



**ONDEDE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(2021-2022)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Ondede is a Kannada word for convergence. By recognizing and acknowledging existing movements, Ondede endeavors to link these different, but interrelated groups to various media platforms to foster productive community discourses, conduct research, and instigate action on dignity-voice-sexuality, and most crucially from the perspective of sexual

minorities and transgender community. We envision a society that provides access in a non-discriminatory and gender-just way. We have also been working towards establishing linkages between different social movements, to increase evidence based advocacy in policy

and to practice and provide a platform for people and movements to come together.

## **CONCEPT BACKGROUND**

Sexual minorities are usually termed as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender persons etc. Their sexual orientation, gender identity, practices and even family/institutional support structure are distinctly different from the majority of the society. It is only in the recent decade that the sexual minority and the transgender community have come to the forefront of the society as marginalized and discriminated groups based on their gender, sexuality and identity. The need of the hour, we believe, is to understand and ensure a just, equitable and a more inclusive society, for these groups often have to face and deal with unsympathetic families, patriarchal and prejudiced society, disgruntled spouses or lovers who turn hostile or become extortionists.

Violence faced by these communities is often invisible or under reported in mainstream media. Further, an insensitive criminal justice system and a pre-colonial provision of Section 377 of the India Penal Code make reporting even more difficult.

## **ACTION PLAN AND METHODOLOGY**

In this context, Ondede has taken a small initiative to understand sexual violence, domestic violence, sexuality rights and transgender rights from the perspectives and experiences of these communities by documenting the stories of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, Jogappas, transgender persons, gender non-confirming, intersex etc from across the State of Karnataka. Perspectives on these four themes will also be gathered from different stakeholders like the police departments, NGOs working with sexual minorities and women, government departments, State Human Rights Commission, hospitals etc.

The methodology used will draw upon the tools of feminist participatory research and seek to foreground personal testimonies while drawing out the larger context for the stories.

## **PURPOSE**

As an Organization working with the grass root communities, these case studies will help us in understanding and voicing the struggles of individuals from the sexual minority and the transgender community. It will also help us to analyze the current legal framework by demonstrating the stark realities of harassment, abuse and violence that has become a part of their day-to-day existence and need to be included in the wider discourse on sexual and domestic violence as also on human rights and dignity. These case studies can also be used in the growing body of knowledge on these marginalized and invisible communities that could inform on-going activism and advocacy, even while developing a more informed and sensitive analytical framework for understanding the lives and realities of sexual minority and transgender communities.

### **Ondede Logo meaning**

The letter O in the logo represents “convergence”, and the little twirl moving out to say something new will emerge...

### **Vision**

Ondede envisions a society that provides access is non-discriminatory and gender-just.

### **Mission**

To create a space for dialogue and support and strengthen action to visibilize issues of Dignity-Voice- Sexuality in relation to children, women and sexual minorities

### **Objectives**

- To establish linkages between different social movements in three interconnected areas
- To provide platform for people and movements to come together to interact and dialogue
- To increase evidence based advocacy in policy and practice and creation of a knowledge hub

### **Approach**

- Partnerships with community based organizations, social movements and other individuals
  - by building contacts, linkages and solidarities
- Engagement with the state and other actors
- Amplifying voices through use of community media
- Conduct research, documentation and campaigns

## 2021

**On 27th February 2021**, Project Convergence participated in the series of online discussions among the sexual minority groups on transgender and sexual minorities' rights and portrayed the life, progress and challenges and the need for solidarity in the Pandemic times.



**On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**, an awareness program at MS Ramaiah hospital was held on the importance of "Health Implications pre and post sex Reassignment surgery" and campaign against violence against GNC-TG-SM followed by international Women's Day. It was jointly organized by SAATHII, Project Convergence, MS Ramaiah hospital, Family Planning Association of India and ONDEDE. During the program videos on models of surgery, procedure, plastic surgery, health implications, counseling, medico legal cases were shown for educating and confidence building of the transgender communities.



**On 29th March 2021**, Ondede and Project Convergence's series of events, a discussion was held at the department of Nephro-Urology of Government Victoria Hospital on SRS and constituting Gender and Sexuality Centre in its campus and followed by campaign against violence against GNC-TG-SM.



**On 3rd April 2021**, Project Convergence team held a condolence meeting on account of the death of a community member in Channapatna, Mandya district, Karnataka.



**On 5th April 2021**, Voice of People-Kannada YouTube channel launch began with an interview on struggles of transgender and sexual minorities.



**On 11th April, 2021**, the transgender community members from Project Convergence, Ondede, Payana organization and TGTI Bangalore participated in the training program on financial support for economic empowerment of Transgender Community, organized by WDC, Canara Bank & EDP. The resource persons encouraged the TG participants to take up alternative livelihoods for self-reliance by providing information on the income generation/ entrepreneurial schemes, and financial support. This training instilled hope for a secured future among the participants.



### **COVID-19 Pandemic: HUMANITARIAN SERVICES for wellbeing of all -TG communities**

During the intense 2nd wave of the pandemic, in collaboration with local government authorities, Project Convergence team and Ondede made concerted efforts in addressing the immediate challenges faced by the communities. They reached out to the unreached through awareness of the special schemes and vaccination drive as most of the community persons were ignorant and hesitant about taking vaccination for COVID 19. The team took this opportunity to campaign against the visible and invisible violence in the society.

The team monitored the availability of beds in the hospitals for COVID patients and shared the information in public through social media. A few samples below:

**20th May 2021**

“Good afternoon. We have come out with a new dashboard on BBMP website to display real time bed status to Public. The details are as below:

bbmp.gov.in

Go to the BBMP site and click on the Covid 19 tab. You would find the details on real time Bed availability in Bengaluru and also Hospital and Zone wise admissions related analytical data.

This page also has other relevant information regarding Covid-19.

Please have a look. You may also directly move to this page by clicking on the following link

<https://apps.bbmpgov.in/covid19/index.html>

"In view of the current #COVID19 #pandemic situation, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announces immediate assistance of Rs. 1500/- each to #Transgender persons through #DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) Mode. #Transgender persons who are in need of monetary help can submit their details to the National Institute of Social Defence - NISD through the form (<https://forms.gle/pJr3jFr9Hd6PKucR9>).

The last date for the submission of the form is #May31. Community-based organizations (#CBOs) may also send details on behalf of transgender persons.

Google form link:

<https://forms.gle/pJr3jFr9Hd6PKucR9>

Last date for submission: **May 31, 2021**

## **22nd May 2021**

The Reserve Bank of India is doing a survey to examine issues faced by the various communities with digital payments, identify concerns and get recommendations to improve the process. They have reached out to LGBTIQ groups to get feedback from the transgender communities, especially in light of MSJE cash transfers

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shradhanjali Jena

Date: Sat, May 22, 2021 at 1:31 PM

Subject: Need your Support.

Cc: Santosh Kumar Patnaik

Good Afternoon Sir/Madam

Thank you for your quick response to WhatsApp. Much appreciated and respected.

I am Shradhanjali Jena, an intern at the Reserve Bank of India.

We are working on a research paper based on "Digital mode of payment" for which we need responses from transgender people. We want to know their suggestions and opinions.

<https://forms.gle/13DuJjjeoqiwb2YC9>

The above link is a survey form that needs to be filled by them. Your support would be highly beneficial for us.

Once again, Thank you.

Regards

Shradhanjali Jena



29th May 2021

'The struggles of the third gender during lockdown. Appeal for support against the discriminatory treatment by the Government and the police' in local major newspaper, PRAJAVANI

It has highlighted the enormous impact of lockdown on horrific day to day survival of the poor TG community with harsh realities described by Dr.Akkai Padmashali of Ondede..

Demands to the government:

Government should provide Rs 20000 per month for those in the TG community living in different parts of the State.

During lockdown Government should pay the house rent, electricity and water bills of the TG persons or suspend these payments

Government should organize separate Vaccination drive for TG community



On 1st June 2021, Project Convergence team, Ondede, Karnataka Janashakthi and Karnataka Yuva Dhvani ( youth group) organized virtual awareness on COVID-19 for unreached communities. The pandemic specialists joined in educating communities. There was a felt need for awareness on COVID vaccinations for youth.



**CAMPAIGN FOR COVID VACCINATION**

Project Convergence team, other civil society groups and concerned citizens campaigned for ensuring vaccination effectively for vulnerable groups including TG community and sex workers by the State Government.

## 2nd June 2021

Please spread a word. A "CAMPAIGN FOR VACCINATION". Please support us in pressuring the government to ensure effective VACCINATION for vulnerable groups including Transgender, Sexual Minorities, Sexworkers" #GOVERNMENTOFINDIA

#GOVERNMENTOFKARNATAKA

#BBMP

#PAYANA #SADHANAMAHIILASANGHATANE #UTTARAKARNATAKAJOGAPPASANGHA,

#ONDEDE

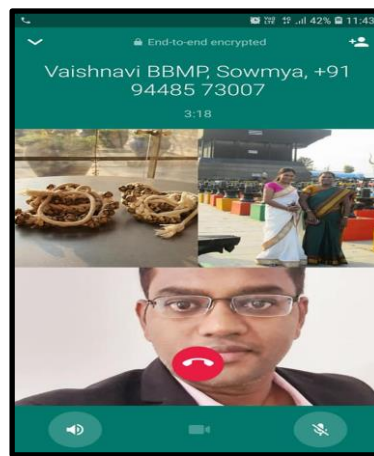
Visit the COVID-19 Information Center for vaccine resources.

Get Vaccine Info



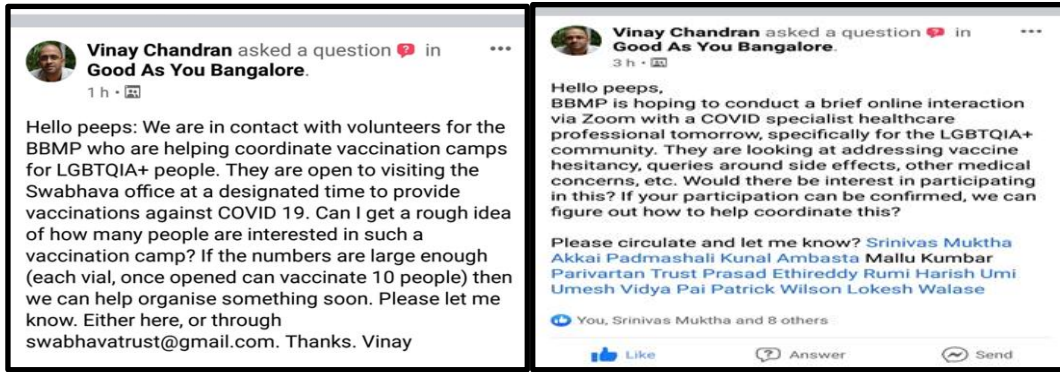
## 10th June 2021

Coordination meet with BBMP officials #Ondede and #Payana on campaign to VACCINATION!



