

REPORT

BHARATIYA MUSLIM MAHILA ANDOLAN

MAHARASHTRA UNIT

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2011

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The report of the Maharashtra Unit of BMMA is given below:

Mumbai Activities:

The Unit has been actively working in the localities of Navpada, Behrampada, Lal Mitti, Dowri Nagar, Prabhat Colony, Bharat Nagar, Chita Camp and Kashi Mira in Mumbai. Given below is the report of work done in these localities.

1. NAVPADA

Ration:

The 3 ration shops are visited every month. The shop wala is happy that we are coming regularly but the government does not send enough quota.

60 ration cards which were suspended got activated with regular visits to the ration office.

The activists of Navpada and Behrampada organized a morcha to the Ration office to register a complaint against the reduction of kerosene quota and increase in its price. Since the last 3 months the ration shops have also not been receiving their regular quota of sugar. A memorandum was given to the local ration officer. The ration officer assured that he will take the demands of the group to the main ration office.

Letter to Controller of ration, Mantralaya and Collector's Office to complain about the poor quality and less quantity of food grains

Health:

Letter was given to the Corporator for water problem. 2 letters were given to H ward for cleaning up the area. As a result the work of BMC is good in the area. If they don't come then all the women gather together and go to the BMC office. 3 follow up visits have been done to the BMC office.

Letter was given to MP Priya Dutt for organizing health camp in the area. Now regular health camps are held where in so far 250 persons have benefitted from the free check up in the medical camp.

3 persons were given medical aid through the local trust.

The activists visited the superintendent of Bhabha Hospital to complain about the rude behavior of doctors and nurses. The dean assured them that they give adequate training to their staff but if there are complaints then it should be given with all details like the name of the patient,

department concerned, name of the doctor or nurse against whom the complaint is to be given, date and time. They would take action on the complaint.

6 people were helped by requesting a reduction in the hospital and operation fees. This was done in collaboration with Life Line Hospital.

A letter was given to the local Corporator Mr. Chonkar to clean the area. 4 visits were done to his office with the complaints. Now regular cleaning is done in Navpada.

2 health camps were organized for residents of Navpada, Behrampada, Garib Nagar and Pipeline in collaboration with TV 9 and Cipla. In all 110 people mostly women took advantage of this camp.

In another health camp full body check up was done in collaboration with TV 9 and Cipla. 51 people attended the camp.

Education:

2 students were referred for admission in school.

Book distribution to 200 students supported by Yuva Foundation

Letter to BMC complaining that all 27 items meant for students are not available.

11 girls enrolled for computer class in Gausia compound

6 women took admission for senior college through SNDT Women's University's Distance Education Programme.

Employment:

2 SHGs groups are functional

Through internal lending 2 women have got loan of Rs. 5000 each.

2 women from the Mahila Shakti SHG were given loan of Rs. 5500 each.

4 members who had taken loan earlier have returned the loan with 2% interest.

Regular meeting in held with MAVIM representative.

Money is deposited every month in the bank

One boy was referred for work to Linking road and he got the job

2 meetings with MITCOM were held for the SHG files pending with them.

Security:

BMMA activists have become members of the Mohalla Committee which has become function in beat no. 1, 2, 3 of Nirmal Nagar Police Station. in addition BMMA activists have become members of Mohalla Committee in Bharat Nagar and Vakola police station.

Participated in a meeting organized by Navjeet Community Centre for Mohalla Committee Movement Trust. 9 women from BMMA participated in this meeting. Information about laws was given. Information on domestic violence act was given

8 BMMA activists attended press conference on communal violence bill organized by AISF and Action Aid.

Case intervention:

11 cases of women from Navpada were referred to the Mahila Shakti Nyaya Panchayat.

4 cases were referred to Mahila Shakti Nyaya Panchayat.

21 interventions were done in local issues directly by the activist

Morcha of 50 women went to Nirmal Nagar Police station to protest against a father raping her daughter.

Documents:

3 income certificate were made in Navpada

9 women became members of the Jagrut Ghar Kamgaar Sanghatan in the Pipeline area.

2. BEHRAMPADA

Education:

7 children were facilitated to get admission in Purshottam High School

3 children were facilitated to get admission in Supari Tank School

Requested school to reduce the fees of one child.

Ration:

There are 6 ration shops in Behrampada. The quality of grains is not good. Regular visits are done to these shops. The ration wala himself says that they have paid money for 3 months of quota but the government has not released the grains.

12 visits were done to the ration office and 6 ration cards which were suspended were renewed. Meeting was held with the RO for making new cards. Three new ration cards were made.

12 visits were paid to 6 ration shops in the area. The feedback from the shops was that the kerosene quota has been reduced per family and the amount has increased from Rs. 9 per litre to Rs. 13 per litre. Sugar and oil are no longer available. The activists from Behrampada and Navpada took out a morcha to the local ration office and submitted a memorandum demanding that the price of kerosene be reduced and other items should be available in the ration shops.

The activists have also been attending the monthly meetings of RKS. They also attended an emergency meeting held at Vakola Church

25 families were helped for including the names of their family members in the ration card.

12 cancelled ration card were re activated

5 people were helped to put their names in their respective ration cards

8 people were helped to change their names from one ration shop to the other.

The area leader supervises the ration shop. She stands there and ensures that all people get their ration quota

Case intervention:

7 cases of women were referred to the Mahila Shakti Mandal Nyaya Panchayat from Behrampada.

2 cases of domestic squabbles were solved through mutual counseling and advice.

Employment:

2 SHGs have begun internal lending. 2 women got loan from the SHG. One new SHG is waiting to get registered with the SBI.

The SHGs associated with the MAFC has not received any loan from them. 3 follow up visits have been done but to no avail.

10 persons have been sent to Yuva Parivartan for loan for self employment

7 persons were facilitated for opening their bank account in the Central Bank

11 boys were referred to WIPRO call centre at Saki Naka. Out of the 11, 5 got employment and 6 were not able to make it as they were below the age of 18 by 2-3 months.

2 women from the SHG took loan of Rs. 10000 each. The 4 others who had taken loan are returning the loan amount on a regular basis.

Regular meeting of the SHG is being held.

Health:

5 PHCs were inspected for their facilities.

11 women were given medical aid. 25 persons were facilitated in getting aid from Navjeet Community Centre for Rs. 10/-

The Unit gave a letter to H ward office to have regular health camps in the area. As a result now monthly health camps are held in 4 gallis of Behram

With the follow up with H ward office, the BMC workers come for regular fumigation, water stored in the house is fumigated. The area is also regularly cleaned.

4 people were helped to get medical aid. One woman was a cancer patient and one was pregnant and needed financial support.

The nullah was cleaned through a private cleaner. The local residents were made to contribute towards the cleaning of the nullah.

A health camp was set up by the BMC to tackle malaria, dengue and other ailments. Blood tests were done and medicines distributed.

The BMC does not come in the small lanes to clean the gutter. The area leader got the community together to get the small gutters cleaned.

2 women were supported for her delivery by taking them to Bhabha, Sion as well as KEM hospital.

One woman was supported for her eye check up and she was given spectacles worth Rs. 500

2 people were supported for medical aid and were helped in getting them admitted in the hospital.

Women from the Behrampada community took advantage of the medical camp organized with the help of TV 9.

