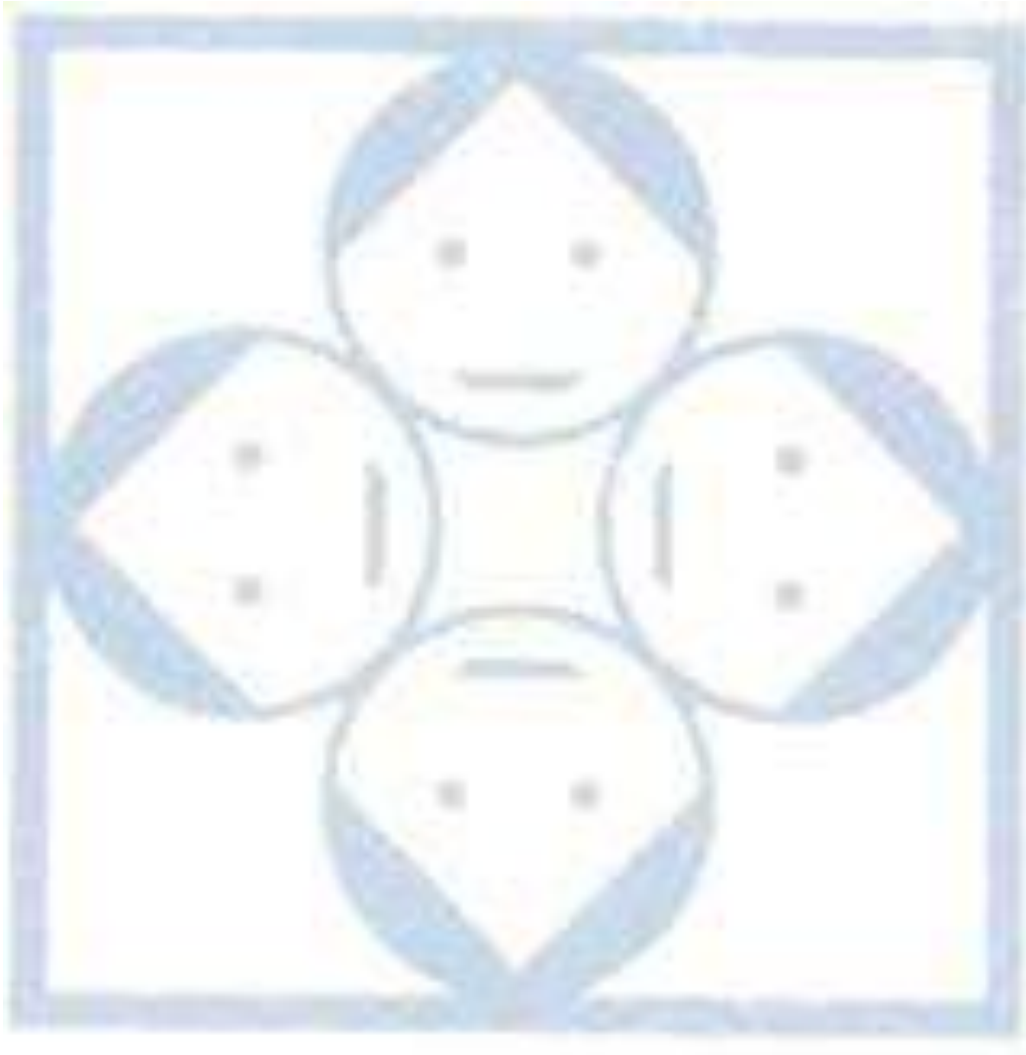


Annual Report

April 2016 to March 2017



Ahmedabad Women's Action Group-AWAG

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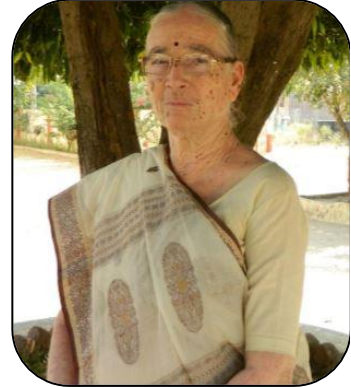
🐦: <https://twitter.com/awagindia>

📄: <http://www.awagindia.org/blog/>

📺: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Nrr0RDdSvbAPCidO9tAWw>

FROM MY DESK

AWAG has been effectively working for creating awareness and women empowerment for three and half decades, despite the changing circumstances in the contemporary milieu. Credit for this goes to the efforts and competencies of AWAG's team. The organization's office bearers have also exhibited their openness to the new ideas and methods as per the emerging needs.



The members carry out work with sincerity and optimal utilization of available resources. They have tried their best to follow the vision of Dr. Ilaben Pathak-founder Secretary of AWAG.

Efforts in undertaking research studies related to creating awareness, domestic violence and legal problems are ongoing features at AWAG. It has collaboration with international universities in such research studies in India & especially in Gujarat.

I am convinced that the combined efforts of AWAG's visionary members of the Trust Board and Committee along with their dedicated team members will continue in its endeavours to attain its objectives.

*Ramilaben Gandhi
President*

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AWAG'S VISION, GOAL, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AWAG has been active on the issue of violence against women and continually devises fresh strategies to counter this social evil along with hosting a number of activities to showcase its protest against all forms of violence.

Demanding Justice for Jisha

Following the rape and murder of Jisha, a law student at Kerala, on 6 May 2016, AWAG and other feminist organizations, jointly staged a protest demonstration in Ahmedabad against this incident as well as the rise in such atrocities across the country.

The participants vociferously expressed that the chief cause of the rise in such incidents was the lack of political and administrative will and resolved to strengthen peoples' movement against rise in atrocities on women.

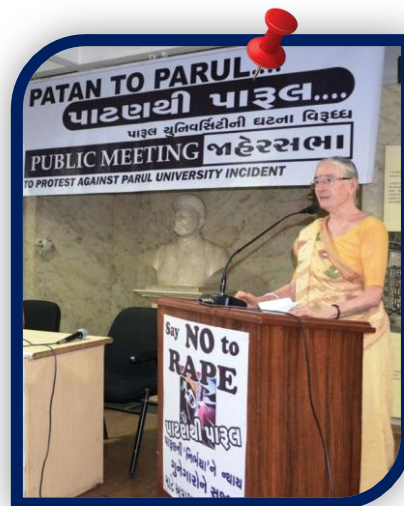


Demanding Justice for Nirbhaya of Parul University, Waghodia (Gujarat)

With regard to the rape incident of a nursing student at Parul University, AWAG along with other local women's organizations as well as concerned citizens addressed the issue through the given chain of events:

- A demonstration was held in Vadodara on 20 June 2016 and a memorandum was submitted to the Vadodara District Collector and the Police Commissioner with demand of immediate arrest of the culprit (Founder & Managing Trustee Parul University).
- The very next day on 21 June a protest demonstration was held in Ahmedabad.
- Shortly, on 23 June 2016, a public meeting was also held in Vadodara to condemn the incident and the rising rape cases and atrocities on women.
- The team visited Parul University on 23 June 2016 and met its Managing Trustee and Sexual Harassment Committee regarding the matter.
- Later, on 25 June 2016, this fact finding team also visited the victim's parents at Balasinor to support them in raising their voice against the University's Director and management.

- A Press Conference and Public Meeting regarding the matter was organized on 29 June 2016 at Gujarat Sahitya Parishad, Ahmedabad wherein a Press Note outlining the demands was released and published through the media groups present. All those present strictly condemned the rape incident and demanded stringent punishment to the culprit along with immediate implementation of the law against Sexual Harassment in all educational institutes, government offices, factories, companies and work places with penalty and punishment to the defaulters.



Celebration of International Human Rights Day



One of the important reasons to celebrate Human Rights Day at AWAG is to advocate and reaffirm its purpose on the importance of 'equal rights'. This year too, on 10 December 2016, the organization commemorated the day by participating in an event at Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad in collaboration with other local organizations including Movement of Secular Democracy (MSD) and Peoples Union for Civil Society (PUCL). AWAG presented its views on the effects of the then

recent move of Demonetization on women, and recalled the slogan...**“Human rights are women’s rights, and women’s rights are human rights.”**

A Tribute to Nirbhaya

16 December 2016 being Nirbhaya day, AWAG along with other local, women organizations had organized a public meeting at Ahmedabad as a tribute to Nibhaya (Delhi gang rape victim who was brutally assaulted on this day in 2012). The public meeting had a number of speakers along with skits, songs, poems and other presentations. Alongside, a number of important demands to protect women were also displayed and voiced aloud.



Naliya gang rape Incident

In the aftermath of gang rape of a woman at Naliya (Dist Kutch in Gujarat), AWAG participated in a demonstration organized by All India M.S.S, All India D.S.O and All India D.Y.O on 10 February 2017 at Apna Bazaar, Ahmedabad. The protesting organizations voiced a demand for immediate action against all culprits.

Following this, various NGOs and civil society groups consisting of activists, doctors, advocates, professors and students, organized a public meeting on 16 February 2017 to protest against the incident. The group referred to itself as the Forum of Concerned Citizens for Naliya Incident.



In view of this, the Forum under took the following initiatives as part of its endeavour to seek justice for the victims.

- Sent an Open Letter to the MLAs on 19 February 2017.
- The Fact Finding Team of the Forum paid a visit to Naliya on 20 February 2017.
- A Memorandum was sent to the President of India, Chief Justice of Supreme Court & Prime Minister of India on 27 February 2017 and the report of the Team was also made public through a Press Conference.
- To mark the International Women's Day - 8 March 2017, it was decided to take up the public programme of Rally & Public Meeting. But, the notification issued by City Police Commissioner prohibited it. So, we held the Citizen's Meeting on 6 March 2017 to reiterate our demands before the Government for the justice to Naliya's Nirbhaya.
- Released an Open Letter addressed to women Sarpanchs of the country to raise a voice for justice to Naliya's Nirbhaya on 7 March 2017.
- Attended a group discussion on 'Violence against Women' organized by KMVS-Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan at Bhuj on 8 March 2017 and also met the victim at Kothara.
- A meeting with the victimized daughter was held in Ahmedabad on 10 March 2017.
- Held a Press Conference at Ahmedabad on 16 March 2017.
- The team visited the site at Bhavnagar on 31 March 2017.

MENTAL HEALTHCARE OF WOMEN

AWAG has been instrumental in implementing the Mental Health Project for Women since December 2008 covering the slum areas of Bapunagar, Rakhial, Gomtipur, Saraspur and Ramol in the industrial belt of east Ahmedabad.

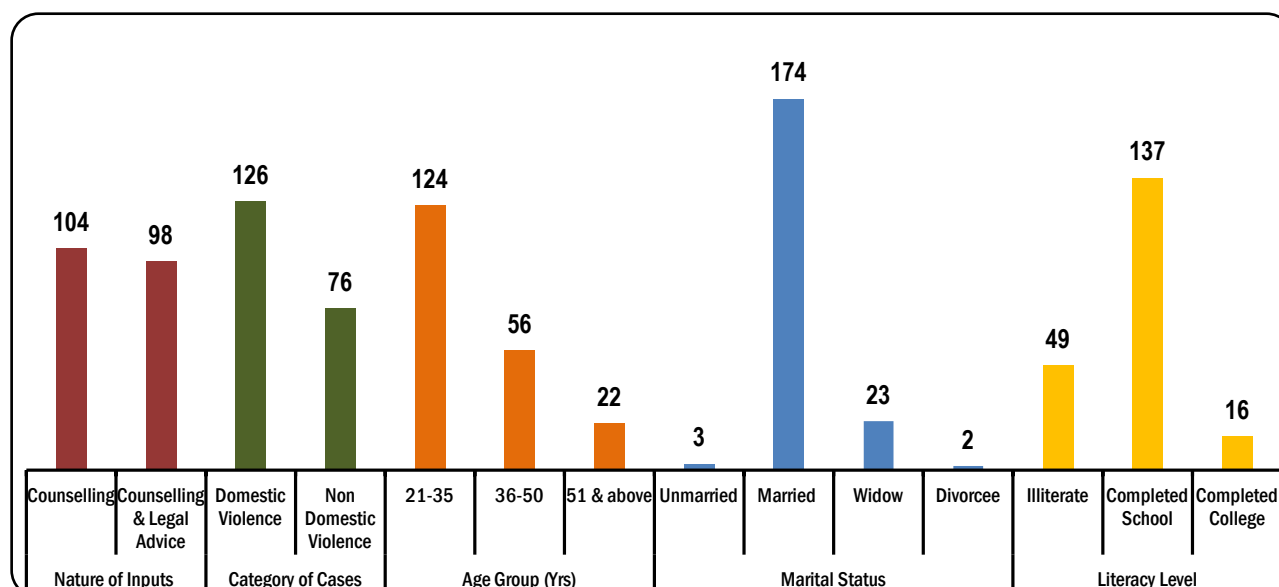
The main objectives are:

- a) To provide counselling and psychiatric support to persons suffering from mental illnesses,
- b) To strengthen women suffering from Domestic Violence to have better quality of life.

The following activities were undertaken to fulfil these objectives -

- Approaching communities to disseminate awareness about mental health through community leaders.
- Guiding the patients to the path of curative treatment.
- Counselling
- Psychiatric care with medicines.
- Group therapy through workshops.

The awareness raising meetings were conducted in the areas of Bapunagar, Rakhial, Gomtipur, Saraspur and Ramol. A total of 144 meetings that were conducted over the year covered 3726 women. The theme of the meetings was to provide a general understanding of mental disorders and the need to treat them for a healthy living. Over the year, 263 women approached the AWAG's mental health centre, to avail of the facility of treating mental illness through counselling and medical help provided to them. A summary of all these cases is graphically depicted below.



From the above, it is apparent that a majority of cases pertained to domestic violence wherein the victims were married, falling in the age group of 21-35 years and had completed schooling. These cases were largely rendered counselling. All the severe cases sought psychiatric help with regular follow-ups. This required provision of medicines which was supplied by AWAG with the support of Dr. Ajay Chauhan from the local Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad.

The group therapy in the form of awareness-raising workshops has been very beneficial in providing openness and acceptance of personal issues and dealing with them more effectively. A total of 3 workshops that were conducted during the year covering a total of 70 participants, has equipped the women to...

- Start saying “NO” to violence,
- Learn skills to cope with and reduce the level of stress,
- Gain better health through medical help,
- Seek advice from legal counsellor, etc.

On the whole, awareness among women has spread at a faster pace and many women have benefited through the process. Women have gained an understanding of living a better quality of life by strongly facing the hurdles that come by. Counselling has provided better coping skills and a supportive environment where they feel empowered.



MENTAL HEALTHCARE OF ADOLESCENTS

The Mental Health Project for Adolescents, undertaken by AWAG commenced in September 2008. With common adolescent issues identified as adjustment problems, relationship issues, negative attitude towards marriage, educational issues, low self-esteem, family issues etc., the project makes an attempt to reach out to the adolescent group both in community as well as in schools and focuses on the following objectives:

- a) To identify psychological problems prevailing among adolescents.
- b) To intervene among adolescents so that they develop better coping skills to have a better quality of life.
- c) To provide psycho-education to parents where need arises.
- d) To train teachers of schools in the project area in providing support to adolescents.
- e) To hold hands of teachers and monitor their performance.

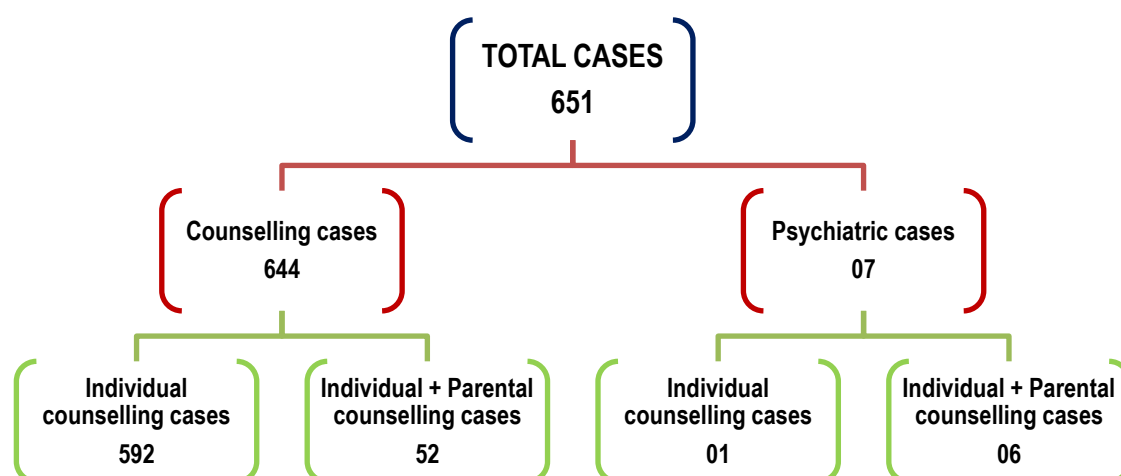
In order to fulfil these objectives, the following activities were undertaken:

- Approaching schools to contact adolescents enrolled
- Approaching communities to contact non-school going and dropped out adolescents
- Guiding adolescents to curative path
- Counselling
- Psycho-education of parents
- Psychiatric care with medicines
- Teachers training for care of adolescents
- Monitoring of Teachers' performance

The project intervention had a two-pronged approach to reach out to the adolescents so as to provide them with a better understanding of mental health leading them towards cure through counselling and medical help as per need. Due attention was paid to providing more strength and support to the adolescents by working with both parents and teachers by making them more aware of their problems and developing a better understanding of the same.

To start with, awareness raising meetings were organized with the help of community leaders and school authorities whereby AWAG conducted a total of 176 meetings covering 5067 adolescents. A total of 651 cases were handled over the

year. Of these, 70 cases approached the centre whereas 581 cases were handled in the school by the counsellor. A summary of these cases is depicted below.



When categorized, a majority of the cases faced academic problems. Similarly, a large number of school going adolescents belonging to the age group ranging from 12-15 years seemed to face more problems.

Additionally, a total of 22 teachers from two schools underwent training workshops conducted by psychologists and psychotherapists. The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- a) To create awareness about mental health
- b) To sensitize teachers to the psychological needs of the adolescent students so as to support them.
- c) To provide possible primary psychological and emotional help in academics, family issues etc.

Regular monitoring and follow-up of teachers was also conducted by AWAG. Likewise, in counselling cases, parents were provided with suitable suggestions to improve the mental health of their children.

The resultant effect of AWAG's interventions with adolescents over the year is that the affected children, their parents and teachers have gained considerable awareness regarding the psychological problems prevailing among adolescents. Moreover, through training workshops and counselling sessions, they have developed skills to cope effectively with their lives wherein the children experience a warm, secure and a healthy environment.

