

## Annexure 1. Case Studies

### Forced Rescue and detention of people in sex work, eviction from homes

#### RR#7 Raid on *Mulacha Odda Brothel, Satara, Maharashtra. June 23, 2016*

Satara is situated on the National Highway 4 between Pune and Kolhapur city. Street based sex workers often use the *Mulacha Odda* brothel area for their work. There are three houses in *Mulacha Odda* run by three women.

On June 23, 2016 around 2.30 pm, Shahupuri police station raided the brothels under the supervision of Mr. Chandrakant Bondre PSI with six female and eight male police personnel. The police blocked the brothel entry points so that they could not run away. The police arrested six sex workers and two brothel owners.

One of the women who witnessed the raid says, "On 23<sup>rd</sup> June evening, everyone was sitting after lunch. Suddenly, 15-16 police both ladies and gents came and took all of them in the van. The police said that they had sent one dummy customer to one of the houses and they had seen a girl with that dummy customer in a naked position. The police first took them to Swadhaar home, and the next day brought to the police station, made to write something and then took us to court. The court gave an order to keep the girls in Swadhaar home for 21 days. The consequences of the raid were bad. One of the sex workers arrested, S1, has two children, one is two years and is being breastfed. She had left the children with her partner.

S2 has two children studying in 10<sup>th</sup> class and the 12<sup>th</sup> standard. The girl who is in 10<sup>th</sup> class kept asking about her mother. Our peer worker Jaya has told her that her mother is admitted in hospital but how long can we manage by telling lies. We have also spoke to S2's husband. Since their names were published in the newspaper, the house owner was asking them to vacate the house. S3's children are in a hostel. Out of the six women, three women do not have any identification with them."

*Pudari*, a local newspaper carried the news of the raid with the names of the women published in it. S2's children who were in school were asked by her school mates about her mother's name in the newspaper and ridiculed.

The VAMP collective team went to Satara to help the women. Around 5 PM, they went to the police station to meet Sub Inspector Chandrakant Bondre but he did not meet them. The women were taken to the Satara Civil Hospital for medical tests and then they were taken to the government run Remand Home in Karad that night.

According to the FIR, the women were arrested under the section of ITPA 4, 5, 7 along with IPC 370(1) and (2). The FIR also mentions that condoms were found on the spot of the arrest which is evidence that prostitution was being carried out. The court gave four days magistrate custody (MC). The defence lawyers engaged by VAMP argued that all the women arrested were above 18 years and to which the court asked them to submit such identification documents so that the "women can be sent back to their families".

After the raid, two of the three houses were locked and one was opened.

#### RRC#1 *Dombarwada, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, August 2013*

*Sayara Jamadar – 42 years; Bilkis Inamdhar – 45 years; Sharda Yadav – 45 years; Manda Chavan – 42 years; Sangita Nikam -30 years; Surekha Rajmane – 40 years*

Dombarwada is a place where around 25 women in sex working were living for the past 40 years. It was situated in what were earlier the outskirts of Kolhapur city, but as the city grew and the residential areas developed, slowly the community of sex workers found themselves in the middle of the city.

A group of young men living in the same area gathered there in the name of *Bandkhor Sena* (a youth group). Six years ago a boy from the group had had a relationship with a sex worker. He threw an acid on her and committed suicide thereafter. In a meeting between the *Bandkhor Sena* members and sex workers, the former blamed the women for the boy's death. They said that their children would get affected by HIV because of sex workers. They also said, "Because of your presence, our daughters are not getting married. We could not find husbands for them."

"Then onward, other people started writing letters against us to the police station saying that 'these women are keeping minor girls'. They were accusing us of being traffickers. They published news in the local newspaper against us. They met the District Collector to have protests against sex workers."

Because of the complaints and in order to show that they were taking action on these complaints, the police decided that on daily basis five or six sex workers should report to the police station. The women decided not to send young sex workers, fearing police action. Older women started repeatedly going to police station, so the police department decided to stop this attendance routine.

Members of the youth group put up a big poster regarding HIV in the community which said "If you go to sex workers, it leads you to HIV". The youth group members then started accosting clients on the road, and began taking their photographs next to the poster. "They held a protest against sex workers to evacuate us from our homes. They also asked the police to take action against us," they said.

So on August 19, 2013, at 11 am the police raided the sex workers' community. Between 50-60 police and five or six police vans entered the community and started catching women. Since it was morning time, most of the women were in their homes washing clothes, preparing food and conducting *pooja* (prayers). Police came in without any information or warning. They pulled women's hair, used abusive language and started throwing them into the van, not even given them a chance to dress.

Thirty-eight women were arrested in this raid. When women asked why this had happened, the police gave many reasons: that a minister is visiting our district; youth in your neighbourhood pressurised us to raid you; we are taking you in for some time and will release you later on.

Then police filed a complaint on the original owners of the place, saying that they gave their places for sex workers to be used as brothels. There were no minors among the arrested women. Even though all the sex workers were willingly doing sex work they were identified as *victims*.

The arrested women were forced to undergo a medical examination. Out of 38 women, 16 women were released by the court, 12 women were sent back through the police to their respective home towns in Karnataka and the remaining 10 women were kept in custody until morning. "When we went to enquire about them, we got to know that these women were sent to *Mumbai Sudhar Gruha*, a correction home in Mumbai. The other women had to give in writing that they would not remain in Kolhapur and would leave sex work. Only then were they released."

For a long time, the women followed up this case through government departments, but have not been getting satisfactory responses. Women demanded to settle down in the same place, they demanded access to their own homes, but nothing has happened. When women went to the District Collector he asked them to go to the municipal corporation and ask for a place to stay. However they have not received any response from the municipal corporator either.

The women now face challenges in earning their livelihood. They have started working on the streets, but often face police violence and abuse. The police also gave orders to lodge owners to not to give any space to the women. Many lodges deny place to the women out of fear.

## **RRC#5 Simplex Building Raid and forced detention, Mumbai, Maharashtra. October 2012.**

### **Report of fact finding team on police raid**

*Fact Finding Team - Bishakha Dutta and Manjima Bhattacharya*

The Simplex building is a long multi storied building with chawl-like accommodation on top, with small shops on the ground floor along the façade of the building. What happened that night, from the perspective of the women associated with the NGO Asha Darpan, was the following:

“On Thursday night around 8.30pm suddenly many police vans turned up in our lane. They blocked the two gates and whoever was inside was trapped inside. There must have been hundreds of policemen, at least 10 to 12 vans. From these big vans the door opened and ladies (police) burst out of them in hordes and went into the building. Both the gates were then locked and no one could go in or come out. Whoever was inside was stuck inside.

