

STATUS OF REHABILITATION SERVICES Among Shelter Homes for the Survivors of Human Trafficking in the State of Andhra Pradesh.....

2023



“An RTI investigation study report on the Support Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking in Andhra Pradesh Shelter Homes”



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STATUS OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Among Shelter Homes for the **Survivors of Human Trafficking**
in the State of Andhra Pradesh

January 2024

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CONTENT

Forward

Acknowledgement

Chapter 1: Research methodology

Chapter 11: Analysis& Interpretation

Chapter 111: Suggestions and Recommendation

Echoes of Survival: Personal Accounts and Testimonies

Way forward

Annexures:

1. RTI Questionnaire

Chapter 1:

Unveiling Support Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking in Andhra Pradesh's Shelter Homes - Methodology and RTI Investigation"

1. Introduction:

In the homes where survivors seek shelter, there is often a risk of them falling prey to new forms of trafficking. These shelter homes typically employ a custodial approach to rehabilitation, where survivors lack any say in their own recovery process. This study will focus on evaluating the reintegration and rehabilitation programs initiated in the government run shelter homes in the state, with the goal of identifying any deficiencies and proposing recommendations for enhancement.

VIMUKTHI – is a collective of survivors of sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and women in prostitution, based in Andhra Pradesh having network and linkages with inter and intra-state likeminded CBOs and NGOs. **VIMUKTHI** is advocating for the rights of sex workers and rescued survivors of sex trafficking to access their social entitlements and also enabling them to avail criminal justice services including victim/witness protection services, rehabilitation, and immediate relief support and victim compensation. **VIMUKTHI** is involved in a range of activities, from community-level initiatives to state-level support for sex workers and trafficking survivors, with a focus on a rights-based approach to socio-economic empowerment and preventing the trafficking of the second generation.

2. Study Background:

Current laws in India include laws for crimes against victims of human trafficking, but no single law that allows for full rehabilitation of victims. As a result, due to lack of rehabilitation facilities, the victims become captives in the hands of traffickers due to economic difficulties, social violence and stigma, and are repeatedly re-trafficked and finally lead a miserable life as sex workers.

- a) As a result of the directions or judgments of the Supreme Court, some states in the country have brought some G.O.s for temporary relief. In 2003, the United Andhra Pradesh Government took G.O. under the name of G.O.M.S. No:1, "**Policy for Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation**" by the Department of Women and Child Welfare. Through it, special schemes have been created for economic empowerment, health care services, education and child care, housing and civil amenities, legal reforms, and rehabilitation and relief fund for the affected women along with prevention and rescue.
- b) Also for temporary financial assistance to affected women G.O.M.S No: 28 dated 15.10.2012 was made and implemented to provide Rs.20000/- under immediate relief.
- c) Government of Andhra Pradesh Home Department as per the instructions of NALSA -Andhra Pradesh Victim Compensation Scheme, -2015 Notification and adaptation of "NALSA's compensation scheme for women victims/survivors of Sexual assault / other Crimes – "2018GO Ms.No: 143dt. On 25th Sep 2018, G.O. was brought. Due to this scheme, DLSA (District Legal Services Authority) will provide a compensation of one lakh rupees to women victims of trafficking.
- d) In 2016, the Central Government brought **UJJWALA Scheme** for Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of victims of Human trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
 - **Emergency Response and Rescue Services:** Rescue & referral of trafficked women & children by linkages with NHM, Police (PCR Van) to rescue from the location and take to nearest medical facility.

- **Medical assistance:** To provides medical aid/examination
 - **Assisting women in lodging FIR and intimation to concerned enforcement agency:** The implementing agency will facilitate the rescued women for FIR lodging and so on.
 - **Psycho-social support/ counseling:** Psycho-social counselling services by skilled counsellor following prescribed code of ethics/guidelines and protocols to build courage & confidence to fight against traffickers and seek justice.
 - **Legal aid and counselling** to rescued women and children by lawyers to access justice
 - **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** Accommodation with basic needs - food, clothing and items of personal use and also medical care, legal aid, vocational trainings, education and also income-generation activities.
 - **Financial Inclusion:** Support for inclusion in the financial and banking sector by opening bank accounts, providing insurance service etc., staff at homes will engage with different financial institutes to ensure transfer of services and beneficiaries to victims
- e) **GO.MS.No: 16**, dt 24th April2010, Minimum standards of care by institutions providing protection and rehabilitative facilities to victims of commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking in the state of A.P through shelter homes and permanent rehabilitation services for women victims of trafficking In order to provide alternative livelihood opportunities, training in vocational skills and income generation should also be provided. They should also be provided with health services/treatments, legal services and counseling services.

Services in Government G.Os to provide counseling services, mental health services and vocational training to the victimized women in shelter homes as per GOMS No: 2003/1 and Ujjwala Scheme implemented by the State Government on arrival in the home. The responsibility of coordinating the various government departments and doing "facilitation" is on the management of the shelter homes and on the officials of the government departments who supervise them. GO Ms.No: 1/2003 issued by the state government, the district committee constituted under the chairmanship of the district collector has to meet once in every 3 months to review and take action regarding the rehabilitation of the trafficked persons....Also under the same GO under the chairmanship of the chief secretary of the state government. A state level committee has been set up to meet once every 6 months to review and take action on the rehabilitation of trafficked persons.

At present, 32shelter homes are running in Andhra Pradesh with the funds of various schemes provided by the central government for the victims of trafficking. Among them there are 21 Swadar Homes, 4Ujjwala Homes and 7Balasadans. From January 2019to June 2023, about 2, 737trafficked women and girls have been sheltered in this shelter home.

It has been requested to provide information to the state government through RTI so that the services provided by these shelter homes for women/girls who are victims of trafficking in the state from January 2019to June 2023can be studied.

3. Research Objectives:

The research objective is

- To assess the effectiveness and compliance of shelter homes and providing support services to survivors of human trafficking / Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Andhra Pradesh.

4. Target Audience:

The target audience for this research includes policymakers, policy planners, policy implementers, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders involved in women and child welfare and anti-trafficking efforts in Andhra Pradesh.

5. Survey Method:

The data for this research was obtained through Right to Information (RTI) responses from the Women and Child Welfare Department. Along with this, their opinions were also collected from the victims who came out of the shelter home.

6. Design of the Study:

The survey was not designed explicitly but involved the collection and analysis of RTI responses pertaining to human trafficking survivors and shelter homes in the state.

7. Study Tools:

The primary survey tool used was the information obtained from RTI responses provided by the Women and Child Welfare Department.

8. Sampling Strategy:

Given the nature of the RTI data, no specific sampling strategy was applied, as all available responses were considered.

9. Data Collection:

The data collected from RTI responses included information on the number of rescued victims, types of shelter homes, compliance with minimum standards, and rehabilitation and social entitlements support services, skill trainings, and legal aid provided to victims by shelter homes. etc.

10. Data Analysis:

Quantitative and qualitative analysis methods were used to assess the data, revealing disparities and inconsistencies in the reported figures.

11. Reporting and Interpretation:

The data indicated disparities in the number of shelter homes and reported compliance with standards, variations in support services, and discrepancies in data reporting. These findings were interpreted in the context of the research objectives.

