

Vidrohi Mahila Manch

2012-2013

Activities

- ☐ **Outreach**
- ☐ **Advocacy**
- ☐ **Service Provision**
- ☐ **Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV**
 - ☐ **Prevention of Domestic Violence**
 - ☐ **Training meetings and workshops**

One important issue that Vidrohi Mahila Manch is fighting against is violence against children in schools. There have been numerous instances of violence in different forms against students, in which there are often times little or no justice for the victims. On the 5th of September, instead of celebrating teacher's day, SANGRAM protested the inhumane acts of teachers against students. Vidrohi Mahila Manch wants teachers to be held accountable for their actions. They are also coordinating with local leaders to have a forum about these issues. In August, the Jayoti savitri sikhsan adhikar manch was initiated. Students who were abused could come to this forum and ask for justice, and their stories were recorded. VAMP and MUSKAN also participated in this protest.

Furthermore, Vidrohi Mahila Manch is working in the area of preventing communal violence. They recently organised a play on the legacy of King Shivaji who challenged upper caste dominance to become King. Since the play offers a historical perspective that is inclusive of the Dalit/Backward class/Muslim voice DC staff mobilized 900 people to watch the play, from different districts.

Additionally, Vidrohi Mahila Manch has focused on the issue of caste discrimination. They screened a documentary about extreme discrimination against Dalit communities made in Mumbai. The documentary discussed things like violence against Dalits, and the video was shown in many communities. It depicted real people's lives, and sent the message that we are first human beings, and we should do some reflection on ourselves and our castes' treatment of other castes.

Another area in which Vidrohi Mahila Manch has focused on this past year is sexselective abortion. They have participated in government advocacy campaign awareness about sex-selective abortion, and have participated in discussions about what steps need to be taken to fight against this. They have focused on framing the issue about the life of a human being, regardless of its gender, and want to challenge son preference as a norm in the district.

Moreover, they have started working on the issue of natural resource rights. They started a development campaign in Ajara, where people are suffering from attacks of wild animal that have lost their habitat and are now straying into the villages. The government has been demolishing the trees in the jungle for commercial purposes. Therefore, the animals have been coming out from the jungle and into the villages, and attacking people.

The campaign has been advocating for a stop in destroying jungles for profit.

District Campaign

The District Campaign has achieved a number of accomplishments this year at the village level, and expanded its approach to not just helping with prevention, care, and treatment of HIV, but also issues like domestic violence against women, caste discrimination, communal violence, and natural resource rights.

Along with VAMP and MUSKAN, the District campaign helped protest the Delhi rape case. Importantly, they were not just protesting the atrocity of the incident, but also protesting the recommendation that the rapists receive the death penalty. District Campaign believes that simply hanging the men will not stop rapes from occurring in the future, and proposes to create awareness about prevention of the conditions that perpetrate rape.

District Campaign also held a rally in a local village about the condition of sanitation facilities. The government had previously decided to close down local toilets, and thus the women of this village got together and demanded the land for a toilet facility. They were successful in protesting against the government and recovering the toilet facilities.

Another issue they fought against was government rations. Formerly, the government had given out rations such as grains, rice, wheat, and oil to villages. Recently, they decided to instead put money directly into peoples' bank accounts instead of handing out the rations called 'direct cash transfers'. This created problems for the villagers, though, as many didn't have bank accounts, the distance was far to withdraw money, and there was often not enough money given to buy these rations. District Campaign is currently in the process of protesting this.

District Campaign has also organized a special exhibition on how to live an HIV positive life through showcasing 250 photographs. Most of these photos are focused on care issues, and the importance of taking proper care of positive people. They also encourage positive people to continue to lead their lives with an optimistic attitude and hope. DC is also working on a program for HIV positive pregnant women, and this year, due to their efforts, *all women in the programme have given birth to HIV negative babies.*

Activities other than HIV prevention, care and support. District Campaign has expanded its range to also focus on domestic violence against women by helping the victims. For example, one woman there was a case of one woman who was facing violence at the husband's home, and so District Campaign staff stepped in and helped rebuild the woman's confidence to claim her rights. When this woman returned to her hometown, she needed help to access her property and access to government welfare schemes, which District Campaign staff also helped with. The staff engages in prevention activities, such as programs for boys and girls, and working with teachers. They believe it's critical to educate youth in order to prevent domestic violence. And, they run programs on sex education in schools and colleges, and include the issue of domestic violence in

this discussion. Finally, they are working with police, and directly with the women to figure out what the affected women most need.

Below is the information of Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Activities for April 2012-March 2013: