

Association for Development

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Executive Summary

Association for Development has been working on the women and children issues for more than 2 decades. We mainly emphasis on extending the bundle of services to the survivors of crime especially sexual assault (adult and children) and the children in need of care and protection. We continuously endeavor to improve the system and make it favorable for the women and children. For this purpose, we continuously engage with the government through consultations, workshops, capacity building programmes, etc. Our programmes are designed to provide tailor made services to women and children so that their needs are addressed in a most efficient manner. During this year we executed the following programmes:

Victim Assistance Programme (VAP) has two components under it viz. Rape Crisis Cell (RCC) and Crisis Intervention Center (CIC). VAP is the nomenclature used by AFD to denote the direct services programmes run by us for the females requiring support and protection. Rape Crisis Cell (RCC) was constituted with the team of 22 Lawyers to provide many of the legal assistance to the survivors of sexual assault across Delhi. CIC has a team of 3 Counselors, who provide assistance to survivors at the level of Police Stations, Hospitals, Courts and CWCs in East District, Delhi. CIC is 24 Hours helpline service, where any police station of East Delhi receives any information about the case of sexual assault; refer the matter to CIC immediately.

Community Outreach Programme (COP) is designed to make intervention at the community level. The community intervention is planned to work on community issues in general and women and children issues in particular. Under this programme, a group of teen volunteers is trained to intervention and take up community issues. In many cases, the group successfully resolved the community issues. We have a dedicated center, for this purpose, at Trilokpuri Community, where these volunteers do brainstorming and get guidance from the AFD staff.

Advocacy is an integral part of the AFD strategy to ensure that favorable atmosphere is created for women and children. Through our advocacy efforts, we try to influence the system in favour of women and children. Our efforts also focused at creating a network of individuals, NGOs and Government agencies so that the provisions of immediate help should be ensured. Our efforts have helped in creating transparency in the system and fixing accountability on the erring officials. It has also helped in smoothing the procedures at various levels.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CIC	Crisis Intervention Centre
COP	Community Outreach Programme
CrPC	The Code of Criminal Procedure
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
CAW	Crime Against Women
DCPCR	Delhi Commissions for Protection of Child Rights
DWCD	Department of Women & Child Development
DC	Divisional Commissioner
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection scheme
JJC	Juvenile Justice Committee
JJA	Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Co-operation & Child Development
PDS	Public Distribution System
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
RTI	Right to Information
VAP	Victim Assistance Programme
J. J. Act	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

Victim Assistance Programme (VAP)

AFD is running the Victim Assistance Programme (VAP) with the objective to provide holistic support services to survivors of crime especially survivors of sexual assault. The VAP nomenclature is given by AFD that has two components in it viz. Rape Crisis Cell (RCC) and Crisis Intervention Center (CIC). The Rape Crisis Cell was concluded by AFD in August, 2017. The programme is supported by Delhi Commission for Women, Government of NCT of Delhi.

I. Rape Crisis Cell (RCC)

Under the RCC programme, free legal services were provided exclusively to survivors of sexual assault and a team of experienced lawyers were engaged for this task. The primary objective of the RCC programme was to provide legal support/ assistance to the survivors of sexual assault throughout the judicial process. We guided the survivors and their family members, alienates their fear, which they might confront while undergoing the judicial process, assess each case and provided required legal guidance and support to the survivors. Mainly the following support services were provided to survivors under this programme:

- a) **Prepared the victim for deposing the statement and cross examination before the court-** The survivors of sexual assault (minor and minor both) are not only unfamiliar but are also scared of the judicial process. Moreover, if the case appears in the Court after long time, it can affect the case adversely and could create more chances of the acquittal. Therefore, we tried to bring the case in the notice of Court at the earliest. Apart from this, the RCC Legal Counselors made the survivor understand the legal process and helped them to prepare for deposing the statement and cross-examination before the court. It helped to make the survivors understand and became comfortable with the legal procedures.
- b) **Bail Matter-** Bail is another important legal aspect, which requires attention, as the survivors are usually scared of the accused. The survivors may get threats and face pressure to withdraw the case, if bail is granted to the accused. Therefore, the RCC Legal Counselors itself, and assisted the public prosecutors to, oppose the bail application filed by the accused.
- c) **Victim Compensation-** It has been observed that the economic hardships of the survivors and their families can impact adversely their capacity to continue their battle for justice. Also, if the survivors have suffered fatal injuries, they require immediate financial assistance to meet the medical expenses. Therefore, the RCC Legal Counselors filed applications for interim compensation on behalf of the survivors before the court, so that financial assistance can immediately be extended to the survivors.

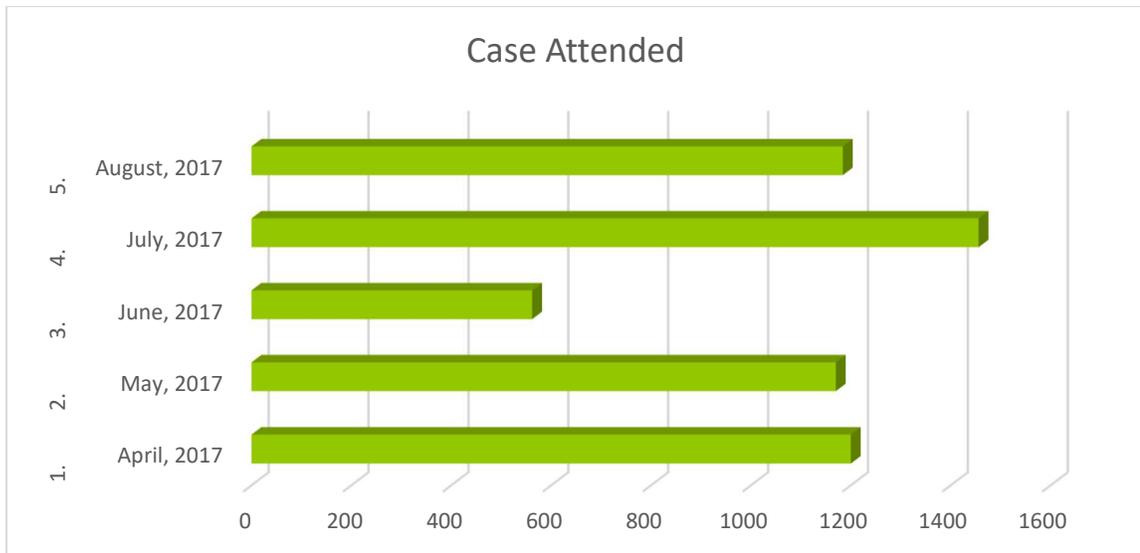
- d) Trial-** During the course of the trial, the court examines the facts of the case to reach a decision. The court listens to the statements of the witnesses and cross-examines them. The entire process is very crucial and deciding factor for the case. Therefore, the RCC Legal Counselors assisted the public prosecutor in preparing arguments and facilitated the process for the survivors.
- e) Filing application for protection-**In certain gruesome cases the survivors and their family members receive threats from the accused or his relatives or friends. In such cases, there is a need of protection of the survivors. Therefore, the RCC Legal Counselors moved application before the court in this regards on behalf of the survivors.
- f) Coordination with different stakeholders-** The work of the Legal Counselors required them to get engaged with different agencies, which are the part of the system dealing with the case of sexual assault. This system includes different stakeholders viz. police, the family of the victim, CIC counselors, court and its staff, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) and the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW). Thus, the RCC Legal Counselors, as part of their duties, coordinated with these different stakeholders to create a congenial environment for the survivors.