12. Recommendations:

Based on the research findings, several recommendations were formulated. These included:

- Conducting further investigations to resolve discrepancies in data.
- Assessing the effectiveness of skill training programs for survivors.
- Enhancing coordination of legal aid support and police statements.
- Ensuring consistent and accurate data reporting.

13. Ensure Ethical Considerations:

Ethical considerations were taken into account throughout the research process, ensuring data privacy and compliance with legal regulations governing RTI data usage.

14. Iteration and Improvement:

The research highlighted the need for further investigations and improvements in data reporting, service coordination, and support systems for survivors.

15. Disseminate Results:

The findings of this research will be disseminated through reports, presentations, and discussions with relevant stakeholders to contribute to the knowledge and improvement of services for survivors of human trafficking / Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Andhra Pradesh.

This research report summarizes the analysis of RTI data concerning shelter homes and services for survivors of human trafficking in Andhra Pradesh, offering insights, recommendations, and a call for improvements in the support and coordination of services for this vulnerable population.

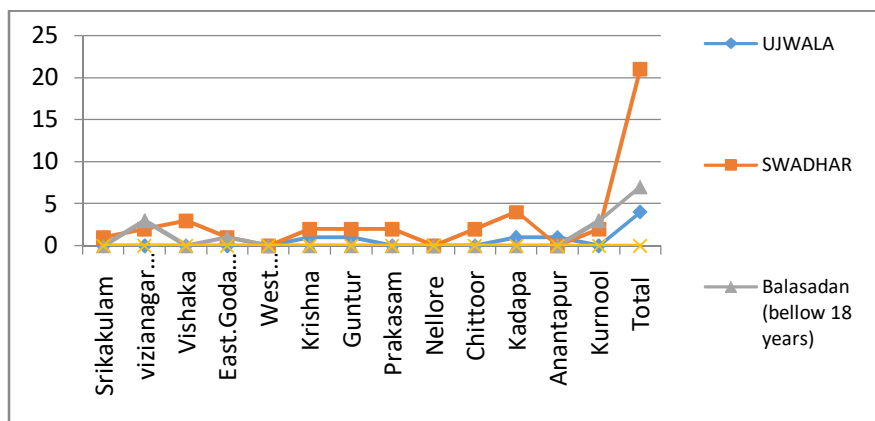
**Status of Existing services to the survivors among
Shelter Homes in the state of Andhra Pradesh as per the GO.Ms.No:1/2003**

Analysis of the RTI response:

RTI Findings

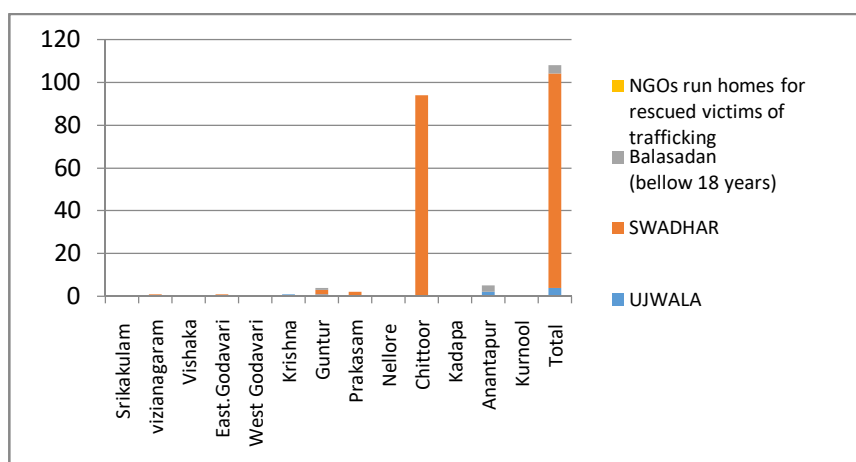
In accordance with the **NCRB** (National Crime Records Bureau) report, a total of 1,138 victims were rescued from human trafficking, primarily for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, during the period spanning 2019 to 2021. The report for the year 2022 has not been released as of now.

1. Number of Homes available / running in the state of Andhra Pradesh are as follows:



There are a total of 33 shelter homes within the state designed to provide accommodation for survivors rescued from human trafficking incidents. Among these, 21 are designated as Swadhaar homes, 5 are classified under Ujjawala, and the remaining 7 are Balasadan homes, specifically established to cater to children below the age of 18. It is noteworthy that there are currently no shelter homes operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with funding from external non-governmental sources.

2. No. of homes followed GO.MS.No: 16, dt 24th April 2010 minimum standards of care by institutions providing protection and rehabilitative facilities to victims of commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking in the state of A.P ?



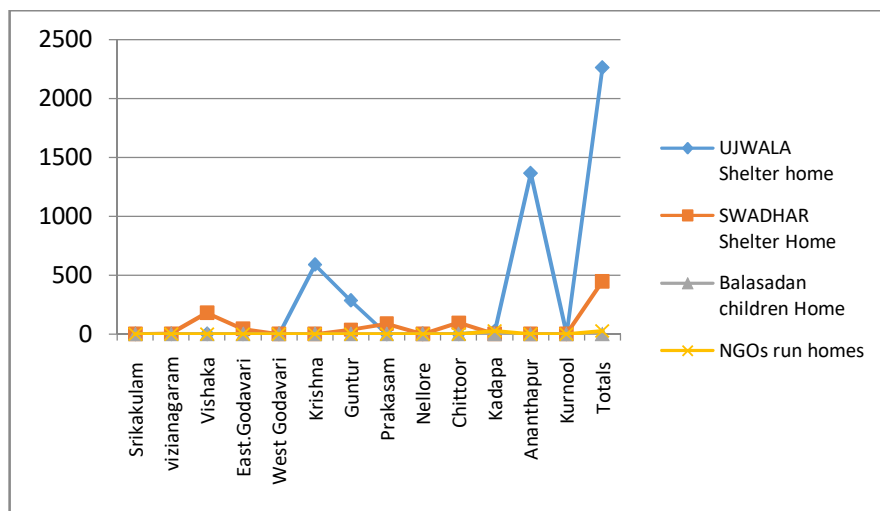
In response to inquiries concerning the provisions of **GO.MS.No 16 dated 24th April 2010**, which establish the **Minimum Standards of Care for Institutions providing protection and rehabilitation**

services to victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (CSET), it has been revealed that there are a total of 108 such institutions, with 94 of them situated in Chittoor district.

- It is noteworthy to observe a disconcerting disparity, wherein the state has a total of 33 homes designed for this purpose, yet the RTI response indicates that minimum standards are being purportedly maintained in 108 facilities. Furthermore, it is perplexing to ascertain that there are 2 Swadhaar Homes located within Chittoor district, while the RTI response suggests that the Minimum Standards as per GO.MS. No. 16 are purportedly being adhered to in 94 homes within the same district.

