

2016-2017

Vidrohi Mahila Manch (VMM)



SANGRAM

Key Achievements 2016-17

RURAL WOMEN'S ACCESS TO SOCIAL ENTITLEMENTS AND REFERRAL SERVICES IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Vidrohi Mahila Manch (Rebellious Women's Forum or VMM) a collective of rural women and Nazariya, a Muslim women's network are actively handling incidents of domestic violence in communities. They work with the Gram Ekta Samitis (Village Equity Committees) set up in the village panchayat by VMM to deal with women's issues, sexual harassment, domestic violence and issues of women from minority communities. The VMMs and Nazariya also work with other bodies at the village, block, district level, such as Para Legal Volunteers (PLV) set up under the government-supported District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). The Ekta Samitis are also engaged with dialogues on communal harmony at the village level. 'Maitrins' (friends) volunteer at the village level to help resolve disputes. Similarly, 'Tanta Mukti Samitis' are conflict resolution committees set up by the village panchayat.

One hundred villages were selected by VMM and Nazariya to form committees and resolutions were passed, pledging commitment to handle issues of violence, stigma and discrimination.

TABLE 1. GRAM EKTA RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT VILLAGE LEVEL IN SANGLI DISTRICT.

Block	No of villages	Resolutions passed
Walwa	15	6
Kavathe Mahankal	15	3
Tasgaon	10	3
Jat	15	2
Palus	10	2
Shirala	15	4
Atpadi	10	2
Khanapur	5	3
Miraj	5	1
Total	100	26

VMM members are engaged in interventions to tackle violence against women, mainly domestic violence, and are helping women to access justice.

TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS HANDLED BY VMM MEMBERS

Perpetrator	Total
Husband	89
Mother and father in law	57
Brother and sister in law	22
Neighbours	13
Natal family members	14
Total	195

RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS HANDLED BY VMM MEMBERS

Domestic Violence Cases handled	
SANGRAM	92
Mediated along with Gram Panchayat	39
Maitrin (VMM)	6
Police	22
Village Leaders	15
Para Legal Volunteer (PLV)	9
In process	12
Total	195

Following are some of the examples and strategies used by VMM and Nazariya members:

VIDROHI MAHILA MANCH

1. KDK, Palus

Incident:

KDK's natal home is in Panvel, Mumbai and her martial home is in Palus, Walwa district. Her husband, DK, 30, is a graduate. K did her schooling and is a mother of a one-and-a-half-year old child, They got married on December 15, 2014, and her in-laws began beating her after 15 days of the wedding, and even after she became pregnant. Her husband was unemployed so her mother-in-law was bearing all the hospital expenses and used to taunt K. Her mother-in-law used to fight with K, and warned her not to talk to her mother. When the beatings became intolerable, she complained to the police. She also suggested to her husband that they live separately. On pretext of searching for a room to rent, he dropped K at her mother's house. She waited for him for a long time but he did not return. At last, when he decided that they would live together, K was not ready to live with him. When she delivered the baby, no one came to see her or the baby. That was when she got the phone number of a member of SANGRAM, and met up in Palus, where she revealed her story.

Resolution:

Members of VMM talked to K's husband D as well as her mother-in-law. After much persuasion, they agreed to live together with K and the baby. They also to the Tahsildar Prashant Thore and managed to get K to withdraw her case as part of the resolution. K is now living in her marital home with her in-laws, reassured that she can approach VMM members in case of further problems.

2. SK, Kavathe Mahankal

Incident:

SK, 75, living in Dhulgaon in Kavathe Mahankal was being ill-treated by her son and daughter-in-law. She was not being allowed to live in her home, and her son in an inebriated state used to beat her up. In order to survive, she was working as a labourer on other people's farms. She approached SANGRAM to resolve her problem.

Resolution:

A staff member of SANGRAM went her son's house and told him about the work of the organization. She went on to warn him that if he did not take proper care of his elderly mother, action would be initiated against him. The threat worked and he is now taking proper care of her.

3. RSB, Shirala

Incident:

RSB, whose marital home is in Kharade, hails from Dhebewade and has one son and a daughter. Her relationship with her mother-in-law was not smooth, but she somehow managed to pull along. However, on March 3, 2017, her husband eloped with SK from a nearby village. Though SK was still studying in Class 12, they got married. RSB wanted justice, her rightful share in the property and safety from her in-laws' maltreatment.

Resolution:

The intervention involved talking to RSB's in-laws and persuade them to fulfil their responsibility towards RSB and her children. They agreed.

