

REPORT
BHARATIYA MUSLIM MAHILA ANDOLAN
MAHARASHTRA UNIT
JANUARY TO JUNE 2012

A. MUMBAI DISTRICT REPORT

a. BMMA-Sehr

The BMMA unit launched its work with young girls. The initiative is called Sehr which means 'dawn'. The following activities were undertaken with them:

- The launch happened as BMMA Maharashtra Unit participated in the Human Dignity Foundation [HDF] project which involves a study on issues of young women in India. The study is happening in three cities of Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai. The study is meant to throw up challenges facing the young in India and also give programmatic suggestions to be carried out for the growth and development of young girls. The girls participated in the Focussed Group Discussion organized by Action Aid-HDF to understand the issues of young girls in the city of Mumbai. BMMA also coordinated the study in six localities of Mumbai in collaboration with local CBOs.
- The girls addressed a press conference in Mumbai where they condemned the Delhi High Court judgment which validated a Muslim marriage at the age of 15. Alisha Patel, Heena Shaikh, Rukhsar Siddiqui, Zeenat Shaikh and Iram Siddiqui spoke to the press confidently and said that they want to educate themselves and become economically independent. The judgment is not in tune with the time and does not reflect the aspirations of young Muslim girls. The BMMA activists demanded codification of Muslim law as a codified law would end the arbitrariness of judicial decisions.
- Mr. Nemat Shaikh from Maulana Azad Financial Corporation gave a talk on various career possibilities for girls who have passed their SSC and HSC. 10 girls attended the talk
- The girls participated in the campaign for the implementation of the Sachar Committee report. They visited the Haji Ali Dargah, Maqhdoom Shah Baba Dargah, Baba Bahauddin Shah Dargah, and the Kamli Shah Baba Dargah. They carried the banner and prayed that the government develops good intention to work towards implementation of the report.

b. BMMA-Udaan

The Unit initiated its work with children as part of its long term association with Action Aid. Two localities of Navpada and Islampura have been selected for working with children. 200 children from each locality have been identified. A series of activities were held with them:

- A cultural programme was held in Islampura where out of the 200 selected children, 70 children came. They sang songs and danced to music. Snacks and gift items were distributed to them. The children also participated in the drawing competition.
- A similar programme was held in Navpada, Ghasbazaar. Around 100 children came for the programme. Drawing competition was held along with singing and dancing. Refreshments and gifts were given to all. The best drawings were also given prizes.

c. Area Report

The BMMA unit is active in 6 localities in Mumbai. It carries out these activities through area leaders.

1. DOWRI NAGAR

Ration:

Coordinated with Ration Hakk Samiti for getting ration in the area. The team did a survey to find out the issues of ration in the area and form a group. Visits were done to the ration shop

Health:

The area was cleaned up by getting the BMC to come and do its job

Government Schemes:

There are many problems linked to Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna. Last 6 months only forms are being filled up. The officials only find faults in it. They call the area leader and only find faults. Only 4 forms were cleared out of 10 and now even those 4 forms have been rejected. New forms have to be now filled up.

Documents:

Women were given information about domicile certificate and PAN card.

1 domicile certificate and 4 PAN cards were made

10 forms for ration card have been submitted

Livelihood:

The SHG group is working well. Meeting was held with MAVIM for SHG

2 SHG of MAVIM formed.

13 women got loan from Suryodaya Micro Finance of Rs.15000 each

Nyaya Panchayat:

9 cases reported and solved

2. NAVPADA

Ration:

3 visits were done in each month in the 3 ration shops.

Documents:

Health cards are being given as per the Sanjay Gandhi Jeevan Daayi Yojna from the ration shops. The health cards will help the poor get concession.