Along with the police vans there were also media vans – those with the upside down umbrellas (OB). The whole lane was filled with the police and media. There must have been 800 or 1200 people, there was no space to move around. We saw it on all the TV channels later – TB9, Star news, 24. Police (the PAC) had also come from outside, along with 10-12 senior police officers.

Through Friday and Saturday, till Sunday there were more than ten vans that remained here. The girls were led out and taken in batches by the police over the three days. So many were squeezed into each van some even sitting on the floor. The building is still shut. There is police at the gate and nobody can go in or come out.

In fact some girls were taken in a van, and then brought back. They must not have found place to keep the girls so they were brought back here until space in some centre found for them. Six o'clock the centre closed but we live nearby so we saw what was going on. At 12.30 am they took the girls and at 2.30am they brought them back. They were kept here till then. The babus (customers) were also taken; 160 men according to the media. Even those who sell earrings, makeup, fruit, the small vendors, those who iron clothes - everyone who was still inside was taken – whether vyapari or customer. Many were stripped to their underwear and made to sit like that on the steps. Some of those trapped inside hid themselves without food inside somewhere to escape the police. Some paid 2500 rupees to get free. It went on like this till Saturday night. Then on Sunday the vans left. Inside the building there remained only some old sex workers. After 30 years of living in this area, and doing dhanda here, we are seeing this type of raid. Never before has the building been emptied like this.

We don't know where the girls are now. There is no contact with them. We tried calling them a few times (we have a list of the girls because they used to come to this clinic) but their phones are all switched off – must have been confiscated by the police when they were taken. They must first have gone to DN Nagar police station and then to one of the homes in Byculla, Saat Rasta, Kasturba Government Hospital maybe. Maybe Thana jail. That is also big. They took them all older women, even those who were sick, even those undergoing treatment for TB at our clinic. Raids happen here sometimes, but never like this. The police keep asking us trying to get information. Some ask, so are there any children now in your building? There are four more buildings like this here. Next it can be us.”

Following this we went with two representatives: Gulabi from Karnataka, who works at Asha Darpan and was a sex worker in the area for many years, now lives in Andheri, has three children including a son who works in BMC. She fell off a train and fractured her hand a few days after the raids; and another man who does administrative work at Asha Darpan and also runs a web business on the side. At the DN Nagar Police Station, we went with the group to the entrance of the building and met the group of policemen on duty to prevent entry in the building. They said they did not know anything, and that they had been brought from outside the area only for *bandobast* (security) and suggested we speak to ‘Surve sir’.

At the DN Nagar police station, we waited from 3pm to 4pm for Senior Inspector Surve, who had just stepped out. As we were about to leave, we saw a van draw up and about 12-15 women getting out of the van escorted by six to eight policewomen. Many of the women were dressed in nighties with scarves covering their faces. Gulabi confirmed that they were some of the Simplex building girls. They were coming back after medical testing at Nair hospital (for age confirmation). They all looked like adult women. They were escorted to the back of the police station where there was a large hall, in which they were going to have snacks and use the bathroom before being taken back to whichever centre they had been brought from. About 12 police men and women were guarding the hall and asked us to speak to the Branch Officer.

By this time, Surve had returned so we waited again to speak to him. He gave us details of the raid, making distinction between the accused and the victims ('veshyas' or prostitutes). Taken into custody after the raid, where he himself had been present, had been: 290 veshya, 57 lady accused, male accused including managers, a total of 477. *'Itna hamne manage kiya'*, (we managed this much) he says with some pride.

They are now making enquiries. The male accused are in Arthur Road jail, female accused are in another jail, veshyas are in police custody/remand, and will be produced at the Special Court 54 in Mazgaon which deals with only 'PITA-gunha' (crimes under the ITPA). The victims will spend 21 days in remand (count from Saturday after the raid date) during which the enquiry will be finished, and then they will be produced before the judge who will decide where they will go.

The entire machinery of the station, as well as from outside have been put to work round the clock for the raid which seems on the whole taking up much time and resources of all involved. Surve says, "I didn't sleep for three days. My whole team did not sleep. Only on Sunday in the morning I could sleep a little bit."

**RRI#3 Savitri Talgeri, 24 years old, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2011 (narrated by VAMP members).**

Savitri has a speech and hearing impairment. In November 2011, she was caught by the police in a raid on her aunt's brothel where she was doing sex work. The police accused the aunt of forcibly keeping a deaf girl in sex work. Over 250 sex workers visited the police station with proof of her age to show that she was above the age of 18 years and doing sex work of her own volition. However the anti-trafficking cell officer refused to release her, saying that she was unable to speak and hence there was no proof that she was willing. The aunt who was a brothel owner was also arrested.

Savitri was sent to an observation home where the anti-trafficking group members and counsellors regularly counselled her on various skills and related jobs. After a four months detention period, she was produced in court where a court appointed translator asked whether she wanted to stay in the observation home or go back home. Savitri insisted that she be allowed to go back. Members of VAMP were in court for that hearing and were shocked to hear the judge say in open court "*This girl has come from the gutter and wants to go back to the gutter. She is not listening to us.*" Savitri was detained for 14 months after which she was handed over to the family, by making her give a declaration that she would not do sex work.

Savitri lives in the village and earns very little money from her daily wages. She has to travel every month to Sangli to be present in court and has to spend money on lawyers. She wants to live the life of her choice and not be punished for her choice. Since giving up sex work, she has very limited means of income.

**RRI#4 Sony, Transgender, 25, Ongole, Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh, December 2011 (own narrative)**

"On December 24, 2011, I was in my room with my clients. In the evening around 6 pm, the Circle Inspector (CI) along with eight women constables pushed open my door and beat us severely without giving any reason. They searched my belongings in the room and found condoms and money. The CI said 'You are doing sex work.' They took my money and took me to the police station and beat me. They used my money to have their dinner, but they did not give me any food during the night. They booked a case against me under sections 377 and 3 & 4 of

ITPA Act. On the next day, they took me to the hospital and asked me to sign on a blank paper. When I asked why, they threatened me and told me to remain quiet and do as they say. Later they took me to the Judge. They informed me not to tell the Judge that they had beaten me. When the Judge asked, I said what the police told me to say under their threat. I was taken away and kept in jail. It has been two years, but I am still attending court to settle my case.”

