# **ANWESHI WOMEN'S COUNSELING CENTRE**

# ANNUAL REPORT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTED WITH GRANT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

April 01, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Anweshi Women's Counseling Centre Kuthiravattom P.O. Kozhikode 673 016

#### **PREFACE**

Formed in 1993 in Kozhikode, Anweshi is one of the established women's organizations in Kerala. The primary objective of Anweshi is to prepare and enable women to confront discrimination and violence they encounter within their homes, workplaces, and public spaces, with self confidence.

Since 2008, Anweshi has served as a key service provider in legally protecting women from domestic violence under the Department of Child & Women Development, Kerala. Anweshi has also achieved an A Grade ranking from the Kerala Women's Commission and has been accredited by the Kerala Social Justice Department.

# **Major Activities**

Counselling

**Community Work** 

Legal Aid Cell

psychological Aid cell

**Short Stay Home** 

**Health Program** 

**Adolescent Project** 

**Violence Free Panchayats** 

Women & Children's Home

Library & Documentation Centre

Sanghaditha Magazine

# Counselling

Alongside providing mental support to women who come with complaints, we actively engage in settling issues by communicating with the opposing parties. Women approach Anweshi with diverse problems. We offer guidance and assistance to address these issues appropriately, along with providing mental support. The majority of the cases we handle involve family-related problems. We accept complaints from women and conduct inquiries by visiting the homes of the opposing parties. Subsequently, they are invited to Anweshi where problems are settled through counseling sessions. In most cases, multiple counseling sessions, typically three or four times, are necessary. Cases that cannot be resolved through counseling and require legal assistance are referred to our Legal Aid Cell. Instances involving issues such as mental illness, mental health challenges, or drug addiction that require treatment are directed to respective treatment centers.

Anweshi receives cases from various sources including Medical Colleges, Protection Offices, Panchayats, Police Stations, Women's Cells, and Family Courts.

The following table shows the number of cases that came to Anweshi and how they were handled during the period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

Month	New Cases	Follow Up	Settled	Consultation
April	12	15	4	4
May	11	16	6	6
June	16	18	5	8
July	16	15	4	4
August	10	15	4	6
September	07	16	3	6
October	12	19	4	6

Column 1

November	13	20	6	5
December	14	13	5	8
January	12	16	4	6
February	18	25	3	6
March	12	17	3	8
Total	153	207	53	73

#### Column 2

The following are the types of cases handled by Anweshi from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

Month	Domestic	Property	Sexual	Death	Other
	Violence	Discrimination	exploitation/violence		
April	09		02		01
May	07	01	02		01
June	12		01		03
July	14		01		01
August	08		01		01
September	05	01			01
October	08	02			02
November	09		01		03
December	13				01
January	08				
February	14		01	01	02
March	06	03	01		02
Total	113	07	10	01	18

Some important cases that came to us during this period are given below.

#### Case-1

A 28-year-old woman came to Anweshi with a complaint that her 5-year-old daughter was being forcibly held by her husband. Since her husband had given her a divorce (talaq), she had been living with her daughter in their own house. One day, the husband's mother took the daughter from school to their home. However, the husband intervened, resulting in an altercation where he forced his mother and relatives to leave the house. Subsequently, he began living alone with his daughter.

Due to his mental health issues, the daughter was afraid to live with her father. Fearing for her daughter's safety, the anxious mother approached Anweshi seeking immediate intervention to retrieve her daughter from opposite party's custody.

After consulting with the Child Welfare Committee, Anweshi forwarded the complaint to them. With the assistance of the police, the committee intervened and removed the child from the opposite party's custody. However, due to ongoing concerns about potential harm from the father's mental health issues, the Child Welfare Committee safely transferred the girl to St. Vincent Home, rather than allowing her to stay with her mother.

Acknowledging the potential negative impact of separation on both the 5-year-old girl and her mother's mental health, Anweshi petitioned the district child protection officer to allow them to stay together at the Anweshi Short Stay Home. Following this plea, the Child Welfare Committee granted permission to transfer the girl from St. Vincent Home to Anweshi Short Stay Home. They stayed at Anweshi for two months.

Recognizing that the child's education was at risk, Anweshi assisted the mother in filing a petition in court seeking full custody of the child. The court issued an interim order granting custody to the mother. The case is still ongoing, but the woman has since taken her daughter back to their own house.

