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**SIX MONTHLY REPORTS
APRIL 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 2005**

SUBMITTED TO

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

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Six Monthly Reports April 2005 to September 2005

This phase was mainly focused on **Reflection** of Olakh's own strategies, stock taking of programmes and activities and also on strengthening the team. We worked with such a speed in the last years, that all were breathless. Thus, we needed time to reflect on our work and come out with final outputs for extension at larger levels. Our Action Plan for this period was also made keeping these aspects at the centre.

There was a lot of labor, struggle and excitement involved in all our processes. Apart from the routine programmes and activities that were to be reflected at and consolidated, we faced the disastrous **Floods** in the state in the month of **July 2005**. Vadodara district and city were amongst the worst affected. This diverted our focus and once again we got into action. This time even we were directly affected as our office premises were also under water for three days. This ruined most of our hard documents and stationery. But, determined to be with the people in the time of need, we carried out an extensive **Flood Relief** activity of ration distribution for a month.

The major areas of work in these **Six months** were:

➤ **OFFICE SPACE;**

This is one of the major issues for the security of the organization. As all of know that Olakh has been working on the issue of Social Reconciliation since 2002, our existence has been threatened as we are perceived as favoring only one particular community. Also, to add to our worries, the floods this time damaged our office premises and we are now in the state of finding out a proper and adequate space at our earliest. We have already seen a few lands and open plots and are in the process of finding the most appropriate one.

➤ **RESOURCE MOBILIZATION;**

One of the programme officers from EED, Germany visited us. She spent a day with us and shared about the organization's philosophy, ideology, programme and possibilities of exploring for partnerships. In this period we also applied to EED, Global Fund for women and Dohrabjee Tata Trust for funds, for the coming years. Here, EED has already sanctioned a part of our requirements and others have shown their willingness for the same. We had also sent a proposal to the United Way of Baroda for our Computer Classes, but it did not work out.

➤ **PROGRESS REPORT AND AUDITING OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS;**

We have finalized the different progress reports for this period that includes programmes and training reports.

➤ **PROCESS DOCUMENTATION WITH CRITICAL REVIEW;**

There was a two – days session on SWOT and we culled out future areas for intervention. The document was read in the last Board meeting to get the reflections of all. It has been finalized and has already been published.

➤ **BOARD MEETING;**

The Board meeting for this period was held on 26th May 2005'. Here, four new members were formally appointed on the Board. During the meeting it was strongly felt that after such long and laborious work, it was time of reflection with writing, for the organization. We need to focus on stock taking, the team's self care and consolidation.

Also, the Auditor's, Accounts and Progress report for April 2004 – March 2005 were discussed. The future of the staff and their career were also discussed at length. As, Nimisha would be gone for two years, two members from the Board have decided to give more inputs in her absence.

The next Board Meeting scheduled for the 8th of October 2005', would mainly be focused on discussing for the next two years.

➤ **DOCUMENTING AND PUBLISHING JOURNEYS;**

As it has been mentioned earlier, we are in the process of stock taking of the entire organization, the First Draft of the programme is ready. The Olakh team had been to Tamachidi, a remote village in the South Gujarat, in the month of May 2005 for 10 days to reflect on the same. There were intensive discussions on our vision, mission, objectives, strategies and functioning as a team. The process of consolidation of Olakh's Journey began from there. We also discussed on what feminism means to us and what was our own Identity. One other major area of discussion was the aspect of using a 'second' name with individual name. Most of the team members agreed to its use for creating parallels in the society. Further, few of the members also went to Shanti Niketan in the month of August 2005 to continue with the process. This also includes a 30 – minutes Audio – Visual presentation of Olakh, which is in the process of being finalized. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in these processes.

➤ **OLAKH WEBSITE;**

Paula and Michael along with the Olakh team have been working on the Olakh Website. It would be hopefully launched by the end of September 2005'. Paula has made a concept for a webpage and compiled and written the contents, which are going to be finalized and given to a Web designer at the end of September. The website will comprise of the following sections:

- About us
- Vision/Mission
- What Feminism means to us
- History
- Programme and Activities
- Who we are
- Contact us
- Join us
- Debates (Forum for general debate)
- A room of our own (Forum for personal issues)
- Upcoming
- Expertise
- Links
- Feedback
- Olakh in writing (Publications)

➤ **INSTITUTION BUILDING;**

The organization has been expanding according to the need of the hour and the fast growing society. Thus, there was a need to evolve certain Administrative and Accounts systems and also to comply with statutory requirements of the Charity Commissioner. In this regard, meetings were held with the retired Charity Commissioner, Chartered Accountant and Government personnel of other organization, in Ahmedabad. Their inputs were taken and our updated our reporting at the Charity Commissioner's office.

