the schools were proactive and supported the team in conducting the event. The competitions include - drawing competition on Child Rights and the impact of social media for 6<sup>th</sup>& 7<sup>th</sup> class students; poster making on Child Rights, importance of girl's education and impact of social media for 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> class students; storytelling and story writing competition; games and sports – Kho kho, running race, lemon & spoon, skipping, musical chair. Apart from the competitions, awareness programmes were conducted in the 6 schools on Child Rights, protection measures and importance of Child Rights Convention. The students who won the competitions were given prizes. The following are the details:

S. No	Name of the School	No. of Children participated in the competitions	No. of students attended the awareness meetings
1	KVK School	82	92
2	Zilla Parishad High School, Zamisthapur	98	102
3	Zilla Parishad High School, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar	120	480
4	Zilla Parishad High School, Saroornagar (Urdu Medium)	35	135
5	Zilla Parishad High School, Saroornagar	180	1000
6	Sagarika Integrated	130	580

	School		
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**G) Trainings to the students in educational institutions:** The students of class 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of 7 schools were trained on Gender Sensitization, understanding gender inequality and discrimination. The trainings were held in interactive mode. The students were made to understand the need for gender equality, discussed their issues which include gender discrimination within their families, child marriages, its causes and ill effects, the effects of social media and technology, sexual abuse against children etc. They were also informed about Child Rights, the protection laws and support systems available for children. The students participated proactively and expressed their views. The following are the details:

S. No	Name of the educational institution	No. of participants	Resource Person
1	Sagarika Integrated School	56	Ms. Varalakshmi & Ms. Usha
2	KVK High School	25	Ms. Varalakshmi
3	Zilla Parishad High School, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar	40	Ms. Varalakshmi & Ms. Usha
4	Zilla Parishad High School, Zamisthapur	79	Mr. Thomas
5	KVK High School	55	Ms. Devi
6	Zilla Parishad High School, Saroornagar	148	Dr. Suneetha
7	Zilla Parishad High School, Saroornagar (Urdu)	42	Dr. Suneetha

**H) Awareness Programme on Child Rights & Gender Issues at Indresam Village, Sanga Reddy:**

An awareness Programme was conducted in a Government School premises at Weaker Section Colony of Indresam Village, Sanga Reddy. A total of 40 community members attended the programme held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The meeting was organised based on the request of the community women when Bhumiika team visited the village to support a survivor belonging to that village. During the visit, the women expressed that they were subjected to violence in

many ways and there were many out of school children in the village. Accordingly, the sensitization and awareness meeting was planned. The Sakhi Centre team members of Sanga Reddy, the Rainbow Home (shelter home for children) incharge, the Circle Inspector of Patancheruvu area police station, local ward members, village head-Sarpanch, anganwadi workers, Health Supervisors and community members were invited for the programme. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Satyavati, Project Director, Ms. Prasanthi, Director, Bhumika, Ms. Usha, Project Coordinator, Ms. Madhavi, Counsellor, Ms. Hima Varshini, MSW Intern and others. The meeting started with the introduction about Bhumika and the objective behind organising the meeting, the role of Bhumika in addressing the issues of women. Later, Mr. Suresh Rainbow Home representative explained about Child Rights and the support they provide to the vulnerable children by providing them food, shelter and education.

Later, the Sanga Reddy Sakhi Team explained about the role of Sakhi and Women Helpline-181 in addressing the issues of domestic violence. Then, the CWC Chairperson, Ms. Shivakumari explained about the ill effects of child marriages, forcing children to beg on the streets and the consequences the parents will face legally. She then explained the role of CWC in joining the children in safe shelter homes. Ms. Satyavati, the project Director, explained about Protection of Women from Domestic violence Act, 2005 and the reliefs the women can claim under the act. She also explained about the role of Helpline and Support centres in supporting the distressed women through counselling and other support.

The police official told the members that they can inform them about violence and child related issues and gave them the assurance that they will respond immediately and support them accordingly. The Sarpanch of the village, Ms. Anitha Reddy expressed that she will make sure that all the out of school children in the village will be joined in the schools. She also told that she will link the distressed women to the support systems.

**I) Awareness Programme to the Margadarshak team for the programme "BE A Margadarshak" of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate:**

Margadarshak is a team created by SCSC (Society for Cyberabad Security Council). It is a forum created by the IT / ITES industry and Cyberabad Police Commissionerate to take care of Safety and Security at Cyberabad. 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 reach out to the police to seek help in cases of domestic abuse, cyber harassment, stalking. All of them have now become volunteers to Bhumika Helpline and started promoting the Helpline number.

A team of 25 IT employees of "BE A Margadarshak programme" of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate were oriented about Bhumika Women's Collective and its role in supporting the distressed women through different interventions. They were also briefed about protection laws and Rights of women. Later they have visited different support systems available for women to gain knowledge about the role of the support systems. They had visited One Stop



Centre (Sakhi Centre) of Ranga Reddy District, Bharosa centre at Nampally, Sayodya Shelter Home, Amberpet, Cyber Crimes Cell near LB stadium. They have also visited one of the support centres of Bhumika Women's Collective which is at Saroornagar Women Police Station. The team expressed that they had understood and learnt about the work process of the support systems available for women in the state and became aware of the problems which the women are facing in the society, the types of violence and the support systems available to them.

**K) Session on Violence against Women, related Acts and Support Systems:**

A session on violence against women, related Acts and Support Systems was conducted to village women on 26th September 2019 by Pragathi Welfare Society. Ms. Satyavati was invited as the resource person for the session. Pragathi Welfare Society works for sustainable rural development by empowering the school children, youth women and the needy people in the villages in India.

The purpose of the session was to create awareness among the village women about the support systems and protection laws available for them in the present society. The session was held for three hours and there were around 60 women from 4 villages. The session was started by K. Satyavati with the sharing of Bhumika Women's Collective, its establishment and the work it has been doing since past 25 years in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states. She explained about the work of Bhumika through Helpline and the support centres in both telugu speaking states and also the work in Maddur and Damaragidda on child marriages, the work in chanchanguda women prison and also supporting the one stop centre in Karimnagar.

Later, the discussion was on women empowerment and patriarchy. She focussed on decision making power made the women to brainstorm whether the women are allowed to make decisions for their own selves. They were told that women empowerment is a process and in which women elaborate and recreate what it is that they can be and do and accomplish. It is allowing women to take their own decisions and utilising power. She then made them to understand patriarchy, which tell and teach the people that the male person is the head of everything, men hold the power and they set rules which need to be followed by everyone. The system degrades women and restricts them from going out, from getting educated, from working outside and in this process women are not allowed to move freely and take decisions on their own for their own selves. They are not given access to their rights and they are controlled by the male members in the society. Then they were briefed about the need for equality as inequalities results in oppression and violence.

The resource person, then spoke about the support systems which are actively working for women and children in the society. She explained about women helpline 181, which is started by the Telangana state for women, Bhumika helpline for women in distress, and other emergency helpline numbers. Later explained about One Stop Centre ( Sakhi Centre) and the

reliefs such as protection orders, maintenance, property share, child custody, residence order and temporary shelter which women and children can access from the sakhi centres and explained about Legal Service Authority, shelter homes, vocational training institutes. She then explained about childline, 1098 which is working actively for the children in the country.

Later, she explained about the protection laws which includes POCSO (The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 which deals with the sexual offences against children below 18 years of age, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the role of Local Complaints Committees and Internal Complaints Committees, which protects women from harassment at workplace, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 which bans prenatal sex determination and section 326 A in the Indian Penal Code lays down the punishment for acid throwing, attempting to throw or threatening to throw acid and section 376 B which deals with sexual assault rape.

In the feedback, the village women shared that the session had helped them a lot in understanding their rights and support systems. A woman from one of the villages shared that she along with other women in the village, had closed a bar in their village.

#### **J) Orientation to SoCH for Social Change Team:**

SoCH is an organisation that aims to work with young women who are potentially interested in the social and development sector. They run an in-person 6 month part-time programme named SILT Bootcamp for young women, who want to be future change makers in the development sector. As part of their programme, they have approached Bhumika for the team's field immersion to gain experience about the organisations that are working at the grassroots to affect change and for them to link theory to practice. Accordingly, a team of 15 young women visited Bhumika on 2nd November 2019. They were oriented about Bhumika and its activities, later went to one of the urban slum, Nagamaiah kunta and interacted with the community women and youth members. Later, they visited the Support Centre at Uppal Police Station and interacted with the Counsellors. The counsellors briefed them about the counselling process and the support provided to the survivors of violence who approach the centre.

#### **K) Stall in a meeting organized by District Legal Services Authority on legal literacy and welfare schemes:**

The District Legal Service Authority of Ranga Reddy has conducted a meeting on Legal Literacy and welfare schemes in a function hall at Keesara, Ranga Reddy District on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to bring awareness to the public about the available support systems and asked Non – Governmental Organizations and Government Departments such as Police, Traffic Police, Education Department, Health Department, Forest Department,

Panchayat Raj Rural Development, Horticulture and organizations like Abhaya Foundation, Prerana Organization, Childline, One Stop Centre of Medchal District, Kasturba Gandhi Trust to display their work. They have also invited Bhumika to arrange stalls exhibiting the work of Bhumika.

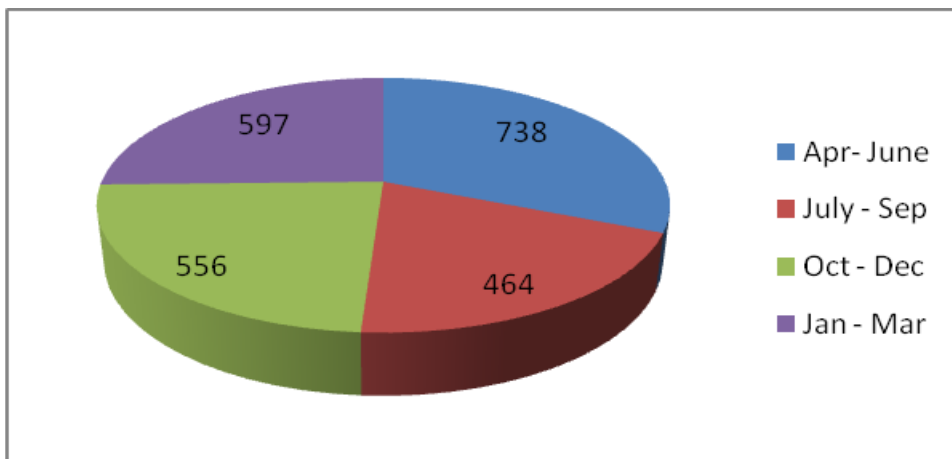
Accordingly, , posters and books related to prevention of Child Marriages, Sexual Harassment at workplace, posters related to stalking rape, sexual harassment and voyeurism, Bhumika Helpline cards and stickers were exhibited. The Bhumika team members, training coordinator, counsellor and field workers participated in the seminar. High School students, peoples representatives such as Panchayat Members, MPTC, ZPTC, Ward Members, Sarpanches and other political leaders from surrounding villages, Self Help Group members, Village organisation leaders, Mandal Samakya members from various villages, frontline workers including Asha Wokrrers, Anganwadi workers, Traffic Police, Local Police, Para Legal Volunteers, NGO representatives visited the stalls. The team explained them about the work of Bhumika and reached more than 1000 members and distributed Bhumika cards and material. Some of the teachers and village officials asked the Bhumika team to conduct sessions in their schools and colleges on Women and Child related support systems, to bring awareness about the acts and laws prevailing in the society.