#### Case-2

A 28-year-old woman approached Anweshi due to her husband's relentless drinking behavior. They have been married for the past 10 years and have two daughters, aged 10 and 7. The woman grew up in the Girls Home, Vellimadukunnu, from the age of 5. She got married through a community marriage organized by the District Social Justice Department. For the first two years of their marriage, there were no issues. However, after that, he became addicted to alcohol and refused to go to work. Since he could not manage to provide for the basic needs of his wife and children, the woman took a job in the cleaning department of Baby Memorial Hospital. Despite her efforts, her husband began to demand money from her earnings for his own needs. This led to frequent

quarrels between them. With no relatives to support her or help resolve her issues, she felt increasingly isolated.

She came to Anweshi when it became unbearable for her to stay with the opposite party. She wanted a divorce and felt it was impossible to continue living with him. With no other place to go until the issue was settled, she sought shelter at Anweshi's Short Stay Home. From there, she continued to go to her job. The staff from Anweshi visited her husband's house to inquire about the issues and asked him to come to Anweshi's office. He agreed and met with the counselor, where he admitted to being an alcoholic. He also mentioned that his wife left the house on her own and that she could return whenever she wished. He stated that he would abide by whatever decision she made. However, he insisted that he could not leave the children with her since she did not have a stable home, and he claimed that their safety was more important than anything else. As the woman began to slide into depression, she was sent to the Psychological Aid Cell at Anweshi and received the treatment she needed. She eventually recovered and continued to work while staying at the short stay home.

Based on the counseling sessions, neither of them wanted to continue living with each other. The complaint was then transferred to the Legal Aid Cell to pursue the necessary legal measures. Since they belonged to different religions, their marriage had to be registered under the Special Marriage Act. However, their marriage had not been registered as required, so their separation did not need a legal foundation.

Following this, they signed an agreement stating that they would no longer have any relationship with each other. The agreement also stipulated that the husband would allow their children to meet their mother whenever she wished and that she could have them stay with her during holidays. Thus, the issue was resolved amicably.

#### Case-3

A 30-year-old woman from Coorg came to Anweshi to raise the problems she had been facing with her husband. They had been married for 8 years and had two children, a 7-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl. They got married in 2015. Since the husband's family rushed the marriage process immediately after the engagement, the woman's family was unable to thoroughly enquire about them. Despite the woman having grown up in a completely different place, the opposite party physically harassed and molested her. She endured this mistreatment and continued to live with him. Additionally, the opposite party's mother, who was undergoing treatment for paranoia, began making false stories about the woman and her father in law. This situation became a severe mental torture for her. The husband had gone abroad for work once but returned suddenly. After his return, he started staying at home without seeking any employment. Consequently, he and his mother took her gold, citing various needs, and pawned or sold it.

The husband did not provide adequate care or consideration for the complainant during her pregnancy and delivery. Despite her willingness to sacrifice and forgive many times, the problems remained unresolved, leading her to move to her own house with her children. They have been living separately for a year. In the meantime, the church committee got involved and agreed to settle the matter. They decided that the husband must pay Rs. 6.5 lakh to the complainant as compensation for the gold and Rs. 5,000 per month for the children's expenses. However, this decision was not implemented by the deadline. The complainant approached Anweshi after this.

The workers of Anweshi visited the husband's house and inquired about the situation. They then asked him to come to Anweshi's office. He came to the office and spoke with the counselor. He expressed that he did not want to separate. As a result, counseling sessions continued, but the complainant was adamant about not continuing the relationship. Consequently, the husband agreed to this decision.

An agreement was prepared through Anweshi. The husband agreed to pay the complainant the amount equivalent to the value of the gold, which was Rs. 6 lakhs. Of this amount, Rs. 1 lakh was to be given upon signing the agreement. The remaining amount was to be paid after one year, and Rs. 5,000 per month was to be provided for the children's expenses. Both parties and the witnesses signed the agreement, and Rs. 1 lakh was handed over on the same day. Thus, the complainant's issue was settled amicably.

#### Case-4

A 28-year-old woman came to Anweshi with a complaint against her husband and her own family. They had been married for 7 years. The complainant had difficulty conceiving due to PCOD and had undergone multiple abortions, which negatively impacted her mental health. During this period, she faced significant torture from her husband. She did not receive adequate recognition or mental support and was forced to try to get pregnant while also undergoing treatment. When the complainant became reluctant to continue, her husband asked her to leave the house. She eventually reached a point where she was able to share her hardships with her family, as life with her husband became unbearable. Fearing that living separately from her husband would damage the family's image and prestige in society, her family confined her at home and prevented her from continuing her B.Ed studies. They also took away her phone.

The family began to threaten her, insisting that she must live with her husband. They even went so far as to cause issues at her friends' houses. Consequently, the complainant agreed to go to Saudi Arabia with the opposing party. While there, the complainant became pregnant again, but it resulted in a miscarriage. This led her to a state of depression, and she began therapy at the Mental Health Centre (MHAT) in Kozhikode. There was some improvement in her mindset, and she started going to work. However, the opposite party began pressuring her to resign from her job, threatening that otherwise she would be asked to leave the house. Fearing to return to her own home, the complainant sought assistance from Anweshi for a solution and temporary accommodation, as advised by MHAT.

The complainant was admitted to the Short Stay Home. The workers from Anweshi then visited the homes of both the opposing party and the complainant, conducted inquiries, and requested that both the opposing party and the complainant's family come to the office. Since the opposing party was abroad, his family members and the complainant's family came to the office and discussed the matter with the counselor. The complainant's family stated that they had misbehaved with the complainant due to a misunderstanding. The complainant and her parents received counseling at the psychological cell under Anweshi. Through counseling, the family was reassured and promised to support their daughter in any situation. The complainant was willing to return home with her family. Since the opposing party was abroad, the conversation occurred over the phone. The opposing party indicated that he would accept the complainant's decision not to continue the relationship. When the opposing party returned to the country, he provided a statement in accordance with the law, with the consent of both families. With this, the issue involving the complainant was resolved.

#### Case-5

A 39-year-old complainant came to Anweshi when her husband's torture became unbearable. They had been married for the past 17 years and have a 16-year-old daughter. The opposite party was working as a carpenter and was already taking medication for paranoid schizophrenia before the marriage. The complainant was not informed of this before the marriage. Due to severe financial difficulties and the old age of her parents, her family could not afford to investigate the details about the opposite party. When inquiring about the medication, her family was told it was for sleeplessness and epilepsy. The true extent of his illness became evident by the time the complainant conceived. The opposite party used to physically assault her and suffered from extreme paranoia. He was a carpenter but failed to attend work regularly, which resulted in financial difficulties. To make ends meet, the complainant subsequently took a job at a shop.

When the harassment from the opposite party increased and began affecting her daughter's education, the complainant and her daughter moved into a house as paying guests. However, when the opposite party created a disturbance there as well, the house owner asked them to leave. The complainant then rented a flat and moved in with her daughter. That night, the opposite party arrived, abused the complainant, and prevented her from sleeping. The opposite party was unwilling to take proper medication or go to the hospital. The complainant had no one to help her except the opposite party's elderly parents. To manage the house rent and save money to build her own house, the complainant needed to work every day. Due to the opposite party's behavior, the complainant was at a loss about what to do and therefore approached Anweshi with a request for intervention in the case.

The workers of Anweshi went to the opposite party's house to inquire about the matter and asked him to appear at the office. However, the opposite party was initially unwilling to comply. After persistent phone conversations with the opposite party and his family, he eventually came to the office and spoke with the counselor. The counselor convinced him that with proper treatment, his condition could improve, and a happy family life could be restored. The opposite party agreed to cooperate with the treatment and was referred to the Psychological Aid Cell.

As the opposite party made significant progress through treatment and counseling, the complainant and the opposite party's parents were called to the office to discuss the situation. The complainant had no objections, as he was now committed to treatment. Upon being instructed to attend work regularly and manage household expenses, the opposite party agreed to do so. Although the treatment is still ongoing, the complainant and the opposite party are now living together in a house without much issues.

#### Case-6

The woman approached Anweshi with a complaint against her husband. They have a 29-year-old daughter. The complainant had been undergoing treatment for mental illness at Kuthiravattom Mental Health Centre even before her marriage. After the marriage, she struggled to reconcile with her husband and his family, which led to escalating problems. Small issues grew larger, and their situation deteriorated significantly. The complaint was filed in 2019. Following this, both parties were summoned to the office, where they were talked to, and the complainant was referred to MHAT for treatment. As a result, the problems were resolved. The complainant approached Anweshi again when she developed mental health issues after moving back in with her husband. The family then took the position that the relationship was no longer viable.

