

Rehabilitation Services (Shelter Homes)

in Andhra Pradesh

for Women in Difficult Circumstances

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## Contents

Introduction	<b>3</b>
Definition and Key Concepts	<b>4</b>
Causes for Violence Against Women	<b>5</b>
Violence Against Women - Scenario in India and Andhra Pradesh	<b>6</b>
Brief understanding of Rehabilitation Ser-	<b>8</b>
The Study and Methodology	<b>10</b>
Major Findings	<b>12</b>
By way of Conclusion	<b>15</b>
Fact Sheet	<b>16</b>
Questionnaire	<b>20</b>

## Introduction

Violence against women is a serious concern plaguing the development process. It is also referred to in the Millennium Development Goals as being detrimental to development. International agencies and governments across the globe have acknowledged violence against women as a critical issue that needs to be addressed with different strategies.

Violence against women hinders progress in achieving development targets. Despite the increasing recognition of violence against women as human rights issue, such instances of violence continues to have low priority on the development agenda.

While the differential social aspects of 'development' are clearly evident through unequal relations of power when violence against women is being perpetuated in any society, the economics of the same are also on the higher side proving detrimental to the growth and 'development' of society and nations.

Need to address violence against women and gender equality has been taken seriously by the **Millennium Development Goals**. As an interim report by the Millennium Project points out:

*Development policies that fail to take gender inequality into account or that fail to enable women to be actors in those policies and actions will have limited effectiveness and serious costs to societies.*

**Table 1 - Examples of Violence against Women Throughout the Life Cycle**

Phase	Type of violence
Pre-birth	Sex-selective abortion; effects of battering during pregnancy on birth outcomes.
Infancy	Female infanticide; physical, sexual and psychological abuse.
Girlhood	Child marriage; female genital mutilation; physical, sexual and psychological abuse; incest; child prostitution and pornography.
Adolescence and Adulthood	Dating and courtship violence (e.g. acid throwing and date rape) economically coerced sex (e.g. school girls having sex with "sugar daddies" in return for school fees); incest; sexual abuse in the workplace; rape; sexual harassment; forced prostitution and pornography; trafficking in women; partner violence; marital rape; dowry abuse and murders; partner homicide; psychological abuse; abuse of women with disabilities; forced pregnancy.
Elderly	Forced "suicide" or homicide of widows for economic reasons; sexual, physical and psychological abuse.

(Source: "Violence Against Women", WHO., FRH/WHO/97.8)

According to a UN factsheet as part of the United Nations Secretary-Generals Campaign 'Unite to End Violence Against Women',

*The costs of violence against women are extremely high. They include the direct costs of services to treat and support abused women and their children and to bring perpetrators to justice. The indirect costs include lost employment and productivity, and the costs in human pain and suffering.*

## Definitions and Key Concepts

There is no universally accepted definition of violence against women. Some human rights activists prefer a broad-based definition that includes "structural violence" such as poverty, and unequal access to health and education. Others have argued for a more limited definition in order not to lose the actual descriptive power of the term.<sup>2</sup> In any case, the need to develop specific operational definitions has been acknowledged so that research and monitoring can become more specific and have greater cross-cultural applicability.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."<sup>3</sup>

This definition refers to the gender-based roots of violence, recognizing that "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men." It broadens the definition of violence by including both the physical and psychological harm done towards women, and it includes acts in both private and public life. The Declaration defines violence against women as encompassing, but not limited to, three areas: violence occurring in the family, within the general community, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the State.

Domestic violence, as defined for this Digest, includes violence perpetrated by intimate partners and other family members, and manifested through:

*Physical abuse* such as slapping, beating, arm twisting, stabbing, strangling, burning, choking, kicking, threats with an object or weapon, and murder. It also includes traditional practices harmful to women such as female genital mutilation and wife inheritance (the practice of passing a widow, and her property, to her dead husband's brother).

*Sexual abuse* such as coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force, forcing unwanted sexual acts or forcing sex with others.

*Psychological abuse* which includes behaviour that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation.

