



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020-21



MULTIPLE ACTION RESEARCH GROUP

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

## A note from the Executive Director



It is an honour to present the annual report of the Multiple Action Research Group for the financial year 2020-21.

We faced numerous challenges over the past year, but pandemic-related health emergencies and restrictions on movement were our biggest obstacles. Accessing the community at the grassroots level was indeed a challenge. However, no challenge comes without its remedies. Interaction and engagement through modern technology helped deliver spaces and get work done. Many e-workshops, webinars, talks, and discussions were conducted virtually. We continue to work towards various thematic issues, including migrant labour rights, rights of informal women workers, accessing civic rights, active citizenry, emergent health situations, gender rights, and various other policy developments along with our stakeholders and duty bearers.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the partners of MARG for their gracious support during the past year and look forward to their unwavering support and guidance in our journey together. I am thankful for the guidance of governing body members who have always been our pillar of support even in the toughest of times.

I cannot overlook the cooperation and contribution of the team members, interns, and volunteers of MARG during the past year. We faced numerous oppositions, but I am proud that we all stood together as a team, always united and motivated to deliver our best with a promise to evolve and achieve greater heights in the upcoming year.

As a team, we aim to create initiatives for the upliftment of marginalized groups on a grassroots level and focus on other development issues. With our hardworking nature and motivation to create an impact, I am confident that we will attain greater heights towards justice through legal empowerment.



**Mohammad Noor Alam**  
Executive Director

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## PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES (2020-2021)

NAME	COLLABORATION/ SUPPORT/PARTNER
Legal Empowerment Through E-Workshops and Webinars	
Project Parijat: Accessing Civic Rights through Active Citizenship Education and Engendered Elected Women Representatives	Flowering Tree, Inc.
Gender based Violence Prevention Capacity Building of Garment Workers	Fair Wear Foundation
Legal Awareness Booklets on Human Rights	National Human Rights Commission
Harshinagar Mahila Sashaktikaran Karyakram	Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar Initiatives
Legal Awareness Workshop	Pradan and Others
Free Legal Assistance	Delhi Legal Services Authority
Prisoners' Rights Initiative	National Forum on Prison Reforms

## LEGAL EMPOWERMENT Through E-WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

### WEBINAR:

#### IMPACT ON WORKERS FROM INFORMAL SECTOR WITH CURRENT MIGRANT LABOUR CRISIS FROM GENDER PERSPECTIVE

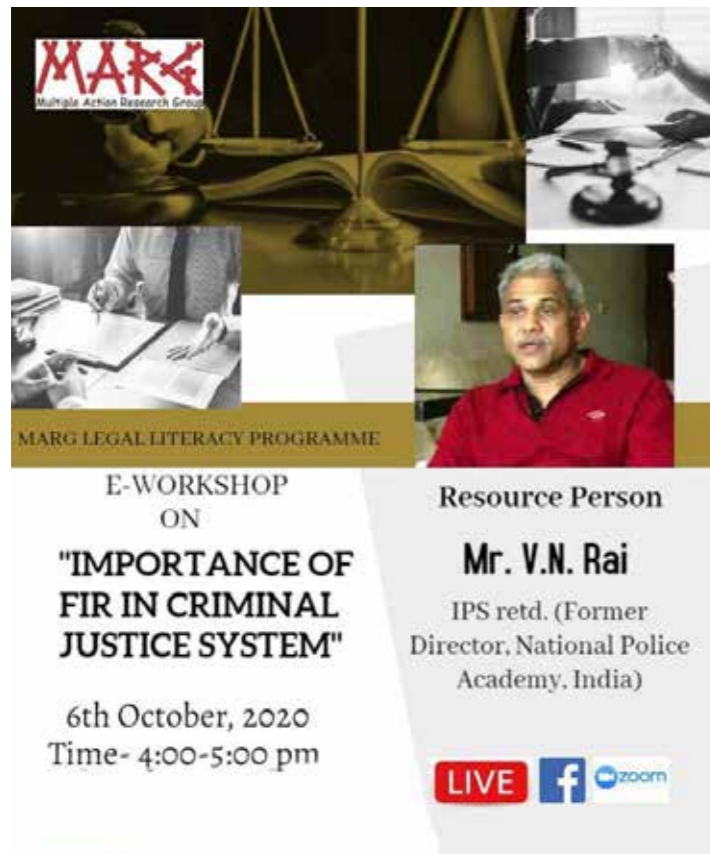
The poster for the webinar features the MARG logo at the top, which includes the text 'JUSTICE THROUGH LEGAL EMPOWERMENT' and 'एक्टिव सिटिजनिशम' below it. A central photograph shows a woman wearing a face mask and holding a child. Below the photo, the text reads 'EXPERT DISCUSSION ON: "Impact on workers from informal sector with current migrant labour crisis from gender perspective"'. The speakers listed are Prof. Kamla Shankaran (Professor-in-charge, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi), Ms. Shahnaz Rafique (Trade Unionist), Ms. R. Latha (Social Development Specialist), and Ms. Chinmayee (Labour Rights Activist). The event is scheduled for Tuesday, 26th May, from 4.00-5.00 pm. At the bottom, it states 'PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AWARDED WITH AN E-CERTIFICATE'.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Multiple Action Research Group organized a webinar on the topic "Impact on workers from the informal sector with current migrant labour crisis from a gender perspective". Since 1985, Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) has pioneered in legal empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalized groups through legal awareness, socio-legal research, advocacy initiatives, and legal aid. MARG works across the country on the issues affecting marginalized communities including women, children, Dalits, tribals, poor, labourers, unorganized women workers etc. The aim of the webinar was to bring together the views, suggestions and opinions of different experts in their own fields. The webinar focused on the migrant labour issue during the lockdown in pandemic, effects of the pandemic on workers from the informal sector due to the suspension of

labour laws in various states especially for women working in informal sectors. The speakers included Prof. Kamala Shankaran (professor-in-charge, University of Delhi), Ms. Shahnaz Rafique (trade unionist), Ms. R. Latha (social development specialist), and Ms. Chinmayee (Labour right activist).

