



Annual Report

2021 - 22



"If you want hear birds singing, don't build cages... Plant Trees"...in the same way ..." if you want to empower Survivors of Trafficking don't Build Shelter Homes.. but strengthen "Community Based Rehabilitation"



Letter from the Secretary

“Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems.”

HELP’s travel during 2021-22 is indeed an expedition in and around vulnerable communities that has given us a great chance to work through difficult problems. Hence, at the outset, we affirm that we are so grateful to one and all of our supporting agencies who acted like a driving force behind reaching out our destination in serving those who are in need. Navigating Post-Pandemic world towards a New Normalcy proved that it is not easier to back to life that we survived pre-COVID. Having entangled in multiple complexities and un predicted difficulties, the life emerged with a dire need of supporting each other and travel together to build, survive, sustain to substantiate New Normalcy.

It is evident that all categories of people have been badly suffered with the bitter affect of the pandemic. Whereas, the utmost vulnerable category of people having suffered badly but utterly neglected by the state even deprived of minimum basic services are survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation (sex workers).Post COVID stint turned out to be a nightmare for them who are living in extreme pathetic conditions across the country and our Andhra Pradesh is not an exemption that narrates their ethnic expulsion. The victims of commercial sexual exploitation as well as the rescued survivors sex trafficking are striving for their rights and entitlements by the state and are in dire need of support and a helping hand by the world in solidarity and with a true sense of salience.

By no means and ways there is a confrontation to contradiction accepting that the empowerment of women and girls acts as a change agent towards holistic development of a nation. In such hard circumstances while building resilience from a ravenous disaster of COVID pandemic outbreak, we are proud enough to announce that we are able to knock at the doorsteps of our target groups with a courage and confidence to serve them at our best with the support of our partners Kamonohashi and Terre des Hommes - Netherlands. The Coalition provides flexible, core, multi-year grants and

technical support to a collective of NGO partners including HELP representing Andhra Pradesh working on (currently) five thematic areas in social and economic empowerment of women and girls.



The Coalition aims to build a strong, feminist Global South narrative:

1. Freedom from violence and discrimination
2. Access to legal justice
3. Grassroots leadership
4. Access to rights and entitlements
5. Economic Independence

While supporting the target beneficiaries at our best to cope up with their post COVID challenges, HELP is escalating its endeavors to promote socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts of A.P to promote their financial independence by creating alternative income streams helps them to lead a life of dignity with increased income levels to stand on their own. HELP is moving ahead with its unstinted efforts, making best use of every opportunity in mobilizing resources and extending its best possible services to the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. Further, it is facilitating to increase their access for social entitlements and criminal justice services.

HELP is extending its cordial gratitude to its donor agencies, individuals, institutions, agencies, other like-minded organisations, law enforcement, statutory bodies and the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and all the stakeholders for their immense cooperation and support in its journey to serve the needy.

Thank you,

**Ram Mohan NVS,
SECRETARY**

Introduction

Society for Help Entire Lower & rural People (**HELP**) is a registered non-government organisation (NGO) under the Societies Registration Act and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in India. We work with over 500 Indian professional colleagues and are guided by a Governing Body composed of experienced Indian practitioners, academics and social workers. Founded in 1993 in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, HELP now has operations in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and it reaches out to more than 1million rural and urban population of poor communities. We have been a recipient of prestigious awards and recognitions in India, during our journey in the last 27 years.

HELP's overarching aim is to enable poor people, women and children to take control of their lives and have a share in sustainable development. HELP is active in deprived communities, both in villages and low-income urban settlements. It seeks to break the vicious cycle of poverty, ill-health, human trafficking, sexual abuse and violence, affecting in particular, children and women.

HELPS initial focus on prevention of HIV/AIDS among women in prostitution has grown further in the area of education and child protection among second generation of women in prostitution. HELP's method is to converge sectoral interventions at the level of the family and the community and to adopt a human rights-based approach in strengthening local governance actors, such as Rural Panchayat Institutions and Urban local bodies, service providers, such as health personnel and teachers and adult and child community representatives, to use available resources and identify local solutions. HELP's programmes span project development and implementation,

Technical assistance, system strengthening, network building, training and capacity development, to serve marginalized communities and contribute to government policies and programmes. HELP works with deferent stakeholders including government, other NGOs, schools, bilateral agencies, corporate, and individuals.

HELP provides technical assistance to State Governments and civil society organizations working in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The programmatic approach of HELP has attracted the attention of policy-makers both at the state and at the national level to adopt or design deferent schemes and programmes at deferent points of time. With this success, HELP has always been engaged in strategizing and directing its resources to add value to the existing policies, responding to the needs.

While HELP is linked with deferent state, national and international level forums, as part of its advocacy initiatives, the organisation has contributed to several consultations that take place at multiple levels having a strong Implication on human development. HELP's engagement at ATSEC is one of such initiatives. We are having linkage with the South Asia Initiative to end Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), under SAARC. In the last few years, HELP has built up a strategic partnership with Governments, and with deferent Corporate and bilateral agencies for implementing programmes at the ground and to provide technical support and to inform and influence in designing and implementing policies and programmes.

HELP has initiated its strategic intervention to promote the family strengthening approach at the community level with a

technical assistance element to strengthen the de-institutionalization processes within the current policy framework.

HELP follows a transparent system of organizational management. Our internal governance structure is well articulated. Accounts of HELP are audited by independent auditor/s. We have various policies to ensure that our employees have a healthy working environment. HELP maintains a Child Safeguarding Policy, Gender Policy, Workplace Policy on HIV

related issues and Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy. At HELP we also believe in cost- effectiveness. As we march forward, we would design our programmes and projects, keeping in mind that we primarily want to invest in the sustainable development of the adolescent, woman and child. To us, every child is unique and we hope to make everyone believe in the same. We plan to focus our activities on the overall family wellbeing because we believe that the family is the best safety net for the child.

HELP Vision, Mission and Values



OUR VISION

To create a safe, supportive and responsive society that upholds the protection rights and dignity of every child and preventing child trafficking, child prostitution and second generation prostitution.



OUR MISSION

To ensure Children and women protect from all kinds of abuses, exploitation & trafficking and enjoying their rights and protection by making duty bearer and community responsive to their well being.



OUR VALUES

Accountability: We take responsibility for using resources effectively & efficiently and being accountable to partners, communities and, above all, children.

Collaboration: We seek to collaborate with children, parents, women, communities, governments and partners to empower children to develop into active citizens and access basic services and opportunities as a matter of right.

Caring: We believe in respecting each other and supporting caregivers in caring for children and preventing all forms of harm in the communities that we serve.

Integrity: We aspire to live to the highest standards of personal and organisational integrity and always act in the best interests of the child.

Network and accreditation:

HELP as a member of various committees/Alliances at Global, Regional, National, and State and District level:

Global and Regional Level:

- HELP is a Member of ATSEC - ASIA global network
- HELP as a member of White Ribbon Alliance, participated in the ASIA level conference on Sustainable Development Goals with a woman community change maker
- HELP is a member of National Action Coordination Group of SAIEVAC [South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children]
- HELP is a member of Girls Not Bride Alliance to end child marriage
- HELP is a member of ECPAT network working to end sexual exploitation of children
- Member, Working Group in Child Protection for the 12th Five Year Plan.
- HELP is a member of Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI)
- HELP is a Member, India Alternative Care Network [IACN]

State-Level:

National Level:

- HELP has honoured with “National Award for Child Protection” under Institutional category by Hon’ble President of India on the occasion of Children’s day during Nov 2016 at Rashtrapathi Bhavan New Delhi.
- Member of National Consortium on RMNCH+A, Member of the Working Group on Adolescent Health & Well Being and the SRHR [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights] Alliance in India
- HELP is the Governing Body member of the Indian Association for Life Skills Education [IALSE]
- HELP is a member of the National Action & Coordination Group (NACG) supported by SAIEVAC, SAARC & GOI.
- Indian Alliance for Child Rights (IACR) – A national network of NGOs, donors and academics of which HELP is a member, through which we contribute towards the alternate report to UN on child rights
- HELP is the Sothern state convener of Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of children (ATSEC).
- Mr.Ramamohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh as a Member in State Coordination Committee on “Anti-Trafficking” chaired by Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh since 2003. (Lr No.116/P2/98 Dt. 23-08-2002 issued by Smt. Minnie Mathew IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. Dept of Women Development, Child Welfare and Disabled Welfare, Govt of AP)
- HELP is recently nominated by the Govt of AP to coordinate with AHTUs (Anti-Human Trafficking Units) on behalf of Andhra Pradesh State Government for better coordination and quick response to anti - Trafficking of Women and Children and to serve as an institutional mechanism for combatting the crime. {Lr no.3554/WP.A2/2001 Dt. 18.02.2012 issued by The Special Chief Secretary to Government, Dept for Women, Child, Disabled & Senior Citizens(WP)}
- Mr.Ramamohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed by Govt of AP as a member in State level Centre for Adolescents “YUVA”. (GO Ms. No:30, Dept of WDCW&DW on 7th July 2010)
- Mr.Ramamohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed by Department of CID & State Level Anti Trafficking Unit, Govt of AP as a Nodal NGO Coastal Region Anti Human Trafficking Unit - AHTU (Lr.No. 3126/C14/WPC/CID/06, Dt. 16.1.2007 issued by Addl. Director General of Police, CID, Govt of AP)