**L) Events on Special Days - Awareness programme on 16 days of activism against gender based violence:**

A programme was organised on 10th December 2019 as part of 16 days of activism against gender based violence at Bhagathsingh Nagar-I with the community members of Bhagathsingh Nagar I, Bhagathsingh Nagar II and Ambedkar Nagar. The District Legal Services Authority Chairperson, Mr. Uday Kumar, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ms. Shilpavalli, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ms. Saleema, SHE Teams police inspector, Mr. Srinivas, women federation leaders (CBOs), GHMC officials addressed the event. The DLSA Chairperson explained about Human Rights and the violation of the women rights as the violation of Human Rights. The ACP, Ms. Shilpavalli explained about how gender discrimination is internalised within the families and as a result how both the boy child and girl child were raised differently. She then explained about safety of women and how different issues can be addressed through different support systems. The SHE Teams in-charge, Ms. Saleema, DCP and Mr. Srinivas, Inspector explained about the functioning of SHE Teams in providing vigilance for combating sexual harassment at public places, the CBO leaders expressed that they will keep GBV as one of the main agenda points in their regular monthly meetings and address the issues of women in their areas. About 150 community members participated in the event. The women group members performed cultural activities on GBV.

## 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 2,355 women received support through Helpline during the reporting period April 2019 to March, 2020. Below is the quarter wise number of calls:

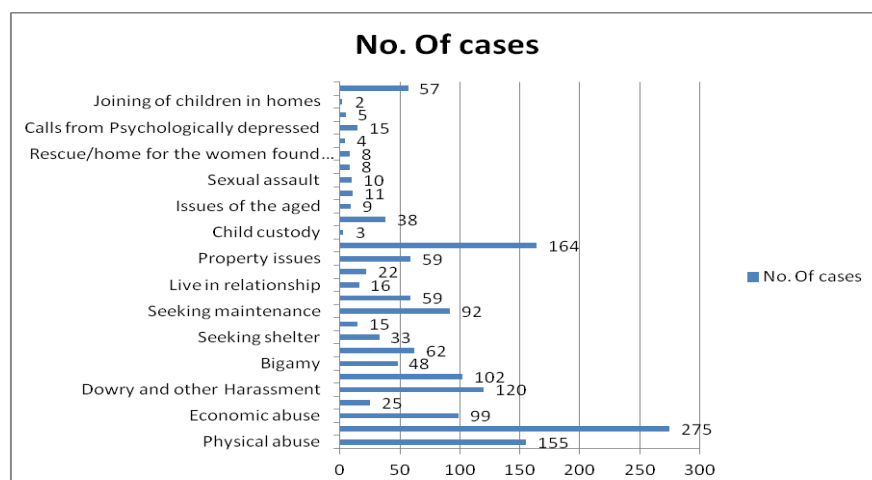


### Helpline analysis and impact:

During the reporting period, 2,355 calls were received in which 1,729 were from Telangana State, 534 calls from Andhra Pradesh and 92 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 (282) 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 (157) 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, 10 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 (241) 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 28 survivors were linked to Legal Services Authority and 40 survivors to court.

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

There were cases related to child marriages (23) 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 (13) who complained that they were receiving offensive messages and calls or issues of cyber crime. Hence they were informed about Cyber crime cell or to local police stations and made them aware of the provisions under IT Act.

39 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.

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.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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):**

**A. Baseline survey-** During the reporting period, the baseline of 59 convicts, 737 undertrailers and 2 detenues were done. There were also 27 undertrailers who have come to the prison for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time as 21 of them did not attend the court on allotted date for various reasons but unintentional, while 6 others got arrested in theft case, selling Ganjai and PITA cases. Till date, completed the baseline of 528 Convicts, 2,707 Undertrailers and 48 Detenues – totalling to 3,283.

**B. Counselling** – Individual counselling sessions were provided to the inmates on regular basis with an intention to provide space to discuss their concerns, family issues and any other issues bothering them. Most of the inmates were found to be psychologically disturbed and with low self esteem for their situation. Hence, they were strengthened to 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.

Few of them were found to be depressed about their children's wellbeing. Hence, more emphasis is also given to ensure that their children are safe under proper elderly care. In some cases it was found that the children dropped out of school or irregular to school, due to lack of responsible adult care. 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., support of the family member for required 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, 2,781 counselling sessions were held to the convicts (837), under trailers (1,936) and detenues (8). Of these total 2,781 sessions, 766 counselling sessions (convicts – 52, under trailers – 712 and detenues – 2) were held for the first time, while 2,015 were repeated sessions (convicts – 785, under trailers – 1,224 and detenues – 6).

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, 27 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, schools, observation homes, children homes, hostels, child welfare committees, courts, etc to support the inmates according to their need. During the reporting period 34 institutional visits were made for facilitating reunion of the concerned inmates with their families.
- E. Phone calls to the families of the inmates:** Phone calls are made to the families of the inmates when the families are not aware of the arrest of the inmate and it becomes critical to inform them over phone about their arrest and when 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. In some cases the children of the inmates are not in safe custody or not attending school. In such cases also it is crucial to call the family members and pursue the issue to join the children in schools / hostels. Few phone calls were also made to the family members of the inmates to know about their case status when the prison phone that is available to the inmates was under repair for more than 10 days. In some cases, phone calls were made to the police stations and advocates for follow up of the cases, supported few prisoners in getting their belongings which were in the police station and in other few cases to ask about leave papers. A few calls were made to the child welfare committees for children related issues. In few other cases calls were also made to find out the wellbeing of the inmates' children staying in children's homes.

During the reporting period, **2050** 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.

- F. Shelter to the inmates:** During the reporting period, three (3) inmates and two (2) of the inmates' daughters who were in need of shelter were placed in the temporary shelter homes.

a) Aruna (name changed) (UT): She is a single woman and came from Rajamundry to Hyderabad to act in films. She got arrested in a theft case. After 3 months of imprisonment, another prisoner supported her and arranged bail to her. She got released on bail on 21st January 2020. She has to attend the court and has no one to support her in providing shelter at Hyderabad. Hence, she was placed in a temporary shelter home.

b) An inmate named Varalaxmi (name changed) was supported in submitting a letter to the Legal Service Authority to hasten the process of the case. Consequently, the case came for final hearing and the case was closed in favour of the inmate. Varalaxmi received release orders in the last week of October 2019. After release she wanted to go to Bellampalli, her native place, to meet her mother and brother and was in the need for shelter for that night. Therefore, she was provided shelter for a night at Sayodhya shelter home and on the next day morning she left to Bellampalli. She was supported financially to meet the travel and other expenses to go to her native place.

c) Nagamma (name changed): She is a released prisoner from Warangal Central Jail. She was supported with a job at My Nation petrol bunk run by the Prison Department. The Superintendent requested to support the released inmate and her daughter by providing shelter. Accordingly, the inmate and her daughter were placed in Sayodhya Shelter Home.

## **G. Support to the Children of Inmates**

### **1. Joining of children in Children Homes:**

- a) Swetha (name changed) (UT): Her two (2) children one boy aged 7 years and a girl aged 6 years, who were with their grandmother were joined in Children Homes. The girl was joined in Asha Kiran home and the boy in Don Bosco home.
- b) Karthika (name changed): She is a released prisoner and a domestic violence survivor. She was not able to support her children's education. Hence, her two (2) daughters who were 7 and 8 years old were joined in Asha Kiran Home.
- c) Ramanamma (name changed) (CT): Her son who was 12 years old became alone after the imprisonment of the inmate. Hence, he joined his married sister who lives in Rajasthan. He stayed with her for a year and later came back as he could not study due to the non availability of suitable school (Telugu Medium School). The inmate approached the Support Centre and accordingly the boy was joined in Serve the Needy Home.
- d) Three children named Samreen, Meghana and Sony of the Fathima, Malleshwari and Vasantha (names changed) (CTs) respectively had children living with them in the prison from the past few years. But the children have reached 7 years of age and according to the prison rules, they are not allowed to stay in the prison. Hence, these 3 children were joined in Asha Kiran Children's Home through Child Welfare Committee.
- e) Rukmini (name changed) (CT): Her daughter was earlier placed in MVF home and had passed 10th class with 60% marks. She requested to change her from that home to another home. Therefore the counsellor had joined her in Asha Kiran home. The authorities in that home were confident that they would help the girl to complete her +12 and continue further. But the girl couldn't cope up with her studies. Hence, she was provided with counselling and joined in vocational course with the help of SPERDS Home, to where she was shifted.

2. Child mulakhat: There are inmates who have young children. These children were placed in the children home earlier under this project with the intention to ensure that the

children of the inmates are in safe place and continuing their education. During the reporting period 12 children of the nine (9) inmates were brought to the prison during summer and Dusherra vacations. Prior permission of CWC and the home in-charges were taken. The children were picked-up from the children homes and safely dropped back in the evening. The inmates and the children felt happy to meet and spend time together.

The inmates expressed that earlier they were very much depressed regarding the wellbeing of their children, but after the project's intervention, they stopped worrying about them as their children are in proper institutional care and most importantly they were able to meet each other through child mulakhat.

3. Support in getting necessary documents for the continuation of studies:

- a) An inmate named Swaroopa's (name changed) daughter who was placed in Asha Kiran Home was supported in availing TC from her school as she had finished 10<sup>th</sup> std and was joining intermediate. The counsellor accompanied the girl to the school and helped in completing the formalities and supported in submitting the TC in her college.
- b) Another inmate Rukmini's (name changed) daughter was supported in getting Aadhaar card from her aunt as the girl completed her 10<sup>th</sup> class and was joining college. She had to produce the card in the college. The counsellors made home visit to the inmate's sister-in-law's house at Aliyabad, Malkapur, Medak district and then to the inmate's sister's house at Ontimamidi, Tuniki Bollaram and supported in getting the Aadhaar card. Later the girl discontinued as she couldn't cope up with the syllabus. Hence, she was then supported in getting the TC from the government junior college in Patny, Secunderabad, where the girl had studied. The counsellors visited the college thrice and finally brought the TC. She was shifted to SPERDS Home and joined in a vocational course. She was then supported in getting income certificate as she was asked to produce income certificate to join in the vocational college. As her parents are in prison, she has to submit no income certificate in the college. So to get that, one of the counsellors along with the girl went to Lalgahad Malakpet, their village and met the Sarpanch and the Panchayat Secretary. The counsellor explained about the need to get the no income certificate. They asked to give an application for it. They told the counsellor to attach the 10th marks memo but as the original marks list was not yet taken, Xerox copy of the marks list was attached and gave the filled in application to the Panchayat Secretary and Sarpanch. Subsequently, no income certificate was issued.

4. Counselling to the children of the inmates:

- a) Sarada (name changed) (CT): Her son lives in TARA home from the time of her arrest. The child was brought to the prison through child mulakhat earlier by the counsellors. One day, on 19th February 2020, he escaped from the home and reached the prison to meet his mother. He complained that he was beaten in the hostel by warden and doesn't want to stay there anymore. The counsellors counselled the child that he should not leave the hostel but inform the home father if anyone abuses him. He was given the assurance that he will be shifted to other hostel after the closure of the academic year. The child was dropped back in the home on the next day. The counsellors spoke with the home in-charge about the child's concern and the home in-charge expressed that he will take care of the situation and will let the child live peacefully in the home.
- b) Rukmini (name changed) (CT): On 3.7.2019, the counsellors went to Asha Kiran Home to meet and talk to Rukmini's daughter as a day before the day of visit, the counsellors received a call from the home saying that the girl did not return to the home in her regular timings. So the home incharge filed a missing complaint in the local police station and they searched the city for her. At the end, they found her in JBS at around 7.00 pm. The counsellors interacted with her on the next day at the home. She shared that from 2nd July 2019, the classes timings were changed from morning to afternoon, i.e., from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and by the time she came to the bus stop that day, she could not find a bus and was waiting for the bus. However, the other college goers have come back to the home as per their timings. The caretakers at the home shared that the girl was telling lies and need counselling support. Hence, the counsellor went to Asha Kiran Home and counselled her and found that she needs psychological counselling. Accordingly, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019 the counsellors and psychologist working in the prison went to the Home and counselled the girls. She shared that she is not able to adjust in the home. She requested to shift her to another home. She was given assurance that she will be shifted in next two weeks time. So on 10th September 2019, the counsellors went to Asha Kiran home and took her to Swadhar home in R.C. Puram. She was joined there and the in-charge subsequently joined her in vocational intermediate in MPHW group.
- H. Input sessions:** In order to create healthy environment, constructive use of leisure time, gain knowledge & awareness on various issues that matter the lives of women and to motivate the inmates to develop positive attitude towards life, input sessions were organised in the prison. During the reporting period, 13 input sessions were organised on varied topics and the details are as following.

