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**PROGRESS REPORT
APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005**

**SUBMITTED TO
BREAD FOR THE WORLD
BFW Ref Code: B-IND-0203-0009-GU
Remppis martin,
Stafflenbergstr.76
D - 70184, Stuttgart, GERMANY.
E-Mail: m.remppis@brot-fuer-die-welt.org**

24, Jalaram Park, Opposite Lal Bahadur Shastri School, Harni Road,
Vadodara – 390006, Gujarat, India.
Phone: 091- 265- 2486487/2466037
Fax: 0265 – 2466037
Email: olakh@satyam.net.in

PRESENT SITUATION AND BACKGROUND OF Olakh

APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005

*“As I look back today, at the footsteps so far,
I wonder where it all started from...
I want to pause here for a moment and think,
Before I move on to endure greater storms...”*

Olakh (connoting 'Identity' in Gujarati) is a Feminist Documentation, Resource and Counselling Centre that works with a mission to centre-stage Feminist Perspective and Practices to challenge the existing Structures and Systems of Discrimination and Dominance (Patriarchy, Caste, Class, Race) and to create new forms of human relationships and corresponding institutions based on a feminist world-view.”

Olakh thus, works with a vision of creating a humane society which affirms diversities and equity, celebrates inclusion and complementarity that walks towards sustainable peace.”

It started as a 'proactive' effort, (rather than as a reaction to an event or an emergency) in order to nurture the questioning and the challenging that goes on in the mind of every woman, but which is never given the space to exist and grow.

Olakh has come a long way from the ideations of an individual, way back in the 1990s to an organization of committed Feminists. Our worldview has widened and so has our work, our activities, and our outreach. The work through the last three years has been exhaustive and exhausting and the work in the communities has been in a completely fire-fighting mode, necessitating that we slow down a little bit and do a recap and a revisit of our journey so far, a journey of smiles and tears, fears and triumphs. As we have already mentioned in our last Annual report, we concentrated on the following areas in the last one year:

- Reflection on our projects, programmes and activities along with detailed stock-taking of last 8 years of our Journey
- Process Documentation with Critical Review
- Retreat and future 5 years planning

Thus, the year 2004-05 has been a year at the cross-roads for Olakh. We have initiated a recap and revisiting of all our major activities and we are still in the process of taking a stock of what has been achieved, what left behind in our work so far. Olakh is thus, at a stage now where we want to take time to reflect, consolidate and give final touches to our present projects and work before we re-strategize and take on new work in the future.

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION WITH CRITICAL REVIEW

As a part of this and also as a part of the requirements of BFW, we initiated the process of Organizational Evaluation with Runu Chakraborty and Gagan Sethi in May last year. When the report of the evaluation was presented, both the Olakh team and our Trustees felt that the report did not do adequate justice to the organizational practices and the Feminist perspective with which we have been working. So on the suggestion of the Board, we initiated a process of Process Documentation with Critical Review with the aid of external Feminist facilitators- Dr. Vibhuti Patel and Dr. Sara Ahmed.

The process has been very intensive, with four interactions between the Olakh team and the Facilitators between July 2004 and February 2005. They have interacted with the various stake holders and constituencies of Olakh as well as our Board of Trustees and the final draft of the report is almost ready for publication. The process has aided us to prepare ourselves to start an intensive Organizational Development Process now.

OFFICE SPACE

Olakh has been facing a lot of resistance and opposition from our immediate neighbours ever since we started working in the Conflict programme. The area that Olakh office is situated in is dominated by Middle

class Hindus most of who are supporters of the BJP. It has become difficult to function in this atmosphere as we have been threatened time and again and sometimes our properties like cars and other vehicles destroyed willfully. Thus, an imperative need for Olakh at this juncture is to find a new office space and shift premises. The entire last year we have been trying our best to raise funds for the same and also find a suitable space.

PROJECT GRANT

Also all the major project grants of Olakh have been completed by March this year, so a major pre-occupation was also to explore new partners. Medica Mondiale gave a small grant to Olakh for a training component of women change agents. Another major change in the organization came with the phasing out of the CARE-GHP project in September. As far as the community programme is concerned, Olakh is at a position where we are re-visioning our work in the communities keeping in mind the changed context.

ACHEIVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

The last year has also seen a lot of happy incidences and situations for the organization. Some of them being:

1. Olakh made a presentation on its strategic intervention in the communities on Social Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation in the International Seminar on Health and Human Rights (ISHHR) held in Vadodara in February 2005. The presentation was greatly appreciated and applauded.
2. Dr. Bori from Netherlands, who was present at the ISSHR Conference, has shown interest in writing a chapter on Olakh's work in his forthcoming book on strategies to combat Conflict.
3. START, an organization from Australia has shown interest in writing an article on Olakh and its work in their journal.
4. Peace in South Asia (PISA) desk of EED, Germany is collaborating with Olakh in writing a case study of Olakh for their project that documents the Best Practices in Conflict Transformation.
5. Seminars – Made presentation on Intervention strategies and community participation for Social Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation and Psychosocial Care at Medica Mondiale – A Women's Group based in Cologne, Germany November 2005
6. Made Presentation on "Development and Security issues from a Gender Perspective" with "Aprodev" and its Gender Reference Group at Brussels, Belgium October 2005
7. Made presentation in public meeting with "Aprodev" concerning EU policies regarding Development and Security for Women and Men", in Bonn, Germany October 2005
8. Made presentation in workshop on "Development in a Troubled World - Dealing with Conflict and Violence in Constructive Ways" organised by EED Bonn, Germany October 2005
9. EED - PISA Consultation on "Peace in South Asia" in Bangladesh and Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) on the behalf of Rehabilitation and Resource Centre for Torture Victims (RCT) at Stellenbosch, South Africa invited us to attend the workshop on "Monitoring and Evaluation of Psycho Social Intervention".
10. Medica Mondiale has nominated Olakh for two awards- one in Canada and the other- Weimar Town Human Rights Award.

TRAINING CONSULTANCIES

Apart from all this, Olakh has slowly over the past year carved a niche as a Feminist Training organization in Gujarat. Olakh has been training consultant to the Conflict Prevention and Violence Mitigation project of Oxfam and through that worked on training of women activists with two partner organizations, namely Manav Kalyan Trust and Sewa Mandir in Sabarkantha and Udaipur districts respectively. The trainings conducted by Olakh have covered conceptual clarity on Gender, Patriarchy and Conflict, Body Literacy and Holistic Health, Basic legal training etc. Olakh has also been a Training consultant for Doosra Dashak, a Rajasthan based organization working with adolescents, the topic of training being Body literacy and Sexuality. There is talk of long term consultancy with both these projects as well as with Sewa Mandir for their cluster level coordinators.

As a feminist organization, the biggest problem for us remains the over-arching and ever-expanding Patriarchy and all its varied manifestations. Patriarchy and its controls are so strongly embedded and accepted in our society that what is identified as a problem by us, is seen as a normal way of functioning

for most people in society. Thus our work starts from making our constituencies identify their life reality as a problem, increasing our challenges many fold.

Olakh continues to work on the following issues:

- Women's identity
- Women's spaces
- Women's Health
- Violence and Discrimination against women

Our major thrust thus, has always been on raising consciousness and promoting alternative lives for women based on Justice and Equality. When we look back today at the last 8 years, we feel that the fertile ground for achieving our dreams has been laid but we still need to struggle on....

**FEMINIST DOCUMENTATION AND RESOURCE CENTER
APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005**

*These are new times
Poignant and Unpredictable
Times to look at the realities
Through the eyes of the survivors,
Through the eyes of the powerless,
Through the eyes of those who have been on the margins,
The fringes
Through the eyes of the people on the edges
Through the eyes of women...*

...Because they tell us different stories

INTRODUCTION

The last one-year has been fairly mixed in terms of content of work as well as very exhaustive for the Documentation Center.

On the one hand, the Documentation Centre increased its outreach and utility to a great extent during the International Campaign to Stop Violence against Women and Girls. Almost for the four months -from September to December, the energies of the Documentation Centre were completely involved in the campaign, which did have an effect on the regular functioning of the DC.

Apart from this, the Documentation Centre saw a major turnover in the team in the last whole year as has already been mentioned in the last six monthly report, some more members who had been associated with the DC for a long time, moved out and others stepped in. This meant that a considerable amount of time had to be devoted to handing-over and streamlining processes.

The whole experience of this last one year was very enriching and challenging, as it had a dialogue with different people on different fronts and we were able to reach and spread our ideology to many people.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DOCUMENTATION CENTER

• **Stock Taking, Recapping and Revisiting:**

In order to write journey of Empowerment of adolescent program stock taking of all the activities, materials, and data was done.

Also, the technical checking of DC stock to ensure complete compatibility between the records and shelf holdings and making the DC more users friendly:

Coordinating, planning, networking and implementing various programs of International campaign to stop violence against women took up so much of our time and also disturbed our regular functioning of the DC. In order to have the DC properly maintained as well as to ensure complete compatibility between records entered in the computer accession register and shelf holding, we undertook the process of Stocktaking. This job was lengthy and time-consuming. Till now we have been able to cross check stocktaking of books, magazines, posters, organizational reports, leaflets, brochures and catalogs. This helped us to know actual stock, double copies, missing stock of each item. This also gave us clarity about the future follow up actions and systems to be developed. In near future this work will be completed on a priority basis, by the end of June.

Present Stock of Documents & Members at Olakh Documentation Center:

No.	Item	Stock
1	Books and reports (Fiction, non fiction and issue based- in Hindi, Gujarati, English)	4637
2	Reports and journals	395
3	Magazines in Stock (English-78, Hindi-23, Gujarati-36)	137
4	Regular magazines (English -21, Hindi-11, Gujarati-14)	46
5	Posters	360
6	Organizational reports	80
7	Leaflets (Violence, health, Gender)	162
8	Brochures	330
9	Catalogs	68
10	Video cassettes	120
11	CD	142
12	Audio cassettes	51
13	Kits (Health, law, violence, child rights)	55
14	Material on Sale	70

- **Developing User friendly library software with search engine:**

To make the documentation and resource center more user friendly and to keep the record of all material of Olakh at DC up to date and easily accessible and retrievable, a computer software with search engine has been developed with the help of a student volunteer from Germany called Ida. This search engine will help us to find the material as per Title of book, name of author, Publishing year, media type (form), language, quantity, key words, major category, sub category and accession number. Moreover, the search engine also gives detailed information like Date of entry, Name of Editor/translator, Name of the Publisher, Year of Publication, Edition, Total number of pages, Price and the ISBN number for that particular material.

The DC has extensive material in Gujarati and Hindi languages. The entries of this material have been done in its particular language. We have to therefore, put in extra effort to have the information available in its own language. Three team members of DC were trained to operate this package. Entering, tallying and updating of all the information in the search engine is in process.

- **Circulation:**

The main work of the Documentation Centre is to provide material, facilitate and orient those who seek to access it. We have many visitors, students and researchers who visit our Documentation Centre. We provide materials as per their requirement for their Projects, research and other purposes.

Olakh team members also use the DC material for updating their knowledge and information etc. They use this material for Report writing, Research, Proposal Writing, Trainings, Curriculum designing and material development etc.

External Extended Outreach- 2,974

Total Visitors to the DC (excluding Olakh visitors) - 226

Total External Circulation- 255

Total Internal Circulation- 545

Extended Outreach of material issued by team members- 663

Circulation of DC material and Extended Outreach

Sr. No.	Month	Books	Magazine	Posters	Audio/ Video	Reports/ Kits/ Photographs	Visitors	Total Outreach
1	April	13	1	12	5	1 Reports	37	208
2	May	31	4	-	1	-	15	197
3	June	6	-	-	-	-	24	8
4	July	4	-	-	-	-	8	7
5	August	7	-	-	-	-	15	15
6	September	14	-	40	2	5 Reports	20	99
7	October	5	-	9	1	-	12	712
8	November	15	-	19	5	-	14	178
9	December	3	-	7	1	7 leaflets	8	1106
10	January	11	-	-	-	-	28	47
11	February	7	2	-	3	3 photos	15	227
12	March	5	-	-	6	-	30	170

Staff Members Circulation

No	Month	Circulation	Outreach
1	April	22	
2	May	30	
3	June	47	
4	July	57	
5	August	47	
6	September	20	
7	October	48	98
8	November	52	171
9	December	35	60
10	January	50	94
11	February	60	163
12	March	77	77

Mini Library: The mini libraries at the creative learning centers at Maretha and Kalyan Nagar constitute the DC outreach. The DC team supervises the issue registers, stock taking etc. of these as well. IN addition to this, regular study circles are held on Saturdays in the Creative Learning Centers.

Maretha: Total Circulation- 358

Kalyan Nagar: Total circulation - 400

- **Dialogue and facilitation with DC users –**

Query handling, query management, telephonic information giving, and intensive facilitation in order to mainstream feminist ideology

We provide information and guidance about the material and resources on phone as well as at the center. The ratio of handling queries on telephone is nearly 225 calls in the last one year.

Besides this the D.C undertakes intensive facilitation with students as well as other individuals and NGO members for their reference reading, assignment and fieldwork programs that they organize as part of their study/work.

Total 226 persons visited the DC, out of which majority are students from faculty of social work, Home science (Extension and communication department, Human development and family studies department) Fine arts, Faculty of law, Faculty of arts-sociology, psychology economic departments. Besides Vadodara, some students out of Vadodara also visit the DC. Dialogue with students is best opportunity to spread our ideology. It is based on question answer, discussion and personal sharing.

