

# SANGRAM

Sampada Grameen  
Mahila Sanstha

## Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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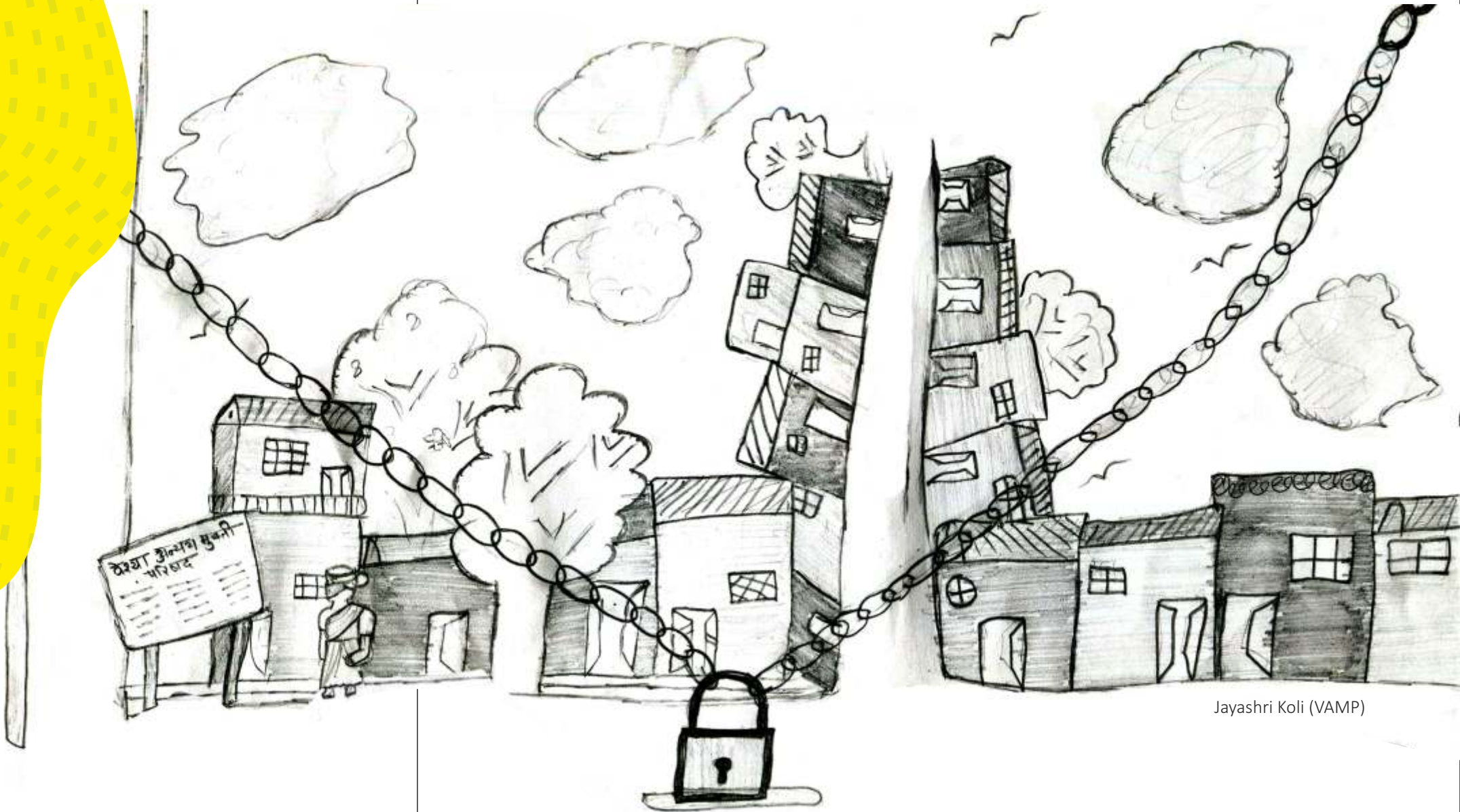
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Mahila Sanstha

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## 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.



Jayashri Koli (VAMP)

Concept: Meena Seshu, Aarthi Pai  
Published by: SANGRAM Sanstha  
Designed by: Shruti Magdum  
Written by: SANGRAM Sanstha & Collectives



# Acknowledgement to the ARTISTS

SANGRAM Sanstha acknowledges the  
contribution of all the community artists from  
Veshya Anyaya Mukti Parishad (VAMP)

Muskan Sanstha

MITRA

Vidrohi Mahila Manch (VMM) and  
Nazariya

for sharing their precious art work which has  
been used in the Annual Report

Amar Bhondave

Amruta Sutar

Aparna Mujumale

Aruna Kadam

Bharti Bhosale

Chetan Daiangade

Jahida Pakhali

Jayashree Koli

Jubeda Attar

Kalpana Harne

Kavita Sapkal

Kiran Deshmukh

Mahesh Manoji

Maya Gurav

Meena jadhav

Pooja Kale

Pornima Ghagre

Pratibha Pawar

Rahul Jamdar

Rajashree Khandare

Raju Naik

Ranjana Vare

Sangita Bhingardive

Sangita Manoji

Sapana kamble

Shabnam Mujawar

Shahin Makandar

Sindhutai Pawar

Swati Savane

Tabbasum Mulla

Ujwala Sutar



# Board Members

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



**Ms. Prabha Kulkarni**

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**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**

