



SANGRAM

Sampada Grameen

Mahila Sanstha

Annual Report

2021 - 2022

SANGRAM

SANGRAM, established in 1992 in Sangli, Maharashtra, has grown into a series of collective empowerment groups for stigmatized communities (sex workers, MSM, and transgender individuals) in six districts of southern Maharashtra and northern Karnataka. SANGRAM is unique in being a women-led, rights-based group that seeks to change community norms and tackle gender inequities at the grassroots level. These inequities include gender-based violence (GBV), access to resources, and rights in terms of protection, property, and power. SANGRAM also works at a deeper level by addressing male norms.

SANGRAM is a registered nonprofit organization. SANGRAM's primary focus is working with marginalized groups to prevent GBV and HIV and to provide care and support for group members who are in need. The nongovernmental organization's (NGO's) activities build on the concept of asserting rights and the core tenet that communities have the ability to find their own solutions. Central SANGRAM principles include,

- 1) involving community members in program design, implementation, and leadership
- 2) creating a sense of community to facilitate collaboration
- 3) working to eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with sex work.





Our Mission

People should believe that they can change things. It is not about a few activists fighting for other people's rights. Anybody who has imbibed this understanding should be able to go and fight for their rights.

Board Members

SANGRAM Sanstha would like to acknowledge its Board members for their unstinting support.



Ms. Prabha Kulkarni
President, Industrialist



Ms. Sujata Kulkarni
Vice President, Lawyer



Ms. Meena Saraswathi Seshu
General Secretary, Social Scientist



Ms. Shital Harish Pratap

Treasurer, Finance Director



Ms. Pratibha Mulik

Director, Farmer



Dr. Priya Prabhu

Director, Doctor



Ms. Sae Patil

Director, Beautician

Note from General Secretary

SANGRAM 4.0

The theme for this year's strategy in SANGRAM has been leadership skills towards SANGRAM 4.0. As SANGRAM moves into the fortieth year of its formation, we as a group have begun to re-evaluate our goals, strategies, the leadership, and skills needed. We are conscious of the fact that more young leaders need to emerge from the community collectives of sex workers, rural women, and children of sex workers to make the goals of SANGRAM a reality. The heart of SANGRAM's work has always been to build strong collectives with shared goals. These goals emerge from the collectives and teams and the strength of the individual commitments push us to achieve the goals.

Many of the strategies of SANGRAM and its collectives work in 2021 -22 was developed as a response to the COVID crisis and its impact on all the communities. SANGRAM and the collectives decided to focus their efforts on scaling up their work on linking communities with social assistance schemes and programs. Hence this year, we were able to reach out and provide services to women and children in social protection including rural women and female, trans and male sex workers. At the Taluka level, SANGRAM karyakartas reached out to over 10,000 rural women during the year. COVID relief and response was also provided in the form of emergency ration kits to sex workers and their families. In addition, SANGRAM has placed 8 patient monitors at the Miraj Civil Hospital in June 2021 to ready them for a paediatric COVID response.

One of the most rewarding times of the collective's response to its own community, was during the crisis caused by a fire in the brothel which destroyed homes of over 50 women, and gutted 12 houses, the VAMP and MUSKAN collectives raised over 1,00,000 through contributions from their members. From cooked food to sarees, kids clothes to cash contribution/distribution the response was swift and immediate. SANGRAM also pitched in and built the 12 houses including sustained food relief for more than a month.

Meanwhile, the Government of India called for comments on the **draft Trafficking in Person (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill 2021** on the website of the Ministry of Women and Child, within a 15-day period. The proposed bill is to be placed on the floor of the Parliament before it is placed before the Cabinet, a highly unusual move in the process of drafting inclusive legislation. The proposed draft envisages a centralized approach and concentration of tremendous powers of investigation by the NIA and the application of the NIA Act 2008. In addition, the amended definition of Trafficking, multiple definitions of exploitation and sexual exploitation and provisions of third party and client criminalization will have a deleterious impact. The introduction of death penalty in the proposed legislation is a draconian measure. Prioritizing a criminalized approach to the causes of trafficking rather than a development approach is worrisome since there is an obvious abdication of the role of the State in responding to poverty, issues of migrant workers, unequal or skewed growth, the growing feminization of poverty, exploitative labour practices. SANGRAM as part of the Coalition for an Inclusive Approach on the Trafficking Bill made submissions to the Government.

Globally, our work with Sex Workers and Allies South Asia has helped mentor organisations in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka. We have worked with national organisations across movements to make submissions to the NHRC to include sex workers in the woman and work thematic. At the local level we are working closely with the DLSA to help support the implementation of the Supreme court guidelines on working with sex workers.

SANGRAM has had a major change in its governance structure. Ms. Aarthi Pai took over as Executive Director of the organisation from 1st of April 2021. SANGRAM needed to scale up its idea of collectivization as an effective mantra to help communities cope with the challenges of functioning in a hostile environment. Organically the projects and programmes of SANGRAM grew from the local grassroot level to building large scale networks both nationally [National Network of Sex Workers] and regionally [Sex Workers and Allies South Asia] while continuing the community work at the district level in South Maharashtra and North Karnataka. This required skilled personnel both to manage the organisation and lead it into its new avatar.