AFD intervened in the cases of 11 POCSO/ Special Courts, 9 Fast Track Courts and 3 Juvenile Justice Boards in Delhi to help the survivors of sexual assault in getting justice. During the project year, we intervened and done following work including above mentioned:

- i) Case intervention:** AFD worked in close coordination with the Pubic Prosecutors of the all Courts/ Juvenile Justice Boards in Delhi, dealt the cases of sexual assault of women and children both. AFD provided their services to, survivors in preparing them to face the court proceedings confidently and, Public Prosecutors to prepare the case so that each and every fact could come in the notice of the court with the objective to get justice to survivors.

Number of Case Attended

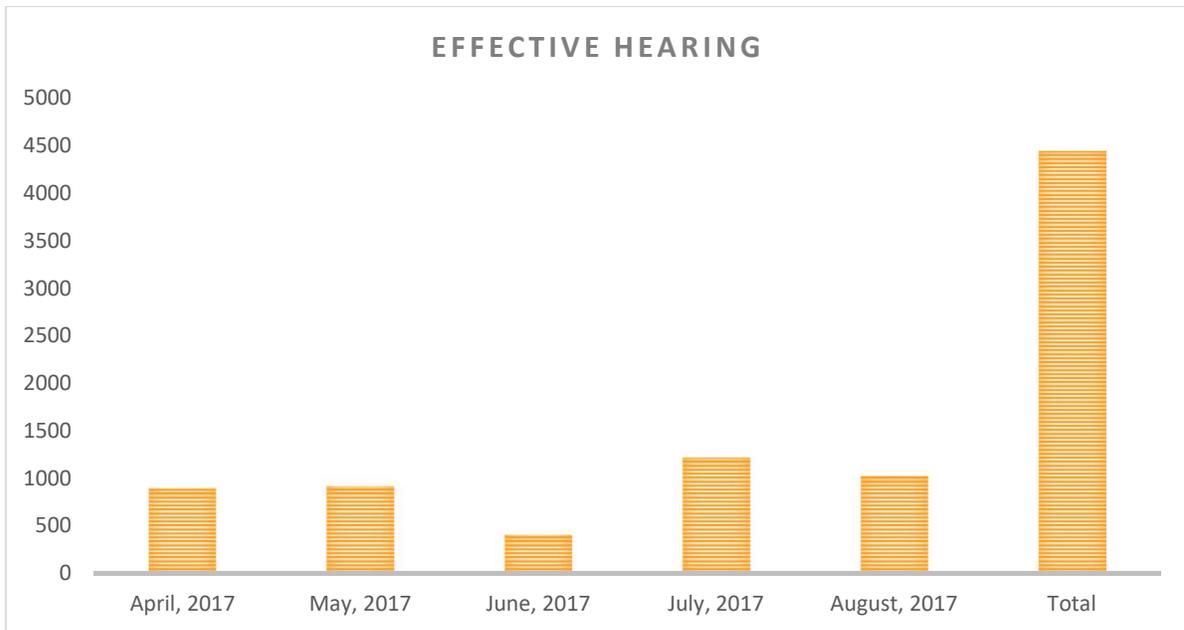
S. No.	Month	No. of Cases
1.	April, 2017	1200
2.	May, 2017	1170
3.	June, 2017	562
4.	July, 2017	1456
5.	August, 2017	1184



ii) Effective hearings: In the effective hearing, AFD directly interacted with the survivors on the date of hearing for either recording of her statement or cross examination during the trial. AFD interacted with survivors and prepared them about the nitty- gritty of the case and procedure of the court. Also, prepared them how to respond the queries to the respondent and court in appropriate manner. During the project year total 4,445 effective hearing has been attended.

Number of Effective Hearings

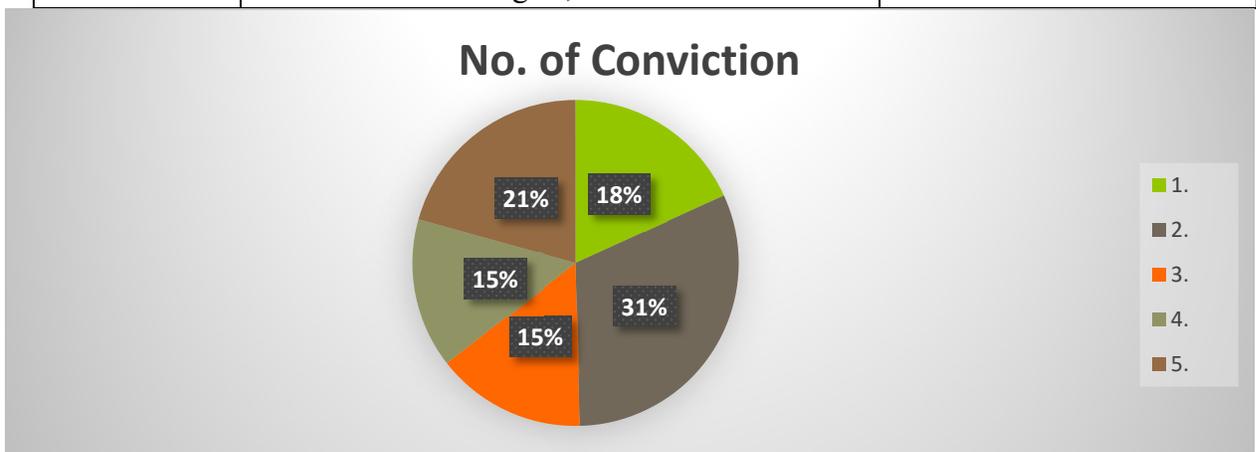
S. No.	Month	No. of Cases
1.	April, 2017	890
2.	May, 2017	916
3.	June, 2017	401
4.	July, 2017	1217
5.	August, 2017	1021
	Total	4,445



iii) **Conviction:** AFD in close coordination with Public Prosecutors, was involved in each and every case of sexual assault in the court and helped to Public Prosecutors to put up all the fact of the incident before the court to improve the conviction rate. During the project year, in 121 cases the court awarded the conviction to accused and AFD's intervention was significantly contributed.

