

Six Months Performance Report: July -December 2003

Implementing NGO :- **Anweshi Women's Counselling Centre, Kozhikode**
Project Title :- **Anweshi Women's Support & Advocacy Centre.**
Start Date :- **1-7-2003**
Period of reporting :- **July to December, 2003**

After the grant from the UNFPA had stopped since February 2003, Anweshi's activities had slowed down due to lack of funds. We had a gap of four months before we received the grant from Sir Dorabjee Tata Trusts, Mumbai. From July onwards, we started to re-organize the work. More staff was recruited; more furnitures and equipments were bought. A new house was taken on rent to start a short-stay home for women and children, who were victims of gender violence.

A counsellor, a community worker, an assistant librarian and a cleaning staff were newly recruited along with the old counselor, a legal advisor, two social workers, 6 community workers, an accountant, a librarian and an office assistant. A new computer was bought to help the documentation centre and some very much needed furniture for the office and the library. We have decided to buy a new Photostat machine next time.

The short-stay home was inaugurated on the 19th of August, for which we took a house on rent, a set of staff were recruited, and new equipments bought for the home.

Activity Progress

During these six months, all the activities of the project went on more successfully than before because the credibility of our organization had risen due to the earlier activities.

In addition to the regular activities of counselling, legal aid cell, community work and library and documentation centre, we organized 19 legal literacy classes, 5 seminars and an advocacy workshop on women and law.

The work of each wing of organization is given in detail.

1. Counselling

The following table gives details of the cases which came up for counselling during the last six months:

SL. No	Nature of Cases	No.	Settled Cases
1	Domestic violence	113	
2	Unnatural death	6	
3	Rape Cases	4	
4	Sexual exploitation	6	

5	Sexual harassment	4	
6	Labour problem	13	
7	Property issue	14	
8	Missing cases	2	
9	Miscellaneous	36	
10	Consultation	56	
11	Follow up Cases	221	
Total		475	43

In one of the settled cases, we helped the complainant to get admission in the Govt. Short Stay Home (we had not opened a short-stay home in July), since she did not have any other place to go. A case came in which a teacher was beaten up by the principal in front of everyone.

We conducted an enquiry at the school. In one of the cases, the wife was staying at her parents' house due to the harassment of husband and his family. Moreover, the husband had gone to Gulf, without informing his wife. In this case, we called the husband's family members and made an agreement on giving maintenance to the wife and child. But later the husband came and solved the problem through counselling, and took the wife and child home.

A rape case came to us which highlighted the need to have strong punitive actions against those culprits of child sexual abuse. In this case, a nine year old girl who was a heart patient was raped by a young man in the neighbourhood. This case was referred to legal aid cell to avail more legal help for the victimized girl. In one of the cases, we gave shelter to a woman and her two children, as she was deserted by her husband and she did not have anywhere to go. We also helped to settle a case, in which a woman employee was harassed by her employer. In this particular case, the employer was making allegations about her. He was telling that, she had borrowed money from him. As the employer did not come to 'Anweshi' this case was sent to police station for settlement.

Majority of the settled cases were domestic violence in nature. In one of the settled cases, the girl was married to a boy, who had slight mental retardation. Neither the girl nor her family knew this. The girl approached Anweshi for divorce and we gave the necessary legal help to get divorce.

In other settled cases, the clients were complaining about, the mental disharmony caused by alcoholism, extra marital relations and paranoia. We helped the clients, depending on the nature of the cases and availed the help from various sources as the case may be. Generally, alcoholics and drug addicts are referred to the de-addiction centre, namely 'Suraksha Hospital' run by another NGO, AWH (Association for the welfare of the handicapped)

In another case, the wife had gone back to her home because of her in-laws' harassment. Husband was working abroad. To settle the problem, husband came back and the couple went together after counselling.

In another case, the girl became pregnant after rape and she gave birth to a child. Anweshi gave temporary shelter to this girl and also necessary legal aid.

Another settled case was sexual exploitation in character. In this case, the man had sexually abused the maid servant, in the absence of his wife. As a result she gave birth to a child, who had cretinism. The victims had given complaint to get compensation for herself and child. Opposite party was called and he agreed to give compensation.