3. Survivors of Human Trafficking & Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

3.1 How many victims received facilities after rescue - each district wise?

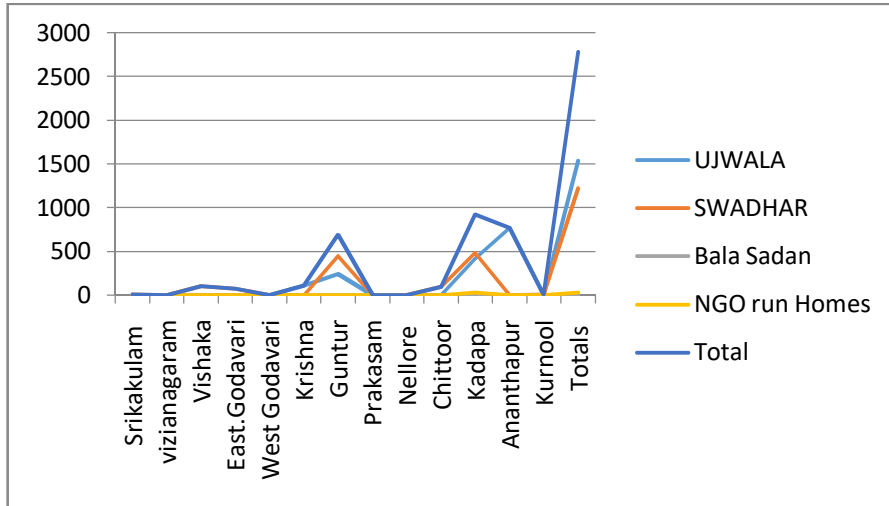


A cumulative total of 2,737 rescued survivors of human trafficking in the state of Andhra Pradesh have been placed in various shelter homes from 2019 to June 2023. This number comprises 2,265 individuals accommodated in Ujjawala Homes, 447 in Swadhaar Homes, and 25 in shelter homes operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

- It is noteworthy that, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 1,138 victims of human trafficking were rescued during the period from 2019 to 2021. However, in response to an RTI query, it has been reported that a total of 1,791 survivors of trafficking were provided accommodation in different shelter homes within the same time frame of 2019 to 2021, with 1,429 placed in Ujjawala Homes, 343 in Swadhaar Homes, and 19 in NGO-operated homes. This apparent discrepancy in the figures is a matter of concern and requires further investigation.
- Further, it is disheartening to realize that the department, which initially stated that there are no homes funded by non-government sources for rescued survivors of human trafficking, is now reporting that 19 survivors were accommodated from 2019 to 2021, and an additional 6 from 2022 to June 2023 have been provided shelter in these homes (total 25 victims).
- Among the 5 Ujjawala homes within the state, the highest number of victims, totalling 1,366, have been provided shelter in Anantapur Ujjawala since 2019 to June 2023. The second-highest count of victims, comprising 589 individuals, was observed in the Krishna district home. Following closely, the Guntur home accommodated 285 victims, securing the third position in terms of victim placement.

- Among the 21 Swadhaar homes situated within the state, the Vizag home has received the highest number of victims, with a total of 179 referrals. In second place is the Chittoor Swadhaar home, which has received 96 victims, followed by the Prakasam district Swadhaar home, where 89 victims have been referred, securing the third position.

3.2 How many victims received vocational/skill trainings in shelter homes under GO Ms No:1/2003?

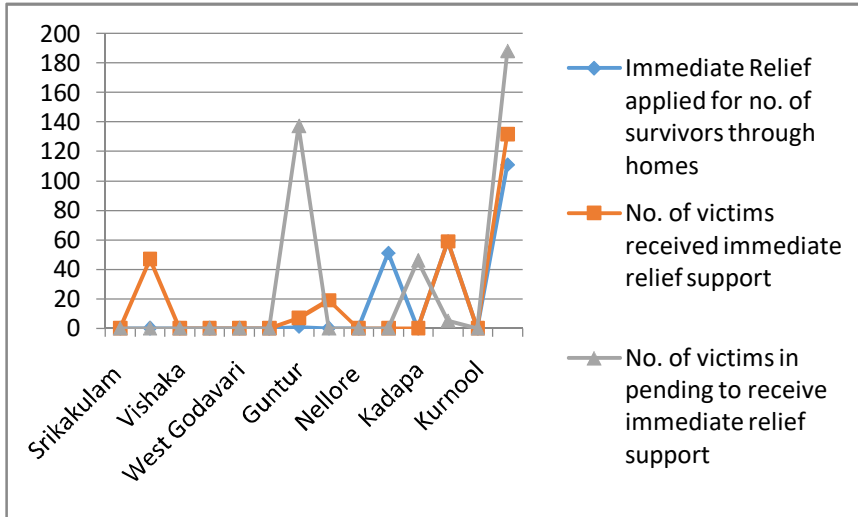


During the period spanning from 2019 to June 2023, a total of 2,737 victims were referred to various shelter homes within the state. The RTI response has disclosed that 2,781 victims, in fact, received various **skill /vocational trainings** during the same period.

- It is worth noting that the number of victims who received skill training exceeds the number of victims initially referred to shelter homes. Specifically, 2,737 victims were admitted to shelter homes, while 2,781 victims received skill training. This implies that 44 victims received skill training in addition to those who were originally placed in the homes. However, it is not clear from the available information where these additional 44 victims originated.
- It is remarkable to note that, from 2019 to June 2023, Kadapa Ujjawala home has provided shelter to 25 victims. However, it is noteworthy that a total of 415 victims have received skill training during this period. This means that 390 more victims have been trained than the number accommodated in the home.
- When considering the 21 Swadhaar homes within the state, it becomes evident that 447 victims have been accommodated from 2019 to June 2023. However, skill training has been provided to 1,219 survivors, indicating that an additional 772 victims have received training beyond those residing within these homes.
- While the RTI response indicated that no victims have been sheltered in any of the homes in Kurnool from 2019 to 2023, it was stated on the contrary that 10 survivors received skill training at the Swadhaar home in Kurnool.
- It is imperative to investigate the nature of skill training programs being offered within the Ujjawala homes in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Concurrently, a separate study should be commissioned to assess the extent to which the 1,537 individuals who received skill training in these homes have truly benefited by gaining self-employment opportunities.

4. REHABILITATION AND RELIEF FUND:

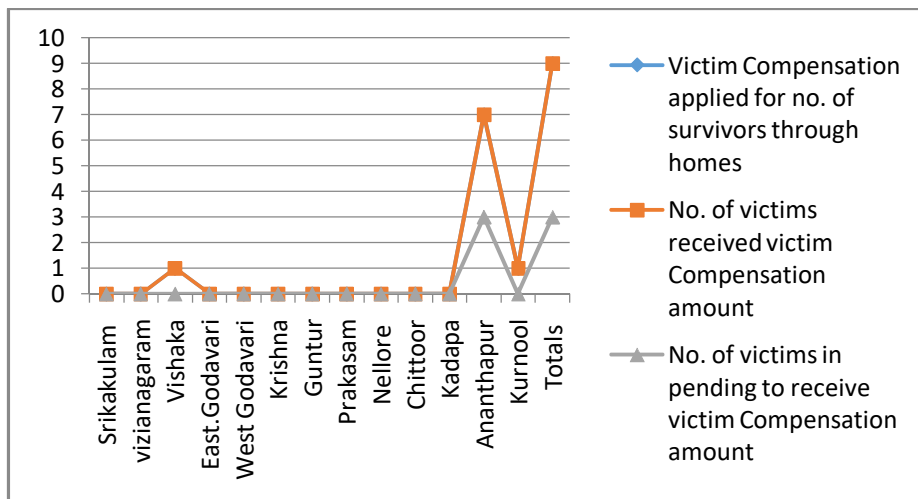
4.1. How many applications submitted by the Home Management to the Project Director, Dist. W&CDA for Immediate relief support under GO.MS.No: 28 Provide District wise details from Jan 2019 to Jun 2023 in the below format.



