



We too Women and are Part of the Society.
We Shall be Entitled With all the Rights of Women

International Women's Day 2021

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Annual Report 2020 - 21





Letter from the Secretary

A new normal!

The roads were deserted. Signs on the Andhra Pradesh state were unusual (i.e., “Masks are compulsory in service areas”). Offices were closed. Malls were shut. No gatherings. No eating in restaurants. After a few weeks, everyone started asking, “What is ‘normal’ life?” A new normal was born and humans were in for a long haul of different routines. Everyone found themselves in similarly stressful circumstances; however, people with fewer resources faced even greater hardships.

As COVID-19 wreaked havoc around the world, we at **HELP** organisation held an emergency meeting. Right away, we decided to help out where others may not be able to, even though we all were facing severe circumstances. With our experience in responding to various disasters over the years, we knew that this would be our biggest disaster relief operation ever. We immediately approved the undertaking of the operation, with a strong focus on disadvantage communities like.. Women in prostitution, migrant workers in the Krishna, Guntur & Prakasam Districts of AP in our target areas.

Our task was unprecedented and it required a great deal of reorganizing (brainstorming, interactions at different levels, office restructuring, regrouping, etc.); however, determining exactly how to help was at the top of the list. Our Disaster Relief Committee was activated on a 24/7 basis. Obtaining reliable information was critical, as was digesting it and developing schemes of assistance. A team of

our seven most experienced and skilled members, supported by a group of physicians, started working with local healthcare officials, hospitals, and pharmacies as well as with various NGOs in different parts of Andhra Pradesh.



The pleas from migrants in urban cities, and from villages thousands of miles away, to shoulder the pains of children and to help provide meals, rations, masks, and sanitation, were overwhelming. Soon the plans were developed and as a result we were able to help more than 25,000 people in Andhra Pradesh

This will require us to redraw various project schemes and raise resources to meet the challenges. It is very tricky. We fully understand that many of our supporters themselves are experiencing challenges — and to call on them is both humbling and emotional. Our appeal to everyone is to understand us and share whatever you can, and we will make sure that it is put to the very best use.

In any circumstances, your well-being is the most important, and you all are in our thoughts. Please be well and stay safe.

Love,

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 Southern 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.

The *HELP* Method:

Creating Child Friendly Community (CFC)

Creating Child-Friendly Communities-contributing towards Sustainable Development Goals

In the recent past, **HELP** has undergone a paradigm shift in its policy and implementation by adopting a human rights-based approach. From a service delivery mode of functioning, the organisation has moved to an integrated approach of facilitation and service delivery. While working with the communities and fulfilling their contextual needs, **HELP** realised that sustainable development is only possible by building partnerships with key stakeholders and adopting an integrated approach across education, protection, health and nutrition sectors. **HELP's** mission, core values and guiding principles continue to shape all that it does. This constitutes the **HELP** Method – i.e. **HELP's** development understanding and practice. Within the implementation role, it is exemplified in the institutional Child-Friendly Communities (CFC) approach- the core approach of **HELP** that shapes all sectoral and integrated implementation efforts.

Communities are mobilised by self-help /women's groups and children's groups to ensure that all stakeholders like parents, families, schools, ICDS centres, health sub-centres and police stations collectively engage in keeping children in good health, well-nourished, educated and protected from all those practices that may be detrimental to their full growth potential and development. Service providers are supported and hand held to ensure that teachers, health personnel and social workers extend quality health, nutrition, education and protection services equitably and inclusively to all children living in the community.

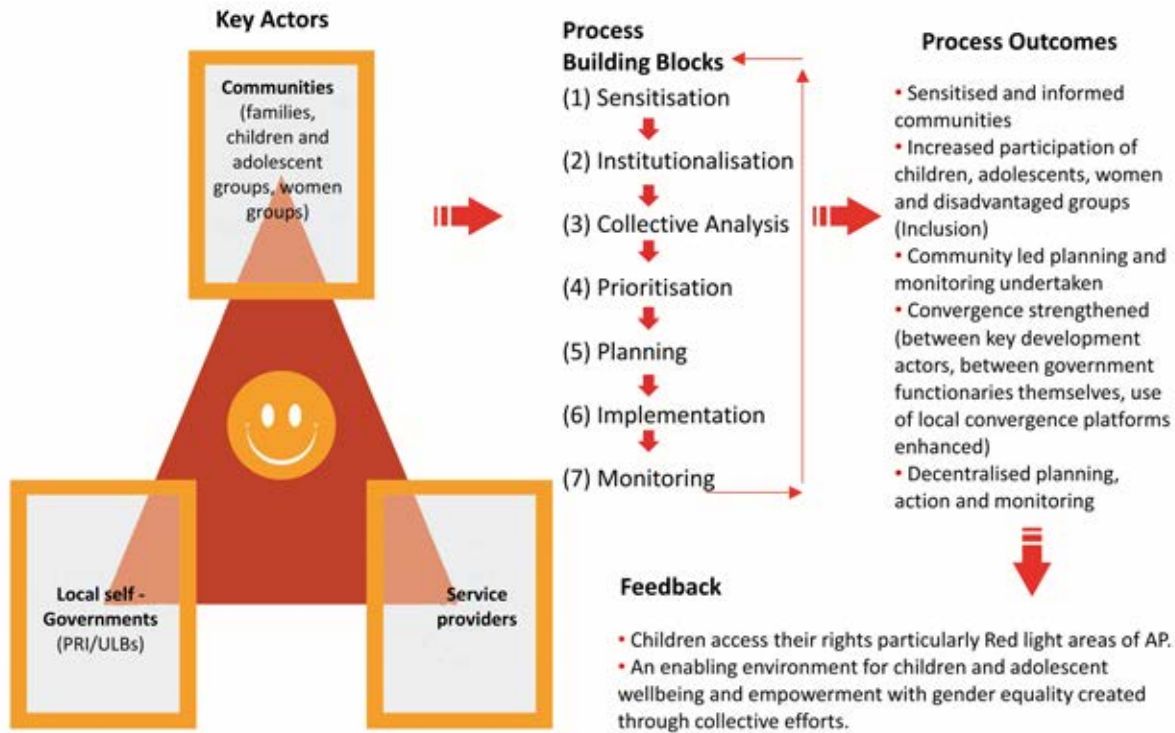
Local elected representatives (Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas and Urban Local Bodies in municipal areas) are encouraged to ensure access to basic services and implementation of policies and budgets in the best interests of children and women. The convergence of all services is also ensured by the elected representatives. **HELP** acts as a facilitator in engaging local development actors – the community, service providers and elected representatives – in a process aimed to ensure convergence and thereby strengthen good governance with and for children and women. Local governance partners are involved in participatory processes leading to increasing awareness on problems affecting the community, identifying issues through social mapping, planning interventions to address shared priorities and monitoring the progressive fulfillment of human rights by all, especially the socially excluded.