S. No	Date	Topic	Trainer	No. of hours	No. of inmates
1	25.4.2019	Improvement of Mental Health	P. Prasanthi & K. Satyavati	2	61
2	23.5.2019	Visualizing the Future	P. Prasanthi, K. Satyavati & P. Devi	2	85
3	14.6.2019	General Health and Cleanliness	P. Prasanthi & K. Satyavati	2	82
4	19.6.2019	Legal Literacy	Ms. Swati Reddy	2	42
5	25.7.2019	Menstrual Hygiene and Reproductive Health	A. Jyothsna	2	80
6	21.8.2019	Problems faced by women in the society	K. Satyavati & P. Devi	2	74
7	24.9.2019	Mental Health	P. Prasanthi & Dr. Sunita	3	98
8	21.10.2019	Mood Swings, Depression and Suicidal Tendencies	P. Prasanth & P. Devi	2	40
9	27.11.2019	Violence against Women	P. Prasanthi & P. Devi	3	115
10	20.12.2019	Positive Attitude	K. Satyavati & P. Prasanthi	2	45
11	14.1.2020	Self Worthiness and Self Respect	K. Satyavati & Madhavi	2	40
12	13.2.2020	Gender Sensitivity and Different forms of Discrimination	P. Prasanthi & P. Devi	2	90
13	11.3.2020	Personal Hygiene, Reproductive Health and its importance	P. Prasanthi & Sajaya	3	100

**I. 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. This contains a variety of write-ups from jokes to poetry, from drawings to artwork, from imaginary stories to life-stories. Many more inmates were showing interest to get involved in the preparation of the Prison Newsletter.

**J. Events with the inmates:**

a) Gandhi Jayanti and Prisoners Welfare Day Celebrations: On 2nd October 2019, celebrations took place on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Prisoners' Welfare Day. The Secretary of Legal Service Authority of High Court, Mr. Prabhakar was the chief guest for the celebrations. Ms. K. Satyavati, Chief Functionary of Bhumika was present

along with advocates and other organizations working in the prison. The chief guest informed that the inmates who are not in a position to bare the court fees after they are charged, and those who have appealed in the high court, he would appeal to the officials in the high court and make sure that they take action immediately and see that experienced and talented advocates take up their cases and fight for them, pay the fine for them in the courts. He shared that there are advocates who came forward voluntarily to do the above said work and will complete the work within a year. He asked the inmates to be strong mentally and emotionally.

b) Children's Day Celebrations: On 14th November Children's day was celebrated in the prison. The inmates' children were brought from Asha Kiran Home for the celebrations. Bhumika Chief Functionary K. Satyavati had also participated in the celebrations and distributed chocolates to the children. Even inmates have sang songs and danced with joy with the children.

c) Sankranthi Celebrations: The Chief Functionary of Bhumika Women's Collective, Ms. Satyavati was invited as a Judge for Rangoli Competitions in the prison on the eve of Sankranthi festival. 14 inmates participated in the competitions. All the 14 participants were given prizes on 26th January 2020.

d) International Women's Day Celebrations: On 12th March International Women's Day was observed in the prison with the inmates. The two counsellors working in the prison made arrangements for the event. Earlier to this the counsellors conducted games to the inmates. The event was hosted by Ms. Prasanthi, Director of Bhumika. The prison Superintendent Ms. Venkata Lakshmi was the chief guest of the function. The guests were Ms. Satyavati, Chief Functionary, Bhumika; Ms. Vimala, Activist; Ms. Sajaya, Activist, Ms. Vijayalakshmi & Ms. Savitri, Advocates, District Legal Services Authority and Ms. Jyoti, Jailor. The team members of Nirmaan organisation working in the prison participated in the event. The function started with songs and briefing the participants on the importance of the International Women's Day by Ms. Prasanthi. The Jail superintendent distributed prizes to the inmates and addressed the meeting. About 150 inmates participated in the games including foreigners and 50 of them got prizes. Later Ms. Satyavati addressed the inmates to be happy and utilise the help that is being extended to them. Then Ms. Vimala spoke on the discrimination and oppression suffered by women in the society. Ms. Sajaya advised the inmates on personal hygiene and mental health. Later seven (7) inmates spoke on behalf of the prisoners and shared their experiences of the help they received from Bhumika with regard to their children, child mulakhat. They got emotional and broke down while speaking about their experiences with bhumika and strongly expressed that an organisation like Bhumika



should continue to work for them. Few of them expressed that Bhumika and Nirmaan were their lifeline and because of these two organisations' interventions they could learn many things and shared that many of the inmates' small ailments (psychosomatic) vanished in the past 5 years. They also shared that their energy levels were being boosted by interacting with the team members of Bhumika & Nirmaan. The foreign inmates expressed their happiness and prayed that this service will continue to be there. They performed their traditional dance on the stage on the request of the inmates. The counsellors, Ms. Shantipriya and Ms. Nikkath and the trainer from Nirmaan Ms. Jhansi also spoke on this occasion. Later the inmates danced for some Bollywood numbers and sang songs. At the end of the programme Samosas, sweets and fruits were distributed to the inmates. The inmates felt very happy and kept on remembering the event.

**K. Other support:**

- 1) Support to the foreign prisoners: Three inmates named Babitha, Tika, and Nirmaya are the residents of Nepal. They were arrested under IPC sections 420, 468, 471 from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport police station. Their family members were not aware of their arrest. The inmates were first supported in getting the contact details of their family members and belongings from the Police Station. The contact numbers were given to the jailor who gave them the assurance that she will contact their family members after taking permission from the DIG as it is an international case. Meanwhile, the Chief Functionary of Bhumika happened to visit Nepal and she got in touch with family members of one of the inmates. Also, she gave the details to one of the local NGO for follow-up. The local NGO responded positively and agreed to support the inmates by informing their family members about their arrest.
- 2) Support in getting the belongings of the inmates: An inmate named Balamma (name changed) of Tandoor (v), Nagireddypet (m), Nizamabad (d) got arrested in theft case from Jubilee Hills Police Station. She was supported in getting her belongings from the police station, especially her phone and took the contact details of her family members with the support of Jail Superintendent.
- 3) Linking a released inmate to the One Stop Centre, Kurnool: Sravani (name changed) is a 24 years old married woman hailing from Kurnool district. She had no support of her natal family and her husband was alcoholic. Her brother did not allow her to enter her natal house when she had disputes with her husband and hence one day she came to Hyderabad in search of her sister's house. Then an aged auto driver took her in his auto bluffing her that he will provide her work, he forced her into sex work. One day when she was standing at Tank Bund, the police caught both Sravani and the auto driver. They

were sent to prison for 7 days. When Sravani was in the prison, the Bhumika counsellors interacted with her and got to know about her problem in detail. Later, the Bhumika counsellors shared this with the Director of Bhumika and planned to make her reach Kurnool safely. The counsellors contacted One Stop Centre in Kurnool and attached her with them. The counsellors had identified a volunteer in Kurnool and requested him to help the survivor to reach One Stop Centre. On 3.7.2019, after the release of Sravani, one of the counsellors took her to MGBS, bought her ticket to Kurnool, provided her dinner and water bottle and gave her some money for her charges to reach her home from Kurnool bus stop. From the bus stop, the volunteer in Kurnool received her and took her to One Stop Centre. The Centre Administrator at OSC spoke to Sravani and explained about OSC, the reliefs which she can claim from OSC and the support systems available to her. After taking a complaint from her for counselling to her husband and in-laws, they were called immediately and counselling was provided to them. Later, they decided to take her with them and said that they will not harass her anymore.

4) Support in paying court fee: a) An inmate named Rangamma (name changed) got arrested in kidnapping case and is imprisoned for 4 months. She has no relatives from natal and matrimonial homes. She has two (2) daughters, who stay in Kamareddy SC hostel and studying 7th and 8th class. She has to pay a fine of Rs. 100/- in the court. If she does not pay the fine, she has to stay in the prison for 15 days more. Even the hostel warden should be informed to keep the children in the home during Dussehra holidays. Accordingly, the hostel warden was informed about the situation and to allow the children to stay back in the hostel. The hostel warden shared that the children are under the impression that their mother is not well and could not come to see them. Hence, they went to their home on their own saying that her mother's friends live close to their home and will take help from them, if needed. Meanwhile the inmate was also supported in paying court fee. With the support of a volunteer it was found that the children are safe with the support of neighbours.

b) Another inmate named Jaya (name changed) came to the prison in theft case. She was in the prison for 8 months. She does not have anyone to bail her out. She confessed in lok-adalat that she committed the offence. She was convicted for 6 months and with a fine of Rs. 200/-. She completed her conviction but she has to stay back for two more weeks if she doesn't pay the fine. She approached the counsellor and expressed that she couldn't pay the amount due to her poverty. Hence, she was supported in paying the fine and she was released from the prison on the same day.

5) Clothes to the survivors: There are many inmates, particularly under trailers, who were in need of clothes, especially warm clothes during the winter season. The inmates

shared their issue with the counsellors. Hence clothes were collected from friends and distributed to the inmates. However, there was a serious requirement for petticoats for sarees, hence bought 5 pieces and distributed to the inmates as per requirement. All together, about 70 inmates were benefitted.

- 6) Finding out phone numbers from police station: Few of the inmates could not recollect the phone numbers of their family members. They were in a confusion state whether their family members are aware of their arrest or not, as no one visited them. Their phones were seized and kept in the custody of the police when they were arrested. Hence, efforts were made to support the inmates in getting the phone numbers. For example: Estheramma (name changed) is an under trailer. She couldn't recollect any contact number of her family members, hence her phone number was retrieved from Tappachabutra Police Station. Her family members were informed about her situation. They immediately came to the prison and met her.
- 7) Support in going out on Parole: Mehtaz (name changed), CT is in the prison from last 3 years. She wants to go on Parole (leave for convicts). The Superintendent has to talk to the concerned police station in order to process her request. We enquired and found that the concerned police station is in Wadi, Karnataka. The counsellor phoned her parents to consult the police station. They agreed and contacted the police station. Subsequently, Mehtaz got permission for Parole.
- 8) Spectacles to an inmate: An inmate named Gauri Bai (name changed), UT came to prison in husband's murder case along with her daughter. She had vision problem that is also leading to headache. She was tested and the doctor prescribed spectacles for her. But as she couldn't buy one on her own, she was provided with spectacles. She felt very happy wearing them as her vision was clear then after.
- 9) Support in finding a job: An inmate named Avani got arrested under PITA case. During the counselling session with her, she expressed that she want to quit sex work and asked to support her in finding a job. After her release she approached the counsellors. She was supported in getting a housekeeping job in Hyderabad Metro. She immediately joined the job and expressed that she is leading a satisfied life with dignity.
- 10) Legal Support: The counsellors supported the inmates in varied ways. The details are as following:
- Some inmates (11) obtained bail but could not afford to pay the surety amounts to the court. Hence, they were supported in writing petition to the court by explaining their financial situation. As a result, the inmates' surety amount got reduced to single sureties by the courts.