Apart from this, we changed our Auditor from September 2005, who will give more time, take care of the internal and external Audit, financial systems and management. Further, he would also help in enhancing the skills of the Olakh team members in this area.

➤ **PRESENTATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS;**

Apart from these we were also deeply involved in the process of preparing for different presentations at the International seminars and workshops, where two of our members would be participating. The different Workshops to be attended are as follows:

1. "Development in a Troubled World – Dealing with Conflict and Violence in Constructive Ways" from 19th to 22nd October 2005, with EED at Bonn, Germany.
2. "Peace must be built from within – How can external actors reinforce peace processes owned by the local actors?" also with EED at Bonn, Germany on 25th October 2005.
3. "Development and Security of Women and Men" workshop on Gender and Violent Conflict, with APRODEV in Brussels on 27th October 2005.
4. RCT workshop from 14th to 17th November 2005, in Denmark.
5. RCT Health Professional Workshop 2005 on "Monitoring and Evaluation of Psycho – Social Intervention" from 21st to 25th November 2005, in South Africa.
6. EED – PISA Consultation from 17th to 21st November 2005 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

These workshops and seminars will have policy makers, funders and faith – based organizations that are mostly located in the West. We will be making presentations focused on our interventions in Conflict Transformation with Women centered approach.

➤ **EMERGENCY INTERVENTION – FLOOD RELIEF 2005;**

The state of Gujarat faced one of the most devastating floods in its history in the month of July 2005. Approximately, 5 lakh people residing in 10,000 villages suffered due to the floods. Vadodara city and district were amongst the worst hit. Our office, being situated in a low lying area was under three feet water for couple of days. This resulted in damage of important documents, stationery, etc. Four of our team members lost all their belongings. Also, two of our communities, Kalyan Nagar and Fagvel Nagar were completely under water.

We carried out rapid assessments in the worst affected areas (rural and urban) and started our relief work. We were helped and assisted in the entire process by a team of energetic and enthusiastic volunteers from N.C.C, schools, community members, friends from other NGOs and few individuals.

We started with relief work at our earliest and after a month's work that involves assessment, identification, packing and distribution of ration kits along with handling of the volunteers, we were able to reach a total of **6,215 families** from Vadodara urban and rural, Padra, Dabhoi and Sankheda talukas.

➤ **STUDENT PLACEMENTS;**

Olakh along with its team, always few placement students and trainees from various organizations and institutions placed with it for a specific period. During this period of six months we had a total of 10 students placed here. This includes three international students of AIESEC, four from Anand Institute of Social Work, one from the Department of Psychology and two from J.C. Kumarappa Mahavidhyalaya, Ghadada.

These students apart from their associations in the different activities and programmes of the organization were also involved in the flood relief process. They all learned about the ideology of Olakh based on Feminism which has helped them to grow and expand their learning horizons.

➤ **FEMINIST RESOURCE CENTRE;**

The last six months remained very exhaustive, as we were in the process to make the Resource Centre more users friendly and systematize every function, in order to maintain it and keep it updated. For that stock taking was a big task, which we could finish along with emergency intervention of flood. Apart from

this, we could also conduct few training programmes with other organizations. The whole experience remains very enriching and satisfactory.

Activities of the Resource Centre:

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

Stock taking of all the Resource Centre material – Books, Reports, Magazines, Posters, Audio cassettes, Video cassettes, Brochures, Leaflets, Kits, Catalogs, was completed. It was very time consuming and involved solving of lot of queries. At the end, it has helped us to understand the type and nature of material. We also got all the quantitative information about the actual stock which will provide us the guide line to develop a better system for smooth functioning of the Resource Centre.

To work on the journey of the Resource Centre, we have begun the process of collecting quantitative and qualitative information of all programme details since the inception of Olakh, in 1993. Also, the journey writing on invention with Adolescent girls has been started.