- Mr.Rama mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a Chairman for Child Welfare Committee, Prakasam Dist under JJ Act 2000 since 2007. {Letter no:P2/132/2010 dt. 21.01.2011 issued by Dept of Juvenile Welfare, Correctional services & Welfare of Street Children, Govt of AP}
- Mr.Rama mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a state committee member of “Youth Welfare Advisory Committee” promoted by Govt of India. (GO.No.F.No.23-2/2007/YS-1(PYSA-AP) dated: 23rd May 2007. issued by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India)
- HELP is recognized as a Training Partner of Andhra Pradesh Police Academy – APPA in the Districts and Commissionerates located in Andhra area. (lette no: Rc.No. 342/TD.V/AHT-SOs/APPA/2007, dt. 04.05..2007 issued by the Director, Andhra Pradesh Police Academy, Govt. of AP)
- HELP is appointed as a support NGO by CID of Police, Govt of AP for South Coastal Districts for Speedy Justice Delivery of Anti-Human Trafficking Cases Registered in Guntur, Kirshna & Prakasam Districts and Victim/witness support (order no: C.No.3126/C14/WPC/CID/06 dated. 27.8.09 issued by Office of the Addl. Director General of Police, CID, Govt. of AP)
- Mr.Rama mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a member for Advisory Committee for Centre for Women’s Studies, Acharya Nagarjuna University. (order no: ANU/Acad/S1/Advisory Committee-CWS/2012 dt.28.08.2012 issued by Registrar, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nambru, Guntur.)
- Mr. Rama Mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a Member in Executive body & General body of “ AP Society for Protection and Empowerment of women & Children” Which established by Govt of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of ICPS scheme in the State. {G.O.Ms.No.22. W.C.D&DW (WP) Dept,dt. 31.08.2009}
- State Technical agency to support Scheme for Adolescent Girls “Kishora Vikasam” convergence programme for the empowerment of adolescent girls in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- HELP is a member of Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in south coast districts of AP
- HELP is a member State Inspection Committee of Homes under the JJ Act, under Dept of Juvenile Welfare Department, GOAP

District/Panchayat level

- HELP is a member of the PCPNDT committee at the district level
- HELP is a member of District Child Protection Society (DCPS) in the districts of Prakasam,
- District Advisory Committee and District Inspection & Monitoring Committee (USG Centre)
- Mr. Rama Mohan chief functionary of HELP is elected as a State Convener for ATSEC - AP chapter
- HIV-TB Coordination Committee.
- Children Committee at Government Homes.
- HELP is a member various Dist level committees like women atrocities, bonded labour committee, minority welfare committee etc under District Administration in Prakasam & Guntur Districts.
- Mr. Rama Mohan chief functionary of HELP is elected as a State Convener for Campaign against Child Labor –CACL - AP chapter.

LEADERSHIP NEXT PROGRAMME

A Road for Success is Always... under Construction

Introduction:

VIMUKTHI is a state level forum of survivors of sex trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Andhra Pradesh. It is working with the support of KAMONOHASHI – JAPAN and in the mentoring of HELP for prevention of second-generation trafficking through ensuring socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE under Leadership Next Programme since 2018. The programme is being covered under three districts of Andhra Pradesh i.e., Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna Districts. Starting with 40 – 50 members, now the Leadership Next is serving a total of 250 members of VIMUKTHI survivors collectives among 10 target communities in said three districts. VIMUKTHI/LN leaders are advocating for the rights and entitlements of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE including their social entitlements such as ration card, Aadhaar card, voter ID, bank accounts, housing pattas and different types of pensions and also benefits under various government welfare schemes. In addition, VIMUKTHI/LN leaders are advocating for criminal justice services like Victim Compensation, rehabilitation support under G.O.MS.No. 1, Immediate Relief Support under GO.MS. No. 28 as well as financial assistance by various government agencies/institutions like SC, ST and BC corporations.



While advocating with the government for their rights and entitlements, VIMUKTHI leaders are taking forward their unstinted efforts to form and strengthen Self Help Groups (SHGs) for financial sustainability of the groups. Linking the groups with local banks and building rapport with MEPMA and DRDA for availing loans to pursue better and viable livelihood options that helps in socio - economic empowerment of VIMUKTHI survivors collectives.

Having an utmost concern over its ultimate aim to prevent second generation trafficking, VIMUKTHI leaders are focussing on creating awareness on issues and ill effects of trafficking including sexual abuse and exploitation not only among its target communities but also schools and colleges with core focus on safety of adolescent girls besides protection and promotion of their child rights.

“For me ...creating a space for new leaders is also a leadership. New leaders to be encouraged from community to sustain the trend of leadership. One fine day on our voyage... our dreams and demands will come true and the road to reach our destination is always under construction till we reach it”.

- Rajani,
President – VIMUKTHI.

Long term vision of VIMUKTHI:

- The long-term vision of VIMUKTHI under LNP is to form SHGs with both sex workers and rescued survivors of trafficking among all the red-light areas and linking them as district and state level Cooperative Federations so as to increase the accessibility of the Government support services and welfare schemes. Further, VIMUKTHI is planning to create a capital fund through linkages with banks for availing loans to the survivors to make best use of the alternative livelihoods and the benefits

derived could support them in preventing their second generation from being trafficked from those red-light areas/vulnerable communities.

- VIMUKTI wishes to facilitate the Govt. Support services, schemes and social entitlements to nearly 60% of the sex workers in the state of Andhra Pradesh through their advocacy efforts.

Overall goal of VIMUKTHI for 2025: By 2025, Vimukthi will have established a state-wide federation of sex workers' SHG collectives, resulting in members' improved income by 30%, 60% improvement in access to welfare entitlements and financial schemes, 55% reduction in violence and stigma in families and communities and 30% improvement in well-being and elimination of second-generation trafficking.

Objectives:

- ★ Mobilization of 300 sex workers, state-wide federation of SHGs of sex workers
- ★ Political will in the DRDA and MEPMA and DWCD to support the SHG formation and federations
- ★ Strengthen child protection and prevent sexual abuse of children in schools in the region
- ★ Stronger relationships between Vimukthi and 30 number of journalists leading to increased pressure on the government
- ★ Empowerment of Vimukthi and their power of assertion of their rights and entitlements

Symbol of VIMUKTHI collective for 2021-2022:

VIMUKTHI is now like a plant gradually growing year by year overcoming the challenges in different climatic conditions and also fluctuations like COVID 19 affect. Though there are the availability of all the natural resources such as sun, water and is rooted in fertile soil, still there are barriers to its growth that are difficult to face since it is still growing to be a tree. Some of its successes are slowly evolving like fruits whereas others are budding with constant growth. Meanwhile, its capacities are being built by HELP to overcome the challenges and helps in its sustained and healthy growth where it could yield more fruits and flowers as well as shadow to give a space to sit beneath it.



Overview of 2021-22:

“Leadership is... to support our people. During COVID second wave, we wish to reach out and serve our community suffering with various vulnerabilities. But, preventive measures and protocols by the state not allowed us. It is the external influence impacted our leadership responsibility”

– Pushpa, Secretary - VIMUKTHI

During the month of Aug 2021 there was a severe threat of COVID 19 second wave where there are many difficulties to run and implement the programme activities. Capacity building trainings to VIMUKTHI leaders have helped them in learning advocacy and lobbying skills where they were able to meet policy makers and planners and submitted representations with their demands to address their issues and challenges. While they are moving ahead with their activities with the facilitation of HELP, they are trying their best to involve media and/or at least to bring their issues and challenges to their notice ensuring to cover in their respective newspapers/electronic media. So that, there will be an increasing awareness among the systemic stakeholders and also among general public that in turn results in increasing solidarity and support to the efforts of VIMUKTHI.