- Six inmates named Sangamma (UT), Leena Begum (UT), Deepika (UT), V. Anuradha (UT), Fareeda (UT) and Lakshmi (UT) were supported in writing the petition to speed up the trails.
  - Two inmates named Shabana (UT) and Farzana (UT) (names changed) were supported in writing the petitions for appointment of advocates.
  - An inmate named Shanthamma (name changed) (CT) was supported in writing a petition to the Superintendent requesting for a copy of medical certificates which has to be submitted along with the appeal to Supreme Court.
  - An inmate named Bindu (name changed) (UT) was supported in writing a petition to Child Welfare Committee to provide shelter to her 2 children who were left with her husband's friend and his wife.
  - An inmate named Kalavati (name changed) (UT) was supported in writing a petition for availing personal bail.
  - Three inmates named Parvathi (CT), Nalini (DT) and Suvarna (CT) (names changed) were supported in writing a petition to the Superintendent for temporary transfer to Mahabubnagar, Khammam and Nizamabad Sarangapur district jail respectively.
  - Five inmates named Anagha (UT), Jayanti (UT), Bhramara (UT), Devaki (CT) and Manjula (UT) (names changed) were supported in writing the petitions for the lok-adalat that was organised on 7th March 2020.
  - A petition was written for an under trailer named Salma (name changed) to handover her child to her aunt as the child was not well
  - A petition was written for a convict named Mandira (name changed) requesting to permit her to sign and obtain passbook issued for the land that she acquired in her native village.
  - Two petitions were written for an under trailer named Nalini (name changed) requesting to handover her jewellery deposited in the jail to her father. An acknowledgement letter on behalf of her father regarding the same was also written.
  - Two petitions were written for an under trailer named Sujatha (name changed) requesting to handover her jewellery deposited in the jail to her sister. An acknowledgement letter on behalf of her sister regarding the same was also written.
- L. Meetings with DG Prisons:** Initially on 8th August 2019, a meeting was held with the team members of Synchrony Financials, Nirmaan and Bhumika. The team members presented the work that was done so far. Then it was planned to have a meeting with

the DG, Prisons as it was expressed that the officials who got recently transferred to the prison were unaware of the work of the organisations. A meeting date was fixed. Accordingly, on 16th August 2019, a meeting was conducted with the organizations working in the prison, prison officials along with the new D.G. and Superintendent. Ms. K. Satyavati, Chief Functionary, Ms. P. Prasanthi, Director and the counsellors working in the prison support centre were present from Bhumika. Staff members from Nirmaan were also present in the meeting. The DG asked for suggestions for the improvement in the lives of the inmates when they are in the prison and also after their release. He suggested helping their children to continue their education and focus on their well being. He also suggested providing employment opportunities to the inmates after their release.

- M. Monitoring visits:** Ms. Prasanthi & Ms. Satyavati, Bhumika have visited the Support Centre for Women in Prison and reviewed the progress made. They have identified the gaps and guided the counsellors to think and plan to support the inmates in a comprehensive and holistic approach.
- N. Visit of TISS PG Students:** Five students who are doing Masters programme in Social Work visited the Centre to know the work of Bhumika support centre in the prison. The counsellors explained them about the one to one counselling, counselling family members for family reunion, child mulakhat, joining children in the schools and working with CWC and other institutions to support the inmates.



# 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.

Strengthening of model villages through:

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| 1. Gramasabhas                                      | 4. Participation in Sector Meetings of Anganwadi Workers                       |
| 2. VO Meetings                                      | 5. Meetings with Asha Karyakarthas   |
| 3. Balaladandu Meetings                             | 6. Trainings to Peer Educators   |
| 4. Cluster level Melas                              | 7. Selection of SMCs   |
| 5. Sessions in Schools                              | 8. Village level meetings with villagers                                       |
| 6. Meetings with Young married women                | 9. Meetings with MMS members   |
| 7. Orientatations to Balaladandu on gender concepts | 10. Meetings with CREDAC Project staff   |
| 1. Meetings with Youth                              | 11. Awareness Programmes on Early Child Marriages and Women's Safety           |
| 2. Trainings to VO & Gender Committees              | 12. SHG meetings   |
| 3. Meeting with Women Elected Representatives       | 13. Filing complaints / cases on persons leading to ECMs and ECFMs             |
|   | 14. Observation of Special Days viz., Girl Child Day, International Girl Child |

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|---|--|
| Day, Children's Day, International Women's Day            | 17. Interaction with the Mandal Level Officers                   |
| 15. Dealt with cases of Domestic Violence                 | 18. Ikyatha Raagam Training on Gender, Patriarchy and Sexuality. |
| 16. Counseling to women, children and parents of children |  |

#### **KEY EFFECTS / RESULTS OF THESE ACTIVITIES:**

- 6 more villages are selected to the list of 26 Model villages.
- In 47 villages, Gramasabhas were conducted during the reporting period. 2,871 villagers were participated in these. After these programmes, Child Protection Committees were formed in 24 in Model Villages and 2 in new villages. Periodical meetings are held by the committee and able to identify the problems of children. These committees are made aware of the consequences of Early Child and Forced Marriages and in turn they are informing their parents.
- The Staff have participated in 33 VO meetings held at village level and met 751 SHG leaders. After brainstorming orientations, the VO members realised the need for strengthening Gender Committees to address children and women's issues. They ensured to take back the issues in smaller groups of SHGs. The VO leaders are also enthusiastic to improve their capacities through trainings on gender concepts and related acts. They are also ready to stop EC & FMs whenever they have such information.
- 7 Orientations in 7 villages were conducted with 215 Balala Dandu children. The Adolescents' are informing the parents and complaining to Police seeking justice to them in case of any discrimination or violence against children. The School drop outs decided to continue their education by joining back in schools. The adolescents were found firm in understanding the adolescent behaviours and teenage temptations.
- 31 Balala Dandu meetings were held with 623 children. Some adolescents' newly joined in Balala Dandus and hence increased membership in Balala Dandus. Peer Educators from Balala Dandus are identified. The Peer Educators are taking forward the objectives of Balala Dandu and ensuring protection of Child Rights by the Grama Panchayat members.
- 2 Cluster level Melas were conducted in 2 mandals with 214 participants (119 in Maddur and 95 in Damaragidda) gracing the occasion of Children's Day. The children gave their active role in competitions like Essay Writings, Quiz competitions and role plays by the children were performed. The adolescents are aware of ECMs and Forced marriages and negotiation with the parents for making choices of adolescents.
- 31 Sessions in Schools were conducted with about 2,096 boys and girls in both the mandals. The students expressed they will respond on issues of gender based violence, prevent EC & FMs, make aware the parents on the consequences, protect their own rights and utilise the support systems like helplines and Sakhi One Stop Centre. The Children expressed that, they have understood about infatuations and its consequences.



- 10 meetings were held with 111 young married women (ECMs). The meetings resulted in understanding the young women continue their education. They are keen to improve their skills in better. They expressed that, even though they are interested to share their experiences and to prevent their friends or neighbours from ECMs, some might listen and some may not. They have put an end to education forcefully. They informed that, family members should understand the concerns of the children and consider their choices. Due to family member's not understanding them, now they are facing problems. Now, by participating in these meetings, they are able to cope up with their problems in the families and expressing with family members that, they want to continue their education again.
- 2 Youth meetings were conducted at mandal level in both the mandals of Maddur and Damaragidda with 188 participants. The youth members ensured to take the support of the parents and elders in the community in resolving any problems or if they come across any problems. If it is in Educational institutions, then they are ready to complain to the Principal concerned and in any other areas, they will Dial on 100 for police help. They all fixed that, they should be self-confident and lead their life with gender equality and mutual respect, so that they will be rewarded with good name and recognition and develop as sensitive citizens. They also decided to be connected with each other and support each other among their friends groups by responding to any of the problems.
- 2 mandal level Meetings were held with Elected Women Representatives with 29 participants (12 in Maddur and 17 in Damaragidda mandals). They expressed that, women should be self-reliant. Everyone will have one or the other problem and we should be ready to accept the problems and try to overcome with our rationale thinking and seeking support. Every problem will have a solution. When there is a problem, it is always better to sit and talk smoothly to find a solution. Women should exercise their rights and access to legal provisioning.
- 1 meeting was conducted with Anganwadi Workers and there were 25 participants. The meeting was held with the support of the ICDS CDPO and Supervisors. The AWWs understood about the acts, how to overcome violence issues, what are the procedures to be followed, support systems to women and girls. There should be an understanding among the children also, then only the problem of EC & FMs can be prevented. Also, the elopement cases and love affairs at a younger age can be stopped. The Children should also be counselled.
- 3 meetings were conducted with 214 Asha Karyakarthis. The Ashas' shared that, they will organise meetings with adolescents and explain them about Health, Personal Hygiene, and changes in attitudes will be discussed. They expressed that, increase in age at marriage would be working out only to some of the higher class people. But, it will be of no use to the poor people. On the other hand, it may be good if the age at marriage is increased from 18 to 21 years so that, they can continue their education and pursue higher education. The children have a common sense and they also possess the skills of decision making.
- 5 Trainings were conducted to Peer Educators with 45 participants. It resulted in making the Peer Educators understand the differences between love, infatuation and violence, forms of



violence, gender equality, related rights and laws, Helplines and other support systems. They expressed they would call on helpline numbers if there is any problem.

- Gracing the occasion of International Girl Child Day on 11 October, 2019 an event was organised with Adolescent Girl's. 2 events with 95 (Maddur -52 and Damaragidda-43) participants. The AWWs supported in organising this events. The discussions in the event resulted in making the girls think on improving their skills and leadership qualities. They expressed they will create awareness to the adolescents and young women on the importance of Education, Health and Nutrition. They will raise on VAW and girls.
- On 24 January 2020 National Girl Child Day was observed with students in school at Maddur mandal. There were about 225 students participated. The village Sarpanch explained how much difficulties would be there due to ECMs. Bhumika staff are giving their good information and hence suggested all the participants to believe and participate in Bhumika activities.
- 4 programmes were organised in 4 villages with about 395 participants for celebration of International Women's Day. The meetings resulted in making the Elected Women Representatives to express that they are taking their own decisions as EWRs, they are ready to respond on any issues of VAW&G. They would create awareness to the general public on Women support systems like helplines. Watch committee has been formed in Maddur mandal to respond on any issue.
- During the reporting period, 22 EC & FMs were made to postpone through Project Staff and Adolescents.
- 7 cases of Domestic Violence were counselled by the project staff.
- 2 mandal level trainings were conducted to Gender Committee members – 1 in Maddur with 15 participants and 1 in Damaragidda with 16 participants. The Gender committee members assured to make postpone any ECM or FMs in the villages by motivating the parents and also inform CMPOs. They will also take forward the problems to the notice of the Grama Sarpanch and try to resolve them.
- 1 meeting was held with 8 MMS office bearers.
- 2 meetings were conducted in 2 villages and 150 members were participated to discuss on selection of School Management Committees. It was resolved to conduct monthly meetings by the SMC and also to conduct a meeting with children on SMC by Bhumika.
- Sessions to School Children on Phone Conference Calls: School Children are connected over phone and sessions are held over phone connecting with a conference call. In August, 2020, 28 sessions were conducted and about 212 children are connected and discussed on Child Rights, ECMs, Forced Marriages (FMs). It was a new experience to the adolescents' as well to the staff to take sessions on phone. But, these sessions during the pandemic helped a lot in giving confidence to the children to connect, revise the previous learnings and know new things. They said they will know and take precautions to prevent ECMs and FMs, able to clearly understand about Adolescent issues, save the helpline numbers and seek their support in hard situations of love affairs, temptations of ECMs.
- Federation from Karimnagar team visited the project mandals and conducted 5 meetings with Balala Dandu. There were about 179 adolescents participated in these meetings. After

the meetings, they resolved for formation of Balala Dandu in non-existing villages, aware the parents and children on ECMs and FMs, also seek support of School Teachers and Village Sarpanches in prevention of ECMS and protection of rights.

- The ToT of Ikyatha Ragam visited the project mandals and their training concepts were administered as practical sessions with school students and community women on gender discrimination, teenage love temptations, VAWG, etc. In Schools, 4 sessions were conducted and 468 students were part of it. 2 Community level sessions were held with about 90 participants.