- **Present Stock of Documents & Members at the Resource Centre:**

No.	Item	Stock
1	Books (Fiction, non fiction and issue based- in Hindi, Gujarati, English)	4,432
2	Reports and journals	378
3	Magazines in Stock (English-, Hindi-, Gujarati-)	152
4	Regular magazines (English –24, Hindi-6, Gujarati-22)	51
5	Posters	406
6	Organizational reports	86
7	Leaflets (Violence, health, Gender)	163
8	Brochures	341
9	Catalogues (English – 76, English & Gujarati – 19, Hindi & Gujarati – 51)	146
10	Video cassettes (Total Films – 148)	115
11	CD	104
12	Audio cassettes	50
13	Kits (Health, law, violence, child rights)	40
14	Material on Sale	70
15	Regular members	25

- **Circulation of Resource material and Extended Outreach:**

During this entire span of six months, different type of material was circulated like books, magazines, posters, reports, audio – video aids, etc. The total circulation of material was **140** with a total outreach to **1,274** persons.

- **Staff Members Circulation:**

During this period, the total outreach of the Resource Centre through our staff members is **3,605** through material circulation of **398**.

- **Mini Library:**

Both of Olakh's creative learning centres - at Maretha and Kalyan Nagar were under water for almost a week. This has destroyed all the books of the mini library. The centre remained closed almost for two months (July and August). To restart the mini library, it will take time as we have to do the entire re-setting of both the centres. We also feel that before we restart the mini library, we need to review all the previous experiences.

In Kalyan Nagar total circulation was of 61. This was too low as compared to the previous cases mainly because most of the students had their exams and even the floods made it difficult for the circulation.

- **Dialogue and facilitation with Resource Centre users:**

To mainstream the feminist ideology, our dialogues with the users are based on discussing their views on women's issues and motivating them to spread the perspective to others. The users of the Resource Centre are mainly students, individuals and Organizations. Many of the students are suggested by their supervisor or guide to make a reference of the Resource Centre for putting new input for their dissertation, research, assignments and fieldwork programs that they organize as a part of their study/work. Total 76 persons have personally visited the Resource Centre.

- **Feedback of the users:**

Students from the Faculty of Home Science said, "The material present here is very rich and extensive. We did not have to go to any other place for reference as all the content was found in one place itself".

Apart from dialogues, we also facilitate users by handling query, managing the query, telephonic information giving, and also net surfing. On an average we handle 20 queries on telephone in 1 month.

- **Collection:**

Collection of the material is a time consuming activity and requires lot of familiarity with the literature, their authors and information about new coming material. The screening of the material for the Resource Centre is also very important task as each book has to be match with Olakh's ideology.

During these 6 months, majority of the material purchased was from Shanti Niketan, the birth place of Rabindranath Tagore, where Olakh team had visited and also from National Book fair held at Vadodara in month of September (8th – 18th). Usually it is very difficult to get material in local language, but in national fair we also got books on women's issue in local and national language.

- **Sale and Purchase:**

Major sale of this period is of the new publications of Olakh's 3 posters on Violence against women and Diary "Kishori Killol" made for the adolescent girls. Total sale of the material is **Rs. 19,323** including membership fees, rent of material and items gifted by Olakh to various people on the occasion like birthdays, inaugurations, marriages, etc. These gifts are from the rich resource material that we have and useful items like files and folders, etc.

- **Collection of Issue – based, analytical paper articles:**

Collection of important articles from the news paper on women's issues and on humanity was one of the activities carried out during this period. We have paper cuttings on the issue of violence, women's development and empowerment and various new trends and issues of the same, since July 2004 to Aug 2005, from the well known news paper Times of India, Gujarat Samachar and Sandesh. To have the best use of it we are planning to have its compilation. Students were also involved in this activity.

Dialogues with them on the issues of violence against women, positive case studies of men taking responsibility of mentally challenged sisters, new changes in factory acts and present women's condition, has helped them to develop their understanding.

- **Classification :**

The classification of the all the material in particular categories took a long time and lot of brain storming was involved. For this we referred Akshara's (Mumbai based organization, who has developed classification system which is widely accepted by many Resource centres) classification system. We also referred to all of our material. We felt that being a comparatively small Resource Centre, we do not have books for all the categories which Akshara has made. We also felt to make some changes in the categories as per Olakh's perspectives and needs. In total, **15 major categories** along with sub categories have been made. The finalization of this classification is yet to be done. Though we have already arranged the books as per the classification so that if changes are to be made extensive work is not needed.

- **Classification of papers:**

Olakh also has a lot of material in form papers and articles. This was compiled as per its issues. All these papers were also classified and compiled according to the major classification. The compilation of papers will be a good reference material for the users.

