

## **Report on the Legal Literacy component of SANGRAM**

SANGRAM Sanstha started implementing the Legal literacy component from August 2023 to November 2024 to empower sex workers of all genders in ten states across India. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of 70 community-based organizations (CBOs) and their members, encouraging sustainable community mechanisms that promote resilience and the right to live with dignity.

Through collaboration with the National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) the project targeted community leaders and members, focusing on capacity building and advocacy. A key objective was to enhance understanding of legal provisions, and rights among sex workers, enabling them to access entitlements and mechanisms for addressing discrimination, stigma, and violence. For this, 44 peer educators were recruited from the CBOs/ communities to disseminate the learnings of legal literacy trainings in the communities.

This report details the project's outcomes, impact of legal literacy trainings and community empowerment initiatives. It highlights the efforts made towards strengthening sex workers with the tools and knowledge necessary to advocate for their rights, access justice, and build stronger communities.

### **Legal Literacy Module Orientation:**

SANGRAM Sanstha has developed and finalised eight training modules on the following topics:

- A. Legal Approaches to sex work
- B. Supreme Court orders on the rights of sex workers.
- C. Anti Trafficking Laws – ITPA and Section 370 IPC
- D. Domestic Violence Act
- E. Cyber Laws
- F. Decriminalising homosexuality – Section 377 IPC and its journey
- G. Transgender Laws
- H. Practical skills – Negotiating the Labyrinths.

The modules were pre -tested by SANGRAM with a core group of sex workers and at the full scale roll out of the legal literacy trainings in March 2024. All the training modules were translated and distributed in these trainings (Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam and Gujarati)



Since January 2024 the legal literacy trainings have been held across the NNSW member CBOs. A total of 5592 sessions have been conducted from which 2548 group sessions and 3044 individual sessions were conducted. 19017 sex workers have been provided information on the recent Supreme Court Order on the rights of sex workers and anti -trafficking laws that impact the lives of sex workers (ITPA and Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code) along with other training modules.

### **Legal Literacy Module- Training of Program Officers:**

In January, a three -day training was organised for the Program officers by SANGRAM Sanstha on legal literacy modules – Supreme Court Order on the Rights of Sex Workers, Trafficking Laws and their application on the rights of sex workers. The training was provided by Ms. Aarthi Pai, Advocate. The training was aimed at three levels - Providing information of the law (SC Order, ITPA, Section 370); developing their skills as trainers of the material; practical training sessions on training communities. An audio visual on the SC Order was pilot tested on the participants to understand whether they will be comfortable using this material in training community members. The Project Officers can use the Audio Visual as an

aid to their trainings and as a tool to remember the content. The three -step process strengthened the confidence of the Project Officers to use the content. 15 consultants of SANGRAM were trained in the three – day workshop. The material given to the participants include a PowerPoint of the presentation and translated training modules.



### **Legal Literacy training- implementation and training of Peer Educators and outcomes**

The roll out of legal literacy modules was initiated in January 2024 with three modules being provided to the Project Officers. Following this, the Project Officers started giving the training directly to the community with the Peer educators observing the training.

This handholding support in January and February 2024, enabled us to scale up the legal literacy outreach tremendously. Peer Educators have taken a leading role in conducting legal literacy training sessions, significantly surpassing the involvement of Program Officers (POs). These peer educators, who come directly from the community of sex workers, conducted 5530 out of the total 5592 sessions across 9 states; Delhi, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Their grassroots involvement highlights the importance of community-driven initiatives in fostering awareness and empowerment. With their

deep understanding of the community's needs and challenges, peer educators have been pivotal in ensuring the success and meaningful impact of the program.