**RRC#6 Neelambari, Dommera Community, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. 2010(own narrative)**

“I belong to the Dommera community. Our community members have been in traditional sex work for a long time. We never had any problem with the police. The police also know that the community is into traditional sex work. In March 2011, due to a misunderstanding between us and the nearby village, the police came into the picture. The police came to our village at 7 pm, dragged all of us into a jeep and took us to the police station. No lady constable was present. They booked us under a brothel case. They did not see us with any client since we were all standing near our houses at that time. Under fear of police brutality some community members were forced to say that they would leave sex work. The police told one of the community members to collect the ration cards of the 15 women who had said that they will quit sex work so that they are rehabilitated. After the police left we took back our ration cards. We are in sex work and cannot start a business. Who will come and buy from us if we open a shop?

Soon after this police raided Siddhpuram and arrested five sex workers from the village. One woman was not well and fell down when the police was dragging her. They took her to the hospital and arrested the rest. We managed to get bail for them. Since then a police camp has been set up in the village. They check every new entrant to the village. We have lost our livelihood. Many of the sex workers have fled the place and migrated. We are concerned about their health. The police check-post still remains outside our village. It has affected our daily livelihood.”

## Police Violence

**PV#1 Anu Mokal, [Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad (VAMP)], Satara, Maharashtra. April 2012**

On April 2, 2012 at about 6:45 pm, Anu Mokal a sex worker and her friend Anjana Ghadge were on their way to the City Civil Hospital, Satara taking dinner to their hospitalised friend, Jaya Kale. When they were trying to catch an auto-rickshaw at the S.T. Bus Stand, Satara, Constable Bhonsale asked Anjana Ghadge to come and meet the Senior Police Inspector Dayanand Dhome of Satara Police Station, who was present near the bus stand. When Anu and Anjana Ghadge came before the Police Inspector, he started to verbally abuse Anjana Ghadge and accused her of soliciting. Anjana Ghadge told him that she was there to deliver dinner to her friend admitted in the Civil Hospital, Satara, but the police officer accused her of using the dinner as a cover-up and further that she was soliciting customers. Anjana Ghadge denied this but the Police Officer started abusing and beating her with his baton. Anu Mokal intervened and requested the Police Officer not to beat Anjana Ghadge, as she was of his mother’s age but he became more furious and replied that women like her could never be anyone’s mother. He turned towards Anu Mokal and started abusing her and beating her with his baton. Thereafter she and Anjana Ghadge were picked up, pushed into the police van and taken into custody. 60 year Anjana Ghadge and Anu Mokal, 30, who was pregnant at the time, were arrested at or about 9 pm under a cognisable but bailable and petty offence.

At about 9:30 pm on the same day, Anu Mokal along with Anjana Ghadge were taken to the Civil Hospital, Satara by the Police Constables due to their complaints of severe physical pain.

The next day, at about 3 pm, they were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Satara. Anu Mokal and Anjana Ghadge were both charged under Section 110 & 117 of the Bombay Police Act and were fined Rs 1200 each. Both denied having committed any of the offences as charged, however having no other option they paid

the fine imposed, and were released. Thereafter they immediately went to the Civil Hospital, Satara for treatment of the severe injuries they had suffered. The same day, a press conference was held by the community based organisation, Veshya AIDS Muquabla Parishad (VAMP) and a written complaint was given to the Superintendent of Police, Satara.

On April 4, 2012, Anu Mokal approached the doctor with severe stomach pain. At about 2.00 a.m. on April 6, 2012, the pain intensified and she started bleeding heavily. This resulted in a miscarriage on April 6, 2012.

So far no action has been initiated on the complaint dated April 3, 2012 by Anu Mokal. The CBO has written to the Superintendent of Police, seeking an official inquiry into the incident, and asking that police violence against sex workers be stopped. They also wrote to R.R. Patil, the Home Minister of Maharashtra, and Tukaram Chavan, Inspector General (IG) of the region. Anu Mokal has also written separately to the Superintendent of Police, seeking action into the incident. Feeling Satara was no longer a safe place for her and her children, Anu Mokal moved out of Satara. Anti-social elements in Satara put up posters in the three main *chowks* (squares) in Satara asking if sex workers were destroying the culture of the town.

**PV#2 Reshma, Transgender 25 years old, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. 2011 (own narrative)**

“I am Reshma from Warangal. Most transgender community members used to beg as they don’t receive any support from the family or the government. There are no job opportunities because of the extreme stigma and discrimination. They beg at railway stations and in the trains. Wherever the railway police see us, they arrest us, take us to the police station without any reason, and beat us mercilessly. They used to arrest us and beat us even when we stood inside the railway station. They abuse us very badly in front of all passengers and travellers. They treat us like animals. The most painful thing is that the police used to forcibly remove our clothes, make us naked and call other staff in the police station to see us. They say ‘you have not have seen how the TGs are’. The doctors do physical examination in front of everyone in the hospitals and use a lot of abusive words. We were totally helpless and suffered a lot of trauma due to this abuse. Our request to the policy makers is to create an enabling environment to lead our lives normally. Provide us with opportunities to live like others. Treat us like human beings and allow us to access legal rights equally.”

**PV#3 Uma, Leela, Jareena, Lakshmi. [Sadhana AIDS Tadehattuva Mahila Sangha], Shimoga, Karnataka. 2012**

Four sex workers (Uma, Jareena, Leela and Lakshmi) were standing near Nehru Road, one of the busiest public places in Shimoga, Karnataka on September 5, 2012 at 5 pm. This is a spot where sex workers stand silently; because of ‘police problem’ the sex workers find it difficult to get even a single client in a day. It was evening and all the women were standing in a corner. Suddenly a woman Sub-Inspector (SI), along with four other women constables attacked them and took them to the police station. The Inspector along with constables exhibited great brutality and beat them inhumanly, seized all their mobile phones and detained them in the police station without giving them a single drop of water to drink. The peer educator informed the Community-Based Organisation (CBO) staff about this incident, following which CBO representatives along with staff rushed to the police station. The Inspector behaved very badly with the CBO staff, but the CBO staff managed to get the women released. The CBO staff helped the sex workers to submit their complaints to the Superintendent of Police (SP). Then team went to the police station along with their lawyer. After hearing about the incident from sex workers, the SP assured sex workers that such incidents would not be repeated, and directed the Inspector to handover the mobile phones to the sex workers. The Inspector visited the CBO and apologised.