Security:

The effort of the local leader is to solve minor fights and squabbles within the community and not go to the police station. In 3 months 58 such minor skirmishes were solved without going to the police.

BMMA activists from Behrampada have become members of the Mohalla Committee which has become function in beat office of Nirmal Nagar Police Station.

2 boys who were picked up by the nirmal nagar police station for no fault were rescued without any case being made against them

Documents:

13 people got senior citizen cards

3 women opened their bank account in Central bank of India. Their bank documents were destroyed in the garib nagar fire.

128 people were helped in filing application for domicile certificate.

25 people got compensation of Rs. 5000 each from the Collector. They were victims of the Garib Nagar fire.

10 PAN cards were made
10 persons were helped in getting their voter I-cards
21 domicile certificates were made
8 forms of senior citizens
40 voter I cards – went to collector, MHADA

3. CHITA CAMP

Employment:

8 SHGs were formed with 10 women in each group. Out of the 8 groups 2 groups got loan from SBI. Each groups got Rs. 50,000.
40 women became members of the Molkarni Sanghatana.

Security:

The area leader received a case of police atrocity where the boy was forced to have sexual relationship with his mother. He was warned that if he does not do it he will be booked for rioting. The activist went to the DCP as well as the Commissioner and proved the boy's innocence.

Due to one anti-social element there was tension between the hindu and Muslim community. The activist intervened and diffused the tension.

Ration:

The activists visited the ration shop to find out the reasons for the bad quality of ration. The ration shop wala has complaints against the government. They have paid money to the government for getting ration but it is 3 months and the government has not released the quota.

Health:

Due to rising incidences of malaria and dengue the activists of BMMA complained to the BMC. Media was also called in. 2 letters were given and 4 visits were done as a result the BMC came for cleaning the area.

In collaboration with Dattak Basti Yojna, the area was cleaned up.

Education:

Supported 2 girls for higher education

Documents:

12 PAN cards have been made

4. GOLIBAR [PRABHAT COLONY]

Ration:

Supervision of 2 ration shops was done to find out the quality and quantity of ration.

One family got its ration card made

Helped one person enter her name in the ration card

Complaint was lodged against one ration shop wala who was selling ration in black. His shop was closed down.

Attended RKS meeting twice.

Employment:

20 women got loan from Ujwal bank

9 boys and 2 girls got employment through referral

2 SHGs were made which are attached to the SBI

Case intervention:

Referred two cases to Mahila Shakti Mandal Nyaya Panchayat. She herself intervened in 6 cases of domestic fights.

Health:

3 persons were referred for medical aid.

5. KASHI MIRA

Case intervention:

The leader of the area handled 2 cases of domestic violence.

7 cases were solved through local intervention

Education:

100 children were given slate for studies.

After survey of the area it was found out that the area has 5 anganwadis and 1 BMC school.

10 students got support for fees from Mahila Bal Samiti.

Health:

Meeting of the activists was held with the Mayor with complaints against the corporator. This corporator was not cleaning up the nala. As a result of the complaint the drainage was cleared and cleaned up.

From Corporators fund 4 women got medical aid.

4 TB patients were given medical aid through referral to a trust.

1 medical camp was also held with the help of a private trust. 10 people got medical aid in only Rs.20/-

6 families got water connection

One woman was operated free of cost for kidney stones
Supported woman for delivery in TMC hospital

Employment:

One family was referred for job in a school as a result both wife and husband got a job in a school and their child was also able to get admission in the same school.
21 boys from ages 16 to 25 received driving training .One handicapped girl was also referred for job and she got it.
Helped a man get work as school bus driver
One girl was helped in getting employment as a nurse in Guru Nanak Hospital

Ration:

The shop owner for some reason used to open the shop at 6 am. The activists all got together and complained to him and asked him to open the shop at 8 am. They visited the ration office thrice and submitted applications for 12 ration cards. Out of the 12, 6 have got their ration cards.
Application for BPL cards was done for 2 families. If a family has a BPL card then they get a loan upto two lakhs along with subsidy.

Security:

The activists have approached the police station so that they can become part of the Mohalla Committee. Nothing has happened so far.

Widow pension:

40 forms under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna have been submitted.

Documents:

15 people facilitated for getting their PAN cards
6 ration cards made

Civic amenities:

Passes for MMRDA toilets are being issued. But that facility was not there in this area. 100 women took out a morcha and demanded that passes be issued for MMRDA toilets. For each visit to the toilet one person has to pay Rs. 2 but a monthly pass will cost only Rs.30/-
Street lighting was absent. Took a citizens group to the Nagar Palika and got 10 street lights on.
A person who stole electricity for the last 25 years was put behind bars.

Public meeting:

One public meeting was held which was attended by 200 Muslim, dalit and adivasi women. Information about BMMA was given. Area leaders were also selected and information about SHGs started by State Bank of India was also given.

Housing:

5 families were facilitated in qualifying for house under the SRA scheme

6. DOWRI NAGAR***Ration:***

There are 2 ration shops in dowry nagar, one is at gate number 1 and the other is at gate number 4. The activists paid 5 visits to the ration shop to check whether the quality and quantity of ration is good or not. In the first month, the response was not good. In the second month they leaders could see the difference. The ration shop owner started to talk with them properly.

3 visits were done to the ration office to find out the process of making ration card and also about the issuance of BPL card. Because of the visit 15 ration cards which were suspended, got activated. The activists of dowry nagar also attended the monthly meeting of RKS where information about smart card was given. GR associated with smart card was also given to them.

In the visits to ration shops it was observed that rice and oil are available but the price of kerosene has increased and the quantity has decreased. Kerosene is available at Rs. 15 per litre and it is available only once a month. Because it is available only once a month, the ration shop gets crowded and the shop owner then says that the kerosene is over. Not all ration card holders get kerosene. Earlier each card holder would get 22 litres but now it has been reduced to straight 12 litres, that means 10 litre less kerosene is available per month. The same kerosene is available in black at Rs. 50 per litre. So there is less of kerosene and more price to it.

In all 26 visits were done to the local ration shop for supervision and monitoring of quality and quantity of ration and to continue to apply pressure on the ration shop owner.

Education:

40 forms were submitted to the Central Ministry for scholarship for higher education. Out of the 40, 5 students have received scholarship, 3 Christians and 2 Buddhists.

Visits were done in the BMC schools to find out if the 27 items which the BMC was suppose to give to the children are given or not. The activists found out that half the items are not given to the children. On asking the teachers they found out that the rest of the items will be given later.

4 women attended a career guidance festival called Ummeed Mela organized by Yuva Parivartan.

10 children were given books

2 children were helped to get admission in school.

Yuva Foundation had organized a felicitation program of students for their performance in 10th, 12th and Graduation. Students were given trophies and bouquets. The area leader supported and co-ordinated the entire event. 300 students attended the programme.

Employment:

10 students were enrolled for computer classes in Yuva Parivartan. 5 other students were also enrolled in computer classes.

After 7 meetings with SBI, 2 SHGs have been formed. Now work has been started to get loan for the groups. Bank accounts of all members of the SHG group had to be opened at SBI so that we could avail the loans for the work of SHG. Bank account of the SHG has been opened.

10 women were referred for domestic work and they got employment.