Total of 111 survivors, out of the 2,737 individuals who were sheltered in Swadhaar, Ujjawala, and NGO-run homes between 2019 and June 2023, have been assisted by these homes in applying for immediate relief support of Rs. 20,000/- in accordance with GO.MS. No. 28. However, it should be noted that more survivors have received support than those who initially applied; specifically, 132 survivors have received support, whereas 111 applied for it. Furthermore, there are currently 188 pending applications with the government.

- It is surprising to note from the above data that 21 survivors have received support even though no applications were submitted by the home authorities.
- Even more astonishing is the fact that there are still 188 pending applications with the Government for individuals who have not applied at all. What does this signify?

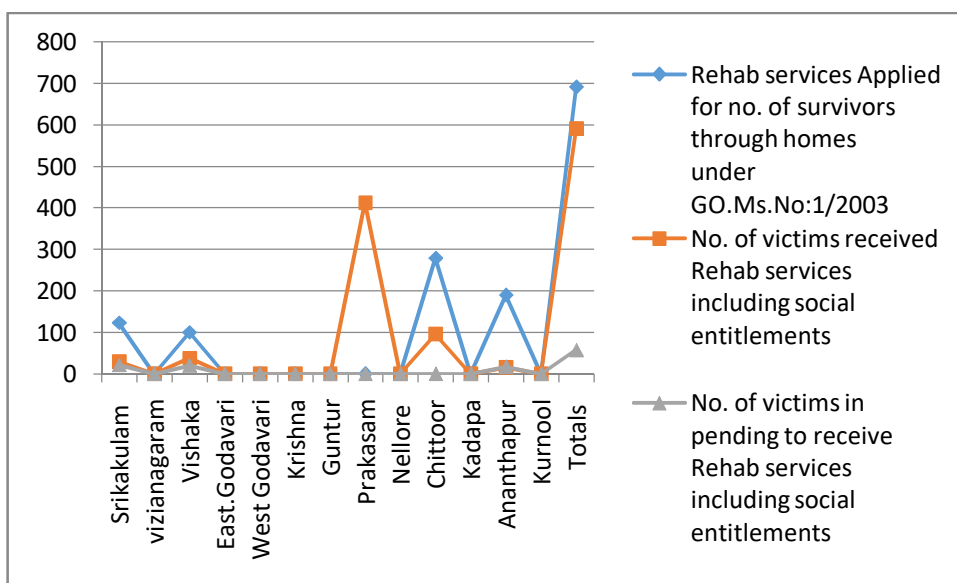
4.2 VC (Victim Compensation) applications submitted to the DLSA (Dist Legal Services Authority) by the Home Management under GO.MS.No. 132, dt.6-12-2016 & status of VCs from 2019 to 2023 Jun



A total of 2,737 victims were accommodated in various shelter homes across the state from 2019 to June 2023. Out of these, 9 victims submitted applications for **victim compensation** under the **NALSA scheme** with the support of home authorities. It is noteworthy that all nine victims, including one from Visakhapatnam, seven from Anantapur, and one from Kurnool, have received compensation from **DLSAs**. However, there are still 3 pending applications from Anantapur Dist with DLSA.

- It's surprising that all 9 applications submitted for **Victim Compensation (VC)** have been approved, and the corresponding victims have already received their compensation. Furthermore, it's remarkable to discover that an additional three applications from Anantapur home are still pending with DLSA despite not having been submitted.
- ***In fact, as a response to another RTI, the DLSAs of Visakhapatnam, Kurnool and Anantapur districts have responded that, there was no at least single application has not been filed for VC applications from the financial years 2016-17 to 2022-23. So, from where and how those victims have accessed VC support is the matter of fact to be cracked.***

4.3 How many victims applications submitted to the Project Directors, Dist. W&CDA by the Home Management and received rehabilitation services & Social Entitlements under GO Ms. No:1/2003 district wise and year wise from Jan 2019 to Jun 2023 in the below specified table



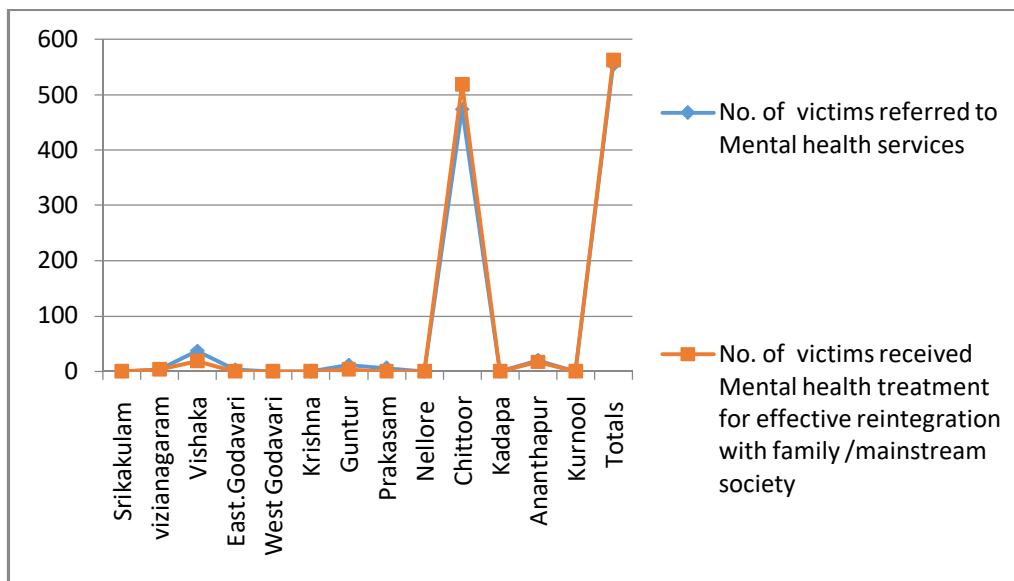
Among the 2,737 victims sheltered in various state-wide shelter homes from 2019 to June 2023, a total of 692 survivors applied for rehabilitation services and social entitlements as per GO.MS. No. 1. Out of these applications, 592 survivors have successfully received social entitlements and other support services. However, there are still 58 pending applications awaiting government approval

- It is perplexing to note that there are 100 applications pending when 692 survivors applied and 592 have already benefited. However, it is unclear what the status is for the remaining applications.
- It has been reported that no victims of human trafficking were accommodated in any of the homes in Srikakulam district between 2019 and June 2023. Surprisingly, 123 survivors of

trafficking have submitted applications for support services under GO.MS. No. 1/2003, and 29 survivors have received support services. Additionally, 21 applications are still awaiting approval from the government.

- In fact, if 29 survivors in Srikakulam district have benefited out of 123 applications, there should be another 94 applications pending. However, it has been reported that only 21 are pending, which is indeed surprising.
- Another intriguing revelation is that, in the Swadhaar home in Chittoor district, a total of 96 survivors were accommodated. However, the home authorities were able to submit applications for 279 survivors from their facility for support services under GO.MS. No. 1/2003. It is noteworthy that only the 96 survivors currently residing in the home have benefited from the support services.
- It is so surprised to observe that, there were 89 survivors of trafficking have been accommodated in the shelter homes in Prakasam District during Jan 2019 to Jun 2023 and later returned to their families. But, in the RTI response, it was revealed that, the shelter home authorities have not applied for any survivor in the shelter homes during 2019 to Jun 2023 for the services under GO.MS. No. 1/2003. On the other hand, it was mentioned in the RTI response that. a total of 413 survivors have availed rehabilitation services including social entitlements from the Government which is really wondering

4.4 No. of victims referred to the mental health services by the Home Management as per the GO Ms.no:1/2003. District wise & year wise details.

