

Annual Report
April 2010 - March 2011



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Sakhi

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FORWARD

The entrepreneurial culture has become a cancerous growth in Kerala's culture. In nearly every home, there is a **flamboyant** display of consumerism, showing pathway for an unhappy, highly **corrupt** society with increasing levels of sexual harassment and violence against women and girls.

Women extensively express constant fear while traveling or shopping because they fear to use bathrooms/changing rooms in hotels, shopping malls or any place outside their home due to cell phones being hidden in them. They also travel by buses or trains in apprehension due to the increasing incidents of sexual harassment. Many women communicate that this panic has begun to exhaust them emotionally, draining their ability to work with confidence or to travel with ease.

Other problems that women in Kerala point to as issues that affect their safety include the tangle of dowry practice and grandiose weddings which has led thousands of families to the brink of financial ruins and a huge spate of suicides. Many of the rackets thrive on exposure of photographs of respectable, good looking girls and then using their pictures on pornography sites, magazines and so on. Later, these girls are blackmailed in various ways.

Another incident that rocked us was the brutal assault and rape of a 23 year old woman after being pushed out of the Ernakulam-Shoranur passenger train and who then died of head injuries she sustained during the incident, at the Thrissur Government Medical College Hospital. This brought the whole issue of safety while traveling about which Sakhi had started as a campaign. Women who have to travel alone for work becomes easy targets for such acts.

Alcoholism continues to affect our families, especially women and girls, irrespective of class or religion. Government pay lip service to efforts of prohibition as this is a major revenue of the state. Even teenage boys are getting into alcoholism and drug abuse contributing to the increased atrocities on young women and ruining their own health and risking their own future.

Sometimes, it all looks very bleak but our hope is kept alive by the willingness of women to unite and fight for their rights, young girls enthusiastically acquiring life skills. We are very conscious of the need to work with boys and men and we hope to start such programmes in the coming year.

We are grateful to all our friends and well wishers for your continued support, encouragement and meaningful and valuable participation in all our programmes

Mercy Alexander
Coordinator

Programmes of Sakhi

from April 2010 to March 2011

The highlight of this years' activities were the work with adolescents, elected representatives, safety in public places as a rights issue and the ongoing programmes of information dissemination and campaigns.

I. LIFE SKILL EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Sakhi had been working consistently with young people since its inception as we feel this is an important segment of population whose mindset and attitudes determine the culture of a society. There are many facets of life which they cannot learn from adults. Essential life skills need to be imparted to the adolescents which they do not acquire from crowded classrooms.

Sakhi's work with young people started since 1998 and the interventions were varied. Learning from all our past programmes and a great deal from adolescents, the present programme attempts to enhance the life skills of adolescent girls in the age group of 12–14. Each year 10 panchayats are selected and local facilitators are trained .Groups of 20–30 children meet once a month for 7–10 months. In the process the facilitators who are mostly local level government functionaries (ICDS supervisors, ASHA workers etc) are trained and they become the resource persons in the panchayat to sustain the work.

Background information of the selected 10 Village Panchayats in the first phase of the programme(2010 March–2011 April):–

In the first phase of the programme 10 Village Panchayats were selected .These are remote villages which include tribal settlement and coastal villages, 20 to 35 km away from Trivandrum City.

- Vellarada, Amboory, and Kuttichal Village Panchayats are situated near to the Western Ghats and are near to the neighbouring State of Tamilnadu.
- Karumkulam and Kadinamkulam are coastal Panchayats situated near the Arabian Sea.
- Majority of the population in all the 10 Panchayats mostly depend upon agriculture, fisheries and other allied activities for their lively hood.

- Most of the families are socially, educationally and economically backward.
- Majority of the people belong to different backward communities, including the *dalit* (Scheduled Castes), and tribal (Scheduled Tribes).
- Higher Education facilities are rare.
- Due to this backward -ness, exploitation and ignorance exist among the people.
- Alcoholic consumption among men, broken families, atrocities against women, child sex abuse, and early marriage exist.
- There are many dropouts in the poor and women headed families.

The process of selection of Adolescent girls for the programme

Orientation was given to ASHA workers, Kudumbasree, Anganawadi workers and Panchayat leaders for the selection of adolescent girls from the Panchayat areas.

Initially 1075 adolescent girls were identified between age- group of 12 to 14 yrs studying in 7th, 8th and 9th classes. Since the 10th and higher classes students are busy with studies, tuitions, and exams, we did not include them in the regular sessions. But some of them still came, in spite of parents not agreeing. All children are from the families with poor economic background.

A bench mark survey was conducted to identify the present status of children, their expectations, hopes and fears.

The selection of children was done through an interactive process facilitated in a 2 day camp followed up by regular sessions. With the guidance and support of the staff from Sakhi, the facilitators conduct sessions in a very participatory way.

The Topics were in the following sequence

- Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA): This was to understand their own village, using some of the tools like survey, FGD's, transect walk etc. Children met senior women in the village (elders) and collected stories and myths in the village.