Security:

The area leader is now an active member of the Mohalla Committee which was formed after repeated submissions to the police station. The area leader along with other area leader of BMMA met the Commissioner of Police to request the revival of Mohalla Committee. As a result of these repeated meetings the Vakola police station has started the Mohalla Committee. 10 members of BMMA go for these meetings. They were given orientation by the police about the functioning about the committee.

Civic issues:

4 visits were done to the H ward office and complaints were given for cleaning up the area. As a result the BMC comes for fumigation, even the gutters are now regularly cleaned up.

Health:

The area leader with the help of local donors and personally has given medical aid to 50 women.

The group also received training from Sneha organization on the issue of women's health.

Two BMC hospitals and 2 PHCs were inspected and meetings were held with the doctors. These hospitals are V.N Desai and one near Dutt Mandir. The hospitals are not well equipped and the staff is not enough.

Two persons were supported with medicines. They were also admitted to the hospital with the help of the area leader.

Co-ordinated with BMC for clean up of local area and also for construction of road in the area.

Three cases were referred to the VN Desai Hospital. One was burnt and 2 were having TB.

A morcha was organized at the local H ward office to demand that the area be cleaned up.

Documents:

14 forms were collected from the Collectors office for making income certificate.

Information was given in Teacher's Colony about Domicile Certificate

11 people got their PAN cards made

1 income certificate was made

Under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, 10 widows were supported to do the documentation formalities by doing the form filling.

Case interventions:

In 9 cases local intervention was done.

7. LAL MITTI***Ration:***

2 ration shops were checked for quality of food grains. The ration shop wala says that we should complain to the ration office. 2 visits were done to the ration office and so far there has been no positive response from them.

Education:

22 school students were given aid for education.
295 students were given note books from the MLAs fund.

Security:

That area is full of anti-social elements. Many complaints have been lodged with the local police but to no avail. With the help of other individuals and organizations meeting with the Commissioner of Police was held and complaints were registered against the local police.

Employment:

The women in this area are in the process of forming an SHG and align themselves with SBI
3 women were facilitated in getting work as domestic help.
6 girls got employment in Kotak Mahindra

Health:

40 women from that area went on a morcha against the corporator for not cleaning up the drainage. After the morcha the drainage was cleared up.

Civic Amenities:

In each lane a group of 10 houses were got together and each group got a tap connection from BMC. Four such lanes now get BMC water.

Case intervention:

Intervention was done in 5 cases.

8. BHARAT NAGAR [Ruksana]***Ration:***

Visited area ration shops- 7 shops, to find out whether there are enough ration supplies available. There were no sufficient supplies in the ration shop. The shop owners told us that we have paid money to the state for their quota. In spite of that we do not get sufficient and timely supplies. Hence, they are not the ones at fault. The state mechanism has to be set right.

Education:

Facilitation of admission in New English High School was done.

One girl was given admission in National Girls High School

One girl was helped to secure her School Leaving Certificate

Free distribution of books to 10 needy students. The books were given by Yuva Foundation.

Conducted a Career Counseling Session for college students so that they get clarity of career options and will be able to take well informed decision about their future. Mr. Niyamat from Maulana Azad Education Department was invited and he addressed the students. The entire initiative was well received by students and they were highly motivated because of the involvement of such a dignified person in this initiative. One of the girl students has taken up a course to become an Air Hostess while some other students have taken up training to become pilots of aircrafts. It was interesting to note that girls and boys were present in almost equal numbers. 23 students attended this workshop. 3 forms have been filled up to get support from MAFC

Employment:

Coordinated and provided support for a Job Fair at Bharatnagar, Municipal School organized by local political party. 304 job seekers came to the job fair. Companies like Spanco, HDFC, ICICI, Idea, Axis Bank, Andromedia, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Top Security came for the recruitment. 250 offers were released and atleast 100 people joined. The qualification required was 12th or graduates.

4 girls got job in ICICI with help from students from SNDT University. Each girl is now earning Rs. 16000/-

A saving group of 15 women have been formed. Each women will contribute Rs. 100 per month.

Security:

The police had picked up 4 boys from the road. They were standing and talking to each other. She went to the police station and rescued them from the police.

As a result of the follow up of the conversion case, a peace committee has been formed which comprises of 4 Muslim and 4 Hindu women and 11 Muslim men and 11 Muslim women. It is the job of this committee to ensure that peace and security is maintained in the area. This committee will call any youth who is indulging in rioting and counsel them. BMMA activists regularly attend the meeting of this peace committee.

Health:

6 people got their eye operation done in a medical camp organized by Lions Club. This camp went on for 3 months from morning 10 o clock to 5 o clock in the evening. 11 people got spectacles and 18 people went for general body check up.

Medical aid of Rs. 3000 arranged for a heart patient

Case intervention:

On her own she intervened in 4 cases at the local level

She helped one woman get four and a half lakh from a builder who was not giving her the money.

Documents:

One voter I card

One senior citizen card

One woman was helped in opening her bank account in Bank of India.

14 forms for new ration card

Conducted a campaign to support people for filling up of forms for voters ID. We set up counters in the local BMC School and informed people in the locality to apply for voters ID, if they do not have it. A total of 110 forms were filled on a single day.

Under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, 18 widows were supported to do the documentation formalities by doing the form filling, went to the advocate for making affidavits. Local MLAs were approached for identity and income proof. Forms were submitted to Tehsildar office. Out of the 18 forms only 4 were sanctioned. It took a month to do this entire activity.

Housing:

The residents of all the 63 chawls of Bharat Nagar took a morcha to the builder's office to demand 306 sq.ft area. The builder agreed. 3 such meetings were held with the builder and public themselves spoke about their issues and demands with the builder.

Maharashtra District Activities:

1. OSMANABAD DISTRICT***Employment:***

On the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, a SHG was formed in Khaja nagar ward of Osmanabad city. On the occasion of Yuva Saptah, another SHG was formed with 11 women in the Sanja Road area. There are 13 women in this SHG and it is affiliated to the Maulana Azad Financial Corporation. Another BPL SHG was formed on the occasion of Women's Day and has been affiliated to Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojna. The files of 2 SHGs which were formed earlier have been forwarded to MITCON which is the implementing agency of MAFC for approval of a loan of 5 lakhs.

The Osmanabad District Unit on behalf of 4 SHGs has applied to the Collector to run a ration shop. The SHG run by the District Convener got the permission to run a ration shop. She now gets quota of 700 families. 2 women are running the ration shop and have thus got employment.

5 SHG groups were started, file sent for loan to MAFC

Health:

A health camp was organized for women in the Osmanabad city. 40 women took the benefit of the camp which was pertaining to basic health care.

Government schemes:

Applications have been submitted under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna and Shravan Bal Yojna.

Documents:

40 applications for ration card was given, out of which 15 families got their ration card. Gradually the rest will also receive as the ration office does not give ration cards all at the same time. 30 more forms were submitted.

23 senior citizens cards were made.

Education:

An application for starting a school has been given to the zilla parishad.

Public meetings:

- Press conference to talk about the issue of ration, went to collectors office and MITCON
- Meeting with women of sanjha road
- Visit to 2 villages near osmanabad city
- Visit to parbhani and Latur to initiate process of identifying district leader

2. NASIK DISTRICT

Government Schemes:

15 applications have been submitted for widow pension under the SGNV

Documents:

7 PAN cards and 5 voter cards have been made

10 applications were submitted for ration card out of which 6 families got ration card

Health:

4 women were facilitated to get medical aid from the Corporation and 3 from private trusts.