Total Number of Conviction

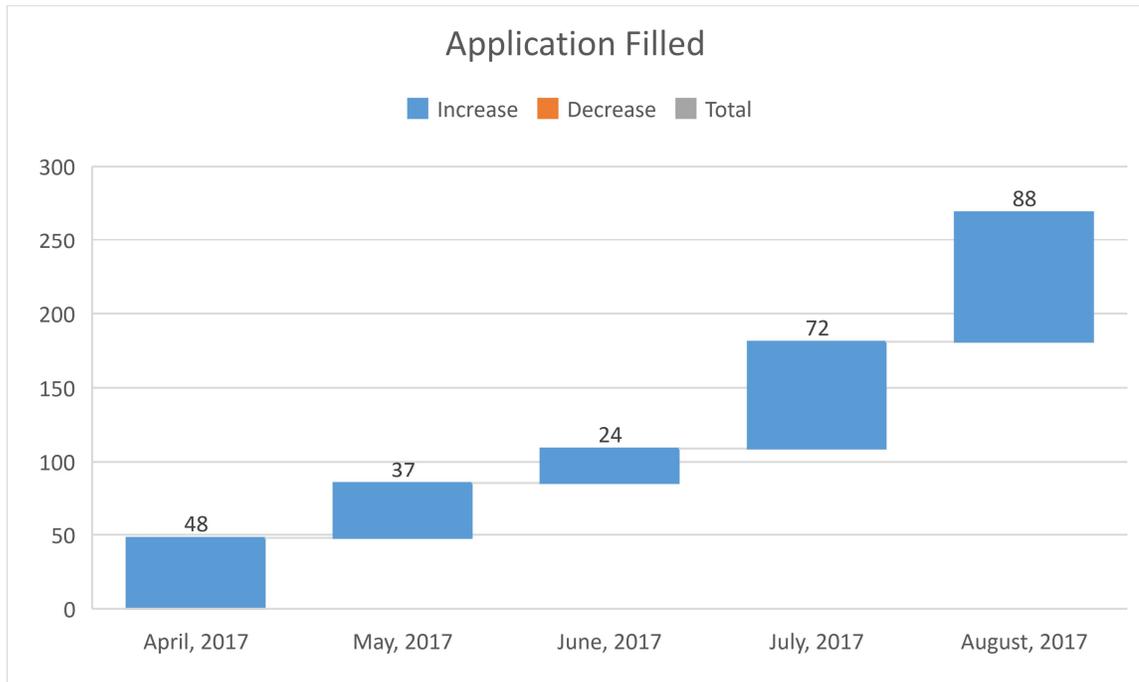
S. No.	Month	No. of Cases
1.	April, 2017	22
2.	May, 2017	38
3.	June, 2017	18
4.	July, 2017	18
5.	August, 2017	25



iv) **Filling Applications:** After assessing the condition and need of the survivors, we moved appropriate application including interim/final compensation, protection, cancellation of bail etc., before the courts. Usually, the Public Prosecutors were not able to, devote the time to every survivor and, concentrate on the immediate need of the survivors due to their heavy work pressure. Also, majority of the survivors belongs to poor economic background as a result they were not able to engage the efficient private professional counsel. AFD intervened in such cases and provided all kind of support in drafting, filling of applications and taking most favorable decision from the court. During this project year, total 269 applications were filed in the court by AFD.

Applications Filled

S. No.	Month	No. of applications
1.	April, 2017	48
2.	May, 2017	37
3.	June, 2017	24
4.	July, 2017	72
5.	August, 2017	88



- v) **Compensation:** It has been observed that majority of survivors of sexual assault belong to poor social-economic and educational family background. They are neither aware about their legal entitlements nor able to follow the laid down procedures to seek the same. POCSO Act, 2012 and Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme, 2012/2015 has given the mandate to State Government to provide the compensation to survivor of sexual assault. The court is empowered to grant the appropriate compensation considering the socio-economic condition and loss incurred due to the incident. Delhi Legal Service Authority is the nodal agency for disbursement of compensation. During the project period, AFD succeeded to grant the compensation in 24 cases from the court.

II. Crisis Intervention Center (CIC)

This programme is the brainchild of AFD and it was initially implemented in collaboration with Delhi Police. The effectiveness of the programme was recognized by government of NCT of Delhi, in healing the suffering of the survivors of sexual assault. Therefore, this model was adopted and expanded by Govt. of Delhi to all over Delhi. AFD is running this programme in East District, Delhi. Under this programme, we are providing round the clock services to the survivors of sexual assault, trafficking, missing/found girl child and women in distress. AFD provides following services to them:

- I. Assess the survivor's immediate needs.
- II. Counseling and legal guidance to survivor and her family.
- III. Support the survivor and her family at Police Station, Hospital and Court.
- IV. Assist and facilitate in the rehabilitation of survivor of sexual assault.

The primary objective of this programme is to give immediate support and familiarize survivors and their family members with the legal procedure being followed during the entire process. Our counselors reach immediately, as soon as, the matter comes to their notice. They either get the case referred from Police or DCW. But in some of the cases, our counselors also take *suo- moto* action, as and when they come across the case through media reports or other sources. Following are the main services provided by AFD to the survivors of sexual assault:

- a. **Counseling:** The component of counseling is very crucial because, both during and after the crisis situations, most survivors do undergo a phase of severe trauma. This is especially with the cases of sexual assault, where survivors may even suffer from problematic symptoms like lack of appetite, loss of weight, insomnia, nightmares, insecurity, depression and other behavioral and personality disorders. In such cases, extensive sessions are held with the survivors and other family members. It has also been observed that the relationship with the parents is also affected by such incidents. The assistance that the agency provided (medical, legal guidance & accompanying them to the police station, hospital and court) help the survivors and their family members in order to cope with the trauma. Also, the numbers of counseling sessions are decided as per the needs of the individual cases. Counseling plays an important role in motivating the survivor and her family to seek justice.
- b. **Medical Treatment:** In cases of sexual abuse, the first and foremost need is of medical attention, especially in the case of minor survivors. It is also very important for the survivor and her parents to collect the forensic evidence which play a very crucial role in conviction of accused. The counselors inform to survivors about the relevance of MLC and forensic evidence and accompany them to hospitals for medical examination in order to provide support to the survivors and to facilitate the conducting of medical examination properly and in time.

