



Annual Report 2019-2020

DEEDS incorporated in the year 1982 by Noted Development Activist Late Dr Desmond D'Abreo has completed 38 years of its successful work as an NGO, It strives to work with the marginalised community especially women and children, with various strategies empowering them through legal education and helping them enforce their rights and making the law work for them.

DEEDS has completed its 3 year Project of "Creating a Paralegal Force to address the Gender Based Discrimination and violence against women in the community through a vibrant resource centre in the state of Karnataka 2016-2019" and has stepped into the next phase of networking with various groups at the district and State level to make women have a larger access to Law and their rights therein.

During the year, DEEDS has promoted a collective of PLF's (Paralegal Facilitators) in the districts of Gadag, Koppal, Chitradurga, Mandya and Dakshina Kannada and worked towards networking at the State level. Thus creating a platform for the women to have a larger access to legal knowledge and empowering them to enforce their rights.

DEEDS has capacitated itself during the year and reframed its own vision, missions and strategies to suit the changing times, to make themselves effective, transparent and thereby increase its accountability to its stakeholders.

Highlights of the year 2019-2020

Activity 1. Legal Awareness Programs at Grassroots Level

In this period, the last phase of grassroots programmes was organized by the capacitated

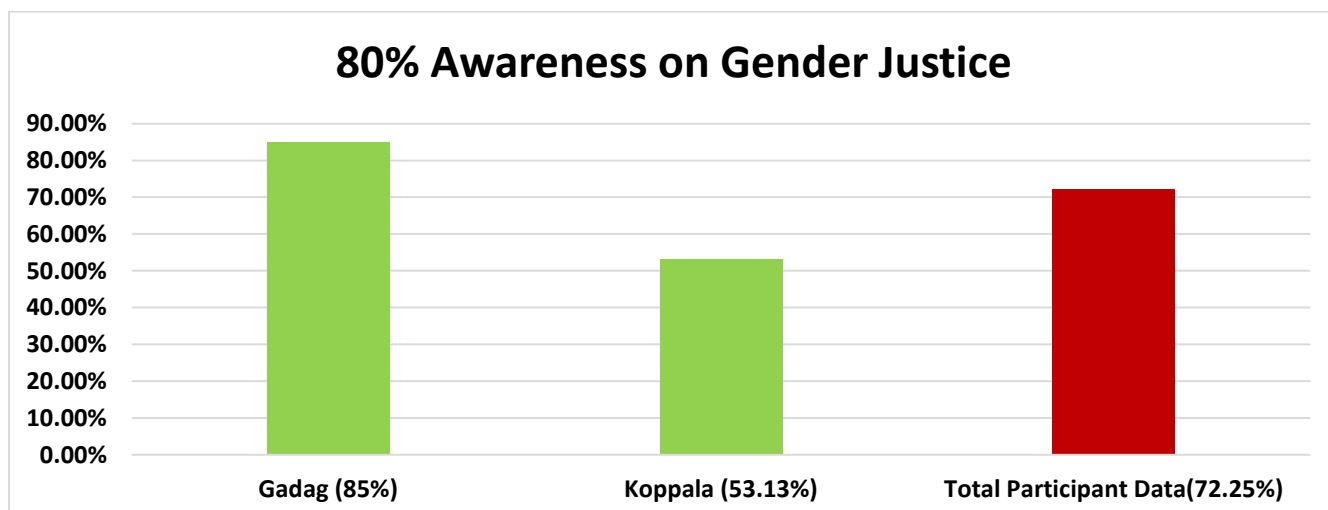


Paralegal Facilitator's of Gadag and Koppala Districts. Legal awareness programs were conducted to deepen the knowledge on law and Gender.

Among the major issues dealt with were various strategies to handle violence and Gender issues. About 1716 people were reached by organising 82 Programs by the PLF's in the 2 districts.

The DEEDS team along with PLFs monitored the efforts put in by PLF's over the 3 year period and measured the effective outcome of this strategy.

