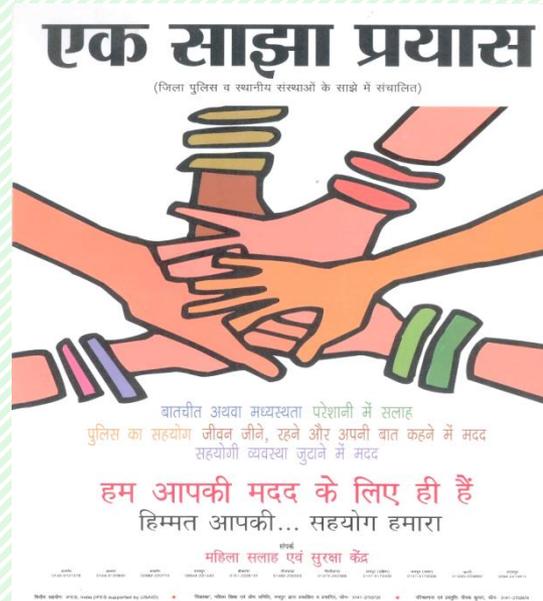


Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra

(Collaborative efforts between Vishakha, police and local institutions)



Our learning and Experiences



By Vishakha Group for Women's Education and Research

Jaipur, Rajasthan

Negotiated spaces for women within systems

Rajasthan women's movement has a distinct identity of its own. It has played a significant role in Indian women's movement because of its ability to see local women's issues in wider context and to give these local struggles a mass form by linking them with policy and intervention.

Since 1980 efforts have been made in the direction of collaboration between the state and civil society. Women development program had been the one of milestone for women empowerment . *Deorala sati* protest movement, *Bhateri* rape case and Vishakha guideline for Sexual harassment had given new dimensions towards women empowerment .

Moving ahead with these experiences the collaborative efforts have gradually extended to academic groups and Home department of the State

The formulation of the State Commission for Women and the State Policy on Women followed in continuum, which acknowledges derogatory practices and violence against women as comprising an area requiring immediate attention.

In terms of legal reforms the state has made efforts to make legal services more accessible to women, which has resulted in the setting up of Legal Aid Cells, Family Courts and *Lok Adalats*.

Significant initiatives have been the setting up of a platform for redressal of grievances with the Rajasthan police under the chairpersonship of the Home Commissioner of the State since 1996. Similarly the *Zila Mahila Sahayata Samitis*, have also emerged at the district level under the chairpersonship of the Collector



Emergence of MSSK

Keeping these three issues of scale, timing and comprehensive redressal in focus it was felt that the need was to orient and sensitize criminal justice system and work with the law enforcing agency of the State Police so that spaces for redressal within systems is upheld as a right of violated women.

With this understanding, dialogue with Rajasthan police began and the decision of setting up *Mahila Salah evam Suraksha Kendra* emerged out of series of meetings between senior police officers in Rajasthan police and women's groups.

The Rajasthan police officials and representatives of women's organizations took a joint decision that the Rajasthan strategy of intervention should be built form the learning of 'Special cell for women and children' run by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai



In 2002, the first Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra was started at the Mahila Thana in Gandhinagar by the Jaipur collective comprising twelve women's and human rights organizations including Vishakha, collaboration with the Rajasthan Police..

In 2004, with the support of IFES-USAID Vishakha took up the sole responsibility of opening MSSK Centres in ten Districts of Rajasthan and garnering local support according to the Police Order in response to the effectiveness of the experimental Centre in Jaipur.

Currently 8 Centres are functional in the Districts of Ajmer, Bikaner, Bhilwara, Bharatpur, Barmer, Chittorgarh, Dudu, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

The Centres are strategically located within Police premises but with an independent identity that demonstrates a culture of equity, dignity and non-violent approach towards combating violence

A distinctive aspect of the Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendras started by Vishakha has been its emphasis and coordinated efforts to dialogue with community groups and maintain regular outreach to advocate against violence directed at women.

Timeline of MSSKs

2004: ADGP released order for extension of centers in 10 districts of Rajasthan

July 24, 2004: Started MSSK in Bhilwara.

