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A view of the street play at Janakiram Layout, Banaswadi, Bangalore

"Initially my skin was very bad but now it's completely healed so patients also take me as an example and feel that they too should recover like me. Talking to people during awareness was very difficult for me and used to shy away but now I take it in a right sense and am able to talk to them in a proper way. I always focused only on my life and may be victims of burns but now I am concerned about rag-pickers, I take them for de-addiction too."

"Every woman who comes to Agni Raksha leads a dignified life" ...says Sumiya

Dr.Prema Dhanraj, head of Plastic Surgery received Swastha Bharat Samman award for "Healing with a human touch". The awards were instituted by Zee TV and LIC to felicitate people who have made immense contributions to the healthcare sector in India.



Home Based Care

During the process of home based care various aspects have been addresses such as:

- § Reaching out to burn victims situated as far as Nelamangala, which is almost 30 kilometres from Bangalore.
- § Able to attend to burn victims up to 40%, Agni Raksha was able to reach out to more number of burn victims as well those who were in need of burn treatment the most.
- § The personalized care from experienced para-medics and that too in the comfort of the house makes both the burn victims and the care givers feel very assured.
- § By getting regular home based care from Agni Raksha, the burn victims were ensured of continuity in treatment, as well felt a sense of hope and courage in leading a new life again especially in the case of the bread winner, which gives a sense of economic security.
- § We were able to help burn victims from poor families to save on considerable time, money and hardships. The care givers did not have to take time off from work, thus preventing them from losing their daily earnings as many of them were daily labourers. Whereas home based care is done as per timing convenient to the burn victim. Two senior nurses have been included in the home based care team.

Areas covered during the home based care:

Nelamangala, Hegde Nagar, K.G.Halli, T.C.Palya, Beyond Garden City College, Seshadripuram, Bannerugatti, Seegalli, Tin Factory, Shivaji Nagar, Peenya, Bakshi Garden, Kuruburahalli, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Mysore Road, Seegehalli Hoskote Road, Shivaji Nagar and Mysore Road. Bommasandra, Yelahanka and NIMHANS. L.R.Nagar, Raja Rajeshwarinagar, Bidadi Road, Shamannagarden, Abhigere Tumkur Road, Kavalbysandra, Adugodi, Manjunath Nagar, Nayandranahalli, Tannery Road, Hari Nagar, Babuji Nagar, Lingarajpuram, Bannerghatta, Seshadripuram, Gowripalya, and Ulsoor.



Manoj, a 11 months old male child who got his left leg and thighs burnt in a home accident.



Victims and their members waiting to meet Dr. Prema during the monthly OPD

Networking and Logistics with Hospitals and Government Departments:

Social entitlement:

For Agni Raksha, the reward was in the burn victims using the Physically Handicapped Certificate to access various public welfare schemes at highly subsidised amount or getting financial benefit by way of pension or loans in easy terms and conditions. During this quarter, 7 burn victims got bus passes at a highly subsidized annual rate of Rs.750/- as compared to the regular monthly fee of Rs.1050/-. About 14 burn victims have applied for pension.

ASHA Workers Sensitization Programme

Agni Raksha successfully completed the schedule of ASHAs sensitization programmes covering 8 taluks of Bangalore urban and rural they being Doddabalapura, Magadi and Kanakapura attended by a total of more than 300 participants. Doddabalapura is an important taluk as it contains about 29 gram panchayats and about 50 villages, coming under five hoblies. The very basis of organising programmes in the rural areas was the fact that an increasing number of burn victims are coming from here. The lack of knowledge about proper first aid practices has led to increasing the risk for burn victims. In fact, in this quarter, about five burn victims were referred through ASHAs to Agni Raksha. The organisation has got permission from the District Health Officer at Ramanagaram and Chennapatna for organizing sensitization but the logistics are yet to be worked out.



Anjumala.T.Naik, Inspector of Police delivering an inaugural speech during an awareness on women's rights

First ever sensitization programme for Auxiliary Nurse Midwife ANMs in Bangalore:

In many ways, the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) roles and responsibilities are similar to those of the ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists). ANMs have an important role from Agni Raksha's perspective as they interact extensively with different stakeholders such as Anganwadis, Panchayat officials, community based organizations etc. Their primary objective is promotion of community and gender health. Thus, they are of special significance to Agni Raksha as they can play a role in prevention and ensure referrals of burn victims. Agni Raksha crossed yet another milestone as conducted its first ever sensitization programme for about 150 ANMs in BBMP's training centre in Malleshwaram. This sensitization programme was the culmination of a process that started nearly 8 or 9 months ago when Agni Raksha met with Mrs.Vatsala, the Chief Health Officer.