*Economic abuse* includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment, etc.

Acts of omission are also included in this Digest as a form of violence against women and girls.<sup>4</sup> Gender bias that discriminates in terms of nutrition, education and access to health care amounts to a violation of women's rights. It should be noted that although the categories above are listed separately, they are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, they often go hand in hand.

## Causes for Violence Against Women

It would be unwise to claim any one particular cause that can entirely explain violence against women. Several aspects within the complex matrix of our society are equally and un-independently responsible.

Many studies have asserted that the new economic changes and their dynamics particularly in social systems of family, friends, and so on have deep impact that result in violence against women.

Alcoholism among men, dependency of women on their spouse, unequal incomes among the couple, dowry, and so on are some key aspects that are resulting in increase of violence against women in urban and rural areas.

According to Sheela Saravanan (*Violence Against Women in India—A Literature review*, Institute of Social Studies Trust (2000)),

*Cultural and social factors are interlinked with the*

*development and propagation of violent behaviour. With different processes of socialisation that men and women undergo, men take up stereotyped gender roles of domination and control, whereas women take up that of submission, dependence and respect for authority. A female child grows up with a constant sense of being weak and in need of protection, whether physical, social or economic. This helplessness has led to her exploitation at almost every stage of life.*

Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gender-specific socialization</li> <li>● Cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles</li> <li>● Expectations of roles within relationships</li> <li>● Belief in the inherent superiority of males</li> <li>● Values that give men proprietary rights over women and girls</li> <li>● Notion of the family as the private sphere and under male control</li> <li>● Customs of marriage (bride price/dowry)</li> <li>● Acceptability of violence as a means to resolve conflict</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Women's economic dependence on men</li> <li>● Limited access to cash and credit</li> <li>● Discriminatory laws regarding inheritance, property rights, use of communal lands, and maintenance after divorce or widowhood</li> <li>● Limited access to employment in formal and informal sectors</li> <li>● Limited access to education and training for women</li> </ul>
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or by practice</li> <li>● Laws regarding divorce, child custody, maintenance and inheritance</li> <li>● Legal definitions of rape and domestic abuse</li> <li>● Low levels of legal literacy among women</li> <li>● Insensitive treatment of women and girls by police and judiciary</li> </ul>
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under-representation of women in power, politics, the media and in the legal and medical professions</li> <li>● Domestic violence not taken seriously</li> <li>● Notions of family being private and beyond control of the state</li> <li>● Risk of challenge to status quo/religious laws</li> <li>● Limited organization of women as a political force</li> <li>● Limited participation of women in organized political system</li> </ul>

*(Source: Heise. 1994)*

## Socio-Economic Costs of Violence

Direct costs: value of goods and services used in treating or preventing violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Medical</li> <li>● Police</li> <li>● Criminal justice system</li> <li>● Housing</li> <li>● Social services</li> </ul>
Non-monetary costs: pain and suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased morbidity</li> <li>● Increased mortality via homicide and suicide</li> <li>● Abuse of alcohol and drugs</li> <li>● Depressive disorders</li> </ul>
Economic multiplier effects: macro-economic, labour market, inter-generational productivity impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decreased labour market participation</li> <li>● Reduced productivity on the job</li> <li>● Lower earnings</li> <li>● Increased absenteeism</li> <li>● Intergenerational productivity impacts via grade repetition and lower education attainment of children</li> <li>● Decreased investment and saving</li> <li>● Capital flight</li> </ul>
Social multiplier effects: impact on interpersonal relations and quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Intergenerational transmission of violence</li> <li>● Reduced quality of life</li> <li>● Erosion of social capital</li> <li>● Reduced participation in democratic process</li> </ul>

*(Source: Buvinic et al, 1999)*

## Violence Against Women - Scenario in India and Andhra Pradesh

Government of India has been signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and ratified it on 25-6-1993. Government of India has been initiating several interventions in addressing issues of violence against women and also on empowering

women through education, employment trainings and opportunities, and so on. The Acts on Domestic violence, harassment at work place, schemes for welfare of women – STEP, Swadhar, Ujjawala, RMK, are some pointers towards it. Government of Andhra Pradesh has been at the center

of attention vis-à-vis women empowerment especially through the Self Help Group movement. Majority of the development initiatives in the State are women-centric while again emphasizing on the SHG model. One generally gets a good feel that some questions of gender equality are being addressed



in Andhra Pradesh.