The workers of Anweshi visited the opposite party's house to inquire about the matter and requested him to appear at the office. Following this, the opposite party came to the office and spoke with the counselor. He stated that he did not want to continue the relationship due to the complainant's illness but was willing to wait

for her to recover from treatment if she chose to return. However, the complainant decided not to proceed with the relationship. Both parties requested more time to make a decision, but no change occurred. When the complainant insisted that she could not live with the opposite party, he agreed to accept this decision.

At the time of their marriage, the household items given to the complainant by her family were in the possession of the opposite party. All these items were retrieved from the opposite party's house with the help of Anweshi workers and handed over to the complainant. Both parties had filed for divorce according to the law, and an agreement to this effect was signed between them. The opposite party deposited Rs 3 lakh as a fixed deposit in the daughter's name, with the complainant designated as the guardian of the account. The complainant agreed to the opposite party's request to meet their daughter. Subsequently, both parties filed a divorce petition in court, finalized the divorce, and began living separately.

#### Case-7

The 32-year-old woman approached Anweshi with a complaint that she was cheated on the promise of marriage. The complainant was previously married and divorced. She has a 41/2 year old daughter in that marriage. The victim and her daughter were living with her father and mother. The complainant had gone to Kunnamangalam Magic Frames Cinemas for a job interview and had been working there for four months. There he became acquainted with the opposite party who was the manager, which later turned into love. He was unmarried. At the outset, the complainant told the respondent that she was married, had a child and was divorced. After knowing all these things, he had assured the complainant took this relationship further. The complainant then became pregnant and had an abortion at the request of the opposite party.

The relationship between the complainant and the opposite party became known at their workplace, leading to problems. As a result, the opposite party was suspended from his job. The complainant repeatedly asked him to marry her, but he refused to comply. In response, the complainant contacted the wife of the opposite party's brother and informed her about their relationship. Consequently, the family expelled him from their home. In retaliation, the opposite party spoke very rudely to the complainant's parents and portrayed her in a very negative light. This led to the complainant being mistreated by her family and confined to the house. Feeling trapped and uncertain about what to do next, the complainant approached Anweshi for help.

Since the opposite party's house is in Idukki, Anweshi staff went to his workplace and residence to ask him to appear at the office. Following this, he came to the office and spoke with the counselor. He expressed that he was in love with the complainant and wanted to marry her, but he was also experiencing significant mental anguish. He stated that he would commit suicide if he married her and that he did not want to continue the relationship, even if faced with legal consequences.

Upon learning of the opposite party's decision, the complainant developed mental health issues and fell into a state of depression. She was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment. Through proper therapy and medication, her condition improved, and she ultimately supported the opposite party's decision, deciding that she did not want to continue the relationship either. The matter was resolved by informing the opposite party of this decision. The complainant has since started a new job and is receiving appropriate treatment.

#### Case-8

The complainant, a Plus One student, came to Anweshi one day with her mother. She alleged that the teacher at her karate school had sexually harassed her and other girls. The teacher had a daughter of the complainant's age. The complainant informed her mother that it was a serious issue and urged her to file a complaint with the police under the POCSO Act. Later, when they contacted and inquired about the matter, they discovered that the complainant and her mother were unwilling to file a complaint with the police due to fears of social isolation and negative judgment.

Later, on 19-2-2024, the girl was found dead in the Chaliyar River. Following this, the police arrived at the scene and conducted an investigation. Her biggest ambition was to earn a black belt in karate. Despite enduring the sexual misconduct of the teacher, she continued her studies and eventually achieved her black belt. However, when she returned to practice, the teacher's behavior

remained unchanged, and she was prepared to file a complaint against him. She confided in her sister about the situation. Another girl had already filed a case against the teacher under the POCSO Act, leading to his arrest. However, that girl withdrew her case due to pressure from his associates. The complainant's mental health deteriorated significantly, and her family took her to MHAT for counseling. The girl's death occurred at a time when she and her family were preparing to file a case against the teacher, as advised by her counselor. The police reported that the girl committed suicide, but her parents refused to believe this, asserting that she would never have taken her own life. Additionally, two young men were seenriding a scooter near the location of her death. The doctors at the institution where the girl had been receiving counseling assured her family that she would never have committed suicide.