- **Publications:**

- 1. Audio Cassettes on songs of women's and other movement:**

As we all know that Music is one such medium of outreach, which is easy to disseminate as well has greater sustainability and acceptance of the masses. The audio that Olakh has released contains songs in Hindi and Gujarati languages, based on struggles of Women in different societal set – ups. It was released shortly.

- 2. Co - large on Olakh's News:**

During various programmes of Olakh, the news regarding Olakh's activities have been published many times. Being a feminist organisation, Olakh's views have also been taken many times by the news agencies. The collections of news related to Olakh were put in a co - large form. This has become handy document of the compilation of Olakh' news and will be useful at various programmes to give idea about Olakh's work and will also increase the organizational visibility.

- 3. Photo Document:**

Since 1996, Olakh has a huge collection of photos on various activities. To have visual journey of Olakh's ideology, work, activities, photo documentation was planned. For that all the photographs were classified as per the activities, appropriate ones were selected and now whole journey will be put in a pictorial form along with text.

- 4. Film Synopsis :**

Olakh has a total of 148 documentary and mainstream films. In order to have the information of films according to the feminist perspectives and give understanding about the issue and subject, film synopsis were made. Along with subject and issue it gave us a very clear picture of the areas where the usage could be can be done. Now it is very easy for the user to get detailed idea about each film and make the choice. In the near future, we are also planning to have the compilation of all film synopsis.

5. Preparation of Violence Kit:

Based on Olakh's experience of working with the survivors of violence since long and two years of extensively working on International campaign to stop violence against women we felt the need to come out with a publication on Violence. The basic objective behind the entire process is that we would like to bring together and make the larger society aware and sensitive on the issue of Violence against Women. This would be used for trainings with school children, youth, in communities and the society at large. Lot of brain storming has been done on the objectives, content and type of package that we want to have. The primary work was started in the month of August 2005.

6. Collective meditation, reading and singing package :

Olakh has decided to compile a collective meditation, reading and singing package-a creative expression that the team has engaged in for the past 3 years. It will be a document of their heart-felt experiences regarding this expression. This activity has helped the team in their emotional and spiritual nurturance. Olakh also envisages this practice as a vital medium in peace building. The framework for this package is in the process of finalization and the package thereafter will be published.

7. Women friendly policy :

The first draft that is the functional policy is prepared. It is an important document as Gender policy is not applicable for us. It needs more debates and discussions. It would be presented to the Board in the next meeting.

8. Journey of Empowerment of Adolescent girls program :

To have a detailed document of all our experiences of working with adolescent girls, to get insight and direction of future program). Olakh has decided to write journey of each program. This endeavor started with writing of adolescent journey. Clarity was made on its objectives, the issue of sexuality, our own experiences, dilemmas, confusions and our success. The members who have left Olakh but were associated with this activity were interviewed. Still, we felt the need to interview some of the members of our constituency.

9. Collection of songs and stories related to adolescent girls :

Songs and stories are an effective and powerful medium of imparting message. As Olakh is regularly associated with the activities of adolescent girls, we collected short stories and songs related to adolescent girls. For that we referred to almost 71 magazines of "Pitara" and "Sabla" - Hindi news letters. Materials focusing on adolescents were very less and general. It was felt that there is a need to have very focused material on the issues of adolescents. Thus, we are also planning to compile all the stories and songs, which will be useful for the people who are working with the adolescents.

- **Outreach Activities:**

- 1. Program: Orientation about Gender and Olakh**

Date: 14th May 2005

Time: 6.30 -8.00 p.m.

Venue: Kalyan nagar

Participants: Youth group of 25, girls and boys of Kalyan Nagar

The session was supposed to be on the basics of gender, but a major amount of time was taken up by a discussion on the upcoming English classes to be started by the student Margot at the centre.

In the short time available, we looked at the word "Gender" and played a game of free association. It came out clearly that there was little understanding of the concept. Then played the riddle of "Who was the Doctor?" Only one or two people came up with the possibility that the doctor could be female - a mother. This led to a reflection on what we consider as "male and "female" professions; and a discussion on why it is so was done.

- 2. Program: Orientation about Gender and Olakh**

Date: 28th May 2005

Time: 6.00 -8.00 p.m.

