
Note from the coordinator

Looking from a feminist and Human rights perspective, 2003 showed darker sides of the so-called civilized Kerala society. Already in 2002, we were experiencing lack of any gender sensitivity in governance institutions as political appointments undermined the women's commission and the decentralization programme was slowly being neglected. Atrocities against women continue to rise. Kerala witnessed one of the worst communal violence in Marad; rights of indigenous communities were being trampled upon in Muthanga. Environmental issues were shown least consideration.

Yet, 2003 was significant in several ways for us in Sakhi. We shifted the office to a more convenient building in February. We were able to finish several programmes started in 2002 and start new programmes. Sakhi team grew together in its vision and perspectives. We have also networked with many organizations in Kerala and nationally. We could complete several publications and reports.

We have several unfinished tasks and challenges ahead of us. Lack of resources limit expansion of activities. But we forge ahead with the hope that if we are doing meaningful work, help will come our way.

We are grateful to all our friends and supporters who stood by us and supported us in all our efforts. This report is a tribute to all of them- our supporters, network and partner organizations, friends and all the participants in our various programmes.

Aleyamma Vijayan

About Sakhi

Sakhi is a resource centre for women. We share a common vision and profess ideals of equality, equity and peace.

We have been trying to make meaningful interventions in society, both as a facilitating and supportive organisation for women and women's groups in the state. On the basis of our experience of working many years among marginalized communities before setting up Sakhi, we have understood the linkages between gender, class and caste issues and the need to work to end all discriminations and exploitations prevailing in the society.

Our journey as a resource centre for women completed its seventh year in 2003. We are located at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Since 1999, when Sakhi was registered as a trust, we have been widening our activities to mainstream gender in various strata of society. Gender based oppression along with other oppressions and discriminations, is a major reason for the secondary status of women. We realize

that a change in the society can be achieved only by empowering women with the power of information. By strengthening ourselves with access to knowledge and by building up a scientific and sustained movement, we can create a more humane world.

Our aim is to act as a 'bridge' between women's groups and the debates around gender and feminist issues, which takes place at the national and international levels. The aim is to build capacities of micro-level women's groups with information, trainings, studies, accessibility to macro level processes, and the society and institutions of governance. The focus is on livelihood issues; gender and governance issues; reproductive and sexual rights of women and young people; capacity building; violence intervention and all matters related to gender and development.

The team of Sakhi consists of activists and professionals from different areas of discipline and is supported by a board of trustees and a distinguished team of advisors.

Empowering women's groups/ networking

Sakhi facilitates and helps strengthen women's mobilization at the local and regional level. It works with a large number of local groups that are engaged in income generation and micro-credit programmes and with elected members of local self-government institutions to reorient their perspectives on gender as well as to bring about feminist styles of leadership and functioning. This process also leads to networking and strengthening the groups.

In Kerala, the space for an autonomous movement of women is very limited. Yet, it is a crucial need. The networking of women's groups is a very difficult process to sustain. Women who belong to local organizations have to deal with poverty, unemployment and now increasing violence at home and in the workplace-whether it be in the formal and informal sectors. There is very little energy left to take up larger issues nor to travel and meet other groups. The movement of microcredit, attractions of direct marketing and consumerism are making women, prisoners of certain types of values and attitudes. Hence the work of strengthening the network is meeting with obstacles and difficulties. And very few women are emerging as leaders with a feminist con-

sciousness.

In spite of all these problems, we interact with a number of groups through our newsletters, training programmes and advocacy around issues of common interest. Several issues of violence against women- rape, domestic violence, and child sexual abuse- are brought to the attention of the women leaders and they take appropriate action.

This year our networking efforts were further extended to the national level when we become partners with North East Network and 6 other feminist organizations from different parts of India for an ODS & exchange programme whereby one representative from each organization visited Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka to understand violence intervention efforts by different groups. This has led to professional development of staff and more effective ways of working on issues of violence. We are also part of a national network involved in the fortnight campaign (November 25th to December 10th) on violence against women. Sakhi joined with three other resource centers -Akshara in Mumbai, Jagori in Delhi and Aalochana in Pune to organise and run an online course on feminism and women's movement called StreeNet.

Report - Jan. '03 - '04

Means of Information dissemination

One of the primary mandates of Sakhi is dissemination of information. This is possible through the library and documentation centre, various training programmes, newsletters, books, posters, articles prepared for other journals and other materials distributed in various programmes.

Library and Documentation

Over the last eight years of work, we have been able to build up a good library with around 4000 books on gender and related issues and a documen-

tation center with number of journals, reports, research papers, newspaper clippings, posters and video films. The books are categorized using Akshara classification, a feminist classification developed by Akshara, a feminist organization in Mumbai.

Akshara classification system

Class	Subject
A	Ecology
C	Communications and Media
D	Development & Economy
E	Education
H	Health
I	Ideology & Social Movements
J	Judiciary & Law
K	Culture and Language
L	Labour
P	Politics & Government
R	Religion
S	Society
V	Violence & Crime
X	Sexuality
Z	Other Social Sciences

From 2003 January to 2004 March, 583 books were accessed in the library, of which 303 books were purchased and the remaining are complimentary copies. Apart from the books we are collecting relevant articles from the journals and clippings from Newspapers daily and these are filed using the same classification system. We have a good collection of video cassettes and CDs on women's issues, environmental issues and other social issues. We are subscribing to more than 35 journals including Economic and Political weekly, Down to

Earth, Communalism Combat, women's Link, Indian Journal of Gender Studies, Madhyamam, Keraleeyam etc. Total 558 journals were received in the reporting period. We have compiled the back issue of journals like, Manushi (1979-2002); Down to Earth ('92-'03); Health Action ('96-03); Human Scape ('96-'97); Indian Journal of Gender Studies ('97-'02); Women's Link ('97-'03); Integral Liberation ('97-'03); Indian Journal of Social Work (1997) and Communalism Combat (2003).

Our library is widely used by women and men from various walks of life like social activists, researchers, journalists, and students. In the reporting period, 31 persons became new regular members in the library and 9 persons took three months reading membership. Now there is a total of 171 members in the library. Besides the members, 70 persons visited the library for reading and reference.

Rema Devi is in charge of the library and documentation.

Newsletter

We use newsletter as a means to inform the local groups on recent theoretical and organizational aspects around gender and development. The newsletter also provides a platform for women writers. Three issues of the newsletter had been published in 2003 and one special issue in March 2004.