## E-WORKSHOP:

### IMPORTANCE OF FIR IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM





MARG LEGAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

E-WORKSHOP  
ON  
"IMPORTANCE OF  
FIR IN CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE SYSTEM"

6th October, 2020  
Time- 4:00-5:00 pm

Resource Person  
**Mr. V.N. Rai**  
IPS retd. (Former  
Director, National Police  
Academy, India)

LIVE  

An e-workshop on the topic "IMPORTANCE OF FIRST INFORMATION REPORT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM" on ZOOM and FACEBOOK LIVE at 4.00-5.00 pm on 6th October 2020 was organized by MARG. The speaker of the workshop was Mr. V.N.RAI, IPS retd. Former Director, National Police Academy. This e-workshop was an attempt to discuss the extent to which people report a crime to the nearest police station and to examine the factors which influence the common masses not to report the crime whenever it is committed. The e-workshop focused on discussing the importance of FIR in the criminal justice system as the First Information Report is the initial step in a criminal case recorded by the police and contains the basic knowledge as it sets the process of criminal justice in motion. The participants of the e-workshop included grassroot workers, researchers,

social activists, academicians, Advocates, NGO's, police officials and law students.

## ONLINE INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION:

### GENDER & SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT: DEPICTION OF WOMEN IN MEDIA

On 26th October 2020, Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) organized an interactive session on "Gender & Social empowerment: Depiction of women in media" was held. The speaker for the day was Dr. Mausumi Bhattacharyya, the subject matter expert & Associate Professor of the Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal.



An  
Interactive  
Discussion

ON

Gender and social empowerment:  
Depiction of women in media

Date - 26th October  
Time - 4-5 PM

MARG  
Multiple Action Research Group



**Dr. Mausumi Bhattacharyya**  
Associate Professor  
Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication  
Visva-Bharati  
Santinekatan, West Bengal

The session started with the introduction of the speaker by Ms. Pankhuri Gupta of MARG. The Executive Director of MARG Mr. Noor Alam gave an introduction of the topic, its importance & how MARG is closely associated with it. The main motive of the discussion was to understand "How depiction of women in media can be helpful both in positive as well as negative manner from the perspective of gender and social empowerment."

The discussion was divided into three key segments: Gender, Society & Media.

- 1st Segment- An overview of theoretical premises regarding the media's portrayal of women.
- 2nd Segment-Depiction of women in media both internationally and nationally.
- 3rd Segment- Online initiatives were undertaken to provide a platform to women to communicate their stories.

Furthermore, Dr. Mausumi discussed the following points briefly:

- How are women looked at in different parts of the country and festivals?
- Respecting 'mother' through religious festivals?
- The difference in perspective between women as God and women in real life
- Dilution of specific gender roles
- Media's contribution by acceptance
- How with the transformation of society women joined the workforce?
- Freedom and decision-making were a patriarchal ploy?
- Negative fall-outs of modernity
- What is normative discontent?
- Media awareness regarding gender issues
- Gender stereotype
- Objectification relating to physical appearance



The session turned out to be very interactive due to the active participation of participants from different parts of the world, including USA, Germany, Malaysia, Nepal, Bangladesh and India.

## E-WORKSHOP:

### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

MARG in collaboration with Sonbhadra Vikas Sangathan conducted an e-workshop on "Active Citizenship Education" on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The speaker of the e-workshop was Md Noor Alam, executive director of MARG. This workshop was conducted to spread awareness amongst people about their legal rights and the laws available which can aid them in the time of need.

*E-workshop conducted by MARG in collaboration with Sonbhadra Vikas Sangathan, Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh.*

# PARIJAT PROJECT ACCESSING CIVIC RIGHTS THROUGH ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND ENGENDERED ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

## PARIJAT JAN-SWASTHYA JAGRUKTA ABHIYAN

Project Parijat had been initiated by MARG in collaboration with Flowering Tree, Inc USA on accessing civic rights through active citizenship education and engendered elected women representatives in the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh. It aimed to spread awareness on accessing water, sanitation and health rights (WASH), Right to Life and Right to Health by a combination of active citizenship education, engendered elected women representatives and good governance. Project Parijat is a vital step taken to achieve a good governance education amongst people.



This year MARG started **Parijat Jan-Swasthya Jagrukta Abhiyan** based on the theme of “*saaf safai and jaankari hi bachaw Hai*”. The main aim of this awareness campaign was to make people aware regarding Covid-19. The team interacted with Asha workers, Anganwadi workers, and Gram Pradhan’s in about 88 Gram Panchayats under 20 Blocks of Gorakhpur District and helped them in creating COVID-19 awareness. They spread awareness among the gram panchayats and villagers on the vaccination process. During these three-hour workshops, villagers were explained about the pandemic through games and activities and were told about the symptoms of the viral infection and

the precautions that are to be taken to avoid the spreading of the disease. The workshop ended with a question-and-answer session.

As stated previously, MARG team had organized a workshop on the theme “*Jankari Hi Bachhav Hai*” in around 88 Gram Panchayats of Gorakhpur districts regarding COVID-19 precautionary strategies. The Project team interacted with the Pradhans and discussed the public health issues along with methods to tackle them in their respective villages. MARG team attempted to create awareness among the people about Common Service Centres (CSC) and its benefits at the village level. They also explained the advantage of CSC, which included the work can be done from a single centre only e.g., registry information, ticket booking, employment and livelihood generations, information of government welfare schemes etc.



The team interacted with the Pradhans, elected representatives and the community cadres regarding **Identification Documents** and their importance as they can be used to avail the schemes by the state and central government. The villagers were informed about the process of



enrolment for the new MNREGA, labour cards and about the different schemes available such as the **Indira Awaas Yojana** under which water conservation, tree plantation drive, construction of dam, construction of houses, irrigation related work, and road or village maintenance benefits are available. MARG interacted with the elected women representatives, DDC members and local authorities to provide psychological support and acquaint EWS with the social welfare schemes announced by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for the migrant workers and MARG’s initiatives.



MARG conducted awareness campaigns and interactive workshops in all the 20 blocks with the villagers on cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene with the help of the ASHA and ICDS members. During these workshops, the team sensitized the villagers on the importance of cleanliness, sanitation, and hygiene and how to keep themselves safe from the Covid-19 pandemic. To make the workshop interesting, the team conducted many activities, made use of audio and video visuals, distributed pamphlets and IEC materials. Through these activities, they were informed about ways to keep the villages as

well as their houses clean and sanitized and different ways to tackle Covid-19 such as wearing masks, using sanitizers, washing hands regularly, and following social distancing, as instructed by the Government. The villagers were told about the Swachata Committee formed by the Gram Pradhan in case they face any issues.

During their workshop in the Pali Block, the team met with a few officers and interacted with Mr. Jagdish Prasad Jaiswal, ADO (Additional Development officer) Panchayat. The objective was to create awareness among the villagers on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, so that villagers could be aware and stay safe in the pandemic situations.

