



# SANGRAM

Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha

SEX WORK  
IS WORK



FINANCIAL  
SECURITY

FREEDOM TO LIVE  
AND WORK



SAFE  
WORKING  
CONDITIONS

VOICE AGAINST  
VIOLENCE



DECRIMINALISATION



RIGHT TO  
HEALTH



VAMPA ANYAT MUKTI PARISHAD  
VAMP

COLLECTIVIZATION  
FOR JUSTICE



EDUCATING  
CLIENTS & WORKERS

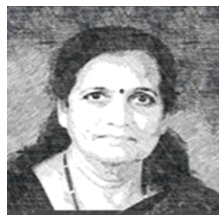
TRAINING  
& OUT  
REACH

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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## Collectivization works!

VAMP decided that it will not allow Bangladeshi girls to be bought and sold in the sanghatana areas. Undocumented migrants have been working in the VAMP areas for more than 10 years now. The Organisation has always believed that sex workers who come from across the border should have access to health services, HIV prevention commodities, regular testing for HIV and STI and treatment when needed. Other than the Tanta Mukti meetings VAMP has instituted Community Committee meetings every week. Here the community members have an opportunity to directly intervene on decisions taken by the Tanta Mukti members. The mechanism is used to ensure direct flow of information from and to the community.

Post Covid – 19 pandemic there was a sudden rise in the number of women coming to Sangli to work in the brothels. Minor girls were also found amongst these women and the collective took many meetings with brothel owners explaining to them that minors will be handed over to the police if found to be working in the sanghatana areas.

VAMP undertook a house-to-house campaign in all its areas to educate and inform the community regarding the criminal menace of trafficking. During this elaborate house to house exercise many young women approached the leaders of VAMP and said that they were deceived and brought to the brothels from across the border and that they wanted to leave and go back to their families. Many of them had no clue of the language spoken in Sangli district of Maharashtra and were finding it impossible to communicate with VAMP leaders. We learnt that unscrupulous brothel owners, many of them from across the border had decided to defy the sanghatana and brought many women into Gokulnagar, Sangli and Uttamnagar, Miraj.

A pamphlet in Marathi explaining the VAMP position on minors and on trafficking of women was distributed in the brothels. The pamphlet was explained and brothel owners and working women were asked to put their signatures on the office copy. The tanta mukti samithis played a huge role in executing the door to door ‘STOP Trafficking’ campaign. Slowly with the help of supportive brothel owners VAMP started a combing operation and with the help of the police and district administration identified women who wanted to leave the area. Helping the women was a very effective programme but to help them as individuals was not enough. Catching the unscrupulous traffickers was the immediate need. With much tact and perseverance VAMP was able to help the police catch the traffickers and hand them over to the police.

For now, the influx has stopped. This is a huge victory for VAMP and SANGRAM.

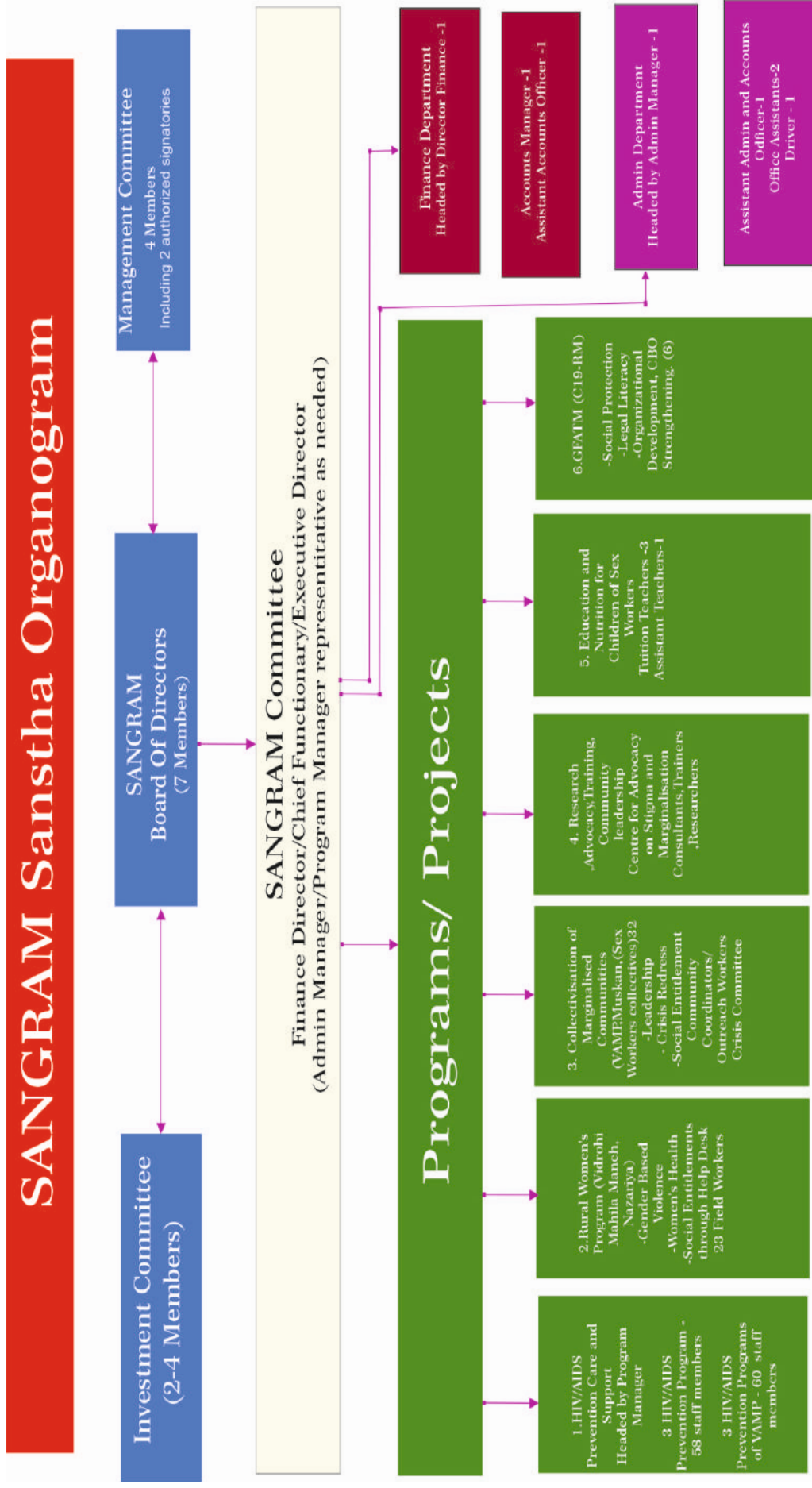
On the other hand, with a very heavy heart, we had to close the Vidrohi Mahila Manch and Nazariya programme, in the month of November 2022. Both programmes did strengthen women in the rural tehsils of Sangli but were unable to go beyond a `case' approach. SANGRAM needed to think about the collectivisation model for rural women. On the one hand funding support for resolving domestic violence cases was decreasing and on the other we found that the case study approach was not addressing the larger issues of violence against women. The role of the VMM and Nazariya women thus was to replicate the work of the Mahila mandals, Asha workers, village health workers, in the village and help women access social entitlements. The issues of why women were unable to access services and questioning systems that blocked women's rights seemed too difficult to address.

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.

Aarthi Pai  
Executive Director  
SANGRAM Sanstha



# NGO organizational chart & governance structure.



## **Supreme Court ruling on Rights of Sex Workers and its impact on sex workers.**

### **Budhadev Karmaskar Versus Union of India. (19 May 2022)**

On 19 May, the Supreme Court of India gave an interim Order on the rights of sex workers. This case has been going on for over 10 years. The Supreme Court had set up a panel to give recommendations on how sex workers can live a life of dignity according to the Constitution. The recommendations which have not been accepted by the Government of India will be discussed at the next hearing of the Court in July 2022.