4. SPV, Jat

Incident:

SPV got married 10 years earlier, and is the mother of two children. She has passed Class 12, and done a beautician's course. Her husband is a driver and the economic condition of her family was not good. Problems began when her mother-in-law used to taunt her, her husband consumed liquor and beat her. She began living in the farm house to avoid all these problems, but her husband used to land

up there as well. For some days, SPV's father-in-law came to live with her, and she was not comfortable with this. When she confronted her husband, he said that she could leave if she wished. Subsequently, when she went back to her natal home with a neighbour, her mother-in-law spread rumours that she had eloped. Though her husband requested her to return, and even offered to set up a separate home, her mother-in-law objected. Unable to defy his mother, her husband too refused to take her in.

Resolution:

Leaders of the village and the staff talked to her husband and in-laws, solved her problems and now she is living happily with her husband.

5. P, Tasgaon

Incident:

P was married in 2000 and has three children. She and her husband began to face sexual problems and sought treatment for her husband's impotence. However, no treatment was effective, and this caused marital disharmony. P then became close to her aunt's son and began living with him. Despite three years of separation, she has not been able to get a divorce in order to remarry.

Intervention:

After hearing P's story, an intervention was planned. However, dialogue with the husband was not fruitful and he refused to grant a divorce.

6. AKK, Atpadi

Incident:

AKK related that her son had been married for three years. Six months after the wedding, her daughter-in-law consumed poison. They took her to the hospital, where her parents arrived and made a police complaint about us. She however said that no one had forced her to drink poison, and that it was her own choice. Her daughter-in-law is well educated and she wanted to do job and was forcing her son to live elsewhere and look for a job. AKK said that she had no problem with her daughter-in-law working, but felt that she should stay and work in the village. Another issue was the sharing of domestic chores. AKK said that every time there was a dispute, her daughter-in-law left for her parents' home, and she (AKK) was at a loss about what to do.

Resolution:

Volunteers intervened at the level of the police, and mediated a compromise through them. AKK's daughter-in-law went to live with them.

7. MK, Miraj

Incident:

MK's husband had a deep distrust of her, and prevented her from meeting her own children or living with them. MK had to live with her parents.

Resolution:

Volunteers tried to use the police to mediate with MK's husband. When this was unsuccessful, they approached the Gram Panchayat. Following their mediation, MK and her husband are now living together.

8. RK, Walwa

Incident:

RK's complaint was about her husband and in-laws, who she said were always finding fault with her cooking and other domestic chores. She also complained that they did not give her sufficient food. They taunted her about RK's mother's second marriage, and also beat her.

Resolution:

VMM visited and talked with the family members and asked them to allow her time to learn their style of cooking. They also introduced the idea of para legal work, and made them aware of issues. They agreed to take her back after two months.

NAZARIYA

1. AJZ, Pakhali, Tasgoan

Incident:

AJZ got married to a man who already had one wife. When AJZ gave birth to a child, her husband brought his first wife back and forced AJZ to leave the house, live in a house near the farm and do all the farm work. She started living with her parent and they got her remarried, but her previous father-in-law went to her new house and brought her back, and the torture started again. They forced her to work, and taunted her that she had been brought back only for the work.

Resolution:

Volunteers talked to AJZ's in-laws but they refused to listen. So they took her to Mahila Samupdeshan Kendra (Counselling Centre) in Tasgaon and they sent them a notice. After some negotiation, they agreed to live together and the in-laws promised to take care of her, and agreed that she would live sometimes in the farm house and some days in the house. A signature was taken on this agreement.

2. JA, Atpadi

Incident:

ASD was married in Dighachi Village in 2014. Her parents spent Rs. 4 lakh on her wedding. After two months of the marriage her in-laws started torturing her and complaining to her husband who lives in Pune. When he came back she asked him take her to Pune with him but he refused, saying that they would need a room there and it would cost too much to set up a home there. Her in-laws (including sister-in-law) continued their torture. In 2016 her parents gave money to take all her household items to Pune and bought the necessary provisions for one month, and left her with her husband in Pune. Even after all this, her husband and in-laws did not behave properly. He tortured her, taunted her for not conceiving a child, beat her and even doubted her fidelity. In 2017 he demanded Rs 5 lakh from her parents and threw her out of the house. She then went back to her parents' house.

Resolution:

A volunteer went and spoke to her in-laws. When this did not yield results they complained to the Gram Panchayat. However, her in-laws still refused to take her back and behave properly. Then, they filed a complaint against them in the Atpadi Police Station in March 2017. The case is ongoing.

