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April 2004 to March 2005



SAKHI
Women's Resource Centre
Trivandrum-695 035, Kerala, India

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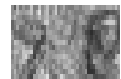


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Introduction



Looking critically through a gender lens, the year 2004 was a very disturbing period for women in Kerala. A number of sex trafficking and gender based violence cases –some new and some old- came to the public attention. Human rights groups and women’s movements took up these issues and struggled to get justice for women but the social institutions like political parties, legal systems and a major section of the media expressed their deeply rooted patriarchal biases and values when dealing with such cases. It looked like we were taking 10 steps backward when the whole world was preparing to observe the Beijing +10 review and asses what progress have been made as regards elimination of discrimination towards women.

In 2004, in the infamous icecream parlour case, which had a 10 year history(!), the minister of Industries was forced to resign after the victim, Regina came out with the truth of what happened and how she was silenced. Because of severe pressure and agitations he had to step down. The fate of Sari of Kiliroor near Kottayam saddened the whole society. She was a young girl of 17 who was sexually abused by many highly placed persons promising roles in a television serial. She died in a hospital after her delivery due to complications brought about by slow poisoning. This showed the nexus between politicians, the medical

community and other powerful interests in society. With strong fight put up by opposition parties and women groups, the case is referred to be investigated by the CBI.

The verdict of the High Court in the Suryanelli case disappointed and frustrated everyone who believes in the impartiality of the judicial system. The court said that the 16 year old girl willingly submitted herself to the 40 or more men who brutally assaulted her after drugging her and taking her all over Kerala. It shows how deeply patriarchal all our social institutions are.

In Kottiyam, near Kollam, a young girl who was sexually exploited by many



• people was allegedly killed by her own
• brother who himself is only 17. Many other
• cases of child sexual abuse are coming to
• our attention from the coastal and rural
• areas of Kerala. In some cases, immediate
• and sincere investigation has helped to find
• the accused in a few months time like the
• case in Pulluvilla, Trivandrum where a
• young girl of 7 was molested and killed by
• a man of 32. The police arrested him
• within 40 days!

• The cases related to sexual
• harassment in the work place are also
• taking their own time in the courts. The
• case of Neela Lohita Dasan Vs. Nalini Netto
• is still in the trial stage after inordinate delay
• due to stay orders, transferring of cases etc.
• It has taken five years and still justice is
• delayed. The verdict in the Prakrithi
• Srivastava Vs Neelan case is a small ray of
• hope in the midst of this denial of justice
• due to prolonging of such cases.

• 46 sex trafficking cases were registered
• in Kerala from 2001 May 17th to 2004,
• Nov 15th. Everyone knows this is the tip
• of the iceberg. The high rate of
• unemployment, high dowry system,
• consumer culture and many other factors
• have resulted in the continuing
• exploitation of young women. Child sexual
• abuse also shows an upward trend.

• The year also showed the negative
• impact of globalization policies in the
• agriculture sector with farmers committing
• suicide due to crop failure and their
• inability to pay back debts incurred for

farming. This is a sign of worse things
regarding livelihood options of the poor.
If the trade liberalization policies allow
import of fish, the fisheries sector may also
face a similar fate.

The forces of divisiveness in the name
of religion are gaining strength in Kerala
as incidences in many parts of Kerala
shows. In Olavanna panchayat in
Kozhikode the nuns of missionaries of
charities were attacked. Similar cases,
though isolated, are happening now,
which is a cause for concern for anyone
who believes in basic democracy and
human rights.

The huge loss of life and livelihood
due to Tsunami was another totally
shocking incident in the year 2004. It
shows how with all the advancement in
science and technology, such tragedies
cannot be averted and that the earth and
its resources are so fragile that we need to
be so careful in handling them. Our shock
was also because we had started to work
in Alappad panchayat in Kollam district,
from June 2004. It is in the same area
Tsunami struck and where most deaths
occurred. We continued our work but with
a new direction and with the focus of
strengthening the local self government
institution. It is surprising to see that the
panchayat is bypassed in the process of
rehabilitation. Communal forces are also
trying to take maximum advantage of the
situation.

About SAKHI



Our humble beginnings were in 1996 and we have traveled a long way having completed 8 years of work with women and children in Kerala. 9 full time personnel are working at Sakhi, supported by a number of project staff and volunteers, and friends. Our focus is to mainstream gender in the social, political and development discourses in the state and to strengthen the women's movement by building up micro level groups of women who are capable of acting as rights conscious citizens. We are well aware that change can happen only when we link up to become a political force and also only when gender issues are integrated into issues of caste, class and environment. Such a broader perspective building among groups of women is our goal.

This year, we developed our website : www.sakhikerala.org

In 2004, we continued some of our earlier activities and started new programmes, responding to various needs and expectations expressed as well as within limited resources.

The activities from April 2004 to March 2005.

During the reporting period, our activities were mainly the following:

1. The power of knowledge: The library, documentation center; information dissemination /publications.

2. Building capacity/sharing knowledge: Training programmes, courses, workshops and student placements.

3. Gendering the governance process: Networking elected women representatives, gender mainstreaming in local self governments and micro-level development interventions.

4. Working with young women: Project on Adolescent Reproductive health and Reproductive Rights.

5. Through research into action: The study of gender based violence.

6. In Solidarity and support: Violence intervention programmes/Campaigns.

7. Networking for movement building/ Collaboration.

8. The Team at Sakhi: Challenges, opportunities and growth.

1

The Power of Knowledge: Library, Documentation center; Information dissemination



The library is steadily growing with a good collection of 3756 books related to all issues of concern to women. The documentation center has a collection of documents, reports, journals and paper clippings. 443 Journals were received during the year. 387 books were added to the collection this year, among which 245 books were purchased and others were complementary copies and subscriptions. This year we started computerization of books with the help of an expert Sheela Subramaniam from Delhi and it is almost completed.

We also have a good collection of films and documentaries on videocassettes and CD's. These are mainly on women's issues and other social issues. Different training institutes and organizations are using them.

The library has a membership of **186**, the majority of which are of women. During the year 2004, 22 new memberships were taken. Besides the members, another ninety persons including students, research scholars and foreigners visited the library for reading and references.

Students from Loyola Extension Center, Vimala College, Thrissur, School of International Relations, M. G. University, Dept. of Library and Information Sciences, Dept. of Political Sciences, Dept. of Law,

Dept. of Sociology, Department of Environmental Sciences all from Kerala University, Centre for Socio Economic and Environmental Studies Cochin, NALSAR Hyderabad and many others researchers used the library during the year. The documentation also helps journalists and activists in writing articles. During the violence campaign, the paper clippings of women killed in violence each year is used to make posters and the compilation highlights the gravity of the issue.

1. Information dissemination

Information just collected and kept in shelves will not help ordinary women and hence we take great care to prepare and publish materials in Malayalam, the local



language. These are in the form of books, newsletters, brochures, leaflets and posters. Some of these are used in campaigns. Researchers and students are the main users of the library. Journalists from the print and visual media too use the library. This year we brought out a brochure on the library and sent it to various colleges and universities in Kerala

2. Newsletter

We consider the newsletters as the best means of communicating with the women's groups and other interested organizations and individuals on issues affecting women and motivating them to respond to challenges. This also acts as a platform for women who wish to start to write.

In the current year, we could publish only three issues of the news letter.



The first issue was in August 2004 and contained articles on Express high way and the opposition towards it; one article was on Holy Mary as the continuity of feminine goddess images. This issue had a special section with several articles and information on the politics of sexual minorities. It also contained reports of the preparatory meetings of the auto-nomous movement conference and also that of the fortnight campaign on violence against women.

The second issue published in November 2004, was a special issue on

the occasion of the International campaign on Violence against women which is organized every year from Nov 25th to Dec 10th. It contained articles on the significance of the campaign, list of women killed during the past one year in domestic violence, the full text of the revelation of Regina, the victim in the ice cream parlour case, the series of sex trafficking cases in Kerala etc.

The third issue of the newsletter was published in March 2005, as a Women's Day special. It contained articles on the significance of Women's day this year, national employment guarantee bill, the draft declaration of autonomous women's conference, on the sexual violence cases in Kerala and the role of the judiciary, reports on different workshops and the campaigns and news on Beijing+10 review meeting.

3. Publications

This year, we were able to bring out the adolescent training manual called **Blooming buds (viriyunna mukula-ngal)**. This is published by DC Books Pvt Ltd and is available in the bookshops of current books all over Kerala. In this way, the manual has a wide reach out.

Four brochures each related to domestic violence, sexual harassment at work place, child sexual abuse and legal provisions related to women were published. These brochures had to be reprinted several times due to demand from women.

During the violence campaign we designed and printed 4 types of posters. We also made a series of posters on



In the current year SAKHI published three issues of the Newsletter





The adolescent training manual called "Blooming buds" (viriyunna mukulangal).



- violence against women and these are
- used for poster exhibition
- Process reports have been prepared
- of our major workshops on "Kerala's
- development from a gender perspective"

as well as on "Gender sensitive planning at the local level issues and concerns".

