

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023
REPORT
BHARATIYA MUSLIM MAHILA ANDOLAN
MUMBAI UNIT

Aurton ki Shariat Adalat

44 cases were registered with the ASA.

Sehr/Udaan Group Training

CSA:

251 children got trained on CSA

Vocational Courses

32 young boys/girls got information on vocational courses after class 10 - Ms. Smita Gandhi.

9 children learned Origami Art

9 children attended craft workshop

Total 50 got information on vocational course and related activities.

Menstrual Health

25 girls got training in Menstrual Hygiene and Health

Indian Constitution

333 children got training in Constitution.

These trainings were held in Asalpha, Navpada, Lal Mitti, Shantilal Compound, Bharatnagar.

Child Marriage

12 children and parents got information on child marriage and its impact

Ramzaan

26 children had discussion over the significance of Ramzaan.

Mental Health [MH]

MH with Children

Reached out to 1453 children equipping them with skills to deal with their mental health conditions. Of which 103 boys and 123 girls were from the communities and 613 boys & 616 girls from schools in the communities that were namely Purshottam High School, AKI Urdu Boys High School, Anjum School – Jagruti nagar, Gulshan-e-Islam Urdu High School, Z.B. Zakaria English High School, Salmaan Classes and Shaan-e-Millat School.

These sessions were also conducted in the communities of Bharatnagar, Asalpha, Golibar, Lal Mitti and Gyaneshwar nagar, Goregoan, Nalasopara, Sakinaka. We also spoke to parents of Uzma School and women from the Mehndi class.

MH with Women

- Conducted 33 sessions for women and reached out to 718 women from the communities which equipping them with skills to deal with their mental health.

We also reached out 250 parents of Purshottam High School on the issue of Mental Health.

- These sessions were conducted in Vasai, Saki Naka, Asalpha, Jagruti Nagar, Pipeline, Behrampada, Bharatnagar, Goregoan, Lal Mitti, Andheri West, Valmiki nagar, Chita Camp, Gilbert Hill, Golibar. We are reached out to 2 Auxilium Vocational Training Centres.
- 25 women from the Ekal Naari Shakti Sanghatana got trained on mental health in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The entire module covered issues like Mind-Body Connect, Thoughts-Emotions-Energy-Body, Tapping and Breathing Techniques, Gratitude and Forgiveness, Inner Child Healing.
- Mental health training with the inmates and staff of Atmavishwas Vidyalaya Centre at Valsad. Total number reached out to was 40.
- 15 BMMA leaders were trained on the issue of mental health.
- 12 community volunteers got training in mental health through the Poddar Foundation
- Session done with the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation on mental health for their nurses.

Community Mental Health Awareness

Pamphlets were printed to spread awareness about mental health and also about the mental health services. Pamphlets were displayed at prominent places in the community.

Helped a woman get admission in the Thane Mental Hospital

Pre-Marital Counseling and Training

- 13 girls received training on Pre-Marital Counselling which also was like a pilot session for us.
- Reached out to 24 women (16 team leaders & 8 community mother) as a pilot programme conducted in Retreat House to understand better ways to introduce the idea of pre-marital counseling to prevent early marriage break ups.
- Another session with 8 mothers in Golibar was conducted
- Reached out to 8 girls and 12 boys to discuss the idea of pre-marital counseling, facilitating the need to make them think of potential issues to be discussed with their partners.

Mental Health Counselling

Total of 5 cases were reported at the centre for mental health counselling.

Couple Counselling

We were able to reached out to only one partner in a couple counselling to introduce the idea of pre-marital counseling. We could speak to 4 girls and 2 boys who were engaged to get married on this issue. It helped us in working on the module of couple counselling.