Summary of key activities of VIMUKTHI: Since VIMUKTHI wish to grow as a regional level forum of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE, it has **focussed on increasing its membership even with the members from other sex workers CBOs to expand its services and also to motivate and mobilise their support to its advocacy efforts and initiatives.** Accordingly, during the reporting year 2021 – 22 VIMUKTHI has increased its membership to 250 by joining 94 new members. **This achievement indeed instigated the incredible confidence of VIMUKTHI leaders in spite of having an overwhelming condition during past year due to aggressive outbreak of COVID 19.** The precautions and protocols enforced by the state in the wake of second wave as part of preventive measures caused some difficult to work in the field level target areas.



VIMUKTHI is able to gain increased trust and familiarity of other sex workers CBOs during the past programme period because of its networking and alliance building efforts. **The like-minded CBOs and NGOs were understood the concept of VIMUKTHI and its mission for socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.** VIMUKTHI has succeeded in conducting home visits as part of its outreach to the target communities, met with not only survivors and victims of CSE but also with their family members including their parents and children which built a sense of belongingness between their families and VIMUKTHI. **Addressing mental health challenges among the community members** includes survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE is another area of trust building on VIMUKTHI. Not only because of the COVID impact but also due to the incidents of domestic violence, abuse and exploitation, stigma and discrimination from the society and also debt trap causing terrible torture by the private money lenders, the community members are usually suffering many mental health issues/disorders. At this juncture, **VIMUKTHI leaders who have been trained on mental health assessment with the support of KAMO during 2021-22 programme period immensely helped those who are suffering with anxiety, distress, hypertension, sleeplessness and traumatic conditions.** By identifying these community members, VIMUKTHI leaders have referred them to the nearby Government hospitals by having arranging appointments with the mental health doctors. Nearly 25 community members have availed mental health services during the programme period.

In last phase programme, **capacity building trainings on Secretariat functions, systems, including membership and operational management** as well as financial literacy and financial discipline have helped VIMUKTHI to understand the individual and collective management, roles and responsibilities of executive body and operational guidelines, rules and regulations to be framed and followed for effective internal management. Financial literacy and financial discipline have given an opportunity to learn and recognise the significance of savings and need for forming, joining and strengthening Self Help Groups with VIMUKTHI members for fulfilling the dream of VIMUKTHI towards socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.

Capacity building trainings on advocacy and lobbying helped a lot to VIMUKTHI leaders in engaging with duty bearers and taking up escalations through submission of representatives demanding their social entitlements such as Aadhaar card, ration cards, voter IDs, bank accounts, housing pattas, widow pensions, single women pensions and also educational support services to their children under the benefits from various existing schemes by the government. VIMUKTHI leaders are facilitating the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE in not only submitting applications but also in making frequent follow-ups to sanction those social entitlements.

VIMUKTHI leaders are engaging with media, arranging press meets and addressing them with their needs and demands where media also started looking at VIMUKTHI not in victims perspective but as building pressure on government increasing its accountability in addressing the issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. During the reporting period of the programme, VIMUKTHI has developed linkages with District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) to avail its support in formation, registration, management and strengthening of SHGs. The linkages have been developed with local banks helped few SHG groups to obtain loans that encouraged the members out of SHGs to join in the groups.

Participation in Leadership Next Trajectory Study has given a scope to recall/recollect the experiences of leaders as well as members of survivors Collectives with VIMUKTHI. They are working in the field and rendering services to the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. Some of them have joined as members in VIMUKTHI and evolved as leaders and are voice out their demands on district level to state level platforms in front of media and a wide- range of stakeholders. Still, they didn't get a space to recall their milestones including their victories, their achievements, challenges and experiences. The trajectory study of Leadership Next led by Ms. Ronita assisted by Ms. Vaishnavi has given such a great opportunity during the phase 2021-22.

"I have recollected the experiences of my journey with VIMUKTHI right from my entry as a member in 2019 till leading as a treasurer in its Executive Body. Thanks to KAMO for creating such a space through Leadership Next Trajectory study".

- Apoorva, Treasurer -

Challenges:

- VIMUKTHI is facing challenges while building alliance with other sex workers CBOs which are functioning under different mentoring NGOs. Internal dimensions of such NGOs showing impact on these sex workers CBOs that in turn reflects on VIMUKTHI. However, VIMUKTHI is mitigating issues involving both of those sex workers CBOs as well as their mentoring NGOs in the meetings conducted to motivate and mobilise their support to VIMUKTHI's advocacy actions/initiatives in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Facing challenges from some of the local banks that are focussing on loans to only beneficiaries under government welfare schemes but not to the SHGs. Recent guidelines/instructions issued by the government in the process of allocating loans to SHGs also became barriers in availing loans to new SHG groups.** Still, VIMUKTHI leaders are making frequent follow-up visits to local banks, meeting with managers and are convincing towards greater cause of VIMUKTHI and its mission for socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. Moreover, they are making best use of the rapport developed with local ward counsellors, corporators and village panchayath presidents to recommend local banks.
- **Recently on 2nd April 2022, 13 new districts have been formed in addition to existing 13 districts and now the total districts increased to 26 in Andhra Pradesh.** Newly formed districts, its administrative set-up, transfers and deputation of officials as in-charges from one department to other and also arrangements for new offices, infrastructure development, resources mobilisation by concerned departments showing impact on VIMUKTHI's advocacy efforts and escalations for social entitlements and criminal justice services for survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.
- **Stigma and discrimination, Mental health challenges and entangled debt trap among survivors' collectives also are the identified barriers impacting active participation of members of survivors' collectives in VIMUKTHI's activities.** Hence, VIMUKTHI leaders are focusing on identification and referrals of members of survivors' collectives (SC) to nearby Govt. hospitals. Further, VIMUKTHI sensitising the SC members on need and importance of advocacy actions for AP State Money Lending Act to build a sense of courage and confidence among them to cope up with the challenges of exploitation from private money lenders.

- In addition to above, **resignation of VIMUKTHI President has shown some unfavourable impact over the routine operation of VIMUKTHI and programme implementation but it is not at all an incessant impact** but in this particular case, it has been limited up to one or two months. During that time, there were few responsibilities that have been endorsed to the presidentship as part of implementation of programme activities and what was already planned were obviously get disturbed in the absence of a person who is assigned and accountable to accomplish the same. Similar technical issues have been faced by VIMUKTHI for some time which were of course not treated as a everlasting disaster. After some time, those regular programmatic issues have been addressed and managed with role taking by rest of the VIMUKTHI leaders under the mentorship of HELP.

Energizers:

- ✚ Increasing membership of VIMUKTHI survivors' collectives
- ✚ Recognition of media to VIMUKTHI as change makers and leaders from the perspective of victims.
- ✚ Assurance by the State Women Commission to find and recommend the government to take appropriate actions to address the issues and challenges faced by the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.
- ✚ Meeting with policy makers and planners and submitting representations by explaining the issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE without any hesitation.
- ✚ Community members built enough trust and confidence on VIMUKTHI as they are approaching the leaders even to resolve issues/clashes if any between families among communities.
- ✚ Formation and strengthening of SHGs is gradually increasing and community members are also understanding its importance and expressing their willingness to join.
- ✚ Schools and colleges authorities appreciating VIMUKTHI for conducting awareness camps on such sensitive issues of child protection such as child sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking.
- ✚ Members of other sex workers CBOs and their mentoring organisations are gradually coming to a common understanding on vision and mission of VIMUKTHI and coming forward its advocacy efforts.
- ✚ Some of the local corporators and ward counsellors are showing solidarity towards survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. Sometimes, they are supporting in accessing social entitlements.



De-energizers:

- Delay in process of Victim Compensation by DLSAs
- Non-implementation of GO.MS. No. 1 and 28
- Stigma and discrimination by normal society
- Need for continuous and repeated follow-ups for process of applications for social entitlements.
- Mental health issues/disorders decreasing the participatory levels of community members
- Issues of domestic violence among families causing physical and mental harassment
- Debt trap and harassment by private money lenders
- Most of the survivors of trafficking are not being traced/identified in home investigations based on addresses in FIRs.

Achievements:

- ★ VIMUKTHI leaders have succeeded in joining 94 new members in VIMUKTHI survivors' collectives
- ★ VIMUKTHI is able to form 5 new SHGs with survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE and having 120 memberships in 12 SHGs.
- ★ Nearly 3400 children have been oriented so far on issue of trafficking and child sexual abuse and exploitation and 1000 children in 2021-22.