AWARENESS ABOUT MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND SANITATION AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND WOMEN

Over 80% of India's women do not have access to hygienic material/sanitary pads for menstrual protection. Lack of awareness and affordability leads to women using sand, ash, rags or dirty cloth instead of sanitary pads, thus leading to blistering, soreness, infections and long-term reproductive health issues. This problem has been addressed through the given project that focuses on building awareness about menstrual health and hygiene by training young local women leaders to raise awareness about menstrual health and hygiene and generate income through selling low-cost sanitary pads locally. Details of the workshops that were held each month across various villages of Radhanpur and Patan areas in Gujarat are given below.

| No. of Workshops held | Villages covered | Total Participants |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 44 | 44 | 1558 |

The workshops rallied around discussing the following points as well as concerns put forth by the participating women.

- How does menstruation occur? Why is there pain during menstruation?
- Is the passage for urination and menstruation the same?
- What practices do we adopt to maintain hygiene and prevent the occurrence of reproductive ailments?
- Is it OK to cook food and prepare pickles during menses?
- What are the benefits of using sanitary napkins?
- What are the reasons for white discharge?
- What are the ill effects of using Copper-T as a contraceptive device?

The sessions were interactive and have been instrumental in creating a realization of adopting menstrual hygiene among women and adolescents. Some responses that were expressed by participants after the meetings are as under:

Voices from the field...

- "Earlier we believed that the passage for urination and menstruation was the same. But the learning that was provided with the help of the uterus model clarified our perceptions." - Women from village Khanpur.
- "We always thought menstruation to be something bad and impure, but now we realize that it is a vital process for bearing children." - Ramilaben, Village Rajpur.

- "I used to abstain from cooking food during menses but now I feel that one can continue with their routine chores even during menstruation." -Geetaben, Village Kalyanpur.
- "In our community, on attaining puberty, girls were married off at an extremely young age. But now we realize the ills of doing so and are reconsidering this practice."- Women from village Vadali.
- "We earlier believed that inserting Copper-T was harmful. But we have now learnt that it is a device that helps in spacing between children."- Champaben, Village Manpur.
- "We have seen sanitary napkins for the first time. We will insist on maintaining hygiene and will ensure that our daughters use these for menstrual protection." Women from village Khari Vavdi.
- "We experience a number of problems such as irregular menstruation, prolonged menstruation, infertility and body heaviness before menstruation. The meeting helped us how to cope with these situations."- Women from Village Gadosan.
- "We used to consider menstruation to be a bad occurrence; but now we realize how essential it is." - Women from Village Sabosan.
- "With the help of the 'apron' illustrating the menstrual process, our concerns regarding irregular / heavy menstruation, fear about using Copper-T device and white discharge were clarified." Women from Village Hamidpura.



Outcomes:

- Women belonging to conservative communities were initially apprehensive to attend the meetings, but once they gathered for it, there was no looking back.
- The younger generation is slowly and steadily opening up to adopting hygienic practices as a result of which we hope to mitigate the occurrence of reproductive ailments among the participating communities.
- The ASHA Workers and Anganwadi Workers in the areas are also playing a supportive role in this intervention.
- Around 25-30% of adolescents and young women have embraced the idea of using sanitary napkins.
- Superstitious beliefs are deeply steeped among the women communities. After much effort some women have overcome such beliefs.

COUNSELLING

AWAG continues to offer counselling services to violence-affected women in need. This service is available at all its centres. A total of 399 cases were handled over the year under discussion. Details of the nature of all these cases and how they were resolved, follows.

| S. No. | Types of Cases | Ahmedabad | | Rapar | | Radhanpur | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| | | No. of New Regd. cases | No. of pending cases from previous period | No. of New Regd. cases | No. of pending cases from previous period | No. of New Regd. Cases | No. of pending cases from previous period |
| 1 | Battering and Mental Torture | 89 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 28 | 4 |
| 2. | Conflicts within Family | 35 | 3 | 2 | - | 5 | 1 |
| 3. | Domestic Violence due to Alcoholism | 12 | - | 3 | - | 8 | 2 |
| 4. | Divorce | 15 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | Bigamy | 14 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6. | Extra Marital Relations | 16 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| 7. | Unnatural Death | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8. | Legal Matter | 58 | 8 | - | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. | Disappointment from partner | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10. | Disputes with members of Extended family/ neighbours | 2 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| 11. | Sexual Harassment | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 12. | Psychological Distress | 16 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| 13. | Others | 25 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | | 286 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 50 | 13 |
| Total of new and pending cases | | 308 | | 28 | | 63 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 399 | | | | | |

Interventions by AWAG**☞ Action Taken**

| S. No. | Action taken by AWAG | Ahmedabad | Rapar | Radhanpur |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Police Assistance sought | 18 | 11 | 3 |
| 2. | Child brought into mother's custody | 4 | - | - |
| 3. | Hospital Assistance sought | 3 | - | 2 |
| 4. | Sent to Short-Stay Home | 5 | - | - |
| 5. | Joint Meetings | 125 | - | 10 |
| 6. | Legal cases filed through Lawyers | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| 7. | Counsel – Social | 228 | 28 | 59 |
| 8. | Counsel – Legal | 190 | 10 | 15 |
| 9. | Counsel - Psychological | 35 | - | - |
| 10. | Psychiatric Treatment | 4 | - | - |
| 11. | Psychiatric – Follow up | 7 | - | - |
| 12. | Any others | - | - | - |

Visits

| S. No. | Visits | Ahmedabad | Rapar | Radhanpur |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Police Station | 4 | 11 | 6 |
| 2. | Home Visits | - | 1 | 10 |
| 3. | Follow up Home visits | - | - | - |
| 4. | Courts | 1 | 22 | 17 |
| 5. | Hospitals | 18 | - | 4 |
| 6. | Others | - | - | - |

Pending Cases

| S. No. | Pending Cases | Ahmedabad | Rapar | Radhanpur |
|--------|---|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Battering and Mental torture | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| 2. | Conflicts within family | 1 | - | 1 |
| 3. | Divorce | - | - | - |
| 4. | Bigamy | - | - | - |
| 5. | Doubtful Death | - | - | - |
| 6. | Maintenance | - | 9 | 5 |
| 7. | Physical / Mental harassment by husband / in-laws | 5 | - | - |
| 8. | Any other | - | - | - |

