

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

### AURTON KI SHARIAT ADALAT

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#### RELIEF WORK

- Ration was distributed to 80 families. PLUS 45
- Scholarship of Rs. 70,000 distributed to 15 students PLUS 19 PLUS 4 PLUS 5
- Got support from Hayath Relief for educational support to children. Will be doing the disbursement in May.
- Got support of 10,000 for ration distribution. 40 families got support of basic food items.
- Also received chairs as donation from Yuva Prathisthan
- 2 persons got medical aid
- 2 girls were employed for polio vaccination work
- From the support received from Dr. Shubha Varma, MOU has been signed with Nishat Hussain from Rajasthan, Safia Akhtar from MP, Jeibunnisa R. from Tamil Nadu, Khatoon Shaikh and Hasina Shaikh from Maharashtra and Nasreen M from Karnataka. They will provide relief material to persons affected by COVID
- In Rajasthan we distributed 30 ration kits were distributed. The kit contained oil, flour, pulses, masala, sugar, mask, sanitizer, soap. And sanitary pads to 150 women and girls
- In Karnataka 10 women got employment as they stitched 100 masks and they were distributed to 100 women
- In Mumbai, we distributed note books and stationery to 100 students and sanitary napkins to 500 girls and women.
- In all 920 women and children supported in July and August 2021
- Sanitary pads were distributed to 50 women in Khopoli and to 35 women in Nalasopara.
- 27 women got sarees as relief material with help from a donor

#### SECURITY

- Zoom meeting was organized by CHRI to understand the provisions of POCSO Act
- 6 new people were encouraged to join the MCMT so that they can be active members in collaborative work with the local police.
- Mohalla Committee Movement Trust meeting held. Update on relief work during COVID and sharing of other work. 20 women attended.
- BMMA released a press statement against the hate speeches given at Jantar Mantar against the Muslim community. We demanded that the Delhi police immediately arrest the culprits which appears to be an open call to genocide.
- Presented during the Kandhamal Memorial programme. The title of the programme was 'Defending Freedom and Religious Minority Rights'. Spoke about the danger to the life and property of Muslims under the right wing government and also flagged off the need to call out the fundamentalism of the

Muslim community because all fundamentalisms impact women and it would be hypocritical to oppose one and ignore the other.

- Mohalla Committee meeting was held. The committee celebrated Raksha Bandhan, committing themselves to protect each other. BMMA leaders attended this meeting which is now being held regularly.
- Young Social Group also had their meeting with the Mohalla Committee Group for further coordinating joint activities.
- BMMA participated in a dharna to protest against the death of a police officer named Rabiya Saifi who worked in Delhi Civil Defense who was killed with 50 stabbings. It goes to show that even women working in the defense services are not safe.
- Special meeting was also called by the BKC and Nirmal Nagar Police stations to discuss the safety of women. Special Nirbhaya task force is being set up to look into these matters.
- Mohalla Committee meeting was held. New members were added to it. It was also decided that Civil Defense training will also start.
- Voter ID camps were organized at 2 places in Bharatnagar in collaboration with the Mohalla Committee Movement Trust and Public Concern for Governance Trust. In all 165 people took advantage of the camp.
- BMMA participated in the protest held at Churchgate against the violence unleashed on the Muslim community. BMMA reiterated that we need to work at the grassroots to get communities together. The seeds of hatred sown need to be countered with love and acceptance. As community we need to look at ourselves too and see where we have gone wrong and take corrective measures.
- Mohalla Committee Meeting was held to discuss the involvement of members in COVID lockdown situation.
- Released a press note to condemn the Haridwar Dharm Sansad which openly called for the genocide of the Muslim community. The increasing and open hate for the community is a cause for concern and as a Muslim women's organization, BMMA expressed its concern over the impunity with which the hatred is being allowed to be expressed with no condemnation from the state.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

