

MAHARASHTRA ANNUAL REPORT 2020

AURTON KI SHARIAT ADALAT

Total of 111 cases were registered with the ASA

- The first mubarah divorce happened through Qazi Zubeda Khatoon of Rahila and Firoz.
- Yaseen- Afreen joint meeting was held and reconciliation agreement was drawn up.
- Prepared Hindi application, notice and request letter of ASA
- Prepared qazi stamp of self and Khatoon Shaikh
- Prepared letterhead of ASA
- After many months of the triple divorce law passing, 2 cases of triple divorce have been reported and one case of polygamy has been reported
- 3 cases of polygamy were counseled on the phone. One woman from Nagpur and one from Vashi have reported that their husbands have married another women during lockdown. Both are fighting their cases in the railways and in the police station respectively.

NETWORKING

- Met students from Sophia College for giving information about BMMA. Liza Caldeira led the student delegation.
- Interview with Afreen Azeem on feminism, Islam and Islamophobia
- Flagging of a climate change walkathon organized by the Agakhan educational Trust
- Met Ayesha Mugali, former colleague to collaborate on different issues at the Sopara centre.
- BMMA team visited Mumbai Baug in solidarity with the women who are protesting against NPR, NRC and CAA. The team visited 4 times and sessions on mental health and constitution were taken with 6 different groups of women. Also supported Rehana for carrying out advocacy programmes with Baug women. total of 6 sessions on constitution and mental health in Mumbai Baug. And Mumbai team visited 4 times. Also organized Ayate Karima in NS centre against the Act.
- Regular monthly meeting of Mohalla Committee Movement Trust was held which was attended by BMMA members.
- Sophie Schrago began her film making process this month. She will be covering the ASA of Mumbai, Jaipur and Dindigul.
- Martina Schiavon, a researcher from Italy wanted to understand feminism and the multicultural ways in which it gets expressed. This month she finished her interview with the team.
- Met Farzana Javed from Virar who can help us with government schemes especially SHGs.
- Presentation on BMMA and Muslim women's legal issues and Media was done with the students of Deviprasad Goenka Management College of Media Studies.
- Visited BMC office in Virar for understanding SHG scheme
- Uploaded close to 15 articles on my blog

- Participated in the protest against the killing of Hathras victim
- Presentation on the Indian Constitution on 26th November organized by Nayak group. This was a training programme organized by potential political workers.

SEHR AND UDAAN

- Coordination with Swapnalekha, Computer Shiksha for computer classes
- City Core Group training on laws related to police
- 18 children trained by students of St. Xaviers College on ‘Communication and Empathy’
- Meeting with girls was held and they were given information about BMMA’s work and also to assess their needs during pandemic.
- 20 Sehr and Udaan members were trained in theatre by CCDT.
- 16 girls also completed the mental health training held over 4 workshops in December

KARWAN CENTRE

- Karwaan Centre opens in Bharat nagar with 7 girls joining Mehndi classes. Sessions on mental health are also done with them.
- 16 girls enrolled themselves for the Mehndi course

LITTE BMMA

- 9 Sessions with children in Sopara centre. Session on constitution, recitation of the preamble, games and exercises, small game on gender, English speaking and writing, gender songs like Beti hoon mai Beti.
- Christmas party was held with 30 children
- Games and fun activities have begun with them to build up rapport
- Workshops were held with children on mental health by Lia. Through games and exercises children were equipped to deal with their emotions

TRAINING

- Mudrika Awasthi took a session on Dance and Movement Therapy for the BMMA team. The session involved our ability and willingness to use our bodily movements to let go of pent up emotions and to learn to express ourselves through our body. It is fun and therapeutic.
- 3 of the BMMA team attended a training programme on RTI organized by City Core Group – an alliance of organisations working on the issues of women.
- Prepared simple Urdu preamble for training session with Mumbai Baug women
- Meeting with teachers of Shaane Millat School to work out a training programme schedule with teachers.
- 3 sessions were held with teachers of Shaane Millat school for their own development. In the first session wag bakri game was done to understand gender followed by a basic understanding of mental health with focus on thoughts, emotions, energy and body connect. The following 2 sessions were to help the teachers in their personal growth for better mental health.
- Saw THAPPAD with team

MPL REFORM

Presentations:

- Participated in the Global Launch of the Campaign for Muslim Personal Law Reform by Musawah. This global launch especially in the times of COVID-19 pandemic is a reiteration that these issues continue to play a role in the lives of Muslim women. And that they must not be lost in the havoc which the pandemic has caused. In fact in such times, the incidences of discrimination emanating from personal law increases just as we saw the huge increase in incidences of domestic violence. The monitoring of these incidences is important. To understand this situation, BMMA also participated in an international meeting of Muslim women campaigners for law reform who informed that the incidences of domestic violence has increased. There are incidences of increase in child marriages. Men continue to exploit the vulnerabilities of women due to inadequate laws, poor implementation of laws and in some places, a complete absence of laws and legal machinery.
- Also presented on BMMA and Codification of MFL It was attended by participants from 30 countries and 8 time zones. Apart from valuable insights into the issues and learning from experiences of the participants, important decisions were taken. For e.g. BMMA would want to take up the issue with CEDAW and also play a role in having a regional collaborative platform for sharing strategies.
- Participated in a webinar on ‘Why Muslim Family Law Reform, Why Now, Regional Perspectives’ – Sessions by Zainah Anwar, Marwa Sharafeldin and Hala Al-Karib.
- Presentation on PCMA [Prohibition of Child Marriage Act] in a webinar organized by Musawah for SEA-SA Musawah partners
- Presentation on Indian Constitution for the students of Surajba College of Education, Gandhi Shikshan Sansthan.
- Presentation about BMMA at the World Policy Analysis Centre, based in UCLA which examines laws and policies that matter to equality, health and well-being in 193 countries.
- Interview to Womanistan on BMMA
- Discussion with the new Consul General of the US Consulate
- Presentation on BMMA and Muslim law reform work in a webinar hosted by Musawah and Harvard Law School
- Presentation in a webinar titled ‘Future of Education of Muslims in Maharashtra in times of COVID-19 and New Education Policy 2020 organized by Vikas Anvesh Foundation.
- Presentation on BMMA and Muslim women organized by Ganai

Studies

- Maharashtra study on polygamy, which was sponsored by the State Women’s Commission, was printed. 20 copies were printed.
- Position paper of BMMA on polygamy and age of marriage was also printed. 100 copies each.
- Book release, Book of Aspirations, ‘Bumpy Roads, Happy Rides – Stories of Unsung Social Leaders, compiled by Ved and Dhruvi Shah
- Worked and finalized the anthology – articles by me and zakia over the last 10 years. Formatted them, prepared and finalized authors note, made the content list and sent it to Notion Press for final publication.

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Darul Uloom Niswan

- Wrote to Aurangabad Wakf Board for registration of women qazi. After talking to Mehtab qazi it is now understood that if we make an affidavit of becoming a qazi then it is enough.
- 5 women were felicitated for becoming qazi through the Darul Uloom E Niswaan.
- Zoom meeting with delegates from Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Morocco, Maldives for taking forward Global Campaign for Reforms in MFL

Self Study

- In lockdown times, I have prepared notes on what various scholars, academicians and activists have written on Muslim family law. I have spent the pandemic times to read Fatima Mernissi, Amina Wadud, Ziba Mir Hosseini, Mubarak Haider, Ziya Salam, Arshad Alam, Meher Jafar, Khaled Abou Fadl. I have read books like Mohammed, Muslim Networks and many You Tube channels to update myself.
- Notes were made on polygamy. Legal status of polygamy in different countries, with different communities in India.
- You tube channel to educate on constitution, Muslim law and other relevant issues
- Read on Armenian genocide, crusades, Hazrat Ayesha, Hazrat Fatima, Hazrat Hajra, Hazrat Sukayna, Hazrat Salma, Hazrat Khadija.
- Made Musawah video notes on Muslim family law

Network

- Press note, FB and Twitter release to commemorate the first anniversary of triple divorce law. Interviews to papers.
- Attending webinar on 'Rethinking Fiqh Rulings on Marriage through Structural Ijtihad' moderated by Ziba Mir Hosseini
- Facebook and twitter posts on Muslim women scholars and jurists
- Sent qazi women details to Mehnaaz and coordination for interviews
- Sent draft Muslim family law to Sania Mariam
- Interview to Sakal Paper on BMMA
- Coordination with Ankur for film on Haji Ali
- Coordination with Neeraj for a documentary on triple divorce
- BMMA is in collaboration with ISST [Institute of Social Studies Trust] for a study of BMMA. It is a 3-year long study covering all journey and achievements.

FUND RAISING

- **Manufacturing and sale of oil, soap, facepack, gel.**
- Scouted for local market in Vasai, NS east, Bhayander
- Coordination with a tailor, Azaan for starting work in Sopara shop.
- Met Sajid Qazi for getting work for women
- Met Suvarna from Yuva Parivartan for vocational skill classes
- Business contract with shamsun

- Set up shop in NS
- Submitted Samhita form for CSR funds on health
- Coordinated with Coal India, Shailesh Pandey and Rahima for CSR funds in Kolkata
- Updated Ashana Trust profile on Global Fund for Women
- Raised funds through individual donors for micro enterprises for women and for health support
- Coordination with Ankur Bhatia on a feature film on Haji Ali. We hope to raise some funds through this process. Preliminary meeting was held with him with the team in Mumbai.