**PV#4 Subbamma, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh. 2011 (own narrative)**

“In 2011, I knew this auto driver who took me to a place near the *devasthanam* (temple) at night and offered me Rs. 1000. When we reached the room, there were eight policemen in mufti (plainclothes) inside. They shut

the door and raped me. I started yelling and they threatened to throw me from the fourth floor of the building and kill me. They all raped me even as I was crying. They threw Rs. 50 on the floor and even took away my clothes. I escaped from the room without my clothes and they chased me. I managed to hide and they threw away my clothes. I was hospitalized for two days and could not get up for a week. It left me extremely traumatized.

Despite this experience last year, when my partner stole some gold that I had accumulated as my savings, I went to the police station to file a complaint. I went for three consecutive days. The constable asked me for Rs. 500 to pursue my case. On the third day the SI called me to the police station and said they were able to recover some of the stolen money and gold. But he asked me to sign on a blank paper. The SI also asked me to have sex with him. I refused and left the police station. I don't have the courage to go back to the police after these two incidents."

## Police Harassment and False Cases

### **PHF#1 Anjuman, (name changed), [Rakshane Jilla Mahila Okkuta], Gadag, Karnataka. 2013**

The wife of Anjuman's partner attacked Anjuman and her mother, and left her bleeding in the head. The wife then went to the police and complained against Anjuman and her mother, accusing them of beating her. The police registered a case against both the women and arrested them, despite their attempts to explain what had actually happened. The sex worker collective went to the police station and also raised the issue of why the police had not filed Anjuman's mother's complaint.

It was thereafter I learnt that the Anjuman's partner had never informed her about his marriage. The local religious leaders (Jamaat) now asked Anjuman not to pursue the issue and assured her of justice. She was asked to 'divorce' the partner; in return she was assured alimony. The police also suggested that Anjuman should 'compromise' and not get involved in a court case. However, Anjuman is yet to get justice. The Jamaat is aware of her work as a sex worker and is therefore not supporting her. In fact they are supporting her partner and are persuading Anjuman to settle the case without a fuss. Though the sex worker collective is supporting her, the case has not moved forward.

### **PHF#2 Kalpana, 28, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh. March 2013 (own narrative).**

"My chain was snatched by four men who showed me a knife at Tirupathi bus stand on March 2013. It was not a real gold chain. I ran and found a constable (Govind Swamy) who helped me to report the incident. The crime police who were there, took me to the place where the encounter had happened. The head constable asked me to have sex with him; he said he would only follow up my case after that. I went to the CBO, and then together we all went to the police station and met the SI, who was present along with three other police. I helped the police to identify the thieves who stole my chain. The police abused me and refused to act on my complaint. So I went to another SI with the CBO member. The SI refused to apologise."

### **PHF#3 Sumathi (name changed), Haliyal, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. 2009 - 2013**

Sumathi is a sex worker living with her parents and children. In addition to sex work, she also works as a part time insurance agent. She is a leader of the sex worker collective, but the police in the area are opposed to her work. In 2009 she was boarding a bus to travel to Bangalore for a meeting, when a police constable came up to her and asked her to accompany him to the police station, as the police inspector wanted to meet her. On reaching there, the police did not inform her of the reason for being summoned. Her phone was taken away and she was not allowed to call her family or friends. She was kept in the police station the whole night and forced to sign a statement. The CBO got to know the next morning that she was arrested for 'being found in a brothel', they then arranged for her bail.

Sumathi was produced before the magistrate after three days, and bail was granted. The case went on for five years in front of four subsequent judges. The lawyer kept prolonging the case at every hearing, and forced her to have sex with him. It was only in 2013 after a colleague who attended a legal conference shared this case with a judge, that it was dismissed. False cases are often filed by the police against sex workers. The prejudice and negative attitude against sex workers is very high amongst police, lawyers and court staff.

**PHF#4 Vanaja, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh (own narrative)**

“Police used to beat the community and arrest the women. Even CBO members who visit are arrested. I go as an outreach worker. On the one hand the constable asks for training from the CBO, and on the other hand they are arrested. When I go to the Sub-Inspector (SI), he tells me to sign a blank paper saying that the women have been counselled. The constable now says that since my signature is on the document, I have to appear in court. They now ask me to be a witness for raids, and any matters related to the brothel. Sometimes students are also arrested in these raids. I have signed in only one or two cases, but now my signatures are there in all the papers. They threaten me that I will have a case against me for not appearing, I have already gone five times.

I met the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and he assured me that the matter would be looked into. I appeared before the judge and said that the signature was not mine. The defence lawyer has accused the police of using my signature. They asked for a bribe of Rs.500 but I refused. There is a problem between the lodges where sex work is done, and when that happens they use my name. The Sub Inspector of East Tirupathi, Jagan Mohan Reddy invited all sex workers to see a stolen necklace and then they were all arrested. We were asked to say that we would leave sex work.”

**PHF#5 Lakshmi, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. 2012**

Lakshmi is a sex worker, living with her partner. On September 2012, she was in her house with her partner. It was dark since there was no electricity. The Home Guard walked into the house and told her that the police inspector wanted to meet her. He was accompanied by another Home Guard. She refused to accompany him since it was late in the night. Hearing the commotion house, her neighbours gathered and began to ask questions. The Home Guards left the place. When Lakshmi went to complain to the police station the next day, the SI placed charges of soliciting on her and detained her. She was made to sit the entire day at the police station and her mobile phone was also taken away from her. The police also called her partner to the police station to ask him what Lakshmi's activities were. Since Lakshmi was a member of the local sex worker collective, she spoke of her work there. It was only after the intervention of the collective that she was allowed to leave.