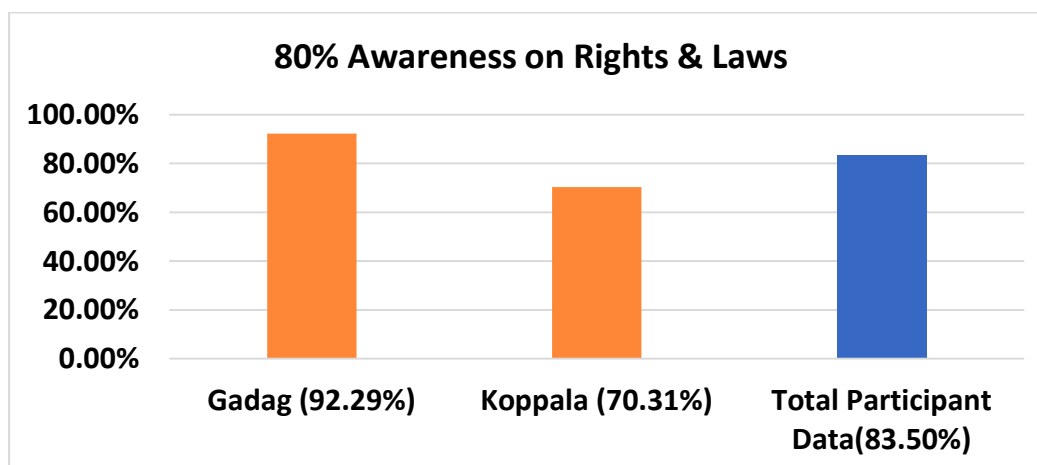
1. Awareness on Gender



The graph above depicts the final assessment done; taking the 20% sample, 72.25% of women participants of grassroots program (85% in Gadag and 53.13% in Koppala) had reached 80% levels in awareness on Gender Justice

2. Awareness on Women's rights and Law

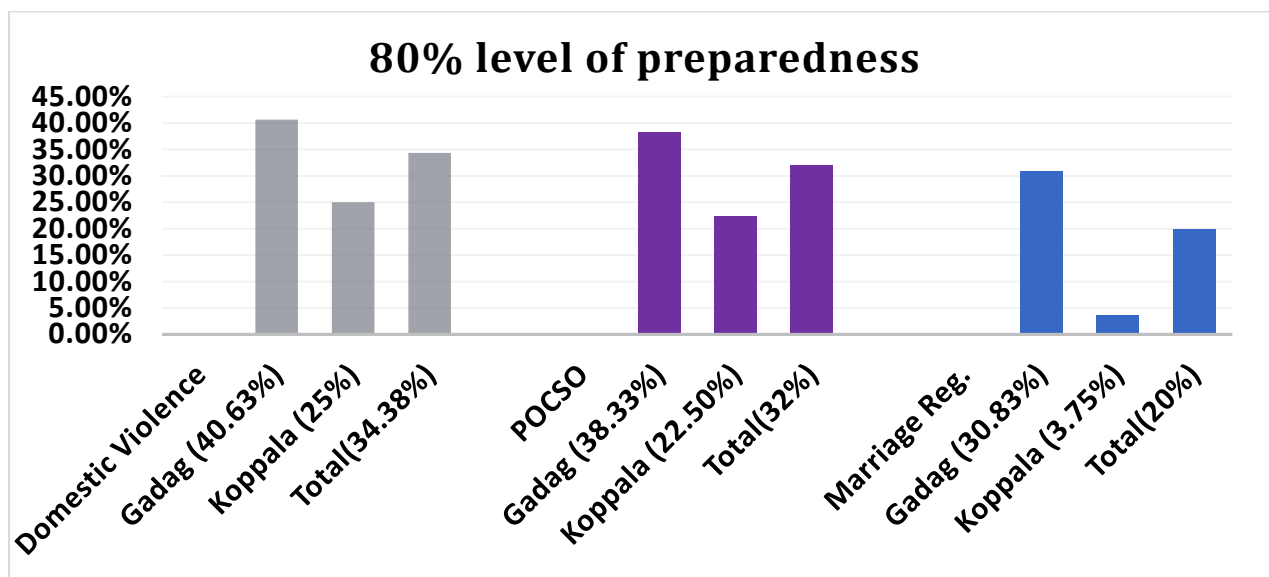
As shown in the figure below, 83.50% of the participant women (92.29% in Gadag and 70.31% in Koppal) have achieved 80% levels of awareness on rights and relevant laws



The women grassroots participants demonstrated a keen interest in knowing the law and had taken the legal knowledge to their homes and their husbands that wife beating is a punishable offence. They have taught their children about a 'Good Touch' and 'Bad Touch' and shown an interest in children's safety. These examples indicate that women have taken a keen interest in learning the laws that affect their life. Knowing the law has empowered them. This is an encouragement to us to take legal awareness to the grassroots women. Use of Case studies from their lives, visuals, pamphlets and repetition of grassroots programs to the same target groups has helped the participants internalise the key aspects.