- Visited 8 ration shops in Bharatnagar and Jyaneshwar nagar to evaluate the quality and quantity of grains available.
- Attended city level coordination meeting with Ration Kruti Samiti to understand the government policy for free ration distribution
- 45 ration card applications were submitted
- Meeting also held this month with RKS to understand the issue of ration distribution. BMMA is an active member of RKS

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

- Weekly sessions with Joining Hands on dealing with thoughts and emotions. Covered anger, anxiety, fear, jealousy, sadness.
- Session with participants associated with the Sundra Foundation on mental health

- 2 sessions with entrepreneurs to help them deal with stress as they embark on their entrepreneurial journey
- A full day workshop was held in Goregoan to understand and address our own mental health issues. All team members attended the workshop. Various techniques to release anxiety and energy blocks were taught. Better emotion-management is a key to better mental health.

## **HEALTH**

- Medical camp with the help of the Municipal Corporation was held in Kherwadi. 43 people took advantage of the camp.
- Attended a programme organized by Bharat Bachao Andolan to protest against the mandatory vaccination programme of the government. Basic services and any other entitlements cannot be prevented from reaching an unvaccinated person.
- COVID-19 vaccine camp was held in the centre. 16 people benefitted from it

## **LIVELIHOOD**

22 youth participated in the orientation programme by ICICI Academy who conduct vocational skill programme for school drop outs. These meetings were held in Nalasopara east and west.

## **NETWORKING**

- Meeting held with women from Dharavi. Information about BMMA was given to them.
- Videocast/podcast interview given to Ashutosh Garg from 'A Brand Called You' sharing leadership lessons, knowledge, experience and wisdom while working on issues of Muslim women.
- Achieving SDGs in Maharashtra, organized by --- regional consultation
- Noorjehan did a series of 3 sessions on Gender Equality with teachers of the SSP school in Goregoan east. 12 teachers attended the training.
- 2022 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Indian independence. A committee has been formed to commemorate the event. BMMA is part of that effort.

## **BMMA NATIONAL**

- NC meeting held on 2 January
- Polygamy position paper and triple talaak law impact questions sent to NC
- National Council meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February.
- National Council meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Decision about the polygamy issue was taken.
- Prepared press note on polygamy and sent it to the NC
- Meeting was held to touch base after ramzaan. States are involved in relief work. Decided to have training on mental health for NC members.
- On the following days, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1 June, 8 June, 15 June, 22 June 2021, mental health workshops were held with the NC members. Noorjehan discussed the theory of mind and how our minds and bodies are connected. She covered anger, fear, sadness as emotions that can have a crippling effect as well as how we can use these emotions to gain wisdom and understanding about our own selves and move forward in life.

- In the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Khatoon apa and Nishat apa shared that they keep this day and time blocked for BMMA and do not schedule any meeting. Both of them have taken responsibility to speak to each state leader and find out their minds. Noorjehan informed that she will schedule the next meeting only after listening from Khatoon apa and Nishat apa.

### **BMMA MUMBAI**

- The area leaders of Mumbai came for the monthly meeting. Ration issue and issue of non-cooperation with the police was discussed. 15 area leaders attended the meeting.
- Leaders Meeting was held in Nallasopara attended by 12 Area Leaders. Did a two-day workshop on mental health teaching them techniques to identify and release negative emotions.
- Also celebrated the Human Rights Day with BMMA volunteers and leaders. Naziya Sayed who is an intern with BMMA as well as Adv. Rukhsar Memon shared information about the significance of the Human Rights Day. Noorjehan also shared the information of how this day is useful not just in our social life but personally also. We need to ensure that in our daily lives we protect our own rights as well as the rights of others.
- Observed 6<sup>th</sup> December as the day when Indian Constitution maker Dr. B.R Ambedkar died. We renewed our commitment to the values of Indian Constitution.