**Legal Literacy session in Gadag, Karnataka**

**Legal literacy Session in Karnataka**



**Legal Literacy Training Sessions in Maharashtra**



**LL Session in Guntur**



**LL Session in Hyderabad**

**Stakeholder Advocacy Meetings**



**Meeting with Mr. Vijay Kumar, Deputy Director and Ms. Sudha Chidri, WCD Inspector**



**Meeting with Mrs. Indrani, District TB and AIDS Officer**



Meeting with DLSA's Senior Civil Judge, Mr. Rajesh Hosamane



Meeting with Sri Raja Babu, Collector in Khamam

### Legal Literacy Trainings conducted:

Sr. No	State	No. of Participants	Sessions		
			1 to 1	1 to Group	Total Sessions
1	Tamil Nadu	2083	636	355	991
2	Andhra Pradesh	2368	314	330	644
3	Telangana	2546	465	478	943
4	Karnataka	4568	629	657	1286
5	Maharashtra	3659	73	288	361
6	Kerala	1489	907	113	1020
7	Delhi	1199	14	139	153
8	Uttar Pradesh	797	2	124	126
9	Jharkhand	308	4	64	68
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>19017</b>	<b>3044</b>	<b>2548</b>	<b>5592</b>

The detailed analysis of participants and sessions across various states highlights the extensive reach and engagement of the Legal Literacy Trainings.

### **Innovative practices in training:**

**Saheli Sangh in Pune** has developed a graphics book to train sex workers in Pune which will be adapted by NNSW members. The graphics book was used to train 230 sex workers in Pune. Sex workers found the graphics book easier to engage through the story telling format. Saheli Sangh partnered with a local lawyer to disseminate the Supreme Court Order. These were also distributed in the district advocacy meetings to create awareness among the stakeholders.



In **VAMP**, 105 sex workers were trained in **Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts** by the Legal Literacy Project Officer and the Peer educators in January 2024 alone. The use of interactive methods to explain the various legal approaches and then the importance of the Supreme Court order was a factor that assisted in keeping the sex workers engaged in the details of the Order.

### **Outcomes of Legal Literacy Trainings:**

#### **1. Increased Awareness of Legal Rights**

- Community members gained knowledge about critical laws, including the Domestic Violence Act, the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA), the HIV/AIDS Act, and transgender rights.
- Community members reported an increased understanding of the Supreme Court Order of May 2022 and its implications for addressing police violence and reducing stigma.

#### **2. Empowerment and Self-Advocacy**

- Community members were equipped with practical skills to interact with the legal system confidently.
- Members expressed confidence in addressing discrimination and managing crises, with examples of successfully resolving issues (e.g., filing police complaints, advocacy

with concerned stakeholders).

- In Kerala and Tamil Nadu, sex workers now feel more empowered to approach the police directly, overcoming fear and stigma.

### **3. Enhanced Crisis Response**

- Peer educators demonstrated improved abilities to assist in crisis situations, including protecting individuals from digital abuse and advocating for sex work and their rights as a worker.
  - In Ernakulam, Kerala a woman was able to file a police complaint after her ATM card and phone were stolen by a customer, by showing the police a printout of a legal case she had received during her legal training.
  - In Idukki, Kerala a sex worker who also worked as an Anganwadi worker faced harassment after a private video of hers was leaked. A peer educator intervened, supporting the victim in filing a police complaint and creating awareness to stop the harassment. The case was resolved by deleting the private video, and the woman was able to retain her job as an Anganwadi worker. This positive outcome was possible due to the training provided to community members and peer educators on cyber laws and the Supreme Court order.

### **4. Improved Advocacy efforts and Community Engagement**

- Training sessions also acted as space for open dialogue; with participants sharing personal experiences and collectively addressing issues such as police harassment and societal stigma.
- CBO members now actively advocate for their rights, engaging with local authorities and police through District Level Advocacy Meetings (DLAMs). Examples include one transgender individual from Delhi was able to get help after being beaten up by the police, this was possible due to their understanding of their rights gained through legal literacy training.
- CBO members are now more likely to approach CBO leaders with their problems, and

the leaders are more likely to take the problem to the police station if necessary. In the past, the community members used to be abused and faced a lot of violence within the community.