3. Preparedness to act on laws.

The grassroots women have clearly demonstrated a preparedness to act on issues affecting their life. The preparedness is about 34.38% in domestic violence for both the districts, the district wise data is given in the figure below (40.63% in Gadag and 25% in Koppala), 32% in Protection Of Children from Sexual Harassment(38.33% in Gadag and 22.5 in Koppala) and 20% in marriage registration (30.83% in Gadag and 3.75% in Koppala).



We have attached about 40 case studies of preparedness and action by many women and groups from the target area. The details of these case studies are – Three cases of women demanding property have gone to court. About 19 cases of Domestic Violence are settled with the help of the District legal service authority, Santvana (Women’s help line) and Police. Five cases of child marriage are prevented with the support of Child line and group action. Five cases of child sexual offenses were handled at child helpline and police action. One case of gender discrimination, one case of acquiring documents were handled by the women with the help of PLFs. **(A Separate compilation of success stories done)**

Activity 2. Convention of Paralegal Facilitators and Leaders of Grassroots Programs

In Gadag and Koppala paralegal facilitators along with five leaders from each group of grassroots Participants met at a convention separately on 16-9-2019 and 18-9-2019 respectively.



In Gadag nearly 21 paralegal facilitators and 149 grassroots women took part in the convention and in Koppala 18 paralegal facilitators and 154 women leaders participated.

The Grassroots participants & paralegal facilitators shared the impact of paralegal training in their lives. The Consortium members consisting of about 15 NGO representatives put in their effort in organizing the program and assured future support.



Grassroots participant speaking at Gadag convention



The duty bearers consisting of District Judge, Secretary- District Legal Service Authority, Superintendent of Police, Deputy Director of Department of Women and Child Development participated in the programs; they appreciated DEEDS paralegal project and people’s active participation and assured their co-operation. They have assured to support women who approach them for legal aid. DLSA member secretary assured a place to conduct PLFs meetings at their office.

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Activity 3. Formation of Paralegal’s (PLFs) Collective at Gadag and Koppala

In order to sustain the positive effects of the project, several activities were organised to mobilise the trained PLFs into a district level collective. Monthly meetings are held to share their experiences, plan for grassroots program and to organise trainings for New PLFs. The PLFs of Gadag independently organised taluk level programs to promote new PLFs and also spread the reach to the Taluk which were not covered under the project. About 36 new PLFs were trained during the course of this program.



The PLFs of Gadag organised a 2 day paralegal Training of Trainers (TOT) program from the 27th to 28th of July in 2019 in Rona Taluk of Gadag district, 24 new PLFs participated in it. In Koppala PLFs organised a 2 day paralegal TOT on 27 to 28/7/2019 for Kushtagi Taluk in which 29 new PLFs participated.

With all the above effort, in both the project Districts the paralegal facilitators have formed a district level collective and 33 among them are selected as Volunteers by their respective District Legal Service Authorities.

ParaLegal Facilitators Exposure



Exposure program of Gadag PLF's

Both paralegal facilitators collectives from Gadag and Koppal went for an exposure program to the Rock garden situated in Gotagodi on 12-5-2019 and on 19-5-2019 respectively. The exposure program gave them an opportunity to learn different art forms and strengthened the team and increased team spirit.

Prolongation Project Activities from Nov 2019 to Feb 2020

After the ending of the three year project, the activities were continued for further four months to complete the tasks started in the earlier project with a focus to meet the objectives of the parent project. Under the Prolongation project grassroots level Conventions, programs to update PLFs, programs to sensitise, duty bearers and activities to build network were organised.

A. Grassroots conventions of key stake holders

In order to gather the grassroots participants in one forum and give them a space for sharing the changes and preparedness actions and motivate them for future preparedness on gender, domestic violence, POSCO, Marriage Registration, conventions were organised at the village level. Gadag and Koppala 22 PLFs conducted 22 village level conventions of grassroots programmes for a total of 1892 members participated.

Local duty bearers like Village accountant, Panchayath Development Officer, Panchayath Secretary, Panchayath members, Anganwady-Asha workers, school teachers and local community based organisations attended and listened to women's experience with law.

District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary was invited to grassroots level convention. The



Duty bearers informed the participants to be gender sensitive, stop child marriage and complain in case of any rights violation. Making use of this opportunity the people appealed to the officers of both the districts to register their marriages locally. In Gadag and

Koppal total 22 written appeals signed by 1759 participants were submitted. It was planned to put forward the appeals to higher officers too.