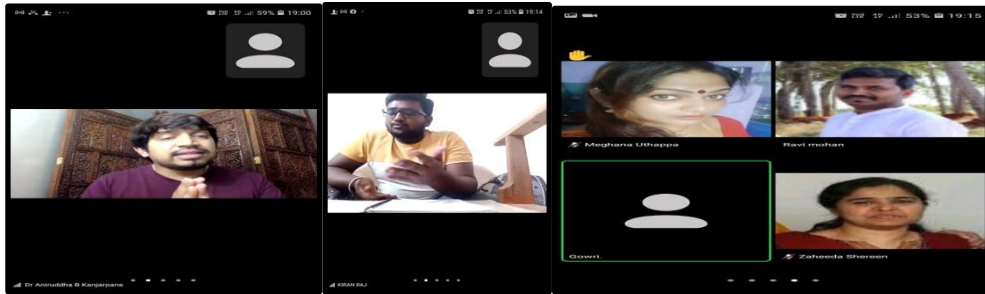
## 10th June 2021

## 12th June 2021



### 13th June 2021

Ondede in series of online converging conversations with doctors, community and members of Rotary club on COVID awareness, pride month with Indigo, BBMP coordination for Campaign to access VACCINATION.



On 14th June 2021 Project Convergence, Ondede organized an exclusive vaccination drive for the TG community in MS Ramaiah Hospital. Transgender activists Male to Female Transgender Activist Sowmya A & Female to Male Christyraj, volunteered and video the event.



17/06/2021 Project Convergence, Ondede and Payana organized #Campaign for #Vaccination with community members.

(Information on free COVISHIELD vaccination exclusively for LGBTQIA+ BBMP officials and call for registration for first and second dose)  
Campaign for VACCINATION





**23/06/2021**

Converging women to be aware and ensure VACCINATION access to every vulnerable person. The Project Convergence team organized an awareness program for Women's wing of backward Weavers' community in Bangalore.



**23/06/2021**

Campaign for VACCINATION organized by Project Convergence and Payana for TG community in collaboration with Bangalore City Corporation officials



**26th June 2021 at Manipal Hospital**



23/06/2021

#FightAgainstFear

Major Newspaper Prajavani in local language published an article on how the members within the transgender community feels fear about vaccine for those who are undergoing Hormone therapy

**ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಕೊರತೆ, ಹಾರ್ಮೋನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸಮತೋಲನ ಆಗುವ ಭಯ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ತ್ರಾಸೀಯ ಲಿಂಗಿಗಳ ಹಿಂದೇಟು**

• ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಜಾಗೃತಿಯ ಕೊರತೆ, ಹಾರ್ಮೋನ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸಮತೋಲನ ಆಗುವ ಭಯದಿಂದ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ತ್ರಾಸೀಯ ಲಿಂಗಿಗಳು ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ, ಎಷ್ಟು ತ್ರಾಸೀಯ ಲಿಂಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಹಾಕಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೇ ಕೋವಿಡ್ (covid.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಕಾರಣ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರೇ ಭಯದಿಂದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಗೆ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಲಿಂಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರಲ್ಲಿ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದ ಹಾರ್ಮೋನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಆಗಬಹುದೇ ಎಂದು ಭಯ ಆವರಿಸಿದೆ. 'ಮಧ್ಯಪಾನ, ಗುಟ್ಟು ಸೇವನೆಯಂತಹ ದುಳ್ಳು ಕೂಡ ಇವರನ್ನು ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಮುಖಂಡರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ**

ವಿಧಿವಿವಿಧ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತ್ರಾಸೀಯ ಲಿಂಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಕೊಡಿಸಲು ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ಟಾಟ್‌ಫು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಡಾ. ವೈಷ್ಣವ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರೆದರೆ ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮುಖಂಡರು, ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಅವರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಕಿಟ್ ಕೊಡಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಆ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದು ಲಸಿಕೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಲಸಿಕೆ ನೀಡುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಲಸಿಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿರಲೇ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಬಳಿಕ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿರಲೇ ನೀಡಿ ಅದೇಷ್ಟು ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರಿಗೆ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಕೊಡಿಸುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಕೆಲಸ ಎಂದು ನಂಬಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎಂದು ವೈಷ್ಣವ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಲಿಂಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಆದ ಕೆಲ ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವವರಿಗೆ ಹಾರ್ಮೋನ್ ಥರಾಪಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಓಂದು ವಾರ ಮುಂಚೆ ಮತ್ತು ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದ ಓಂದು ತಿಂಗಳ ತನಕ ಈ ಥರಾಪಿ ಒಳಗಾಗುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಮಹಿಳೆಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಮಾಡದ ಕಾರಣ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭಯದಿಂದ ಹೊರಗೆ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಎಲ್‌ಜೆಡಿಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆ ಅಶ್ವಿ ಪದ್ಮಶಾಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಭಯಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೂರು ಪಟ್ಟು ಭಯ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮುದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದುಡಿಸಿಮೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆವಾಡಿಗಳ ಪರದಾಟದೇ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇತ್ತು. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸುವುದೇ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಲಸಿಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರು ಯೋಚಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂತಹ ಶೋಚನೀಯ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ತ್ರಾಸೀಯ ಲಿಂಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸಲು ಬೇಕಾದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನೀಡುವ ಜನಗೆ ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು'

ಲಸಿಕೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಈ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ದಿವಿಎಂಪಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷಿ ಗೌರವ್ ಗುರುತ್ತ ಅವರು ಡಾ. ವೈಷ್ಣವ್ ಮತ್ತಿ ಡಾ. ರವೀಂದ್ರ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸೇವಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದ ಫಲವಾಗಿ ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ, ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹೆಮ್ಮಳು, ಬ್ಯಾಟು ರಾಯನವುರು, ಚಯನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಓಂದಷ್ಟು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಲಸಿಕೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ವಿಕೆಡಿಲಿಯಾ ಆಕ್ರಮಣ, ನಿವ್ಯಾನ್, ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಆಕ್ರಮಣ ಮೂಲಕ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ನಾವೂ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಾವು ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿ ಭಯ ಹೋಗಲಾಡಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಾವು ಪಡೆದ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಮಾಡುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ್ದು' ಎಂದು.

16/06/2021

Smt v.BhagyaLakshmi Joint Director,ATI Musuru,interacting With Dr.Akkai padmashali on the issues of sexual minorities.

[https://youtu.be/blOYq0sFMJ0?fbclid=IwAR0IjRpu\\_mjSoC1IZ0tVw3u9LosAK-a52HHVww-nfEs3qObSe4lcrPdFcg://youtu.be/blOYq0sFMJ0](https://youtu.be/blOYq0sFMJ0?fbclid=IwAR0IjRpu_mjSoC1IZ0tVw3u9LosAK-a52HHVww-nfEs3qObSe4lcrPdFcg://youtu.be/blOYq0sFMJ0)



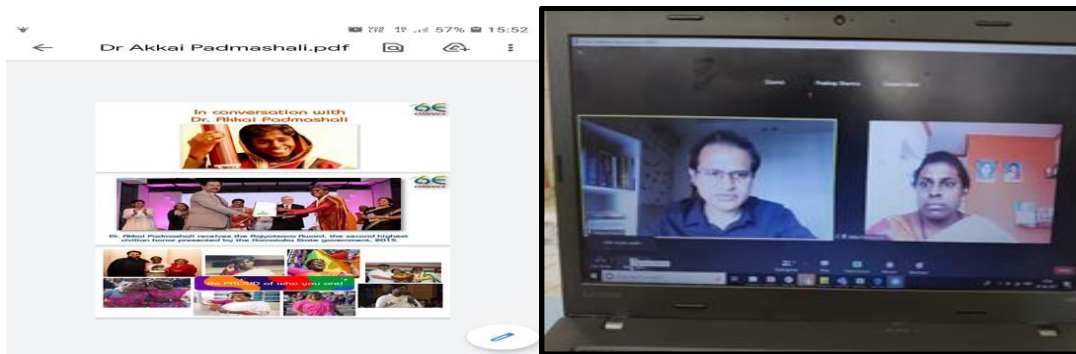
**27/06/2021**

Karnataka Police Academy, Mysore distributed free dray ration kits to the TG community in Mysore during lockdown.



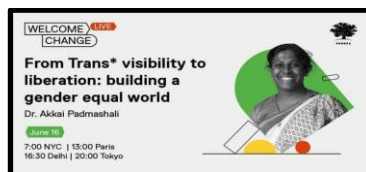
**04/06/2021 - PRIDE MONTH**

#indigo on Pride Month with #Ondede



**10/06/2021**

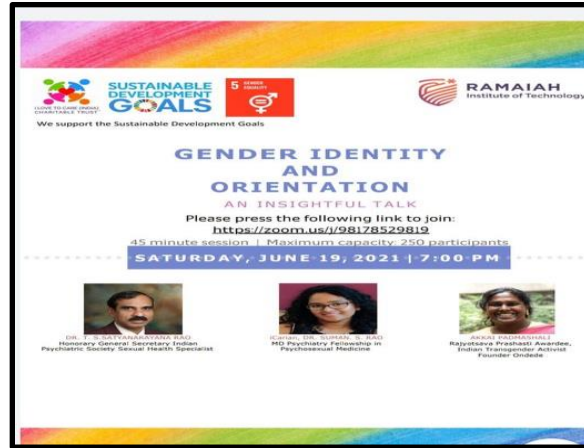
Ahead on #Visibility #pride or #proud or #challenge



**19/06/2021**

Project Convergence –Ondede participated in the webinar on gender identity and orientation, organized by SDGs and MS Ramaiah hospital





### 16th August 2021

#### Cultural Gathering:

Traced back to over five centuries, Karaga Utsava -festival is one of the oldest annual traditions of Karnataka, practiced by the Thigala community. Celebrated in the honor of the Goddess Shakti, this festival depicts the rich cultural and religious heritage of the State. The festival derives its name from an earthen pot in which the Goddess Shakti is invoked.

For the TG community Karaga festival is an important cultural space to gather and celebrate the identity.

Social Gatherings with community members at Karaga Festival:



The above initiatives opened up to insights that enhanced capabilities of the TG community for preparedness and reorganizing strategies to the emerging challenges collectively in the unprecedented times.

Changes in public understanding of LGBTQI issues and communities and/or new narratives by and about historically oppressed people within LGBTQI communities

Public understanding of gender-sexuality issues enlarged to a greater extent through the concerted efforts of the community that has led to the process of converging within the families and beyond several civil society organizations, social movements, educational institutions, government and police departments, judiciary, professionals, students/youth, media and concerned citizens across the spectrum by actively participating in the relief measures for TG communities during lockdowns to integration of issues of sexual minorities into their issues, campaigns against gender violence and demanding pro-sexual minority policies.



The campaign opened public education in society to eradicate social discrimination and seek support of public, governments, interpretation of laws, education institutions, grassroots unorganized sectors, families and across sections to build support and solidarities to stand with movement of Transgender and sexual minorities

For instance, constructive response from unexpected quarters: Rotary Bangalore Central District launched a satellite club for transgender persons in Bengaluru. The Rotary Bangalore Transgender Club is a first of its kind across the world.