- ★ 25 members of VIMUKTHI survivors' collectives availed mental health referral services in nearby Govt. hospitals.
- ★ During 2021 – 22 VIMUKTHI is able to form network and linkages with 5 sex workers CBOs across the state of A.P.
- ★ 164 leaders/members of survivors' collectives have availed social entitlements like rations cards, house pattas, bank accounts and Aadhaar cards.
- ★ VIMUKTHI leaders have met with 15 policy makers and also members of Niti Aayog as well as chairperson of National Safai Karmacharis and have submitted representations to address issues and challenges they are facing

Learnings:

- Networks and alliance building with other sex workers CBOs and like-minded NGOs expressing the nature of leadership to expand its operations and services to other sex workers. This is improving a sense of ownership among VIMUKTHI leaders towards strengthening collectivization of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. This resulted in solidarity building to access their rights and entitlements and raising their voices against violence, discrimination and harassment they face by multiple perpetrators.



- Monthly monitoring calls by KAMO helped in learning the gaps and also measures to be taken to rectify or for further finetuning of the activities and also helped in better planning.
- The people perspective should also be changed towards survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE in the society. This influences their dignity and stigma reduction that contributes to their behavioural change. So that, they could experience increased respect for their human rights and freedom for their effective participation and engagement in socio-economic agency.
- While sensitising the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE, it is to explain not only the current impact on their lives due to lack of victim friendly policies and legislations, but also the effect on their children and families both at present and in coming days. So that, they could understand the need for advocacy actions and initiatives and supports and mingle with VIMUKTHI in its efforts.
- Progressive transformation of VIMUKTHI towards their financial empowerment is a positive sign resulted from capacity building trainings on financial literacy and management as they are able to take care of basic budget planning and expenditure as well as practicing bills submission after conducting events.
- VIMUKTHI learnt membership management in SHGs through capacity building trainings on secretariat functions, systems, including membership and operational management.
- Felicitating and honouring the local leaders/influential persons for their support and solidarity by the VIMUKTHI leaders yields in good impact and helps in their continuous cooperation to VIMUKTHI's work.

Change making stories:

- I. **Pushpa – Secretary – VIMUKTHI:** **“I have been trafficked by my husband if self for want of money. He is an indolent and had no care and concern over family and even on children. having married to him is like a hell that I was realized in delay”** said 27 years old Pushpa. Pushpa is from a poor family residing in Jakkampudi colony, Vijayawada of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh and her parents are daily wage labour. She fell in love with a person at her work place and got married at the age of 16 years believing in his sweet words. Within not more than a year Pushpa realized that, he had no work and no income but having all the bad habits. After giving birth to two children, Pushpa’s husband left family leaving her children and gone away with other woman with whom he had illegal relation. Pushpa remained with her aged parents and children only in a helpless condition. Pushpa agonized that, **“As my parents are not capable to work, they took loans which are in fact additional burden for my earlier loans of Rs. 50000/- with high interest rates. Now I had no option to earn since COVID 19 lockdown. It’s a dilemma for me to nourish my children and feeding my parents in this critical time”**.

Pushpa was motivated to join in survivor’s collective of VUMUKTI a State Level Forum for Sex Workers and survivors of Human Trafficking and got trained in leadership skills, advocacy and lobbying as well as communication skills and so on. because of her active participation and capacities, she became Co-convenor of VIMUKTI state level forum. She is taking care of her children and her parents and in addition striving her best for the survivors in her community. **“Now I am one of the Leaders in VIMUKTI and also acting as secretary in its Executive body, I can spark courage and confidence among my peer survivors, we are forming and strengthening SHG groups and moving ahead towards our socio-economic empowerment,”** said Pushpa.

- II. **Apoorva – Treasurer – VIMUKTHI:** **“I would have breathed my last if VIMUKTI would not have entered and revitalized my life in these 8 months. I was a half-baked bread where I could not survive with the torture, I faced from my drunkard husband or could not give-up my life leaving my 3 children alone”** agonised 28 years old Apoorva. She is from Vijayawada belong to Hindu Mala (SC) by caste. She studies up to 9th Standard but her parents have stopped her education to perform her marriage. Her mother Bhagyamma and father Balayya are daily wage labours. Her marriage with Sundarayya in 2010 had turned out to be a bitter bump that hit her life to her life of hell. Even by having no single reason, Apoorva had to be beaten up by her husband and was tortured to an extent where she could have end up her ill fate with her suicide attempt. After 2017, he has given divorce to Apoorva finally and started living with another woman.

Apoorva became the bread winner of her family along with three children of whom two girls and one boy child. Apoorva said **“there was no option left with me except sell my body to survive myself and my children at that moment when he left me alone. I didn’t have enough support either from my parents or anyone around me. I have entered in to sex work besides my meagre earning from a fancy store where I was working as a sales girl”**

She underwent different capacity building trainings by HELP and VIMUKTI like advocacy and lobbying, communication skills, resilience building, mental health counselling and so on. She learnt the ways and means of her life with a sense of courage and confidence that indeed makes a woman to be strong and sturdy. **“I understood my way forward after joining VIMUKTI and I feel no guilty of anything what I am doing and what I wish to do further. I have been grown to the position of treasurer in VIMUKTHI’s Executive Body. I serve my best to the survivors like me within the best of my capacity”** Apoorva affirmed.

Introduction:

HELP being an organisation working for policy reformations in the state of Andhra Pradesh, it is working in collaboration with various line departments like Dept of Women Development and Child Welfare, Police mainly CID and Judiciary mainly District Legal Services Authorities. In addition, it is working in coordination with child protection mechanisms as well as statutory bodies such as District Child Protection Unit, Special Juvenile Police Unit, Child Welfare Committees, CHILDLINE 1098, Andhra Pradesh State Women Commission and AP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. So that, HELP is trying its best to ensure effective service delivery by the state in the areas of rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, victims/witness protection services and facilitation of prosecution of traffickers for improving the rate of conviction in Human Trafficking cases.

In this context, **HELP** is facilitating **Leadership Next Programme** through **VIMUKTHI** in **Andhra Pradesh** with the support of **KAMONHASHI – JAPAN** for prevention of second generation being trafficked through ensuring socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). HELP is working for protection and promotion of rights of women and children since 1993 in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The focus of HELP is prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation mainly trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.

During the inception of the programme in 2018, the community **members who are booked as victims under ITPA cases have been selected as leaders for Survivors Leadership Programme**. Since it was very new for the programme in Andhra Pradesh, it took almost whole year to prepare proper ground for KAMO, HELP and VIMUKTHI to be synchronised with each other, to come to a common understanding on the contextual background of target beneficiaries, alignment of vision, mission, goal and objectives of each other in to programme goal and objectives and expected outcomes and setting targets accordingly and so on.

Right from mid-2019, while having introducing the programme among the target communities across three districts, the actual process of identification of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE who are in real need of programme services has started. **HELP has facilitated VIMUKTHI in motivating the identified survivors and victims of CSE towards recognising their needs, their issues, challenges and demands to be addressed by the state, their rights and entitlements as a normal human being in the society** and significance of their socio-economic empowerment that helps in prevention of trafficking of second generation.

But, **a severe threat in the form of COVID 19 outbreak with consequent lockdowns imposed** across the nation right from 24th March and continued till 3rd May 2020 has shown the bitter impact and it has shown its intensity till the end of second wave in last Aug 2021 leaving lakhs of lives to its ill fate of horrific effect to which our target beneficiaries who are the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE not an exemption. As we know that, the **COVID-19 crisis had shown a potentially long-term negative impact on survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE**. Its malicious impact resulted in severe consequences in to devastated socio-economic conditions of scores of vulnerable families of survivors and victims of CSE who are per se leading precarious life as they are already marginalized people and are more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and re-trafficking/revictimization. The policies enacted and measures taken by the government in the wake of the pandemic outbreak were crucial in the unfolding crisis and also shaped out how the labour market and, in general, societies were look like right now. The organisations both CBOs and NGOs, systemic stakeholders working against the heinous crime of trafficking are still in dilemma and are analysing how the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic left over will exacerbate the vulnerabilities to trafficking, posing a further threat not only to survivors of trafficking or victims of CSE, but also to the people at risk of being abused, exploited and are trafficked for various illegitimate activities.

During the aggressive outbreak of COVID 19 second wave in the month of August 2021, the Leadership Next 2021 – 22 phase has been flagged-off. The target communities are immersed in an agony that, there will be no hopes to lead a normal life even with one meal a day because of the distressed socio-economic

conditions among the families in almost all the vulnerable communities in the LN Programme coverage areas across the three operational districts. HELP and VIMUKTHI with utmost concern on each other's vision and mission, goal and objectives, activities and services in alignment with the Leadership Next Programme' goal and objectives have implemented the programme during the phase 2021 – 22.