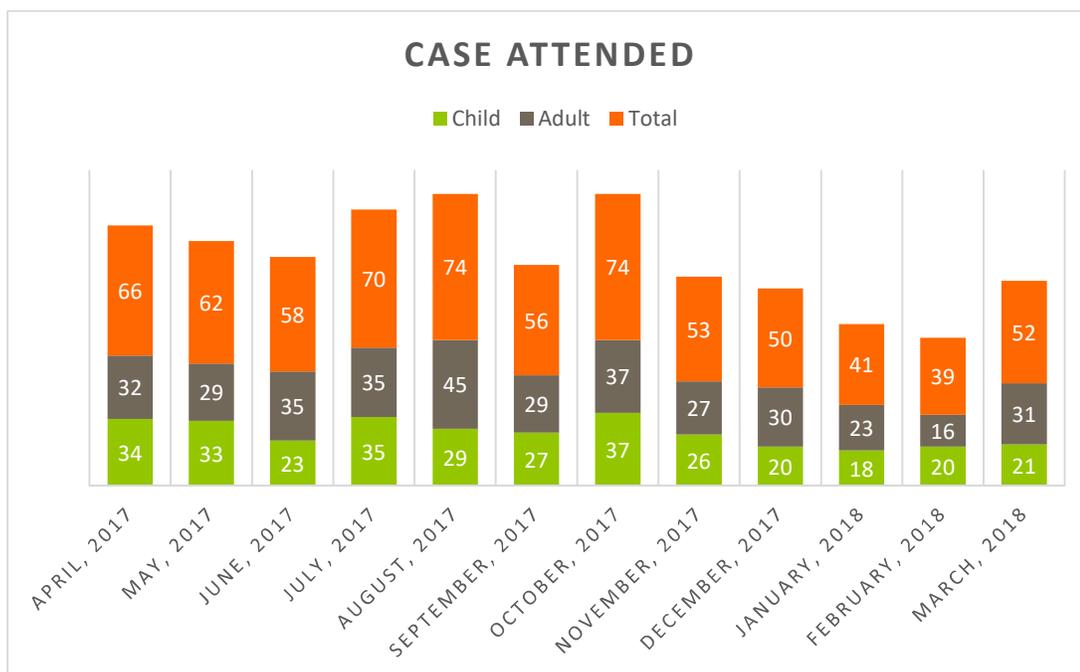
- c. Legal Aid and Guidance:** It is seen, in the Indian context, that the lack of awareness of relevant laws, legal procedures and legal rights often affect the coping capacity of the survivors. We have observed that insensitive handling at police stations, humiliating cross-examinations, cumbersome court trials and corruption at various levels add to the woes of the survivors of crime. This often results in a situation where victims and their guardians lose interest in the case. Therefore, our legal aid and guidance help the survivors in understanding the situation in realistic manner that helps them to cope with the situation more effectively. Also, counselors from AFD take up the matter, in urgent and appropriate cases, with concerned senior police officials, public prosecutors and judicial authorities to remove bottlenecks and impediments in the investigation and trial of cases. We not only prepare the survivors and their families for court hearings, but also accompany them to the court and police stations, as and when required. Additionally, AFD provides relevant legal inputs at crucial stages of the case. In this entire process, we adopt a persuasive approach rather than confrontational and antagonistic one vis-à-vis the authorities.
- d. Assistance in expediting claim under Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme (DVCS)-2011:** The DVCS, 2011 was enacted by the Government of Delhi to provide interim compensation to the survivors and their dependent(s) to compensate the loss of injuries due to incident. Our experience shows that in most cases, the family of the survivor is not aware of the scheme. It has been observed in almost all cases that the survivor's family faces difficulties in completing formalities due to the cumbersome process. Therefore, AFD helps in expediting the claim for these families. We represent their case before the concerned SHO so that he/she may take up the matter with the Delhi Legal Service Authority (DLSA), the nodal agency that decide and disburses the interim compensation to be given to the survivor. Our counselors coordinate with the concerned police station; offices of DLSA, RCC Lawyer and keep update the survivors about the development.
- e. Coordinate with the concerned Investigating Officers and Police Stations:** As soon as any case of sexual abuse comes to our knowledge, the counselor coordinates with the concerned Investigating Officer and Police Station for social work intervention. The counselor makes visits to the police station and helps the survivors to coordinate with the I.O. for the legal formalities at the police station, hospital & court for the recording of statement and for the medical examination. We keep in regular contact with investigating officer in order to remain updated on the status of the case. Also, the counselor aware the survivors about their rights at the police station, hospitals and courts.
- f. Accompany the survivors to court:** AFD's counselors established rapport with the RCC lawyers. Under legal guidance programme, the counselor accompanies the survivors to the court for 164 CrPC. statements. Once the case was taken up, under legal intervention programme, it is followed till the last stage.

AFD, being a designated CIC, East Delhi provide their services to the cases reported in 16 police located in same district, Anand Vihar Railway station and Yamuna Bank metro station. During the project year, we have intervened in the cases of sexual assault, trafficking, missing/found children etc.

- a. **Case Intervention:** During the project period, AFD intervened in total 695 cases which include cases of sexual assault (child and adult), trafficking, found children, molestation, harassment and others.