### Stakeholder Advocacy Meetings



Meeting with Mr. Vijay Kumar, Deputy Director and Ms. Sudha Chidri, WCD Inspector



Meeting with Mrs. Indrani, District TB and AIDS Officer



Meeting with DLSA's Senior Civil Judge, Mr. Rajesh Hosamane



Meeting with Sri Raja Babu, Collector in Khamam

### 5. Addressed Cyber Harassment and Digital Safety

- Legal literacy training on cyber laws equipped participants with tools to handle online abuse effectively.
- Practical applications include filing complaints for stolen property or addressing

harassment related to leaked videos.

## 6. Reduced Fear and Increased Confidence in Engaging with Authorities

- Community members have become more confident in visiting police stations independently and seeking redress for grievances. One such example from Tamil Nadu- woman was able to get help from the police after being attacked in her home.
- In Kerala, CBO leaders are more proactive in taking community issues to the authorities, fostering a sense of collective empowerment.

## 7. Crisis Interventions:

Throughout the training period, a total of 185 crisis episodes involving community members were reported and addressed by the Peer educators and Program Officers. These crises included situations of violence, harassment, health emergencies, and legal challenges. The peer educators played a pivotal role in coordinating support, working alongside local authorities, CBOs/NGOs, and legal services.

Crisis Intervention				
Sr. No	State	No. of crisis reported	Required to be linked for resolution	Resolved
1	Telangana	2	1	1
2	Karnataka	36	32	32
3	Maharashtra	110	110	110
4	Kerala	15	15	15
5	Delhi	9	9	9
6	Uttar Pradesh	6	6	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>173</b>

## Key Intervention Strategies:

- Linkage with Legal and Health Services: Peer educators were instrumental in connecting affected community members to relevant legal support, CBOs/NGOs, and health services, ensuring that crisis episodes were addressed with appropriate resources.
- Engagement with District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs): In many cases, especially where legal intervention was necessary, peer educators collaborated with DLSAs to support the community members in filing complaints and seeking justice.

- Supportive Community Networks: Crisis resolution was strengthened by CBO support, allowing for swift response and follow-up care in cases of violence, harassment, and health emergencies.
- Awareness and Training on Crisis Response: Monthly trainings on crisis management protocols provided CBO members with the skills needed to address immediate threats, particularly regarding the use of local resources for safety and advocacy.

### **District Level Advocacy Meetings (DLAM)**

From April to September 2024, SANGRAM Sanstha organized a total of 58 District Level Advocacy Meetings (DLAMs) across multiple states, aimed at fostering dialogue between Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and local authorities, including police, judiciary, and social welfare departments. These meetings provided a platform to address the challenges faced by sex worker communities while promoting their legal rights and access to support services. The local CBOs took the initiative of meeting with the stakeholders, organizing the venue, engaging with the community members to prepare them for the meetings making this a community led initiative.

### **Key Participants:**

- Total Attendees: 4,184
- Police Representatives: 427
- Judiciary Representatives: 578
- Sex Workers: 2,262
- DAPCU/DISHA Representatives: 103
- NGO Representatives: 150
- Other Stakeholders (Media, CBO Staff, etc.): 667

### **Key Observations:**

1. **Strong Community Participation:** Sex workers made up 54% of the total attendees, demonstrating active community involvement.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Authorities from the police and judiciary formed 24% of the participants, indicating meaningful institutional support.
3. **Health and Social Services:** Representation from DAPCU/DISHA (2%) and NGOs (4%) was relatively low, highlighting an opportunity for greater involvement.
4. **Visibility and Awareness:** Media and other stakeholders accounted for 16% of the

attendees, helping increase public awareness.