70 people filled up their forms for voter Icards

Livelihood:

6 girls took admission in Kotak Education Foundation for English speaking, grooming and basic computer

3 girls were sent to Bombay Catholic Sabha for interviews for job

One women was facilitated for domestic work

Health:

The corporator was given a letter to clean the area

Security:

Attended meeting of the Mohalla Committee Movement Trust twice

Education:

One girl facilitated for admission to 13th class

One girl admitted to Purshottam for 10th class

6 students got text books from Siddhivinayak Trust

3. BEHRAMPADA

Health:

People were mobilized to put pressure on the BMC to clean the area. They visited the BMC office and got the area cleaned

Visits were done to Holy Family Hospital to help a patient get concession

Helped a cancer patient get concession from Nargis Dutt Trust

Eye check up camp organized attended by 70 people

Diabetes camp organized attended by 120 people

Blood pressure check up camp attended by 180 people

In collaboration with youth committee got the big gutter cleaned and ensures that it is cleaned every month

Information on Health card was given. 20 health cards were made

Ration:

5 ration shops were visited once every month to find out information about Health cards

Documents:

Information was given about Sanjay Gandhi Jeevandayi Yojna

4 ration cards were made and 4 rations cards were updated

450 voter ID cards given

2 PAN cards made

Employment:

7 people got admission in Kotak Education Foundation

4 women got loan from SHG [MAVIM]

2 boys got work at Linking road

Nyaya Panchayat:

4 cases of family dispute resolved

Education:

3 children facilitated for admission in different schools

2 girls sent for admissions to SNDT University

4. PIPELINE

Health:

The electric meters were lying exposed and were posing a hazard. People were mobilized and taken to Reliance office to ask for fixing up the meter box. The work was done and now the place is safe.

Information was given about the Health card to the people of pipeline

Body check up in which 52 women participated

Made a list of 62 women who need medical aid

Livelihood:

2 people got admission in Kotak Education Foundation for training

Documents:

145 voter ID cards were made and given to people

2 PAN cards were made

Education:

Helped 2 women get school leaving certificate

3 girls given admission in BMC school

3 girls took admission in computer classes

Livelihood:

Information about computer and beautician courses were given to 9 girls by Life Trust

Training on SHG by Yashada

5 girls are going to computer classes for free in the National School

One girl did beauticians course

Ration:

Survey of 2 ration shops

5. SHANTILAL COMPOUND

Livelihood:

37 people came for meeting where Kotak Education Foundation organization gave information about various courses. 3 took admission for course

Helped on child buy computer

9 people got loan from Suryodaya Micro Finance. 12 women formed one group and met 5 times. Each woman got a loan of Rs. 12500. 3 women have started work of making agarbatti and phenoyl. Training given to 9 but only 3 were able to start work

One boy was sent for employment at Pizza hut

4 SHG were formed

Health:

3 women were admitted in hospital

40 women got ration 5 kg rice and 5 kg wheat from whom the Corporator
3 women were sent to hospital for cataract operation
3 people opened their bank accounts in Syndicate Bank
Helped a man who met with accident. Helped him get Rs. 45000 and 5 bottles of blood

Documents:

22 got their names entered in the ration card
5 ration cards were made
110 got their senior citizen card
8 got their domicile certificate

Ration:

Information was given to area leaders of Bharat Nagar and Chita Camp about ration card.
Attended Anam Prem programme in Ratnagiri organized for cancer patients

Education:

25 children got books from the corporator
3 students filled forms for text book at the Siddhivinayak trust

Government scheme:

18 women started getting money from SGNY
One form was filled under sharavan bal yojna

Civic amenities:

Got the builder qayum tamboli to construct the public toilet
Gave letter to BMC for road making

6. *EKTA MAHILA MANDAL*

Livelihood:

Information about various courses was given by Kotak organization. One girl took admission
One SHG formed with MAVIM

Health:

Information was given on health cards
Medical camp was held which was attended by 150 women

7. *CHITA CAMP*

Nyaya Panchayat:

Janta darbar from all leaders called and problems put before them, police, area leaders
7 sent for rehabilitation for drugs
1 heart operation
1 hijra groups made

d. Nyaya Panchayat

Samjhauta Mahila Mandal received 8 cases in 6 months. In 4 reconciliation was done and 4 are ongoing. Chita Camp received 18 cases, 4 were of marital dispute and 14 were of general nature.