Venue: Kalyan nagar

Participants: 20 youth (16 boys and 4 girls) of Kalyan nagar baste

The film "Beti Aai hai" was screened followed by a discussion. The boys did not believe that girl's rights are denied at home. They believed that in their house girls are allowed to have primary education. The discussions then went on that girls don't have choice as theirs brothers, to have higher study. Boys also talked about safety of the girls, as girls are not safe in the society. They are not allowed to study higher. It was than discussed that why girls are not safe in the society. The dialogues helped the group to get awareness on girl's right.

- 3. Program: Orientation about Violence against women**

Date: 12th June 2005

Time: 6.30 -8.15 p.m.

Venue: Kalyan nagar

Participants: 7 girls, 4 boys of Kalyan Nagar

The session was started with reading of the story of white ribbon. This lead to a discussion on the nature of violence that we see every day. Eve-teasing and domestic violence came up as the most prevalent and almost everyone agreed to have experienced, seen and heard of violence against women. We played a "Gender Bender" on eve-teasing and reflected on the feelings. We also played the game 'Human puppet' with the issue of Domestic violence and abuse.

The feeling that came up at the end was that as we change situations, in the game, we can do something to change situations of violence happening around us as well.

- 4. Programme: XI National conference on women studies.**

Venue: The International centre, Goa

Date: 3-6 May 2005

Organized by: Indian associations of women' studies.

Attended by: Bela, Taslim, Margot (Student placed at Olakh)

Participants: 400 people from various organizations of all over India, Few representatives from other part of Asia, Individual members, students

XI National conference on women's studies was planned on the topic of Sovereignty, Citizenship, and Gender. Total 9 theme related to livelihood, natural resource rights, conflict and militarization,

politics of sexuality, migration, displacement and borders, education, Impaired citizenship and forms of exclusion, legal education, were covered in context of women and citizenship rights. Olakh team had attended sessions on theme related to citizenship and politics of sexuality, livelihood work and Natural resource rights, impaired citizenship and exclusion in context of ageing and disability. The conference gave exposure to know and understand the issues in depth.

Along with attending the conference, we used this platform for dissemination of posters and badges, which we have published on the issue of violence during the campaign. The selling of the material created scope to interact with various people.

5. Programme: Training on Gender and sexuality

Date: 17 to 26 June 2005

Venue: Abu Road, Falna (Bali block)

Participants: 84 Girls (40 – Abu road, 44 Falna)

Organizer: Doosra Dashak, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Facilitator: Bela, Taslim, Radhika (Only for Abu Road)

Looking at the expertise and experience of Olakh on working with adolescent girls, Doosra Dashak – an organization based at Rajasthan working for the education of adolescent girls had invited Olakh to facilitate the training on the issue of Gender and Sexuality. Four days of residential training was planned for both the camps with an objective of providing information and knowledge to cope up with their dilemmas, to challenge stereotypes and build positive self image and promote the feeling of my body and my emotions are mine. The topics covered were perception of human being, indigenous names of body parts, physical, social, emotional changes during adolescence, likes and dislikes of various body parts, beauty, attraction, love, responsible relationship, right to say 'no', and self defense techniques. Planning was exhaustive and reworked for 3-4 times to make it more effective. Lot of brain storming helped us to find out new methods and sharpen our understanding of content. The group of girls was very curious, enthusiastic, and lively. The girls questions and dilemmas were answered, the discussion about the concept of love, relationship, beauty, safe sex developed consciousness and awareness for one's own self, body, liking, disliking, pleasure.

6. Programme: Training on Gender and sexuality

Date: 19 September 2005

Venue: Mount Abu

Participants: 110 (68 men, 32 women) team members of Doosra Dashak

Organizer: Doosra Dashak, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Facilitator: Bela, Taslim, Mamta and Abha from Jagori (New Delhi)

One day sexuality training was planned by Doosra Dashak, in which Olakh and Jagori were invited to facilitate the session. The participants were a diverse group in terms of age, religion, area, experience, religion, etc. The topics covered were difference between sex and sexuality, myths related to sexuality, role of educator and questions related to sexuality. The training was challenging as negligible participants had training of gender and patriarchy before that. Even conceptual clarity of sexuality with feminist perspective was not there. In spite of this, the training went very fruitfully and it surely widened the understanding of the participants on the concept of sexuality, which could be known, when everyone related it with their own selves at the end of the session.

- **Challenges:**

To keep it very well maintained, up to date and user friendly without having one constant member associated with the Resource Centre even during the time of emergency of the floods in July 2005 and also to develop people's interest in reading in today's time of media and internet.