After the complainant's death, the Karate Instructor was arrested on 21-02-2024 following intervention from Anweshi and contact with the relevant authorities. The police registered an FIR under IPC Section 354 and POCSO Act Sections 7, 9, 91, 10. Steps were taken to expedite the process by forming an action committee at the location of the incident, and the teacher's institution was closed. The chairman and other members of the committee attended the meeting. A complaint was submitted to the Chief Minister requesting that the case be taken over, and accordingly, the Crime Branch assumed responsibility for the case. The investigation is now going on by the crime branch.

# **Clients Meeting**

The meeting is attended by individuals who have filed complaints with Anweshi and settled their issues. They share their experiences and the solutions they found. As a result, they are able to view their own problems with greater clarity and face life's challenges with increased confidence.

# **Psychological Aid Cell**

A Psychological Aid Cell began functioning on 16th December 2021 in collaboration with the Mental Health Action Trust (MHAT) located in Puthiyara, Kozhikode. The clinical psychologist, psychiatric social worker, and mental health worker meet with the parties every Thursday, and if necessary, the psychiatric

consultant doctor prescribes medication. Many of the women who come forward with complaints at Anweshi are victims of severe psychological stress. Through counseling, the counselors assess their mental stress and refer them to the Psychological Aid Cell. In many cases, the cell meets with the parties multiple times and conducts thorough follow-ups.

The Psychological Aid Cell has counseled a total of 208 cases between April 2023 and March 31, 2024:

Month	New Cases	Settled	Follow up
April	2	01	15
May	5	01	17
June	2		13
July	1	02	14
August	1	01	14
September	1	02	11
October	1		13
November			13
December	1		07
January	2	01	08
February	2		12
March	1		08
Total	19	08	145

# **Community Work**

Community workers go to both parties and convince the opposite party to come to the office in response to complaints received at Anweshi. Community work includes accompanying complainants to the court, police station, and other government institutions as needed, as well as organizing seminars, workshops, awareness classes, and legal literacy classes.

Month	Field Visit	Police Visit	Station	Organising
April	24	3		
May	21	2		
June	26	3		
July	25	1		
August	19	2		03
September	18	2		02
October	17	1		03
November	21	2		03
December	22	1		05
January	19	3		07
February	26	2		10
March	25	2		11
Total	263	24		44

Field visits were conducted from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, as follows:

# Legal Aid Cell

Cases that cannot be settled through counseling are referred to the Legal Aid Cell. The Legal Aid Cell provides various types of legal assistance to complainants. Its functions include offering legal advice in certain cases, filing complaints at the police station when necessary, drafting agreements for cases settled through counseling, sending legal notices, and filing cases in court.

During the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, 99 cases have been provided legal aid through Legal Aid Cell:

#### Columnþ -1

Month	No. of Cases
April	03
May	11
June	08

July	12
August	11
September	10
October	05
November	13
December	03
January	10
February	11
March	02
Total	99

Methodology of legal aid provided in 99 cases for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

Column -2
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Month	Agreeme-	Cases filed	Affida-	Cases	Cases	Counter	Total
	nt drafted	in court	vit filed	allowed	closed in	filed in	
					Court	court	
April	01		01		01		03
May		05	03	03			11
June		04	02	02			08
July		05	03	02	01	01	12
August	01	03	03	02	02		11
September		03	01	01	05		10
October			04		01		05
November	02	04	04	03			13
December			03				03
January		06			04		10
February	01	06	01		03		11
March		01	01				02
Total	05	37	26	13	17	01	99

# Legal Literacy Classes

Awareness classes are conducted for Anganwadis, residents' associations, and Kudumbasree units in villages and cities to educate women about their rights and laws.

The classes conducted from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, are listed below:

Month	Number	Number of participants
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October	02	33+39 = 69
November	01	30
December	03	55+72+32 = 159
january	06	36+38+35+39+30+25 = 203
February	04	32+39+34+27 = 132
March	05	33+38+26+29+37 = 163
Total	22	756

Legal class held at Thalakkulathur on 11-10-2023



# **Short Stay Home**

The short stay home is meant to provide protection to women and children seeking shelter and help them solve their problems. During their stay, they are provided with medical and legal assistance. The inmates receive training in various handicrafts, jewelry making, tailoring, etc. to enhance their mental well-being.