Bharat nagar mandal has been referring the cases to Mahila Shakti Mandal. The table below reflects the case intake of Mahila Shakti Mandal [MSM] and Bharat Nagar Mahila Mandal.

In the last 6 months MSM received 47 cases which includes the one referred by the Nyaya Panchayat in Bharat Nagar.

A. Age of women at intake

Age	No. of women
Below 18	-
18-25	20
26-35	12
36-45	07
46-60	06
Above 60	02
TOTAL	47

It is heartening to see that at the time of reporting the case no girl was below 18. But as seen in the table below 7 girls are below the age of 18. Most of them are between the ages of 18 and 25.

B. Age of Marriage

Age	No. of women
Below 18	07
18-25	26
26-35	03
36-45	00
46-60	01
Above 60	
Unmarried	01
NA	06
No information	03
TOTAL	47

As said earlier 7 girls are below the age of 18. Most of them are married between the ages of 18 and 25. The age of marriage must increase so that girls are able to atleast finish their graduation.

C. Education of Women

Education	No. of women
Illiterate	06
Below SSC	20
SSC pass	13
Between SSC and 12th	00
12th pass	05
12th – 15th	01
Post Graduate	02
TOTAL	47

As big majority are below SSC and only 13 on 47 cases have reached SSC. This table goes with the earlier table on education. With early marriage the chances of education are reduced considerably.

D. Work Profile of Women

Work	No. of women
No paid work	37
Domestic work	04
Any other	02
NA	04
TOTAL	47

Most of the women litigants in the mandal are involved in unpaid house care work. this is again linked to her age of marriage and education. Early marriage, less education and no opportunity to earn a living.

E. Income of Women

Income	No. of women
No income	37
Less than Rs. 2000	01
Btw 2000 – 5000	02
Btw 6000 – 8000	01
Btw 9000-10000	02
Above 10000	
NA	04
TOTAL	47

If women are not doing paid work obviously they will not have a source of income. That also means they are dependent on men for their livelihood.

F. Locality from where cases come

Area	No. of women
Bandra	30
Other western suburb	08
Central Suburb	03
Outside Bombay	06
TOTAL	47

Most of the cases are from localities close to the Nyaya Panchayat which means that women find it convenient.

G. Age of Husband

Age	No. of women
Below 18	-
18-25	07
26-35	19
36-45	04
46-60	05
Above 60	02
No Information	07
NA	05
TOTAL	47

Men's age of marriage is between 26-35. Most of them are in this age group. 9 of them are in the age of 36 and 60 years.

H. Education of Husband

Education	No. of women
Illiterate	04
Below SSC	13
SSC pass	07
Between SSC and 12th	00
12th pass	06
12th – 15th	02
Post Graduate	02
No information	07
NA	05
TOTAL	47

Husband education is not very high. Most of the them are 12 pass or 10th pass. 13 out of 40 have not even crossed their SSC.

I. Age of Marriage of Husband

Age	No. of men
Below 21	02
21-25	15
26-35	18
36-45	01
46-60	00
Above 60	01
NA	05
No information	05
TOTAL	47

Most of them marry between the age of 21 and 35. There are 2 who have married before the age of 21.

J. His Income

Income	No. of women
No income	01
Less than Rs. 2000	00
Btw 2000 – 5000	02
Btw 6000 – 10000	11
Btw 11000-15000	03
Btw 16000 – 20000	09
Btw 20000 – 40000	01
Above 40000	03
NA	05
No information	12
TOTAL	47

Most of the men earn between 6000 – 10000. 9 of them are earning between 16000-20000.

K. No. of Children

No. of children	No.
I child	11
2 children	10
3 children	02
4 children	02
Above 4	01
No children	17
NA	04
TOTAL	47

Most of them [17] have no children. They have come to the Nyaya Panchayat within a few months of having got married. Most of them have one child.