One settled case was of miscellaneous in character. In this case, the complaint was given by a handicapped woman. Her neighbours were harassing her. Anweshi called the opposite party, and the problem was solved through counselling. Opposite party agreed to stop harassing her and the problem was solved. In another case, a woman had come for counselling. Her husband and son had committed suicide and she was totally broken. She came for counselling as to get a solution to her problem. She was given counselling and went back in a better state of mind.

In other cases we are helping the clients to avail all kinds of assistance to solve their problem. In one case, a husband who was drunkard and was paranoid was counselled and referred to the Suraksha hospital for de-addiction. The second case was that of a wife who gave petition on the physical violence from her drunkard husband. After 3 sessions of counselling, the husband agreed to stop the violence and the drinking habit. A case of a 15 year old girl from Wayanad had come, with her mother complaining that the girl had been trapped in a sex racket. She was assisted in giving petitions to the I.G. of police. It was decided that all necessary legal assistance will be given in this case.

In one of the cases of sexual harassment, a jeep driver tried to molest a school teacher while travelling in his jeep. The teacher was given, necessary legal aid and the case was registered at the police station. In another sexual harassment case, an orphaned woman was harassed by her neighbour. She was given necessary legal aid.

Another case was that of a woman, who was harassed by a neighbour. He was after her and she could not move anywhere out because of him. He even beat her and her husband and both of them were hospitalized. Anweshi helped both of them to give complaint at the police station and helped to settle the problem from there. In another two sexual exploitation cases, the women were cheated by men. In both cases, the women had given birth to children. In one of the cases, the man was made to register a piece of property in the name of the woman. In the second case, the man was made to open a fixed deposit in the name of child and accept the woman after day's long agitation by the woman. In this particular case, woman stayed a dharna to establish her right in his house.

Another was a labour problem, between a retired headmistress and the existing one. The former did not get any retirement benefits due to the hostility of the latter. Latter had not forwarded any necessary papers to get the benefits. From Anweshi's enquiry it was clear that, the problem was due to some misunderstanding between both of them. Anweshi and the client met the opposite party and clarified the misunderstanding and the retired headmistress got the relevant papers. The admission of clients to the short-stay home is given by the project head who is also the main counselor, in co-ordination with the counselor and the social workers.

One case of the domestic violence which arose due to husband's alcoholism was settled. In this case, we called both husband and wife and husband promised to stop alcoholism and to look after his wife and children. Later we went to enquire about the situation and it was quite satisfactory. In another settled case, the wife had been hospitalized due to the harassment from her in-laws. In this case both husband and wife were called and talked about the situation. They decided to move to a separate house, and their problem was solved.

In one of the rape cases, an eight year old girl was raped by an old man aged 75 years. But the police had not taken any serious action in this case. Anweshi helped the parents to give petitions to the police commissioner and conducted an enquiry at the concerned police station to take any swift action. In the second case, the complainant was a victim of incest. She was raped by her uncle and became pregnant. She did not have any other place to go and we gave her shelter at the short stay home. Another serious case came in this month was that of a girl, with acid burns. She could not see the culprit as the incident took place at night. She was not able to go back because there were threats to her life. Anweshi helped her lodge a complaint about the incident at the police station and gave her temporary shelter at the short stay home.

There were two more short stay home inmates, who were, the victims of domestic violence. One was an unmarried woman, whose property was taken by her brother and he was harassing her also. Till a settlement we gave shelter at short stay home. Another was a woman with her sick daughter aged two years. Her husband was an irresponsible person and her parents were not ready to take care of her. She did not have any place to go and she was sheltered at our short stay home, till settling her problems with her parents and husband.

Anweshi conducted enquiry at 4 death cases. In one of the cases the reason for the suicide was illness. In another case, father of the expired daughter sought our help in doing her last rites at her cremation ground, which was in the surroundings of her husband's house. In the third case, a woman had committed suicide and enquiry revealed that she had mental problem and had tried to commit suicide previously. In the fourth death case, the woman had written in her suicide note that she was committing suicide due to her husband's harassment. In this case, Anweshi helped her family to lodge complaint about the incident at the concerned police stations.

In other cases, we are giving all possible help to ensure justice to the victims.

Clients Meetings

One clients' meeting was conducted on 28th August. 22 members participated in the meeting. Another clients' meeting was conducted on 30th December. 21 members participated. The response of the clients was amazing. Many of the cases were settled and one of the important factors is that, the clients had become more confident and courageous in dealing their problems.