It was a case of a murder of a sex worker that was committed in 1999 in Kolkata. It came by way of a criminal appeal before a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court consisting of Justices Markandey Katju and Gyan Sudha Mishra. The bench upheld the decision of the trial court to punish the accused for the offence of murder. But the bench also wanted to address the broader questions of law, especially the dignity of sex workers, and thus, it decided to take up this case as a separate suo motu Public Interest Litigation ('PIL'). In furtherance of this, a panel was appointed by the court headed by Senior Advocate Pradip Ghosh and Senior Advocate Jayant Bhushan. The DMSC and the USHA Cooperative were impleaded as parties to the PIL on July 19, 2011. DMSC and USHA Cooperative were represented by lawyers Anand Grover and Tripti Tandon.

As the news of the May 19 Supreme Court order on sex workers' rights began to trickle in, there was a mixed reaction. On the one hand, many felt that there was nothing new, most of these rights already exist for all citizens of India. On the other, the order was heartily welcomed by those deeply connected to the realities of sex workers lives and struggles. Each recommendation is significant.

Let's make no mistake: these hard-fought victories are being celebrated across India. To begin with, the Supreme Court writes of sex workers' dignity, notwithstanding their profession, and importantly, their rights when faced with violence. For many sex workers who have been side-lined and abused in court and heard judges remarking that sex workers belong in the gutter, the words of the SC bench led by Justice L Nageswara Rao are balm that may begin a healing.

The recent order came in response to an ongoing petition on the rights of sex workers, Budhadev Karmaskar vs Union of India that has been going on for over ten years. The Supreme Court had set up a panel to give recommendations on how sex workers could live a life of dignity according to the rights promised under the Constitution.

This SC panel met with activists, NGOs, lawyers, sex workers and sex worker rights networks to understand the problems of sex workers and the challenges they face. National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) members including Karnataka Sex Workers Union, Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad, Uttara Karnataka Mahila Okkutta, Vadamalar Federation, Saheli Sangh, Sangama, Women's Initiatives [WINS] and Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha [SANGRAM] were part of the deliberations on many occasions, South India AIDS Action Programme [SIAAP] is a member of the Supreme Court panel.

NNSW members came together and made a detailed submission with recommendations as far back as November 2014 on the problems of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA).

The SC panel made detailed recommendations to the court on how the rights of sex workers could be protected and upheld. It is these recommendations that came up for discussion in the past week.

The second most critical victory has been the directives given with regard to ITPA rescue homes. “The state governments may be directed to do a survey of all ITPA Protective Homes so that cases of adult women, who are detained against their will can be reviewed and processed for release in a time-bound manner,” said the court.

This recommendation is a recognition of the injustice that continues to be meted out to adult women who choose sex work as a form of livelihood, to women who work in brothels in Maharashtra or on the streets in other parts of India; not knowing whether they will be picked up that day as “trafficked victims” and thrown into “Sudhar Gruhs” (rescue/protection homes) awaiting justice. Under the ITPA, female sex workers in brothels have been raided, forcibly rescued and then left to languish in rescue homes.

They have been denied access to their families, lawyers and community- based organisations. Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Nashik – these chilling stories repeat themselves in the brazen manner of the activists and NGOs who keep them locked up. A research study “Raided” undertaken by SANGRAM and VAMP in partnership with Saheli Sangh, Adhar Sanstha in Maharashtra had brought to the fore this pernicious practice.

It has been discussed in the Parliament when the trafficking bill was being debated in 2018. Sex workers who have been released after one or two years have related their trauma of being locked up away from their families. None of the rescue homes and the NGOs or activists who run them have ever owned responsibility for their wrongful actions carried out with active knowledge that the women incarcerated were not victims of trafficking but adult consenting women in sex work.





The court's observations about police attitudes and violence are noteworthy. "It has been noticed that the attitude of the police to sex workers is often brutal and violent. It is as if they are a class whose rights are not recognised. The police and other law enforcement agencies should be sensitised to the rights of sex workers who also enjoy all basic human rights and other rights guaranteed in the Constitution to all citizens. Police should treat all sex workers with dignity and should not abuse them, both verbally and physically, subject them to violence or coerce them into any sexual activity," directed the court.

Only sex workers on the receiving end of violence and activists who have visited police stations, met with the DSP, SP, written innumerable complaints, petitioned chief ministers demanding and pleading for the violence to stop will understand fully the import of these words. It gives great satisfaction that sex workers, collectives and activists alike will be able to use this directive to ensure that law enforcement agencies do not cross the line when it comes to enforcing the letter and spirit of the law.

Another crucial gain for the movement has been the strictures against the media while covering raids and arrests.

"The Press Council of India should be urged to issue appropriate guidelines for the media to take utmost care not to reveal the identities of sex workers, during arrest, raid and rescue operations, whether as victims or accused and not to publish or telecast any photos that would result in disclosure of such identities." Revealing names and faces of sex workers breaking confidentiality is routine both in the English and language media. We have found that regulatory authorities have not been an effective deterrent against this media practice. Lives have been destroyed by self-righteous and over-zealous print and electronic journalists who have splashed names and close-up shots of women who are being pulled out of brothels, escorted into police vans. Such violations and infringements of privacy go unpunished. Women thus exposed are thrown out of their homes or barred from entering their villages and driven further into destitution.

No, the Supreme Court HAS NOT legalised sex work. The court has underscored key rights of sex workers and called on state governments to protect those rights. There are many more battles that will need to be fought in the courts: for the recognition that an adult woman does indeed have the right to consent and be in sex work; that she has the right to work in a safe working environment without being harassed and violated...and many others. But for the moment, let's cherish this achievement of the sex worker rights movement.

## Activities carried out in 2022-23

On the 14th of April 2022, VAMP and SANGRAM celebrated Dr Babasaheb's 131st Birth Anniversary at the red-light area of Gokul Nagar, in Sangli and Uttam Nagar in Miraj.

At Sangli, professor Gautamiputra Kamble and Kailash Kale of the Secular Movement, Maharashtra addressed the workers. The workers took an oath of the preamble of the Constitution of India. In Miraj, Aarthi Pai, executive director of Sangram and Assistant Police Inspector Ravindraraj Fadnavis hoisted the Dhamma Chakra flag. Aarthi Pai addressed the workers on how Babasaheb showed us the way and steered the constitution of India to be a constitution that makes space for all people in the country to live with dignity and with freedom. "The constitution belongs to all people; no matter where they are on the axis of marginality", said Aarthi Pai. The procession in Miraj was accompanied by a float depicting Buddha and his disciples.



## Education for Children of Sex Workers Residential facilities:

SANGRAM has decided to support Ms. Babita Tarte, Ms. Laxmi Mali and Ms. Rupali Kale who have kindly stepped up to help VAMP fulfil their dreams of educating their young. Babita's home as the facility is now called has 17 children. 8 boys from the Mitra Hostel have been sent to Hutatma Nanaksingh Hostel in Walwa. A female student who passed out of Mitra Hostel is supported by SANGRAM for higher education at Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad.

Unfortunately, private hostels in Sangli district are expensive and offer English medium education. Government run/supported hostels require that the children are committed to the Child Welfare Committee of the Women and Child Department and sex worker mothers from VAMP are unwilling to do the same. Activists and sex worker mothers then decided to approach one of their own to help them care for their children in collaboration with VAMP and they took the decision to approach Ms. Babita Tarte who is the daughter of a sex worker from VAMP. VAMP then approached SANGRAM asking for support under the supplementary education programme. SANGRAM now provides tuition fees, stationary, books, bags and other material needs of children of sex workers in Babita's home, Hutatma Nanaksingh Hostel, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences and at all the sites where VAMP works.



## Rural Women's Program – Vidrohi Mahila Manch (VMM) and Nazariya:

The Rural Women's program in Sangli district is implemented through VMM Nazariya. These collectives that were initiated by SANGRAM in Sangli district is slowly gaining strength to work with both the Jamaat and the village panchayats in their area of work. Government office/village panchayat/e-sewa kendra visits are to either enquire about eligibility for welfare schemes or help support women to apply for the schemes.

Help the women to gather signatures as true copies/verification from government officials, submit documents to the concerned authorities and to follow up with the authorities to ensure access.





Activists worked through the Rural hospitals and the Primary Health Centers in each tehsil of Sangli district. They work with the district administration to ensure that pregnant women attend the ANC day and access the package of antenatal care services provided every month under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrutv Clinics to ensure that every pregnant woman receives at least one checkup in the 2nd and 3rd trimester of pregnancy. They follow up on access to nutrition and alternatives for women who get the information from the nurse but are not able to eat healthy. They also talk to the families of the pregnant woman especially the husband, mother – in – law or the mother, to counsel them on dietary requirements. They also talk to women about sexual issues and counsel the women on safe sex practices during pregnancy. Some women make the activists speak to their husbands too.