L. Solution:

Nature of solution	No.
Reconciliation	10
Divorce	06
Ongoing	28
No solution	03
TOTAL	47

Out of the 47 cases, 10 cases have been reconciled after counseling. 6 women have been able to get divorce.

M. Mehr amount:

Amount	No. of women
Less than Rs. 786	01
Rs. 786	12
Around Rs. 1000	01
Around Rs. 2000	03
Around Rs. 5000	04
Around Rs. 10000	01
In gold	02
No information	15
NA	08
TOTAL	47

12 women have got Rs. 786 as their mehr amount. Only 2 have got gold as mehr.

Dowry given:

Compared to the mehr amount the dowry given by women are in lakhs. One family gave one and half lakh, one family gave one lakh, one family gave goods worth one lakh. Six lakh and 52 tola gold was given by one family. at least a lakh is spent on dowry. One family gave 50000. There is a system of giving full dowry set including sofa, cupboard, bed etc. One family gave 80 gm of gold and another gave one tola of gold. Two families gave 50000.

Job that men do:

Generator operator, film industry, driver, rent from property, shop in mall, gas welding, building agent, AC engineer, computer engineer, office clerk, rickshaw driver, employment agent, bike, car polishing, car washing, carpenter, railway, bus driver.

Referral:

Most women referred by area leader

Religion:

Out of the 47 litigants 4 belonged to the Hindu community, one out of which is a Hindu man.

Sex:

Out of the 47 litigants 4 are male. One of which is a Hindu man.

Status of marriage:

8 out of 47 are men are polygamous

e. BMMA Membership: 800**f. FEDERATION MEETING**

1. Membership details and information about BMMA
2. Training on family law by Majlis
3. Training on Leadership
4. Training on family law
5. Planning of work and information by Kotak Education Foundation
6. Information about Sachar report

B. CONSOLIDATED CITY REPORT**Public meeting and contacts :**

Held in Sayyad nagar, Hande wadi, Shiroor and Daund

Visits done to Latur to explore possibilities of starting BMMA work

Public meeting in khamgoan, Malegoan [Dhulia]

Outreach:

Visited Collectors and MHADA office for voter ID card

Attended meeting on information about government schemes organized by Anjuman-e-Islam.

Got information from Mahila Baal Vikaas chembur office about schemes

Visited ration office to get information about BPL card and ration card

Attended meeting organized by Anjuman-e-Islam over budget meant for minority community

Ration:

In all 9 visits done in 6 months in ration shops in behram, navpada, ghazbazar, and pipeline

Attended 4 meetings of RKS along with area leaders

Attended press conference organized on the issue of ration

Attended dharna on ration issues organized by Anna Hakk Parishad protesting against high cost of kerosene and less quantity.

Domestic violence:

Meeting in Mantralaya with Varsha Gaikwad, Minister for Child Welfare on domestic violence

Solidarity with organization fighting child rape

Advocacy:

Letter to Education Minister to increase the no. of classes of 10th class in Kherwadi Municipal school.

Because there are less divisions, many students are failed in class 9.

Same letter was sent to Minority Development Department.

Attended press conference for demanding toilets

Letters given to political parties to help us get funds for widows

Attended meeting organized by Maulana Azad Vichar Manch to discuss problems of the minority community

Letter to ration mantri for giving free ration to 10 women in pipeline who are very poor.

Capacity Building:

Training on domestic violence by sneha

TISS workshop on how to work in communities

Attended meeting on Pension Parishad

Security:

Attended meeting called by Mohalla Movement Trust

Attended dharna for supporting Sanjeev Bhatt

Attended cricket match organized by Police Movement Trust

Attended dharna at Azad maidan to condemn the killing of Qateel Siddiqui

Programmes:

Attended Eid Milad, Women's Day programme organized by Anam Prem. Also attended programme organized for cancer patients and with eunuchs

Attended Action Aid regional partners meeting

C. OTHER DISTRICT REPORT**1. NASIK:****Nyaya Panchayat**

28 cases were registered in 6 months, out of which reconciliation was done in 16 cases. In two cases support was taken from the police and Mohalla Committee

2 cases were sent to the court for maintenance

Employment:

10 women got the work of stitching school uniforms

25 women got training in phenyl making

4 women got the work of supplying food to school students

30 women got training in attar making

Total of 13 SHGs functioning

Programme:

Women's Day organized in which information on BMMA was given and was attended by 45 women
Mattresses were given to an Anganwadi

Information on BMMA given in a programme organized on nutrition.