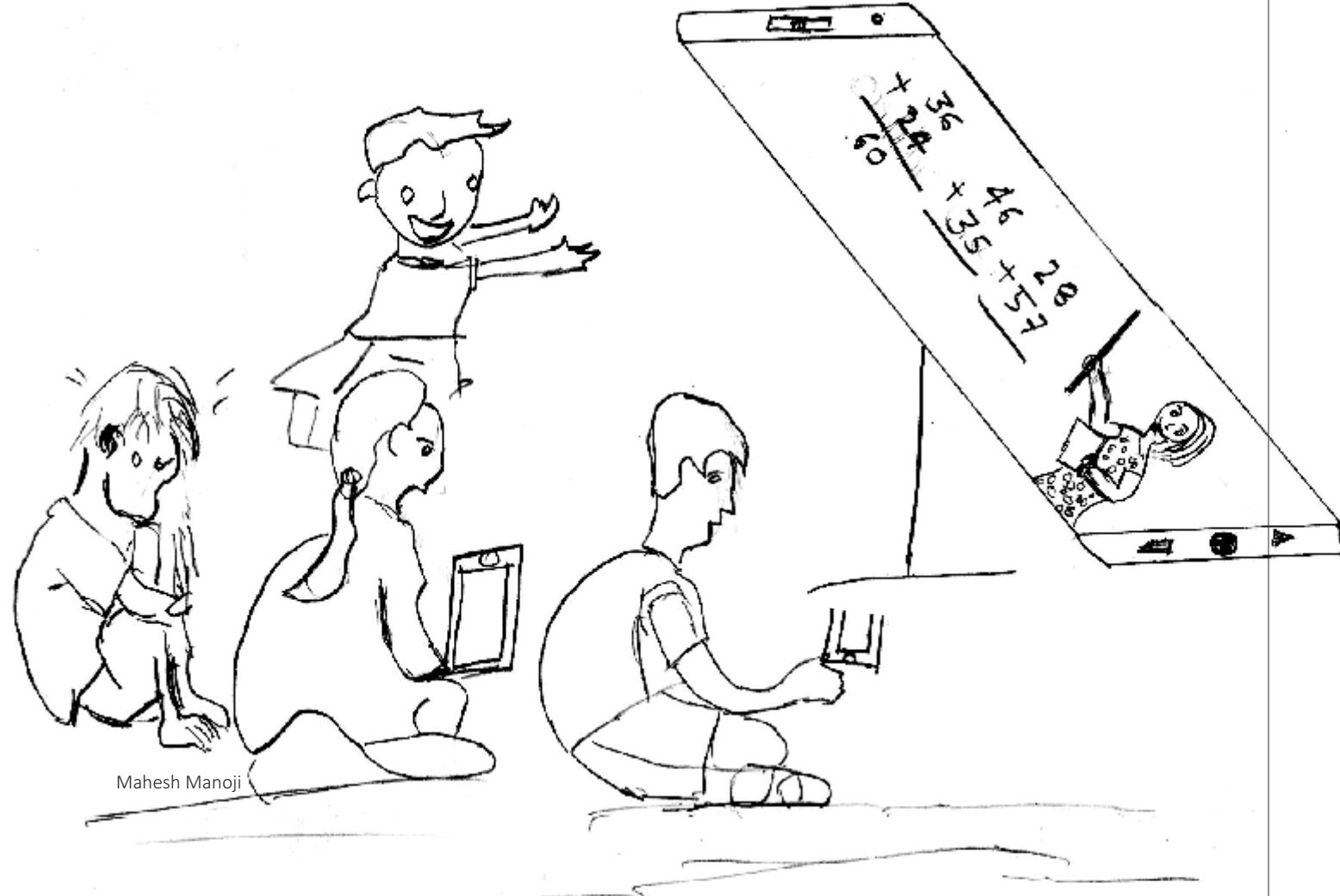
Director, Doctor



**Ms. Sae Patil**

Director, Beautician





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શિક્ષણાકડે ભક્ષા દિલે નાહી ત્યામુકે આઈનાં કાલજી  
વાતુ ભાગલી

સિત્રા



## Life from Offline to Online

This year, due to Covid, the hostel had to change its operations-the children's exams in March were cancelled and schools were closed. All children were sent home before the lockdown was announced. VAMP and SANGRAM made a joint decision to close the hostel due to the pandemic to ensure the children's safety; the decision was communicated to WCD Belgaum. Only 7 children continued staying in the Nippani hostel with one worker each from VAMP, VMM, and Nazariya staying every week by turns in the hostel to monitor the children and to take care of the arrangements. No visitors were allowed, and the children were regularly followed up over the phone. They were provided with healthy food and medical facilities throughout the time and there was also an isolation room available in case there was a case of Covid.

The 10th board exams of the children took place in July, after having been postponed due to the pandemic. We arranged a teacher in the hostel for teaching so that they could get proper guidance-two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. The children were given 4 tablets to study on since their schooling shifted online. The result of the 10th standard was announced. Out of four students, 2 girls passed with good marks, one student could not take the entire examination, and one student passed in the second attempt. The students who passed took admission in their preferred colleges in Nippani.



## Year in Review

2020 has been a difficult year globally. The COVID - 19 pandemic which bought the global population to its knees, affected lives and livelihoods of millions. At last count the number of people affected by the virus in 2020- 21 along was 25 crore people and killed over 50 lakh people. In India, around 3.5 crore people have been affected by COVID and around 4.6 lakh people have died in the space of a year since the infection came into India.

Without doubt it has been one of the most trying years in the history of SANGRAM Sanstha also. SANGRAM's work relates to communities of sex workers, trans people, MSM and gay people, lesbians, Muslim and Dalit women. Predictably these people were some of the most affected communities during the epidemic. Sex workers, trans people lost their livelihoods for over six months of the year. SANGRAM's focus shifted to emergency relief.

The rural women's program reported a total breakdown of lives in Sangli district much like was being reported across the country. Sangli has many families who migrated to Mumbai, Pune and other big cities as contract workers, labourers, small scale entrepreneurs. The sudden lockdown announcement created panic amongst these migrants and they began journeys to return to their villages on whatever modes of transport was available to them. Many of the migrants made the

journey on foot. In the initial phases the fear of migrants being COVID 19 affected when they returned to their villages led to many stories of being ostracized or kept out of the village limits. However, even in the times of fear and paranoia there was stories of affected people being provided support by the village panchayat. Food, drinking water was provided to affected families in isolation, the village took over caring for their livestock. In a sea of confusion, fear and divisive possibilities; some islands of calm and rationality began to prevail. SANGRAM staff and collectives dealt with many mental issues caused by the extended lockdown, uncertainty about the future, fear of illness and death due to a viral infection that had no treatment in the initial phases. A woman from VAMP in Gokulnagar succumbed to the pressure and committed suicide. The Muslim and Dalit women's program have also reported increases in violence against women during the lockdown period. Our response was to contact public health doctors from Miraj Civil Hospital, from Pune which was seeing an upsurge of COVID cases in the latter months of the year. These practicing doctors gave regular updates and advice on how people could stay safe, treatment options. These Whatsapp messages and videos were shared by the SANGRAM staff amongst the community groups of VAMP, Muskan, VMM and Nazariya.

Predictably, SANGRAM's programs and staff output was affected in the year. The grassroots programs of HIV/AIDS prevention services delivery to female, male and trans sex workers was severely impacted. However the communities found innovative methods of ensuring uninterrupted ARV medicines to positive sex workers during the lockdowns. SANGRAM and VAMP also moved the High Court at Mumbai seeking directions for delivery of third line ARV for positive people in the districts since they would not be able to travel to Mumbai. The High Court passed directions that helped people on 3<sup>rd</sup> line ARV.

All field work done by the peers in VAMP and Muskan and the health workers to refer women affected by health issues, violence and injustice came to a grinding halt. They did improvise wherever possible. SANGRAM realized that smartphones would play a major role with social media. All the VMM and Nazariya staff were provided mobile phone loans, official SIM cards were issued to enable people to do their work over phones.

Emergency relief was the need of the hour 2020 – 21 and SANGRAM responded accordingly. 5366 sex workers, MSM, trans people in 15 districts across India were provided emergency rations in four rounds during the year [Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara,

Jalgaon, Nagpur, Ranchi, Gumla, Ramgarh, Khunti, Guntur, Anantpur, Chittoor, Vijaynagaram, Krishna, Srikakulam]. These included members of the National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) of which SANGRAM, VAMP, Muskan and Mitra are members. Towards August 2020, VAMP and Muskan communities also swung into action and began raising support from local donors for sex workers. SANGRAM and its collectives lost seven frontline workers and community members due to COVID – 19 to date. SANGRAM and its collectives pay tributes to all those who have lost their lives, their families and all those affected by COVID 19.

This year's annual report is a little different than normal. SANGRAM's collectives decided to visually represent the year that went by from their own perspectives. The pages that follow are the sketches drawn by community members from the various collectives VAMP, VMM, Nazariya, Muskan and Mitra. They are a striking testimony of the impact of COVID on their lives. But even more striking was the resilience shown by the women, trans and men in responding to the challenges. The Annual Report 2020-21 is a Salute to the Resilience of Communities!

**Meena Saraswathi Seshu**

**Aarthi Pai**



## Community led health services

SANGRAM runs two health delivery and monitoring initiatives in Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli in partnership with Government of Maharashtra and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)

### HIV/AIDS Prevention Care and Support Services to women, trans and men in sex work

In the year, SANGRAM ran three HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services for sex workers providing services for 2372 sex workers in Kolhapur city, Satara and Karad, and Sangli. In addition, SANGRAM staff gave mentoring and technical support to VAMP which has also been implementing three HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs to 2323 women, trans and men in sex work in Miraj, Ichalkaranji and Sangli town. Between them the six programs reached out to a massive 4695 sex workers in the three districts. 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.

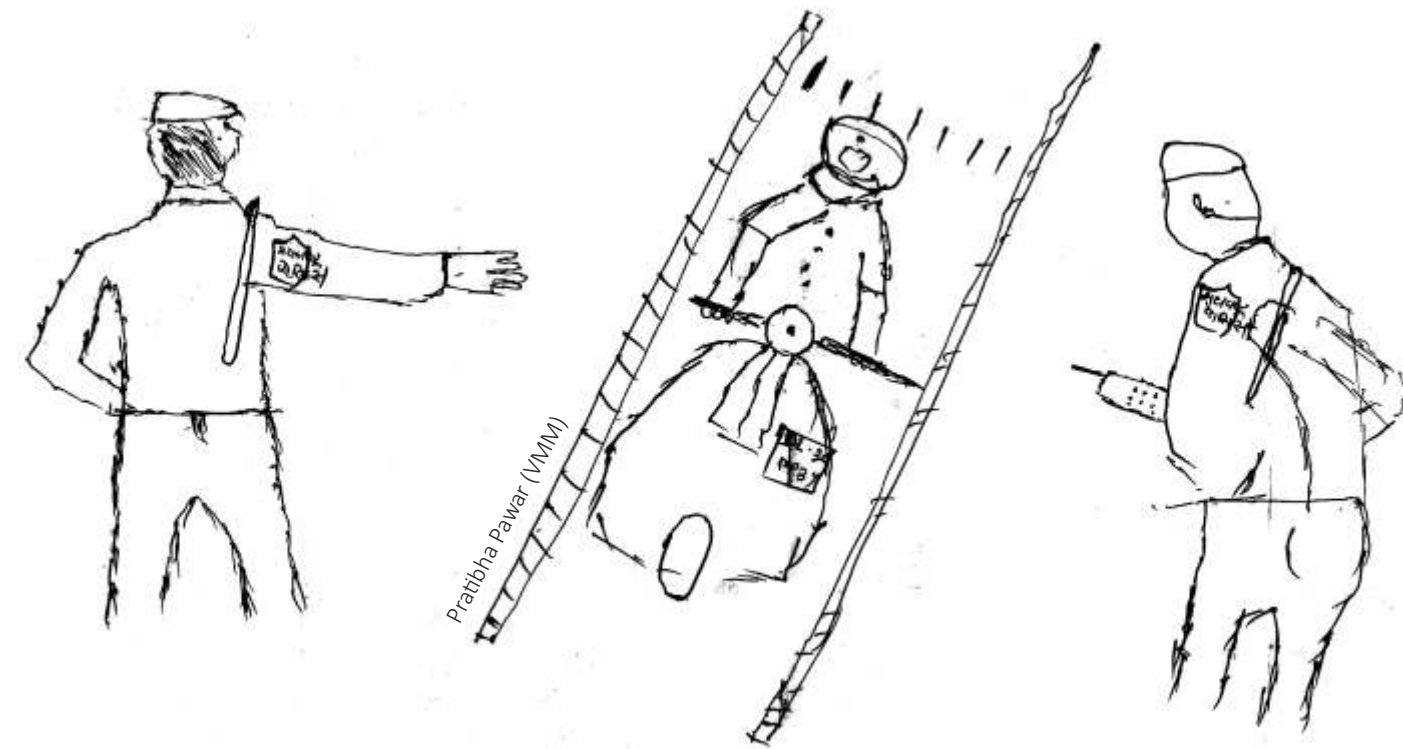
The program faced tremendous challenges in the first half of the year due to the lockdowns. It became difficult to deliver services including condoms STI treatment, service referral. SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan decided to shift to social media apps like Whatsapp to instill confidence, reduce fear about COVID and take precautions.

“Due to the lockdown, it was difficult to reach and interact with sex workers. Then the outreach workers decided that they would create whatsapp groups to disseminate health related information to other sex workers. In the case of sex workers who did not have smartphones, our peer workers and outreach workers visited them personally. However, we were unable to reach a large number of home based sex workers since it would be potentially reveal their identity if material was found on their whatsapp by their families”  
Program Managers, HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, Miraj, Sangli, Ichalkaranji.

The staff decided to take ARV medicines to the workers on their own. They obtained special health worker passes which was being issued by the district administration and ensured that none of the positive people were without medicines! The outreach and service delivery speaks monuments to the resilience of the sex worker community. Their work went a long way in ensuring that sex workers don't becoming HIV infected.

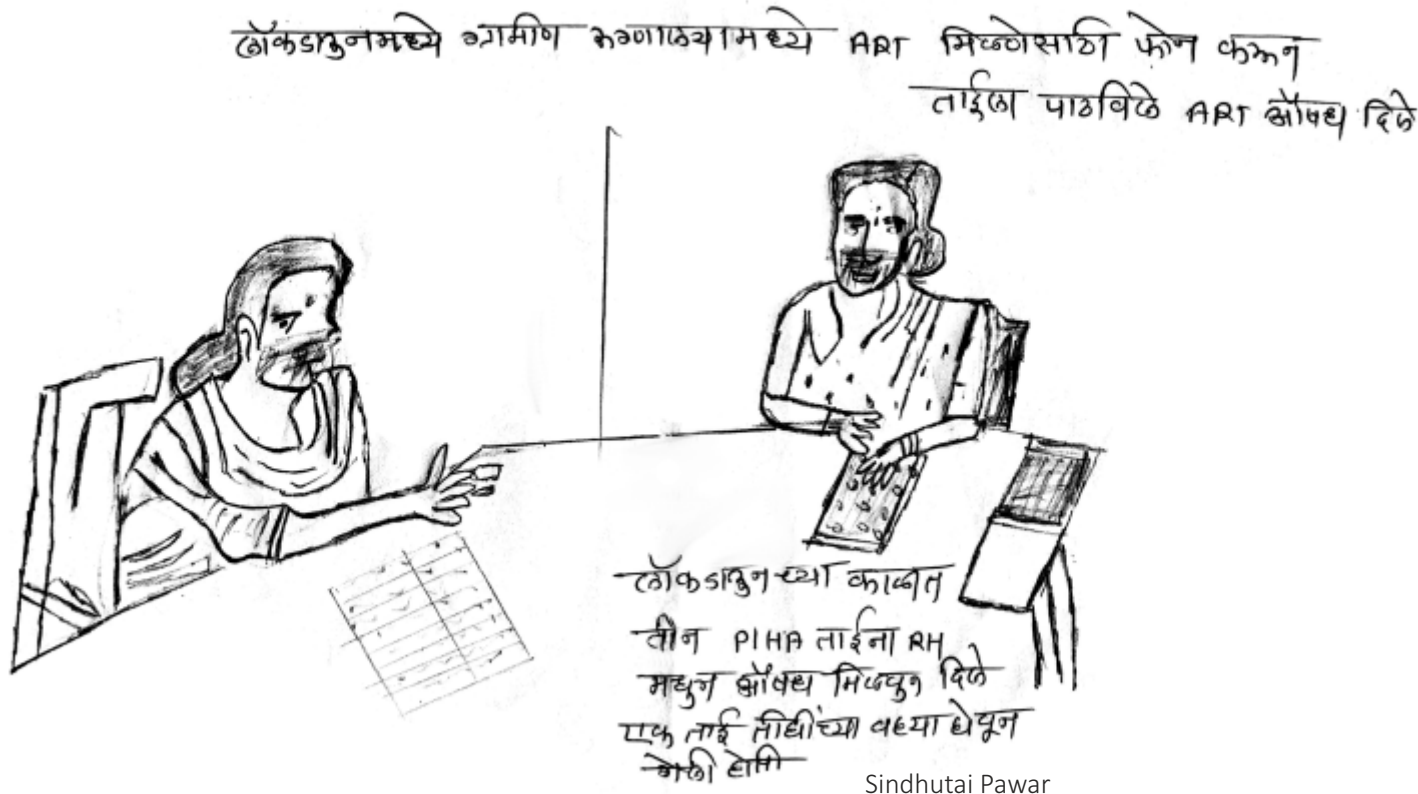
Another major crisis that the intervention teams had to face was the increase in mental health issues amongst sex workers due to the loss of livelihood. Excessive alcohol use, violence began to increase. Police warnings to workers who were found on the streets, sex workers becoming violent when confronted with the police asking them to return homes, abuse by partners who were taking excessive violence and demanding money became common place flashpoints of crisis as reported by the program staff. Indeed, it became a monumental task to counsel, advice the community and help them cope with the COVID created situation.