Total No. of Cases Attended

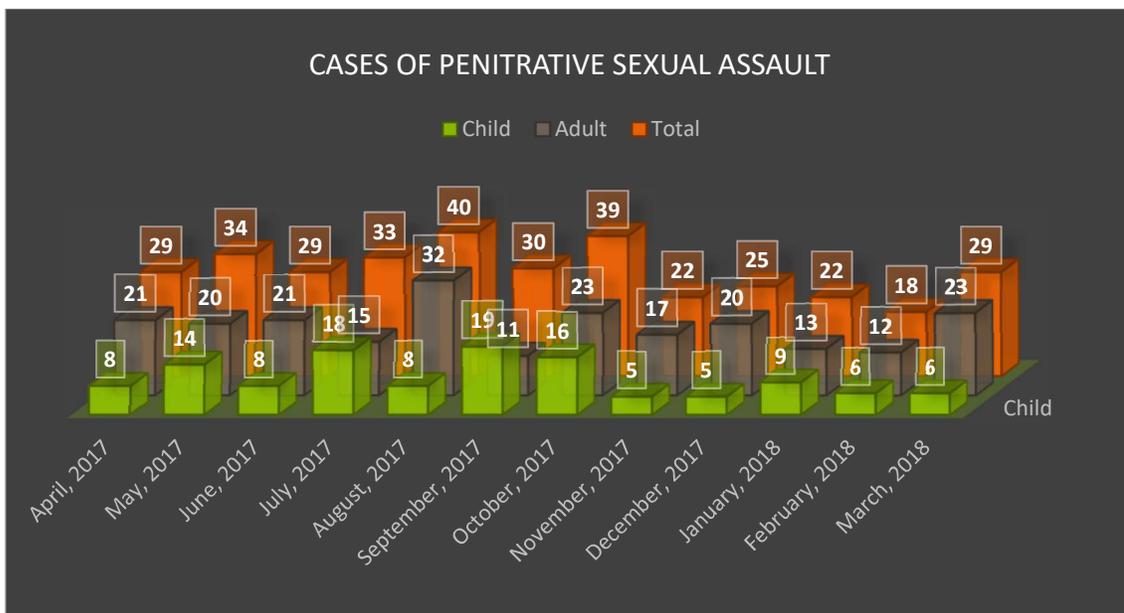
S. No.	Month	Child	Adult	Total
1.	April, 2017	34	32	66
2.	May, 2017	33	29	62
3.	June, 2017	23	35	58
4.	July, 2017	35	35	70
5.	August, 2017	29	45	74
6.	September, 2017	27	29	56
7.	October, 2017	37	37	74
8.	November, 2017	26	27	53
9.	December, 2017	20	30	50
10.	January, 2018	18	23	41
11.	February, 2018	20	16	39
12.	March, 2018	21	31	52
	Total	323	372	695



- b. **Penetrative Sexual assault/ Rape Case:** The cases of penetrative sexual assault lodges under section 375, 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, 376D IPC and 3,4,5,6 POCSO Act, 2012. During the project period, AFD intervened total 350 cases of penetrative sexual assault.

Number of Cases of Penetrative Sexual Assault

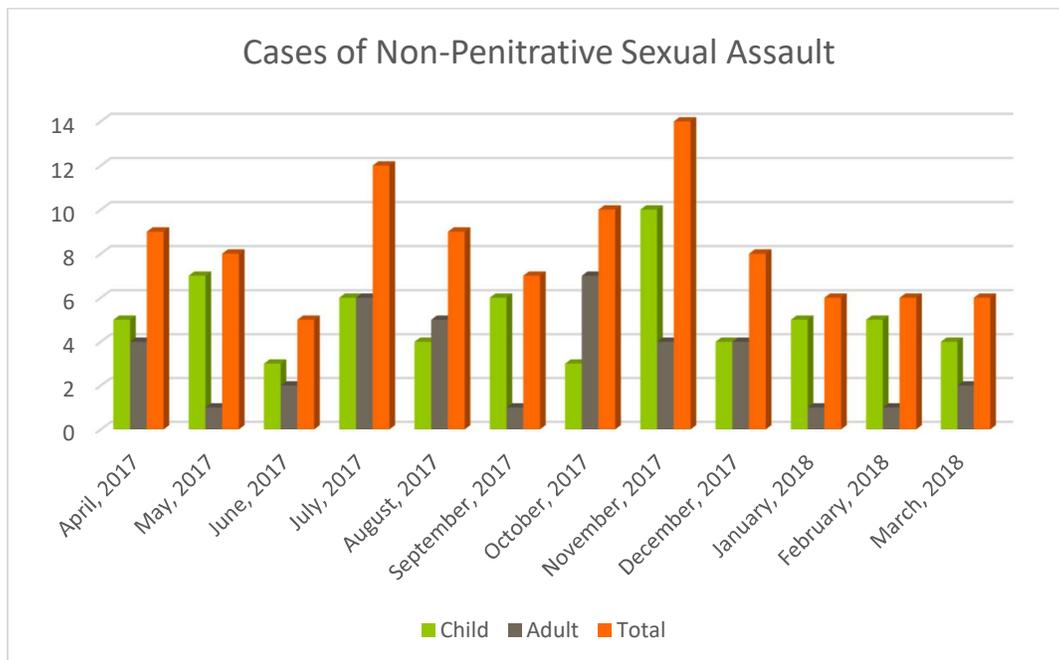
S. No.	Month	Child	Adult	Total
1.	April, 2017	8	21	29
2.	May, 2017	14	20	34
3.	June, 2017	8	21	29
4.	July, 2017	18	15	33
5.	August, 2017	8	32	40
6.	September, 2017	19	11	30
7.	October, 2017	16	23	39
8.	November, 2017	5	17	22
9.	December, 2017	5	20	25
10.	January, 2018	9	13	22
11.	February, 2018	6	12	18
12.	March, 2018	6	23	29
	Total	122	228	350



- c. **Non-Penetrative Sexual Assault, harassment, molestation case:** The cases of non-penetrative sexual assault lodges under section 354 of IPC and 7,8,9,10 of POCSO Act, 2012. During the project period, total 100 case of non-penetrative sexual assault have been dealt by the AFD.

Number of cases of non-penetrative sexual assault, harassment and molestation

S. No.	Month	Child	Adult	Total
1.	April, 2017	5	4	9
2.	May, 2017	7	1	8
3.	June, 2017	3	2	5
4.	July, 2017	6	6	12
5.	August, 2017	4	5	9
6.	September, 2017	6	1	7
7.	October, 2017	3	7	10
8.	November, 2017	10	4	14
9.	December, 2017	4	4	8
10.	January, 2018	5	1	6
11.	February, 2018	5	1	6
12.	March, 2018	4	2	6
	Total	62	38	100



- d. **Trafficking/ missing children:** The cases of missing children/ trafficking lodged under section 363 of IPC and relevant section of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Total 106 cases of missing/ trafficking children have been dealt during this project period.