The Key Activities or strategies to achieve Outcome One

Changes in public understanding of LGBTQI issues and communities and/or new narratives by and about historically oppressed people within LGBTQI communities

**On 2nd February 2021**, Project Convergence was invited by DON BOSCO church to celebrate Visibility Day- Transgender Day -2021. This was a unique breakthrough in religious space. The dialogue for convergence was highlighted in the gathering.



**On 2nd February 2021**, at Sindhanur Panchayat of Raichur district Jogappa Community of Project Convergence/Ondede organized a dialogue with Dalit Sangharsh Samiti, Dalit Movement on integrating TG community struggles into Dalit movement as most of the TG community are Dalits but not considered in the mainstream Dalit Movement. Jogappa members spoke on awareness & socio economic status of the Jogappa –TG community and the need for convergence. This was also awareness for the Gram Panchayat members. The dialogue for integration is the need of the hour in collective struggles for rights and dignity of the marginalized and exploited social groups.



**On 2nd February 2021**, Ondede – Project Convergence was invited to share and discuss the life and challenges of TG and sexual minorities among the senior citizens in Bangalore. The interaction clarified the myth and bias around the TG community and helped to understand the unknown realities. The senior citizens assured the team of their solidarity.



**On 19th February 2021** As a series of campaigns against Violence on GNC-TG-SM, Project Convergence/ Ondade was invited to discuss the violence against sexual minorities at Banjara Academy, a well-known counseling and Training center in Bangalore. Ondede placed demand for considering qualified TG persons for Counseling posts as they have comprehensive ability to listen to the issues of sexuality.



**On 24th February 2021**, as part of series of #Campaign against Violence Project Convergence/Ondede interacted with educated women from diverse professions to raise support and solidarity for transgender and sexual minorities in Bangalore. It was a

meaningful dialogue with DCP Isha Panth, activists and concerned citizens.



**On 28th February 2021**, Project Convergence/Ondede was invited by Journalism Department of St Joseph's college, Bangalore for orientation program for journalism students who are concerned about gender issues. This interaction stimulated the students and paved the path for their pursuit in comprehending the gender issues with clarity.



**On 4th March 2021**, Project Convergence launched a campaign against violence on the marginalized social groups and sexual minorities with the support of youth/students in Magadi taluk, Ramanagara district. In this connection interactive discussion was organized by Karnataka Yuva Dhvani. The youth participants were from different socio economic communities. The discussions focused on the concept of Movement, rights of children, women, sexual minorities, importance of education, issues pertaining to the youth such as interpersonal relations, sexuality and age of consent, love etc. The youth expressed their solid support and participation in raising the voices.



**9th March 2021**, on the special occasion for women's day on online discussion with Law college of Kerala and Gargi college Delhi on gender, sexuality and human rights.





**On 13th March 2021**, Project Convergence team participated in the awareness campaign against GNC-TG-SM and followed by women's day at Magadi First Grade college- Ramanagara District. The students performed street plays depicting the struggles and the rights of the TG community based on Ardhanariswari (integration of half male and half female forms in one human form symbolizing inseparable male and female principles and inherent energies) concept. An orientation and sensitisation on the sexuality, gender and sexual minorities was held for graduate students.



**On 15th March 2021** awareness on Campaign against GNC-TG-SM for the Teachers and the CSI Christ Church at Attibele, Hosur-Tamilnadu.



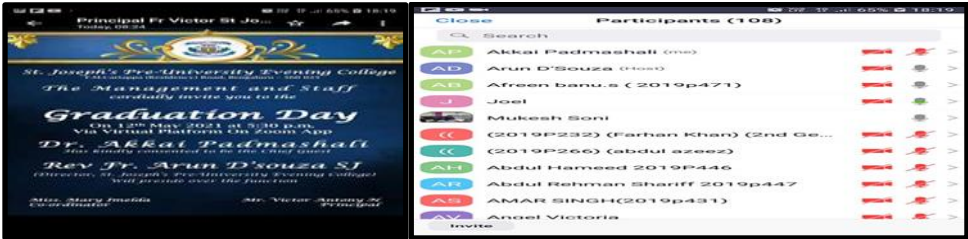
**30th March 2021**, Discussion on gender, sexuality and challenges as part of Women's Day by global groups.



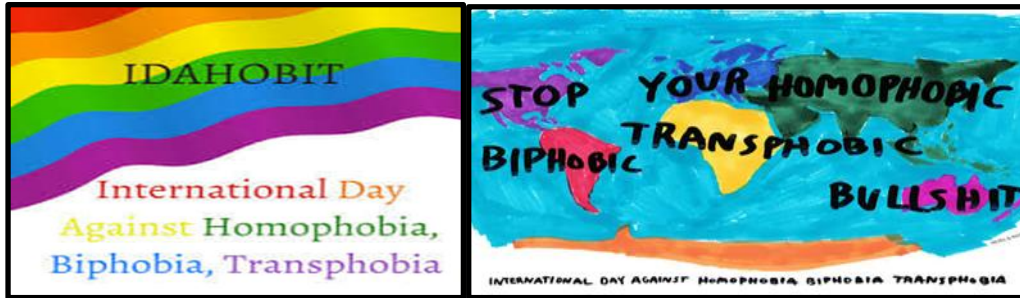
**14th April 2021**, interaction with thinkers, writers and publishers on gender and sexuality issues at Bahurupi, an alternative book hub with convergent space for socially relevant discussions and a friendly forum for children, women, sexual minorities.



**12th May 2021**, Project Convergence –Ondede was invited for St Joseph's Graduation Day, followed by international online discussion on Sustainable Development Goals.



**On 17th May 2021**, international online discussion on phobias and challenges in the context of International Day- Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia



**On 20th May 2021** The Rotary Club launched a dedicated transgender club in the city to ensure the greater participation of sexual minorities in social activities. The club will serve as the satellite club of Rotary Bangalore Central District 3190.

Read more at: [https://www.deccanherald.com/city/rotary-launches-transgender-club-1014792.html?fbclid=IwAR0EV94ymcwPDTBguMpeOtjZgBWMmglSPdL2c6yrMwHbOLuHvBXT81\\_FDA](https://www.deccanherald.com/city/rotary-launches-transgender-club-1014792.html?fbclid=IwAR0EV94ymcwPDTBguMpeOtjZgBWMmglSPdL2c6yrMwHbOLuHvBXT81_FDA)



**25th May 2021**, The NEWSMINUTE, online channel covers the launch of a campaign to fight violence against sexual minorities by Project Convergence –Ondede.

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/trans-activist-akkai-launches-campaign-fight-violence-against-sexual-minorities-143784%3Famp&ved=2ahUKEwjQ57DjyuPwAhVi8XMBHQ9MBb8QFjABegQIDBAC&usg=AOvVaw0avE0Fj\\_B4VoaEN0HXv43b&ampcf=1](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/trans-activist-akkai-launches-campaign-fight-violence-against-sexual-minorities-143784%3Famp&ved=2ahUKEwjQ57DjyuPwAhVi8XMBHQ9MBb8QFjABegQIDBAC&usg=AOvVaw0avE0Fj_B4VoaEN0HXv43b&ampcf=1)

**19th June 2021** in collaboration with civil society groups Project Convergence team organized a 'State level Converging Meeting on life struggles and challenges of vulnerable communities during COVID 19 pandemic; in Bangalore.



**31st July 2021**, An article published in The Newsminute on Rotary Bangalore Central District launching Satellite club for Bengaluru's transgender community, the first of its kind across the world!

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/.../satellite-club...>

The Rotary Bangalore Transgender Club has currently inducted 10 members from the community, who will be trained so they can learn the ropes and expand the club.



NEWS GENDER SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021 - 13:38

Sanjana Deshpande Follow @sanjanausd08

On July 28, Rotary Bangalore Central District launched a satellite club for transgender persons in Bengaluru. The Rotary Bangalore Transgender Club is a first of its kind across the world, said the group. The Rotary has satellite clubs which are for people who want to join but do not have a large enough group to form a club of their own. The Rotary Bangalore Transgender Club has currently inducted 10 members from the community and will be training them in the working of a club so that they can grow.

Speaking to TNM, the chief of Rotary Bangalore Central, Vinod K, observed that the members of the club wanted to include the transgender community and give them a platform. The club was initiated with the aim to bring the members of the transgender community into the mainstream, Vinod added.

“The motto of inducting transgender persons was to give them a platform so they can become self-sustainable. The club’s purpose is to serve society and there are many trans persons who are talented and we want to include them. Everybody, presently, is open to



change but the change has to begin somewhere and thus the satellite club was inducted. After the members of the transgender community have been trained, the satellite club will work in tandem with the main club. We have taken the initiative of inducting them and we hope other clubs will extend the support,” Vinod K said.

Akkai Padmashali, a transgender rights activist and founder of Ondede, a human rights organization, who has been named as the president for this satellite club said that the launch of the club will open more avenues for people. “No club has ever made an attempt to induct the members of our community, and we are glad that the Rotary Club did. As transgender persons, our social responsibilities do not end with helping our own community, but go beyond that. The members of the transgender community also have the capability to engage with society, they can move beyond viewing only sex work or begging as vocations. Being included in a club that is as widespread as Rotary where members of different walks of life will yield positive results,” she said.

Meanwhile, Soumya, a trans woman and member of the club, said, “The launch of satellite club is a stepping stone for us. Help from the Rotary Club can facilitate the transgender community’s progress and development. We want more members of the transgender community to join and work with us. We have the satisfaction that we have a club. A lot of us also face social exclusion and prejudices, but this club will give us a sense of being included and not isolated.”

**31st July 2021**, Ondede-Project Convergence organized a series of sessions on convergence among the TG community, professionals from different fields.



**31st July 2021**, Project Convergence team held a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University on the need for the subject on Transgender in New Education Policy. The Vice Chancellor and the educational experts agreed the importance of the subject and assured to include it in the syllabus.





**3rd August 2021**, Dr. Akkai Padmashali of Project Convergence/Ondede participated in the online discussion on the impact of Trafficking Bill 2021 on TG communities, organized by ReachLawyer, a network of human rights lawyers.



**5th August 2021**, Ondede/Project Convergence participated in the sexual minorities' issues and struggles on Chandana, a government Television Channel.



**6th August 2021** Project Convergence/Ondede organized a meeting with youth and farmers, journalists of Magadi Taluk and discussed forming a Study circle group in Magadi.



**7th August 2021**, Project Convergence/Ondede in solidarity with Weavers community organized discussion with lawmakers on the issues pertained with Weavers community at the Legislative House.



**10th August 2021**, Project Convergence team organized planning meeting to plan late Salma sexworkers' rights activist Memorial Day and a meeting with film industry directors about Story telling session at SCM house.



**15th August 2021**, Converging to strengthen through gatherings with Other Backward Classes Communities



**16th August 2021**, Project Convergence /Ondede at an event to meet leaders from various backgrounds to gain support to our campaign.



**30th August 2021**, Project Convergence and Ondede organized Discussion on convergence with vulnerable communities at UTC, Bangalore.



**19th September 2021**, Ondede participated in Rotary club meeting in Bidadi and held consultation with Member of legislative Assembly about Transgender Issues





**On 28th September 2021**, As follow up of Feb 2021 police training one day sensitization session was held for about 300 police trainees who were going through training at Karnataka Police Academy, Mysuru. Project Convergence /Ondede members from Bangalore and ten members from Mysore participated as resource persons in the police training program.