Some frequently encountered discussions and questions centre around- *what is women empowerment? , Who are single women? Will income generation programs lead to a change in the situation of women? , Whether girls should be given the choice to decide whether to marry or not? Do men have a responsibility to partake of in stopping violence against women? Do we face violence in our life?*

These discussions give a personal touch and new insights not only for their particular task but also inspires them to do something for women's issues and re-look at their own lives. Some of them are inspired to join as volunteers in awareness programs like drama and role-play.

- **Collection:**

To make the DC more equipped a regular up dating with purchase of new material is an on going activity. This material is collected in the form of fiction, non-fiction and issue based books, posters, leaflets, brochures, reports, papers etc. This time lot of value based nonfiction material, books on sexuality and violence have been purchased, totaling to Rs. 27, 708/-

Olakh is a Feminist Documentation & Resource center; it is working on feministic issues where in it also disseminates sale material in form of books, posters, cassettes, cards etc. A lot of material was purchased from the NCC meeting at Chennai, IAWS Conference in Goa, and the Oxfam Seminar on Conflict Mitigation in Mumbai and from the meeting at Kolkata for the violence campaign. Some material was also received as gifts from AWAG, WSRC, Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, and Government of Gujarat.

- **Sale and Purchase:**

Along with collection of good material, Olakh also participates in various exhibitions, mela and display of stalls. Sale of Olakh publications and other feminist material is also an important and ongoing activity of the DC. The last year has seen moderately good dissemination of feminist literature worth (Olakh & Other Publication) Rs. 45, 325 (Forty Five Thousand, three hundred and twenty five only), including items gifted by Olakh and a collection for CD rentals of Rs. 1,025. The membership fees have been generated to the tune of Rs. 650.

- **Study circles:**

Study circle is an ongoing, regular and prime activity of Olakh. This time along with Olakh's team's internal study circle, we also had very fruitful discussions with outsiders. This expands our knowledge, understanding and worldview, which helps in strengthening our work.

No.	Facilitator	Subject
1.	Mr. Sureshbhai Parikh- retired professor, Writer and Publisher of value based literature	How we can lead our life, fulfil our dream, Time management, importance to be lent to small matters
2.	Ms. Madhu Kishwar- Publisher and writer of women's magazine "Manushi"	Status and situation of people in Kashmir, Government's effort to rebuild peace, trust and normalcy among people. Her role as an activist in bringing the change into situation
3.	Dr. Ashok Shah: Art therapist associated with B.M. Institute, Ahmedabad	His work in area of mental health and use of art therapy with specially challenged people.
4.	Olakh's internal study circles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government policies- How it is formed, importance of it, Type of policies India has, developed, under developed and developing countries, India' economic condition, globalization its impact on developing countries. • Youth Policy • Patriarchy • Film Screening- FIRE

- **Paper-cuttings**

A major activity of the DC has been ongoing paper cuttings, starting from July onwards. The major aim is to make an information kit, using these cuttings for dissemination, so that a local level picture of Violence against women in Gujarat can be obtained. Paper cuttings are being done from 5 newspapers- The Times of India and Indian Express in English and Sandesh, Gujarat Samachar and Divya Bhaskar in Gujarati. The students placed with the DC have also been involved in this activity; it helps them to build their perspective. A collage of newspaper cuttings related to violence against women was used during the campaign, which was a very effective medium of awareness.

Olakh also took to advocacy against anti-women articles- one prominent newspaper Gujarat Samachar in one of its supplements had printed an article derogatory to women, Olakh translated that article in English and sent it across to women's groups all over the country and based on the prompt and enthusiastic responses drafted and sent a protest letter to the newspaper. In Maretha also, the women's collective drafted and sent a similar letter protesting against another similarly derogatory article.

At present we have newspaper cuttings for the period of July 2004 to Dec 2004, related to violence against women taken from Gujarati and English newspapers.

During international campaign on violence against women, the media on a large scale covered the campaign activities and programmes. We have done a special collection of the news and articles related to the campaign.

- **Curriculum For Adolescents**

Olakh had planned to prepare curriculum on body literacy with gender and holistic perspective in order to reach out and address adolescent girls' issues at large level and to create a space at various level for such issues and material through advocacy and networking. To make it more sharpen once again all the content was reviewed, rewritten, edited and corrected. Whole content covers the topic as what is girl? What is boy? Identity, Rights, Physical and Emotional Changes during Adolescence, Beauty, Love, Menstruation, Relationship, Conception, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Contraceptives and AIDS, Herbal Remedies. To make it more effective, sharp, innovative and creative input from experienced people will be taken.

- **Publications**

The DC team published a Notebook of Olakh, which was given to all staff and Aneri group members ahead of the counselling workshop.

Apart from the publications during the violence campaign, Olakh has also given a reprint of the Gujarati translation of What is Patriarchy as well as 1,000 copies of the Adolescent Diary for printing. A set of three posters on violence against women- Child sexual abuse and decreasing sex ratio has also been published by Olakh.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Apart from all the above mentioned activities the DC team is also involved in a number of outreach activities in forms of lectures, melas, orientation programmes, film screenings etc. The details of these have been attached in the annexe.

Total No. of events/ programs: 22

Total Outreach: 38,557 people

CAMPAIGNS

International Campaign to Stop Violence against Women:

Violence against women is widespread and increasing in its manifestation in various visible and invisible forms. The decreasing ratio of girls, increase in domestic, sexual and communal violence is at an alarming rate. Olakh believes that in creation of just society violence on women is a violation of her basic human right and so took lead role in national network formed specifically to protest violence against women. The main thrust of the campaign for this year was to emphasize and sensitize **man for their responsibility to stop violence against women**. At Gujarat, within this also focus area decided were on four major issues in context of larger theme evolved by national network:

- **Familial violence against women**
- **Sexual violence against women**
- **Decreasing sex ratio**
- **Mass violence against women in situations of Conflict**

Focusing on the theme of “Male Responsibility to Stop Violence against Women” Olakh organized and coordinated various programmes at regional and local level with various innovative strategies with an aim to create world where women are without fear and walk with their heads held high.

	Type of activity	Detail
a.	“What man can do to stop violence against women” - activity to know people’s perception	In order to know about peoples perception, have their participation and to focus their attention on male responsibility to stop violence, Olakh introduced an activity in which person has to express his/her views in regards to “What man can do stop violence against women and girls” . People were free to send in their expressions in various creative ways. Announcement of this activity was done in different ways like having orientation programs in schools, colleges, hostels, distributing and sticking leaflets at various public places, e-mail and post. Nearly 300 people took part and send their views in form of poems, posters, and articles. At the time of announcement we had given specific time to send their response, but looking at people’s interest and enthusiasm we kept it open throughout the year. The responses of the people will be analyzed, compiled and properly documented with the help of experienced members in the field of women empowerment.
b.	Orientation program with students of various universities and colleges, schools, and hostels and community groups.	Nearly 6,000 students from schools, colleges and various universities were approached and dialogued with, on the issue of what man can do to stop violence against women? It was very enriching, learning and exhaustive experience. We had planned every orientation program as per the students’ convenience. Usually the students were available at the night only. So many of our programs would start at 10.00p.m. and continue till 2.00 a.m. We had intensive dialogues with them where they expressed so many of their questions, beliefs and myths related to girl/woman’s situation, violence, and men’s role in that. Some of their expression were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women’s violence is prevalent in rural areas, among poor and illiterate people. ▪ Girls invite violence by wearing short and revealing clothes. ▪ If boys don’t have jobs and if get frustrated than where they will express their frustration. Boys will naturally commit sexual violence on girls. ▪ Girls/women should restrict their movement in the night. ▪ Mostly women do violence on other women, not men. <p>Why man should be responsible for the violence on women? As a team, we really had to put in extra efforts to break myths, give a reality based picture and be able to translate this understanding onto others. Because of and In spite of all this hard work the programmes were very fruitful in terms of creating awareness and sensitizing male youth for such a sensitive issue. This also helped us in mobilizing youth and volunteers in other programs of the campaign.</p>

c.	Street theater	<p>Being a very effective medium for the mass awareness we developed script on man's role and responsibility as a father, husband, and brother and as a citizen to stop violence against women. Thirteen student volunteers who came in our contact during the orientation programs, together with the team developed and performed the play in 13 public places of Vadodara city, where we reached more than 1200 people. So much effort was also put in the perspective and skill building of the volunteers to perform the play effectively. After the play we dialogued with people where they express their agreement and disagreement with the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Jain community, even though they are educated female feticide rate is very high. Why is it so? ▪ To promote or decrease incidents of violence is in our own hand. Many of the violence situations can be prevented if the society is sensitive enough to the women. <p>Apart from the play people were informed and involved in other programmes of campaign like press conference, night walk and creative expression activity through street play.</p>
d.	Press conference: Advocacy with Media	<p>Press conference was organized in order to create awareness among media agencies as well as to spread message at large society. Personally 21 of the print and electronic media agencies were visited. Intensive discussion with many questions and answers was done. Representatives from NGOs and many students also participated actively. They shared their personal experience of violence especially sexual violence to the group. More than 60 people attended the Press Conference. Press representatives were given press kit which included leaflet on story of white ribbon campaign, white ribbon, Paper on myths and facts related to violence, press note and Olakh brochure.</p>
e.	Night Walk- Taking the message to the streets	<p>The idea of the Night-walk was to mobilize youth- girls and boys to come out into the open at night, together and pledge to do all that they can to make this kind of freedom a possibility everyday, at all times, for everyone. The endeavor here was to nurture a feeling of friendship and camaraderie with responsibility for each other and making spaces safe and secure for women. The State administration, Police, Media, professionals, celebrities had joined this platform. Nearly 500 people participated with great enthusiasm. The walk started from Mandvi-central area of the city to Kalaghoda with placards, banners, songs and slogans spreading the message of non-violence and friendship. Kit which included Badge, leaflet, Bandana, white ribbon, paper bag, songs and slogans which to be sung in the walk were given to all the members who joined walk. Each of this material had some message to stop violence and make the society violence free. Prominent personalities from the different field like sports, academic, education were invited and this has motivated many of the youth. The Walk ended with an oath to make a violence free society.</p>
f.	Networking at micro and macro level	<p>Since two years for the first time organizations in India- around 50 of them joined hands in a co-ordinated effort to carry forward “International Campaign to Stop Violence Against Women and Girls.” Olakh is also actively involved since the network has</p>

		<p>formed. This year Olakh put lot of effort in developing logo for the national network. Olakh also supported Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh groups to take the campaign forward.</p> <p>At Gujarat various programs at regional and at local level were planned along with other partners, where Olakh took lead role in coordinating campaign. This has expanded our relationship with other of women's group, other NGOs, student volunteers, educational institutions, media group, and well-wishers. Unfortunately, the state network did not work out due to various practical reasons; still we were able to form strong linkages with the national network.</p>
	Publication of material	<p>There is extensive material available depicting the situation of violence on women, but there isn't much material available on 'male responsibility to stop violence against women'. So, material production around the theme became major activity of the campaign. Lot of brain storming was done on it and following material was developed as part of the campaign:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leaflet inviting entries on "What can man do to stop violence on women and girls (Gujarati and English) 2. Leaflet " Calling all men of quality, who are not afraid of equality" containing the story of white ribbon (Gujarati and English) 3. Paper on myths and facts around the violence on women 4. Module covering lot of exercises, games, songs, role play scripts and methods were developed along with other partners to conduct various awareness programs at different rural-urban setup. 5. Badge " To stop violence against women" 6. Bandana (Gujarati and English) 7. Paper bag (Gujarati and English) 8. Placard (25)(Gujarati and English) 9. Posters-14 (1 published, others are in process) 10. Cloth poster (1) – collarge of press news related to women and violence. 11. Olakh telephone help line sticker (Gujarati and English) 12. Cloth banner on Violence against women (8) <p>Throughout the campaign press notes were given to the various media agencies. Material became very important tool to take the campaign ahead.</p>
	Media coverage	<p>Since the beginning of the campaign various written and electronic media agencies were personally visited and invited for various programmes. Apart from reaching to the mass we also wanted to create awareness and sensitize media agencies for the issue. Some were agreeing for the issue while some had resentment, but still they took part in the activities of the campaign. Overall we got very positive response from all local T.V. Channel and newspapers. Almost 20 media agencies covered news about the campaign at least once. One very prominent newspaper –Gujarat Samachar published whole paper written by Olakh on "myths and facts around the violence on women". This created awareness in society about the issue at large.</p> <p>T.V. spot on eve teasing was developed by national network. This was translated in Gujarati. One of the national channels E-TV</p>

		telecasted it at regional level for 7 times a day for 16 days in Gujarati- the local language. Liaison was done with local channel and cable operators. TNN- local channel and one cable operator, near Waghodiya road area telecast the TV spot free of cost. All these coverage, build an environment for the campaign in larger society and also increase our enthusiasm for the same.
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TRAINING AND MATERIAL PRODUCTION

Olakh being a consultant for the Violence Mitigation and Peace Building project with Oxfam conducted a total of **nine trainings** in the last six months with women of Manav Kalyan Trust at Sabarkantha and Sewa Mandir, Udaipur areas. Different Olakh team members as per their expertise and experience facilitated the trainings. The content covered in these trainings were Gender, theater, body literacy, sexuality and legal literacy. The total number of participants was around **55**. Increase in mobility, interest, understanding of the issues; initiation of collective processes and development of leadership were the clearly visible impacts of the training. Lot of contextual material was produced and disseminated for the women as well as for project team leaders of Manav Kalyan Trust at Sabarkantha and Sewa Mandir, Udaipur.

