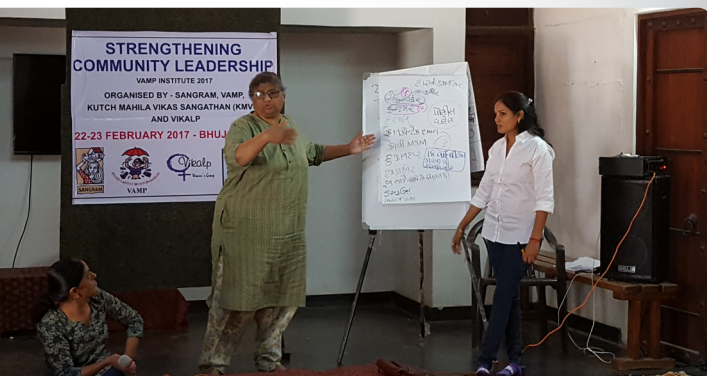
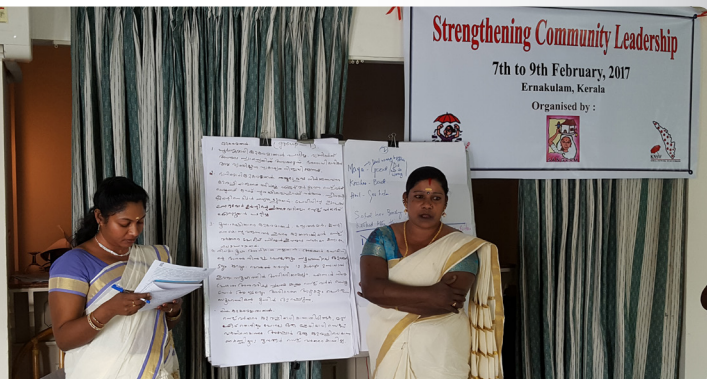


of Civil and Political; Social and Cultural rights and the emergence of treaties for specific groups of people such as women (CEDAW), children (CRC). Trainers for these modules include Henri Tiphagne and Aarthi Pai

👉 Sex Work (Er) Rights - The Discourse, Approach, Law, Policy.

This module is aimed at strengthening the knowledge and perspective of sex workers and activists on the historical and recent developments on sex work at the national, regional and international level. Sessions examine the shifts in international positions on sex work and the impact that anti trafficking policies have had on the lives of sex workers. Laws such as ITPA, the draft trafficking bill are also discussed in the sessions. In addition sessions are also designed to understand abolitionist campaigns and the response of the sex workers rights movement.



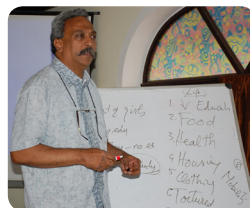
👉 Movements And Dialogues

A crucial lesson for the sex worker rights movement has been the importance of building alliances with other rights defenders and movements. At the forefront of this alliance have been allies from the Women's Rights movement. Though traditionally there have been faultlines and splits in the Women's movement on its understanding of sex work (women's groups regarding it as exploitation of women); there has been growing support for the agency and choice of adult women in sex work in the past decade. Similar alliances have also been formed with the sexual minority rights activists and leaders, health movement activists and Dalit activists. The sessions are designed around the following topics: -

Women's Rights movement, sexual minority movement in India, The movement for women's right to health, Dalit movement discourse, Health for All.

👉 Strengthening Skills.

This module is intended to strengthen participant skills on Advocacy, media advocacy, social media, documentation.



The VAMP Institute

VAMP Institutes - Training sex workers and activists working with sex workers

Background

Though the HIV/AIDS discourse has bought to fore the need for protecting the rights of vulnerable communities like people in sex work; continued conflation with trafficking, viewing sex work as violence, lack of recognition for sex work as work and denial of equal protection of the law; have exacerbated the violations and invisibility of sex workers in law and policy. These intrinsic concerns are best addressed by collectives of empowered sex worker leaders who are able to articulate their positions with greater lucidity and conviction. Sex worker collectives are a resource to design and run HIV/AIDS prevention, access to care, support and treatment programs for their peers. Community engagement and leadership can strengthen discussions and help promote greater understanding of HIV among political and social leaders. A dynamic group of sex workers who are trained to take forward leadership at numerous levels from the grassroots response to the national, regional and global levels is critical to sex worker-led advocacy.