Between the three interventions run by SANGRAM in Satara, Sangli city and Kolhapur city, over eight and a half lakh condoms were distributed. 5638 clinic attendees were provided services, 5374 regular check ups were conducted. 249 sex workers were provided STI preventive treatment. 15 sexually transmitted infections were treated in the year. 175 positive sex workers on first and second line ARV were supported.



### National HIV Cohort Program

SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan continued to participate in a research study led by Indian Council for Medical Research, National AIDS Research Institute in 2020. The National HIV Cohort Program is an initiative of the Government of India through Department of Bio- Technology, Indian Council of Medical Research and the National AIDS Control Organisation. The monitoring is being conducted to understand and establish defining characteristics of HIV uninfected individuals at high risk including exposed sero negative individuals. It will also assist in strengthening population – based studies to design, develop and implement effective health programs and products that are localized for specific communities. The VAMP collective will help in identification of the cohort in Sangli and Karad where VAMP and SANGRAM are operating HIV prevention programmes and to ensure that they consent to participating in the research and sample collection. The clinic was inaugurated in February in Gokulnagar Sangli.



### Community Participation and Action for better Public Health Delivery

SANGRAM initiated a new initiative in two talukas of Sangli district from January 2021 to build community capacities in monitoring health services and its delivery at the village level through Primary Health Care Centres (PHC), Sub Centres, Regional Health Care Centres. The Community Action for Health Program is run under the National Health Mission of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. SANGRAM was appointed as the district nodal organization for the period January 2021 to March 2022. It is being implemented in 10 sub centres of two talukas of Sangli – Shirala and Kavathe Mahankal as listed in the table.

No.	Primary Health Care Centre	Sub Centre and villages
1.	Mandur (Shirala)	Mandur, Sonavde, Aarley, Khundalpur, Panchgani, Mirukhewadi
2.	Sagaon (Shirala)	Sagaon, Kaandur, Punwat, Chikli, Natoli, Dolewadi
3.	Charan (Shirala)	Charan, Kalundre, Kinareywadi, Panumbrey, Nathavdey
4.	Kokrud (Shirala)	Kokrud, Khujgaon, Chincholi, Kursaiwadi, Riley
5.	Shirsi (Shirala)	Shirsi, Takwe, Bambavde, Pachumbri
6.	Antri (Shirala)	Antri, Paadli, Vakhurde Khurd, Vakhurde Budh, Padli
7.	Dhalgaon (Kavathe Mahankal)	Dudheybhavi, Irli, Nagaj, Alkud, Dhalewadi
8.	Raanjani (Kavathe Mahankal)	Raanjani, Kokale, Agran, Dhulgaon, Karoli T, Kognoli
9.	Deshing (Kavathe Mahankal)	Deshing, Kharshing, Malangaon, Shirdon, Hingangaon
10.	Agalgaon (Kavathe Mahankal)	Agalgaon, Kuchi, Kundlapur, Tisangi, Ghatnandre



Given the uncertainty of the situation caused by the COVID lockdown which started from March 2020, the biggest concern for the HIV/AIDS prevention program staff was to ensure that positive people would not be deprived of 3<sup>rd</sup> line ARV medications. 3<sup>rd</sup> line medications are only provided in the capital Mumbai and positive people are required to Hence, along with Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), SANGRAM and VAMP approached the Mumbai High Court for directions. The High Court of Mumbai passed directives that 3<sup>rd</sup> line ARV should be provided at the district level for the duration of the COVID epidemic lockdown.

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 Workers	634	333	0	250		5	1222
Street Based Sex Workers	95	136	0	232		260	723
Lodge Based Sex Workers			0	32		0	32
Home Based Sex Workers	163	231	217			22	633
Tamasha Based Sex Workers			0			275	275
Men who have sex with other men			412	219	420	248	1299
Transgender People in sex work			102	106	131	172	511
Total	892	700	731	839	551	982	4695

## Report Card - HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support (2020 - 2021)

Prevention		Clinics conducted	Regular Monthly Check ups	Preventive Treatment Given	Sexual Transmitted Infections Treated	Condoms Distributed	ICTC	Tested for Syphilis	Counselling
VAMP (run with SANGRAM technical support)	Sangli	2604	2550	47	7	611386	1208	1101	3480
	Miraj	1966	1881	74	11	289951	1028	1057	2828
	Ichalkaranji	2206	2149	55	2	138208	846	1184	2460
SANGRAM	Satara	2513	2498	15	0	470476	1394	1058	2813
	Sangli	1607	1588	12	7	191077	913	971	2257
	Kolhapur	1518	1288	222	8	198138	920	911	2868

Care and Support		HIV Positive	Pre ART	On ART	Positive members (Cumulative)	On First Line	On Second Line	On Third Line
VAMP (run with SANGRAM technical support)	Sangli	1	1	1	92	87	3	2
	Miraj	3	3	3	36	32	3	1
	Ichalkaranji	1	1	1	33	33	0	0
SANGRAM	Satara	3	3	3	59	56	3	0
	Sangli	7	7	7	44	42	2	0
	Kolhapur	2	2	2	72	66	6	0

## Covid-19 Epidemic and Relief

*sex workers, Dalit and Muslim rural women*

In 2020- 21, SANGRAM's primary activity has been to ensure that the communities it works with are safe from Covid -19. As the lockdown progressed the situation of sex workers in Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur districts became very precarious. Barricades went up around the brothel areas such as Swaroop Talkies in Sangli after a few positive people were detected. In the early phase of the epidemic in April and May, mental health became precarious. The community was living through some unprecedented times – not allowed to come out of their houses, no means of earning and supporting their families, denied meeting their partners and clients. In Satara and Miraj, women were informing the collective and SANGRAM that they had borrowed money at high interest rates to run their homes.