The first one was a special issue related to the Women's Day on March 8th. This issue, named 'Towards tomorrow', contains biographies of more than 30 Pioneering women in Kerala, K.Devayani's article on 'Early women's

movements in Alapuzhza' (which was published earlier in CDS' seminar report), K.Saraswathi Amma's 'Life in my perspective' (taken from her collection of articles published in 1958), feminist organisations in Kerala etc.

The second issue published in July, which contained articles on 'Drinking water: a basic right or commodity to sell', dowry, analytical review of 'Agni', a film based on Sithara.S' short story, communal issue of Marad, Muthanga Adivasi issue, importance of WTO's Cancun Conference etc.

The third issue was on October. The main article of the issue was a discussion whether the Uniform civil code is necessary. 'Information Technology and Kerala women', 'Some thoughts on masculinity', 'Feminist Politics', 'World Social Forum', 'Kerala Women's Commission's recommendations on Dowry', 'Women's organisations/ movements in India' were other articles in the issue.

The special issue in 2004, 'Feminist perspective of Development' was related to March 8th, the Women's Day. The issue consists articles on 'women's day', 'women's labour and economics', 'globalization and marginalisation of women's labour', 'political future of women panchayat members', 'mental

We have published a handbook on **Violence Against Women** in 2003 May in the local language. The first three chapters of the book contain basic information on violence against women. Then the consecutive four chapters analysing domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment at workplace, rape and sex trade. Another chapter explains

Report - Jan. '03 - '04

health and women in Kerala', environment and women's health', 'food security', 'some feminist thoughts', 'adolescent girls', 'sexuality', 'masculinity', 'women in media' and 'women and law'.

We get regular feedbacks from our readers, which are real inspiration for us.

"We have so many women in social work, politics, governance, trade union, literature, science and technology and in many other fields also. Acknowledging their activities will be a motivation and guidelines for the younger generation". (Response from a reader)

Rejitha.G is the publication assistant.

Publications

the legal matters regarding violence against women. The last chapter discusses the history of campaigns and actions of women's movements both in India and in Kerala and the role of Panchayats in women's issues.

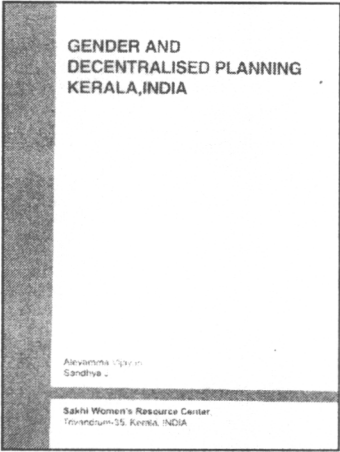
In connection with the Fortnight Campaign on Violence Against Women we



organisations in the state, Kerala Streevedi.

have published three posters and one sticker. These posters and stickers were widely used in the state during the campaign through the network of women's

The report of the action research programme on **Gender, Citizenship and Governance** is completed and published. The manual on "Life skill education for adolescents" is ready and is in the press. We are also working on a booklet for boys.



Papers prepared

The following four papers were prepared and presented by our staff in various places this year.

- (1) "Women and Fishery Sector" in the workshop on Globalisation and Food Security conducted by APWLD in the Asian Social Forum 2003, in Hyderabad.
- (2) "Women's Advocacy in Building Communities of Resistance" in the

national conference of joint women's movement of CSI and CNI Churches at Thiruvalla.

- (3). "Women and Disability" at Cheshire Home, Thiruvananthapuram
- (4). "Gender and Biodiversity" at M.S.Swaminathan Foundation, Wayanad.

Capacity building programmes

Sakhi use training programmes as tools for information dissemination and capacity building. Since gender mainstreaming is our major goal we conduct training programmes to those who are working with women at various levels in the society. We also conduct training of trainers in collaboration with other organisations on their request.

Gender, Health and Development Course

This course has been developed in response to the need among development workers, social science researchers in health and those working on health issues within the non-government and the government sector for a training programme that goes beyond introducing basic gender concepts, to applying these in the context of research and policies. It is therefore, principally aimed at activists, managers, and policy and programme implementers within the health sector and NGO's. It is a 2-week

residential programme conducted in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The course consists of 4 modules:

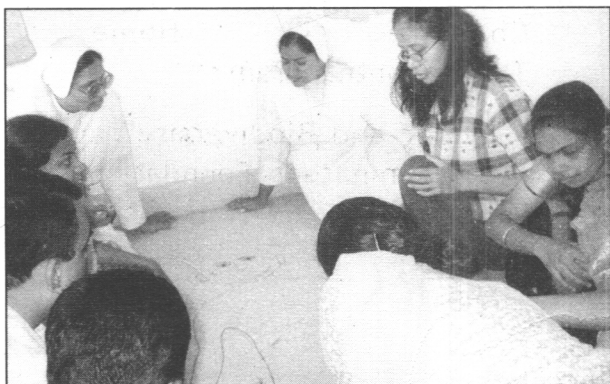
Module 1 - Introduction to concepts of gender, sexuality and patriarchy in the context of health, human rights and development.

Module 2 - Social and gender issues in health

Module 3 - Applying concepts and tools to critique information, research, policies and programmes

Module 4 - Mobilization and Advocating for change

This was the third consecutive year since we started the course. This year the course was from September 17th to Oct 1st, 2003. The curriculum for the course has been designed jointly by a group of feminist researchers and activ-



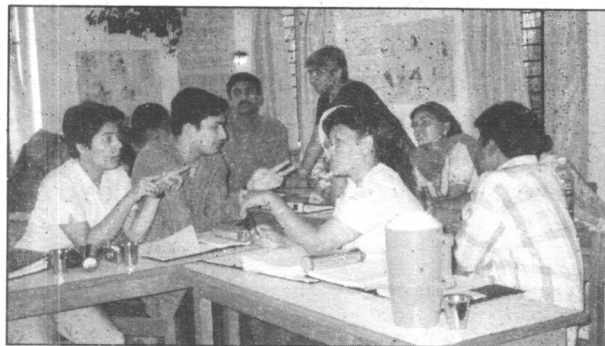
ists under the coordination of Dr. Sundari Ravindran, Technical officer, dept. of Gender and Women's health, World Health organisation.