While such women-centric initiatives are in place in the State, this study attempts to map the scenario specific to rehabilitation services for women in distress / difficult circumstances. Although it is claimed that economic and to an extent socio-political empowerment is achieved among women particularly after the SHG movement (while some may contest this claim), this study tries to understand questions of violence against women and the support services being offered to girls and women in difficult circumstances in Andhra Pradesh.

For the past few months and years Andhra Pradesh has been in the news for violence against women especially the acid attack cases and sexual harassment at work place.

For the year 2007-08, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recorded 24,738 cases of crimes committed against women including 1,070 cases of rape, 1,564 cases of kidnapping and abduction, 613 cases of dowry deaths and 11,335

cases of domestic violence in Andhra Pradesh.

Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh, where 1,931 cases of crime against women were committed, is the second most unsafe city in India after Delhi with 4,331 cases.

The above numbers are from recorded instances by the police and it is common knowledge that most cases of violence against women vis-à-vis domestic violence, dowry, child marriages, eve-teasing and so on are never reported in the police stations for various reasons. Therefore assuming that the above figures as the complete picture would not be prudent and the actual numbers are much greater than recorded.

Andhra Pradesh has always been a land of social movements and womens movement has been proactively dealing with gender equality and violence against women. Peoples organizations and NGOs have been playing a pivotal role in the process.

The Anti-Arrack movement

during the early 1990s has been a landmark in peoples movement and particularly womens movement. What started as an agitation in a small village called Dubbagunta of Nellore District went on to become the main agenda for political parties in the state and then resulting in prohibition of Liquor sales in the state. However, over a period, the prohibition has been lifted.

Alcoholism among men was and still continues to be a serious concern in causing domestic violence against women and adding to several other economic problems particularly for women. However, the will to control the menace caused out of alcoholism by the government is almost absent since it is the single largest revenue generator.

Recently, acid attacks and murders of girls and women has been on the rise in Andhra Pradesh. Harassment in the name of 'romance/love' and attacking girls who have refused to the demands of boys is forcing parents and girls to rethink on several aspects vis-à-vis their safety.

## Brief understanding of the Rehabilitation services through Shelter Homes

One key element of addressing the concerns of violence against women is providing shelter homes and rehabilitation services to women victims of violence.

In a document, *Ending violence against women: from words to action Study of the Secretary-General* (October 2006, United Nations), it is suggested that

*It is important to ensure that women fleeing violent situations have access to shelters that meet safety standards, to protect them from further violence.*

Ministry of Women and Child Development through Central Social Welfare Board, State Women and Child Development departments and NGOs operates Short Stay Home, Swadhar, Ujjawala homes for different categories of girls and women in different difficult circumstances.

### Short Stay Homes – Salient features

According to the guidelines for Short Stay Homes, “These homes are meant primarily for those women and girls who are either exposed to moral danger or are victims of family discord and the resulting strain of relationship or emotional disturbances. These Homes should not be equated with destitute homes or orphanages or homes for the aged and in firm.”

- The Home should have an average of 30 residents at a time with facilities for a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 residents.
- Out of the total capacity of accommodation 5 to 10 seats will be kept reserved for such deserving women (with children if necessary) who would come to the city or district for legal matters. Alternately 5 to 10 seats may be increased in existing Short Stay Home for these special categories of cases.
- The period of stay should readily extend from 6 months to 3 years.