MFL Reform Activities / Muslim Women

NATIONAL

Advocacy

- Organised meeting with qazis on the issue of pre-marital counselling. We had mobilized 20 qazis and 5 committed ones came. It was the first discussion on how we can work to prevent married couples to stay in peace and tranquillity with each other. Important suggestions came from this meeting. More such meetings must be held to better understand the common ways in which civil society and qazis can work together. Qazi Mumtaz, Qazi Fayaz, Qazi Mehtab, Qazi Ashraf attended the meeting.
- Met the Law Commission and did a presentation on the draft law as well as inclusions in the UCC from Muslim women's perspective. The Law Commission's office arranged for their entire team and members to be present. Distributed the draft law as well our 25-point programme for inclusion in the UCC. It was also decided that we need to amend the Qazi's Act so that the responsibilities of the qazis' can be defined. The Commissioner also laid down the points that will be included in the UCC. They are right now looking at all the recommendations that have come in.
- Sent the draft of BMMA's Muslim Family Law to Mr. Imteyaz Ali who works with the Central government. Also sent him the book on polygamy published by BMMA.
- Also sent the draft as well as polygamy book to Adv. Rukhsar Memon who works with the Women and Child Department in Delhi.
- Sent draft copy and 2 publications to Fauzaan Alavi and follow up with Imtiaz Ali
- Sent letters and copy of the draft of MFL asking for comprehensive codification to central government offices like the Women's Commission, Human Rights Commission, Law Commission, ex-Chairperson, Maharashtra Women's Commission, Rahul Gandhi, President of India, home minister and PMOs' office.

National Council

- National Council meeting and a press conference was organised in Bhopal. 5 states, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Kashmir participated in the meeting. New and young leadership was made to conduct the 3 day meeting. Decisions about the future course of action, programmes and plans were done. Discussions around handing over leadership to new members was also discussed.
- Two national council meetings were held to discuss the issue of UCC. Finally, after multiple consultations, it was decided that BMMA will support UCC if it includes its 25-point demand for protected the legal rights of Muslim women.

Presentation

- Presentation about BMMA's work at the Gender, Equity, Mobilization, Sustainability: Initiatives from the Global South. In a series of Webinar, BMMA's presentation was titled, Muslim Women's Quest for Legal Justice.
- Did a presentation at the Induction Programme - Mentors & Facilitators, Muslim Feminist Artist Fellowship (MFAF) for Mentors & Facilitators

- Submission and presentation of BMMA's work at the Regional Conclave (Western India): Law Review on Marriage and Divorce Laws across the Communities in India scheduled on 29th September, 2023
- Presentation about BMMA's work at the 'Raden Intan Mubadalah International Conference on Islam and Family - Realizing a Sakinah Family Towards a Just Civilization' on October 25-27, 2023, Hotel Emersia Bandar Lampung, Indonesia. Topic was 'Reform of Muslim Family Law in Perspective of Maqasid Al-Shariah'. Indonesia follows a moderate version of Islam and keeps away from engaging Islam with politics.
- Presentation on BMMA's work at the BodhiStreeDialogues titled, Elevating Equality, a Conversation
- Presented about BMMA's campaign strategy with the participants of Leading Change Network which develops and supports new civic leadership that organizes communities to build power and create change. Shared with them the strategies of organising, mobilizing, training and capacity building of women leaders. Also, on how we strategized our advocacy efforts on triple divorce by doing public meetings, public hearings, case studies and research.
- Got registered as an Alumni with the DJ Girls High School and shared BMMA's work with the person in charge.
- Attended meeting in Mumbra called by Maharashtra Mahila Parishad, Bharti Sharma to discuss BMMA's work.
- Two BMMA volunteers attended ISST workshop in Nepal and presented about BMMA's work.

Writings/Publications/Articles

- The report on polygamy, 'Status of Women in Polygamous Marriage and Its Legal Implication' was released this month.
- A copy of the report has been sent to New Age Islam for its website.
- Spreading the word about the polygamy report on social media as well as international groups.
- Wrote 5 articles on polygamy which are actually excerpts from the above report.
- Translated Knowledge Brief 7 – Marriage and Equality in Islam
- Seeking Justice Within Family is finally published by Notion Press
- Article to Sunday Guardian on UCC and Muslim Women's Legal Rights
- 5 articles on polygamy were written and uploaded on the blog as well as shared in the social media.
- Wrote an article for the Week on UCC and BMMA's position.
- Wrote article with Ermiza Tegal, activist from MPLRAG, Sri Lanka for GroundsViews, Sri Lanka. The article covers the status of family law reform in South Asia with special focus on India and Sri Lanka.
- Reform of Muslim Family Law in Perspective of Maqasid Al-Shariah