July 26, 2004: MSSK Ajmer

July 29, 2004: MSSK, Chittorgarh

August 18, 2004: MSSK, Udaipur

October 23, 2004: MSSK Alwar
(In December 2008 Vishakha did an MOU with Spana Sanstha (one of DSG members) to take care of Alwar center. Vishakha is the technical resource agency for this center)

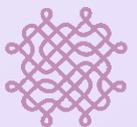
December 29, 2004: Bharatpur MSSK

January 3, 2005: Bikaner MSSK

January 18, 2005: Barmer MSSK
(In September 2006 we closed down the Barmer center. There is need to work with different approach)

March 9, 2005: MSSK in Phagi Block
(In August 2009 the phagi center was shifted in Dudu police station)

August 29, 2005: Started MSSK in Jodhpur



Objective of MSSK

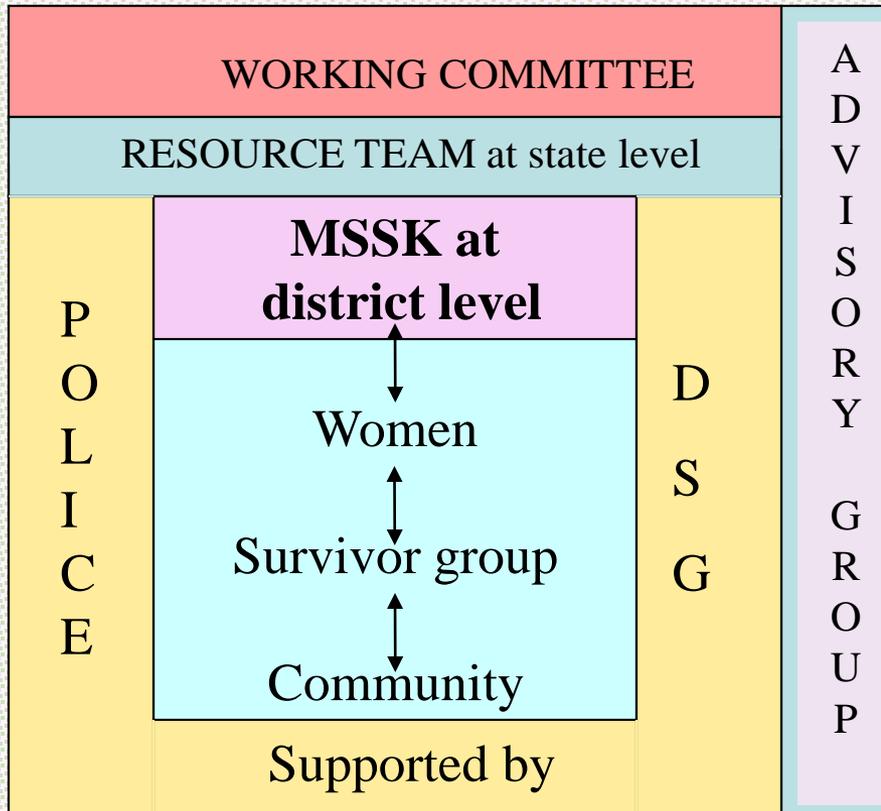
- To establish women's identity as an individual
- To provide holistic redressal to women facing violence
- To initiate process from empowerment to relief through:
 - * Understanding of self and self reflection processes
 - * To build gender sensitive and supportive environment
- To inculcate women's perspective and experiences in criminal justice system
- To develop human resources and references for women empowerment

Basic values of the center

- The MSSK is space for woman which works with pro women approach..
- The center's primary concern is that women can live violence free life.
- MSSK take up such processes which leads women empowerment from holistic redressal.
- Center's focus is to understand women's situation, self exploration and reflection, to understand the situations relatively with patriarchy and gender discrimination rather than getting counseling results.
- MSSK is violence free, nonjudgmental space for women to support women.
- Center doesn't discriminate any person on the basis of caste, class and religion.
- Center follows all basic principles of counselling as acceptance, confidentiality, nonjudgmental, respect to individuality etc