No.	Publication of material	Outreach
1	Hand out on Women and Health	50
2	Hand out on Role and structure of Government health system	50
3	5 different Case studies on contraceptive, infertility, male responsibility, female feticide,	50
4	Handouts on law- Constitutional Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Common laws relating to violence against women, Structure of Courts, FIRs and NCs.	50
5	Case Studies on various aspects of law	50
6	What is sex? What is Gender?	50
7	Concept note on collective meditation	50

FEEDBACK FROM OUR USERS

- **Library user (Activist)** It is very much welcoming in D.C. Not only paper cutting and box file, but also the books are kept well organise.
- **Library user (Student)** Interesting knowledge as awareness is helpful in allowing people to gain knowledge and can be aware about society, violence & reality, so it is strength for women
- **Library user (Student)** Today I feel very happy to take information about the functions of Olakh, in which I had just good cooperation from the personnel and I expect some co-operation in social work activities organised by me.
- **Library user (Individual)** Felt better to know that 'we' have been expressed in black and white and in some colours.
- **Library user (Individual):** I got very good platform to express my thoughts. I hate the patriarchal society where women face lot of exploitation and injustice. I also like to do something for women's awareness. I hope I will get direction for that from this organization.
- **Library user (NGO member):** It is very good to be here. I got a new direction to move further. So this visit has helped me a lot.
- **Library user (Master of social work student, Saurashtra University- Rajkot) :** I got information for my dissertation on raped women. I got information about women's atrocities and exploitation. It also inspired me to work for women in my life

MOTIVATORS:

- Team work and commitment
- Skills
- Cooperation from the users
- Volunteers' help
- Innovativeness

CHALLENGES:

1. The turn over of staff and specifically of key staff who had been associated with the DC for a very long time.
2. Urgent need for stock taking and streamlining which took longer than expected because of the mass of material involved.
3. The Violence Campaign really exhausted the resources of the Documentation Center in the first three months of this period.

LEARNINGS:

1. Through the process of stock taking, we have realized that the systems in the DC are adequate to generate outreach and impact if properly maintained.
2. Activities like the Violence Campaign need to be planned strategically in order for them to be cost-effective and have optimum impact.
3. We need to maintain a day-to-day account of the facilitations we undertake in order to track nature of issues in demand, FAQs etc. This will help us during major categorization and arranging material.
4. It is imperative to make systems for easy access and retrieval of the available material. Once the Search Engine has all the information fed in, it shall hopefully serve our purposes.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR:

1. Complete Major Categorization and Classification of Posters and Kits
2. Publications- Film synopsis, Catalogue of the Documentation Centre, Collective Meditation Kit, and Compilation of Policies related to women, Compilation of stories and songs on Peace, compilation of Play for Peace, Violence Kit, Photo document, Collage, Body Puzzle in Gujarati.
3. Completion and Dissemination of the User-friendly search engine and software package.
4. Completion and Publication of the Olakh journey including the journey of the DC and Adolescent programme.
5. Sexuality training with Adolescent girls and boys.
6. Feminist seeding through facilitation, orientation, trainings and material dissemination (add)

FEMINIST COUNSELING CENTER WITH HEALING AND SUPPORT

APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005

***It has been a long time
silence reigns over my life
I am scared of words***

***My lips are sealed
least they might escape
and spread the story of
silent screams, lonely nights***

***But someone opens softly
the door of the cage..
Cajoles the silent bird to sing***

***The open door, a feathery caress
The silence and sound come
face to face...***

***Who shall triumph?
Harmony or distress?
The bird waits and waits...***

I know, it may not be good, it certainly is not my smile, but it's me...! Once again I had the courage to pen what I felt...Thanks for helping me break my silence.... Seema (name changed), one of our counselees)

The Feminist Counselling Centre with Healing and Support was started in January 2002. Olakh, through its six-year experience of work since 1996, has tried to challenge Patriarchal structures, systems and practices in our society, leading to discrimination, violence and exploitation based on numerous dividers such as class, caste, religion ethnicity, and gender. As a feminist organization, we recognize that violence and discrimination manifest themselves through these various dividers, and that no matter how the violence is manifested, women and girls seem to be most vulnerable and the most affected by it, as they have always be given a secondary status in society with limited or no accesses to any resources and power, no space for independent decision making, and no means to assert their rights as human beings and specifically as women.

The counselling centre deals with many cases of counselees specifically from the middle and upper classes and in educated families, where violence is taking a more covert and subtle form. Another form of violence that is showing a sharp increase in incidence and intensity is sexualized violence, and denial of human rights.

It is also our observation that it has become increasingly difficult for a woman to challenge any patriarchal structures or practices as there is a severe lack of support systems for her (shelter homes, job opportunities, society's negative perception of 'single', separated women etc).

Though our basic problem-analysis is still valid, our understanding and sensitivity to violence had become wider, including

- Abuse, violence and discrimination of women in relationships, not only with intimate partners, but also with friends, family and in the workplace;
- Exploitation through media and literature
- Women's struggle for property rights and a right to space.
- Globalization and its effects- intensifying gender disparities.

This has lead to a direct increase in incidence of mood and anxiety disorders, especially with many more women reporting symptoms of depression.

The activities of the Feminist Counselling Centre with Healing and Support are governed by a few basic principles

- Faith in the Feminist Ideology as one which heals and bridges gaps, connecting rather than dividing people
- Feminist Therapy- one that believes that every woman has the capacity to understand and change her life and to heal herself
- That the pathology is in the society and not in the individuals who suffer violence
- That we are only facilitators, who can help build capacity, provide information, develop understanding and skills or survivors and support them unconditionally in their efforts to heal themselves.
- An acceptance of our own struggles, dilemmas and self-dialogue for greater identification with my work and meeting my parameters.

Year 2004 -2005 for the Counseling Centre has been a period of changes and stocktaking, starting from the recruitment of two new counselors, Ms. Nithyakalyani and Ms. Radhika. In the past year, along with the ongoing activities, the Counseling Centre was also involved in the process of recap, journey and revisiting of the work done since January 2002 and the future planning and the direction of activities of the Counseling Centre and Olakh at large.

In the period April 2004 to March 2005, the counselling centre has handled **29** new cases and around **7** follow up cases. Thus by March 2005, the counselling centre has handled **100** cases since its inception.

The four main activities of the Feminist Counselling Centre with Healing and Support include

I. FACE-TO-FACE COUNSELLING- IN COUNSELLING CENTRE:

The Counselling centre handled a total of **29 new cases** totalling upto **92 face- to-face** counselling sessions, each lasting on an **average about 2-3 hours**. This is besides telephonic follow-up, referrals, home visits and collective sessions.

Details of the Cases handled by the Feminist Counselling Centre are attached in the Annexure 2.

Table showing the follow-up sessions with counselees registered in the previous years.

DATED	NATURE OF THE CASE	NUMBER OF SESSIONS
14.04.2004	Harassment in the marital home, it is her second marriage.	23
24.06.2004	Depression and suicidal tendencies	2
25.06.2004	Property related case	6
07.08.2004	Acute mental disturbance – schizophrenia	1 face-face 3 telephonic sessions
10.09.2004	Regarding daughter's problem of domestic violence, and legal information required for the same.	1 face-face
03.07.2004	Emotional disturbance and feelings of guilt and relationship turbulence with younger son.	3 face-to-face sessions 8 telephonic sessions.
26.06.2004	Emotional and financial strains due to husband's extra-marital affair	2 face-to-face sessions 4 telephonic sessions

Since the inputs in the counselling process are largely qualitative, the impact very often is intangible. Though we had not used any specific indicators to assess our work in the past, this year the centre evolved certain parameters (which it had always been using, but had not formalized). The following are a few parameters, which have always served as a guideline to ensure that holistic inputs are being given to a counselee and to check the progress of each case. However the process of putting the same in specific parameters took place this year.

1. **The duration and frequency of a counselee's association with the organization and the counselling centre.**
2. **Ability of counselee to live life on her own terms**
 - Break the silence around her problems, concerns and dilemmas.
 - Mobility of the counselee
 - Facing Challenges in life
 - Expansion of her universe
 - Ability for independent decision-making.
 - Reality orientation and readiness to face consequences
3. **Greater ability to express self**
 - Ability to negotiate
 - Assertive Communication
 - Greater emotional Vocabulary
4. **Greater insights into self**
 - Motivation (internal locus of control)
 - Clarity in problem identification
 - Usage of positive problem solving techniques
 - Need to reflect and question
5. **Identification of primary reason for her disturbance as pathology in society and not in her**
 - Building up of a knowledge base
 - Conceptual clarity in recognizing a spectrum of violence, injustice and discrimination
 - Demystification of myths and beliefs
6. **Initiate process of woman healing herself**
 - Woman develops a standard of wellbeing and healing as per her own standards.
7. **Carrying forward the understanding to other women**
 - Greater sensitivity and identification with other women
 - Taking any desirable action in the above mentioned direction

The above indicators have been evolved for the counselling process in the counselling center. However parameters for doorstep counselling still need to be evolved, as the processes in the two places are quite different from each other.

Case studies can be of help to take a look at the qualitative impact of the counselling process on the counselee. To refer to the case studies, please refer to Annexure 3.

II. HELPLINE

The Helpline registered **252** calls over the past year, averaging to about 20 calls a month. The number though not very high, **involved** a lot of **qualitative inputs** on part of the counsellors. Two of the counsees who availed the helpline facilities were "differently able" and the **telephone became a medium to conduct intensive counselling sessions** with them, since physical mobility was an issue with them. Thus the total time allotted to these 252 calls, was 40 mins on an average for each call and involved greater in-depth and technical inputs. The period of October to March also witnessed a very low number as well as percentage of prank and blank calls.

The helpline also becomes a means through which the counsees can communicate with the counsellors in case they are unable to come to the Centre for face-to-face counselling and thus a means for case follow-ups.

One thing that centre is aware and needs to work on in the future, is to increase the outreach of the helpline and conceptualize strategies for doing the same.

Over the past six months, one of the helpline counselee, who is a writer (and is differently able), and for many years had stopped writing, wrote a poem after about 30 odd intensive telephonic counselling sessions...This is what she had to say...**"hi friend...writing is like bearing one's self...since very long I wrote nothing as if I'd put a lid over myself...today I could manage to break out...so, let you be the first one to read it..."** Her poem is what we begin our report with.

III. ANERI- SELF HELP GROUP

In the year 2004-2005, the Aneri group has had **seven** monthly meetings. Some of the major issues discussed in the meetings were- Concepts and perceptions of "Single woman", women's needs and desires, sexuality (myths and biases they carry), "house husband", "the other woman". The issues were discussed with the help of various methodologies being- Film reviews, focus group discussions and personal sharing and reflections.

In February, Olakh had organized a workshop on "**Storytelling to Heal Survivors of Violence**", for the Aneri group, from the 11th to the 13th of February 2005. Shazneen- a psychotherapist, currently pursuing her Doctorate from Lancaster University, in the area of sexualized violence against women, facilitated the processes of the workshop.

The centre has also been able to evolve a few tentative parameters on the basis of which we concrete indicators for the processes and evolution of the Aneri programme could be developed and are as follows:

- Ability of the group to take ownership of its processes in terms of fixing dates for meetings, documenting minutes of the meetings, ensuring that other group members are present
- Ability of the group to direct processes during Aneri meetings and take decisions independent of the facilitator.
- Ability of the group to determine their future direction and purpose on their own
- Ability of the group to form a alternative support system to survivors of violence

IV. WORKSHOP ON BASIC COUNSELLING

A workshop on "Basics of Counselling" was conducted for the Olakh team members as well as a few Aneri members who were interested in taking up counselling in the near future. Ms. Bulbul Bakshi and Ms. Sharbani conducted this 6-day workshop in the month of September from the renowned institute called "Samikshani" from Calcutta. The workshop stressed on the skills and tools, which should a counsellor should possess or develop and last few days also stressed on Trauma Counselling and Self-care, which are very important components while working in a Feminist organization with regards to the nature of issues that women, come with.

V. RECAPPING, REVISITING, DOCUMENTATION, STOCKTAKING AND ANALYSIS: ANALYSIS OF FACE-TO-FACE COUNSELLING SESSIONS AND HELPLINE CALLS FROM JAN 2002 TO MARCH 2005:

The centre carried on the process of Stocktaking of its activities since its inception in Jan 2002. This includes the **quantitative analysis of 191 cases** of face-to-face counselling and **1568** helpline calls. The process also included preparing the base for a detailed qualitative analysis of the nature of issues addressed by the counselling centre and the categorization of the same.

This analysis will aid in the future planning for the counselling centre and its activities with respect to the shape and direction that the present activities should take in future and also in building a socio-political understanding of violence and of women's status in society today. The analysis will also provide insights into the correlation between emotional mental health disturbances and violence.

The analysis will also help provide an understanding of how feminist counselling and the operationalization of the concept of space can help in healing survivors of violence, which could be helpful in moulding the services provided by the counselling centre in future and also in providing examples or case studies for advocacy.

DOORSTEP COUNSELING JOURNEY

The centre was also involved in initiating the process of documenting the Journey of Doorstep Counselling since its inception in December 2003. This document commenced the process of consolidation of our experiences over the past year and half, and also helped us reflect on the work done, and the future direction that the activity should take.

The Collective Initiatives for Justice and other initiatives in the community post Gujarat Carnage could also be advocated as replicable models of Doorstep Counselling and Intervention once the process of writing and

publishing the journey completed. The journey, which has been compiled at present, is only the first draft and expects to go through several changes in order to be ready for a publication.

REVISING OF THE FACE-TO-FACE FORM

Revising of the face-to-face form took place in the months of September and October and a more intensive, exhaustive and detailed form was evolved which is now being currently used. The centre is however still working on making the form even more holistic and than what it is currently.

VI. PURCHASE:

A recorder was purchased for the Counselling centre. This would be of great utility (after taking due permission from the counselee) to record the lengthy counselling sessions, as it would help the counsellor focus on the counselee and her feelings better and not be preoccupied with the documentation of the process.

