

Vidrohi Mahila Manch-2015-16

NOTE FROM THE TEAM

Rural Women's Program Going Strong

- In 2015 the key focus of Vidrohi Mahila Manch and Nazariya collectives was on ensuring better reproductive health and prevention of domestic violence in the rural areas. 19 reproductive tract infection detection camps were organised. The teams plan to strengthen the work on ensuring access to reproductive health for rural women in 2016.

At the grassroots level, SANGRAM's team work in Sangli, Miraj, Atpadi, Kavathe Mahankal, Tasgoan, Palus, Khanapur, Kadegaon, Walwa, Shirala, Satara, Karad, Koregaon, Lonand, Nippani, Rabkavi, Mahalingpur, Mudhol, Jamkhandi, Kesargop, Belgaum to strengthen entitlements of these communities.

AIDS CONFERENCE, DHAKA AND COMMUNITY SHOWCASES HIV PREVENTION WORK

Building a sustainable community led response to HIV/AIDS amongst rural women using the VMM experience.

ANNIVERSARIES, CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS, CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

- ✚ A number of celebrations were held, starting with the celebration of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in April which brought the whole VAMP community together, and included garland giving, a programme of events and a rally in Miraj. VMM has participated in the program

Core Area, Sustainable Health, Legal and Social entitlement framework for rural women

Area of Operation Sangli district including 731 villages in Miraj, Jat, Atpadi, Kavathe, Mahankal, Tasgaon, Palus, Khanapur, Kadegaon, Walwa, Shirala

A core area of SANGRAM is its initiative to work with rural women in Sangli district through collective under the rural women's program – Vidrohi Mahila Manch. The collective has been working on domestic violence against women, women's right to health services.

VIDROHI MAHILA MANCH (VMM)

The outreach area of Vidrohi Mahila Manch is 713 villages within Sangli district they have used places like Primary health Centres, Anganwadi, Rural Hospital, Mahila Bachat Ghat, Maitrin Home, Police Station and Grampanchayat for organizing the program.

In a unique partnership, the VMM team operates out of space provided by the Panchayat Samiti, Municipality, public libraries at the Taluka level. SANGRAM provided funds to rebuild the space and provided basic infrastructure for interactions with rural women in these spaces. This enables community ownership of the initiative and thereby strong village level partnership. Currently, VMM has been able to build 6 Women's Centres close to public areas so that they are accessible for women. Group meetings are often held at these Centres.

Block	Location	Space given by
Walwa	Near Government library, Islampur	Public Library
Tasgaon	Sidheswar Market, Tasgaon	Municipality
Palus	Near Veterinary Clinic, Palus	Municipality
Kavathe Mahankal	Near Bus Stand, Kavathe Mahankal	Gram Panchayat
Jat	Near Rural Hospital, Jat	Gram Panchayat



Atpadi	Near Health Centre, Atpadi	Primary Health Care Centre
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Figure 1 Programs undertaken by VMM in 2015

335	Mahila Mandal Program and Maitrin Outreach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence Against Women, Nutrition, Maternal Health, HIV/AIDS discussions with women's groups • Creating a base of Volunteers for VMMs regular outreach and work and building their knowledge and skills. 	
26	Tarun Mandal, Schools and College Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs with Young people and Asolscents in Villages on HIV/AIDS, Sex and Sexuality through schools and colleges and also through the Village youth groups 	
541	ANC Information sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Pregnant Women information on safe motherhood practices 	
69	Health Camp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done at the PHC level on STI, cervical cancer screening, reproductive health concerns of women 	
1318	PHC Outreach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likages and qulaity of health service delivery 	

MAHILA DAKSHATA SAMITI – A DEVELOPING STORY OF RURAL WOMEN’S INITIATIVE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

VMM works against domestic violence on a large scale across the district. When the Domestic Violence Act was passed in 2005, VMM started using the Act to reach out to affected women and handle their cases. While handling cases through protection officer under the Act initially, VMM members faced problems and were unable to solve cases within the framework of the Protection Officer. Hence after much discussion and consultation with the women, internal discussion in SANGRAM it was decided to strengthen the local Tanta Mukti Samitis (dispute redress mechanism).