Report of our course on gender, health and development is also published.

An article based on our action research on Gender and decentralized governance written by Aleyamma Vijayan was published in a book named **Creating Voice and Craving**

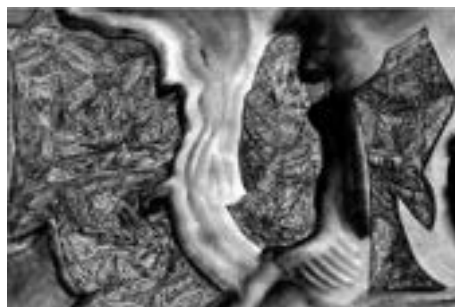
space-redefining governance from a gender perspective" by Maitrayee Mukopadhyay and Shamim Meer published by the Royal Tropical Institute Netherlands (KIT). They also brought out the report of the International Conference held in Kochi in 2002, under the title **Governing for Equity-Gender, Citizenship and Governance** edited by Maitrayee Mukopadhyay. We translated the report of this action research into Malayalam and published it this year.

Ms.Rema Devi is in charge of the library and documentation center. **Ms.Rejitha** was in charge of documentation and publications till Nov.2004. Due to health reasons she has taken leave from November 2004.



2

Building Capacity Sharing Knowledge



One of our major activities is training and capacity building on gender and related issues. We have been able to organize a number of programmes this year as well as be available as resource persons in programmes organized by other groups and institutions like Institute of management in Government, SDC/IC-NGO programme, and many other women's groups and NGO's.

1. Training of Trainers on Gender

We organized a gender training for trainers from various women's groups from 4th – 9th October, 2004 at Animation Centre, Kovalam. Twenty one persons participated in the programme.

The objectives of the TOT were the following

- To enhance the skill of gender trainers
- To give conceptual clarity on Gender and related ideas/concepts often used in development literature
- Create a core group of gender trainers in Kerala and network them
- Mainstream gender in the political and social discourses of the state.

In this six day residential programme, the following topics were discussed:

Status of women in Kerala; Concepts of gender, gender division of labour,

patriarchy, masculinity; Social analysis, trends in feminism, skills of communication, training skills, sexuality, leadership etc.

C.S.Chandrika, C.V.Sudhi, Daya.J, Seema Bhaskar, Jayasree, Jagajeevan, Rema Devi, Rajitha, Adv.Geenakumari and Aleyamma Vijayan were the resource persons. All the sessions were conducted in a participatory style

Detailed report of the training is available at Sakhi.

2. Gender TOT for other organizations

On request from SDC/Inter cooperation NGO programme, we organized and conducted a gender awareness training of trainers for selected trainers from 12 NGO's in Kerala. A series of 3 training programmes, two with three days duration and one with 5 days



Three workshops were conducted in collaboration with Cense, Thrissur. In the context of bringing about gender consciousness, the need to address men regarding how their gendering has taken place is felt to be very important. These workshops were mainly conducted with young men from universities with a view to bring about more studies and explorations on how masculinities are getting constructed in the context of Kerala.

teachers and activists and was organized with the cooperation of AWH special college, Kallayi, Kozhikode. There were 38 participants and out of this 17 were women. Most of the participants were MSW students from various colleges under Calicut University.

Santhosh Kumar.K.C. discussed Gender and masculinities. Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan presented theories of masculinities. Ratheesh Radhakrishnan (CSDS, Bangalore) presented various streams and trends in masculinities studies. Praveena Kodoth (CDS, Trivandrum) discussed the emergence of patriarchy along with the renaissance in Kerala society.

Documentaries were screened for discussion and a set of reading materials were distributed.

The second workshop was on **Masculinities and Kerala society**. This was again for post Graduate students and Activists and was conducted from February 25th to 27th , 2005 at Darsana Pastoral Centre, Vilangannur, Thrissur.

Students from seven colleges participated. They came from Kannur, Calicut and SSUS, Kalady universities. Most of them were MSW students. There were forty-four participants out of which thirteen were women.

Santhosh Kumar.K.C. did an introduction on Gender, Masculinities and theories. In the evening, Dr.Muraleedharan screened a feature film for discussion on alternate sexualities. Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan discussed various issues related to gender, masculinities and theories. On the last day Ratheesh Radhakrishnan presented his studies on masculinities in visual media. Documentaries were screened and a set of reading materials was also distributed to the participants.



A third and different workshop was on **Masculinities and Sexualities** organized at Shikshak sadan, Chavakkad, Thrissur from March 4th to 6th, 2005. This was in collaboration with PSH – THFI, Guruvayoor. More than twenty five participants were present.

This workshop was exclusively for Men having Sex with Men (MSM) who are interacting in this particular project and for the staff of the project. On the first day Santhosh Kumar.K.C. discussed the concept of Gender and Masculinities. Also, we screened films for discussion. Second day, all participated in a film festival organized in connection with International Women's Day in Thrissur. In the evening there was discussion on films, women's issues and their own problems. On the last day, Seema Bhaskaran presented on Child Sexual Abuse and the discussion went to their experiences.

Santhoshkumar .K.C. from CenSe, Thrissur took responsibility to organize these workshops

4. Course on Gender, Health and Development

This is the 4th year that we are organizing this course. It has been developed in response to the need among development workers, social science researchers in health and those working on health issues within the non-government and the government sector for a training programme that goes beyond introducing basic gender concepts, to applying these in the context of research and policies. It is therefore, principally aimed at activists, manager and policy and programme implementers with in the health sector and NGO's. It is a 2-week residential programme conducted in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The course consists of 4 modules:
Module 1 - Introduction to concepts of Gender, Sexuality and Patriarchy in the context of health, human rights and development.



Module 2 - Social and Gender Issues of Health.

Module 3 - Applying Concepts and Tools to Critique Information, Research, Policies and Programs.



Module 4 - Social Action: Mobilisation, Advocacy and Campaign.

This year the course was conducted from August 1 - 15, 2004. The curriculum for the course has been designed jointly

*Workshop on
Masculinities and
Kerala Society*

*Course on Gender,
Health and
Development*





- by a group of feminist researchers and
- activity under the coordination of
- Dr.T.K.Sundari Ravindran and Aleyamma
- Vijayan, Sakhi, Thiruvananthapuram.

- The following persons were the core
- faculty members of the course in 2004.
- Dr.Amar Jesani, CEHAT, Mumbai; Padmini
- Swaminathan, Madras Institute of
- Development Studies, Chennai; Renu
- Khanna Sahaj and WOHRAC, Baroda;
- Dr. Mala Ramanathan Achutha Menon
- Center for Health Science Studies,
- Thiruvananthapuram; Nalini Nayak,
- Protsahan, Thiruvananthapuram;
- Prof.U.Vindhya Department of Psychology,
- University of Andhra Pradesh,
- Vishakhapatnam.

- In 2004 we had 19 participants from
- various states of Tamilnadu, Karnataka,
- Andhra Pradesh, North East and Kerala.
- The detailed process report of the course
- is available at Sakhi Ms.Mini Rajkumar
- assists in coordinating the course.

SHG Leadership
training



5. Leadership training

- 44 women leaders from various Self-
- help groups from the districts of Wyand,
- Idukki, Palghat, Alappuzha and
- Trivandrum participated in this progra-
- mme. The topics of discussion were the
- following:

Status of women in Kerala; Women and environmental issues; Women and health; leadership skills & challenges; History of Women's Movements; Role of SHG's as a women's collective in handling issues of women.

The women were also given some skill training in paper bag making, soap making etc during free time. Songs and other audiovisuals were also used.

6. Workshops/Seminars

a) *Workshop on Gender Sensitive planning in local Governance – issues and concerns*

This workshop was organized in February 2005, at Salvation Army Youth center and was intended to debate on how best women's groups and NGO's can involve to better the Women's Component Plan (WCP) of Local Self Government Institutions (LSGI's). There were about 70 participants from various organizations, academic institutions and presidents and committee members of panchayats and leaders of Self-Help groups.