VII. ACTION PLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

- Documenting the Journey of the Counselling Centre and Finalizing the Doorstep journey
- Finalization of the forms for face-to-face counselling.
- Expanding helpline services, to the entire Vadodara district, and also sending a proposal to Tata and Reliance offices, to request them to make Helpline calls free.
- Vision-Mission planning with Aneri, so as to document in writing the purpose of the self-help group, according to the members of the group and facilitating the process of future planning for members.
- Updating of the Resource Directory
- Build core group and continue with face to face ,helpline services
- Strengthen linkages with doorstep counselling as well as among counselling and intervention

SOCIAL RECONCILIATION PROGRAM APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005

BACKGROUND

This was the second year of the program where our major thrust was to address issues of social conflict with holistic approach by evolving positive counter strategies and promoting human relations in a non-patriarchal way. Along with this the need was felt to look at our own strengths and challenges, extract our learning and on bases of same to redesign the program with selected actions and long term strategies. Hence **during this year we focussed on-**

- Strengthening and Sustaining **Group Spirit**
- **Stocktaking** and Consolidation of processes and programme
- Moving forward in **Action Based Research**
- **Capacity Building** of Team Members.
- Actively participated with community groups in **Critical Review and Process Documentation** of the Organization.
- Prepared power point **presentation** of this program and presented at **CARE GHP Project completion meeting and at the international seminar on Health and Human Rights.**

Apart from this keeping in mind these priorities, limited human resources and to enable community to take more initiatives we rescheduled program activities by keeping creative centres open for two days in a week, continued with collective initiative for justice and computer class.

We carried forward this journey with the handholding of CARE – Gujarat Harmony Project and by **October 2004 CARE withdrew the support** and we had to prepare for ourselves for this changing situation. This has been a very exhaustive as well as energetic journey personally and professionally. On one hand it required endless time, untiring efforts ample of energy and resources at the same time it was a pleasure to look at our own work ,to see the fertile land and to gain immense recognition ,emotional support and energy from international fraternity during ISHHR Presentation.

A long with this we tried to understand and analyze changing scenario at local, national and international level.

This was the time when we **faced the Lok Sabha Elections** with a lot of apprehensions and fears, at the same time there was a peace of Graveyard. We also saw the indifferent attitude and lack of faith in Election process among general public. The voter turn-out was rather low, 30% in Vadodara Urban and 41% in Vadodara Rural.

Right after the Lok Sabha election results in **Maretha village Panchayat elections** were held. The seat was reserved for women, a Patel woman (upper caste) backed and supported by the BJP lobby contested against a Rabari woman backed by Congress supporters including Muslims. During this process lots of political games were played like threatening the Dalits not to vote for the Congress etc.

The women's Collective questioned these practices and they met both the candidates. They demanded that whoever wins should run a fair administration rather than be a silent observer. They also questioned why canvassing meeting are only happening with men, is only men are the voters in the village. Thus women from different communities came together and started demanding their space in public sphere.

Apart from this in Kalyan Nagar, Maniyar Mohalla and Fagvel Nagar areas, Muslims felt that due to Congress leadership in the centre situation will improve. In Maniyar Mohalla people recognize only state as power. e.g.- When Narendra Modi came for canvassing in the vicinity of Maniyar Mohalla all shops were closed; there was a tremendous fear among Muslims of impending conflict. On the contrary their area leaders were a part of the meeting organizers.

For the first time after Godhra Carnage people had celebrated Moharram and Holi without fear, anxiety, tension and insecurity where they could express happiness and joy. Even the local administration (Police) monitored and maintained a good management during the whole procession of Taziya, which the public has appreciated a lot. Moreover financial market also witnessed good business turnover like during Kite flying festival, which is also a great example of interdependency, between both commodities. But few stray incidences of conflict were reported in the walled city immediately after Moharram festival as boy from Muslim community wanted to marry a Hindu girl created a lot of tension and which resulted into internal conflict between both communities, which the media covered as communal conflict. **Such incidences give setback to the effort of peace building.** Moreover people also appreciated the Government initiative and positive move towards building friendship and healthier relations with neighbouring nations especially with Pakistan like Indo-Pak cricket match, bus services and strengthening of bilateral relationships.

STOCK TAKING AND CONSOLIDATION OF PROCESSES AND PROGRAMMES:

It has been a very crucial exercise for us before entering into the next phase of the program. It includes detail account of the each program /activity as how it was initiated, time duration, outreach, people's participation and perceptions, Impact and challenges. Till now we have completed as follow:

- **Compiled quantitative data** of each activity
- Prepared **strategy paper and project completion report** for the period of January 2003 to September 2004.
- Compiled and **analyzed data, prepared abstract of 91 cases** and first draft report of collective initiative for justice.
- Prepared **first draft of area profiles** of three urban and one rural pocket.

This process has been continued and we are minutely taking it forward by collecting qualitative impact and learning. This whole exercise will help us to write journey, which will help us to know where we are today and to draw our path for future direction. At the same time it will be useful to communicate others about our initiative of conflict transformation with feminist perspective focussing on intangible aspects.

ACTION BASED RESEARCH:

The action-based research was started from February 2004 and completed first phase of data collection by March 2005. Its **main focus was to create a database of the community (demographic profiles), access impact of carnage on livelihood, occupation, and education and on women's lives, women's perception towards reconciliation and an impact assessment of Olakh's activities.**

The total households covered were 1535, from which actually **1238 were completed** (as some houses were locked, not present, empty house, not responded, some places were public places like schools, anganwadi, temple, dargah etc.)

This was carried out by the **team of investigators**, which comprised of Olakh team members, samajshilpis, placement students from University, women survivors of violence and adolescent girls from the area with the technical inputs from population Research centre.

To make this research more scientific and systematic **the census was made** very meticulously by putting numbers on each house, making list and then rechecking the same. It was very exhaustive process and it also changes due to migration.

The experiences during the filling of the questionnaires were very interesting and at times very challenging. For example, in Maniyar Mohalla while filling questionnaire at Najmaben's place, some guests were present who heard the conversation and created a scene. The same evening a few people spread the rumour that these people are outsiders and one never knows how they will use this information, they maybe from the government etc. The very next day around 10-12 people refused to fill up their forms, either they said that we should come later or they gave superficial information. **Urgently we had to conduct an area meeting, do home visits and convince people to give their responses.**

Similarly in Maretha at Patel and Rabari faliyas even few Thakurs families did not respond, did not cooperate with us as they did want any type of interaction with Olakh team. **Doing the research in Maretha was itself a big challenge**, it needed intensive dialogue with the Panchayat and we had to postpone the survey once before we could actually start it and that too with an acceptance that the Patel and Rabari Faliya might not be very responsive.

IMPACT

1. Could develop a close bond with community
2. Capacity building of Samaj Shilpi as researchers
3. Could spread Olakh ideology and initiate dialogue
4. Created awareness among women respondents regarding self to conflict as a part of patriarchy.
5. A lot of cases (specifically regarding violence) started coming to collective

LEARNINGS

We have gained very useful insights in the following areas:

1. Defining the concept of affected
2. Distribution of power, Basic amenities and resources in area
3. Strong caste system existing
4. Reproductive issues
5. Frequency of violence on women
6. Realisation of conflict within people
7. Could assess the community needs & expectations from Olakh

At this juncture we are **planning to compile qualitative information**, prepare code list and analyse the available data.

The major challenges which we faced in this research is the tool did not help to assess impact of communal carnage on women and girls on social and economic life of people and these interviews did not help us to mobilize more women in different activities of Olakh. Hence to fill up these gaps and to support our findings we **are planning for second phase of qualitative research with the help of experts.**

SUSTAINING AND STRENGTHENING ONGOING PROGRAMS:

During this one year we spent our major time in Action based Research followed by stock taking. At this point we realized that we had initiated too many activities as it was the need of that time. In last six months we primarily focused on creative learning centre, collective initiative for justice and computer education which has helped to sustain women's collective and interaction with youth.

Creative Learning Centres:

It is a common shared –physical and emotional space at doorstep that has proved to establish dialogues, promotes friendships, inter-community engagements and collective process. It functions as a drop in centre where people get opportunity to care, share, and nurture each other as well as to resolve differences through non-violence way at individual, family, faliya and area level.

“Muslim women of collectives were pressurized by their families you should not go to collective since Bismillah is a part of collective and her husband was involved in looting and supporting perpetrators during carnage. Women also hatred towards her. We have initiated the process where both the parties come to collective and gradually building environment to establish dialogue on this dispute. “

At present we have continued with two creative learning centres, one at Kalyan Nagar as Urban block (which include Maniyar Mohalla & Fagvel Nagar) and Maretha as the rural block. Now centre remain open on the day and day after collective initiative for justice and in evenings during computer class. As one of the Adolescent

girl said –“Why **have you closed our shared space?** When there is any confusion or dilemma which we would like to talk or discussed openly but there is no scope as we have to wait since the centre opens for 2 days we feel very helpless and restless as to why it is like this.” Such feedbacks are overwhelming and tempting .At present the **process has been initiated where women and girls from community keep the centre open in rotation ,facilitate maintenance, services and dialogues as they are future stakeholders of the program.**

During this year a total of 21, 569 people visited the centre for dialogue, information or to participate in different activities. The activities carried out at the centre during this year were library with news paper reading, sports, meeting with women and girls collective, computer class and telephone service. Some of the significant experiences were as follow:

- During this period the total book circulated at Kalyan Nagar were 456 books where as 102 books at Maretha. The age of the reader varies from 12 to 26 yrs who belong to different religious sect, which has created common platform to exchange knowledge and information. Gradually it has extended its horizon to other part of the city. **As Zainul, first year student from Kalyan Nagar says –“Due to burden of education I have never visited school library. Once in vacation I tried to access city based public library but due to complicated membership procedure I could not. My first experience of library is with Olakh. I started reading novels and enjoy it. I wanted to read all the books. It has changed my attitudes towards women; I became more sensitive towards women and human beings at large. I gained respect and learnt to treat everyone with dignity.”**
- Even collective members read the newspaper regularly and if any anti- women article is printed they do debate on it or sometime draft letter against it and send to publication house.. At present **newspaper services is continued with the contribution of local facilitators** and regular readers of community.
- At Maretha youth from Rabari community come to barrow football to play at field. This has brought their mothers to the centre. We would like to utilize this **opportunity to build the youth group as preventers of conflict** rather than as perpetrators. So the group has prepared the rules about the games like inclusion of diversity of religion, caste, class, education, respect for each other, no competition etc.
- In Kalyan Nagar area, a 15 days batch for 10 girls (from both communities) was conducted for **Jewellery class. Among which 4 were survivors of violence**, who approached our centre for justice. It is really challenging to motivate girls/ women to take Non- stereotype role and facilitate collective processes.

COMPUTER CLASS:

It has emerged as one **sustainable activity**, which runs everyday from 4.00 to 10.00 at evening. Within one year its infrastructure has grown from 2 computers to 5, similarly membership has grown from 6 (only Muslim Boys) to 86 (which represents both religion in equal percentage).It is an excellent example of **bridging the gaps** and Promoting diversity as the **participants are from diverse age , education, occupational, gender ,caste and religious background.**

A Muslim woman (wife of a Muslim Maulavi) in burkha came to enquire about computer class. As soon as she came to know that the instructor is a boy she refused to take admission. Secondly she asked whether she can attend the class with Burkha or not. We had to indulge in a lot of debate and discussion with her that this was how patriarchy wanted women to behave and have control over her decision; How to dress up is her choice as we don't believe in uniform or dress code .she agreed to be part of the class and also influenced other girls near her residence to join the class.

Gradually different advanced / technical courses have been introduced in class so the marginalized and poor children can possess the knowledge and technology. Through computer class we could manage to create common platform to learn & grow together. It has helped to promote Human values through different discussions / debates which are also a part of curriculum e.g. once a week (every Saturday) educational

sessions were conducted on various issues like Labor Day, Teachers' Day, Peace Day, Hiroshima Day, **Iran war, election, Indo-Pak relationship, police (security) arrangements during festivals** etc. During one such session Piyush said; " *Building Mosque or temple at disputed place of Ayodhya is not going to help we poor people. Instead of that a dispensary, a school or a cottage industry started which can serve poor people. **Can't we common people raise our voice and make it hard to government.*** "

Such sessions are thought provoking...

Computer class also functions as **drop in centre and it helps to explore friendship** between different community, diversity and respect for each other as individuals. As Mukesh says " *I belong to tribal community, interior village and came to this area with my father as he works here. Here **nobody is from our community and hence except school I haven't gone anywhere. After coming to computer class I got friends like Arif, Mahesh, Hussein , We go to each other's place and meet at the centre every day*** "

Above all the local facilitator of computer class (a Muslim Boy) has emerged as a leader, who has created space in both (Hindu & Muslim) families. He is gradually groomed with the issues of discrimination and conflict, expanding himself with fellow beings with lot of independent decision making and planning. This is the step forward for decentralization process.

Kayyum Bhai has today emerged as a support for Shahnavaaz to run the Computer Class. Kayyum and Shahnavaaz met by chance at the ITI and the friendship has grown and blossomed. Kayyum by his own admission used to be a shy person who did not interact much with people. Today he is a confident teacher and has a friend circle that has both boys and girls, Hindus and Muslims. He says that now while making friends the religion of the person does not even once cross his mind. In fact sometimes he says he doesn't even know the religion of the person he has made friends with. Kayyum is very clear that he wants to learn more and teach others, but teach only those who want to further impart their knowledge to others. He is now looking forward to expanding and extending the computer class and 'spread friendships' as he calls it.