These learning of creating Child-Friendly Community helps **HELP** in strengthening its other role of influencing policies, advocacy, capacity building and system strengthening in different platforms and, networks across various levels.



How We Work

Implementation Framework: Creating Child Friendly Communities



Protection

A CALL AWAY: REACHING GIRLS AND BOYS OVER THE PHONE WITH INFORMATION ON COVID-19

At a time when physical distancing has not only become an accepted but also a mandatory norm for survival against COVID-19, **HELP** Organisation teams are using the means of telecommunication to stay connected with the communities.

Together with the partners, the teams are regularly in touch with the **HELP** Organisation supported survivors of Human Trafficking & sex workers families using mobile phones, which provide a useful alternative in the absence of field visits due to the lockdown. The initiative is currently active in Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The field staff of **HELP** organisation is making hundreds of calls every day to keep themselves abreast about the wellbeing, medical condition and other needs of the families. They also counsel them about the safety and preventive measures around COVID-19. In cases where there are HIV positive women or undernourished children, the team enquires about any kind of medical support they may need and orient them on COVID-19 symptoms, spread and its precautions. They also ask about the availability of sufficient food and other basic needs. These phone calls are helping **HELP** Organisation to be on top of the requirements of our disadvantage group and provide them with the required support which includes dry ration and hygiene kits or connecting them to the local medical services.

The teams have reached out to more than **1,500 victims of trafficking & victims of commercial sexual exploitation and 3,570 of children of sex workers** through the initiative, of which 70% were girls and 30% were boys.

This has been achieved by following a rigorous process of planning and training of the field staff including how to interact, what to say, and the messaging for the telephonic interactions. The teams developed and shared key messages with the members to ensure that every aspect of the community's well-being is tracked and acted upon accordingly.

The phone calls have not only helped **HELP** Organisation to maintain regular touch with the families but have also reassured the communities that we stand with them in these difficult times too.

Going contactless for dry ration and hygiene kit distribution: For **HELP** Organisation, the safety of the field staff, stakeholders as well as that of the community is a priority. Keeping this in mind **HELP** Organisation rolled out the contactless distribution of dry ration and hygiene kits across all its operational areas.



The entire process of distribution follows a slew of measures to ensure a 100 per cent contactless distribution. At the distribution centres, a dedicated place is marked where the dry ration and hygiene kits are placed for the family members to come and pick, one at a time. The record-keeping is done through phone calls and photographs and none of the beneficiaries is made to

give anything in writing or hold the pen and give thumb impressions. They are also encouraged to cover their faces either by using a mask or with a cloth.

For crowd management, circles, at a distance of a meter and a half, are drawn for people to stand and wait for their turn. The supporting staff too wears a disposable mask, gloves and practices regular hand washing, for which hand sanitizers have been made available at the centres. The people are also encouraged to sanitize their hands before and after taking the packages.

All these steps have ensured zero contact during the distribution process, instilling a sense of safety among the communities as well as **HELP** Organisation staff. “Contactless distribution has made me feel safe and confident to be part of the distribution process. Our processes are so well defined and strictly followed, that by being part of it the people are now also aware of frequent hand washing, maintaining physical distance, using masks and covering mouth with cloth,” Roja, a field officer in Vijaywada shared.



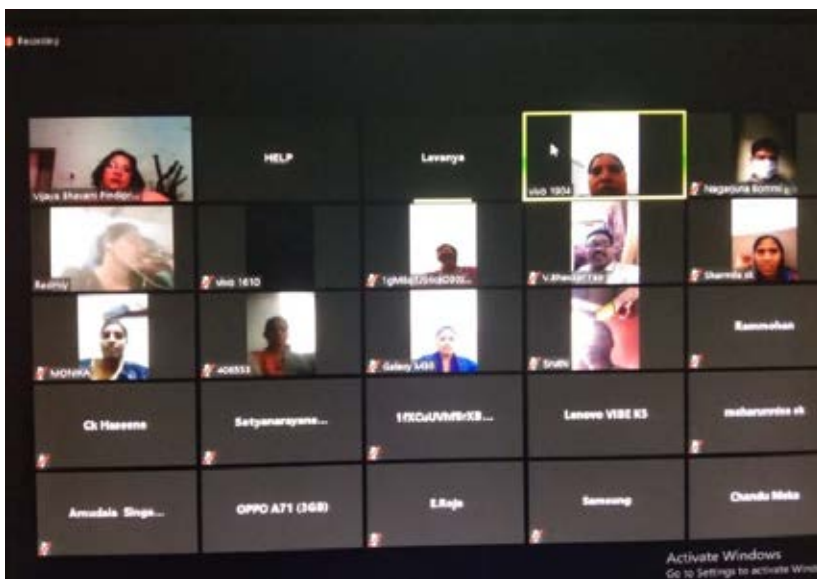
Our outreach: During COVID first wave, **HELP** Organisation reached out to 5,000 families with dry ration and hygiene kits, meeting the urgent needs of 10,000 + people on the ground in 6 states including– Bihar, Tamilnadu, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand covering 15 districts through our ILFAT network members. To ensure learning does not stop for girls’ during the pandemic.

Supporting People Living With HIV: As part of this community outreach, **HELP** Organisation’s flagship Vimukthi worked relentlessly to serve as a bridge between People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) and life-saving Antiretroviral (ARV) medicine to ensure that their treatment is not stopped during the lockdown. Emergency Identity Cards were issued to 25 Field Officers in 8 mandals covering 3 districts of AP to ensure the availability of ARV medicines and other

necessities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. These committed frontline workers supported 452 PLHIVs including more than 52 positive pregnant women by delivering life-saving ARV medicine at their doorstep.

VIMUKTHI also contributed to the fight against COVID-19 by sensitizing people on relevant awareness messaging and reached out to 2,500 families.

Additionally, while the lockdown made it difficult for the teams to



conduct field visits to the Target families, HELP Organisation initiated follow-up through phone calls to stay connected with its community members. The teams made daily calls to understand the wellbeing, medical condition and other needs of the families. They also counselled them on the safety and preventive measures around COVID-19.

Supporting Frontline Workers : HELP

Organisation stands in solidarity with the COVID-19 warriors and has been lending support to frontline workers and medical and paramedical staff with PPE kits, hygiene kits and hospital infrastructure supplementation. During the first wave of COVID, we distributed 750+ PPE kits to ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi workers and 500 + hospital staff. 1,250 + frontline workers have also been supported with hygiene kits. Additionally, 25,000 triple layer masks and 1500 gloves have been distributed.