✍ Conclusion of Cases

| S. No. | Conclusion of Cases | Ahmedabad | Rapar | Radhanpur |
|--------|--|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Settlement in AWAG | 21 | - | 4 |
| 2. | Settlement in Comm. | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. | Settlement in Court | 16 | 1 | - |
| 4. | Withdrawn by the applicant | - | - | - |
| 5. | File closed by AWAG | 248 | 8 | 9 |
| 6. | Rehabilitation through Short Stay Home | 7 | - | - |
| 7. | Counsel only | 230 | 10 | 12 |

✍ Conclusion of Legal Cases

| S. No. | Conclusion of Legal Cases | Ahmedabad | Rapar | Radhanpur |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Settlement during the court procedure | 9 | 1 | - |
| 2. | Exaction of maintenance order | 7 | - | - |
| 3. | Punishment to the Accused | - | - | - |
| 4. | Any other | - | - | - |
| 5. | Pending | 24 | - | 5 |



MULTI PURPOSE WOMEN WELFARE CENTRES (MPWWC)

AWAG runs Multipurpose Women Welfare Centres supported by Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat at Radhanpur and Bapunagar (Ahmedabad). These centres provide guidance and assistance to women in relation to their social, economic, educational as well as legal problems.

The given table depicts the activities undertaken along with the beneficiaries that have derived gain from these interventions.

| Nature of Inputs | No. of beneficiaries | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Bapunagar (Ahmedabad) | Radhanpur |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing information and guidance on cases of violence inflicted on women • Providing information on the ongoing government schemes • Primary Counselling for violence-affected women | 3725 | 722 |

Leaflets were distributed on following topics:

- Legislations on Domestic Violence against Women (Domestic Violence Act-2005)
- Discrimination against Girls
- Ongoing Government schemes

AWAG'S CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

➤ **Counselling Centres**

The counselling service provided by AWAG is available at all its centres - Bhudarpura & Bapunagar in Ahmedabad, and one each at Rapar in Kutch district and at Radhanpur in Patan district. Each year, an average of 400 women derive benefit from these services.

➤ **Legal Aid Centres**

AWAG runs two Legal Aid Centres, one at Ahmedabad and one at Radhanpur where women looking for legal assistance are provided counselling and aid. They are offered support in attending court proceedings also.

➤ **Income Generation**

The victims of domestic violence are offered skill training to meet their economic needs. They acquire skills and upgrade their learning to a high level and then start working to generate an income. Most women get absorbed into tailoring/stitching at the organization's production centre at Bapunagar. The rest undertake other activities. A retail outlet named 'Ek AWAG' handles the sale of garments and other craft-based items produced at AWAG's production centre.

During the year, 30 women were provided skill training.



➤ **Network**

At present, AWAG is a part of two networks in Gujarat.

- a) **Forum of Concerned Citizens for Naliya Incident:** In the aftermath of the gang rape of a woman at Naliya (Dist Kutch) various NGOs and civil society groups consisting of activists, doctors, advocates, professors and students, organized a public meeting on 16 February 2017 to protest against the incident and formed the said Forum.
- b) **Association Against Gender Violence (AAG):** Acknowledging the much broader scope of concerns that needed to be addressed following the gang rape and murder of a local woman from Mandvi village in Gariyadhar taluka (Bhavnagar district), the group was prompted to form AAG. This network addresses cases of gender violence across the State.

➤ **Migration Support Centre**

AWAG provides counselling and accommodation facilities to young migratory working rural girls that are trained and provided employment by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) – AKRSP (I), through a Migration Support Centre. A concept based on that of a 'home away from home' in the form of counselling services, accommodation assistance, periodic get-togethers, ensures a supportive environment for a progressive career growth for these youth.

Some common problems as observed by AWAG's counsellor during counselling sessions with these youth are:

- Adjustment issues with relation to a new environment
- Pressure from seniors at the workplace to increase sales and work for longer duration
- Tendency to get drawn into vices due to broken relationships
- Health issues due to shift duty and long hours of work
- Occupational hazards arising from working at Call Centres, Malls, Cold storage etc
- Fear of losing their job and concern about seeking a new one



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

AWAG is active in the public domain by participating in activities related to its work issues as well as hosting events in line with the same. Some key events for the year were:

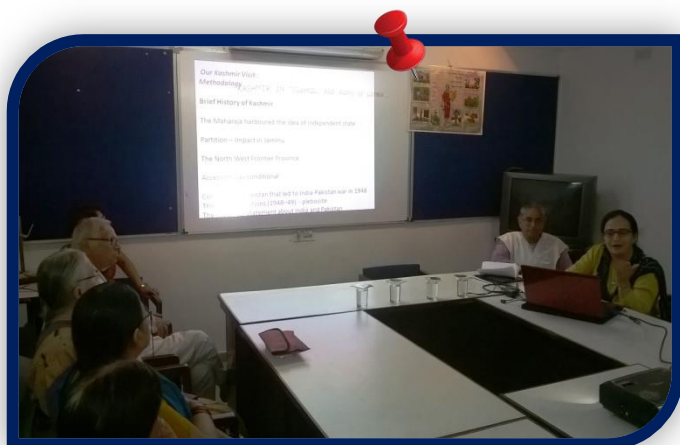
Discussion on Uniform Civil Code

In view of the debates and discussions on Uniform Civil Code (UCC), AWAG convened a presentation on the Supreme Court Writ Petitions that were filed in the past in relation to it. This was followed by a discussion on the questionnaire on Uniform Civil Code framed by the Law Commission of India. Shri Ashwinbhai Karia, (eminent lawyer & Professor at Palanpur Law College) and Shri Prakashbhai Shah (noted journalist and editor of 'Nireekshak') were the key speakers at the said event. The gathering that was held on 12 November 2016 at AWAG Kunj, Bhudarpura, saw well-wishers and NGO representatives participate therein.



Talk on 'Kashmir in Turmoil and Anguish of Women'

9 January 2017 marked the death anniversary of Dr Ilaben Pathak (Founder Secretary AWAG). On this nostalgic occasion, AWAG organized a talk on "Kashmir in Turmoil and Anguish of Women", by Dr Jharna Pathak, and Ms. Meenakshi Joshi at its head office. The talk threw light on the impact of armed intervention in Kashmir through various Acts like Armed Forces Special Power's Act and Public Safety Act on civilians of Kashmir. It also unfolded the



plight of women in exercising their human rights to defend the community against such impunity of the State.

