



# Annual Report



2022 - 23



- Access to Justice to survivors of Human Trafficking
- Elimination of stigma against survivors of human trafficking
- Alternative Livelihoods to survivors of trafficking & Sex workers
- Protection of Second Generation from being trafficked

# Letter from the Secretary

**“Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems.”**

On behalf of **Society for Help Entire Lower & rural People (HELP)** (<https://helpap.org>), it is indeed my privilege to present this annual report of **HELP** ending March 31, 2023. **HELP** shall be completing its 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday and foundation day on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. At **HELP**, we remain committed to reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities; providing access to child rights based support to health, nutrition, development, protection of children and youth in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

This **HELP** annual report is a compilation of our work at the grass roots, both among the urban poor and the rural marginalised aspiration district of Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Ananthpuram. We started HELP by organising child Rights camps outside the urban slums and villages, sitting outside temples, anganwadi, huts, in schools and even under a tree. The remarkable support and encouragement that we got from the communities has kept us excited. The SIAAP (South India AIDS Action Programme) from Chennai came forward for support us for prevention of HIV/AIDS campaign and working with women in prostitution from 1995. After that the CRY (Child Rights and You) came forward and support for second generation prevention project which has been operational since 1997. Through the CRY, we are able to provide primary education and care to over 2500 children and youth and community members in the 55 prostitution localities in Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

In the year 2000 HELP is conducted a state level study on “status of Sex workers and their Children” with the support of **Action Aid**. After the study in the year 2002, we have started 25 Drop In centers (DIC) for the children of sex workers in the prostitution localities, and we

provide education, life skills for younger children (6-14 year).

We are passionate to support the Government of India achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs ( below) are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls. The creativity, know-how, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context. At **HELP**, we remain committed to work with the Government of India and allied agencies.

**HELP** is escalating its endeavors to promote socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts of A.P to promote their financial independence by creating alternative income streams helps them to lead a life of dignity with increased income levels to stand on their own.

**HELP** is extending its cordial gratitude to its donor agencies, individuals, institutions, agencies, other like-minded organisations, law enforcement, statutory bodies and the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and all the stakeholders for their immense cooperation and support in its journey to serve the needy.

Thank you,



**kam ivonan ivS,  
SECRETARY**



# Introduction

Society for Help Entire Lower & rural People (**HELP**) is a registered non-government organisation (NGO) under the Societies Registration Act and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in India. We work with over 500 Indian professional colleagues and are guided by a Governing Body composed of experienced Indian practitioners, academics and social workers. Founded in 1993 in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, HELP now has operations in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and it reaches out to more than 1million rural and urban population of poor communities. We have been a recipient of prestigious awards and recognitions in India, during our journey in the last 28 years.

HELP's overarching aim is to enable poor people, women and children to take control of their lives and have a share in sustainable development. HELP is active in deprived communities, both in villages and low-income urban settlements. It seeks to break the vicious cycle of poverty, ill-health, human trafficking, sexual abuse and violence, affecting in particular, children and women.

HELPS initial focus on prevention of HIV/AIDS among women in prostitution has grown further in the area of education and child protection among second generation of women in prostitution. HELP's method is to converge sectoral interventions at the level of the family and the community and to adopt a human rights-based approach in strengthening local governance actors, such as Rural Panchayat Institutions and Urban local bodies, service providers, such as health personnel and teachers and adult and child community representatives, to use available resources and identify local solutions. HELP's programmes span project development and implementation,

Technical assistance, system strengthening, network building, training and capacity development, to serve marginalized communities and contribute to government policies and programmes. HELP works with deferent stakeholders including government, other NGOs, schools, bilateral agencies, corporate, and individuals.

HELP provides technical assistance to State Governments and civil society organizations working in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The programmatic approach of HELP has attracted the attention of policy-makers both at the state and at the national level to adopt or design deferent schemes and programmes at deferent points of time. With this success, HELP has always been engaged in strategizing and directing its resources to add value to the existing policies, responding to the needs.

While HELP is linked with deferent state, national and international level forums, as part of its advocacy initiatives, the organisation has contributed to several consultations that take place at multiple levels having a strong Implication on human development.

HELP follows a transparent system of organizational management. Our internal governance structure is well articulated. Accounts of HELP are audited by independent auditor/s. We have various policies to ensure that our employees have a healthy working environment. HELP maintains a Child Safeguarding Policy, Gender Policy, Workplace Policy on HIV related issues and Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy. We plan to focus our activities on the overall family wellbeing because we believe that the family is the best safety net for the child.

## HELP VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

**OUR VISION:** To create a safe, supportive and responsive society that upholds the protection rights and dignity of every child and preventing child trafficking, child prostitution and second generation prostitution

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of HELP is to ensure Children and women protect from all kinds of Abuses, exploitations & Human trafficking and enjoying their rights and protection by making duty bearers and community responsive to their wellbeing.

### We believe that

- All human beings are created by God and are of equal worth. Therefore, the poor have the same inherent dignity, and rights that deserve our protection. Every person has a right to affordable healthcare that will allow them the best possible chance of living.
- Every child has a right to an education that will give them the opportunity to reach their potential, earn a living and grow in self-esteem.
- Shelter, safe water and sanitation should be available to all, regardless of their background or status within society
- Women have equal rights to those of men, and those rights should be protected by both men and other women.
- Communities working together are capable of achieving great change and can influence others to also strive for change.
- The poor deserve the chance to improve their financial status and their quality of life, and to break free from the cycle of poverty.

### We are committed to

- Working among the poor without discrimination of any kind such as that based on sex, caste, religion, language, race, colour or other status.
- Being at the forefront of the pursuit of justice and peace for the poor and dealing with the systems that make and keep poor people in poverty
- Challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peace-making
- Empowering the poor to lead full and meaningful lives, and building vibrant communities through the advance of love, neighborliness, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Practicing a liberating generosity towards the poor and giving them the opportunities they deserve.
- Valuing diversity and the skills and gifts of each team member. Maintaining excellence in the quality of our programmes.
- Fostering effective partnerships with the government, funding agencies and other NGOs
- Becoming a force for liberation and transformation of poor communities.
- Exhibiting good stewardship of limited resources.

## Our Values

**HELP** always teaches life values to the slum community dwellers particularly women in prostitution and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, from the young to the old. The children's groups and SHGs among victims of CSE and survivors of Human Trafficking formed in every prostitution locality created an enabling platform where the children and women were taught different human values such as Joy, Compassion, Gratitude, Affirmation, Non-Violence, Dignity, Generosity, Optimism, Touch, Simplicity, Empowerment and Justice that they can practice daily. In every prostitution localities, the staff and the **HELP** volunteers took the initiative to practice different **HELP** values. They also supported improving their children academic performance. The children were encouraged to express their diverse talents and work towards improving their self-confidence and social skills.



### Dignity

We respect and value the innate potential within everyone.



### Justice

We challenge social structures that deny basic human rights.



### Generosity

We give freely because we desire to, not with the idea of receiving a reward in return.



### Compassion

We recognize and identify with the suffering of all.



### Affirmation

We give individuals a heightened sense of value, courage and security.



### Gratitude

We make a conscious choice to focus on the positive and block negativity.



### Non-violence

We completely reject aggression and confrontation in everything we do.



### Touch

We demonstrate good will, warmth and love by the way we interact with people.



### Optimism

We help people to see possibilities rather than problems.



### Empowerment

We seek to unleash the potential of individuals for the greater good.



### Simplicity

We encourage people to engage with and focus on the purpose of their lives.



### Joy

We find contentment in recognizing and celebrating all that is good in life.