- Women in History. Eminent women in Indian history were introduced to the girls through pictures and brief write ups (Annie Besant, Pandita Rambai, Vijayalkshmi Pandit, Medha Patkar, Captain Lakshmi , Mayilmma (Plachimada struggle),C.K Janu etc.
- Gender: Role plays and exercises using statements etc were used.
- Re-productive Health. Mostly Doctors or public health nurses interacted with children and explained about their bodies, changes etc. In some places body mapping was done as an exercise.
- Influence of Media: Children from the different centers were brought together for this session. A media expert helped the children to understand how news is collected, the structure of the newspaper etc. He helped them to compare two or three newspapers and divided them into groups to bring out a newspaper. The children on their own could understand the impact of print and visual media on their lives.
- Misuse of ICT –mobile misuse; Children and Law. Several issues of misuse of ICT, come in the newspapers and this is a grave issue in the state. They were given such paper clippings and asked to read and discuss the issue in the groups and later, it was elaborated. A small hand book prepared by Sakhi was given for further reading.
- Environment and alternate life styles. Two methods were followed. There was initially an exposure to the issues affecting them; children themselves

explained this in cards, followed by input sessions. The issues of waste, use of plastics, different types of pollution etc were highlighted. This was followed up by visits to forests or sanctuaries, to



the coastal area and in some places to the farms of organic farmers for a direct firsthand experience. Children also analyzed their own plot of land to find out how much of plastic is there, whether they can plant any trees etc.

- Onam and Independent day–celebrations. In August, Onam and independent day came together and in the festive mood, children also celebrated. They collected old sayings about Onam, the myth behind it, planned the celebration and divided responsibility to invite dignitaries etc. They had the usual flower rangoli, onam feast and cultural programmes. Some places, they conducted rallies too.
- Campaign on Violence against women and girls. In December, the groups joined the 16 days campaign on Violence against women and girls .The activities are poster exhibition, rallies, public meetings as well as interacting with the communities around them like distributing notices etc. Various types of violence faced by girls were discussed.
- Institutional visits (Police station, Panchayat office, primary health centers/ hospitals). This is what children appreciated most. The authorities like CI of police also were very cooperative and it was the first time that children enter these institutions.
- Skills like Self Defense, cycling, breathing and relaxing exercises were also taught to the children.



The **methodologies** adopted were group activities, debates, creative activities, quiz, field visit, experience sharing, folk songs, and games. All the sessions were conducted in a participatory manner and this helped the children to analyze and go deep into the subjects. These sessions also helped them to analyze themselves, identify their skills and reduce their limitations. Majority of the participants were regular in attendance and enthusiastic in participation. Sessions were organised with the leadership of children which gradually brought leadership quality among themselves. Special focus was given to improve and develop their personality and communication skills. A news paper was prepared by girls, in connection with the session on Media which was a new experience to them.



The training session gave an opportunity to open a platform for the girls to share their personal problems and the problems of their friends before a wider circle. Participants at Kuttichal, Vellarada, Kalliyoor, karimkulam Panchayats took initiative



to learn cycling. Each session included cultural activities, study class, sports, and games which could develop their self confidence and integral growth to a great extent.

Monthly and regional meeting of facilitators were conducted regularly to review the sessions and to plan for the next series and also to learn from each other.





Certificate distribution and closing ceremony of girls those who have successfully completed the first year's course was conducted in May 2011.

Outcomes –Quantitative

- The goal was to have the programme in 10 Panchayaths and in 35 centers
- We started with 38 centers and ended with 35 centers .Three centers had to be closed as there were only 10–15 children and attendance varied.
- Initially 114 local facilitators were selected and by the final phase 89 continued. These women will be the resource groups for the panchayats and the ICDS programme and if sufficient support is given by the authorities, the programme can be continued/expanded.
- Initially 1075 girls registered and 870 continued till the end.
- Three Panchayats have included the programme in their next proposal for grant and three others will do soon.
- During campaign period, the facilitators organized the parents of the adolescent groups and networked with locally available governmental and non-governmental institutions.

- The adolescent team along with the facilitators prepared and submitted their needs and rights to be addressed in the newly elected Local Self Governments. (*Avakasha patrika*–declaration of Rights).
- In all Panchayats, a group of adolescent leaders had formed a committee. These leaders had been asked to use creative strategies to address rights, needs and skills of young people. If a problem arises the group is able to bring the issue to the concerned authorities.
- The Local Panchayat has put forward discussions to pilot and upscale the adolescent project in a systematic and efficient way through ICDS.



Follow Up

Once in four months these adolescent groups will be followed up with celebrations, classes, field visits, camps and campaigns.

The projects which will be initiated by the panchayats as a follow up of the present programme will be implemented through the ICDS and this will be followed up by us in a systematic way.

The Facilitators will be strengthened and sustained as a

women support group in Panchayat level. This team will facilitate the Jagratha Samithi's and also assist in the follow up of the adolescent activities.

In March 2011, we started the process in another 10 panchayats , meeting the elected representatives and panchayat functionaries, so that we can start the next phase in another 10 local governments.

Our hope is that, many other NGO's and panchayats will come forward to initiate such activities among children, so that they acquire the necessary life skills to be responsible and gender sensitive citizens of tomorrow.

A process report also is getting ready. Geetha J, Beenamol S.G and Sreekala T.S were the team members from Sakhi who organized these programmes with the active support of local level facilitators.

II. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

The capacity building of elected women is of great interest to Sakhi and an area where we have considerable experience. Yet, due to the lack of financial support, we were not able to conduct regular programmes for elected women.

In 2010, the then Left government in power declared 50% reservation for women. The demands for training were strong and we decided to consult the former elected women who had participated in our programmes on the content and methodology of the training as well as prepare a manifesto for the coming elections. On Sept 14th, we had a one day consultation in which 30 members participated.



Another expert consultation was held on 30th September in which 15 members participated. This meeting discussed the challenges faced by elected women in their term of last 5 years and strategies developed for the capacity building.