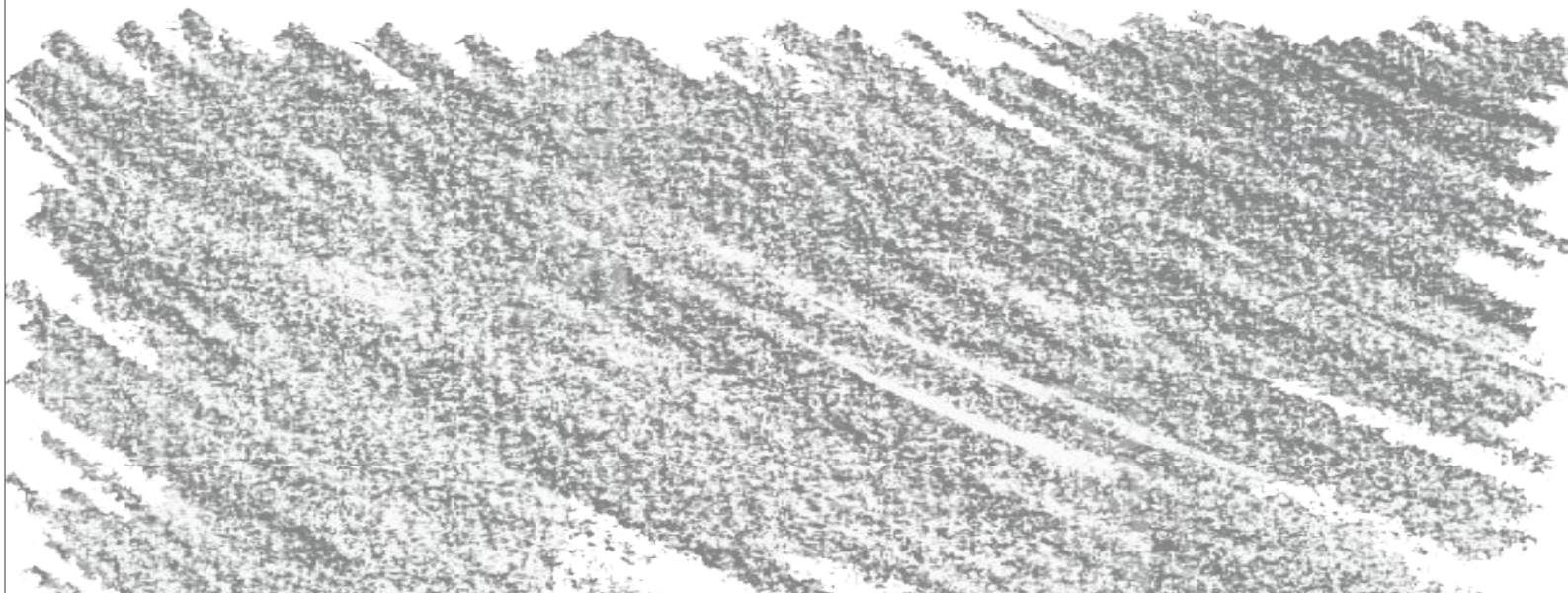


What we do

SANGRAM's journey which started from humble beginnings in 1990 is in its 32nd year as a rural women's organisation. Today SANGRAM stands as an umbrella organisation with five community -based collectives of

- Over 5000 women in sex work (Veshya Anyaya Mukti Parishad – VAMP)
- Over 2000 trans people and men in sex work (Muskan)
- Children of Sex Workers (Mitra)
- Muslim women's collective (Nazariya)
- Rural Women in Sangli (Vidrohi Mahila Manch)

SANGRAM implements programs to ensure access to health services through the government, programs that provide HIV/AIDS services for sex workers, provides supplementary education and nutrition for children of sex workers, legal aid services for rural women who face domestic violence and crisis within the families; enable access to identification documents and social assistance programs of the government; conducts community led research; undertakes training for community leaders. Today over 200 staff members from the communities they work with are instrumental in taking forward the vision of SANGRAM and the collectives.





Zabardastit Kasli Mardaangi

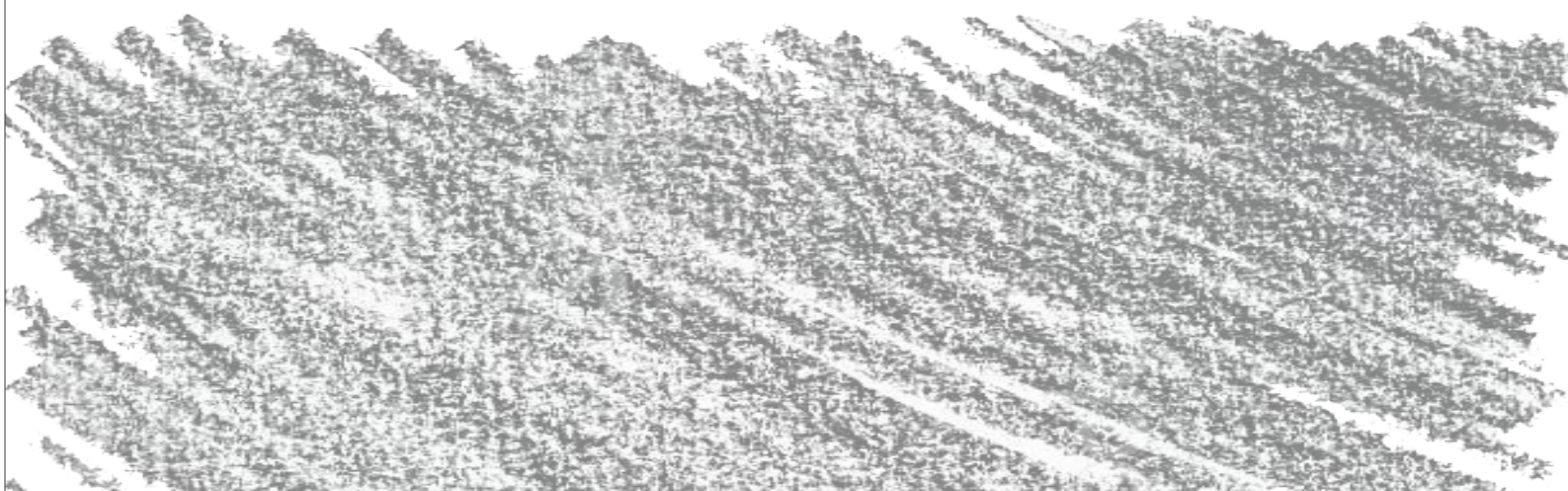
Key Achievements 2021-22



Challenging Toxic Masculinity

Zabardasti Kasli Mardangi Campaign with the district administration in Kolhapur

In 2021, SANGRAM launched a unique campaign to tackle aggressive and toxic masculinity and its impact on young women in the areas that it works in. Despite progress in the lives of women and advancement of women, patriarchal values continued to prevail affecting the everyday lives of women, men, and transgender persons. Especially young girls and queer persons seeking education, better professional opportunities, good jobs challenge are forced to negotiate toxic masculinity both within and outside family and in mainstream society. Furthermore, social pressures and traditional attitudes tend to normalise this toxicity and often blame women's attire, behaviour, and boldness when they call out this masculinity. Often times violence, abuse, molestation, rape is condoned, and women are deterred from questioning or reporting acts of aggressive masculinity. As a response to the growing intolerance and increasing incidence of eve teasing, and aggressive masculinity, SANGRAM and the collectives have launched a series of awareness campaigns namely "Zabardasti Kasli Mardangi" Questioning Toxic Masculinity. The campaign will be conducted in multiple phases in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara. The first of the campaign was conducted between 2nd to 12 January in the talukas of Kolhapur. Over 26 colleges and schools participated in the campaign.