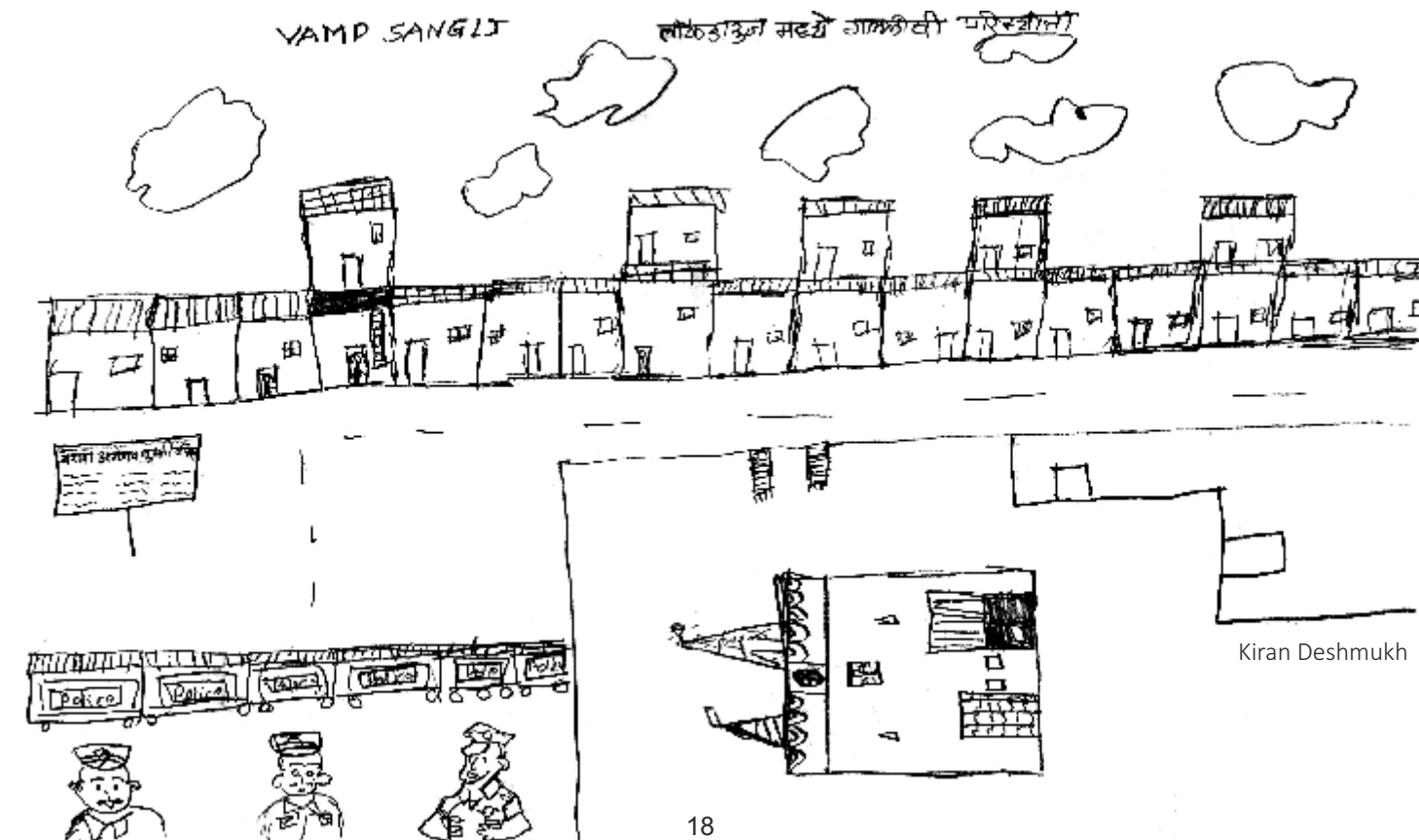
It became clear to SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan that the organization would have to step in, in a big way.

The first phase of emergency relief in Sangli, Miraj, Karad, Satara, Ichalkaranji and Kolhapur comes to an end today. 689 sex workers (499 female, 109 trans and 81 male) were identified as most distressed and in need of immediate from over 5000 sex workers. In a mammoth operation that began on 25 March 2020; to identify those sex workers who were most vulnerable and without food to survive the lockdown. Members from VAMP and Muskan took on the mammoth task of identifying those who needed to receive the support and those who would be able to manage for a month without support. After a weeklong survey, a basic food packet was prepared consisting of Daal 2kg, Rice 5, Wheat flour 5kg, Oil 2 litres, Sugar 1 kg, Tea and Spices.

Meena Seshu who led the SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan team says, “The basic packet was aimed at ensuring that we would be able to cover a large number of sex workers with a survival kit even as other State support began to kick in. We also need to be prepared for the long haul. In the coming month we are likely to see a much larger population of sex workers in these areas who will need food support. We will try to spread our funds over the next two months to ensure that no sex worker goes hungry.”

A local trader was identified in Sangli who was willing to provide this package on a no profit basis, willing to make 689 packets. The magnitude of the exercise - 3445 kilos of rice, 3445 kilos of wheat flour, 1378 kilos of daal, 1378 litres of oil, spices and tea. The packing was accomplished by a SANGRAM team and workers by 3 am in the morning on April 2.

Balasaheb Kalsetti, the chairman of Sangli Transport Association; stepped in to provide his truck to SANGRAM to deliver and distribute the packets across the districts. A very cooperative transport department, collectors office provided us the passes and required papers to cross district borders to undertake this relief work. The police also came forward to facilitate the movement of the trucks.





The model is extremely granular attempting to reach every citizen in the two talukas down to the sub centre level. The project is a movement to create public health rights envisages a primary role for the villagers in creating awareness about health issues, available services and health related schemes. It builds a critical bridge between the two ends while focusing on the rights of citizens to demand and access quality health services. Multiple community mechanisms are undertaken including

- Building village level volunteers and monitoring committees that monitor health services delivery and quality
- Forming Primary Health Care centre federation of community representatives,
- Constant dialogues between villagers, stakeholders, health activists and district staff



The experience of implementing the community based monitoring initiative in Kolhapur in the previous years have helped tremendously. Four members of the Vidrohi Mahila Manch (VMM) have been appointed on this initiative, given their prior field experience in strengthening access to health in the district. During the first three months, the focus has been on identifying village health volunteers, initiating discussions with the panchayat officials, district and taluka health officials to strengthen work in the coming year.

The CAH and HIV/AIDS prevention program staff spent a considerable part of this year building awareness about safe practices to prevent COVID -19, hand hygiene, using soap and water to wash their hands frequently, using and safely disposing masks. They also played a crucial role in dispelling misconceptions about COVID -19, counseling people to not discriminate against those infected by COVID.



# Surviving The Pandemic

In 2020-21, due to the pandemic, village life changed and this affected all villagers. Many villages became desolate, people lost contact, small and big industries closed due to lockdown, and many people lost their jobs. The transportation system shut down, and people chose to/were forced to go to their hometowns walking. During this time, we began to communicate with the communities through WhatsApp, Facebook, phone, or using social media. We learned new things like Facebook, Signal, and Zoom. We were able to communicate with each other on mobile, and we were trying to give information about covid 19 through Whatsapp. We disinfected localities and houses. At the village level, the number of people coming from outside was high. Sangram workers helped to give details of people who recently came to the village to the gram panchayat so that the gram panchayat could quarantine them. Village members and Gram Panchayat members arranged isolation wards for people coming from other places in the Zilla Parishad School. Gram panchayats also provided a one-time free meal to all isolated people. Many people were quarantined and we were in contact with them on the phone.

This year too, Sangram's Vidrohi Women's Forum has been just as proactive in responding to injustice by adapting to the situation created by the lockdown and the Corona Virus. Today, no matter how advanced, self-reliant, strong women are, they sometimes need someone to accompany them. The government administration has been working hard for many years but sometimes they are not reachable to the poor. Awareness is created among the people to create racial harmony in society. From the village level to the state level, with the participation of other organizations, we facilitate neglected people for their rights and entitlements. To support this, our Vidrohi Mahila Manch has always been working diligently for the rights and entitlements of women for the last several years in 10 Talukas of Sangli District. Our 21 active workers are working tirelessly in this global pandemic. Under the leadership of Sampada Gramin Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM )Sangli. Vidrohi Mahila Manch (VMM) is raising voice for women's health and rights in 713 villages in Sangli district.



Pornima Ghagre



Sanjay Yamgar SANGRAM staff member says, “Whenever the police saw the truck with our banner, they passed us through at all the district checkpoints. They knew we were distributing relief from SANGRAM. I felt so proud to be doing this”.

After this first effort, during the year two more rounds of relief were given to sex workers in Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur districts. Over 3764 packets were distributed. It is a testimony to the strengths of the collectives Mitra, VAMP and Muskan who tirelessly worked along with SANGRAM staff to ensure that three rounds of relief reached communities.