## Network and accreditation:

HELP as a member of various committees/Alliances at Global, Regional, National, and State and District level:

### Global and Regional Level:

- HELP is a Member of ATSEC - ASIA global network
- HELP as a member of White Ribbon Alliance, participated in the ASIA level conference on Sustainable Development Goals with a woman community change maker
- HELP is a member of National Action Coordination Group of SAIEVAC [South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children]
- HELP is a member of Girls Not Bride Alliance to end child marriage
- HELP is a member of ECPAT network working to end sexual exploitation of children
- Member, Working Group in Child Protection for the 12th Five Year Plan.
- HELP is a member of Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI)
- HELP is a Member, India Alternative Care Network [IACN]

### State-Level:

### National Level:

- HELP has honoured with “National Award for Child Protection” under Institutional category by Hon’ble President of India on the occasion of Children’s day during Nov 2016 at Rashtrapathi Bhavan New Delhi.
- Member of National Consortium on RMNCH+A, Member of the Working Group on Adolescent Health & Well Being and the SRHR [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights] Alliance in India
- HELP is the Governing Body member of the Indian Association for Life Skills Education [IALSE]
- HELP is a member of the National Action & Coordination Group (NACG) supported by SAIEVAC, SAARC & GOI.
- Indian Alliance for Child Rights (IACR) – A national network of NGOs, donors and academics of which HELP is a member, through which we contribute towards the alternate report to UN on child rights
- HELP is the Sothern state convener of Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of children (ATSEC).
- Mr.Ramamohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh as a Member in State Coordination Committee on “Anti-Trafficking” chaired by Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh since 2003. (Lr No.116/P2/98 Dt. 23-08-2002 issued by Smt. Minnie Mathew IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. Dept of Women Development, Child Welfare and Disabled Welfare, Govt of AP)
- HELP is recently nominated by the Govt of AP to coordinate with AHTUs (Anti-Human Trafficking Units) on behalf of Andhra Pradesh State Government for better coordination and quick response to anti - Trafficking of Women and Children and to serve as an institutional mechanism for combatting the crime. {Lr no.3554/WP.A2/2001 Dt. 18.02.2012 issued by The Special Chief Secretary to Government, Dept for Women, Child, Disabled & Senior Citizens(WP)}
- Mr.Ramamohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed by Govt of AP as a member in State level Centre for Adolescents “YUVA”. (GO Ms. No:30, Dept of WDCW&DW on 7th July 2010)
- Mr.Ramamohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed by Department of CID & State Level Anti Trafficking Unit, Govt of AP as a Nodal NGO Coastal Region Anti Human Trafficking Unit - AHTU (Lr.No. 3126/C14/WPC/CID/06, Dt. 16.1.2007 issued by Addl. Director General of Police, CID, Govt of AP)

- Mr.Rama mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a Chairman for Child Welfare Committee, Prakasam Dist under JJ Act 2000 since 2007. {Letter no:P2/132/2010 dt. 21.01.2011 issued by Dept of Juvenile Welfare, Correctional services & Welfare of Street Children, Govt of AP}
- Mr.Rama mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a state committee member of “Youth Welfare Advisory Committee” promoted by Govt of India. (GO.No.F.No.23-2/2007/YS-1(PYSA-AP) dated: 23rd May 2007. issued by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India)
- HELP is recognized as a Training Partner of Andhra Pradesh Police Academy – APPA in the Districts and Commissionerates located in Andhra area. (lette no: Rc.No. 342/TD.V/AHT-SOs/APPA/2007, dt. 04.05..2007 issued by the Director, Andhra Pradesh Police Academy, Govt. of AP)
- HELP is appointed as a support NGO by CID of Police, Govt of AP for South Coastal Districts for Speedy Justice Delivery of Anti-Human Trafficking Cases Registered in Guntur, Kirshna & Prakasam Districts and Victim/witness support (order no: C.No.3126/C14/WPC/CID/06 dated. 27.8.09 issued by Office of the Addl. Director General of Police, CID, Govt. of AP)
- Mr.Rama mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a member for Advisory Committee for Centre for Women’s Studies, Acharya Nagarjuna University. (order no: ANU/Acad/S1/Advisory Committee-CWS/2012 dt.28.08.2012 issued by Registrar, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nambru, Guntur.)
- Mr. Rama Mohan chief functionary of HELP is appointed as a Member in Executive body & General body of “ AP Society for Protection and Empowerment of women & Children” Which established by Govt of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of ICPS scheme in the State. {G.O.Ms.No.22. W.C.D&DW (WP) Dept,dt. 31.08.2009}
- State Technical agency to support Scheme for Adolescent Girls “Kishora Vikasam” convergence programme for the empowerment of adolescent girls in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- HELP is a member of Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in south coast districts of AP
- HELP is a member State Inspection Committee of Homes under the JJ Act, under Dept of Juvenile Welfare Department, GOAP

### District/Panchayat level

- HELP is a member of the PCPNDT committee at the district level
- HELP is a member of District Child Protection Society (DCPS) in the districts of Prakasam,
- District Advisory Committee and District Inspection & Monitoring Committee (USG Centre)
- Mr. Rama Mohan chief functionary of HELP is elected as a State Convener for ATSEC - AP chapter
- HIV-TB Coordination Committee.
- Children Committee at Government Homes.
- HELP is a member various Dist level committees like women atrocities, bonded labour committee, minority welfare committee etc under District Administration in Prakasam & Guntur Districts.
- Mr. Rama Mohan chief functionary of HELP is elected as a State Convener for Campaign against Child Labor –CACL - AP chapter.

## Name of the Project: Leadership Next Programme

### 1. Goal and Objective

*State your overall goal for 2025 which you would like to reach for your organization. In order to achieve your goal, what objectives have you kept for the year of 2022-23?*

#### Goal:

To prevent second generation trafficking through advocating for victim-friendly policy reformations and also by strengthening leadership of VIMUKTHI LNP to escape from debt trap through increasing its access to credit and livelihood options leads to increasing income.

#### Objectives – 2022 – 23:

1. Empowerment of VIMUKTHI - VIMUKTHI as an organisation to become more visible, loud and assertive to the media and advocating with state government regarding its rights and entitlements
2. HELP's expertise development in mobilizing and facilitating leadership development amongst survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation on an anti-trafficking agenda.
3. Media narrative on trafficking in AP to shift from crime-victim-prostitution narrative to State accountability in addressing the specific agenda that VIMUKTHI rises in its campaigns for victim friendly policy reformations.

### 2. Key strategies

- In order to achieve one of its objectives i.e., empowerment of VIMUKTHI, HELP realised the need and importance of improving accountability, responsibility and a sense of ownership among the leaders. HELP thought that, it would be effective to enhance their work space which increases and upgrade their routine functions including their current roles and responsibilities. Hence, HELP has **strategically handed over few responsibilities to VIMUKTHI** such as increasing membership drive, participating in case management system through CITs and motivating the members of survivors' collectives to join SHGs helps for their economic empowerment. It is worked out and they have owned the endorsed responsibilities and performed the same with commitment.
- HELP has **built and strengthen network and linkages with likeminded NGOs and CBOs** working with the survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE in A.P. as a strategy to infuse anti-trafficking agenda among them to meet its second objective. So that, HELP can mobilise required support from those organisations to build pressure on the government as part of its policy advocacy on anti-trafficking issues. This is because, those NGOs and CBOs focussing only on issues of health mainly prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI/STDs, protection from violence to the survivors and sex workers in their working areas.
- HELP adopted a strategy of **constant and consistent sensitisation of journalists/reporters** and mainly inviting and involving them in HELP's activities with survivor leaders, duty bearers, state and national





level statutory bodies/commissions, policy makers and also likeminded CSOs and CBOs. The reason behind this strategy is, HELP understood that, media's absence or its low focus on the issues of trafficking and challenges of survivors making them to misunderstand and stay away from the truth of rights of survivors and they are entitled to access support services and it is the accountability of the state.