The team imparted information on basic human rights such as rights on accessing basic amenities such as clean water to drink, clean environment etc. They further discussed the diseases which the villagers could be prone to because of consuming contaminated water, food or living in unhygienic surroundings. The Sardar Nagar block had a pond near the village. Thus, the villagers were made aware of water borne diseases. They were explained about the sources of stagnant water which could become the hub for breeding mosquitoes leading to the spread of diseases. It was a really good sight to see the participants actively interacting with the team as they already knew about ways to combat water borne diseases. They informed us that they used kerosene oil and chlorine tablets to purify the contaminated water. The team told them to approach the ASHA workers or the Gram Pradhans in case they face any problems regarding Wash.



Last but not the least, the MARG team discussed several schemes by the state and central government regarding cleanliness and sanitation in the villages to avoid Covid-19 and other diseases. They told them about the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana** also known as the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** that aims to provide free access to health insurance coverage for low-income earners in the country.

Another scheme discussed was the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin** which focused on providing “Pucca Houses” with basic amenities. They were also told about **MGNREGA** which aimed to provide employment to the unemployed. Lastly, they talked about the Early Childhood Care and Education module (ECCE) which provides early childhood care and education for children of preschool age. The members of MARG also informed the villagers about the importance of identification documents like Aadhar Card, Voter Card, Labour Card so that the villagers could avail the benefits of the schemes by the government.



The community women and Anganwadi workers appreciated the effort of the team and requested to organize these kinds of awareness workshops more often.

## IMPACT OF DASTAVEJKARAN IN SAVDA GHEVRA RESETTLEMENT COLONY, DELHI

The MARG representatives initiated the topic of identity documents (Dastavezikaran) with the Block coordinators, core team members, women community cadres of Harsingar Mahila Samuh. in Savda Ghevra resettlement colony. The Block coordinators and core team members were thankful to MARG for enabling them to raise their voices and get access to welfare schemes by the government during the pandemic.



At the time when most of the unorganized sector was struggling to make ends meet due to unemployment in the pandemic and could not access the schemes by the government due to lack of documents, the women of Savada learned from community workshops and trainings conducted by MARG, the importance of having identity documentation / dastavezikaran. Most of them have access to ration and welfare schemes of the government.

In conclusion, the community cadres understood that the access to civic rights has 3 components

- Be aware of your rights
- Maintaining all government documents
- Documents may be required anytime



MARG in collaboration with Flowering Tree, Inc has been working in the Savda Ghevra resettlement colony for the past 12 years. The organization helped residents to access civic amenities through the active citizenry model. During the lockdown period, the MARG team interacted with cadres of Savda Ghevra and enquired about the

availability of construction labor cards and found that most of them do not have labor cards, and were thus deprived of social benefits. The team explained to the community about the process of getting a new construction labor card, which has been announced by the Government of Delhi.

MARG also informed the community regarding the rate fixed by the Delhi government while applying for a new labor card i.e., Rs. 25 to make the residents aware of the proper price to

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING OF GARMENT WORKERS

prevent exploitation. The team also interacted with the labor commissioner regarding issuing labor cards for Savda residents. This led to many residents getting their labor cards without bribery and by following the correct procedure.



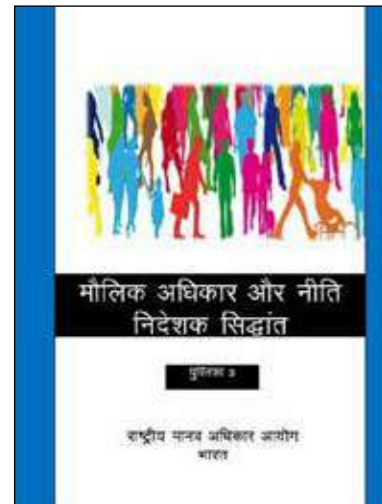
*Women participating in the free legal aid camp at Savda Ghevra.*

In collaboration with Fair Wear Foundation, MARG is working to raise awareness about..... against sexual harassment at workplace, labour standards, gender, training of employees and managers/supervisors, laws, and proper behaviour. Thus, helping garment factories to comply with the laws laid down under the pro Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (prevention, prohibition and redressal) Act 2013. Placing grievance redress systems regarding filing of complaint in export-oriented garment factories is the first step in preventing sexual harassment at the workplace. This year due to pandemic restrictions no activity was held.

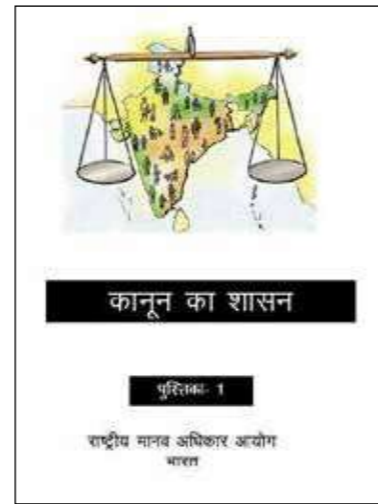


*Annual Partners' Meet of Fair Wear Foundation at Fireflies Intercultural Centre, Bangalore.*

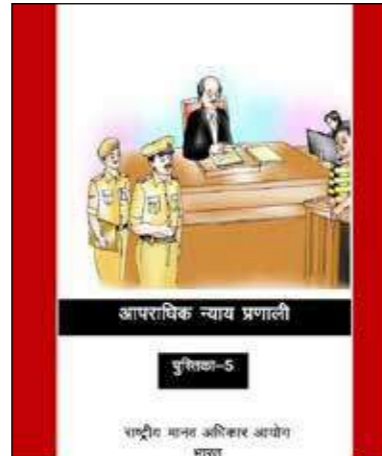
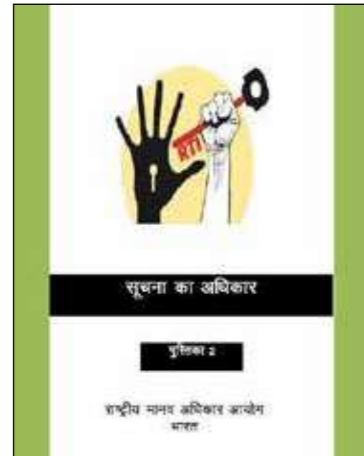
## DEVELOPMENT OF BOOKLETS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)



With support of the National Human Rights Commission, MARG has developed a series of 27 booklets in English and Hindi. The booklets are based on the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized to impart knowledge about the laws associated with their rights. It simplifies the provisions of basic laws and legislations as well as key human rights conventions, so that readers can easily understand the rights of diverse sections, ranging



from women's rights, child rights, the rights of people with disabilities, that are easy to use and can be accessed even by those with basic literacy. The objective of publishing these booklets is to spread awareness about law and rights among masses which include the underprivileged sections of the society. This small step can go a long way in improving their knowledge and obtaining appropriate redressal in times of need.