The following persons were the core faculty of the course in 2003: Dr.Amar Jesani, CEHAT, Mumbai; Padmini Swaminathan, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai; Renu Khanna, SAHAJ & WOHRAC, Baroda; Adv.D.J.Ravindran, Human Rights Activist; Prof. U.Vindhya, Dept. of Psychology, University of Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapattanam; Dr.Mala Ramanathan, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Sci-

" After many formal and informal sharings we had in these 15 days we realised a very important thing that no matter from which region we are coming from, we are facing the same problems and issues" (a participant from Manipur)

Training of trainers on gender

Today the concept of development is all the more related to the requisite of equality between women and men at all levels in the society. Many agencies consider gender as key element



ence Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; Nalini Nayak, Protsahan, Thiruvananthapuram; Manisha Gupta, Masum, Pune; Usha, Thanal, Thiruvananthapuram; Aleyamma Vijayan, Sakhi, Thiruvananthapuram.

In 2003 we had 21 participants from various states like Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andra Pradesh, North East, Maharashtra, Gujarat, New Delhi and Kerala. The detailed process report of the course is available at Sakhi.

Mini Rajkumar coordinated the course and Beena Anil assisted her.

in the process of development and training as a tool in implementing gender-just development.

Sakhi's primary role continue to be

that of a facilitating and supporting organization to the women's movement in the state and engage in political discourses about gender issues. One of the first programmes in 2003 was enhancing the capacity of senior level gender trainers.



We had Abha Bhaiya and Kalyani Menon from Jagori, Delhi as trainers in a 5-day programme held at Trivandrum

in January. Twenty-six women and two men from various organisations participated in the programme. They were all experienced gender trainers either at the state level or at the micro level, working with self-help groups, who wanted to update their knowledge and skills. Moreover, the participatory process of training helped to fulfill the objective of developing a core group of gender trainers in Kerala. Aleyamma Vijayan coordinated this training.

“Participatory experiential method used in the training helped me to overcome the inhibitions in disclosing even the very personal experiences and to think in a more positive way” (response of a participant during evaluation session)

Leadership Trainings

In the beginning of 2004 we organised two gender and leadership trainings for the leaders of SHG groups in the state. The programme was held in February and March, at SEWA Rural Centre, Vilappilsala, Thiruvananthapuram and there were altogether 64 participants from eight districts of Kerala. A critical understanding of Development, besides gender analysis and leadership skills were the core areas of the



training. Women & health and legal awareness were also dealt with.

We have also been offering our services as resource persons in training programmes conducted by Institute of Management in Government, CapDeck and several NGOs and women's organisations in the state. Some of the specific programmes are the following:

- * talk on Sexual harassment at workplace and the Supreme Court guidelines at Sanskrit university, Kalady in January 2003.
- * talk on "women's advocacy in building communities of resistance" at National Conference of joint women's movement of CSI and CNI churches in February.
- * talk show "Penmalayalam" (Kairali TV) on the women's reservation issue in May
- * talk at National advisors of All India catholic university federation (AICUF) in May
- * Participated in the concluding function of training "Film and Female" in May
- * Faculty at Institute of Management in Government (IMG) in June.
- * talk on 'Women's empowerment: process and outcomes' at NIDS, Neyattinkara in August
- * talk on 'Women and Disability' at Cheshire home in October
- * debate on PNDT Act in Doordarshan, Thiruvananthapuram.
- * talk on Gender and Biodiversity at MS Swaminathan foundation, Wayanad in November.
- * talk on 'Supreme Court verdict regarding arrest of women' at Vakkom Moulavi Foundation in January 2004.

Workshop on Body Politics



The issue of sexuality and sexual rights is an area where a lot of confusion still prevails, especially among women activists. Sakhi had initiated discussions on this topic earlier and realized the need to gain further conceptual clarity on such issues in order to be effective and sensitive in our work. It is

with this idea that we organized the workshop on body politics.

The workshop was held from August 6th to 8th at Animation centre, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram. Kalpana Viswanath from Jagori, Delhi and Nivedita Menon, a feminist activist and

lecturer from Delhi University were the resource persons. 24 activists from various parts of Kerala participated in the programme.

The programme helped the participants to get into more recent theoretical understanding of issues involved.

Workshop on Masculinity

This programme was an effort to explore the construction of masculinity in the context of present day Kerala society and to reconstruct it. It was in continuation with the previous efforts in this line. According to the feedback from the programmes conducted last year in Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam, we realized the need for more clarity on the construction of masculinity in the context of Kerala as essential.

This year the workshop was organized by 'CenSE', Trissur with the support of Sakhi. The programme held on 11th and 12th, August at Peechi and 30 students participated in it. Dr.A.K

Ramakrishnan, Dept. of International Relations, M.G.University, Kottayam, Dr.T.Muraleedharan Dept of English, St.Alosious College, K.C.Santhosh Kumar, CenSE, Thrissur, Dr.C.S.Venkitewaran and Dr. Ratheesh were the resource persons. Papers on the 'construction of masculinity in Malayalam cinema and literature' were presented. The participants enriched the discussions by sharing their experiences of growing up as boys in Kerala society. The two days workshop ended with the conclusion that the socio-cultural factors are the most important elements that are affecting masculinity.

Pattu Kalari (Songs Workshop)

The medium of songs can act as a chord between groups and strengthen their spirit of solidarity. Many a time, when we conduct programmes, we feel absence of feminist songs, which women can simply sing at any time. So we gathered a team of women who have the capacity to write lyrics, compose and sing songs. There were 31 participants for the programme. It was a versatile group from various places like Attappadi, Alappuzha, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram and Sumathi, a human right activist from Bangalore, who is a musician also, composed all the songs.



The programme was conducted from August 9th to 13th. This five-day workshop composed 10 different songs. Among them, except four songs (an independent translation of a Hindi song by 'Jagori'-a women's organisation based in Delhi, two tribal songs from Attappadi and one folk song) the remaining songs were composed in the workshop itself. And all the ten songs were recorded digitally. We are planning to release the audiocassettes of the songs in the near future.

Daya.J and C.V Sudhi coordinated the programme.

Sharing of Monica Erwer's Study

We organised a sharing session of Monica Erwer's study 'Challenging the Gender Paradox- Women's Collective Agency in the Transformation of Kerala

Politics'.

Around 20 people participated in the programme, which conducted in January 2004.