As an introduction to sensitize the trainees, the TG representatives explained the life, socio economic living conditions, exploitation and atrocities against sexual minorities through personal narrations and short videos about the culture, traditions of TG communities, and the police violence against sexual minorities, change after 377 judgment, issues due to COVID pandemic etc.

The session was warmed up for further discussion on the struggle for equal treatment, rights, judgment on Section 377, 1% Reservation for TTG communities in Karnataka, rights to marriage, divorce, adoption of children, domestic violence on transgender ( from birth/ family to society), , demands on reservations for education, employment, housing, monthly pensions ( present Rs 600/month-demand Rs 5000/- in Karnataka as in other states, free Sex Reassignment Surgery process as per law and Counseling , against TG Bill 2017 ( where a LGBT person to remove cloths to prove his/her sexuality in front of Magistrate). For the question as to why TG persons stay in the parents' home, the underlying inhibitions, prejudice, social fear and discrimination were explained. The team also raised the demand by the community to bring out a law on parents' obligation to take care of such children. The dialogue also explored the need for inclusive, integrated education with a syllabus on gender and sexuality that encompasses sexual minorities.

The expectation from police trainees was to realize their obligations in treating the sexual minorities with empathy and compassion while they are on duty.



The outcome of the discussion is a visible change in the behavior of police with sexual minorities compared to earlier times such as humanitarian consideration shown by the police for sexual minorities, reduction in filing cases indiscriminately against sexual minorities, and accepting file cases against violence on TG persons. The police officials distributed dry ration kits to TG communities during COVID lockdown.

All the above initiatives and sensitization strategies strengthened public space for campaign and convergence of various sections of the society. The constructive responses from police officials, doctors and student/youth communities have been encouraging. The observations and recommendations from the study on "Corona-COVID 19:Health Emergency -Status of Transgender Community in Karnataka" have brought out clearly the obligation of the State to provide short term relief for TG people who should be able to access the basic rights and entitlements that are due to all the marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Another highlight is the launching of a satellite club for transgender persons in Bengaluru by Rotary Bangalore Central District with its first president being Dr.Akkai Padmashali.

: Changes in or incremental progress toward laws, institutional practices, and policies that will benefit your constituencies

This is the area proved to be urgently needed in the pandemic/ disaster times to address the unreached/unheard voices of the sexual minorities. The unanticipated challenges posed due to uprooting of the basic survival of the millions including of TG communities and other sexual minorities have in fact strengthened the commitment of the Project Convergence team for demanding the implantation of welfare policies to protect the rights and entitlements of the vulnerable communities.

A glimpse of our persisting efforts:

Successful PIL by Ondede in Karnataka High Court in April 2020 and several orders passed by the Karnataka High Court beneficial to the vulnerable communities during the COVID 19 lockdown.

A success to the movement of sexual minorities. Project Convergence in the campaign for 1% reservation in Government jobs for sexual minorities. Ahead to wait for orders. The High Court of Karnataka ordered the state government to prepare orders based on the Supreme Court judgment on 19th June 2021.

At the International Conference on Gender Park on Gender Equality. Ondede had played a vital role in providing its insights to the government of Kerala on inclusion of Transgender and sexual minorities issue in its policy and economical gender budgeting. 11th to 14th before Chief Minister, Ministers and its political party representatives

The Key Activities or strategies to achieve Outcome One

1.3: Changes in or incremental progress toward laws, institutional practices, and policies that will benefit your constituencies

Successful PIL by Ondede in Karnataka High Court in the month of April 2020 and several orders passed by the Karnataka High Court beneficial to the vulnerable communities:

## KARNATAKA: LEGAL PROTECTION FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

In April 2020, the Karnataka High Court took up public interest litigation in the case of Mohammed Areef Jameel & Anr. v. Union of India & Ors. on relief measures during the lockdown ranging from access to food and essential items, access to medicines, animal welfare and parole for prisoners. In these ongoing PILs, CLPR has filed an Intervention Application on behalf of Ondede, a registered public charitable trust working for the rights of transgender persons, and the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, a Research Centre at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore (“NLSIU”), which works closely with SC/ST communities specially manual scavenging groups, tribal and forest-dwelling communities, slum dwellers and other vulnerable groups.

Ondede submitted that members of the transgender community are unable to pay rents for their accommodation as they have no earnings and are thus being threatened with eviction. Many have taken private loans and are unable to repay the interest to the money lenders. Many persons from the transgender community are taking hormone therapy and during this period they do not have the means to purchase their medications due to which they are facing ill-health. The most vulnerable are those who are elderly, with diabetes, HIV and other health conditions that are most in need of medication but are unable to afford them due to the lockdown and complete loss of earnings.

The reliefs sought for by the transgender community included:

- State Government to provide free of cost rations, food and nutrition and provisions including vegetables and fruit to members of the transgender community from ration shops and also from other outlets.
- Free of cost medicines to HIV positive persons from the transgender community to be made available at government health centers.
- Free of cost other medicines including hormone therapy medicines, diabetes and other medications to be made available to transgender persons from government and public hospitals.
- Respondent State government to be directed to pay monthly financial support and cash transfer of Rs. 5000/- per month for six months to transgender persons, to enable them to cover their rent, loans, look after their family members and other expenses. This can be provided from the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana and the State Government.
- Government to provide free LPG cylinders, rations and waive electricity bill for 6 months to transgender persons. These measures are also assured for 3 months under the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana.

In an order dated 09.04.2020, the Karnataka High Court passed several orders beneficial to the vulnerable communities:

- The Order stated that two month’s pension to be paid to the transgender community under the Mythri scheme in light of the COVID situation. The order also extended the benefits under the Mythri Scheme to all the eligible members of the transgender community.
- The Order provided measures for the Devadasi community in a village near Koppal Town which was completely cut off from ration shops. A suggestion has been made to establish a sub-branch of ration shops near the colony which will facilitate the Devadasis to approach the said sub-branch and take their ration.

- The Order directed the State Government to take a decision on the question of providing ration to beggars, transgenders, sex workers and the category who have been deprived of their daily earnings, on production of an authenticated proof of identity.
  - It directed the State Government to immediately address itself to the issue of supplying ration on the basis of the identity documents and to the issue of supplying ration free of cost to those who could not afford to pay for the ration nor have BPL cards.
- Through these orders, the Government has given orders to eliminate certain difficulties of the most vulnerable community.

### **On 30th January 2021**

While appreciating the social responsibility of the major English Newspaper in Karnataka encouraging reporters in highlighting the issues of public concern Project Convergence voiced for the implementation of State policy for Transgender of 2017 to the chief guest, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka during the occasion of facilitation of Deccan Herald Change Maker Award for 2021 event held in Bangalore. The Change Maker Award for 2021 was presented to young Ms. Uma who has dedicated to the movement of sexual minorities.

Link of the event full..

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AelH3DOhWJE...>



### **30th January 2021**

With support of Gamana Mahila Samuha (a feminist and women's rights organisation from Bangalore) ONDEDE has brought a report of study on "Corona-COVID 19:Heath Emergency -Status of Transgender Community in Karnataka". It was conducted primarily through telephonic interviews to the sample of 32 respondents belong to male to female and female to male transgender persons and case studies from 15 districts of Karnataka between March and July 2020 to understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on TG community in the State. The secondary information was collected from published literature and the interview with the chief welfare officer of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.

The sectors covered being food and shelter; health and medical treatment; livelihood and insecurity; future is a question mark. The observations and recommendations have brought out clearly the obligation of the State to provide short term relief for TG people who should be able to access the basic rights and entitlements that are due to all the marginalized and vulnerable communities.

The report was released to the public and also presented to the Government to ensure implementation of recommendations in its policy.

Please find the links below:

Kannada: <https://drive.google.com/.../1l0h4MmYx33FbcyPoef8.../view...>

English: <https://drive.google.com/.../1fzfluyxjpv3rr8c40BX.../view...>

Shortened links:

Kannada: <http://bit.ly/covid-impact-kannada>

English: <http://bit.ly/covid-impact-english>

**On 2nd February 2021**, Project Convergence launched Campaign to address human rights issues of all the marginalized groups including of sexual minorities at Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore in the presence of all women, Dalit Movements and concerned citizens.



**11th February 2021- 14th February 2021.**

Project Convergence –ONDEDE invited by Kerala Government to the International Conference on Gender Equality at Calicut, Kerala from 11th to 14th February 2021. Ondede played a vital role in providing its insights to the Government of Kerala on inclusion of Transgender and sexual minorities issue in its policy and economical gender budgeting before the Chief Minister, Ministers and its political party representatives. Ondade participated in a series of programs across different platforms- real and virtual and contributed in enriching the discussions which are critical to the pro marginalized laws and policies.



**12/02/2021**

At the International Conference on Gender Park on Gender Equality





**13/02/2021**

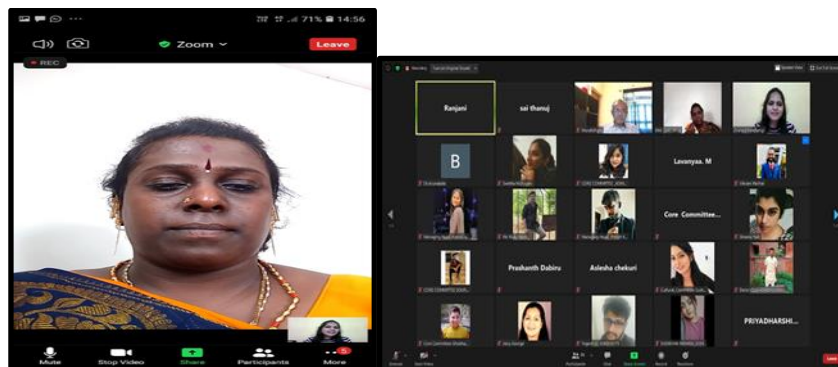
\*Uplight\*, the Centre of Excellence (Diversity and Inclusion) of IBSB launched its first event \*Spreading Love\* to help uphold and bolster the value of diversity and inclusion in our society.

Akkai padmashali is an Indian transgender activist, motivational speaker and singer. For her work in activism she has received the Rajyotsava Prashasti the second highest civilian honour of the state of Karnataka and an honorary doctorate from the Indian Virtual University for peace and Education. She is also the first transgender person in Karnataka to have registered her marriage.

We are privileged to announce that such a prominent personality is going to enlighten us with her story and the real meaning of \*\_Love!\*\_

\_In association with\_  
Rotaract club IBSB

**Date: 13th February, 2021**



**14/02/2021**

The Gender Park was live. fFonllebrsuaireysd o14 •

The Chief Minister of Kerala. Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated The Gender Park campus in Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode, on February 14, 2021. The functional launch was held after

the successful completion of the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE II). Watch live



**14/02/2021**

“Constitute Welfare Board for Transgender and Amend IPC Section 377 for State Legislation to Sexual Minorities in the State of Kerala.”-A demand to Honourable #ChiefMinister Sri #PinarayiVijayan and Yes was the response by #Teacher #Shylaja Ministe for Social Justice-Kerala ! @ICGE  
#USA Consul General #Australian #Government #Department of #Foreign #Affairs and #Trade



**14/02/2021**

The Gender Park

Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated our Gender Park campus in Calicut on Sunday in the presence of Kerala's Minister for Health, Social Justice and Women & Child Development Smt. KK Shailaja Teacher and other dignitaries.