2. Legal Aid Cell

The legal aid cell was re-organized, with a practising lawyer appointed as the legal advisor and a junior lawyer appointed as the resource person in charge of taking legal literacy classes. A community worker has been appointed to assist the legal advisor in clerical work and also in attending the court. In a missing case, we helped the victim's mother to lodge, a Habeous Corpus Petition at the High Court of Kerala in Ernakulam. In this case, it is suspected that the girl was trapped in some criminal sex racket.

Here is the table depicting the legal aid provided these six months by the cell:

Type of cases	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Police station visits	2	4	3	5	1	4	19
Petition written to police stations	4	3	1	2	2	2	14
Petition to Commissioner	2	-----	----	----	----	1	3
Lawyers' Notice sent	2	2	2	----	1	---	7
Petition to Rural S.P	---	----	---	----	----	1	1
Agreement written	2	5	----	1	1	----	9
Notice sent to foreign Embassy	----	---	2	----	---	----	2
Cases filed in courts	8	3	1	1	4	3	20
Details taken for filing cases	7	5	3	5	1	4	25
Total	27	22	12	14	10	15	100

The break up of the cases filed in various courts are:

498(A)	---	4
Divorce OP	---	6
Maintenance	---	5
CMP	---	4
13(B)	---	1
Injunction OP	---	1

Legal Literacy Classes

We had conducted 19 legal literacy classes these six months. Legal literacy classes were intended to make women, aware about the laws, that are necessary for their day to day lives and thus empower them. The details of the classes are:

- 1) A legal literacy class was conducted at Veloorthazham Anganavadi (No.15) on 5-7-03. There were 39 participants. Adv. Preetha took classes on civil law, personal laws, Criminal Laws and consumer protection act.
- 2) Another legal literacy class was conducted on Indian Constitution, personal laws, Christian Law, property rights, and Dowry prohibition Act at Elathur Puthiyedathu Thazham Anganavadi (C.No.22) on 14.7.03. The strength of the class was 36.
- 3) The last legal literacy class of the month was taken at Vellayil Joseph Road Anganavadi (No.44) on 26.7.03. The topics of the class included Indian Marriage Act, Christian Law, Hindu Law and Muslim Law. There were 36 participants.
- 4) A legal literacy class was conducted on 2-8-03, at Parappanpoil Anganavadi (No.98). Totally, 83 women, participated in the class. Majority of the participants were muslims. They actively participated in the class.
- 5) Another legal literacy class was conducted on 16-8-03, at Mavoor Ezhunilam Anganavadi (No.59) in which 62 women participated. Classes were taken about sections 498(A), 304 (B) IPC. The participants sought Anweshi's help in solving their family problems.
- 6) Last legal literacy class of the month was conducted on 30-8-03, at Kattilparambu Anganavadi (No.108). There were 42 participants and all of them were Hindus. Classes were taken on the personal law's and also criminal laws concerning women participants were very active and enthusiastic.
- 7) Legal literacy class was conducted on 12-9-03 at Mykomukku Anganavadi (No. 152). Participants were muslim women and they were 50 in number. The subjects dealt with included, muslim personal law and uniform civil code. Women raised doubts about dowry and dowry related issues.
- 8) Another legal literacy class was conducted at Meenchanda Ashram Tharammal Paramba Anganavadi (No.33) on 20-9-03. There were thirty five participants and classes were taken on personal laws, criminal code, laws related to family court etc.
- 9) Third legal literacy class was conducted at Urban II anganavadi (No.45) at Kottooli on 25.9.03. There were 29 participants. Classes were taken on the topics like laws related to family court, and personal laws etc.
- 10) On 23-10-03 in Kacheri L.P school for anganavadi No.20. There were 32 women. Classes were taken on Indian Constitution, personal laws, civil laws, criminal laws etc. There were lot of reactions from the participants.
- 11) On 29-10-03, a class was taken in anganavadi No. 153 in Kakkodi. Here also the issues were personal laws, dowry related civil and criminal laws, consumer protection act etc. There were 32 participants. The participation in the class was lively.

12) On 30-10-03, another class was taken in anganvadi No.138 under Beypore ICDS. There were 25 participants. Here also classes were taken on the issues discussed above and there were active discussions.