The number of women and children who were admitted to the Short Stay Home between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, is as follows:

Month	Women	Children	New
			Admission
April	06		01
May	05	02	04
June	05	02	
July	05	03	02
August	06	02	
September	06	02	01
October	05	02	01
November	05	02	03

December	06	03	07
January	05	02	01
February	04	01	02
March	06	02	03
Total	64	23	25

# **Health Program**

Recognizing that violence against women is a public health issue, Anweshi is conducting activities at the Medical College Hospital. The medical college provides psychological, social, and legal support to women who come to the hospital after being subjected to various forms of violence, helping them cope with such crises.

The hospital refers cases to Anweshi as part of their visit to the surgery ward (burn ward), ENT department, gynecological ward, and mental health department. They meet with the responsible nurses and ask them to make arrangements to bring the women and their relatives who have been subjected to violence for investigation.

During this period, 11 cases were investigated from the burns ward, 4 cases from the ENT department, 5 cases from the gynecology ward, 2 cases from the ortho ward, and 5 cases from the mental health department. In 13 of these cases, the women were counseled and helped to return to normal life. Legal aid was provided in seven cases. Four cases were admitted to a short stay home. In three cases, the women were allowed to live peacefully in their own homes.

# **Adolescent Project**

Seminars, discussions, camps, and workshops on health, law, personality development, counseling, and gender status are being organized for mothers, adolescent girls, adolescent boys, and teachers at primary health centers, anganwadis, clubs, schools, and colleges.

Month	Number	Number of participants
April		
May		
June		
July		
August	03	33+30+35= 98
September		
October		
November	01	26
December	01	23
January		
February		
March		
Total	05	147

Classes were held from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024 as shown below

Adolescent class held at Mavoor Higher Secondary School on 14-12-2023



Adolescent class held at Kunnamnagalam Panchayat on 13-03-2024



Adolescent class held at Centre Number 37 on 13-12-2023



### **Violence-Free Panchayats**

As part of the initiative to make the elected panchayats in Kozhikode district encroachment-free, the activities of the Jagrata Samitis (Vigilance Committees) have been activated by visiting each panchayat and meeting with the panchayat members and the president. We are also visiting police stations, anganwadis, and health centers. Ward members assist in eradicating violence against women in each ward. Problems that cannot be resolved in their respective areas are referred to Anweshi for intervention.

During this period, efforts were concentrated in the Chelur and Kunnamangalam blocks and Kozhikode Corporation. Classes on the Jagrata Samiti were conducted in all panchayats and wards of Chelur. In Kunnamangalam, classes were held on the same subject in the Peruvayal, Perumanna, and Mavoor panchayats, as well as in all their wards. In association with the Women's Commission, a seminar was conducted involving the convenors (anganwadi teachers) and chairpersons (council members) of all 75 wards of the Kozhikode Corporation. As part of this, classes were conducted at the ward level with the help of ICDS.

In many panchayats, Jagrata Samitis are still not functioning effectively. More action is needed to make them fully operational. Classes were also conducted in the Kodencherry and Chengottkavu panchayats.

Month	Panchayat visit	Other institutes(police station, I.C.D.S
		office, kudumbasree office)
April	05	05
May	04	04
June	06	06
July	04	04
August	05	05
September	06	06
October	09	03
November	04	04
December	05	05
January	05	05
February	05	03
March	04	03
Total	62	53

Visits to panchayats were conducted from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024 are given below

Jagrata Samiti class held at Perumanna on 05-01-2024



Jagrata Samiti class held at Parakkulam on 06-01-2024



Jagratha Samiti class held at Annassery on 07-10-2023



### Seminar

Seminars are organized on topics such as health, law, personality development, counseling, gender status, women's social security systems, the POCSO Act, and other relevant issues. Experts in these areas lead the seminars. The seminars are attended by members of residents' associations, Kudumbasree units, panchayat members, health workers, ICDS workers, school and college students, and parents, with each seminar featuring 70-150 participants.

Four seminars were conducted between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024.

1) On January 25, 2024, a seminar was held at the Peruvayal Grama Panchayat Hall for the members of the Jagrata Samiti of Peruvayal Panchayat wards. Peruvayal Panchayat ICDS Supervisor Sheeja Peter welcomed the gathering. The meeting was presided over by K. Ajitha, President of Anweshi. Peruvayal Panchayat President Subitha Thottancherry inaugurated the seminar. Vice-President of Peruvayal Grama Panchayat Sharafudheen, Welfare Standing Committee Chairman Aneesh Palat, and others facilitated the gathering. Ward Member Suharabi Teacher proposed the vote of thanks.