Program Structure



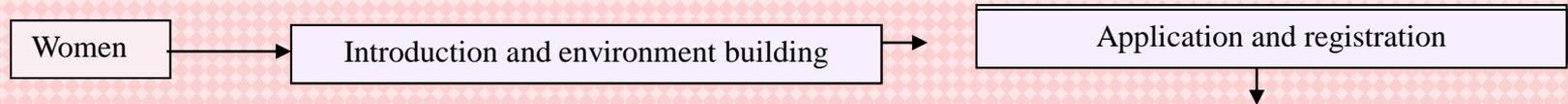
DSG- District Support Group

Activities and work of the program

- To provide holistic redressal to women facing violence through case work
- Supporting the woman in her journey through the Criminal Justice system.
- To coordinate with various departments (health, WCD, police etc) in favour of women by putting feminist perspective.
- To do work as a service provider within respective district.
- To prepare annual report of situation of violence against women in district on the basis of data collected at MSSKs.
- To present monthly progress report to district SP.
- To reach out large no. of women through various outreach activities so that women in need can seek support from the center and environment can be build up against violence within district.
- Creating non judgmental spaces for survivor women to connect with each other and emerge stronger from shared contexts
- Networking with State and Non State Agencies.
- Outreach with various stakeholder groups towards information sharing and building a common understanding on the issue of violence against women.
- Encouraging women to be involved in Reflective and healing processes towards experiencing balance and equanimity
- Research and Advocacy to understand and disseminate emerging understanding on the issue of violence against Women.
- To play role as resource persons in various police training as per requirement.
- Responding to specific needs of woman with a sense of immediacy, such as for child retrieval, securing woman's right to her Stree dhan etc.
- Crisis Management in cases of Rape, sexual harassment and torture
- Community interventions to create support structures and strengthen the woman's position in accessing justice.

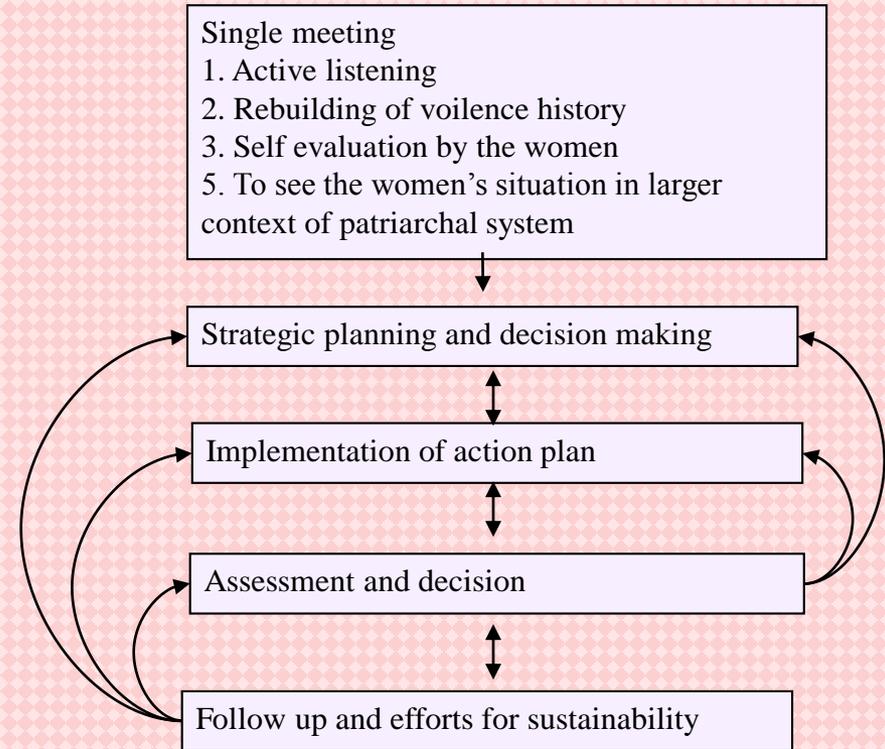


Working with women at center



Process of Empowerment

Work process at center is a process of empowerment. Center worker registers the problem of woman. Listens her problem, helps in identification of the problem, and explores the woman in the role of decision making. Designs the strategy for living life with dignity & equity and provides supports to women in the implementation of strategies. Worker creates link between woman & various services like as short stay, employment or healing. The process of counseling & analysis supports to women to build her confidence. She is become able to struggle with violence by understanding of the vicious cycle of violence. In this whole process worker energizes woman by the regular follow-up & contacts. Confidence of women & support of worker gives more strength to women to struggle with violence.