'Kerala's development: a Feminist Perspective' - Seminar

Decentralisation and People's Plan resulted in giving greater visibility to women in the development process of the state. As we have been associ-

Thiruvananthapuram. The title of the seminar was 'Kerala's Development: A Feminist Perspective.



ated with elected women and self help groups for the last four years, we felt the need for a deeper reflection on understanding Kerala's ongoing development from a feminist angle. Therefore we organised a three-day seminar in March 2004 at Science and Technology Museum hall,

The keynote address of the seminar was delivered by Dr.Gita Sen, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and Ms. Sarada Muraleedharan, I.A.S. chaired the session. In the second session, Dr.Mridul Eapen and Dr.Praveena Kodoth jointly presented a paper on 'Engaging in conventional and non-conventional indicators of women's well being'. Dr.Saradamony chaired the session and Vanitha Nayak Mukherjee and Dr.Sheeba.K.M were the discussants. Two papers were presented in the third session, one is on 'women in the informal sector' by Nalini Nayak and Sonia George and the other is on 'Vulnerability of Cashew Sector: A case study' by Dr.Anna

Report - Jan. '03 - '04

Lindburg. Dr.Manu Bhaskar chaired the session.

Dr.M.K Prasad presented a paper on 'The Eroding Resource Base of Kerala' in the first session on the second day of the seminar. T.Radhamony chaired the session and Usha.S was the discussant. Another paper presented in the session was 'Food Security and Livelihoods in the Context of Globalisation' by T.P.Kunhikannan. Mr. Rony and Dr. Geethakutty were the discussants for the paper. In session 2, there were two papers. One is by Dr. Sundari Ravindran on 'Health and Equity in the context of Kerala-A Critical Analysis' and another

one is by Dr. Michel Tharakan on 'Is Education Empowering Women'. Dr.Joy Elamon chaired the session. Then there was a panel discussion on 'Images of Women in Media' Ammu Joseph, Freelance Journalist, Bangalore chaired the panel and Parvathi Devi, (Kairali T.V) and C.S.Chandrika (Writer) were the speakers.

On the third day there was a discussion on 'Fundamentalism'. Ms. Sugathakumari was the main speaker and K.Ajitha was the moderator. Nalini Nayak concluded the three-day seminar by summing up the main points emerged in the sessions.

Gender and governance programme

The 73rd, 74th amendments of the constitution and the People's Planning Campaign in Kerala brought the women in to the forefront of the political scenario of the state. The Constitutional amendments proclaim one-third reservation of women in local bodies. More than this, the People's plan campaign made it mandatory to set aside 10% of the total plan fund for women. Sakhi was involved right from the beginning of the campaign to make use of the favorable atmosphere prevailing in Kerala to mainstream gender in the process of local level development. From 2000 -2002, Sakhi was involved in an action research programme on Gender, Citizenship and Governance in two Panchayats of Thiruvananthapuram by involving in all the process of local level planning from a gender perspective (The report of this study is published and is available at Sakhi.). But our involvement and interest in local level planning from a gender perspective continued and we made use of every opportunity to interact with the planning process at the local level.

Sakhi is partner in a programme named "Associating Elected Women Representatives" This is an initiative in four Southern states of India by the Singamma

Srinivas Foundation (SSF), Bangalore. We started networking the elected women representatives (EWRs) of Thiruvananthapuram district from March 2000. The project is still continuing. This year the programme extended to Kollam district too.

Daya.J with the assistance of Mercy



Alexander coordinate this programme.

The highly politicized nature and the masculine political atmosphere of the state, limits women's participation to minimal and earn them only a secondary status in governance. Though the state has accorded 33% women's reservation in the local self-governments, there seems to be no gender perspective in governance. From the very beginning itself, our attempt in the pro-

cess of networking the EWRs was for capacity building and developing new perspectives and vision. Political compulsions of the EWRs often conflicted with our basic adherence to the women's rights. It is not easy to steer clear of partisan politics and keep one's focus on developing a right perspective on development and gender. With the various restrictions on the mobility of women in Kerala and their economic dependency we were happy and proud to have good turnouts in our block and sub block level meetings and workshops.

The Inter agency meeting to plan the 2nd phase of work was held in Bangalore in April 2003. After a big gap of 10 months we started the activities with the advisory committee meeting at Thiruvananthapuram. The meeting unanimously proposed to design activities to change the role of Self Help Groups from 'financial agencies' to basic units of local development. Another

"It is the poor who will have to bear the ill effects of bad governance, of corruption and favouritism. The interests of the poor and the marginalised rarely get reflected in governance." (remark of a participant during a meeting)

important suggestion was the enhancement of the technical expertise of EWRs; to improve their knowledge on technical details of the panchayat Rule and Act. In response to these suggestions we conducted 3 block level meetings, five sub-block level meetings and one district level meeting for the EWRs and facilitated leadership trainings for SHG leaders in four places in 2003.

Apart from these meetings, Sakhi collaborated with the Kollayil panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram district to organize a series of training programmes for the SHG leaders. The participants were members of Area Development Societies, which are ward level apex bodies of SHG's. The programme consisted of one-day sessions for 12 wards and 60-100 members participated each day. All panchayat members, officials and other social workers participated in the programme. The discussions were mainly on the critique of development and analysis of consumer habits, food preferences and the need to become self-reliant and food secure. The local body hopes to work on setting up ward wise shops to sell products of self help groups and to inculcate habit of mutually helping by buying and consuming their own products.

Networking of EWRs in Kollam started in June with the help of two animators from the district, Ragi and Sheeba. In all the meetings the participants expressed their willingness to cooperate with the programme. And they wanted to enhance their skills as members to continue in the public realm even if they are not elected again. To introduce the network in Kollam district we had organised four meetings in different places. After these first round of meetings there arose a demand from the EWRs for trainings on Gender. So we conducted five gender trainings in the district.

On January 9th and 10th, 2004, we organised an interagency meeting of the partners of the programme in Thiruvananthapuram. Nalini Nayak presented a paper on 'sustainable development' and Joy Elamon and Jagajeevan jointly presented a paper on 'current situation of people planning programme'

in the seminar. On the second day the participants visited Vengod ward in Karakulam panchayat to participate in a 'gramasabha' meeting.

As part of the programme five members from Kazhakkootam and Vatiyoorkavu panchayats of Thiruvananthapuram district along with two members from Sakhi visited Bangalore to participate in a conference of elected women members of South India in February.

The enthusiasm for local governance is less now, as the whole decentralization programme is slowly getting devoid of funds and the planning board is not playing the key role anymore! Therefore, the process of interaction and project involvement also depends on the dynamics and leadership caliber in each panchayat. Hence a programme for strengthening of EWRs is very crucial.

Life skill education for adolescents

Adolescence, an exciting period of life, can also be subject to mental stress and tension. An adequate support system is imperative for adolescents to clear the confusion, misinformation and myths. Towards this end, we directly interact with the adolescents of urban colonies and coastal areas of Thiruvananthapuram and also give



trainings to those, who are facilitating teen clubs. The basic work to evolve training modules for adolescent trainers is almost completed.