The women complain about white discharge, nausea, low hemoglobin counts, water retention among other common problems. Nazariya women then take them to the doctors to discuss the treatment options for them. Many women complain that they have yet to receive the aid from their earlier pregnancy because the nurses did not fill the forms, or the sonography reports were not attached etc. The activists then help the women get all the documents needed to apply for the aid from government through the Matrutv Vandan Yojana. They also help pregnant women to go and register at the anganwadi.

The visit to the anganwadi is an important part of the work of the VMM and Nazariya activists. They visit the anganwadi to ensure that all the children get the nutrition provided by the government. The major problem is that the children do not come to the anganwadi. Parents come and take the nutrition home but do not send their children to the anganwadi. The activists then visit the homes of such children and convince the parents that they should send their children to the anganwadi. Some children are not given nutrition because they do not have aadhaar cards. The activists then go with the parents to help the children get aadhaar cards.

## Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)

SANGRAM has always played the role of mentorship to the National Network of Sex Workers and Aarthi Pai, Executive director of SANGRAM is a nonvoting member and technical advisor on the board of the registered New Network of Sex Workers. The network was formally registered in 2020. SANGRAM is a nonvoting NGO member of the New Network of Sex Workers as per the Bylaws of the registered NNSW.

SANGRAM provides training to all members of NNSW on a regular basis. These training include collectivisation, leadership building, addressing crisis, advocacy with government and treaty bodies. In addition, SANGRAM undertakes research in collaboration with partners of NNSW on a regular basis. SANGRAM provides hand holding and mentorship to CBOs of NNSW in Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jharkhand through exchange visits, field-based trainings.

For the C-19RM project, NNSW members (board and general body) selected SANGRAM unanimously to be the Sub-Recipient [SR]. A formal decision authorizing SANGRAM to undertake the CRM19 and Emergency Grant balance was taken by the General Body members (31 CBOs and 6 NGO partners) and Board members (5 members) of NNSW in a meeting in Sangli, on 15 th and 16 th July 2022.

The project aims to assist sex workers to leverage and access social protection safety nets, access better health outcomes, legal assistance by strengthening community-based organisations who are members of the National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) and in operating help desks at the district level. Meeting with All NNSW partners on GFATM grants was conducted in Sangli on 15th & 16th Of July 2022.

Follow up meetings with SAATHII on the grant process was done. Capacity Assessment tool was shared by PR which was to be done for the partners for Sub-Sub-Recipient [SSR] status. Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT assessment) was done for all the CBO/NGOS who met the compliance for being an SSR. From January to March, CAT assessment was done in Sangama, Sadhana, SIAAP, MGVS, Saheli, Aadhar Sanstha, VAMP. Two teams comprising of 2 members each visited the CBOs & NGOs from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka. They visited VAMP, Pravara, MGVS, Aadhar Sanstha, Saheli Sangh, SIAAP & SANGAMA to do the assessment. All reports of the CAT assessment submitted to PR.

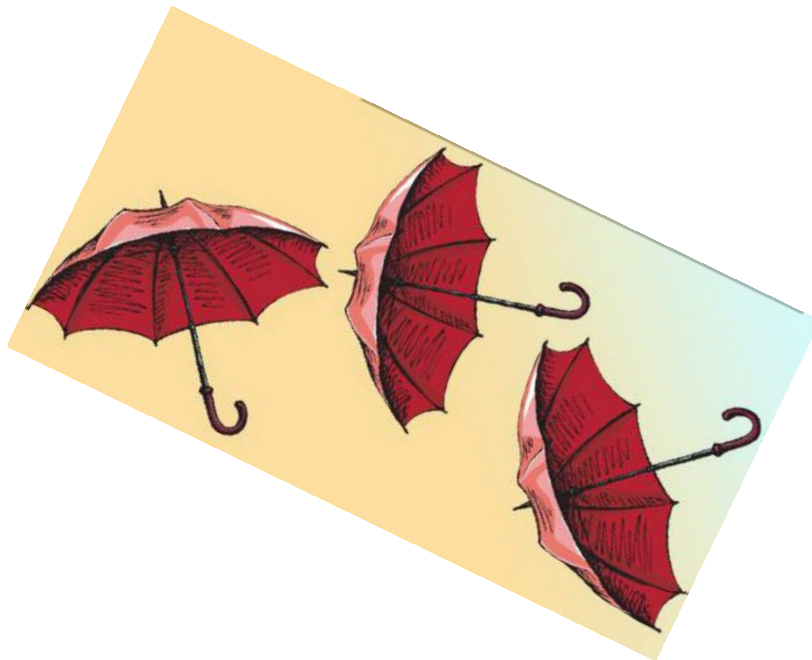


## C19RM roll out:

SANGRAM SANSTHA on behalf of the National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) rolled out the C19RM grant as Sub Recipient (SR). in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jharkhand & Gujarat. To ensure the effective implementation of the grant. SANGRAM Sanstha selected 18 CBOs & NGOs who are members of NNSW as sub-sub-recipients (SSR) to implement the Program. Major Activities conducted during the reporting period were:

The first major activity undertaken was to recruit new staff for the key roles of M&E Manager, Advocacy Officers, and Finance Officer. Shortlisting & Interviews were conducted for the advertised positions.

The second major activity done was conducting the Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT), with shortlisted CBOs & NGOs as a pre requisite compliance for implementing the grant. As a first step, the CAT tool was shared with them with the necessary compliance documents for the CAT assessment visit.



## Activities

**C**ore group of trained maitrins who assist the Arogya sevikas to reach rural women and enable them to access services and entitlements.

90 active SANGRAM Mitrins are working currently in 9 Taluka of Sangli. Through group discussions and meetings all are trained with new updates of government schemes and regulations.

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. 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 Sevak. Maza Patient Maza Adhikar posters are distributed and pasted at taluka level. They are the focal person at village to disseminate information.

15 programmes were organised with Youth Mandals in this period. VMM and Nazariya members-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 the simple celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti in village level.

Increase in the number of women who access identification documents, schemes and entitlements, access gram ekta samitis for dispute redress

Many women who received assistance were widowed recently (COVID and other causes), were supporting between 2- 6 children, had no homes to live in, had mentally and or physically challenged children.

Normally women are not forthcoming in accessing government programs and assistance because of the agents asking them for commissions on a constant basis, the unending and cumbersome paperwork which needs them to take time out from their daily work schedules. Family members are also not keen to let the women access these schemes and become financially independent. The distress caused by the COVID epidemic provided a small window of opportunity to reach them. We were able to motivate and reach rural dalit and Muslim women, through small meetings and conversations to obtain identification documents and access social entitlements schemes.



The rural women's program team is leveraging existing structures that they were working with in the past years, networks and committees to expand access to social entitlements. For instance, prior to the epidemic, the teams had developed Gram Ekta Samitis (Village Unity Committees) comprising of local activists, professionals mainly from the backward and Muslim communities. Over a period of time, these Samitis have become active in addressing the issues of Dalit and Muslim women which have traditionally ignored by the Panchayat. 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. Gram Ekta Samitis have been set up in the villages comprising of Dalit and Muslim men and women who are leaders or change makers. These Samitis are quietly playing the role of negotiators with the village panchayats when women face violence or any crisis.

*More gender-based violence cases are referred to and resolved by Mahila Dakshata Samitis / domestic violence protection officers at the district level.*

A total of 61 domestic violence cases reported. Out of 61, 49 cases were resolved through Gram Samiti, Para Legal Volunteers and SANGRAM members.

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.

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. Developed strategies to strengthen leadership through continuous peer led research and trainings; encourage community led dialogues with other activists; leading to a high degree of visibility for the voices and concerns of sex workers being picked up at the policy level and by other cross-movement activists.

SANGRAM undertook a series of trainings for community representatives to understand and engage with the NALSA judgement and the new Trans Bill, now the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act to combat the resistance of government institutions in implementing the spirit of the NALSA judgment recognizing transgender people as third gender and ensuring them all Constitutional rights continues. The NALSA case judgement led to the recognition of transgender people as the 'third gender'.