Mr. Hemapalan, International Trainer at OISCA, took a class on 'Women's Safety and Empowerment through Jagratha Samiti'. Advocate Sajira gave awareness Jagratha Samiti and women's rights. A total of 129 participants took part in the seminar.







2) On March 23, 2024, a seminar was held at the Chelannur Grama Panchayat Hall for the members of the Jagrata Samiti of 21 wards of Chelannur Panchayat. Jyothi, Supervisor of ICDS, welcomed the gathering. Chelannur Grama Panchayat President P. P. Nousheer inaugurated the function. Anweshi President K. Ajitha presided over the ceremony. Chelannur Grama Panchayat Vice-President Gowri Puthiyothu, Welfare Standing Committee Chairperson Smt. Kavitha P. K., Community Women Facilitator Smt. K. T. Sasikala, and others facilitated the gathering. Sreeba E. P. conveyed the vote of thanks.

Chief Facilitator of the Jagrata Samiti, Smt. Geetha, took classes on Gender Violence, the Structure and Formation of the Jagrata Samiti, and its importance. In the afternoon, future programs were planned, a mock presentation on Jagrata Samitis was conducted, and the seminar was evaluated. There were 80 participants.



3) A seminar was conducted for the members of the Jagrata Samiti on March 12, 2024, at the Thiruvambady Grama Panchayat Hall. ICDS Supervisor Chashma Chandran welcomed the gathering. Thiruvambady Grama Panchayat Vice President K. A. Abdurahiman presided over the function. Grama Panchayat President Bindu Johnson inaugurated the seminar. Welfare Standing Committee Chairman Raju Ambalathil, Development Affairs Committee Chairperson Lissy

Maliekal, Health Education Committee Chairperson Ramla Cholackal, and others facilitated the gathering. Panchayat Secretary Vipin Joseph proposed the vote of thanks.

Smt. Anita N. V. took a class on the Jagrata Samiti and its structure. The Secretary of Anweshi, P. Sreeja, gave a lecture on "The Need for Jagrata Samitis" A total of 64 participants took part in the seminar.







4) On November 22, 2023, a seminar was held at the Kozhikode Corporation Stadium Hall in association with the Women's Commission. Anweshi Secretary P. Sreeja welcomed the gathering. The meeting was presided over by K. Ajitha, Chairperson of Anweshi. Women's Commission Chairperson P. Sathi Devi inaugurated the function. Beena Philip, Mayor of Kozhikode Corporation, was the chief guest. Sabina Begum, District Officer of the Women and Child Development Department, facilitated the gathering. A total of 150 people, including convenors (anganwadi teachers) and chairpersons (council members) of all 75 wards of the corporation, attended the seminar. Smt. C. S. Elizabeth proposed the vote of thanks.

Ms. Geetha, Chief Facilitator of Jagratha Samithi, Thiruvananthapuram, presented a paper on "The Role of Jagratha Samithis in Preventing Violence against Women.







### Workshop

The workshops are conducted on topics such as health, law, personality development, counseling, gender issues, and women's social security systems. These workshops are held as two- or three-day residential programs for groups involved in social work in rural and urban areas, as well as panchayat representatives. Each workshop will have 35 to 50 participants and will be led by experts in these fields.

 A one-day workshop was conducted for ICDS Supervisors of Kozhikode District on February 22, 2024, at the Kudumbasree Marketing Centre Hall, Koyilandy. Anweshi Secretary P. Sreeja welcomed the gathering. Panthalayani Block Panchayat President Bindu Soman presided over the function. President Sri. P. Baburaj inaugurated the ceremony. District Programme Officer of ICDS, Kozhikode, Smt. Anitha, was the chief guest. Smt. Razia CDPO Balussery, Mrs. Eswari CDPO Thodannoor, Smt. Rajeshwari CDPO Melady, and others facilitated the gathering. ICDS Supervisor Smt. Sabitha proposed the vote of thanks.

Classes on the importance of the Jagrata Samiti, gender violence, and the structure and formation of the Jagrata Samiti were taken by the Chief Facilitator of the Jagrata Samiti, Thiruvananthapuram, Smt. Geetha. In the afternoon, future programs were planned, a mock presentation on Jagrata Samitis was conducted, and the workshop was evaluated. There were 56 participants.