Through Computer **class youth (Boys/Girls) group can be channelised, sustained & involve in other activities** of Olakh like during violence against women campaign, few students of computer class took part in play, performed at different place of city and also part of night walk etc. And Even the extension of activity like Friend ship pots were given to students, they have collected Rice and money, which they help a very ill person who had came to women's collective for support. Further they are also promoted towards sports and music. E.g. playing cricket, football, etc. and process of decentralization initiated where computer class can take a hold of library and sports club. There is a tremendous scope to build vibrant youth group to combat conflict and patriarchal forces.

Adolescent Girls Collective:

Initially the collective members use to meet every fortnightly at both the centers. Recently because a few got married and some had restrictions on mobility, and others are busy with their higher studies and few had to take responsibility of family or had to take up small jobs to support families earning meetings were held with long gaps. As an organization turn over of the team members have also affected sustainability of the group.

During our interactions we realized that they are bottle necked with their inner dilemmas, anxieties, fears, confusions about personal issues like love, relationship, sex, marriage, duties and responsibility, and that there is a need to create healthier relationship with mother and space at home. Moreover our belief that the adolescent age is very fragile and that adolescents need constant support, Counseling and contact with their families got more strengthened.

Despite of tremendous restrictions many girls have taken part in Jewellery, computer class to update their skill, even to take self-defense training to learn and create boundaries. And for unconventional skills like writer workshop.

Suman and Shabana from Maretha and Bhavna and Nilofer from Kalyan Nagar are amazing in the way in which they have built their confidence and strength.

Above all in September, these girls along with Samaj shilpis conducted the Literacy Campaign in 16 schools in rural and urban, reaching around 3800 people. In a few schools, the administration has invited for this play to be taught to their school children's like VMC school no-8 near Fatehgunj.

Tarannum an Adolescent girl from Kalyan Nagar is member of collective right from its inception. She participated in all the activities organized for girls. During the literacy campaign when the play was performed in her school her teacher said-*"This girl has changed. She never use to utter a word performed in a public place."* She was failed in 12th class, with motivation and financial support from Olakh she pursued her studies, passed exam in second trial and also joined course from open university. She also worked as an investigator in Action Based Research during vacation and built friendships with Sangita and Manju.

Our main concern is to sustain and stabilize the group and plan for such type of activities, which will empower them.

Women's Collective:

One of its activities is micro credit that is functioning for the last two years, in four areas consisting of six groups (two each at Maretha, Maniyar Mohalla and one each at Kalyan Nagar and Fagvel Nagar).

The total number of members of the saving groups at present is 100; a few members have withdrawn from the group due personal reasons. Each member and group has different saving sum as per the member's willingness, it varies from Rs 10 to 100 per month and total amount of saving also varies from Rs 300 to 1500.

During this year in last Quarter meetings have been very irregular. Women have not been participating in the meetings regularly and secondly there was a delay in introducing loan system and the interest rate. These were some major Questions facing the savings groups.

Few women have wanted to withdraw money due to emergency needs like delivery, operation and repayment of debt. And others have wanted to withdraw due to group pressure.

All these issues were dealt within the groups and we tried to focus on the fact that micro credit is just a medium to bring women together at common interest point and build their perspective. More over during last two months, on very small scale, the loan system has been started.

BHAGI BEN is a middle aged woman from the backward class, whose main occupation is ironing clothes. She is an active member of the savings group and also heads one of the saving groups at Maretha who looks after the financial matters of the group like collection of monthly saving amounts from members, their fine and also going to the bank for depositing money.

An incidence when she went to collect the monthly savings money from another member named Mani (belonging to upper caste i.e. Rabari) in spite of number of reminders, she faced resistance as Mani asked, "How can Bhagi enter my house where they are not allowed to enter our faliya? My family did not like I at all." But according to Bhagi that was the part of her responsibility. Even her husband has lots of reservations and restrictions about her being a part of the Olakh's collective but she has negotiated with her family that, "as you need me and my support, similarly I need Olakh. " At present she is also becoming an active partner in the Collective Initiatives for Justice.

Women's Collective Initiative for Justice:

These services have **evolved during the process of Conflict Transformation** and have emerged as a sustainable activity of Olakh at both places (Kalyan Nagar & Maretha). The uniqueness of this activity is that **collective 8-10 women representing different Castes and religions sit together along with survivors in public domain and addressing issues of justice**. They find a possible way out of the crisis, and empower her/him to take control over one's life and face the consequences of their decision.

It has now been a year, during which nearly 92 cases were addressed. About 60% cases are of Hindus and about 40% cases are from the Muslim community, --- We have also witnessed that the collective has widened its influence and increased its boundary from Kalyan Nagar / Maretha to Akota, Bhaili, Bharuch, Cambay, Kalali, Khalipur, Maneja etc. only through mouth to mouth publicity and referrals.

The **different issues addressed** include domestic violence, Right to space, maintenance and property rights, Health issues-mental and emotional, Reproductive & sexual, sexual abuse, substance abuse, issues of the area (like drainage, road, etc.), female feticide, dispute over Dargah and access to services like iron tablets, mid day meal programme etc.

A major focus of this process is on the-

- **Empowerment of survivors and collective members with a holistic perspective**
- **Build women's collective as change agent**
- **Critically engage them for peace building.**

Another feature of this group is questioning Anti-women, Anti-community write-ups in Newspapers or Magazines. Gradually the process has initiated to open up their own issues, dilemmas, or anxiety in front of the group because it leads to confidence building and strong bonding and even enables us to understand each issue in depth.

***Puspha**-23yrs age married for last 4 year had a daughter who died within year due to illness, her husband and her in-laws had put allegation on her that she had killed her, now she went for divorce from its caste panch but as per panch the girl cannot demand of her Stree Dhan issue was taken in collective and with the help of police her Stree Dhan was collected. Now she says that what ever decision she will take in her will be communicated first to collective, even she started dialogue in her family along with her brothers who were not willing and supportive that she became active in collective. At present she would like to be part of collective as she had got space and place, which she was looking for.*

Learning:

- Built holistic understanding of conflict from self to family to neighborhood to community at large.
- Capacity and perspective building of team members on NC, FIR, Documentation, letter writing, telephonic talk, concept of Stree Dhan, personal laws, particularly Islamic law.
- Alternative System / module created which is:
 - a) Outside the formal legal mechanisms
 - b) Less costly
 - c) A place where Justice is seen keeping in mind a woman's perspective
 - d) Redefining the maintenance system
 - e) Diversity of issues addressed
 - f) Enhanced Self Care ,decision-making
 - g) Survivor is at the centre and her feelings are being respected.
- Notions of Justice are redefined favourable to women, whereas in legal justice such rights have not been ensured. Like in Islam the right of maintenance, right of child custody is not given to women, nor can women seek divorce.

Impact:

- Women are meeting regularly once in a week,their commitment and enthusiasm is sustained

- Readiness of group for home visit , meeting police ,negotiating with perpetrators and creating alternative support for women beyond caste and religion.
- Survivors who registered the case are joining the collective.
- Increase in Mobility of women
- Tangible outcome / social intervention like Stree Dhan recovery- 5 cases, Property cases-2, divorce cases -5

Challenges:

- Sustainability of Muslim Women
- Skill of Writing among collective
- Perspective building of Collective
- Holistic analysis of crisis & its core cause to be understood
- Skills to address mental emotional stress/case
- Empowerment processes of survivors

CAPACITY BUILDING OF TEAM MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Writers Workshop:

This group has evolved from the computer class, adolescent girls group and initiative for justice along with Olakh team member who have an inclination towards media and its role. It was created as an opportunity to impart unconventional skill among community people. And it got boosted as one of our Samaj shilpi had done 5 days training on it and planning a future around it. This group consists of girls, boys, women and men representatives from Kalyan Nagar and Maretha from both communities.

To build their capacity a 2 days training was organized with the networking of Ristha. This training has a very strong impact on the group as they started looking into and screening local news, broadened their horizons, started the habit of writing their own views in paper etc. After that 4 follow up meetings have been organized to write on current issues, give the article in newspaper and to do one years planning regarding the visibility and sustainability of the group.

Play for Peace:

It is a very innovative way of promoting peace through non-competitive play way method among children, adults, and traumatized people. It breaks all barriers of discrimination from language to Religion, This training programme was conducted for two days and Adolescent girls and Boys from the Computer class and youth club from each area participated in the training. The aim was to sustain the group and identify potential girls and boys who can be trained further in this programme. Till date the group of girls / Boys who were identified are continuing the practice and are playing in the different faliyas of these communities.

We are also making a manual of these games, which can be used in different schools and other places where Play for Peace can be practiced.

Counselling course:

Focusing on the strength of the organization and visualizing the future in the intervention and counselling, we had an intensive training on counselling, which was an eye opening experience. We learnt different techniques, which will help us to build up our skills and practice in the near future and in our daily routine work.

Apart from this other training courses undertaken have been on Participatory Rural Processes, gender and equality, by other team member for their capacity building. Along with this with facilitation, encouragement and motivation 5 Samajshilpis have joined certificate course in women's empowerment from Open University.

Apart from this series of interactions and meetings of team members and women, girls , boys groups organized as apart of Process documentation.

CONCLUSION

This journey gives us satisfaction and happiness when we recall our days in March 2002. We have moved ahead considerably at the same time lot of dilemma to which way to go in further and what direction to be given to community programs.. It is hard to wind up from constituency, and had to focus into sustainable activity which has emerged and expected by community. To build and channelize the groups –women collective, initiative for collective justice, computer class, adolescent group and youth group.

**ADMINISTRATION
APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2005**

Administration is a crucial part of organisation which is always vigilant to maintain core values of the organization and builds a women friendly workplace, at the same time ensuring efficiency and effectiveness

In the year 2004-2005, the administration team has taken lots of efforts to streamline the system and make the functioning of both Administration and Accounts Department smooth. At present the team manages with 17 team members, students and visitors. A lot of emphasis has been placed this time on punctuality of all team members at office timings. Also the schedule for staff meetings has been regularized.

Our daily meditation session is followed by reading the book name "The manual of the Warrior of Light" by 'Paulo Coelho'. Singing any two songs of the movements decided by us followed this reading session. It was decided that team members in turns would open the office and do the needed cleaning work and preparing tea and coffee for team members.

We have also started a system of in-house bulletin of the month wherein all members write about their monthly work, visits, workshops attended etc. We have felt that this exercise ensures a better sharing of these experiences within the group.

Another major activity of the Administration section has been looking for a space to rehouse the Olakh office, as these premises are proving inadequate and inconvenient, due to complaints and obstacles by our present neighbours.

We of Olakh's held a trustee meeting on 21st August 2004 & on 11th January 05 as a part of the on going Critical Review and Process Documentation and the Trustees proposed that Ms Vibhuti, Ms. Akhila, Ms. Aditi, Ms. Mamta and Ms. Sayeeda, be invited to join the Board of Trustee at Olakh.

We are in the process of updating and getting printed the mailing list and address book.

Staff Meetings:

As we had decided every fourth Friday we had a Staff meeting. The main motto of staff meeting is Introspection, Reflection, Evaluating our work in a larger group, Presentation of every month's Action plan, planning. Moreover all major decisions were taken during this meeting. This year we in all 14 staff meetings. We write minutes and do documentation of the same. Following are the gist of the staff meeting

- Individual presentation of monthly and Six Monthly Report
- Overall Reach out with out-put Tangible and Intangible
- Overall review
- Follow-up of Action Plan
- Trainings and Workshops Attended by Olakh team
- Trainings and Workshops Conducted by Olakh Team Members
- Sharing of Meetings and Visits
- Celebrations, Exhibitions and Campaigns
- Future Planning Meeting of Olakh
- Discussion and Reflection
 - Women' Friendly Work Place
 - Forth Coming Programmes
 - Core members qualities and its selection
 - Rules, Regulations, Principles and Values of Olakh
 - Reflection on Report format
 - Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats
 - Retreat
 - Stock Taking of Various Departments
- Future Planning

Students Placement:

Students' placement is also an integral part of the Organisation. We treat them and absorb them as one of us. We put best effort to give them maximum exposure and learning opportunities, build values and inspire to work for social sector as well as strengthen us by taking their expertise. This time we had in all following 14 students from following Colleges and University. The details are attached in Annexure 4.

Orientation to visitors

Visitors come to visit Olakh to know the way Olakh is functioning and to know it's as an organisation. The visitors Register, which is being filled by them, gives ideas about their perception and feeling about Olakh. We invest considerable time as it's an opportunity for feminist seeding and building friends around the program This time we had visitors, as given below:

MONTH	YEAR	NO. OF VISITORS
April	2004	105
May	2004	26
June	2004	29
July	2004	14
August	2004	19
September	2004	44
October	2004	47
November	2004	25
December	2004	78
January	2005	19
February	2005	37
March	2005	20
Total		463

Workshops, Seminars and Meetings:

During this year series of meetings and 8 workshops and Trainings was conducted at Olakh for team members, community people, Adolescent girls and youth for their capacity and skill building and perspective building. For this logistics and travel was arranged by the Administration.

- Stress Management Workshop
- Wencilo Self Defence Training
- Writers workshop
- Training Workshop on Basic Helping Skills for working with Survivors Of Abuse
- Media Group Follow-up Meeting
- Creative Workshop

CONCLUSION

These have been turbulent times, times of change, times of transition. As an organisation, as individuals and as a part of the larger Women's Movement, we feel the need to pause and think, to critically look at what we want to do in the future, taking a stock of what we have been doing.

The coming year and a half is still going to have to be devoted to completing our stock-taking and recap processes that have been initiated. The focus of Olakh is going to be on reflection, consolidation, documentation, publication and dissemination of its experiences and learnings.