K K Shailaja Teacher Pinarayi Vijayan UN Women

#thegenderpark #inauguration #pinarayivijayan #kkshailajateacher #kozhikode #campus #inauguralevent



**16th February 2021**

Project Convergence and ONDEDE launched campaign on “Violence Against Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, Transgender and Sexual Minorities in Karnataka” at Karnataka Police Academy, Mysuru.



Campaign launched by Mr Vipul Kumar IGP and Director Karnataka Police Academy

Mr Vipul Kumar IGP and the Director for Karnataka Police Academy in Mysuru released the banner along with the community members and senior officers of the department of police presented. He assured unconditional support to the campaign and opened up the discussion on the issues of sexual minorities. The team narrated several insights about the life and challenges confronted by the sexual minorities, urging the police and society to consider sexual minorities as human beings first and their access to rights and entitlements of citizens.

This campaign will bring public education in society to eradicate social discrimination and seek support of public, governments, interpretation of laws, education institutions, grassroots unorganised sectors, families and across sections to build support and solidarities to stand with movement of Transgender and Sexual Minorities.

Urge to support and stand with TGNCLGBTIJMSJK communities to fight against Violence Against all forms in society.

**On 28th February 2021** a campaign on Violence Against GNC-TG-SM among the Religious and social minorities activists in Bangalore.



**26th May 2021:** Online discussion on sexual abuse, LGBTIQ+ Communities , organized by OKNIT and SAATHI.



**7th June 2021:** Dr. Akkai Padmashali of Project Convergence and Ondede at UN GCNI Platform

[https://youtu.be/j3srMKqLuRY?fbclid=IwAR1-Om1tNFso5MO0KNJOvkE\\_GpnagJHs2byKzW2kJnD7NpWvCELD3xlzf40](https://youtu.be/j3srMKqLuRY?fbclid=IwAR1-Om1tNFso5MO0KNJOvkE_GpnagJHs2byKzW2kJnD7NpWvCELD3xlzf40)





**19th June 2021**

A success to the movement of sexual minorities. Project Convergence in the campaign for 1% reservation in Government jobs for sexual minorities. Ahead to wait order. High Court of Karnataka ordered the state government to prepare orders based on Supreme Court judgement on 19th June 2021.



**4th July 2021**, a discussion was held in the context of 1% reservation in the Government jobs for sexual minorities. Project convergence also suggested Bangalore University to reserve 1 % for sexual minority students in all the courses. Reservation is welcome for sex minorities'  
<http://dhunt.in/imLAP?s=a&uu=0xfbf68f5afbf40cb&ss=pd>

Source: " Prajavani " via Dailyhunt  
Download the app  
<http://dhunt.in/DWND>



**26th July 2021** Project Convergence and other concerned civil society organizations delegation met law maker in connection with the issues in Trafficking Bill 2021. He has instructed leaders of the opposition and law makers to oppose this Bill in the State Assembly. take up this issue.



**On 27th July 2021** a Press conference organized by Project Convergence to demand implementation of the policy and 1% reservation for TG community.



**27th July 2021:** Converging for a cause with transgender community: 1% reservation, unity in diversity!



**On 6th August 2021,** Project Convergence and Ondede organized a meeting with the Backward Classes Commission Chairperson and Members to discuss in detail about the reservation and its importance in highlight to the High Court Judgement, way forward to discuss and move ahead !

**On 19th August 2021,** an article on the demand for implementation of 1% reservation in the Government jobs for sexual minorities appeared in major Newspaper, Prajavani.



## 2022

- **Awareness & Sensitization in the Community, Civil Society Groups, and Stimulating public consciousness through dialogues and art and literary activities**
- **District level:**

**Discussion on Government Schemes and social entitlements and challenges for Sexual Minorities in Davangere District, Karnataka- 19th & 20th February 2022**



During the visit to Davanagere district, Karnataka on 19th and 20th February 2022 brought community members together to share their struggles and challenges and the importance to discuss about education of upcoming transgender community. Around 26 community members participated in the deliberation on the realization of Government Schemes and social entitlements and challenges faced by them in the conservative semi urban and rural areas of Davanagere District. The participants recognized the importance of collective efforts in addressing their issues and the solidarity of all social movements and rights groups.



In continuation to the previous day action plan a fruitful conversation with Shri. Shamanur Shivashankarappa of Davanagere Education Institutions on 20th February resulted further in the assurance of Institutions to encourage and support the cause of educational promotion among the transgender communities.

- **Awareness and Sensitization for school teachers and students on gender identity and sexual minorities and access to education in Davangere 22nd February 2022**



An interactive discussion was held in Davangere School on its annual day celebration. It was a never-before experience for the teachers and students to listening and discussing about almost a taboo- gender identity and sexual minorities and the socio economic hurdles in accessing to their education.

### **Raichur District:**

- **Dialogue with the civil society groups and social Movements on the issues of sexual minorities -3rd & 4th July, 2022**

Raichur district in North Karnataka remains low at the Human Development level. There have been several civil society groups working among the marginalized sections in all thematic areas including HIV/AIDS etc. However, a serious effort of open talks among and about sexual identities and the violence in the sexual minority communities is missing in the larger society.

Project Convergence has been determinedly working in these communities in Raichur district to dispel the fear and myths.





Project convergence brought together around 46 persons from the Community and civil society groups for sharing and listening to the community/ gender specific violence and economic inequalities continuing in the society.



- On the following day, 4<sup>th</sup> July, a State level Social Movement conference, ‘Karnataka Janashakti’ was held in Raichur and several senior activists and intellectuals pondered over the present and emerging complex socio economic challenges and possible solutions. Project convergence highlighted the issues related to the dignity and rights of sexual minorities and gender disparities.

**Bangalore urban and Rural District:**

- **Women, sexuality and opportunities with Weavers community in Anekal- 18th Feb 2022**



Habitually, the activists’ preoccupation rightly with sexual minority communities and other marginalized sections it is an unintentional tendency to disregard for homemakers from themiddle class and similar sections of women about self -identity and misconceptions.

Project convergence believes in reaching out and encouraging the women and men who are in need of understanding inclusiveness. In this direction, the Project Convergence organized a discussion among such women in Anekal. Although a closed door meeting it was a platform particularly for women from backward class community who wanted to understand self-identity and self-sexuality. They felt comfortable to know more about sexuality and same-sexual relationships.

- **State Level Women Weavers’ Federation in Bangalore - 1st August 2022**



Project Convergence had a strong presence in the ‘Nekarara mahila okoota’( Women Weavers’ Federation) of Backward Classes community and paved way for discussion the women’s burning socio economic issues.

- **Dialogue on ‘Transgender women as women" with Child Rights Organization, Bangalore – 12th March 2022**



On the evening of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Association for Promoting Social Action’, an organisation working for the rights of children had organised international women's day, in series of women's day project Convergence was attended and participated to ensure and recognise "Transgender women as women" so with this slogan it was brought the departments the civil society the women's groups together to ensure that the demand of the community is being addressed across level.

- **Paying Homage: Remembering his service to society of Late freedom fighter Doreswamy! With socially excluded groups- 19th April 2022**



- **Children at Ondede's office. Learning time! – 26th June 2022**



*Raising urban public Consciousness*

- **Café Zubaan for Solidarity meeting with youth community on sexual minorities' issue- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**



Around 28 young people from different faiths and socio economic background gathered in Café Zubaan, warm hospitality extended by the young owner of Café on 20th evening. The interactive, informal sharing covered various aspects of sexual minorities and the challenges in the identities and sexuality among the youth. All the participants felt the need for solidarity in facing the realities of one's own sexual identity.

- **Talk on Equal Employment Opportunities to Sexual Minorities in Bangalore- 31st March 2022**





On 31st of March Swiss Re Company had a public education for its staff in talking about inclusion and diversity. Akkai Padmasali and Rakshita had attended to participate in this discussion to ensure equal employment opportunities are given to sexual minorities.

- **Project Convergence with advisors and corporate company to discuss employment opportunities for transgender community- 19th April 2022**



- **Project Convergence @ Nuventures on Tokenism, Inclusion and Diversity -30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



This is a stimulating discussion on the reality-more talk-less action and the participants were open to accepting tokenism and agreed to accept social inclusion and diversity.

- **With Philips Company on the eve of Pride Month- 30th June 2022**





Philips celebrated Pride Month on 30th June with the inauguration of banners that highlighting inclusivity and equality of socially excluded sexual minority communities

## **Awareness and sensitization of youth and educationists in School and Higher Educational Institutions**

- **Karnataka Government/ Department of Education move on 1% reservation opportunity to the transgender for teaching in schools- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022**



In a big boost to gender inclusivity, government schools in Karnataka will have teachers from transgender community. The Department of Public Instruction has called for applications of primary school teachers, with one percent reservation for transgenders, making Karnataka the first state to recruit teachers from the community. However, while welcoming the Government move, based on the long standing demand of transgender community, Project convergence pointed out that the state government has not carried out a survey on the transgender community in the state and without actual data on their education or socio economic status and demanded the state government to conduct the survey and impart on the priority basis education of the transgender community.

- **Public Education Programme for Students-Transgender and the law at M.S.Ramaiah Law College, Bangalore- 21st March 2022**



On the 21st March, MS Ramaiah Law College had organised the public education program for its students to discuss transgender and the law understanding the national legal services authority vs Union of India and the Hon’ble Supreme Court 2018 Judgement on Human sexuality in the context of section 377. In this regard Project Convergence also had an opportunity to interact with students to discuss the challenges from the legal framework to combat all forms of discrimination to ensure there is justice in the society.

- **An online session on the Community issues from Indian perspective- The Transfeminisms Reading Group, University of Texas and Bowden College, USA – 31st March 2022**

The Transfeminisms Reading Group is excited to virtually host Akkai Padmashali, a transgender activist based in Bangalore, India. Akkai is the founder of Ondede, an organization working toward gender justice across social movements in India. She was also one of the co-petitioners who challenged Section 377, a colonial-era law that criminalized sodomy, in the Supreme Court of India in 2018. The English version of her autobiography, *A Small Step in a Long Journey*, will be published during 2022.

Reading: [tinyurl.com/padmashli](http://tinyurl.com/padmashli)

**TRANSGENDER**  
feminisms  
MONTHLY READING GROUP

March 30 | 6:30-8 CST  
GWB (Gordon-White Building), 2.206

On the 31st of March the University of Texas and Bowden college of United States of America had organised an online session for its students, educationists, intellectuals and academicians to understand the communities issues from India's perspective, it was told the India's culture tradition and its uniqueness of expressing diversity of identities was spoken in such positivity to ensure that the world sexual minorities are free from patriarchal notion that is existing in the society.