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

During the reporting period, the Police Commissionerates of Cyberabad and Rachakonda organised 23 sessions to counsel the offenders caught by the SHE Teams police. Of these 23 sessions, 16 sessions were organised by Cyberabad Police Commissionerate and 7 sessions by Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The counsellors from Bhumika were deputed to provide counselling to the offenders and their family members.

No. of offenders counselled: The counsellors counselled 418 offenders in which 191 offenders were caught by Cyberabad SHE Teams and 227 offenders by Rachakonda SHE Teams.

Age and occupation of the offenders: The offenders were mostly in the age group of 14 to 45 years. The offenders were from different occupational backgrounds which include private job holders, cab drivers, RTC drivers, self employed, mechanic, auto drivers, daily wage labourers, swiggy delivery person and students. However, there were also few offenders from other fields, viz., government employee, choreographer, catering person and a retired employee.

Nature of offence: The offenders brought for the 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.

During the counselling sessions with the offenders, it was learnt that majority of the cases were related to i) public harassment and ii) stalking girls and women in the name of love

- i) The public harassment is harassing women near bus stops, colleges, hotels, parks and other public places, passing subtle sexual comments on girls and women, rude behaviour towards women, triple riding near women's colleges, etc. Some of the offenders were drunk and harassed women in the public places.
- ii) The other cases were related to the issues of stalking girls and women in the name of love through wrong phone calls and messages from different numbers. There were also cases where the offenders harassed the women, with whom they had relationship earlier. Even after break-up of their relationship, the offenders continued to insist the complainants to accept them. Some of the offenders even threatened and blackmailed the respective women complainants with videos and photographs that they will not leave them but will

ruin their lives. Few offenders had even demanded sexual favours or to continue the relationship.

During one to one counselling session with the offenders, many of them expressed that they were cheated by the complainants. They alleged that to get rid of them the concerned women complained against them. Many seemed to be angry with the complainants. Some of them seemed to be genuine. It was sensed that the girls and their families were using SHE Teams as the medium to have an end to the relationships.

Some of the offenders allege that the parents of the girls, who were against the relationship of their daughters, forced them to complain and file case against the offenders.

**Objective of the counselling:** The objective of the counselling is to sensitize the offenders and help them introspect on their behaviour so that they will realise their mistakes and do not repeat the offence again; to create awareness about the existing Acts and provisions available for women; to make them understand the importance of education, understand the difference between fun and nuisance, difference between private and public space and how they should behave in these spaces; to make them understand the importance of relationships; and to make them realise the negative effects of their behaviour on their families and society.

**The process:** All the offenders were provided intensive individual one to one counselling. In the beginning, few of the offenders tried to establish that they were falsely caught by the SHE Teams. The SHE Teams police personnel were asked about the details in such cases to understand the issues from their point of view. In the cases of stalking women in the name of love, some of the offenders were not in a state to realize their offence. They were emotional and expressed that they got cheated by the complainants. They even worried about their career. During the individual session, the counsellors counselled to understand that girls/women do not feel comfortable with such acts and when the girls/women say no, they should leave it there and not to force them. Also efforts were made to help the offenders introspect on their deeds and understand the consequences that they, their families and the society at large have to face consequences due to their deeds. They were made to realise that they are ruining their future as well as keeping the pride of their parents at stake. They were also explained about the difference between infatuation and love. They were informed about the existing Acts related to women and asked to think from the complainant's point of view and how their situation will worsen due to their behaviour. Along with it, all of them were informed about Nirbhaya Act and the consequences of getting caught by the SHE Teams for the second time. They were asked to set goals for their future to excel in life both

personally and professionally. The offenders who dropped out from school or college were encouraged to continue their studies through open/distance education. Few of them were also informed about the job opportunities.

Most of them brought either of their parents or family members for counselling. After individual counselling session with the offenders, a joint session with their parents or family members was provided. In some cases, based on the need separate counselling to the parents was also provided.

Many of the family members were aware of the offence of the offenders, while few of the offenders did not want the counsellors to discuss about their offence with their fathers' or wives and they managed to tell them that they have wrongly got booked in the cases. They requested the counsellors not to reveal about their case with their family members and expressed that they will not repeat the offence again.

During the counselling, the parents were unaware of their sons' behaviour and were shocked to know about their situation. They expressed their worry about their children, especially about their behaviour at public places, their education and their attitude towards respecting women. They expressed that they feel ashamed of coming to the police station. Few of the parents supported their children and blamed the complainants while few complained that their children do not respect them at all and fight with them rudely to meet their comforts. They requested for few more counselling sessions to their sons to see change in their behaviour.

The counsellors informed the parents and the family members about the extent of support that they have to provide to the offenders in moulding their behaviour. They were told to keep a check on them. The parents were told and consoled that this behaviour could be due to lack of proper check, guidance and sharing amongst them or because of peer pressures which could be changed with necessary support. Parents were also advised to spend some quality time every day with their children, which will have a positive impact on their behaviour. In this regard it was suggested to ensure having at least one meal together every day and to ensure having casual chat for at least 10 minutes every day.

Change was observed among many of the offenders. They agreed to the counsellors and expressed that they did not realize that they were troubling the complainants with their behaviour. They even expressed that they have realized their wrong deeds and were feeling guilty that their parents had to face the case due to their behaviour. Few of them even expressed that in future they would respect the other person's feelings and opinions and would behave properly in public. The parents or the family members of the offenders gave

the assurance on the same thing. It was sensed that they realized their mistakes and the consequences of their unacceptable acts.

The offenders who were very much depressed and were aggressive in nature towards others were suggested to take psychiatric support to deal with their anger and depression. They were referred to a psychiatrist as per the need.

**Repeated sessions:** Repeated counselling sessions were provided to the offenders who were not in a state to realise their mistakes as well as to the offenders who did not bring their parents or spouse but had come with friends or cousins. So, the counsellors after interacting with the offender asked them to bring their parents or family members for the next counselling session. The repeated sessions were provided with the intension to bring change in the attitude and behaviour of the offenders. The concerned SHE teams' Police were given the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of the offenders, who were required to attend repeated counselling sessions. During the consecutive sessions some of the offenders expressed that they have realised their offense. During this reporting period, 59 offenders caught by the SHE Teams of both the police Commissionerates were asked to attend repeated counselling sessions while only six (6) of them have attended the repeated sessions.

**Social Punishment:** The social punishment was given to 58 offenders with the intention to make the offenders feel responsible towards women and the society. Most of them were students. The social punishment was to spread awareness about SHE Teams programme and Women Helpline number – 181 in their colleges and /or at the public place where they were caught.

#### **A. Challenges:**

- Offenders called for repeated sessions were not necessarily attending the subsequent session. The concerned SHE Teams police officers were repeatedly requested to concentrate on these cases to ensure their attendance in the follow up session, but still it remained as a challenge.
- The students who were given social punishments did not turn up for the next counselling and there was no information on accomplishment of their sanctions.
- In Cyberabad, the counselling is happening in an open place. The officers and the counsellors were made to sit in one place. It is very disturbing during group counselling.
- The constables are involving in the counselling process. They are forcing the offenders to accept that it is their fault and will never repeat it even when they do not feel sorry or realize their mistake. The constables are not giving time for the counsellors to provide proper counselling to the offenders. The constables are sharing the offence before the offender speaks up.

- ಈನಾಡು**  
ಇನ್‌ಸೈಡ್ ನಾಡು

**వేదికంపులు  
అరికట్టడంపై  
అవగాహన**



ఆకతాయిలకు కౌన్సెలింగ్ ఇస్తున్న పీబీఎస్ సభ్యులు

షీ బృందాలు నమోదు చేసిన కేసులో కొన్ని...

[illegible][illegible]

● కళాశాల విద్యార్థిని(17) వెంటబడి వేదిస్తున్న బొంతుల రామకృష్ణ(20) అనే క్లూక్రే డ్రైవర్ను ధువనగరి షీ బ్లాండాలు అనుష్టలోకి తీసుకువచ్చాయి. గత అధిలలులుగా ప్రేమ పెళ్లి వేరిలి బాలిక వెంటపడుతున్న నడవ యువ కుడు ఏప్రిల్ 4న కళాశాల నుంచి ఇంటికి వస్తుండగా అమ్మ చేయవట్టు కుని అనుష్టంగా ప్రసంగించి అనుష్టానికి కుమన గరిని పోలిపోయి వేళ్ళాని వట్టుం కింద అరెస్టుచేసి రిమాండుకు తరలించారు.

● నాన్వేరేటర్ ఇంజనీరింగ్ మరియు ప్లాస్టిక్ టెక్నాలజీ (24)లో వారంరోజులుగా అనభ్యంగ ప్రవర్తిస్తున్న వర్కింగ్ డ్రైవ్ను ఉద్యోగి సాబులకు (43)ను సరెడిమిటి పోలిసులు అరెస్టుచేశారు. ఆమెకు నందేబాదు మరియు మునెనెరంగు వేదింబాదు. తనను ప్రేమించబోతో అను తల్లిదండ్రులను చంపుతానంటూ బేదిరించడంతో నిర్భయపట్టం కింద వేసిచంపడానికి నిర్ణయించబడింది.

● రాంబాబ్ సంతోషినగర్‌కు చెందిన శ్యామల రాజశేఖర్(28) 22వేళ్ల యువ తిరి ప్రేమిస్తున్నానంటూ వెంటపడ్డాడు. బ్రెంకింగుగా కలిశారు. అనంతరం ఆమెను దూరం పంపినా కేసులో మార్చి 10న తనను పెళ్లిచేసుకోవాలంటూ ఆమె కోరగా ఆతడు నిరాకరించాడు. తనకు మరో యువతితో పెళ్లి వదిలిందేమీ, నీకు తోటిదిలే లేనట్టో మ్మంటూ ఆమెను దుర్భాషలాడాడు. బాధితురాలి పిర్యాదు మేరకు కేసులో రాంబాబ్ జైలు నుండిపెట్టెడి.

దేకాయ్ ఆపరేషను...

● భువనగిరిలోని సాంఘిక సంక్షేమ పాఠశాల వద్ద  
 మార్చి 20న నిఘా ఉంచిన షీ బృందాలు. విద్యార్థి  
 నుల పట్ల ఆసక్తి ప్రాగల్భ్యం, అనుభవ వ్యాఖ్యలు చేస్తున్న  
 విప్లవ సందేశ(19), సాధన అనుభవము(19), జైప్రదో  
 తుల శ్రవణ(18) అనే విద్యార్థులను అడుపులోకి తీసు  
 కున్నారు.

● పాఠశాలకు వెళ్లివస్తుండగా గత ఏడునెలలుగా వేదిమిన్న పు జువనైర్ బాలుడిపై ఓ పద్మాలుగేళ్ల బాలిక ఇచ్చిన పిద్యామ మేరకు మల్కొక్కెరి వీ బృందాలు అడుపులోకి తీసుకున్నాయి. బాలుడిని తల్లి దండ్రులకు అప్పగించి కొన్నిలింగ నిరహించాయి.

అయిదు బాల్స్

వివాహాల నిలుపుదల

రాచకొండ కమిషనరీలో వసతిలోని  
పట్టాదారు భువంగిరిలో 2, మల్కాజ్  
గిరిలో 1, చౌడుప్పలేలో 1, ఇల్లూపావ  
ట్నంలో ఒక బాల్క వివాహాలను  
అడ్డుకున్నాయి. మొత్తంగా ఇప్పటివరకు  
6 బాల్క వివాహాలను అడ్డుకుని బాధితు  
లను రక్షించినట్లు సీమా వివరించారు.



## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE FEDERATION MEMBERS

The project “Mahila Samakhya Federations Mobilise Adolescent Girls Collectives” is being implemented in erstwhile Karimnagar District, Telangana, from 15.06.2018. One of the key objectives is to strengthen the grassroots women’s federations while mobilising the adolescent girls into collectives. However, in Telangana the federations have decided to mobilise boys also into collectives therefore facilitating formation of Bala Sanghas with girls and boys as members. To facilitate this process Bhumika Women’s Collective has partnered with the district level federation – Sthree Shakti Mahila Maha Sangham. Two mandals, i.e., Husnabad and Saidapur, were identified for the implementation of the project.