We are going to be entering new project phases and making new partners like EED. The next two years or so, we want to consolidate our work in the communities and focus on Cadre building of the women's collective Initiatives for Justice as well as the Youth groups. At the level of the Counselling Centre, the imperative needs are to strengthen our on-going services and increase outreach. We will also be entering into a process of Organisational Development on a long-term, sustainable basis. Hopefully, the next year shall see Olakh shifting into its new premises, a new space.

As Olakh enters a new era of systematic institutionalisation, we are grappling with multi-faceted challenges and the external forces just make our job more difficult as the days go by. But adversities only increase our determination, our conviction of working towards change...for a better tomorrow!

***“We gathered our spirit
And called it Faith
We gathered our spirit
And called it Love and Hope
We gather the Spirit every day
Giving it our own names,
In our own Languages.”***

ANNEXURE 1- OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF THE DOCCUMENTATION CENTRE

<p>Program: Orientation about women's reproductive health problem Date: 13/4/04 Time: 10.00-1.00 p.m. Venue: Kalyan Nagar , Creativity Centre Participants: 12- Community Research team members A half day session was conducted to orient the research team on what are the health problem of women and adolescent girls, why there is silence, how to break the silence, reproductive system, menstrual cycle and problems related to that were discussed. All the team members participated very actively with much interest and curiosity.</p>
<p>Program: Orientation about Gender and Olakh Date: 20/4/04 Time: 12.00-5.00 p.m. Venue: Olakh office Participants: 25 from Deepak Charitable Trust (DCT), Vadodara Here we had discussion about how Olakh is reaching and addressing women's issue through its various activities, women's identity, What is girl? What is boy? Women's discrimination at various stages in life and what are her rights in education, property, work division. Women also visited creativity centre at Kalyan Nagar. Here they had talked with adolescent girls about how they joined various activities of Olakh like summer camp, exposure visits, computer class and other. They talked about their initial resistance, fear in joining any program and how they came out from that .They also asked many questions to DCT women with so much of curiosity. It was nice learning experience for both the groups.</p>
<p>Programme: Meeting to discuss future Strategies for the Case of Parul Patel Venue: Olakh Office Date: 29th April, 04 Participants: 16 Persons Parul Patel 25 yrs. old married women had a suspicious death at her in-laws house. Olakh came to know about this shocking incident through Newspaper and from one of our Aneri Group Member named Ms. Falguni Pate. At Olakh everybody felt that this news is misguided news. As news says that she committed suicide, but in actual things happened was something else. Olakh felt thus to bring to truth before to the public. Moreover wants to raise voice against violence against women. For Olakh this was not just one incident of Parul but many more such Parul in society. Rally, Dharna, Meeting, and Press note, Correspondence with Police Department to make depth inquiry of the same.</p>

Programme: Stress Management

Venue: Hotel Yuv Raj

Date: 10th & 11th May 04

Resource Person: Mr. Jaikumar, Mr. Subhashis

Participants: 24 Olakh Team Members

Stress Management workshop was Organized by Olakh Collaboration with NIMHANS, Bangalore. Various topics were covered what is stress? Stress develops during intervention in conflict situation at various levels? How to involve people in more creative and constructive activity and make their attitude thing positive and taking things positively. Workshop was affected in terms as we came to know about many exercises, game etc. This can help in reliving stress.

Programme: Preparatory meeting for National Conference on women's movement

Venue: Jeevan Darshan, Vadodara

Date: 1st to 3rd May 04

Participants: 61 Activists

The purpose of this meeting being held in Gujarat is that the Feminist movement can also extend support and also assess what the situation on the ground is today. Hence it is proposed that all participants stay for one more day.

The issues that need to be discussed are

1. Status of the Legal cases especially of sexual violence
 2. Current trends in communalism – (social and economic boycott, harassment by state agencies to the minority groups) in Gujarat and other places
- How to we support one another.

Programme: Meeting- One more Milestone

Venue: Tamachadi (Dharampur village)

Date: 21st to 23rd May '04

Participants: 14 members

This meeting was just an initiation of certain inherent processes. This was one sort of ice breaking exercise to break our silence too! It is always found that whenever we want to analyze a problem and bring about a solution, we need to look at the problem from third person's point of view from a distance. This informal meeting was an effort to think over our stagnant problems from a different angle. We all returned back with fresh mind, and of course with fresh resolutions for the coming days. It was decided that the following areas needed work:

1. Work Output, Roles and Responsibility and Deadlines
2. Time Management and Discipline
3. Cost effectiveness
4. Perspective Building
5. Values and Principle

Emergency & Crisis intervention**Program: May Fair 2004**

Organizer: All in Development (Aid), Vadodara

Venue: Akota Stadium, Vadodara

Date: 26th- 30th May 2004

Time: 5.00 – 11.00 p.m.

Outreach: 10,000

All in Development (AID) is a Vadodara based NGO which works in the field of environment had organized this program "May fair- 2004 A Green Educative Kids Carnival" in association with Indian Express. We took part in the fair with following objectives:

- To create awareness and dialogue among adolescent girls and boys regarding their life related issues focusing on gender, body literacy and life skills education.
- To discuss stereotype and non-stereotype roles and responsibilities and its impact on one's own life through various games, films and poster exhibition.

- To make people aware about Olakh activities and programs.
- To develop networking with different educational institutions.

Looking at the population and subject of the fair we had designed all the games and display according to that. We wanted to give minimum message about the gender to the people that “nature has not created much difference between men and women but there are many social differences in work, roles, responsibilities and rights which are made by the society which needs to be thought and questioned”.

Program: Self development training organized by Oasis

Date: 12,13/6/04

Time: 9.00-5.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel Express

Participants: 12 participants from 6 organisations, industries, individuals (From Olakh- Bela, Runki had participated.) Work shop was focus on knowing one's own conditioning of mind, Who am I , my vision,, My belief, life in different situation, my choice of life, leadership and time management. It was very reflective, interesting and life useful training. Some of the exercises we found useful with some modification to use in our training.

Program: Exploratory meeting for Adolescent curriculum

Date: 24,25/6/04

Venue: Olakh office

Participants: Olakh staff (Nimisha, Bela, Kamal, Shanti, Ranjan, Sangita, Mamta)

In order to have documentation of journey of Olakh's intervention with adolescent girls and to have her input in finalization of curriculum, we had invited Swatija who has wide experience in the area of empowering adolescent girls, health and research. To serve the purpose of making this whole experience documented with political correctness, more insightful and learning experience for many we had discussion about whole intervention done with adolescent girls. Looking at her expertise we will also take her input in strengthening the curriculum. For that next meeting is schedule on 20th and 21st October.

<p>Programme: Writer Workshop Venue: Jeevan Darshan Date: 24th to 25th July, 04 Resource Person: Father William, Mr. Victor Macwan Participants: 27 Community Adolescent Boys and Girls, Olakh Team Members. This workshop purpose was basics issues of the area alternative form of unconventional skill. To see the local issue in the frame of globalization. To bring voice of marginalized and minority. To developed a group of adolescent boys and girls and bridge the community between community and staff to evolve sensitively towards issue</p>
<p>Programme: First Planning meeting in Gujarat Venue: Olakh office Date: 14th July 2004 Participants: 27 individuals The state level meeting was organized at the Olakh office in Baroda on the 14th July 2004. About 27 individuals from 16 organizations from Gujarat as well as representatives from Sangini, Bhopal and Sewa Mandir, Udaipur participated in the meeting. After a detailed sharing of last year's experiences, the groups present here also agreed to take forward the theme of "male responsibility" to stop violence against women and also concurred that the focus this year would be on the YOUTH making some concessions for the urban-rural divide. The groups here felt a need for greater student participation this time around.</p>
<p>Programme: Training Workshop on Basic Counseling Skills Venue: Olakh Office Date: 9th to 15th July, 04 Resource Person: Ms. Sharbani and Ms. Bulbul Baxi from Samikshani, Kolkata Participants: Olakh team Members, Aneri group members- 14 people in all Training on basic helping skills was organised in collaboration with Samikshani, Kolkata. Two members of the DC team participated in the workshop.</p>
<p>Programme: Follow-up planning meeting for the violence campaign in Gujarat Venue: Olakh Office Date: 5th September Participants: 16 from different organisations Following a meeting of the core group in Ahmedabad, it was decided that we needed to have another follow-up meeting with the larger group to enable us to finalize decisions. The meeting decided that we need to make a participation form to freeze participation of organisations in the campaign. Also it was decided that we need to make a Performa for youth icons, to be selected form each district who will participate in the press conference on the 25th. The 10th programme was also planned out in greater detail. The programme shall include a pledge by the youth, a rally that will end in a cultural programme. It was decided that we would take funding only for the common programmes and the common materials including a common module for the awareness programme. it was decided that a material production workshop should happen in Olakh on the 24th and 25th for the module development.</p>
<p>Programme: Module preparation for the violence campaign Venue: 24th and 25th September Participants: 14 from different organisations The module development workshop was organised as a follow-up to the decision of the groups to do awareness programmes based on a common module. The two-day workshop put in place the basic framework of the module. The module has games and activities, songs, a script, a leaflet, myths and facts, a pledge and mobilization and evaluation strategies.</p>
<p>Program: Capacity building training for core group member organizations of young people's reproductive and sexual health rights (YRSHR) network Date: 9th August to 12th August 2004 Venue: Ahmedabad, At Chetna</p>

Participants: Total 18 women and men from 7 partner organizations, (From Olakh- Bela, Shanti, Ranjan, Sangita)

Olakh is one of the members of YRSHR network. As a part of its activity Capacity building training was organized, in which participants were oriented about each ward of YRSHR, rights of youth, gender, violation of youth rights, networking and strategies of strengthening network. From Olakh Bela facilitated the session on gender and violence with special focus on Young people's reproductive and sexual health rights.

On last day International youth day was celebrated in which almost 150 adolescents girls and boys participated in that. Here adolescent themselves, experienced invitees and representatives of various organizations discussed the issues of youth like youth in transaction between two generation, their problems, strategies to reduce the distance between two generation and future planning of network was made.

<p>Program: Orientation about Olakh Date: 13 Oct '04 Time: 2.00- 5.00p.m. Venue: Olakh Office Participants: 30 from SEWA Rural Facilitator: Olakh Team The focus of the orientation was on women's situation in our society. The group participation was very good as they felt that the topic was very closely related to their life. Male members of the group were had a lot of disagreements but we had a very lively dialogue about their differences After giving few examples they were convinced that women indeed faced more discrimination in society.</p>
<p>Program: Utsav Mela Date: 30, 31 Oct '04 Time: 9.00a.m. - 9.00 p.m. Venue: Atithi guruh, Subhanpura, Vadodara Participants: Approximately 25,000 people. Utsav mela is a fair, which provides common platform to integrate various professions, groups, NGOs and other people to exhibit and exchange their products, talents and activity. Olakh is always invited to display its activities, as it is the only organization in Vadodara based on gender and feminist ideology. As it was a time for violence campaign, we also used this platform for information dissemination about the campaign. In our stall we displayed maximum of our material on the issue of violence. We talked to people and made announcement about various activities of the campaign. Nearly 500 people visited our stall and almost 30 people took more interest and also played games, which we had developed on myths and facts of violence on women.</p>
<p>Program: Orientation about Gender and Olakh Date: 22/12/ 04 Time: 2.00-5.00 p.m. Venue: Auxelium School, Makarpura GIDC, Vadodara Participants: 100 women from the organization Don Bosco, Vadodara Facilitator: Shanti, Asha Here we had discussion about women's economic rights, economic situation and gender. It was discussed in great length that even though women have money in her hand, how much she is free to use it as per her choice? So, only to have income in one's hand is not enough but to have control over one's own resources is also important. The discussion was further reinforced with the film "Umanti Umangni Doomari" which portrays women's economic empowerment through initiation of collective savings group.</p>
<p>Program: Orientation about Gender and Olakh Date: 24/12/ 04 Time: 11.00-2.00p.m. Venue: Olakh office Participants: 60 students from Nasik, faculty of social work Facilitator: Olakh team The group of students was oriented about Olakh's ideology and, how it started. Various programmes and activities of the Olakh were explained in greater length. They visited Olakh DC and counselling centre. They found the strategies of Olakh innovative in reaching to the people.</p>
<p>Program: Orientation about Gender and Olakh Date: 24/12/ 04 Time: 9.00-11.00 P.m. Venue: Navjeevan High school campus, Godhra, Dist. Panchmahal Participants: 3000 people (Different NGO team members, College students, Parents, teachers, individual members) Facilitator: Olakh team Olakh was invited specially to do exhibitions of posters on gender and violence.</p>

Program: Meeting for developing course curriculum on Gender and sexuality for adolescent

Date: 5th and 6th March 2005

Time: 9.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Doosara Dashak, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Participants: 12 (Experience persons in the field of working with adolescent and team members of Doosara Dashak)

Invitee from Olakh: Bela

Doosara Dashak is the organization based at Jaipur, Rajasthan, which provides life useful and alternative education to the adolescent girls and boys. As a part of their course development on the issue of adolescent, gender and sexuality, Olakh was invited as resource person for two days meeting. Olakh presented its perspective, experiences, strategies, challenges, material and methods produced in area of gender and sexuality with adolescent girls. Looking at our expertise Olakh is also invited by Doosara Dashak to conduct 4 days residential camps with adolescent girls and boys. Other people also express their willing ness to place their team member at Olakh to learn more about working with adolescent.

Orientation Program: Violence against Women

Date: 20th February 2005

Time: 6 pm to 9:30 pm

Venue: Hotel Yuv Raj

Participants: 68 people – members of Saurabh Mahila Mandal and their families

Facilitators: Mamta and Sneha

The Saurabh Mahila Mandal is a group of middle class women .We conducted a session on their annual day function where 50 women, 8 men and 10 children were present. The major topic of the discussion was Violence against Women, specifically female foeticide, myths regarding violence ageist women, women's contribution in family and society and the male responsibility to build a violence free society.