- In addition to the above, HELP adopted another strategy of '**creating a common platform with different stakeholders**' from Government and Non-Government organisations/agencies as well as Media by involving survivor leaders. This has created an enabling environment between all these different actors responsible for the cause on which Leadership Next is working.

### 3. Achievements

- **HELP** has proved its prominence as an expertise organisation in the areas of anti-trafficking in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The state nodal agency for prevention of Human Trafficking i.e., CID of A.P has invited Mr. Ram Mohan as resource person for its state level capacity building training to the AHTU unit officers.
- As a mentoring organisation, **HELP** succeeded in registering **VIMUKTHI** as an organisation under Andhra Pradesh State Societies Registration Act, 2021.
- US Embassy has selected Mr. Bhaskar – Project Coordinator – **HELP** LN Programme as one of the visitors to USA under its International Visitors Leadership Programme to study the interventions and success stories by the US Government in prevention of trafficking and Gender Based Violence.
- HELP has facilitated VIMUKTHI leaders to advocate with Mr. K. Apparao - **Chairperson - SCPCR, Principal Secretary to Dept. of Women and Child Development, Govt. of A.P.** and also its **state Director** for accessing **Scholarships under Mission Vatsalya Scheme** to the children of survivors of trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Sex Workers) and also appealed the government to extend the final date of submission of applications. As a result, VIMUKTHI leaders have successfully submitted 62 applications for children of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE (Sex Workers) from across 3 operational districts of Leadership Next Programme.



### 4. Shortfalls

- **Increasing alcoholism due to mental health issues among survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE are lowering their participatory levels. There is a need for regular ongoing counseling sessions as the mental health issues among survivors becoming very common day by day. Hence, besides facilitating referrals to mental health services to Govt. general hospitals, HELP building linkages to VIMUKTHI leaders with the organisations that are providing counseling/mental health services. Ex: Bhumika Organisation in Vijayawada.**
- **Illiteracy among survivor leaders as well as members of survivors collectives became a barrier in MO's efforts in improving their participation and knowledge levels on certain systems, mechanisms, policies, schemes and legislations related to issues of trafficking and also on existing welfare schemes and state support services. Further, HELP is facing challenges in building and strengthening linkages to VIMUKTHI leaders/members (due to**

illiteracy and language issues) with other likeminded network NGOs and CBOs. Hence, it is proposed in subsequent phase to address at least language issues of VIMUKTHI leaders.

- Dwarf capacities of HELP in using social media is also one of the shortfalls: Being a policy influencing organisation while working in collaboration with the government, HELP used to carry out various advocacy actions, initiatives and campaigns besides conducting meetings, trainings and workshops with both government and non-government organisations/agencies in the state. But HELP is having tedious skills in promoting its agenda, its work and its success stories, achievements, programmatic events and activities on various social media platforms. If HELP is trained in making best use of social media, it could have enough scope to expand its sphere of influencing wide range of stakeholders and creating awareness on issues and ill effects of human trafficking among general public, policy makers and planners. This effort alerts the state to review the existing policies, schemes and legislations and in turn leads the way towards victim friendly policy reformations.

## 5. Innovation

- **Sensitisation workshop on CBR and issues of child protection to VLCPCs and PRIs**

HELP has initiated its advocacy efforts and initiatives at the beginning stage of the phase on CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) and gradually inflated it to respective policy makers and planners through facilitating LN leaders and also sensitised media as well. As a result, the concept of CBR has percolated to respective line departments that are wholly in



practice of institutionalisation of rescued survivors of trafficking as of now. Even the said concept has brought to the notice of statutory bodies who assured to have a dialogue with the government for framing a special policy on CBR and enforcement of the same in A.P.

- **Sensitisation workshops for Women Commission, SCPCR & CWCs on issues of Human Trafficking, VC, and other support services to the Survivors of trafficking and Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.** The statutory bodies of the state i.e., State Women Commission and AP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights have been invited to the workshop and made known the status of Victim Compensation and its significance in rehabilitation and social reintegration of rescued survivors of trafficking. HELP has facilitated the LN Leaders in submitting a representation to the Member Secretary – State Legal Services Authority, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. As an impact the SLSA has instructed respective courts of law where the survivors have submitted applications for VC in three districts of LN Programme. As a result, the concerned courts have responded with immediate effect and submitted status reports on all the applications to SLSA marking a copy to HELP.
- **Sensitization workshops to New AHTUs on pre & post rescue protocols**

HELP took it on priority as the government of A.P. has taken initiative and issued a GO to initiate AHTUs in remaining districts except where they already exist in the state because of HELP's constant advocacy and follow-up actions with Crime Investigation Department which is the nodal agency for curbing the crime of Trafficking in persons. Accordingly, in last phase 2022-23 HELP has sensitised concerned line departments, likeminded CSOs and CBOs and also statutory bodies on importance of AHTUs in addressing the issues of human trafficking. As a result, the CID of Andhra Pradesh has started inviting HELP as resource

organisation for capacity building training to the unit officers of AHTUs on issues of human trafficking including pre and post rescue protocols, victim/witness protection services and various dimensions of trafficking and traffickers and so on.

- **Working in collaboration with journalists and other members of the media.**

HELP has strategically moved ahead in last phase making best use of media as an effective advocacy tool. It has invited and involved in majority of its meetings, workshops and even organised press meets through LN Leaders on various issues and challenges that they are facing including stigma and discrimination, Community Based Rehabilitation, need for state specific legislation on Money Lending (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, poor implementation of GO.MS.No. 1, 2003 which is meant for Rehabilitation of rescued survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE, Victim Compensation and so on. As a result, there was a remarkable trend shift observed through media where it turned from victim-crime perspective to building accountability of policy makers and planners on addressing issues and challenges they are facing.

- **Highlighting the issue of violence against sex workers & survivors of trafficking on specific international and national days and in campaigns relevant to sex work, gender-based violence and human rights through dissemination of the field findings (from the documentation study) and ground level issues through campaigning in digital platforms**

HELP has observed the occasional days related to the survivors of trafficking such as World Day against Trafficking in Persons, World Human Rights Day and International Women's Day which are all have created awareness among systemic stakeholders including policy makers and planners, CSOs, CBOs of sex workers, media, line departments, VLCPCs, PRIs and entire general public on issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE aimed at increasing solidarity and support them.

## 6. Learning and Utilization of Learning

1. As HELP learnt to adopt the changes in the external world in terms of socio-economic, political and cultural contexts, it has been keenly observing different power dynamics among the programme stakeholders from both government and non-governmental domains who can support/influence the programme and the lives of its beneficiaries. Accordingly in 2022-23 it has initiated, developed and strengthened good rapport and linkages with not only line departments but also with the statutory bodies constituted by the state such as AP State Women Commission and AP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
2. This impacted in increased recognition for not only as a policy influencing organisation in the state of A.P but also to VIMUKTHI which is being mentored by HELP for a great cause of socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE/Sex workers. As a result, the Govt. of A.P mainly CID and the said commissions have encouraged and officially involved HELP and VIMUKTHI in their activities, trainings and workshops as speakers/panel members and resource persons and so on.
3. HELP team have participated and learnt from the sessions as part of monitoring call visit by KAMO the techniques how to maintain the resilience, deep listening and convincing/negotiating methods from Tomomi and Susmitha. Especially from Tomomi, it's really a great experience cum learning on how to create healthy atmosphere before organizing meetings and distributing positive energy among the participants. Also learnt, facilitating techniques like allotting the time slots while speaking in the meeting, managing emotions by a pleasant smile at others, keen observations with accurate involvement and making every one to involve as well as brief discussions on every topic.