Case intervention:

17 cases of women have been solved. In one particular case a woman was able to get Rs. 40,000 and her stree dhan.

Security:

Meeting with the police is held every month to discuss any issue that comes up in the area. In 3 months 5 meetings were held with the police in both rural and urban areas. 5 cases were solved with police intervention.

Employment:

Two persons were referred for job in a company

20 SHGs have been formed. 5 of them have received loan of Rs. 50,000 each from MAFC.

5 groups have received group loan of Rs. 10,000 each from Ujwal bank. There are 10 women in each group

Women were also given training in the various schemes of LIC

Cookery classes, [chocolate and birthday cake preparation, 30 women participated

Made one SHG of 15 members

Outreach:

40 Muslim women went for a Mahila Melava

One public meeting of BMMA was held in which 30 women participated.

3. SATARA DISTRICT

Employment:

One SHG has got 3 lakhs from the MAFC. 3 more files have been submitted

One BPL SHG has got subsidy.

20 women have been able to get their income certificate

3 persons got employment

- Established 30 SHGs
- 3 SHG of BPL started
- Started sewing classes with 25 women

- One SHG got loan of 1 lakh which was equally distributed amongst the group member. 1 % interest

Case intervention:

2 cases of distressed women have been solved

Ration:

One women has been facilitated to get her ration card made

Public meetings:

2 public meetings of BMMA were held and the problems associated with PDS were discussed

Documents:

SGNY – 4 forms were filled up

4. SHOLAPUR DISTRICT

Employment:

12 SHGs are functional

15 persons got employment in a kaju factory and are earning Rs. 500 week

50 women who are part of the SHG were facilitated in having their Income Certificate made

There are 20 SHGs already supported by MAFC. 7 women from these SHGs were given loan of Rs. 5000 to start small enterprise. Some have started making bidi, some have started making crochet curtains.

Regular monthly meetings of the SHG are held

One girl was given work in stitching in a workshop

Education:

10 students were helped to make Income Certificate

40 school students were given note books. Each student got 5 books so in all 200 books were distributed

15 children were supported in getting admission in class 1

One student got education loan of 54 thousand from Maulana Azad Financial Corporation.

Widow pension:

25 applications were sent to SGNY out of which 10 are getting widow pension

Documents:

5 persons have got their Voter I cards made.

2 PAN cards made

6 ration cards made

6 domicile certificates made

3 income certificates made

20 peoples income certificate

Case Intervention:

The BMMA district convener is a member of Mahila Takrar Nivaran Kendra. Through this centre and as representative of BMMA she handled 15 cases of women. In 10 cases she took the help of the police. The Women's Cell received 10 cases, out of which 8 were solved. In one case 498 was applied.

Public meeting:

On the Women's Day programme 200 Muslim women were called for the celebration. In this meeting, information about BMMA was given.

2 smaller public meetings were held of 25 women each. Here to information about BMMA was given.

In one more public meeting, Salim Shaikh from Muslim Samanway Samiti, District leaders from Osmanabad, Pune and Sholapur were present. Area leaders from 5 localities were selected, and an SHG was formed.

5. PUNE DISTRICT***Education:***

Meetings were held to understand the problems faced by school going children

Information about various government schemes for children was given.

Complaints were registered against the poor quality of food given to school children.

8 persons have been helped to fill up Maulana Azad Financial Corporation forms for educational loans

School children were not getting mid day meal. Prepared a pressure group to demand better implementation of mid day meal scheme. Now the food is better and is given on time.

Documents:

Meetings are being held to understand the problems of ration cards and election cards.

Survey of senior citizen

3 PAN card

In process of making ration card of 8 families

Public meetings:

Meetings have been held with widows to understand their problems and to also help them link up with government schemes.

The activists have also protested against the functioning of the Wakf property. A formal complaint was registered in the police station.

A district unit of BMMA has been established through Sanyog Mahila Mandal

8 new SHGs were started. Each group has 8 women. Each women pays Rs. 100 per month as savings.

All women in SHGs have also been involved in buying LIC policy. After 5 years they will get Rs. 7500/- on the recurring payment of Rs. 100/- per month.

In 3 SHGs loan has been given to 3 members.

5 women have got employment as they make masala and sell it

Documents:

55 PAN cards made
10 ration cards made
200 applications given for OBC certificate
15 income certificates made

Public meetings:

One public meeting was held. 60 persons attended this meeting. Information was given about BMMA and its activities.

Public meeting in kondwa and yerawda, pune, - need machines, employment. Yerawda 30 women and kondwa – 60 women

Public meeting in july – no BPL card, lack of government scholarship

Case intervention:

13 cases solved through local intervention

Health:

Supported a woman to get subsidy for a high costing operation

Housing:

Involved in giving information about government housing schemes so that poor families can advantage.

Employment:

A training workshop was organized for the members of this SHG by the Azam campus. 60 women participated in this training programme. Information about various schemes meant for SHG was given. Women were also made aware of the LIC policies and how it is beneficial to them. Information about MAFC corporation was given and how loans can be accessed from there. Information about how this loan can be used for various businesses and the manner in which the loan can be returned was also given.

BMMA also organized a meeting of women domestic workers which was attend by Malan Sonavne from Jagrut Ghar Kamgar Sanghatana. In this meeting information about the rights of domestic workers was given. The government of Maharashtra is preparing a Board meant to prepared welfare schemes for domestic workers. Meeting of domestic workers was held in Yeravda and Kondwa areas of Pune. In both the areas 100 women became members of the Sanghatana. In this meeting information was also given about BMMA and women were exhorted to join BMMA and fight for their rights. Women opened up in this meeting and openly shared about their problems.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Sessions on gender, patriarchy, and power structures within society were held with the cadres of BMMA in collaboration with IPSCR.

The participants had discussed various sources of power, viz. Law, position of authority, coercive instruments like arms, traditions, status, location, culture, knowledge, information, social network etc. The following session was a continuation of earlier subject on experiences of power by women and sources of power. In this session, the participants were to recall their experiences with power and their experiences with power were to be discussed threadbare by other participants. It is important to throw light on their narratives to understand how they create a space for themselves in their families, communities and state. And in their struggle what are their sources of power. This adds to the discourse on the lives of Muslim women in India and their attempts to fight the oppression from within their community, society and state on a whole.

Thereafter it was decided to focus on relations between violence and power. The participants were asked to draw their conclusions on relation between violence and power drawing from their experiences and the stories they have shared in the previous session. After a long discussion, the conclusion that was drawn was that violence, threat of use of violence and capacity of an individual or a body or network of individuals or institutions to sustainably use violence creates fear and forces those who are vulnerable and victims of violence and submit to their hegemony. Violence or threat of violence and monopoly over violence or impunity with which one can use violence is power that creates hierarchical societies.

A training session on secularism was taken with the core group members of the BMMA. A more detailed discussion on secularism was again taken which was attended by 32 women.

A session on yoga was taken by Ghazala Baghban.

