



# VANI NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – 2023

### “THE WOMEN POWER” SPECIAL ISSUE



# GANDHIGRAM TRUST, TAMIL NADU

Gandhigram is a nonprofit organization based in Tamil Nadu, India, working towards empowering rural communities by providing access to affordable essential services in health, education and social welfare.

Gandhigram Trust organised Women's Day Celebrations.

The Celebration started with prayer and flag hoisting. The extension department celebrated Pillaiyarnatham and Kalikkampatti. Ms.Ramuthai shared her experiences in making rural women empower.



LSS conducted many competitions like singing, eloquent competition and other sports events and prizes were distributed to the winners. Smt.Revathi and Dr.Shibu spoke on the occasion. In the afternoon the day was celebrated along with Rotary Club, Dindigul. Dr.G.Pankajam presided over the function and Rotary club distributed 4500 napkins to the students of Teachers college, Sevikashram, Thambithottam and other institutions.



Dr. G. Pankajam, said that Gandhigram Trust is following AMMA's vision in empowering rural women and continued to support them.

The Rotarians Sri.B.Murugesan and others appreciated the efforts taken by Gandhigram Trust for women empowerment. Dr.Anitha Ramanathan, dealt in detail about women's health and guided them to take care of them.

Rotarian G.Rajkumar and Rotarian Jennifer Aravind felicitated.Ms.Jayaprabha proposed vote of thanks.

# **KARWAR RURAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (KRWCDs), KARNATAKA**

Karwar Rural Women and Children Development Society (KRWCDs) is a not-for-profit organisation working with rural communities in Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka.

KRWCDs Celebrated International women's day on 8th of March 2023 to highlight the importance of women to family, society and world at large. Celebration was held at Daivadnya Hall Karwar from 3.30 p.m to 6.30 p.m. with the support of Registered Women's Trust



called CCF KRWCDs SHG's Trust. 362 Women from 33 villages participated. The program started with a prayer song by Vajantriwada Self Help Groups members. Mrs. Shobha Mahale (Secretary – Women's Trust) delivered a Welcome speech and the chief guest were invited to the stage by flowers. Then the registered Trust annual report was red out by Miss. Swati Govekar (Accountant CCF KRWCDs SHG's Trust). The Resource persons for the program were, Smt. Vidya D Naik (Principal Govt.



Arts and Science College Karwar) she spoke about on Women's achievement and Women challenges, than the second resource person is Smt. Sudha Naik (Assistant Sub Inspector – Town Police Station Karwar) she spoke on the social evils committed against the Women and mechanism to resolve them. The third resource person was Smt. Kavita Naik (Advocate Karwar and Member of Child Welfare Committee Sirsi). She spoke on legal awareness and legal role and responsibilities of Women.



It was followed up by experience sharing of Women from Self Help Groups (SHG's) on the input and output, objectives and outcome and overall impact of SHG's in their respective areas. New A graded SHG's were honored with Certificates by the External Resource Persons. Then the cultural programmes and games were performed by the SHG members. The program ended with vote of thanks by Miss Priya Aversekar (SHG coordinator).

**REACHING THE UNREACHED, TAMIL NADU**

**“This day Belongs to you. May you Prosper and Stand firm in the Course of Life”**

On behalf of RTU Management “International Women’s Day was celebrated on 08.03.2023 in one of our Children’s Villages. The four Villages Anbu Illam, Sirumalar, Nirmala and Miriam Children’s Village mothers were called for the programme to celebrate the Women’s Day. The Chief guests Mrs. Vanajaa, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee – Theni District, and Rev. Fr. Arockia Raj – Education Coordinator – RTU (Schools) were honoured by our Child Care Co – Ordinator Mrs. Sheeba and the celebration started by cutting the cake.



Rev. Fr. Arockia Raj – The Co – Ordinator of Education department felicitated and addressed the mothers group by short stories. The Chief Guest addressed the mothers group by the topic “Dependable and Independable “with inspiring message to be women of courage compassion and care at the same time not forgetting to be a self-reliant and an independent woman. On behalf of our RTU management all the women staff of child care department were complimented with the silver basin as the token of love.

Three different games were conducted for the mothers. Mothers were divided into five different groups. Water Balloon games, tying thread on their leg finger and trying to eat murukku and fancy dress competition with the newspaper were conducted. All the mothers participated in the event happily and ramp walk was organised for the mothers which attracted a lot of attention among the group.