Total number of cases of trafficking/ missing children

S. No.	Month	No. of Cases
1.	April, 2017	16
2.	May, 2017	7
3.	June, 2017	9
4.	July, 2017	8
5.	August, 2017	13
6.	September, 2017	9
7.	October, 2017	6
8.	November, 2017	7
9.	December, 2017	8
10.	January, 2018	7
11.	February, 2018	7
12.	March, 2018	9
	Total	106



Field of Intervention

- a. At Police Stations:** When a case comes in the knowledge of the organization, a counselor visits to the police station to make sure that, the investigation is done in a transparent manner. All sorts of assistance are extended to the survivors, which includes registration of FIR and getting other pertinent information from the Police like a copy of the FIR, information on the status of the case etc.
- b. At Hospitals:** The role of the organization is not restricted to the Police Station and providing counseling. Survivors are accompanied to the hospital for medical examination. The organization ensures that the medical examination of the survivor should be done quickly after the incident, due legal procedure is followed and a female doctor must do the medical examination, if the survivor is female. The organization also ensures that humiliating questions pertaining to the case shall not be asked to the survivor and that doctor and other hospital staff behaves properly with them. The survivors are made aware of their rights vis-à-vis the medical examination in the hospital and the importance of the medical examination in bringing the perpetrators to book.
- c. Recording of statement in the office of the concerned Magistrate:** Counselors accompany the survivors to the office of the Magistrate for recording the mandatory victim's statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. The presence of counselors helps in boosting the morale of the survivors and brings about a feeling that they are not fighting their case alone. They are also made aware of the importance of recording their statement under Section 164 of the CrPC.
- d. At Court during trial:** The counselor accompanies the survivors to the court during the trial. It helps in boosting the survivors' confidence during the cross-examination and facing the trial boldly. The survivors are encouraged to give their statement without succumbing to external pressures or fear. The organization also ensures that, if necessary, the survivors and other witnesses are given protection by the Police.
- e. At the Child Welfare Committee:** In cases involving a child in need of care and protection, the child is produced before the committee for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation. Counselors of the organization accompany the child and ensure the sensitive handling of the case by members of the committee. AFD also raise the issues pertaining to the protection of the child and ensure that the child receives benefits of the schemes meant for them.

Community Outreach Programme (COP)

AFD is running the Community Outreach Programme, for more than 20 years in the resettlement colony of Trilokpuri, East District, Delhi. This programme is running with the mandate of making people aware, empower, independent and capable so they can understand the community issues in wider perspective and take appropriate actions. The programme's main objective is to ensure a supportive and protective environment for women and children in the community. Therefore, we take up the general issues of the community as well as specific issues of women and children.

We adopt an empowering process wherein the community members are empowered to take up their issues and make efforts to resolve them. AFD encourages involvement of children and adolescents of the community, who are interested to own community issues in future. We have trained a groups of local volunteers, who are into their teenage, to take up the matter with various concerned agencies to resolve them. We call them "Agents of Change". This exercise not only helped them in taking community issues but also in developing their confidence to deal with the Government machinery. These volunteers of the community conduct sessions with children and adolescents, organize street plays and rallies to create awareness and sensitization on different issues, especially on children and women issues. They design the activities to be undertaken in the community, with the required support, in terms of guidance and material, from AFD. Now, they are playing important roles to facilitate different services to the community, provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations. We encourage the involvement of local adolescents and children to become the part of the groups nurtured by AFD. During this year, we have conducted the following activities within the community, under COP.

a) Sessions with Children

AFD conducted number of sessions with the children. The primary purpose of organizing sessions with children is to provide them a platform, where they can do brainstorming on vital issues and put their perspective on it. Issues like- time management, communication problem, career guidance, child labour, child sexual abuse, impact of domestic violence, right to education etc were taken up during these sessions. Later follow up sessions were taken to get their feedbacks about the programs and activities done in the community. Also, their ideas and opinions were taken to organize more effective programs in the future. Total number of beneficiaries were around 30-35 children of the community.



b) Educational Classes

The organization provides educational classes to children of the community with the objectives to improve their performance in education. It is observed that the children face major difficulties in two subjects viz. English and Mathematics. Therefore, we hold classes primarily on these two subjects and discuss their problems at length. It is endeavoured that their problems are discussed systematically so that it will help in developing their interest and basic understanding of the subjects. It is important to mention here that more than 30 children are benefitted through the classes, during the current project period.



c) Grassroots Comics Workshop

AFD in collaboration with Department of Social Work, University of Delhi and Grassroots Comics has organized a three days Grassroots Comics Workshop on 13th, 14th and 15th February, 2018 at Community Centre, Block-33/34, Trilokpuri, Delhi with 35 youths and adolescent of the community. The main objective of the workshop was to channelize the energy of the youth and adolescents of the community in a productive and constructive way in order to foster learning and development and start the debate on the various issues pertaining to the community through using the grassroots comics as a tool.

Grassroots comics are comics which are prepared by socially aware people themselves, based on their own views instead of professional artist. The comics plays very important role for initiating local debate on different issues. Furthermore, making grassroots comics is relatively easy and does not require heavy duty technical expertise of any kind. There is only need a story, paper, pen and access to photocopying. These comics are prepared for distribution at a local level, which is the main factor that differentiates them from other campaign material. After photocopying, the grassroots comics can be pasted up in places where people gather leisurely, and in schools, at bus-stops, in shops and offices, on notice boards and even on electricity poles.

The process of informing, delivering messages or creating awareness among people, or a special group of people, in a systematic way, is called a campaign. A campaign can include slogans, songs, posters, photographs, films, plays, etc. The most important task during a campaign is to convey one's message to the people. This requires that attractive and interesting activities should be consistently carried out.

Generally, people's participation is the biggest challenge faced in the campaigns despite using media and the materials prepared by professionals with the help of good artists and writers sitting in other cities. The material often lacks a local touch, local language and local culture. This problem can be solved by the grassroots comics as the campaign material is prepared by local people themselves. Also, the people who prepare the campaign material usually get help from their family, friends and colleagues which help to engage other in the whole exercise. Grassroots comics help local people to bring forward their own issues and experiences by framing them in a visual story. Once the technique of making comics is understood by people, then they can prepare comics on almost any issue in a very short time. The power of being able to share their views to other people fills them with enthusiasm.

Advantage of using Grassroots Comics

The major advantage of comics is their mass appeal that lies in the simplicity of the visual rendition of stories. This communication means has the potential to address all serious issues in a simplified manner. It is a great communication tool for the people where illiteracy is the biggest hurdle to cross.

The main impetus of "comics for social development" is to identify the social issues faced by the people at the grassroots and what according to them can be the effective solutions. It is a powerful alternate medium of communication which has a mass appeal as it catches the attention of all and is cost effective. There is no specificity regarding the social issues that can be addressed through this mode of narrative art. The important thing is to have a good story, with interesting and engaging characters which the readers can easily identify with. The comics stories developed by the people at the workshops.

Day One

The workshop started with an introduction and the purpose of the three days workshop at Trilokpuri block 33. Then the resource persons of World Comics India introduced the concept of Grassroots Comics and objective behind the workshop. A long discussion on how and why comics/visuals are a more powerful medium than plain text took place. It took some explanation for them to realize how visuals are a universal medium.