In the elections held on September 23, 54%

women were elected to the local governments. We conducted two orientation programmes in January in which 168 elected women took part. Sessions were held on the panchayat raj system and the role of elected women by Mrs. Aleyamma Vijayan and Mr. Gopalakrishnan.

We conducted a survey for collecting profile from newly elected Women representatives. The following are the main findings:

- 80 % of them were elected for the first time.
- Most of them were not active in politics before this election. 60% of them have no previous experience in politics or any other organizational activities.
- Majority of them were not confident as they have no previous experience and knowledge regarding panchayat raj laws, administration, planning, implementation etc

- 70% of them opined that they cannot communicate in open forums. Lack of skills in public speaking is one of the main problems faced.
- Although women form the majority in panchayath committee and the gramasabha ,they hardly have any voice in important matters.
- They were not aware of the women component plan and hence have no idea about its implementation.
- Majority of them are facing personal, social and cultural limitations as women.

After several discussions and survey, we decided to conduct a certificate programmes of 6 months duration for interested elected women based on a module prepared. The topics covered are the following:

- Roles and responsibilities of elected women representatives in PRI; Development perspective, Local level development, Analysis of development in the panchayath in last 15 years; Women's leadership and leadership skills; Art of public speaking; Personality development.
- Panchayath raj and transferred institution; Gender and panchayat Raj; Panchayat raj and women component plan.
- Local planning and project implementation; Finance management and resource mobilization; Skills needed for project writings.

This programme was conducted in 3 zones of Neyyattinkara ,Nedumangadu and Attingal. A total of 121 elected women from 27 panchayats participated in this ongoing capacity building programme, which focused on developing their perspectives, skills of project planning and auditing and developing self





confidence. The methodology adopted in the course was group work, case studies, role play, individual sharing, analysis of development plans and year plans of different panchayats, evaluation of women component plans (10 years) etc.

All the sessions were participatory.

Outcomes

- It helped to create a development perspective based on gender among the elected women representatives. These members are able to participate actively in the discussions on the projects presented in the panchayat committee and other local institutions.
- The course helped these elected women to propose a number of projects in the women component plans which fulfill the strategic needs of women: eg Jagratha samithi, cycling practices and cycle distribution projects for women and children, Adolescent life skill education programme etc.
- Now they are able to realize their roles and responsibilities as a women leader in the local area. They can identify and take initiatives to address a number of serious problems like child sexual abuse, domestic violence.
- They have come out of the label 'women' and the limitations that the label represents and started to express their capabilities and skills in different spaces.
- They have also learnt to develop some personal skills like time management, division of roles and clarification of their roles, mobility, body language etc.

We are planning to conduct a grant function at district level in the month of august and in that meeting, the certificates will be distributed to those person who have successfully completed the course.

Ms.Mercy Alexander coordinated this programme.

III. SAFE CITY FREE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS INITIATIVE

The Safe City initiative with the support of UN Women and Jagori, Delhi started in 2009 and continues till mid 2011. The programme is part of a larger initiative of making the public places safe for women and girls. The programme in Delhi by Jagori is in collaboration with the government of Delhi. Safety for women is a basic right and it is in this Rights framework, that the project is envisaged.

The main activity of the initiative in Kerala was an action research to understand the dimensions of violence on women in the public places of Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode cities. This was conducted in the reporting period (April 2010–March 2011).

The study examined how safe the two city areas are for women and girls, what is the relationship between women's fear of violence, their avoidance of specific public spaces/ places or times and how they restrict themselves in terms of dressing etc. to avoid harassment. Societal response, role of police, knowledge of existing violence and redressal mechanisms were also explored through this study. While SAKHI, lead the study in Thiruvananthapuram district, Anweshi, a Women's organisation based in Kozhikode, collaborated with SAKHI in planning and leading the research in Kozhikode city.

The methodologies adopted for the study were survey, focus group discussions (FGD's), capacity gap analysis and safety audit. These exercises helped to map the public spaces that are unsafe in order to give feed back to policy planning and designing process.

The survey was conducted among the 1500 respondents (1000 in Thiruvananthapuram and 500 in Kozhikkodu districts) including 300 common witnesses (both men and women). The sample population belonging to diverse categories like students, workers, home makers, unorganized workers, commuters, drivers, conductors etc. and spread across public places such as road sides, bus stops, markets, beaches, buses, hospital compounds, hangouts, knowledge centers and theatres. These public places were selected as they are the places where women go frequently and feel unsafe.

Throughout the survey an element of "fear of violence" created consciously or unconsciously in women and girls by the society was felt. The high degree of fear of violence, crime and feelings of insecurity makes women more vulnerable and

restraints her freedom of mobility, clothing and ability to live her life in the way she desires. This relates to society's construction of female sexuality.

Both common witnesses and women respondents of Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode shared that women face maximum harassment while using public transport. A feeling of safety encourages greater mobility. Lack of safety in fact prevents women from accessing the full range of rights of being a citizen. Therefore, solution has to come from the community and the state.

We found that the rate of vulnerability and the attitude of family have correlation that family support is very crucial in responding to violence by women. Many bear their burden in silence for as long as is possible.

Generally, men dealing with or taking alcohol or drugs gives a feeling of lack of comfort and safety for women. In the major bus stops women don't feel comfortable to stay longer as they fear harassment at the stops. They get into the first bus, even if they have to take longer routes. Inadequate lighting, high walls on both side of roads and state of public toilets were also emerged as important factors in determining the safety of a space and women's access to these areas. The lack of public toilets for women in public spaces such as markets, cinema theatres, parks and commercial spaces limits women's access to these areas. Some women articulated that they are uncomfortable in using public toilets because the toilets for men are very adjacent or the doors are opposite to that of women.