Raghavendra, during an awareness on burns for garment workers at Yeshwanthpur

Networking Activities related to Education, Training and Sensitization Support:

Agni Raksha has designed various programmes for the benefit of burn victims. Some of them include sensitization, treatment, prevention, identification and vocational training. In order to be able to do this in an effective manner, and also reach out to a large number of burn victims and medical care providers, Agni Raksha is constantly networking with various stakeholders. During this quarter, we were able to meet with the following stakeholders and institutions in relation to meeting the various requirements of the Agni Raksha:

Sl.No	Stakeholders	Status
1.	Community based Tuitions for children burn victims	A request letter has been submitted to Akhila Karnataka Bovi Vokkala Sangha seeking permission for conducting the tuitions within the school premises and for an approval from the Block Education Officer.
2.	Networking with Nehru Yuvak Kendra	Collected the database of youth groups associated with Nehru Yuvak Kendra
3.	Meeting with stakeholder at Ramanagaram and Kolar	For organising of camps for ASHAs as well as mobilise referrals. The District Health Officer who appreciated the concept of the programme.
4.	Visit to the Law Colleges	To mobilize fact finders for the legal aid cell.
5.	Meeting with Taluk Panchayat at Nelamangala	Met the Panchayat Development Officers (PDO) and took the opportunity to organize a sensitization programme on types of burns, causes of burns, and prevention.
6.	Meeting with the Principal of the Bangalore University	For networking for internship and fact finding assistance. Interns will be given the opportunity to intern and get a hands-on experience and knowledge on legal and paralegal issues related to the burn victims.
7.	Meeting with the Manager of the Department of Administration at the Bishop Cotton College	

SHG Strengthening Programme

SHG meetings took place in Bakshi Garden and Bagalur layout. In these meetings, the women discussed about the Sangha related issues such as ways to improve attendance, and strengthen the sangha. A proposal was put forward to conduct vocational training programmes in the office, including beads jewellery and bead craft training unit. One of the staff members has been visiting homes of the members, motivating them to attend meetings and regular collections of savings.

Women Group Meetings

Six programmes were organized for women groups in different areas of the city namely Jana Centre, L.R. Nagar Slum, Bangalore, Siddapura, Gangonahalli and Bakshi Garden. More than 100 women participated in the same and the topics covered were causes of burns, treatment and prevention, a few sessions included a segment on legal rights, reasons why women tended to take the extreme steps of burning themselves.

Sensitization programmes for Youth and Children

Sl.No	Title of the programme	Topic Covered
1.	Sensitisation on Burns for School Children from classes 8th to 10th standard at Gandhi School, Srirampura, Kannada medium Government School at Nagawara, Domlur and in Bakshi Garden. About 400 students participated in the same.	Types of burns, causes of burns, treatment, Prevention and first aid practices different type of burns such as kerosene burn,
2.	Youth Meeting at Pantharpalya slum near Nayandahalli about 48 youths attended.	acid burn, electric shock and chemical burn.
3.	Sensitisation Programme on Burns for youth at Government Co-education college in Hesaragatta, 200 youth benefited from the programme	

Staff Corner

ಅನಾಥವಾಗಿದ್ದೆ ನಾನು ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬ ಸುಟ್ಟ ಗಾಯಾಳುವಾಗಿ,
 ಸಮಾಜ ಹಿಡಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ನನ್ನ ನೀನೊಬ್ಬಳು ಪಾಪಿ ಎಂದು,
 ವರವಾಗಿ ಬಂತು ನನ್ನ ಬಾಳಲ್ಲಿ "ಅಗ್ನಿ ರಕ್ಷ" ಎಂಬ ಸುಂದರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ,
 ನಾ ಸೇರಿದೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಒಬ್ಬ ಸುಟ್ಟ ಗಾಯಾಳುವಾಗಿ,
 ನಾ ಪಡೆದೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಬಗೆ ಬಗೆಯ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಯನ್ನ ನನ್ನ ದೇಹದ ಗಾಯಕ್ಕೆ,
 ಗುಣಮುಖವಾಗಿ ನಾ ಶಲಿತೆ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಧ ವಿಧವಾದ ಕರಕುಶಲ ಕರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನ,
 ಇದರಿಂದ ನಾನಾದೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ದೂಲಿಗೆ ಹೊಲಿಯುವ ಬಂದೊಳ್ಳೆ ದಬಣ,
 ಇದರಿಂದ ಬಂತು ನನಗೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಹೆಸರು ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಗೌರವ.
 ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸುವ "ಅಗ್ನಿ ರಕ್ಷ" ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಕೋಟಿ ಕೋಟಿ ನಮನಗಳನ್ನು.