**समग्र सृष्टि समाज सेवी संस्था ग्राम दककोटोला**



समग्र सृष्टि समाज सेवी संस्था ग्राम दककोटोला के तत्वाधान में ग्राम दुररेटोला जिला मोहला मानपुर अम्बागढ़ चौकी में अंतराष्ट्रीय महिला अधिकार दिवस सप्ताह मनाया गया। जिसमें अंचल के मितानिन, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता, महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह, तथा ग्राम पंचायत सरपंच, सचिव के प्रमुख उपस्थिति में सम्पन्न हुआ है। जिसमें स्तनपान गर्भवती माता, शौचालय तथा शासकीय योजनान्तर्गत आयुष्मान भारत, मनरेगा एवम अन्य योजना विषयक जानकारी प्रदान किया गया।

## **RANGOONWALA FOUNDATION ( INDIA)**

Rangoonwala Foundation ( India) Trust's mission is to enable marginalized communities to become more vibrant and dynamic by engaging them in socio-economic development initiatives directed at building capacities, thereby helping people help themselves.

The seven Rangoonwala Community Centres(RCCs) in the midst of Mumbai's slums are physical spaces that resource poor women and children can call their own . Women and children come to these happening and happy 'spaces' to focus on their capacity building and health needs.

**WOMEN'S DAY IS CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR WITH RCC- PRATIBIMB.**

**Rangoonwala Foundation believes in nurturing a strong cadre of volunteers for community ownership and sustainability.**





Two women from each of the eight areas we work in were awarded 'Mahila Puraskars'. On March 15, 2023; the RCC Children welcomed the gathering at RCC Pratibimb with their dance and our Aashayein Senior citizen 'aunties' energized the 1000+ audience with their performance.



## NEWS IN BRIEF



**BNSK organised a Discussion meeting with returnees women migrant workers and Performed a " quras song with 120 Women.**



**SMILE GROUP – Many thanks to 'you' for bringing changes into the lives!**



Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra celebrated International Womens's Day. They gifted bicycles to 20 young girls and honoured them.



Cross disability Accessibility and Inclusion Facilitator, Chennai celebrated International Day with, Women with disabilities group in Tamilnadu at Vidya Sagar Chennai, by incorporating fashion, design and accessibility into the lifestyle and livelihood of women with disabilities.

Azad Foundation organised a virtual event 'Empowering Women and Girls through Technology – Based Skills Education and Livelihood.



Celebrate International Women's Day by Honouring Bright Changemakers in the World. The Working Group of Gender Equality and Disability of Civil20, one of the Engagement Groups of the G20, invited all to participate in the worldwide campaign to commemorate women's empowerment and promote gender equality.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN PRESS



## THE UPCOMING WOMAN LEADER OF CIVIL SOCIETY



HEMAL KAMAT

DIRECTOR & SECRETARY, CONCEPT SOCIETY & SHADES'N'ADHYA  
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Mrs. Hemal Kamat, born on 5th June 1973. She has completed her M.A (Social Work) from DAVV, Indore in 1995, Diploma in Human Resource Development from AIIMS, Madras (1996) AND Advance Diploma in Computer Application from AISECT, Indore (2001). She is trained Yoga Ratna from Patanjali Yog vidhyapith, Indore (2001).

Since childhood she used to serve her services for the society. During Post graduation in social work she did her Dissertation in District Jail Indore. She visited jail for one month to know actual reason of women crime. It was her genuine dedication towards women. After post-graduation from Social work she got selected in Total Literacy Campaign, Jhabua as Asst. Director.

Since childhood Hemal Kamat loves to work for grass root level and for women. She has served in development sector for more than 20 years dedicatedly and known as genuine, grass root level worker who started from zero and now running and organization. She is founder member of CONCEPT Society, which is established in September 2005. She started working with many agencies, funding organization and made her image as crystal clear catalyst of society. She is role model of many women and youth.

Hemal Kamat dedicatedly worked for society from the last 23 yrs. She left central government job because she wanted to work genuinely for the society. In recognition of her work she was awarded Women Achiever Award for Excellence in Women Empowerment; 'Achiever for Empowerment of Women and children; Mahila Gaurav Samman; Inspire Award; Nari Shakti Puraskar. Further she also received Dhansu Womaniya Award; Iron Lady Award; and Best Change Maker Award.

Recently VANI organised a Women Leadership Meet. This meeting was to discuss strengthening of women leadership on the topic, 'Empowered Women of the Civil Society'. The Speaker was, Ms. Hemal Kamat. The presentation of Ms. Hemal Kamat covered: components of women's empowerment which consisted of women's sense of self-worth, determine choices, access to opportunities and resources, power to control their own lives, ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order. She also discussed the interventions required for the empowerment of women like gender analysis, equal leadership, right awareness, reducing drudgery, functional adult literacy, health services, financial services, halting child marriages, prosecuting gender based violence. The discussion emphasised the role civil society should play in facilitating the interventions for the empowerment of women.

