

GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (GAA)

News letter-2020
(First Quarter)



EDITORIAL

As we march in to the New Year 2020, Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) – Mahita wishes everyone a prosperous and peaceful time. We are happy to share that our Youth Advocates (YAs) have taken an initiative to pen down thoughts on addressing gender stereotypes in education of children who had participated in a three day National Children Literary Festival in Hyderabad. The result is an Audio-visual that captured the essence of children across the country. Adding a feather into the cap, YAs from AP have submitted a memorandum to government officials to take action on child marriages, child trafficking and promotion of secondary education. Truly, an act that shows the grit of young minds.

Ripple effect in our work is a great achievement. Especially, in media when AP Press Academy has requested GAA-Mahita to provide 1000 media guidebooks to train more than 1000 reporters across the state. On the same lines, this year a series of meetings were held in districts of AP and TS catering to the journalists at grass roots level. Eminent journalists, senior judges, childline, government officials were part of the programs.

Preventing child marriages is just not in the hands of government or parents, it is also the marriage service providers who took oath to not support at their organisational level after attending district level mass awareness programs. In a span of three months, a good number of meetings yielded results aiming for child marriage Free states. Wishing you a happy reading!

Girls Advocacy Alliance – Mahita

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ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT TO CURB CHILD MARRIAGES IN AP



The Joint Commissioner (Estates), Endowment Department, AP Vijayawada on December 31, 2019 has directed all the executive officers in the state to erect permanent display boards in all the temples explaining the ill effects of child marriages and also cautioning about the legal consequences of performing the child marriages, duly mentioning child help line toll free number 1098 in the boards. Also, a uniform format of marriage application and marriage registration certificate was sent.

Earlier, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission, Ms Vasireddy Padma has sent a letter to the Commissioner, Department of Endowments, Vijayawada to implement the resolutions and measures to be taken forward for the prevention of child marriages with regard to State level consultation with Endowment department organized by Mahita on December 12, 2019.

Display of hoarding and bill boards in temple places, verifying documents before marriage, ensuring registration of marriages compulsory and constitution of Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) under Protection from sexual harassment at work place and models were included as line of action.

Responding to it, GandhiDevalayam in Kadapa, Ananthapuram district in Andhra Pradesh has started displaying a child marriage board.

YOUTH ADVOCATES TURN JOURNALISTS AT CHILDREN LITERARY FESTIVAL

Youth advocates of Girls Advocacy Alliance, from Mahita for a change donned the role of Journalists interviewing children and various dignitaries on their take on promoting accelerated reading in school children and addressing gender stereotypes in education as part of three day National Children Literary Festival organized by Plan India in collaboration with Capgemini.

The young journalists with the help of mobile phones and camera interviewed and video recorded bytes which were later converted into an AV displayed on the third day of event. They received certificates from the dignitaries and were appreciated by the team for their performance. Ms Amoga Laxmi S, Communication Coordinator, Mahita mentored the team during the program.

The program had kicked off with a gusto with the arrival of more than 130 children from 10 different states at Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), Kandlakoya, Medchal from January 29-31.



GAA FELICITATES AP PRESS ACADEMY CHAIRMAN

Mr Gode Prasad, AP coordinator along with A Madhav had felicitated Mr Devireddy Srinath, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Press Academy for being designated as a Cabinet rank minister on February 18, 2020.



Talking about Mahita advocacy on child marriages and trafficking in the state, Mr Devireddy said, *“We will heartily extend our collaboration for all Mahita initiatives and also stress about your thematic while training rural reporters in the state and as well create awareness among journalism students in the colleges and universities”*. He also shared that media guide book, ‘Understanding media protocols while reporting on child rights’ would be distributed to them. Secretary, Mr. Gangadhar Tilak and Private Secretary, Mr Venkataratnam of Press Academy were present during the felicitation program.

Also, in a letter noted to Mahita, the AP Press Academy has requested to send 1000 media guidebooks to train more than 1000 reporters across the state.

YOUTH ADVOCATES URGE ACTION AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGES



Youth Advocates of Girls Advocacy Alliance, Mahita NGO - Plan India, submitted a memorandum to Hon’ble Chairperson Smt. Viswasarayi Kalavathi, MLA & Chairperson of AP Legislative Committee for Women and Children and urged her to take action on the issues of child marriages, child trafficking and promote secondary education. They also requested to organize an interactive session with other legislative members in assembly for discussing the same. Responding to them, she assured to do the needful.