Eight Patient monitors were given as a loan to the Miraj Hospital for their use. SANGRAM Sanstha received a letter of appreciation from District Collector and Dean of the Medical College. It was a time of great satisfaction for the entire SANGRAM team and collectives to be part of the district

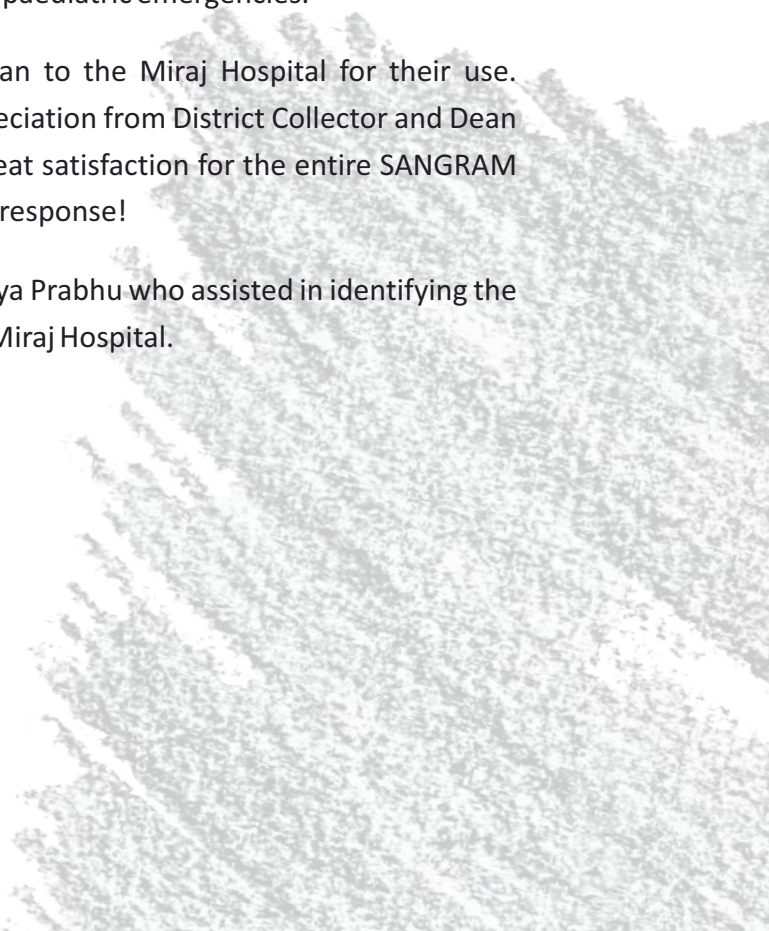
Participating in the Sangli district response to COVID -19

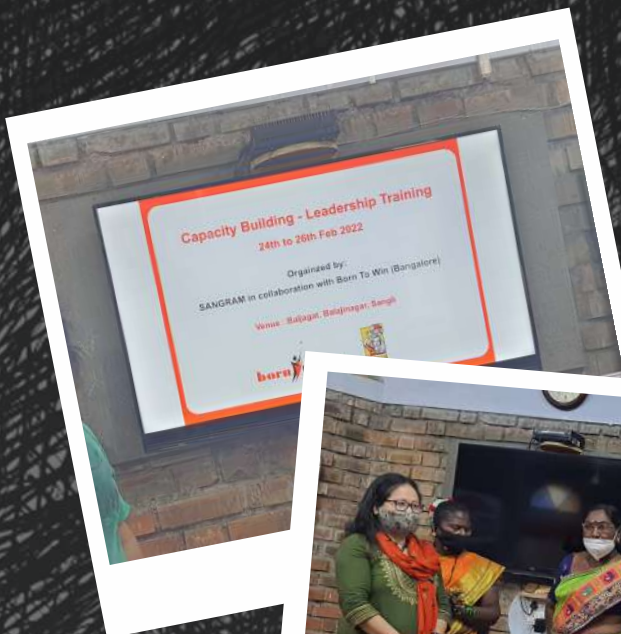
It was a heartening moment for SANGRAM and the collectives to contribute to strengthening the health infrastructure of the district. Through the COVID pandemic, we have seen that in small towns and rural areas the health system have borne the pressure of the COVID response. Government hospital services were completely diverted to dealing with COVID patients resulting in a lack of ventilation equipment, ICU beds, Oxygen beds etc. SANGRAM staff were giving feedback of the crumbling health system in Sangli district. In April 2021 as the COVID epidemic began to increase across the cities, the district administration put out general requests for organisations and individuals to respond. SANGRAM also decided to contribute to the district response. SANGRAM was also requested to consider starting a COVID Centre to assist the district administration. However, the team decided that since its expertise was not in the area of medical care and emergency response, the better option would be to contribute and strengthen the infrastructure.

One of the Directors of SANGRAM Board, Dr. Priya Prabhu Deshpande, who is a public health specialist doctor, provided invaluable guidance and advice in the efforts and response. Dr. Prabhu advised that SANGRAM should consider shoring up the health structure with paediatric patient monitors since it was likely that the epidemic would now shift in its impact to younger children. SANGRAM reached out to the Dean of the Government Medical College and Hospital Miraj who reiterated the request for patient monitors which would help in case of paediatric emergencies.

Eight Patient monitors were given as a loan to the Miraj Hospital for their use. SANGRAM Sanstha received a letter of appreciation from District Collector and Dean of the Medical College. It was a time of great satisfaction for the entire SANGRAM team and collectives to be part of the district response!

SANGRAM thanks the Board member Dr. Priya Prabhu who assisted in identifying the medical equipment and placing them in the Miraj Hospital.





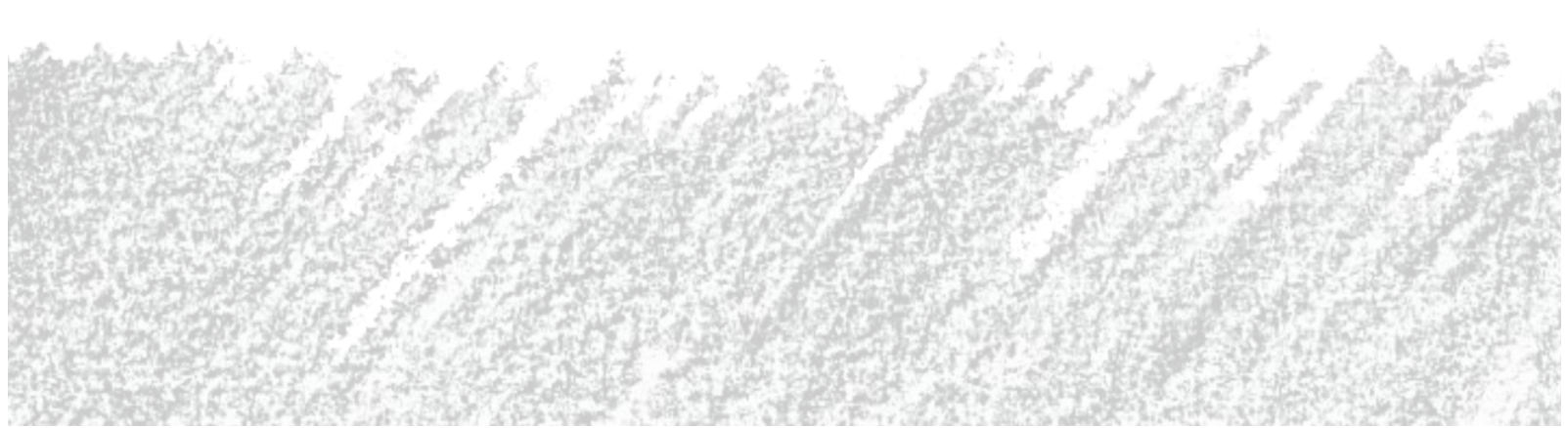
COVID -19 and the lives of sex workers: Research Study Findings published .