13) A legal literacy class was conducted at Nangari parambu, Urban II anganavadi (No.13) on 15-11-2003. There were 39 participants and the subjects dealt with included uniform civil code, criminal laws, Indian Penal code and personal laws.

14) Another legal literacy class was conducted at Nadappalam Urban III anganavadi (No.53) on 18-11-2003. 95 participants were there. The topics, spoken about included civil and criminal laws, consumer protection act, Indian Penal code, personal laws and consumer protection act. At the end of the class, there was an active discussion on domestic violence.

15) A legal literacy class of the month was conducted at Kalandithazham anganavadi (No. 68) on 20-11-03. 36 women participated in the class. Majority of the participants were Hindu women. The subject of the class included, civil code, criminal code, Indian Penal code, personal laws and women and consumer protection act.

16) A legal literacy class of the month was conducted on 3-12-03 at Palakkottu Vayal Anganavadi (C.No.4). There were 30 participants and both Hindus and Muslims were there among participants. Classes were taken on Indian Constitution, civil and criminal laws, and personal laws etc.

17) A legal literacy class of the month was conducted at Mukhadar anganavadi on 9.12.03. There were 45 participants and most of them were women. Classes were taken on Indian Constitution, civil and criminal laws and women actively participated in the discussions.

18) Another legal literacy class of the month was conducted on 15-12-03 on Kodalnadakkavu Nandanam anganavadi. 39 members participated and the classes were taken on dowry prohibition. Participants actively participated in the class.

19) Last legal literacy class of the month was conducted on Moorkanadu anganavadi on 20-12-03. 65 women participated in the class.

3. Community Work

We have 7 community workers, who act as a link between the community and organization. 6 of them go directly to the field and the 7th one assists the legal advisor in dealing with court cases. Community workers have the responsibility of enquiring into the cases registered at Anweshi, organizing legal literacy classes, seminars and workshops. They network mainly with anganawadis under the ICDS project, self help groups, mahila samajams and other women's organizations in the district. These six months, there were 314 field visits and 30 police station visits. 19 legal literacy classes were taken the details of which has been given in the legal aid cell report. The five seminars and one workshop were conducted during this period which was organized mainly by community workers. In the month of July, we visited the govt.short-stay

home 4 times. After we started our own home, we have not been able to visit the govt.short-stay home. In addition to all these activities, community workers have to accompany inmates of the short-stay home to various places, mainly govt. offices for various needs. The social worker in charge of community work visits the short-stay home regularly and assist the staff there in dealing with the inmates. The community workers, in addition to the project work had also to participate in the organizing work for the 10th anniversary programme of Anweshi which happened on the 30th of November.

4. Library & Documentation

The regular work of documenting paper cuttings, cataloguing books and documents and issuing books to members were done regularly during this period. Classification of cards also was done in a systematic way. Apart from regular members, a few others came for reference. These activities are done by both librarian and assistant librarian.

There are about 3000 books, both English and Malayalam in the library. There are feminist books as well as other fictions in the library. There are a lot of periodicals and 7 daily newspapers.

Every month a meeting of the library members are called for. On 13-9-03, a meeting was held to re-organize the library committee. A new committee was formed which is sought to be independent of the Anweshi committee. This was needed for the purpose of affiliating to the Kerala State Library Council. The library staff had to work hard to make the records straight during the last two months. District President of the State Library Council visited the library and gave necessary instructions to get affiliation to the Council. Members of the State Library Council came again and verified the records.

5. Short Stay Home

Anweshi opened a short stay home with the intention of giving shelter to victimized women and children, till their problems get solved. It was inaugurated on 19th August, 2003 by the Jnana Peedom Award winner Sri. M.T Vasudaven Nair. He spoke about the relevance of such institutions in modern world. The meeting was presided over by Anweshi president Ms. K Ajitha. Sr. Nirmal, ex- vice principal of Providence Women's College, former minister M.T.Padma, P.Valsala, the famous novelist, Dr. Valsa Mannali, well-known psychiatrist and the district collector Mr. T.O Suraj, Adv.Ananda Kanakam, ICDS officer Mr.Bichi Koya also spoke on the occasion.