It was found in the survey that a number of strategies or precautions for personal safety were taken by women, as they expect untoward harassment any time while going out. For instance, keep away from certain public or crowded places, not going out alone especially after darkness, and elude wearing certain clothes etc. Apparently, all the strategies curb women's mobility, involvement and participation in public life.

The survey has looked into the support received and actions taken by the respondents when they faced harassment sexually over the past one year. The respondents least depended on helpline and police. Only 7% reported to police in Thiruvananthapuram and 5% in Kozhikode. The main obstacle in approaching police is that the official procedures will be too much. Apart from the general fear of approaching the police station, the respondents fear that they would be blamed for it, the issue may be trivialized or they may not do anything and will not take any further action. They also avoid the police due to the fear that it may reflect badly on their family.

The survey also tried to get an understanding on the knowledge level of the respondents on the existing redressal mechanisms to help women or girls facing violence. Women's commission is the most known mechanism and the railway alert is the least known.

Focus Group Discussions were held among domestic workers, women conductors, kudumbasree garbage collecting women, women journalists, women who are visually challenged, nurses, sex workers and college students.

Main points emerged in the FGDs with women in both the cities

- ☐ Women in the cities face harassment, irrespective of age or place.
- ☐ Vulgar comments, physical harassments and lack of clean and safe public toilets are other issues raised. Harassments by drunkards in the evening trips are common.
- ☐ Foul language as well as physical harassment against women does happen on a regular basis.
- ☐ Women and girls carry safety pin or blade etc while traveling to ensure their safety.
- ☐ Usually women do not support or respond if a co-passenger is being harassed
- ☐ Men's attitude towards women as a sexual object is the major reason for the occurrence of violence.
- ☐ The harassers are generally from the age group of 35-45.
- ☐ Exhibitionism is common in buses and byroads.
- ☐ Women do not want to react or complaint even to the women conductors because of shame.
- ☐ Other passengers generally get impatient and are not interested to settle an issue.
- ☐ Many do not complain or discuss their experience of sexual harassments with family members because they believe that it would lead to restriction of their mobility.
- ☐ One of the usual comments by men is "why you women take up the job (ex-conductor) of men"?
- ☐ The perpetrators have many excuses for exploiting girls - 'the bus is too crowded to stand untouched' or 'Girls enjoy being touched' etc.
- ☐ The negative response of the general public as witness, to sexual harassment or even to an accident, need to be changed.

- ❑ Students generally respond to harassments if they are with friends but if with a family member they keep silent.
- ❑ Usually family members discourage girls from raising their voice loudly in a public space especially in matters like sexual harassments.
- ❑ Usually the Visually challenged do not get the seat reserved for blind in the public transport. Conductors also are reluctant to help them.
- ❑ For women conductors and the Kudumbashree women (Clean well groups) uniform gives some kind of feeling of security. Identity as journalists gives them more courage to use public spaces freely.
- ❑ Since it is not safe many of them would not go out after 7 pm.
- ❑ Mobile phones are affecting the lives of children and women
- ❑ Even during festival seasons and at public markets, women do not feel safe while going out.
- ❑ Nurses who have night shifts face various problems like reluctance by auto-drivers to take them to their destinations, and men in the street very often make obscene comments etc.
- ❑ Antisocial groups are always actively looking for women walking in the street after 7 pm.
- ❑ Bus conductors and auto-rickshaw drivers are very uncooperative and have a negative attitude towards women.
- ❑ Police are not able to help women and they are easily viable to bribery and political influence. Many women are afraid of giving written complaint to Police. Moreover they have to give up a working day and remuneration and also they fear it may cause shame to their family later.
- ❑ Various kinds of atrocities perpetrated by the police against the sex workers including physical violence have been reported. The hooligans and antisocial groups of men also subject the women to innumerable tortures ranging from individual rape to gang rape.
- ❑ Police turn deaf and blind to all the atrocities against them because they are sex workers and at the same time demand bribes from them. But junior police officers are comparatively fairer to them.

FGD with Men

- They also have fear and face safety problems in the city, but they accept that the dimension is different from what women face.

- One participant shared that he was not aware on women's safety issues in public spaces until he got married. At the same time he does not know what support mechanisms are available when he confront with a situation to help a woman victim. Even the women's helpline number 1091 is not advertised properly¹.
- Due to the gender discrimination prevailing in our society, girls and boys are brought up differently. Socially constructed norms and restrictions lead to lack of opportunities and personal development of girls/women. The end result is women's seclusion from mainstream society and treated as 'second sex'. This is also attributed to the cultural hypocrisy of Kerala society about sexuality.
- Lack of safe and clean public toilets for women.

Another methodology used was the Capacity Gap Analysis. This was also done to understand and analyse the policies, programmes and budgets of the government to address safety and security of women in public places and was done by Aleyamma Vijayan and Mini Sukumar



Yet, another tool used in the study was **women's safety audits (WSA)**. We had done two safety audits in Thiruvananthapuram and one in Kozhikode. These audits helped us to identify problems related to the lack of safety in roads, parking spaces etc. These were related to lack of lighting, possible places where men congregate and harass women etc. Audit was also done in late evenings to understand specific problems related to the time of travel. Maps of the audit also was prepared.

The findings of the study were published through press meets in both the cities. The issues highlighted in the study received wide media coverage following the press meet.