**Arrest and fine**

**AF#1 Manisha Salunkhe, 35, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2011**

Manisha has been working as a sex worker since the past ten years. She was standing on a road near Sahara Lodge in Sangli with her friend. Two policemen came out of a van and started asking whether she was on the road for soliciting. They refused to listen to Manisha when she said no, and forcibly arrested her. The next day she was taken to the court at 2 pm. The lawyer told her that she may have to pay a small fine for the case. He told her to admit to the charge in front of the judge, saying that only then would she be released. The judge fined her Rs.1600, and then released her.

**AF#2 Rekha Bidkar, 30, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2012**

Rekha has been doing sex work for seven years in Sangli. She was standing near Shivaji Vegetable Market. One of the shop keepers came up to her and told her not to stand there. Rekha asked him "We are earning our living.

Why you are interrupting our life.” This angered the shopkeeper enough to call the police, who arrested Rekha along with her friend took them to the police station. Rekha was trying to narrate the incident about the shopkeeper who had beaten and terrorised her. Then police replied her that it was not only one shop owner’s complaint but that all shop owners in the market had given a written complaint against sex workers. The police did not listen to anyone in the collective. He filed a case under ‘soliciting on road’. When VAMP members went to investigate, the police asked them to come the next day in court. The next day, in court, the lawyer advised Rekha to admit to soliciting on the road. Rekha paid Rs.1200 as a fine for her ‘crime’. ‘Even though we have not done anything, we get arrested and pay a fine.’

**AF#3 Shanta Jadhav, 42, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2010**

Shanta is working as street based sex worker in Sangli and also has a hearing disability. In 2010 she was standing on road. Two police person came and caught her saying "these sex workers create a lot of trouble here". Shanta did not hear them approach due to her hearing disability, but the other sex workers ran away. Shanta was taken to the police station and kept overnight. On the next day the lawyer advised her to accept the charge. She accepted that she was soliciting and paid Rs.900 as a fine for standing on the road rather than contest the charge and fight the case.

**AF#4 Sunita, 25, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2010**

Sunita was alone in a lodge in Sangli when the police came and caught her, saying that she was doing sex work. She tried to escape from the police and started running, but she fell down and sustained injuries to her feet and hand. The police took her in that condition to the police station and filed a case against her. She was kept in jail overnight, and the police did not bother to get her injuries treated. The next day in court, she paid a fine of Rs 1600 despite the fact that she was not with a client at the time of arrest. However her fear of the court and police prevented her from raising this issue. Further her lawyer advised her to accept the charge. It was only after she was released by the court that members of the VAMP collective got her to hospital. She was diagnosed with a fractured leg, which the doctors found difficult to set because of the delay in hospitalising her. She still has difficulty walking.

## **Violence and Police refusal to file complaint**

**VRC#9 Tara, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. 2015**

In 2015, Tara, a sex worker from Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh was detained by the police and beaten black and blue. Tara along with her friends was having tea near the bus stand in Chittoor. Another sex worker was travelling to her village and was boarding the bus in the bus stand. The police caught Tara and her friend from the tea shop, one woman from boarding the bus and another two from the bus stand. Five sex workers were arrested at the same time and taken to the Chittoor police station. The SI then called the media and foisted a case of smuggling red sandal wood on the women. The local media took photographs. Then the women were beaten black and blue in the custody. With the involvement of the NGO, the Deputy Superintendent of police called the SI and asked him to leave the women. They were in the police station from evening 4 to 8. The sex workers were not able to get up from bed for two weeks and recovered only after about six months. All these actions were taken in order to stop the women from doing sex work.

**VRC#8 Bunny (name change), 26, Solapur, Maharashtra. 2016**

Bunny is an MSM, HIV positive and living in Solapur district in Maharashtra. He was a member of the Dostana Community based Organisation. A neighbour who was above 50 years of age would demand sexual favours from him. Bunny was avoiding any kind of contact with the person because of his HIV status and he was afraid of disclosure. Unable to bear his nagging/torture on a day to day basis, Bunny went and complained to the police

but in vain. The police did not listen to him in the beginning but after the intervention of the NGO staff the police tried to convince Bunny to compromise.

**VRC#1                    Prema, 40, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu. 2013**

Prema was separated from her husband. She initially lived with a partner and after he left her, she started living with another partner. On November 22, 2012, at 11 pm in the night, her second (current) partner entered her house and set her afire. Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed and took her to the government hospital. Her daughter shifted her to a private hospital where she had to undergo plastic surgery. Prema was forced to sell her training school business and personal belongings to finance the surgery. She now only has earnings from sex work. When the police came, during the first couple of days Prema was unconscious and her daughter did not have an idea of the assault. When Prema's wounds healed she went to the police to file a complaint, but the police said it was too late, and that she should approach them if the assailant harasses her again. Her second partner keeps threatening to pour acid on her. She is demanding compensation and would like to file criminal charges, but the police keep refusing, citing lack of evidence and delay.

**VRC#2    Rathna [Vimochana AIDS Tadegattuva Mahila Sangha], Mysore, Karnataka. 2012**

Rathna is a sex worker from Mysore city. She earns Rs.300 to 400 per day. She stays with her partner who harasses her and demands a minimum of Rs. 300 per day for his needs. Unable to bear his violent behaviour she asked CBOs support to resolve the problem. The CBO president along with other community member tried to convince her partner but in vain. However the violence escalated to the extent that she nearly died. The CBO then decided to file a complaint against him at the police station. The police refused to file a case; instead they asked, "Why you want to file a case? You are a sex worker and spoil society. Today you are here; tomorrow you may go to other city, so how can we contact you? You do not have any documents like ration card, voter ID to send notices to your home address. How can we contact you?" The police asked her to bring her husband to file a case. 'How can they ask her to bring her husband when the complaint has to be registered against him?' the collective asked.

Due to the fact that police refuse to file FIRs as victims don't possess proper documents, the CBO is facilitating sex workers to avail social entitlements in the district. They have also appealed to the state legal services authority for help in accessing social and legal entitlements.

**VRC#3                    Shanthi (name changed), 33, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. 2013**

Shanthi was offered money to provide sexual services by a neighbour. He paid her on three occasions and thereafter started threatening to expose her identity in the neighbourhood. Out of fear of being outed, Shanthi was forced to have sex with him, but after six months, he began to demand money from her. When she decided to stand up to his threats and refused to give him money or free sex, he began to abuse her in public and revealed her identity. The landlord of her house told her to vacate the premises. She shifted her house five times, but the harassment continued. Though she registered a complaint with the police, they only warned him. However, the perpetrator still continues to abuse and harass her in public.