Press Outreach

- A press conference was held on demanding amendments to the PCMA, 2006 to include the Muslim community.
- Coordinated to send a support press note issued by the Global Campaign for Equality in Family Laws. They supported BMMA's call for legal equality in marriage. This is the first endorsement by an international group.

- Issued a statement against the hounding of the Assam Government of families who have entered into child marriage. The government has been picking up families which have done child marriage years back and now have a family and children. We issued a statement condemning the action of the Assam government.
- Press conference in Delhi was organised but was unsuccessful as no press came. It was the first time that nobody came. The reasons are not clear.

INTERNATIONAL

Process Oriented Work with Musawah

- The initial objective was to form a group who would be certified as Alimas by KUPI or other women led religious organisation. To that end multiple meetings were held with Musawah and Dr. Nor Ismah. An extensive syllabus was also prepared. This idea emerged out of a consultation held in Turkey. Eventually towards the end of the year, it was decided that Musawah would certify for a certificate course on 'Empowering Women Community Leaders in Islamic Religious Knowledge. An Alima Course is long drawn and requires multiple layers of in-depth training. Due to lack of resources and also the inability for any kind of certification pushed us into coming up with a certificate course. This course will be convened by BMMA and Faiza's Madrasa in Pakistan. It will be attended the Alimas from Pakistan and activists from India. It will be done at 3 levels, both offline and online. This course begins in April 2029.
- SA/SEA regional meeting where we decided to submit country papers on child marriage by 1st April.
- Muslim Feminist Art Fellowship programme of Musawah begins in 2024. For their training and perspective building BMMA has been asked to present about its work so that they are learn the strategies and programmes and incorporate them in their work as Fellows. Preparatory meeting was held for their training on 24th September.
- As a follow up of the meeting with the Muslim Feminist Artists, Fatima Qureishi has agreed to make a documentary on BMMA. Discussion meeting was held with her to understand BMMA's work deeply.
- Given a short video of BMMA's engagement with Musawah for the upcoming meeting on capacity building and strategizing for further training of Muslim women leaders. Sent the video to Zulekha Shihab.
- Attended the Capacity Building & International Advocacy Workshop, London (6-8 Dec 2023). Was part of the consultation on the process of the formation of the Musawah Institute. Worked on learning outcomes, I-engage programme, revisioning of Musawah ToC etc. It was an opportunity to interact with women scholars and activists for an important process. Also facilitated a session on mental health with Sofia Rahman and Sarah Marso for MH session with the participants in the workshop.

Global Campaign on Equality in Family Law

- BMMA becomes the member of the GCEFL. This will help us to amplify BMMA's work, help build up our advocacy for equality in family law, policy and practice and help bring in resources and expertise.

- Coordinated to send a support press note issued by the Global Campaign for Equality in Family Laws. They supported BMMA's call for legal equality in marriage. This is the first endorsement by an international group.
- Attended 'Future of Legal Aid in South Asia for Sexual Offences Against Women and Girls – Lessons from the Past'
- Sent our draft law to the GCEFL [Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law]
- Preparation for visit to Rwanda for the Women Deliver 2023 as a speaker in the Concurrent session led by Equality Now to take place on July 17-20, 2023
- Attended and presented on BMMA's work on family law reform at the panel hosted by Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law/Equality Now in Kigali, Rwanda at the Women Deliver global conference attended by 6000 women from across continents working on gender issues.

Other International Work

- Had zoom meeting with Adv. Michael—— and discussed family law reforms in Uganda. Recently the Ugandan Court passed a judgment barring Muslim families from marrying girls below the age of 18 years. We also discussed polygamy and other processes involved in both countries in law reform.