The research work was effectively carried out with the support of the research team consists of the following persons:

Dr. Udaya Shankar Mishra, Associate Professor, Centre for Development Studies

Dr.Praveena Kodoth, Associate Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum





Ms. Mariamma Sanu George (Nirmala) Development Consultant

Ms.Nalini Nayak,Secretary,SEWA Kerala

Mr.Vijayan,A.J. Protasahan.

Campaigns were another major activity in the project. We have published posters, bit notices and booklets for this purpose. Campaign locations were mainly college campuses, major bus stops/ bus stands and junctions. Apart from the published materials and discussions lead by facilitators we have used exhibition of set of news paper clipping on the issue of violence on women in public places collected over last year for the campaign. We have conducted a discussion on 'Iranginadappu' a book written by Tissy on her experience while traveling in Kerala.

We have conducted meetings with policy makers at different levels, workshops to ensure collaborative works and to share tools and consultations to lobby for a law on women's safety in public places etc. as part of the project.

An important workshop named "Working together –Towards Safe Public Places" was held on 20th December, 2010, at Adhyapaka bhavan, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram. This was to present the findings of the study and elicit responses and an action agenda for a safe Trivnadrum. Mr. Jacob Punnoose IPS, D G P, Kerala inaugurated the workshop and Mr. Senkumar IPS, Transport Commissioner, Mr. M.G. Radhakrishnan, Associate Editor, India Today and Adv.



Sandhya spoke. In the panel discussion moderated by Ms.Parvathi Devi, several eminent personalities like Mr.Nagaraju IPS of Traffic and Law and Order, Mr Jagajeevan, programme officer of Kudumbashree Pattom Sasidharan representing Federation of Resident Associations (FRAT); I.B Satheesh, District President DYFI, Adv. R.S. Vijaymohan, secretary, Bar association, Thiruvananthapuram and Ms Sonia George, convener, Kerala Sthree Vedi interacted and gave valuable suggestions. Ms Mini Sukumar, Lecturer, Centre for Women's studies, Calicut University, presented the way forward The action point emerged from the workshop was fine tuned through several other consultations .This was followed up with



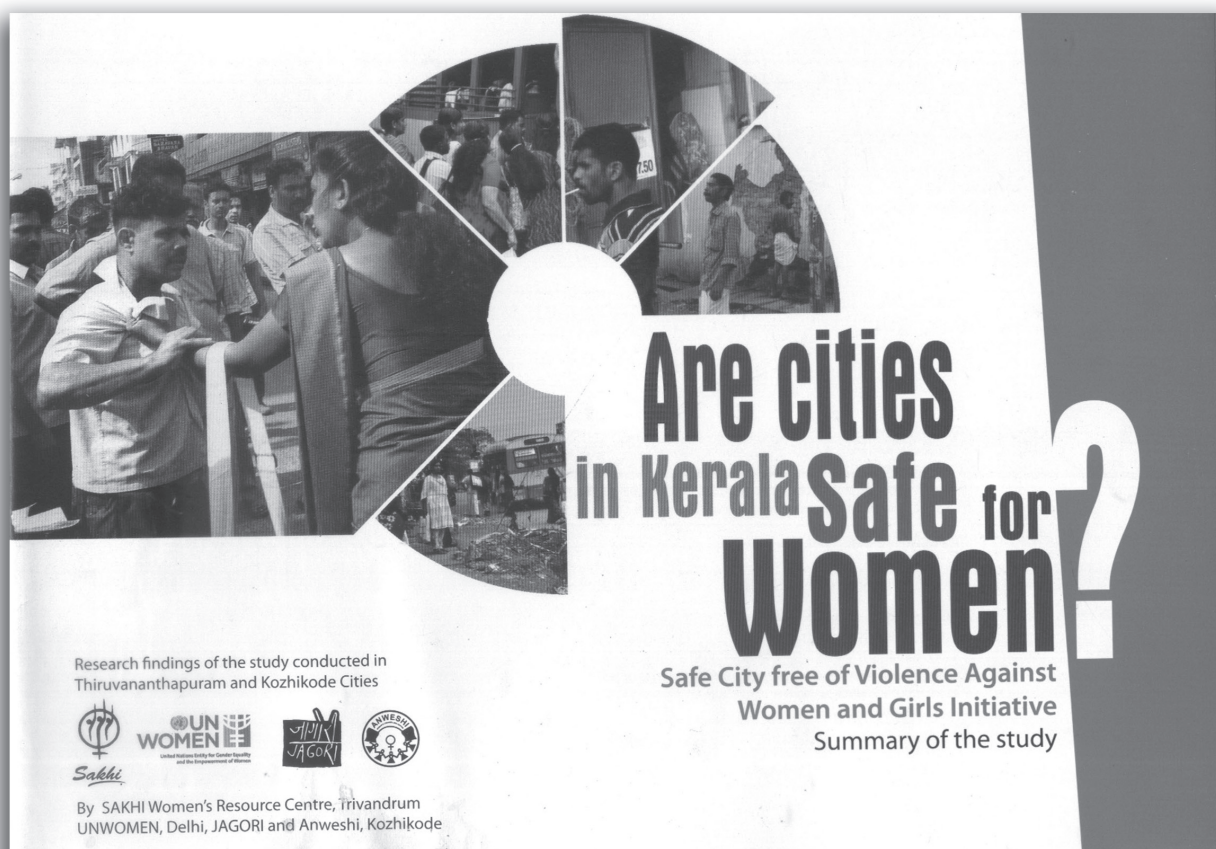
different departments like the Police, the department of transport, City corporation etc.