Districts	1st round	2nd round	3rd round	4th round	Total
Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur (SANGRAM Sanstha)	796	1193	883	892	3764
Jalgaon (Aadhar Sanstha)	133				133
Parbhani (Mahila Jagrut Sevabhavi Sanstha)	223				223
Vaijapur, Aurangabad (Prerana Samajik Sanstha)	312				312
Nagpur (Ganika Sanghatan)	447	1			448
Ranchi, Gumla, Godda, Khunti, Ramgarh (Jwala Shakti Samooh)	66				66
Guntur, Srikakulam, Chittoor, Vijaynagaram, Krishna (Me and My World, Andhra Pradesh)	270	150			420
Total	2247	1344	883	892	5366

In addition to SANGRAM's own areas, relief was provided for sex workers in 14 other districts as shown in the accompanying table. Around 1400 sex workers received grocery support during the first phase. Local donations began to trickle in during the lockdown. The local police station, local corporater, Women and Child Department, rotary club, Kolhapur Municipal corporation, private individuals were amongst those who came forward to provide assistance.

Ration Packets	Masks	Soap	Medicines	Cooked Food	Milk	Children Snacks	Wood fuel
1475	630	439	400	1105	48	130	44



# My Fight with COVID

(Rahul Jamadar, Muskan)

Corona' the word says it all. It is full of fear, panic and life-threatening effect. As long as it is at the next door it is fine. But one day it reached my doorstep. My entire world was shaken. My first concern was my mother more than my health because she was a senior citizen. One day it so happened that I lost taste and developed some cold. I was asked to get myself tested for corona. I was anxious about the results and unfortunately I tested Covid-19 positive.

This result of the test shook my life. The people from the municipal corporation office visited regularly. They would sanitize the house. There were phone calls from their office reminding me to take medicines. Sanitization of my house and reminder calls became a routine in my life.

I was surprised or rather shocked by the approach of my neighbours. I felt like I have committed a crime and am being punished. They stopped talking to my family. None of my relatives came forward to assist.. I was expecting moral support but I couldn't receive that. Those times I thought, a person may not suffer because of this infection but maybe due to loneliness and discrimination.

I am extremely thankful to the team members of Sangram and Muskan who emotionally supported me during this period and kept hope in my life on. The helping hand provided by them really helped me come out of this challenge. A friend in need is a friend indeed was really experienced in a true sense. Some of my close friends helped me with books and with exercise equipment so that I could spend my time stress free. Such support cannot be ignored as it really gives me strength to fight the disease. Over time I tested negative. These days taught me important lessons of life. I am extremely thankful to the team members of Sangram and Muskan and somewhere due to this illness I learnt to read people better.

In addition, SANGRAM and the collectives were able to mobilise government and bi-lateral Covid-19 relief and support for sex workers in Sangli.

*Recognition of sex workers – Women and Child Department, Government of Maharashtra*

During the epidemic, the Maharashtra Department of Women and Child took a bold step and issued a circular in July 2020 calling on district administrations to provide relief to sex workers as a specific category. The Sangli administration was the first to work with the VAMP collective and provide relief aid to 130 sex workers in Gokul Nagar in August. Following this, district coordination committees were set up across all districts. Lists of sex workers eligible to receive aid were prepared by VAMP and Muskan. Their bank accounts and other documents were verified and the team assisted the district administration in the verification and data entry process. 765 sex workers in the three districts have already received Rs. 15000 and in the case the woman had children an additional amount of Rs. 7500 has been transferred at the time of filing this report. As the second round of relief disbursement begins, many more sex workers will be covered.

A VAMP and Muskan team comprising of 87 members played a crucial role in identifying sex workers in brothels, street and lodge based; collecting their bank details and identification documents and coordinating regularly with the district administration to make this possible. The biggest challenge that VAMP leaders and SANGRAM staff faced in this process was the lack of bank accounts for sex workers.





# Opening bank accounts for sex workers – a peer led effort

Jayashree Kolli, sex worker VAMP Miraj

We had over 200 women who needed to open bank accounts. Our challenge was who will open so many bank accounts and so fast. We decided to visit some nationalised banks like State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India. The Manager asked us to come five people at a time. Then we asked him can we have a camp, to which he said it would not be possible. In SBI they said Jan Dhan accounts were not possible. In Bank of Baroda, the Manager said that Adhar Cards from other states would prevent them from opening Bank accounts in Sangli. We then had a detailed discussion where we explained the Supreme Court decision, the Women and Child Department order. Then we spoke about the interest taken by the Sangli Collector. Then the manager realised the seriousness of the situation. He suggested the local councillor or MLA letters. This was the beginning of a long process where we got letters from the Councillor and then also used various banks to do a small number of bank accounts at a time. Our entire team of peer sex workers were mobilised. We also had to ensure supporting documents were with them. The peers were trained to speak with Managers of the Bank! They began taking 5 women at a time. Over 250 accounts were opened due to these efforts.

As part of a community initiative called Sahayak Setu, (Help Desks) VAMP peers completed surveys of over 2000 sex workers including an analysis of their bank accounts, status of identification documents. The VAMP and Muskan team met with officials from the Nationalised bank and explained the WCD order and Supreme Court order. Bank of India and State Bank of India agreed to organise camps to open bank accounts for sex workers.

In some places, the officials attempted to contact sex workers and ask for their details. Sex workers refused to participate out of fear that they would be targeted. VAMP and Muskan representatives met with the district collector and requested him to issue instructions to go through the collective which helped to strengthen the confidence of sex workers. This intervention has provided a live working model on how COVID relief funds can be distributed through collectives minimising potential leaks and frauds.

	TI Current Population	List of women prepared by VAMP	1st List Finalised by DAPCU & WCD	2nd List Finalised by DAPCU & WCD	3rd List Finalised by DAPCU & WCD	4th List Finalised by DAPCU & WCD	Children details submitted
Sangli	1586	932	596	154	38	269	24
Satara	550	153	147	189	0	0	41
Kolhapur	500	484	347	77	0	0	40
Total	2636	1569	1090	420	38	269	105

Advocacy for COVID relief with Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)

At the international level, over 10,000 representatives from Key population networks (sex workers, drug users, MSM, TG networks) petitioned to the Global Fund on AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in June 2020 to release emergency funds for affected populations during the COVID pandemic. GFATM approved USD 10 million for sex workers, injecting drug users, transgender people, MSM populations in August 2021. A substantial part of this year has been devoted to mobilizing help desks set up under NNSW and SANGRAM in 32 districts to get documents and bank accounts ready. In Sangli, Satara, Miraj, Karad, Ichalkaranji and Kolhapur, SANGRAM, VAMP and Muskan leaders played a crucial role. Around 2800 sex workers from VAMP and Muskan received Rs. 1500 as a result of this advocacy.