A proud moment for SANGRAM and VAMP has been the publishing of the community led research that was undertaken during the COVID epidemic and lockdown. Over 2300 sex workers were interviewed in the research which was conducted by 75 sex workers and 15 supporters in 53 districts across Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

In May 2021, Economic and Political Weekly published the article “Sex Work, COVID -19, and Half – truths: Results from a Multi -State Survey of Sex Workers”. The article looks at the COVID -19 pandemic and the lockdowns that impacted the labour market in a major way. However very less is known about how sex workers have been affected in particular. Going beyond the urban- centric reportage of exploited sex workers confined to brothels with no income and heavy debts, how did sex workers' cope. The research paper helped to present a more balanced view of the narrative.

Embarking on SANGRAM 4.0

The SANGRAM team has decided taken a bold and confident step into the fourth decade of its formation. A small group of community leaders and staff members from SANGRAM will undergo a three -year leadership skills building program to take forward. SANGRAM Sanstha has entered into a partnership with a company “Born To Win” to help identify and strengthen second line leadership. A small group of 20 representatives will be selected by a team of consultants who will be trained in leadership skills and strengthening leadership.

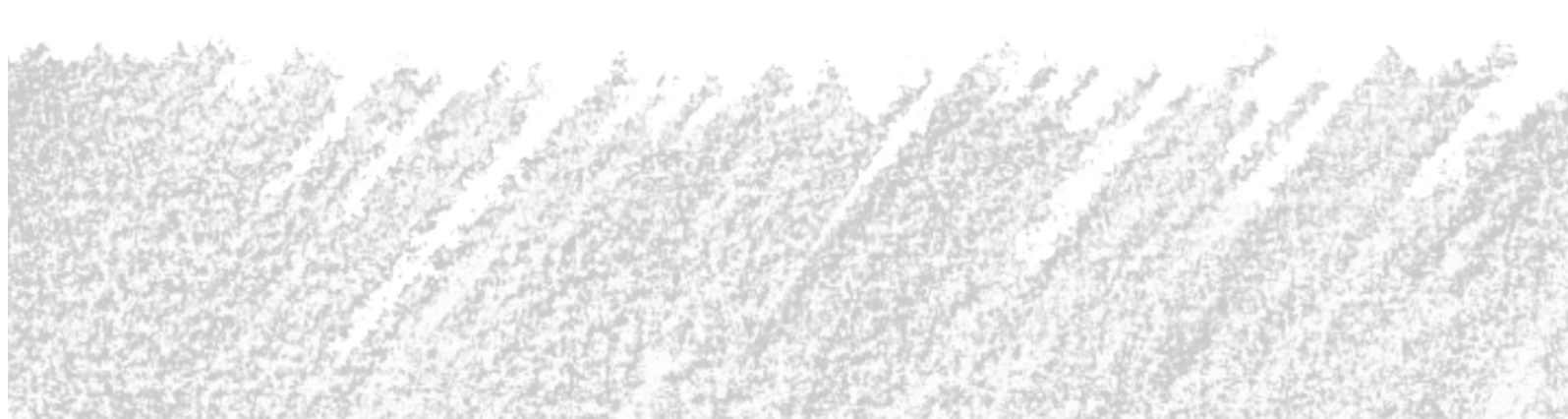




Karad fire puts the community on the backfoot

One of the biggest challenges that faced the sex worker community was a devastating fire that broke out in the Karad community in February. Coming on the backs of the COVID lockdown the resulting loss of their belongings and livelihood could have resulted in a difficult situation for the women. However, in a display of tremendous resilience the community stepped to look after their own. The incident took place on 19th February when 14 houses caught fire and were razed to the ground. “Around 11 in the night, women said that they started feeling the heat and the roof of their homes was becoming warm. As women started running out of their homes, they saw that some of the homes were bolted from outside. They tried to open from outside to rescue the women. The resulting fire also caused a cylinder to blast and the entire area was razed to the ground. Over 40 women and their families were affected in the fire. VAMP and SANGRAM immediately swung into action. Emergency relief was organized for all the women including cooked food, clothes, immediate household items. For the next month as the women began to cope with the fire and its fall out and loss of homes, sex workers from Satara, Miraj, Sangli, Ichalkaranji and Kolhapur stepped in to provide daily food. Buoyed by the extent of the support the women began the task of rebuilding their homes. SANGRAM and VAMP began the task of purchasing the material to rebuild the houses. By April the task of reconstruction of the homes of the women had been completed and it was handed over to them.” It has been inspiring story of a fight against the odds that women face. 16 homes of the women were rebuilt by SANGRAM.

A large number of people also contributed to the relief efforts and SANGRAM and VAMP would like to acknowledge their support.





COVID -19 relief

Through 2021, SANGRAM's focus remained on providing relief and assistance to sex workers during times of need. Grocery assistance continued to be the main strategy for providing succor to the community. Two rounds of relief were given. The first was focused on the sex workers in Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur. In the second round, the focus was on sex workers in Kerala who were part of the collectivisation and empowerment project being implemented by SANGRAM. Over 1700 sex workers received grocery and food assistance in the year across 16 sites in Maharashtra and Sangli.

Sr. No.	Location	Women in Sex Work	Trans People	MSM	Total
1	Uttamnagar, Miraj.	154	-	-	154
2	Street and Home Based, Miraj.	44	-	-	44
3	Swaroop Talkies, Sangli.	74	-	-	74
4	Brothel Based, Gokulnagar, Sangli.	127	-	-	127
5	Street Based, Sangli.	19	-	-	19
6	Street Based Male and Trans	-	110	43	153
7	Kolhapur City.	50	70	75	195
8	Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur.	62	55	35	152
9	Karad.	34	31	48	113
10	Satara.	47	50	24	121
11	Jath.	50	-	-	50
12	Kerala (Thrissur, Pathanamthitta, Trivandrum, Alleppy, Kottayam)	480	-	-	-
		1178	316	225	1719

1. Project Highlights : Strengthening health services for HIV/AIDS prevention

SANGRAM Sanstha oversees community led HIV/AIDS Prevention, care and support services for six initiatives in Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur districts. Between these six interventions, around 5000 sex workers in the districts were provided HIV/AIDS prevention services, referral for Sexually transmitted infections, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in 2021-2022. The interventions are supported by the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, Department of Health, Government of Maharashtra. Three interventions are run directly by SANGRAM and in the case of three others, SANGRAM provides technical support. The services are extended to female, trans and male sex workers working in a variety of settings from street, brothel and lodge based. A hallmark of the six projects is that the staff are predominantly from the community of sex workers and the children of sex workers. For instance, of the 70 SANGRAM staff members working on the HIV/AIDS prevention and health program 87 % are from the communities of VAMP and Muskan. Over the years of the intervention, 310 people living with HIV/AIDS are provided care and support services across the sites of whom 287 are on first line ART. Not only do the workers ensure that people are provided services they are also counselled regularly to keep them alert on the risks of HIV/AIDS.