Similar programmes were held in Kozhikode too, under the auspicious of Anweshi. Training of conductors from Private buses was an important activity undertaken in Kozhikode.

The Third International Conference on Women's safety was held at Delhi from 22nd to 24th November, 2010 and Soni and Rejitha participated. This was jointly organized by Women in Cities International and Jagori in collaboration with the Huairore Commission, UNIFEM, UN Habitat with support from other key local and International partners.

Ms. Rejitha G, coordinated this project and Ms. Soni S.R, and Ms. Sreeja P (anweshi) were the project associates.

Detailed report of the safe city programme is published and is available at Sakhi.



IV. LIBRARY & DOCUMENTATION

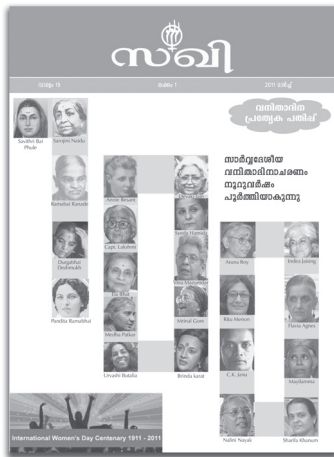
Information collection and dissemination is the key to all activities leading to the empowerment of women and Sakhi women's library and documentation centre achieves this by making available a wide range of books, documents, paper clippings. Now there are more than 8000 books both in English and Malayalam. Recently about 373 books were added. The large collection consists of books on theories on gender, feminism, development, violence, panchayat raj, health, culture, children's literature etc . Also our documentation centre consists of a substantial collection of news paper clipping, reports, video films, CDs, posters. Besides the 445 regular members, many research scholars, students, employees, foreign students, housewives and adolescent girls visit our library for references. Sakhi library is conducting monthly book reviews and seminars. The library is affiliated to the library council of Kerala in 2009 with B grade.

A letter from a research student: *I am a Research Scholar in Kerala University, Trivandrum. It was during my hunt for data in connection with my research that I came across the woman's organization 'Sakhi'. I also learned about the library run by 'Sakhi' from a book shop in Trivandrum. Thus I reached 'Sakhi'! To be frank, 'Sakhi' did a world of good to my research. The 'Sakhi' library proved its name right – serene atmosphere, systematic arrangement of books, et al. One remarkable feature of the library is the way the members conduct themselves, especially the librarian. A great advantage of this library is the opportunity to read a wide array of books and publications on women issues/issues related to femininity. The library is a boon to the myriads who deal with women issues – it complements the work of its members as well. The various activities of 'Sakhi' for the upliftment of women is laudable, especially in the light of the increasing atrocities against women. My best wishes to 'Sakhi' for its exemplary work.* Seena Mathai, Research Scholar, Kerala University.

News letter/ publications

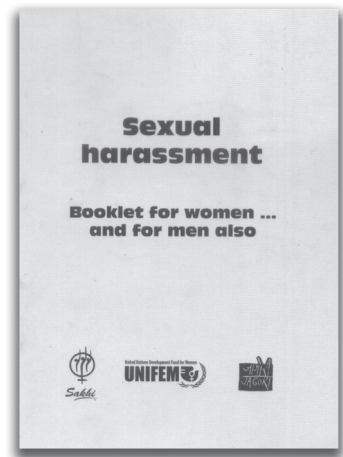
Sakhi is publishing news letters once in every three months. Last year, we published 3 issues of newsletter in which one is on





Women's day special. We are grateful to the editorial team of the newsletter- Ms Parvathi Devi and Dr.Iris.

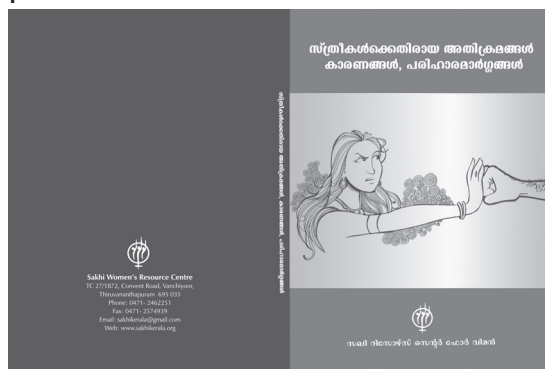
As part of the 'Safe City' project, Sakhi published a 'Book let on Sexual Harassment'. The booklet contains information on sexual harassment, tips for men and women and helpline numbers both in English and Malayalam



and is distributed during the campaign, safety audit and other meetings.



Two posters have been designed and published by Sakhi on the safety in public places.



The book on 'Violence against Women' published in 2003, was out of print and considering the demand for the book from many, we have reworked and reprinted the book in 2010.

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Campaign on violence against women

Since the 16 Days of Activism (November 25th–10thDecember) began, it has been used by Sakhi as an organizing strategy to work for the elimination of violence against women in different ways such as public rallies, meetings, collective activities – all demonstrating solidarity on this issue.

As a part of this campaign, this year Sakhi designed and printed two posters. We also collected newspaper clippings on different issues of violence cases that had occurred last year. On November 25, 2010 we did a poster exhibition in front of the secretariat. It was interesting to watch the reactions of different people who came to watch the exhibition. Some of them were very concerned and disturbed about the different facts depicted in the posters and newspaper clippings.