A two day workshop was organized by CSSS for the activists of BMMA. 13 activists attended this workshop. The issues covered were rights of women in Islam. The issue of codification was also dealt with in great detail. The session on codification was conducted by BMMA.

BMMA was invited to conduct a training programme on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee report by Committee for Right to Housing [CRH]. Activists of CRH as well as BMMA attended the meeting. 2 such sessions were held in the Bharat nagar community.

10 BMMA activists attended training on 'Networking of NGOs' organized by Yashada and Urdu Markaz. How organizations can work together so that one activity can happen simultaneously.

The activist of Khaire Ummat Trust gave information and training to activists of BMMA to avail of the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna. They have also extended their help in helping us have access to that scheme. The workers of the Trust will check the forms submitted by BMMA and show us the way till the women beneficiaries get the money.

In 10 core group members of the BMMA attended a training workshop on codification of Muslim family law. The group also worked on a small drama to depict the various laws pertaining to Muslim community.

The district leaders from Maharashtra and the area leaders from Mumbai attended a training programme organized by CSSS. The focus of the training was on the politics of fatwa, issue of halala and rights of women in Islam. Other issues were history of communalism, violence against women, concept of secularism,

The members of the Nyaya Panchayat attended a training organized by Akshara which focused on counseling and support to distressed women.

The activists also met to discuss future plans and activities related to PDS, issues of OBC Muslims, property rights of Muslim women and advocacy with state structures.

10 BMMA activists attended a training on SHGs organized by State Bank of India, TISS, Astitva Foundation and Shipping Corporation of India. The focus of the training was on product knowledge, marketing, selling, maintaining accounts, making budgets. Another training session on the same issue was done by Praveena.

The person in charge of accounts in BMMA attended a training organized by Action Aid. Information on FCRA, 12A, 80G, internal and external auditing process, bank transactions, etc.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS:

The Maharashtra BMMA Unit is working in close collaboration with the following organizations:

Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Ashana Trust, Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, Navjeet Community Centre, All India Milli Council, Ration Kruti Samiti, Jagrut Ghar Kamgaar Sanghatana, Muslim Samanvay Samiti, Bandra Peace Committee, Muslim All Backward Class Organisation, CORO, Sahara, Anjuman-e-Islam, Mohalla Committee Movement Trust, Shakha 9 Samajik Sanghatana, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, [CSSEIP] SNDT Women's University, Don Bosco Development Society, Jagruti Kendra, Yuva Parivartan, Nigaahe Mumbai, Khair-Ummat Trust, Committee For Right to Housing, Yuva Foundation, YUVA, Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution, [IPSCR], Majlis, Federation of Muslim NGOs, Maharashtra.

For instance CSSS is facilitating the project implementation and also conducts regular training programmes. The BMMA Unit is also working with them on the issue of codification of Muslim family law. The BMMA Unit is working closely with IPSCR for monthly Peace Centre activists and TOT programme on peace and secularism. Khair Ummat Trust is supporting us to evolve a working relationship with SGNV for implementing widow pension schemes in our area of work.

3 such meetings were held with them to understand the scheme. Students from CSSEIP are placed for field work in BMMA. Yuva Foundation has helped us to distribute books in the community. Shakha 9 Samanjik Sansthan is collaborating with the Unit for conducting medical camps and to take up civic issues. Our activists regularly attend the monthly meetings of RKS with special focus on Antyodaya scheme and Navjeet Community Centre. With the help of Mohalla Committee Movement Trust, the Unit has activated the Mohalla Committees in 2 beat offices of Nirmal nagar police station. The Unit conducted 2 sessions with the activists of CRH on Sachar Committee report. The activists also attended a meeting organized by Mahila Vikas Kendra to work on strategies of collaboration and networking. BMMA is part of a network of NGOS and CBOs working on the issue of domestic violence, how organizations can work together to support victims of domestic violence. One meeting of the network was held in CORO office. The implementation of the DV act was evaluated.

BMMA activists attended the Eid Milan programme in which OBC president, Rashid bagwan, NCP members, and corporators from all political parties attended the programme. In this programme, women were informed that the loan taken by women is exempt from any tax and that women must take full advantage of this facility by the bank. Women were also assured that the SHGs would be given a zero interest loan of 2 lakh and some guests also assured that women will get free medical aid. Women were encouraged to start their own small business enterprise. Information was also given about SGNV and that help will be given to them to avail of those loans.

PUBLIC MEETING

Muslim Coordination Committee [MCC] and the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan [BMMA] are jointly organizing a workshop on the concerns of the Muslim community and what steps need to be taken to address those concerns. 68 members of civil society attended this meeting. BMMA introduced the issue of codification of Muslim family law and urged the participants who were mostly men to support the cause.

The MCC is a state wide network of Muslim activists, intellectuals, organizations and groups which organizes workshops, meetings and study circles to understand and take action on the issues of concern of the Muslim community. It invites people from all walks of life to participate in the deliberations and work out common strategies for effective intervention.

A similar workshop was also held in Mumbai for the first time with the intention to identify partner organizations and individuals in Mumbai who can work in collaboration with the MCC and BMMA and take up responsibilities for developing the Muslim community.

A public meeting was organized in Navpada by a local committee on PDS, government scholarships for children and other local issues. The BMMA activist did a presentation about the work done by BMMA and urged all the residents to come together to fight for the citizenship

rights. She also urged all of them to seek accountability from the elected representatives and make them work for the community.

Another public meeting was held in collaboration with Shakha 9 on civic issues.

A few BMMA activists attended a meeting organized for the student community on the issue of career guidance.

A public meeting was organized in collaboration with Yuva Foundation which was attended by 250 students. In this meeting officials from the Maulana Azad Financial Corporation gave information about the various scholarship schemes of the Foundation. A similar meeting was organized in Bharat nagar by BMMA on giving information about government scholarship schemes. 50 students attended this meeting.

12 BMMA activists attended the VAW campaign meeting.

2 BMMA activists attended a workshop on violence against women and the role of the police.

13 BMMA activists participated in the Women's Day Programme organized by Navjeet Community Centre.

Attended a workshop organized by CSSS on fatwa. 19 BMMA activists attended the workshop Meeting on follow up of scholarships was organized. 11 BMMA activists attended it.

BMMA organized the ongoing Kabir festival in the Kherwadi area. More than 100 women attended this festival. A brief talk was held on the teachings of Kabir and a film was screened on the same.

BMMA also participated in the meeting to demand easier rules so that OBC Muslims can take the facilities offered to them.

In another public meeting which was addressed by a specialist in health and education. The speaker exhorted the participants to achieve excellence in education and work for the upliftment of the community. This meeting was organized by Anjuman-e-Islam.

The BMMA activists also attended a meeting organized by Indians for Justice where demands were made to release Sanjeev Bhatt and arrest Narendra Modi.

Public meetings were also held in Sholapur, Kondwa, Yeravda and Hadapsar in Pune, Satara, Nasim and Osmanabad. In all these meetings the district conveners as well as general public attended and information about BMMA was given to all. In Sholapur, District Council was

formed. Muslim women in these meetings mainly raised the issue of ration cards, lack of PDS facilities, lack of relevant documents and inability to get benefits from any government scheme.