Mrs. Kallamma shared her preparedness and success. She was rejected by her husband some years ago. She is now 50 years of age. After knowing legal information she got her share of property from husband's property. Mrs Savanthamma has expressed that after the training she was able to stop 4 child marriages and solved 5 domestic violence issues.

B. Orientation to the Govt. officials/duty bearers on Marriage Registration

After continuous follow up orientation workshops were organized to the village accountants in Koppala (on 5-11-2019) and Gadag (30-1-2020) districts to educate them on legal procedures to register the marriages. This was done in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Revenue Department and District Bar Association at Koppala. Member Secretary-DLSA, Tahshildar, and Sub-Registrar attended the workshop attended as resource team. Nearly 31 Village Accountants and Revenue Inspectors participated in Koppala. In Gadag workshop was organized in collaboration with District Administration, Zilla Panchayath, DLSA, Revenue Department, and District bar association. District Commissioner, Member Secretary-DLSA, Tahshildar attended the workshop. Nearly 60 Revenue Inspectors participated in the workshop.



Problems of Non registration of marriage and benefits of marriage registration, related act and procedures, Supreme Court guidelines, and order of Karnataka Government with regard to the appointment of Village Accountants as Marriage Registrars were discussed at the workshop. Member Secretary-DLSA Koppal and Gadag informed that they came to know the circular regard Village Accountants (VA) as registrar of Marriages from DEEDS and the related law of 1976 through DEEDS. He informed to VA to help people and not to harass them. Marriage Registration is a valid document and can help woman and her children get her husband's entitlements. There was positive response from the duty bearers; senior deputy registrar also informed that he didn't know about this act the powers of Village Accountants as registrars. "Now we know it is an act and legally binding us, we will register the marriages in villages" said most participants.

C. Para Legal Facilitators updates on recent amendments to women's laws

Amendments to laws are a continuous process and it is very important to update them. POSH, POCSO, Dowry act have undergone changes. Programs were organised by PLFs in Bellary, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, Gadag, Koppala and Mandya separately updating the members especially on laws like POCSO and POSH. Materials on these amendments were given to each of these participants. Nearly 89 PLFs participated. PLFs expressed that the information provided refreshed and updated them.

D. New Para Legal Facilitator's Training of Trainers

It was planned to extend paralegal programme to other taluks of Gadag and Koppala districts and develop new facilitators at old districts. 4 days PLF Course on Gender and Women Laws was organised in 6 districts.



In first phase TOT on Gender, 105 and second phase on Women Laws, 85 PLF were participated. Nearly 10 New PLFs organised grassroots programs in their surroundings and which reached to 378 women. Nearly 60% of new PLFs joined to district PLF collectives in their respective districts. PLFs expressed that the information on laws helped them to handle local women's issues.

E. State PLF Network Formation and Seminar

During this year State level PLF network is formed of representatives from six districts , namely Dahshina Kannada, Chitradurga, Gadag, Koppala, Bellary and Mandya



- First State PLFs Network Meet was organized at Mangalore on 30-11-2019, representatives from 5 districts participated. Need and importance of district and state PLF Network, Membership criteria for PLFs, role and responsibilities of district and state networks were discussed. PLFs found the importance of PLF Network; they planned to strengthen their network at district.
- Second State PLFs Network Meet was organized at Bangalore on 22 to 23 December 2019. 10 PLFs representatives from 5 districts participated. Uma Shanker from Azim Premji Foundation gave a talk on how to strengthen the network effectively and importance of legal awareness. Jinna Shekh from Azim Premji Foundation shared his experience on Dos and Donts of advocacy. PLFs visited Karnataka State Legal Services Authority for an introductory visit. Officer assured to support the work and collaboration for future programs.



- Third PLFs Network Meet was organized at Hubli on 24/1/2020. A seminar was organized in collaboration with Karnataka State Law University on the subject Women and Law. Vice Chancellor (VC), Registrar of the University, Member Secretary of the local District Legal Services Authority, Dharwad participated. VC and Member Secretary appreciated the focused paralegal course and its impacts and ensured support. VC announced to start Paralegal Certificate Course in the coming academic year at the undergraduate level and give certificates to the

PLFs promoted by DEEDS. Nearly 64 members participated in which 33 PLFs and 31 local NGO representatives participated. PLF Network representatives recapped the planned and implemented activities. They decided to prepare the draft byelaw for network. Individual district PLFs Network formed an adhoc committee to run the collective.