- **Learnings:**

- Got clarity about the overall systems required for the smooth functioning of the Resource Centre.
- Classification of the material developed understanding of the content of the books.
- The intervention at the time of natural calamity of the floods increased planning, networking, mobilization of financial, human and other materialistic resources, budgeting skills.

- **FEMINIST COUNSELLING CENTER;**

- **Face-To-Face Counseling:**

In the period from April 2005 to September 2005, the Counseling Centre has handled **22 new cases** and **42 follow up cases**.

Sr. No.	Months	New Cases	Follow – up Cases
1	April 2005	02	09
2	May 2005	07	04
3	June 2005	02	13
4	July 2005	01	01
5	August 2005	06	07
6	September 2005	04	07
	Total	22	42

- **New Cases:**

The major focus of all the new cases during this period was centered on Domestic Violence in different forms like emotional, psychological, sexual and physical. Other cases included the issues of addiction of husbands, legal issues of property and adoption and extra – marital relationships of husbands.

Since our inputs in the counseling process are largely qualitative, the impact very often is intangible. Though we have not used any specific indicators to assess our work in the past, the following are a few parameters, which have always served as a guideline to ensure that holistic inputs being given to a counselee and to check the progress of a case;

- The duration and frequency of a counselee's association with the organization and the counseling center.
- Ability of the 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 an independent decision-making.
 - Reality orientation and readiness to face consequences
 - Increase the coping mechanism ability
- 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
 - Self confidence
 - Awareness about inbuilt potentiality
 - self-worth
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 well being 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 counseling process in the counseling center.

• **Helpline Calls:**

Sr. No.	Months	Follow – up calls	New Calls	Blank Calls	Wrong No.
1	April 2005	24	02	03	01
2	May 2005	44	04	18	00
3	June 2005	52	05	15	02
4	July 2005	05	00	01	00
5	August 2005	16	05	05	03
6	September 2005	37	05	16	03
	Total	178	21	58	9

• **New Callers:**

The nature of the new cases was centered mainly on issues of emotional and mental problems faced by women in their familial lives. Few also focused on the aspects of information gathering on issues of health. Example:

➤ **SOCIAL RECONCILIATION WITH CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION;**

In this year, we started to re – shape our programme to work on a long term basis. To achieve this, we looked back at our strengths and challenges and extracted results of learning. On that basis, we re – designed the programme with selected actions and long term strategies. Hence, during this quarter, the major thrust areas were as follows;

1. Sustaining on going activities.
2. Stock taking of the activities.
3. Action based Research – 1st plan of Action based Research.
4. Flood Relief.

• **Present Scenario:**

At the beginning of the year, it was anticipated that the city was limping back to normalcy that was life, business were at ease and were blooming. Happiness and enjoyment were all prevailing. But, when the occasion of Ganesh Visarjan (Hindu festival), came this peace and calm was shattered. Conflict rose in the walled city when youth from both the communities (Hindu and Muslim) clashed. This led to police firing in which one boy (Muslim) was hit and he succumbed to the injuries. Tension prevailed in the areas for few days. Along with this both the communities started putting allegations on each other that instigated

anger and violence. Thus, such occasions of conflict further establish the re – occurrence of communal tensions in the communities of the city. They could also easily spread to other parts of the city. One is then forced to think as to which way is the best to maintain solidarity within the communities, as such incidences keep on hampering and shattering all the dreams and hopes of healthy and peaceful society. Secondly, within our operation area (Kalyan Nagar), the possessions of illegal weapons like guns, is a severe threat to the security of the community.

Above all, the city faced the worst floods in 30 years, in the month of July 2005, which disrupted daily life of people and their very survival was at stake. During this period, our creative learning centre at Kalyan Nagar was badly affected. The computers, books and other resources were completely washed off. Also, few of our team members from the community suffered severe damages in their houses.

Nasimbanu, a lady from Kalyan Nagar said, “We are now again in the same position as we were after the carnage. All is destroyed. Why does it happen again and again?”

- **Activities in Detail:**

1. **Sustaining on going activities:**

Creative learning centre – This was established as a place for physical and emotional space for all. During this quarter, the smooth functioning of the centre was hampered and totally disrupted. The effect was to such a great extent that both the community centres were closed for on and a half month. Therefore, after July 2005, the major work done was to prepare a census of the damage occurred in Kalyan Nagar centre and how to re – start it. The centre was cleaned with the help of the community women and youth, once the water receded in the area. At the fore set, only the Collective Initiative for Justice is functioning regularly at the back of the centre. For the computer class and the library, we are in the process of arranging for funds so that it is regularized by the end of October 2005.