Increased capacities in implementing HIV/AIDS Interventions especially during the uncertainty of COVID -19 and the lockdowns. This includes greater connect forged with the PLHIV community.

This includes greater connect forged with the PLHIV community amongst sex workers following trainings, Increased monitoring of Viral Load of sex workers. Better performance of communities in HIV/AIDS prevention programs led by the sex workers. Increased confidence amongst sex worker leaders in advocating with the local police. Increase in leaders and advocates from sex worker collectives SANGRAM is mentoring through the VAMP Institute training model. The National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) the largest network of female, male and trans sex workers is mentored by SANGRAM. It has seen 30% increase in membership in 2022 a result of work done by the members in terms of social protection access for sex workers, community research and advocacy. Confidence shown by collectives to be part of the network

Cross movement dialogues and community led research have contributed to an increase in the discourse of sex work as a livelihood option and the necessity to recognise workers as informal sector labour. Media discourse on sex work and challenges of conflating it with trafficking has been highlighted due to the strong articulations of sex workers. They have been able to place their thoughts before the media on the differences between sex work and trafficking. Earlier this was being done by activists only. Presence of sex workers from NNSW who are participating in these discussions and confidently presenting their positions has helped to establish the discourse in favour of the rights movement. Alliance of feminist activists to raise voices against the practice of forced raid and incarceration of adult consenting sex workers in rescue homes. Transgender sex workers who underwent training on the Trans Bill and NALSA Judgement approached the Judiciary for implementation of the NALSA Judgement of the Supreme Court on Job reservations. Members of Nazariya underwent two training courses during the project period.

Laws impacting women (Constitution, Domestic Violence, Property and Inheritance, Criminal Laws). These laws are of immense importance when working at the field level. Based on the training received, existing modules are being adapted for use by the collective, to impart training for Muslim women in the district.

Reporting to the UN Treaty Body on Women's Rights – Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). India will be reporting to the CEDAW Committee in 2023 and in preparation for the same, the rural Muslim women's program has decided to engage and collect the concerns of Muslim women.

Para Legal training was arranged at Mumbai for all VMM and Nazariya team. Paralegal Certificate. Training was conducted by Sangram Sanstha and HRLN. This training helped women to understand the law in a better way. Basic concepts like FIR, government schemes and laws were explained in this training.

### **Inclusion of the sex work (er) rights and emerging partnerships with other movements in national and international submissions and formulations**

#### **Universal Periodic Review 2022**

During the project period one submission was developed by the sex workers from VAMP, NNSW and SANGRAM in partnership with other movements while a second one is being worked on.

The Working Group on Human Rights and UN is undertaking a joint stakeholder report on the occasion of the Universal Periodic Review of India in 2022. The Universal Periodic review undertaken by the Un Human Rights Council reviews the human rights situation in the UN Member States. The review will be conducted for India in November 2022.

SANGRAM participated in the regional consultation for West in December 2021. Based on the case studies collated by VAMP and other NNSW members a submission was made for inclusion in the Joint Stakeholder Report. SANGRAM made the final fact sheet for advocacy for the Rights of sex workers with various missions in India and in Geneva. This is the first time that a fact sheet on rights of sex workers has been made for advocacy in the Universal Periodic Review Process for India.

## Diplomatic Mission Briefing

Two representatives of NNSW and SANGRAM attended the Diplomatic Mission briefing held in New Delhi in the run -up advocacy meetings. Mission representatives from Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden and other countries attended the briefing session on sex worker rights. Numerous questions were posed to the SANGRAM and NNSW representatives, which they were able to answer with data and evidence.

- Disabled sex workers and the challenges they face
- Challenges faced during COVID and how they were overcome (Migrant sex workers, mental health of sex workers, social distance and the new uncertainty caused by COVID, Yale Harvard study calling for shutting down of red-light areas and the uncertainty it caused amongst the sex workers)
- Were law makers under pressure to follow the save and rescue model for sex workers
- What were the challenges of exiting sex work
- The challenges of trafficking and voluntary sex work
- Devadasi (traditional sex workers) and their perspectives





## Quantitative Indicators

- 12 campaigns undertaken or participated in by SANGRAM, sex workers from VAMP, National Network of Sex Workers (2500 people participated)
- 4 research papers published on peer research conducted by sex worker, submissions to treaty bodies made around status of sex workers.
- Collectives filed two Public Interest Litigations after receiving various trainings -- one for access to third line ARV at the district level during the COVID epidemic; secondly for transgender people to get reservations in government jobs to implement the Supreme Court judgement to recognise Trans people as the Third Gender.
- 32 newspaper articles directly supported by SANGRAM and collectives through press releases, event briefs, written by SANGRAM team, or where the trained sex worker leaders were interviewed.
- 20 dialogues with other movements with over 500 participants from LGBTQ activists, women's groups, social workers, child rights activists, workers movements (waste pickers, construction, garment workers), digital security and internet safety activists, health rights activists.
- Through VAMP Institutes SANGRAM provided training to 449 sex worker leaders in HIV/AIDS response, understanding CEDAW, social and legal entitlements, leadership training, understanding COVID -19 and response.
- 6 Peer based trainings were undertaken by trained VAMP leaders for 112 sex workers in collectivisation.
- 32 Advocacy meetings, workshops were conducted or attended by members of the sex workers collective VAMP and Muskan at the local, state and national level for various government departments.
- 30 staff members of SANGRAM and leaders of the collectives have participated in a monthly leadership training initiative since February 2022. This will continue till 2024 every month to build leadership to transition to SANGRAM 4.0.
- Arranged event on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti. More than 200 workers were present for the program. Along with Jayanti celebration team arranged the session with DALSA for community members regarding awareness on law and rights. More than 250 people and government authorities were present for the program. (Miraj)

- In the month May 2023 team organised a meeting with TI staff to list down the number of targets as per the TI for social entitlement. Basic information regarding issuing identity cards and government scheme was given to the staff and staff started working on it.
- Total 80 volunteers were selected who will go in the community and will do collection of documents and do the further process for social entitlement.
- Basic training for volunteers was organised by SANGRAM. First training was organised on 28th to 30th Jun 2023 in Sangli. Total 40 volunteers were present. Training was given to all regarding the process of documents.
- Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi
  - Total 150 Boards were installed in various PHC, Corporation departments, Panchayat Samiti in Kolhapur District. The motto behind this activity was that, those women rights should be seen to the masses.
  - More than 30 thousand posters of Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi were pasted in a Kolhapur District.
  - SANGRAM organised Best Selfie Competition in Kolhapur District. More than 25 young children participated in the competition. Sangram Sanstha appreciated the 11 participants for their energetic response. 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 informed about the basic Women rights in this programme.



SANGRAM and the collectives have gradually begun to engage with the media more proactively. In the previous years, a lot of the media engagement was limited to the activists and program teams in SANGRAM. However, in 2022 the media coverage has been driven by community activism and voices.

## Media interventions

In all 32 news stories were directly supported through campaigns, events, press releases or interviews and stories.

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

A community led research that was undertaken during the COVID epidemic and lockdown was published. 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.

### 2. Commenting on the Supreme Court Judgment, why this is a big moment for the sex worker rights movement, Times of India, May 30 2022

The Supreme Court Order on the rights of sex worker caused tremendous confusion amongst the media as they started terming the order as the legalisation of sex work. There was a lot of confusion amongst sex workers on what the order meant for them. As a response to numerous media outlets, who were calling the SANGRAM team and activists; Meena Seshu and Aarthi Pai wrote a brief article on the key takeaways from the Supreme Court order. The article helped the layperson understand the crucial parts of the order and the road ahead for the sex worker rights movement.

### 3. Demonetisation and its impact on sex workers, Scroll, November 2021

This news story captured the lives of sex workers in the aftermath of the demonetisation initiative of the government. The news report highlights the challenges faced by sex workers in accessing banking institutions for opening accounts, accessing small loans, which was further impacted by demonetisation. VAMP, the sex workers collective in Sangli described in detail the impact of the demonetisations as the customers dwindled overnight and the cost of living increased even as the rates for the services declined drastically. Members of VAMP recall how sex workers were caught off guard and could not use much of the demonetised currency that they had saved, the challenges of not being able to pay school fees and medical expenses. The story is a stark narration by VAMP of the impact of economic policies on marginalised and stigmatized communities.