SAFETY OF STAFF

HELP Organisation stands for the safety and well-being of its staff even as we continue to reach out to the most vulnerable population impacted by COVID. We adopted new ways of working to ensure that the employees can deliver from home as well as from the office. We reopened our offices in the first week of June with only 30 percent of staff and adequate precautions were followed as per the government guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of our associates. While working in the office, the employees were required to rigorously follow social



distancing norms, wear masks and protective gear and use the Aarogya Setu app. HELP Organisation offices worked with a flexible model wherein employees were encouraged to work from the office on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Before opening the offices, HELP Organisation organized training and capacity building workshops for its employees and field staff to orient them on the new ways

of working in the unlock phase of the COVID. HELP Organisation's employees are the backbone of the organization and we stay committed to ensuring that they are safe and cared for at all times.

GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

AN INITIATIVE TO ENSURE CHILD PROTECTION

Girls Advocacy Alliance is a global, collective initiative of **Terre des Hommes – Netherlands**, Plan International and ECPAT Netherlands to offer Equal Rights and Opportunities for Girls and Young Women across ten countries including India. The programme focuses to prevent **Child Trafficking** and **Child Marriages** and promote **secondary education** and **Job Oriented Vocational Trainings**. The program is being implemented in both A.P and Telangana states. **HELP** is leading **GAA program in the state of Andhra Pradesh** with its direct intervention at Prakasam district and in alliance with RAIDS and HANDS NGOs at Kadapa and Anantapur districts respectively with the

support of **Terre des Hommes – Netherlands**. While its core strategy is advocacy, it is working with four key actors i.e. Community, CSOs, Government and Private Sector.

GOAL: Equal Rights and Opportunities for Girls and Young Women in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.

Objective - Eliminate Gender Based Violence and Reduce Economic Exclusion of Girls & Young Women –Prevention of Child Marriage & Child Trafficking among girls and young women and increased access to Secondary Education and Job Oriented Vocational Training.

Key Strategies of GAA:

- ▶ Gender approach
- ▶ Lobby & advocacy and Networking
- ▶ Media campaign
- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Evidence building (Research)
- ▶ Dialogue with Dutch companies, CII, FICCI, DICCI

Core Activities:

- ▶ Orientation/capacity building trainings to religious leaders & Youth Group leaders
- ▶ Workshops with Judiciary, Police, Dept of WD&CW, JWCS, Transport and Railways
- ▶ Sensitization of statutory bodies & Child Protection mechanisms
- ▶ Interfaces between community & line departments
- ▶ Consultations
- ▶ Publication and dissemination of IEC & Trg. Manuals
- ▶ Awards distribution to champions of Media & Influential persons

Strategic Priorities and Focus

- Developing, strengthening and scaling up adolescent led empowerment programme models
- Influencing parents to create a family-based safety net (physical and virtual) and building capacity of key community stakeholders, including the service providers and local self-government
- Enhancing evidence-based documentation and strengthening local, state and national level networks and alliances
- Enhancing technical assistance to the government, especially at the local, district, state and national level
- Promoting evidence-based advocacy for investment, replication and scaling up of adolescent empowerment model through Government systems and structures

Major Highlights:

- The frontline workers like ASHA, ANM, Anganwadi workers including teacher, counsellors for adolescents are trained on deferent adolescent issues

- Convergence among the different Government programmes and schemes for the adolescents are brought in and also strengthened the referral services
- A media meet was organised with all the leading regional print media and electronic media for the widespread awareness of early marriage.
- 22 Adolescents were trained as Community Reporters by the Senior Journalists on the method of reporting.
- ▶ **125 media representatives** sensitized on Child Marriages (CM), Child Trafficking (CT), Secondary Education (SE) & Job Oriented Vocational Training (JOVT).
- ▶ Community leaders, youth group leaders, Govt officials and registered NGOs have got common understanding on CM, CT, SE & JOVT and gender equality and adapted gender based approach in their work.
- ▶ Improved coverage of media and engagement of NGO/CSOs in interventions on gender equality and to reduce CM, CT.
- ▶ **550 girls and young women** sensitized in Young Women Mela on gender equality.
- ▶ **225 Young Women** got awareness on GAA thematic areas through World Women's Day Programs.
- ▶ **48 rescued survivors** have participated in state level survivors' conference on the occasion of World against Trafficking in Persons – 2019.
- ▶ **175 Police personnel** built capacities on prevention of CM & CT across AP coverage.

Case study

Four girls got motivated to visit Police Station

Rani, Lakshmi, Sumathi and Ram Devi, residents of Venkata puram Tanda, Podili Village, of Podili Mandal, Prakasam Dist, can't stop talking about the most unusual day of their life. These girls were a part of the GAA project adolescent group at the Venkatapuram Anganwadi Centre. Rajani is functioned as the peer educator for the group.

August 27, - The day they went to the police station. HELP- GAA programme officer had asked them to visit a police station to ensure that they are fearless enough to approach the police if ever needed. Ms. Leelavathi (Anganwadi Worker) had also insisted them to go for the visit. They were very excited because it was a great opportunity for them. They had seen police stations only in films and wanted a first-hand experience all by themselves. Meanwhile, the HELP- GAA programme officer and the Anganwadi Worker spoke to their parents to explain the purpose of the visit and secured their permission. Parents of the four girls agreed instantly.

Finally, the four, along with 16 other girls from Venkatapuram Anganwadi Centres, visited the Podili Police Station. The Inspector-in-Charge, Mr.Venkatewsarlu, addressed the group. He greeted the girls and took them around the station. He explained the deference between General Diary (GD) and the First Information Report (FIR). He shared the contact details of the responsible police officer with adolescent girls and assured of all necessary support and action needed to prevent the early marriage from the part of the Podili police station. Rani, Lakshmi, Sumathi and Ram Devi found the discussion interesting. "Sir was very good", they declared. "If needed, we can go to the police station ourselves now" they stated. It was an interesting experience for the police personnel as well.

Strengthening Survivors' led Collective Action in Andhra Pradesh

Supported by: Kamonohashi, Japan

Target Group: Rescued victims & Sex Workers

Area of Operation: Three selected districts (Prakasam, Guntur & Krishna) in AP

Goal of project: Self motivated survivors collectivizations strives on their own for a world where they could build a conducive environment to realize and enjoy their rights and entitlements with self support services and advocate with policy makers and planners for required changes among existing policies and legislations, schemes and programmes with the facilitation of CSOs.