### Services provided at the home

Medical services  
Legal aid and support  
Psychological support  
Vocational training  
Recreational facilities

Guidelines of Short Stay Home scheme (2002) [www.wcd.nic.in](http://www.wcd.nic.in)  
Guidelines of Swadhar scheme (2002) [www.wcd.nic.in](http://www.wcd.nic.in)  
Guidelines of Ujjawala scheme (2007) [www.wcd.nic.in](http://www.wcd.nic.in)



### Swadhar – Salient Features

The Swadhar scheme purports to address the specific vulnerability of each of group of women in difficult circumstances through a Home-based holistic and integrated approach. There can be homes started for 50, 100, 200 inmates subject to approval from the Ministry. The duration of the stay of the inmates shall not normally exceed three years.

The scheme has the following main components:

- a) Assistance for construction of buildings for the Centre
- b) Rent for the shelter
- c) Assistance for the management of the Centre.
- d) Provision for food, shelter and clothing for the women and their children below the age of 18 years
- e) Counselling for the women in difficult circumstances
- f) Clinical, legal and other support for women in difficult circumstances who are in need of that intervention.
- g) Training for the economic rehabilitation of such women
- h) Help line facilities for such women

### Ujjawala – Salient Features

This is a Central Scheme titled “Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking for Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation—Ujjawala”.

This scheme is primarily for the “purpose of preventing trafficking on the one hand and rescue and rehabilitation of victims on the other.”

- Women and children who are vulnerable to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- Women and children who are victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

Key elements of the scheme

1. Prevention
2. Rescue
3. Rehabilitation
4. Re-integration
5. Repatriation

## The Study

The study is commissioned by Bhumika and supported by Oxfam India Trust. The aim of the study is to formulate a preliminary understanding of operations of the homes and their status in providing services to the women in difficult circumstances. It is hoped that this study would enable to start a dialogue between different stakeholders to formulate a perspective and method in understanding and improving services to women accessing these homes.

A very primary initiative of visiting some of the homes on a random basis revealed a very sad state in some homes and a very interesting and exciting work at a few others. This led to a thought of studying the status of homes for women in difficult circumstances in Andhra Pradesh.

Initial discussions raised quite a few issues on the management, monitoring, support systems, financial assistance vis-à-vis the homes and support to the women accessing them.

Finally it was arrived that a preliminary understanding of the status of homes, services offered, financial management, and so on was to be mapped and then necessary measures were to be suggested that would enhance the service delivery to the women in difficult circumstances. Furthermore, any attempt to improve services will have to be involved by all different stakeholders associated with the homes who might include the NGOs, government authorities, other civil society members.

## Methodology

As mentioned above the study started off as a preliminary mapping of services for women in difficult circumstances.

Primary data about the homes – Short Stay Homes, Swadhar, Ujjawala homes – was collected from the state offices of Social Welfare Board and Department of Women and Child Develop-

-ment. Based on the information provided by the government departments, a random selection was made of the homes with a 40% sample.

The selected homes are geographically representative of the State. Of the total homes, 20 short stay homes, 14 Swadhar homes and 2 Ujjawala homes were selected for survey.

In choosing the homes it was observed that they are proportionate in the 3 regions of Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana.

The homes were selected based on the greater incidence of homes in a particular district but yet maintaining the regional balance.

Survey forms were administered to the home-in-charges and information collected was codified. Questions ranged from general details of the home, infrastructure details, security for women, support services provided and financial status.

## Details of Homes and Sample Selected District-wise

District	Short Stay Home	Swadhar	Ujjawala	Grand Total	40% SSH	40% Swad	40% Ujjawala	Grand Total
Adilabad	2	1		3	1	1		2
Anantapur		2	1	3		1	1	2
Chittoor	2	1		3	1			1
East godavari	2	2		4		1		1
Eluru		1		1				0
Guntur	2	3	1	6	1	2		3
Hyderabad	12	5	2	19	6	2	1	9
Kadapa	3	2		5	1	1		2
Karimnagar		1		1				0
Khammam	5	2	1	8	2	1		3
Krishna	4			4	2			2
Kurnool	3	1		4	1			1
Mahabubnagar	3	1		4	1	1		2
Medak		1		1				0
Nalgonda	1	1		2				0
Nellore	3	2		5	1	1		2
Nizamabad		1		1				0
Prakasham	2	1		3	1			1
Vijayawada		2		2		1		1
Vishakapatnam	2	2		4	1	1		2
Vizianagram		1		1				0
Warangal	4	1		5	1	1		2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>

When the survey team started to visit the homes, it was very difficult to trace them. To begin with, the contact details of address and phone numbers were incorrect. Some homes had to be located using the different contacts of other NGOs, government officers of respective districts, and so on.