➤ **EVENTS HOSTED BY AWAG**

| Sr. no | Date | Details |
|--------|---------------|---|
| 1). | 15/4/16 | Legal literacy as part of TOT programme at Daman that was conducted for women to cascade the information to their respective organizations. |
| 2). | 09 & 10/6/16 | Workshop on Women Empowerment and Gender that was conducted by AWAG's team for members/representatives from various organizations working on the issue of Domestic Violence. |
| 3). | 13 & 14/10/16 | Leadership training at AWAG's Radhanpur office that marked the last of the annual training undertaken for community leaders, wherein a total of 120 leaders from 60 villages in Radhanpur were covered. |
| 4). | 6/1/17 | Field visit of 28 students pursuing their post graduate diploma in counselling psychology (Gujarat University) were referred by Jyoti Sangh to gain exposure about AWAG's activities related to gender awareness and counselling. |
| 5). | 23/1/17 | On request by Gujarat Lok Samiti, AWAG organized a meeting conducted by members of the ' <i>Nasha Mukh Bharat Andolan Rashtriya Yatra</i> ' at its Bapunagar centre with the participation of AWAG's Bapunagar team, women artisans engaged in stitching as well as women from the local communities. |
| 6). | 16/3/17 | Press Conference at AWAG-Kunj in order to garner support in seeking justice for the victims of Naliya Sex Scandal. |
| 7). | 22/3/17 | Meeting on Reproductive Health and Hygiene with the students pursuing their second year ANM-FHW training at School of Nursing-Referral Hospital, Radhanpur, Gujarat. |
| 8). | 31/3/17 | Protest against rape, violence and suicide cases in village Mandvi in Gariyadhar Taluka, Bhavnagar district of Gujarat, along with People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and other local women's organizations. |

➤ **AWAG'S PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES**

| Sr. no | Date | Details |
|--------|--------------|--|
| 1). | 23 & 24/6/16 | Western region consultation for the third universal periodic review organized by the National Human Rights Commission in partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. |
| 2). | 13/7/16 | Gender Resource Centre and Women and Child Development Department committee meeting to Review the existing (1964) Rules for Management of Government Shelter Homes in Gujarat. |
| 3). | 26/7/16 | State level workshop on the draft of the National Policy for Women 2016 prepared by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, organized by Gender Resource Centre, Gujarat, at AMA, Ahmedabad. |
| 4). | 26/7/16 | Advocacy Programme for ' <i>ADVANCING COMMITMENT-ADOLESCENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME +</i> ' organized by FPA India at H.K Arts College, Ahmedabad. |
| 5). | 28/7/16 | Workshop for NGO's organized by Gender Resource Centre, Gujarat on Reformulation of the existing (1964) Rules for management of Government Shelter Homes in Gujarat, at AMA, Ahmedabad. |
| 6). | 6/8/16 | Discussion on Changes in Juvenile Justice Act and Rules based on Sustainable Development Goals declared by the United Nations, organized by Child Rights Collective Gujarat at Human Development Research Centre, Ahmedabad. |

| Sr. no | Date | Details |
|--------|--------------|---|
| 7). | 7/8/16 | Mediation Centre Information Programme for women's cases organized by the Patan court at Radhanpur College. |
| 8). | 8 to 12/8/16 | Workshop on 'Composite Heritage' organized by Institute for Social Democracy, Delhi and SAFAR, Ahmedabad, held at Greenwood Resort, Ahmedabad. |
| 9). | 10/8/16 | SATCOM programme for Women's Empowerment organized by Department of Women and Child Development, Gandhinagar and Gender Resource Centre, Gujarat held at Patan. |
| 10). | 9/9/16 | Sammelan at Gajjar Hall, Ahmedabad organized jointly by People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and Movement for Secular Democracy (MSD) to collectively reflect on alternatives for enhancement in the social lives of the people in Gujarat. |
| 11). | 26/9/16 | Reception organized by the Mumbai Consular Community in honour of their Citizen Services partners held at the Crowne Plaza, Ahmedabad. |
| 12). | 28/9/16 | Consultation on review of "Indecent Representation of Women Act 1986" organized by National Commission for Women held at New Delhi. |
| 13). | 7/10/16 | Conclave titled "Innovation Pathways for 'Last Mile' Linkages for Children and Women" organized by Knowledge Management and Innovation for Change (KMIC) an initiative by UNICEF in collaboration with IIM-A and other development partners, at Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad. |
| 14). | 17/10/16 | Programme organized by Gujarat Vidyapith on the eve of its foundation day at Kochrab Ashram, Ahmedabad. |
| 15). | 20/10/16 | Workshop on 'Civil Society Consultation on State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC)' organised by the School of Liberal Studies (SLS) of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDU) and Gujarat State office of UNICEF. |
| 16). | 25/10/16 | Consultation with civil society organizations organized by Pathey Budget Centre at Tribal Research and Training Centre, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad to articulate people's expectations of policies and budgetary priorities from the state government's budget for 2017-18. |
| 17). | 15/12/16 | Television programme named 'Hello Sakhi' featuring a live discussion on Violence inflicted on Women in Gujarat, that was aired on DD-Girnar. |
| 18). | 19/12/16 | State-level seminar on 'Important Provisions related to Lokpal & Lokayukt, IT, Trust Act & FCRA' that was organized by Janpath Network at Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad. |
| 19). | 22/12/16 | Panellist at the final event of the collaborative project with the Tata Trusts on 'Educational, Social and Economic Empowerment of Women in India' hosted by Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI) at The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi. |
| 20). | 29/12/16 | Meeting of local NGOs organized by JANPATH NETWORK to register their protest against the government's decision to cancel FCRA licences of organizations who are working to uplift the marginalized communities. |
| 21). | 7/1/17 | Protest demonstration against shameful incidents of molestation in Bengluru, Delhi and in Hyderabad, jointly organized by All India M.S.S, All India D.S.O. and All India D.Y.O. at Ashram Road, Ahmedabad. |
| 22). | 18/2/17 | Workshop on 'Budget Analysis and Health Budget', organized jointly by Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and Pathey Budget Centre at Hotel Garden, Patan, Gujarat. |

PUBLICATIONS

This year, AWAG launched three publications:

- ✍ 'Sangharsh Samantano' (Struggle for Equality) authored by Dr. Kalpana Shah, noted sociologist, researcher and close associate of AWAG, unfolds the history of the organization since its inception to the year 2008. The Gujarati and English versions of this publication were launched on the 84th birth anniversary of AWAG's Founder Secretary, Dr Ila Pathak as a tribute to her. (The Gujarati publication is available on <http://awagindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Sangarsh%20Samaantano-Gujarati.pdf> and English version on <http://awagindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Struggle%20for%20Equality.pdf>).