ANNEXE 2
CASES HANDLED BY THE FEMINIST COUNSELING CENTER

DATED	NATURE OF CASE	NO OF SESSIONS	INFORMATION WANTED	INTERVENTIONS
07.04.2004	Mental and emotional harassment for dowry	3	The father of the counselee wanted legal information on what could be done for dowry harassment	Legal information and guidance was given for dowry harassment and domestic violence. Supportive counselling was given to the counselee's father to help him deal with the situation and help his daughter
14.04.2004	She was fighting a legal battle against her husband who was forcing her to give him divorce. This was her second marriage. Intense emotional, physical and sexual abuse in first and second marriage. Sexual harassment by her lawyer. Emotional and mental harassment by her brothers who are fighting a case against her asking for the property that her mother has given her. Question of space- where does a woman go, when she is harassed so much that she cannot stay in her own house?	32	Legal information and guidance on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance and alimony - Right of a woman to stay in her husband's house - Property rights of a daughter. Her asking for the property that her mother has given her. 	Legal information and guidance. Supportive counselling, building her morale and self confidence. Dialogue with and attempts to arrive at a settlement with her brothers in the Olakh office Home visit and dialogue with her brothers, about the emotional harassment they were putting her through. Follow-up on the legal processes of her case and talking to her lawyer in the Olakh office about the status and progress in her case.
15.04.2004	Problems in married life, due to inability of stepdaughter to adjust with her and accept her.	3	Asked for information about shelter homes Harassment by step daughter. Abused by husband when she tries to say something to her daughter about her relationship	Gave her information about shelter homes Supportive counselling with the counselee helped her explore if she wanted the counsellor to speak to her husband and daughter too, and she also said that she would bring her daughter to the counselling centre whenever possible. She was asked to come for counselling as often as possible, so that she could help heal herself.

21/06/2004	Wanted legal information, on how to obtain school leaving certificate for her daughter, she also was fighting a divorce case against her husband.	1	The counselee wanted legal information and intervention to obtain her daughter's school leaving certificate	Supportive counselling was provided to the counselee. Along with giving legal information, the counselee's emotional status and the abuse that she had undergone was also explored. An attempt was made to highlight to the counselee her need to address her feelings and heal herself. The counselee was also given inputs to help her in her efforts to find a job in Baroda.
29.06.2004	Case of domestic violence, and came to us for legal information and help	2	Wanted the organization to help by doing direct legal intervention to hasten the case of domestic violence filed against her husband and in-laws.	Gave her legal information and guidance and supportive counselling. Her parents wanted her to get married again soon, therefore spoke to her about thinking of a second marriage carefully before stepping into it.
07.07.2004	Emotional disturbance due to erratic behaviour and threats faced at the hands of her daughter-in-law	2 sessions with her and her husband respectively	Wanted to know the legal procedures as their daughter-in-law was mentally disturbed and had been giving threats to commit suicide. They wanted to know who would be help responsible if she did the same in the near future.	Supportive counselling was provided to both the counselee and her husband and facilitated the process of ventilation as taking care of a mentally disturbed family member can be very stressful and anxiety provoking. Psycho-education about the possible disturbance their daughter-in-law might be facing was also given. They were asked to bring the daughter- in-law and her parents, as soon as possible to the organization so that further plan of action could be thought of.
12.07.2004	Information regarding Streedhan recovery. The Counselee was a schizophrenic and had faced immense abuse at the hands of her husband.	4 face-face sessions 5 telephonic follow-ups.	Father of the counselee wanted legal information to get the house on his daughter's name in which she and her husband had been staying. The counselee's father had paid the	Information regarding the legal procedures was provided to the father. Intensive sessions were held with the counselee trying to understand what was it that she chose to do in the situation she was in. Planned with the counselee how she could constructive spend the day (by taking up small little

			instalments for the same. Since the daughter was now staying with the parents, they also wanted to get back her Streedhan.	responsibilities. Referred her to the only Woman psychotherapist cum psychiatrist in the city for inputs on her psychiatric medication.
31.07.2004	Dilemma on part of the counselee as was feeling caught between what his parents wanted him to do and his wife's expectations from him	1	What could he do in such a situation??	Provided supportive counselling. Empathized which helped the counselee become comfortable in the setting. Asked him to think what he really wanted to do regardless of the pressures he was facing from both the sides. Asked him to be assertive and clear to both his parents and his wife.
06.08.2004	Psychological disturbance. Feelings of isolation as wife had left his house with the kids.	1	Wanted wife to come back to him with the kids.	An initial preliminary mental status examination was done to check for the intensity of the psychiatric disturbance (clear paranoid tendencies). Was told that he was going through immense amount of stress and therefore should go and see a psychiatrist for bringing the stress down (stress as a reason was used to ask him to go and see a psychiatrist while he actually needed to be on anti-psychotics so that he would make that first visit without feeling "abnormal").
09.08.2004	Emotional disturbance, loneliness, physical disability and relationship and marital difficulties.	4 face-face sessions 1 home visit 34 intensive telephonic sessions	She had been to a host of doctors and finally to a psychiatrist who had advised her to go on anti-depressants. But the counselee did not want to start on them and felt she could come out her "difficult phase" with someone's support and without medication.	Roger's client centred approach and woman centred approach from Feminist therapy was actively used. Besides this element of REBT, transactional analysis and psychoanalysis were used. Uninterrupted ventilation was also used for sometime as an effective strategy in the initial sessions. Medical information, guidance and referrals were also provided.

16.08.2004	Financial insecurity, separation from husband.	1	Husband had taken loans from everyone. The counselee was seeking a job so that she could earn and become independent.	Provided a space for ventilation and gave her supportive counselling. Also gave her inputs on how she could search for a job in a more effective manner.
30.08.2004	Psychological disturbance for the last 5 years. Partially out-of-touch with reality.	1 face-to-face and 3 follow up telephonic sessions with counselee's daughter.	Daughter had come to the office for her mother's disturbance and wanted to know how it could be reduced.	Psycho-education was provided to the daughter explaining her in brief her mother's disturbance. She was motivated to get her mother to the centre as soon as possible so that the counsellor could get a clear picture of the nature and intensity of disturbance.
02.09.2004	Emotional disturbance and feelings of being cheated and betrayed after being in a marriage for 15 years.	6 face-to-face sessions 8 telephonic sessions for follow-up.	Whether she should go back to him or take a divorce.	Helped her Ventilate the last 15 years of trauma. Told her not to be hard on herself and not blame herself for anything and everything that happened (she was slipping into self-blaming mode). Reassured her time and again that any decision she would make would be the best decision for her and to keep that faith in her self. Not to feel guilty for the kids. Assertiveness training and providing her a space to heal herself from the wounds of her past and gain objectivity into her life-situation. Told her it was "ok" if she did not make any decision till the time she was sure about what she wanted to do.
23.09.2004	Emotional fatigue and wanted legal information to fight a case against her husband	2 face-to-face session 2 telephonic sessions.	Wanted Olakh to initiate legal procedure against her husband.	Supportive counselling was provided Was told that Olakh did not directly handle legal cases and hence gave her names and contacts of a few lawyers who could handle her case and asked her to keep coming to Olakh for "being with herself"

5.10.2004	Emotional distress due to family dynamics, medical negligence during her eye surgery and financial constraints.	1-face-to-face and 6 telephonic sessions.	Financial support and help in finding a job. Also the counselee wanted legal information and guidance about medical negligence. The counselee was also showing signs of slipping into depression.	Supportive and therapeutic counselling to help her heal herself and develop a positive outlook towards life while empathizing with the trying and difficult circumstances she was facing. Referral to Seva Rural, for a second opinion about the present medical condition of her eyes. Information gathering from various doctors, about the problem she was facing, and the causes of the same, to ascertain that medical negligence was the actual cause of the problem. Providing the counselee with informed support and inputs.
6.10.2004	Mental and emotional harassment in the marital home especially at the hands of her husband.	1 face-to-face session.	The counselee did not want the counsellor to intervene in her situation in any manner. She had come specifically for consultation of how much maintenance she should demand from her husband.	The counselee was given a patient hearing and given a space for the ventilation of her feelings and experiences. She was informed that she could claim for as much maintenance as she thought was appropriate, keeping in mind the fact that her husband should have the capacity to pay it. Also she was informed that she need not feel guilty as she was only asking for what was rightfully hers. She could also convey this to her family.
2.11.2004	Mental and emotional harassment in the marital home especially at the hands of her husband.	2 face-to-face sessions.		
8.12.2004	Mental and legal harassment by the wife of an acquaintance, claiming that the counselee was having an affair with her husband. The wife, of the acquaintance had	2 face-to-face sessions and one telephonic session.	Legal information related to the complaint that had been filed against her and the consequences of the same. She also wanted to know how she could	Supportive counselling and legal information related to the case was provided. Information gathering with respect to the processes of the Nari Suraksha Cell and guiding the counselee accordingly. Helped her reduce her

	also filed a complaint for the same in Nari Suraksha Cell		defend herself.	anxiety with respect to police procedures and the summons that she had received from the Cell.
13.12.2004	Counselee got married (15 days back), for the third time and did not wish to continue the marriage	3 face-to-face sessions and 1 session with her father and in-laws and husband.	Did not wish to continue the marriage and wanted Olakh to support her.	She was asked whether she was sure that she wanted to break the marriage off as a pattern a trend had been observed in her previous two marriages and sexual encounters. Suggested that she come regularly to Olakh, as traits of Histrionic personality were evident in her.
13.12.2004	The brother and sister-in-law of the index counselee approached, saying that the counselee was "missing" and blamed her boss for the same. There was also an issue of suspected sexual harassment at workplace involved according to the brothers of the counselee.	2 face-to-face sessions with the family members.	Sexual harassment at workplace	Supportive counselling was provided to the brothers and one of the brother's wife. At the same time they were told that Olakh could intervene only once the index counselee came to them.
16.12.2004	Case of domestic violence by husband and in-laws. Wanted legal information on-Maintenance, Streedhan-recovery and divorce.	3 face-to-face sessions 3 telephonic sessions Case was referred to AWAG for Streedhan recovery.	She wanted legal information for maintenance, Streedhan and divorce.	Supportive counselling provided to the counselee and her parents to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help them support their daughter - Help them face the social stigma attached to her separation - Not feel guilty or ashamed in the process. Imparted legal information to the counselee and discussed an out of court settlement for maintenance and Streedhan. Her in-laws were sent a letter calling them for a meeting in Olakh for the same. As they did not respond to the letter and the counselee wanted to recover her Streedhan, the case was referred to AWAG, Ahmedabad.

18.12.2004	Case of domestic violence at the hands of her partner, and came for legal information and help	2 face-to-face sessions, 4 telephonic sessions, 2 meetings with the Kalyan Nagar collective initiative for justice.	Wanted legal information.	Supportive counselling was initially provided. Legal information clarifying differences in FIR, NC and Diary complaint provided. As she also wanted her Streedhan back, she was referred to the Kalyan Nagar collective. Also prepared to face consequences for the actions she was about to take. Empowerment process (through legal knowledge and assertiveness training) was started so that she could be more assertive with her husband, her in-laws as well as the police.
21.12.2004	Severe domestic violence and threats posed by the partner.	1 face-to-face session, and 2 telephonic sessions.	Wanted legal information	Supportive counselling. It was discovered that the counselee was in a live-in relationship, and legal information was given accordingly. The counsellor spoke to the counselee's mother, to help her face challenges from her own family, with regards to helping her daughter. Legal information given to file police complaint. The case was also referred to Nari Suraksha Gruh as filing a police complaint made the counselee vulnerable and she could not stay in her mother's house at this point.
22.12.2004	Low self-esteem and confidence, empty nest syndrome and feeling of not being given the due worth by her family members.	1 face-to-face session, 3 telephonic sessions.	To find her own identity	Supportive and therapeutic inputs provided. Strategies to help her build confidence in her-self were also consciously used, by talking about her past where she had faced immense professional and personal challenges and had bravely fought them out and succeeded.
08.01.2005	Legal information and guidance and emotional distress and high need for ventilation.	1 face-to-face session. 2 telephonic conversations.	Wanted legal information about procedures to follow when one was cheated by a dealer (LG), and	Supportive counselling Information about legal procedures and provisions was given. Provided a space for ventilation, where she could

			the police had misbehaved with her. She wanted also to explore possibilities of volunteering with the organization in the future.	share her recent traumatic experiences.
14.02.2005	Emotional distress and pent up anger as her husband was hiding from her and asking for a divorce and making character allegations.	2 face-to-face 1 telephonic conversation 1 meeting with the Kalyan Nagar collective.	Wanted help from the organization to find her husband and confront him for what he was doing to her and her little daughter.	Provided space to ventilate the anger that was pent up against her husband. Referred her to the collective for adding her in direct intervention with her in-laws and husband.
22.02.2005	Counselee was being forced into a marriage by her parents against her will and therefore left her house and came to Olakh.	2 face-to-face sessions with Counselee. 1 face-to-face session with her parents 2 telephonic conversations to know about her safety in her parents' house.	Wanted the organization to explain to her parents to not force marriage against her will.	An assessment of her support structures was made. The counselee had left her parents house and come to Olakh and was ready to face to consequences for leaving home. The people who formed her support structure were first taken into consideration. Her parents were then called and her situation was explained to them. It was taken in writing from the parents that she shall not force her in anyways for a marriage she did not want to go ahead with. It was also taken in writing from the client that she shall not leave home without informing her parents and dialogue with them before taking such a step.
2.03.2005	Counselee's daughters were not getting married as she and her husband were not staying together and he was having an affair with another woman and she felt that society was not able to accept this.	2 telephonic sessions 1 face-to-face session	Wanted help from Olakh to "expose" the woman her husband was having an affair with, so that he would see that woman's "real side" and leave her.	The counselee was informed after hearing the issue that Olakh would not be able to do what she expected out of it as they did not provide such kind of services and that she could approach the police for the same.
24.03.2005	Counselee was battered by her husband and had left his house and come to her parents house.	1 face-to-face session with the Counselee's mother	Mother of the counselee wanted to know how Olakh could contribute in solving her	Detailed session with the mother was conducted taking insights into the nature, extent and duration of the counselee's condition

	She has also in the past had an episode of Schizophrenia and exhibited withdrawn behavior.	1 face-to-face session with the Counselee. 3 telephonic conversations with her mother.	“daughter’s problem”	and life events. The counselee was called and a rapport was established. Information regarding taxation and maintenance from her husband for her children was also discussed.
26.03.05	The 36-year counselee was a chronic schizophrenic for the last 18 years. Lately had started getting irritated would physically harm herself and also get aggressive towards her brother.	2 Face-to-Face sessions. 1 visit with the Counselee and her brother to the Psychiatric hospital.	Counselee was exhibiting aggressive behaviour towards the brother, father and self.	Explored into the feelings of the counselee and dialogued to try finding how it was affecting her. It was observed that sitting idle for the whole day was not helping her improve her state-of mind even after being on medication. The counsellor accompanied the counselee and her brother to the government psychiatric hospital to explore some possibilities for her. It was found that the hospital was running a day-care centre for the mentally disturbed and taught them certain skills, which would keep them occupied and heal themselves creatively. The counselee since then has been going regularly to the day care centre which she calls her “office” and is filling new colours into her life everyday.