# Name of the Project: Socio-economic empowerment of Survivors of trafficking & Victims of CSE

A Road for Success is Always... under Construction

## Introduction:

VIMUKTHI is a state level forum of survivors of sex trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Andhra Pradesh. It is working with the support of KAMONOHASHI – JAPAN and in the mentoring of HELP for prevention of second-generation trafficking through ensuring socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE under Leadership Next Programme since 2018. The programme is being covered under three districts of Andhra Pradesh i.e., Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna Districts. Starting with 40 – 50 members, now the Leadership Next is serving a total of 250 members of VIMUKTHI survivors collectives among 10 target communities in said three districts. VIMUKTHI/LN leaders are advocating for the rights and entitlements of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE including their social entitlements such as ration card, Aadhaar card, voter ID, bank accounts, housing pattas and different types of pensions and also benefits under various government welfare schemes. In addition, VIMUKTHI/LN leaders are advocating for criminal justice services like Victim Compensation, rehabilitation support under G.O.MS.No. 1, Immediate Relief Support under GO.MS. No. 28 as well as financial assistance by various government agencies/institutions like SC, ST and BC corporations.

“For me ...creating a space for new leaders is also a leadership. New leaders to be encouraged from community to sustain the trend of leadership. One fine day on our voyage... our dreams and demands will come true and the road to reach our destination is always under construction till we reach it”.

- Rajani,  
President – VIMUKTHI.

While advocating with the government for their rights and entitlements, VIMUKTHI leaders are taking forward their unstinted efforts to form and strengthen Self Help Groups (SHGs) for financial sustainability of the groups. Linking the groups with local banks and building rapport with MEPMA and DRDA for availing loans to pursue better and viable livelihood options that helps in socio - economic empowerment of VIMUKTHI survivors collectives.

Having an utmost concern over its ultimate aim to prevent second generation trafficking, VIMUKTHI leaders are focussing on creating awareness on issues and ill effects of trafficking including sexual abuse and exploitation not only among its target communities but also schools and colleges with core focus on safety of adolescent girls besides protection and promotion of their child rights.

## Long term vision of VIMUKTHI:

- The long-term vision of VIMUKTHI under LNP is to form SHGs with both sex workers and rescued survivors of trafficking among all the red-light areas and linking them as district and state level Cooperative Federations so as to increase the accessibility of the Government support services and welfare schemes. Further, VIMUKTHI is planning to create a capital fund through linkages with banks for availing loans to the survivors to make best use of the alternative livelihoods and the benefits derived could support them in preventing their second generation from being trafficked from those red-light areas/vulnerable communities.
- VIMUKTHI wishes to facilitate the Govt. Support services, schemes and social entitlements to nearly 60% of the sex workers in the state of Andhra Pradesh through their advocacy efforts.

Name of the Survivor Collective: VIMUKTHI

## 1. Goal and Objective

### Goal:

By 2025, VIMUKTHI will have established a statewide federation of sex workers' SHG collectives, resulting in members' improved income by 30%, 60% improvement in access to welfare entitlements and financial schemes, 55% reduction in violence and stigma in families and communities and 30% improvement in well-being and elimination of second-generation trafficking.

### Objectives:

- Mobilization of 300 sex workers, state-wide federation of SHGs of sex workers
- Political will in the DRDA and MEPMA and DWCD to support the SHG formation and federations
- Strengthen child protection and prevent sexual abuse of children in schools in the region
- Stronger relationships between VIMUKTHI and 30 number of journalists leading to increased pressure on the government
- Empowerment of VIMUKTHI and their power of assertion of their rights and entitlements

### 2. Key strategies

- Owning up additional responsibilities is one of the key strategies adopted in 2022-23 mainly membership drive and motivating the community members to join VIMUKTHI survivors collectives. Another strategy is building and strengthening network and linkages with other likeminded organisations and sex workers CBOs in the state that helps in emerging VIMUKTHI as a state-wide federation.
- VIMUKTHI has followed another strategy i.e., community mobilisation and sensitised the community members on significance of socio-economic empowerment through the concept of savings. Imparted trainings on financial literacy and internal group dimensions and functional management of SHGs through involving resource persons from MEPMA.
- Strategically VIMUKTHI has developed as a resource organisation for knowledge building among school and college children on issues and ill effects of trafficking and child sexual abuse, existing state run child protection mechanism such as DCPU, CWC, CHILDLINE 1098 and VLCPCs at community level helped them in improving their knowledge on identification of incidents and complaining mechanism.
- Inviting and involving media as a key stakeholder in to VIMUKTHI activities is another strategy that worked out as there is a good trend shift observed in last phase from crime-victim perspective towards increasing accountability of the state to address the issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.
- Building collective voice among VIMUKTHI leaders and members of survivors collectives which is one of the strategies enabled the VIMUKTHI leaders in developing the nature of questioning the policy makers and duty bearers for their social entitlements and criminal justice services. This questioning nature has gradually taking a turn of their empowerment and power of assertions for their rights and entitlements.



### 3. Achievements

- VIMUKTHI membership reached out 253.
- VIMUKTHI has been registered under Sec 3 of Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001

- VIMUKTHI geared up to accomplish its objective of gaining support from MEPMA and Dept of WD&CW in formation and strengthening SHGs. No. of SHGs increased to 13 SHGs and a total of 95 members of VIMUKTHI are the part of these SHGs.
- 3 members of VIMUKTHI survivors collectives have started livelihoods in 2022-23
- Successfully implementing Crisis Management System and responding to the incidents of violence against rescued survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE among target communities of 3 operational districts. 20 cases have been responded in last phase.
- During the last phase 2022-23 programme 125 journalists (Both District and State Level media representatives) have published 25 special stories and articles on different issues affecting rescued survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.
- VIMUKTHI leaders have built rapport with the Govt. volunteers of local ward and village sachivalayams (secretariats) who are the focal point of contact for benefits of government support services and have facilitated social entitlements to 190 survivors and victims of CSE as below:
  - Ration cards - 36
  - House pattas - 103
  - Aadhaar cards - 78
  - Bank accounts - 48
  - Pensions - 06
- Strengthened mental health referral system through building linkages with other likeminded organisations (actually at the initial stage of the phase, it is proposed to refer to the Govt. hospitals) working on the similar issue like Bhumika organisation working for the rights and entitlements of women in vulnerable conditions. As of now a total number of 28 VIMUKTHI collective members have accessed mental health services.
- VIMUKTHI president Apoorva and leader Jyothi have participated in national level advocacy initiatives/actions under the aegis of ILFAT and aired their voice of demand for introducing and early enactment of TIP Bill, 2021.
- Received an official response from State Legal Services Authority in the name of VIMUKTHI as a result of its escalation for accelerating the process of VC. The SLSA has issued directions to concerned DLSAs to take it on priority and respond within a week on status of applications submitted by VIMUKTHI leaders. Accordingly, all the DLSA of 3 districts have submitted status reports to SLSA on VC applications.
- VIMUKTHI leaders are started conference call meetings as and when there is a need and where there is no possibility and time to meet with each other to discuss and take decisions.