Objectives of this project:

- Capacitating the internal and external functional systems and mechanisms of survivors' collectives in 3 districts of A.P covering 10 red light areas creating as a replicable model.
- SURVIVORS COLLECTIVES offering services to the needy survivors of trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation for effective social re-integration and also in criminal justice system.
- Survivors' collective action and advocacy successes are widely disseminated and its principles are put into practice by all stakeholders.
- Policies, legislation, programmes and practices against sexual exploitation of children at local, national and regional levels are informed and strengthened by a Bill of Rights awareness-raising campaign

Psycho Social support to SLP leaders and members of Survivors collectives:

HELP has organised an online psycho-social counseling session through ZOOM call to the participants including SLP leaders and members of survivors' collectives from across the 3 Leadership Next Programme (LNP) operational districts. Dr. Vijaya Bhavani – Psychologist and Ex. Official of UN Women has taken an online session on Psycho-Social needs of the survivors of sex trafficking especially their psychological condition in the wake of COVID 19 pandemic outbreak and its ill consequences.



COVID Relief support: HELP has distributed provisions and direct cash relief to the sex workers and survivors of trafficking in Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts with the support of Kamonohashi to 116 beneficiaries



During the lockdown period in the wake of COVID 19 outbreak, the leaders of VIMUKTI and members of survivors' collectives have suffered like anything for their survival and to meet their routine basic needs including food as there is no work and no earning. HELP and VIMUKTI have made an assessment among 3 districts, identified the beneficiaries who are in need. Accordingly, with the support of Kamonohashi, HELP has extended its helping hand to the LNP leaders and members of survivors' collectives to cope up with the challenges and difficulties in the wake of COVID 19.

Submission of representation to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh: VIMUKTI has submitted a representation to Principal Secretary, Dept. of WD&CW, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh with the facilitation of HELP requesting to reinforce the GO.Ms. No. 1 which is meant for rehabilitation support for survivors of

trafficking and also seeking support from the SC, ST and BC corporations. They have explained in the representation that the sex workers and rescued survivors of trafficking are facing severe problems in the wake of COVID 19 lockdown as they lost their livelihoods and employment and suffering even for food without income.

Representation submitted by HELP to DGP, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh: HELP has submitted a representation to Mr. D.G. Sawang, DGP – Govt. of A.P to notify the **Anti-Human Trafficking Units** to function as police stations. So that, the cases of trafficking in persons will be taken forwards with efficient and speedy investigation and effective prosecution. HELP urged to strengthen the AHTUs empowering them with the powers of police station including registering FIRs and dealing the cases of trafficking. It was explained in the representation especially on the backdrop of post lockdown situation where there are many traffickers and criminal gangs takes advantage to lure girls and young women for flesh-trade. The empowered AHTUs with the powers of police stations would increase rate of convictions to the traffickers and other perpetrators involved in the crime.

Submission of representation to the Principal Secretary, Govt. of A.P: In the month of July 2020, VIMUKTI members along with HELP staff have submitted representation to **Smt. AR. Anuradha, IPS., Principal Secretary (earlier Home Secretary to Govt. of A.P.), Dept of WD&CW, Govt of A.P.** seeking her support for accessing the support services by the sex workers and survivors of trafficking provided by the state. They request to improve the accessibility of social entitlements and also criminal justice services to the survivors of sex trafficking and women in prostitution. When she was worked as a Home Secretary to the Govt. of A.P, the VIMUKTI leaders have met her and involved her in its state level meetings and also submitted representations.



Submission of representation to AP Women Commission: VIMUKTI leaders with the facilitation of HELP have submitted representation to the **Chairperson – A.P. Women Commission Smt. Vasireddy Padma** requesting to address the issues and challenges faced by the survivors of trafficking and women in prostitution in the state of Andhra Pradesh who are utterly affected in the wake of



COVID 19 pandemic losing their livelihoods and earning. They brought to her notice that, they have already submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh regarding their issues and difficulties that they are facing and the support they required to cope up with the drastic situation they are facing including struggle to survive on their own and their children and family members as well.

Submission of representation to Members of Parliament:

VIMUKTI leaders have met with the 4 Members of Parliament including those who are from 3 Lok Sabha and 1 Rajya Sabha. They have explained about the LNP programme, its concept, goal, objectives, services and activities for the empowerment of rescued survivors of trafficking and

women in prostitution. They have given a brief note on significance of Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill including its key features and submitted a representation to support for its early enactment. The MPs that the VIMUKTI Members have met with are Mr. Lavu. Sri Krishna Devarayalu – MP Narasaraopet constitution in Guntur District, Mr. Ayodhya Rami reddy MP (Rajya Sabha), Kesineni Nani MP (Vijayawada) and V. Balashowry – MP Machilipatnam.

International Human Rights Day – 2020: HELP has conducted state level workshop with likeminded CBOs, VIMUKTI - LNP leaders, AP State Women Commission and media on the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2020 to build and strengthen linkages with like-minded CBOs for strengthening LNP programme to empower sex workers. A total of 70 participants have realized the importance of Rights of sex workers, challenges facing by the sex workers/survivors due to delay or inaccessibility of state support services. The Chairperson of the state women commission who was the Chief Guest of the workshop has assured the sex workers for recommending the Govt. of A.P to look in to the issues of survivors/sex workers and to take necessary measures to resolve the same.



HELP has lobbied with the state women commission and sensitised the chairperson and members on issues of sex workers and survivors of trafficking. HELP has created a platform where all concerned stakeholders, survivors/sex workers including media have participated, interacted with each other to explore the issues and challenges facing by the sex workers/survivors. HELP has facilitated the LNP leaders and few survivors who have participated in the interface to voice out and bring their issues to the notice of the women commission and media.

State Level Media Interface:

HELP conducted a state level media interface on the occasion of International Day to End Violence against Sex workers and Survivors of Trafficking to sensitise media on issues and challenge of sex workers and build pressure on policy makers and planners for effective service delivery to the survivors of trafficking. The media personnel have been sensitised on the need for supporting the sex workers who have faced extreme difficulties in the context of COVID 19 pandemic outbreak. The survivors/sex workers have voiced out and brought to the notice of media personnel regarding the directions of Supreme Court to the state governments to provide free ration to the sex workers

irrespective of identity proofs and also support them for alternative livelihoods who are facing destructive financial issues in the wake of COVID.

Government fails trafficking survivors

C PRADEEP
■ VIJAYAWADA

An increasing number of women and girls are falling victim to traffickers, who sell their prey to brokers for various purposes, particularly for flesh trade or bonded labour.

Police and law enforcement agencies have been rescuing these victims and giving them hope of recovering from the trauma and physical problems they undergo in captivity.

The most important problem faced by the survivors is the social stigma they encounter after their rescue, particularly from the family members, relatives, neighbours etc. Law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, NGOs are trying to help the victims of human trafficking.

Survivors, particularly the girls and women, invariably



end up living in inhuman conditions and they badly need the help of the Government to begin a new life. The survivors demand the Government to pay compensation as per the law, give financial assistance, sanction bank loans, vocational training to get their life back on track.

Vimukthi, a collective of

survivors of sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and women in prostitution, has been vigorously canvassing in the State for the basic rights of the survivors.