They also interacted and explained about GAA interventions in the state of AP. Smt Vasireddy Padma, Chairperson of SCPCR, Ms Hymavathi, chairperson of SCPCR were part of the program while Mr Ramesh Sekhar Reddy, Director, Mahita facilitated the discussions with Youth Advocates and the Hon'ble members.

WD & CW - AP SHARES CHILD MARRIAGE STATUS

The Chairperson, AP Women's Commission has directed the project directors in the state to submit information related to child marriages as per GO MS No 13 from 2015 - 2019.

In response to it, Ms VijayaKumari, Project Director, Women Development and Child Welfare Department, West Godavari shared the data about child marriages prevented and stopped.

Women Development and Child Welfare Department District wise Child Marriages Status West Godavari District									
S.No.	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
	No. of Child Marriages reported	No. of Child Marriages Stopped	No. of Child Marriages Performed	No. of Child Marriages reported	No. of Child Marriages Stopped	No. of Child Marriages Performed	No. of Child Marriages reported	No. of Child Marriages Stopped	No. of Child Marriages Performed
1	28	28	0	49	48	1	74	74	0

On the same lines, Mr J Nivas, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate, Srikakulam District instructed to all the Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) and concern District officers to constitute committees on prevention of child marriages in every village to activate the committee members by the suggestions of AP state women commission. He also shared that 517 Village Level Child Protection Committees were constituted, 06 marriages were prevented in the month of October 2019 in Srikakulam district.

CSOs SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO AP WOMEN'S COMMISSION

A two day 'State level refresher course on Institutional Policies to the CSOs', was organized in Andhra Pradesh where CSOs from Girls Advocacy Alliance have discussed and submitted

a memorandum to the State Women's Commission for the adoption of Child Protection Policies (CPP) to safeguard children in all educational, welfare and care hostels and institutions. They also stressed on the constitution of internal complaint committee (ICC), local complaint committee (LCC) under protection from sexual harassment at work place and amendment to principal act and compulsory marriage registration in tune with Karnataka amendments to PCMA 2006 for the effective law implementation. Also establishment of effective convergence mechanisms with various village level committees with newly set up village secretaries was emphasized.

On the first day, Mr Paul Rajarao, BIRDS Kurnool was the resource person on child protection policy (CPP) and Ms Ganta Hymavathi State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSPCR) chaired the session. On the second day, Prof Rajyalakshmi from Andhra University spoke about Sexual Harassment at Work Place Policies, Ms Vasireddy Padma, Chairperson, Womens Commission AP and Mr Ramesh Sekhar Reddy from Mahita were present during the program. GAA partners and their CSO groups from Krishna, Kurnool and Vizag participated.



NGOs CALLS FOR CPCs IN YADADRI

With the aim of combating violence against women and children, the Yadadri NGOs and CSOs network has submitted a request letter to Collector and District Magistrate, Ms Anitha Ramachandran, Yadadri about the formation of district level child protection committees. Along the same lines, individual petitions were submitted to ShriVenu, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Yadadri and MsKrishnaveni, District welfare Officer, Women and Children Development (WCD) on the adoption of Child Protection Policies (CPP) for the formation of Child Protection Committees

(CPCs), constitution of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and Local Complaint Committee (LCC) under prevention of sexual harassment at work place.

Mahita NGO- Plan India under the aegis of Girls Advocacy Alliance for the past three years has been doing capacity building to CSOs and NGOs network on child protection issues, Prevention of Child Marriages Act (PCMA), Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act (CRMA), Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA) and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at work place.



CSOs CALL FOR TRAINING CMPOs IN GADWAL

The CSOs network committee has submitted a memorandum regarding the implementation of GO Ms no. 13 to the District Magistrate and Collector, Ms ShrutiOhja, Jogulamba, Gadwal for training Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) on PCMA and CRMA on March 11.

Earlier in the day, a program on 'Reflection, review and way forward of CSO engagement at district level', by BIRDS NGO, Mahita – Plan India under the aegis of Girls Advocacy Alliance was organized at TNGOs Bhavan, in Jogulamba Gadwal on March 11, 2020.

Child marriages and Child trafficking issues are a big threat to JogulambaGadwal district due to its illiteracy rates, hence there is a dire need for the CSOs to collectively tackle the problem, said Ms Kusumalatha, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO).