Papers and pencils were handed over to the participants and they were asked to draw a sketch on their adolescence age experience. The participants were skeptical about how or what they would draw. However, after few minutes they all had their papers filled with cartoons and scribbles. The participants were divided into six groups and asked to sit and discuss the issues they have portrayed in their drawings. After giving them sufficient time to do this, each person from all the groups was asked to come forward to address to the assembly sharing their story. The stories varied from personal experiences to generic statements.

There were stories about kids giving in to peer pressure and taking up smoking, chewing tobacco etc. A few stories took up child marriage. Stories dealing with gender bias also came up. There was also a story relating adolescence with communal bias and its effect on the impressionable mind of adolescents. There were obviously stories on attraction towards opposite sex, confusion in deciding a career; the fear of what future has in store for them and inferiority complex about their physical appearance. The participants came up with issues unmentioned before, like, lack of

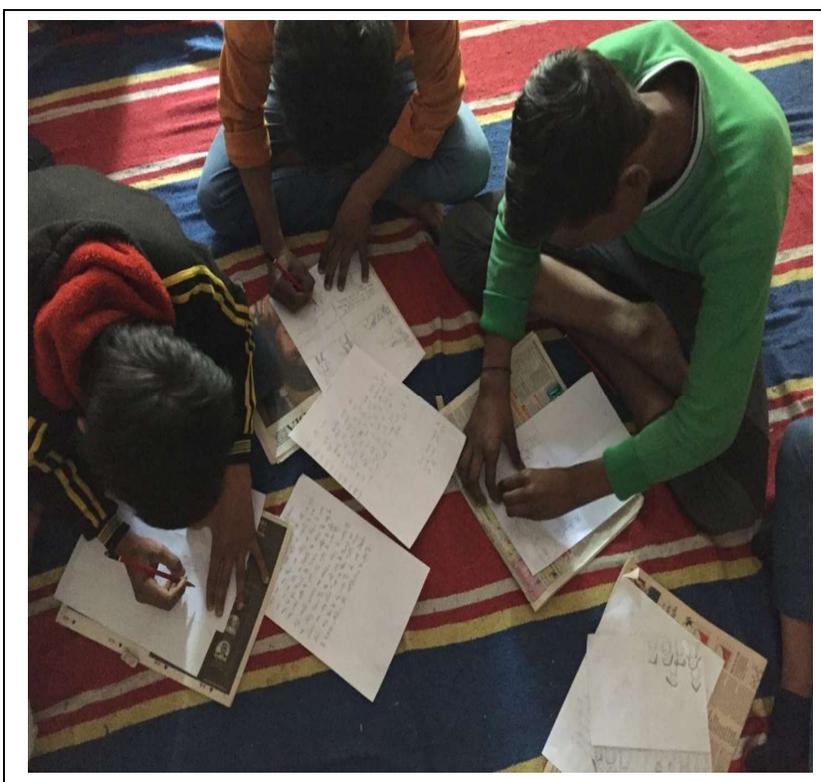
water supply,sex education, coping with changes, stress and suicide. As a result of the thorough discussion, we were ready with around thirty-five odd issues that should ideally be covered.

The participants were then showed how to draw facial expression. The next session was a fun exercise where the participants were required to make caricatures of each other. They were divided in groups of two. While one posed, the other drew and when they were done their partners would draw them. This exercise helped a lot in getting the participants come at ease with pencil and paper. The cartoons once completed were exhibited within the hall. The facilitators did a critique session of the caricatures. The students were given tips on how some caricatures looked very identical to the models and how all they can be improved.

Day Two

The second day of the workshop that the day started with a story reading session. The participants took turns to read out their story to the entire group. Each story was thoroughly discussed in terms of content and message. The participants were told the importance of characters and drama in a story and suggested to incorporate changes wherever required. The participants came up with good stories today. Although there were some who had not written stories. The participants had read their stories; those who hadn't written a story were ready with one. The stories were varied and addressed the issue that had been discussed. There were stories covering various aspects of adolescence.

After completing the stories, the participants were taught how to make a Visual Script. They were taught the grammar of comics and the knowledge of technical aspects required to make comics. Lunch was followed by a detailed discussion on the common mistakes made by participants while making comics. They were asked to avoid making those mistakes. The participants then started making their respective visual scripts. By the end of the day most of the students had completed the rough visual script.