We constituted two teen clubs for girls in Vizhinjam, a part of the coastal belt of Thiruvananthapuram. There we interact with 45 girls, who are either dropouts or school going, in every Saturdays. Using participatory methods we

share their issues not only related to their particular age but also related to general health, environment, social issues, violence issues etc. We also conduct meetings for both girls and boys in the urban slums of Thiruvananthapuram for working - school and college going adolescents occasionally.

This year we were able to offer effective collaboration with the efforts of the Kerala Child Welfare Council and the Corporation of Trivandrum, to start adolescent clubs in schools. We assisted the Kerala Child Welfare council in the training of trainers. About 120 teachers

"When we are sexually excited we masturbate, but what the girls do in such situations? Do they have semen?" (query of an adolescent boy)

from different high schools in the city and suburban areas participated in the training programme of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. We prepared modules on gender and sexual health & rights. We were also part of the academic committee formed by the Corporation to guide the work in schools.

Sexuality is a topic which teachers felt uncomfortable to deal with and the students need sensitive facilitators to clear their many doubts. To cope with the situation, we were invited to different schools in the city to directly interact with students.

Anganwadi teachers under the ICDS project have the responsibility to call meetings of adolescent girls of the locality once in a week, along with all their other responsibilities. So we thought of give training to those teachers and we got an excellent opportunity in one Block of Thiruvananthapuram district in June. 134 teachers from eight panchayats participated in the on-day trainings conducted from 16th to 24th of the month.

Sakhi organized a one-day camp for the 8th standard students of Chinnamma Memorial Girls High School, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram. We took sessions in gender, health, body awareness, games and exercises. The entire team of Sakhi got involved in the programme and proved to be a very rich experience for us.

Apart from the programmes that we directly organised, the resource group of Sakhi facilitated in adolescent



programmes conducted by other organisations like, Viswabharathi Social Welfare Association, SEWA and Cheruresmi in Thiruvananthapuram; and Anweshi Women's Counseling Centre, Kozhikode.

Sakhi team could visit various schools in and around the city during the Fortnight Campaign on Violence Against Women (from November 25th to December 10th) and spoke to the children about adolescent issues.

Other than these programmes we have been conducting adolescent group meetings regularly both for boys and girls in the urban, rural and coastal slums of the city and in Kollam district. Ms.S.Jyasree along with a core group of 5 volunteers are working in this programme.

Violence intervention programmes

The social and demographic achievements of Kerala have got acclamation world-wide. According to UNDP report, in terms of 'basic female capabilities' Kerala has a high ranking compared to other Indian states. However, the paradox is that Kerala also faces high suicide rate, violence against women, child marriages and tendency towards female foeticide. Though women's literacy is high, their work participation and political participation is very low; and violence against women continues to rise.

Streeneethi

The official statistics from State Police or National Crime Records Bureau says that violence against women in Kerala is increasing. The numerous complaints received by State Women's Commission and women's organisations on domestic violence, sexual violence, dowry deaths, workplace harassments, child sexual abuse etc. provide enough proof for this. In this context that Sakhi, though within the scope of limited resources, started Streeneethi, a legal cell in 2002. We lend free legal aid and counseling to those women who approach us with cases of any forms of violence.

During the reporting period Streeneethi has provided legal aid in 25 complaints. Of these, 20 cases were filed in the Family Court of Thiruvananthapuram district. Two cases

"I'm a fish vending lady. My husband used to harass me without any valid reasons. He is a chronic drunkard. We have two minor girls. In between he deserted me. Once he dragged me from the market and closed in a room. He raped me; cut my long hair and hurt my head with blade." We helped her to file petition to get maintenance. The Court verdict was in favour of her but he was not ready to pay the amount. So he was sentenced to imprisonment. We also filed a complaint against him under IPC section 498A (violence against women) at judicial first class Magistrate, Neyyatinkara.

were filed before the RDO. One case each was filed in the Subdivisional Magistrate Court, Thiruvananthapuram,

Neyattinkara First class Judicial Magistrate and Nedumangad First class judicial Magistrate. Three cases were settled amicably. The family court gave verdict for maintenance in two cases, which were in favour of our clients. Another case settled in the family court and the parties are residing together now.

We received most of the cases from the coastal areas of Thiruvananthapuram district. It needs to be acknowledged that the presence of active local leaders of Kerala Streevedi, the network of women's organisations, helped us to intervene in that area. During this period we were unable to take up some cases for reasons such as non-availability of relevant documents. From these incidents we realize the need for legal awareness to ordinary people as well as to members of local bodies.

We organized an informal gathering of victims of violence, whom Sthreeneethi has helped so far. Ten women participated in the meeting. The idea was to give them a space to speak about themselves and to let them know each other. The meeting helped them to know that their story is not a unique one and they acquired a sort of confidence in their life and feeling of soli-

"My mother worked hard to send me atleast upto SSLC. At the time of marriage the church gave 10 soverigns of gold ornaments and Rs.5,000/- to my husband. He is a drunkard, who used to harass me physically. When I was pregnant he set fire on my bed. Then I went back to my mother. After I delivered a child he deserted me. The baby has heart desease. When I was in the hospital with the child, he came there and beat me." She filed a Maintenance complaint through Sthreeneethi and now the child is getting interim maintenance at the rate Rs.300/- per month.

arity.

We had been resource persons in the meetings conducted by various other organisations also, on issues of violence. In a training, of police officers organised by IMG, the participants justify the approach of the police in dealing violence cases. But an exchange with women victims, who were willing to share their experience with the police helped them to see how such victims are intimidated in Police stations and how, many times, the patriarchal attitudes of police result in not so helpful approaches to women.

Our network with feminist organisations outside Kerala helped us to assist non-Keralite women who faced violence. The network also helps us to give assistance to Malayali women liv-

ing outside Kerala.

Mercy Alexander with the support of Adv. Geena Kumari is responsible in dealing with the violence intervention programme of Sakhi.