The above poetry has been written by Masti Sannakusa Gowda who works with Agni Raksha as a driver.

Legal Aid & Counselling

The legal aid cell of Agni Raksha reached out to women in communities and in stakeholder forums to sensitise them about their rights. The legal aid cell also provided consultation on an individual basis based on the visits to the community and in the office. While there are signs of women wanting to seek protection and justice, there are a few incidences where despite undergoing a gruesome experience of violence, women continue to face risk in their marital home. Overall the cell handled 41 Cases out of which 18 were new cases and the other 23 were of follow up. The legal cell not only provides with legal counselling but also conducts legal awareness time to time. Given below are the details:



Ado.Eunice Mercy, during a legal counselling with one of the survivors.

Sl.No	Title, Date & Place	No. Participants
1.	Women's rights and law relating to women's on 16 th March 2015 at Bakshi Garden Slum	9 Women
2.	Women rights, Section 498A Indian Penal Code and Maintenance Act, maintenance under Criminal Procedure Code and Domestic Violence Act at St. Francis Church, Coles Road	400 Women
3.	Awareness for Muslim women on Domestic Violence Act on 20 th March 2015 at Agni Raksha	30 Burnt Victims
4.	Women's rights and law relating to Muslim women, women's rights, sexual harassment in work place, and also explained Mohammadan Law on 24 th March 2015 at Chandra Layout slum	35 Muslim

Out Come of Legal Cell: Legal counselling has led to support from women burn victims on various issues, including a proposal to start a helpline and dedicating a mobile number for the same. Home based care, the burn victims were informed about the legal aid counselling cell. This information is useful for those who sustained burn injuries through suicidal attempts, violence or as accident at work place, as they can seek compensation and justice.

Sampoorna, creating space for the MSM

The project on Sampoorna focuses on creating space for the MSM community in the society and work place, with better opportunities. We have been working extensively with different kind of stakeholders to facilitate not just more opportunities for the MSM community, but also improved understanding and acceptance. On the other hand, we also aim to bring about improved behavioural and attitudinal change among the community so that they integrate in the society on as much equitable terms as possible. Some of the impacts we have seen is that the beneficiaries are expressing their emotions and feelings, indicating a trust in the project. The staffs is now trying to overcome challenges related to identification as now many of the members and clients are using internet and mobile phones to contact each other. Many members have successfully completed in-house vocational training programmes, and driving classes. Agni Raksha initiated vocational training courses in the areas of Tailoring and Beautician. Additionally, it has initiated English Speaking Course and also has plans to start driving lessons for the beneficiary group. Conducting of successful street plays for the very first time in this project period. The response from the public was encouraging. Street plays are very effective to sensitize and inform the public about STI/STD and to discreetly send the message of tolerance and acceptance of the community in the society. Upgraded the scope of networking to include different types of stakeholders.

On the other hand, rehabilitation work continued on a regular basis. It involved intense and regular counseling of beneficiaries in order to motivate them to share their feelings, to identify their areas of interest, discuss the potential of various options (academic or vocational), and goal setting etc. Additionally, various life-skills related counselling helped the beneficiaries to become more disciplined, and implement adequate health and hygiene related practices. And most importantly, they understood the importance of safe sexual practices, prevention of STI/STD and HIV, and on goal setting.



Rajesh interacting with the priests during an awareness on HIV & burns at Vidyapeeta Matta,



A view of Vennila, conducting the children's meeting at Agni Raksha office

From the Director's Desk

Though the last quarter was very challenging in terms of addressing issues of women and children especially increasing of domestic violence cases which has been pushing women in taking up the extreme step of self-immolation during the process escape the clutches of death and bear the pains of the emotional trauma and the physical wound.

Agni Raksha crossed yet another milestone as it conducted its first ever sensitization programme for about 150 Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) at the BBMP's Training Centre in Malleshwaram. Also, in comparison to the last quarter, burn victims gave prominence to physiotherapy, which will in fact benefit them by way of preventing contractures, prevent surgery wherever possible and also improve the mobility and functionality. The legal aid cell is making strong inroads in terms of its impact and reach. The women burn victims are coming forward to enquire about their rights, security.

Among the women, who are burn victims attended to by Agni Raksha, there are a large number of Muslim women, who suffer harassment and abuse in silence. Their deep rooted inhibitions in some of them keep them away from the mainstream. Agni Raksha organized a session primarily for Muslim women, with the objective to help them understand that as women, they cannot accept violence and harassment as part of their lives but that stand up against them with fortitude.

I would like to thank our donors, board members, supporters and staff team for all the support extended time to time in realising our vision in serving victims of burns.

Chitra Dhananjay, Director



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