ADVOCACY

Submissions to PMs New 15 point programme:

The state convener of Maharashtra Unit of BMMA is a member of the PMs 15-Point programme. In its meeting, she discussed the following issues and also submitted a memorandum demanding the following changes:

- There should be an upper limit up to which the schools can charge fees.
- Parents should not be forced to buy uniform and books from the school
- All schools must be given instructions to not deny admission based on geographical or communal bias
- All nationalized banks must be given instruction to help students open zero balance account so that they can avail of government scholarships
- School and colleges must be instructed to cooperate with students in case they need they have applied for government scholarships
- Complaints were also registered against MAVIM and MAFC as their tardy pace has not helped SHGs in Mumbai

Submission related to OBC certificate:

The BMMA activists attended 5 meetings to network and advocate for getting OBC certificate. The OBC members of the Muslim community are not able to avail the facility meant for OBCs because of lack of proof of their caste. The bureaucracy does not facilitate the process where they can get these certificates easily.

The first meeting was called by Anjuman-e-Islam to discuss the issue in detail. The second meeting was called by the Mumbai Unit of Maharashtra All Backward Caste Organization [MABCO] which was addressed by its president. A resolution was passed to place their demands before the government. The third meeting was called by the Maharashtra Unit of the MABCO. A information giving workshop was also held with the activists of BMMA. Finally a memorandum was submitted to Shivaji Moghe, minister in Ministry of Social Justice and to Arif Naseem Khan, Minister of Minority Affairs of which BMMA was a signatory. BMMA also participated in the dharna to put forth the same demand to the government.

Submissions to the Central Government:

BMMA also participated in a meeting called by the Parliament Advisory Board to discuss the various schemes meant for the minorities and the ways in which it can be availed. The issues

discussed were schemes and budgetary allocation for minorities, wakf properties, and properties of the former kings and the implementation of the Sachar report.

BMMA also participated in a meeting called by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to evaluate the economic welfare schemes of the central ministry.

Submissions to the Maharashtra State

Attended press conference organized by Federation of Minority NGOs where the organizations have complained that the state of Maharashtra does not have a functional Minority Commission nor is there a Women's Commission. It was demanded that new people should be appointed on the Haj Committee, budget of the Urdu Academy must increase, increase the allocation to MAFC, open a centre of AMU in Maharashtra and increase the representation of women in state corporations.

A Submission was done to the State Committee formed for the implementation of the PMOs New 15 point programme. The submission requested the committee to meet more often to discuss the tardy implementation of the many state schemes meant for the minorities.

Submissions to Education Department:

A letter was submitted to the BMC's Education department complaining about the lack of facilities for children. Out of the 27 items many items were not made available to the children.

Support for housing rights:

The BMMA activists attended 2 dharnas organized by Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan against the builders lobby in Golibar, Khar east. They supported the efforts of Medha Patkar who has taken up the issue of housing.

The BMMA attended meeting organized by Committee to Right to Housing on the issue of slum rehabilitation in the locality of Golibar.

Advocacy for Security:

The activist visited the Commissioner of Police, Arup Patnaik and discussed with him about the need to have Mohalla Committees in the area. He explained that these Committees had become very political and had not been serving the purpose for which they were formed. So they have been disbanded and in its place a new Committee is being formed.

The activist also complained that the police officers in some police station do not listen to the complaints of ordinary persons. He assured the group that the activist should complain to the erring officers senior and then to his/her senior and if still the situation does not improve then they should approach him.

The BMMA activists have attended all meeting of the Mohalla Committee and have also met the Commissioner of Police to demand the revival of the Mohalla Committee. As a result of a year long advocacy, the Mohalla committees have been revived in Vakola and 3 beat offices of Nirmal Nagar police station. BMMA activist regularly attend all the meetings held in the local police stations.

Participated in a dharna held in Azaad Maidan to demand the release of Sanjeev Bhatt organized by All India Milli Council

Attended a press conference where demand was made for the release of those youth who were wrongly arrested for Malegaon blast

The BMMA activists also worked closely with the victims of Garib nagar whose homes were burnt down in a major fire. Thereafter in collaboration with other organizations working in the area, BMMA demanded that the Garib Nagar slum must be rehabilitated at the same place and that it should not be shifted out of the city. As a result of this joint advocacy the demands were accepted and now the community has been rehabilitated at the same.

BMMA was instrumental in mobilizing eminent activists and political leaders to prevent a big communal conflagration in Bharat nagar. A dalit family converted to Islam out of their own volition. But the local anti-social elements turned this happening into a Hindu-Muslim clash. Timely intervention by BMMA area leader nipped the problem in the bud. She contacted the state convener who in turn contacted eminent persons from the Muslim community who put pressure on the police who gave protection to the converted family. The entire process went on for one week and the problem got solved.

Pressure group for better Public Distribution System:

The activists of Navpada, Behrampada, Dowri nagar organized a morcha to the local ration office to register a complaint against the reduction of kerosene quota and increase in its price. Since the last 3 months the ration shops have also not been receiving their regular quota of sugar. A memorandum was given to the local ration officer, to the Collector, to the Anna Puravtha Sarakshan Vibhag and to the local police station. The ration officer assured that he will take the demands of the group to the main ration office.

The BMMA activists have been consistently following up with the PDS authorities. They have organized morcha to the Andheri Collectors office to demand better quality of ration and to make ration cards available to all. As a result of this complaint and pressure the Controller of ration sent his officer to BMMA office for discussing the complaints of women.

A submission was also done to the Anna Puravtha Minister, Anil Deshmukh that women rag pickers must also have a ration card. Also women who stay in illegal shanties must also have ration card.

Submissions for health:

Submissions were done to the superintendents of Bhabha Hospital in Bandra west and VN Desai Hospital in Santacruz east to complain against the rude behavior of the hospital staff. The superintendent of VN Desai hospital said that they have a staff crunch at all levels from doctors to nurses to ward boys. They are also finding it difficult to deal with the problems within the hospital. The activists have already prepared a details report about the problems in these two hospitals. In future they plan to approach the minister in charge and also hold a press conference to highlight the issues.

Submissions were done to the BMC for clearing garbage, making inner roads, spraying medicines during the malaria epidemic, cleaning the gutters.

Currently in Behrampada the BMMA area leader is working closely with the MP to cover a big nullah running across the community. The open nullah would overflow in the rains and otherwise is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and insects and responsible for many illnesses within the community. It is also not safe for children and senior citizens.

The local MLA was also approached for water connections in the Navpada community. During the process the community leader realized that the families do not have bill for their payments to BMC. The process stopped for some time but was taken up again with the MLA of the area. A survey was done by him and water connection was done in the area.

Women's Security:

4 meetings were held to evaluate the implementation of the DV Act with members of different organizations. A list of demands was prepared and a delegation submitted that to the Vice President of the Women and Child Welfare department. In addition every one should know the schemes under the MBV. The expenses done by women to file a case must be borne by the state. Women who have filed a case under the DV Act must be allowed to open a zero balance account. Training of police and protection officers must be done by the organizations. Shelter homes must be made available to women and children upto the age of 10 must be allowed to stay with the mother.

PEACE CENTRE

As follow up of the meeting of the All India Secular Forum, the BMMA started a Peace Centre in its office premises. Three meetings were held in three months. In all the three meetings the focus was on helping the adolescent girls and boy to know their self, their dreams and aspirations. In this Centre girls and boys of both Muslim and Hindu communities aged 14- 23 come for this monthly programme. This Centre is run in collaboration with Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution.