Three staff of the short stay home-- a warden, a cook and a cleaner cum attender, joined on the same day. In the beginning, there were two inmates and two children. Afterwards, one more inmate came with her two children.

Day-today activities of the short stay home is going on well. We bought furniture and vessels and prepared menu for inmates. Anweshi also made arrangements, to put their children at anganavadi. Warden of the short stay home was helped to maintain register and cash book.

Everyday she reported the activities of short stay home at the office. One case of an inmate was settled and the inmate went with her husband in August.

Onam, the national festival of Kerala was celebrated at the short stay home on 5th September. Anweshi staff and short stay home inmates together celebrated the occasion. Inmates were given new clothes and a feast.

Two new inmates were admitted. One was a victim of sexual exploitation. She had an illegitimate child also. Another was a victim of domestic violence. Two of the inmates went home with their families after settling their problem through counselling at Anweshi in September.

In October, a woman with her two children and an old mother was admitted to the home. The woman with two children was admitted because she had nobody to support and no home to stay. Her husband had died and the in laws harassed her, so that she had to go to her father and brother. They also could not manage her, so that she approached Anweshi. We admitted her in the home, and are trying to bring a settlement in her case by approaching her father and also her in-laws. The 70 year-old woman was a victim of domestic violence on the part of her only son.. An old lady was admitted to the short stay home in October with reference from the Women's Police Station in Kozhikode She was helped to get admitted in Sneha Bhavan, run by Mother Theresa's convent in November, because there were nobody to take her responsibility. Two inmates, who had been there at the short stay home for three months left the home in search of work. The three year old son of one of the above mentioned inmates (she was a migrant Tamil woman) was admitted in an institution run by AWH to give him proper education and shelter. The second inmate who left the home, returned after, a few days because her family did not accept her.

In December, 4 new inmates were admitted to the home. One was a young woman who was victim of incest. She was pregnant by her own uncle. The second one was a going girl with acid burns. She had complained that, her husband had committed the crime. Her case is going on at the police station. The third one was an unmarried old woman as she was ousted from her own home due to some property dispute with her brother. Fourth one was a young woman with her family and husband had led her to seek refuge at short stay home.

The owner of Malabar Hospital and the IMA women's wing president, Dr. P.A. Lalitha gave clothes to the inmates and promised to continue help in November. Responsible members of SEWA based in TVM visited the short stay home. Short stay home was visited by media persons to know more about the day to day running of short stay home and the family histories of inmates. Advocates from PLD, a network of lawyers based in Delhi committed to social cause, visited short stay home and met the inmates.

A general physician of the Calicut Medical College, Dr. Geetha visits the short-stay home twice a month on a voluntary basis and consultation is done freely. The in-charge of short stay home reports to the office on a daily basis. She also handles the account and reports to the accountant.

Seminars

1) A seminar was conducted at Chelannur Co-operative bank auditorium on 25th September, 2003 which was jointly organized by Anweshi and Chelannur ICDS. The topic of the seminar was the problems faced by adolescent girls. Approximately, two hundred members of the adolescent groups formed by the ICDS participated at the seminar. Classes were taken by Dr. Leena Abraham, senior fellow (TISS) Mumbai, Ms. Binitha Thampi (Bangalore) and Professor. Nambiar. The main topic was based on sexuality. Participants eagerly and actively asked questions and made the seminar a very lively one.

2) Women's empowerment seminar was conducted in Vengeri on 6-10-03 in Netaji Sewa Mandiram Samajam community hall. More than 100 women participated in the seminar. It was inaugurated by CDPO Mrs. Thankam. Topics were presented by the project head Mrs. Ajitha, and then Mrs. Sheeba Baby and Mrs. Thankam Elizabeth took classes. Group discussions also were conducted. Participation by women, mainly housewives and members of Kudumbasree, was remarkable. Our method is participatory.

3) On 14-10-03, another empowerment seminar was conducted. It was inaugurated by the local corporation Ward Councilor. Mrs. Elizabeth, joint secretary and community worker of Anweshi, presided over the meeting. Mr. Narayanan (CDPO, urban II), Mr. Kunju Mohammed (Headmaster of the school), Mrs. Susha (Supervisor, urban II) and Anweshi President K. Ajitha addressed the meeting. Adv. K.K. Savithri took classes on the topic ' women and society' and Adv. Preetha took classes of legal matters. 132 women participated in the seminar active discussions were there.