### **NALASOPARA CENTRE**

- After the lockdown work has begun again. A survey of 100 families is being done for need assessment. The findings of the survey will help us guide in initiating programmes in that district.
- This survey happened in the areas of Vaza Mohalla, Gaas Road, Baitun Nasr, Tanki Pada, Samir Pada, Dangewadi, Sara Apt.
- The main demand of families there is work. The lockdown has completely shattered the economy. Women also want to acquire skills for employment. The survey will show us the way for initiating more programmes that cater to the need of the people.
- 10 girls attended the Mehndi class before the lockdown

### **BMMA MAHARASHTRA**

From June onward, BMMA's work in the districts of Maharashtra has begun. Although there is no fund we are atleast touching base with all our district leaders, to know what is happening in their respective districts and what role we can play. 2 meetings were held in June 2021

#### **Zoom meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

- This meeting was attended by leaders from Sholapur, Yavatmal, Pune, Osmanabad, Ahmednagar, Satara
- Members attended were Reshma, Farida Mulla, Nusrat, Nasima, Zulekha, Farzana, Shaista
- The meeting was the first meeting after many years and all of us felt good looking at each other.

**On 23 June the second meeting was held.**

- It was attended by the above. In this meeting we took an assessment of the requirements of the districts.
- Nusrat from Osmanabad wanted scholarship for education and sewing machines
- Farida from Pune wanted ration to be distributed
- Naseem from Sholapur wanted ration, books, bags. She also wants to start training on constitution with young people and she also wants to start her bachat gat.
- Zulekha from Ahmednagar wanted support for dry ration, notebooks and fees
- In this meeting it was also decided to initiate training with young girls and women on mental health. Each state leader must have 3-4 young girls with her to attend the meeting.
- It was also decided to do a ration survey to find out what is available and what is not in the ration shops.

### **5<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Today a joint meeting was held with Akbar Shaikh from Secular Muslim Youth Front. Following points were discussed:

- He wants to take up the issue of Wakf land which should be distributed to the landless Muslim families. PIL has not been filed by anyone. One maulana has all the data on wakf land in Maharashtra. I told him tell us how we can help.
- I suggested that he start training young boys and girls on various issues. Form their groups and train them on constitution, mental health etc.
- He has 70 youth registered with his movement across the nation. I told him to work on an action plan. Planning can be done on zoom. He was expecting support for a national off line meeting which I told him is not possible in the next one year atleast.
- He wants to work on NRC/NPA etc but appears that there is no action plan
- I also suggested that he can work on the issue of ration along with BMMA and gather data about the status of PDS in his district which has 11 blocks.
- He will join us with 10 women on Wednesday for planning meeting and for mental health training.

1<sup>st</sup> July – discussion on training with girls was held, each district leader was asked to bring 5 girls along with them for training on Constitution. Reshma assured that she has 3 girls in the family itself who will attend.

### **14 July**

Rani, Naaz, Farheen, Heena, Khatoon, Reshma Shaikh, Zulekha, Farida Mulla, Naseem Shetshind, Nusrat attended this meeting

- Shared about ration information received last month from Taruna of RKS. Zulekha shared about her visits to ration shops and the functioning of SHG in her area.
- Reshma also did visits to ration shops in Daund.
- Noorjehan also informed them about qazi training if anyone is interested. It will be a paid course.
- Nusrat informed about India Zakaat group for support