Long-term vision for HELP:

HELP want to see that the VIMUKTHI becomes regional sex workers forum including coastal and Rayalaseema regions. It emerges as strong NGO and CBO coalition and runs its own programmes on its own. Increased number of Vimukthi leaders receiving victim compensation and rehabilitation service through state.

Overall goal of HELP for 2025:

To prevent second generation trafficking through advocating for victim-friendly policy reformations and also by strengthening leadership of VIMUKTHI-LNP to escape from debt trap through increasing its access to credit and livelihood options leads to increasing income.

Objectives:

- ◆ Empowerment of VIMUKTHI: VIMUKTHI as an organisation to become more visible, loud and assertive to the media and advocating with state government regarding its rights and entitlements
- ◆ HELP's expertise development in mobilizing and facilitating leadership development amongst survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation on an anti-trafficking agenda.
- ◆ Media narrative on trafficking in AP to shift from crime-victim-prostitution narrative to State accountability in addressing the specific agenda that Vimukthi raises in its campaigns for victim friendly policy reformations.

The key strategies of the Leadership Next Programme include:

- Community mobilization
- Advocacy & lobbying
- Awareness generation
- Linkages and network building
- Research and study
- Preparation and dissemination of IEC

Summary of key activities by HELP and VIMUKTHI in 2021-22:

During the past phase programme, HELP focused on sensitising the media, duty bearers, likeminded NGOs and other sex workers CBOs on AP State Money Lending (Regulation) Act and Community Based Rehabilitation, strict implementation of GO.MS. No. 1 and GO.MS. No. 28 which are meant for rehabilitation and immediate relief support to rescued survivors of trafficking respectively. HELP started influencing the statutory bodies such as State Women Commission and A.P. State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and also child protection mechanisms such as DCPU and CWCs on issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE and their children who are need of care and protection services.

Capacity building training to AHTUs and VLCPCs on need for preventive policies against trafficking:

In the wake of establishing AHTUs across the state, HELP has organised a capacity building training on functions of AHTUs, pre and post rescued protocols, roles and responsibilities of the unit officers and the resources allocated to the units as per the GO issued. While sensitising the AHTUs, HELP involved the women protection secretaries from the respective ward secretariats, child protection mechanisms such as District Child Protection Units, CHILDLINE 1098 and SJPU. Project Director from District Women and Child Development Agency, Guntur has explained the state-run child and women safety and protection mechanisms. AHTU unit officer has explained the intensity of the human trafficking in the state, vulnerable

categories, trends in trafficking and recent trafficking cases they busted along with case studies of the survivors of trafficking.

Creating awareness on Money Lending Act: HELP has sensitised media on abuse and exploitation of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE by private money lenders with exorbitant interest rates. This is to build pressure on Government to enforce a state specific Act to regulate the private money lenders in the contextual background that: Andhra Pradesh has regulated money lending to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) under the **Andhra Pradesh Micro Finance Institutions (Regulation of Money Lending) Act, 2010**. However, this only covers MFIs and SHGs, and may not apply to individual loans provided by private money lenders. Further, we are aware that, there was a severe turbulence of private money lending that affected scores of poor and marginalised people across the state in the name of “**call money**” in the year 2015 and survivors and victims of CSE are not an exemption. Due to the inexplicable harassment and torture by the private money lenders, many a number of devastated people from such vulnerable families have become prey to the bitter impact of this inhumane, ruthless bustle that has taken away lots of lives that breathed their lost at one moment.

The ways and means of the abuse and exploitation by private money lenders not only confined to physical assault and mental abuse of the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE even by creating fake notes/agreements led to their suicidal attempts but also there were instances of trafficking of girls and young women for commercial sexual exploitation. The law enforcement agencies have taken stringent action against the private money lenders to control/suppress the intensity of the issue. Accordingly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the **Andhra Pradesh Money Lenders Bill, 2017** on 30 November 2017 repealing the existing Andhra Pradesh Debtor’s Protection Act, 1934 but the same has not received Governor’s assent. Therefore, the legal framework around money lending in Andhra Pradesh is skewed in nature, leaving borrowers who have taken loans from private money lenders absolutely unprotected.

In this background, HELP has initiated its advocacy efforts and initiatives to build pressure on the government through sensitizing media on need for re-enforcement of AP State Money Lending (Regulation) and Protection of Borrowers Act. Since, the media representatives have understood the significance and need of enforcement of the said Act, they have published special stories and articles on the issue and created awareness among different stakeholder including policy makers and planners.

Capacity building training on formation and strengthening of SHGs : HELP has conducted capacity building training on formation and strengthening of SHGs to **VIMUKTHI** leaders. Through this training VIMUKTHI leaders have understood the need for savings through SHGs, acquiring knowledge on financial literacy. They have realised the financial discipline and have understood importance of personal finance, difference between needs and wants, income Vs Expenditure. They come to know about the bank procedures like opening savings bank accounts, different forms of savings in a bank and its effectiveness. They got knowledge on savings through SHGs and also understood the existing savings schemes by the central government.

International Human Rights Day: HELP has organised a state level event on 9th Dec 2021 on the occasion of International Human Rights Day involving VIMUKTHI to discuss and voice out their demands on the issues and challenges faced by the survivors of trafficking and women in prostitution/sex workers in terms of their rehabilitation, social entitlements as well as criminal justice services. The impact of the event is as below:



- VIMUKTI leaders have realized the significance of International Human Rights Day and need for advocate for upholding the human rights of sex workers and survivors of trafficking
- VIMUKTI leaders have expressed their demands in presence of the Director, Andhra Pradesh State Women Commission regarding the issues and challenges they are facing.
- VIMUKTI leaders have built up with a sense of courage and confidence that their issues have been taken to the notice of the statutory bodies like women commission and also to the women bar association.
- Media people have highlighted the issues and challenges facing by the sex workers and survivors of trafficking.

State Level Sensitisation meeting with CSOs, survivors of trafficking and CBOs on AHTUs & TIP Bill:

HELP has conducted a state level consultation on 20th Feb 2022 to sensitise CSOs and CBOs towards a collective advocacy action for enactment of TIP Bill, 2021 and ensuring formation and effective functioning of AHTUs in the state of A.P. involving VIMUKTI leaders and members of survivors' collectives, other sex workers CBOs and their mentoring NGOs working on issues of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE. The impact of the meeting is as follows:



- The participants from various NGOs and CBOs have understood the need for passage of TIP Bill in parliament and its enactment.
- The participants have realised the importance of AHTUs, its role in prevention of trafficking and also in ensuring effective service delivery to the rescued survivors.
- The NGOs and CBOs have assured to support the advocacy actions and initiatives by HELP and VIMUKTI for setting up AHTUs in all the districts in the state and also for enactment of TIP Bill, 2021.

Strengthening resilience building and leadership skills to improve collective action.

To improve collective action of VIMUKTI LNP leaders through strengthening their resilience and improve leadership qualities.

◆ Principles of leadership

- Know yourself and seek self- improvement
- Be technically proficient
- Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions
- Make sound and timely decisions
- Be a good role model
- Be concerned towards the employees working below
- Keep the workers, seniors as well as other key staff well informed
- Develop a sense of responsibility in your workers
- Ensure that tasks are understood, supervised, and accomplished
- Train the workers as a team
- Utilize the available resources in the organization appropriately and efficiently – *men, material, money and time*



- ◆ **Leadership and group dynamics**
Leadership is all about bringing the group together to work towards positive results. Hence it is necessary to understand the group dynamics.
- **Any group that is newly formed will undergo four phases/processes viz.**
a) *Forming* b) *Storming* c) *Norming* and d) *Performing*
- ◆ **Factors of leadership:** There are four factors influences the leadership in general. They are: Situation, leader, communication and follower.
- ◆ **Approaches of leaders**
 - Positive approach – Word of praise, reward, recognition etc.,
 - Negative approach – Penalty, punishments such as loss of job or reprimand employees in front of others

Media sensitisation: Having utmost concern over media as an effective advocacy tool that awakes and aware systemic stakeholders including general public, HELP is building a healthy rapport between media and VIMUKTI aiming at meaningful escalation of issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation to the external world. As a result, both print and electronic media has published and broadcasted different cover stories, special articles and curtain raisers focusing on the prevailing pathetic situations of survivors of trafficking and victims’ commercial sexual exploitation and also their demands to the government.