VASAI CENTRE

- Vasai office inauguration
- Met the local corporator, police, doctors and lawyers and many NGO heads to spread word about BMMA
- Met Prince, Dr. Tasneem, Tabbassum, Abdul Latif Shaikh, Mr. Ibrahimbhai, Dr. Tahira, Naseema, in Vasai.
- Counseling and legal aid services
- Gender training with Sehr Group girls
- 4 workshops on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights with 15 women
- Coordinator of Vasai attended Para Legal training organized by DLSA, YMCA and Rahat Foundation.
- Attended webinar by Musawah

BMMA NATIONAL

- Agenda of Kolkata meeting sent to NC members
- Zoom meeting with NC members to discuss relief measures for COVID-19
- Compilation of 17,18,19 state reports, cleaned and proof read the reports, arranged it state wise and sent it to the printer for formatting and printing.
- 2 national council meetings were held through zoom for deciding multiple issues facing BMMA.
- In the National Council meeting, many issues are being discussed. See the minutes of the NC meeting held on 9th and 19th Dec 2020

RELIEF WORK

Over the last 2 months, we received Rs. 1,39,000 as donations/zakat to reach out to families of daily wage earners and migrants. In all we were able to provide 2 months of ration so far to 500 families. These families are from Behrampada, Navpada, Bharatnagar, Wadala, Mumbra, Kherwadi, Dharavi. During Ramzaan, arrangements for iftar was also done. The grains were picked up at the wholesale market at Vashi after due permission from the police. The grains were of loaded and then packets for each family was arranged. The kit thus included oil, rice, wheat flour, dal, tea and other essentials.

Distributed sanitary napkins to 35 women.

Business support to 5 families

Sarees distributed to 16 women through a donor

Demands Towards The Government:

- They believe that hospitals should be state run and not be privatized.
- There should be a fully functional health centre in each slum community.
- The health centre must have the following facilities of general body check-up, treatment for minor illnesses, medicines [tablets, ointments and injections], machines like x-ray and sonography, facility for blood test, ECG, tetanus shots, gynaecology services like regular check-up, sonography etc. and basic health care in case of sudden illnesses and emergencies.
- *Doctors, medicines and machines must be available round the clock so that the poor does not have to run from pillar to post. The poor depend on the state run hospitals and state must not run away from its responsibility. The state must spend on medicines, machines and total health care facility for the poor.*
- Everyone felt that free medicines and tests should definitely be available in hospitals.

MUSLIM WOMEN LEADERSHIP STUDY

Began the Muslim Women's Leadership Research. Unbudgeted but a crucial study. The study will involve in-depth case studies of all state leaders, founder members and a few dedicated Muslim women other than BMMA. The purpose of the study was to illustrate the role played by Muslim women in the feminist movement. The study involves indepth interviews of 15 BMMA leaders, The study is looking their personal lives, achievements and challenges so that the next generation gets their roles models and inspiration. By the end of December 2020, all 15 interviews were done. The book will be released by March 2021.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

- Over two months, 23 cases of mental health were provided with phone counseling and therapy. 2-3 sessions each were conducted through phone.
- 4 workshops in the community of Bharatnagar on mental health. Focused on equipping the group with skills on dealing with anger, sadness, guilt and other negative feelings. Each of these workshops was attended by 30 women.
- Similarly, sessions were held with Sehr-BMMA girls on mental health. In all 4 sessions will be held with them. This group comprises of 15 young girls. [see sehr group]
- Mental health training to 30 women and girls through a one day workshop

ADMINISTRATION WORK

- Coordination for recovery of previous office deposit
- Resolved issues of communalization in new office
- Visited Nalasopara office for cleaning and other work
- Coordination with Action Aid for last segment of grant
- Coordination with Praveen Pandey for Ashana Trust website
- Sent reports to all donors for micro finance as well as health aid
- Arranged to send receipts and 80G to all
- Team meeting to arrange disbursement of funds
- Visit by a person from the MHA office. Khatoon Shaikh spoke to him.
- Website of Ashana Trust being made through DaanUtsav volunteers
- Opening of FC bank account in SBI is underway

COMMUNITY WORK

- The BMMA team also participated in the protest against Amish Devgan who was disrespectful towards Khwaja Garib Nawaz.

Ration:

- In the entire month, the volunteers visited 10 ration shops on a weekly basis to monitor the shops. Complaints were also filed with the ration office. Social media like the FB and Twitter were used to reach out to the press and the government officers concerned.
- Report to UN person, Anuradha Nair for malfunctioning of PDS shops
- 131 forms of families submitted to the ration office of those who did not get ration.
- A Whats App group has been formed with the shop owners and BMMA leaders to keep track of what is available in the shops.

Health:

- Rs. 15000 were distributed for the treatment of diabetes patients
- 2 people got medical aid.

Livelihood:

- Ex-Karwaan student started her own classes and for the first time completed the advanced beautician course. 10 girls were felicitated on completion of the course.
- Rs. 17000 was used for facilitating micro finance for women entrepreneurs

Security:

- Meeting of the Mohalla Committee Movement Trust of all 6 zones to discuss the COVID situation.
- BMMA members attended Mohalla Committee Movement Trust meeting where Mani Mistry spoke about unity of various communities. We spoke about our attempts of getting children of different communities to come together on festivals. She also spoke on mental health.
- Meeting of the Mohalla Committee Movement Trust held in Kherwadi and Bharatnagar. 16 young men attended the training

MISCELLANEOUS

- Republic Day celebration in Navpada and Sopara
- Made video of the work done by BMMA Maharashtra Unit as part of the impact assessment of 7 years.
- Setting up new office and shop in Nalasopara.
- Finalized annual 2019 report