Dr.Devaki Jain, a noted feminist economist, inaugurated the seminar and gave the key note address. Her paper "Value of the local" outlined the significance of local level planning to address needs of women. The proximity of LSGI's is valuable for women. Ms.Sarada Muralidharan IAS presented a paper, "Gender and Decentralization-experiences from Kerala." She gave an overview of the decentralization process and how mainstreaming of gender has taken place in the process. There was a sharing of experiences from the field on how the Women's Component Plan (WCP) was conceived and executed. Representatives from Venganoor (TVPM), Olavanna (Kozhicode), Vilayur (Palakkad)



and Vandipperiya (Idukki) Grama panchayats spoke . The next day's session started with a panel discussion on Self Help groups and Women's Empowerment: Myths and Realities. Ms.Nalini Nayak moderated the session and CDS President Shobanakumari from Venganoor, Ms.Meera Mohan from COSTFORD and Ms.Geetha from Mochita and Ms.Seema and Ms. Jayasree from Sakhi shared their understanding and experiences. There was a very lively discussion on the role , potentials and problems of SHG's.The evening session was about the gender analysis of institutions which are transferred to local bodies. Mr.Jagajeevan creatively presented this analysis. In the panel discussion which followed on Gender analysis in local level planning: Potentials and possibilities, the speakers were Dr.Girish , Dr.Joy Elamon, Prof. Neena Joseph & Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan. Mr.Jithendran from Decentralisation Support programme (DSP) of the Planning board moderated the session. The entire workshop was very illuminating for all those who participated as expressed in the feedback we received.

b) A seminar on declining sex ratio:

In collaboration with Kesari journalists union and with support from CWD Delhi, a seminar on declining sex ratio in the 0-6 age group was organized on 5th June 2004. Dr.Irudaya Rajan from CDS spoke on 'Situation of girl child in Kerala' and Mr.Sasikumar, Media Development Foundation, Chennai spoke on 'Media and gender justice'. A lawyer from Supreme court Adv. Anitha Shenoy spoke about the PCPNDT Act and court directives. Dr.Sabu George from CWD, Delhi spoke on 'Aspects related to sex selection in Kerala'

The seminar helped to highlight the

need to pay more attention to the fact of the declining sex ratio in Kerala and the focus here was to sensitize the media to such issues.



c) Remembering Susan Sontag

We organized a meeting on January 13th, 2005 to remember the contributions of Susan Sontag, the feminist writer and human rights activist .P.Govindapilla, Usha Menon, Sudha Warier, and J.devika spoke on the occasion.

Workshop on
Gender Sensitive
Planning in Local
Governance

7. Women's Day celebration

This year we chose the theme "Violence against women is a violation of Human Rights". The campaign was partly supported by UNFPA- IPD project of the department of Health A series of posters were made and four leaflets each on domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace, child sexual abuse and legal provisions for women were printed. The campaign and seminars took place in various panchayats. The women elected members of the panchayats of Kadinamkulam, Karimkulam, Kollayil, Manamboor, Maranellor collaborated and at each place we had hundreds of women participating in the discussions and viewing the posters. The women members of panchayats can easily mobilize women of



Women's Day
celebration
- a discussion in
Kollayil

- SHG's and it is exciting to see how these
- women are eager to understand and learn.
- But at the same time we were horrified at
- the increasing and at the same time very
- cruel violence faced by women. Several
- cases came to our attention during the
- campaign.



- March 8th: Pulluvilla--Violence against
- women and legal remedies: Speakers:
- Adv. Geenakumari, , Jagajeevan,
- Prof.Iris, Daya.J, Mercy Alexander
- March 9th: Kollayil –Seminar at panchayat



Women's Day
Celebrations at
Paraniyam

hall. Vice president inaugurated and
Ms. Sonia George, convenor of Kerala

Stree vedi spoke. Corner meetings
were held at different wards of the
panchayat.

March 11th:

Vilavoorkkal panchayt: Ramadevi and
Nandini

March 12th :

Maranalloor panchayat- Ramadevi

March 13th :

Kadinamkulam panchayt :Panchayat
president inaugurated and Aleyamma
Vijayan and Parvathi Devi spoke

March 14th: Mariapuram :

Mercy Alexander

March 14th and 15th Paraniyam:

Remadevi and Mercy Alexander

March 16: Manamboor :

Adv. Geenakumari, Jayasree and Daya

In all these seminars and corner
meetings we have interacted with about
3000 women in different areas. This
experience revealed that SHG's offer a
great possibility to make women aware of
various legal and other provisions to
counter violence and also empowering
them to act collectively in sorting out their
problems. Strengthening of women
panchayat members is also crucial if the
process has to be carried on.

8. Training programmes organized in collaboration with/ for other groups

On request from the Catholic Priests
Conference of India (CPCI) and forum for
justice and peace a training of trainers on
gender & justice was organized from 6th
to 9th Sept at Alwaye. Aleyamma Vijayan
and Santhoshkumar K.C jointly facilitated
the programme. About 40 priests and nuns
participated.

A Gender training was organised for
the leaders of KAIROS, Kannur on 14th
15th Sept.2004.

On June 29th and 30th Anweshi
counseling center, Kozhikode organized a



seminar on women and development . Aleyamma Vijayan was the resource person for two sessions.

Kerala streevedi and **Voices** Wyand organized a similar workshop 16th and 17th of Oct with support from Anweshi and here too Aleyamma was the resource person.

9. Media workshop

Communication for Development & Learning (CDL) based in Bangalore is compiling a "Kerala Directory of Development Writers" to address the felt need expressed by the NGO community in the state. Journalists, Filmmakers, Photographers and Cartoonists with a focus on development issues who are based in Kerala are included in this directory. Prior to this they wanted to organize a workshop for representatives from NGO's in Kerala on **Development Journalism and Media Advocacy-Working with Newspapers**. Sakhi collaborated to organize the workshop in Trivandrum.

10. Placements

Sakhi also offers placement for students. Sweety Varghese from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Seena P.M. and Shabnam A.P. from AWH Special College Kozhikodu and Seena.P from Centre for

P.G. Studies in Social Work Calicut University have come to Sakhi for Placement. Nandini K who completed her MA is working as volunteer in Sakhi. Temporary placement was offered to a victim of domestic conflict in the library for two months till she got a better placement.

Women's Day
Celebrations at
Maranalloor



11. Gender Training Manual

This year we have started work on a gender training manual , putting together all the materials we have developed over the years. **C.S.Chandrika** is assisting in this work.

Aleyamma Vijayan is in charge of the capacity building programmes.

3

Gendering Governance



Our involvement with the local self governments started with the close association with the decentralization programmes in 1996. This innovative process offered an opportunity to mainstream gender in the political discourse in Kerala and to build capacities of women who were elected to represent people. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments brought many women into the social and political realm. We perceived this as our opportunity and responsibility, to build the capacity of these women to critique the ongoing development from a gender perspective and be proactive to bring about a gender just society in whichever party they belong to.

1. Networking elected women

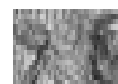
The process of networking elected women Representatives continued in the reporting period. The process is basically in the two southern districts of Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. This year is the final stage of the project in association with Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation(SSF).

The objective of this project was to create a forum for strengthening the gender equality in society, to enable women to voice their ideas, concerns and priorities in the local panchayat meetings efficiently and to use the strength of women collectives to improve gender relations in family and society.

Almost four hundred women members joined the network. The process of networking was done through seminars,

exchange visits and workshops focusing on the process of capacity building of Elected Women Representatives (EWR's), creating a platform where they could freely talk about issues they faced as elected representatives and as women. Since the panchayats had to be actively engaged in local level plan formulation and implementation, the discussions on critique of development from a gender perspective helped the EWR's to be creatively engaged in discussions and decision making.

Six elected women participated in the South India level meeting of the federation organized by the South Indian federation of the EWR's in Bangalore. Many of the members also participated in the campaigns and programmes that were



organized by Sakhi, - for example, in programmes organized as part of the Women's Day celebration, the campaign for conserving water, the campaign on countering violence against women etc.

The seminars and issues discussed are detailed below:

- **Role of primary health centers in local self Government**

Dr.Manju Nair, who is working in the health service department and currently doing her research on the health and people's planning, was the resource person for this programme. She began with a question on how the contribution of women in the planning process on the health projects in panchayat can be ensured. She dwelt in detail on the definition of health and the relation between health and planning. What are the health problems faced by panchayat members that they face in their daily life? Who is preparing health projects for the panchayat? Are any of the issues that were raised here mentioned in their project plan? The discussions were very lively and the members felt that this is an area where they need to be engaged more creatively

- **One day Seminar on the importance of environment in local planning**

We organized this programme in association with *Thanal*, an environment focused organization based in Trivandrum. This programme was conducted as a district level workshop. People from *Thanal* prepared a questionnaire that helped the members to identify the environmental issues that they are facing in their own panchayats. Then the participants were helped to understand the context of present day development and the need to critique it and then plan for the sustainable development of their areas in

an environment friendly manner. This programme was organized as part of the world environment day.

- **Role of women in Local planning and Local development.**

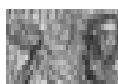
The aim of this series of seminar was to give awareness to the elected women representatives on gender based planning and to help them to conduct the gramasabhas' effectively. The resource person was Mr.Jagajeevan, who had a long experience with the decentralization programme. The panchayati raj system and its various dimensions were discussed in this programme in a very interactive way. The women responded saying that even if they are not able to contest in the next election, they are convinced that they should continue to get involved with the processes in the panchayats.