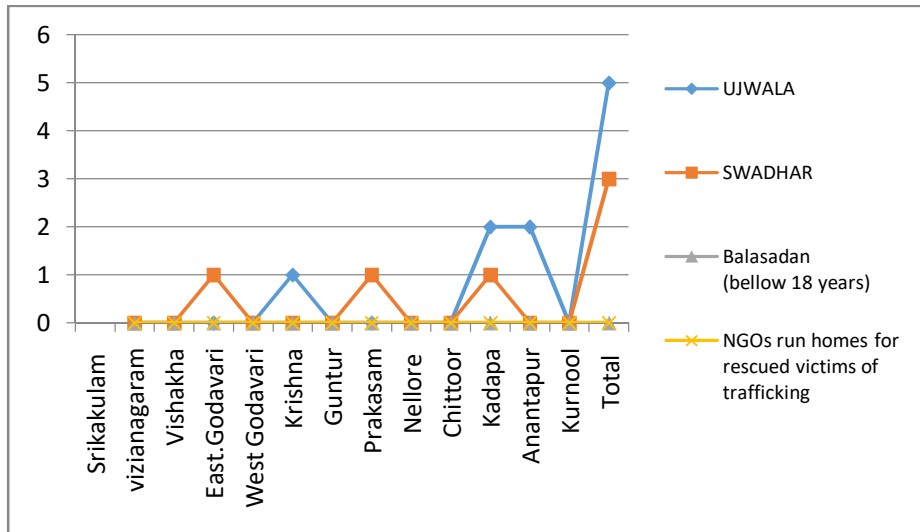


A total of 2,737 survivors have been accommodated in shelter homes from 2019 to June 2023. Out of these, 555 survivors were referred to mental health services. According to the RTI response, it has been revealed that a total of 563 survivors have received full treatment and returned to their homes in sound health conditions.

- It is perplexing to comprehend how it is possible to provide treatment to 563 survivors when the number of referrals was only 555.
- Another puzzling aspect is the response regarding Chittoor district Swadhaar home, where 96 survivors were accommodated from 2019 to June 2023. However, the RTI response stated that a total of 474 survivors were referred for mental health services and appropriate treatment. The question arises as to the origin of these additional 378 survivors who were

referred to services. Furthermore, the response indicated that a total of 519 women survivors have received successful treatment for their mental health and reunited with their families.

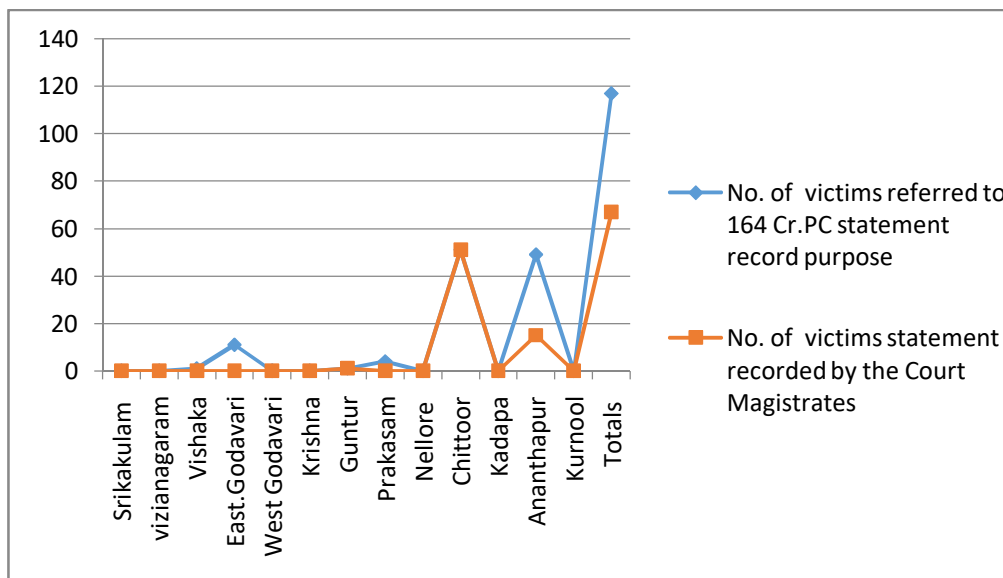
4.5. How many homes having trained in Trauma counselling and psychology background counsellors?



Trained counsellors with backgrounds in trauma counselling or psychology are providing their services in only 8 out of the 33 shelter homes in the state (comprising 5 Ujjawala homes, 21 Swadhaar homes, and 7 Balasadan homes).

5. LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES/ LEGAL AID:

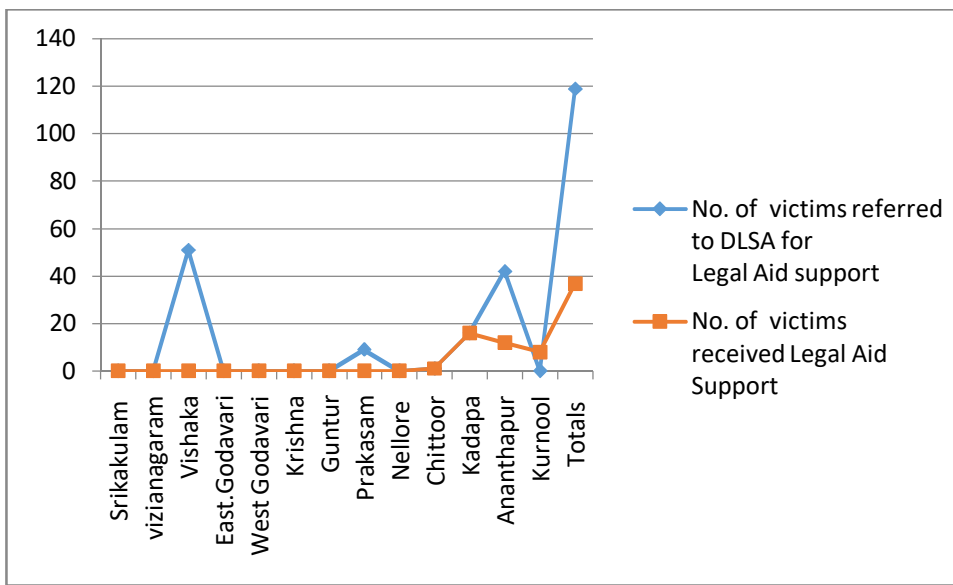
5.1. How many victims referred to IO for recording their statement under Sec. 164 Cr.PC. after counselling in the Homes?



Among the shelter homes, a total of 2,737 survivors were accommodated from June 2019 to June 2023. The home authorities referred 117 survivors to the police to record their statements under Sec. 164 Cr. PC. However, it is noteworthy that the court magistrate has only recorded the statements of 67 survivors.