- ✍ Translated research report on 'Disposable Women: Abuse, Violence and Abandonment in Transnational Marriages' by: Ms. Nalini Trivedi. This report (<http://awagindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Disposable-Women-Guj.pdf>) throws light on the little known phenomenon of transnational marriage abandonment, a problem involving the abandonment of wives in their country of origin by their non-resident Indian husbands. This publication too was launched in May 2016 on the 84th birth anniversary of AWAG's Founder Secretary, Dr Ila Pathak.
- ✍ A Case Study on 'Impact Assessment of AWAG's Interventions in Strategizing Community Leaders for Social Empowerment'. This report (<http://awagindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Impact%20Assessment%20of%20AWAG's%20Interventions%20in%20Strategizin%20%20Community%20Leaders%20for%20Social%20Empowerment.pdf>) is published by AWAG with support from Harvard University South Asia Institute - Tata Project. The focus of the study is on documenting the impact of the role of community leaders in creating holistic (social, legal and economic) empowerment among women subjected to various forms of violence.

TESTIMONIALS

Dr Hasmukh Soni – Rakhiyal Ahmedabad

“I am serving at Ojas Hospital in Rakhiyal, Ahmedabad and am familiar with the organization’s team since a number of years. Women subjected to fatal injuries caused by domestic violence are brought here by the community leaders for treatment. The community leaders’ presence and sensitivity enables the victim to vent her pain and problem with ease thereby facilitating her treatment.



On the other hand, if the woman victim is alone or accompanied by her in-laws/relatives, she is unable to voice her feelings freely due to family pressure/fear and hence tries to conceal the reality behind her injuries.

In fact, I recommend violence victims who approach me for treatment to reach out to the organization for moral support and guidance. In the same vein, I too seek help from the organization’s team to lend me a hand in handling the cases at my clinic. The skill with which they guide and counsel the women proves helpful in the course of treatment.

Many a times, even in serious cases wherein women have attempted suicide due to extreme atrocities, the leaders and team members are always present to give the victim the much needed warmth and support.

Such interventions are helpful to the society and are imperative for empowerment of women steeped in violence.”

MISCELLANEOUS**Total Staff at AWAG**

Full Time - 28

Part Time - 11

Total Staff - 39

Payment of Salaries

In AWAG payment of salaries is as under:

Highest Salary is Rs. 21,000/- p.m.; Lowest Salary is 1,500/- p.m.

| Slab of gross monthly salary paid to full- time staff (Rs) | Female Staff | Male Staff | Total Staff |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Less than 5000 | 06 | - | 06 |
| • 5,001 - 10,000 | 12 | 01 | 13 |
| • 10,001 - 25,000 | 09 | - | 09 |

Total Cost of International Travel by Board Members and Personnel is nil for the year.

Interns at AWAG

In course of the year, the following students pursuing higher studies in Social Work and were keen to learn about social realities pursued their internship at AWAG to gain a firsthand experience.

| Student Name | Faculty-Institute | Duration of internship at AWAG |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Faeza Jariwala | Department of Human Development & Family Studies of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda | 7 November to 5 December 2016 |
| 1) Priyanka Ahir 2) Ishita Khudghara 3) Nehal Parmar 4) Poonam Raval 5) Nandini Mungel 6) Daksha Mungel 7) Hiral Makwana 8) Heena Bhavsar 9) Neha Tiwari 10) Meenakshi Patni 11) Jyoti Kaba | Department of B.A-Sociology (Semester 6) from M.P. Arts and M.H. Commerce College for Women (Ahmedabad) | 10 to 18 January 2017 |
| 1) Vandana Chavda 2) Asha Jadav 3) Heena Raval 4) Bhawna Prajapati | Department of M.S.W at Gujarat University (Ahmedabad) | 19 January to 25 March 2017 |

Remuneration of Board Members

| No. | Name | Position in the Board | Age (Yrs) | Address & Contact | Occupation | Annual Remuneration/ Reimbursement |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1). | Ms. Ramila Gandhi | President | 80 | Yoganjali Ashram, Dethali Rd, Post Kholvada, Siddhpur, Dist. Patan Ph: 02767-224707 Email: davejigna2000@yahoo.com | Social Worker | Rs. 4000/- |
| 2). | Ms. Sara Baldiwala | Secretary | 60 | 6, Century Apts, Chitrakut Society, Nr Rajnagar Char Rasta, Paldi, Ahmedabad – 380007 Ph: 079-26623293 Email: info@awagindia.org | Social Activist | - |
| 3). | Ms. Nalini Trivedi | Jt. Secretary | 66 | C.II-8 Chinaibaug Apts, Nr. Law Garden, Ahmedabad – 380006 Ph: 079-26440788 E-mail: nalinikishor@yahoo.com | Asst. Professor (Retd) | - |
| 4). | Dr. Jharna Pathak | Trustee | 44 | 'Ipsit' 5, Professors' Colony, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380009 Ph: 079-27910589 E-mail: fmjharna@gmail.com | Asst. Prof. | - |
| 5). | Ms. Bakula Ghaswala-Desai | Trustee | 65 | Jalaram Society, Jalaram Road Cross Lane, Valsad-390001 Ph: 251946 Email: bakula.ghaswala@gmail.com | Social Activist | Rs. 5006/- |
| 6). | Dr. Laxmi Iyengar | Trustee | 60 | 3, Saarthi Apartment, Bhaikaka Nagar, Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 59. 9727381851(M) | Doctor | Rs. 960/- |
| 7). | Ms. Nalini Bhatt | Trustee | 64 | Flat no. 9, Dhruv Complex, Una Email: hmvcollege@rediffmail.com | Social Activist | Rs. 900/- |
| 8). | Ms. Shrungi Desai | Trustee | 52 | A-1001 Rudraksh Residency, L.P. Savani Rd, Adajan, Surat Email: shrungidesai@rediffmail.com | Advocate | Rs. 1270/- |
| 9). | Ms. Chinmayee (Sejal) Joshi | Trustee | 46 | 44, Saket-III, Opp. Nandishwar Mahadev Temple, Vejalpur, Ahmedabad – 380051 Ph: 09879191519 Email: chinmayee_joshi@yahoo.com | Social Activist | - |
| 10). | Ms. Riti Shah | Trustee | 40 | 24-a Miland Mill, Corporate Tower, Sector 16-A Film City, Noida-201301 Email: shah.reeti@gmail.com | Homemaker | - |