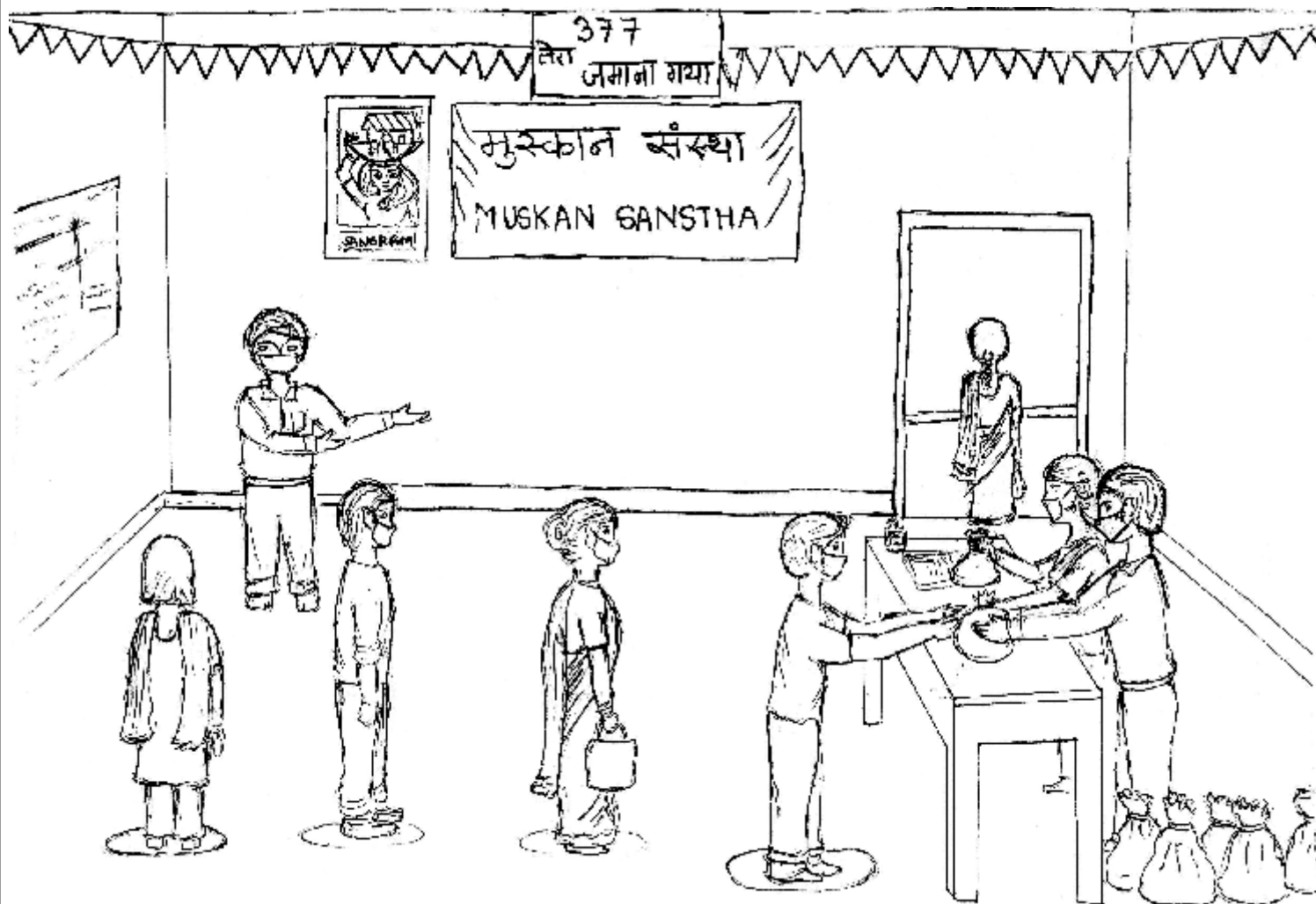
Area	VAMP	MUSKAN	Total
Sangli	639	305	944
Miraj	850		850
Kolhapur	215	50	265
Ichalkarnji	205	221	426
Karad and Satara	330	76	406
Total	2239	652	2891

Relief for transgender sex workers

Another effort which SANGRAM undertook in 2020 was to link transgender sex workers with COVID relief. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) announced that they would be providing relief of Rs. 1500 for TG people. It was sent through a link and a small time window was opened within which the application had to be filled online. It was a challenge for us since we were running against time. By the time we would be able to get the information from the TG community, the time would have closed. Documents that were needed by the

Sudhir (sex worker, Muskan), Shantilal Kale





Pooja Kale

Due to complete lock down the people from the community were not able to go out. The counsellors, ORW, peer, and PM brought the ART medicines and provided them to the PLHIV at their doorstep. 32 people were distributed ART medicines during the lockdown. During lockdown medicines for other diseases were also provided by the staff. The medicines for BP, sugar, immunity booster were provided at the doorstep of community members. Community members also needed counselling because they were mentally affected by the lack of work and being isolated at home- counselling services were resumed through the networks over phone and some face to face meetings when it was advised to be meeting people again.

The Sangli Muskan team conducted a survey of 502 people in the Transgender and MSM community. Because of this survey, they came to know that many community members had not opened their account under the Jan Dhan scheme. This was mainly because they did not have a PAN card or an Aadhar card. The team helped 36 people open their accounts in the Bank of Maharashtra under the Jan Dhan scheme which would enable them to receive funds from the government or from any NGO directly. They supported 5 people with their Aadhar card, one person with a pan card, and also set up a monthly pension scheme for 2 transgender people under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana.

In the month of April the women who were living a life with hand to mouth really suffered a lot. A meeting was arranged of these women with Sangram. In this meeting Meena madam and Aarthi madam provided dry grains to the women who needed it the most. While distributing these three groups were made. The first group who can cook the dry grains on their own. The second group where they can get the food cooked from somebody. And the third group who do not require this kind of help. By carrying out a survey these three groups were formed and accordingly in the month of April, May and June the ration was distributed.

### General Information

Name: Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)

Date of Establishment: 27th March 1986

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

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

### 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	Section 12 A, Income Tax Act
	Income Tax Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
	KOP/Main-4/217(S/513)/128
Place	Kolhapur
	PAN NO.AAAAS1569B
	TAN NO.KLPS06904C

### (iii) Registered

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1967, Amended 2010

Registration No.083960047

Date 7th May 1987

### Bank Account Details

- a. Foreign Contribution Account  
State Bank of India, FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, New Delhi Main Branch, Sansad Marg ,New Delhi.110001
- b. Utilization Account  
State Bank of India, Madhavnagar Branch, Madhavnagar Road Sangli. District-Sangli, Maharashtra, India, Pin -416 416
- c. Indian Contribution Account  
State Bank of India, Industrial Estate Branch, Madhavnagar Road, Sangli
- d. Indian Account  
Shri Laxmi Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd, Main Branch, Near Ram Mandir, Sangli, Maharashtra, 416416
- e. Indian Account  
State Bank of India, Kolhapur Treasury Branch, Ashish Chambers 398/B/E Ward, Shahupuri, Kolhapur. Dist-Kolhapur, Maharashtra, 416001
- f. Indian Account  
State Bank of India, Treasury Branch, Shaniwar Peth, Karad
- g. Indian Account  
Bank of Maharashtra, Rajwada Chowk, Sangli, Taluka- Miraj, District-Sangli
- h. Indian Account  
Central Bank of India, Vakhar Bhag, Sangli, Taluka- Miraj, District-Sangli

### Program Details

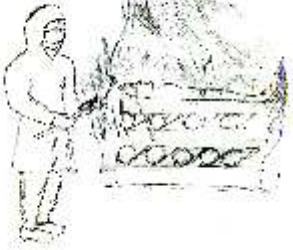
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA  
South Maharashtra and North Karnataka. India