**VRC#4                    Sunitha, [Mahilakranthi], Karwar, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. 2013**

Sunitha lives with her daughter. She was being harassed by her partner who would take away her earnings. He stole the gold jewellery that Sunitha had made for her daughter. Sunitha approached the police for assistance in recovering her jewellery. The police refused to file a complaint. It was only when the local sex worker collective intervened that the man was called to the police station. However, Sunitha has not managed to get the gold chain back to date. The police do not follow up on her case.

**VRC#5 Huvakka (On behalf of 12 other sex workers); [Shakthi AIDS Tadegattuva Mahila Sangha],  
Belgaum, Karnataka. 2012**

On one of the Belgaum's busiest roads, around 13 female sex workers were beaten up by a local vigilante group, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike. A group of around 20-25 men suddenly attacked on sex workers and beat them inhumanly with bamboo sticks. One of the sex workers was critically injured and hospitalised. The Community Based Organisation helped sex workers to file a case against the offenders, took them to the hospital, got the doctor's certificate and went to the police station. The Police Inspector refused to file the FIR even after the CBO leader argued with the police and narrated the violent act. Instead, he abused them and stated that 'the public has taken the right action on all of you'. The CBO then contacted the Women's Commission, after which the Chairperson of the Commission insisted that the inspector file the FIR. Huvakka on behalf of other 12 sex workers appealed the State legal services authority to appoint an advocate to fight their case. She submitted a written complaint to the state legal services authority on March 13, 2013.

**VRC#6 Suchitra, [Rakshane Jilla Mahila Okuta], Gadag, Karnataka. 2013**

Suchitra is a sex worker's daughter. She was physically harassed by her mother's partner. He repeatedly molested her in her mother's absence. He would ask her mother to send Suchitra to him. Suchitra complained to her mother about the molestation but was ignored. One day when he tried to rape her, she ran out and complained to the sex work collective.

Suchitra went to the police along with her brother, but they refused to file a complaint and in turn abused the two children. The police made them sit for hours. Suchitra contacted the CBO and requested their support. It was only when the collective approached the police and questioned them that they took action and called the mother and her partner to the police station. Since the children did not want to pursue the case, the partner had to be let off. As individuals, sex workers and their children don't have any negotiating power with the police or government officials.

**VRC#7 Lalitha, [Soukya Belaku Samudaya Sanghatane], Bellary, Karnataka. 2013**

Lalitha is working as an outreach worker in DC Nagar in Bellary for the past 10 years. The sex workers who live in DC Nagar face lot of violence by local rowdy groups who collect their share every day. If sex workers refuse they abuse them physically and verbally. The sex workers have to entertain them for free and sometimes they bring their friends for sex, and the sex workers have to accept whatever they do. Last month a gang came on a bike and suddenly attacked a sex worker with a sharp object. They beat her with a wooden stick due to which she was hospitalised for over a month. The police refused to take cognisance of the violence and in fact blamed the sex workers. The local CBO had met the *goondas* and tried to convince them but the violence has not stopped; sex workers still have to give money and free sex.

## Refusal to provide medical services

**MS#9 Shanti, Solapur, Maharashtra. 2016**

On August 24, 2016, Shanti, a pregnant sex worker from Solapur was in labour and rushed to the government hospital for delivery by the members of Kranti Mahila Sangha. As she was getting into the labour room, the hospital staff asked her address. Shanti gave her residence address, which is a place sex workers are known to stay in. The doctor immediately denied her services when he came to know that she was a sex worker and asked the members to take her away though she was bleeding. The CBO members took her to a private hospital where she delivered a baby boy. The CBO members had to take debt of Rs 20,000 from various sources to get her treated in a private hospital.

**MS#8 Venkamma, transwoman, Bijapur, Karnataka. 2016**

Venkatesh, alias Venkamma, a trans woman was raped by five goondas in August 2016. When she went to the civil hospital, she was denied first aid. She went to the CBO and asked them help. The CBO members spoke to the counsellor, but the counsellor said that she is not a transgender as she has male organs and refused to accept the incident as rape. The next day, the crisis response team went to the district hospital and advocated with the District Health officer, upon which, Venkamma got treatment.

**MS#7. Chitra, 33, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. 2016**

Chitra is living with HIV and has two children aged six and 10 years. She migrated from Gudiyatam, a village in Tamil Nadu to Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. Since she was living with HIV, members of Prema Sangham, the local NGO took her to the Civil Hospital in Chittoor to get her registered for ART. The doctors in the ART centre did not register her because she came from Tamil Nadu and discriminated her on the grounds of being a sex worker. Because she could not get the treatment, she died. After her death, she was not taken by her family and her last rites were done by the CBO members. Her two children were taken by her brother and admitted into a hostel in Chennai.

**MS#1 Valarmathi, 33, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu. 2013**

Valarmathi is a sex worker living with her two children. She visited the local testing and counselling centre for HIV testing in November 2013. When the counsellor learnt that she was a sex worker, he asked her whether her family was aware of her work. The laboratory technician who was supposed to draw blood for the test asked her to wait for nearly five hours and then told her that she would have to go elsewhere since they did not have the facility. Valarmathi refuses to visit a hospital or doctor after that experience as she doesn't trust them to provide her with good services once they learn of her identity as a sex worker.

**MS#2 Vimala, [Swathi Mahila Sangha], Bangalore, Karnataka. 2012**

"I am a sex worker living with HIV for the past two years. I live with my husband and we decided to have children. We were being counselled by the counsellor and the doctor in Vani Vilas Hospital in Bangalore. The doctor suggested some of the safety measures along with the importance of institutional delivery. The staff of the hospital knew us, as we went for our monthly check ups there. When I was experiencing labour pain, we went to the hospital and got admitted. The nurses started discriminating against me. They told me that it's false pain and not labour pain. I begged the doctor to conduct the delivery. But no one came to see me; the doctor or the nurses did not even attend to me. After one day the doctor said that I had to be operated. They said that they have to conduct a Caesarean the next day and asked me to be on an empty stomach. But after two hours they refused, saying that they didn't have the right equipment. We called the representatives of Karnataka HIV Positive Network (KNP+). They argued with the doctor after which he agreed to conduct the delivery. But they demanded Rs.500 after the delivery."