However it was found that the structure of the Tanta Mukti Samiti was not supportive of the issue of violence faced by women in their homes and domestic spaces. They were not considered important for the village to be involved in and to a great extent the VMM team found that the violence was normalized. They reached out to the members of the Samiti and began creating awareness about violence faced by women. This helped to increase the participation of the Tanta Mukti Samiti members, however even that was not satisfactory enough to help the women.

In 2015, the VMM team reached out to the Mahila Dakshata Samiti in Sangli district and sought to reach out to the committees and understand their role in responding to domestic violence in Sangli. The Sangli Mahila Dakshata Samitis are closely linked to the police stations and play a crucial role in counselling and linking the women with legal aid in cases of domestic violence.

Since VMM works at ground level, meets each women in the village, handles cases of domestic level. they need help to approach the police and follow up cases and seek police intervention. Due to their constant work directly with the women, ten women from VMM and Nazaria have been selected as members of the Mahila Dakshata Samitis in different block. In the coming period, SANGRAM will also seek to link the VMM team members with the district legal aid services in Sangli, so that they are able to create a sustainable link for women seeking to access redress in cases of domestic or other forms of violence.

NAME	BLOCK	POLICE STATION
Rajashri Khandare	Atpadi	Atpadi Police Station
Sapana Kamble	Miraj	Miraj Rural Police Station
Pakija Godad	Miraj	Miraj City Police Station
Aparna Mujumale	Shirala	Charan Police Station
Jahida Pakhali	Tasgaon	Tasgaon Police Station
Sulbha Howale	Tasgaon	Tasgaon Police Station
Kalpana Sawant	Jat	Jat Police Station
Ujwala Sutar	Jat	Jat Police Station
Sunita More	Palus	Palus Police Station
Sushila Kunde	Palus	Palus Police Station

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Viidrohi Mahila Manch and Nazariya are working with rural women's issues related to reproductive health. 19 health camps and regular PHC outreach was conducted across all blocks. When the camps were started it was found that many of the women had never visited hospital before, and several of them were suffering with cervix and uterus infections and were not receiving the essential medication that they needed. Amongst the women who weren't getting the right help there were three HIV positive nurses who were too ashamed to seek medical advice. The VMM team has been working with medical health professionals to properly inform these women about their health without a sense of self shame.

Sr No	Place	No of women	Women referred for treatment
1	Dighanchi	24	2
2	Atpadi	60	6
3	Vita	88	1
Total		172	9

3 Health camps were organised in 2 blocks in Sangli district. There were 172 women attended program. All women undergone internal examination check-up. 9 women found that they have reproductive tract infections and needed immediate attention. So VMM referred them to

Civil Hospital and Private Clinics. Both the collectives are keeping follow ups with all the women to keep them alert about medication.



A large public hearing was organised in Tasgaon when women began sharing cases of being charged for undergoing

abortion by the hospital authorities. Though abortion is free and legal under three months, the women were being charged Rs. 1500 for the process. 11 such cases came to light in Tasgaon following which a public hearing was organised.

OUTCOME FACTSHEET

Through 3002 program 30,416 women outreached and educated them about Gender equality, HIV/AIDS sex and sexuality, Women's rights and domestic violence and Access to health care facilities.

308 women were treated for STI infection, 589 home visits were conducted to ensure Care and support to PLHIV, 1648 women were reached out during health and linkages developed by ensuring health services. During the year 177 rural women raised complaints of domestic violence which were resolved through family members counseling or Tanta Mukthi Samiti. The women were also constantly provided support and monitoring to ensure their safety during the crisis. 378 women applied for various government welfare scheme and 73 were sanctioned by welfare authorities and the remaining 305 are being processed.