3. PG, Miraj

Incident:

SIM, 28, was married in 2011 in Kerur village (Karnataka). She is the mother of two children. Her husband beats her after drinking and her in-laws also torture her. They do not provide anything towards her survival and her parents bear all her expenses.

Resolution:

Through an intervention involving a politician in Malegaon, reputed people of the community, SIM's husband and in-laws, an agreement was reached. SIM's in-laws agreed to behave properly with her and her children.

4. NSM, Khanapur

Incident:

NSM, 40, was married in Uplawe Vange village of Kadegaon, and is the mother of a son and a daughter. She was married 20 years ago, and her husband used to beat her. He had an extramarital relationship with a 30-year-old woman with two children. Her husband deserted NSM, who now lives with his parents.

Resolution:

A Nazariya volunteer took up the matter with the Gram Panchayat, whose members felt they could intervene, rather than take the matter to the police. They conducted a meeting with the Sarpanch Nazama Mujawar, Tanta Mukti president Manish Pawar, NSM's husband and a reputed person of village. They warned him that he must take care of NSM and his children. He agreed to do so.

5. RAN,Jat

Incident:

RAN, 35, mother of two, her was married in her native village Walekhindi. Shelives alone with her children. Her neighbour Amol Shivajil Namdar (40 years) had already beaten up two or three women before. After an argument about water, he argued with her and beaten her so badly that she had to go to the hospital for the treatment.

Resolution:

After a meeting with Gram Panchayat members and Tanta Mukti Samiti member (Shiva Katkar), and the affected parties, the Panchayat ordered Amol to pay Rs. 5000 to Rajana and solved the problem between them.

IMPACT

VMM Outreach

TABLE 6. **ACCESSING SOCIAL AND LEGAL ENTITLEMENTS: VMM**

Welfare Schemes through DC	Applied	Sanctioned
<i>Shrawan Bal Yojana (Elderly)</i>	18	17
<i>Bal Sangopan (Children living with grandparents)</i>	9	5
<i>Indira Awas Yojana (Housing facility for the poor)</i>	54	36
<i>Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana (Pension scheme)</i>	112	88
<i>Ration Cards (Public Distribution System of food grains)</i>	59	40
<i>Aadhar Cards</i>	89	78
Total	341	264

TRAINING PROGRAMS / INFORMATION SHARING (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEX AND SEXUALITY, GENDER EQUALITY) BY VMM

	Programs conducted	Persons reached
<i>Mahila Mandal Program</i>	251	5462
<i>Maitrin Program</i>	176	2355

<i>Schools program</i>	25	1606
<i>Adolescent girls</i>	84	3233
<i>Tarun Mandal program</i>	76	993
<i>Gram Panchayat program</i>	33	382

**TRAINING PROGRAMS / INFORMATION SHARING (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEX AND SEXUALITY, GENDER EQUALITY)
BY NAZARIYA**

	Programs conducted	Persons reached
<i>Women's group</i>	31	498
<i>Women's program</i>	10	354
<i>Discussions with Madarsa</i>	6	54

HEALTH CARE OUTREACH

<i>PHC Outreach</i>	8553
<i>Female Outreach</i>	4763
<i>Male Outreach</i>	2998
<i>Girls</i>	448
<i>Boys</i>	344
<i>Booth Outreach</i>	1605
<i>Male</i>	552
<i>Female</i>	1053
<i>Service Treatment PHC</i>	598
<i>Male</i>	183
<i>Female</i>	269
<i>Boy</i>	62
<i>Girl</i>	84

Vidrohi Mahila Manch-Team

Name	Designation
Aparna Mujumale	Health Worker
Archana Kamble	Health Worker
Aruna Kadam	Health Worker
Bharati Bhosale	Health Worker
Jayashri Pakhare	Health Worker
Kalpana Sawant	Health Worker
Kavita Sapkal	Health Worker
Parveen Mujawar	Health Worker
Pournima Gode	Health Worker
Prathiba Pawar	Health Worker
Rajashri Khandare	Health Worker
Shabnam Attar	Health Worker
Sindutai Pawar	Health Worker
Sulbha Howal	Health Worker
Sunita Kamble	Health Worker
Sunita More	Head Mahila Sanghatika
Sushila Habale Kunde	Head Mahila Sanghatika
Swapnali Kamble	Health Worker
Swati Kamble	Health Worker
Ujwala Sutar	Health Worker
Vaishali Tingare	Health Worker