Breakup of articles supported

- Celebrating the anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar to draw attention to the issues of Dalit sex workers-1
- Campaign Coverage of Zabardastit Kasli Mardangi (Campaign against Toxic masculinity)-4
- Advocating for sex workers who lost their homes to police action, fires, COVID and other causes, highlighting impact of COVID on sex workers, livelihood, economic impact of COVID and demonetization 9
- Seeking job reservations for trans people – 6
- Supreme Court orders on the rights of sex workers in India- 12

Links for some of the articles may be found as below

News Clips - <https://sangram.org/news>

Weblinks -- <https://sangram.org/weblinks>





## Sex Workers and Allies South Asia [SWASA]:

In Sri Lanka, the economic crisis in 2022 has been the biggest hurdle for the workers and the mentors. Work came to a complete standstill from March to July 2022 as SWASA began to fund raise to meet the emergency needs of sex workers in the SWASA alliance. Most of the focus was on providing emergency assistance for a large part of the year. However, this challenge was converted into an opportunity. Sex workers were asked to develop a peer - based status report on sex workers through interviews and group discussions. This has enabled the workers to collectivise around the Status Report as an outcome.

### Advocacy :

Police: Sangli district has a new additional Superintendent of Police, Ms. Anchala. She has taken the time to meet VAMP leaders and understand the issue of sex work as work and that criminalization of aspects of sex work makes the police the primary enemy which only helps the traffickers and rights violators who then institute exploitative practices. The problems faced by the community are thus never addressed. In this case local hoodlums who were helping the traffickers were also investigated and action taken by the police.

Community Led research. In 2021 and 2022 SANGRAM has increasingly focused on encouraging community led research and surveys in the four countries as a strategy towards increasing the multiplicity of voices in the debates on sex work rights, strengthening ownership of sex workers to the issues at hand. This has increased visibility of the issue in traditional and social media platforms for the voices and narratives of sex workers. In Nepal and Sri Lanka this has proved to be a key strategy in mobilising leadership. Nepal undertook research on the economic impact of COVID, Sri Lanka is currently conducting research to develop a Status Report on Sex Work, India has undertaken a status report on Sex work in 2022 for submission to the Universal Periodic Review Process.

Peer to Peer Exchange. In 2022, SANGRAM has focussed on small peer- based community learning and exchange. For instance, in India, trained leaders from VAMP have gone to sex worker collectives in India Bhuj (Gujarat); Nagpur (Maharashtra); Nellore (Andhra Pradesh); Hyderabad (Telengana) to interact with sex workers and support them in dispute redressal, strategies for building collectives. In Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; VAMP Leaders will also be a key part of the mentor trainings that will be undertaken in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for the nascent collectives. A learning exchange is also being identified as a strategy to increase peer interaction, subject to the visa rules of the countries.

Campaigns. In 2022, SANGRAM and the collective members have focused on campaigns and petitions, initiated by sex workers or by participating in other campaigns to raise visibility for the issue. As compared to the previous years when most of these campaigns for sex worker rights issues was driven by non sex workers, in 2022, there has been greater involvement of sex workers from various parts of the country due to strong leadership shown by trained sex workers. In Bangladesh and Nepal, sex workers from JMMS, 15 CBOs and NCS SWAN have actively participated in commemorating important anniversaries including International Day on Violence against Sex Workers, 16 Days of Activism, International Sex Workers Day, International Women's Day. The collectives of Nepal have actively engaged with messaging on social media during these days.

**SWASA-** The initiative called SWASA or Sex Workers and Allies South Asia is built on the premise that sex workers movement in South Asia must strengthen leadership and voices of sex workers, build strong motivated collectives and networks of sex workers at the country and South Asia level, improve cross movement solidarity with similarly marginalised groups at the country and South Asia level, build on a network of supporters to strengthen solidarity and call for policy change in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

Currently the program is being implemented with the following partners.

Nepal – Jagriti Mahila Mahasangh Federation (of 30 CBOs), SWAN Collective, SWASA Nepal

Bangladesh – Sex Workers Network Bangladesh, Nari Pokkho

Sri Lanka – Trans Equality Trust, PDP, Stand Up Movement, Tamil SW Collectives, Grassrooted Trust

India – National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW), Veshya Anyaya Mukti Parishad (VAMP), Muskan, SANGRAM Sanstha

SWASA has been able to meet the immediate needs of sex workers during the COVID emergency by providing emergency rations in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. This has helped to built trust and confidence amongst the CBO members in the four countries that the movement is also about supporting sex workers when they are most in need. Additionally, nascent collectives in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are now being slowly strengthened.

In Nepal, SWASA works with 17 sex worker collectives and 1 federation. Apart from the larger collectives situated in Kathmandu and Lalitpur including Jagriti Mahila Mahasangh (JMMS) and NCS SWAN; SWASA Nepal has been playing an active role in strengthening smaller collectives based in the hill districts. 15 weak CBOs who are members of JMMS were selected by SWASA Nepal for regular mentoring. Strengthening these CBOs will create stronger leadership in the JMMS and towards the rights movement. Mentors from SANGRAM Sanstha, have been active in undertaking collectivization trainings for members of the new collectives; communication and advocacy for the older leaders. The results have begun to slowly emerge in six of the 15 collectives.

*“Through regular interactions between the sex workers and with SWASA Nepal on a weekly, monthly and quarterly basis, there is a growing understanding of the rights movement. New sex workers are getting connected and we are seeing membership increasing.*

*Hetauda CBO Mahila Mukti Sangh was extremely weak, but the regular inputs have helped bring three new members to work in the district. Goreto Nepal, Ekakrit Mahila Samuh, Mahila Sahyogi Samuh, Nari Ko Awaz , Hamro Sanghatan are examples of sex workers who are coming forward. Women who are able to speak more openly are now forming the CBO Working Committee Groups.*

*7 CBOs have started applying to donors for small funding due to the training they have received in governance, report writing and compliances. CBO leaders are now able to write project proposals and approach the Social Work Committee for seeking permission to get project funds from external donors. This is a huge step forward.*

*In Bangladesh, 26 collectives have come together under the National network called Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh. SWASA has helped the network members restart its regular meetings in Dhaka.*

*The Board of SWN has begun to come together and speak of the challenges of strengthening the network. Additionally, 4 collectives of the network, Jiboner Alo Nari Unaayan Shogho, Dhaka (floating sex workers), Shokti Nari Shongh, Jessore (brothel); Gomti Nari Kallan Shongho, Comilla and Nari Jagoroni Shongho, Khulna (brothel) have started holding regular meetings this year. This work will be scaled up in the coming year. SWN has asked for an orientation program for all their constituent members in the coming year. [SWN Annual Report 2022]*

*An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the network leadership and constituent collectives was conducted in partnership with the members of the Network by a consultant hired under SWASA.*

*In several locations such as Tangail and Faridpur, the CBOs have been active in interacting with local administration. The network strength is its ability to mobilise rapid response and direct services for sex workers in emergency situations. SWN has been able to legitimately represent the voice of the sex workers in numerous local and national forums. A detailed report has been developed which will be used as a template for training, capacity building in the coming year. [Bangladesh Briefing Note, 2022]*

*Mentors from SANGRAM have assisted in the development of the blueprint for the collectivization in 2022, participating in the Network meetings of SWN, identifying training needs for sex workers in partnership with Nari Pokkho and SWN members.*

*In the coming year, SWASA's strategies will be two pronged – first to focus on network building among the 26 collectives. Secondly, to simultaneously strengthen workers from the collectives in a similar manner to the template adopted in Nepal. The capacity building efforts will include training on governance, internal communication, strengthening perspectives on movement and response, legal overview, conducting advocacy.*

*In Sri Lanka, smaller collectives have started coming together in Colombo, Katunayake, Vavuniya, Jaffna, Puttalam, Pollonaruwa. From the initial period when the mobilization was limited to 15 or 20 sex workers, there is a visible increase in the number of sex workers who are attending regular meetings being organized in these sites.*