Documents:

2 orange ration cards were made

3 PAN cards were made

Education:

15 children were given notebooks

2. SHOLAPUR

Nyaya Panchayat:

12 Cases were reported in 6 months out of which 2 cases were of Hindu women.

Education:

4 children got admission in 11th class and 3 in 10th class

Documents:

20 forms were filled under Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna

15 orange cards were made

15 women got income certificate

25 families got their domicile certificates made

Capacity Building:

Training and meeting of Mahila Suraksha Samiti

Information was given to women about Health card

3. OSMANABAD

Public Meetings:

2 meetings were held in taluka places of Osmanabad. Information on SHG was given, visited the Collectors office and got information about various schemes. Also visited the MITCON and Maulana Azad Financial Corporation office. Also visited the MAFC office in Mumbai and also visited the ration controller in Mantralaya

Public meeting in Khwaja nagar

Put up a stall on Women's Day

Documents:

35 new ration cards were made

Capacity Building:

A form for one more SHG was submitted and they received training in record keeping. Other SHG also received training on record keeping.

Training on stitching given to women

4. PUNE

Livelihood:

5 SHG started accounts opened in state bank
4 SHG in Karad one of young girls, opened bank accounts for the girls
Loan from Maharashtra Bank for small enterprises for masala, papad, badi
Mumbai, pune, karad
Women from SHG got loan of Rs. 40000 to Rs. 50000
One woman got rickshaw permit, batch and training
2 SHGs got bulk orders for papad
8 girls got training in computers through corporator

Documents:

9 ration card made, out of that 2 renewed
1 voter I card made
5 ration card made
4 new ration cards
OBC 15 forms filled, 12 got OBC certificate

Education:

School admission done, by doing complaint to education minister
2 senior citizens – admitted in old age home.
Rajauri school 3 admission
YCMOU science college me 25 admission, 6 got OBC certificates

Nyaya Panchayat:

4 cases handled
One case handled in dapodi
One case handled in karad

Civic amenities:

Got water connection in the locality

D. CONSOLIDATED STATE REPORT

State Council Meeting:

In the six months between January and June, 2 State Council [SC] meetings were held. The first SC was held in Mumbai. The District Conveners [DC] reported about their activities. The DCs also participated in the consultation on codification of Muslim law held in Mumbai. A session on ‘Leadership’ was taken by Mr. Shriharsh Kaushik who is associated with BMMA since its inception and has been regularly conducting training programmes for the Maharashtra unit. Mr. Salim Shaikh from Muslim Coordination Committee also spoke to the DCs. Dr. Mallika Mistry also shared her thoughts.

The second SC meeting was held in Agakhan Palace, Pune. It was organized by Saeeda Jamadar who is the DC of Pune. On the first day a press conference was held to condemn the judgment of the Delhi High Court regarding the age of marriage of Muslim girls being validated at 15. The coverage was good. Mr. Salim Shaikh from Muslim Coordination Committee apprised the SC about the challenges faced by Muslims in the country as well as in Maharashtra. Noorjehan Safia Niaz gave an overview about the vision, objectives and activities of BMMA and urged them to take leadership of the community. A big group of Muslim women from Daund had come for the meeting. They expressed their desire to join BMMA and shared in details about a case of woman who was orally divorced. Khatoon Shaikh, State leader of Maharashtra agreed to visit Daund and organize women in that locality.