Computer Classes – It had 27 students enrolled till June 2005. At present it is not in a proper condition and the biggest dilemma and constraint is how to sustain these students. During this quarter, for the first time a new programme course was introduced, which is now half way. Few students have to appear for the Basic computer course and few had just enrolled. Few who had completed their courses need to appear for their exams and then given certificates.

Library/Door-step Resource Centre – Library has played a very important role to build the perspectives and confident of the people through books. It was also binding all the activities and programmes. Comments of the user, “When we all get together and read and work together, all work is done smoothly and easily. Unity brings strength in all of us. During the carnage there was no unity in the people and thus they became victims of the circumstances.”

In this quarter there was a total circulation of 187 books read by 121 Muslims, 61 Hindus and 5 Dalits. Due to flood, all the books were damaged so at present it is non – functioning. Comments our regular readers Sita and Naseem, “Whenever we come to the centre and see the book racks in this condition, we feel a lot of pain and get disturbed.”

Collective Initiative for Justice – This runs once in a week at both (urban and rural) centres, regularly. These too were closed for a month and a half due to the floods. During this quarter, 12 cases were dealt with out of which four were of Hindus, four Muslims and four of Dalits. Majority of the cases were related to the mental illness. It was witnessed that how particular societies treat them in the form of violence, discrimination of their identity. So, in the collective a whole process was started as to why they are not considered as able human beings. Who are responsible for them and what should be the responsibility and role of individuals and collective in such issues, was discussed. Secondly, support to survivor women with livelihood was thought as it will help them to be independent, know their own identities as well as give an outlet of their emotions and healing. This was a result of the close working with the women through counseling.

2. Stock taking of the activities:

This process was initiated from the last quarter itself.

Data base – During this quarter, the major work was to develop a data base of the communities. This will give a visual view of the qualitative and quantitative demographic information of the beneficiaries who are associated with us in different way. Also, it will tell us about the total out reach and consistency. In total we have **6 constituencies** and the total out reach is **1,523 with Hindus**

Compilation of the Feedbacks – Since the inception of the programme till date, all the feedbacks were compiled to assess the organization's (Olakh's) intervention and its impact on the communities through different strategies. Also, it will show the extent to which we have reached our goals of Social Reconciliation and transformation. For this process we have scanned different types of Registers like those of meetings, trainings, library, newspaper readers, women's collective, collective initiative for justice, computer class, literacy class, centre visitors, etc. We have culled out a total of 826 feedbacks of the community people that states the impact of our interventions in the people's life.

Some of the **feedbacks** are like;

Women coming in the Library, "Today due to terrorism, people have lost their identities. They are just fighting to take revenge without knowing the reasons for the same. I think now that Olakh has come in our community, here people will start thinking on such issues.

Women in the literacy class, "Now I can read and write which makes me feel very proud of myself. First, I hesitated to come to Olakh but now, the fact that I am also a literate makes me so happy. I am now also able to do my signature".

Women from the Collective, "After the communal carnage, women from the different religion did not come together. After Olakh's initiation of the collective, relations have again built up; we also participate in the activities together."

Compilation of Journeys – The compilation of different journeys and strategies took place in the social reconciliation project (literacy, computer class, jewelry class, collective, collective initiative for justice, maitree patra, library, and peace committee). This process has developed the insight in us to reflect and re – think the strengths, weaknesses and dilemmas that we came across. It also brought out how we could build up and strengthen our existing activities and develop case studies which would help for presentations to be done at International levels.

Action based Research – In the last phase, data collection was done. During this period, the crucial work of developing the Code for 19 open ended questions and 40 questions of the 'Others' category was carried out. This means the Code list was developed for 59 questions. After that all these code were put in the 1,238 Questionnaires. At present with the assistance of the Population Research Centre (PRC), the data analysis has started for which we have to develop an analysis table and grouping of data as per the need of the findings.

During this process, we could find out few gaps in the formation of our tool like the relationship patterns, type of family, which as a feminist organization should be corrected and incorporated. Moreover, it was a learning process to understand the entire package.