This process depends upon woman's emotional situation, available time to her and and her self assessment and decision making , means it varies from person to person



No. of women facing violence approached at centers (Centers opening to September 2010)

District	Registered cases
Ajmer	2078
Alwar	917
Barmer	88
Bharatpur	782
Bhilwara	828
Bikaner	1016
Chittor garh	1098
Jodhpur	948
Jaipur Rural (Dudu /Phagi)	395
Udaipur	1026
Total	9176



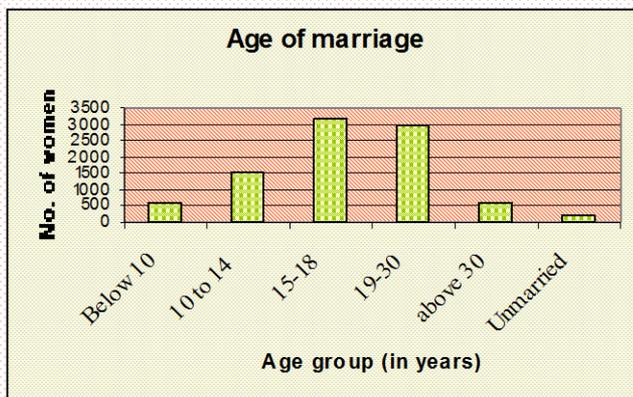
Barmer center was closed down in September 2006

Profile of women who registered their problem at MSSKs

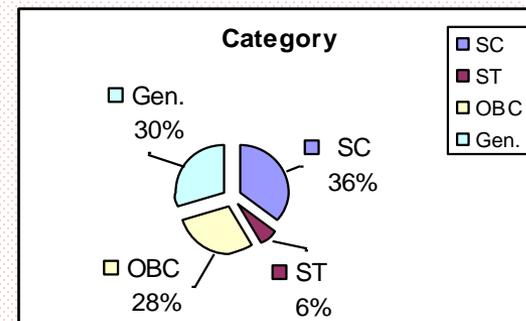
(The Barmer's data is not included in given data's descriptions)

Current Status	No. of women
Unmarried	172
Married	8302
Divorced	61
Separate	102
Widow	416
Living together	34

Age in Years	No. of Women
Below 15	39
15-18	420
19-25	4025
26-35	3169
36-50	1124
51-65	237
Above 65	74
Total	9088

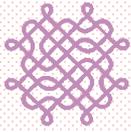


Religious Satutus	No. of Women
Hindu	7727
Muslim	1310
Christian	47
Do Not identify to self with religion	4



Educational Status	No. of Women
Illiterate	2895
Literate	1593
Up to 5 th	1403
Up to 8 th	1276
Up to 10 th	743
Up to 12 th	454
Graduate	407
Post Graduate	294
Pursuing Study	23

