

MJSS REPORT

2019-2020

Mahila JagrutiSevabhavi Sanstha,Parbhani; is made for women in sex work.The purpose of this organization is to make the sex worker aware about their human rights and strengthen and empower them for their rights. The organization works for sex workers only and all members of this organization are from the community and the work place in this institution has some brothels and some slum areas. The organization works with the community in the field and always works for sex worker by aiming to strengthen its community and increase capacity building in its community during its work.

Since NNSW sangramBanglore has come in our lives, Mahila JagrutiSevabhavi Sanstha has been helped and the community is strengthened.

NNSW core values:

- 1) Sex work is work
- 2) Work free from crime
- 3) Decriminalization
- 4) Self-determination and self

organization of people in sex work

They helped us a lot and these four principals brought the biggest change in our lives. Because of these principals, we got to know our basic rights and it became very easy to understand about ourselves, due to these principals, our own thinking changed. Because before we came to NNSW we used to do sex work but were very afraid to call ourselves a sex worker because we were afraid that if someone else knows about our work then how will he see us and what will they think of us but through Mahila JagrutiSevabhavi Sanstha we came to know more about ourselves and the law and a network for us in which sex workers work. Then some of the Stakeholders, Doctors, Police ,Tehsildar, RD Sir, Bank Manager, Ward member, Politicians, also came to meet us and by training them we removed the misconceptions spread regarding sex worker women, by advocacy.

RenukatoiZodpe said that, "I am very happy that we have completed 9 years of our collective. We have faced many obstacles in these 9 years and tried our best to continue our journey by bringing power and stability to our community members. I am very happy to say that I feel very proud for MJSS who had crossed a big divide of discrimination which happens against women, who are lonely in sexwork and are exploited. We are making our community stronger by working with other women in our villages. Four years ago, we have planted a tree of empowerment in Parbhani district, MJSS have focused on bringing women together empowering

them making them aware about finances and health. We have established small saving group of poor sex workers. Renukatal is working to prevent violence against sex workers as well as domestic violence. We realize that to prevent violence, working with women only is not sufficient so we started advocacy with police, rationing offices and politicians. We are also working with social protection officers for economic empowerment of women. MJSS tries to provide information regarding various government schemes, banking, government documentation etc. Our mission is to empower sex workers and to prevent violence, abuse and discrimination and protect them.

WorldAIDS day

On the behalf of Mahila JagrutiSevabhavi Sanstha, like every year, the awareness program for World AIDS Day was conducted with the preface of Mrs. Renuka and the information regarding care taking was given. Women also went to the program held by state hospital and performed Gondhal to spread awareness in people. Yadav Sir (DPO), Counselor Rathod TI, Che.Suresh Lolge, Renuka Jhodpe. Aarti Jodpe, Meena dhapse, IndrabaiVavle, Baby Code, Abdul Khaliq, Vinayak Gandhara. ChakravarthiRengde were present.

Arogyagat

The objective of Mahila JagrutiSevabhavi Sanstha, Parbhani behind creating an Arogya Gat is to bring awareness in the community regarding health and economics. Many people have started Bachat Gat with the objective of taking loans and working.

We created the Arogya Gat because many women don't have the documents and by making a group of 5 women, we can support women economically and health wise. It also helps in creating documents because we do not hold id proofs and it will be easy to work on that. We got this idea from a CBO member. We planned for Arogya gat and proposed the idea in the community to stay connected and help to build a friendly and healthy environment in the community. We have benefited from it and currently hold 200 groups in Parbhani.

It also helped us to get along well in our community and meeting once a month helped to keep us connected and our friendship flourish. Through the group we were able to gain information about the community regarding economical and health conditions.

Women who took loan from local money lenders can now take loans from bank and the situations regarding lending money have become better. This is how we have worked in Parbhani and outside of Parbhani with the funds from SANGRAM.

we worked on domestic violence in this one year.

Work for decriminalization of sex work and to keep ourselves aware of law is important. Sex workers often face violence including domestic violence so we started providing information about ITPA as well as domestic violence act with the help of lawyers. We have conducted

meetings with women to explain them the process of how to deal with the violence in brothels and how to launch police complaint. This year we have worked with DALSA to create awareness among sex workers about law how they can protect themselves within legal limitations. DALSA representative have assured us that if any sex workers face criminal charges and you have not done any crime, you are innocent then we will provide free legal aid. We have also done advocacy regarding various issues of sex workers with collector office and superintendent of police. With this inputs we have got wonderful output that we have established different committees to deal with different issues of sex workers. We have following committees.