In the public meeting held in the evening, the BMMA was honoured to have Ms. Shobana Ranade amongst them. She is a Gandhian and a freedom fighter. Amongst many other responsibilities she is the trustee of Kasturba Gandhi N.M Trust. She expressed her support and solidarity to BMMA and remarked that AgaKhan Palace has seen many historical moments of freedom struggle and it is only natural that any movement for social justice will be successful if started from here. Mr. Siddharth Dhende, sitting corporator from Yeravda and a practicing doctor, who also supported BMMA in organizing this meeting, called for dalits and Muslims to come together to fight social injustice and marginalization.

Campaign Activities for Sachar Committee Report [SCR]:

Prayers were offered by BMMA for speedy implementation of the SCR

Thirty activists of BMMA visited the Maqhdoom Shah Baba Dargah on 28th June 2012 to pray for the speedy implementation of the Sachar Committee report. They walked from the L.J Road till the dargah in a procession, carrying the banner which asked ‘Sachar Committee Report – Thande Baste Mein?’ BMMA activists have been demanding an effective implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar report. It has been one of the nationwide campaigns of BMMA to put pressure on the government to work genuinely for the development of the community. The shop owners near the dargah offered their support to the campaign, some offered tea to the women activists, and others suggested that we should intensify our agitation and put pressure on the government. They offered to join in the campaign. They then visited the Baba Bawuddin Shah Dargah at Churchgate and the Haji Ali dargah on 30th June 2012. They prayed for the well being of the community and prayed that the government becomes sincere about the implementation of the report.

Research and Documentation

National Study on Initiative of Muslim Women:

BMMA along with Observer Research Foundation organized a round table on ‘Defining the role of Government, NGOs and Media in the Inclusive Development of Muslim Women.’ It was attended by activists, academicians, journalists, civil society groups and individuals who were concerned with improving the status of Muslim women.

This roundtable was an important part of a study done by ORF and BMMA to document the efforts and initiatives of NGOs managed by Muslim women across the country. The round table was attended by prominent persons like Shabistan Gaffar from National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, GOI, Arefa Khanum Sherwani from Rajya Sabha Channel Dr. Zeenat Shaukat Ali from

WISDOM Foundation, Javed Anand from Muslims For Secular Democracy, Khatoon Shaikh from Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, Uzma Naheed from Iqra, Nasreen Fazalbhoy from Mumbai University, Farrukh Waris from Burhani College. More than 25 activists from BMMA took active part in the round table and gave their suggestions. Mr. Sudheen Kulkarni from ORF gave the concluding remarks and Ms. Noorjehan Safia Niaz from BMMA gave a brief introduction of BMMA and the objectives behind the study undertaken by both the organizations.

The round table concluded with the opinion that the Muslim community is an equal partner in the national community. The diversity of the country must be maintained and at the same time each community must get a feeling that they are participating in national life. The aim is integration and not assimilation. The stereotypes of various communities, especially about the Muslim community exist because there is no communication between the Muslims and the non-Muslims.

Nyaya Panchayat Report:

For the first time an effort was made to document the activities of the nyaya panchayats run by Muslim women. Since 1995 the Mahila Shakti Mandal [MSM] has been offering legal aid services to poor women, especially Muslim women. This report documents the case intake of MSM from the year 2007 to 2011. This 5 year report also analysis the nature of cases reported and gives an insight into the socio-economic status of Muslim women.

Network and Alliance Building

The BMMA activists were able to meet 22 Action Aid partners in the Regional Partners meeting in Lonavla. A presentation on the issues of Muslim women from a feminist perspective was also done.

The Common Purpose team visited BMMA office. Common Purpose is a leadership development programme for corporate, NGOs and government officials. As part of the experiential learning the team of Common Purpose visited BMMA office to understand the various aspects of leadership.

Participated in the Women's Day rally along with other women's organizations

Participated in another Women's Day programme organized by Kokan Muslim Education Society in Bhiwandi,

Participated in women's day programme organized by Navnirman Vikas Sanstha

Participated in Bint-e-Hind award ceremony. Khatoon Shaikh received the award

Peace and Justice

BMMA jointly organized the programme to commemorate the 10 years of Gujrat genocide. More than 100 BMMA activists attended. 10 years after the state sponsored attack on the Muslim community, justice still eludes the victims of the violence. Personalities like Dolly Thakore, Rahul, Sanjeev Bhatt attended the meet. More than 700 people attended the commemoration.