Anti-sexual Harassment committees

The landmark judgment of Supreme Court in 1997 established guidelines regarding sexual harassment at work place. According to these guidelines 'every employer in governmental or non-governmental organisations, should set up a Complaints Committee headed by a woman, at least half of which should be women members and it should include a third party representative conversant with the issues of sexual harassment, like somebody from an NGO.' Since it is mandatory, many de-

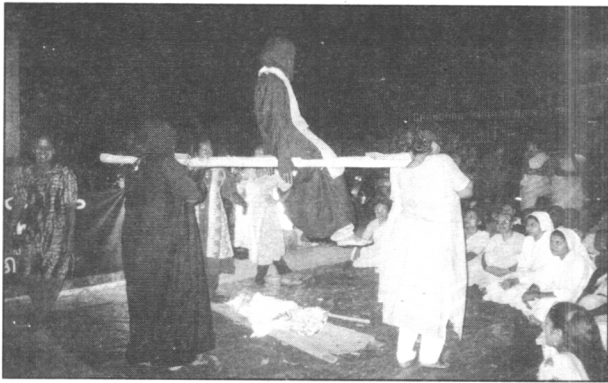
partments have formed this committee and all our staff are members of such committees of various departments.

Though the committees were formed in many organisations they are more or less inactive in the last year. But in this year many departments have summoned meetings and in some places cases have come up. We are actively participating in those meetings and distributing the pamphlets and posters, which we had produced last year.

Campaign on Violence Against Women

This year also we observed the International Fortnight Campaign to protest violence against women, along with other women's organizations across India. The programme was conducted from November 25th to December 10th. The major theme of the campaign was 'violence against women are violation of

human rights'. In the context of our state, Kerala Streevedi, in which Sakhi also a member, took 'Dowry' as the special issue to be addressed in the campaign and organised various programmes. Posters, stickers, banners, hoardings and press conference were the means of publicity. The inauguration of



the programme was held at Vizhinjam, a coastal village near the city, where dowry and violence on women are big problems. Around 150 women participated in the rally and public meeting. On 25th November, the International day of violence against women, we paid homage to women, who were killed last year by their own family members (mostly by their intimate partners). We made a symbolic presentation of 'cru-

elty against women' with the aid of posters designed with the paper cuttings of 110 names of women killed in violence in the last year. We printed a set of 30 posters, which were also used in the exhibition.

Seminars, puppet shows, poster exhibitions, discussions in schools and colleges, documentary shows, street plays were also conducted during this period.



Women's day celebrations

Every year all the organisations in the network, Kerala Streevedi, have been conducting programmes in relation to women's day on March 8th. In 2003, we had decided to observe March 8th as the day of protest on the violent attack against the Adivasis by Kerala Police at Muthanga (Wayanad) on February 19th and against the war unleashed By USA and UK

About 200 women participated in the meeting and discussion held in Thiruvananthapuram district alone. Video show about the violence in Muthanga, formation of human chain in front of the Secretariat etc. were the other programmes in the district. The network organised various programmes in other districts too.

In 2004, the focus was on Water. Kerala this year was in the grip of severe drought and it had affected farmers and women in particular. It is the fact that the ground water level in the state is dangerously decreasing. Both

national and multinational companies are exploiting and polluting our water resources. And people are extremely careless about protecting water. Hence the slogan for this years campaign was "**women for water and women for life**". We organised poster exhibitions and discussions in seventeen centres of Thiruvananthapuram district from March 2nd to 6th.

On March 7th we organised a **women's film festival** in which we screened 8 short films/ documentaries, 'Shame is not mine', 'Survivors', 'Stolen water', 'Scribbles on Akka', 'Memories of fear', 'Skin deep', 'An Encounter with life living' and 'Baakkipathram' (Balance sheet).

On March 8th, we conducted a full day exhibition in front of the Secretariat of posters on environmental destruction in Kerala and its impact on water resources. Around 300 women with empty pots participated in the rally held on March 8th.

Networking

We are directly linking with many social organisations, which are working at the grass root level in Kerala. This linking up is on issues, training programmes and other mutually benefiting activities and sharing of resources.

Sakhi is a member of **Kerala Streevedi**, the network of women's organisations in Kerala. We extend all possible assistance and are part of the campaigns and advocacy efforts of the network

In our various programmes, we have been able to interact and receive support from various organisations in and outside Kerala. Some of them are **Self employed women's association (SEWA)**, Prana; Srishti; Santhigram ; Mediact, AICUF centre, Thanal, Thrani, Srothus, **Joint Women's Programme**, **Vanitha Federation** all based in Thiruvananthapuram, **Mochitha**, Alappuzha, **Malanad Development So-**

ciety, Kottayam, **Jananeethi**, Thrissur, **Socio Economic Unit**, Thrissur, **CenSE**, Thrissur, **Anweshi Women's Counseling Centre**, Kozhikode, **AHADS**, Attappadi, **Rastha**, Wayanad, **Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad**, **Government organisations like IMG**, several **Government departments**, **Women cells in Kerala University** and various other colleges.

At the national level, several organizations associate with us, by sending participants for our course on gender, health and development. We are partners with the North East Network, and 6 other organizations , including Swayam from Calucatta where we work together on violence intervention programmes and the fortnight campaign on violence against women. We also network with other resource centers in India like Aalochana, Pune; Jagori, Delhi and Akshara, Mumbai.

Study on Cashew Sector

The involvements with cashew workers in Kollam district, in collaboration with Ms. Anna Lindberg, Lund University, Sweden continued this year also. We concentrated our interventions among the people of Sasthanagar near Kilikollur. Regular house visits and interaction with women and adolescents is carried out in the area. Ragi, Sheeba, and the 'anganwadi' teacher of



Sasthanagar assists in conducting awareness classes for the women every alternative week and adolescent classes for

boys and girls.

We also organised a poster campaign on violence against women and dowry in the area during the Fortnight Campaign on Violence Against Women.

Center for Development Studies conducted a study on the cashew sector in Kerala, "Gender Market and livelihoods in the context of Globalisation; a study of the cashew sector in South India (Kerala and Tamil Nadu)." Sakhi was approached to collect the primary data related to the cashew sector, especially about the labourers.

The work consisted of interviews of factory owners, exporters, union leaders, workers, and their relatives. A part of secondary data had also been collected. That was from the Factory and Boilers department, Labour department, different libraries and the offices of the factory inspector etc. Daya.J did the assignment and was completed in April.

Research on health sector reforms

This year we completed the study on "Decentralization and Women's Health" which was con-

ducted in the districts of Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram in collaboration with the **Achutha Menon Centre for**

Health Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram. In the beginning of March, we had the state-level dissemination workshop at Thiruvananthapuram and national level

workshop in Delhi. The report of the study is finalized and will be translated and published in Malayalam in 2004.