Community-led implementation is the approach that has been a key factor in the success of the project. Not only are the teams drawn from the communities SANGRAM works with, but they are also answerable to the community through regular meetings and feedback. The team has also assisted the community when they have been faced with any crisis, whether it be issues within the family, COVID vaccination, violence at the workplace and access to health services. This helps to strengthen the community's confidence and to participate in the programme. In 2021 over 150 crisis episodes were responded to in the three districts between the staff of the Targeted intervention program team and the Tanta Mukti Samitis [Crisis Redressal Committees] supporting the communities.

Site	Tanta Mukti Crisis Response	Crisis Response Register of TI
Ichalkaranji	13	16
Satara, Karad	6	15
Sangli	14	22
Miraj	20	20
Kolhapur	8	17
Sangli MSM	--	6
Total Cases	61	96

	Implemented by VAMP with technical support from SANGRAM			Implemented directly by SANGRAM			
People receiving HIV prevention services	Sangli	Miraj	Ichalkaranji	Satara	Sangli	Kolhapur	Total
Brothel Based Sex worker	687	290	0	216	0	5	1198
Street Based Sex worker	100	114	0	160	0	399	773
Lodge Based Sex Worker	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
Home Based Sex Worker	181	254	263	0	0	21	719
Tamasha Based Sex Worker	0	0	0	0	0	274	274
Men who have sex with other Men	0	0	528	229	457	262	1476
Transgender people In Sex Work	0	0	120	116	138	156	530
Total	968	658	911	727	595	1117	4976

The program faced tremendous challenges in the first half of the year due to the lockdowns. It became difficult to deliver services including condoms STI treatment, service referral. SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan decided to shift to social media apps like WhatsApp to instill confidence, reduce fear about COVID and take precautions. Community leadership has meant that regardless of the challenges posed by lockdown, problems in accessing ARV medications, drug stock outs, crisis faced by a sex worker including violence at the workplace, the teams have single mindedly made sure that sex workers receive services and medicines without a break. As a result, the staff have managed to keep focused on ensuring that each sex worker is able to access testing services twice a year.

Prevention	VAMP (Run With SANGRAM Technical Support)			Implemented directly by SANGRAM			Total
	Sangli	Miraj	Ichalkaranji	Satara	Sangli	Kolhapur	
Clinics Conducted	3410	2108	3164	2082	2205	2954	15923
Regular Monthly Check ups	3312	2069	2976	2802	2157	2740	16056
Preventive Treatment Given	94	28	183	0	42	210	557
Sexually Transmitted Infections Treated	4	11	5	0	6	4	30
Condoms Distributed	1222525	432975	215341	397405	273256	221085	2762587
ICTC	1621	1122	1663	1092	1015	1570	8083
Tested for Syphilis	1690	1179	2718	1187	1073	1667	9514
Counselling	4124	3086	3596	2610	2599	3681	19696
HIV Positive	2	0	1	0	0	3	6
Pre ART	2	0	1	0	0	3	6
On ART	2	0	1	0	0	3	6
Positive Members (Cumulative)	81	37	38	59	33	62	310
On First Line	71	31	37	58	30	60	287
On Second Line	6	5	1	1	2	2	17
On Third Line	4	1	0	0	1	0	6



During COVID lockdown physical Outreach and providing services to community members were very difficult. We got Emergency services pass for the project staff from Government authorities to outreach community members especially those who don't have smart phones and used Zoom for crisis intervention or weekly meetings. Also, number of condom depots within street-based sites increased to ensure condom availability.

Challenges

Shortage of ICTC kits from Government resulted to less testing in First Quarter. ICTC targets completed in second quarter through organising more health/ICTC camps. Government introduced SOCH reporting online system in 21-22 but all training regarding this organised through Zoom meeting, which was not understood by staff properly. After the Zoom training all the TI staff sat together and discussed about each other's queries in the group for better understanding.


During COVID travel cost were increased by double but budget remained same which resulted in many issues with project staff. Government organised project evaluation during COVID epidemic and graded the project, which was not fair to the staff. TI evaluation was done maintaining COVID prevention guidelines. During evaluation some of the Miraj, Satara TI staff members were infected by cough and cold and the Satara TI MEA officer reported Corona +ve during evaluation but due to strict prevention guidelines other staff remained safe.

Difficulties in providing Regular ART medicine to PLHIV during lockdown. Miraj Civil Hospital became a COVID hospital during corona epidemic so to access treatment for other illnesses became difficult. All were redirected to Sangli but the distance was a deterrent to access treatment services. Besides police restricted visits to hospital to many needy women due to corona guidelines. TI staff used the SANGRAM TI ID card and provided ART medicine to PLHIV at home.

Government then transferred Miraj Govt. Hospital patients and services to Sangli civil hospital so accessing health care facilities and DSRC [Designated Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)/Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI) Clinics (DSRC) established by Govt] services became difficult for Miraj community. Due to long distance from Miraj to Sangli civil hospital travel expenses increased by twice and public transport was not available. Also, police asked PLHIV to show evidence of PLHIV and after checking Green ART book police allowed them to travel. The confidentiality breaking without consent became an issue at community level, which were addressed by TI staff with difficulty.

Community started accessing municipal hospital at Miraj though this is not a tertiary hospital like the Sangli hospital as a strategy to resolve the problem and separate camps were organised to achieve TI targets during non-lockdown period. Brothel based women went to their villages and outreach of street and home base reduced due to COVID lockdown.

STI kits were not available by Govt. so delay in preventive treatment to newly registered community members. STI Kit 1 is not available since last two years and PPP doctors give prescription to purchase medicine from outside. Community cannot afford the anti-biotics, and this is a huge challenge.



Community members were not friendly with online registration for COVID vaccination which resulted in delaying the vaccination drive. TI staff supported community members for online COVID vaccination registration and as per Govt. guidelines front line workers got vaccination at priority basis. With the support of the district Collector and local municipal corporator special vaccination camps were organised for community members.