**Number of District Advocacy Meetings Conducted:**

Sl No	District & CBO	Date	Total attendees	Police	Judiciary	Sex Workers	DAPC U/ DISHA	NGO	Others(Media, CBO staffs & stakeholders)	Media Coverage
1	<b>Place:</b> Madurai	28-08-2024	63	4	1	37	3	1	17	Yes
	<b>CBO:</b> Thenmadurai Vadamalar Pengal Nala Sangam									
2	<b>Place:</b> Tiruvannamalai	12-08-2024	76	6	34	8	3	1	26	Yes
	<b>CBO:</b> Tiruvannamalai Nagardeepam Pengal Sangam									
3	<b>Place:</b> Trichy	27-08-2024	52	7	32	9	0	1	3	Yes
4	<b>Place:</b> Chennai	29-08-2024	112	86	11	7	2	1	5	Yes
5	<b>CBO:</b> Shymala Pengal Nala Sangam Bodinayakanur Annai Pengal Sangam.	12-07-2024	45	4	4	34	0	2	1	No
	<b>Place:</b> Theni									
6	<b>CBO:</b> Sutthamalli Pengal Sangam Nellai Mangai Pengal Sangam	18-07-2024	67	3	3	52	5	2	2	No
	<b>Place:</b> Tirunelveli									
7	<b>CBO:</b> Unnamalaikadai Nightingale Women Welfare Society Kanyakumari Kanmani Pengal Sangam Sudaroli Pengal Sangam	24-07-2024	78	0	6	62	3	2	5	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Nagercoil									
8	<b>CBO:</b> Lakshmi Bhanusri Service and Development Society	02-07-2024	65	7	6	37	3	2	10	
	<b>Place:</b> Guntur									
9	<b>CBO:</b> Dharani Mahila Welfare Society	07-08-2024	65	3	6	46	6	1	3	Yes

	<b>Place:</b> Elluru									
10	<b>CBO:</b> Stree Shakti Sangham	03-08-2024	68	8	11	43	1	1	4	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Tirupathi									
11	<b>CBO:</b> Swagathi Mahila Abyudhaya Sangam/NNSW	20-08-2024	62	3	8	38	2	1	10	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Nellore									
12	<b>CBO:</b>	24-08-2024	62	1	4	48	2	1	6	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Kadiri									
13	<b>CBO:</b> Sindhur Organisation & Jansi Laxmi	21-08-2024	61	0	8	34	0	4	15	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Anantapur									
14	<b>CBO:</b> KVMS	26-08-2024	61	0	8	34	0	4	15	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Nandigama									
15	<b>CBO:</b> Trans Equality Society/NNSW	30-08-2024	97	2	9	67	5	1	13	
	<b>Place:</b> Telangana									
16	<b>CBO:</b> Sri Janini Welfare Society	24-08-2024	61	0	4	45	2	1	9	
	<b>Place:</b> Khammam									
17	<b>CBO:</b> Shiva Parvathi Mahila Public Welfare Society	28-08-2024	65	0	3	51	2	1	8	
	<b>Place:</b> Karimnagar									
18	<b>CBO:</b> NNSW	31-08-2024	53	0	3	28	2	1	19	
	<b>Place:</b> Medchal									
19	<b>CBO:</b> Prema Jyothi Trust	31-08-2024	98	6	1	69	3	2	17	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Sanga Reddy									
20	<b>CBO:</b> Mathroochaya Foundation	31-08-2024	67	2	18	9	3	15	20	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Mancheriyal									
21	<b>CBO:</b> Darpan & Astitvam CBO.	27-08-2024	70	0	22	26	0	1	21	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Hyderabad									
22	<b>CBO:</b> Amma Services and Development Society	24-07-2024	80	6	3	58	1	2	10	NO
	<b>Place:</b> Machilipatnam									
23	<b>Place:</b> Chikmagalur									
	<b>CBO:</b> Karnataka Sex Workers Union (KSWU).	25-06-2024	75	12	11	46	0	3	4	Yes