In the meetings of the Peace Centre the participants were asked to share about their dreams through songs. There was discussion after each sharing. The participants also drew their dreams

on card paper and later shared it with everyone. The youth shared that they face a lot of pressure from the society and hence due to its fear are not able to do what they want to do. They shared that they are not understood by the family and by the larger society. The group concluded that it is important that we are tolerant of each other and live with love and concern for each other.

Training Of Training [TOT] programme on peace and secularism:

The BMMA Unit in collaboration with IPSCR, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution and YUVA is conducting a Training of Trainers [TOT] programme. The TOT is a year long project wherein young activists will be trained on the issues of secularism, pluralism, diversity and communal harmony. The programme is designed to groom grassroots trainers who at the end of the year will be capable of conducting training programmes on these issues within the community.

The sessions began in October. The inaugural session was addressed by Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer. In the second session Prof. Ram Punyani talked on secularism and history of communalism. Dr. Chandrakant Puri talked of exclusion of dalits and the atrocities faced by them. In December the sessions focused on gender, patriarchy and economic exclusion of women. In November film Bol was shown to the participants.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING

The first meeting of the BMMA State Council of Maharashtra was held on 8th - 9th February 2011. In this meeting, founder of Muslim Coordination Committee [MCC], Mr. Salim Shaikh, Mr. Faiyaz Inamdar and Mr. Athar gave a brief review of the working of the Committee and a joint action plan was worked out between the BMMA and MCC. Mr. Pathan from the Maulana Azad Financial Corporation also attended the meeting. The BMMA Unit has been collaborating with the Corporation to implement the SHG scheme and many forms were forwarded to them for self-employment loan. Since the Corporation has not supported any of the ventures of BMMA, many complaints were registered with Mr. Pathan.

On the second day of the State Council meeting a training programme was organized on the rights of Muslim women. It was full day training with focus on the rights of Muslim women in Quran. District leaders from Malegoan, Pune, Osmanabad, Satara and Sholapur attended the State Council meeting. In this meeting plan for the year 2011 were drawn up.

The second State council meeting was held in July 2011. In this meeting district conveners from Sholapur, Nasik, Osmanabad and Pune and area leaders of Mumbai participated. In this meeting, the participants also participated in a three day training programme organised by CSSS. In this meeting Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer gave information on the politics of fatwa. There was also a discussion on halala. Ram Punyani talked about secular values. He also gave a brief history of how communal forces emerged in our country and have since then been trying to subvert the secular values. A film on a woman taxi driver was also shown.

The third state council meeting was held in Mumbai. District leaders from Osmanabad, Pune, Satara, Sholapur attended the meeting. On the first day Nausheen from Majlis gave information about the Domestic Violence Act and the strategies that women need to employ at the time of leaving the house. She also touched upon the Hindu and Muslim Law and gave important tips as to how women can help themselves with the right knowledge of law. On the second day of the meeting a quiz competition was held to understand their level of understanding of the BMMA. In the earlier part of the day, information about the vision, objective, principles and activities was given to the council members. Quiz competition was a fun and interesting way to know about BMMA. Representatives from TV9 were also called. They shared their activities with the state council members. On the third day, the state council spent an entire day in reporting about the work done in 2011 and also drew up plans for the year 2012.

NYAYA PANCHAYATS

The Shakti Mandal Nyaya Panchayat in Dowri nagar, received 24 cases.

25 to 30 small cases were solved and about 8-10 cases which required police intervention were also solved.

The Mahila Shakti Mandal Nyaya Panchayat received 51 cases.

Samjhauta Mahila Mandal Nyaya Panchayat received 16 cases

Priyadarshini Mahila Mandal Nyaya Panchayat received 13 cases of women.

MEMBERSHIP

In the first week of January, the Mumbai Unit of BMMA organized a week long membership drive in the 7 areas where it is working. Tables were put up and report of the year 2010 was circulated and community was exhorted to become members of the BMMA. In the week long membership drive done in the communities of Navpada, Behrampada, Lal Mitti, Golibar, Pipeline, Prabhat colony and Dowry nagar, 900 women and men joined the BMMA. In addition each area leader has been given one book to be filled up as they go about doing their work in the community.

As a result at the end of the year 2011 the total membership of BMMA in Maharashtra for the year 2011 is 2000, 1300 in Mumbai and 700 in the districts of Pune, Osmanabad, Satara, Nasik and Sholapur.

OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

Relief camp at Garib nagar

The activists of BMMA had organized a week-long camp when the Garib nagar slum community caught fire. 500 families were supported with ration, clothes, medicines, food. The BMMA Unit raised money for this relief work through community contribution. Many well wishers from within the Navpada and Behrampada community and outside came forward to offer support.

Even members from the Minority Commission came to the camp and offered moral support. The experience taught us that a long standing involvement in community development and positive rapport with stake holders within the larger society helps us in time of crisis.

List of quantity of ration distributed:

1000 kg rice

500 kg wheat

500 kg of dal

150 kg wheat flour

100 kg toast/biscuits

50 kg sugar

500 pieces of utensils [plate/bowl

500 pieces of blanket and bed sheet

2 truck load of clothes

300 persons were given footwear

For 6 days, 500 people were served cooked food.

Medical camp was arranged

Around the same time, there was an incident of fire in Malad. The BMMA unit sent 1 truck load of clothes and ration for the affected families.

A submission was given to the MP, Priya Dutt for the rehabilitation of the affected families in the same area.

Celebrations

The BMMA Unit celebrated the Independence and Republic day in the society where its office is situated and also at the local police station office.

Bakra Eid Children's Day was celebrated. A drawing competition was held for children. 3 best entries were given prizes. Games were organized for women and children.

Ganeshotsav and Eid-ul-Fitr were celebrated.

BMMA activists attended roza iftaar organized by the Police Commissioner's Office

150 meters of cloth distributed during ramzaan to poor families

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Maharashtra Unit of BMMA took the responsibility of organizing the National Council meeting. This meeting was held on 22nd, 23rd and 24th March 2011 at St. Pious College Campus. On the first day a public meeting was held titled, 'Diverse Issues, Common Concerns' which was attended by 101 women and representatives from civil society groups. Founder members, Zakia Soman and Naish Hasan gave a brief perspective on the need and relevance of BMMA. They

also shared that it has been 5 years now but the Sachar Committee report has still not been implemented. Javed Anand from Muslims for Secular Democracy spoke about the provisions of the Ranganath Mishra report and Noorjehan Safia Niaz spoke about the need for codification of Muslim personal law. On the second day of the consultation, a full gender training was organized for the district conveners. The training was conducted by Irfan Engineer and Neha Dabhade. Simultaneously National Council meeting was held with all the state leaders to discuss achievements in the previous quarter and plans for the future. On the third day, all district and state leaders sat together to have a better understanding of BMMA. As many new district leaders join it, it is essential to focus on the vision and activities of the BMMA so that its ideology gets reinforced. In the afternoon a press conference was organized at the press club to highlight BMMA's concerns about the rising fundamentalism within the Muslim world and its impact on the Muslim women and her concerns in India. The assassination of Shahbaz Bhatti and Salman Taseer in Pakistan in quick succession raises many questions about the vulnerability of Indian Muslims to these conservative forces within India.