### A. ACTIVITIES DONE

Following is a gist of the activities taken up during the reporting period:

- Strengthening and reviving of Sanghas:** Sangha meetings were conducted in 42 villages of both Husnabad and Saidapur mandals. They were motivated about the importance of collectivisation for the dissemination of the acquired knowledge to more number of women. Hence, they were encouraged to join the newly wedded women and non sangha women into the sanghas. They had discussed that collectively they can get the benefits of the welfare schemes provided by the Government. As a result, 256 new members joined in the sangha from the two mandals during this reporting period. The details are as following:

S. No	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Cluster	No. of villages	No. of existing members	No. of new members	Total no. of members
1	Husnabad	Gowravelli	7	169	15	184
		Husnabad	7	91	45	136
		Kesavapur	7	154	36	190
2	Saidapur	Saidapur	7	172	97	269



		Bommakal	7	221	63	284
	Total		35	807	256	1063

Discussions were also held regarding regularity of Sangha Contribution and as a result, from the 42 villages of the Sangha women of 20 villages updated their passbooks and started making contributions regularly.

During the months of April to July 2020, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the team did not conduct the meetings physically but had virtual meetings on phone. The Following discussions were held with..... Sanghas:

- Should ensure that the surroundings of the houses should be clean
- Explained the importance of wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and washing hands to remain safe
- Discussed about the supply of 12 Kgs of rice to each person and Rs. 1500 per family to purchase essential commodities to the BPL families who hold white ration cards, as part of COVID-19 relief activity during the lockdown. The sangha women have decided to ensure that all the needy families access the support provided by the Government.
- The sangha women were asked to identify the needy households who were unable to make ends meet due to loss of livelihoods during to the lockdown and had not received the amount of Rs. 1500 per household from the Government towards the purchase of essential commodities and support them in filing an application to receive relief amount of Rs. 1500.
- The sangha women of Elabotharam village had distributed vegetables to the needy women.
- The Cluster Resource Person Ms. Vennela had stitched 50 masks to the sangha women of Ammanagurthi village.
- The team with the support of sangha women identified and made a list of 188 and 92 needy persons from Husnabad and saidapur clusters, who cannot afford day to day essential goods. The persons include single women, aged and physically challenged persons.

- The sanghas of 6 villages in Saidapur and 5 villages on Husnabad made regular contributions. They have decided to utilise the contribution amount to grow vegetables and other small profit making activities.

**2. Cluster level meetings:** Cluster level meetings were held for the change of General Body and Executive members. The sangha women were informed that the members should be changed for every two years and motivated to elect the new body members. As a result, the new members were elected for each cluster. The following are the details of the meetings held for the election of the members:

S. No	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Cluster	No. of Meetings held	No. of Villages	No. of members participated
1	Husnabad	10	9	45	225
2	Saidapur	8	8	32	160
3	Kodimiyala	8	8	30	153
4	Gangadhara	10	9	34	170
5	Bejjanki	10	9	42	210
6	Koheda	9	9	45	205
7	Chiguru Mamidi	6	5	20	65
8	Konaraopeta	8	2	10	37
9	Chindurthi	7	1	5	27

**3. Federation meetings:** Federation wise General Body meetings were held and discussed about the need and importance of change of Executive Committee members and the election process, the roles of the newly elected members and the importance of conduction of General Body meetings regularly. Efforts were made to improve the understanding levels of the members and then new members were elected. The details are given below:

S. No	Name of the Mandal	Date on the meeting was held	No. of Villages involved	No. of members participated
1	Husnabad	22.4.2019	24	56
2	Saidapur	17.4.2019	16	51

3	Koheda	7.5.2019	20	38
4	Chiguru Mamidi	16.5.2019	12	24
5	Bejjanki	24.5.2019	14	28
6	Gangadhara	25.5.2019	21	36
7	Kodimyala	20.5.2019	13	41
8	Konaraopeta	22.5.2019	11	24

- 4. Strengthening of federations:** During the lockdown, phone calls were made to the federation members and motivated them to educate the sangha women to create awareness about the precautions that need to be taken to tackle COVID-19 and also to ensure that all the sangha women have access to the facilities provided by the Telangana Government. As a result the governing body members of 17 villages of Husnabad and 19 villages of Saidabad clusters agreed and took responsibility. They had created awareness regarding the need for maintaining physical distance and intake of nutritious foods. As it was not possible to have regular meetings, the EC members were suggested to be in touch with each other regularly over phone and discuss the situation about their villages.
- 5. National Nutrition Week:** The team as part of the National Nutrition Week organised meetings on 4 villages of 4 clusters along with Anganwadi teachers and Asha workers. About 190 pregnant women, lactating mothers and sangha women attended the meetings. They were briefed about the importance of nutrition, the need for intake of nutritious food, the nutrition content in the available foods, the precautions that the pregnant should take in terms of intake of nutritious diet, the nutrition value of *Balamrutham*-the food that is given by the government through Anganwadi Centres. They had also performed baby shower ceremonies to the pregnant women by gifting *Balamrutham* and fresh fruits. The other non pregnant and non lactating women were also informed that they should do lot of household chores as well as their livelihoods and often forget to concentrate on their health which shouldn't be done anymore. They were encouraged to take responsibility of their health by eating the available green leafy vegetables, fresh fruits, milk, yogurt, etc. They were informed about the importance of intake of iron supplements.

S. No	Date	Name of the Mandal	Name of the cluster	Named of the Village	No. of members participated
1	21.9.2019	Husnabad	Kesavapur	Gollapalli	50
2	22.9.2019	Husnabad	Gowravelli	Gowravelli	45

3	23.9.2019	Saidapur	Saidapur	Saidapur	40
4	25.9.2019	Saidapur	Bommakal	Bommakal	55

6. **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:** On 25<sup>th</sup> November on the eve of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women village level meetings were held with the sangha women. They were briefed about the importance of the day, explained different forms of violence that the women and girls are facing in the current situation. They were told about the need for collectivisation and the support they can support each other. They were also informed about the existing protection laws and available support systems for women and children. There also a discussion on the role of Nyaya Committee members in handling the issues of violence against women and girl children.

S. No	Name of the Mandal	Name of the cluster	Named of the Village	No. of members participated
1	Husnabad	Gowravelli	Gowravelli	40
2	Husnabad	Kesavapur	Gollapalli	30
3	Husnabad	Husnabad	Potlapalli	15
4	Saidapur	Saidapur	Saidapur	30
5	Saidapur	Bommakal	Raikal Thanda	35
6	Saidapur	Elabotharam	Elabotharam	40

7. **Mahasangha General Body meeting:** The team organised general body meetings to elect the executive members of Maha Sangha with the 106 members of 80 villages of 20 mandals. The members were briefed about the objective of the meeting and the role of executive committee of federations. Then they were asked to express their interest to be part of the executive committee of Maha Sangha and informed them about the role of the members of the Executive Committee. Later, the members elected the executive committee members.

S. No	Date of the meeting	No. of mandals present	No. of Villages present	No. of members present
1	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	10	38	51
2	30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019	10	42	55

8. **Orientation on Documentation in Federations:** On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019, an orientation on documentation was held to the executive committee members (18) at Karimnagar Mahila pranganam. The team members (7) were also part of the orientation programme. They were first briefed about the objective of the programme and then oriented on the essential records that have to be maintained in the federations. They were told that to get projects they have to be exceptional in terms of maintaining records, regular audit and preparation of annual report with all the details. The following are the details:

S. No.	Mandal	No. of EC members present
1	Husnabad	5
2	Saidapur	5
3	Konaraopeta	3
4	Kodimyala	1
5	Gangadhara	2
6	Chandurthi	1
7	Koheda	1
	Total	18

9. **Orientation of Year Plan:** For the smooth implementation of the project through the Maha Sangha, 2019-2020 plan meet was held at Mahila pranganam on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019. About 20 members, who include 10 sangha women (3 members from Husnabad mandal, 4 members form Saidabad mandal, 3 members from Konaroapeta), 8 project team and 2 members from Bhumika were part of the planning. They discussed about the aspects that they are currently working on and wanted to work further and prepared a module for the year 2019-2020.

10. **Programmes in the schools on the occasion of Child Rights Week:** As part of Child Rights Week, sessions were held in the schools followed by rallies. About 425 students participated from the two mandals. During the sessions, the students were briefed about the importance of Child Rights Week, the support and the facilities that the children require to accomplish their goals, availability of helplines and Child Protection Committee and its role in safeguarding the rights of the children. The following are the details:

S. No	Date	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Cluster	Name of the village	No. of children
1	18.11.2019	Husnabad	Kesavapur	Mallampalli & Gollapalli	105
2	19.11.2019	Husnabad	Gowravelli	Gowravelli	50
3	20.11.2019	Husnabad	Husnabad	Mohammadapur	90
4	25.11.2019	Husnabad	Husnabad	Potlapalli	35
5	22.11.2019	Saidapur	Saidapur	Saidapur	80
6	24.11.2019	Saidapur	Saidapur	Vennampalli	50
7	25.11.2019	Saidapur	Bommakal	Bommakal	35

**11. Workshop with the Youth:** As it was planned to form youth groups in both Husnabad and Saidapur mandals in 2019-2020, a workshop was conducted with the 167 youth of 21 villages. Discussions were held on the issues that the youth face in the current society and the effect of media on the youth. It was intended to understand their sensitivity levels and how they perceive the situation. The youth shared their experiences during the discussions and made to introspect how can they handle and overcome the issues. The details are as following:

S. No	Date	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Cluster	No. of villages	No. of members
1	20.6.2019	Husnabad	Gowravelli	3	26
2	24.6.2019	Husnabad	Husnabad	4	22
3	21.7.2019	Husnabad	Mallampalli	3	35
4	17.7.2019	Husnabad	Husnabad	4	36

5	1.7.2019	Saidapur	Saidapur	4	25
6	7.7.2019	Saidapur	Elabotharam	3	23

**12. Sessions in the school on the occasion of 16 days of activism on violence against women:**

Sessions were held in the High Schools of the 5 villages of Husnabad and Saidapur mandals. About 277 students attended the sessions. The sessions were interactions. The students were made to discuss on the forms of violence against women and girls, the type of violence that they could see in their locality and what measures can be taken. They were then informed about the availability of Helpline numbers, need for equality within the families in between male and female. The students expressed that they will approach the Helpline in times of need and especially the boys expressed that they will support their sisters by linking them to the Helpline if they were in trouble.

S. No	Date	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Cluster	Name of the village	No. of students
1	16.12.2019	Saidapur	Bommakal	Ammanagurthi	30
2	7.12.2019	Saidapur	Bommakal	Raikal	50
3	9.12.2019	Saidapur	Bommakal	Godishala	110
4	3.12.2019	Husnabad	Husnabad	Potharam (s)	50
5	5.12.2019	Husnabad	Gowravelli	Ramavaram	37

**13. National Girl Child Day:** As part of National Girl Child Day, sessions were conducted to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> class girls. About 135 students attended the sessions. They were briefed about the importance of the day, what they should do to reach their goal, changes that takes place in teenage and how to overcome teenage attractions that hinder their development. They were also informed about the support systems that are available for women and girl children which protect them from violence. Later, competitions were held to the girls and the winners were given 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes. The following are the details:

S. No	Date	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Cluster	Name of the Village	No. of children participated
1	24.1.2020	Husnabad	Gowravelli	Gowravelli	65
2	24.1.2020	Husnabad	Kesavapur	Gandhi Nagar	20
3	25.1.2020	Saidapur	Saidapur	Vennampalli	50

**14. Strengthening of Bala Sanghas and Youth:** During and after lockdown, phone calls were made to the members of bala sanghas and youth members of both Saidapur and Husnabad clusters and motivated them to organise regular meetings and register updation by maintaining physical distance. They were also asked to create awareness on the prevention of COVID-19 and the support that is provided by the Telangana Government. They were also told that the families affected with COVID-19 should not be stigmatized but should be supported to overcome the disease. The team has also provided 500 masks to the members of bala sanghas and youth groups.