39	<b>CBO:</b> Prerna Samajik Sanstha (PSS)	23-08-2024	66	2	7	39	2	1	15	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Aurangabad									
40	<b>CBO:</b> Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad (VAMP) Nagpur	28-08-2024	74	2	6	58	2	2	4	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Nagpur									
41	<b>CBO:</b>	07-08-2024	96	4	5	67	2	2	16	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Amalner									
42	<b>CBO:</b> Puneri Pride Foundation	27-12-2023	40	1	5	23	0	3	8	
	<b>Place:</b> Pune									
43	<b>Place:</b> Ernakulam	13-01-2024	60	14	5	35	0	6	0	-
	<b>CBO:</b> Swantham									
44	<b>Place:</b> Alappuzha	22-02-2024	60	9	4	29	0	4	14	-
	<b>CBO:</b> Swanthatheeram									
45	<b>CBO:</b> Sangamitra	09-07-2024	44	9	2	22	0	1	10	No
	<b>Place:</b> Thrissur									
46	<b>CBO:</b> Swaruma	29-02-2024	60	13	18	23	0	4	2	No
	<b>Place:</b> Perumbavoor									
47	<b>CBO:</b> Arsha Centre for Womens Development	31-08-2024	64	5	13	41	0	2	3	No
	<b>Place:</b> Idukki									
48	<b>CBO:</b> Vanitha Society	24-08-2024	60	11	13	33	0	3	0	No
	<b>Place:</b> Kozhikode									
49	<b>CBO:</b> Mythree, Aiswarya Suraksha	22-08-2024	120	21	21	26	0	2	50	Yes
	<b>Place:</b> Thiruvananthapuram									
50	<b>CBO:</b> Ekta	24-08-2024	60	0	4	35	0	3	18	No
	<b>Place:</b> Central Delhi									
51	<b>CBO:</b> Ekta	07-02-2024	89	0	3	47	0	3	36	No
	<b>Place:</b> South Delhi									
52	<b>CBO:</b> Ekta	28-08-2024	63	4	1	37	3	1	17	
	<b>Place:</b> South East Delhi									
53	<b>CBO:</b> Jwala Shakti Samuh	29-08-2024	57	0	22	10	3	2	20	
	<b>CBO:</b> Aazaadi Foundation	05-09-2024	58	0	5	35	0	1	17	
	<b>Place:</b> Lucknow									
54	<b>CBO:</b> Jwala Shakti Samuh	29-08-2024	57	0	10	22	3	2	20	

	<b>Place: Hazaribagh</b>									
55	<b>CBO: Jwala Shakti Samuh</b>	31-08-2024	63	2	4	30	4	2	21	
	<b>Place: Gumla</b>									
56	<b>CBO: Jwala Shakti Samuh</b>	07-09-2024	58	3	15	21	4	2	13	
	<b>Place: Ranchi</b>									
57	<b>CBO: Jwala Shakti Samuh</b>	22-08-2024	58	3	9	33	3	2	8	
	<b>Place: Ramgarh</b>									
58	<b>CBO: Samvedna</b>	19-07-2024	49	8	4	28	1	2	6	
	<b>Place: Bhuji</b>									
<b>Total</b>			<b>4184</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>2262</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>667</b>	

**Monthly Breakdown of DLAMs and Key Outcomes:**

District Level Advocacy Meetings (DLAM)						
Sr. No	State	Total No of DLAMs	DLAMs in June	DLAMs in July	DLAMs in August	DLAMs in Sept
1	Andhra Pradesh	7		2	5	
2	Delhi	3			3	
3	Gujarat	1		1		
4	Jharkhand	4			3	1
5	Karnataka	11	2	5	4	
6	Kerala	7		2	5	
7	Maharashtra	9	4	2	3	
8	Tamil Nadu	7		3	4	
9	Telangana	8		1		
10	Uttar Pradesh	1			7	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>

## Key Commitments and Outcomes of District Advocacy Meetings:

1. **Improved Legal Support:** Police departments across Maharashtra and Karnataka pledged to streamline channels for reporting harassment, ensuring that complaints are handled with due respect.



1. **Health and Safety Measures:** In Tamil Nadu, police and social welfare representatives agreed to assist community members in accessing health services without stigma.