Study on Gender Based Violence

The unequal gender relations in the society, which perpetuate exploitation, discrimination marginalisation and exclusion of women is the basic cause of violence against women. In October 2003, the Dept. of Health, Government of Kerala commissioned a study on Gender based violence in three districts of Kerala. This is to develop protocols based on the prevalence of violence and to be used by doctors in screening patients.

The study is conducted in Ernakulam, Palakkad and Kozhikode. 9 field investigators and a person for literature review were recruited for this study. Since the study of domestic violence contains a number of ethical and safety considerations, the investigators required special skill building training. Therefore we gave three days training to them in November. A Manual to assist them and a questionnaire were also prepared, which underwent the review of the ethical committee formed for this purpose. The questionnaire was trans-

lated into Malayalam before starting data collection. The data collection started in December and it was completed by February. In each of the districts a core group was formed to assist with cases, which come up while doing household survey.

Besides the household surveys other methods of data collection like key informants interview, review of the Medico Legal Case registers from district hospitals etc were also done. Now the process of analysis is going on.

We had conducted a sharing session of the field workers of this study in Sakhi in March. Their experiences reinforce the fact that domestic violence in Kerala is increasing and more than that it is not just by husband or in-laws, but also by other family members like their own brothers.

We expect to complete the study by the middle of 2004.

Study on Dowry

Sakhi had assisted Jananeethi, a human rights organization based at Thrissur, for a study on dowry in Thiruvananthapuram district. It was a statewide study. We helped them in household surveys and to convene meetings of people, whom were selected with a random sampling method, in differ-

ent parts of the district. During the fortnight campaign on violence against women, on November 26th, we organised a seminar to disseminate the findings of the study. The findings confirmed the known facts of the high dowry demands in Kerala and the attitude of many people this as a 'necessary evil'.

Streenet: an online Course on Women's Rights

Use of Internet for education and communication can create a novel space for women in the society. Especially, women in NGOs can make use of the technology to improve their skill. Sakhi also joined in the novel venture of three other resource centres in India, Akshara, Mumbai, Alochana, Pune and Jagori, Delhi to launch an online course on women's rights.



The goals of StreeNet course were:

- * to upgrade the skills of women activists.
- * provide theoretical content on feminism & gender relations, and engaging the e-learners in debate about issues that women confront today
- * enhance practical skills and promote networking amongst activists concerned with women's issues through the Internet.

The six months course officially started in February. 13 students registered in Sakhi from Kerala. The course was in four segments, Module 1 was on understanding feminism, Module 2 was on Indian women's movement, then there was a mid course meeting in

Mumbai and the last module was on Globalisation and development. Each segment consisted of assignments like interviews, surveys, chat sessions, discussion forums, and theoretical inputs. The mid course meeting was held in May in Mumbai and eight students partici-

pated from Kerala. Prema Nair was the course coordinator in Kerala.

A brief introduction to the StreeNet course can be viewed on the website: www.aksharacentre.org

Involvement in Policy formulation

This year, a serious collaboration with the Department of Health, Government of Kerala evolved. There were two processes in which Sakhi involved throughout the year. One is the involvement in formulating *Kerala's Health Policy* and the second was the chairing

of the subcommittee on gender equity in drawing up the *Health Vision for Kerala, 2025*. We have participated in a number of meetings, written short papers and several drafts of the documents have been prepared. The work is still going on.

Visitors / Research assistance / Internship

In January, Janet Lowry and 4 students from Austin College, Texas, USA visited Sakhi as part of students exposure programme. Each of the students had different areas of interest and they used our library and had discussions with the staff.

In the same month we had a batch of 6 Swedish women from Gothenburg University, for exposure visit. Their aim was to learn about gender issues in Kerala. Ms. Brigitte Schulz Tier, a journalist from Germany was yet another visitor in January.

The Agriculture department of Government of Yemen requested us through the Royal Tropical Institute of Amsterdam (KIT) to arrange an exposure visit to their women staff. They wanted to see the involvement of women in Agriculture and how the agricultural universities and various agriculture departments in Kerala are assisting the process of integrating gender concerns in agriculture. 18 women staff of the agricultural ministry took part in this programme in February. The



group made several visits to the Agricultural University in Vellayani, Center for Earth Science Studies (CESS), ANERT, and also to self-help groups involved in agriculture and alternate employment programmes in Alappuzha district. The group was happy for all the new learning acquired and it was a unique cultural experience for us too.

In November, 28 students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai had visited Sakhi as part of their study tour.

In the year 2003 there were three interns in Sakhi: Zeenath Ismail, an MSW student from AWH Special College, Kallai, Kozhikode; Ruby Mary Varghese from Law College Pune; and Rabecca Swady from Harward School of Public Health, U.S.A. We had Sr. Rosaria as volunteer from February 24th to May 31st.

Helena, a journalist from Sweden and 5 students from Harward University visited Sakhi in January 2004.

Many other individuals from the state and outside the country including students, journalists and researchers visited Sakhi during the reporting period.

Aleyamma Vijayan had been the guide of Dr. Manju Nair in her research study on 'Decentralised approach to gender equity and women's empowerment through participatory reproductive health education'.

Other Programmes

Organisational visit to PASS, Pathanamthitta

Visiting other social organisations is really interesting and informative. This will help us to strengthen the linkages to other organisations. In our annual evaluation meeting held in January, we decided to conduct organizational visits also to be included in future. And the

first visit we organised on January 27th 2004 to Pazhakulam Social Service Society (PASS), Pathanamthitta. Seven of us were there in the group. PASS is a charitable society working among the farmers with a development perspective in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kollam districts from 1984.

Yoga class

Sakhi had organized a Yoga class for its staff and friends from August 25th to September 5th. There were 11 learners and Sr. Mary was the trainer.

Media

Most our staffs participating in talk shows and debates conducted by various visual media in the state like Doordarshan, Asianet, Kairali etc.

Celebrations on Onam and Christmas

We celebrated Onam this year in our new office into which we had moved in February 2003. This time also we had the Christmas celebration with our friends and well wishers. We showed the film 'Unlimited girls' to the guests.



Women's Space

In September we floated the idea of creating a **women's space** and decided to realize it in the evenings of every last Saturdays. We gathered on

September 27th, October 25th and 2004 January 31st on the back yard of Sakhi with serious and leisurely talks, fun and refreshment.