- **A public discourse to understand the struggles and challenges of sexual minorities and to build a legal framework at St Joseph's Law College- 30th & 31st March 2022**



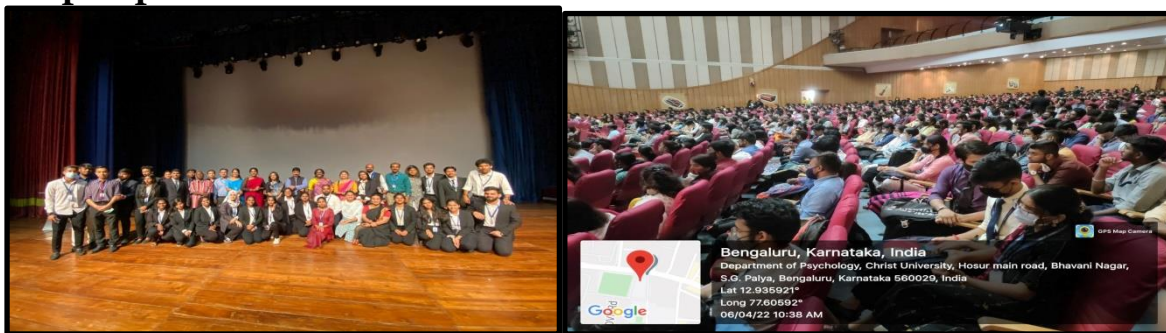
For two days, 30th and 31st March, St Joseph's Law College had organised a public discourse to understand the struggles and challenges of sexual minorities and to build a legal framework to work and to educate for its own students.

- **Awareness and Public Education Programme for Law students- St Joseph's law College- 4th April 2022**



Discussion on the legal framework for sexual minorities for the second batch of law students was organized by St. Joseph Law College on 9th April, 2022. Dr. Akkai Padmasali explained about the Judgements and invited the students to work on the legal framework.

- **Public education for students of Commerce, Finance and Accountancy, Christ University, Bangalore from gender and sexuality perspective- ???**



Another education discussion with the Commerce, Finance and Accountancy students of Christ University, Bangalore on the gender and sexuality perspective was organized by



Christ University. Commerce students showed interest in understanding the nuances of gender and sexuality.

- **Discussion on 'youth, women and future' for the Students at Mount Carmel College, Bangalore- 19th April 2022**



Mount Carmel Education Institution for women organized a discussion on "youth, women and future" on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Dr. Akkai Padmasali had opened an interactive discussion on the implications of all forms of domestic violence on the body and mind of the young women in the families and the society. The search for self-identity and dignity is critical for the positive psycho-social development of the adult to deal with self and outside.

- **Dialogue on education and health policy- SRS at Justice K.S. Hegde Institute, NITTE University, Mangalore- 21st April 2022**



The dialogue on the importance of education for sexual minorities and health policy organized at Justice K.S. Hegde Institute, NITTE University in Mangalore on 21st April, 2022. The faculty and the students were keen to learn about the insights into the SRS and psychiatric counseling and treatment for sexual minorities. The importance of a related health policy was highlighted. The discussion was followed by theatre performance group planning meeting.



- **Project Convergence with Mount Carmel College- online planning meeting on women and 21st century- 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



- **Awareness and Public Education Programme on challenges of sexual minorities at Mysore NIE-IT Engineering College, Mysore – 24th May 2022**



Educational discussion on the sexuality and the issues faced by sexual minorities in the society, deprived of acceptance and dignity stimulated Engineering students to think and reflect.

- **Conference on Inequality from gender perspective - National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore- 26th June 2022**



The National Institute of Advanced Studies had organized a conference on understanding quality and inequality from transgender women and other marginalized women perspectives. It was a platform for us to bring the dimension of discussing what quality means as the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

- **Public education on Sex, Gender and Sexuality- Nagarjuna College of Management Studies Chikkaballapura District- 11th July 2022**



This is another experience of open discussion on sex, gender and sexuality with the students and teachers of Management Studies College in Chikkaballapura district. Both teachers and students broke inhibitions to respond to the 'hidden chat'.

- **Education on gender and sexuality with students of Sindhi College of Bangalore -12th July 2022**



Similarly, educating talk on gender and sexuality with students of Sindhi College of Bangalore made a difference in breaking the ice- taboo among the students from mainly urban upper and middle class.

- **Public awareness about sexuality and gender based violence at Darshan College and St Anne's College- 1st August 2022**



Gender based violence, sexual assault were a few among many pressing issues discussed with the students and teachers of Darshan College and St. Anne's College in Bangalore. It was an eye opening for the girl students to understand the realities of different forms violence unleashed on girls, women and transgenders.

- **Discussion on Women and Current status at Bangalore North University – 2nd August 2022**



A discussion along with Vice Chancellor and Registrar, professors, educationists, literatures, writers and philosophers on issues around women and gender based violence, dignity of sexual minorities was held at Bangalore North University

**Sensitization strategies for public education and convergence of various sections of the society against gender based violence and all forms of discrimination through Theatre performance and literary activities**



**Theatre performance of a life story of Dr Akkai Padmashali's journey "A small step in a long journey" at Ravindra Kalakshetra Bangalore – 6th March 2022**



On the 6th of March, Ranga Payanna and Kajanna theatre groups organized a theatre performance of a life story of Dr Akkai Padmashali's journey "A small step in a long journey" which was played at Ravindra Kalakshetra and Bangalore Auditorium. To this play more than 1200 people gathered to watch the performance. Basically the performance speaks about the struggles and challenges of the transgender community and her personal journey and it's a Memoir, of the performances watch. This inspired and was decided to take to the next level to bring public education about transgender and sexual minorities to combat social discrimination and social stigma and eradicate all forms of violence for a just and non-discriminatory world.

- **Five Days Theatre festival, literary fest, Writing skills Programme- Adichunchanagiri Matt in Chikmagalur- 25th & 26th April 2022**



On 25th and 26th April Adhi Chunchanagiri Matt (Monastery) of Chikkamangalore had organised five days theatre performance, literary fest, writing skills programme on the eve of summer vacation.

It was a unique opportunity to interact with the religious leaders of the Matt about religion, gender and sexuality. The Head of Matt and has progressive vision and approach about the oneness and diversity of humanity.

- **Literary Celebration –Project Convergence @Sahithya Sambrama in Mysore - 26th July 2022**





This occasion provided opportunities to interact with philosophers, writers, thinkers, social analysts on sexual minorities and herstory.

- **Karunegonda Savaalu\_Akkai theatre book launch followed by Samvada ( Dialogue) and theatre performance on Gender based Violence – 30th August 2022**

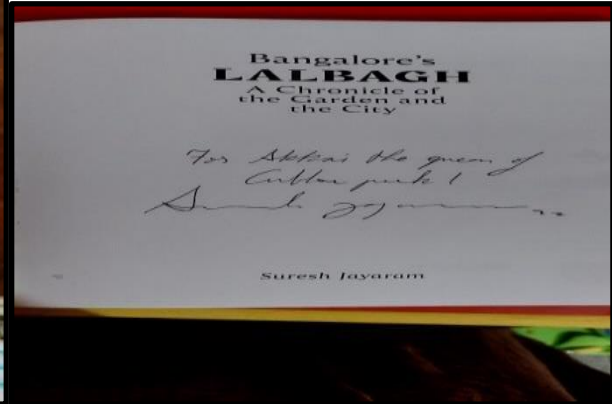


As explained in the previous activities, theatre medium has become an effective tool to convey and involve the public in raising consciousness about the gender based violence and atrocities perpetrated around us- seen and unseen.

- **Memoir to Renowned Film Director Ms Kavitha Lankesh**



- **Interaction with writers and filmmakers – 20th July 2022**



An insightful interaction with writers and filmmakers about the solidarity and convergence for gender rights as human rights in Cubbon Park and Shanti Road Art Gallery.

**Sensitization & Reminder of roles & responsibilities of key policy & Law makers, influential leaders at all levels in the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups & prevention of all forms of violence & discrimination**

- **Preliminary Meeting to constitute Gender Justice Committee by Karnataka State Legal Services Authority – 23rd February 2022**



Karnataka State Legal Services Authority organized a preliminary meeting to constitute the Gender Justice Committee under its powers. It was a great initiative taken by the Judiciary. The Project Convergence presented the concerns of the

community before constituting a gender justice committee to ensure active community participation for which KSLSA agreed to.

- **Celebration of silver jubilee of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority - 19th April 2022**



The Project Convergence team was invited to the celebration of silver jubilee of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority followed by a release of social schemes.

- **Various communities and Judiciary Meeting on Convergence in Shimogga and theatre performance Karunegondu Savalu Akkai- 24th June 2022**



Legal experts and judiciary and the communities met at Shimogga and discussed the socio legal implications on the rights of transgender and other sexual minorities. They also narrated precedents in restoring the rights. The discussion was followed by the theatre performance Karunegondu Savalu Akkai, which received applause from the viewers.



- **Orientation Programme for KAS Officers- about the transgender and sexual minorities communities at Karnataka Administrative Service Mysore- 26th June 2022**



Karnataka Administrative Service Mysore had organized an orientation programme about the transgender and sexual minorities' communities for its KAS officers of Karnataka State. In this orientation program it was discussed and brought about the state policy for transgender, the Supreme Court 377 verdict and the community's struggles and challenges. At the end the officers were so supportive and stood by community issues and ensure that the state policy shall be implemented without any fear of failure attitude.

- **One day Seminar on Legal Aid for Devadasis, sex workers and sexual minorities in Koppal – 1st July 2022**



Koppal District Legal Services Authority in collaboration with the Social Development Department and the Cell of Koppal District had organised one day seminar for Devadasis, sex workers and sexual minorities to provide Legal Aid for the community. In this program the struggles and challenges were shared and ensured to put pressure on the Government to implement The Hon'ble Supreme Court verdict 2014 and 2018 on Section 377 followed by the theatre performance.



- **Project Convergence @ Honourable High Court of Karnataka, Karnataka Judicial Academy, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, High Court Legal services committee, Karnataka State Bar Council and presented memorandum on issues of Transgender community- 20th July 2022**



- **A Round table discussion on Sex Workers and sexual Minority Communities: Understanding Supreme Court Order for Public Education” – 26th July 2022**



There were about 50 participants from the Sexual minority community, Sex workers’ union, the civil society leaders and legal experts actively involved in the discussion.

The legal experts who have stood by the rights of sexual minorities such as representatives from Alternatives Law Forum briefed the latest favourable Order towards the protection of sex workers issued by the Supreme Court in June 2022. Senior advocates and Constitutional experts shared their long experience in the legal battle on behalf of sex workers and sexual minorities and the limitations and legal challenges ahead. The gender activists and Sex workers shared the earlier police brutality and changing times after persistent public awareness.

In June 2022, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court issued a historic order that recognised sex work as a profession and said that sex workers are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law. Noting that the attitude of the police towards sex workers is often brutal and violent, the Supreme Court of India said that sex workers should be treated with decency and dignity, and the police should not interfere or take any criminal action when an adult engages in consensual sex work. The Supreme Court bench said, sex workers and their children are covered by the protections of Article 21 of the Constitution of India like every other profession and person. The authorities, when dealing with cases concerning trafficking, have to be mindful of this Constitutional protection, said the SC order. The SC order also prohibits forcible separation of children of sex workers. This Order is given based on Constitution- Right to Equality, Right to Life, right to Dignity.