#### 4. Shortfalls

- Domestic and Gender based violence, abuse and exploitation, family clashes, drug addiction, stigma and discrimination, debt bondage, health both physical (including STIs/HIV/AIDS) and mental health issues, suicidal tendency, poverty and illiteracy and so on are the barriers for participation of members of survivors collectives in VIMUKTHI activities.
- Still no seriousness and commitment is being observed in functional management of the SHGs by group leaders and members in spite of having overcome the difficulties in motivating, mobilising and organising the groups.
- There are few issues of leadership and maintenance/functional management arising between normal women and VIMUKTHI members in case of mixed SHG groups in terms of stigma and dominance. VIMUKTHI is trying its best in identification and formation of SHGs exclusively with survivors and victims of CSE to overcome such difficulties.
- Lack of enough skills and technical knowledge in promoting their advocacy efforts and initiatives, their demands, change making stories and voice of leaders and so on over social media platforms is one of the emerging challenges for VIMUKTHI during observational days, significant advocacy actions

and also when VIMUKTHI's services and activities are appreciated by stakeholders. Hence, it is requested KAMO to support to get training on social media promotion in next phase of LN Programme.

- There is enough scope of increasing habitual drinking among survivors due to increased harassment by their concubines. This in turn leads to increasing mental health challenges that again attract them towards drinking. Hence, VIMUKTHI leaders are trying their best to adopt the practice of peer-counselling among collective members as a initial step that acts as a first aid at least.

## 5. Innovation

During the last phase VIMUKTHI has taken up to implement **Integrated Crisis Response System** to facilitate immediate response over phone or in person (based on the distance) to a crisis/incident of violence against the survivors or victims of CSE to mitigate the intensity of the crisis. This innovative intervention has built a trust among survivors on LN programme and VIMUKTHI leaders for its rapid response and for boosting up enough courage and confidence among them to access immediate moral and legal services. **20 crisis incidents have been attended by the crisis response coordinator assisted by the VIMUKTHI leaders during last phase 2022-23.**



On the other hand, this innovative intervention has increasing and energizing the leadership of the VIMUKTHI leaders as they are being praised by community members and also their raising recognition among law enforcement departments mainly police because of their frequent meetings and visits to police stations to deal with crisis incidents against survivors. The very concept of our crisis response system is **immediate response with at least a suitable advice/step to be taken** (may not be a complete solution depends on the incident/crisis) when an incident is reported.

## 6. Learning and Utilization of Learning

- \* VIMUKTHI leaders have learnt from KAMO's monitoring visit by Tomomi about the meaning of their dreams and desires, realised the need for care and concern over leadership next, changed their perception in the direction of programme and finally they cordially experienced the value and concern over the feelings and emotions that Tomomi has given and shown on each and every leader on board during her visit. Every one of the leaders has felt that there is a lot to do in the way ahead and to meet the expectations of the programme.
- \* There were few effective learnings and energy being built up among the leaders from other team members also from KAMO **Saroj and Manashi** as well as **regular monthly monitoring call visits by Susmitha** are indeed energised the leaders to be active in VIMUKTHI activities as they found something new essence and efficacy of the Leadership Next. Though it may be their participation in innovative games, group exercises and recognising their voice and value their skills/thoughts/ideas/opinions and so on. They are getting free from anxiety and distress and spending a day full of joy without tensions during the monitoring call visits of KAMO while having a good space for learning different useful things.

- \* Building rapport and making best use of the influential persons/leaders/community elders with main focus on active PRI members from ruling political party will benefits in accessing not only social entitlements/government support services through Public Distribution System but also useful in accessing loans from banks to the SHGs.
- \* Exposure visit to Basirhat and Hasnabad blocks in North 24 Paraganas of West Bengal for cross learning exercise given good exposure to VIMUKTHI leaders and HELP staff to learn from the SHG leaders on their achievements, challenges, best practices and how they are successfully running group/individual business and so on.

## 7. Leadership stories narrating the shift/growth over one year

VIMUKTHI's growth is very conspicuously evident in 2022 – 23 with its election and formation of Executive Committees and largely with its registration as an organisation under Andhra Pradesh State Societies Registration Act, 2001 which is one of its long-lasting dreams. Thereafter, their courage and confidence in captivating capacities of their role taking with additional responsibilities as drivers of VIMUKTHI's membership drive, managing mental health referrals, case management system through interactions and filling CITs with members of survivor collectives and so on.



The growth of VIMUKTHI leaders/ members in 2022 – 23 phase started with thinking for 'I' and slowly took a turn towards 'WE' with building a collective voice. The Focus Group Discussions they have participated as part of Leadership Next Trajectory Study conducted by Mrs. Ronita with the support of KAMO instigated the thought of thinking for themselves as an individual. Besides this, their participation in Case Management Process through interacting and filling CITs also has woke them up to think of their own needs and the way of life they are living, care and concern they ought to take for their children and families including their psycho-social eminence.

The leadership growth indicated through their representation for advocacy actions at DELHI for TIP Bill, 2021 and at state level their escalations right from village and ward level duty bearers to the policy makers such as MLA-cum-Chairman of Andhra Pradesh State Planning Commission and submission of representations on CBR, GO.MS.No. 1 & 28 for rehabilitation and immediate relief support services. One more great leadership





growth indicator is, their vigorous visits to police stations and having dialogue with the police officers without hesitation as part of crisis response system which was initiated on pilot basis in 2022 – 23. Magnificent media endorsement to VIMUKTHI was evident in its notable trend shift from crime-victim perspective to building accountability of state to perceive and pay attention on their issues and challenges.

## SHAKTI Project

### 1. Goal and Objective

**Goal: Economic Empowerment of women in prostitution and survivors of Human Trafficking**

**Objectives – 2022 – 23:**

1. To ensure improved accessibility of criminal justice services to the rescued survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE and also to increase conviction rate of traffickers and other perpetrators involved in any form of violence against them
2. To increase accessibility of social entitlements and support services by the state to survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE.

### Activities report:

During the reporting month **SANJOG has conducted an intensive capacity building training for two days to**

**HELP staff and VIMUKTHI leaders on Case Management System. Ms. Veronica and Arpita from Sanjog** have oriented said participants on a new initiative of the case management system named as **Buddy system and roles of district facilitators and VIMUKTHI leaders in the case management process.** The participants have learnt about the aims of the case management model as a rights based restorative approach, key stakeholders to be involved in the process, advantages/benefits through the trend shift from custodial approach to Community



Based Rehabilitation and also the steps to be followed in case planning. **The role plays by the HELP staff and VIMUKTHI leaders have made them to understand and the effective execution of buddy system** helps them once they start practice it among their operational communities. Further, an **interaction with survivor leaders of Utthan Collective** has enlightened the participants on their journey with case management system including their achievements and challenges so far.

At the end of the training it was determined by both HELP and Sanjog that the **buddy system to be taken up on pilot basis first and to go ahead with 40 case plans that are done first as a trial** since this is very new for the HELP team and then the idea is to gradually increase the number of survivors.

Further, **HELP and VIMUKTHI leaders have visited Basirhat and met with SHG facilitators of PAT/Utthan and leaders and at Hasnabad block met with Bijoyini leaders and participated in a financial literacy session.** These visits have helped HELP and VIMUKTHI for cross learning of their achievements, challenges, best practices and so on in making their respective SHGs successful.



HELP has conducted a workshop in Vijayawada on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar 2023 with the VIMUKTHI leaders and members of survivors collectives on basic conceptual knowledge on SHGs, importance of savings and its vital role in socio-economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and victims of CSE, Panchasutras, need for building and strengthening bank linkages and regularity in conducting group meetings. Mr. Chandra Sekhar who is the consultant of MEPMA acted as resource person to the said workshop and a total of 30 survivor leaders and VIMUKTHI members have participated.