E. NATIONAL REPORT

Consultations on codification:

The first 2-day consultation of the year was held in ISI, New Delhi on 4th and 5th February 2012. It was in collaboration with Centre for Study for Society and Secularism [CSSS]. The objective of the workshop was to firm up the draft of the codified law prepared by both the organizations. One can say that for the

first time a very open, frank and constructive debate and discussion took place amongst all those stakeholders who genuinely wanted to address the issue of legal reforms. A very important beginning has been made which will be followed by many more such consultations in different states of the country as well as nationally. The issues given above will be further discussed and debated with many more groups and organizations. The consultations were guided by Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer, Dr. Zeenat Shaukat Ali, Dr. Tahir Mehmood, Justice Akbar Ali, Justice Shamsuddin, Prof. Wani, Javed Anand and Zakia Soman. The draft of CSSS was prepared painstakingly by Qutubjehan Kidwai and that of BMMA was prepared by Noorjehan Safia Niaz.

On 7th April 2012, Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan [BMMA] and Muslims for Secular Democracy [MSD] organized a one-day consultation on codification of Muslim family law. The consultation was part of the campaign initiated by BMMA to codify the Muslim law. The consultations were guided by Dr. Zeenat Shaukat Ali, Adv. Kirti Singh, Zakia Soman and Javed Anand. The draft law was read out by Noorjehan Safia Niaz who has been coordinating this campaign on behalf of BMMA. more than 100 women and men participated. Organizations like Stree Mukti Sanghatana, SNEHA, Navnirman Samaj Vikas Kendra, Muslim Samanway Samiti, WISDOM Foundation, Hukook-e-Niswan Sanghatana, Mahila Shakti Mandal, Samjhauta Mahila Mandal, Sahyog Mandal, BMMA District leaders from Nasik, Sholapur and Pune, AIDWA, Jagruti Kendra, Hamraaz Legal Cell, Research Centre for Women's Studies-SNDT Women's University, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy-SNDT Women's University, Action Aid, Don Bosco, NEEDs and Vikas Adhyayan Kendra. Adv. Nirmla Sawant Prabhavalkar, member of National Commission for Women and former Mayor and Chairperson of State Commission for Women attended this consultation as a member of the women's movement and extended her support to the process. Although not invited 7-8 women and men members of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, attended the workshop. They raised many questions on many clauses and on many other they agreed with the draft.

Draft:

Worked and firmed up the draft, given to mihir desai, kirti singh, tahir mehmood, justice akbar ali, wani, sent to law commission, women's commission,
Booklet on quranic verses
Press Conference to condemn the Delhi High Court Judgment

Inclusion of West Bengal in BMMA:

For BMMA West Bengal [WB] is a very important state as 25% of its population comprises of Muslims. It was proposed in the National Council of BMMA that a visit must be paid to Mahila v Shishu Vikas Kendra in Howrah to understand their work and also their willingness and ability to carry out BMMA work in WB. Rahima Khatoon who is the secretary of the said organization arranged the meeting in Howrah and Kolkata.

Zakia Soman, Noorjehan Safia Niaz and Farhat Amin visited the organization on 28 and 29 March. On day one, a meeting with the staff of MSVK was organized where in depth information was given about BMMA. The staff asked questions and also shared their work with the BMMA team. They work in 5-6 districts of WB though they do not have a base in Kolkata. The organization has a large team and work closely with women. The president of the organization also joined the meeting.

After the meeting with the staff, a public meeting was held which was attended by about 50-60 women. Again information about BMMA was given to all. A brief talk on codification of Muslim law was also held. Women asked questions related to legal problems of Muslim women.