Limitations: Private prostitution is not illegal in India, but soliciting it, or doing it publicly, is illegal and punishable under ITPA. This Order is only a weapon against violence. This does not prevent societal violence. There is no awareness of this Order in the Community. This is not formal judgement but an Order. More such Orders may be expected in the future. This Order has not defined the livelihoods of sex workers but against police atrocities, children of sex workers, health protection, etc.

The participants representing various NGOs and Collectives shared related persisting issues, apprehensions, and strategies for the way forward. This latest Order is only one of the Orders favourable to sex workers. Respecting sex workers is still under discussion as not given by the SC. To evaluate the impact of Orders on the transgender community, a final judgement is required depending on our struggle and legal arguments. The convergence at the National and South India levels is essential for the dialogue with those opposing this Order and demand collectively for “Namma Deha Namma Hakku” (Our body Our Right). Powerful NGOs and Collectives need to build dialoguespace and documenting processes. NGOs need to be conscious of avoiding top-down approach and influencing policymakers in different spaces and harness

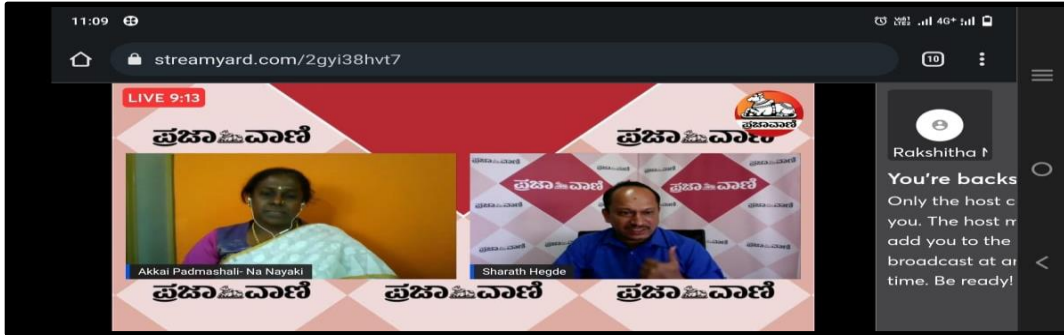
- **Sensitization of Officers at Mysore Administrative Training Institute, Govt of Karnataka- 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022**
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## **Project Convergence in Media:**

On the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India statement on recognising sex work as no more criminal, in this context series of media had interviewed Akkai Padmasali and her point of view about understanding sex work and its inner site of the community was brought in various news channels online media platforms including the newspapers.

- **Online discussion challenges and struggles of the sexual minority community with Prajavani – 12th March 2022**



On the 12th of March the leading newspaper of Karnataka State, *Prajavani* had organised an online discussion to discuss about the challenges and struggles of the sexual minority community. It was discussed in detail that the Government and society and community have a huge responsibility and mainstreaming the community issues.

**10/06/2022**

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[\(Labour Dignity of Sex Work: About the Supreme Court's Order: An insight by Akkai\)](#)

**24/06/2022:**



With media on transgender issues and support to the most needy for schooling was provided







vulnerable communities her life story in the language of Kannada "*Karune Gondu Saavalu Akkai*", her autobiography, childhood and struggles has been incorporated in the Kannada textbook of degree college by Bangalore University. This is such a milestone and themoment of celebration for all the peace and social justice concerned humanity. This gives importance and boosts moment to eradicate discrimination and to speak about social justice in the long term process of social justice issues.

**Social Media interviews about life experiences related to violence and discrimination and social recognition of transgender and sexual minorities ( 30 people from different identities and sexualities) a lens from socio – economic-education –cultural – traditional perspective.**

Organized 11 Group Interviews of Sexual Minorities:

The transgender community participants were divided into three teams consisting of four in each group and interviewed them using the questionnaire. The identities and sharing were kept confidential.

Each one of them shared her/his life journey. The open yet confidential, and empathetic space enabled them to narrate their struggles with self, family and societal identities, and desires. The urge for recognition, and respect as a human being and belongingness within the family rather than based on gender, sex, and sexual orientation was the top most in their minds. A few of them were successful and still living in the family but many are outside the family living in their community without any support of the family. The survival instinct has driven them to diverse economic activities tolerating exploitation, and humiliation. Yet, all are happy and smiling in their own way. They urged for focused support from the Government in terms of education, loans and jobs.

Later, the individuals shared in the larger circle the narratives filled with pain, frustration, anxieties, and attachment to the family, especially to the mother, cultural practices, and the need for support from the family and the Government and respect, equality, and freedom from the society at large. They expressed that this channel of sharing and listening to others facilitated a catharsis experience among themselves. The day brought them binding together as a collective amid the conservative mindset of the society.

**Mental health/SRS policy work with NIMHANS & Medical Institutions**

- **Planning Meeting for discussion on mental health and transgender persons- NIMHANS 4th Feb 2022**



A delegation discussed on mental health and transgender person with senior experts, way ahead in bringing a related policy. It was a planning process for the next phase with NIMHANS.

- **International Day of prevention of Suicides- NIMHANS 9th Sept 2022**



A programme was jointly organized by NIMHANS, SAATHII, Project Convergence & APSA on the eve of international Day of prevention of Suicides in Dr. Govind Swamy building, NIMHANS.

In this program it was discussed in detail about the traditional and history of sexual minority community in the background of social discrimination, self-hate, sex reassignment surgery (SRS) sex work and other media of structural discrimination against community.

The community strongly felt that prevention of suicide within the community is an urgent need of the hour. There is a need to address mental health through its professionals with the support of Indian Psychiatric Association, NIMHANS and medical institutions. More than 45 participants from the community and the medical experts attended the program.

**Capacity building for staff team members and Bangalore study circle group meetings through training, exposure, implementation of strategic plan, national level meetings, project planning with advisors, get together for envisioning exercise.**



- **Capacity Building of Staff & Community on Leadership, team building, organizational envisioning and governance in Bangalore -25th July 2022**



A two Day capacity building of Staff and Community: Leadership, team building, organizational envisioning and governance was organized in collaboration with APSA, SAATHII, and Project convergence from 25th & 27th July 2022 at Ashirvad, Bangalore.

Around 35 participants belonging to Sexual minority communities from Raichur District and Bangalore and civil society activists stayed together for two days at Ashirvad for in-depth insights into the democratic, decentralized leadership, collective team building through individual sharing and open dialogues. The concepts of organizational envisioning and transparent and accountable governance imbedded in the ethos of organization were also explained to the participants. The interaction was also to rejuvenate the participants to plan collective action for addressing the challenges. The Action Plan emerged from the discussions:

- To decentralize the dialogues at the district level.
- To organize the community theatre performance to address gender based violence
- To organize public campaign about the importance of Supreme Court Judgements related to sex workers and sexual minorities for effective convergence

- **Group Reading Exercise with team at Ondede- 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**



The Project Convergence team is enthusiastic to equip with subject knowledge and technology in catching up with the developments in the world.

- **Five Days workshop on Social Analysis at Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangalore from 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**



Ondede, Karnataka Yuva Dwani and Study Circle Group joined social activists, human rights NGOs for five days workshop Social Analysis at ISI, Bangalore from 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The five days were full of activities and interactive sessions on various aspects of examining that involve historical, political, socio cultural, gender and

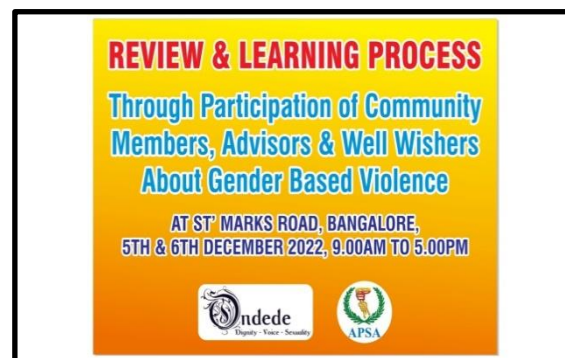
institutional functional dimensions, and analyzing the views and priorities of state and non-state actors in the society. The participants realized the social analysis is the prerequisite for stepping into actions. Interactions and sharing of the team with other activists and groups enabled mutual understanding the issues, challenges and also in building the network for convergence.

Heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Ms.Kushbhu on 18th November, 2022



Ms Kushbhu male to female Transgender woman is no more with us. Her contribution to movement since 2002 was unforgettable. She was in forefront in all the rallies, protests, programs of community led initiatives. You are beyond RIP Kushbu.. Rest In Power, Peace and Love.

- **Review & Learning Process: Through participation of Community Members, Advisors & Well wishers about Gender Based Violence” – 5th December, 2022**



The consultation was attended by 80 participants- representatives of sexual minority district organizations, community representatives of ten districts of Karnataka – dialoguing with lawyers, trade union leaders, senior activists, scholars of literature and academicians. The interactive sessions with literary scholars, academicians, lawyers, activists working on human rights, freedom, identities, gender and sexuality issues and trade union leaders delved into insights of the participatory, responsible collective leadership. It was also a historic day to celebrate the achievement of three transgender women selected for the appointment of teachers by the Karnataka Government for the first time in the area of education. The day, 5th Dec 2022 was significant for paying respect to the departed fighters for the freedom of Sexual minorities in the past.

The pre-luncsessions explored the contribution of human rights, literature and poetry in the people's movements.



The interactive session with Ms.Maitri, advocate for human rights and workers' rights –

All India Lawyers Association for Justice while congratulating achievement of the transgender persons pursuing their dreams of joining teaching profession highlighted the significance of People's Movements forming a coalition for solidarity and collective actions. She pointed out that the sexual minorities are embroiled with their community issues; need larger political vision and connection in terms of persisting oppression and discrimination against Dalits, religious minorities, and all marginalized communities.

During the interaction the participants were reminded of the present socio political burning issues that call for understanding the underpinnings of exploitations and violence while raising voice against them.

“The reference point is the values of the Constitution. All the issues are alike to look at and understand holistically under the Constitution. The Constitution of India is an aspirational document that reflects all our collective dreams. At a time when our country was reeling under inequality and injustice of every kind, the Constitution represented renewed hope and acted as a new, egalitarian foundation to build our society on. It guaranteed equality, dignity, and personhood especially to those communities that have historically faced

oppression. The Constitution thus, was successful in radically reconfiguring the norms according to which our society was operating. However, seventy-five years after the Constitution came into force, there continue to be constant challenges to the fundamental promises of the Constitution. The constitutional vision of democratising social relationships, achieving socio-economic justice and dignity, and upholding diversity remain unfulfilled dreams. It, then, becomes increasingly imperative on all of us strive towards the realisation of its transformative vision; hence the need for coalition for convergence.”

### **Literary Contribution to Peoples struggles:**

In this session, *Mr.Chand Pasha*, *Research Scholar & poet* began with a narration, “The beautiful relationship inside is not there outside; instead of plural ‘others’ in revolutionary building of people’s movements and the poetry plays motivational spirit to the peoples movements. He described ‘Anubhava Mantapa’ of 12<sup>th</sup> Century with no differences, discrimination as a model to the potential coalition of sexual minorities for



convergence with the larger peoples movements. He quoted Purnachandra Tejaswi- 'living with dignity is a long struggle, not simple. To nourish the long struggles of movement is literature and poetry'.