*In Vavuniya and Jaffna, the collective has grown from 4 to 20 active members in the current year. In Colombo, trans and female sex workers have increased from 6 to 20 active sex workers. In Puttalam, the expansion of the collective stands at 70. Similarly, the work that Stand-Up Movement has initiated with spa, massage parlor-based sex workers in Katunayake, Pollunaruwa, Galle and Gampaha has reached around 50 women. Five leaders are emerging from these sites through the regular mentoring and trainings happening through SWASA.*

*The sex workers started working on a peer led status report of sex workers in Sri Lanka. 30 sex workers from 6 districts participated in the discussion to create a collective understanding of the status report. Discussion included research ethics and data collection methodology and agreed on following principals – consent, confidentiality, ensuring a safe space, meeting with respondents physically, punctuality, not using drugs and alcohol that restricts productivity when conducting interviews, conduct interviews with empathy, interview sex workers. Sex workers learnt about the data collection tool called KoboCollect and reviewed the draft questionnaires and collectively finalized the survey tool. During the programmes half a day awareness session on contraceptives and sexual health was conducted. Sex workers use the data tool to meet other sex workers and build a bright with them as the first step for collectivization. Increase of living cost remain the main challenge for monthly meetings because most sex workers are constantly looking for work. This was mitigated to some level by increasing their travel allowance and also including sex workers as peer workers for research. In the coming year, the collective members have decided to start working as a small network to do the following*

*With the vision of decriminalization sex workers mapped out potential stakeholders and allies of the national network.*

*Key stakeholders identified by the group are, Sri Lanka Police commission, Sri Lanka Bar Association, Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission, Village level government officers specifically Samurdhi officers (Welfare officer) and Grama niladhari (Village officer) network, Health ministry and national HIV prevention programme, Non-governmental SGBV service providers*

*Sex workers said they want to learn about the laws relating to sex works and human rights to challenge grassroots level discrimination based on sex work. For example, if a sex worker is denied a birth certificate for her newborn how that can be challenged within the existing legal framework. Leadership building, sharing sexual and reproductive health information, understanding response mechanism to SGBV are discussed as other benefits of national network. This is the first Sri Lankan national network of sex workers which represents realities of majority Sinhala speaking south and majority Tamil speaking north. Additionally, this is one of the very few networks that connect the two parts that had been disconnected for over 30 years due to the conflict. [Sri Lanka Annual Report, 2022]*

*In India, the most crucial indicator was the increase in collectives applying for membership to the National Network of Sex Workers which is trained by SANGRAM and VAMP through VAMP Institutes. Over 25 new collectives have applied for membership to NNSW making it the largest network for female, trans and male sex workers in India. There has been an increase in the number of leaders and advocates from the sex worker collectives that SANGRAM is mentoring through the VAMP Institute training model.*

*There has been a tremendous increase in capacities in implementing HIV/AIDS Interventions especially during the uncertainty of COVID -19 and the lockdowns. This includes greater connect forged with the PLHIV community amongst sex workers following trainings, Increased monitoring of Viral Load of sex workers. Better performance of communities in HIV/AIDS prevention programs led by the sex workers. Increased confidence amongst sex worker leaders in advocating with the local police. Transgender sex workers who underwent training on the Trans Bill and NALSA Judgement approached the Judiciary for implementation of the NALSA Judgment of the Supreme Court on Job reservations.*



## **Communication tools are developed to suit the audience**

### **a. Within SWASA**

Partners are slowly coming together to talk to each other and learn from each other. Nepal, India and Sri Lanka have been on the forefront of this initiative with Bangladesh lagging behind in the outreach to partners from the other countries. Effective translations are the main barrier which are overcome using Zoom, Google meet features that facilitate simultaneous translation. Very challenging to learn this tool. Requires two devices to be used simultaneously. The most effective has been to use theatre, illustrations, dance forms etc. Post Covid the physical meetings help by using the traditional whisper translations per group.

### **b. Within each country**

This is easier with each language group communicating within WhatsApp, using voice messages because most workers do not know how to read and write. The supporters/coordinators take responsibility to translate into multiple languages and many workers have started using google translate too. That is a challenging tool because larger messages get garbled and lose meaning and intent. Each country has their own face book, twitter and Instagram accounts too. Many workers tag the official accounts on individual stories/reels/narratives. Language barriers across India and Sri Lanka which work with multiple languages are the challenge.

### **c. Within each NGO/CBO/Collective**

This gets easier because of the physical proximity within each collective. So, reaching out is easier besides the language barrier is absent. The tools used here are mobile phones and regular physical meetings. WhatsApp is also used but ordinary workers may not have smart phones so its direct contact rather than messaging etc.

### **d. With cross movement activists**

This is slowly taking shape with feminists, LGBTQAI+ groups, labour groups reaching out the collectives. Social media visibility has helped them reach out to the sex worker collectives in significant numbers across SWASA partners. For example, in Sri Lanka, the protestors in the recent crisis reached out to sex workers to join them in their demand for better governance. Across SWASA the CWGL alliance to ratify ILO C190 really helped sex workers to reach out to a larger audience across the globe.

### **e. With social media**

Many news portals, online media platforms, pages in Medium [ NNSW, India], Face book, Twitter and Instagram are slowly gathering a lot of followers.

### **f. With mainstream media**

Remains a challenge with media houses not really interested in issues concerning sex workers unless there is a Supreme Court Judgement [ India]. Local mainstream media has engaged with some issues but it is not yet significant. We need to develop better tools and contacts to keep the issue of sex work alive in mainstream media.



## Challenges Faced During 22-23:

- 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 were not available at health centres. In Kavthemahankal taluka, a 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 a number of times as to get permission from them was difficult.
- Since the programme was not moving out of this case study mode of functioning, we have had to rethink its work and have stopped both VMM and Nazariya programmes since November 2022.

### Nazariya challenges:

In this year they have managed to attend and address 23 Ijtema programmes in the district. Ijtema is an Islamic congregation organised by Islamic organisations. It is an essential part of the Tablighi Jamaat, and it plays a significant role on the lives of Muslims, and a huge number of people engage in Ijtema. In these 23 Ijtema they were able to speak to 249 members about Nazariya and its work with Muslim women on domestic violence, divorce, as health workers and counselors. Addressing the Ijtema is indeed a very difficult task because these areas are not 'open' and requires a lot of convincing the Jamaat that it is in their interest to allow activists from Nazariya to speak and outreach women from the Tablighi Jamaat.

### Grocery relief for sex workers living in fear of police raids.

In 2022, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court issued an order that sex workers are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law and that voluntary adult sex work was not illegal. They issued orders to stop police excesses against sex workers. Despite this the Telangana police have conducted violent raids on the Dommera community. This has resulted in an atmosphere of fear and since they are charged with trumped up trafficking offenses, mainly of their own children and are out on conditional bail [to stop sex work]. The sex workers are under constant surveillance by the police and are unable to do sex work and thus lack income for livelihood. Many women have gone underground due to fear of arrest. Families of these women are suffering without food and live in constant fear of law enforcement. This has been going on for many months. Thus, their appeal for relief.

### Problems faced by Community Members

It's difficult for the staff as the community are not convinced government will honour the benefit schemes. People avoid visiting government offices. But we planned and organised camps with the authorities in the VAMP DIC and communities started showing more interest. Team also tried to communicate this regularly in weekly and monthly meetings so that the information will reach the community.