2) A one-day workshop for ICDS Supervisors of Kozhikode District was conducted on February 24, 2024, at Calicut Tower, Kozhikode. Anweshi Secretary P. Sreeja welcomed the gathering. Urban-4 CDPO Smt. Prasannakumari B. presided over the function. Anweshi President K. Ajitha inaugurated the program. Smt. Rashmi Raman, CDPO Urban-1, facilitated the gathering. C.S. Elizabeth proposed the vote of thanks.

Classes on the importance of the Jagrata Samiti, gender violence, and the structure and formation of the Jagrata Samiti were taken by the Chief Facilitator of the Jagrata Samiti, Thiruvananthapuram, Smt. Geetha. In the afternoon, future programs were planned, a mock presentation on Jagrata Samitis was conducted, and the workshop was evaluated. There were 53 participants.

3) In association with International Women's Day on March 8, 2024, a mega medical camp was conducted at S.K. Potakkad Hall in Puthiyara with the cooperation of Aster MIMS and MIMS volunteers. Doctors from the departments of general medicine, gynecology, ophthalmology, and oncology examined the patients. Laboratory tests such as creatinine, cholesterol, CBC, blood pressure, sugar, and average blood sugar were also conducted free of charge. Free medicines were provided as well. A total of 141 people attended the camp.







### Women & Children's Home

From June 2014, the government transferred the management of the Women and Children's Home to Anweshi, under the Kerala State Women and Child Development Department, for the protection of sexually abused girls under age of 18. The Women's and Children's Home now serves as the entry home. Newly arrived children are sent to homes in other districts based on their mental condition. There are currently 16 children in the home.

### Phoenix 2023

On August 12, 2023, a mega show titled *Phoenix 2023* was held at Gujarati School, Kozhikode Beach, to raise funds for Anweshi. Rima Kallingal, the celebrated film star and her team presented *Nritya Samanvayam*, while transgender artist Sanjana and her team performed *Ival Agninetri*. Vinod Kovoor and Surabhi Lakshmi's team delivered a comedy show. Singers such as Pushpavathi, Nimisha Saleem, Sayanora, and Nishad led a musical program afterwards. Overall, it was a good success.









## Internship

As many as 23 students from colleges such as Bharat Mata School of Legal Studies, St. Joseph's College of Law, Bangalore, MCT College of Legal Studies, Melmuri, Malappuram, Sree Narayana Law College, Perambra, CSI College for Legal Studies, Kottayam, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kollam, Women's Studies Department of Calicut University, AWH Special College, Kallayi, Lissah College, Engappuzha, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur, and Gurudev Arts & Science College, Payyannur, have been selected for internships.

# **Orientation Visit**

College and school students in Kerala, whose optional subject is social work, visit Anweshi along with their department heads to understand the work of the organization. After spending a day observing and learning about the activities of the staff, the students share their experiences with the children and interact with them in ways that encourage social engagement. This year, students from Mavoor Higher Secondary School, MSW students from Kalady Sree Sankaracharya College and Don Bosco College have come to Anweshi for an orientation visit.

# Women's Library and Reading Room

The library membership is open to women and girls only. The library is affiliated with the State Library Council and has been awarded a 'B grade'. It receives grants from the Library Council and currently holds 12,383 books. The collection includes more than 22 periodicals, including 6 daily newspapers. The library has 328 members.

A seminar on women's empowerment, the Environment Day, Reading Day, Vayanapakshacharanam, Library Day celebrations, a history festival, a library protection meeting, and an anti-drug program have been organized at the library. Dance classes are also held there.

# Anweshi Youtube Channel

A YouTube channel was launched in April 2023 to digitally publicize Anweshi's work. Efforts have been made to share the history and activities of Anweshi with the public. More than 15 episodes have already been released on YouTube. Link:<u>http://youtube.com@anweshi8403</u>.

# Magazine

Anweshi has been publishing a women-oriented magazine named *Sanghaditha* since December 2010. The response to this magazine has been very positive, and it is very useful for students and researchers. Due to the spread of COVID-19, *Sanghaditha* was made available online starting in 2020. The April issue was released in August. The online edition was inaugurated by Urvashi Butalia on October 2. The magazine is now published online every month.

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