In the context of this rising conservatism what happens to the developmental issues of the Muslims in India? After 5 years the Sachar Report has yet to be implemented effectively. The Muslim community has yet to begin to understand the provisions of the Ranganath Mishra Report and nobody as yet is willing to talk about the codification of Muslim personal law which continues to ruin the lives of scores of Muslim women.

The second National Council meeting of BMMA was held in Puri, Bhubaneswar on 20, 21 and 22 December 2011. In this meeting the NC members shared about their work and challenges faced in their respective states. A Common Minimum Programme for the year 2012 was also evolved.

CODIFICATION

Consultations with lawyers:

Consultation meeting with lawyers was held in UP, Karnataka, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka the meeting was organized in collaboration with Muslim Lawyers Association. More than 25 lawyers attended the meeting.

Similarly in Chennai the consultation was organized in collaboration with Women Lawyer Association in which more than 100 women lawyers attended the meeting.

In Orissa and UP the BMMA unit took the initiative independently to call the lawyers for the consultation. In all the four meetings, the overall response of the lawyers was positive. Most of them welcomed the idea of codification and even gave valuable suggestions to the draft. Issues like age of marriage, polygamy, method of divorce, iddat, mehr, arbitration process were discussed in great details.

As part of the presentation, a detailed history of the reform process was laid down before the group. As expected in each meeting there were some lawyers who did not approve of the process and were not happy that this issue is now being taken up. The experience was particularly unpleasant in Karnataka where a group of practicing lawyers; who we assume would know the legalities better than a lay person, disapproved of the process. Some very senior advocates were clearly anti-women and made very uncomplimentary remarks about Muslim women. The most pleasant moment was in Chennai, when the Chief Justice of Chennai High Court, approved of the process and even agreed to support it publicly. In each state a drafting committee was also formed which will look into the draft law and give their suggestions. A detailed report of the entire process in these 4 and other states is being prepared.

Consultation meeting with lawyers was held in Bihar and Jharkhand with the help of recently set up BMMA units in both these states. In Jharkhand the meeting was co-organised by BMMA and Shrishty organization. In both the consultations the lawyers extended their support to the process of codification of Muslim personal law. Many gave their suggestions to the draft and also gave their names to be in the drafting committee.

So far BMMA had been formulating an alternative Muslim personal law independently. With time we realized that we need to collaborate with other like minded organizations to come up with a common draft. Hence a joint meeting was held between Centre for Study of Society and Secularism and BMMA and it was decided that our respective drafts will be merged which will be presented before a larger group of organizations for feedback. As a follow up of this meeting a merged draft is now being prepared.

Consultations with organizations and individuals:

In the year 2011, the draft of the Muslim Family law was sent to many experts for their opinion. It has been sent to Noor Zaheer, Sheeba Aslam Fehmi, Advocate Jawad, Qazi Mehtab and Javed Anand. Moreover many individuals have been approached to know their views on the process of codification. The Muslim Lawyers Association, Majlis, AIDWA have been approached. Individuals like Nagma Mallik, SNTD University has been spoken to. Javed from All India Milli Council has been approached. Mr. Husein Dalwai, Rajya Sabha MP has even agreed to move a private members bill to introduce the Bill of codification in the Parliament. Mr. Faizur Rahman and Shahid Khan from the Moderate Forum have also been approached.

Public meetings:

In the public meetings organized by BMMA unit in UP the issue of codification was discussed with the participants. The focus was on reforms pertaining to polygamy and halala.

In another public meeting organized by the Khajuraho District Unit of MP, this issue was discussed with members of the organizations who have been working in that area. More than 500 women attended this meeting where rights of women in Islam were also discussed.

In a meeting organized by Muslim Samanway Samiti, codification as a way to reforms in Muslim family law was discussed with a larger male audience. They were exhorted to support the issues as it concerns not just the women but also the family and the larger community. MSS extended its support to the issue of codification.

In a public meeting in Mumbai which was attended by many organizations, the issue of codification was discussed. Provisions of the draft were presented and suggestions were called for.

Capacity building:

Sneha organization called a meeting of counselors working with different organizations in Dharavi. The counselors associated with these organizations were given training on Muslim law. Statutory law and uncodified law pertaining to the Muslim community were explained to the participants.

The State Council members of Maharashtra Unit of BMMA were given in-depth training on the various provisions of the codified and uncodified Muslim law. Through a preparation of a small skit the participants were made to understand the issue.

REPRESENTATION

A presentation on BMMA was made in the National Conference of the XII Indian Association of Women's Studies at Wardha. The issue was 'Conflict and Resistances: Challenges before the Women's Movement'.

In a national seminar organized by Majlis, presentation on BMMA was made. The seminar was titled, Negotiating Spaces - Gender Concerns in Conflict Zones

A written submission was also given to the Planning Commission for the 12th Approach Paper in which issues concerning Muslim women were submitted.

BMMA has been invited to be part of the working group formed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi. A presentation of recommendations was done to the Ministry of the issues of education, employment and area development.

ENDORSEMENTS

BMMA endorsed the shadow report prepared by All India Network of NGOs and Individuals given to the International Criminal Court on NHRC-India.

BMMA also signed a petition to the President and the Governor of Maharashtra for the release of Sudhir Dhawle who is a dalit activist, writer and editor of Marathi magazine, Vidrohi. He was arrested on false charges of waging war against the country.

BMMA endorsed an appeal to Sunil Mittal of Airtel to switch to renewable energy and not diesel.

We also endorsed a letter demanding an inquiry into the sexual harassment of trainee police constable in Kolhapur.

BMMA endorsed a protest against state repression, police killing and forceful acquisition of land and natural resources in Forbesganj, Bihar.

We also endorsed a letter protesting against forcible eviction of people in villages of Gobindpur and Dinkia, Jagatsinghpur resisting eviction for Posco Plant.

Letter of protest sent to HSBC and BNP Paribas asking them not to finance Jaitapur power plant.

The activists of Mumbai gave their suggestions to the Communal Violence. A meeting was held in Mumbai and information about the Bill was given by Saumya. The activists present gave their suggestions to be included in the draft Bill.

Supported signature campaign to demand the release of Sanjeev Bhatt, officer put behind bars for giving evidence against Narendra Modi in the 2002 genocide.

Supported the signature campaign to demand the repeal of ASFPA and release of Irom Sharmila

Endorsed letter from members of The Moderates forum demanding denial of lodgings to VHP activists inside dargah of Sufi saint in Pirana village, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Letter reminding Sunil Mittal of Airtel to remember the promise he had made to switch to cleaner energy and to switch off diesel to power his network operations and to disclose its emission reduction plan.

Petition to National Commission of Children where the children have the right to say 'No' to Posco

Supported the signature campaign to show opposition to GM crops and the BRAI Bill for sustainable agriculture campaign.

Supported the national call to save PDS and save farmers and reject government draft of the National Food Security Bill.

Endorsed letter to pressurize Chattisgarh government to release Soni Sori, an adivasi school teacher, imprisoned under false charges of being a Maoist supporter.

Endorsed a letter sent to Prime Minister on the gang rape of deaf and dumb women in Assam by SSB Jawan.