- In Chittoor district, a total of 51 women survivors or girls from Swadhaar Home were referred for recording their statements under Sec. 164 Cr. PC, and all 51 survivors had their statements recorded by the court of law.
- However, it is surprising that the shelter homes in Guntur and Krishna districts, which have accommodated a significant number of survivors, have not referred a single woman survivor/girl or encouraged them to record their statements under Sec. 164 Cr.PC.

5.2 How many victims have been referred by Home Management and how many victims have received free Legal Aid Support services through DLSA’s under NALSA guidelines?



Out of the 2,737 rescued survivors of trafficking who were accommodated in the 33 shelter homes from June 2019 to June 2023 in the state, the shelter home authorities have filed applications with DLSAs for only 119 survivors who were seeking legal aid support. However, only 37 survivors have actually received legal aid support from their respective DLSAs.

- The shelter homes in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East & West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Kurnool, and Nellore have failed to adequately facilitate and support the survivors in their respective homes in accessing legal aid through the concerned DLSAs of their districts.
- While no survivor has been accommodated in any of the homes in Kurnool district from 2019 to 2023, and no applications have been submitted for legal aid, it is worth noting that they have responded to the RTI inquiry. Additionally, it is commendable that 8 survivors in the district have managed to access legal aid support from the DLSAs.

SUGGESTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Need for Community-based rehabilitation:

Institutionalization should not be a precondition for victims to access services. Many experts and organizations advocate for a shift away from institutionalization and towards community-based rehabilitation and non-institutionalized services for victims of various forms of exploitation, including human trafficking. Here are some key reasons why this approach is crucial:



“ If you want hear birds singing,
don't Build Cages ... Plant Trees”,

“..... And if you want Empower
Survivors of Trafficking,
don't build Shelter Homes..Strengthen
Communities through CBR !”

1. **Preservation of Dignity and Autonomy:** Community-based rehabilitation respects the dignity and autonomy of victims. Placing victims in institutions can sometimes perpetuate a sense of confinement and dependency, whereas community-based services allow them to maintain a degree of independence and control over their lives.
2. **Fostering Social Integration:** Community-based rehabilitation facilitates the reintegration of victims into society. It helps them rebuild their lives within their own communities, reducing the stigma often associated with institutionalization.
3. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Non-institutionalized services can be more cost-effective in the long run. They often require fewer resources than maintaining large institutional facilities, allowing for the allocation of resources to more individuals in need.
4. **Tailored Support:** Community-based programs can be more flexible and adaptable to the unique needs of each victim. Services can be personalized to address the specific challenges and goals of the individual.
5. **Sustainability:** Building and maintaining institutional facilities can be resource-intensive and challenging to sustain over time. Community-based approaches are often more sustainable, as they rely on existing community structures and resources.
6. **Enhanced Local Involvement:** Community-based initiatives encourage local communities to take an active role in supporting victims, leading to greater community awareness and involvement in combating exploitation.

7. **Reduced Risk of Revictimization:** Victims placed in institutions may face a risk of being re-trafficked or exploited within the institution itself. Community-based programs can provide a safer environment with better oversight.
8. **Holistic Approach:** Non-institutionalized services can offer a holistic approach to recovery, addressing not only the immediate needs of victims but also their long-term well-being, including education, vocational training, and mental health support.

To make community-based rehabilitation and non-institutionalized services effective, it's important to:

- Develop strong partnerships with local communities, NGOs, and government agencies.
- Provide training and capacity-building for community members and service providers.
- Establish clear referral pathways to ensure victims can access a wide range of services.
- Promote awareness and education to reduce stigma and increase community support for victims.

By prioritizing community-based rehabilitation and non-institutionalized services, it becomes possible to provide more compassionate, effective, and sustainable support to victims of exploitation while respecting their rights and autonomy.

Need for Victim Tracking Registry at Shelter Homes:

Using a software-based approach, such as a Victim Tracking Registry, to track support services and rehabilitation efforts for rescued Victim / Survivor's is an excellent idea. Such a system can help eliminate re-trafficking, reduce resource wastage, and ensure accountability and transparency in community-based rehabilitation efforts. Here's a more detailed overview of how such a system could be implemented and its potential benefits:

1. **Centralized Database:** Create a centralized database where information about each rescued Victim / Survivor's is recorded. This database should include personal details, case history, and the support services provided.
2. **Case Management:** Implement a case management system within the software that tracks the progress of each Victim / Survivor's rehabilitation journey from Shelter home to rehabilitation service. This should include Social entitlements, medical, psychological, Mental Health, educational, and vocational support.
3. **Resource Allocation:** The software can help in efficient resource allocation by tracking the resources used for each Victim / Survivor. This will prevent duplication and wastage of resources.
4. **Real-time Updates:** Ensure that the system allows for real-time updates from various stakeholders, such as Shelter Home Management, social workers, law enforcement, medical professionals, and Village/Ward Sachivalayam's. This ensures that everyone involved is on the same page regarding the Victim / Survivor's Rehabilitation progress.

5. **Security and Privacy:** Implement strong security measures to protect the sensitive information stored in the system. Access to this information should be restricted to authorized personnel only to protect the privacy and safety of the Victim / Survivor's.
6. **Analytics and Reporting:** Develop reporting tools that allow for data analysis. This can help identify trends, gaps in services, and areas where improvements are needed in the rehabilitation process.
7. **Accountability and Transparency:** Ensure that the system is designed to be transparent and accountable. It should be accessible to relevant government agencies, NGOs, and the public (with privacy safeguards in place) to foster transparency and trust.
8. **Scalability:** Design the software with scalability in mind to accommodate an increasing number of cases and users as the need for rehabilitation services grows.
9. **Feedback Mechanism:** Incorporate a feedback mechanism that allows the Victim / Survivor's themselves, their families, and the caregivers to provide input on the quality and effectiveness of the rehabilitation services.
10. **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Ensure that the software complies with all relevant legal and ethical standards, including data protection regulations and human rights principles.
11. **Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations, to ensure a holistic approach to rehabilitation.

By adopting a software-based approach like the Victim Tracking Registry, you can streamline the process of tracking and providing support services to rescued Victim / Survivor's, ultimately contributing to their successful rehabilitation and reducing the risk of re-trafficking. This system can also serve as a valuable tool for data-driven decision-making and policy development in the field of anti-trafficking and victim support.

Role of Shelter Homes Management:

Informing residents about the benefits they are entitled to from the government, including immediate relief and various rehabilitation packages, is essential for their well-being and recovery. Here are some key considerations for ensuring that victims are informed about these benefits:

1. **Clear Communication:** Provide residents with clear and accessible information about the government benefits available to them. Use plain language and consider using visual aids or interpreters if necessary to ensure understanding.
2. **Immediate Relief:** Ensure that residents are aware of immediate relief options available to them. Immediate relief may include emergency shelter, medical care, counseling services, and basic necessities such as food and clothing.
3. **Rehabilitation Packages:** Inform residents about comprehensive rehabilitation packages. These packages should include information on various aspects of recovery, such as livelihood skills, education opportunities for their children, and victim compensation.