DONORS AND PARTNERS

| DONORS AND PARTNERS | ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED |
|--|---|
| State Mental Health Authority, Gujarat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Mental Health Project for Adolescent Girls suffering from mental illness • Implementation of Mental Health Project for Women suffering from mental illness |
| Global Giving | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 130 women youth health leaders in Gujarat (Women's Menstrual Health Awareness and Sanitation) • Mental Health Counselling of Adolescents |
| Harvard University South Asia Institute - Tata Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Assessment of AWAG's Interventions In Strategizing Community Leaders For Social Empowerment |
| Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi Purpose Women Welfare Centres (MPWWCs) |
| McGraw Hill Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Impact Month (Women's Menstrual Health Awareness and Sanitation) |
| Individual Donors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For any objectives of the Trust |

AWAG takes the opportunity to express gratitude to all our donors and partners for their encouraging and continued support.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE (April 2016-March 2017)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Next project cycle for Mental Healthcare of Adolescents and Women ✍ Legal literacy training as part of the TOT programme conducted at Daman | <p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Launch of two publications: 'Sangharsh Samantano' (Struggle for Equality) and Translated research report on 'Disposable Women: Abuse, Violence and Abandonment in Transnational Marriages' ✍ Demanding Justice for Jisha, a law student of Kerala |
| <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Demanding Justice for Nirbhaya of Parul University, Waghodia (Gujarat) ✍ Workshop on Women Empowerment and Gender | <p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Advocacy Programme for 'Advancing Commitment-Adolescent Education Programme +' organized by FPA India ✍ State level workshop on the draft of the National Policy for Women 2016 prepared by Ministry of Women and Child Development |
| <p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Orientation Programme on Adjustment Problems of Adolescents with students from Standard 9 to 12, at two local schools ✍ Mediation Centre Information Programme for women's cases organized by the Patan court at Radhanpur College | <p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Group Therapy Workshop on Mental Health Awareness for women ✍ Consultation on review of "Indecent Representation of Women Act 1986" organized by NCW, New Delhi |
| <p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Leadership training at AWAG's Radhanpur office ✍ Conclave titled "Innovation Pathways for 'Last Mile' Linkages for Children and Women" organized by Knowledge Management and Innovation for Change (KMIC) | <p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Discussion on Uniform Civil Code (UCC) framed by the Law Commission of India ✍ Completion of counselling of adolescent students from local schools |
| <p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Celebration of Human Rights Day ✍ Panellist at final event of the collaborative project with the Tata Trusts and Harvard University South Asia Institute | <p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Talk on "Kashmir in Turmoil and Anguish of Women" ✍ Field visit by psychology students on gender awareness and counselling |
| <p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Formation of 'Forum of Concerned Citizens for the Naliya Incident' ✍ Orientation Training Programme on Adjustment Problems of Adolescents, with Teachers from two local schools | <p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Press Conference with relation to Naliya Sex Scandal ✍ Meeting on Reproductive Health and Hygiene with the students from School of Nursing-Referral Hospital, Radhanpur, Gujarat |

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017**AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)**

Charity Registration No : F/946/ Ahmedabad

Society Registration No : GUJ / 970/Ahmedabad

FCRA Registration No : 041910079

PAN : AAATA2348B

TAN : AHM01249D

Balance Sheet (Abridged) as on 31.03.2017

| Liabilities | Amount(₹) | Assets | Amount(₹) |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Trust Fund or Corpus (NonFC) | 1400 | Fixed Assets | 6252654 |
| Other Earmarked Fund (NonFC) | 3419886 | Cash and Bank Balance | 2269613 |
| Foreign Contribution Account | 3584069 | Fixed Deposits | 5208537 |
| Other Current Liability | 2120 | Grant Receivable | 516096 |
| Unutilized Grant | 3966669 | Other Current Assets | 337508 |
| Reserve For Interest (FC) | 693800 | | |
| Income & Expenditure A/c (NonFC) | 2916464 | | |
| | | | |
| | 14584408 | | 14584408 |

AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)

Charity Registration No : F/946/ Ahmedabad

Society Registration No : GUJ / 970/Ahmedabad

FCRA Registration No : 041910079

PAN : AAATA2348B

TAN : AHM01249D

Receipts and Payments Account (Abridged) for the year ending on 31.03.2017

| Receipts | Amount(₹) | Payments | Amount(₹) |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| Opening Balances | 6433684 | Expenditure Paid on the object of the Trust | 3556592 |
| Grants in Aid and Donation received during the year | 3885104 | Administrative Expenses | 335596 |
| Donation | 118200 | Closing Balances | 7478150 |
| Interest Received | 361395 | | |
| Other Receipts | 571955 | | |
| | | | |
| | 11370338 | | 11370338 |

AHMEDABAD WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP (AWAG)Charity Registration No : **F/946/ Ahmedabad**Society Registration No : **GUJ / 970/Ahmedabad**FCRA Registration No : **041910079**PAN : **AAATA2348B**TAN : **AHM01249D****Income and Expenditure Account (Abridged) for the year ending on 31.03.2017**

| Expenditure | Amount(₹) | Income | Amount(₹) |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Administrative Expenses | 335596 | By Interest | 461519 |
| Expenditure on the objects of the Trust (NonFC) | 2810319 | Donation | 118200 |
| Expenditure on the objects of the Trust (FC) | 748196 | Grants in Aid and Donation (NonFC) | 2810319 |
| Reserve For Interest (FC) | 258264 | Grants in Aid and Donation (FC) | 812843 |
| Income & Exp Account (NonFC) | 430171 | EK AWAG Project Income (NonFC) | 71771 |
| | | Publication and Misc Income (NonFC) | 307894 |
| | | | |
| | 4582546 | | 4582546 |