TG Portal registration for certificate. Samaj Kalyan dept, has contacted TI staff and invited all of them to Samaj Kalyan office to access TG certificate. Then the representative of TG community members from Sangli visited to Samaj Kalyan office and explained Commissioner that it's very difficult for members to come to the office due to distances and chance of breaking confidentiality so MUSKAN [collective of TG and MSM sex workers] invited the Govt officer to the TI office and post the program the TI staff convinced Govt. officer that SANGRAM/Muskan are capable to do online registration of TG from our office.

2. Project Highlights :

Rural Women's Program

Vidrohi Mahila Manch and Nazariya are part of the rural women's program run by SANGRAM Sanstha. The program was started in 1997 to respond to the rural HIV/AIDS epidemic, create awareness of HIV/AIDS and reduce fear, strengthen the law enforcement and legal response to violence faced by women and girls including domestic violence and SRHR.

The rural women program team are women selected from the villages and taluka that they are working in. Currently 21 women work across the district.

Three pillars define the work strategy of VMM and Nazariya's in the 10 Talukas of Sangli during the year

Creating awareness on women's health in rural areas of Sangli of HIV/AIDS COVID, pregnancy, cancer etc. Rural girls and women find it difficult to access health related information which makes it difficult for women dealing with menstrual information reproductive health, pregnancy, post -natal care amongst others. To mitigate this impact, VMM has done regular workshop sessions for adolescent girls in schools and colleges, openly discussing issues of sexual and reproductive health and hygiene.

For instance, in Jath, Kalpana Harane faced numerous questions of adolescent girls in her training programs "I used to train them on how to use cloth and pads, how to rewash the cloth hygienically, ensure it dried in the sun to prevent infection. After their initial hesitation they started coming forward and asking questions – why the menstrual cycle happens, why does it pain in the stomach and back and how to treat it, why does bleeding not happen in the month sometimes, why does excessive bleeding happen. The girls were very curious once they got past their initial hesitation and shyness." Between Jath and Walwa 5 programs were organised.

Preventing violence against women including domestic violence, eve teasing and sexual harassment.

Gram Ekta Samitis – Profiles of Inclusion

One of the interesting strategies by VMM that has slowly begun to evolve is to set up Gram Ekta Samitis in the villages to respond to the concerns of women including property disputes, violence, sexual harassment.

Vidrohi Mahila Manch (VMM) undertakes to address various issues related to rural and dalit women in Sangli villages. While some of the issues of injustice and atrocities against women highlighted by VMM could be addressed at an individual level, most could be solved only through intervention at the village level and with cooperation from the police and civil administration. The government has set up Tanta Mukti Samitis (Dispute Redressal Committees) in every village, but these have been unable to deliver justice to women.

Therefore, it was decided to form 'Gram Ekta Samitis (Village Unity Committee) which would include key people from the village to help address village-level problems in the village itself and resolve them amicably within a framework of women's rights and social justice.

Highlights of the Gram Ekta Samiti

- A system to **deliver justice** and to reduce bitterness/enmity/hatred at a local level.
 - Resolves problems **based on evidence** presented by all parties.
 - Resolves problems through **dialogue and discussion**.
 - **Selection of members** keeping in view the requirements of the village.
 - Boosting **women's confidence** through support from a volunteer who is known to talk tough and fight against injustice.
 - Showing strength in numbers with the **high female membership**. Affected women are able to boldly present their side and have confidence in the process.
 - **Credibility and confidence building** to enable women to come out openly and discuss taboo subjects and delicate problems connected with sexuality and sexual offences.
- ⇒ The **police trust** the volunteers of SANGRAM to verify the correctness of the information received by the Samiti.
 - ⇒ Building **leadership** through enhancing capacity, leading to people recommending SANGRAM volunteers for the coveted posts in the Gram Panchayat committees.
 - ⇒ Affected women who do not want the decision at the village level are provided help by the Sangram volunteers who **refer** them to the right agencies to pursue further legal processes. For example: registering a complaint with the police; or taking the woman to the counselling centre, or getting paralegal help for the woman.
 - ⇒ As the **process is simple**, women find it easier to access. Accepting the woman's application on plain paper, the volunteer starts the process of convening a meeting of the Gram Ekta Samiti. The process thereafter is also woman-centric and focussed on getting justice.

Through the GES Dalit women started questioning and putting their thoughts in the meetings. Women started celebrating anniversaries of social reformers in Gram Panchayats. Eg. Birth anniversaries of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Shahu Maharaj, Savitribai Phule and also started organising special programs on Women's Day, Sanvidhan Din.

The participation in such programs helped women in building confidence and courage, this impacted on women that they started talking on the issues related to harassment, violence and injustice at village level. The participated in Morchas also. These morchas were on the issues related to water supply, sanitation, and menstrual hygiene issues. Due to these other women's participation also increased. Gram Ekta Samitis have slowly become the plank for the inclusion of women's voices in the Panchayat system and at the village level, especially vulnerable women like those widowed, separated, divorced, thrown out of homes, old women, Dalit and Muslim women.

April 2021 – March 2022. Gram Ekta Samiti

In Tasgaon nine meetings were held. Some of the issues that were raised for discussion include getting possession of property for the woman, sexual harassment from family, domestic violence, denying women their property, providing information on the purpose of the social entitlement efforts. Involving the village people in the Women's Day programs through the Gram Ekta Samiti.

Women's lives and livelihoods are often dependent on the earnings of the husband and the share that the men have in the property, something which is denied. These are also struggles that the village members do not assist the woman in since she is always seen as the outsider to the village. In these cases, VMM members stand with her as the study below reveals -


In Wayafale village, the Gram Ekta Samiti was instrumental in listening to the complaint of a widowed woman who was being dispossessed of her share of her husband's property for over 25 years. She was not being allowed to return to her husband's house after his death and also denied access to his share of the property. VMM workers were able to get her inheritance documents filed in the panchayat office and get her property share. The Sarpanch, Vice Sarpanch, Gram Sewak, SANGAM Maitrins were present for two occasions and helped the woman get an extract of land records and get the inheritance. The second time it was revealed that the brother-in-law and mother had put the woman's share of the property on rent and were refusing to get it vacated. Once again, the Gram Ekta Samiti's assistance was requested, and they helped the woman and her children get their share of the rent and the possession of the house.

When the Nazariya work in Lengre village, Khanapur started discussions to form the Gram Ekta Samiti in December 2021, she found that widowed women were not being allowed to enter into any social functions. Widowed and single women approached the worker and said that they used to be kept away from all social events. A small women's group was formed in Langre village and they came together and passed a resolution to end the practice of widow seclusion. They reached out to the SANGRAM Maitrins and discussed the need to address this issue. The women's group came together and resolved that they would act against the practice of ostracizing widowed women in social functions.