Vimukthi along with other NGOs like HELP and others, has been organising state-level workshops to create awareness and enable their grievances be

heard by the authorities.

Speaking to The Pioneer, N Rammohan, secretary of the NGO 'HELP', which has been working against human trafficking in the State, said that every human has right to live with dignity, equality, liberty and freedom from slavery and torture. He regretted thousands of women were trapped by traffickers and the survivors are living in deplorable conditions.

Rammohan underlined the need to render all kinds of assistance restart their life. He further said the citizens have rights like the right to work and receive education, freedom from religion and conscience, the right to a standard of living adequate for one's health and well-being. He pointed out that out of Rs 16.62 crore allocated by the Central government for the survivors to

start a new life, only Rs 2.21 crore was utilised in the last four years which is about 13 per cent. This is mainly due to lack of awareness and complicated legal procedures in the system, he said.

Radhika, a survivor, said that it has been three years since she was rescued and the case has come up for hearing in court now. She said that till now she had spent money on lawyer's fees and on travel expenses to reach the court. She appealed to the department concerned to pay compensation as soon as possible.

Aruna, another survivor, said she had applied for compensation through her lawyer in the court of law four months ago. "Nothing positive has turned up till now. I know I should get compensation from the government but how long should I wait?" Aruna asked.

Meeting with Media, NGOs and CBOs on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021: HELP

conducted a state level meeting with media and other organisations/collectives/individuals on networking and alliance building on the occasion of International Women's Day on 7th Mar 2021 to build and strengthen the networking and alliance between VIMUKTI and media and other organisations/collectives. A total no. of 87 VIMUKTI leaders including survivors of trafficking and sex workers from Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts, media personnel and staff of VIMUKTI and HELP have been participated. The VIMUKTI – LNP leaders have released their demands including relevant GOs to media people through a press meet on the occasion. The media personnel understood the ways and means of violation of rights of sex workers and highlighted the issue in their respective newspapers.

Achievements:

S. No	District	Aadhar cards	Ration cards	Bank A/c	Housing
1	Krishna	8	18	48	32
2	Guntur	4	6	14	11
3	Prakasam	3	4	9	7
TOTAL		15	28	71	50

- The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has issued a special GO to distribute free ration to the sex workers across the state in the wake of COVID 19 as a result of advocacy efforts by HELP and VIMUKTI even without ration cards.
- The District level officials of line departments have invited VIMUKTI leaders in the process of needs assessment to render COVID relief support services to the deserved beneficiaries across Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna Districts.
- **Interim Compensation:**One of the VIMUKTI/LNP leaders Bhanupriya got 1 lakh and G Sravani has

been sanctioned with 4 lakh interim compensation by District Legal Services Authority. Two more applications are in process.

- VIMUKTI/LNP leaders have mobilized basic needs like Vegetables and provisions through local resources during lockdown by lobbying with the local leaders and influential people.
- A total of 6 caste certificates have been accessed by VIMUKTI leaders and survivors of collectives out of 14 applications submitted in one month.
- 2000 signatures have been collected from migrant labours, VIMUKTI leaders and Survivors of collectives from Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna Districts as part of the advocacy campaign demanding State and Central Government to support the migrant labours, VIMUKTI leaders and survivors of sex trafficking.

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 : 1020
- Outreach contacts done : 100%
- Tracking of the KPs : 100%
- Regular Medical Checkups (RMC) : 910
- KPs treated for STIs : 110
- Internal examination : 810
- No. Of referrals for HIV tests (ICTC) : 825
- No. Of condoms distributed : 2,15,156
- No. Of hot spot groups formed with KPs : 6
- No. Of hot spot group members : 50



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.

35% sex workers less than 18 years: NCRB report

PNS ■ VJAYAWADA

The International Day of No Prostitution was celebrated on October 5 every year. The day aims at increasing awareness about prostitution and is celebrated to oppose prostitution. The International Day of No Prostitution was first celebrated in 2002 and was majorely celebrated in the United States and Australia. Since then, the day has been celebrated in other countries like India, Canada and Philippines.

According to a report by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, there are over three million female sex workers out of which about 35-47 per cent enter the prostitution before the age of 18. According to the survey, about 1.2 million children were involved.

The semi-nomadic tribal community of Domnara that resides slums in various towns in the state takes pride in their family business, which is 'Prostitution'. Customarily,

HELP organisation secretary N Ram Mohan said that they have been campaigning for the rights of children and for preventing second generation prostitution and for putting an end to human trafficking



they were entertainers and it was their occupation to for the women and girls to perform for feudal lords. With the changing times prostitution has become their family tradition.

Adolescent girls are initiated into the family 'tradition' while their

brothers become 'agents'. According to Prof KK Mukherjee, former head of department of social work, DU, apart from the Domnara, there are other tribal communities such as the Sogali in Anantapur district, which takes up prostitution as their primary source of income.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Andhra Pradesh reported the second highest share of human trafficking cases after Maharashtra. As per the Andhra Pradesh State Aids Control Society (APSACS) as many as one lakh sex workers are registered in the State.

Speaking to The Pioneer, HELP organisation secretary N Ram Mohan said that they have been campaigning for the rights of children and for preventing Jagan meeting Modi, Shikant on Apex

Council meet day second generation prostitution and put an end to human trafficking.

He said that as on 2019 Andhra Pradesh has reported 245 cases of human trafficking. This formed a share of 10.8 per cent of the total number of human trafficking cases reported.

He said that of the total number of cases reported, 99.40 per cent cases were charge-sheeted while 52 cases resulted in conviction with 21.80 per cent. This number, however, was the highest number of convictions compared to the other States.

He said that Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) should be established in every district with police station powers and informed that there are only three AHTUs in the State.

Anti-Human Trafficking Units to have more teeth

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

The Centre has issued directions for establishment of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in every district and strengthening them in the State to curb the crime of trafficking in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Women Safety Cell, has given details of funds released during 2010 to 2019 for setting up AHTUs in 50% districts of India, and later in March 2020 funds were released for setting up of AHTUs in all districts.

In this context, NGOs have urged the State government to strengthen the AHTUs across the State and set up new ones.

Ongole-based 'Help' secretary N.V. Rammohan in a letter submitted to DGP Gautam Sawang urged him to empower the AHTUs on the lines of the powers of regular police stations as that helps in speedy investigation of the trafficking cases in the State.

"At present there are five AHTUs in the State but none has the powers of police stations," he said.

"The police personnel facing stress with different law and order cases and also with bandobast duties are facing challenges in dealing with these trafficking cases and are failing to get convictions for traffickers because of weak investigation," he said.