*Despite these efforts, the survey teams could not locate 16% of the homes.*

In few instances, there is plenty of reluctance to give away any information from the home-in-charges while the information was shared by the NGOs and not the homes.

Also, wherever we could not locate any home, the in-charge of home/ngo wanted to provide information without the team visiting the home.

However, in most cases, the NGOs and home-in-charges shared a lot of issues in

maintaining the home and the ways in which services being provided can be improved.

Broadly, the issues were concerning limited and irregular funding and strategies to improve vocational trainings.

## Major Findings

As per the guidelines of the different schemes that provide rehabilitation services, they are primarily aimed to providing shelter, food, care, medical, psychological, legal support. Also, these homes are for girls and women who are not in any position to continue staying at a place called 'home' for various different reasons. These homes are the first place that any women in difficult circumstances should think of for shelter and support. For a home that needs to create an environment that can positively influence the mental status of a woman in difficult circumstances, it will have to satisfy at least a few basic parameters vis-à-vis living conditions, psychological support, medical and legal aid, vocational trainings.

For one, it is observed that nearly 80% of the homes are in rented buildings. Such homes are in residential areas and therefore provide with only the most minimum facilities (one bathroom and toilet per home). However, these are not suf

ficient to the number of women (average of 25 per home) who actually are accessing the home. Again, some homes were difficult to locate for the team and the surroundings are not very encouraging as well vis-à-vis cleanliness and accessibility.

The NGOs claim that the provisions for rent is only meager which is far lower than the booming housing market sector and therefore their inability to provide for a decent home.

### Rent of the building for Short stay home

Rs. 3,000/- p.m. for 'A' class cities

Rs. 2,500/- p.m. for 'B' class cities

Rs. 1,500/- p.m. for 'C' class cities and other cities

#### SWADHAR CENTRE FOR 50 INMATES

Rent for Building Rs. 12,500 P.M and Rs.9,375 p.m from second year onwards

#### SWADHAR CENTRE FOR 100 INMATES

Rent for Building Rs.25,000 p.m. and Rs.18,750 p.m. from second year onwards.

#### SWADHAR CENTRE FOR 200 INMATES

Rent for building Rs. 50,000 p.m and Rs.37,500/- from second year onwards

#### Ujjawala rehabilitation home rent\*

A Grade Cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad)

Rs 25000 x 12 months = 300000

B Grade Cities (Rest of India)

Rs 20000 x 12 months = 240000

\* Subject to Rent Assessment Certificate from State PWD

From the above tables, it is only obvious that there is a vast variance in allocation of funds particularly for the short stay homes. Swadhar and Ujjawala homes are in existence only since the early 2000s and therefore the clear manifestation in variation of costs while the short stay home guidelines available on the website [www.wcd.nic.in](http://www.wcd.nic.in) were framed almost 2 decades ago. Given such a scenario of fund allocation, one finds that the majority short stay homes are located in a bit of cramped premises.

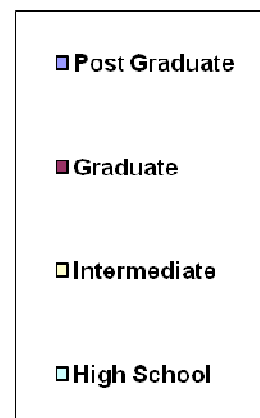
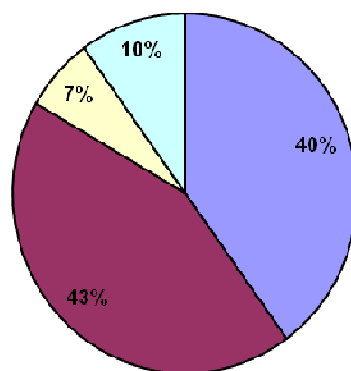
Similar situation is to be felt i.e. of insufficient capacities of short stay homes given the lack of proper financial support, even in cases of psychological support, medical and legal aid services to the women in need. Clearly there is a provision for a part-time clinical psychologist for every short stay home, and counselors for Swadhar and Ujjawala homes. In all Swadhar and Ujjawala homes that were visited there are eligible counselors. Again, the problem is felt by the short stay homes. The part-time pay