There has to be awareness about job oriented vocational courses among unemployed youth in the district to enhance their employment opportunities, said Ms Hemalatha,





Co-ordinator, Bal Rakshak Bhavan. She has asked various religious, caste and community leaders present at the program to invest efforts in making the district a child friendly and non-violent place. She also stressed on the importance of Sarpanches and their contribution towards creating awareness about child marriages in the district. There has to be a report submitted to Mandal Education Officers (MEOs), Tehsildars, Mandal Parishath Development Officers (MPDOs) and RDOs about the school dropouts in the district, she added.

Carrying it forward, the district NGOs network has submitted a request letter to establish VCPCs in district and formation of Internal Complaint Committee (ICC). Birds District Coordinator, Mr Narsimhulu, Child Line Coordinator, Mr Chari, Rehman and several others were present during the program.



REFLECTION, REVIEW AND WAY FORWARD- HYDERABAD

A one day program on 'Reflection, review and way forward of CSO engagement at district level', by Mahita – Plan India under the aegis of Girls Advocacy Alliance was organized at Hotel Abhinand Grand, Kachiguda on March 13, 2020.

There is a need to create awareness on Prohibition of Child Marriages Act among public and build a child marriage free Telangana state said, Mr G Venkatesh, Sectetary - District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Hyderabad and City Civil Court Advocate. It is only due to lack of knowledge among people about the ill effects of child marriages, that still this practice is existing in the state, especially rural areas, he added.



The government has brought laws to prevent child marriages and stringent mechanisms to address child labour, anyone who doesn't follow will face legal consequences, he added.

The CSOs network has given a letter to the judge regarding the implementation of GO Ms no. 13 to the Judge, G Venkatesh. Mr Vijay from Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS), Ms Sunitha from Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), MsPRashanthi from Bhumika were part of the program. A total of 48 members participated.

DEMAND PROOF OF AGE FOR BRIDE AND GROOM



The marriage service providers have decided not to support child marriages in any form at their organizational level after being sensitized on the Prohibition of Child Marriages Act 2006 in a one day, 'District Level Mass Awareness Program to Marriage Actors', held at StreeSakthiBhavan, Nuzividu, Andhra Pradesh state on March 13.

Mr R S Raju, Director - Army NGO sharing incidents of child marriages in Nuzividu opined that many service providers often neglect to find out the correct age of bride and groom before the marriage. Sharing about the ways to

“One has to demand for the wedding invitation card to see the age and eligibility of the bride and groom”.

enquire about the child marriage, “One has to demand for the wedding invitation card to see the age and eligibility of the bride and groom”. Inform Child Line 1098 and save a young girl life, he added.

Mr Gode Prasad, state co-ordinator, Mahita spoke about the PCMA 2006 and various legal consequences along with a fine upto 2 lakh. He requested several marriage service providers to

be sensitive towards children issues and not business minded.

The Photographers welfare association, Function Hall Managers, Marriage Bureaus, Beauticians, Tailors, Orchestra, Cooks and Caterers, Tent house, travel agencies, Printers etc along with Anganwadi workers from ICDS participated in the program.

Mr Gunadala Subhakar, President of Photographers Welfare Association, Ms Sunitha from Sai Marriage Bureau participated in the discussions and made the event effective. 50 members

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATED

The National Girl Child Day was celebrated at Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya (KGBV) in Sadashivpetmandal, Sangareddy on January 24, 2020. The program saw a participation of ICDS Child development officer, Child Line Coordinator, ShishuGriha manager, KGBV staff and MahitaSangareddy District Coordinator, Ms VijayaRekha.

The day was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India in 2008, with the purpose to spread awareness among people about all the inequalities girls face in the Indian society. Various programs including awareness campaigns on saving girl child, child sex ratios and creating healthy and safe environments for girl children are held.

MEDIA TRAININGS FOR JOURNOS!



Revealing the identity of a rape survivor or a dead person in any instance is damaging their status in the society. There has been a furore over this issue since Nirbhaya incident in New Delhi. Still, it remains the same even when a Medico in Hyderabad city was found charred to death due to a gang rape.

With an aim to discuss with reporters on 'Media Protocols', while reporting children and women issues in media, Mahita-Plan India under the aegis of Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) has organised district level consultations in Hyderabad, Gadwal, Yadadri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Vishakapatnam of AP and TS respectively, where nearly 300 journalists from media fraternity and students from journalism backgrounds had interacted with Senior Civil Judges – DLSA, District Child Welfare Officers, District Child Protection Officer, Sakhi Counselors, Senior journalists established in the media.