**15. Strengthening of Maha Sangha:** The EC members of Gangadhara, Kodimyalu, Chandurthi, Bejanki, koheda, chigurumamidi, Husnabad, Saidapur mandals had discussed about the precautions that had to be taken to combat COVID-19, the symptoms and the care that had to be provided to the affected persons was discussed over phone. They have also discussed that need to sensitize the sangha women and their families to realise that they should stay at home and come out of the house only when it is required and also discussed to ensure that the affected families were not stigmatized.

They had also decided and made a list of the single women, physically challenged persons, aged persons who were unable to meet the basic amenities with the support of Federation members. Accordingly, vegetables were distributed to the 5 families of Gowravelli village of Husnabad mandal and 9 families of Elabotharam village of Saidapur mandal.

They had also discussed to motivate the sangha women to work collectively by utilizing the amount available with sanghas during the monsoon. Accordingly, federation meeting was organised with 12 women of 5 villages on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in Chigurumamidi mandal. They have availed Rs. 30,000 to grow paddy in 2 acres land collectively and decided to repay the amount once in 6 months within an year.



The following activities were planned by the team and the members over phone but not implemented due to the current situation. But the sangha women and federation members are motivated and informed about the planned activities. The details are as following:

- Increase the number of members at sangha level
- Regularity in conduction of federation meetings
- Strengthening of nyaya committee
- Planned to organise GO & NGO meeting to have a network to Maha Sangha
- Formation of a network of bala sanghas and youth groups
- Sustaining the federations by motivating the members to have regular contributions and later lend the contribution amount to the needy Sangha Women and recover the amount at regular intervals.

**16. Harithaharam:** the EC members of 7 villages of Husnabad and 5 villages of Saidapur participated in the harithaharam programme and distributed plant saplings to every house in their villages.

## **B. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Some of the key achievements during the project period are as following:

1. The team involved the Executive Committee members in strengthening the sanghas. The EC members took active role and motivated the sangha members to organise regular meetings, make regular contribution to the Sangha fund, maintain registers and revive sangha bank accounts. They also motivated to include the newly wedded women and the women who were not part of the sanghas. As a result, most of the sanghas started functioning in an organised way and 316 women from 21 villages got motivated and joined in the Sanghas.
2. The Sangha women were motivated to elect new General Body Members member for every 2 years and as a result, in 9 mandals new General Bodies were formed. In the similar way, cluster level meetings were held and the new executive committees were formed in the 9 mandals.
3. In 9 mandals, federation General Body meetings were held and elected new executive committee members.

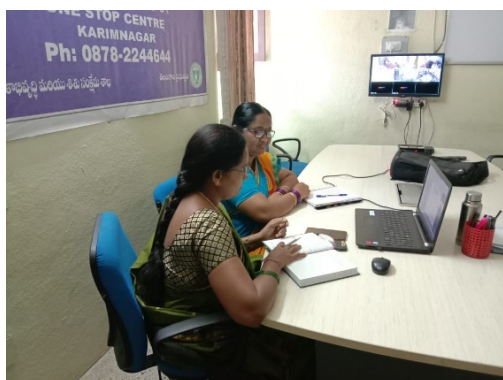
4. General Body meetings were held to change of General Body members of Maha Sangha. About 60 Federation EC members from 10 mandals attended the meeting and elected the new body members.
5. The exposure visit to Maddur mandal helped the team to conduct sessions in the schools and the formation of youth sanghas
6. The awareness about child rights and the available support systems to safeguard the rights of the children in the Bala sangha meetings lead to the postponement of Child Marriage in Raikal village.
7. In Gowravelli, Vennampalli and Gandhi Nagar villagers, the school teachers appreciated the team for celebrating National Girl Child Day.
8. The sessions in the schools during the Child Rights Week lead to the conduction of regular sessions on various topics based on the request of the school teachers. The team members take the sessions once in a week to the students.
9. The orientation on documentation supported to update the records of Maha Sangha and Federations of Husnabad, Saidapur, Gangadhara and Koheda.
10. The Maha Sangha members took active role in strengthening the federations.
11. Due to regular General Body Meetings among federations, there is regularity of contribution. Earlier, they used to contribute Rs. 50 but now it has been enhanced to Rs. 100 from each village.
12. There is regularity of conduction of Maha Sangha meetings. Earlier, they used to collect Rs. 100 from each federation towards membership fee but now they had decided and enhanced the fee to Rs. 200 from each federation.
13. The sanghas started functioning well in both Husnabad and Saidapur mandals in terms of member contribution and passbook updation.

The sangha women are taking active role in addressing the issues of violence and supporting the distressed women, especially in Gowravelli, Ramavaram, Banjerupalli, Raikal thanda.

## SAKHI CENTRE IMPLEMENTATION

One Stop Centres (OSC) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse, irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status, race and culture will be facilitated with support and redressal. Aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, honour related crimes, acid attacks or witch-hunting who have reached out or been referred to the OSC will be provided with specialized services. In Karimnagar District of Telangana State, Bhumika have been allotted with the responsibility of managing the Sakhi Centre through Women Development and Child Welfare in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad and empanelled through the District Collector.

From November 2019, Bhumika has taken up the implementation of one more Sakhi One Stop Centre in Rajanna Sircilla district.



The Sakhi Centres are not only dealing with cases of violence against women and girls, they are also creating awareness among the communities on women's rights, acts and entitlements. They are explaining about various support systems in particular to Sakhi, Women Helpline 181, etc.

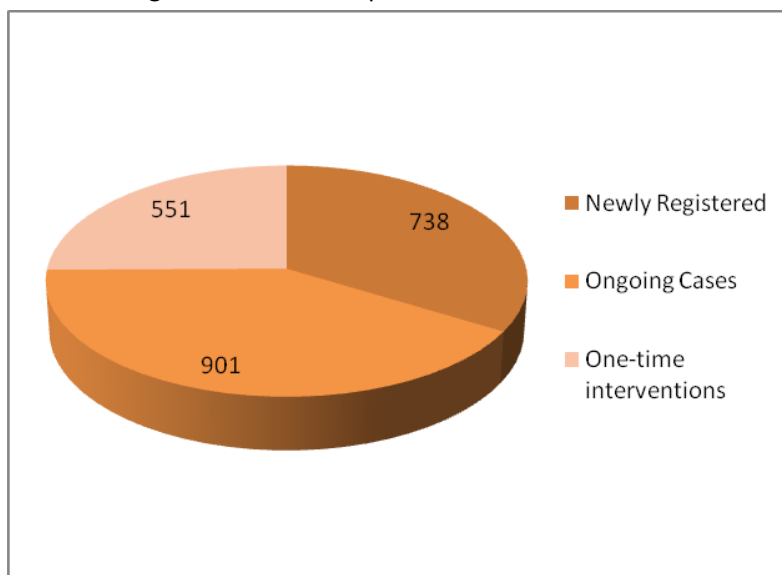
# INTERVENTIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. 2 Social Workers (Counselors) are being appointed and working from 10 am to 5.30 pm.

The following are the cases in Special Cells:



The graph shows the total number of Cases approached and sought support from the special cells for the period November 2019 to December 2020. During the Reporting period a total of 2,190 cases were provided support. Out of them, 738 were registered for the first time, 901 were online cases and 551 approached for only one time.

**Legal Guidance:** 147 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 918 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.

During this year, 3 Awareness Programmes were conducted and 206 members have participated. The Field Coordinators visited the communities, met the Ward Corportators (local Elected Representatives), Anganwadi Teachers (ICDS functionaries), Police, local leaders and NGOs, etc., explained about Bhumika and the project. With their support, the community members were mobilised for the Awareness programmes. The Project Coordinator and some of the Counselors from Special Cell also accompanied in conducting the awareness programmes.



First, they were introduced about Bhumika, its interventions, the project, status of girls and women in the society in general and in the communities in particular, understanding gender based violence, identifying issues prevailing, habits of alcohol consumption and drug abuse, reasons for violence, need for ending the evil practices, awareness of rights of children and women, informed about helpline, Special Cells and other support structures and a brief on acts related to women and girls. They were motivated to take the

issues of violence seriously as it is the role of the society on the whole in prevention of violence, promotion of their rights and develop as role model communities in the cities. Identification of Community Volunteers was done at the end of the programme for taking ahead periodic training and sensitization programmes. The Awareness Programmes resulted in:

- ✓ Created awareness on acts like Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006; Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Helpline numbers.
- ✓ Came to know that, there are organisations working for women, particularly Bhumika.
- ✓ The women in distress are accessing the support Centres.
- ✓ Members in community coming forward as Volunteers for participating in further training programmes.
- ✓ Availing free legal guidance from the Legal Consultant /Advocate under the project.



#### **4. Awareness Programmes in Educational Institutions:**

7 Awareness Programmes were conducted in Rajamahendravaram and Vijayawada with 457 students in 6 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 6 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 2019-2020, 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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## SUCSESSES – CHALLENGES

### Challenges:

- ▶ Continued demand for livelihoods from women in Project communities.
- ▶ Vested interests and dynamics of local Community (Basthi) leaders and Self Help Group sangha leaders influencing the discussions during meetings
- ▶ Local women, youth and men not able to give enough time for meetings/trainings – influencing the number and duration of trainings and meetings
- ▶ Wider agenda of the NGOs who are already working in the community – focused efforts to retain focus on the project goal
- ▶ Migration and frequent moving over of the communities affecting continuity of the target group for interventions
- ▶ Non availability of free or less paid de-addiction centres
- ▶ Repeated calls from psychologically disturbed survivors and few of their unwillingness to go for treatment
- ▶ Few of the survivors approach for immediate solution for their issues

Calls during late nights from the distressed women and need for immediate action

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019, a call to Bhumika helpline was received from a school teacher named Nagaraju (name changed) from Vizag. He said that he saw the Helpline number in 9<sup>th</sup> class social text book. He shared that he got to know from his students that one of his students is getting married that night. She is a minor. He provided the details of the girl and the address as well.

After taking the details, the counsellors alerted Childline – 1098 and informed about the case. The childline team responded positively and expressed that their field team will take necessary action to stop the child marriage. The counsellors also informed the District Child Protection Officer named Satyanarayana of Vizag, explained him about Bhumika helpline and gave the details of the girl, which includes her name, address and the time and date of the marriage. He too responded in a positive way and informed that the local team will visit the field to stop the child marriage.

Later, the SI, Jagadeshwar Rao of the local police station was informed about the child marriage and about Bhumika work. He too reacted positively and said that he will see to it that it will get stopped.

Next day morning, a follow up call was made to the DCPO. He told the counsellors that the local ICDS staff had visited the girl’s home, counselled the girl and her mother and explained the problems of ECM and the importance of continuation of her daughter’s education. The girl’s mother finally got convinced and later it was decided to shift the girl to a residential school, as there was a summer camp taking place. He said that the girl will stay in the school up to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 to help her come out of the situation and later she will be handed over to her mother. He also gave the assurance that they will keep a check that the girl rejoins the school after summer vacation.

A phone call was also made to SI Jagadeshwar Rao. He said he that he along with the ICDS team had stopped the marriage. He told that the girl's mother was made to give in writing that she will postpone the marriage till her daughter attains majority and will not force the girl to get marry without her will. She also mentioned that she will support her daughter to continue her education.

The counsellor thanked the police and ICDS team for responding positively and for taking immediate action in stopping the child marriage. The same was shared with the school teacher who informed about the ECM.

### **Case Study-2**

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Bhumika Women's Collective did an awareness programme in Indresham village at Weaker Sections Colony, Patancheruvu, Sanga Reddy district.