## HARSHINAGAR MAHILA SASHAKTIKARAN KARYAKRAM DR. VASUDHA DHAGAMWAR INITIATIVES



Late Dr. Vasudha Vasanti Dhagamwar  
Founding Director, MARG

Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) was founded by Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar in 1985 to spread awareness about legal rights among marginalized communities. Over the years, MARG has grown and spread its reach across the country and has been instrumental in empowering women and other groups by educating them about their rights. Members of the organization have carried forward Dr. Dhagamwar's work, and she has always been a guiding light in this endeavor.

In the year of 2020-2021 we performed various activities under 'Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar Initiatives' and the reports of the activities are as follows.

### VIDEO COORDINATION MEETING ON COMMUNAL HARMONY

The team of MARG had an online meeting with Harshingar Mahila Samuh of Savda Ghevra Resettlement to understand and discuss the ground reality and the appropriate intervention strategies that could be implemented by MARG. During the communal disharmony in Delhi there was a tense situation relating to law and order in Savda Ghevra and therefore Harshingar women's group contacted MARG for help. Through MARG, the Harshingar Mahila Samuh interacted with all the blocks of Savda Ghevra in a span of five days. This helped people to understand that they should live in peace and harmony. This is a living example of women empowerment and teamwork. The women of the community requested MARG to raise awareness on menstrual hygiene.

### WEB MEETING ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AND 'RIGHT TO MATERNAL HEALTH' DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA

MARG organized a web meeting with Harshingar Mahila Samuh on Menstrual hygiene and 'Right to maternal health' during Covid-19 pandemic in India. This topic was more than relevant for the women of Savda Ghevra colon. During the meeting it came out that, since many women had undergone sterilization and despite that, conceived, and were unable to get medical help due to the pandemic. The supply chain of essential medicines, contraceptives, and maternal healthcare

had taken a setback due to COVID-19. The number of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and maternal morbidities had also increased substantially. There was also a lack of menstrual health awareness among adolescent girls and women in the community.

**SPREADING AWARENESS ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AND RIGHT TO MATERNAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Harshingar Mahila Samuh organized an awareness program on menstrual hygiene and the right to maternal health during the Covid-19 pandemic in India from 24<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 in collaboration with FTI and MARG in all the blocks of Savda Ghevra slum resettlement colony. The MARG team discussed the Covid-19 causes, symptoms, mode of transmission of the diseases and provided health talk on preventive measures.



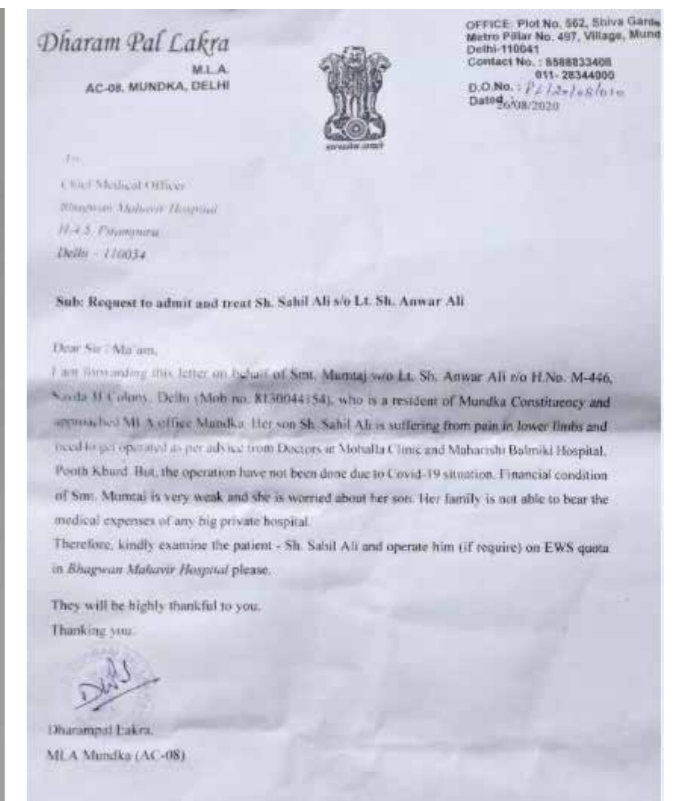
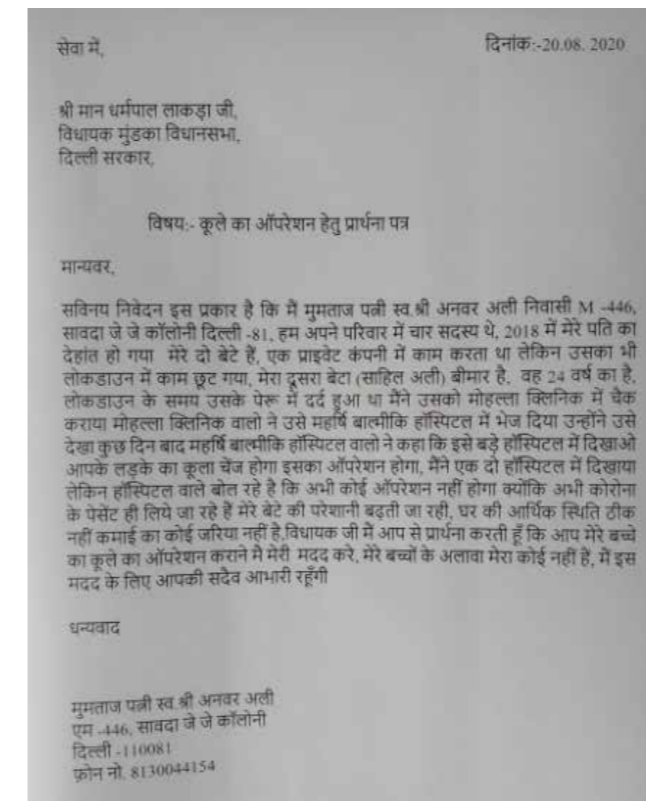
Subsequently, the community cadres shared that the current pandemic crisis had presented more difficulties for menstruating women in accessing menstrual hygiene products in the area. An important fact that the MARG team came to know was that the issue of maternal health has been neglected in the area and not a single organization or government had taken any initiative to provide any awareness on the right to maternal health and hygiene.

It is worth mentioning that one of the community cadres mentioned that they were thankful to MARG and appreciated that MARG raised awareness about the menstrual health of the community women during the pandemic as nobody bothers about the rights of menstrual health of women.