4) On 18-10-03, another seminar was conducted on the problem of adolescent girls in Koyilandy Arts College. This was held jointly by the college authorities and commerce association of the college. The seminar was inaugurated by a teacher in the college, Ms. Sheela. Shali teacher presided. The class was taken by two resource persons from Sakhi, Women's Resource Centre, Trivandrum. The class was lively and interactive. 150 girl students of the college took part in it. It was a livening and new experience for these girls in their teens.

5) Staff and voluntary workers of Anweshi, went to Bangalore as a part of study tour on 25th December 2003. There were 27 members. Our destination was 'Visthar', a Non-governmental Organization working in the field of gender and environmental issues. We reached 'Visthar' on 26th by 4'O clock in the morning. Director of 'Visthar' Ms. Mercy Kappen, explained the working of the organization. She also talked about topics related to gender and environmental issues. On 27th, we visited Vimochana, another NGO working in the field of women's issues which has a history of 25 years of existence. Vimochana owns a library and has a feminist book stall viz 'Sthree Lekha'. Cases which come to Vimochana are mainly problems related to dowry and harassment resulting from that. Monthly, around five hundred cases come here.

We visited Bannerghata National Park and went to tribal village viz Hakhi-Pakhi where 'Vimochana' is active. We could converse with the natives of Hakhi-pakhi with the help of guide. Vimochana has opened an office at Hakhi-Pakhi, and has arranged facilities to train

vocational activities for the tribal community in the village. They also conduct awareness classes for them.

Workshop

‘Anweshi’ Women’s Counselling Centre and PLD (Partners for Law in Development) jointly conducted a workshop on 12th to 14th December, mainly for women advocates. The subject of the workshop was Women and Law. 12 Advocates and 10 social workers participated at the workshop. Eminent Lawyers S.K.Priya from Chennai and Madhu Mehra from Delhi, both partners in PLD were the resource persons. Papers were presented on domestic violence bill and CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women). There was a discussion on section 377 of IPC mainly the demand of the women’s organizations to scrap this section since it is discriminatory to sexual minorities. Ms. Madhu Mehra also talked about, need for networking among the socially committed legal practitioners to make the execution of law more effective and gender sensitive. There were 22 participants and the workshop was a successful one.

‘Pratheeksha’ Musical Entertainment Programme

2003 was an important year for Anweshi as it was the tenth year of our establishment. To celebrate the event we conducted a musical entertainment programme. As part of the organizing, we formed a reception committee which included eminent personalities of the city. The chairperson of the committee was the Jnana Peedom Award winner, Mr. M.T. Vasudevan Nair. Sr. Nirmal, ex-vice principal of the prestigious Providence Women’s College, Sri. A.Sajeevan, chief correspondent of Kerala Koumudi daily, Dr.P.A.Lalitha, president of IMA women’s wing of Kerala etc. were some of the members of the committee. The programme was led by noted playback singers, K.S. Chithra and G. Venugopal. It went on well with good response from common people. This programme gave us an opportunity to give publicity for our cause.

Equipments

Short-Stay Home

T.V.Samsung	1
T.V.Stand	1
Fridge Samsung	1
Maharaja Mixi	1
Dining Table	1
P.M.Chair	12
P.M.Stool	8
Steel Cot	12
Steel Coubord (Big)	1
Steel Coubord (Small)	3
Steel Chair	1
Steel Almirah	1
Kitchen equipments	
Clock	1

Office

Computer	1
Computer Table	1
Computer Chair	1
Steel Almirah (glass)	2
Rack (big)	4
Rack (small)	1
Clock	2
Table	1

Staff pattern

Counsellors	–	K.Ajitha & Anitha .V.R
Social Workers	–	Jansy Jose & Reshma
Accountant	–	Swapna.P
Office Assistant	–	Shiji Johnson
Librarian	–	A.K.Anitha
Library Assistant	–	Rajalakshmi K.M.
Community Workers	–	Sheeba Baby, P. Santha, P. Sarojam, Elizabeth, V.P. Nabeesa, P.Vasantha, E.P. Sreeba
Cleaning	–	Pushpa
Legal advisor	–	Adv.A.C.Ambika
Legal Literacy Class	}	– Adv.Preetha K.K
Resource Person		