Also, HELP has conducted another round of workshop in Vijayawada as an intensive training for two days on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of this reporting month in which 46 VIMUKTHI leaders and member of survivors collectives have participated. In this training group dynamics, leadership qualities, merits and de-merits of group and also need and significance of financial literacy and active engagement of members in the group activities with effective internal functional management of the group have been described. Mr. Madhusudan who is consultant of MEPMA has acted as resource person.



### 1. Major Achievements of the month

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2023, VIMUKTHI leaders with the support of HELP have met with **Mr. Malladi. Vishnu – MLA cum AP State Planning Commission Chairman** and have submitted representation on **Community Based Rehabilitation**. They have explained the issues and challenges of survivors of trafficking and victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. He has responded positively and take the issue to the notice of Government.

### K. Mounika:

**"I got married at the age of 14 and still the impact is influencing my life in several aspects. My child marriage made me to keep my children far away from my love and affection"** told Mounika is 28 years old belongs to Vijayawada. Her husband having all bad habits and has no responsibility and concern over family and even on children. He lived with her till giving birth to second girl child and then abandoned the family. Mounika started life as daily wage labour and earning for herself and feed her children. But her earning is not sufficient to run the family. One lady at her work place said that she can earn more money if she follows that lady. Mounika trusted that lady's sweet words and entered into prostitution, initially she started at that lady's house only and later started going outside. After some days, she caught by police along with 4 more women in Vijayawada and they were referred to a shelter home for 15 days where she faced mental distress and stigma. She used to clean the Bathrooms in that home, staff spoke abuse words with the rescued survivors inside the home.

Later she got back to her home and met with the children. Neighbours and even her family members have shown stigma against her and her children too. **"I started living with my old boyfriend for having a moral support in the society. I have joined my children in a hostel because of stigma over my family. After sometime, my first husband started harassing me as we didn't take official divorce"** Mounika lamented. My children got some illness, for their treatment I took some debt for 10 rupees interest from private money

lenders. After some days when those private money lenders came to me and started torturing to pay back their money. So again I went to another money lender and took loan to repay to the first money lender where my debt raised upto 5 lakh rupees as of now. Still I didn't lost my confidence and moving ahead with a hope of starting an alternative livelihood and clear all my debts.

**“I have joined VIMUKTHI three years ago and also joined SHG as one of the members. I started attending different trainings by HELP and learnt leadership qualities. Now I am one of the leaders in VIMUKTHI and working for the socio-economic empowerment of other survivors and victims of CSE like me”** confidently stated Mounika. She is also fighting for justice in her case with the support of VIMUKTHI

## Targeted Intervention for prevention of HIV/AIDS

**Supported by:** AP State AIDS Control Society, Govt of AP

**Target Group:** Female Sex Workers & MSM's

**Area of Operation:** 5 Mandals in Prakasam Dt.

**Goal of project:** To reduce the incidence of HIV and STI among the sex workers, their clients, MSM/TGs in Prakasam district and thus reduce the risk of transmissibility of HIV to general population in Andhra Pradesh”.

**Objectives:** To empower the sex workers, their associated population, MSM/TGs in the adoption of safer sexual practices and treatment seeking behavior through Behavior Change Communication (BCC).

- To reduce the incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) with improved identification, diagnosis and treatment of STIs among the sex workers, MSM/TGs
- To increase correct and consistent use of Condoms among the sex workers, MSM/TGs through appropriate social marketing interventions.
- To increase correct and consistent use of condoms and reduce the incidence of STI among high-risk male population in coastal AP.

### Indicator wise achievement:

- No. Of KPs registered in the project : 1450
- Outreach contacts done : 100%
- Tracking of the KPs : 100%
- Regular Medical Checkups (RMC) : 975
- KPs treated for STIs : 250
- Internal examination : 975
- No. Of referrals for HIV tests (ICTC) : 750
- No. Of condoms distributed : 3.00 Lakh
- No. Of hot spot groups formed with KPs : 15
- No. Of hot spot group members : 165

# Sponsorships

## Educate a Child

**For a donation of 8000 rupees, you can support a child in education over a two year period. The Educate a Child programme concentrates on children aged from 5 to 16 years in deprived urban areas particularly children in vulnerable communities. It focuses on getting children into education and keeping them there.**

Children of sex workers, children without a parents, and children in red-light areas need to have an environment conducive to learning. The money you give will be used for school fees, uniforms and educational materials.

Similar to the Adopt a Mother programme, you are linked to a particular child and will receive three reports about his or her progress over the two year period: first, some background information about the child; then a drawing by the child after 1 year; and finally, a report at the end of the programme. However, the money you donate will be used to support many more children as HELP works in local communities to highlight the importance of education and bring about a change of attitude in people who feel that a working child is better than an educated child.



## Feed a Child

You can help us rescue children from various abuses and vulnerable situations, as young as 6 years old. They stay at our short stay home for a few months. They are lost, helpless but still have a hope, hope that one day; they will be united with their families. You can provide them with healthy nutritious food four times a day. On an average there are around 40 children living in our home. For a donation of 3000 rupees, you can support a child with healthy food for a month.

## General Fund

We welcome donations of any amount to cover other activities such as providing Out Care Services, vocational trainings, Nutrition support and Rehabilitation services to the women in prostitution and rescued survivors from Human Trafficking.

All donations made to **HELP** are tax exempted under Section 80 G of IT ACT, 1961.

Contact [info@helpap.org](mailto:info@helpap.org) or 9949723666 to support us!

And also pl visit the bellow link for our project in the Global Giving & Give India websites:.....

<https://fundraisers.giveindia.org/projects/donate-to-our-education-programme-for-child-victims-of-trafficking>

Pl visits our organisation web: [www.helpap.org](http://www.helpap.org) for our activities in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

# GOVT URGED TO HELP TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

- A joint media conference was organised by Vimukthi and HELP
- Members of Vimukthi, state-level forum of survivors of trafficking and victims sexual exploitation, express concern over state of victims
- About 1.33 lakh women and girls are still entangled in prostitution because of lack of rehabilitation and victim compensation services

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA



Apurwa, president of Vimukthi along with Rajani, secretary of Vimukthi, addressing the media in Vijayawada on Tuesday

RESCUED survivors of trafficking and sex workers are one of the most marginalised populations in the state. They have been treated as criminals and are facing discrimination in society since Independence.

The members of Vimukthi, state-level forum of survivors of trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation expressed concern while addressing a joint media conference organised by Vimukthi and HELP here on Tuesday.

President of Vimukthi Apurwa said the Chief Min-

ister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is working for economic development and empowerment of marginalised and weaker sections of population and women through various welfare schemes in the name of 'Navaratnalu.' However, 1.33 lakh women and girls are still entangled in prostitution because of lack of rehabilitation and victim compensation services. Vimukthi Secretary Pushpavathi and Rajani urged the government to reinstate the GOMS No 1 of 2003 and ensure its effective and constructive implemen-

tation as it meant for the rehabilitation and welfare of many women and girls, who are stuck in prostitution even today.

They recalled Andhra Pradesh is was one of the first states to issue GO appointing officers in each district to study patterns and trends in human trafficking and to take relevant action.

Andhra Pradesh is today recognised as the state with the highest number of sex workers in the country.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the state government should

immediately rectify and fulfil the gaps in GO and ensure its strict implementation and bring a new GO to include community-based rehabilitation for women and children, who are victims of trafficking.