- **One day workshop on the formation of Jagratha samithi**

On 13th September 2004 we conducted a meeting on the formation of the jagratha samithi (village level vigilance cell). Panchayath members from Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam participated in this programme. We conducted this programme on the basis

One day
workshop on the
formation of
Jagratha samithi



of the new government order(GO) issued by the social welfare board that directs the panchayats to form vigilance cells. This was the 6th GO related to this issue. Many of the women representatives were not even aware of the government order or the role of the vigilance cells. We discussed this matter with the state women's commission and they agreed to cooperate with Sakhi to address the network members about the need of a vigilance cell. Ms.M.Kamalam, the chairperson of the State Women's Commission, inaugurated this programme. She spoke about the nature of the cases that the commission is handling daily. She said that if the vigilance cells are active then the pressure on the commission will be less and they can act more powerfully in other matters like policies related to women. In the afternoon we shared the findings of the study we conducted on gender based violence in Kerala. This also helped them to identify the issues that the women are facing in the villages.

• Seminar on Gender based violence

As part of the campaign against violence against women Sakhi conducted a one day seminar for elected women representatives. Ms. Sugatha Kumari (former Women's Commission chair person) inaugurated the seminar. C.S.Chandrika spoke on the dimensions of gender based violence in Kerala and the possible coping strategies.

• Seminar on disaster management

Natural disasters like the Tsunami is a new thing to Kerala. The tsunami affected Alappad Grama Panchayat, which is situated in Kollam district in Kerala. The women members of Alappad panchayat are members of the network of elected women representatives. Moreover as part

of the project on mainstreaming gender in local governance, Sakhi has been working in Alappad since June 2004. Six local animators from the village are part of this process.

Sakhi conducted a one-day seminar on disaster management for the coastal panchayat members of our network. The programme was held at Karunagappally . Alappad Panchayat is situated in Karunagappally Block). Dr.John Kurien (CDS), Dr.K.G.Thara (Institute of Disaster Management) and Mr.A.J.Vijayan (Protsahan) were the speakers. Dr.John Kurien spoke of coastal ecosystems and disasters. Dr.Thara gave an overview of different disasters and the threats to Kerala and the need to be prepared. Mr.Vijayan spoke of the role of local bodies in such situations. Members from the coastal panchayats of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts attended the programme.

The members of the network visited Alappad and express their support to the people in the affected area.

Other programmes

a) Skill Training for Self Help Group leaders.

In association with small farmers agribusiness consortium (a government agency who is supporting farmers and micro groups for the promotion of the Agriculture) we provided a 10 day training in food processing for the self help group members from various panchayats. The home science Department of the Agricultural University willingly collaborated as trainers. We undertook this programme because the women panchayat members expressed this as a need. They approached us for innovative project ideas for self help groups. Two or three meetings were held locally as a



follow up and the trained women have started producing various products, which are sold in fairs. The EWR's are very happy that they have been able to start something useful for women.

b) Leadership training programme for Self Help Group (SHG) leaders

We conducted several leadership-training programmes for self-help group leaders. The participants came from all over Kerala. A number of women leaders from various grama panchayats in Thiruvananthapuram participated in this programme. We consider these women as the leaders of tomorrow. We selected these people with the help of EWR's in our network.

c) Inter state conference of elected women representatives

In the national level convention of elected women representatives held in Bangalore from Feb 18th to 23rd, six members from the network of EWRs in Kerala and two members from Sakhi participated. There were more than 200 members from Karnataka state. The EWR's from TamilNadu and Andhra were also present. The women members from Kerala considered this as a great opportunity to mingle with the EWR's from other states and to get the chance to share their views with Najma Heptulla, the former deputy speaker of Rajya sabha.

d) Interagency meetings of partner groups

We organized one Inter-Agency meeting of the partners from Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and attended another one in Bangalore. In Tamilnadu, the Rajiv Gandhi Chair of Political Sciences of the Gandhigram Rural

university, Dindigal supports a state level Federation of women panchayat presidents. In Andhra Pradesh, the Loka Satta and in Karnataka, the Singamma Srinivas Foundation are the agencies involved in federating the elected women members.

During the project period we were able to collect secondary data related to the gender programmes of the panchayats. We attended and observed a number of gramasabha's and panchayat committee meetings. This enabled us to help the members to become effective partners in local governments

We have done the process

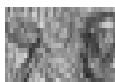
*Inter agency
meeting of partner
groups*



documentation of all the above process. We are also working towards a book on the **profile of the selected elected women representatives** and their experiences of governance.

e) The Advisory Committee

Advisory committee meetings were held as and when needed. We shared our experiences and our plans to expand the work. The advisors expressed their willingness to cooperate with the network as resource persons.



2. Empowering Local Self Government Institutions By mainstreaming Gender in Governance

This year in association with CapDeck (Capacity development for decentralization in Kerala) we have started a process called "Mainstreaming Gender in Panchayat Raj institutions". The project aims to mainstream gender in local self-governance institution in Kerala, to create a true partnership between men and women in the process of development at the local level. The programme we have undertaken has several components.

- Status of women studies are to be carried out in the 4 panchayats selected in Trivandram, Kollam, Kozhikode and Palakkad. The study will be a tool through which gender sensitization of all section of the society will be undertaken and the possible change of attitudes and mindsets on gender relationships is achieved.
- Make the panchayath Raj institution a women friendly space.
- Strengthen the local level women's group such as SHG, ADS and CDS for effective participation in Grama sabha.
- Make a resource team in each panchayat.
- Gender analysis of WCP and Panchayat Raj Institutions.
- Give management and marketing training to strengthen the SHGs who are interested to do local level production and be involved in locally sustainable livelihood programmes.

The progress of the work

■ Identification of panchayats.

We identified 4 panchayats in 4 districts of Kerala by visiting the panchayats, meeting the committees and explaining the process and purpose of the project. All the members of the committees of 4 panchayats attended a one day workshop at CapDeck office before the project was finalized by incorporating their suggestions and with their approval. There were serious doubts concerning the funding of the project as CapDeck is funded by the Swiss Development agency. This was a time of the controversy in Kerala regarding foreign funding. So this particular aspect was clarified and all necessary steps for transparency were ensured.

■ Staff selection and capacity building

Core staff at Sakhi and 6 field staff in each of the 4 panchayats were recruited. It was difficult to select the field staff without yielding to political and other considerations. It was also not easy to get young women who were willing to travel on their own and be away at Trivandrum occasionally for training programmes.

The 24 field staffs were given trainings twice. The first training was a five day residential training (Aug 16th to 22nd) mainly focused on gender, Development and Panchayat Raj. Special attention was paid to make them understand the objective of the project, as they are to be the core facilitators at the panchayat level. The study on status of women and indicators to be used were explained in detail. At the end of the training the participants prepared a questionnaire and field-tested it in Vizhinjam panchayat.



The second training programme was of three day duration (Oct 25th to 27) and it mainly focused on how to collect data, and analysis of women's component plans (WCP). By this time, they had been working at the field level and sharing of field level experience was also done.

■ **Collected information on Community based organizations(CBO's) and Self help groups (SHG's.)** Analysis of this information is going on. This process helped the animators to get familiar with the village and the day-to-day realities before they undertook the household survey. It also ensured local support and collaboration. These Organizations were also the forum for gender sensitization

■ **Tools of study:** The schedules for a household survey on the status of women were prepared in consultation with experts. It was printed after field-testing again. It was decided to study 250 households in each of the 4 panchayats . By end of March, they have completed 200 households in each of the 3 panchayats. Data entry also is simultaneously going on. Guidelines for FGD's and Key Informants interview are also prepared.

■ **Focus group discussions** have started with different groups of men and women to further the collected knowledge of the issues and status of women and as a means of gender sensitizing

■ **Formation of core group:** In each panchayat a core group is formed of interested women to support and monitor the study. The members include EWRs, anganwadi workers, JPHN, Mahila Swasth worker, CDS chair person etc

■ **Formation of expert group:** Expert group is mainly of men and other experts who are already involved in panchayath raj process like the elected representatives, Key resource persons (KRPs,) ICDS supervisor, PHC Doctors, VEO and social workers.

These groups are there to consult and advise on every aspect of the work. Gender training is imparted to members of both the group. It is expected that these group members will act as the supporting and facilitating persons in gender based planning and programme implementation

■ **Review and monitoring:** Every month a review and monitoring meeting was conducted in all four panchayats. The staff of Sakhi participate in these meetings to offer suggestions and to monitor the group mechanism.

■ **Advisory meeting at Sakhi:** A group of experts help Sakhi to carry on the activities with their guidance and advice. Meetings of the advisory group were convened three times in the past year.

In Olavanna panchayat in Kozhikode, on September 30th a communal violence erupted in *Mampuzhakad meetal* colony where fundamentalist groups attacked nuns belonging to missionaries of Charities. Although the study on SHG's had shown that caste and religious based SHG's are growing in the panchayat, the authorities refused to believe its implication. Hence this came as a shock to many as they were not aware of the communal undercurrents in their panchayat.