३. लिखाई: २०२० की कविताएँ, भाषा

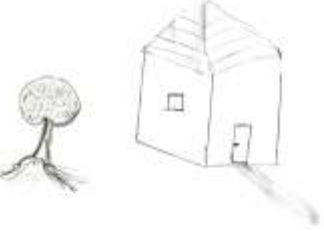


श्रीमान, मैंने २०२० की कविताएँ लिखी हैं।  
मैंने इनका संग्रह किया है।



Aparna Mujumale

कविताएँ लिखने शीघ्र  
तो जग  
विदेशी महिला मंच



मध्यमका कविताएँ मुझे लुभाने लगीं  
कविताएँ सबका कविता मुझे लुभाने लगीं



Kalpna Harne



Aparna Mujumale



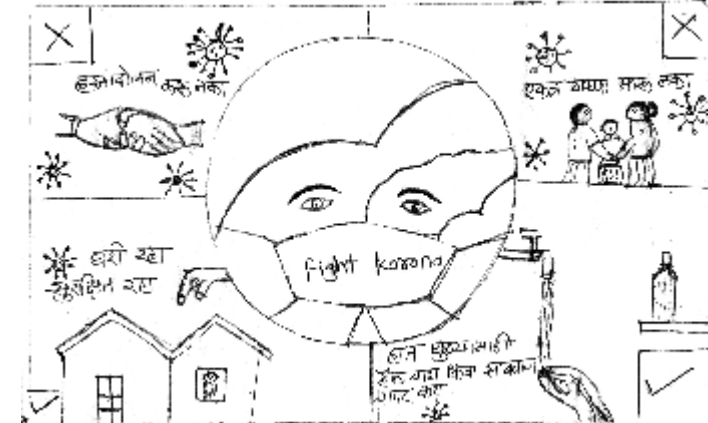
Jubeda Attar



Swati Savane



Sangita Manoji



Sapana Kamble



Amar Bhondave



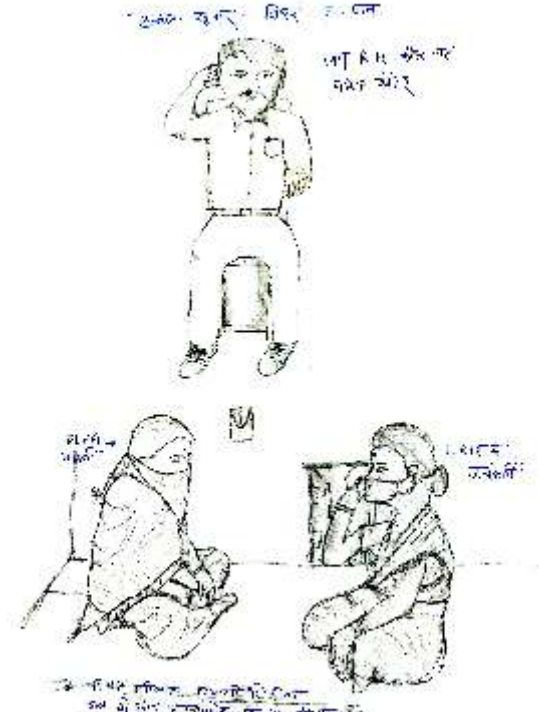
Sangita Bhingardive



Bharti Bhosale



Bharti Bhosale



Ujjwala Sutar





Meena Jadhav



Maya Gurav



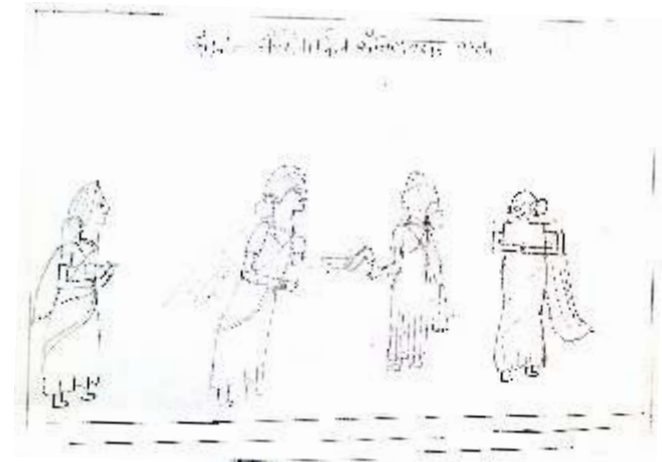
Chetan Daiangade



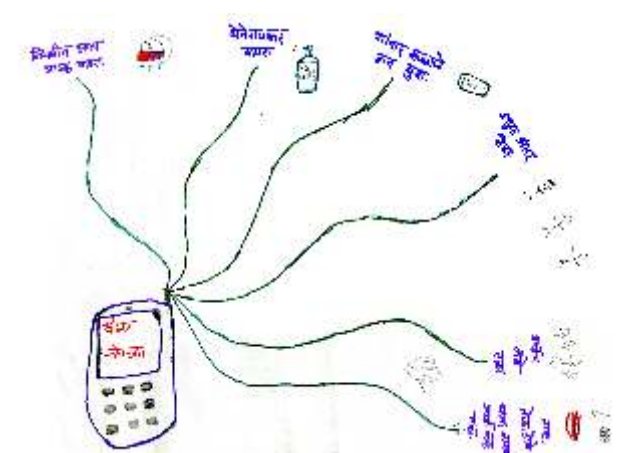
Amruta Sutar



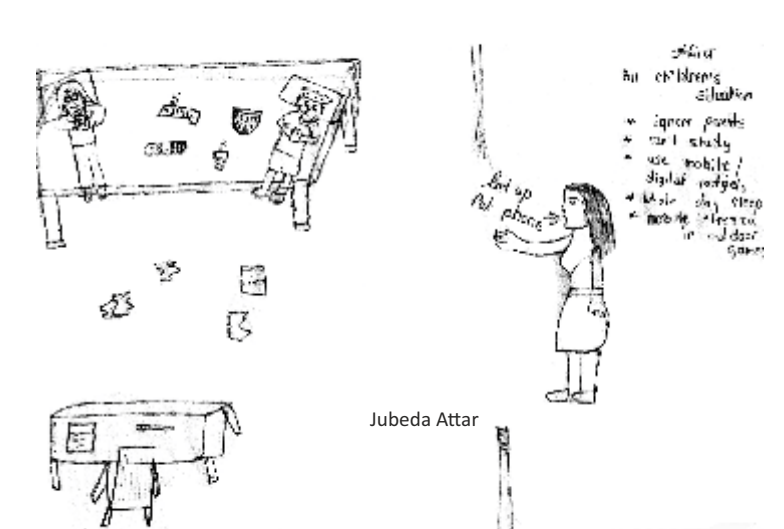
Amar Bhondave



Amruta Sutar



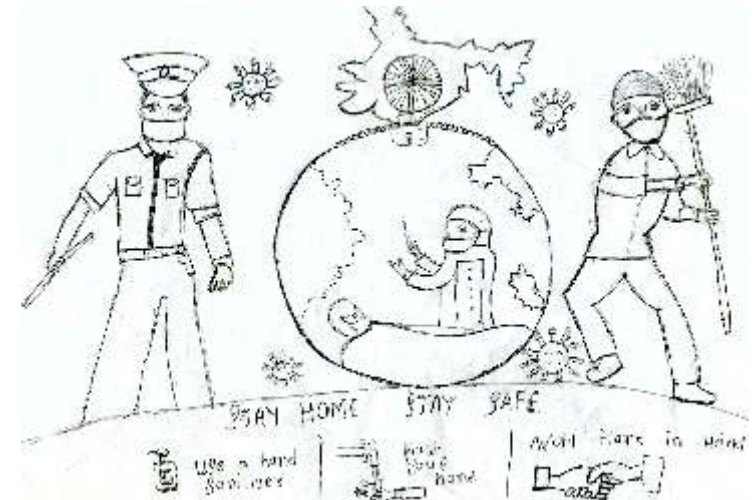
Mahesh Manoji



Jubeda Attar



Jubeda Attar



Jahida Pakhali



Tabbasum Mulla



Shahin Makandar





કોરોના બાદીત કુંડુંબીયાના રોજારી  
પોજારી મદત કરત નહોતે. ન ઘાબરતા નાશિતા  
આપલ્યાત્મ યોગ કોરોના  
દેવ શક્તિ અલ મનાત  
ન આગતા ત્યા કુંડુંબીયાની  
મદત કરતાના સંગ્રામ  
કાચકિલી (Vmm)



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