Sex trafficking victims seek loans to stand on their feet

Vijayawada: Vimukti, an NGO working for basic rights of survivors of sex trafficking and commercial exploitation, along with other NGOs, HELP, Vasavya Mahila Mandal is organising a State-level workshop at Vasavya Mahila Mandal from 10.30 am to 1 pm on December 10 to mark the National Human Rights Day. The victims of trafficking will attend the workshop and narrate their experiences. N Rammohan, secretary, HELP, which has been working against human trafficking in the State, said every human has right to live with dignity, equality, liberty and freedom from slavery and torture.

He regretted thousands of women were trapped by the traf-

fickers and the survivors were living in deplorable condition. Krishna District Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Chairman B V S Kumar pointed out the banks can sanction a loan up to Rs 1 crore to the survivors of victims of trafficking under the Credit Guarantee Scheme implemented by the Union Government.

He said the bank could sanction loans without collateral security and the loan amount was insured also. He regretted most banks are not sanctioning loans to victims of trafficking and added the victims should be given training in new courses that provide livelihood immediately. He suggested for training in professional courses which have good demand in the society.

SHORT TAKES

MORE FUNDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH: SEX WORKER NGOS

MD ILYAS | DC
VJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Vimukti, a non-governmental collective working for the rights of sex workers and trafficked women, demanded that the government allocate more funds to mental health treatment services to cope with mental health challenges in the wake of Covid-19 on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on October 10.

Vimukti leaders said that it is high time to extend a helping hand to the women in sex work with necessary mental health services and moral and social support along with those poor, marginalised and weaker sections in society adversely affected in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vimukti's state convener, Hasena, co-convenor, Munni and India leadership forum against trafficking (ILFAT) AP state convener, Durga, stated that there are more than one lakh sex workers in Andhra Pradesh who are suffering mental health issues.

This is because of the extreme pressure by brokers, brothel owners and traffickers who earn from them as parasites. They further pointed out that sex workers fall prey to mental health issues due to trauma caused by sexual assault, abuse and exploitation, physical torture by customers, poverty, sexual violence and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The availability of facilities for mental health treatment services through primary health centres will be a crucial step towards ameliorating the situation.

Help project coordinator, Bhaskar, stated that according to a recent survey most women who are rescued alive from the vicious cycle of trafficking are living alone, not accepted by families and show a sense of social anxiety. He said that it is found that, 87.3 per cent are suffering with dysthymia, 12.7 per cent are depressed.

Pandemic proves to be a roller-coaster ride for trafficking survivors

SHOBHANA SACHIDANAND
BENGALURU, DHNS

"We need help urgently. Food and medicines for HIV are the most important things and I don't see this situation easing anytime soon. Officials need to visit our villages and see the situation," says Mehruvissa, 29, a survivor of sex trafficking who now lives in Andhra Pradesh with her daughter.

Survivors of human trafficking have never been a part of an "inclusive society". With the lockdown in place, they

feel totally left out. Lack of work, food supplies and ration cards make getting food tough and medicines impossible.

Hasena, 34, another survivor of sex trafficking, says that the pension given by the government to single women should be extended to the sex trafficking community as well.

Bhanupriya, 25, another survivor, feels that the government should assess their living conditions and problems they face, and then come up with solutions, and adopting a top-down policy where the need

and relief provided do not match does not help anyone.

These survivors have been deprived of rehabilitation services, compensations and legal aid. Hasena's story sums up the ordeal. "My husband is a labourer and my brother an auto driver. Both have been jobless due to the lockdown. My brother is unwell. His treatment costs us Rs 15,000 a month and we do not have funds. We cannot go to the town to get his medicines because of the lockdown. Interest on loans is also very high."

Some like Indumathy, 23, a survivor of forced labour from Tamil Nadu, have been getting support from local NGOs like the one she works for as a moderator at Rights Educational And Development Centre. She says she is focusing on her studies and has some savings to carry her through.

But many of the survivors are not so lucky. Some of them have been going without their regular HIV medicines which can be dangerous, suggests the Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking, a

forum that has been formed by survivors to fight human trafficking.

Ram Mohan Nimmaraju, secretary, HELP Organisation, AP, says state governments need to prepare a plan for rehabilitation and social entitlements for the survivors.

He suggests temporary ration cards and monetary support for them without delay. He adds that action must be taken against house owners demanding that they either pay or vacate the houses immediately.

Poor rehab, conviction lead to re-trafficking

K. KALYAN KRISHNA
KUMAR | DC
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 2

Human re-trafficking was slowly gaining roots in Andhra Pradesh, throwing up new challenges to authorities. It called for strict measures before the situation snowballed into a big concern.

Most of the innocent girls and women, who fell prey to the trafficking and subsequently got rescued, were either being trafficked again. Some of the victims were voluntarily knocking the prostitution doors under helpless circumstances.

The scale of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking was steadily rising in India, despite the existence of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Though law enforcement officials were conducting a good number of raids on brothels, very few traffickers were being sentenced and that too with very low penalties. Hence, it was proposed to conduct a research on the reasons for the low conviction rate in ITPA cases in Andhra Pradesh.

An estimated 5 lakh women and children were trafficked annually of which 20-30 per cent were below 13 years of age. There was an annual increase of 10 per cent children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, child labour or adoption.

Lack of understanding among victims about the benefits of rehabilitation, failure of authorities to ensure proper rehabilitation measures and poor conviction rate were among the few reasons that forced victims back to sexual slavery.

Police officials would be able to address this issue partially by aggressively arresting traffickers and rescuing several women. But, the conviction rate seemed pretty poor at a mere 2 per cent against the arrested number. This was said to be prompting traffickers to trap innocent girls and women with no sense of fear.

Public forums claimed there existed a huge gap between registered cases and actual re-trafficked women.

According to the statistics by HELP, an NGO based in Ongole working for women in prostitution and their children, AP police registered just about 1,000 cases against traffickers in the key locations between January 2004 and September 2017, at an average of 250 per year. This was when there could be multiples of it in reality.

On the other hand, victim rescue rate too saw a sharp decline during the period from a monthly average of 32 rescued victims to 23 in 2017, a 28 per cent difference. This indi-

IMMORAL ACT

■ Lack of understanding among victims about the benefits of rehabilitation, failure of authorities to ensure proper rehabilitation measures and poor conviction rate were among the few reasons that forced victims back to sexual slavery.



State Legal Services Authority offers help

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA FEB. 2

A programme to implement the Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Scheme 2015 through the first-of-its-kind State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) was organised at Chirala in Prakasam district on Saturday. It was with the support of the NGO HELP.

The main motto of the meeting, chaired by Justices B. Siva Sankar Rao and T. Sunil Chowdary, was to meet the victims. Around 1,000 victims attended the meeting with their applications from several parts of the district. All government services, including rehabilitation and medical check-ups and issuing of certificates, were showcased in different stalls. There were stalls of the Mee Seva Centre, SCs, STs, BCs, Minorities and Kapsi Corporation. They discussed the rehabilitation sources and issuing on the spot orders in

favour of the victims. Several said they were not having ration cards and many asked for rehabilitation benefits.