**ASSISTING SAHIL ALI IN GETTING AN URGENT SURGERY IN TIME**

Sahil Ali son of Ms Mumtaz from M Block of Savda Ghevra Slum Resettlement Colony of North West Delhi needed immediate operation of his lower limb. As she could not afford the necessities for the operation, she contacted MARG. We helped her to connect with the MLA of area Mr Dharampal Lakra for the surgery under EWS category. Mr. Lakra wrote a recommendation letter for the same. Sahil got his surgery done at Maharshi Valmiki Hospital under EWS category. Now he is fine.



Letters by Ms Mumtaz to MLA Dharampal and his recommendation letter for EWS quota.

## REMEMBERING DR. VASUDHA DHAGAMWAR ON HER 81ST BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

### HANDHOLDING SUPPORT TO URMILA- A MEMBER OF HARSHINGAR MAHILA SAMUH

Phone of Ms Urmila's daughter was stolen. She had filed a complaint with the police about this situation, but the police did not pay any heed to it. When MARG came to know about this, they followed her case with the concerned investigating officer who assured to help her. Thereafter, the investigating officer took some actions to track the mobile. The investigating officer assured the MARG representative and victim that once a new sim card will be inserted in the mobile then they will be able to track the thief. Thus, an FIR was registered and further follow up is being done. After this incident police has increased patrolling in the area.

**FIRST INFORMATION REPORT**  
U/S 15-C.P.C.

1. District: Civil Branch, Delhi P.S. :- Police Station (SHAHNARA, GZINI) Year: 2021  
File No: 199/HA-010204 Date: 20/08/2021

2. Act(s) Section(s)  
113 IPC 379

3. Occurrence of Offence:  
(a) Day/Thursday Date From: 20/08/2021 Date To: 20/08/2021  
Time Period: Time From: 00:00 Hrs Time To: 00:00 Hrs  
(b) Information received at P.S. Date: 20/08/2021 Time: 00:00 Hrs  
(c) Daily Diary Reference: Entry No: 104 Page: 10-11

4. Type of Information: Through web application

5. Place of Occurrence:  
(a) Direction and Distance from P.S. West No:  
(b) Address: SHAHARA TO SARAKA ROAD  
(c) In case, Outside the limits of the Police Station Name of P.S. District:

6. Complainant / Informant:  
(a) Name: PUSPA S/O RUPAK LAL  
(b) Date/Year of Birth: NA Nationality: India  
(c) Passport No.: Not Available Date of Issue: NA Place of Issue: Not Available  
(d) Occupation: Not Available  
(e) Address: 108 D COLONY SARAKA DELHI  
Mobile Number: 7888822090 [Email ID: ps104285@gmail.com]

7. Details of Suspected / Unknown accused with full particulars (attach separate sheet if necessary):  
(a) Suspect seen: Not seen  
(b) No. of suspect(s): 0  
(c) Suspect(s) identified: No

8. Reason for delay in reporting by the complainant/informant:  
No delay

9. Particulars of properties stolen / involved (attach separate sheet if necessary): Attachment No: 4940254

Sr.	Details of Property	Description of Property	Status
1.	Mobile	MY MOBILE PHONE REDMI NOTE 7 PRO WITH SIM NO. 8146537863 AND IMEI NO. 86326754407838, 8632675440461546	Stolen

10. Details of Incident:  
I, PUSPA S/O RUPAK LAL, report the theft of my mobile phone (Redmi Note 7 Pro) from my home, which I reached Shekhar Park, Shahara, GZINI, on 20/08/2021. I realized my phone was not in my pocket. My mobile phone (Redmi Note 7 Pro) with SIM No. 8146537863 and IMEI No. 86326754407838, 8632675440461546.

11. Inquest Report / U.D. Case No., if any: NA

12. F.I.R. Contents (attach separate sheet, if necessary):  
I, PUSPA S/O RUPAK LAL, report the theft of my mobile phone (Redmi Note 7 Pro) from my home, which I reached Shekhar Park, Shahara, GZINI, on 20/08/2021. I realized my phone was not in my pocket. My mobile phone (Redmi Note 7 Pro) with SIM No. 8146537863 and IMEI No. 86326754407838, 8632675440461546.

13. Statement (to be recorded by the Investigating Officer at the scene)  
(a) Register the case and look up the investigation: 08  
(b) Directed (Name of the I.O.): Rank:  
(c) Member to look up the investigation: 08  
(d) Before investigation was held: 08  
(e) Transferred to P.S. (Name): District:  
(f) on duty of jurisdiction.

P.S. It is recommended that the complaint / informant, should be correctly recorded and a copy given to the complainant / informant.  
S.S.A.C.

*(FIR registered by the police for Ms Urmila's phone.)*



Dr Vasudha Dhagamwar was born on 29<sup>th</sup> February 1940. MARG was also founded on Dr Vasudha's birthday in the year 1985. Let's get to know more about who Dr Vasudha Dhagamwar was. Dr Vasudha was a woman of versatility. She was a thinker, lawyer, teacher, scholar, social worker, and a better person. In an era when it was difficult for women to get out of the house, where they faced domestic violence and lived in a patriarchal society, Dr Vasudha took a vow to give voice to women and promote women empowerment. In the 1960s, she earned a doctorate in law from the University of Oxford, UK. Prior to this, she had completed her law studies from the University of Mumbai. Her childhood was spent in remote areas of Bihar and present-day Jharkhand state. She empathized with the people who were victims of the vicious circle of poverty, social plights, problems faced by women and other marginalized people and understood them deeply. In the early years of her career, she was a successful professor (teacher), lawyer and a journalist raising social issues.



She also worked for the people who lost their houses because of the Sardar Sarovar Dam project on the Narmada River in the 1970s. At that time Dr Vasudha raised the issues of forced land acquisition and displacement vigorously. She realized that most of the people are not aware of the rights given in the law and the procedures to get them justice, so they have to suffer. Later, she also started raising the issues of women's rights. Especially after the Mathura rape case, she exposed the inability of the law to not give proper justice to women. In 1985,

he decided to organize her efforts and established the organization 'MARG' (Multiple Action Research Group) in Shahpur Jat village of Delhi. That village was also a victim of displacement

during the Asian Games. Under the banner of 'MARG', she did important research and legal awareness work for public concern, women's rights, Dalit and tribal rights and rights of other deprived sections of the society. Seeing all the work Dr Vasudha has done for the society with all her hard work, we see that she lived the life of a successful leader and was a social reformer, public servant, campaigner of women's rights and a knowledgeable person who knew about the Constitution and legal aspects of India.



