

The Influencer bulletin

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Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls' freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. This issue brings you updates from the second Influencers meet and celebrates work of our grassroots coalition partners Ibtada, Vacha, Sanjog and ANANDI.

Collective conversations: The Influencers Meet

The members of the Influencers group met once again on June 20, 2019 at Edelweiss House for a half-day meeting which covered the importance of re-scripting the theory of violence against women (women against violence), discussed the power of target groups demanding and driving the social change they wish to see (Right to Pee movement) and demonstrated how each one with an intent and willingness to do what they can with resources at hand can shift the needle in favour of the disempowered (The Sankalp experiment).

Eminent representatives of the motley group of Influencers who joined the meet included Zia Mody, Vrinda Rajgarhia, Svati Chakravarty Bhatkal, Satyajit Bhatkal, Samir Patil, Niranjana Rajadhyaksha, Dheeraj Vasishth, Atul Sharma and Vinay Raizada from Team Sankalp and Vidya Shah (CEO, EdelGive Foundation). Special invitees included Aparna Uppaluri from Ford Foundation and Mumtaz Shaikh from CORO India. Read more details of the conversation [here](#).

#KnowledgeSharing



In the News

"Will New India look at economic growth and increasing numbers of industrialist billionaires alone, or will it also measure its success through indicators of greater safety for its migrant workers, women and children as well?"

Asks **Sanjog's** founder Roop Sen [here](#) while exhorting the Government to prioritise anti-trafficking measures, and therefore, investment into them. He juxtaposes the urgency to revive the process of legal reform in human trafficking, by highlighting cases of women, children and men having been rescued from bonded labour and sexual exploitation in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

#AntiTraffickingBill

In lieu of completing 24 years, **ANANDI** held a national round table conference on June 18 and 19, 2019 discussing the vulnerability of girls and young women on account of discriminatory values, law and customary practices in the backdrop of revisiting the **Beijing Platform Action Goals**¹. Agency, choice and consent were emphasised upon and discussed at great length by means of interactive sessions. Identification of opportunities and challenges in addressing the needs of girls and young women by maximum utilisation of the existing State programs and services such as Childline, *Sabla*, etc made the discussion more fruitful.



#NoDiscrimination

Grassroots Leadership

Our NGO partner **Ibtada**, working with women from SHGs for more than 20 years, has been instrumental in promoting 10 SHG Federations, also known as *Manch*, a three-tiered institution in the SHG architecture. Recently, it imparted training to the *Manch* staff around conducting oneself, working with team members and constructively utilising feedback for maximum benefit, to the women in the SHGs.



"आज मैं बहुत खुश हूँ क्योंकि एक साल पहले एक SHG महिला से मेरा झगड़ा हो गया था समूह और मंच से जुड़ने को लेकर, लेकिन मैंने उस महिला से आज मित्र की तरह बात की और वो मुझे अपने घर भी लेकर गयी।"

- Kavita,
Field Coordinator working with Sangharsh Mahila Manch, talking about the impact of Facilitation Training she received.

#GrassrootsLeadership

VACHA facilitated and hosted the 'Leaders for Change Summit 2019, organised by Shadhika where 36 young girls engaged with four civil society organisations from different geographies such as Delhi, Bangalore, West Bengal and Mumbai stayed together to experience the amalgamation of learning, knowledge sharing, ideas and creativity. These girls were chosen based on their leadership showcased towards social initiatives in their respective communities and the Summit was aimed to enhance these skills further through activities ranging from intense sessions around social issues to fun filled games for women and using comics as a means of engagement. The end of the four-day initiative had a graduation ceremony for the girls to commemorate their achievement. It formed a cherished memory and an experience of a lifetime for these young girls.

#LeadersForChange



¹The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1995) aims at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through ensuring women a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means that the principle of shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the wider national and international communities.