4. **Livelihood Skills:** Explain the vocational or livelihood skills training programs that are available to help victims gain employment and financial independence. Provide information on how to access these programs and the skills they can acquire.
5. **Livelihood Options:** Present a range of livelihood options that residents can explore based on their skills, interests, and local opportunities. Help them identify and pursue suitable livelihood options.
6. **Education for Children:** Emphasize the importance of education for their children and inform them about educational support programs and scholarships that may be available for their children's schooling.
7. **Victim Compensation:** Educate residents about victim compensation schemes, such as the Nirbhaya policy/Section 357 A of CrPC, and the specific victim compensation scheme of the state government. Provide information on the eligibility criteria, application process, and the types of compensation available.
8. **Legal Support:** Offer legal assistance to help residents navigate the process of accessing benefits and compensation. This can include helping them fill out applications and providing guidance on their rights.
9. **Empowerment:** Encourage residents to take an active role in accessing and utilizing these benefits. Empower them with knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their recovery.
10. **Privacy and Confidentiality:** Respect residents' privacy and confidentiality when discussing their eligibility for benefits and compensation. Ensure that their personal information is protected.
11. **Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a feedback mechanism so that residents can raise concerns or seek clarification regarding government benefits and services. This helps improve the transparency and effectiveness of the support system.

Voices of survivors: Personal Accounts and Testimonies

- "Shelter homes are like safe havens for survivors of human trafficking, but they often lack the essential resources to help us heal from our traumas and prepare us for the tough journey of reintegration into society. On the other hand, community-based rehabilitation empowers survivors like me to take control of our lives, face our challenges independently, and gain a stronger understanding of our rights.
- *Lakshmi, Vijayawada a Survivor (name changed)*
- "I lost my freedom and was separated from my family in the name of rehabilitation and counseling within the shelter home. My deep longing is to reunite with my family and return to the community where I once lived with my parents.
- *Ramni, Tenali a Survivor (name changed)*
- "This is my life, and I should have the freedom to make my own choices. I believe I have the strength and ability to stand up for my rights and what I'm entitled to as a citizen. However, I was confined to a shelter home for months and even years, where I couldn't pursue my own desires. If I had been with my family in my own

village, I could have been a part of the Self-Help Group (SHG) and accessed my social entitlements, which were rightfully mine."

- *Parvathi, Ganapavaram, a Survivor (name changed)*
- "I was forcibly held in a shelter home for over a year against my will. Meanwhile, the trafficker who victimized me in my village was released and is freely wandering the streets without facing any legal consequences. I am determined to see him held accountable to protect other innocent girls like me. I'm willing to seek support from local leaders, my parents, my peers, and the members of our local NGO to reclaim my life and reintegrate into my community, just as it was before."
 - *Susheela, Addanki a Survivor (name changed)*
- Two precious years of my life were unjustly taken away as I languished in a shelter home. Now, I'm experiencing significant delays in addressing my basic needs and accessing my rightful entitlements, despite my participation in VIMUKTHI's rights-based case management program. This should have enabled me to obtain essential documents like my ration card and Aadhaar card, secure government housing, pension, bank loans for my livelihood, and victim compensation.
 - *Sarojini, Sathenpalli a Survivor (name changed)*
- "I painfully lost two precious years of my life while being confined in a shelter home. Now, it's taking much longer than expected to address my needs and access my rights and entitlements, even though I'm involved in a rights-based case management program with VIMUKTHI. This program should allow me to obtain essential documents like my ration card and Aadhaar card, secure housing, access government pensions, obtain bank loans for my livelihood, and receive the Victim Compensation I'm entitled to."
 - *Lakshmi, Chirala, a Survivor (name changed)*
- "We strongly urge the government to develop and put into action a state policy for Community-Based Rehabilitation, prioritizing the welfare and protection of countless survivors like us. We are confronted with stigma and discrimination both within and outside our families due to our lack of skills, livelihood, and earnings. Our three-year confinement in a shelter home left us without any support services, making it impossible for us to stand on our own."
 - *Venkata Lakshmi, Nandigama, a Survivor (name changed)*
- "In many cases, survivors find themselves involuntarily confined within shelter homes. Additionally, the training offered in these homes often proves irrelevant when it comes to finding employment later on. Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) offers a vital platform for survivors to access livelihood opportunities along with relevant training within their own communities."
 - *Smt. Roja, HELP NGO field staff.*
- A dedicated social worker like me, who has spent the last decade fighting against trafficking, firmly believes that Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is the only path for survivors to truly rebuild their lives. It is crucial that we empower their families and communities to welcome them back, assist in their reintegration, explore alternative livelihoods, and hold their traffickers accountable within their

own villages. CBR provides the hope for survivors to thrive and grow, while long-term shelter homes cannot be the sustainable solution.

- *V.Bhaskar, Social worker.- HELP organisation*

By ensuring that residents are well-informed about their entitlements and providing them with the necessary support to access these benefits, you can empower them to rebuild their lives and recover from the traumatic experiences they have endured. This approach not only helps individual survivors but also contributes to a more just and supportive society for all victims of crime and exploitation.

Annexure: 1

Application for seeking Information
under Section 6(1) of Right to Information Act 2005

To
The Public Information Officer (PIO)
O/o. Director of Women Development & Child Welfare
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
Jampani Towers, Lodge Centre, Amaravathi Road,
GUNTUR – 522 006
Guntur Dist

Respect Madam garu,

Sub:RTI application regarding information on implementation status of GO.Ms No: 1/2003 & 28-Reg.,

- 1. Name of the applicant: Y.Srinivasa Rao, Senior Advocate**
- 2. Address: Door No: 26-104, Subbaiah Thota, Chilakaluripet (Post), CHILAKALURIPET – 522616**
Palnadu Dist, Andhra Pradesh

3. (I) Particulars of Information: Kindly provide the following information.

- (II) Particulars of Information required:** I need following information from Jan 2019 to Jun 2023. Further this questionnaire is developed and shared with respective department, and intended to understand the services that are rendered under the schemes UJWALA, SWADHAR, Bala Sadhan, and NGOs run homes under RTI.- Right To information Act, 2005.

Section 1:**1. Number of Homes available / running in the state of Andhra Pradesh are as follows:**

Sl. No	Name of the united districts	UJWALA	SWADHAR	Balasan (bellow 18 years)	NGOs run homes for rescued victims of trafficking	Total running homes
1	Srikakulam					
2	vizianagaram					
3	Vishaka					
4	East.Godavari					
5	West Godavari					
6	Krishna					
7	Guntur					
8	Prakasam					
9	Nellore					
10	Chittoor					
11	Kadapa					
12	Anantapur					
13	Kurnool					

2. No. of homes followed GO.MS.No: 16, dt 24th April 2010 minimum standards of care by institutions providing protection and rehabilitative facilities to victims of commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking in the state of A.P ?