Every year, to pay homage and remember all the work that Dr Vasudha had done to make this world a better place, MARG conducts workshops to honor her. To celebrate Dr Vasudha's 81<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary, MARG conducted a workshop in Savda Ghevra.

Savda Ghevra Resettlement Colony, as the name suggests, is a place for the displaced people. MARG has been active since almost the beginning of this settlement colony and has been raising issues of civic concern for the people. Through

the people of this colony, it is possible to experience and assimilate the pain of the displaced people and the wish to live a better life continuously.

MARG has been raising issues about women's rights by creating platforms like Harshingar Mahila Samoh and has been working to resolve the problems of women's rights.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a Mahila Chaupal was organized where the women of Savda Ghevra were told about their rights and laws which are enacted to protect women. Dr Vasudha's achievements were highlighted, and the women were motivated to follow her steps to raise voice for women empowerment and their rights.

## CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN SAVDA GHEVRA SLUM RESETTLEMENT COLONY

ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

To mark International Women's Day, a Sadhbhavna March was organized by the Harshingar Mahila Samuh in Savdha Ghevra with the help of the MARG team. They covered all the areas in Savda and requested the people to stay calm and maintain peace and harmony in their area. There was a community meeting where the women were made aware of their rights and people were asked to keep peace and harmony in the society in lieu of the communal riots nearby. Slogans such as "Mahila Samman Mahila Adhikar" were raised to spread awareness for the women to celebrate International Women's Day.



(Sadhbhavna March in Savda Ghevra)

## LEGAL AWARENESS WORKSHOPS

MARG continued with its training program and writing/translating the manuals/booklets with NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and communities on various areas of legal and constitutional rights.

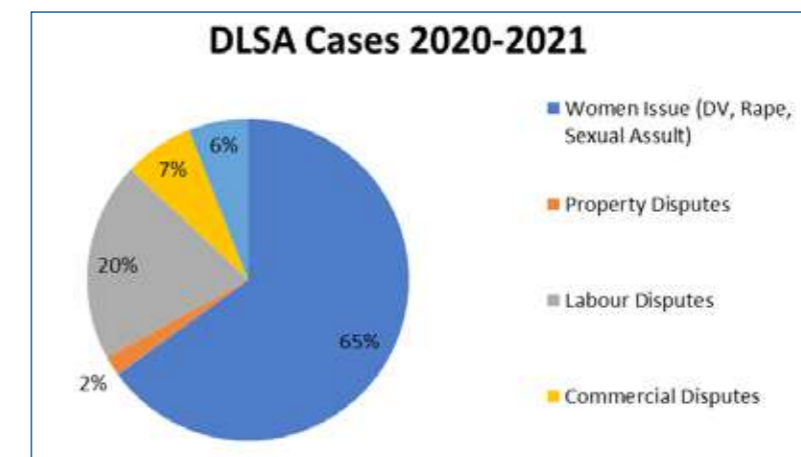
- The team conducted a legal literacy training workshop for PRADAN NGO from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Simdega, Jharkhand.
- On International Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) in collaboration with New Delhi District Legal Services Authority organised a camp for free legal aid and human right awareness with the residents of a slum habitation, Hanuman Mazdoor Camp, RK Puram, New Delhi, India.



(Free legal aid camp on International Human Rights Day)

## LEGAL COUNSELLING THROUGH LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES

MARG's lawyer Ms Kiran Singh continued to provide legal aid to women, children, persons with disability and other categories of vulnerable persons and marginalized groups entitled to legal aid from the state. Through Kiran Singh, who functions as a MARG's (voluntary) **Counsellor with the Delhi Legal Services Authority**, continued to strengthen the statutory mechanism for providing legal aid to the needy. This year (2020-21) the counselling for some of the cases was also done through Video Conferencing, which were attended by litigants from safety of their home in pandemic times and some cases were counselled from the office of DLSA when the pandemic situation was easing out.



### Legal aid provided by MARG through the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA)

Category	Number (%)
Women issues	65
Property Disputes	02
Labour Disputes	20
Commercial Disputes	07
Other	06

MARG, along with other organizations, is an NFPR member working on Prison Reforms. The **National Forum on Prison Reforms (NFPR)** is a non-registered forum of 6 organisations: Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), International Bridges to Justice India (IBJ India), Lawyers for Human Rights International (LFHRI), and Multiple Action Research Group (MARG). NFPR is also an intervenor in the case *Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons, WP@ 406 of 2013; as well as in Re: Contagion of Covid 19 Virus in Prisons, Suo Motu WP @ No.1/2020*, and MARG along with other members of the forum have worked closely with the Amicus Curiae in the above cases, in order to assist the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contemplating the various measures to address various issues including overcrowding, medical negligence, and custodial deaths in prisons.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made it imperative to look at the conditions of the prisons from a different glance and to ensure the rights of the prisoners. MARG, while working with the National Forum on Prison Reforms, has discussed these issues with other members of the forum. Ideas were moved by the forum during covid-19 lockdown for releasing the prisoners, following HPC guidelines, providing better medical facilities to the prisoners throughout India.

The following submissions were put forth by the National Forum to the Hon'ble members of the HPC/URC in order to help decongest the prisons, and to ensure that adequate medical facilities, communication channels, health and hygiene and other facilities are put in place, and so as to safeguard the human rights of prisoners during the times of COVID-19: -

### 1. Overcrowding and Decongestion of Prisons

On the issue of **overcrowding and decongestion of prisons, the Hon'ble Court in re: directions: Contagion of Covid 19 Virus in Prisons** vide order dated 23.03.2020 passed the following directions:

- a. *Each State/Union Territory shall constitute a High-Powered Committee comprising of (i) Chairman of the State Legal Services Committee, (ii) the Principal Secretary (Home/Prison) by whatever designation is known as, (ii) Director General of Prison(s), to determine which class of prisoners can be released on parole or an interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate. For instance, the State/Union Territory could consider the release of prisoners who have been convicted or are undertrial for offences for which prescribed punishment is up to 7 years or less, with or without fine and the prisoner has been convicted for a lesser number of years than the maximum;*
- b. *The Undertrial Review Committees contemplated by this Court in Re: Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons, (2016) 3 SCC 700, shall meet every week and take such decision in consultation with the concerned authority as per the said judgment;*
- c. *The High-Powered Committee shall take into account the directions contained in para no. 11 in Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar, (2014) 8 SCC 273. (Emphasis added)*

### 2. Prevention of the outside transmission of COVID-19

On prevention of the outside transmission of COVID-19, the Hon'ble Supreme court vide order dated 23.03.2020 in re: Contagion of Covid 19 Virus in Prisons, Suo Motu WP @ No. 1/2020 had directed as follows:

- a. Physical presence of all the under-trial prisoners before the Courts must be stopped forthwith and recourse to video conferencing must be taken for all purposes.
- b. Transfer of prisoners from one prison to another for routine reasons must not be resorted except for decongestion to ensure social distancing and medical assistance to an ill prisoner.
- c. There should not be any delay in shifting a sick person to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of any possibility of infection.
- d. Preparation of readiness and response plan in consultation with medical experts taking into account the report of the Inter agency Standing Committee.
- e. Prison specific readiness and response plans must be developed in consultation with medical experts. "Interim guidance on Scaling-up COVID-19 Outbreak in Readiness and Response Operations in camps and camp like settings" jointly developed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Health Organisation (WHO), published by Inter-Agency Standing Committee of United Nations on 17 March 2020 may be taken into consideration for similar circumstances.
- f. A monitoring team must be set up at the state level to ensure that the directives issued with regard to prison and remand homes are being complied with scrupulously.