Capacity building of the Team Members – During this quarter, we have encouraged and motivated all of our Samaj Shilpis (community team members) to join a Certificate course on Women's Empowerment from Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU). Also, one of our male team members participated in a Gender Training Workshop at Bhopal organized by IWID.

➤ **ADMINISTRATION;**

1. Monitoring and Updating the Systems:

There was updating of Olakh team Members Attendance Register, Visitors Register, Xeroxing work made Register, Inward and Outward Register, Stationery Register, Staff Meeting Register. Files like Individual Team, Members, Present Team Member (Bio-Data with Photo), Ex-Team Member (Bio-Data, Resignation), Olakh Trustees, and Leave-Report.

2. Overall Monitoring of Administration work:

Overall Administration work was supervised during this period, which includes time monitoring, registers, files, mailing list, address book and notice board updating, receiving mails, maintenance of office equipments and the premises, attending guests, visitors and telephone calls and lastly, taking care of the posts, couriers and bill payments work.

3. Finalize List of Holidays for the year 2005-2006.

4. Day- to day work:

• **Prayer/Meditation/Reading**

Daily 10.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. we all team members use to have prayer/meditation followed by reading session. Purpose behind is to strengthen us, give and take energy. Meditation gives strength and peace to mind. After having this we all feel very energetic and with that starts our day. For reading sessions, we read out articles on issues or thoughts on the work that we do and then discussed them. These would be either from books or from any newspaper or magazine articles which we come across.

- House-keeping/cleanliness
- Campus Maintenance with gardening
- PRO Networking
- Air and Railway Ticket Booking and Travels

5. Staff Meeting and Board Meeting: During this period a total of **3 staff** and **1 board** meetings were held.

6. Workshop, Meeting and Seminars conducted: 2 meetings were held during this period.

7. Visitors at Olakh: During this period a total of **150** visitors came to the Olakh office.

➤ **ACCOUNTS REPORT;**

• **Accounts System:**

In Olakh we are maintaining a Double entry Accounting System from Beginning and we are now using a Tally package new version 6.3 silver from April 2004. Our Financial year is from April to March. We have a system of maintaining Foreign and Indian Accounts transaction separately in Tally. In Foreign Accounts each group of Accounts is classified with each funding Agency separately. Our Accounts includes transactions of Bank, Cash and Journal. All vouchers are supported by original documents like bill, receipt etc. Along with Computerized Accounts we also maintain daily transactions book manually for each cash and Bank transactions. We also submit report to the Programmer in charge and Coordinator under a prescribed format.

- **Finalization & Auditing of Accounts:**

During the beginning of this period Accounts was finalized for the period from April 2004 to March 2005. Also, filed an Income Tax Return for the previous year April 2004 to March 2005.

- **Financial Reporting:**

Sending a financial report for the period from April 2004 to March 2005 to each funder along with auditors report, income expenditure accounts and balance sheet authenticated by the auditor.

- **Government Report:**

Yearly Audit Report for the period from April 2004 to March 2005, Income Expenditure Accounts and Balance sheet is submitted to Charity commissioner and Income Tax Department.

Also Submitted FC-3 form for foreign receipt along with Auditor Report, Receipt Payment Account and Balance sheet to Home Ministry, Delhi. Also done Tax Deducted at Source Return for the period from April 2004 to March 2005 & April 2005 to June 2005 & for renewal of 80 G exemption from Income Tax.

- **Flood Related Work for Insurance:**

Presenting all required details for Insurance claim of Kalyan nagar centre and Office damaged due to flood.

- **Budget for the Next Phase:**

Finalize Budget for next Phase of Olakh Programmes from October 2005 to March 2007.

- **Appointment of the New Auditor:**

Appointment of new auditor Hafez Dalal Co. for the financial year April 2005 to March 2006.

➤ **FUTURE PLANS;**

We have also been working hard on re – organizing, stock taking and expanding Identity of the organization. In the next six months, our major focus of work will be in the areas of:

1. International networking through Presentations and Participations in different workshops.
2. Finalization of the Office premises.
3. Designing and Initiating perspective, livelihood and skill building programme for Women survivors.
4. Training and perspective building of grass – root and middle level activists in collaboration with external partners.
5. Strengthening and expanding Resource Centre and Counseling Centre activities along with developing user friendly systems.
6. Expanding the organization's team.
7. Re – starting and re - setting of the computer classes and the creative learning centers.
8. Networking with 'Pravah' for the Right of Clean Water in the communities.