Resource Centre Activities



Publication of Newsletter Samvada and IEC Materials

Deeds newsletter Samvada issue number 4, 5 and 6 were brought out, Issue No. 4 covered land mark judgments relating to women's rights and grassroots programs. Samvada 5 highlighted women's political participation and success stories of the grassroots participants. The 6th issue was a special issue on convention events.

DEEDS resource centre prepared a handbill to create awareness on alcoholism after consulting two de-addiction centres and 5,000 copies are printed and distributed in the field area. 1000 copies of the handbills on importance of documents and helpline numbers for women in crisis were reprinted and distributed. Case Studies of Paralegal Program was

documented and was published in a booklet.

Governance

A. Leadership and Management Workshops for Staff and Board members

A series of Leadership and Management Workshops were organized by MISEREOR to its partner NGOs, the last one was organized on 29th July to 1st August 2019 for board members. Executive Director and two board members attended the workshops. All programs were of high quality aimed at capacity building of the participants.



Leadership and Management workshop at Delhi

B. Enrolment for FMSF workshop on Management

DEEDS accepted an offer from FMSF (Financial Management Service Foundation), Noida to undergo a series of trainings on Governance and Financial Management. This consists of a series of workshops, followed by visits to the organization and handholding support to improve the governance. The whole programme was spread over 6-8 months with two (assessment) visits to the organization by the experts. The whole program is sponsored by Oracle under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). From DEEDS, two team members attended the first workshop on Governance at Bangalore on 12-13/9/2019 and back home conducted several activities for team and Board members. On June 30th 2020 FMSF and CPA Services informed that DEEDS has been Accredited under Platinum Category for a period of one year from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021.

C. Executive Board meetings & Training:

The Annual General Body meeting (AGM) was conducted as per the statute in the month of September. At the AGM all compliances were verified like statutory audit, Income tax, foreign contribution, and Professional Tax and Society renewal. The Board has decided to increase the membership and diversify the membership. New membership is being done.

As a follow up of Financial Management Service Foundation training, an orientation was conducted to all members of the General Body clarifying the role and responsibilities of each executive member of the Board. A manual was given to the members on various governance issues as background materials. During the last one year four executive committee meetings have taken place, the board has approved the Finance manual, Human resource policy, Prevention of sexual harassment policy (POSH). A POSH committee, Purchase committee is also functioning in the organisation and helping in taking the right decisions.

D. Resource Mobilisation Workshop

DEEDS in collaboration with PADI organised 3 days workshop on resource mobilisation to its staffs on 24-26/9/2019. Mr. Ankush from Delhi facilitated the workshop, Concepts, case studies, strategies for resource mobilisation was shared. Communication materials for fund raising were prepared at the workshop.

E. Information on Income Tax and FCRA Amendments

DEEDS has organized one day workshop for local NGOs on amendments to Income Tax Act and FCRA. Nearly 30 NGO representatives attended the workshop. Martin Pinto, Chartered Accountant from Delhi facilitated the workshop.

Legal Aid and Support

DEEDS have been regularly carrying out legal advice, mentoring, counseling and other activities to support women in Violence. During this period 23 women approached DEEDS seeking Legal assistance. Legal counseling, support to approach the police, help lines, medical treatment and even filing cases in the court with the help of panel of lawyers was provided. As of now two cases are pending before the court.

Women Study Meet

Women study meetings have been conducted since last twenty years to provide a platform for ordinary women of all social classes to engage in an open, frank dialogue which results in generating knowledge and insights. About 20 women present in these meetings and share their

views regularly. Most members of Dakshina Kannada women trainers group and the Paralegals attend the study meet and update themselves.

Right to Information Clinic

DEEDS have provided information through RTI Clinic. RTI activists, people with issues, department officials, NGOs and CBOs contacted us for information and guidance.

Website and Social media

DEEDS Face book and Instagram are being updated with activities of our organization and news related to women.

Internship

During this year students from St. Josephs Law College, Ramaiah College of law- Bangalore, SDM College Mangalore, NMIM College Mumbai spent a month each interning with DEEDS. They were offered exposure to DEEDS activities and they intern contributed in maintaining documentation, translation of material and preparing materials for social media and training. Apart from the above 14 students from Yenepoya College of Social work, 19 students from Karnataka Theological College (KTC) and 4 students from St. Aloysius B Ed. College visited DEEDS to learn from its activities.



Conclusion

We are happy to state that DEEDS has completed all major activities as planned. This year was full of meaningful activities. We believe that DEEDS has made a difference to the life of many, yet there is lot more to achieve and preparing itself to extend its service to many more in the next year.