### 3. Facilities for Prisoners

It was also directed that the High-Powered Committee / Undertrial Review Committee or any other Competent Authority responsible for the release of prisoners may also ensure that the prisoners are offered the following facilities prior to being released:

- a. Transportation and other facilities for released prisoners
- b. Phone calls Detailed informed consent:
- c. Prisoners be given a subsistence allowance, travel allowance, issuing of passes as well as a medical / ration / essential supply kit
- d. Wages earned by the prisoners during their period in custody be handed over to them at the time of release.
- e. In case there is a problem with regard to transportation or lack of facilities, **alternate temporary shelter arrangements** should be made in the city/district till the lockdown is over for prisoners released on bail or parole.
- f. Health screening of prisoners prior to release

## SEMINARS/MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MARG

#### 4. Adequate Medical and other Basic Facilities inside Prisons

The Hon'ble Supreme Court had reiterated the need for adequate medical facilities

#### 5. Extension of guidelines to Juveniles, Childcare institutions, Beggar Homes, Women Homes, Detention Centres, Correctional Centres, Protection Homes, and other Institutional Settings per order dated 13.4.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court

Interim Applications were moved before Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP<sup>®</sup> 1 of 2020 after discussions with other members of the forum to safeguard the rights of Prisoners during the Covid-19 period, these included: -

- a) **IA (IA No. 91155 of 2021)** on behalf of National Forum for Prison Reform for release of elderly prisoners and sick prisoners (including women) in accordance with the categories demarcated in various HPC Minutes and International guidelines. Further an additional affidavit was filed based on the Affidavits filed by each state in the Suo Moto Writ Petition 1 of 2020 giving the status of release of prisoners. The affidavit also demarcated the number of counsellors and psychiatrists, medical staff including doctors and nurses as well as ambulances available within prisons for inmates. This information was gathered from RTIs filed in Delhi and sent to all central jails.
- b) **IA for Clarification (118171 of 2021)** Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP<sup>®</sup> 1 of 2020 was also filed on behalf of National Forum for Prison Reform against orders of recall of prisoners issued in Punjab and Haryana was also moved before Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**WP(PIL) no.66 of 2021** (*National Forum of Prison Reform v State of Chhattisgarh & Ors*) was filed earlier to extend the date for surrender of prisoners after the first wave. This was moved in the Chhattisgarh High Court for the issuance a writ of mandamus quashing the order dated 31.03.2021 passed by Director General Jail, Chhattisgarh, so far as it states that-

- The Prisoners who did not surrender within the time frame mentioned their release warrant due to extension granted by Hon'ble High Court Chhattisgarh and Hon'ble Supreme Court shall not be allowed to make an application for parole for a period of 12 months from the date of their actual surrender and unless the jail authorities satisfied of their conduct.
- The period in which the prisoners remained outside the jail beyond the period mentioned in the release warrant shall not be calculated while calculating the total imprisonment of the prisoner.
- To direct the respondents to forthwith release all the inmates who had been released earlier pursuant to order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 23.03.2020

**WP(PIL) no.221 of 2020** was also filed in the HIGH Court of UTTARAKHAND which was disposed with the direction to approach the High-Powered Committee.

Date	Organization	Topic	Venue	Participant
03.04.2020	PRIYA	Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on urban Informal in India	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
02.05.2020	Jindal Global Law School	Global judicial colloquium	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
14.05.2020	Cividep India & Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)	Footloose Forever? A conversation on the pandemic's impact on workers confirmation	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
02.06.2020	NFPR	Meeting of the members of National Forum on Prison Reforms	Webinar	Ms. Kiran Singh
03.06.2020	UNESCO	SDG Toolkit for community radios-communicating the sustainable development goals from the perspective of Covid-19	Webinar	Md Noor Alam
18.06.2020	JAGORI	Taking domestic workers issue to the state level	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
26.06.2020	RTE Forum	Impact of COVID-19 on Right to Education of Children of Migrant Workers	Webinar	Manoj Kumar Thakur
26.06.2020	RTE Forum	Impact of COVID-19 on Right to Education of Children of Migrant Workers	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
30.06.2020	Covid Alliance (HAQ)	Discussion on implications of task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood and way forward	Webinar	Manoj Kumar Thakur
01.07.2020	National Forum	Prison Reforms	Webinar	Ms Kiran Singh

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

04.05.2020	NASSCOM	Atma-Nirbhar Bharat	Webinar	Md. Noor Alam
19.08.2020	JAGORI	Domestic Workers	Webinar	Md. Noor Alam
27.08.2020	WIEGO & SEWA	Coping with Covid-Sewa's domestic workers on the pandemic and beyond	Webinar	Md. Noor Alam Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
03.09.2020	Pardarshita	Increase in dropouts due to pandemic Push-Post Covid strategies	Webinar	Md. Noor Alam
07.09.2020	NIRMANA	Advocacies with MLAs and MPs on domestic workers	Webinar	Md. Noor Alam Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
16.09.2020	JAGORI	Brainstorming on planning joint action for including DWs in the social security code	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
19.09.2020	JAGORI	Discussion on domestic workers	Webinar	Ms. Pankhuri Gupta
21.11.2020	NFPR	Meeting of the national forum on prison reforms	Webinar	Ms. Kiran Singh
18.01.2021	NCW	The Protection of Women from Domestic violence Act, 2005	Webinar	Shri K. K. Rai Md. Noor Alam
06.03.2021	Prison Reform Forum	Meeting on prisoners' issue	Webinar	Ms Kiran Singh
12.03.2021	FICCI	Build Back Resilient Communities- Stories from the Ground	Webinar	Md Noor Alam
17.03.2021	FICCI	Leadership for Gender Equality Summit- A South Asia Event"	Webinar	Md. Noor Alam
06.03.2021	NFPR	Meeting of the National Forum on Prison Reforms	Webinar	Ms. Kiran Singh
23.03.2021	NFPR	Meeting of the National Forum on Prison Reforms	Webinar	Ms. Kiran Singh