A number of programmes were organized in Panchayats as a part of the 16 days long international campaign on violence against women and girl children from 25th November to 10th December. Poster campaign, public rallies, and corner meeting, were conducted with the initiative of adolescent groups with whom we work and with large participation of public, which provided adequate chances for





girl children to address the public with strong words about sexual abuse and atrocities against girls. Panchayat, police authorities, Primary Health Centers (PHC), and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) came together in one platform which was a remarkable factor. Young people shared their experiences with the public. The campaign created new insights to the newly elected Panchayat Members and to the public about the rights and problems of adolescent girls.

As part of the 16 days campaign we have organized a session on new technologies and new forms of violence against women and girls at Pulluvilla on 10th December, 2010.

On 4th February 2011 we collaborated with other organizations and individuals in the city to protest against the irresponsibility of Railway and government on the issue of 'Soumya' a young girl who was brutally assaulted and raped while traveling in a passenger train in Kerala. On 6th February 2011 when Soumya died we also held a protest demonstration in front of Thiruvananthapuram Railway station.

On 8th March – International Women's Day, women from all walks of life gathered at the Martyrs Column at Palayam from 10 am in the morning. This event was organized by a collective of women's organization (*Sthree Kuttayama*–women's collective) to focus on the increasing incidence of sexual harassment and women's safety in public place. This event was named 'soumyanjali' to dedicate the

International Women's day to the memory of Soumya and to all women being harassed in public places. This gathering included women from various walks of life including media persons, lawyers, housewives, students, and artists. All the women attending the programme wore black as a mark of protest against the atrocities and insecurities faced by women. There was a poster exhibition on women's safety, poetry recital, storytelling and skits. It was an attempt to sensitise the society to the problems women face in their lives. This also served the purpose of reminding the concerned authorities to take immediate action. In the evening at 7 pm the event was concluded by a candle light vigil in which hundreds of candles were lighted.

Other campaigns

We Collaborated with likeminded organizations, in the campaigns to ban Endosulfan and in the anti corruption movement.

Violence interventions

In the reporting period Sakhi team dealt with many violence cases providing interventions to the victims. Of the 25 cases which were processed at Sakhi, 9 were child abuse cases, but majority of the cases were due to domestic violence.

VI. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Sakhi Trust comprises of

- Dr Sundari Ravindran (Chairperson)
- Aleyamma Vijayan (Secretary)
- Mercy Alexander (Treasurer)
- Dr Neena Joseph
- Dr Manju Nair
- Mariamma Sanu George

Sakhi team comprises of

- Mercy Alexander- Coordinator
- Mini Rajkumar
- Rejitha.G
- Geetha J
- Beenamol S G
- Sreekala T S
- Soni S.R
- Prabha Kumari assists the library.
- Ajitha N assists in the office.

The team meets once a month for review and planning.

Evaluations

Ongoing planning and monitoring of the programme is done by the team every month and once in three months, we also conduct reviews in which the secretary participates on behalf of the board.

In the reporting period, the life skill education for adolescents was reviewed by external evaluators- Ms.Bimala Chandrasekhar and Rama Devi. This external review helped us immensely to reformulate the next phase in a more meaningful manner.

Interns

Sakhi also provides an opportunity for the MSW students to do their Internship and gain firsthand experience of working with people. In the reporting period, we had the following students with us:

- Rovenan Ninan from School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore

- Nilofer. M, Lakshmi.S.Nair & Faseela.A.I from Ansar Women's College, Thrissur
- Charu Sebastian Santhigiri College of Computer Sciences, Thodupuzha
- Anju & Abha from University of Kerala
- Anna Carrigon from Scotland

Sakhi also had a number of visitors who were keen to learn from our experiences

- Ariana Georgelous from London
- Dr. Chanden Mitra & Dr. Sujata Pal from West Bengal
- Malin Olofsson from Sweden
- Emma Strid from Sweden
- Staffs & Students of St. Joseph's college from Iringalakkuda
- Students, Buddha College from Alappuzha
- Reghina Dascal from Romania
- Masko Ota from Japan
- Sofie Saterhall from Sweden

Participation of staff in other programmes

Even though Sakhi comprises of 7 staff, each staff is an active member of many of the committees of the government departments.

- Mercy Alexander is a member in the committee constituted by City Police Commissioner to conduct adalaths in the area of each circle inspector of the city to deal with cases in which complainants are women. She had participated in 7 such adalaths in the reporting period.
- Mercy Alexander and Beenamol S G is also a member of project review committee (TAG) of the Local Self Government Department.
- Mercy Alexander, Rejitha G and Geetha J are also the NGO representatives of the sexual harassment at workplace complaints committee in various government offices in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Rejitha.G is a member in the media monitoring cell of Kerala Women's Commission.

Sakhi team members have been facilitating sessions for various departments, schools and colleges.

- Ms Rejitha G has facilitated the following sessions:
 - on women and work at the state level training conducted by Kudumbashree at Mariarani centre on 12th April, 2010.
 - Session on gender in a training conducted by Archana Women's Centre, Kottayam on 16th April, 2010.
 - delivered a talk on Women Empowerment and Development in a seminar organized by Public Relations Department, Government of Kerala at Vamanapuram on 18th June, 2010.
 - delivered a speech on Women's issues and Law in the ten day camp organized by National Service Scheme unit of Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University Thiruvananthapuram Centre on December 27th, 2010.
 - She co- facilitated with Aleyamma Vijayan for a training conducted for Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTR's) on 8 March 2011.
- Beenamol SG facilitated the following programmes:
 - On challenges of adolescent age for higher secondary students of Aryanadu School.
 - a session on reproductive health for the adolescent girls of Good Shepherd school in Chempooore.
 - a session on Violence against women at Thoolika Samajam in Kalliyoor Panchayat.
 - a session on child abuse at Katella Tribal school as part of their camp.
 - a session on Women Empowerment for the a women's group based in Vettuthura.
- Geetha J facilitated the following programmes:
 - She facilitated sessions on adolescent issues for NSS unit of Loyola college students.

Sakhi team members also participated in several consultations and conventions organized by other organizations and Institutions.

- Geetha J participated in the 5 day workshop organized by Lawyers collective New Delhi for the three day National consultation on DV Act from 6th to 8th August 2010.
- She also participated two day National Consultation on Women related Laws organized by Women power connect, New Delhi from 4th to 5th August 2010.

Acknowledgments

The few but intense work of the reporting period was possible because of the support a number of friends and well wishers directly or indirectly. It is difficult to name all but mention has to be made of the trust board members of Sakhi, the members of the research advisory board of the safe city programme and adolescent life skill education programme, our funding partners –Ford foundation, UN Women and Jagori, Global fund for Women and a large number of resource persons on whom we relied a lot to conduct our varied programmes. Special thanks to Ms.Mridul Eapen, Member, State Planning board and Ms.Lida Jacob IAS (Rtd) who were always available for support and guidance .Our friends Ms.Nirmala Sanu George and Ms.Parvathi Devi were always available for any help required by us.

We are also grateful to a number of women's groups in Kerala, especially to Anweshi who partnered with our Safe city programme.

We thank our auditor, Mr.Thomas Mathew and also thanks to Mr.Vinayan of Wordpecker publishers and Mr. Bhattathiri of Printaids Laser Media who beautifully bring out our various publications.

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2010

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
CORPUS CONTRIBUTION		FURNITURE ACCOUNT	
As per Last Balance sheet		As per last balance sheet	143,048.81
		Less : Depreciation during the year	14,304.88
			128,743.93
BUILDING FUND		COMPUTER AND ACCESSORIES :	
As per Last Balance sheet		As per last balance sheet	209,385.97
Add : Interstet received		Less : Depreciation during the year	31,407.90
			177,978.07
ADVANCE ACCOUNT:		OVERHEAD PROJECTOR	
At end of year		As per last balance sheet	2,583.70
		Less : Depreciation during the year	516.74
			2,066.96
CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED IN ADVANCE:		KITCHEN UTENSILS:	
As per last Balance Sheet		As per last balance sheet	2,232.05
Less : Transfer to Income & Expenditure account		Less : Depreciation during the year	223.21
			2,008.85
CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		PHOTOCOPIER :	
During the year		As per last balance sheet	39,936.00
		Less : Depreciation during the year	7,987.20
			31,948.80
		LIBRARY BOOKS :	
		As per last balance sheet	195,397.93
		Less : Depreciation during the year	29,309.69
			166,088.24

FAX MACHINE:		
As per last balance sheet	6,171.11	
Less : Depreciation during the year	925.67	5,245.44
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
As per last balance sheet		3,976.65
SECURITY ADVANCE / DEPOSIT		
As per last balance sheet		63,000.00
ADVANCE ACCOUNT:		
As per last balance sheet		74,500.00
CLOSING BALANCES		
Cash in hand	42,825.50	
Cash at Bank S.B	3,655,325.89	
Central Bank A/C no 7189	483,199.004,181,350.39	
TOTALS	4,836,907.33	4,836,907.33

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
By	Support for Integrated Interventions on Women's rights and Governance	To	DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS:
"	Project : Enhancing the role of women in strengthening democracy in southern region of India	3,111,360.25 "	Ford Foundation grant 1,644,473.00
"	Project : Maternal Protection Study	109,940.00	Project : Enhancing the role of women in strengthening democracy in southern region of India 86,282.00
"	Project : 2 Day consultation on misuse of communication technologies and new form of violence against women	177,431.00 "	Project : Maternal Protection Study 187,500.00
"	Project : Safe city fee of violence against women & girls initiative : A pilot study in Thiruvanthapuram	37,884.00	Project : Safe city fee of violence against women & girls initiative : A pilot study in Thiruvanthapuram 759,000.00
"	Project : Misuse of Communication technologies and new forms of violence against women and girls	152,917.00	Project : Misuse of Communication technologies and new forms of violence against women and girls 34,675.00
"	Project : Leverage work on sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls through capacity building of village health workers for enhanced access to public care for young girls and boys	34,675.00 "	2,711,930.00
"	Involvement with Cashew Workers		Add : Contribution received in advance during previous year 3,828,365.61
"	Research conducted by Yuri Kitamov		6,540,295.61
"	Fund of Domestic Violence Victims		Less : Contribution received in advance for next year 3,315,841.83
"	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		3,224,453.78
"	Donations and Contributions	263,531.00	
"	Bank Charges	350.00 "	LOCAL ACCOUNT INCOME
"	Gift expenses	3,000.00 "	Donations and Contributions 322,700.00
"	Miscellaneous expenses	18,000.00 "	Xerox charges 61,141.00
"	Depreciation written off		Reading and Learning materials 90,729.00
			Computer Utilization charges 13,740.00
			Library Incomes 89,552.00
			Bank Interest 20,613.00
			Miscellaneous Income 100,206.00
			Bank Interest 698,681.00
			82,654.00
	TOTALS	4,005,788.78	TOTALS
			4,005,788.78