Justice Rao said parents should take care of their children. For immediate justice to victims, they had brought several government department to one venue.

Justice Chowdary said SLSA would support the victims and bring the government schemes to them. HELP organiser N.V.S. Ramamohan mentioned the problems faced by victims after the rescue and suggested the need for implementation issues.

Inspector-General CID Suneel Kumar said there had been 16,000 crimes against women. SLSA member P. Rambabu, District Judge Priyadarshini, district legal services secretary T. Venkatesh, Superintendent of Police B. Satya Yesubabu and Joint Collector Nagalakshmi were among those who attended the meeting.

icated signs of missing grip for authorities over the burning issue.

The survey mentioned about the failure causes for rehabilitation and the chance for the accused escaping.

It alleged that the failure of the prosecution for proving the case and lack of knowledge of the investigative officers about the particular cases, and the problems faced by the investigative officers at the time of investigation became a chance for traffickers to escape from the law and restart trafficking.

N.V.S. Ramamohan Rao, who runs HELP, expressed concerns over the government unusually delaying the benefits and failing to provide full-fledged rehabilitation facilities to the rescued women. This was forcing them to opt for prostitution again.

"It's high time officials and leaders focussed on speedy disbursement of benefits and guided victims of trafficking in the

proper direction in the form of self-employment schemes and other possible support," he added.

The survey suggested some immediate actions be taken to control trafficking and for increase in the rate of convictions.

The survey team mooted educating investigative officers about Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Act. As per the Act, minor victims should be presented before the CWC, which did not happen in many cases.

The survey highlighted that the 164 CrPC statement of the victim or the witness was not recorded before the Magistrate. And 88 per cent of the mediators presented for witness turned hostile. This indicated the non-involvement of local government officials as mediators by the law enforcement agency. Female constable witness was not available in 56 per cent cases, indicating that rescue protocols were not followed by the police department.

With no govt help, lockdown likely to spur trafficking

- NGOs working with commercial sex workers point dire situation faced by this ignored section of the society owing to the crisis created by the Covid-19
- The lockdown is forcing to go for high interest loans from moneylenders which will ultimately lead to trafficking in women and children
- Community-based organisations urge the govt to distribute aid through the organisations working with the district AIDS prevention and control units



NARESH NANJAM

Ongole: The coronavirus pandemic hit all sections of the population, including commercial sex workers (CSWs). The lockdown conditions in the state have affected the income of the sex workers, forcing them to take loans at higher interest rates for survival. The community-based organisations that are working closely with them suggest that the authorities help these people too, as most of them do not have ration cards. They observe that there would be a spike in the trafficking in women after the control of Covid-19 if the government doesn't respond fast.

The data from the National AIDS Control Organisation (Naco) and Andhra Pradesh State Control Society, there are around 80,000 female commercial sex workers in the state, in which nearly 8,000 are from Prakasam district. Apart from these women, there are another 1.20 lakh women from migrant families, who are also involved in the sex trade. Most of these women are single mothers and women who are neglected by their husbands and families or the main breadwinners for their families. Due to the work they do, they would be habituated to alcohol, ganja, and other narcotics and spend most of their income on them.

With the unexpected 21-day lockdown, CSWs too lost their livelihood. Shaik Munni, a project officer in a community-based organisation for the welfare of sex workers

in Ongole, said that these women are being forced into debt with higher interest rates due to the lockdown. She said that though the other people require surety for taking the private loans, the greedy money lenders give money to these women without any surety but collect higher interest rates like Rs 10, Rs 15 and Rs 20 a month depending on the emergency and demand payment in short duration. She explained that women are utilising the money for immediate needs and emergencies in the family. This lockdown is also forcing the women who were rescued earlier and came out of the profession to go back into it again, and will result in more trafficking in the state, she said.

N.V.S. Ramamohan, secretary of HELP, an NGO closely working with the women rescued from sex trade, says such victims were not receiving the compensation assured by the law. He said that as per the NCRB data, only two of the 1,115 women rescued in 2018 received the compensation. He opined that the neighbourhood of these destitute women won't leave them to live peacefully. "Lockdown now is forcing most of these women in the trade to go to sleep without any food. The government should distribute help through the community-based organisations working with the district AIDS prevention and control units when they attend for regular medical check-ups," he said and also advised the government to protect the women from the greedy lenders and save them and their girl children from trafficking again due to the hefty loans.

THE HANS

Sex workers write to CM seeking relief

Vijayawada: Ration and cash aid is sought by sex workers who are facing severe hardships due to the lockdown in AP state thanks to the coronavirus.

The Vimukthi Forum against Trafficking wrote a letter to the Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy requesting ration cards and immediate relief in terms of essential services for sex workers. Vimukthi representatives stated that in AP nearly 30 sex worker localities (semi red-light areas) exist and nearly 1.20 lakh women are involved in sex work (as per the APSACS statistics). They lamented that while many professions have seen a gradual decline in business, sex workers are witnessing a sharper fall. The lockdown has escalated the risk of poverty and ill-health for the sex workers, as there are no clients in the market. They appealed to Jagan to provide essential services and immediate relief to save women sex workers and children who were the worst sufferers in the lockdown.

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**.

Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance Report

IDENTITY

HELP is registered as a Society (non- governmental organization) under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. (Reg. No. 133 of 1993 Dt. 11th May 1993) with the Registrar, Nellore – Andhra Pradesh.

Organization details are available on HELP’s website: www.HELPap.in & www.Traffickinginap.com
Email: helpap@gmail.com, helpap2002@yahoo.com.

HELP is registered u/s 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and with the Commissioner of Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA Reg. No. 010330068 Dt.4th June 1997).

Visitors are welcome to the addresses given on the “contact us” link on our website: www.helpap.org & www.traffickinginap.com, www.childprotectioninfo.in

Name & Address of main Bankers:

General A/c :	FCRA A/c
<ul style="list-style-type: none">IDBI Bank, Trunk Road, ONGOLE – 1AXIS Bank, Trunk Road, ONGOLE- 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SBI, New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB) Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Name & Address of auditors: M/s Narotham Madhav & Ramesh, Chartered Accountants,
7-823, Z.P.Colony, Mangamur Road, ONGOLE – 2, A.P, India.