We need to treat children in a good way no matter what kind of crime / wrong doing they did, only then they grow up as responsible citizens and not anti-social elements.



"Child is a national asset, the way we treat children in the present situation, they treat us the same in future" -Hon'ble Senior Judge

G Venu, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bhongir

Disclosing details including identity, parents, schooling, neighbourhood, locality, achievements and other information of survivors of sexual abuse, children or women issues is an offence under 225 Section A (TPC) and can lead to 2 years punishment and fine. Despite, this if reporters continue to do it, they along with the editor of the organisation won't be able to escape from the law.



"As responsible journalists, it is important to reflect and report from child or survivors point of view and give them the legal, moral support. At any cost, disclosing address, parents name, schooling such personal details should be avoided.

In the recent Disha rape incident, divulging all the personal details led to irreversible damage". - Hon'ble Senior Judge

Smt Ashalatha , DLSA , Sangareddy

There is a constant pressure from our superior to give news and reporters give away whatever available information without proper verification. If such trainings are organised at our Head offices, then it will be very useful to all.



Mr Avadhani Remilla, Senior Correspondent - The Hindu

DIFFICULT DIALOGUES 2020 TO FOCUS ON 'STATE OF LAW' IN INDIA



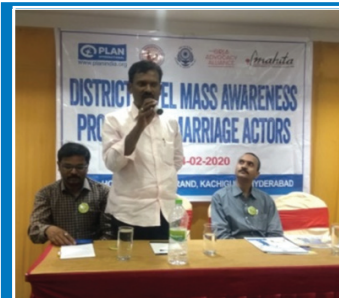
A three day conference, 'Difficult Dialogue 2020 to focus on State of Law in India', was organized at the International Centre, Goa, Dona Paula from 14th February 2020.

The discussions were held on the ongoing countrywide debate on Citizenship Amendment Act that reflected on legality and constitutional validity of the measures, which has been challenged in the Supreme Court. The Objective was to bridge the gap between policy formulation and on-ground implementation. At the end of the summit strategic recommendations would be tabled so that actionable white papers can be created for the benefit of all.

Youth Advocates from GAA- Mahita along with MrVikas, Manager – Education were part of the event.

Dr. Pinky Anand Senior Advocate, Prof. Sri Rajkumar, Vice-Chancellor, Jindal University, Prof. Menon, Vice-Chancellor, Goa University, Mr. Yatin, Principal, Goa University, Dr. Paul Flaunder, Fellow, Oxford University, Dr. Trivedi, and Mr. Ben Tucker, Retd. Judge were guests to the event along with leading academics, legal experts, policy makers, politicians, eminent lawyers and members of the judiciary.

The discussion became all the more relevant since framing of law and time-bound dispensation of justice are crucial for a diverse and developing country like India where more than a billion-strong population is widely distributed in terms of geography, economic classes, religion, education, gender, cultural and social backgrounds., etc.



MASS AWARENESS PROGRAM HELD IN TS

District level mass awareness programs were organised in Hyderabad, Yadadri, Sangareddy and Gadwal. Several actors including Video graphers, Band associations, DCPOs, Sakhi admins were part of the program.



బాల్య వివాహాలతో అనర్థాలు

కొన్ని వర్షాల నిర్లక్ష్యం వల్లనే అనర్థం అయింది
కొన్ని వర్షాల నిర్లక్ష్యం వల్లనే అనర్థం అయింది
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కొన్ని వర్షాల నిర్లక్ష్యం వల్లనే అనర్థం అయింది. కొన్ని వర్షాల నిర్లక్ష్యం వల్లనే అనర్థం అయింది. కొన్ని వర్షాల నిర్లక్ష్యం వల్లనే అనర్థం అయింది.

బాల్య వివాహాల నిషేధ చట్టాలపై అవగాహన కల్పించాలి

మాట్లాడుతున్న నీటి సినిటర్ కోర్టు న్యాయమూర్తి వెంకటేశ్

కాచిగూడ, మార్చి 18: బాల్య వివాహాల నిషేధ చట్టాలపై ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించాలని నీటి సినిటర్ కోర్టు న్యాయమూర్తి జి. వెంకటేశ్ ఆహ్వానించారు. శుభ్రవారం కాచిగూడలో ఒక హాటల్లో మహిళా, శిశు సంక్షేమ శాఖ, జిల్లా న్యాయ సహాయకులు, మహిళా సంస్థల సభ్యులు, బాలల విద్య ప్రాధాన్యతపై ఎన్టీసీ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులకు అవగాహన కార్యక్రమంలో ఆయన మాట్లాడారు. బాలలకు సంరక్షణ చట్టాన్ని తేవాలని కోరుతూ ఎన్టీసీ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు న్యాయమూర్తికి వినవేతిస్తూ, అందజేశారు. సునీత, గౌతం, ప్రశాంతి తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