Activities and Progress :

In January Vidrohi Mahila Manch started the campaign Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi. With the view of creating awareness among the society with the help of Vidrohi Mahila Shakti Jathha a new campaign was initiated under the name 'Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi'. The poster of Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi was launched on 3rd Jan 2022. A programme was arranged at Kolhapur with the collaboration of Shardabai Govindrao Pawar Adhyasan and SANGRAM Sanstha Sangli. Through this campaign there was an attempt of showing the injustice, exploitation and violence faced by the women and create awareness about the same in the society. Puppet show and the board displaying the information of various laws were launched publicly. Total 150 Boards were installed in various PHC, Corporation departments, Panchayat Samiti in Kolhapur District. The motto behind this activity was that information on laws covering women rights should be available to all. More than 30 thousand posters of Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi were pasted in Kolhapur District.

Sangram Sanstha also organised Best Selfie Competition in Kolhapur District. More than 25 young persons participated in the competition. Sangram Sanstha awarded 11 participants for their selfies. *A young team of construction workers in Chavanwadi, Uttur were so riveted by the poster, they decided to paste one in their workplace, their cement mixer.*



On 8th March more than 37 programs were organised in 9 Talukas. Our workers distributed Sahayak Setu information and Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi posters in this programme. They also spoke about basic women rights in this programme.

Para Legal training was arranged at Mumbai for all VMM and Najariya team. Paralegal Certificate Training was conducted by Sangram Sanstha and HRLN. This training helped activists to understand basic concepts like FIR, women's rights and laws related to property, inheritance, writing of a Will among others. More than 113 meetings were organised with Self Help group women members. Our workers targeted the issues like women Health, Menstruation, information about Sahayak Setu, health services at PHC level. In Tasgaon our worker took a session on free health services given on PHC level. In Tasgaon, it was noticed in PHC that a receipt of Rs.500 was being taken from pregnant women. Sangram activists took this complaint to the Taluka level and this method was completely stopped. It was often noticed that women do not know the working of women counselling centres. Self-help group discussions provide an idea of how women's counselling works and how to resolve grievances through first aid.

15 programmes were organised with Youth Mandals in this period. Workers initiated youth to talk about peace in the village in the same way that things like Ambedkar Jayanti should be carried out without any riots. In the month of April, meetings were held for celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti in village level.

Our team has taken 29 group discussion sessions with Asha workers. Problems faced by Asha workers are handled by team with the help of Gram Panchayat and Gram Sevak. *Maza Patient MazaAdhikar* posters are distributed and pasted at taluka level.

More than 32 Gram Panchayat visits are done in this period.

In Shirala taluka, all the villagers have been experiencing the problem of gutters for a long time. Sangram activists went to the Gram Panchayat and talked to the Sarpanch and gram Sevak to resolve the issue and the gutters were immediately cleaned.

In Savlaj Gram Panchayat, two garbage bins were provided in every street in the village but they could not be used by the people as they were not properly arranged. Sangram activists solved the problem with the help of Gram Sevaks by discussing with Gram Sevaks and keeping them in the right place.

Gram Ekta Formation :

Large scale work is being done to involve women from deprived communities in Gram Ekta Samiti. In Kavthemahankal taluka a new Gram Ekta Samiti was established in a month of May 2022. In a village of Kavthemahankal taluka with a population of up to 700, a total of 7 Gram Ekta members were selected out of which 6 are women and 4 are from Dalit community.

Challenges Faced During this period :

In formation of Gram Ekta workers faced issues to convince women to take a part in Gram Ekta formation. Initially, at few Gram Panchayats we faced technical problems of computers, load shedding and absence of Gram Sevak too. But regular visits helped us to overcome.

Doctors are not available at health centres. In Kavthemahankal taluka, meeting with Gram Panchayat was arranged to discuss problems faced by Asha workers. During that time Doctors availability and medicines supply these two issues were discussed. Due to campaign and poster pasting activity we visited PHCs number of times as to get permission from them was difficult.

Vidrohi Mahila Manch Outreach/ activity data 2021-2022			
Sr.	Name of The Program activity	No. of Program/ activities	Outreached
1	Gram Ekta Meetings	37	351
2	Women Program/Mahila Program	158	3855
3	Bachat Gat Program	174	1586
4	Highschool Program	5	183
5	Asha Workers Visit	50	658
6	ANC Visits at PHC	74	695
7	Adolescent program	52	403
8	Anganwadi Visit	86	46
9	Gram Panchayat Visit	66	635
10	PHC Visit	19	2720
11	Tarun Mandal Program	21	182
12	Gram Ekta Samiti Formation	29	196

Nazariya Outreach/ activity data 2021-2022			
Sr.	Name of The Program	No. of Program/ activities	Outreached
1	Group Discussions	116	898
2	Women Program/Mahila Program	32	839
3	Istema Program	21	180
4	Highschool Program	1	100
5	ANC Visits	14	136
6	Anganwadi Visit	43	200
7	Jamat Bhet	28	144
8	PHC Visit	30	433

Vidrohi Mahila Manch Outreach

Details of Domestic Violence by	Total
Husband	51
In laws	8
Family members	8
Neighbours	18
Total	85
Solved By	Total
Gram Ekta	16
Mahila Dakshata Samiti	11
PLV	8
SANGRAM	50
Total	85

Nazariya Outreach

Details of Domestic Violence by	Total
By Husband	11
By In laws	1
All Family members	3
Neighbours	1
Total	16
Solved By	Total
Nazariya	3
Jamat	1
Mahila Dakshata Samiti	7
PLV	4
Police Station	1
Total	16

Access to Social Entitlement under Rural Women's program

Social Entitlements	Applied	Received
New Bank Account	634	492
New Adhar Card	544	429
Ration Card	223	161
Pan Card	289	195
Voter ID	136	44
Cast Certificate	185	22
Income Certificate	207	193
Disability Certificate	25	23
Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna	98	85
Matru Vandana Yojna	77	55
Shrawanbal Yojna	67	38
Balsangopan Yojna	49	28
Gharkul Yojna	101	81
Marriage Registration	100	90
Janani Suraksha	98	70
Mahatma Phule Scheme	146	106
Residential Proofs	110	89
Help women to get Ration from shop	180	157
Help in issuing Construction labour ID Card	102	97
Age Proofs	136	119

3. Project Highlight : Emergency Relief and Assistance

This year brought to fore the continuing challenges faced due to the COVID crisis by all the communities that SANGRAM teams work with. SANGRAM's continued focus was to provide relief and assistance on a need basis

COVID -19 and the Community Response - SANGRAM loses a Warrior

The second year of the fight back to COVID -19, saw the communities in the thick of the response. We lost one outreach worker in the HIV targeted intervention programme of the Maharashtra State AIDS control Society in Ichalkaranji. Mahesh Rawal joined the Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad run Targeted intervention Program supported by Maharashtra State AIDS Society in Ichalkaranji in 2019. He was one of the frontline workers in this program. He joined as a Counselor. He was involved in all the program activities with his coworkers. He was reaching out to Female Sex Workers, MSM and TGs in the area. He played an important role in Muskan Collective's network building. He was organising health camps, involved in crisis management, and also helped community members to access ART (Antiretroviral Therapy). During the period of COVID 19, he was working as a frontline worker in the campaign run by SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan. He reached out to community members who were facing difficulties and obstacles due to covid restrictions.