As an effective advocacy initiative to influence Government statutory bodies on issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation, HELP has facilitated VIMUKTI leaders with the process of meeting in person and in interacting with Smt. Vasireddy Padma, Hon’ble Chairperson of AP State Women Commission. ***VIMUKTI leaders with the support of district facilitators have visited the AP Women Commission and have sensitised the chairperson and members on various issues including the barriers that they are facing in accessing the state support services, social entitlements and also criminal justice services.***

Challenges:

- Rigorous debt trap and mental health issues being severely affected by the COVID 19 pandemic outbreak, it became bit difficult in motivating and mobilizing the members of survivor collectives from target communities in to programme activities.
- Recently on 2nd April 2022 the Andhra Pradesh has been bifurcated in to 26 districts from earlier 13 districts. Still there is no full-fledged administrative set-up including fixed offices and personnel/staff in any of the line department whereas the police and Dept. of WD&CW are not an exemption. Deputations and transfers of existing officials in parallel to the new officers’ charge taking is still going on across the state. Departmental heads are in efforts to mobilising man power and infrastructure to run day to day business of their respective departments.
- Staff turnover and resignation of leaders is one of the challenges that interrupt the flow of the programme implementation. Because of the resign of the president of VIMUKTHI there were few difficulties have emerged for 1 – 2 months in Leadership Next Programme leaders in attending the meetings with stakeholders, addressing media and in implementing activities and so on which was set right gradually.

However, HELP is trying its best by all the ways and means to mitigate such above conditions through... recruiting staff from the same community, or having enough experience in working with sex workers communities, or asking the leaders itself to select and recommend a person they trust and capable/suitable to the position. So that, there will be a sense of accountability and responsibility not only over program implementation but also on the retention of staff. The leaders also preferring those who are from the same community and also understand their socio-economic, political and cultural systems and circumstances and committed to work accordingly.

Energizers:

Since HELP is a policy advocacy organisation, favourable response by policy makers and planners on its advocacy actions/interventions will boost up its energy levels in general. During the past programme period 2021-22, HELP obtained positive response on below advocacy actions that facilitated through VIMUKTHI:

- Submitted **CBR draft policy to the government along with a representation to design and implement Community Based Rehabilitation**. The women commission has responded positively and assured to recommend the government for designing the CBR policy in A.P.
- Submitted **representations to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for community-based rehabilitation**. Received favourable response by concerned authority to look in to the matter and collect necessary data from field to take appropriate steps.
- Submitted representations on establishing **AHTUs in every district across the state of Andhra Pradesh**. Due to frequent follow-up actions even after submission of representation, the Government of A.P has established AHTUs in all the 13 old districts in DISHA police stations.
- A representation has been submitted on **RTI findings on status of implementation of GO.MS. No. 1** which is exclusively meant for rehabilitation of rescued survivors of trafficking. The Dept. of Women Development and Child Welfare has responded positively to review the status of GO and take measures to streamline it.
- Submitted representations on **AP State Money Lending (Regulation) and protection of Borrowers Act**. Media has published special articles and cover stories on need for a state specific Act to control the exploitation of private money lenders in the state and building pressure on the Government.
- HELP has facilitated VIMUKTHI leaders to meet with the Chairperson of AP Women Commission and have sensitised on various issues and challenges they are facing including the barriers in accessing the state support services, social entitlements and also criminal justice services.
- HELP has increased and strengthened rapport with media and also statutory bodies constituted by the government such as State Women Commission and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

De-energizers:

- Post COVID scenario seems, there is no encouraging fund rising options for anti-trafficking organisation where the priorities shifted to COVID relief support services across the country.
- HELP is not having enough capacities and resources to accelerate the process of facilitating and promoting alternative livelihoods/business options to VIMUKTHI leaders and members.
- Lethargic response by some of the duty bearers in processing the applications for sanctioning social entitlements, VCs, rehabilitation and other support services by the state.

Achievements:

- ★ As an effective advocacy initiative to influence Government statutory bodies on issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation, HELP has facilitated VIMUKTHI leaders with the process of meeting in person and in interacting with Smt. Vasireddy Padma, Hon'ble Chairperson of AP State Women Commission. ***VIMUKTHI leaders with the support of district facilitators have visited the AP Women Commission and have sensitised the chairperson and members on various issues including the barriers that they are facing in accessing the state support services, social entitlements and also criminal justice services.***
- ★ ***Media sensitisation and its changed viewpoint resulted in a trend shift from victim-crime perspective to increasing state's response towards addressing their needs and demands.*** The way the media is depicting the issues of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE is started shaping from being represented them as victims of sexual exploitation gradually towards leaders who are striving for their needs and demands on a rights-based approach.

- ★ HELP has facilitated VIMUKTHI in building linkages with local banks in line with formation and strengthening SHGs. Two SHGs already accessed loan from banks and rest of the SGHs also in efforts to access loans.
- ★ HELP facilitated VIMUKTHI in establishing network and linkages with 5 like-minded NGOs and other sex worker CBOs during this reporting period.

Learnings:

- HELP is adopting to the external changes in the context of socio-economic and political scenario in the state of Andhra Pradesh. While facilitating VIMUKTHI leaders to have deputations with the duty bearers, simultaneously sensitizing and influencing statutory bodies/state and national commissions on need for addressing issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Developing second and third level leadership helps in uninterrupted programme implementation and organisational management.
- HELP learnt that, establishing linkages with local banks helps the newly formed SHGs in availing/accessing loan facilities that ensures economical sustainability of these groups.
- Consistent Social media promotion with correct content on its events, achievements and advocacy initiatives improves the organization's visibility and in turn its reputation.
- Increased rapport and engagement with media have resulted in a trend shift of media from victim-crime-prostitution perspective to projecting VIMUKTHI as an activist/leader striving for their socio-economic empowerment.

Targeted Intervention for prevention of HIV/AIDS

Supported by: AP State AIDS Control Society, Govt of AP

Target Group: Female Sex Workers & MSM's

Area of Operation: 5 Mandals in Prakasam Dt.

Goal of project: To reduce the incidence of HIV and STI among the sex workers, their clients, MSM/TGs in Prakasam district and thus reduce the risk of transmissibility of HIV to general population in Andhra Pradesh".

Objectives: To empower the sex workers, their associated population, MSM/TGs in the adoption of safer sexual practices and treatment seeking behavior through Behavior Change Communication (BCC).

- To reduce the incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) with improved identification, diagnosis and treatment of STIs among the sex workers, MSM/TGs
- To increase correct and consistent use of Condoms among the sex workers, MSM/TGs through appropriate social marketing interventions.
- To increase correct and consistent use of condoms and reduce the incidence of STI among high-risk male population in coastal AP.

Indicator wise achievement:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • No. Of KPs registered in the project : 1200 | • Internal examination : 995 |
| • Outreach contacts done : 100% | • No. Of referrals for HIV tests (ICTC) : 945 |
| • Tracking of the KPs : 100% | • No. Of condoms distributed : 3.00 Lakh |
| • Regular Medical Checkups (RMC) : 975 | • No. Of hot spot groups formed with KPs : 8 |
| • KPs treated for STIs : 152 | • No. Of hot spot group members : 145 |

Sponsorships

Educate a Child

For a donation of 8000 rupees, you can support a child in education over a two year period. The Educate a Child programme concentrates on children aged from 5 to 16 years in deprived urban areas particularly children in vulnerable communities. It focuses on getting children into education and keeping them there.

Children of sex workers, children without a parents, and children in red-light areas need to have an environment conducive to learning. The money you give will be used for school fees, uniforms and educational materials.

Similar to the Adopt a Mother programme, you are linked to a particular child and will receive three reports about his or her progress over the two year period: first, some background information about the child; then a drawing by the child after 1 year; and finally, a report at the end of the programme. However, the money you donate will be used to support many more children as HELP works in local communities to highlight the importance of education and bring about a change of attitude in people who feel that a working child is better than an educated child.



Feed a Child

You can help us rescue children from various abuses and vulnerable situations, as young as 6 years old. They stay at our short stay home for a few months. They are lost, helpless but still have a hope, hope that one day; they will be united with their families. You can provide them with healthy nutritious food four times a day. On an average there are around 40 children living in our home. For a donation of 3000 rupees, you can support a child with healthy food for a month.

General Fund

We welcome donations of any amount to cover other activities such as providing Out Care Services, vocational trainings, Nutrition support and Rehabilitation services to the women in prostitution and rescued survivors from Human Trafficking.

All donations made to **HELP** are tax exempted under Section 80 G of IT ACT, 1961.