## **TRAINING [SEHR AND UDAAN]**

- 110 Sehr and Udaan Group girls and boys attended the Republic Day programme. Information on Constitution was given to them. They also sang songs and performed cultural programmes
- 13 girls received certificate after completion of Mehndi course
- 12 boys of Udaan Group took training on mental health. They all received certificates on completion
- 30 girls attended a workshop on Menstrual Hygiene organized jointly by BMMA and The Hope Foundation. Sanitary napkins were also distributed to the participants.
- 26 girls participated in the Gender Training Programme.
- 20 boys participated in the Mental Health Awareness Programme.
- 17 Children participated in the Gender Training Programme conducted by Lia
- 4 sessions with Sehr Group on 'Rights of Women in the Light of Tawheed'. In all 10 girls got the certificate of completion after 6 sessions in April 2021
- 4 sessions were held with Udaan Group on 'Gender Training'. In all 10 boys got certificate of completion after 6 sessions
- Sehr and Udaan youth participated and performed in the Women's Day Programme. Performances included Zumba dance, traditional dance, groups songs and a group poetry session. In all 4 dances were performed. All active area leaders came for the program. Thankful to Preeti Ray for helping the girls and boys to perform.
- Finalized 8<sup>th</sup> of the series of 8 sessions with Udaan boys on Gender. Also had a session on Sexual and Reproductive Health conducted by Shriharsh Kaushik
- Finalized 8<sup>th</sup> of the series of 8 sessions with Sehr Group Girls on Islam and Women's Rights.
- Post the second lockdown, began sessions on 'Constitution of India' with young people of the Sehr and Udaan Group. In the first session this month, introduced the 4 important aspects of the preamble; Democracy, Republic, Secularism, Socialism. 42 young women and men attended the training.
- Began training on the Indian Constitution. 4 sessions were held including Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Articles and Fundamental duties. In all 18 children got certificates for completing the course.
- Naqeeb Ansari, a volunteer, took two sessions on communication. He took games and exercises to explain to children the importance of language and what constitutes an effective communication. 19 children participated in the programme.
- 4 sessions on gender training were held. The gender training module was repeated. Muskaan and Fight Back – these two films were screened followed by discussion. Out of the 4, two sessions were held on law. POCSO and Domestic Violence Act was discussed with children. Children were very forthcoming. Girls especially were worried about early marriage and their inability to negotiate with parents to follow their dreams.
- Over the month of October and November 8 sessions on gender training were held. The gender training module was repeated. Muskaan and Fight Back – these two films were screened followed by discussion. Out of the 4, two sessions were held on law. POCSO and Domestic Violence Act was discussed with children. Children were very forthcoming. Girls especially were worried

about early marriage and their inability to negotiate with parents to follow their dreams. 12 young people got certificate for their participation.

- Information about Childline was also given. 1098 is a number which all children must know and they must use it whenever they are in a situation of abuse or any assault.
- Along with Little BMMA group, a programme on the occasion of Diwali was held with children of Hindu and Muslim community. In the environment of hate and exclusion, it is important to get diverse communities together through games and exercises to understand each other and love each other. 34 children attended the programme.
- Went to Mount Mary Church with Hindu and Muslim children to bring in the values of harmony and love for each other. In the atmosphere of increased hatred and animosity pushed by conservative religious groups, it is important that we foster friendship, camaraderie and love. Jyoti Punwani, an eminent journalist came for the event at a park near the Church to do an article about it. Lia and her daughter along with her friends spoke about the importance of Christmas. They also sang carols and got goodies for the children. Noorjehan spoke about the similarities between religions and how they all emphasize on values of love, compassion, care and togetherness. Jeevak Davre came in to discuss the possibilities of theatre workshop with the children in the coming days.
- We also celebrated the National Minority Day on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Adv. Rukhsar Memon spoke about the importance about the day. This event happened in Golibar with Hindu and Muslim children.
- Finished 6 sessions on Gender Equality in Islam with the group. 15 boys and girls got the certificate for the same.

### **LITTLE BMMA**

- In all 12 children got certificates after attending training on constitution, gender, communal harmony.
- 12 children in Navpada and 13 in Bharatnagar went through short training programmes in which they learned good touch/bad touch, child abuse. Information was also given on the Indian Constitution.
- 12 children also got training in communication skills from Naqeeb Ansari this month also
- 9 children in Navpada and 12 in Bharatnagar went through short training programmes. The children in Navpada learnt about the Indian Constitution and those in Bharat nagar got gender training.
- Children's Day Programme was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Significance of this day was explained to them. Engagement with children is investment in to the future of the community.
- 16 children participated in the training on gender.