MISSION AND VISION:

Vision: The vision of HELP is to create a safe, supportive and responsive society protection rights and dignity of every child in Andhra Pradesh. HELP has a long term view of preventing child trafficking, child prostitution and second generation prostitution

Mission: HELP strives to prevent trafficking by educating boys and girls in schools and communities in different parts of the state and by training teachers, professionals, police, government authorities and the general public about the harm of sexual exploitation and ways to resist and combat it, through its regional networks, affiliated individuals and groups by serving as an umbrella

GOVERNANCE:

Details of Board Members: (as of March 31, 2020)

sl	Name of the member	age	Sex	Position on board	occupancy	Area of competency	Meetings attended
1	Mr.Prabhakar Rao	63	M	President	Business	Social mobilization	5/5
2	Mr.N.V.S.Ram Mohan	61	M	Secretary	Journalist	Advocacy	5/5
3	Smt. Girija Kumari	56	F	Vice-president	Social worker	Peoples movement	5/5
4	Mr. Nageswara Rao M	61	M	Treasurer	Farmer	Social mobilization	5/5
5	Mr.K.N.Murthy	62	M	Member	Journalist	Advocacy	3/5
6	Smt. D.Vijayalakshmi	41	F	Member	Social worker	Women mobilization	4/5
7	Ms.Jaya sri	32	F	Member	Counseling	Counseling services	5/5
8	Mr.B.K.S.Rayudu	51	M	Member	Hardware	Advocacy & lobby	5/5

- None of the Board Members are related to each other.
- The HELP Executive Body met 5 times in the FY 2020-21, on 27th July 2020, 16th August 2020, 10th November 2020, 3rd Jan 2021, and 20th March 2021. The Board meetings are documented and circulated.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- No director received salary from the organization.
- No other remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of compensation has been paid since inception of the organization, to any Board members,
- No reimbursements have been made to any Board member,
- Remuneration of the highest paid Staff Members Rs 3,00,000/- p.a,
- Remuneration of the lowest paid full time regular staff member: Rs. 105,600 p.a

STAFF Details: (As at March 31, 2021)

<i>Number of paid workers in the organization</i>	<i>No. of Persons</i>
Regular Full time	15
Regular Part time	0
Full time contact staff	0
Part time contact staff	0
Consultants	0
Other paid members include Paid- volunteers	25
Un-paid volunteers	25

* All members are “volunteers” giving their time for organization. They are not included in the details above

* Are any of the staff members related to any Board members? No

DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF (as at March 31, 2021)

<i>Slab of gross salary (in Rs.) plus benefits paid to staff</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>total</i>
Less than <5000	0	25	25
5,000 – 10,000	0	7	7
10,000 – 25,000	8	0	8
25,000 – 50,000	0	0	0
50,000 – 100,000	0	0	0
100,000 >	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	32	40

Total Cost of National Travel by all staff during the year: Nil

Total cost of International travel by all staff during the year: Nil

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT

	Schedule	As at March 31	
		2021	2020
RECEIPTS			
Opening Balances			
Cash on Hand			
FCRA		16,574.50	4,073.50
General		12,538.75	22,550.75
Cash at Bank			
FCRA		5,24,794.87	11,43,775.57
General		15,67,927.01	18,37,703.85
Donations		4,22,063.10	4,25,800.00
Grants for Project / programmes	A	1,08,54,355.61	1,19,23,513.49
Bank interest		61,321.00	91,657.00
Sundry Creditors			12,62,118.00
Old Assets Sales			5,000.00
Advances (Adj)			1,27,110.00
TOTAL		1,34,59,574.84	1,68,43,302.16
PAYMENTS			
SURVIVORS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME -SLP	1	26,39,337.93	31,74,630.76
Covied Relief –kamonahashi	2	21,21,318.22	
Freedom fund	3	4,15,103.08	2,40,354.13
Reduction of STI and HIV / AIDS	4	17,89,239.70	13,39,492.00
Covied Relief-givefoundation	5	13,52,202.00	
Girls Advocacy Alliance Programme		4,56,969.03	70,57,690.93
Child Line programme		729.00	2,71,605.00
Vocational trainigs – United & inspire			99,587.00
Observation Home Expenses			3,14,019.00
Administration Expenses	6	1,32,832.27	48,039.81
Openshelter for girls & boys			7,92,933.00
Millap Programme		1,06,835.00	
ANNAPURNA Project Expenses		5,64,348.28	2,06,376.77
Support for victims -G.G			1,25,292.23
Covied relief –the poillation		36,593.76	
Mental Health Assesment		76,500.50	
Survivors leaders workshop			49,770.00
Digital marketing consultation		3,40,000.00	
Creditors payments		3,99,964.13	10,01,676.40
Advances		18,000.00	
Cash & Bank Balances:			
Cash on hand		18,163.25	29,113.25
Cash at bank		29,91,438.69	20,92,721.88
TOTAL		1,34,59,574.84	1,68,43,302.16

INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT

	As at March 31	
	2021	2020
INCOME		
Donations	4,22,063.10	4,25,800.00
Bank interest	21,040.00	63,715.00
Impact guru foundation		
TOTAL	4,43,103.10	4,89,515.00
EXPENSES		
Administration Expenses	1,32,832.27	31,606.81
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	3,10,270.83	4,57,908.19
TOTAL	4,43,103.10	4,89,515.00

BALANCE SHEET

	As at March 31	
	2021	2020
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
CAPITAL FUNDS	45,61,694.89	47,65,647.18
Add: Fixed assets during the year		2,33,186.00
Add: Excess of income over expenditure during the year	3,10,270.83	37,975.32
Less: written off old assets	10,19,237.00	7,05,926.00
Undisbursed Year marked (Specific) fund	20,81,721.35	10,83,726.76
Sundry Creditors :	66,33,626.87	72,32,378.00
TOTAL	1,25,68,076.94	1,28,80,334.13
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Fixed Assets (at cost)	21,39,711.00	31,58,948.00
Current Assets, loans and Advances		
Sundry Debtors	74,00,764.00	75,99,551.00
Advances	18,000.00	
Cash & Bank Balances:		
Cash on hand	18,163.25	29,113.25
Cash at bank	29,91,438.69	20,92,721.88
TOTAL	1,25,68,076.94	1,28,80,334.13

For. Narotham Madhav & Ramesh,
Chartered Accountants

Sd/- 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

GLOBAL GIVING, USA

MILLAP Social Ventures

UNICEF - Hyderabad

AP State AIDs Control Society, Govt of AP

The Empower & Excel – USA

Unite & Inspire – USA

The Pollination, USA

Freedom Fund USA

GIVE INDIA

Kamonohashi

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK - ONGOLE

&

IDBI BANK- ONGOLE Branch



ONGOLE :

8-217-18, Rajeev Nagar,
Lawyer pet ext, Pin- 523 002.
E-mail: helpap@gmail.com,
Web : <http://www.helpap>.

GUNTUR :

25-16-116/A,
1st lane Kodanda ramaiah nagar,
KVP colony road,
Near Chuttu gunta,
E-mail: helpap2002@yahoo.com

MEDARAMETLA :

Addanki Road,
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Opp: Church Building,
E-mail: help.sacs@gmail.com