Training

1st Batch

- Prepared Question Paper for the final exam of the course.
- Finished IF course in March 2023. 12 BMMA volunteers finished the course
- Two sessions with teachers of Anjuman Millat school in Shiv Shahi on Islamic Feminism. 12 teachers attended the training.
- Took Marwa's help to design training material for IF to make it interesting
- The Advanced IF course began with 12 women who finished Basic Course.

The topics were:

- Shariah, Fiqh and State Laws
 - What Makes Reforms Possible
 - Why Muslim Family Law Reform
 - Islam and Question of Gender Equality
 - Ending Child Marriage
- 2nd Batch of Basic Course covered:
 - Tawheed
 - Khalifa
 - Wilaya
 - Ahsan
 - Qiwanah [patriarchal interpretation]
 - Qiwanah [feminist interpretation]

BDDM

- Formation of a new group called Samvaad- Womens Leadership for a Better Nation and World. It was later called as 'Behtar Desh aur Duniya Mohim' [BDDM]
- BMMA is part of the organising committee to develop feminist leadership. Attended the launch of the Mumbai chapter. 13 BMMA volunteers attended the meeting where we discussed how women need to take leadership to heal the

world which is torn apart by strife, conflict and violence. Many programmes were chalked out.

- BMMA volunteers went to Bundi Rajasthan to attend the meeting on Women's Feminist Leadership organised by Gandhi Peace Foundation. BMMA's work was presented in the meeting. National Council Meeting of BMMA was also held.
- The national core committee meeting was held in Delhi. The vision, mission, objectives and activities were discussed with also deep discussions on the social, political, economic order and BDDM's position on various issues. A very fruitful meeting.

Networking

- Attended youth meeting in Mumbra organised by Parcham to discuss leadership development in youth
- Possibility of collaboration with Rabeta NGO which gives training and other developmental programmes for children
- Observed National Minority Day and discussed the issues faced by the community.
- Starting collaborative work with Raafta Foundation, Kurla on development issues of the community.
- Attended 3 meetings of Maulana Azaad Vichar Manch to discuss Muslim reservation and organise community meetings for the same.
- Citizen's Initiative for Strengthening Democracy in collaboration with Savitri Fatima Foundation for Inclusive Development. Attended by BMMA volunteers from Mumbai, Ahmednagar and Osmanabad. Discussion on participation in democratic process by Muslim women, listing of issues faced by Muslim women in the context of preparing a Manifesto to be given to all political parties.
- 56 new voters as well as people who wanted to change name and address were helped in the camp. This camp was held in Behrampada.

Environment

- Playing a supportive role and in solidarity with civil and environmental groups across western Maharashtra who are fighting the destructive infrastructural projects which are taking away their land, forests, livelihoods and destroying the environment.
- Facilitated the meeting of groups working on issues of environment in Mumbai and neighbouring districts. More than 300 participants came to Mumbai on 5th June to raise their demands about protecting the environment and livelihoods of people affected by so-called developmental infrastructural projects.

Security

- 5 Mohalla Committee meetings were organised.
- In these meetings also discussions were held as to how to peacefully carry out festivals of Holi and Shab-Baraat. Drug menace was also discussed.

Ration

- Monitoring visits were done in all ration shops in Navpada, Behrampada, Bharat nagar and Gyaneshwar nagar.

- A complaint was lodged with the police station against a ration shop owner. The owner of the premises in which the ration shop was located fought with the BMMA volunteers. They lodged a complaint against him and he was summoned to the police station.
- 16 visits done to the ration shops in Bharat nagar
- Checked whether they keep complaint book or not. It was found that they do not keep in spite of our regular campaigns and awareness with the ration shop owners.
- Checked complaint book in 8 ration shops and inquired about Holi ration kit's arrival

Health:

- A complaint was filed against bad behaviour of nurses in Bhabha hospital.
- Attended opening of civic services in the community organised by the MLA

Employment

3 girls were referred to the ICICI academy

Gender training for women leaders in Bharat Nagar.

10 women understood the importance of Financial Literacy through an interview done with them by TISS students.