In Gokul Nagar Sangli frequent police raids took place and that affected sex workers business. Many violence cases were also filed during this time. (Sangli)

## Our learnings:

- **Teamwork:** Collaboration and teamwork helps to handle issues in the community. We learned the importance of participatory decision making, collective teamwork and persistence in doing follow up. Micro planning, meeting on all levels and the construct of bite size chunks to achieve targets. Likewise, Ichalkaranji team arranged Aadhar card and voting cards camps in the DIC and more than 50 people were benefited.
- During covid relief Ichalkaranji team approached Bank of Baroda to open bank accounts for the community. Team met manager of Bank of Baroda and explained the issues faced by community members in opening the bank account. Team opened bank accounts of 100 members and women were able to get the benefit during covid relief.
- Sangli Team developed strategies to deal with police and crises in the community. Also team tried to present their points in crisp and to the point in front of stake holders. This helped to develop a good rapport in the community and with the stake holders.
- SANGRAM plans build a second line leaders/core group for the organization which includes communities and activists. This initiative seeks to include workers/activists who have the skill set to prepare SANGRAM and the collectives to enter the 4th decade of work.
- SANGRAM 4.0: SANGRAM will have to source young leaders who will have to be developed in participatory decision making to work in partnership with SANGRAM's collectives. SANGRAM joined hands with Born to Win, an organisation from Bangalore, to conduct leadership training for the team members of Sangram. A total of 20 participants gained knowledge from this training activity. This series of workshops has been started for groups since Feb 2022. Topics like capacity building, mental health, and leadership are covered in this training.
- **Networking:** In Ichalkaranji there was a successful link with the local authorities who were invited into the drop-in centre [DIC] for voter and Aadhar card. Team shared the issues faced by community during process and in presenting required documents. Due to this linkage now women will be able to apply for the voter cards with minimum documents. Around 40 people from the sex workers community got the benefit. 15 people received the Aadhar card with the help of SANGRAM during Jan to June 23. It is our success that we were able to get Aadhar card and voting cards for MSM and TG.
- In Sangli team did an advocacy event with police as team observed that police ask money from customers, and it creates fear in customers' mind. Team met the police officers and explained to them the issue. Authorities promised that this mistake will not be repeated in future. Such steps help to develop rapport among the community and the police make environment safer for all workers. (Sangli)

- Team also worked for caste certificates with social welfare department. Team prepared excel sheet and collected 40 people's documents and submitted to the social welfare department and this process is ongoing.

- This strategy was expanded to reach non sex worker rural women too. The help desks thus helped 1220 rural women and 741 sex workers reach the social entitlement system of the State. A unique factor of the Help Desks has been to strengthen rural women and sex workers to operate as peer workers, learn about various social assistance programs, identification documents and enable other women and workers to access entitlements. In order to make this process sustainable, it is essential to train more peers to link them to social assistance programs.

- The importance of the strategies used in strengthening leadership through continuous peer led research and trainings; encouraging community led dialogues with other activists; has led to a high degree of visibility for the voices and concerns of sex workers being picked up at the policy level and by other movement activists.

- Greater number of sex workers who are voicing their rights against violence faced by State actors such as the law enforcement. Sex workers across the country demand condoms, lubes and other life saving commodities as a right that must be made available to them within the health care set up. In the Targeted Intervention Programs for HIV/AIDS and STI prevention, sex workers have unequivocally demanded that these commodities should be made available free of cost and in a timely manner. Access to health services for chronic illnesses, testing facilities, sexual and reproductive health services and facilities are increasingly being demanded as a right by sex workers. Recognition of the community as a stakeholder and critical voice in all dialogues related to marginalised communities, unorganised workers across movements and with government.

- Resistance to government institutions in implementing the spirit of the NALSA judgment recognising transgender people as third gender and ensuring them all Constitutional rights continues. SANGRAM undertook a series of trainings for community representatives to understand and engage with the NALSA judgement and the Trans Bill.

- Continued conflation of sex work and trafficking, moralistic attitudes of the law enforcement leading to lockdown of sex work sites in Nagpur, Nashik in Maharashtra. SANGRAM supported trainings of VAMP leaders to engage with the constructs of collectivisation, understanding the legal framework, so that communities would engage and dialogue with law enforcement and local government departments. Sex workers in Nagpur began to directly speak with the police and media drawing attention to the injustice of the sealing operations.

## Targeted Interventions(Tis) data 2022-23

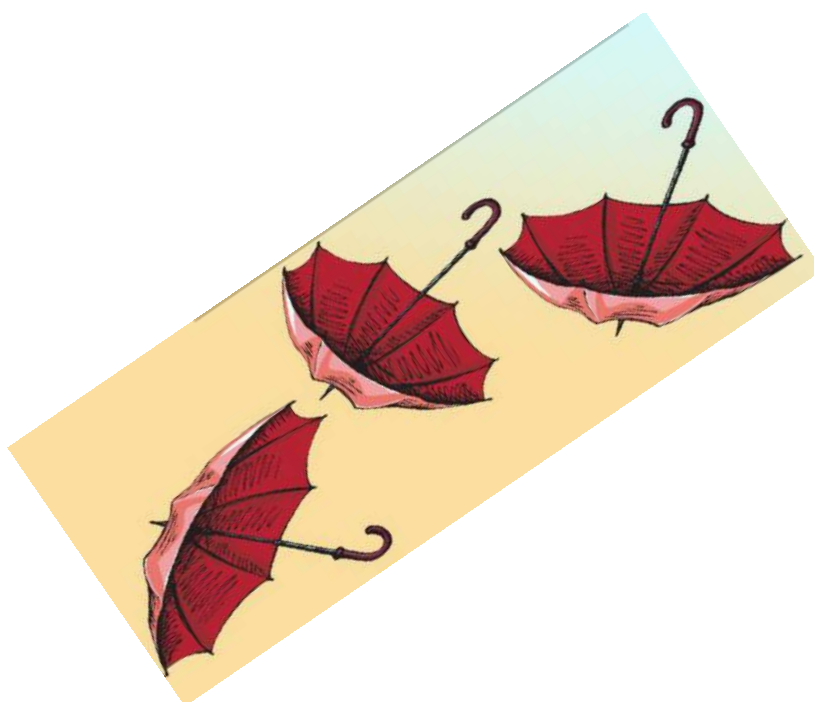
	Implemented by VAMP with technical support from SANGRAM			Implemented directly by SANGRAM			
	Sangli	Miraj	Ichalkaranji	Satara	Sangli	Kolhapur	Total
People receiving HIV prevention services							
Brothel Based Sex worker	682	290	276	249	0	5	1502
Street Based Sex worker	100	81	0	152	0	376	709
Lodge Based Sex worker	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
Home Based Sex worker	181	238	0	0	0	0	419
Tamasha Based Sex worker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Men who have sex with other Men	0	0	575	361	472	261	1669
Transgender people In Sex Work	0	0	123	125	155	152	555
Total	963	609	974	894	627	794	4861

Preventive Interventions	VAMP (run with SANGRAM Technical support)			SANGRAM			Total
	Sangli	Miraj	Ichalkaranji	Satara	Sangli	Kolhapur	
Clinics Conducted	3363	2038	3775	2661	2088	2080	16005
Regular Monthly Check up	3350	1940	3710	2659	2074	2063	15796
Preventive Treatment Given	9	92	59	2	8	11	181
Sexually Transmitted Infection Treated	4	6	6	9	2	6	33
Condom Distribution	110603	501975	727708	447447	027440	225782	3290956
ICTC	1437	1020	1818	903	867	941	6986
Tested for Syphilis	1287	1062	1833	1182	944	1110	7418
Counseling	4384	2915	3473	1888	2667	1657	16984
HIV Positive	1	2	2	2	3	0	10
Pre ART	1	2	2	2	3	0	10
On ART	1	2	2	2	3	0	10
Positive Member (Cumulative)	78	36	39	54	34	68	309
On First Line	73	32	39	53	28	67	292
On Second Line	2	3	0	1	6	1	13
On Third Line	3	1	0	0	0	0	4



# 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 Crisis Intervention - VAMP Milan

Violence Deals	ISW	MM	TG	Total
By Cars	12	4	4	20
By Client	4	0	2	6
By Police	5	0	0	5
By Bored Owners	11	0	0	11
By Partner	13	4	7	24
By Family member	0	1	1	2
By Community Members	8	6	5	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>87</b>



Work with Rural women through Vidrohi Mahila Manch and  
Nazariya

<b>Domestic violence data 2022-23</b>	
<b>Details of Domestic Violence by</b>	<b>Total</b>
By Husband	18
By In laws	5
By Brother-in-Law/ Sister-in-Law	0
All Family members	8
Neighbours	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

<b>Details of Intervened by VMM and Nazariya</b>	
Gram Ekta Samiti	4
Mahila Dakshata Samiti	10
PLV	3
VMM	8
Nazariya	3
Jamat	1
Gram panchayat	2
Police Station	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