# REMEMBERING THE EMPOWERED WOMEN OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY WE HAVE LOST

**KAMLA BHASIN**  
1946 – 2021



Smt. Kamla Bhasin, worked with underprivileged women from tribal and working communities, often using posters, plays and other non-literary methods to get through to communities with low literacy rates. She had always maintained that in order to usher effective change, sloganeering must be accompanied by community mobilization. She was an Indian developmental feminist activist, poet, author and social scientist. Bhasin's work, focused on gender, education, human development and the media.

Bhasin rejected the notion that feminism is a western concept. She stressed that Indian feminism has its roots in its own struggles and tribulations. She said that she didn't become a feminist by reading other feminists, she became one as a part of a larger natural evolution from merely a development worker, to a feminist development worker. She said that it is the story of many others.

**MARTHA FARRELL**  
1959 – 2015



Dr. Martha Farrell was a passionate civil society leader, renowned and respected in India and around the world for her work on women's rights, gender equality and adult education.

As Director of PRIA's program on Gender Mainstreaming in Institutions, she trained thousands of grassroots women leaders and professionals from different walks of life on issues related to citizen engagement in local governance, gender mainstreaming and sexual harassment.

Finally, she led PRIA's work on distance education, founding and developing PRIA International Academy, the academic wing of the organization.

She was among 14 people killed in a terrorist attack on a guest house in Kabul, Afghanistan on 13 May 2015. She had been leading a gender training workshop with the Aga Khan Foundation in Kabul at the time of the attack.



**RENUKA**  
**1965 - 2008**



Smt. Renuka, Renuka worked in the Social sector and left an indelible mark. She was CEO of Pardada Pardadi Educational Society. She was an alumni of Jamia Millia Islamia. Her area of work concentrated in rural development, health, SHGs, Livelihood initiatives and also in school sanitation programme, eliminate child labour etc. Renuka has won various national and international awards. She has many publications to her credit.

We lost her Due to COVID -19 on 18th May 2021.

**ELA RAMESH BHATT**  
**1933 –2022**



Ela Ramesh Bhatt was an Indian cooperative organiser, activist and Gandhian, who founded the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) in 1972, and served as its general secretary from 1972 to 1996. She was the chancellor of the Gujarat Vidyapith from 7 March 2015 to 19 October 2022. A lawyer by training, Bhatt was a part of the international labour, cooperative, women, and micro-finance movements and won several national and international awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1977), Right Livelihood Award (1984) for "helping home-based producers to organise for their welfare and self-respect" and the Padma Bhushan (1986).

She was a visionary for the informal sector and dedicated her entire life to give the voice, visibility and validation to the work of the informal sector workers. Simplicity was her virtue and her soft and living nature still remains with us. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

## **VANI TEAM**

- 1. Harsh Jaitli Chef Executive officer**
- 2. Shabeen Ara Consultant**
- 3. Ravi Ranjan Rawat**
- 4. Pallavi Rekhi**
- 5. Neha Shrivastava**
- 6. Aakansha**
- 7. Krishna Gouswami**
- 8. Dhiraj Kumar Tiwari- Incharge Admin & Facilities**



## **About Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)**

VANI is a national network of Indian Voluntary Development Organisations (VDOs). Currently VANI has 648 members with an outreach to around 10,000 VDOs across India. The membership of VANI ranges from grass roots to the national organizations. The members work on a range of priority development issues of the government including education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, livelihood, skill development, environment, natural resource management, climate change, water and sanitation, emergency response and preparedness, agriculture, poverty and so on, in some of the most remote areas of the country. In the year 2017-18 our network collectively reached out to over 32 million people belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, disabled people, women, elderly, farmers, dalit, tribals, disaster survivors, unemployed, youth, LGBT, sex workers etc. VANI through its efforts and strategies aims to build a strong civil society sector not only at national but regional and local level as well.

VANI was set up with the mission to promote voluntarism, create space for the sector by fostering value based voluntary action. VANI's interventions are focused to strengthen the external and internal enabling environment. To ensure the external enabling environment, VANI conducts evidence-based advocacy which includes regulatory frameworks and resource generation. In order to achieve this VANI works with the government, private sector, bilateral, multilaterals and other stakeholders. For strengthening the internal enabling environment, VANI works towards building resilience and promoting accountability, transparency and compliance through the interactive educational events and information dissemination. VANI strives to become a resource centre by conducting evidence-based research; publishing studies, articles and reports not only at state level but national and global level as well.



### **Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)**

(An Apex Body of Voluntary Organisations)

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#### **OUR SOCIAL MEDIA**

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