The organization runs a small workshop where they make sanitary napkins. The team saw the machine and the process by which the napkins are made. They have just started the process and are learning as they go along. Community visit was held in the nearby village in the evening. More than 40 women attended the meeting. It was held in one of zari workshops. They shared about their daily lives and their daily struggles. Except for a few most of them had more than 4-5 children. Their husband's did zari work or went to Kolkata for work. Women also did zari work. Although Kolkata is just 2 hours away from this village, there are no street lights. It is pitch dark except for lights from the houses.

Next day a consultation on codification was held in Kolkata. Women from different organizations came for the consultation. The draft was shared with them in detail. Many suggestions came forth. The gathering agreed that codification is the answer to the legal problems of Muslim women.

Districts visits in Karnataka [Hubli, Koppal and Dharwad]:

The State Convener of Karnataka, Nagma Shaikh and District Convener of Koppal district Noorjehan Nirelgi had organized a meeting with Muslim women in Koppal on 20th and 21 March. In this meeting, information about BMMA was given by Noorjehan Safia Niaz, Founder Member of BMMA. Muslim women in this district also shared about the difficulties that they face. Many women who were senior citizens were demanding senior citizen's card. They also did not have any facility by the government. They did not have any document which would help them to get old age pension or widow pension. They also did not have ration card or health card issued by the Karnataka government. This health card also called the Vajpayee card would help them get free medicines but they do not have it.

A small consultation was held with lawyers on codification of Muslim law. Adv. Abdul Gani Afsar and Adv. Qasim who were in favour of codification of Muslim law offered to organize a bigger meeting of lawyers who would give their support for the reforms in the law.

A press outreach was also organized which was facilitated by Mr. Sadiq Pasha. Next day more than 5-6 papers covered the event.

The team of BMMA also met lawyers in Dharwad district and shared the idea of codification with them. They whole heartedly supported the idea and offered their help in our future endeavours. In the Hubli district more than 50 Muslim women attended the meeting organized by District Convener of Hubli, Shamim. The women here were very enthusiastic and showed keen interest in taking leadership and improving their living conditions. They have promised that in a year's time they will solve the problems of exorbitant water bill, overflowing gutters and scholarship for girl's education. They all promised to support their district leader, Shamim and solve their problems which they have been facing for such a long time. The efforts of BMMA were supported by Mr. Aziz Mulla, Mr. Basheer and Mr. Ayaz. It was heartening to hear these men offering their full support to Muslim women leaders and also supporting the campaign on codification of Muslim law.

Participation in Sauhard Manch:

BMMA activists attended the meeting of Sauhard manch in Ahmedabad. Presentation on BMMA was done.

Students Placement:

10 students of first and second year MA [Social Inclusion and Exclusive Policy Centre of SNDT University] were placed in BMMA for their field work. They participated in the activities of the unit and one of the students also did her research with young Muslim girls. Ishika Sur from Kolkata and Rafia Zaman from UP also visited the BMMA Unit and understood the issues of Muslim women.

Secretariat Responsibilities:

- Coordinated the National Council meeting held in Puri. Translated the minutes, wrote the Instruction Manual, collected list of State Council members and State Advisory Board members.
- Activated the Blog of BMMA and uploaded reports of activities held
- Worked on the 5 year report of BMMA
- Coordinated visit to Kolkata for launching BMMA in West Bengal

Endorsements by BMMA:

- Endorse support to people who were protesting against the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Idinthakarai. Endorsed letter to CEO'S of Microsoft, Amazon and Apple, asking them to clean up the cloud and give up coal based power to run the internet.
- Wrote to KFC's CEOs to protest against the KFC's destructive packaging.
- Sent petition to Narendra Modi to save the endangered Great Indian Bustard from extinction
- Signed petition to Sharad Pawar saying your ministry needs to manage India's precious marine eco-system sustainably and protect the livelihood of millions who depend on them.
- Signed petition to Chief Minister. The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) bill is the ultimate threat to the safety of our food. The bill will create a body that will allow genetic modification of our food. It is due to be tabled in the upcoming session of Parliament. Asked Chief minister to oppose GM food
- Signed petition demanding arrest of murderers of Keenan and Reuben who fought goons indulging in violence and abuse towards women.