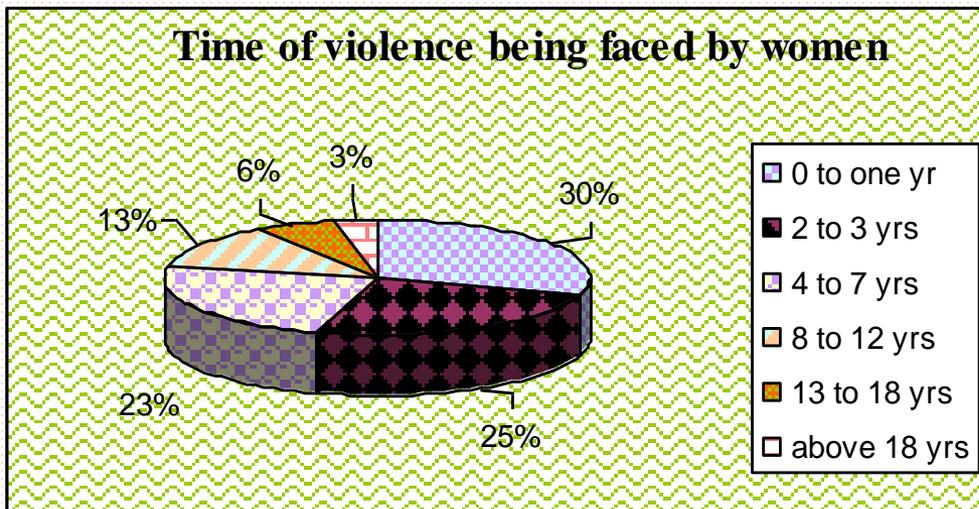




Profile of women

Current Working Status	No. of Women
Farmer	381
Domestic work	602
Small scale work	776
Business	51
Govt. Jobs	215
Private Job	686
Social Worker	76
Labourer	710
Home Maker	5504
Studying	87

Reffaral Sources	No. of women
Govt. Offices	112
NGOs	616
Ex Client	1024
Media	191
Teacher	91
Lawyer	285
Doctor	10
Community	1400
Self	484
Through outreach	110
Other MSSK	48
Relatives	80
Village level motivator	8
Police	4267
Neighbour	95
Others	267
Total	9088



Types of Violence	No. of Women
1. Violence by matrimonial home	8097
2. Issue related to child custody	433
3. Property related violence	349
4. Violence in natal family	292
5. Kidnapping/ Abduction	50
6. Third party violence	270
7. Eve teasing	24
8. Outrage of modesty	16
9. Attempt to rape	10
10. Rape	24
11. Girl rape	4
12. Gang Rape	2
13. Rape and Murder	1
14. Harassment at workplace	17
15. Sexual Harassment at workplace	12
16. Caste based violence	9
17. Violation of reproductive rights	74
18. Dakan	15
19. Forced prostitution	18
20. Violence on aged women	154
21. Finding problem in availing govt. scheme	6

Types and forms of violence, faced by women

Women, who have approached to center have been facing various type of problems. 87% women have been facing violence in **matrimonial family**..

Physical and psychological violence have been happening at larger scale with women in matrimonial home in which verbal abuse by husband, suspecting on character, threat to kill women ,forcing to thrown out from home and dowry demand are major forms of violence. The detailed description is given below about violence in matrimonial home

Forms of Violence in matrimonial home	
Physical violence	6837
Emotional and mental torture	7233
Economic violence	4845
<i>Stridhan</i> related problem	619
Problem related to marital relationship	1444
Violence related to Nata cutsom	80
Depriving form residing in matrimonial home	3348
Sexual violence	1410
Dowry related violence	2541
Exploitation of children	572
Alcoholic addiction by husband	2275



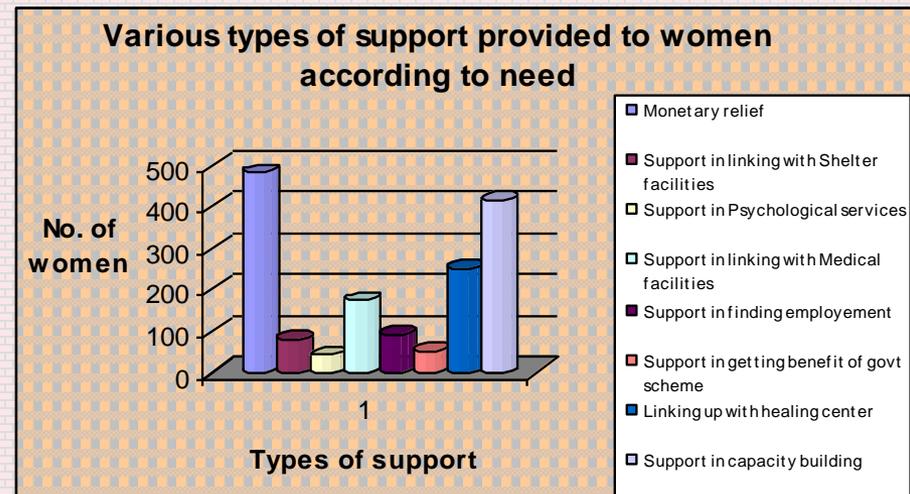
Intervention and impacts

Centers had made multidimensional efforts to providing support women facing violence. As the result of intervention centers has been able to provide these support to women –