ment for a clinical psychiatrist is Rs. 500 p.m. and in present day scenario it is very difficult to find one with such low pay. This is one reason why the psychological support is missing in many short stay homes.

Another pointer is that the home superintendents are expected to be atleast post-graduates. It is found that nearly 70% of the home superintendents are atleast graduates, the rest are only 10<sup>th</sup> or 10+2 pass. However, it is most important to note here that 50% of the latter category are highly

making their efforts that much more meaningful. Another important issue is that there are insufficient trainings being organized to enhance the capacities of the counselors.

Again the intermediate and high school qualified persons are found to be largely associated with the short stay homes.



committed to their work and are good enough or sometimes better than any qualified counselor. Without doubt their commitment and ability to empathize are two crucial elements that go into

Medical and legal aid is provided through the local doctor and advocate who either are part of the management committee or having a good rapport with the NGO. Sometimes the District Legal Authority Services is also engaged in providing services. Again, there is a concern here that the short stay homes are the ones that are failing to provide proper medical and legal aid to the women.

Economic rehabilitation is quite vital to the entire process of 'rehabilitation' for these women. It gives them a sense of confidence and independence about life with greater dignity. However, this cannot be the sole purpose of the homes and will actually have to focus more on psychological counseling, moral support, medical and legal aid.

A key issue that comes to the fore about the homes is of the vocational training. In a study conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission in 1999, it was pointed out that some of the

short stay homes are coterminous with tailoring centers.

Therefore, the entire purpose and meaning of short stay home was lost. Incidentally, similar situations are to be found even today. Although a very difficult proposition to be effectively proven, one can easily make out from the manner of operating the homes.

Many times it is argued that the funds from the government are insufficient and also irregular and therefore the home serves its purpose atleast of providing economic rehabilitation.

This issue clearly brings forward the manner of monitoring by the concerned Department / Ministry. Perhaps it is time to review the implementation and monitoring processes and thereby strengthen the homes and their service delivery.

All across the homes, 2 common issues were raised: a) of irregular funding from the government and b) of chaotic communication

mechanism between the home/NGO and the department / Ministry.

It is clearly laid out in the guidelines that

*“The Government assistance should not result in too much dependence on the part of the voluntary institutions on such help and the efforts of the Voluntary sector should be to utilise the Government assistance for raising other resources for widening the scope of the programme with increasing voluntary contributions.*

*This is desirable in order to provide the best possible services and assistance Under the scheme with the resources of Voluntary organisations supplementing the Government's grant.”*

There 2 key issues within this. For one, fundraising as in the West is totally absent in the local context and NGOs have largely worked with institutional funding. Therefore expecting the NGOs to raise local funds is an extremely difficult proposition.



The other aspect is that such funds can only 'supplement' as noted in the above paragraph. Yet, with no funds being released for more than one year, it is difficult to expect the homes to maintain the same standards.

## By way of Conclusion

Without doubt the schemes for rehabilitation are for a noble cause in addressing issues of rehabilitation and support for women in difficult circumstances. Although there is some effort from all stakeholders, the attempts will require further more concerted and refined efforts with a lot more attention to psychological counseling and sustainable economic rehabilitation of women.

As mentioned earlier, this study is a preliminary step towards understanding the issues and arrive at perspective that would enable to improve services for

women in difficult circumstances.

Although a gamut of issues can be raised but to begin with, this study hopes to bring to focus issues of some very basic facilities available for women.