**K.K. RAI**  
Chairperson



**K. T. SURESH**  
Treasurer



**SEEMA MISRA**  
Member



**MALVIKA KAUL**  
MEMBER



**ASHA SINGH**  
MEMBER



**V.N. RAI**  
MEMBER



**MD. NOOR ALAM**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## GENERAL BODY MEMBERS



**K.K. RAI**  
CHAIRPERSON



**K. T. SURESH**  
TREASURER



**SEEMA MISRA**  
MEMBER



**MALVIKA KAUL**  
MEMBER



**ASHA SINGH**  
MEMBER



**V.N. RAI**  
MEMBER



**MAJA DARUWALA**  
MEMBER



**ANANT KUMAR  
ASHTHANA**  
MEMBER



**KIRAN SINGH**  
MEMBER



**POORAN CHANDRA PANDEY**  
MEMBER



**AURABH ANAND PRAKASH**  
MEMBER



**NISHA BHAMBHANI**  
MEMBER



**SARIM NAVED**  
MEMBER



**PAMELA SINGLA**  
MEMBER



**M. NOOR ALAM**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MARG TEAM

SL. No.	Name	Designation	Remarks
1.	MD. NOOR ALAM	Executive Director	
2.	AMRITA SINGH	Programme Officer	
3.	DEVIKA MISHRA	Law officer	Till 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug. 2020
4.	PANKHURI GUPTA	Research Consultant	
5.	MOHD. FIRDOSH	Project Officer	
6.	VIRENDER KUMAR	Programme Assistant	
7.	RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA	Programme Assistant	
8.	KIRAN SINGH	Consultant	
9.	SAIYED ZEGHAM MURTAZA	Consultant	
10.	HITENDRA UPADHYAY	Consultant	
11.	PADAM SAINI	Consultant	
12.	RASHIDA KHATUN	Accounts Officer	
13.	MANOJ KUMAR THAKUR	Administrative Officer	
14.	SITA DEVI	Office maintenance	(Part time)
15.	TARUN KUMAR	Office maintenance	(Part time)

## INTERNS

Ms Rashi Sachdeva	LLB	Guru Govind Singh Indraprasth University
Aakash Batra	LLB	Symbiosis Law college, Noida
Ms. Neharica Sahay	LLB	Symbiosis Law college, Noida
Ms.Sonalika Tewari	LLB	Kriti P Mehta School of Law, Mumbai
Ms.Shreyashi Raj	BA LLB	Symbiosis Law College
Ms.Mansi Tyagi	BA LLB	Symbiosis Law college
Ms. Aditi Sinha	BBA LLB	Kirit P. Mehta School of Law, Mumbai
Ms. Ayushi Singh	BBA LLB	Kirit P. Mehta School of Law, Mumbai
Ms Mansi Gosain	LLB	Faculty of Law, Delhi University
Ms Prachi Sehgal	BBA LLB	Chandraprabhu Jain College of Higher Studies & School of Law
Ms Divya Sharma	LLB (Hons)	University of Kent
Mr. Shubhayu Pati	BBA LLB	Kirit P. Mehta School of Law, Mumbai
Mr. Yashpriya Sahran	BA LLB	Lloyd Law College, Noida
Mr. Ankit Rana	Labours Studies of Social Protection	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati
Ms Ankita Mukherjee	Communication & Journalism	Visva Bharati University, Shanti Niketan, West Bengal
Ms Apeksha Bapna	BBA LLB	Jaipur National University
Ms Lisa Sankrit	BA LLB	Symbiosis Law School, Noida
Ms Swechcha Ganapati	MSW	Madras School of Social work, Chennai
Ms. Shourya Shubham	BA LLB	Chanakya National Law University, Patna
Ms Vidhi Panjwani	BA LLB	Jagaran LakeCity University, Bhopal
Ms Aishwarya	BBA LLB	O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Ms Vidya Sanjay Kakra	BBA LLB	Symbiosis Law School, Noida
Ms Khushi Choudhary	BBA LLB	Chanakya National Law University, Patna
Ms Vasundhara Sharan	BBA LLB	Symbiosis Law School Noida



**WDK & ASSOCIATES**  
Chartered Accountants

FORM No. 10B

**Audit Report Under Section 12A (b) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, in the case of Charitable or Religious Trusts or Institutions**

We have examined the balance sheet of MULTIPLE ACTION RESEARCH GROUP (PAN:AAATM0664N) as at 31st March 2021 and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Trust or institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above named Trust visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books, and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by us, subject to the comments given below: --

-NIL-

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view-

(i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Trust as at 31st March 2021 and

(ii) in the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31st March 2021.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Name: Dheera Wadhwa  
Membership Number 091143  
WDK & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration Number 016389N  
Date of Audit Report 12-Feb-2022  
UDIN: 22091143ABOPEP6180



Place New Delhi  
Date 12-Feb-2022

H.O. 303/5, Putting Greens (GH-2) NRI City, Omega-II, Near Pari Chowk, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201308

MULTIPLE ACTION RESEARCH GROUP : NEW DELHI  
205-206, Second Floor, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2021

PREV. YEAR	LIABILITIES	NOTE	AMOUNT	PREV. YEAR ASSETS	NOTE	AMOUNT
1,037,456.53	CAPITAL FUND:	1	927,088.49	FIXED ASSETS	3	953,617.49
2,240,179.86	CORPUS FUND	1	2,240,179.86	INVESTMENTS	4	22,779,358.96
22,238,184.93	GENERAL FUND	1	23,371,052.93	CURRENT ASSETS, LOAN & ADVANCES	5	5,330,568.30
3,482,252.22	PROJECT FUND	1	2,442,360.47			
473,014.00	CURRENT LIABILITIES	2	82,863.00			
29,471,087.54	TOTAL		29,063,544.75	TOTAL		29,063,544.75

For WDK & ASSOCIATES  
Chartered Accountants  
FIRM REGISTRATION NO. 016389N



*[Signature]*  
RAMESH J. WADHWAN  
Partner  
(Membership No. 091143)

*[Signature]*  
Executive Director

*[Signature]*  
Chairperson

*[Signature]*  
Accounts Officer

Place : New Delhi  
Date:







मल्टिपल ऐक्शन  
रिसर्च ग्रुप

कानूनी सशक्तकरण के जरिए न्याय

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