బాలల రక్షణ కమిటీల ఏర్పాటుకు వినతి



అదనపు పాలనాధికారి మోతీలారకు వినతిపత్రం అందజేస్తున్న స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు

విశాఖలో కలికరేటి, నూనెటూడే: బాలల రక్షణ, బాల్య వివాహాల నిరోధానికి గ్రామ స్థాయిలో బాలల రక్షణ కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలని వివిధ స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు మంగళవారం జిల్లా అదనపు పాలనాధికారి మోతీలారకు వినతిపత్రం అందజేశారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా వారు మాట్లాడుతూ... బాలలపై హింస, బాలలకు ఆక్రమ రహదారి, బాల్య వివాహాలను పూర్తిగా ఆపేందుకు ప్రతి గ్రామంలో పర్యవేక్షణ ఉండాలన్నారు. అలాగే జిల్లా స్థాయిలో ఏర్పాటు కమిటీలను ఏర్పాటు చేయాలన్నారు. ఇలాంటి ఏర్పాట్లతో పని ప్రాంతంలో మహిళలపై హింస, దాడులు అరికట్టవచ్చని పేర్కొన్నారు. ప్రభుత్వపరంగానే ఈ కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలని, ఇందుకు స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థలు తగిన సహాయం అందిస్తాయని చెప్పారు. డిప్యూటీ, అమర్ తేజ్వర్, రామయ్య, కారయ్య, బి.కె.రాజ్, రంగారెడ్డి, నాగేశ్, అనంతయ్య పాల్గొన్నారు.

ఆడపాదే పరుసు... ఆవిడ రాసీరుకు



వివిధ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు
వివిధ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు
వివిధ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు

వివిధ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు. వివిధ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు. వివిధ సంస్థల ప్రతినిధులు.

గ్రామస్థాయిలో కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలని విజ్ఞాపన

విజ్ఞాపన: గ్రామ స్థాయిలో కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలని విజ్ఞాపన. విజ్ఞాపన: గ్రామ స్థాయిలో కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలని విజ్ఞాపన.

ప్రజాస్థాయిలో కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలి

ప్రజాస్థాయిలో కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలి. ప్రజాస్థాయిలో కమిటీలు ఏర్పాటు చేయాలి.

MEDIA COVERAGE

బాలల లక్షమ రవాణాను అడ్డుకుందాం

నమాచేతంలో మాట్లాడుతున్న డి.సి.సి. కమిటీలకు

నమాచేతంలో మాట్లాడుతున్న డి.సి.సి. కమిటీలకు. నమాచేతంలో మాట్లాడుతున్న డి.సి.సి. కమిటీలకు.

దోహదపడిన ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ శిక్షార్హులే

దోహదపడిన ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ శిక్షార్హులే. దోహదపడిన ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ శిక్షార్హులే.

'బాల్య వివాహాలను ప్రోత్సహిస్తున్న శిక్షార్హులు'

వివాహాలను ప్రోత్సహిస్తున్న శిక్షార్హులు

వివాహాలను ప్రోత్సహిస్తున్న శిక్షార్హులు. వివాహాలను ప్రోత్సహిస్తున్న శిక్షార్హులు.

అధికారుల సహకారం తీసుకోవాలి

అధికారుల సహకారం తీసుకోవాలి

అధికారుల సహకారం తీసుకోవాలి. అధికారుల సహకారం తీసుకోవాలి.

బాల్య వివాహాల నిరోధ చట్టాలపై అవగాహన అవసరం

బాల్య వివాహాల నిరోధ చట్టాలపై అవగాహన అవసరం

బాల్య వివాహాల నిరోధ చట్టాలపై అవగాహన అవసరం. బాల్య వివాహాల నిరోధ చట్టాలపై అవగాహన అవసరం.

పిల్లలు మన జాతీయ సంపద

పిల్లలు మన జాతీయ సంపద

పిల్లలు మన జాతీయ సంపద. పిల్లలు మన జాతీయ సంపద.

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