Chand Pasha journeyed through the inspirational and prerequisite role of literature in building and sustaining Peoples Movements against the oppression across the world historically.

- During French Revolution inspiration to the peoples movement was Rousseau, Rousseau was a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer. His political philosophy influenced the progress of the Age of Enlightenment throughout Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution and the development of modern political, economic, and educational thought.
- Karl Marx in *Das Kapital* argues that an economic system based on private profit is inherently unstable. Workers are exploited by factory owners and don't own the products of their labour, making them little better than machines. He is still an inspiration to the people's struggles.
- A major figure of the Cuban Revolution, Che Guevara during his adolescence he became passionate about poetry, especially that of Pablo Neruda.
- In India Janapada Mahakavyas -Manteswamy, Yellanna, to build alternative communities through poetry. Ex: Manteswamy gets inspiration from 'Thippegundi' to demolish hierarchy and build equality.
- Machanna, Akka Mahadevi- signifying freedom inspired Women's Movement. From Dharmic Movement to Vachana Movement through Vachana Sahitya- we can see the narrations, history in Vachanas.
- Sufi Movement through songs; God and Love is one: in 8th century Rabia al-Basri is one of the first female Sufi Poets who helped to leave a rich teaching of Divine love through her mystical poetry. Rabi'a loved God so much that she would say that she had no time to hate Satan. "My heart is filled with the love of God and has no place in it for hate."
- Shishunala Sherifa, the first Muslim poet saint, philosopher and social reformer, who brought common people together through his songs in Karnataka
- 'Nirvana Nari Nirmana' –a transgender poem by Chandini, Chandini, a transgender poet
- Transgender biographies, poetry as it is diverse community other communities cannot comprehend their language, their life experience is new and has no understanding in the mainstream literature like Nirvana. It is important to use those transgender words with notes to the mainstream writings and need to interpret the words. The feminine

interpretations are important in patriarchal writings. We should keep differences come together for common cause-peoples Movements; should not give space for personal differences. We also need certain ideological / conceptual underpinnings for any people's movement. Here we need 'Love ideology'. We cannot do anything including hatred without love. Movement should be eternal burning not like shrub burning. It is a long process with losses for sustainable gain. For this, Movement needs basic values and principles.

- Mr. Siddharth, Research Scholar, writer, poet, Bangalore University: Through his poetry Siddharth conveyed the importance of experiential expression rather than through discussion for building Movement with literature and poetry. The traditional norms need to be questioned / restructured to the context. All the individual identities form community identity- Life Vitality- Jeevaikyathe- an important trait that allows us to continually grow and live a purposeful life.
- The unnecessary dilemma about the terminology of first, second, third gender is to be replaced with specific language for specific identity of the community. There is no clarity of the description in Puranas. There may be hidden terms or description in the history, which needs to be highlighted creatively. In Vachana Sahitya the sexual minorities are being mentioned but no clarity of the context. Research is required into the context in which Madara Chennaiah had mentioned transgenders in his Vachanas.
- Overall, one needs to explore the creative challenges for literary writer / poet. Writing one's own experiences become a literary writing for posterity. The sexual minorities expressing their experiences in writing or poetry are critical for awareness and diminishing differences.

In the open discussion the participants voiced the basis for community to establish the identity through writing auto /biographies in their own creative and innovative language-samudaya bhashe (community language) that reveals their pain, challenges and build the recognition instead of depending on the outsiders. The participants appreciated the significance of creative literature for strengthening the people's Movements.

#### Democratic Leader and Participatory Leadership

Ms.Rukmini, Union leader of Garment Factory workers, explained about the participatory leadership and unionization for achieving rights of vulnerable groups. A leader should be identified by others in the community not self-declared. Union is very important, has more power; power to pressurise the Government. The coalition needs union of organizations- affiliation to trade unions – joint action Committee that has a strong power to issues solved from the government. Union also gives solidarity for other unions.

Based on the Principles of Union;

- Mutual trust and respect
- Mutual solidarity
- Collectivization

The union of sexual minorities is to create awareness and the duty bearers' responsibility to protect rights of sexual minorities to lead a dignified life. She also suggested that to bring in remaining districts, no need to register but name appropriately. For instance garment factory workers union gives solidarity to the union of sexual minorities

Capacity building of union: Awareness on laws, and acts, that ensures the other groups to join and reach to all grassroots to bring about change. A strong union is very critical to bring changes.



Mr.Raju, leader of Garment Factory workers Union, reinforced the necessity of union for all communities especially for sexual minorities with structures at all levels, by- laws, clear objectives, goal, membership and positions at district level. In the Union each member has her/his own identity and recognition. For instance, JCTU has negotiation power to make government to listen, retain or resolve any relevant issues. The union has power to decide who could contest for elections. It has more political voice than an individual or an organization. To a question from the participant Mr.Raju responded that the awareness of rights, legal knowledge, and recognition at all levels, conflict resolution, collective negotiation and bargain power are some of the benefits of the Union. While the protest is necessary a strong solidarity, bottom up voice at the local level is key for enduring the demands otherwise the union becomes stray.

Later Rumi and Sunil from MSM community engaged the participants on the structure and aspects of democratic leadership.

Rumi stressed on the collective leadership rather than on a one- person leadership quoting Dr. Ambedkar's view on the horizontal society as opposed to vertical society. Introspecting the single leadership he suggested 'let's go together leadership' as a collective and 'co journey person or a convener in place of term, leader. He lamented that all communities are increasingly vulnerable in the present context. Studying on discrimination, violence and atrocities even amongst sexual minorities not all have the same identity. Multiple identities have sometime similarities- adivasis, differently abled, homosexuals, etc. No one undergoes one single layer of oppression, generally dominant identity works. in 2007, transman in a village had multiple layers of oppression. For instance, if loved a middle class girl, he was asked whether educated, to prove his sexuality etc. There have been incidents when a traumatised Dalit boy was shaved and put on a donkey garlanded with slippers.

Returning to the theme, Rumi raised an apprehension about the motive behind the need for the union- whether we need union merely to get benefits from the government or inclusive union to address various issues, in which case whether we need single leadership. He suggested having discussion on various forms of oppression and multiple marginalizations.

Sunil, from MSM Community joined Rumi in analysing the causes of marginalization. It is mainly due to lack power and equal opportunities. He further explicated the democratic basis of horizontal structure of the society. The vertical structure in the guise of democracy is still feudalistic with no space for freedom of speech. The participants belonging to the marginalized communities should not be afraid of their independent decisions that respect the different opinions in the form of federation but may not have such space in the union. The binding relationship despite the differences, horizontal democratic structure, decisions based on consensus, and LOVE Politics replacing HATE politics are essential to any federation or union. He critiqued hierarchy and domination in the existing coalitions- LOVE is POLITICS as it connotes personal desire, choice, and feminist. Love has multiple shades of desire, sex, compassion, activism for justice and interconnectedness. Naaz Foundation Judgement furnished perspective to love politics. Taboo and morality of society is being broken by the sexual minorities. He concluded that the true participatory collective leadership facilitating members together to the forefront and standing behind them.

On the second day, Tuesday, 6th December 2022, Dr. Akkai Padmashali began by observing "Maha Parinirvana Day of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar. Mahaparinirvana Day is observed on the 6th of December every year to mark the death anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar. Remembering Dr BR Ambedkar as not only the chief architect of the Constitution of India but also as an eminent jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement as well as the rights of women and labour.

As this being a historic day the realization of Coalition of Sexual Minorities for Convergence connotes historic day for the sexual minorities is very significant.

● **Sexual Expression and Satisfaction: A discussion opened by Dr. Akkai Padmashali**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಲೈಂಗಿಕ-ರೋಗಾಂವ್ಯಾಳಕ  
 ಸಂಘಟನೆ  
 ಸಂವಿನ್ ಶಿಸತು: ISLUE TERDS  
 1. SEX ಎಂದರೆ? ಪದಗಳಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಾ  
 - ಶುದ್ಧ. ಶುಭಾಚಾರ್ಯ, ಭಕ್ತಿಯು, ಸುಖದಲ್ಲ  
 open-up ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು  
 ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡು ಪರಿವರಿಸಬೇಕು.  
 2. SEX ಎಂದರೆ: ಧೈಯಕ ಬಂಧನಗಳಿಗೂ  
 ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ. ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ  
 ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಅಥವಾ ಗಂಡ  
 ಉಂಟು ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ INTERSEX ಅಥವಾ  
 - ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧರೇ Decide ಮಾಡುತ್ತೆ



Identity (ಸಂವಿನ್ ಶಿಸತು) ← Sex → Pressure (ಹೆಣ್ಣು, ಗಂಡು)  
 Problems:-  
 \* Not Acceptable.  
 \* Opposite to Embracement.  
 \* Family Problem Creation.  
 \* Religion Problem.  
 \* Society Problem.  
 \* legal Problems.

Akkai raised the question of intimate relationships that challenge the emotional psyche of the transgenders within the community. The self-exploration of sexual expression and



satisfaction, relationships among the sexual minorities and the challenges in the midst of societal traditional norms were expounded amongst the participants. Breaking inhibition, the participants in five groups, narrated their views on non confirmed physical and emotional dimensions of sex, sexual identity, gender, experiences, and the conditioned social and legal standards prevailing in the society. They shared later in the larger group. The open sharing of their sexual expressions, satisfaction and aspirations made them comfortable and felt empathetic listening among them.

#### Formation of Coalition of Sexual Minorities for Convergences with other stakeholders

As a prerequisite to the formation of union, a participatory in-depth discussion was held among the five groups on the concept, aim, goals, objectives, structure at state, regional and district level, procedure of electing conveners & their responsibilities and the activities to be carried out in the future.



Decisions taken:

Objectives: Collective organization of all sexual minority communities into one union; bottom up decentralization of the union for effective functioning (Village, taluk, district, state, nation and international); empowerment through educational, social, economic and political actions; fighting against violence, exploitation; demanding equal rights and basic facilities for the community; recognition at national and international levels.

- **Capacity Building of Sexual Minorities of South Indian States for Coalition for Convergence “Meaning and Analysis of Social and Legal Issues Against Sexual Minorities – An Insight and Capacity Building of South Indian Sexual Communities’ at The Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangalore on 23rd January, 2023**



Around 120 State and district representatives of sexual minorities and Human Rights groups from South India including Karnataka State Federation of Sexual Minorities – Coalition for Convergence (KSCCSM), Karnataka Youth Voice, Study Circle Group, Karnataka State Intersex Federation and Women Sex Workers Federation, representatives from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry and Kerala actively participated in the discussions.

These discussions built around strengthening KSCCSM at South India level through on issues such as traditional social structures and institutions, Constitutional values, concepts of feminism, accountability, governance, democratic leadership, Movement Building & Networking.

During the interactive sessions the participants explored the ways and strategies for addressing the complexity of domestic violence issues amongst them within their families, within and outside the communities. They also inquired into the significant insights of the Domestic Violence (DV) Act 2005 and gaps and prospects for advocating LGBTQ + inclusive DV Act.