Contact info@helpap.org or 9949723666 to support us!

And also pl visit the bellow link for our project in the Global Giving & Give India websites:.....

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/rehabilitation-of-trafficked-girls-in-india/>

<https://fundraisers.giveindia.org/projects/donate-to-our-education-programme-for-child-victims-of-trafficking>

Pl visits our organisation web: www.helpap.org for our activities in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

VIMUKTI urges MPs to revise draft Bill against human trafficking

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State-Level Forum of Sex Workers and Survivors of Trafficking wrote an open letter to all the MPs in the country urging them to incorporate necessary changes in the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021.

VIMUKTI, a State-level collective of survivors of sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and women in prostitution, based in Andhra Pradesh, appealed to the MPs that the new draft Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care & Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 is victim-centric, empowers the sur-

vivors and addresses the organised crime of human trafficking the way it deserves making it economically unviable. They urged Smriti Z Irani, Minister for Women & Child Welfare, to place the Bill before the Parliament in this monsoon session.

The leaders of VIMUKTI who are also members of the AP State Chapter of Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking (ILFAT), a national platform formed by the survivors and for the survivors of human trafficking, stated in their recommendation letter to MPs that Article 23 of the Constitution of India prohibits Trafficking of Persons and

some legislations deal with different forms of trafficking but to date they do not have comprehensive legislation that looks at the problem as an organised crime or as the fastest growing criminal enterprise.

They said the trafficking of human beings in India goes unabated with impunity and millions of lives are destroyed every day. "Every life lost in trafficking is one too many!" they observed.

They also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all the esteemed parliamentarians to unanimously pass the Bill and pave the way for a 'human trafficking-free India'.

THE HINDU

Trafficking victims seek relief from exploitation by moneylenders

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vimukti state convener Meharunnisa on Friday demanded that the State government shall take immediate measures to revitalise the Moneylenders (Regulation) Act and Protection of Borrowers Act to control the exploitation by moneylenders who are directly and indirectly involved in human trafficking through charging exorbitant interest rates from poor, landless, unorganised workers, daily wage labourers and sex workers taking advantage of their vulnerability and poverty.

On the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons - 2021, a meeting was convened jointly by Vimukti and HELP for the survivors of human trafficking on Friday at the conference hall of local Press Club with the topic 'Victims' Voices Lead the Way'. Vimukti State co-convenor Pushpavati said that the then government had enacted the Andhra Pradesh Microfinance Institutions (Regulations of Money Lending) Act 2011 as some agencies in the state were exploiting women by lending money to SHGs at exorbitant interest rates in the name of microfinance. She urged the government to come up with new legislation accordingly giving protection from private moneylenders.

Vimukti State leaders Rajani and Apoorva appealed to the State government to extend its cooperation and support to provide loans through various banks for alternative livelihood assistance to the special Self-Help Groups mobilised and formed by

AHTUs to come up in all districts soon: DGP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Director General of Police Gautam D Sawang on Friday said that the State government has issued GO 47 and through this order Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) will be established in every district across the State and a plan of action will be prepared accordingly.

The DGP took part in a programme organised by Additional DG PV Sunil Kumar through virtual mode on Friday to mark Anti Human Trafficking Day on July 30. A poster was released by the DGP on the occasion. Sawang said that victim identification, victim-centric approach and victim justice accessibility should be part of human trafficking prevention measures.

The event was attended online by District SPs, Police Commissioners, Disha DGB Rajakumari, Police officers, Assistant Project Directors, Department of Women and Child Welfare, District Child Protection Officers, Deputy



Commissioners from the Labour Department, Assistant Commissioners of Social Welfare Department, retired IPS officer

the sex workers and survivors of trafficking. They urged the Gram Panchayats to provide protection to the victims of trafficking in the state without having detained them for years long in Shelter

Homes and to offer government welfare schemes.

N Ram Mohan, director, HELP, and several other leaders sought establishment of Anti-Human Trafficking Units should

be set up in every district to track down traffickers and keep constant vigilance over them, and also identify private moneylenders and fake apps that lend at high interest rates.

'Curbs on moneylenders will check trafficking'

Activists urge govt. to enact stringent laws

**STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA**

Vimukti, a State-level forum of sex workers and survivors of human trafficking operating in the anti-human trafficking field, and an Ongole-based NGO called Help, have urged the State government to take steps to bring in legislation to keep a check on private moneylenders in the State.

Vimukti and Help organised a meeting with various stakeholders in connection with World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, here on Friday.

On the occasion, the speakers expressed the view that there were no effective laws to deal with the menace of private moneylenders. "Women are being subjected to trafficking by

private moneylenders in the absence of stringent laws. Women in combined Andhra Pradesh got some protection from micro financiers as the then government had enacted the Andhra Pradesh Micro Finance Institutions (Regulation of Money Lending) Act 2011. Similar steps should be taken to protect the people from private moneylenders," they said.

The government should provide bank loans to the survivors of trafficking. The government can form self-help groups of the survivors to provide bank loans so that they can look for alternative income sources. Also, the victims should not be kept at shelter homes for a long time in the guise of rehabilitation, they added.

Lenders force rural women into trafficking: Study

Venu.Lanka@timesgroup.com

Vijayawada: Pressure from moneylenders to repay loans borrowed for higher interest is a major factor for rise in trafficking cases in rural AP, claims a study conducted by an NGO. Today is 'World Day Against Trafficking of Humans'.

HELP, an NGO, and their network organizations called Taftesh conducted a study on 'the status of Money Lenders Act in AP and how debts from private persons are increasing the trafficking cases'.

The study took data from Andhra Pradesh chapter of National Network of Sex Workers representing 6,000 sex workers from the state. Around 70 per cent of them said they were trafficked by money lenders after their fa-

WHAT THE LEGAL NOTEBOOK SAYS

- ▶ No centralised state mechanism to keep track of money lenders After the separation of the states in 2013, the Andhra Pradesh Debtors' Protection Act, 1934 continued in force in present day Andhra Pradesh, but was repealed in 2018 by the Andhra Pradesh Acts and Regulations (Repeal) Act, 2018
- ▶ The failure to obtain Presidential assent for the Andhra Pradesh Money Lenders Bill, 2017 means that as of date, there is no consolidated law pertaining to private money lending to individuals in Andhra Pradesh
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh Micro Finance Institutions (Regulation of Money Lending) Act, 2011 is made to protect women's Self Help Groups from exploitation by Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) in Andhra Pradesh. But it cannot regulate normal money lending

milies failed to repay debts on time.

M Meharunnisa, a sur-

vivor leader and state convenor of Vimukthi, a state level forum for sex workers

and survivors of human trafficking said: "Traffickers and brothel owners routinely take loans and conduct similar financial transactions in the names of the survivors /sex-workers under their control. When those survivors break free and begin to rebuild their lives, they often find that their credit has completely destroyed their lives as a result of their traffickers' schemes. Many victims are now letting their kids enter sex work to clear debts which is further adding huge burden."

"We interacted with 600 victims and they were asking for stringent for protection of debtors and human trafficking victims. Government should enforce the money lending act," said representatives of Taftesh.

K Pushpa, a trafficking

victim from Vijayawada," said: "My husband trafficked me for want of money to repay his loans to money lenders. I have been a victim in the hands of my husband, money lenders, brothel owners, managers, pimps and even my parents who have benefitted from my body. I have pleaded with police for help but they never took action against moneylenders. I'm still working hard to repay all these loans," Pushpa added.

Another trafficking victim, Bhanu Priya from Chirala, said: "Before Covid-19, I used to survive as a sex worker. Now I am facing huge financial difficulties. My son fell sick and I borrowed Rs. 60,000 from a moneylender at an interest of 7% per month. He is harassing me for interest and forcing me to do sex work for repaying his loan."

newindianexpress.com



Woman victims during a press meet on World Day against Trafficking in Persons at Press Club in Vijayawada on Friday | PRASANT MADUGULA

VIMUKTI urges govt to revive legislations to protect sex workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

VIMUKTI-AP convener Meharunnisa demanded that the State government take immediate measures to revive the Money Lenders (Regulation) Act and Protection of Borrowers Act to stop money lenders from exploiting the poor and landless farmers, unorganised and daily wage workers, and sex workers.

Participating in a meeting organised jointly by VIMUKTI and HELP to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on Friday, Meharunnisa said the Borrowers Protection Act was first enacted in 1934 in the combined Andhra Pradesh.

However, in 2018 the Andhra Pradesh Acts and Regulations (Repeal) Act repealed it and introduced Andhra Pradesh Money Lenders Bill. "But till date it has not received Presidential assent," she said.