1. Advocacy committee
2. Tanta Mukti committee
3. Health committee
4. Donation committee
5. Finance committee
6. District level advocacy committee
7. Cleaning committee
8. Management committee
9. Stakeholders committee.

Social ID proof and documents-

we have created awareness among the community members regarding need of having social ids and other documents to get benefit of various social schemes. We have conducted a survey regarding this. We have explained them how ID proofs like Aadhar Card election card are necessary for migration as well as renting a house and getting pension schemes. We have also created awareness regarding importance of these documents for school admissions of children, buying and selling of house. We have also explained the need of having only one name in all the documents. Now our community members are aware about the importance of documents like Aadhar card, PAN card, ration card, election card, caste certificate, passport, domicile certificate, birth certificate, death certificate and bank passbook.

Health services-

We have created awareness about health in our community. During that, we found out that the community members are having health issues. We have invited different stakeholders conducted health camps. With the funding support from SANGRAM, we have started health service provision activities with sex workers. We have conducted camps and awareness programs regarding health issues like skin diseases, blood pressure, diabetes and awareness regarding nutrition with people living with HIV and on ART. Explain the importance of adherence to ART. We have worked with the help of different stakeholders in health services and children from the community who are studying science. We have collected information from the community regarding prominent health issues of women we have realized that women have problems of high blood pressure, diabetes, back ache and body ache. We have tried our best to provide medication from government hospitals and also from the funds we have received from SANGRAM.

Financial issues-

During the discussion with community regarding financial development we have observed that

women are taking use loans from various money lenders high interest rate. So, there is no savings from their incomes. Many women have kept their homes as well as land for mortgage with these money lenders. We started creating awareness about importance of saving money, formation of small savings groups. Many women have addictions like tobacco and alcohol and they spend more than what they earn that's why they become indebted. With the help of sukhi and dukhi method by SANGRAM we explained them how they can save money. We also explain them how their savings can be used in their old age as pension like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi schemes.

Monthly board meetings-

We conduct monthly board meetings to discuss about the situation of the organization, to explain it to everybody and also to suggest the founders of the organization how to take the work forward. We also prepare monthly report and monthly finance report during meetings. We also take a review of the activities and discuss where to approach for fundraising. We do conduct review of income and expenditure. During this meeting we also take review and update of the current population coverage as well as discuss regarding the need to improve our outreach. When we come across a new person in community, we cross check with her documents we ensure that she is very safe here. we also maintain follow up with her regarding health, crisis situation and social security cards documents. We take follow up through our champions. If anybody is forced into sex work, we provide counselling and then send her back to her home we also ask her if she wants to go home or stay in the community. During board meetings we also discuss regarding the responsibilities of board members and how it is necessary get information from the community and also disseminate information from the organization back to the community.

We have discussed in the board meeting that, with the fund which we have received we need to create awareness in our community regarding law and ITPA provisions. Me also discuss regarding the importance of sharing the information which we received during an NNSW meetings. We had a discussion about what we learn in Punethrough the Raided book and how we should use the funds we are going to receive from SANGRAM. We all seven members also discussed that those who are staying in Parbhani should work to create awareness with the women who are in Parbhani and other should meet the women staying in villages. Also discussed about 12A and 80g certificate the possibility of receiving funds with Amelner

COVID RELIEF WORK-

Since MJSS started working with an NNSW and SANGRAM, we have seen that the community has improved its confidence and the work which we have done for last 9 years started showing some results. SANGRAM have helped us a lot to improve capacity through various trainings. We are learning a lot through SWASA project also.

After the corona pandemic began and the lockdown started our lives have got adversely impacted. The money got over in 4 to 5 days, we were not having any transport to go home. Hotels are closed and we don't have utensils to cook food. We had explain about our bad condition to MJSS they told us that with the help of NNSW you will get ration, but we don't have gas or stove to cook. M JSS told us that we need to help each other to cook food. Who have utensils and gas can help others who don't have. We have also created a WhatsApp group of

community members to stay connected and share information. We have coordinated with the collector to get permission for ration distribution and reached out to 223 individuals. During this period we also observed incidences of police harassment specially in Javara bazar. Our champions are handling these issues we are providing support on telephone calls