

Rudramadevi Mahila Mandali



ABOUT US

Rudramadevi Mahila Mandali (RDMM) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working for the health rights and socio-economic empowerment of the female sex workers (FSWs) in Warangal district. In 2003, a group of nearly 1000 FSWs from 7 mandals of Warangal collectivized, determined to address the stigma and the subsequent violence faced by the community members. A year later, in 2004, the collective registered as a community-based organization (CBO) under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act 35 of 2001. Over the years, in addition to advocacy and crisis resolution, we expanded our scope of work to address the diverse needs of our FSW community – health, legal aid, social protection and livelihood.

For the past 20 years, RDMM team has dedicated itself to serving the community members in 7 mandals of Warangal district - Hasanparthy, Hanamkonda, Geesugonda, Damera, Kazipet, Khila Warangal and Warangal. We have created an enabling environment for our 2400+ registered members, through effective collaboration with government stakeholders and other NGOs.

VISION

A society in which sex workers are treated with respect and are empowered with socio-economic rights and opportunities.



MISSION

To provide comprehensive equitable health services and enable access to socio-economic opportunities for the FSW community in Warangal district by means of advocacy, networking and direct service delivery.



OUR WORK



HEALTH

HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care & Support Services:

Since 2006, RDMM has been providing integrated HIV services to the FSWs in Warangal district, with support from the State AIDS Control Society (SACS) through the Targeted Intervention (TI) program. By means of intensive outreach and counselling, we create awareness about HIV and other STIs, leading to the adoption of safer sex practices.

The community members are provided with a range of services - regular screening for HIV and STIs, access to condoms, varied forms of counselling, referrals and follow-ups concerning anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and for management of opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis.

We have also formed crisis resolution committees to deal with instances of violence faced by the FSWs; trainings on legal aspects are also provided.

Through the Avahan I and II Initiative, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and executed in collaboration with Alliance India, RDMM spearheaded the HIV prevention efforts amongst the FSWs in Warangal district through community-led outreach and microplanning. The Avahan Initiative was instrumental in facilitating community mobilization and increasing capacity for community ownership to manage health projects.

Till date, our interventions in the field of HIV have benefitted 2468 FSWs.

Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) Services:

Linking HIV and SRH services is important to boost the uptake of HIV prevention, treatment and care services by the FSWs. RDMM provided complementary SRH services to the FSWs and their partners, with support from Alliance India.

By means of advocacy and sensitization, we also built the capacity of the healthcare providers and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a non-discriminatory attitude towards the community members. Information and counselling on SRH (menstruation problems, unwanted pregnancy, contraceptive methods, uterine cancer, breast cancer, etc.) as well as referrals and linkages to facilities providing SRH services is being made available to the FSWs and their partners in a responsive environment.

In addition to SRH services, the project also aimed at mitigating and preventing gender-based violence against FSWs. Support groups in the form of crisis response teams were formed and women also learnt to develop a personal coping plan.

The SRH services provided by RDMM have benefitted 1200+ FSWs.

General Health:

In addition to STIs and SRH services, RDMM also focused on the general health of FSWs and their families through the Aarogya Deepa Project, in collaboration with Swasti Health Catalyst (SHC) and with support from the Ashraya Hastha Trust. The community members and their families were screened for common ailments such as anaemia, diabetes, hypertension, thyroid, etc. and referrals and follow-ups for treatment were ensured, if needed. The project also focused on generating awareness on preventive aspects of healthy living such as nutrition, exercise, meditation, yoga, etc.

The project benefitted 1600+ FSWs and their families.





ECONOMIC SECURITY

Social Protection:

RDMM works towards reducing the financial vulnerability of FSW community by generating awareness and facilitating their access to social entitlements and welfare schemes. Our team has enabled many FSWs to avail ration card, voter ID, PAN card, Aadhar card, etc. and facilitated the process of accessing relevant welfare schemes such as PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, etc.

RDMM's effort on social protection are being supported by Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism (GFATM C-19 RM) grant through Swathi Mahila Sangh, Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSACS) and earlier, by BMGF's Avahan III initiative, in collaboration with SHC.

Livelihood and Social Enterprise:

In collaboration with Swasti Health Catalyst and with support from Social Venture Partners – Hyderabad Chapter, our team conducted skill building and entrepreneurship trainings for FSWs and facilitated their access to govt. schemes such as PM Mudra Yojana Scheme (PMMYS).

543 FSWs availed loans in the range of 20k to 1 lakh and started a small business such as vegetable shop, tailoring, etc. RDMM continues to provide mentorship and address the challenges faced, working towards sustainability of the enterprises.

Legal Aid:

In collaboration with Swathi Mahila Sangh and with support from the GFATM C-19 RM Grant, RDMM is working to create awareness amongst community members about their constitutional rights, relevant legal acts and IPC sections, enabling them to protect themselves and manage crisis independently.

The program, initiated in 2023, has generated awareness amongst 500+ till date.

COVID-19 Relief:

RDMM lead the COVID-19 awareness initiatives and relief operations for the marginalized FSW community and their families in the district through pro-active collaboration on the field with the district authorities. We mobilized significant resources from local donors and key stakeholders such as district authorities and NGOs [GIVE India, Swasti Health Catalyst, SVP Hyderabad, Ashraya Hastha Trust, Swathi Mahila Sangh].

A total of 684 ration kits, 524 hygiene kits, 250 home quarantine kits were distributed to the community. With support from GIVE India, we also arranged for 15 oxygen concentrators and plasma transfusion for 80 FSWs or their family member, infected with COVID-19.

RDMM also ensured home delivery of ART medicines to the HIV positive community members during the lockdown.



PARTNERSHIPS

- ▶ Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSACS)
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS)
- ▶ Alliance India
- ▶ Swasti Health Catalyst, Bangalore
- ▶ Social Venture Partners, Hyderabad Chapter
- ▶ Ashraya Hastha Trust, Bangalore
- ▶ Swathi Mahila Sangh, Bangalore
- ▶ GIVE India
- ▶ LEPRASociety
- ▶ Navyasri Mahila Welfare Society, Warangal



RDMM is being mentored and provided with technical assistance by Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project of Family Health International 360 (FHI 360) since 2024 through LEPRASociety on organizational development and on sustaining services to PLHIV community.



IMPACT

- ▶ **2400+** FSWs are receiving timely HIV, STIs & SRH services, thereby significantly reducing their chances of getting infected with HIV and STIs.
- ▶ **60+** FSWs are receiving counselling and follow-up for ART retention, thereby enabling them to lead a healthy life.
- ▶ **1800+** FSWs received social entitlements and accessed welfare schemes, providing them with economic security.
- ▶ **540+** FSWs availed entrepreneurship training and accessed govt. loan, leading to their financial security through an alternate source of livelihood.

Through collective action and advocacy, RDMM has played a significant role in reducing the stigma and discrimination faced by the community, thereby empowering them with a dignified life, free from all forms of violence.



FUTURE PLANS

In addition to providing comprehensive health services, we would like to scale up our livelihood and enterprise initiatives. We would also like to support the children of our community members with better education and career opportunities.

You can help us in our vision by volunteering and supporting our programs.



LEGAL STATUS

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FCRA	010360128
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DONATION DETAILS

Account Name	Rudramadevi Mahila Mandali
Bank Name	Bank of India
Account No.	868010110000538
Branch	Warangal
IFSC Code	BKID0008968



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