Sl. No	Name of the united districts	UJWALA	SWADHAR	Balasan (bellow 18 years)	NGOs run homes for rescued Victims of trafficking	Total
1	Srikakulam					
2	vizianagaram					
3	Vishakha					
4	East.Godavari					
5	West Godavari					
6	Krishna					
7	Guntur					
8	Prakasam					
9	Nellore					
10	Chittoor					
11	Kadapa					
12	Ananthapur					
13	Kurnool					

3. Survivors of Human Trafficking & Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

1. How many victims received facilities after rescue - each district wise?

Sl. No	Name of the district	UJWALA					SWADHAR					Balasadan (bellow 18 years)					NGOs run homes for rescued trafficked victims					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Srikakulam																					
2	vizianagaram																					
3	Vishaka																					
4	East.Godavari																					
5	West Godavari																					
6	Krishna																					
7	Guntur																					
8	Prakasam																					
9	Nellore																					
10	Chittoor																					
11	Kadapa																					
12	Ananthapur																					
13	Kurnool																					

2. How many victims received vocational/skill trainings in shelter homes under GO Ms No:1/2003?

Sl. No	Name of the district	UJWALA					SWADHAR					Balasadan (bellow 18 years)					NGOs run homes					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Srikakulam																					
2	vizianagaram																					
3	Vishaka																					
4	East.Godavar																					
5	West Godavari																					
6	Krishna																					
7	Guntur																					
8	Prakasam																					
9	Nellore																					
10	Chittoor																					
11	Kadapa																					
12	Ananthapur																					
13	Kurnool																					

4. REHABILITATION AND RELIEF FUND:

1. How many applications submitted by the **Home Management** to the Project Director, **Dist. W&CDA** for **Immediate relief** support under **GO.MS.No: 28...**? Provide District wise details from Jan 2019 to Jun 2023 in the below format.

Sl. No	Name of the district	Immediate Relief applied for no. of survivors through homes						No. of victims received immediate relief support						No. of victims in pending to receive immediate relief support					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1	Srikakulam																		
2	Vizianagaram																		
3	Vishakha																		
4	East.Godavari																		
5	West Godavari																		
6	Krishna																		
7	Guntur																		
8	Prakasam																		
9	Nellore																		
10	Chittoor																		
11	Kadapa																		
12	Anantapur																		
13	Kurnool																		

2. **VC (Victim Compensation)** applications submitted to the **DLSA (Dist Legal Services Authority)** by the **Home Management** under **GO.MS.No. 132, dt.6-12-2016**

Sl. No	Name of the district	Victim Compensation applied for no. of survivors through homes						No. of victims received victim Compensation amount						No. of victims in pending to receive victim Compensation amount					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1	Srikakulam																		
2	vizayanagram																		
3	Vishaka																		
4	East.Godavari																		
5	West Godavari																		
6	Krishna																		
7	Guntur																		
8	Prakasam																		
9	Nellore																		
10	Chittoor																		
11	Kadapa																		
12	Ananthapur																		
13	Kurnool																		

3. How many victims applications submitted to the Project Directors, **Dist. W&CD** by the **Home Management** and received rehabilitation services under GO Ms.No:1/2003 district wise and year wise from Jan 2019 to Jun2023 in the below specified table

Sl. No	Name of the district	Applied for no. of survivors through homes under GO.Ms.No:1/2003						No. of victims received Rehab services including social entitlements						No. of victims in pending to receive Rehab services including social entitlements					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1	Srikakulam																		
2	vizianagaram																		
3	Vishakha																		
4	East.Godavari																		
5	West Godavari																		
6	Krishna																		
7	Guntur																		
8	Prakasam																		
9	Nellore																		
10	Chittoor																		
11	Kadapa																		
12	Ananthapur																		
13	Kurnool																		

4. No. of victims referred to the **mental health** services by the Home Management as per the GO Ms.no:1/2003. District wise & year wise details.

Sl. No	Name of the district	No.of victims referred to Mental health services					No.of victims received Mental health treatment for effective reintegration with family /mainstream society				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Srikakulam										
2	vizianagaram										
3	Vishakha										
4	East.Godavari										
5	West Godavari										
6	Krishna										
7	Guntur										
8	Prakasam										
9	Nellore										
10	Chittoor										
11	Kadapa										
12	Ananthapur										
13	Kurnool										

5. How many homes having trained in Trauma counselling and psychology background counsellors?

Sl. No	Name of the united Districts	UJWALA	SWADHAR	Balasan (bellow 18 years)	NGOs run homes for rescued victims of trafficking	Total
1	Srikakulam					
2	vizianagaram					
3	Vishakha					
4	East.Godavari					
5	West Godavari					
6	Krishna					
7	Guntur					
8	Prakasam					
9	Nellore					
10	Chittoor					
11	Kadapa					
12	Anantapur					
13	Kurnool					

5. LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES/ LEGAL AID:

1. How many victims referred to IO for recording their statement under Sec. 164 Cr.PC. after counselling in the Homes?

Sl.No	Name of the district	No.of victims referred to 164 Cr.PC statement record purpose					No.of victims statement recorded by the Court Magistrates				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Srikakulam										
2	Vizianagaram										
3	Vishakha										
4	East.Godavari										
5	West Godavari										
6	Krishna										
7	Guntur										
8	Prakasam										
9	Nellore										
10	Chittoor										
11	Kadapa										
12	Anantapur										
13	Kurnool										

2. How many victims have been referred by Home Management and how many victims have received free Legal Aid Support services through DLSA's under NALSA guidelines?

Sl. No	Name of the district	No.of victims referred to DLSA for Legal Aid support					No.of victims received Legal Aid Support				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Srikakulam										
2	Vizianagaram										
3	Vishakha										
4	East.Godavari										
5	West Godavari										
6	Krishna										
7	Guntur										
8	Prakasam										
9	Nellore										
10	Chittoor										
11	Kadapa										
12	Anantapur										
13	Kurnool										

(III) Period for which information asked for providing information: Jan 2019 to Jun 2023

(IV) Mode of Receiving Information: By Regd. Post

3. A fee of Rs. 10/- has been deposited through court fee stamp as per RTI Act. 2005

Place: Chilakaluripet

Signature of Applicant

Date: 12th July 2023

Cell.No.:

VIMUKTHI is a State Level collective of survivors of Human Trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Sex Workers) working for their socio-economic empowerment with the facilitation of **HELP** organization in the state of Andhra Pradesh. **VIMUKTHI** having network and linkages with inter and intra-state likeminded CBOs and NGOs. **VIMUKTHI** is advocating for the rights of sex workers and rescued survivors of sex trafficking to access their social entitlements and also enabling them to avail criminal justice services including victim/witness protection services, rehabilitation, and immediate relief support and victim compensation. **VIMUKTHI** is involved in a range of activities, from community-level initiatives to state-level support for sex workers and trafficking survivors, with a focus on a rights-based approach to socio-economic empowerment and preventing the trafficking of the second generation.

Society for HELP Entire Lower and rural People (HELP) is an award-winning developmental organization committed to the protection of women and children from violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Started by a group of service-minded professionals in 1994, HELP has been recognized as an important policy influencing organizations in the country. HELP envisions a stigma free society for survivors of trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (women in prostitution) where they could be able to access and enjoy their rights and entitlements. Strengthening accountability of the criminal justice system to survivors of human trafficking including efficient investigation by the police and prosecution of traffickers in source and destination areas by the court of law in protecting survivors` rights to rehabilitation and Elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against survivors of human trafficking in families, communities, institutions.



36-71-1061 (8-217-1B old),
Rajieev Nagar, Lawyer pet Ext.,
ONGOLE - 523 002. A.P.
www.helpap.org

Field offices:

GUNTUR: # 25-16-116/A,
1st Lane Kodanda ramaiah nagar,
KVP colony road, Guntur, A.P.

Medarametla: Beside Dharga,
Opp: Charch Building, Addanki road,
Bapatla Dist., A.P.



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Supported by:

