

2022-2023

SWATHI MAHILA SANGHA

ANNUAL REPORT

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Abbreviations:

AIDS	Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIG	Common Interest Group
CMS	Catalyst Management Services
FD	Fixed Deposit
FSW	Female Sex Worker
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HR	Human Resource
KHPT	Karnataka Health Promotion Trust
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARPs	Most At-Risk Populations
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NACP IV	National AIDS Control Programme IV
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
PLHIV	Persons Living With HIV
PPTCT	Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission
QRM	Quarterly Review Meeting
RD	Recurring Deposit
SB	Savings Bank
SMS	Swathi Mahila Sangha
SJ	Swathi Jyothi Cooperative
SNS	Swathi Nyaya Sanjeevini
SP	Social Protection
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TG	Transgender
TI	Targeted Intervention
WCD	Women and Child Development Department
WDF	Women's Development Fund
WSW	Women in Sex Work


SWATHI MAHILA SANGHA- An Organization connecting hearts together

Swathi Mahila Sangha




Established on
15th Dec 2003
by 13 founding
members.

A community-based organization that works for
holistic well-being of Women in Sex Work.



8 rounds of
Board election
completed



ವಿಷನ್

ಜೀವಂತಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಸ್ವಾತಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಂಘವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಉತ್ತಮಪಡಿಸುವುದು.

VISION

Vibrant and sustainable Swathi Mahila Sangha improving women's lives by responding effectively to the needs of every women.

Providing high-quality services and facilities in accordance with the requirements of Swathi women with self-fund and capacitated human resources.

ಮಿಷನ್

ಸ್ವಾತಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಸೇವಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅಗತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಸ್ವಂತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಯುಳ್ಳ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು.

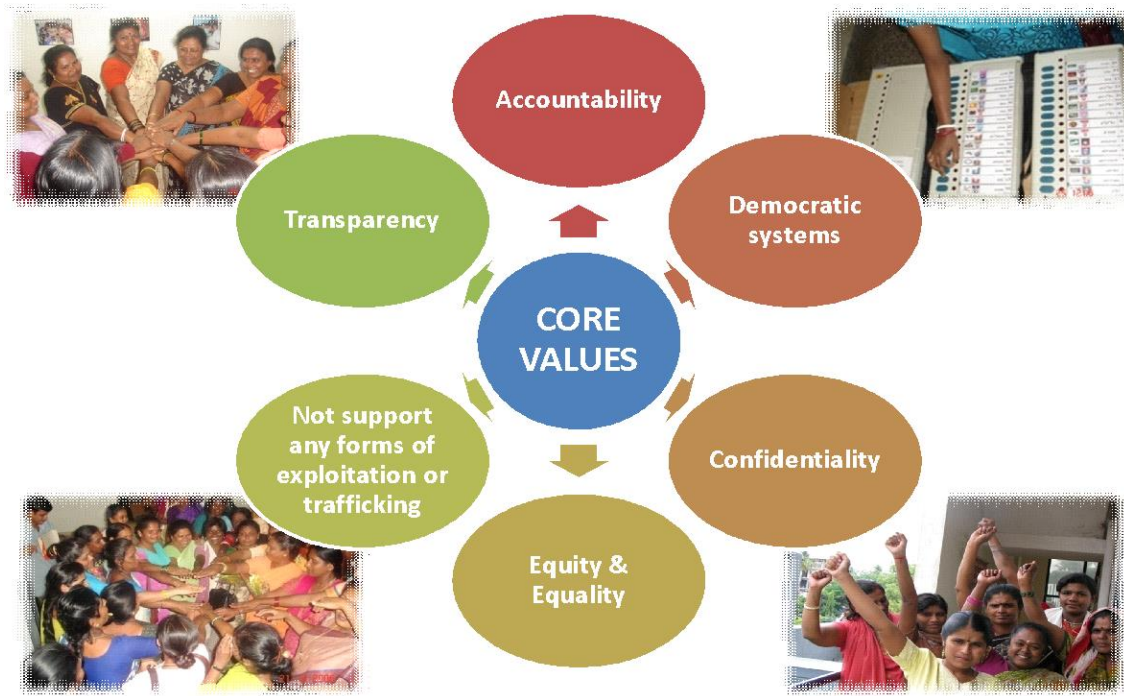
MISSION

BACKGROUND:

The programmes which addressed the wellbeing of women in sex work were limited in between 1994-2003. In order to curb the emerging HIV infection, a few motivated NGO's started the basic initiatives which mainly focused on field work like HIV ad STI prevention strategies, educating the sex workers on various modes of transmission, referral for STI treatments and Condom Promotion. But, these programmes lacked community participation and didn't account the factors which made women more vulnerable in sex work.

Inspired from the movements in Bangladesh and Sonagchi, towards sexual and human rights of sex workers, a Community organization called **Swathi Mahila Sangha(SMS)** was borne/formed as a collective effort from by a group of sex workers in collaboration with a local NGO on 15th December 2003. SMS is legally registered under Karnataka Societies Act.

Swathi Mahila Sangha - Core Values



- **Democratic Systems:** Democracy refers to by, for and of the people. SMS involves the formation of a central board constituting of key leaders who are elected through elections. The elected leaders usually belong to the same community as key population with the view that they would understand the requisites of the community in a wider aspect.
- **Confidentiality:** As SMS constitutes the membership of WSW's the information (like Personal details etc.) is kept highly confidential and not disclosed.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Income invested and generated through SMS is accountable and maintained up to date by proper audit. The audit reports are accessible to all making the SMS financial system highly transparent.
- Due to the persistent stigma towards WSW's in the society they are being looked down upon. SMS was established purely with the rationale of catering the needs and requirements of WSW's. It's usual for an organization to get exploited if they strive to extend their support towards the well being of WSW's. They are mistaken for their involvement in women exploitation and trafficking cases.
- **Equity and Equality:** SMS ensures to follow the principle of Equity and Equality through which the affected and most vulnerable get the maximum support and aid.

VISION AND MISSION OF SWATHI MAHILA SANGHA:

VISION: “Vibrant and sustainable Swathi Mahila Sangha improving women's lives by responding effectively to the needs of every woman”.

MISSION: “Providing high-quality services and facilities in accordance with the requirements of Swathi women with self-fund and capacitated human resources”.

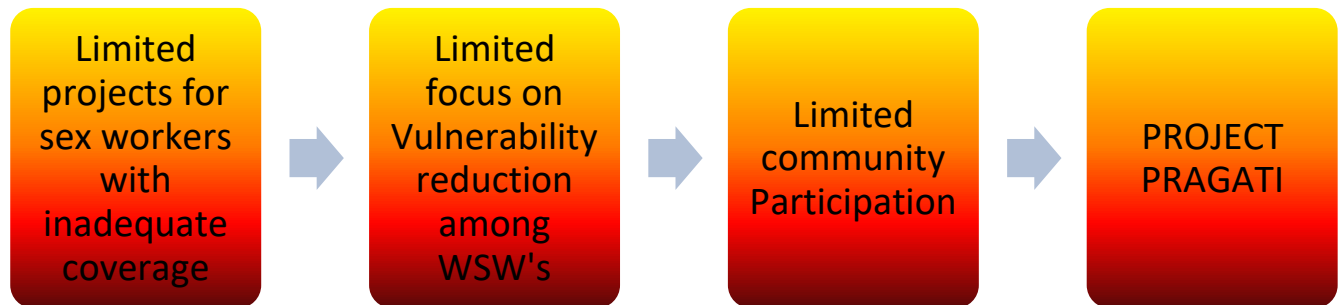
SMS Journey



PROGRAMMES BY SMS

- Swathi Mahila Sangha’s predominantly works in Bangalore which, according to the geographical mapping done by Swasti in 2005, had a population of 0.25 million women in sex work.
- The first step towards this work was taken by the implementation of targeted interventions with the help of Samraksha from 2004.

1. Evolution of Project Pragati



- Prior to 2004, the projects related with sex workers were scattered and had inadequate coverage. They focused mainly on risk reduction rather than vulnerability reduction. The understanding about the typology was limited and with less or no community participation.
- The HRG mapping estimates of 2004 witnessed the immediate need to completely relook at the strategies.
- During inception it was seen that the coverage of women in sex work in Bangalore was about 3,500 annually and treating around 200 women for STI per year.

Bangalore Sexwork Scenario

Bangalore City is divided into 7 Zones

Swathi Mahila Sangha – 5 TIs

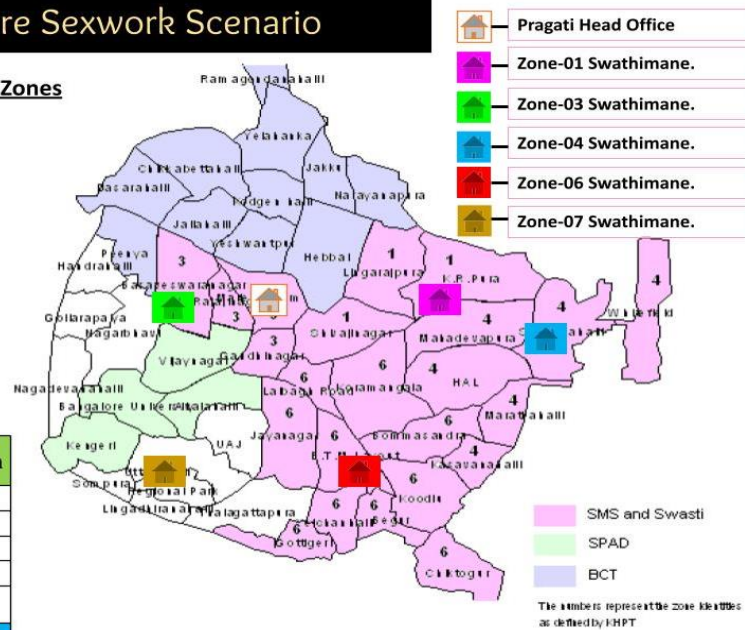
Vijaya Mahila Sangha – 1 TI

Jyothi Mahila Sangha – 1 TI

BCT – 1 TI (NGO)

SPAD – 1 TI (NGO)

ZONE	No of Area	No of Sites	Estimation
Zone 1	3	96	2644
Zone 3	4	58	3022
Zone 4	5	109	3024
Zone 6	9	227	2729
Zone 7	5	62	2648
Total	26	669	14,067



- Initially it was planned to cover 6000 population in the allotted five zones but later increased to 12,941 women (As per HRG Mapping Estimation).

To address the situation, Swasti-Health Resource Center in partnership with Swathi Mahila Sangha (SMS) co- created the Project **Pragati** which was an empowerment initiative for women in sex work in Bangalore.



Combination Programming



- This project has reached over 15,650 WSW's and has provided STI treatment and referrals to over 14,500 WSW's. Around 5.7 M condoms are distributed every month.
- The partnership between SMS, Swasti is based on mutual respect, equality and tolerance and involves them in designing the project and implementation.
- Project Pragati is staffed by over 261 team members, more than 80% of which are from the Key Population. The positions range from field peer educators (PE) to field operations manager. This project covers three-quarters of Bangalore (5 Zones) and works in 669 sex work sites.



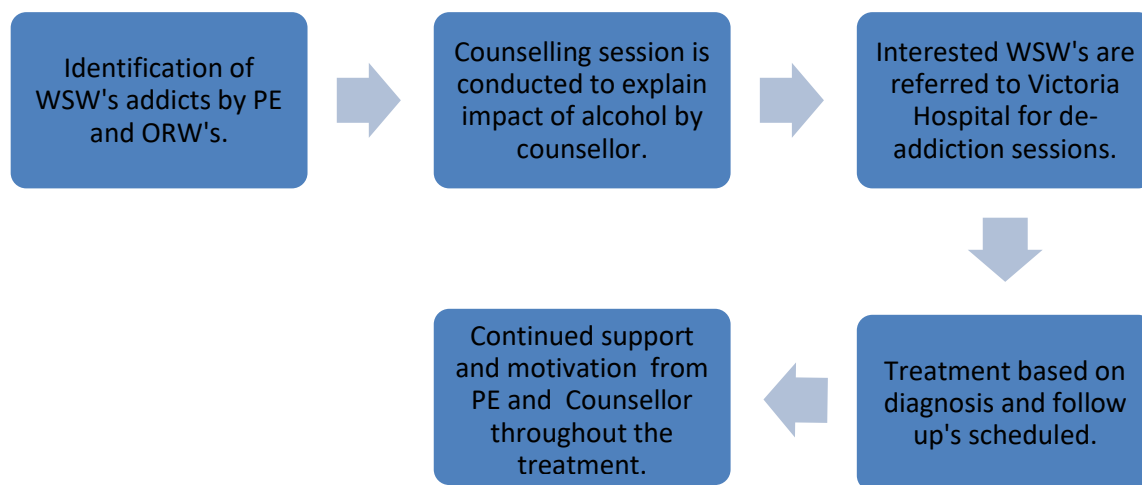
Chetana means consciousness and refers to the awakening of women under the hold of alcohol.

While interacting with women in sex work on HIV prevention, it became quite evident that dependence on alcohol actually acted as a vulnerable cause for increasing the risks of HIV, abuse and harassment among WSW's. This was corroborated by evidence from other studies.

Several FGD were conducted to understand the depth of condition related to alcohol addiction. Considering the issues, the idea of developing an initiative called "Swathi Chetana " was born.

The objective was to make women who consume alcohol, especially during work, more independent on both social and economic fronts. The WSW's should be able to stress on condom usage, negotiate payment from clients and be able to protect themselves from violence and harassment.

THE PROCESS



STRATEGIES

- The strategy which assisted in making the endeavor a success was working with the key leaders among WSW. When these leaders shared their experience they served as role models for many others WSW's and paved the way for many others to follow.
- Regular campaigns are conducted to create and maintain awareness.
- The Swathi Chetana team has received training and support from NIMHANS, which has allowed them to continue their work, despite the many challenges.

The Indian Psychiatric Society - Karnataka Branch has conferred the Spandana Award 2009 for significant service in the area of de-addiction on Swathi Mahila Sangha and Swasti. The

award was in recognition of their work on Alcohol de-addiction as part of Pragati project. Over 1909 women have undergone alcohol de-addiction treatment so far.

Prema, 45 years old WSW, was an alcohol addict. In order to fulfil her craving, she would not bother who her clients were and whether they used condom or not. As a result, she would usually be intoxicated during sexual encounters with clients. Swathi Chetana proved to be a life changing experience for her. Being a leader at Pragati she resolved to lead the way. Today she is a Coordinator managing a drop in centre, has saved money and got her two daughters married. She beams with pride when women follow her path and become free of the dependence and resume healthy lives.

SWATHI SPOORTHY

- On 16th June 2009, SMS and Swathi together launched Swathi Spoorthi (re-energizing in kannada), a programme for women in sex work who are HIV positive to improve their quality of life and their family's through collective and cooperative approach.
- The Swathi Spoorthi Network operates largely in the district of Bangalore Urban and has limited operation in Bangalore Rural and Ramanagara district.
- The Swathi Spoorthi Network, composed of PLHIV, works at each of the Swathi Mane's to motivate women with HIV to visit the ICTC.
- Those who disclose their status are referred to different support services and also become part of the support group, which meets regularly.
- The Swathi Spoorthi team also works with the larger community of women in sex work to help them understand the issues of HIV positive women in sex work. This helps in reducing the stigma and discrimination within the community.
- Its impact has largely been through establishing institutional linkages with
 - Care and support centers
 - ART centers
 - Residential facilities for women and children
 - Government departments for social entitlements and other facilities
 - HIV Positive networks of CBOs and NGOs
 - TB treatment centers
 - Nutrition support centers
 - Child Welfare organizations
 - Social welfare organizations providing financial support.
- There is a HIV prevalence of 6.3% among women in sex work in Bangalore and within Pragati's coverage area; there are an estimated 986 women in sex work living with HIV. It

is these women that Spoorthi seeks to support. During the reporting year 5 new women living with HIV were identified and Currently over 374 WLHIV are part of the Spoorthi program.

- Org Distributes free nutritional supplement “Swathi Savi” to all the 172 women every month and provides counseling support through our in-house counselors.
- Facilitating Dhanashri, the subsidy loan scheme from WCD, this year 8 women have received 2.40 lakh loans to set up micro enterprises for their livelihood.

SWATHI SAVI- SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION

- Proper and adequate nutrition, along with medical treatment, plays a very important role in maintaining good health as it improves the immunity of the body, helps in prevention of secondary infections; energizes the body, and maintains the CD-4 count in the body.
- Recognizing this need, Pragati project decided to take up preparation and distribution of a nutrition supplement – Swathi Savi. A production unit for Swathi Savi, a nutritional supplement in powder form, was started on 26 June, 2007.
- The powder has undergone testing at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore and the results reveal that the supplement provides 429 kilocalories per 100 grams.
- An average of 400 kilograms of nutritional food is produced and sold every month. About 60% of the supplement is distributed or sold to PLHIV either directly through the Pragati project or through the network for positive persons.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

SWATHI NYAYA SANJEEVINI (SNS) - A violence redressal mechanism

- Women in sex work are easy targets for violence and harassment. They are vulnerable to violence because they are looked down upon by society.
- Under this program, we aim at the prevention and condemnation of any form of social abuse or discrimination. We believe that no group of individuals deserves to be mistreated in society and thus, work to empower women in sex work.
- Sex workers have an equal right and need to live good, respectable and decent lives. Discrimination by government officials, especially the police, and society at large prevents these women from gaining adequate access to health care, entitlements etc. to secure their lives. Violence and harassment increase the vulnerability of women in sex work, affecting their physical and mental well-being.

- Our goal is to empower and mobilize women in sex work to tackle any form of violence and also bring perpetrators of violence to justice. The trauma caused by these types of violence is deep and unless they are given justice, these women will be unable to bring progress in their lives.
- SNS was, thus, formed in order to fight against **stigma, discrimination, harassment and violence**, respond to crisis and bring justice to sex workers. SNS proactively takes context-specific action based on the severity of the violence. With the help of Swasti and other organizations, local government officials and secondary stakeholders, **8,805 cases have been responded to till date.**

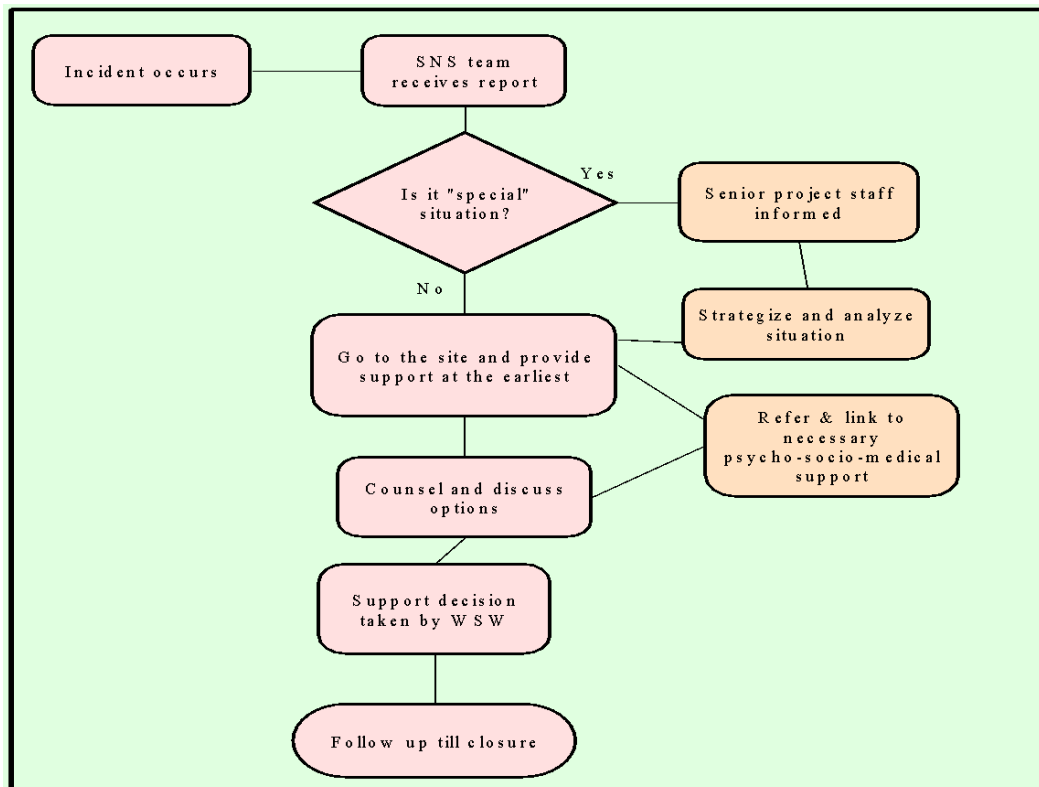
OBJECTIVES OF Swathi Nyaya Sanjeevini

Respond to the atrocities perpetrated against and the trafficking of sex workers.

To provide support to women who have faced violence and educate them on their rights.

Support of secondary stakeholders through advocacy and sensitization.

PROCESS OF SNS



SWATHI NYAYA SANJEEVINI'S AREA OF WORK

- Any support required by WSW's irrespective of type (mental, physical or social) harassment and violence is addressed by the SNS team.
- Those women who face violence are counseled, provided alternative methods to resolve issues and are also referred to other organizations for serving their needs and requirements.
- Networking with other CO's which tackle violence and trafficking of women in order to spread awareness on these issues and come up with constructive programs .
- Sensitization of secondary stakeholders(eg. police,etc)

SWATHI NYAYA SANJEEVINI'S STRATEGIES:

SNS uses the following strategies to provide effective services to women:

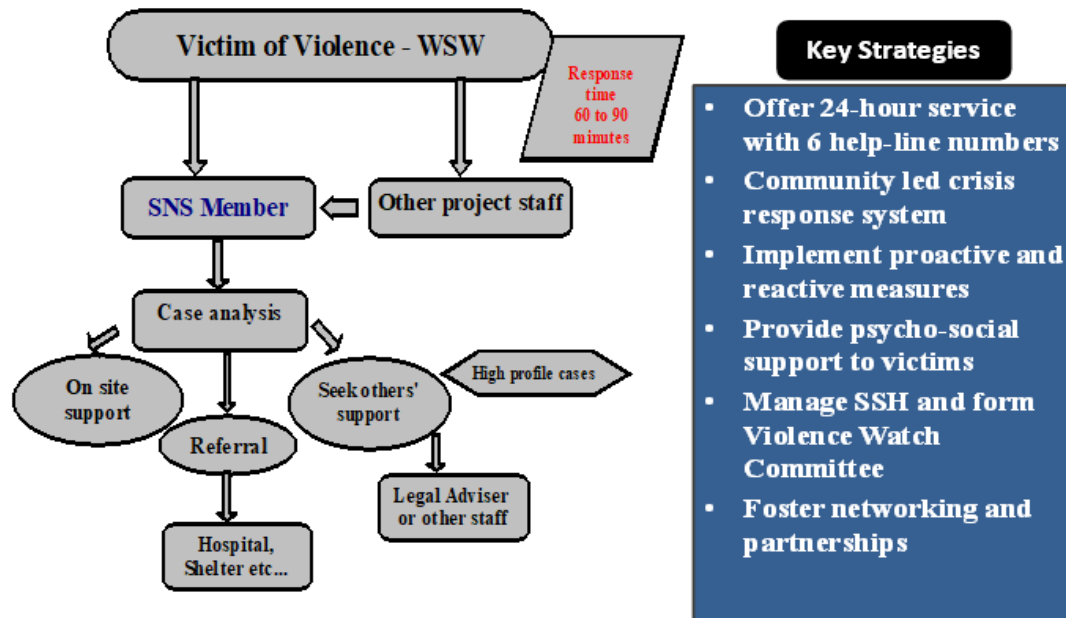
1. Top 'A' site and violence watch committee
2. Secondary stakeholders' management
3. 24/7 response team

THREE TIER STRATEGY

Tier 1 - VIOLENCE WATCH COMMITTEE

- As the name suggests, a group is formed within each Top A site to "watch" for triggers of abuse.
- **Top 'A' Site:** Sites which experience more than 3 violence cases occurring per month are designated as 'Top A' sites.
- The members of the committee comprises the peer educator, outreach worker and secondary stakeholders (such as shopkeeper, auto drivers etc.)
- The committee informs the SNS team in case of any incident that occurs in the area or any situation that could lead to abuse and harassment. The committee meets regularly to discuss the status of cases and discuss precautionary measures.
- **As of March 2023, 18 sites were identified as 'Top A' sites.**

Tier 2– 24X7 HELPLINE



- **Para Legal Volunteers:** These Volunteers are trained by the Legal Service Authority. They respond to the situation, advocate the stakeholders along with referrals and create linkages. Till now 80 PLV's have been identified.
- As the name implies, this service is available 24*7 with no holidays.
- Identified PLV's and Champions will reach the victim's spot and provide required medical and legal support within 60 minutes.

TIER 3– LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITY / LEGAL AID CELL

- It comprises Police Dept, WCD Dept, Human Rights Commission, and Women Commissioner for offering protection services. The victims can directly contact and approach them for required support.
- If required, LSA provides Lawyers free of cost to support victims for defending cases in court.
- **Awareness and Sensitization:** Women in sex work face harassment from different sections of society like auto drivers, rowdies, pimps, police, clients etc.
 - Sensitizing these groups towards WSW's and describing the obstacles faced by the community is an important aspect of managing violence and harassment.
 - Regular workshops are conducted for police personnel while clients, auto drivers are managed by outreach workers regularly.

- **Screening and Psychosocial Counseling:** WSW's are counseled through counselors at SMS centers through evaluation and needs assessment.
- **Referral to other specialized services** such as NIMHANS, Lawyers, Doctors, Police Stations are made if required after needs assessment.
 - The presence of a lawyer in the team makes the intervention a more effective and efficient response mechanism.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** This involves identifying long term development needs, generating demand, and facilitating access to government or private initiatives to address the same.
 - It includes personalized support for de-addiction, action against trafficking, enhanced control over resources through savings and credit, and creating options for alternative and diversified livelihoods.
- **Capacity Building:** This involves ensuring women have improved capacities to address issues that threaten their lives and livelihoods, strengthening group action on issues and acceptance and sustainability of the project through development of a strong collective.

During the reporting year 438 violence cases have been reported and responded by the organization, since the beginning over 8985 cases of physical, psychological, sexual, and financial cases are reported and responded.

Swathi Jyothi - Financial Inclusion

Financial compulsions often drive women into sex work. The financial quagmire worsens if women do not know how to manage money or do not have access to financial management mechanisms. Women are offered more money for sex without condoms and financial insecurity could compel them to take on such offers, thereby increasing their risk of contracting HIV. In addition, the volume of clients and the amount that women are able to charge is also dependent on financial security.

Some money issues faced by women in sex work include:

- Keeping money safe from husbands/partners or rowdies
- Inability to access mainstream financial organizations due to the lack of address or identity documents
- High interest rate for loans from non-banking financial institutions

Recognising the need for saving and credit, self-help groups were started within the Pragati project. In a matter of months, it became evident that the self-help group model was not suitable for the women in sex work in Bangalore who were largely street based.

- Swathi Jyothi Women Souharda Multipurpose Cooperative Society (Micro Finance Institute) was established in 2007 by and for the people in sex work for providing financial security in support with Swathi Mahila Sangha.
- Savings products were offered from December 2007 and credit services started in March 2008. The products offered are:
 - Saving Bank Account – Swathi Sarala
 - Recurring Deposit – Swathi RD
 - Term Group Loan – Swathi Swabhimana

Products added post 2010

- Fixed Deposit
- Goal oriented RD for Education, Gold and Marriage (Swarna, Vidya & Kalyana)
- SWF loan
- Unnati RD loan

Products added post 2022

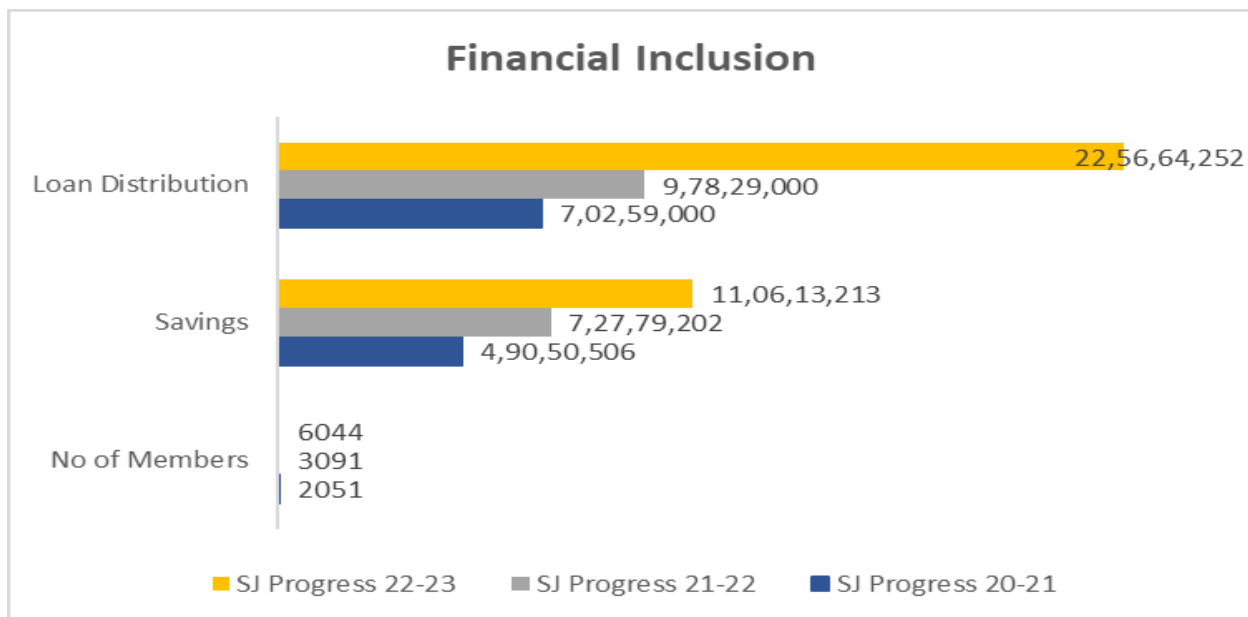
- Lease Loan
- Business Loan
- Housing (Home Loan)
- Education Loan

- **Salient features of Swathi Jyothi:**
 - Managed and owned by women in sex work; services provided with respect, dignity and trust.
 - Provides a safe and secure place for savings.
 - Provides easy and cost effective credit; no collateral for loans since guarantee is provided by common interest group (CIG)¹
 - Provide products and services based on needs of women in sex work.
- This micro finance scheme was initiated after considering the limited access to savings and credit facilities by WSW's which made them more vulnerable to exploitation and harassment and pushed them into further poverty.

¹ CIG - is an abbreviation for Common Interest group which is a three member group formed for the purpose of availing loans. Each member acts as a guarantor for the other members in the group for taking a loan. There is no other surety required to avail a loan.

- The strategies employed for approaching and motivating WSW's involve conducting site camps and financial literacy training. Camps are conducted close to their places which eases mobilization and accessibility.
- The Community is briefed about the rationale behind the schemes (Savings account, RD, FD, Loans etc) and encouraged to avail these facilities.
- The reporting year from Apr 2015 to Mar 2016 had seen progress in the savings Swathi Jyothi in all products (Savings Bank, Recurring Deposit and Fixed Deposit), achieved good progress in loan repayment of FY 2014-15 and 2015-16 loans (Group loan, Individual loan and FD Loan).

SWATHI JYOTHI CO-OPERATIVE



Swathi Jyothi is growing by leaps and bounds as the membership count keeps on progressing year after year, which is a sign of acceptance from the community. It currently has over 12,374 women as shareholders. On the financial side, it has mobilized over 110 million rupees as savings and 225 million rupees is given as credit to its members.

- 3,022 women have undergone financial literacy training during the year 2022-23..

Pragati-Empowering Lives

1.1 HIV SERVICES

- SMS is receiving a grant from NACO-KSAPS to implement the Targeted Intervention Programme in 5 zones of Bangalore Urban.
- Organization has reached nearly 15,650 women and provided information about
 1. STI and HIV
 2. Usage of Condoms in preventing STI and HIV along with distribution of free condoms.
 3. Referring and Linking PLHIV to ART clinics for Counseling, Testing and Treatment services.

Sl no	Indicators	20-21
1	No of Areas	26
2	No fo Sites	669
3	Estimation	14,067
4	Total FSW covered	15,650
4.1	Home Base	14475
4.2	Street	1138
4.3	Brothel	37
5	STI treatment	271
6	Condom distribution	5797433
7	RMC	53935
8	HIV test	28677
9	Syphilis test	28691
10	Syphilis positive	0

92.5% of the members operate from home and 7.3% from the street and remaining 0.2% are from brothels.

Over 53 thousand episodes have been treated for STI and 5.7 million condoms have been distributed for free. SMS has linkages with over 29 ICTCs and 5 ARV centers to facilitate HIV testing and ARV treatment, because of the effective utilization of ICTCs over 28 thousand HIV tests and 28 thousand syphilis tests have been done.

1.2 SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Due to persistent Stigmatization and Discrimination towards WSW's in the society it poses a challenge for them to entitle the basic rights as a citizen.
- Low level of awareness and Complicated process makes it difficult for the WSW's to access the Civic Identity cards like Voter Id, Aadhar Card, Ration Card and other social security schemes like Widow pension, Subsidy loans, Children Education Loans, Housing Loans etc.
- To facilitate social protection services Swathi Mahila Sangha in support of Swasti has established a Unified Help Desk – UHD at their 5 Drop in Centers – DIC's.
- The UHDF's understand the basic needs of WSW's by reviewing their eligibility, sensitizing them on available schemes and benefits, support them to fill the application forms, facilitating them for submission to concerned officials, departments and follow-up until they receive the service.
- 5 UHD facilitators exclusively work towards generating demand, compiling demand applications, and forming networks with concerned departments and service providers.

Sl no	Social Protection	21-22
1	Applied	3082
2	Accessed	2816

Using the above listed strategy over 3082 applications have been submitted to various Govt Dept and in which 2816 schemes have been availed.

Institutional Development Services

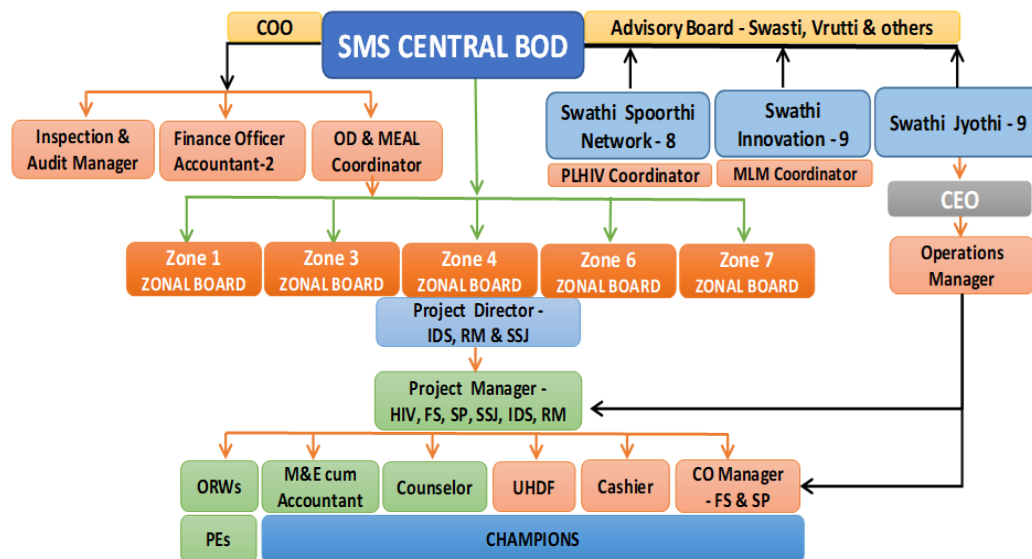
Institutional and Individual Capacities Developed:

- The Organization has over 100 governing and thematic community leaders, who are the founding members with over 18 years of experience, middle level leaders with over 11 years of experience and new or emerging leaders with limited or no experience but willing to take up the responsibility to serve to wellbeing of their own community and their own institution.
- Internal leadership development Programme helped to identify, nurture and mentor the leaders to pursue substantial roles within the organization.
- During the reporting period, over 100 members have undergone LDP training and over 829 field level champions received training.

Human Resources:

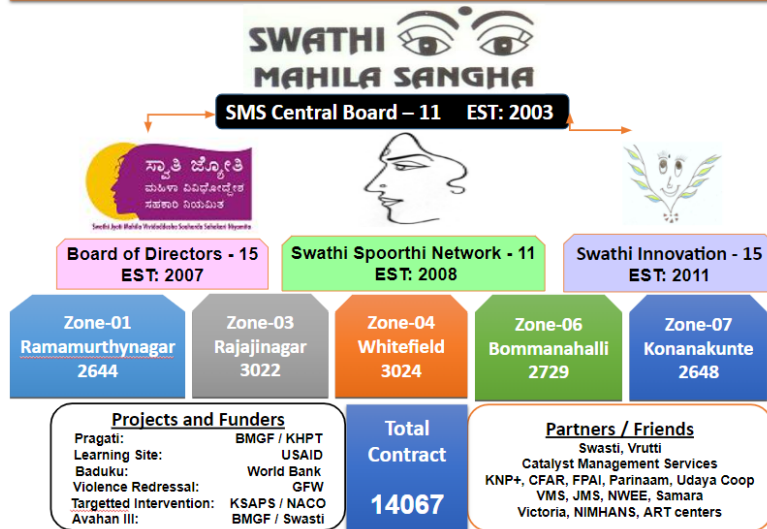
In Swathi Mahila Sangha and its allied Organization around 104 full time staff and 157 part time staff working to achieve the Organization Vision.

Staffing Structure



Governance and Accountability:

SMS Group Org Structure

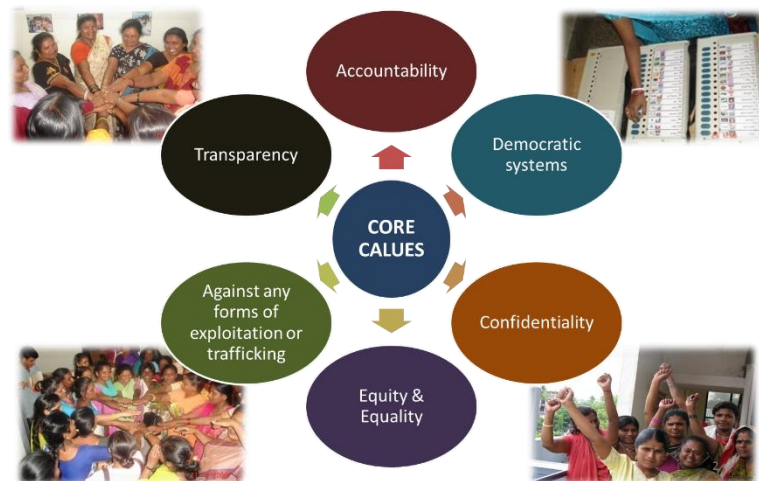


- Following diagram explains the SMS and its allied Organization structure that designs to facilitate the various needs of women in sex work and their children.
- As SMS working in metropolitan city, it has divided its area of operation into five zones to facilitate the services to every women across 400+ sex work sites.
- Swathi Mahila Sangha is working on core principles and values that are leading to community driven and sustained. SMS is working with various donors, Govt Departments, Civil Society Organization, Education Institutions, Individuals and General Public to uphold the dignity of collective of women in sex work.

Resource Mobilization:

- The projects planned are highly focused and are programmed in such a way that they closely address the specific needs of the community.
- With a surge in the number of projects, the availability of funds and approval of grants gets challenging. As the requirement of the community increases the numbers of grants are coming down.
- To address this situation the Organization has decided to mobilize resources in the form of money, materials and services locally.

Swathi Mahila Sangha - Core Values



- As part of the RM programme, the Organization has mobilized around 0.92 million through its members as membership fee and 7.0 million from local donors. The amount has been utilized to provide nutrition supplement and medical expenses of PLHIV, HR and administration expenses.

Leadership Development:

- Due to the persistent stigma towards the WSW's prevailing in the society, they are often not given the due recognition as others.
- SMS is a Community organization which basically works for the well-being of WSW. The leaders are chosen from the same community as the key population.
- In order to reach out to the beneficiaries, it requires a large number of people who can manage the organization.

Our Partners

- Swasti
- Vrutti
- Catalyst Management Services
- Arogyadeepa Swasthya Samithi
- Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
- District AIDS Prevention Control Unit
- Friends of Women's World Banking
- ART Center, ICTC Centers
- BBMP and PHC Hospitals
- Ministry of Women & Child Development
- TAARAS
- SAATHI
- Karnataka State Legal Service Authority
- St John's Medical College Hospital
- Karnataka Health Promotion Trust
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences
- Victoria Hospital
- Network for Women Equity and Equality
- C-FAR
- FPA
- Sankara Eye Hospital
- Aster
- District Legal Aid Committee
- KMP+
- Bowring Hospital
- Hindustan Computers Limited
- SATTVA
- Uninhibited Foundation
- Arghyam
- United Way
- MacArthur Foundation
- Indian Roots Foundation
- Selco Foundation

- Give India Foundation
- Janadanya

Swathi

2030

GOAL

Impact 25,000 Families (1 lakh people) with 300 Cr Turnover

- 2,500 Women Enterprises running successfully
- 500 Community Champions Engaged with SMS
- 10,000 members achieve min 1 lakh Savings each
- Community Learning Center
- Swathi Old Age Home - for Senior Sex Workers
- SJ operates from its own building
- Achieving 2 million healthy days

Swathi Mahila Future plan

SMS member of Taaras coalition, Taaras is active in 5 states and 21 regions with 1000+ active leaders. 80 COs are part of this program. Regular regional meetings are conducted to discuss issues and plan for action. It created good visibility among the stakeholders at District and State levels. Taaras has played a major role in the GFATM grant during Covid and the Supreme Court judgment on providing ration to KPs. Taaras leaders have done tremendous work during Covid to address community and CO's needs in terms of relief and recovery

FY 2023-24 With Support from Taaras - Swathi Mahila Sangha planning to implement Social Protection project for Every women in the Sex work realising all citizenship rights and living with dignity.

Other program activities (2022-23):

1. Ration kits:

Sex work in India is not legalised in India and there is a lot of taboo attached to this profession. Due to this sex workers are either not recognised by the Govt. or they could openly share about the profession. Even though Govt. agencies were distributing Ration kit materials. Often sex workers are neglected and they can't even tell friends and family why their income stopped all of a sudden. This led to starvation at home and they were in great difficulties. SMS team started mobilizing ration kits from various donors and the team prioritized street-based, single earning member families, sex workers living with HIV for

ration kit distribution and it was extended to other people also. Each ration kit had items people use on a day to day basis that could meet the needs of a sex worker for a month's time.

SMS team is ever grateful to the following donors who responded to our request and gave us the ration kits either directly or reimbursed the cost:

- DonateKart.
- Community Action Collab



2. Solar powered tailoring machine and solar power for Swati Savi Unit:

Selco India Foundation is supporting sustainable energy practices in order to have long term energy access which affects rural and urban populations' livelihood, generation capacity, education attendance, health outcomes and overall quality of life. SMS team approached SELCO India for support. They generously donated 62 units of sewing machines which can be operated through solar



3. Entrepreneurship and skill training to SMS Entrepreneurs:

Swathi Mahila Sangha and with support of Friends of Women World Bank SMS 155 exciting entrepreneurs participated in the EAP and Out of 155 members 67 members participated in the Entrepreneur Development program, they are successfully completed and uplift their skill, EDP all the members started uplifted their business activities and some of them started new business activities.

With support from FWW and Indian Roots Foundation, we started a skill training class for our members.

- Aari Work
- Beautician training
- Tailoring class



4. i4We (Invest for Wellness)programme:

It is evident from early pandemic outbreak days that COVID-19 will impact cleverly to people with high burden health conditions. Those people who have BP or Blood sugar are most at risk when compared to other people. Since the health seeking behavior is very poor among communities, majority of them do not know that they are having these high burden health conditions. Realizing the gravity of the situation, SMS organized continuous health screening camps mainly to screen and treat blood sugar, blood pressure and anemia.

SMS leveraged with Swasti NGO for the support. They trained the team on point of care screening, provided machines and supplies to do the screening and also backed the team with technical support to conduct these mega camps observing COVID appropriate behavior. Nearly 40 to 50% of the people diagnosed with high burden conditions were not aware of their health issues prior to the screening. These screening helped them in taking corrective actions including treatment, counseling and adoption of a healthy lifestyle.

More than 14,560 people screened for 3 high burden health conditions using kits worth Rs 8,73,600 with the support from Swasti and Swathi

5. Children Education:

As sexworkers find it difficult to pay the fees for their children's education, the Swati Mahila Sangh has approached a donor named Walmart. Walmart helps 35 children with Rs 13,61,115 school fee payment. Walmart has transferred the money directly to Swathi Mahila Sangha account and Swathi mahila sangha has transferred the School/College fees directly to Schools/College account

6. Swathi Mahila Sangha 20th Anniversary Program

Swathi Mahila Sangha successfully completed 2 Decades. The anniversary celebration of Swati Mahila Sangh was held at the Town Hall with all 20 years of journey partners, community leaders and community members