## VMM and Nazariya Outreach Data for 2022-23

Program activity	No of Program/visits	Nts of Outreach
Group Discussion	88	306
Mahila Program	37	980
Bachat Gat Program	113	353
Adolescents program	21	86
Tarun Mandal Program	15	66
Asha worker	29 visits	122
Gram panchayat Program	visits 2 times visit	Met 105 people
Gram Ekata Meeting	5	47
Gram Ekata Samiti Formation	3	45
School Programme	5	115
Anganwadi Visit	43	141
ANC At PHC	19	206
Istma Programmes	13	117
Jamat Visits	12	85

## Access to social Entitlements 2022-23

Documents Details	Applied	Received
New Bank Account	48	27
New Adhar Card	267	153
Ration Card	55	35
Pan Card	20	20
Voter ID	34	12
Cast Certificate	59	46
Income Certificate	89	89
Disability Certificate	12	12
Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna	105	85
MatruVandana Yojna	86	42
Sharwanbal Yojna	50	31
Balsangopan Yojna	27	27
Gharkul Yojna	82	81
Marriage Registration	51	51
Janani Suraksha	12	12
Mahatma Phule Scheme	23	11
Residential Proofs	44	28
Help women to get Ration from shop	97	97
Help in issuing Construction labour ID Card	1	15
Age Proofs	44	31

<b>SANGRAM - Core and Office Staff and Consultants</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Meena Saraswathi Sesh	Chief Functionary/ General Secretary
Shital Pratap	Director Finance/ Treasurer
Aarthi Pai	Executive Director
Shashikant Mane	Manager - Programs
Shantilal Kale	Manager - Administration
Shivakumar Thabaj	Accounts Officer
Pooja Kale	Asst. Accounts Officer
Shruti Magdum	Communication Officer
Shobha Hiremath	Office Assistant
Bharathi R.	Office Assistant
Purnima Athavale	Documentation Officer
Vidya Ravi	Consultant

<b>VAMP Institute</b>		
Kiran Deshmukh	Community Coordinator	Sangli
Rajendra Vinayak Naik	Community Coordinator	Sangli
Neonats Rai	Community Coordinator	Miraj

<b>C1-RM GFATM Project</b>		
Aarthi Pai	Project oversight	Bangalore
Santoshi Rani (Bangalore)	Program Specialist	Bangalore
Rajendrakumar Patil	Network Coordinator	Sangli
Priyanka Kabra	Finance Manager	Sangli
Radhika Sakat	Admin Officer	Sangli

<b>Supplimentary Education for Children of Sex Worke</b>	
Babita Tarate	Supplementary class Tution teac
Kavita Mali	Supplementary class Tution teac
Rupali Kale	Supplementary class Tution teac
Laxmi Mali	Supplementary class Assistant

Peer Education Program		
Name	Designation	Place
Amruta Sutar	Community Coordinator	Kolhapur
Piya urf Swapnil Savairam	Community Coordinator Asst.	Ichalkaran
Meenakshi Kamble	Community Coordinator	Miraj
Shalavva Salamantapi	Community Coordinator Asst.	Mudhol
Shabana Goundi	Peer worker	Nippani
Payal Moudkar	Program Assistant	Nagpur
Anita Gairwar	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Badan Kurre	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Lata Moundekar	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Mala Kalkhol	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Pinky Dhanawat	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Radha Tiwari	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Seema Sharma	Peer worker	Nagpur
Shradha Uke	Peer Worker	Nagpur
Mala Harijan	Peer worker	Rabkavi
Kalyani Harijan	Peer worker	Rabkavi
Bangaravva Pujari	Peer worker	Karad
Gangavva Madar	Peer worker	Karad
Hanmawwa Hiramani	Peer worker	Karad
Kasturi Kamble	Peer worker	Miraj
Mahadevi Hadimani	Peer worker	Miraj
Mahesh Manoji	Peer worker	Sangli
Nurjahan Shaikh	Peer worker	Ichalkaran
Renuka Vijay Kamble	Peer worker	Miraj
Shankaravva Hiramani	Peer worker	Karad
Subhadra Kamble	Peer worker	Miraj
Suman Kamble	Peer worker	Miraj
Sunita Shinalkar	Peer worker	Karad
Surekha Thakur	Peer worker	Nagpur
Yallavva Mhetre	Peer worker	Karad
Jojo Matthew	Field Coordinator	Kerala
Lalitha Satheesan	Community Coordinator	Thrissur



<b>HIV Prevention (Targetted Intervention) Program</b>		
Abhijeet Sakhare	Project Director	Kolhapur
Durgavva Pujari	Project Director	Satara
Abdul Rajak Shaikh	Program Manager	Sangli
Amol Salunkhe	Program Manager	Satara
Kishor Nitnaware	Counselor	Kolhapur
Meena Jadhav	Counselor	Satara
Rahul Sakat	Counselor	Kolhapur
Rani Gawarewali	Counsellor	Kolhapur
Sagar Bhise	Counselor	Sangli
Sujata Jadhav	Counselor	Satara
Amol More	MEA	Satara
Neelam Mali	MEA	Satara
Rahul Jamdar	MEA	Sangli
Rajak Shaikh	MEA	Sangli
Ramesh Kale	MEA	Sangli
Sudarshan Nigade	MEA	Kolhapur
Yashwant Bhise	MEA	Satara
Amar Bhondave	Outreach Worker	Satara
Amit Bhopatey	Outreach Worker	Satara
Aslam Mulani	Outreach Worker	Sangli
Karuna Gaikwad	Outreach Worker	Kolhapur
Mirasaheb Kamble	Outreach Worker	Sangli
Ramjan Maner	Outreach Worker	Kolhapur
Sadhana Kamble	Outreach Worker	Kolhapur
Shoheb Mulla	Outreach Worker	Satara
Vaishali Shinalkar	Outreach Worker	Satara
Akshata Rankhambe	Peer Educator	Sangli
Ambarnath Chavan	Peer Educator	Satara
Ananda Rathod	Peer Educator	Satara
Arya Pujari	Peer Educator	Satara
Chandu (Naina)Pujari	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Chetan Sabale	Peer Educator	Sangli
Chhaya Jadhav	Peer Educator	Satara
Deepak Naik	Peer Educator	Sangli
Gadevva Mehtri	Peer Educator	Satara
Hasina Shaikh	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Jaya Jadhav	Peer Educator	Satara
Krushid Shekh	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Malavva Nedgiri	Peer Educator	Satara
Manik Mali	Peer Educator	Sangli
Manisha Korade	Peer Educator	Satara
Meena Hande	Peer Educator	Kolhapur

Mumtaj Shaikh	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Muskan Shaikh	Peer Educator	Sangli
Nisha Jadhav	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Parshuram Kamble	Peer Educator	Sangli
Pradip Bolaj	Peer Educator	Sangli
Rahul Alwekar	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Rajaram Mane	Peer Educator	Satara
Raju More	Peer Educator	Sangli
Ramjan Shaikh	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Ravi Shinge	Peer Educator	Sangli
Ravindra Chavan	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Rekha Shinde	Peer Educator	Satara
Renuka Patil	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Resham Kavathe	Peer Educator	Sangli
Reshma Banyagol	Peer Educator	Satara
Sachin Sonavane	Peer Educator	Satara
Salim Bargir	Peer Educator	Sangli
Salim Chikodi	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Shashikant Bansode	Peer Educator	Satara
Siddesh	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Sonal Jadhav	Peer Educator	Sangli
Sulochana Kamble	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Suraj Dabade	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Sweety Mahadik	Peer Educator	Satara
Tabsum Khalifa	Peer Educator	Kolhapur
Vipul Vankate	Peer Educator	Sangli
Dr Altaf Faras	Doctor	Kolhapur
Dr Arjun Kumbhar	Doctor	Kolhapur
Dr Ravindra Patil	Doctor	Sangli
Dr Vishwajeet Babar	PPP consultant	Satara
Dr. S. B. Shaikh	PPP consultant	Karad
Dr. Sagar Bhandari	PPP consultant	Satara

## 1. General Information

Name: Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)

Date of Establishment: 27th March 1986

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

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

Office: Baljagat, Behind Parshwanath English Medium school, 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 and Bombay Public Trust Act- 1950 F/1456 on 9th May 1986.

Place: Sangli Maharashtra, India

Area of Operation: India

(ii) Registered: 12 A, 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 (Regulations) Act 1967 Amended 2010

Registration Number 083960057

Date: 7th May 1987



[www.sangram.org](http://www.sangram.org)