### **ASHANA TRUST WORK**

- Setting up NS office, gas repair, cabinets put up and books and files stored
- Website work started
- Finally got the FCRA renewal and the account in SBI also done.
- Follow up for FC6C form for connecting SBI with Kotak Bank

- Website follow up with Toolbox
- Follow up with student Ashlesha for ASA 2020 report and funders link

## **WORK ON CODIFICATION**

### **PUBLICATION**

Amidst lockdown in 2021 too, BMMA took the opportunity to publish another book, *Courage Unlocked*. This book, published by Notion Press in March 2021, too was in the offing for many years. There was a need felt to tell the stories of Muslim women leaders, their personal lives and challenges that they faced. We all know the issue based challenges as they get discussed in far too many details. But we know so little about the actors behind it, their trials and tribulations, challenges within family and in the community and their strategies to deal with it. This book unveiled 14 stories of BMMA leaders. Their stories were juxtaposed with stories of senior activists like Shehnaaz Sheikh and Adv. Bader Sayeed. This set of women have been instrumental in getting a legislation against triple divorce and this book was in a way a celebration of their contribution, their bravery and their commitment to the cause.

### **BMMA NATIONAL COUNCIL**

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National Council meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Decision about the polygamy issue was taken.

National Council meeting was held to discuss the amendments to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006. A press note was released for the same after discussion.

### **WORK WITH MUSAWAH**

Was BMMA-representative panellist in Musawah's parallel event during the NGO CSW65 Forum, titled "Reconciling Religion and Rights: Equality and Justice in Muslim Family Laws."

Attended planning meeting with Musawah as follow up of Global Campaign on Muslim Law Reforms. I suggested working on CEDAW shadow report and ulema training and regional sharing on Muslim law reform issues.

Participated in the Standing for Justice-Episode 1: Muslim Family Law Reform: Comprehensive or Piecemeal. A digital activism series by Musawah.



Participated in Musawah's Digital Activism Series titled, Standing For Justice. Episode 1 focused on Muslim Law Reform – Comprehensive vs Piecemeal. Other co-panelists were Ayesha Royker from South Africa, Ermiza Tegal from Sri Lanka, Rozina Isa from Sisters In Islam. It was moderated by Hyshyama Hamin from Sri Lanka and Humay Abdul Gafoor from Maldives. Speakers discussed key issues in marriage and divorce faced by Muslim women living under discriminatory Muslim family laws of their respective countries as well as the experiences and strategies of activists in reforming these laws and practices through either holistic or issue based reform approaches.

Meeting was also held with Musawah to understand the process of presenting issues before the CEDAW committee. BMMA has to make that pitch for pushing the government to work on this issue.

Preparing India table on various Muslim family law practices in collaboration with Musawah. This table will give a comprehensive picture about laws related to Muslim family which will be uploaded on the Musawah website.

Work has begun on translating the Knowledge and Policy Briefs prepared by Musawah in Hindi. The resource can be used for the campaign on law reform.

Meeting also with Fatima Qureishi from Musawah to discuss triple divorce campaign and the law.

### **BMMA AND ISST STUDY**

BMMA is being studied as a movement by Institute of Social Studies Trust. The first reflective workshop as part of the study was held in Kharghar for 4 days. 20 BMMA volunteers participated in it. The workshop was conducted through the Theatre of the Oppressed modality. Through short theatre skills, we were able to understand our own work, our challenges and the backlash that we face and our strategies to deal with it.

### **OUTREACH AND NETWORKING**

Presentation on BMMA and its work was done with the South Asian Women's Fund, India. In the presentation the following points were made:

- Muslim law reform issue appears to be not on the radar of funding agencies because it is too controversial and not secular enough.
- Grassroots movements are real change makers
- There is way too much emphasis on the business model way of project management. The funders want too much of documentation which can hamper a movement.
- Movements need sustainable support to survive and not just programmatic support.