**MS#3 Padmamma, Kalahasti, Andhra Pradesh. 2013**

Padmamma is a sex worker who also works as a peer educator in a HIV prevention project, encouraging and mobilising sex workers to access HIV counselling and testing facilities. She takes two or three female sex workers at a time to the counselling centres at the government hospital. However the counsellor refuses to see or counsel the women. She also abuses them for being sex workers and sometimes asks very humiliating questions about their work. The women refuse to get tested and undergo the humiliation. Padmamma finds it difficult to bring the sex workers because of this humiliation. The experience with the technician at the lab of the hospital is similar. He refuses to attend to them, asks them to return the next day and sometimes makes lewd remarks at the women. If the women complain, they tell the women to go and access private services where they can ask for better services after payment.

**MS#4 Kiran Deshmukh, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2010**

Kiran had gone through a Caesarean delivery for her third child. After 11 years, she started having stomach pain and was rushed to the civil hospital. The sonography revealed a hernia. She underwent a series of tests such as X-ray, blood tests, and physical examination, and was asked to undergo a surgery. But when Kiran showed her HIV status report (ART medicine record book) before the surgery was scheduled, the civil hospital gave a 'normal' report for sonography, saying that she had no problem. Kiran developed severe pain again and went to check with the local private hospital (Kulloli hospital) where the doctor asked her to get a sonography done. After looking at her report the doctor advised her of the need to undergo surgery for hernia. He said that it would take 6-7 hours to operate. Once again, when Kiran informed him of her positive status, he refused to operate.

Members of the VAMP collective then went to the civil hospital and discussed her issue with head of the surgery department. He used the pretext of a low CD4 count and said it was not possible to conduct the surgery and hence her operation had been cancelled. Even today Kiran lives with the constant pain in her stomach. She has been wearing a stomach belt, which also affects her ability to do sex work.

#### **MS#5 Bharati Kamble, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2004**

Bharati Kamble, a sex worker was affected by TB and was taken to the civil hospital in a serious condition. However the doctor in the civil hospital asked VAMP members to take her back home saying, "Bharati is an AIDS patient and there is no need to give her medical treatment. Let her go home and die."

VAMP member fought with the doctor and pressurised him to give Bharati the treatment in the civil hospital. The doctor gave treatment for two three days, after that Bharati decided to go Pune for better treatment. She got much better treatment in Pune, and that helped her to build up her confidence. Bharati is living happily now and she is on ART. She keeps up her follow up visits to the civil hospital with the help of VAMP members. This happened only because of the sex work collective's pressure on the health system that Bharati and other sex workers manage to get treatment.

#### **MS#6 Usha Kamble, Sangli, Maharashtra. 2013**

Usha a sex worker was living with HIV and had a TB co infection. When she was very ill, she came to Sangli. She had drug resistant TB. The VAMP collective members wanted to get her admitted to the civil hospital and took all the necessary documents. After seeing her condition; civil hospital staff decided not to get admitted her in the hospital. She had water collection in her back. But the hospital refused and said, "Please take your patient, we cannot treat her." The VAMP collective was there asking the civil hospital staff to assist, but they didn't respond. The VAMP collective took Usha back to their homes and took care of her till her death.

#### **MS#7 Ponnumani, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. 2016**

Ponnumani is a sex worker from Thoothukudi district. She was working in ART centre of the Government Hospital for three years and then she worked in a private hospital in December 2015. Some of her relatives were also working in the same hospital and they disclosed her status as sex worker before the hospital Manager. As the manager knew that she was a sex worker, he started harassing her for sexual favours. Ponnumani denied him such favours. Feeling humiliated, the manager created the story that Ponnumani was asking him for sexual favours in front of the Supervisor. The supervisor started targeting Ponnumani for not doing her work properly and at a later stage removed her from her job. Ponnumani could not file a case or could complain against the manager because she was further afraid to disclose her identity in the society.

### **Refusal to provide identity documents, social entitlements and harassment by officials**

#### **SE#1 Maliga, Thenimalai, Thiruvanamalai district, Tamil Nadu**

Maliga, 45 lives with her daughter, a construction worker and a mentally challenged grand-daughter. Due to her weak state, Maliga is not able to do sex work and support the family. Maliga's mother transferred the property to her sister and brother, who threw her out of the house. Maliga filed applications for a voter ID and a ration card. She has completed the application rounds more than three times in the past two years and has been following up at the government office. However, the officials refuse to cooperate stating that the necessary supporting documents have not been provided. It is difficult for Maliga and her family to obtain documents such as rental agreements. The landlord refuses to give a rental agreement or a rent receipt. Getting access to voter ID cards and ration card is important to ensure that Maliga can get access to schemes for deserted people and facilities for her grand-daughter.

**SE#2 Mohana, 33, [Karnataka Sex Workers Union], Vijayapura, Bangalore Rural (own narrative). 2010**

"I am a sex worker doing sex work for the past 13 years. In 2010 I applied for a passport. I was asked to provide my education proof, marriage documents etc. Since I am not educated, I approached the municipality office for a character certificate required as part of the documentation. At the office they started harassing me saying that I was a sex worker and hence my character was questionable. After a lot of arguments with the officials, and standing my ground, I managed to get the certificate. When the police completed the necessary verification, I visited the police station to ask about the passport. They made fun of me saying why should a sex worker require a passport? I managed to get my passport only in 2012. We are harassed by government officials when we attempt to seek any entitlements."

**SE#3 Radhika, 35 years old, [Karnataka Sex Workers Union], Bangalore Rural (own narrative) 2013**

"I am a sex worker living in Bangalore and doing sex work for the past 15 years. I am also a member of the Karnataka Sex Workers Union for the last seven years. I had applied for a ration card at the *gram panchayat* office. But the ration card officer refused, saying that I had to submit many supporting documents to show residence proofs such as the electricity bill, election ID proof etc. Despite submitting the documents he continued to delay my application on some pretext. When I approached him, he started harassing me saying that since I was a sex worker I should "sleep with him". He continued to stall my ration card and after many months I agreed to his conditions. Despite that he stalled my application and I managed to get my ration card only after many months. Now the officer threatens to cancel my ration card if I don't have sex with him. I don't have problems in getting the free food grain, but I am reluctant to go near the *panchayat* office due to his harassment. I approached a journalist from the print media, but he also sought sexual favours from me. It was only when I mentioned that I was a member of the sex workers union that he stopped harassing me. I do not want to approach the police for fear of further harassment."