After couple of days of the awareness programme, a call was received on Bhumika Helpline with a complaint that her daughter who is 17 years old, studying intermediate first year was missing from a shelter home from March 2019. The shelter home people had filed a case in the local police station i.e., Ameenpur police station. The caller said that Police were being indifferent and she does not know the further process and is worried.

The counsellor had asked the caller to come to Women Protection Cell to meet the counsellor directly so that it would be easy to understand the case for which the caller agreed.

Subsequently, the caller and her husband came to the Women Protection Cell. One of the counsellors from Bhumika Helpline went to the WPC to deal with the case along with the counsellor at WPC.

According to the caller, they belong to Muslim community and her daughter was studying in Gayatri College in Chanda nagar. There was a Hindu boy from the same village who befriended with the girl. The mother said that her daughter and that boy were close and he was disturbing their daughter in the name of love. They had spoken to that boy and his family members to control their son and not to disturb their family. But there was no change in the behaviour of the boy. They had several fights and had meetings with the village elders too. On this issue the girl's brothers and this boy had fights, and a complaint was filed in the local police station. That boy was called to the police station and a warning was given to him.

After few days of the warning, someone who knew the girl's family saw the girl on a bike with that same boy. The girl's father went to the college where that boy was studying, beaten him and damaged the bike of that boy. Later, he took his daughter to Chandanagar police station and registered a complaint. The police filed a FIR under POCSO (protection of Children under

Sexual Harassment) Act. Police sent the boy on remand and few days later the boy got a bail and came out.

The girl's parents were very protective of their daughter and were keeping an eye on their daughter worried that the boy will again meet their daughter and disturb her. But on a night, they could not find the girl at their place, so they went to the boy's house to ask them. Boy's parents told that even they do not know the whereabouts of their son and the girl. Therefore the girl's parents went to the local police station and gave a missing complaint. After two days, the police found the girl and kept her in a shelter home in Beeramguda, which is run by an NGO. The girl used to go to college from the shelter home. But the girl continued to meet the boy. It was learnt from the CCTV footage of the Shelter Home that the boy meets the girl in the shelter home itself and spends 3 hours of time regularly.

The shelter home director got to know about it and gave a complaint in the Ameenpur police station against the boy. But within three days from the complaint, the girl escaped from the shelter home and a missing complaint was filed in the police station by the home in-charge. The parents were informed about it. Since then the girl was not found and the parents do not know what is going on and the procedure to follow up even though they have been visiting the police station regularly. They tried to file missing case from their side but the police did not take the case citing that a case has already been registered. The girl's parents are worried of the girl being trafficked for sex work based on the threatening comments made by the boy's side family members.

Later, the counsellors took the girl's parents to Women Safety Wing at Lakdikapool and met the Additional S.P. Kavitha and explained her about the whole incident. Even the girl's parents have interacted with the Additional S.P. She immediately called the Patancheruvu S.I. and enquired about the case. She found out that the girl was not produced in front of the CWC (child welfare committee). She even called Ameenpur S.I. and asked why they did not take a missing complaint from the girl's parents. ASP asked them to take action immediately saying that it is an issue of that girl's safety and she is a minor.

In the follow up with the parents of the girl it was found that they went to Ameenpur police station and spoke to the S.I. The S.I. informed them that they are tracking all the phone calls of the parents of the boy.

Later, the boy's parents were called for counselling. During the process they said that both the families used to be friendly and they even supported the boy's mother when she had violence from her husband but when it comes to their children, they are having issues. They said that the girl's father had threatened them 2 to 3 times and also beaten them. They said that filing

POCSO case on their son was unfair and informed that they pleaded the girl's father not to do so as that would spoil the future of the boy. They are also worried about their son. They have approached local PS to give a complaint regarding their son's missing, but the police are not taking their complaint and they do not know where their son is.

On the following day the girl's parents were called for the update of their case. They said that they did not get any information from the police station. The counsellors tried to find out their behaviour, bonding and approach with their daughter. It was learnt that they used to be very free with their child, they used to share everything. Later, they were taken to meet the ASP and she suggested them to go to Ameenpur police station and update her on what had happened there.

On the night of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the girl's father had called on helpline and informed that the police had tracked down the calls and got to know where the children are. Again on the next day, i.e., on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019, he called and said that the children are found in Karnataka and they are with the children. He said that he cannot share any more information as he is not in a condition to talk to us and said that he will call again to share more.

He called on the next day and said that the children, the boy's parents and his friends were brought to the police station and the S.I. spoke to them. Two of the counsellors went to the Ameenpur police station and met the girl. They interacted with the girl and explained her that she can choose to be with her parents or in the shelter home and continue her studies and she should first concentrate on her studies to build her career. Later she can think about marriage, where to stay and other issues. The girl had decided to stay with her parents; she is having jaundice and is in need of care and protection. Even the parents are happy with their daughter's decision and had said that they will take care of their child properly and make her continue her studies as well. The counsellors also spoke to the girl's parents again. Explained them the way they should take care of their child, their behaviour towards her and so on.

In the subsequent follow up, the counsellors got to know that the girl was taken to the government hospital in Patancheruvu to get MLC done. Even she was treated for jaundice. Later that day, she was taken to the court and during the hearing, the boy, his parents and his friends who had supported him were sent to remand.

The parents of the girl had thanked the counsellors a lot in helping them in getting back their child and in helping her to have a good future and life. They were to bring the girl to Women Protection Cell in Masab tank for counselling once she is fit and fine and after she gets settled. Later, told them to approach Bhumika Helpline if they need any help at any minute.

### **Case Study-3**

A call was received in the last week of May 2019 from a Muslim woman. According to her, she got married 7 years ago and it was an arranged marriage. Her husband is 55 years old and she is 28 years old. They have a daughter and a son, who are 6 & 3 years of age respectively. Her husband is a green card holder and he works in Dubai. She studied till 10<sup>th</sup> standard and is a home maker.

In March 2017, her husband left her and her children. She is alone and has no support from her aged parents and from her in-laws as well. Her sister is supporting her economically. She approached her in-laws to know about his whereabouts, but they did not reveal anything to her.

She went to her sister's place for few days. By the time she returned, the things in her rented house in Tolichowki were taken away by her husband, according to her neighbours. She moved to Banjara Hills and took a place for rent with the support of her sister. She said that her husband had married twice before marrying her, did not give divorce to them and is living with them.

She had filed a missing case on him in Golconda Police Station and also a case for her lost things. Police filed a FIR and searched for few months but could not trace him. She also went to Women Protection Cell in Lakdikapool and met the DIG Ms. Swathi Lakra, who in turn spoke to the local police and suggested her to file for maintenance. Therefore she took back the missing complaint. It has been very long since she gave the complaint for her lost things but there was no action. She requested us to help her. Therefore two of the counsellors from helpline visited Golconda Police Station to find out what action they had taken against her complaints and the current status. Accordingly, visit was made and the survivor accompanied the counsellors to the Police station. They met the Assistant Sub Inspector, Admin Sub Inspector and Additional inspector as the Sub Inspector and Station House Officer were not in the police station. They explained the work of Bhumika and then asked for the details of the case.

They shared that when she gave a missing complaint, they searched at his siblings and all relatives places but none of them were aware of his whereabouts. Regarding the complaint about the missing things from her rental house, they enquired at that place but no clue could be found. That case is still open and is in process.

Subsequently, the counsellors explained the survivor about the process of Police and what action they have taken till now on her complaints. She expressed that she don't have confidence on Police and blamed the police that they are not taking the case seriously. The

counsellors listened to her empathetically and explained her the procedures. She was suggested to take up a job and be economically independent and take care of the children first as she is not a position to provide them proper food and care. She was also explained about Child Welfare Committee through which she can join her children in children's home for safe and secured shelter and to get education. She expressed that she cannot stay away from children.

Later, she was informed about the Right to free legal aid for filing for maintenance at Legal Service Authority. She was also informed about the availability of vocational training from organizations like Nirmaan, Amoomat Society or others and get a job with which she can be less dependent and take care of her children. She expressed she will need sometime as she has her sister supporting her.

Later she revealed that she already went to Shaheen organization and to DV cell at Hyderabad where they are taking up the process to file for maintenance. Shaheen organization had helped her in going to the Legal Service Authority to file for maintenance. But she came back as she does not want that and she had decided not to go to DV cell also as they are not bringing her husband which she wants.

She had asked us to help in bringing her husband. We explained her about the limitations of Bhumika in obliging her demand and informed her that it is the police responsibility. The counsellor spoke to the police regarding her wish and the police had told her to give a missing complaint again and will search for him. Therefore the survivor again gave a complaint in the police station.

## **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.

**a) With Dept. Women and Child Development:**

- The department of Women and Child Development has identified Bhumika as the management agency for the functioning of 2 Sakhi Centres/One Stop Centres at Karimnagar and Siricilla Districts of Telangana State.
- About 14 counsellors of the Sakhi Centres/One Stop Centres underwent Trauma Workshop which was organised through Bhumika
- The Helpline counsellors work in close collaboration with District Child Protection Officer and the Child Development Protection Officers of WCD department in stopping the child marriages
- The anganwadi workers who are the frontline workers in the community for the women and children are the focal point persons in the implementation of the project. They supported in provided the secondary data of the communities, involved in the baseline study and support in the mobilisation of the community members for the conduction of awareness programmes. They also attend the awareness programmes and inturn linked the women survivors of domestic violence to the Helpline and Support Centres.
- The team was invited to the departmental programmes like Breastfeeding week, nutrition week, etc and shared the objectives of the project, which resulted in creating awareness that Bhumika is one of the platform in dealing with the issues of gender based violence.
- The IEC material like posters and helpline stickers were displayed in the Anganwadi Centres of each slum to reach out to more number of women.

**b) With Police Department:**

- Bhumika was invited for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The IT professionals from various companies attended the programme. The commissioner appreciated the role of Bhumika in counselling the offenders of SHE Teams that helped in reducing the repeated offenders of sexual harassment at public places. The Project Director explained the work of Bhumika and shared the Helpline number to all the participants.
- The team of Bhumika, during the month of June 2019 visited Police Stations of Musheerabad, Raidurgam and Vanasthalipuram areas and interacted with the police, distributed the IEC material and informed them to link the survivors of Domestic violence to the Helpline and Support Centres.
- The Police officials of Cyberabad Commissionerate requested to provide counselling support to the survivors of violence in Jeedimetla Police Station. Hence, a counsellor visits the Police Station twice a week and provides counselling and other support.
- There was a positive and immediate response from the police department of both Rachakonda and Cyberabad Police Commissionerates for setting up and establishment of Support Centre for Women and Children under the project.
- The Cyberabad Commissionerate's Women and Child Safety Wing recognised the work of Bhumika and felicitated the Director, Ms. Satyavati on the eve of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**c) With Judiciary:**

- As part of the sensitization and awareness rising in the 10 identified urban slums, a close cooperation and collaboration was formed with the District Legal Services Authority, which resulted in creating awareness about the role of DLSA within the communities and also strengthening the structure to be sensitive and available in supporting the needy survivors who approach them.
- The Secretary, DLSA in one of the meetings of the project announced that they will be starting Legal Aid Clinics which will be made available to the community members of the 10 urban slums.
- The community members were identified for Para Legal Volunteers training and 50 community members were identified and one community member underwent training during the reporting year and the other identified women will be trained in the next year.

**d) With NGOs / Civil Society Forum:**

- The organisations like World Vision, Pradham, APSA who are already working in the 10 urban slums work in close collaboration. They invite the project team who in turn



share the work implemented under the project, resulting in building rapport with the community.

**e) With Social Media**

- Awareness through Social Media (Facebook) – huge response by individuals, writers, Civil Society Organisations, Students, NGOs, etc. There is a huge Influence of Bhumika's work (in Social Media like sharings on Facebook and as a result, the other individuals inspired by Bhumika's work are coming forward to support / help the women / girls in needy and to volunteer to Bhumika.

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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