Programme with the teachers and academic staff of D.J Girls School. Spoke about rights of women, need to be assertive and courageous.

Spoke with the members of Satyashodhak mandal on Muslim women's struggle post triple divorce legislation and other rights issues. Satyashodhak Fatimabi Shaikh MAhila Manch organized this webinar.

Presentation of BMMA and activities at the Refresher Course, 'Modernization of Law and its Impact on Society' organised by Kishinchand Chellaram Law College

Presented about BMMA/ASA mediation process, in a webinar titled, 'Meet the Mediator' organized by Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and Centre for Mediation and Research.

Made a presentation on the MahaSociology Forum which is set up to strengthen the process of social analysis in Maharashtra. 'Promising Sociologist' is their video documentation project encouraging Ph.d researchers to present their thesis. A presentation was done on 'Evolution and Effectiveness of Community-based Structures in the Muslim Community in Providing Legal Aid to Distressed Women in Mumbai'. It was also an opportunity to present BMMA's work to academics in such a large number.

Presentation on BMMA and Triple Talaak legislation for students of Jamia Millia Islamia, coordinated by Mujibur Rahman

Wrote article for ISST website on BMMA, Adalat, Draft law and Nikaahnama and DUN

### **MFL REFORM CAMPAIGN WORK**

Did a press conference in Mumbai on the second anniversary of the Muslim Women's Protection of Rights on Marriage, 2019. It was to highlight the amendments needed in the legislation and the faulty and ineffective manner in which the police is implementing the law. Letters were also sent to the Commissioner of Police complaining about the police stations from where no support was received. Many papers covered the event, Mid-Day, TOI and Quint were the prominent ones.

Reviewed a paper written on the film Bol. Did a one page review asked for me Asian Journal for Women's Studies.

A book on the journey of codification of MFL in India is completed. It will be released hopefully by March 22.

Press Release to condemn the Taliban rule that has brought in old fears of oppression of women. BMMA demanded that the Taliban regime guarantee safety and security of women.

66 volunteers from BMMA, Vidhyarthi Bharti, Bharat Bachao Andolan and other organizations did an hour long dharna at Bandra east to protest against the Rajasthan Governments' decision to allow registration of child marriage. The gathering also protested against the Afghanistan governments increasing restriction on women. The protest also highlighted the murder of women in Sakinaka highlighting the increased discrimination against women. The state must take full responsibility of it's failure. The police must act responsibly and fulfill its responsibility.

Participated in a Facebook Live programme on Child Marriage organized by Vidhyarthi Bharti. Information on the issue from the perspective of Muslim family law was given.

Shared information about BMMA's campaign on Muslim family law reform to the members of the US Consulate. Ayesha Khan facilitated the process.

Wrote to Abha Singh to help us understand the process of registration of women qazi. It seems nobody has any idea how to go about it. And even the registration of male qazis is not clear. So we were right when we registered DUN and got ourselves certified.

Completed 30 articles on Muslim community, Muslim women, Islamic feminism, Islamic ethical values, Muslim law and BMMA.

## **FUNDING**

- Participated in the HOPE RUN programme organized by the Hands of Hope Foundation. 25 girls and boys participated in it and did a small programme in Bharat nagar demonstrating and raising awareness about Child Sexual Abuse.
- Applied to Women's Fund Asia
- Applied to Echoing Green Fellowship Programme
- Raised funds from Farooque Issa, Gerard, Rukhsar, Afsha, Ruhi, Rural Biz for ration distribution and educational scholarship
- Raised funds from Hayath Relief for educational scholarship
- Coordination with Dr. Shubha Verma, Neeta Malik and Saishri for fund raising.
- Attended a meeting on UK institutional donors organized by Sanjay Vanani. Got a list of donors who could be contacted for raising funds.
- Applied to Women's Fund Asia making it appear that they might support us.
- Proposals have been sent to NASE
- Also to SAWFIN
- Proposal also sent to Roddenbury Foundation for funds.