In May 2021, he tested positive for Covid 19 and got a severe infection. Coworkers got him admitted in the local hospital. They tried their level best to save his life. But he did not respond to the treatment. After his death on 27th May 2021, SANGRAM reached out to his family, wife and parents. Mahesh was the only working member in his family. There was a huge loss in his family due to his death. SANGRAM VAMP members tried to support his family by giving medication during the period when he was in hospital. Collective members organized his funeral. SANGRAM started searching for outside sources of economical support to his family. SANGRAM wrote emails to the organisations who were involved in COVID 19 relief work. SANGRAM then filed the online application for economic support from NFI. SANGRAM, VAMP and MUSKAN did continuous follow ups in gathering all the necessary documents for Mahesh.

Following documents were gathered and submitted online: Death Certificate, Covid Test Report, Adhar Card copy, Pan Card copy, Proof of dependents, Reference letter of the organization, Proof of appointment, Proof of earnings, Medical expenses details, Hospital discharge slip

Muskan collective members were involved in each step in this process. SANGRAM Staff filled the online application in the month of June 21 and after continuous follow up we were successful in our endeavors. After the period of 8 months Mahesh's wife received an amount of Rs.1 Lakh into her bank account. This has been one of the few cases where compensation has been given to the family of a COVID deceased.

SANGRAM Sanstha lost 68 persons out of a total of 1114 who were diagnosed COVID positive. The workers managed to provide services and care to 1046 across the communities we follow. SANGRAM set up a COVID Watch for the female, male and transgender community and monitored persons needing care and treatment.

<u>SANGRAM COVID Watch Consolidated April-21- Oct-21</u>					
COVID Indicators	VAMP	VMM	NAZARIYA	CAH	TOTAL
COVID Positive Persons	16	825	39	234	1114
Home Quarantine	1	346	25	160	532
Advocacy hospital admission	3	54	3	30	90
Unable to get beds	0	3	0	0	3
Admit Hosp/COVID centre	15	464	14	74	567
Oxygen needed	13	16	12	20	61
On Oxygen	13	16	12	20	61
Ventilator needed	6	24	0	10	40
on Ventilator	6	24	0	10	40
Recovered	11	788	28	219	1046
Death Due to Covid	5	37	11	15	68



4. Project Highlight :

Strengthening health infrastructure

SANGRAM believes that the government health services must be accountable to their citizens and have fought many battles with the local administration to help access services for the marginalised. SANGRAM recognises that Government's health budgets are unrealistic, and they are unable to fulfil their responsibility of providing services. The health care providers are not only overwhelmed with the patient load they are compromised by inadequate health infrastructure. As a member of the Jan Arogya Abhiyan [People's Health Assembly charter in Maharashtra] SANGRAM has also been part of the campaign to address the issue of Patients' rights in the state and has advocated with the Maharashtra State health department to issue guidelines to compensate patients who were charged exorbitant fees during the COVID epidemic.

The organisation has also stepped in and tried to help fill in the gaps in the district Government health services mainly to help strengthen services accessed by the poorest of the poor. To that effect we reached out to the Government Civil Hospital in Miraj and received a list of equipment they required on an urgent basis during the COVID-19 pandemic. From that list we decided to contribute to the new ICU ward that the hospital prepared, especially for paediatric patients. We raised funds for 8 Modular High-end Patient Monitors and donated it to the hospital. This was done in collaboration with the Sangli District Collectorate, and the COVID-19 task force set up by the Government in every district. This cost the organisation INR 10,00,000.

Motivating sex workers to access COVID vaccination

By the end of 2020 and the early part of 2021, a concerted effort was made by the collectives and staff members to motivate sex workers to vaccinate themselves against COVID 19. Counselling sessions were held by the collective members and the targeted intervention staff members. Mid way through 2021, more than 90% of the sex worker community we work with in Miraj, Sangli, Satara, Ichalkaranji had been vaccinated against COVID 19 at least once. By the end of March 2022 92 percentage had been vaccinated twice against COVID -19 virus.

Location	Tested/ Active Population	Percentage
Ichalkaranji	703 / 750	94%
Kolhapur	700/ 788	89%
Sangli MSM, TG	595/595	100%
Sangli Female	730/962	76%
Miraj	589/ 600	98%
Satara, Karad	827/827	100%

This was mainly because of the campaign we did in collaboration with the Jan Arogya Abhiyan [People's Health Assembly, Maharashtra state.] All the SANGRAM's collectives including VAMP (female sex workers collective) and Muskan (male sex workers collective) took up the COVID -19 vaccination campaign wherein SANGRAM attended the JAA information meeting and trained leaders on vaccination and translated the JAA note into the local Marathi language. This was further formatted and produced by SANGRAM as a pamphlet for distribution. VAMP leaders also teamed up with the Sangli Municipality Urban health centres to ensure a smooth vaccine access. Leaders addressed issues of vaccine reluctance and got vaccinated first. Photographs of the leaders were then circulated within the community WhatsApp groups as a campaign. This was the most important success of the grant period. [We lost a worker from Muskan, and this also accelerated the vaccination response].

1. General Information

Name: Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)

Date of Establishment: 27th March 1986

Registered Office: Near Vikas Bhavan, Kundal Road Vite, Sangli

Office: Aarohan, Ghanshyamnagar, Madhavnagar Road, Sangli, Maharashtra, India 416416

Office: Baljagat, Kupwad Road, Balajinagar, Sangli, Maharashtra, India 416416

Telephone: +91-233-2312191 / 2312866

Email : sangramsanstha@gmail.com

Website : www.sangram.org

2. Registration Details

(i) Registered as : Societies Registration Act .1860. No-Mah/1502/Sangli.
On 27th March 1986
Bombay Public Trust Act- 1950 F/1456
On 9th May 1986

Place Sangli, Maharashtra, India

Area of Operation India

(ii) Registered Section 12A, Income Tax Act
Income Tax Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
KOP/Main-4/217(S/513)/128

Place Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India
PAN NO. AAAAS1569B
TAN NO. KLPS06904C

(iii) Registered Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1967 Amended 2010
Registration No. 083960047
Date 7th May 1987