Today, there is an emerging recognition that such leadership skills and training best works in an environment that learns primarily from the experiences of other sex



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work leaders; grassroots activists and their rights based approaches. It is this blend of experience and expertise that is being articulated in the VAMP Institute.

About the VAMP Institute

Sex workers in India are adept at working within their immediate environment; understanding and responding to local dynamics. However they face a much greater challenge when it comes to understanding the larger dynamics of governance, international policies, campaigns, pressure building through cross movement dialogues. A crucial reason for this is the predominance of English language as the medium of communication, use of mediums like social media, emails and the barriers posed by the lack of formal higher education.

Against the background of an increasingly fast shifting and complex global and local environment on sex work, policies that govern sex work and a recognition of the rights of sex workers, the development of trained sex work leaders who can articulate community concerns and engage in policy meetings and briefings is emerging as an immediate need.

The main aim for the VAMP Institute is to strengthen skills of community leaders to participate meaningfully and intervene on policy changes and issues impacting people in sex work at the local, national, regional and international level.

This Institute goes beyond traditional HIV responses and incorporate numerous issues such as the engagement of women's and people's movements with sex work as work, emerging discussions on the rights framework and it also explores the need to frame sex worker's rights as human rights.

The Institute typically looks at numerous issues confronting rights defenders, initiating and sustaining cross movement dialogues (with women's rights, LBT, dalit movement activists, human rights).

Secondly, the Institute emphasises on trainings that incorporate a mix of knowledge and appropriate skills

which sex work leaders can then implement at the field level. The modules are usually a combination of films, dialogues, guest sessions, working group sessions, art work etc.

Community led strategies and responses have shaped many successful programmes and policies on sex work, the institute draws on this experience and design the curriculum through discussions with community leaders and develop a '**community teaches community**' learning methodology.

Trainers and Resource Persons

The first VAMP Institute was held in July 2014. Two **National** (2014 and 2015), four **Local** (Maharashtra, Kerala, Bhuj) and four **Issue Specific** Institutes (Impact of Trafficking laws, ITPA, Draft Trafficking Bill, Universal Periodic Review). A varied group of trainers and resource people have trained over 200 participants from nine states¹. The trainers vary from human rights activists, health activists, queer activists, lawyers, journalists. The distinguished list of trainers includes

- * Henri Tiphagne, WGHR
- * Laxmi Murthy, Activist
- * Meena Saraswathi Seshu, SANGRAM
- * Anjali Gopalan, Naz Foundation
- * Manisha Gupte, MASUM
- * Prabha Nagaraj, TARSHI
- * Albertina Almeida, Lawyer
- * Sandhya Rao, Activist
- * AK Jayashree, Activist
- * Asma, Activist
- * Deepa, Activist
- * Aarthi Pai, CASAM - SANGRAM

Participants

Female, male and trans sex workers. Activists and NGO staff working on sex worker rights

¹Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh

Module Description

Each Institute is developed and tailored for the participants. The Institutes rely on a healthy mix of films, story telling, games, interactive sessions, presentations to impart knowledge and strengthen perceptions. In addition, all training material is translated into local languages of the participants. To date, training material has been translated into Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Telugu and Bengali. The Institute also experiments with illustrations and graphics formats on complex subjects such as the law, treaties to simplify the learning experience for sex worker participants. The Institutes encourage participants to share experiences from their own lives and work to strengthen content.

Five broad modules are offered through the Institute.

Sex, Sexuality And Gender

How a woman and a man should behave has been premised on a narrow understanding of sex, gender and sexuality and the relationship between these three. This understanding is reproduced, reinforced and enforced by the state, religious institutions, society at large and the media. The dominant narrative has often been used to marginalise alternative gender and sexual identities. This module seeks to impart a basic understanding of the constructs of sex, sexuality and gender and explores how gender and gender identity impacts individuals. The sessions facilitated by Meena Seshu, Anjali Gopalan and Prabha Nagaraj have used participatory mechanisms to encourage participants to engage with the sexual diversity, going beyond gender binaries.

Human Rights Framework - About Rights, Treaties And State Accountability

This module provides a basic understanding of the concept of Human Rights (International and in India). It enables participants to engage with the emerging discourse on human rights, various treaty body mechanisms. Sessions are designed to discuss and understand the importance