**SE#4 Sumalath, Kalahasti, Andhra Pradesh. 2013**

"During the process of getting my Unique ID Card, I missed the date to get my biometrics recorded, since I had to go to visit my mother in another village. When I returned the next day and heard that the biometrics had been completed, I visited the *taluka* office and requested for my details to be taken. However the officials said 'Why does someone like you need a ID card, you are a whore, I don't need to listen to you.' I approached my colleagues in the sex work collective and they visited the village head (*sarpanch*) for assistance. However he also said that it would not be possible and abused me. The members of my collective then *gheraoed* (encircled) the *sarpanch* for abusing us and threatened that we would complain against him for denying our rights. It was only when the collective members threatened a complaint and a public campaign against the officials and the village head; including a police complaint that they agreed to help me complete the biometrics and get my card.

**SE#5 Jyothi, Ongole, Andhra Pradesh. 2013**

“My husband died a year ago and I am doing sex work. I approached the district officials to apply for widow pension so that I would be able to support my children. It was a mass contact programme for schemes. However the official refuses to give me the widow pension unless I give him sexual favours. I am yet to receive the pension. Some of the women tell me to have sex with him so that I can get the widow pension and support my family.”

### **Social Support for older and ill sex workers**

#### **SS#1 Anandhi, 28, Doddaballapura, Bangalore Rural. 2013**

Anandhi has been doing sex work for the past seven years and is affected by HIV. She stays in a rented house with two children. Her husband works as a driver and often abuses her because she is a sex worker. Because of the fights, everyone in the neighbourhood has come to know that Anandhi does sex work. When the landlord of the rented apartment got to know that Anandhi is a sex worker, he falsely accused her of theft and threw her and her children out of the house.

Anandhi's in-law got to know of her positive status after it was disclosed by the doctors and threw Anandhi out of the house. Since Anandhi is unable to take care of her children, she has sent one of her children to a hostel run for children of sex workers. She now lives in a dilapidated shack with one child since her husband refuses to support her. She plans to seek a share in her property from her in-laws.

Anandhi's in-laws refuse to enter her and her children's name in the ration card, so she has to apply for her own ration card. But she does not have the supporting documents needed to apply for the card. Anandhi does not want to pursue any legal options till her children are older and married. She is fighting for her legal entitlements but needs support to survive on a daily basis.

#### **SS#2 Mageswari, Thirvanamalai District, Tamil Nadu. 2013**

Mageswari, 54, is a widowed sex worker. She suffers from excessive bleeding for the past two years which affects her ability to do sex work. She is also HIV positive. She has two daughters and an aged mother to support. Mageswari's elder daughter regularly abuses her, and demands money to feed her and her mother. Mageswari needs to undergo surgery to have her uterus removed and support till she undergoes the surgery and recovers. The sex work collective has agreed to bear her expenses to travel and undergo the surgery and also to provide her a short stay home for her post-operative care and recovery. As women in sex work get older, they are unable to earn much to support themselves. Hence social support is important.

### **Discrimination in Education of children of sex workers**

#### **CE#1 Saira, 34, Doddaballapur, Bangalore Rural. 2013**

“I admitted my children to a well-known private school. They were able to study there for a year before the teachers and principal got to know that I am a sex worker. The principal then informed me that I would need to make alternate arrangements for the children as they didn't have enough seats. I asked the principal the reason why my children were being targeted since I had paid the fees on time and my children were not badly behaved. After much persuasion, he informed me that since they were sex worker's children they cannot study next to regular children whose future would be affected. Despite a lot of discussion I was forced to take the children out of school and put them in another school.”

### **Vulnerability to harassment, media ethics**

#### **VH#1 Shanti, (name changed), [Mahilakranti, UKMO], Karwar, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. 2013**

Shanthi is a young sex worker living with her children. Following a news report in February 2013 where the name of a sex worker from Karwar was mentioned, a local leader in the area began to harass Shanthi saying that he would reveal her identity to her children and other community members. He approached her children and the members of her self-help group saying that she had been caught doing “prostitution”. Shanthi managed to convince them that the news report was about another person with the same name. Shanthi threatened to file a complaint of harassment, but that didn’t affect the perpetrator. Scared of the impact that the harassment would have on her children, she approached the sex work organisation, which agreed to intervene. Seeing the support that she was receiving, the leader apologised and requested that Shanthi not approach the police since his political career would be ruined. Shanthi decided to keep quiet since she did not want problems in the area that she lived in. Sex workers are constantly vulnerable to threats of blackmail and are often forced to provide sexual favours under fear of being ‘outed’.

**RRR#3 Subhashini (Name Changed) [Mana Mahila Sangham], Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. 2013**

Police action has suddenly increased in the last fifteen days and women reported this during the meeting and WINS met gave a representation to the District Superintendent of Police (DSP). He, in turn directed Sub-Divisional Police to visit and meet the women victims of violence.

Subhashini, 40, is street based sex worker. On the March 27, 2013 at 11:15pm, she along with her two friends was at the bus stand near Ganggama temple, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. They were chased by a police constable. The two women fled, but as Subhasini could not run, she was caught by the police constable, after which he beat her severely.

She suffered seven deep bruises on both her knees upper and lower arm, bottom and back. She developed chest pain and fell down. The next day, she visited the drop-in centre for female sex workers and reported the violence and abuse during an advocacy meeting with the police.

### **Forced ‘Rescue’ of Migrants**

MP#1 Jharkhand, October 2012.

Over 500 people migrating from Ranchi, Jharkhand were apprehended at the railway station by the local police, aided by NGOs on the grounds that they were being trafficked. They were kept in a stadium without food, water and other basic facilities and treated as criminals. Those picked up included women with their children and men who had found work in brick kilns or factories. They said that they had managed to find work after taking loans from local money lenders and now because of the action of the police, would be forced to return to their villages without any hope of employment and livelihood. The Government of Jharkhand announced that identity documents would be issued to people intending to migrate for work and they would be given employment opportunities within the state. However after that announcement in 2012, there has been no further action by the Government. *Courtesy: Association For Advocacy and Legal Initiatives, Lucknow, May 2014*