ANNEXURE 3

Case Studies

- **Mansi-** Has been associated with the counselling center for around two years now. She is also a regular member of the Aneri- self-help group. 45-year-old Mansi who is a mother of two adolescents, associated with the counselling center at a point when due to her husband’s extra-marital affair, she was experiencing an emotional breakdown and was diagnosed with clinical depression. Mansi’s husband wanted to live with her and his lover at the same time and this made very upset and cheated, especially when hers was a love marriage and they had mutually decided to spend their lives with each other. Her self image had been shattered and her emotional vulnerability made it very difficult for her to take any decisions on her own at the time. At that point she was ready to live with her husband if he ended the affair. But he was not ready for the same. She also felt that she could not leave him, as she was financially dependent on him. At such a points of confusion, Olakh supported emotionally, as a result of which she could become fairly objective and assertive by asking her husband to leave the house and make his own decisions. At this time, she wanted her husband to come back to her and their family. It has been a long and slow journey of empowerment for Mansi, till this point today, when she has become confident about leading life on her own and has rebuilt her self-esteem and self-concept. She was also able to communicate very clearly to her husband that he had to take

economic responsibility of her and her children. Even today, life is a constant struggle for her, plagued with questions about the discrimination that she and many other women face in their marriages. She is constantly negotiating with her husband and struggling to face the challenges that life throws up to her as a single woman.

Olakh has been with her while all she wanted was to come and cry, when she was angry about what her husband had done to her, when she did not know what would be the future of the family-she had struggled so hard to build. Walking with her through her turbulent times, Olakh consciously helped her prepare herself for the consequences that she would need to face for each decision she made.

Mansi has managed to find a job so that she is economically independent at least to a certain extent. Today she is very firm and assertive in her communication with her husband, communicating decisions taken and negotiating to attain her and her children's rights.

Lately she also bought a small house on her own name, for which she had to put in all her life's savings and jewellery, but somewhere she strongly feels and says-"I know what a woman's own house can mean to her. It is small but it is mine. It is me." this does mean that Mansi has actually been able to operationalize Olakh's most important premise-A women's space (emotional and physical). Most of all today, she is able to look into the situation of other women with an empathetic understanding and takes initiative to help other women and has even offered to sponsor the travel of one of the members of the Aneri group, so that the member can attend the Aneri meetings regularly. She also shows sensitivity towards women's issues at large and also shows the ability to be a sensitive counsellor in future.

- **Neha** (name changed) - "I cannot live without Raj. I know he has done a lot of wrongs to me, but I still can't live without him...." These were the words of Neha, who came to Olakh 10 months back, after undergoing severe emotional, financial, psychological, nutritional, intellectual abuse at the hands of her husband for over 15 years. When she approached us she was staying with her parents with her two children. A dietician by profession (but did not work as she only wanted her world to be Raj) and a post-graduate, was in a major crisis, where she was not being able to figure out where had 'that Neha' disappeared who she was before marriage-independent, strong about her views, communicative.... She had become so dependent on Raj that any and everything that she did, or did not do was associated with him. It would remind her of him. Today, this is what she has to say; "I have in this time been able to widen my world which was unreal for so many years. For me only Raj was my world. Today, I have so many meaningful things to do that Rajesh's thought doesn't even cross my mind for days together. In this whole journey, I have also been able to understand who are the people who will actually stand by me come what may and who will not." Today, Neha has not made up her mind whether she wants to go back to Raj or not, but she is ready to give herself the time she needs to make this decision and is very clear that till she is 100% sure of what she wants to do, she will not make the decision.

The Counsellors provided her the emotional space to ventilate what she had been undergoing for the past 15 years, and by helping and facilitating her to talk about her dilemmas took her into a process of reflecting her feelings regarding the situation. While speaking to the counsellors she gained insights into the situation by herself and created ways and alternatives best suited to her, by herself. The basic approaches across sessions that the counsellors used were women centred (Feminist therapy) and client centered approach (Carl Rogers), REBT, Bibliotherapy, homework-her dreams, her wishes, her likes how she would like to achieve what she wants to etc.

- **Muskaan** (name changed)- Is a very sharp woman, who is very attentive and smart like a lot of other women. But she is different from many of them. She has been undergoing disturbances related to schizophrenia for the past 18 years, which had drastically changed her thinking, feeling, working and communication patterns. She has been on anti-psychotic medication continuously for all this period. This has helped in preventing the aggravation of her disturbance while the side effects of the medicines have definitely taken their toll on her. After interacting with her, the counsellor realized that Muskaan could be engaged in activities which would keep her occupied and give her a sense of "contributing" in her own life as well as that of others. The COUNSELLOR accompanied Muskaan and her brother to the psychiatric hospital to explore alternatives for her. It was found that the hospital ran a day-care centre for mentally disturbed, where they taught them various skills and creatively engaged them in making bags, cards etc. She was asked by the counsellor-"this can be your office where you can come and work, learn and make new things. Would you like to come?" Initially a little hesitant Muskaan- on being explained details of her work at the same time making her feel "secure" to do what she had not done for 18 years-agreed for the same. Muskaan on regular basis goes to

her “office” and quite likes the work she does. She has started smiling and talking much more than she used to.

Networking and referral as well as daily therapeutic sessions exploring more facets of Muskaan and providing her suggestions to try and become more independent, gradually- specially in self-care has been the main area of emphasis in working with Muskaan.

ANNEXURE 4

Name	Name of the Dept., Faculty and University	Placement's Time Period
1. Anne Haskoll-Haugen	Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Osla, Norway.	20/01/04 To 5/06/04
2. Sapana Jain	Psychology Dept. M. S. University, Baroda	4/08/03 To 10/04/05
3. Mubashera Campwala	Faculty of Social Work M.S. University, Baroda	6/01/04 To 1/05/04
4. Ramila Chavada	Master of Social Work, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University. Patan	28/5/04 To 7/07/04
5. Neha Patel	Master of Social Work, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University. Patan	28/5/04 To 7/07/04
6. Lisa Floor	Applied Communication Science, Behavioural Sciences, University of Twente.	12/07/04 To 20/9/04
7. Nusrat Jahan Campwala	Psychology Dept. M. S. University, Baroda.	16/7/04 To 6/10/04
8. Patel Kamiya	Anand Arts Colleges, Anand	20/08/04 To 27/10/04
9. Vyas Sarika	Anand Arts Colleges, Anand	20/08/04 To 27/10/04
10. Nikita Kaul	Faculty of Social Work M.S. University, Baroda	14/08/04 To 31/12/04
11. Ida Verspohl	Philipps University.	5/10/04 To 28/12/04
12. Seema (Saheli)	Jagori, Himachal Pradesh	13/11/04 to 11/12/04
13. Suman (Saheli)	Jagori, Himachal Pradesh	13/11/04 to 11/12/04
14. Sanne Houbraken	International and European Law, Law Faculty, Tilburg University, The Netherlands.	15/02/05 To 14/06/05

ANNEXURE 5

STUDENTS PLACEMENT AND THEIR FEEDBACK

- Anne during her Placement interviewed all Team members at Olakh; she did report writing work and attend AID fairs in Baroda and World Social Forum at Mumbai. Moreover interview of all Team members and Women's situation in India and their struggles, views on Feminism, etc. were documented.
- She said that she wants to work with development issues and would love to stay in contact and communicate my experiences from Olakh in my further studies and future work.
- Sapna Jain as a part of her curriculum was placed and during her placement with Counselling Center and was a part of intervention and handled cases and did Documentation.
- Mubashera during her placement worked with 3 main projects – Documentation and Resources Centre, Research and Adolescents Programme. As per her sharing, during her placement she learned about Commitment, sincerity, deep-involvement, dedication to one's work and to work with

keeping non-judgmental attitude. In future she would love to be a part of the documentation and the community Exposures.

- Neha Patel M.S.W. – II student from Patan University during her placement she developed her skill in different work and as how to organize programmes, has to be particular and punctual. Moreover she was a part of AID Fair (All In Development). Developed Feminist Perspective, Knowledge about Gender and Patriarchy. She said that in near future if I got an opportunity I would like to work as a Social Worker the way people are at Olakh with feminist perspective.
- Ramila Chavada was a part of Research and of Counseling in Community and improves her report writing skills. She was a part of Self Defense training, AID Fair and in making games for Adolescent Girls. In future I would like to work as a researcher in any NGO.
- Lisa during her placement gain an insight in the field of Women Rights, get an understanding of a different culture and she improved at article writing and reviewing skills. She made a Website of Olakh and reviewed annual reports and presentations. In future she may combine the topic of her final thesis with Women's issues.
- Nusrat Campwala: She was placed with the Counseling Centre she liked the freedom of choice given to her. She learns to accept everyone, to be non-judgmental. She learns how to handle a client at counseling. She gave a special thanks to Olakh for their wonderful support at her Presentation on Domestic Violence. Moreover, she would like to continue her association and contribution to Olakh and would be a part of Campaign.
- Nikita was placed with Olakh's Documentation Center and her work was to mobilize the resources for the Campaign against Violence against Women. She experienced professional development during her placement and working for the violence campaign was the best as it gave her the maximum exposure. In future she would like to be with a feminist organization.

VISITORS' FEEDBACK

- Gabi Mischkowski: Whow!!!! I lack words and will write down everything in a long long letter about your encouraging, inspiring and so important feminist work.
- Sharmin Vohra: Lots of time I've have visited this place and it always gives me an urge to come.
- Viral: Wonderful experience to see 'Olakh's growth and Best wishes and Love to friendly staff.
- Aishwarya: The organization is very well developed, organized and well maintained. I appreciate the steps taken by the organization for women developed. The Spirit and the unity to work for the Organization is just evident in the team members and wishing the best wishes for all the team members.
- Shraddha B. Mahalgi: I liked this organization its very cooperative and very good reception and really a SPACE for Women.
- Sharbani: A very serious and committed organization and has a larger vision.
- Bulbul: Very alive group with a lot of potentials.
- Sara Ahmed: Intense sharing with Olakh team- reflections on person's struggle and organization space I Have learned a lot...
- Nikita: Good team work, productive outcomes and well planned strategies were built.
- Shariq: Documentation Center and Resources are quite attractive and knowledgeable. We would include those in our bookshelf.
- Govind Desai: It's nice experience, as it has enriched my thought on women and issues. I like the approach adopted for participation of communities through Woman leadership.
- Priya Pokharna: I really appreciate with your team work and understanding. I like that you are working with women but not only for the women, is your way of making understanding surprising.
- Rhana; Awesome work! Visionary work being done through the concept of "Space" and "Empowerment". Good wishes for the future.
- Sureshbhai: It is my fond hope that 'Olakh' will open the doors of perception.
- Rupa: It's always great to come to Olakh. Every interaction is reflective and stimulating – which just shows the ethos of Olakh!
- Vishwaniohine Bhatt: Lovely organization, wonderful atmosphere and excellent bonding.
- Shraddha Vyas: Very good, medium to serve women in distress. Warm and affectionate members.

- Tara Mehta: A place where I can come and find warmth and relaxation and intellectual/emotional stimulation.
- Madhu Kishwar: I am delighted to get to know all of you at Olakh and find so many common concerns and ways of dealing with issues. I hope this will mark the beginning of a new closeness between Olakh and Manushi and we will find ways of working together in the years to come.
- Jan Ole Hagensen: Thanks for inviting me. Your work enthusiasm, energy will be like “fuel” for my “motor” so I can continue the work in this field. Thanks.
- Parch Gulati: Very inspiring to meet such a strong, courageous group of Women doing such important work. Thank you – it has a privileged to meet you all.
- Serena Choudhary: Inspiring! Keep up the amazing work.
- Shalabh Mittal: A beautiful group, very easy to get with and doing good work with Great Spirit. Wishing U all the best become active member in PRAVAH!
- Dr. Joyee Siromani: Felt very inspired to see all young people dedicated to the cause of women’s issues. My advice is to keep their good work and vision up. So, that many women can be helped.