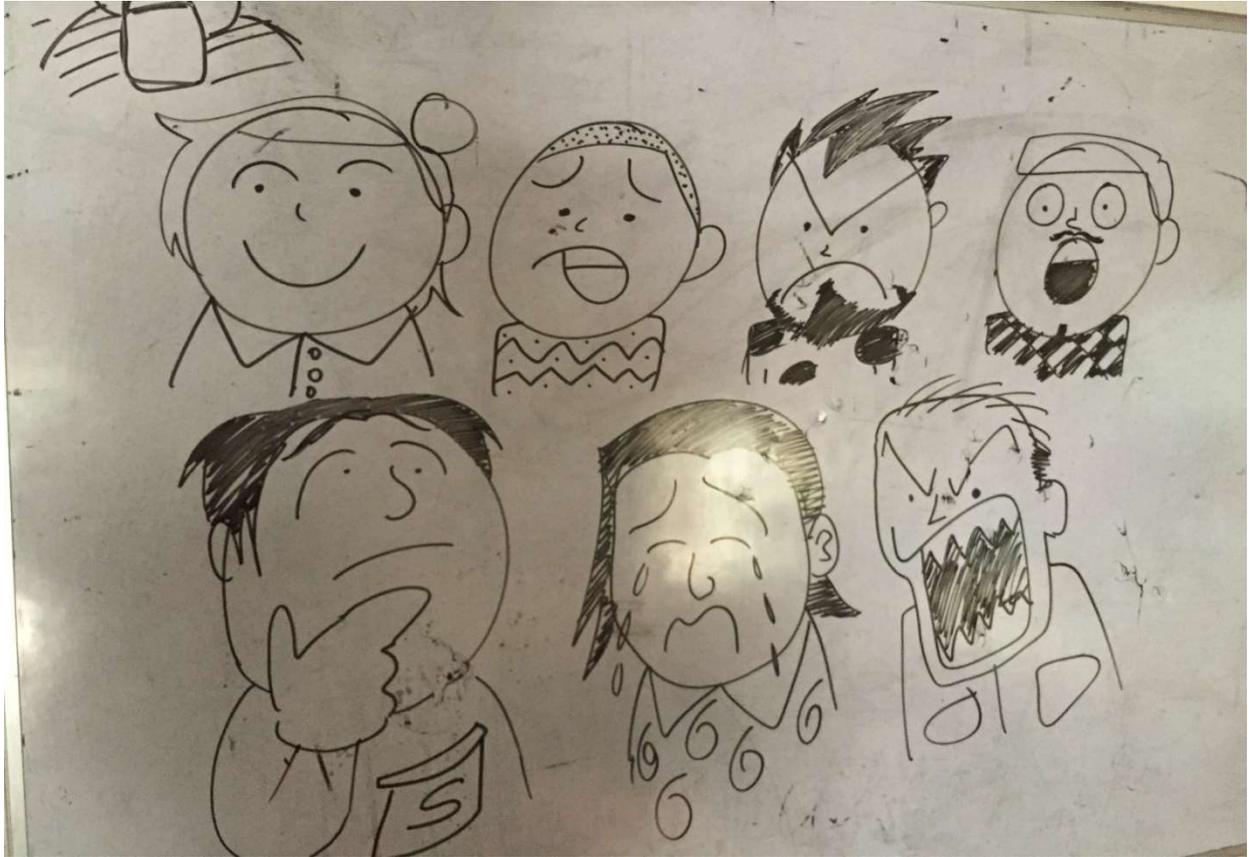


There were stories that represented issues of child marriage, child labour, suicide, domestic violence, social security, alcoholism, green environment and cleanliness among many more. And these were not just stories; through them one could understand that these were things that bothered these children and so these stories came from their understanding of the issues that mattered to them.

At end of the workshop, seeing each comic was such a growing experience within, which one cannot understand by just reading about or watching something related to those issues. This understanding is only possible when one deals with people having these issues in reality.







d) Exhibition and Certificate Distribution Ceremony

A three days workshop was organised in the Trilokpuri community on 13, 14 and 15 February 2018. There were around 35 participants who were mainly youth and adolescents of the community. The broader objective of the workshop was to channelize the energy of the youth of the community in a productive and constructive way in order to foster learning and development and start the debate on the various issues pertaining to the community through using the grassroots comics as a tool. The workshop was also a participative medium through which participants expressed their views and presented different issues and concerns of the community. This medium of communication also helped in the identification of issues and problems of the community.

Followed by the workshop, Exhibition and Certificate Distribution ceremony was organized on 22nd March 2018 where the Grassroots comics made by the participants were put up for display and certificates were distributed to the participants to encourage them.

The main objective to organise the event was to enhance community's participation to attract the attention of the stakeholders like community residents, MLA and counsellor of the area, NGO working in the area, towards the identified issues in order to sensitize them regarding the issues and problems, provide open platform for discussion and discourse on the issues of the community and to take necessary action with a participatory approach. The event also focused on acknowledging the efforts of the participants, organisers and the partners of the workshop.

Details of the Programme

Mr. Raju Dhingan MLA of Trilokpuri; Assistant Professor Ms. Shashi Rani from Department of Social Work, University of Delhi; Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Director of Association for Development; Husband of the counsellor of the Ward, the trainers of the workshop visited the exhibition, distributed the certificates and deliberated on the issues and problems of the community.

The MLA in his discussion on the issues and problems talked about the water scarcity and electricity in the community. He focused on awareness generation and platforms to encourage community's participation to discuss on issues and problems. Stressing upon women's participation he said that he has organised many meetings in the community where women participated the most. While concluding his speech he said that his support was always with the

youth, children and volunteers who are working with the community and he is available for any kind of assistance necessary for the work to be undertaken for the well-being of the community.



Ms. Shashi Rani while addressing the participants stressed upon the issue of safety in the community and measures to be taken to ensure safe environment in the community. Talking about child sexual abuse, she discussed on “good touch and bad touch” to shout and move to a safe space and inform the elders in case “bad touch” happens.

Participants also shared their experience about the workshop and discussed about the issue they presented through their Grassroots Comics. Some participants also recited poems which questioned the gender inequality and discrimination. Mr. Yogesh Kumar, asked the participants about their learning and experience from the workshop.

Husband of the counsellor attended the discussions as the counselor was not able to come due to some unavoidable circumstances and then delivered a speech which included that importance of cleanliness and to increase community’s participation in ensuring clean spaces. Adding to it he said that he wanted to organise a rally on cleanliness in the last week of April where he would also work on planting trees. Secondly, by extending his support and help he told all the audience that anybody can approach him regarding any issues related to education and admission, cleanliness and problems created by “anti-social elements” in the community. He also said that he would install lights in the lanes by the end of the April to ensure safety in the community.

The community residents also marked their presence. All visitors were attended by the volunteers. The volunteers explained to every visitor about the workshop and the issues identified. They also requested the visitors to stick a mark on the issue they think needs intervention or attention or any kind of action to be undertaken by the stakeholders. The highest number of stickers were marked

on the poster of safety followed by poster on the issue of drug abuse and then on issues of electricity, gender inequality and water.

Around 150 people attended the programme such as community residents' including men, women, children, youth and elderly, participants of the Grassroots Comics workshop, Member of Legislative Assembly of Trilokpuri, husband of the Ward Counsellor, Assistant Professor, Ms. Shashi Rani, Association for Development team, trainers of Grassroots Comics Workshop-World comics network, Social work trainees from Department of Social Work, University of Delhi.



Assessment

All the Grassroots comics prepared by the participants were analysed and identify the issues related to:

- Gender based violence and discrimination- highlighting problems of child marriage, girl's early marriage, dowry, domestic violence and discrimination between boys and girls.
- Water scarcity in the community and lack of clean drinking water.
- Issues of electricity in the community.
- Problem of child labour.
- Safety and security in the community.

- Cleanliness in the community.
- Problems related to drug abuse by adolescence and peer pressure, issues related to alcoholism.

There were some Grassroots comics related to water conservation and community's participation in planting trees and maintaining greenery in the community. There was one on poverty and debt leading to farmer's suicide and another on increase in the prices of vegetables.

Community participation was enhanced when residents of the community visited the event and talked about different issues prevailing in the community which also formed the part of the issues identified in the Need Assessment. This not only created a space for discussion and discourse but also generated awareness and sensitised them on the issues and concerns related to the community. The event also established a platform where elected representatives from different political parties engaged with the general masses, which in a way reduced the communication gap between citizens and their representatives.

The Grassroots comics workshop and event was also focused on skill enhancement and capacity building of the volunteers of the community. The long term focus was on the empowerment process where it may be expected that the youth and adolescents of the community would own up the issue and act as active aware citizens and would engage in constructive and productive work related to community development as well their own personal development.