2. **Cyber Safety and Privacy:** Delhi's DLAM focused on digital safety, with stakeholders agreeing to monitor and address cyber harassment cases affecting community members.

3. **Regular Sensitization Training:** Across states, police departments have committed to sensitization training, facilitated by DLSAs, to foster respectful treatment of sex workers and transgender individuals.

### 4. Karnataka

- **Chikmangalur and Bellary (June 2024):** Stakeholders such as police, legal representatives, and welfare officials committed to supporting sex workers' rights and addressing crises with direct involvement in legal literacy and labour rights.

### 5. Kerala

- **Thrissur (July 2024):** District Medical Office committed to providing mental and health support. Media professionals offered assistance to raise awareness of issues affecting sex workers.

- **Trivandrum (August 2024):** Police pledged to ensure respectful treatment of sex workers, while DLSA representatives encouraged the



community to approach them for legal aid. Sakhi one-stop centre officer also offered support in cases of domestic violence.

## 6. Tamil Nadu

- **Kanyakumari (July 2024):** Community members were connected with the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit (DAPCU) for health services and support.
- **Madurai (August 2024):** Bar Council members encouraged wider dissemination of legal information, and ADSP officials reassured community members about support from the police for filing violence reports.

## 7. Delhi

- **Central and South East Delhi (August 2024):** Focus was placed on sensitizing police



under the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita and advocating for children's educational benefits. A framework for police training and establishing communication channels with transgender advocacy groups was proposed.

## 8. Jharkhand

- **Ranchi (September 2024):** Commitments included safeguarding sex workers from exploitation, ensuring respectful treatment, and providing necessary medical and legal assistance with active involvement from police and DLSA.



## 9. Uttar Pradesh



- **Lucknow (September 2024):** DLAM focused on raising awareness about legal aid for sex workers, conducting police sensitization workshops to reduce

wrongful arrests, and establishing support channels with DLSA for victims of police violence.

### Legal Literacy Down Trainings:

#### (I) Legal Literacy Down Trainings

Legal Literacy Down Trainings- June 2024			
State	Training Conducted On	Location	Number of Participants
Karnataka	10th to 14th June 2024	Bangalore	32
Kerala	10th to 14th June 2024	Ernakulam	29
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	21st to 25th June 2024	Hyderabad	49
Tamil Nadu	10th to 14th June 2024	Madurai	24
Maharashtra	16 <sup>th</sup> to 20th April 2024	Pune	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>184</b>

Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana – successfully conducted the five-day legal literacy down trainings for 134 CBO Leaders and community members in June.



**Kerala Legal Literacy Down Training**



**Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Legal Literacy Down Trainings**



**Karnataka Legal Literacy Down Training**



**Tamil Nadu Legal Literacy Down Training**

The five- day training aimed to educate sex workers of all genders about their legal rights and safety. Participants received comprehensive handouts covering seven key modules. Program Officers, Master Trainers, and Resource Persons facilitated the sessions using a combination of engaging methods:

- **Interactive Presentations:** PowerPoint presentations provided a clear structure, while also fostering discussions.
- **Group Activities:** Participants actively participated in group discussions and presentations, allowing them to share experiences and gain insights from each other.
- **Case Studies:** Real-life examples from participants' own lives made the legal concepts more relatable and highlighted the importance of legal knowledge.

Day 1 of the legal literacy started with introductions of all participants which was then followed by the session on the Domestic Violence Act and how to file complaints and presentations by peer educators on the Supreme Court Order and it was also followed by a refresher training for some states. Day 2 focused on approaches to sex work, including legal aspects and the impact of related laws. The sessions on day 2 were very interactive and discussions took place with the participants where they shared their experiences and thoughts on the modules. Day 3 explored laws specific to the transgender community. Day 4 dived into cyber laws, including how to identify and address cybercrimes. Participants also practiced drafting legal documents. The last day covered HIV services, recent legal judgments impacting sex workers, and planning for future training sessions.