Workshops/Trainings attended by the staff

- 'Asian Social Forum' on January 2nd-5th in Hyderabad
- Training on " Leadership Online" in Hyderabad on March 9th -15th
- Course on 'Training skills for senior level trainers' conducted by Global learning partners in Bangkok on March 22nd -30th
- Inter-agency meeting of the partner organisations of the programme, "Associating Elected Women Representatives" in Bangalore on April 10th & 11th.
- Mid-term course meeting of 'Streenet' online feminism course in Mumbai on May 16th-22nd.
- International seminar on 'Women's empowerment through information and knowledge-from oral tradition to ICT' on May 30th to June 2nd in Pune.
- IPRD workshop on 'Globalization: Challenges and resistance' on June 17th to 24th
- Training on 'Working with adolescents' in Goa on July 20th -30th.
- International course on 'Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights' in Delhi on September 13th-28th.
- FORD accounts aid workshop on October 17th and 18th
- 'Workshop on participatory communication and action' at Nasik on November 16th-26th.
- Seminar on 'Bio-diversity in an economic point of view' at Thiruvananthapuram on 2nd January 2004.
- Seminar related to status of women's movement in India in Bangalore on 3rd - 6th of March.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2003

EXPENDITURE		Rs. Ps.	INCOME		Rs. Ps.
To	Mainstreaming Gender. Health and Reproductive Right in Kerala: Programme Experiences:		By	Donations and Contributions:	
"	Leadership Development Training	57,230.25		MAC Arithur Foundation Grant	1,109,479.00
"	Occasional Workshop	28,037.00		Royal Tropical Institute Grant	486,920.00
"	Training of Male Gender Trainers (TOT)	17,504.00		Ford Foundation Grant	2,091,832.00
"	State Level Leadership Training for Women	7,100.60		Donations and Contributions-others	275,063.00
"	Advanced Course on Gender	97,020.50			3,963,294.00
"	Workshop on Masculinities	10,289.00		Add: Contribution Received In Advance during the previous Year	2,522,430.05 6,485,724.05
"	Adolcent Sexual Health Programme Material Production	44,120.00		Less: Contribution Received In Advance for Next Year	4,196,939.78 2,288,784.27
"	Adolcent Sexual Health Programme Educators Training	15,483.65	"	Individual Contributions	4,804.00
"	Information Support	49,429.00	"	Bank Interest	138,375.00
"	Infrastructure Support	79,000.00	"	Xerox Charges Collected	20,127.00
"	Staff Support	562,160.00	"	Computer Utilization Charges	20,800.00
"	Travel Expenses	65,654.00	"	Organizational Overhead Charges	123,348.70
"	Running Cost	156,989.30	"	Library Income	14,135.75
"	Donations & Contributions	5,619.00	"	Miscellaneous Income	1,051.50
"	Seminars Meetings & Conferences	4,728.55	"	Bank Interest SB A/c	9,369.00
"	Unifem Project Expenses	135,554.35	"	Bank Interest FD A/c	22,294.00 31,663.00
"	Library Expenses	1,500.00	"	Streenet Course Collections	700.00
"	Bank Charges	354.00	"	Reading, Learning, Material & Poster Sale	18,600.00
"	Miscellaneous Expenses	6,970.00	"	Telephone Charges Collected	6,000.00
"	Communication Expenses	709.00			
"	Traveling Expenses	410.50			
"	Research Study on Cashew Sector in Kerala	22,043.00			
"	Electrical & Plumbing Works	18,841.00			

"	<u>Training Programme on Gender and Reproductive Health:</u>	
	<u>Programme Expenses:</u>	
	Staff Support	203,250.00
	Travel Expenses	99,519.50
	Workshop/Meetings/Publications	208,147.85
	Administrative Expenses	80,698.00
"	<u>Gender, Citizenship and Good Governance:</u>	
	<u>Programme Expenses:</u>	
	Salary & Travel Expenses	116,158.00
	Administrative Overheads	17,944.50
	Educational Materials	2,069.00
	Seminars & Meetings	5,523.50
	G.C.G. International Conference on Women's Issues	486,920.00
"	<u>Associating Elected Women Representatives in Panchayat Raj Institutions:</u>	
	Staff Support	12,000.00
"	Depreciation During the year	49,411.57
<hr/>		
	TOTAL	2,668,389.22
<hr/>		

Chartered Accountant : Thomas Mathew B.Sc.

TOTAL

2,668,389.22

, F.C.A.

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2003

<u>LIABILITIES</u>		Rs.	Ps.	<u>ASSETS</u>		Rs.	Ps.
<u>CORPUS CONTRIBUTION</u>				<u>FURNITURE ACCOUNT</u>			
As per Last Balance Sheet	3,21,877.00			As per last balance sheet	49,713.80		
Add: Additions during the year	52,904.00	3,74,781.00		Add: Additions during the year	9,320.40		
					59,034.20		
				Less: Depreciation during the year	5,903.42	53,130.78	
<u>DESIGNATED FUND:</u>				<u>COMPUTER AND ACCESSORIES</u>			
As per last balance sheet	1,82,404.20			As per last balance sheet	42,880.00		
Add: Received during the year	5,20,280.00			Add: Additions during the year	6,276.00		
	7,02,684.20				49,156.00		
Less: Repaid during the year	7,02,684.20	Nil		Less: Depreciation during the year	9,831.20	39,324.80	
<u>ADVANCE ACCOUNT</u>				<u>OVER HEAD PROJECTOR</u>			
As per last balance sheet	35,000.00			As per last balance sheet	12,320.00		
Add: Additions during the year	2,40,305.00			Less: Depreciation during the year	2,464.00	9,856.00	
	2,75,305.00			<u>LIBRARY BOOKS</u>			
Less: Paid during the year	2,40,305.00	35,000.00		As per last balance sheet	65,676.10		
				Add: Additions during the year	37,827.00		
<u>CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED IN ADVANCE</u>					1,03,503.10		
	41,96,939.78			Less: Depreciation during the year	15,525.45	87,977.65	
				<u>PHOTO COPIER ACCOUNT</u>			
				As per last balance sheet	64,000.00		
				Less: Depreciation during the year	12,800.00	51,200.00	
				<u>FAX MACHINE</u>			
				Purchased during the year	19,250.00		
				Less: Depreciation during the year	2,877.50	16,362.50	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

As per last balance sheet 3,976.65

FIXED DEPOSITS 29,21,901.00

Advance and Security 55,000.00

CLOSING BALANCES:

Cash in Hand 13,298.55

Cash at Bank - S.B. 13,54,692.85 13,67,991.40

TOTAL	4,606,720.78	TOTAL	4,606,720.78
-------	--------------	-------	--------------

Chartered Accountant : Thomas Mathew B.Sc., F.C.A.

ICSF
FOR DIGITIZATION
DATE: 12/11/2018