- support and strengthen women through a process, of violence intervention
- Support in to live with dignity & respect in their home
- Support in police processes
- Support in medical examination
- Support in getting maintenance
- Support in reconciliation/ mutual consent divorce/ separation as per need of the women
- Legal help / help from Psychologist
- Help in getting relief from Govt. department
- Help in providing shelter as per need
- Creation of employment linkages

Types of mediation	No. of women
For combating violence	6710
For providing right to residence	4123
For maintenance to wife/women	2946
For maintenance to children	1596
For responsibility of children to women	620
for <i>stridhan</i> retrieval	627
For property rights of women	312
Support in getting compensation	152

Legal support	No. cases
Providing information of constitution and various law	5049
Legal advice through center lawyer	2672
Support in filing parivad(NC)	276
Support in filing FIR	538
Support in medical examination	346
Support in police pabandi	333
Support in court pabandi	115
Support on getting child custody through court	73
Support in getting maintenance through court	115
Support in child custody through court	26
Having discussion with police official for women's help	1203



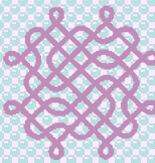
As we all know that violence has a vicious cycle. It can be happened at any time even after getting relief once.. So that women who approached once at center, can come to center anytime time of period as center doesn't close her case.

However, Women who get immediate relief and don't want further intervention from center then this case is mentioned in to temporary close case category for the convenience of data presentation.

Intervention and impacts

Temporary closed cases- 8483

Rationale and reasons for temporary closed		No. of cases
Non Violent Reconciliation	For living together with husband	3825
	Mutual Consent divorce	307
	For living separately	274
	For maintenance to wife	429
	with third party	128
Decision taken through their family and community		1003
Women decided to take help from court for further proceeding		1101
Fulfilled demand of Immediate relief		840
district territory limitation		68
Due to natural calamity/death		4
Due to migration		30



Factors of better implementation of MSSKs

- In-depth training and capacity building of the workers to work qualitatively.
- Regular support of DSG for betterment of work
- Whole responsibility related to center work execution and decision making to one organization so that coordination and working situation within team could be easy and uniform
- Strong team of 20 workers as a result of Implementation of 9 centers thus collective energy was build up and various forums for discussion could be developed.
- Regular support of police department in all districts.
- Working committee and district support group .
- Networking and outreach have been the major component of the program.
- Regular support of state resource group.
- Holistic approach and good understanding of implementing organization on VAW issue .
- Regular and Systematic processes of documentation and monitoring.
- Synergy has been created from Self reflection, healing process and collective events.
- Continuous work with survivor group and community leaders
- Accountability towards police department and collective events with collaboration with police department
- Direct participation of center workers in various forums for combating violence against women (Accountability and visibility).
- Center's identity has been established strongly within all districts.
- Regular support of the team at each level.



Achievements

- Approx 10000 women have approached the MSSKs out of them 9176 women have registered their problem and sought multiple support
- 67000 people were reached out through outreach activities.
- Gathered primary data about VAW in systematic manner as we have detailed data of each women approached to center..
- District administration recognized and honoured **MSSK Bikaner** for best work in the area of VAW on 15 August 2010
- Capacity and Skill building of women leaders at community level to support other women facing violence
- Have incorporated the healing process as a component for worker as well as survivor women for self reflection and exploration
- Getting support of 60 institutions in 9 districts.
- Have maintained the priority for women and her identity in center process.
- Social workers have been developed as resource persons on the issue of VAW and gender .
- Centers have been able to incorporate the women's perspective and center's utility in to police and govt department i.e. organised various training of police department on VAW and police released some orders to support women.
- Material published on women's right, law, women dignity and women's experiences to increase sharing on VAW issues.
- Some researches were carried out to understand various dimensions of VAW issues.

Outreach Data	
Group	NO.
Women	42016
Men	10682
Boys	5585
Girls	8366
Total	66649