In the absence of such a law

that controls the money lenders and protects the borrowers, many families are being pushed into prostitution, she observed.

VIMUKTI co-convenor Pushpavati said the then government had enacted the AP Microfinance Institutions (Regulations of Money Lending) Act in 2011 as some agencies in the State were exploiting women by lending to SHGs at high interest rates in the name of microfinancing. She urged the government to come up with a new legislation to protect such groups from private money lenders.

VIMUKTI state leader Ajani appealed that the State government should support such persons by providing them loans through banks for alternative livelihood assistance.

Apoorva, another VIMUKTI member, urged GPs to provide protection to the victims of trafficking in the State without detaining them for years in Shelter Homes in the name of rehabilitation.

INTERVENTION

Sex workers' collective writes to NHRC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

VIMUKTI, a State-level collective for sex workers and survivors of trafficking, wrote a letter to the chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, seeking its immediate intervention in ensuring robust monitoring of the important advisories.

They also appealed to the NHRC to direct the Andhra Pradesh government to implement the orders issued for informal workers, including sex workers, on October 5, 2020 and May 31, 2021 who are acutely affected by the Covid-19.

In a press release, they lamented that due to Covid-19 first and second waves, the survivors of human trafficking and sex workers faced extreme problems in terms of their socio-economic, physical and mental health issues. It is evident that the government support for the sex workers and rescued survivors of trafficking in the wake of Covid-19 is almost nil, VIMUKTI leaders said.

All the rights and entitlements available for the informal workers in India shall apply to the sex workers to improve the accessibility of benefits under various welfare schemes and support services by both the Central and State governments.

VIMUKTI leaders asked the chairperson, that State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) should be directed to monitor the implementation of NHRC advisories at the State level, while the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) should replicate the same at district level in close coordination with the officials.



It is evident that the support by the government for the sex workers and rescued survivors of trafficking in the wake of coronavirus is almost nil

VIMUKTI leaders

HELP Operational Assessment

Disclosure

We believe that **HELP** is a transparent organization that emphasizes proper information disclosure and accountability. Even though the audited financial statements are not available on its web site, the information is readily available on request. Its financial statements include the details of various administrative and program expenses as well as details of grants/donations and other incomes. **HELP** also provides the salary details of its staff. Staff Salaries of **HELP** is paid not later than 5th of every month and is adjusted in their individual bank accounts.

HELP publishes monthly newsletters, which provide information about the organization's activities during that specific period. Anyone can subscribe for the newsletter for free and is also available on its web site.

HELP has provided the names of its board members and full time staff on its offices along with their brief profiles and specific responsibilities they handle within the organization. Its provisional revenue statement for the year 2007 shows a breakup of international and Indian sources of funds and also provides names of significant donors and their specific contribution.

Clear Strategy

HELP has a policy of refining its strategy based on continuous self- assessment and impact analysis of its programs. To enhance the effectiveness of its activities, **HELP** focuses on self-sustainability. For long term revenue generation, it seeks lasting partnerships with donors (corporations / foundations / individuals). The process of curriculum development through evaluation and practical experience is a key component of the organization's strategy.

Execution on Strategy

HELP strives to create partnerships with the government as well as local and international organizations, so that it could get the advantage of resource sharing. With the HELP of its local partnerships, **HELP** utilizes the resources of local PRIs, sports clubs, drama and art schools, computer training centers, libraries, municipal parks, etc. We believe that **HELP** has generated fruitful partnerships with various government agencies as well. **HELP** has partnered with various international foundations like... Plan International, Groupe Developpement-France, TB Alert India, Terre des Homes (G), Global fund for children, Business Community Foundation, and Give Foundation. The support gained from these agencies has enabled **HELP** to grow rapidly and make its programs more sustainable.

HELP has a strategy of building multidimensional partnerships with corporate organizations. It engages volunteers from the corporate sector, both to coach the children and to sponsor and run the recreational activities.

Ethics

HELP is not affiliated with any political or religious group and it works with due commitment to fulfill its mission. The organization puts adequate emphasis on transparency and accountability. It also strives to utilize maximum funds for program implementation and cut down on administrative and overhead costs. For these reasons, we believe that the organization maintains a high standard of ethics in its functioning.

Conclusion

HELP has opted to work for a cause which cannot be considered a conventional field of work for Voluntary organizations. The rapid growth of **HELP** from a single man's idea to a dynamic and sustainable organization proves the usefulness of its mission. Continuous refinement of its strategy and development of its curriculum through impact analysis highlights the organization's commitment to fulfill its mission. **HELP** focuses on enhancing its resources so that it can reach out to many more children in a sustainable way. We believe that donating to **HELP** would HELP in improving the lives of destitute children who are desperately in need of such HELP.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT

	Schedule	As at March 31	
		2022	2021
RECEIPTS			
Opening Balances			
Cash on Hand			
FCRA		6,468.50	16,574.50
General		11,694.75	12,538.75
Cash at Bank			
FCRA		17,24,343.35	5,24,794.87
General		12,67,095.34	15,67,927.01
Donations		4,71,093.95	4,22,063.10
Grants for Project / programmes	A	68,63,083.09	1,08,54,355.61
Bank interest		70,308.00	61,321.00
Sundry Creditors			
Old Assets Sales			
Advances (Adj)			
TOTAL		1,04,14,086.98	1,34,59,574.84
PAYMENTS			
SURVIVORS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME -SLP	1	29,83,974.39	26,39,337.93
Covied Relief –kamonahashi	2	18,37,772.42	21,21,318.22
Freedom fund	3	3,10,403.00	4,15,103.08
Reduction of STI and HIV / AIDS	4	16,72,671.00	17,89,239.70
Covied Relief-givefoundation			13,52,202.00
Girls Advocacy Alliance Programme			4,56,969.03
Child Line programme			729.00
Covied Relief		95,000.00	
Mental health assesment		1,78,482.11	
Administration Expenses	5	36,689.42	1,32,832.27
Fundrising campaign		96,421.70	
Millap Programme			1,06,835.00
ANNAPURNA Project Expenses			5,64,348.28
Covied relief –the poilation			36,593.76
Mental Health Assesment			76,500.50
Digital marketing consultation			3,40,000.00
Creditors payments		7,67,268.00	3,99,964.13
Advances			18,000.00
Cash & Bank Balances:			
Cash on hand		12,880.25	18,163.25
Cash at bank		24,22,524.69	29,91,438.69
TOTAL		1,04,14,086.98	1,34,59,574.84

INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT

	As at March 31	
	2022	2021
INCOME		
Donations	4,71,093.95	4,22,063.10
Bank interest	40,778.00	21,040.00
Impact guru foundation		
TOTAL	5,11,871.95	4,43,103.10
EXPENSES		
Administration Expenses	36,689.42	1,32,832.27
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	4,75,182.53	3,10,270.83
TOTAL	5,11,871.95	4,43,103.10

BALANCE SHEET

	As at March 31	
	2022	2021
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
CAPITAL FUNDS	38,52,728.72	45,61,694.89
Add: Fixed assets during the year		2,33,186.00
Add: Excess of income over expenditure during the year	4,75,182.53	37,975.32
Less: written off old assets		10,19,237.00
Undisbursed Year marked (Specific) fund	17,99,609.82	20,81,721.35
Sundry Creditors :	58,66,358.87	66,33,626.87
TOTAL	1,19,93,879.94	1,25,68,076.94
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Fixed Assets (at cost)	21,39,711.00	21,39,711.00
Current Assets, loans and Advances		
Sundry Debtors	74,00,764.00	74,00,764.00
Advances	18,000.00	18,000.00
Cash & Bank Balances:		
Cash on hand	12,880.25	18,163.25
Cash at bank	24,22,524.69	29,91,438.69
TOTAL	1,19,93,879.94	1,25,68,076.94

For. Narotham Madhav & Ramesh,
Chartered Accountants

Sd/- x x x x x x x x
(Ram Prasad)
Proprietor

WE ARE INDEBTED TO

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India
The Department of Women & Children, Government of Andhra Pradesh
Dept of Juvenile Welfare and Welfare of Street Children, Govt of AP
Terre des Hommes, Netherlands
Children India Foundation
GLOBAL GIVING, USA
MILLAP Social Ventures
AP State AIDs Control Society, Govt of AP
Unite & Inspire – USA
The Pollination, USA
Freedom Fund USA
GIVE INDIA
Kamonohashi
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK - ONGOLE
IDBI BANK- ONGOLE Branch
&
State Bank of India, New Delhi



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GUNTUR :

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MEDARAMETLA :

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