They appealed to the government to remove all barriers between sex workers and financial institutions, encourage banks and other financial institutions to provide necessary financial support to sex workers and win their confidence.

They also appealed to the Government to set up

a monitoring committee to direct the State Rural Livelihoods Mission and the State Urban Livelihoods Mission to focus on the livelihoods of sex workers, create a strategy to increase diversity in the livelihoods of sex workers by establishing a system to help facilitate linkages between sex workers' savings societies and banks.

Vimukthi leaders Lavanya, Mounika, Jyothi and HELP organisation programme manager Bhaskar Rao, Nithin and Lalitha also participated in the programme.

## Widespread harassment by recovery agents

Youth from Kanigiri in Prakasam had ended life fearing more harassment despite parents clearing his loan of ₹1.6 L

K KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR  
@ Vijayawada

JASTHI Haritha Varshini, an aspiring doctor, ending her life over unpaid loans is a grim reminder of how widespread harassment by recovery agents is. There have been many similar cases in the State in recent times.

A woman from Avanigadda of Krishna district, who had taken a loan of just ₹20,000 from an app allegedly committed suicide due to constant harassment by recovery agents to repay the amount.

Similarly, a woman from Mangalagiri, Guntur district was blackmailed that her morphed obscene photos would be shared with her relatives if she didn't pay back the amount. Despite clearing the entire amount, she took her life when the harassment didn't stop.

A 19-year-old from Shankavaram of Kanigiri, Prakasam district had also borrowed money from a loan app.

He succumbed to the pressure of the recovery agents and ended his life even after his family repaid ₹1.6 lakh that he owed to the app. The recovery

agents are employing different strategies to recover loans, with harassment and using abusive languages being some of them.

Meanwhile, a NABARD survey said Telangana (79%), Andhra Pradesh (77%) and Karnataka (74%) showed the highest levels of indebtedness in the country, as of 2018.

The All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS) has stated that the share of moneylenders in the outstanding dues of rural households had in-

creased from 17.5 per cent in 1991 to 29.6 per cent in 2002. Another report revealed that a total of 70 per cent of families of sex workers have taken loans from money lenders in 2021. The figure has risen to 99 per cent this year.

Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy and former minister P Anil Kumar Yadav have also been harassed by such loan app agents. In an interaction with media, Kakani said, "I received 79 calls within a few hours from loan agents in Chennai. They

claimed that a man named Ashok Kumar had mentioned my number in the contact list he shared with the app."

K Tayaramma, a relative of the victim from Kanigiri, said the boy's parents had cleared the loan of about ₹1.6 lakhs. However, the moneylenders forced them to pay another ₹40,000. "He felt embarrassed that he had to ask money from his parents again and took the extreme step," she added.

Rajani, state President of VIMUKTHI, appealed to the government to enforce strict laws on moneylenders.



# Women's panel urged to set up special cell for trafficking victims

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

NGOs HELP and VIMUKTHI have appealed to the Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission to take the initiative and establish a special cell to deal with the counter-trafficking issues, ensuring community-based rehabilitation and compensation to the rescued survivors of human trafficking in the State.

The NGOs brought to the notice of the Women's Commission that the National Commission for Women had launched an Anti-Human Trafficking Cell for improving the effectiveness of tackling cases of human trafficking, raising awareness among women and girls, capacity building and training of anti-trafficking units and to increase responsiveness of law enforcement agencies.

They said that the cell had been set up with an aim of increasing awareness among law enforcement officials and facilitating their capacity building. The cell

will conduct gender sensitisation training programmes and workshops on combating human trafficking for police officers and for prosecutors at the regional, State and district-level.

The complaints related to human trafficking received by the Commission would be addressed by this cell.

They further said that the Commission had observed that some of the major issues faced in combating trafficking included lack of rehabilitation for victims and insensitive attitude towards trafficked survivors and their families.

Therefore, the cell will improve monitoring mechanisms and encourage government agencies regarding measures being adopted for the prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of victims.

The cell will also help the survivors in rebuilding their lives by providing them with need-based training and by organising capacity building programmes for them to prevent re-traumatisation.

## REHAB SOUGHT FOR SEX WORKERS

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 21**

HELP and Vimukthi, state-level fora of sex workers and survivors of human trafficking in Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday sought that the state government implement its own GO 1 with immediate effect. The government order provides for community-based rehabilitation of trafficked women.

Addressing media here, Vimukthi vice-president P. Rajani deplored that GO 1 meant for protection, rehabilitation and legal aid for rescued survivors of trafficking has become completely inactive. She maintained that the AP state-specific policy on community-based rehabilitation should be formulated and implemented, instead of the victims being rehabilitated in shelter homes.

Rajani suggested that self-help groups (SHGs) could be formed with sex workers and survivors of trafficking. Training could be imparted to them and financial assistance provided through MEPMA and DRDA. She said this would help survivors of trafficking earn a decent living.

# Sex workers seek govt help to get dignified job

SC directed that police should neither interfere nor take criminal action against adult and consenting sex workers

**K KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR**  
@Vijayawada

IN 2018, police arrested a woman named Shakeela from a brothel in Vijayawada with a customer and booked her under the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA). The police let the customer go and took her mobile phones, money and other belongings. They didn't bring the 'seizure' of materials to the notice of the court and the woman lost her belongings.

Another woman, Sudochana, was caught from a hotel room in Vijayawada with a customer in the same year and the police shifted her to the police station and reportedly kept her for four days in violation of rules. Later, they produced her before the court saying that they had tak-

en her into custody just the day before.

In 2021, a woman named Maya was arrested from her house with a customer and she was booked under the ITPA. After completion of the court process, she was shifted to a shelter home. Her lawyer allegedly charged her ₹50,000 to come out of the shelter home.

Such harassments of sex workers by police are coming to an end with recent Supreme Court verdict that recognised prostitution as a profession.

In a significant order recognising sex work as a "profession" whose practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under law, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed that police should neither interfere nor take criminal

action against adult and consenting sex workers.

Many organisations welcomed the landmark judgement of the Apex Court, stating that it will end exploitation of sex workers by police



The govt should provide compensation and alternative jobs to the sex workers. It should also provide residential school education for sex workers' children

M Mounika of Vimukthi

Speaking to *TNIE*, P Rajani, vice-president of Vimukthi, a State level forum of sex workers and survivors of human trafficking, said in every case

related to the prostitution, the brothel house organisers would get bail in a week, but the victim will remain in shelter homes like Swadhaar and Ujjawala homes for months. This injustice came to an end with the Supreme Court order, she said.

The apex court, in its order, said sex workers should not be "arrested or penalised or harassed or victimised" whenever there is a raid on any brothel, "since voluntary sex work is not illegal and only running the brothel is unlawful".

B Pushpa, Vimukthi general Secretary, hailed the supreme court verdict, but said several of them did not come into the prostitution to make money as a profession. "Many of us were dragged into prostitution by

someone else," she said and criticised the government for not providing alternative livelihoods and organising rehabilitation programmes for sex workers. "We were forced to continue prostitution even after staying in shelter homes for a long time," she pointed out.

Executive Committee Member of Vimukthi, M Maunika, Guntur, demanded that the government implement GO MS No. 1, 2003 as directed by the Supreme Court and asked the government to provide compensation and alternative employment for leading a dignified life. She also demanded residential education for their children to save them from prostitution.

(Some names have been changed to protect their identity)

## Forum against human trafficking hails apex court judgement

The Supreme Court allowed sex workers to live with dignity and as equal citizens of the country, says Vimukthi

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THE Supreme Court allowed the sex workers to live with dignity as equal citizens of the country, said the members of Vimukthi, the state-level forum of sex workers and survivors of human trafficking while hailing the judgment of the Supreme Court.