The natural calamity has affected our work at Alappad and it is traumatic to go through the experience of pulling up our



- field workers from the level of victims to
- participants and helpers in the relief
- operation. We collaborated with
- NIMHANS in Bangalore and the Dept.of
- Social welfare to give training in trauma



*Discussion on
Grama Sabha at
Olavanna
Panchayat*

- counseling to the local animators, so that
- they can become peer counselors. The
- work with women and children is going
- on in Alappad in collaboration with the
- panchayat. Since the immediate issues of
- compensation, housing and fishing
- implements have not been sorted out even

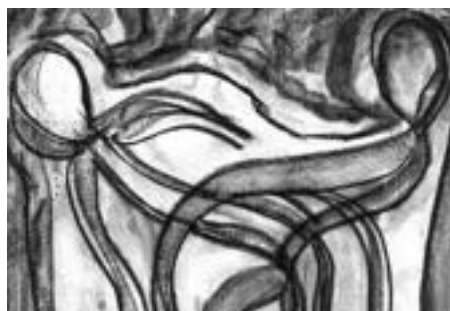
after 3 months of calamity, people are disillusioned. The temporary shelters are not conducive to the hot climate and there is no sign that permanent housing will be ready by the time rains come in June. Even worse is the fact that, communal elements are making serious efforts to divide people along religious lines. The calamity has strengthened the team of women who are the local animators.

As part of this project, CapDeck organised workshops on sharing of experience of partner organizations from Sep 9th to 11th and another one on Review and monitoring from Sep.27th to 29th at Animation center, Kovalam. There was a thematic discussion on Gramasabha on Dec.10th at Asir Bhavan, Ernakulam. The concerned staff participated in these meetings.

Daya.J and **Mercy Alexander** work on the networking elected women; **Jayasree.S** and **Seema Bhaskaran** work with the CapDeck project; **Nija Mary** is the research assistant.

4

Working with Young Women



Project on Adolescent Reproductive health and Reproductive Rights.

Life skill education, summer camps, classes,
supportive programme for adolescent and publications

Project on Adolescent Reproductive health and Reproductive Rights

Life skill education:

- **Teen clubs-** Two clubs are functioning in Vizhinjam and in the urban slums. There is a demand to start more clubs from various SHG's in the coastal and rural areas. Since we do not have a person working full time with adolescent issues now and no funding for this programme beyond May 2004, it is difficult to meet the demands. At the same time, we realize the importance of this work and are trying our best to help.

Summer camps:

- A five day camp for adolescent boys and girls were organised from April 1st to 7th, 2004 at SEWA rural center, Vilappilsala. 17 girls and 10 boys attended the camp. There were sessions on yoga, personality development, Environment, origami, my

body, communication, know your society, dance, and music etc.

- Another three-day camp was organized for adolescent girls from coastal area of Thiruvananthapuram and children of SEWA members. This was from April 30th to May 2nd 2004 held at SEWA rural center, Vilappilsala. Thirty-five girls attended the camp. The sessions were identifying self, know your society, Environment, my body and dance and music.

- A one day programme for urban adolescent girls was held on May 30th 2004. The participants were girls from urban slums. Most of the girls were out of school. Almost 20 girls attended the camp that was held at AICUF center.

- A half day programme for young men on January 15th at Sastha nagar, Kollam. Here we discussed the construction of gender in the society.



Five day
Adolescent camp
at Vilapilsala

Classes

- o Session on adolescent issues for MPTA members at Cotton Hill Girls high school on 17th January.



Five day
Adolescent camp
at Vilapilsala



- o Session for adolescent girls on body at Kattela Residential School on 25th January.
- o Two-day camp at MET School, Mannarghat, Palghat from October, 1st and 3rd. Children from 8th to 12th classes participated.
- o Sessions were conducted at Chinnamma memorial school, Poojappura.
- o Talk on 'Parenting' to PTA of Payyampally school, Mananthavady, Wyand Oct.19th2004.
- o Regular classes are conducted at Cherurasmi center, Valiathura
- o Class for adolescent girls at Puthiathura in Feb 2005.

Supportive programme for adolescent:

- ☐ Resource person for school project of Trivandram Corporation. Prepared module on gender and body awareness.
- ☐ Collaborative work with Kerala Child Welfare council on child right and child labour issues.

Publications

The Life skill education manual is published. A book for boys is under print.

Jaysree S is in charge of the programme.

5

Through Research into Action



The study of gender based violence in Kerala was undertaken for the Dept. of health (IPD project supported by UNFPA) and had started in October 2003. The study on Political Decentralisation and the Primary Health Care System was jointly done by Achutha Menon center for Health sciences, Trivandrum and Sakhi and was supported by Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), USA.

Study on Gender based violence in Kerala

The study of gender based violence in Kerala was undertaken for the Dept. of health (IPD project supported by UNFPA) and had started in October 2003. The fieldwork was over by March and the data entry, analysis and report writing was completed in 2004. We held two dissemination workshops too, to validate the findings. A series of campaign activities have also been undertaken in various villages with women. Overall 39% women reported experiencing violence in Kerala. The study report is available at Sakhi.

This study is intended to start intervention in cases of violence by the health department in district hospitals to start with. Hence on the basis of the study on prevalence of violence against women in Kerala, tools were developed which the doctors can use while patients come to

the causality of hospitals. These protocols are to be field tested before finalizing and a district hospital will be selected to pilot the initiative of a one stop crisis center. It is also planned to train the health services staff on gender issues before the cell starts.

Aleyamma Vijayan was coordinating the study with support from Dr.Sundari Ravindran and Dr.Manju Nair

Political Decentralisation and the Primary Health Care System

This study which was jointly done by Achutha Menon center for Health sciences, Trivandrum and Sakhi and was supported by Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), USA. The study was undertaken by Dr.Mala Ramnathan, ,Aleyamma Vijayan, Dr.VaradaRajan, Dr.R. Sukanya and Priya Nanda

The study examines the Potential for Improving Women's Reproductive Health



- Care in Kerala through the primary health system, which was handed over to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

- Currently the PHC system manages and implements the RCH programme at the community level. Within the system, the people who operationalize it do not



Dissemination workshop on Gender Based Violence Study

- seem to be aware of the reproductive health and rights based approach. The provision of various services for women especially with regard to reproductive health is limited to contraceptive services and some curative care. There is not much recognition of gender relations at the household level and the particular vulnerabilities of women. On the contrary the health system seems to reiterate many of these norms such as by mandating spousal consent for sterilizations and abortions. The facilities available at the PHC's by way of drugs and supplies are very limited. This often pushes women towards partial or complete, though expensive, treatment at the private health sector or no care at all. The referral mechanisms for many services within the public sector are inadequate and/or non-existent. Therefore women who require

reproductive health care with minimal privacy and quality find it in the private sector. But such care seeking comes after much delay and only for illnesses that are very severe. This can further exacerbate women's vulnerabilities due to high costs and higher morbidity at the point when treatment is sought.

We also find that recognition of women's social and gender situations within their homes and in their communities exists at the lower levels of the health system and diminishes as we move up the hierarchy. In fact at the Medical Officer's and health workers level we find that the health system reiterates the existing gender structures.

Training PRI functionaries to make gender and health concerns central to the decision-making regarding allocation of resources is necessary in order to achieve women's practical as well as strategic needs. Sakhi is attempting to do this through our networking process. We are also providing training to all PHC functionaries on the RH approach on a priority basis and including a gender component to all of these training processes. The process of Community Needs Assessment for the planning for the Panchayat's Health Needs must be made mandatory.

The present system of dual control has serious implications for the functioning of the health systems. The lines of control, administrative, technical and fiscal need to be clearly outlined and all functionaries of the health sector and the PRIs need to be informed of it. This will enable better functioning as it will outline responsibilities of each sector clearly.

The study report is finalized in 2004. It is yet to be published in Malayalam.

6

In Solidarity and Support Violence Intervention Programmes



The official statistics from State Police of National Crime Records Bureau indicate that violence against women in Kerala is increasing. The numerous complaints received by State Women's Commission and Women's organizations on domestic violence, sexual violence, dowry deaths, workplace harassments, child sexual abuse etc provide enough proof for this. In this context Sakhi within the scope of limited resource, started a legal cell in 2002. We lend free legal aid and counseling to those women who approach us with cases of any forms of violence.

During the reporting period Sakhi offered legal aid to 34 cases. During this period we filed 23 cases before the Family Court, Thiruvananthapuram. Among these cases there were three cases in which the parties were reunited. In five cases the final verdict was in the favor of the women. Four petitions were defaulted due to repeated non-appearance of clients due to which the cases were dismissed. It needs to be mentioned that sometimes our client's lose interest in litigation after a case is filed. This occurs due to number of reasons. One of the main reasons is that often a client does not appear in the court, which may be too expensive for them.

The cases pending before the Thiruvananthapuram family court were transferred to the New Additional Family Court, Nedumangad, as a result of which 4 of our cases were also transferred.

During this period we were unable to take up some cases due to inadequate legal merit and non-availability of documents. Those cases are documented and other kinds of support were provided. We also helped a fisherwoman to conduct a civil case at Attingal court, which finally went in her favour.

We collaborated with Thrani in another case and with the help of police interfered in the matter and now the matter is about to be settled. A few case studies are attached as Appendix.

The subject matter of most of the complaints was about domestic violence and maintenance. From our own experience we realize that we need to conduct more legal awareness programmes. It is also imperative that local level support groups of women are created so that the victims get a constant support



- to move forward. To enhance skill and
- capacity to deal with problems we have
- arranged several legal awareness training
- sessions to the leaders of self-help groups.
- Three of the cases, which came to us,
- were related to sexual abuse of minors.
-
-
-



Homage to
victims of violence
on 25th
November in front
of the Secretariate,
Trivandrum

- Three young girls were trapped in love
- affairs and became pregnant after which
- the boy refused any involvement. With
- the help of women's commission, DNA
- tests were conducted and is awaiting
- results.
- Meanwhile a 14 year old girl studying
- in the 9th standard who was abused
- delivered a premature baby and the baby
- died. The girl is in a shelter home now.
- Abuse of children even below 10 years too
- is on the rise. On Dec 25th, a 7 year old girl
-



Campaign on
violence against
women

- was raped in Pulluvila and killed. The joint
- struggle of women there helped to arrest
- the culprit. Anjeno, a 3rd class student was
- sexually exploited by 19 year old boy.

Similarly we receive complaints of young boys being sexually exploited. The parents, teaching community and society at large is yet to take these issues seriously.

As part of the violence intervention programme, a women's solidarity committee called *Stree aikayavedi* was formed in Pulluvila to take up the cases, which frequently come up in this area.

Two seminars on violence against women and children were organized. In Jan 2005 a talk on the need of women to organize was conducted 140 women participated Mr.Phiros, CI of police from Poovar spoke on another seminar and Parvathi devi and Jayasree participated A third seminar was on Women and health Dr.Manju Nair took the sessions.

Mercy Alexander with support from **Adv.Geena kumari** is responsible for this programme.

1. Anti Sexual harassment committees at workplaces

All the staff of Sakhi are members of various committees constituted at workplaces, in accordance with the directive of the Supreme court. Only few of such committees are meeting or doing any work to prevent violence happening. Most wait for something to happen to be active. The assumption is that there is no harassment. But most often women are afraid to complain as they fear the consequences and the eventualities in Nalini Neto Vs.Neelam case is a deterrent to filing complaints. There is a need for more work to be done to make such bodies active and pursue more pro-active approaches to make the workplaces safe and secure for women.

2. International Campaign on Violence against women

This years campaign activities were conducted in the context of ongoing struggles by the women's groups in Kerala



against sex rackets and the involvement of a minister in one such case. The revelation by the victim that the minister was involved forced the women's groups to go on a sathyagraha to demand his resignation. The Kerala *streevedi* (a state level network of women's groups) pioneered this agitation and the media also highlighted the issues. Several other sex racket cases like the Kiliroor case also came to light at this time. So generally violence against women, especially sexual violence was very much in focus during those days.

Sakhi took the initiative to organize the campaign in Kerala with support from various women's organizations and networks. Two of us from Sakhi participated in the preparatory meeting held at Calcutta in June 2004 and subsequent meeting in Chennai. The first planning meeting of women NGO representatives from Kerala was conducted at KGM Hall on 21st October, 2005. On 1st November Kerala *Streevedi* convened their state committee meeting to plan different campaign activities.

Sakhi organized a poster competition in various colleges. The news of the competition was publicized through various newspapers and journals. We received 39 entries and a panel of artists evaluated and selected three students for the first three prizes and three others were given consolation prizes. We brought out a special newsletter explaining the theme of the campaign and various activities undertaken by different organizations. It also had the list of women killed in domestic violence in 2004

Posters and stickers were designed and printed. The national level foot ball player Mr.I.M.Vijayan agreed to give the message of men's participation to end violence. The topic for the posters were child abuse, sexual violence, domestic violence, and male responsibility to end violence. Stickers were also made

concerning safe and secure journey for women in buses and trains. A leaflet was made which could be distributed in buses and trains. Leaflets were also prepared regarding the sex racket cases in Kerala. Notices concerning different issues of the



campaign were widely distributed

The campaign started with a press conference on 24th November conducted in the Press club, Thiruvananthapuram. All the print and TV media gave a good coverage of the campaign. The TV spot prepared by *Swayam*, Calcutta on Eve teasing a crime was broadcasted on one TV channel, although 4 of them promised that they would broadcast it.

On November 25th, the International

International
day on violence
against women-
November 25



day on Violence against women, posters consisting of cases of women who died due to domestic violence and sexual abuse as reported in news papers were exhibited

Poster exhibition
on violence
against women





in front of secretariat. This attracted a large crowd. In the evening a ceremony was conducted to pay homage to these women who died in violence. This was inaugurated by Nalini Nayak. She lighted the lamp paying homage to the women. After the homage a rally was conducted from the secretariat to Gandhi park where a public meeting was conducted. Smt. Sara Joseph (writer and activist) inaugurated the public meeting. Guest speakers during this occasion were K.Ajitha, C.S.Chandrika, and Sonia George. There was a good response from the public.

A seminar on **Gender based violence in Kerala** was organized for the Elected Women Representatives (EWR's) at YWCA hall on 26th November. Ms. Sugatha Kumari (former chairperson of the Women's Commission) inaugurated the seminar. C.S. Chandrika also spoke. This workshop was attended by 50 women panchayat members.

A group of students from MG University, Kottayam organized a film festival called "Second Sex" on 30th November and 1st December, 2004. Dr.A.K.Ramakrishnan gave an introductory talk on the second sex. The films screened were 'BOL', Ilayum Mullum, Mr and Mrs Iyer, Wild Strawberries, Hamare Bathe etc. About 500 students participated.

On Dec 10th a panel discussion on "Why Boss, father, husband is not necessary?" was organized in the university. K.Ajitha, Adv.Asha Joseph, Santhosh O.K. Geethika and Dr.A.K. Ramakrishnan spoke.

On 6th and 8th December seminars on the problems that are faced by adolescents were conducted in St. Roch's school and Cotton Hill school.

On 7th and 8th December, a campaign on safety during travel was conducted. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) allowed us to put stickers and posters regarding safe and violence free

travel as a basic right of women. Stickers were posted on all the buses and leaflets were distributed to passengers. The Railways did not give permission to paste stickers but we distributed leaflets.

On 9th December a seminar, rally and public meeting were conducted at Kottayam under the auspices of Streevedi and supported by Sakhi. The topic of the seminar was "Women's rights are Human rights". About 100 persons participated in the seminar.

On 10th December on the occasion of Human Rights day, Rasta an organization in Waynad conducted a rally and public meeting regarding this issue. During the time of campaign, the icecream parlour and Kiliroor cases were a much-discussed issue. In addition to campaign many rallies and campaigns were also conducted on these two issues. When nothing was forthcoming from the government with regard to these issues Kerala Sthreevedi started an indefinite strike to gain justice on the issue of these two sex racket cases.

In this situation, campaign activities were felt to be very relevant and contextual. But this also meant that- we were quite preoccupied with the ongoing struggles and had to drop some of the campaign activities planned earlier.

The sharp increase in domestic violence and sexual abuse cases calls for a need to initiate activities towards prevention of such incidents. The campaign activities are helping in creating a general sensitization of the community. More specific and concrete prevention strategies like intervention in school curriculum, sensitizing religious and cultural leaders etc are needed.

This year, many other organizations and NGO's used our posters and leaflets. Every year, there is a steady growth in participation in terms of organization and public. The media is still not very supportive.

7

Networking for Movement Building Collaboration with other Institutions



As a resource center, we feel it is our responsibility to collaborate with other organizations and institutions in further advancing the cause of women. We have collaborated with various programmes and campaigns organized by different organizations and institutions.

Two of our staff are members of Women's cell's of Attingal Govt. College, Trivandrum and Govt.Arts College, Thycaud.

Aleyamma Vijayan is a member of the advisory committee of the Center for studies on Gender concerns in agriculture of the Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.

We have been resource persons for various training programmes and workshops organized by various organizations. In Kerala, we actively participate in the programmes and campaigns of **Kerala streevedi**, the network of women's organizations.

We have been able to network with several new organizations who are partners in the CapDeck programme, IC-NGO programme etc. CenSe, Trichur deserves our special thanks for their collaboration in various programmes, especially in organizing the masculinity workshops. Sewa-Trivandrum, Anweshi- Calicut, Protsahan etc are few of the many organizations with whom we closely interact.

Our community involvement strengthens our other activities. Besides the work in all the different panchayats, women's groups of Vizhinjam and Pulluvilla deserves our special thanks. They actively participated in all the activities and struggles and were keen to get us involved in the adolescent programmes in the village. They also offered constant support to victims of violence in spite of so many negative pressures on them locally.

At the national level, we are a member of the national network of autonomous women's organizations (NNWAG), national co-ordination committee (NCC), and are collaborating with the International women's health meeting (IWHM), Indian Association of women's studies(IAWS) etc. We try and disseminate information related to such events and international training programmes to different groups so that Kerala is represented and more capacity building can take place.

8

The Team at SAKHI Challenges, Opportunities and Growth



Sakhi has a team of 9 staff and additional staff for respective projects as well as volunteers. Regular staff meetings are held once a month to evaluate and plan the programmes. As part of capacity building, staff have participated in various meetings/seminars and workshops held in different parts of India.

We are very proud to report that Daya.J , our staff won a national award for her film "Stolen Water" (co produced and co directed by her) based on the struggles of adivasis at Plachimada against the multinational Coco cola at the Mumbai International Film festival for documentaries and short films.

Seema Bhaskaran who works with us presently is awarded PhD in 2005 for her thesis on child sexual abuse in Kerala. It is an action research with survivors of sexual abuse and attempting to interact with police, judiciary and bring about a change in their attitudes.

Members of the staff has also contributed articles in several journals on various topics in the last year. *Penmalayalm* of Kairali TV telecasted reports of various workshops as well as some cases of violence in which we are involved. This helps to bring public attention to such

incidences. Various visual and print media also reported the major workshops we conducted. Besides, a programme called 'Ladies only' in ASIANET telecasted a programme on Sakhi.

1. Meetings/Workshops attended by Sakhi staff

- Preparatory meetings towards National meeting of autonomous women's groups: June 1st to 4th at Baroda and 19th to 21st Sept at Chennai.
- Preparation for the Fortnight campaign on Violence against Women: 13th to 17th June Calcutta: & 17th to 18th Sept at Chennai.
- Workshop on Disaster management at Trivandrum on 16th Aug.
- Harbours and environmental issues: organized by Protsahan at Kochi.



- Seminar on “Waging Peace: Feminist Perspectives on eco-economy, community, religion and culture” 3rd-5th March 2004 at Bangalore.
- Seminar on “Confronting violence, recounting resistance, envisioning justice” on the occasion of the 20th year celebration of Jagori awomen’s resource center in Delhi (7th-19th March 2004).

Adv.T.Geena Kumari participated in the Gender and Law workshop conducted in Delhi from 15th April,2004.

2. Talks/ sessions conducted by us

June 3rd.Vakkom Maulavi Foundation on “Supreme Court Verdict regarding arrest of women”.

7th June, 18th June; Guest faculty of IMG in the training of police.

9th Oct –Bank Employees Association-women’s wing: talk on issues of women employees.

12th Oct-Aafi group at Kovalam :Talk on Paradoxes of Kerala development

11th June,2004: For ISS-CDS Social Security training group On Decentralised planning in Kerala.

30th Oct 2004- Talk on Violence against women in Kerala-a human Right violation in the seminar organized by the Human Rights Law network at Trivandrum

Nov: Organised 4 classes for the SHG groups on Violence against women at Valiathura.

Dec 22nd/2004: Programme to remember Ms. Devaki Warier: Talk on Violence against women.

Dec 31st- Talk on issues of women in today’s Kerala- Mar Athnasious College, Kothamangalam.

March 17th,2005 For ISS-CDS Social security group: Gender based violence in Kerala.

Visitors/ research assistance/Internship

8th May,2004: Voices groups from Wyand.

June 5th visitors from Italy

June 11th: Two members from Hong Kong.

June 17th: Tina from Sweden

June 22nd: a group of 25 persons form Italy; 3 persons from Japan.

Sept 27th Nancy Spence from Commonwealth office-London.

Mina Sweden

Oct 15th BSW students from Rajagiri College of Social sciences.

Nov.16th Susanne from Sweden.

Laura Livingston, US embassy

Janet Lowry, Austin college,Texas

Mathew wolfgram from USA,

Malin Hallmark from Sweden and

Niina Makeramen from Finland.



A Note of Thanks

We are grateful for the support we received from our trustees, friends and well wishers.

Special thanks to Dr.Sundari Ravindran, Ms. Nalini Nayak, Dr.Manju Nair, Mr.Jagajeevan for always being there in times of need and to all our other friends who responded to our invitation for presenting papers in workshops, to be faculty in our training programmes and support us with new ideas and challenges. It is your trust in us that challenged us to carry forward with our multiple responsibilities and involvements. We look forward to meaningful interaction and feedback.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Ford Foundation, Delhi, Singamma Srinivas Foundation, Bangalore, CapDeck, Trivandrum, Department of Health - Government of Kerala and many other friends and well wishers who supported us with financial contributions. We thank Janet Lowry from Austin college, Texas who raises funds from students every year during the V- day for the violence intervention programme. We are grateful to Ms. Anna Lindburg for raising contributions to support the work among cashew workers. Many of our friends have contributed similarly small sums from their pockets towards our building fund. Others have helped in other ways to support victims of violence.

In the time of Tsunami, some friends offered to help and we have received Rs. 60,269/- and we are grateful to them. Our local staff at Alappad, Kollam is working with women and children and long term rehabilitation can start only after work on permanent housing is started.

We also like to place on record the valuable services of our auditor Mr.Thomas Mathew, our bankers the Central Bank of India and M/s. Tech vendors who give us technical assistance on computers, Mr.Vincent of Caxton press who helps with various printing tasks. They are more than supporting us professionally.

Appendix 1

A Few Case Histories where SAKHI Provided Legal Aid

Case History of Mrs.A

She belongs to the Christian fisherman community, and married a muslim doctor under the provisions of special marriage act. Before marriage she was working as a nurse in a private hospital where he was also practicing. After marriage they resided together in her family house. After marriage he joined the Health Services working as Associate Professor in Orthopedics. As soon as she became pregnant he began to come home only on alternative days. Gradually he deserted his wife and child. The allegation of his parents was that they spend lakhs of rupees for his studies under the impression that they will get back the money in the form of dowry. So they wanted to dissolve this marriage. As a result the man filed a petition for dissolution of marriage. In spite of several efforts to talk and settle the matter, the parents were adamant for a divorce. We filed an application for interim maintenance and litigation expense for that petition. Now she gets Rs. 1000/- for interim maintenance from him.

Case History of Mrs.D

Another lady who had been evicted by her husband along with her three children approached us. The lady had 3 cents of property with a building in it, which she received as a gift from her mother when she got married. The husband is a drunkard. He used to violently abuse

his wife and children after consuming alcohol. He wanted to sell the wife's property, but the wife was not ready to sell the property since they had no other house to reside. Finally he forced her and the children out of the house. We approached the Family Court of Thiruvananthapuram and obtained an order of injunction restraining the husband from forcibly evicting the wife and children from the house. The wife and children started staying in the house with the help of injunction order and along with a group of women. Finally the wife and children are getting interim maintenance from the father.

Case History

Another lady who is the mother of three children was ousted from the house of her husband. The husband was a former NRI. The man also had illicit relationship with the sister of his wife. She approached us when she had nowhere to go. We provided shelter for her and her children at Abhaya shelter home. It is also observed that from three children two stayed with the mother and one with the father. This woman's youngest child is only 2 years old. She put the child in day care which enables the woman to go for work. Maintenance petition is still pending but she is getting Rs 1000 per month from him. Reunion attempts for the couple are also going on side by side.

Appendix 2 Accounts

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2004

RECEIPTS		Rs	Ps	PAYMENTS		Rs	Ps
To Opening Balances :				By Mainstreaming Gender, Health and Reproduct Right in Kerala:			
Cash in hand	13,298.55			Programme Expenses:			
Cash at Bank – S.B	13,54,682.85			Advance course on Gender		1,309.00	
F.D Account	29,21,901.00	42,89,892.40		State level leadership training for women		33,566.25	
Donations and Contributions:				Follow-up on Gender TOT		53,919.00	
Royal Tropical Institute Grant		36,769.00		Workshop/ Seminars		20,140.00	
Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation Grant		4,37,560.00		Masculinities			
FREA India Grant		53,850.00		Adolescent Sexual Health Programmes (Material Production)		10,450.00	
Individual Contributions		40,845.00		Adolescent Sexual Health Programmes (Training / Follow up)		1,71,711.25	
Bank Interest		1,94,430.00		Information support		80,543.00	
Contributions		6,00,000.00		Infrastructure Support		66,000.00	
Advances – UNFPA – IPD Project interest		332.00		Staff support		4,73,332.00	
Donations and Contributions - Others		96,829.00		Travel expenses		73,934.50	
Overhead Contributions		383,431.00		Running cost		1,46,463.85	
Xerox charges collected		42,703.50		Donations and contributions		6,495.00	
				Seminars, meetings and conferences		150.00	
				Library expenses		350.00	
Computer utilization charges		33,130.00					
Organizational Overhead charges		68,005.25		Bank charges		270.00	
Library income		8,828.00		Repairs and maintainence		6,260.00	
Miscellaneous income		230.00		Office furnishing		981.60	
Bank interest SB A/c		6,341.00		Streenet course fee		5,100.00	
Bank interest FD A/c		17,955.00		Reading and Learning materials		5,640.00	
				Miscellaneous Expenses		1,050.00	

Advance Account (F.C)	438,022.00	Involvement with Cashew works Kollam District	11,981.75
Advance others	194,514.00	Salaries and Allowances	1,23,000.00
Streenet course fees	3000.00	Advance account (F.C)	3,64,522.00
Reading, Learning, material and Poster Sale	50,533.00	Advance others	3,56,334.00
Income tax collected	15,610.00	Research study on Cashew Sector in Kerala	1,225.00
Unifem project contribution	54,664.00	Income Tax remitted	15,610.00
SSF Project Advance Refund	12,000.00		
		Training Programme on Gender and Reproductive Health :	
		Programme Expenses:	
		Staff Support	28,000.00
		Traveling Expenses	3,21,080.00
		Workshops / Meetings / Publications	8,22,271.45
		Administrative expenses	1,46,856.35
		Other expenses	1,63,022.00
		Overhead expenses	3,83,431.00
		Gender, Citizenship and Good Governance :	
		Programme Expenses:	
		Documentation and publication of books and educational campaign materials.	30,500.00
		Translating and publishing of final report.	40,159.50
		Organizational overhead charges	36,769.00
		Associating Elected Women Representatives in Panchayat Raj Institutions:	
		Staff Support	2,04,000.00
		Travel Expenses	11,008.50
		Meetings / Workshops and Training programme	79,498.45
		Administrative Expenses / Office Cost and Miscellaneous	34,747.00
		Streenet Course	
		Honorarium – City Co-ordinator and Allied Expenses	33,000.00
		Administrative Costs	3,000.00
		Photocopying of the Resource Kit	9,210.00
		Internet usage	8,640.00

		Violence Intervention Programme		
		Individual Donation for victims		6,415.00
		Legal Aid		14,859.00
		Meetings		780.00
		Study on Gender based Violence		
		Desk review on GBV		38,650.00
		Research Study on GBV		
		Salaries	1,83,000.00	
		Co-ordination	50,000.00	
		Consultation	25,000.00	
		Travel Expenses	58,151.00	
		Accommodation	9,371.50	
		Per Diem Expenses	41,385.00	
		Printing and Stationery	15,566.00	
		Research Expenses	23,224.00	
		Office Expenses	7,040.00	
		Data Analysis and Report	25,000.00	4,37,738.00
		Closing Balance		
		Cash in Hand	19,884.35	
		Cash at Bank – S.B	11,63,189.85	
		F.D Account	9,38,926.00	
		Programme advances	73,500.00	21,95,500.00
Total	70,79,474.15	Total		70,79,474.15

Chartered Accountant: **Thomas Mathew** (B.Sc; F.C.A)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2004

EXPENDITURE		Rs	Ps	INCOME		Rs	Ps	Rs	Ps
To	Mainstreaming Gender, Health And Reproductive Right in Kerala: Programme Expenses			By	Donations and Contributions				
	Follow-up on Gender TOT	53,919.00			Royal Tropical Institute Grant	36,769.00			
	Workshop /Seminars Masculinities	20,140.00			Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation Grant	4,37,560.00			
	Adolescent Sexual Health Programme (Material Production)	10,450.00			FREA India Grant	53,850.00			
	Adolescent Sexual Health Programme (Training / Follow-up)	1,71,711.25			Donations and Contributions – Others	96,829.00			
	Information Support	80,543.00			Contributions UNFPA – IPD Project	6,00,000.00			
	Infrastructure Support	66,000.00			Unifem Project Contribution	54,664.00			
	Staff Support	4,73,332.50				12,79,672.00			
	Travel Expenses	73,934.50			Add: Contribution Received				
	Running Cost	1,46,463.85			In Advance during the previous year	<u>41,96,939.78</u>			
	Advance Course on Gender	1,309.00				54,76,611.78			
	State Level Leadership Training for women	33,566.25			Less: Contribution				
	Donations and Contributions	6,495.00			In Advance for next year	<u>21,37,827.32</u>		33,38,784.46	
	Seminars Meetings and Conferences	150.00							
	Library expenses	350.00			“ Bank interest F.C account			1,94,430.00	
	Repairs and maintenance	6,260.00			“ Individual Contributions			40,845.00	
	Bank charges	270.00			“ UNFPA – IPD Project Interest			332.00	
	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,050.00			“ Xerox charges collected			42,703.00	
	Research study on cashew sector in Kerala	1,225.00			“ Computer utilization charges			33,130.00	
	Office Furnishing expenses	981.00			“ Organizational Overhead Charges			68,005.25	
	Streenet Course fee	5,100.00			“ Library income			8,828.00	
	Reading and Learning materials	5,640.00			“ Miscellaneous income			230.00	
	Involvement with cashew works Kollam District	11,981.75			“ Bank interest SB A/c			6,341.00	
	Salaries and allowances – Programme Staff	1,23,000.00			“ Bank interest FD A/c			17,955.00	
					“ Streenet course fees			3,000.00	
					“ Reading, Learning, Material and Poster sale			50,533.00	
„	Training Programme on Gender and Reproductive Health: Programme Expenses								
	Staff support	28,000.00							
	Traveling Expenses	3,21,080.00							
	Workshops / Meeetings / Publications	8,22,271.00							
	Administrative Expenses	1,46,856.00							
	Other expenses	1,63,022.00							

To	Gender Citizenship and Good Governance: Programme Expenses		
"	Documentation and Publication of Books and Education Campaign materials	30,500.00	
"	Translating and publishing of final report	40,159.50	
"	Organizational overhead charges	36,769.00	
"	Associating Elected Women Representatives in Panchayat Raj Institutions		
"	Staff Support – Programme Staff	2,04,000.00	
"	Travel expenses	11,008.00	
"	Meetings /Workshops and Training programme	79,498.45	
"	Administrative Expenses / office Cost and Miscellaneous	34,747.00	
"	Streenet Course		
"	Honorarium – Coordinator and Allied expenses	33,000.00	
"	Administrative Costs	3,000.00	
"	Photocopying of the Resource Kit	9,210.00	
"	Internet usage expenses	8,640.00	
"	Violence Intervention Programme		
"	Individual Donation for victims of violence	6,415.00	
"	Legal Aid Expenses	14,859.00	
"	Meeting Expenses	780.00	
"	Study on Gender Based Violence		
"	Review on GBV programmes	38,650.00	
"	Research Study on GBV		
"	Salaries and allowances	1,83,000.00	
"	Co-ordination Expenses	50,000.00	
"	Consultation Expenses	25,000.00	
"	Travel Expenses	58,151.00	
"	Accommodation expenses	9,371.00	
"	Per Deim Expenses	41,385.00	
"	Printing and Stationery	15,566.00	
"	Research Expenses	23,224.00	
"	Office Expenses	7,040.00	
"	Data analysis and report writing	<u>25,000.00</u>	4,37,738.00
"	Depreciation during the year		41,040.26
Total		38,05,117.21	Total 3,805,117.21

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2004

LIABILITIES	Rs	Ps	ASSETS	Rs	Ps	Rs	Ps
CORPUS CONTRIBUTION			FURNITURE ACCOUNT				
As per last balance sheet	3,74,781.00		As per last balance sheet	53,130.78			
			Less : Depreciation during the year	5,313.08		47,817.70	
CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	21,37,827.32		COMPUTER AND ACCESSORIES				
			As per last balance sheet	39,324.80			
			Less : Depreciation during the year	7,864.96		31,459.84	
			OVERHEAD PROJECTOR				
			As per last balance sheet	9,856.00			
			Less : Depreciation during the year	1,971.20		7,884.80	
			LIBRARY BOOKS				
			As per last balance sheet	87,977.65			
			Less : Depreciation during the year	13,196.65		74,781.00	
			PHOTO COPIER ACCOUNT				
			As per last balance sheet	51,200.00			
			Less : Depreciation during the year	10,240.00		40,960.00	
			FAX MACHINE				
			Purchased during the year	16,362.50			
			Less : Depreciation during the year	2,454.38		13,908.13	
			INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
			As per last balance sheet			3,976.65	
			FIXED DEPOSITS				
			As at the end of the year			9,38,926.00	
			SECURITY ADVANCE				
			As per last balance sheet			55,000.00	
			ADVANCE ACCOUNT				
			Programme and Other advances	1,61,820.00			
			Less : Refunds during the year	47,000.00		1,14,820.00	
			Closing balances				
			Cash in hand	19,884.35			
			Cash at Bank-SB	11,63,189.85		11,83,074.20	
TOTAL	2,512,608.32		TOTAL			25,12,608.32	



SAKHI Team

Aleyamma Vijayan	:	Coordinator
Mercy Alexander	:	Secretary
Rema Devi L	:	Librarian/documentalist
J.Daya	:	Programme associate (Networking elected Women representatives)
S.Jayasree	:	Programme Associate (Mainstreaming gender in PRI)
Seema Bhaskaran	:	Programme associate – Mainstreaming gender in PRI)
Rejitha G.	:	Documentation and publication assistant (Till Nov.2004)
C.S.Chandrika	:	Compiling the Gender training manual
Mini Rajkumar	:	Office manger /programme assistant of the course on gender, health and development
Njja Mary John	:	Research assistant- Mainstreaming gender in PRI
Joseph Xavier	:	Financial officer