Education

- 5 students in Vasai got scholarship from Kinnari Trust
- Referral to MESCO for educational scholarship
- A peaceful gathering was organised to protest against the Maulana Azad Scholarship for Minority Students. The scholarship helped many poor students of avail of education. **This** protest was organised by Maulana Azaad Vichar Manch.

Funding:

- Meeting with Solidarity Foundation on funding experiences of NGOs and the difficulties faced by them.
- Consultations with Equality Now and Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law for raising funds for BMMA's campaign on child marriage and polygamy.
- Also, consultations to see the possibility of a solidarity statement from the Campaign towards BMMA's campaign.
- Prepared Funding Note to be circulated before Ramzaan for funding
- Process started for CSR registration
- Raised funds through sale of our products. 3 such outlets were at TISS, one in JNPT, one in RHS society. In a month we raised 43000/-
- Sent updated proposal to Supriya for MFL reform work.
- FGHR Project – Preparation of modules of training, conducting pilot sessions with children and youth, working on Ashana Trust policies.
- Sent proposal to Rajani via Neetu for community gender training programme.
- Follow up with Equality Now for further funding
- Resourcing Social Movements: Shifting The Power – Presented views on the issue of funding of social movements and what needs to be done to address the resource mobilisation challenge.

NallaSopara Centre

- Cleaning up the centre and preparing for exhibitions. Gave bags for stitching to Firdous and also picked up some bags from Mumtaz.
- Paid property tax for 404 and 405 for the current year
- Also paid 2023 maintenance amount for 404 and 405
- Coordinated for making bags with volunteers [Firdous, Mumtaz and Shaheen]
- Done payment to Mumtaz Khala for her bags and also paid Parveen for 4 bags
- Roza Iftaar with the women and girls
- Two trainings were held on mental health with women and girls

Vasai Centre

- Attended two-day training on mental health
- Organised health camp through the Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation. 40 people took benefit of the camp which covered diabetes, blood pressure.
- 5 families supported by Kinnari Trust for educational assistance
- Iftar party was held at the Manickpur police station
- 40 people took advantage of the Cancer Awareness Programme organised by Tata Hospital Prevention Department
- Raksha bandhan programme was held in Vasai Police station with police officers. BMMA volunteers spoke about their work and also tied rakhi to the police officers.
- Attended Islamic feminism training
- Attended Maulana Azad Vichar Manch meeting
- BMMA volunteers took part in the Cleanliness Drive organised on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti
- Organised mental health training with women on mental health. 14 women attended
- Voter ID card campaign, registration and help to 40 potential voters

Celebrations

- Republic Day celebrations done in the communities.
- Core team saw Pathan. It was a political statement against the diatribe against a popular Muslim actor and to voice out against hate.
- International Women's Day was celebrated in Bharat Nagar. Community leaders of BMMA and other stakeholders in Bharat Nagar came. We discussed the menace of drugs destroying the youth, ration issue, family law reform, importance of women's day.
- Roza Iftaar programme in Mumbra called by Parcham
- Roza Iftaar programme at the Nallasopara Centre
- Roza Iftar by local MLA Zeeshan Siddiqui
- Roza Iftar of the BMMA team given by Shriharsh Kaushik, supporter and member of BMMA
- Roza Iftar with non-Muslim children in Bharat Nagar.
- Eid Milan Celebrations with 100 women, girls and boys. Presented of songs and dance by children from all communities. Prayers from all communities, discussion about Muslim law reform, need for education and other issues. It was a joint celebration of Eid, Ram Navami and Easter.

- Celebrated Children's Day with 14 children

Communal Peace

- Tribal and Muslim women came together to promote inclusion, understanding of each other. BMMA visited Aarey Colony to understand the tribal way of life, their challenges and issues and how we can understand each other better.
- Also organised a peaceful protest against the atrocities on the women of Manipur. 22 women attended the gathering.
- Joint programme on Gandhi Jayanti organised by various organisations.
- The group also attended a public meeting to express solidarity with the Palestinians.