Vice-president P Rajani, joint secretary B Pushpa, treasurer A Apoorva and member M Mounika addressing the media here in the wake of the apex court order, recalled the bitter experiences faced by victims when they were booked by police if they were found with condoms and treating it as a crime. The police used to de-

tain the sex workers in police stations nearly 4 to 5 days without filing an FIR after rides. The police used to grab their mobile phones, money and others and seldom return the phones. There were many victims who paid up to Rs 50,000 to the lawyers suggested by police in the name of bail, they said.

There are still nearly 20 rescued victims (sex workers) staying in shelter homes like Swadhaar and Ujjawala in AP and TS. Now, they got relief from such malicious practices, thanks to the Supreme Court. The Vimukthi leaders said that they were against calling sex work a profession because still it is involved with lots of abuse and exploitation in sex work. They said that the government has utterly failed in creating alternative livelihoods to the rescued victims. Once a girl is rescued, she should be provided compensation, rehabilitation and alternative livelihood support services.

Vimukthi leaders demanded that the State government implement GO MS No 1 of 2003 issued as per the Supreme Court directions meant for alternative livelihoods, rehabilitation and victim compensation. They demanded formation of AHTUs (Anti-human trafficking units) in every district and its vigilance should be improved to stop the new entries.

# HELP Operational Assessment

## Disclosure

We believe that **HELP** is a transparent organization that emphasizes proper information disclosure and accountability. Even though the audited financial statements are not available on its web site, the information is readily available on request. Its financial statements include the details of various administrative and program expenses as well as details of grants/donations and other incomes. **HELP** also provides the salary details of its staff. Staff Salaries of **HELP** is paid not later than 5<sup>th</sup> of every month and is adjusted in their individual bank accounts.

**HELP** publishes monthly newsletters, which provide information about the organization's activities during that specific period. Anyone can subscribe for the newsletter for free and is also available on its web site.

**HELP** has provided the names of its board members and full time staff on its offices along with their brief profiles and specific responsibilities they handle within the organization. Its provisional revenue statement for the year 2007 shows a breakup of international and Indian sources of funds and also provides names of significant donors and their specific contribution.

## Clear Strategy

**HELP** has a policy of refining its strategy based on continuous self- assessment and impact analysis of its programs. To enhance the effectiveness of its activities, **HELP** focuses on self-sustainability. For long term revenue generation, it seeks lasting partnerships with donors (corporations / foundations / individuals). The process of curriculum development through evaluation and practical experience is a key component of the organization's strategy.

## Execution on Strategy

**HELP** strives to create partnerships with the government as well as local and international organizations, so that it could get the advantage of resource sharing. With the **HELP** of its local partnerships, **HELP** utilizes the resources of local PRIs, sports clubs, drama and art schools, computer training centers, libraries, municipal parks, etc. We believe that **HELP** has generated fruitful partnerships with various government agencies as well. **HELP** has partnered with various international foundations like... Plan International, Groupe Developpement-France, TB Alert India, Terre des Homes (G), Global fund for children, Business Community Foundation, and Give Foundation. The support gained from these agencies has enabled **HELP** to grow rapidly and make its programs more sustainable.

**HELP** has a strategy of building multidimensional partnerships with corporate organizations. It engages volunteers from the corporate sector, both to coach the children and to sponsor and run the recreational activities.

## Ethics

**HELP** is not affiliated with any political or religious group and it works with due commitment to fulfill its mission. The organization puts adequate emphasis on transparency and accountability. It also strives to utilize maximum funds for program implementation and cut down on administrative and overhead costs. For these reasons, we believe that the organization maintains a high standard of ethics in its functioning.

## Conclusion

**HELP** has opted to work for a cause which cannot be considered a conventional field of work for Voluntary organizations. The rapid growth of **HELP** from a single man's idea to a dynamic and sustainable organization proves the usefulness of its mission. Continuous refinement of its strategy and development of its curriculum through impact analysis highlights the organization's commitment to fulfill its mission. **HELP** focuses on enhancing its resources so that it can reach out to many more children in a sustainable way. We believe that donating to **HELP** would **HELP** in improving the lives of destitute children who are desperately in need of such **HELP**.



## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT

	Schedule	As at March 31	
		2023	2022
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>Opening Balances</b>			
<b>Cash on Hand</b>			
FCRA		6,170.50	6,468.50
General		6,709.75	11,694.75
<b>Cash at Bank</b>			
FCRA		14,14,395.53	17,24,343.35
General		10,08,129.16	12,67,095.34
Donations		4,61,101.00	4,71,093.95
Grants for Project / programmes	A	68,27,450.44	68,63,083.09
Bank interest		72,866.32	70,308.00
Sundry Creditors			
Old Assets Sales		20,000.00	
Advances (Adj)			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>98,16,822.70</b>	<b>1,04,14,086.98</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
SURVIVORS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME -SLP	1	35,04,704.00	29,83,974.39
Rescue and rehabilitation of Minors	2	5,02,250.00	
Freedom fund		1,14,994.50	3,10,403.00
Reduction of STI and HIV / AIDS	3	15,47,498.80	16,72,671.00
Shakti Project Expenses	4	2,73,529.00	
Covied Relief –kamonahashi			18,37,772.42
Child Line programme refund		1,47,626.00	
Administration Expenses		23,590.22	36,689.42
Fundrising campaign			96,421.70
Creditors payments		4,17,336.00	7,67,268.00
<b>Cash &amp; Bank Balances:</b>			
Cash on hand		16,776.25	12,880.25
Cash at bank		32,68,517.93	24,22,524.69
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>98,16,822.70</b>	<b>1,04,14,086.98</b>

### INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT

	As at March 31	
	2023	2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations	4,61,101.00	4,71,093.95
Bank interest	35,604.30	40,778.00
Old assets disposed	5,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,01,705.32</b>	<b>5,11,871.95</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration Expenses	23,590.22	36,689.42
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	4,78,115.10	4,75,182.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,01,705.32</b>	<b>5,11,871.95</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

	As at March 31	
	2023	2022
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		
CAPITAL FUNDS	38,52,728.72	38,52,728.72
Add: Fixed assets during the year		
Excess of income over expenditure		
Add: during the year	4,78,115.10	4,75,182.53
Less: written off old assets	7,24,869.00	
Undisbursed Year marked (Specific) fund	23,33,124.16	17,99,609.82
Sundry Creditors :	54,49,022.87	58,66,358.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,18,68,375.18</b>	<b>1,19,93,879.94</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>		
Fixed Assets (at cost)	14,14,842.00	21,39,711.00
<b>Current Assets, loans and Advances</b>		
Sundry Debtors	71,50,239.00	74,00,764.00
Advances	18,000.00	18,000.00
<b>Cash &amp; Bank Balances:</b>		
Cash on hand	16,776.25	12,880.25
Cash at bank	32,68,517.93	24,22,524.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,18,68,375.18</b>	<b>1,19,93,879.94</b>

For. Narotham Madhav & Ramesh,  
Chartered Accountants

**Sd/- x xxxxxxxx**  
(Ram Prasad)  
Proprietor

## **WE ARE INDEBTED TO**

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India  
The Department of Women & Children, Government of Andhra Pradesh  
AP State AIDS Control Society, Govt of AP

GIVE INDIA

**Kamonohashi -Japan**

**Sanjog - Kolkatta**

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK - ONGOLE

IDBI BANK- ONGOLE Branch

&

State Bank of India, New Delhi



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