## Rehabilitation Services (Shelter Homes) in Andhra Pradesh for Women in Difficult Circumstances

### Key Facts

<b>Total no. of Shelter Homes in Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Short Stay Homes</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Swadhar Homes</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Ujjawala Homes</b>	<b>05</b>
<i>Ministries/Departments/Agencies responsible at the Central and State Government for the homes</i>	
<b>Short Stay Homes</b>	Central Social Welfare, State Social Welfare Board
<b>Ujjawala and Swadhar</b>	Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Short Stay Homes** are meant primarily for women and girls who are either exposed to physical danger or are victims of family discord and the resulting strain of relationship or emotional disturbances.

**The Swadhar Scheme** purports to address the specific vulnerability of each of group of women in difficult circumstances through a Home-based holistic and integrated approach.

The **UJJAWALA** scheme has been conceived primarily for the purpose of preventing trafficking on the one hand and rescue and rehabilitation of victims on the other.

Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and has taken several measures in promoting gender equality and providing services to women in difficult circumstances.

Shelter homes aim at providing immediate support primarily through shelter, counseling, legal, medical aid, and trainings for skill enhancement for women in difficult circumstances.

The purpose of this factsheet is to understand the role of shelter homes in Andhra Pradesh and highlight issues which will improve their operations to provide better services for all women in need.

***Defined as per the guidelines of the Government of India***

### Observations from the Survey

- From the survey, it is observed that nearly 80% of the homes are in rented buildings. Such homes are in residential areas and therefore provide with only the most minimum facilities of one bathroom and toilet per home). However, these are not sufficient to the number of women (average of 25 per home) who actually are using the facilities.

Table 1. *Distribution of types of accommodation*

Type	Rented	Own	Leased
Count	80%	13%	7%

- 42% (15 homes) in rented premises are paying higher rents than was sanctioned as per approved budget, given the changing housing market scenario.
- Most preliminary services that the home has to provide are psychological counseling, medical and legal aid. It is observed that the homes do not have qualified personnel for the services to be provided – especially psychological counseling. Of course, nearly 30% of homes do provide such facilities through committed staff.
- Legal aid is being provided to victims of violence through Legal Services Authority and local advocates who are associated with the homes. However, this is largely confined to Swadhar and Ujjawala homes.
- Almost all the homes provide with vocational trainings to the women and attempt to provide rehabilitation through providing linkages to employment.

According to a study conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission in 1999 reflects the same concerns as this study.

*“some homes are found to be running as vocational training centers”*

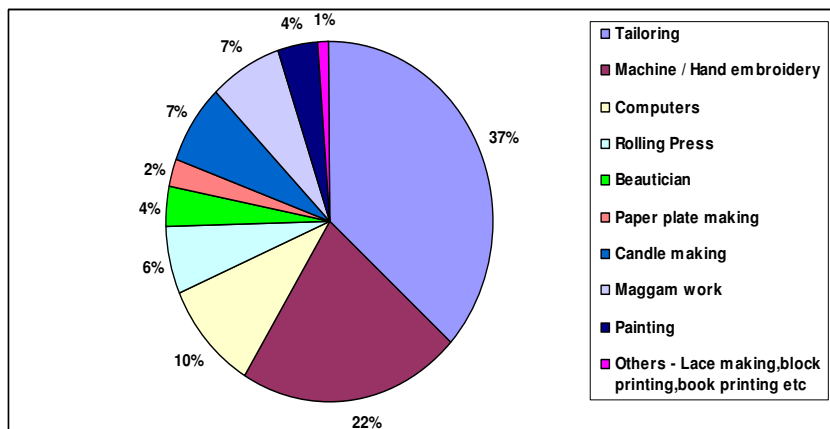
The same holds true with this study as well. Few NGOs also claim that with absence of funds for several years and/or with insufficient funds they are forced to as vocational training centers as against a shelter home.

*“few of the randomly selected Short Stay Homes were not found operational”*

Similar experiences were encountered during this study. It was found that more than 60% of homes were not located in addresses as provided in government records. In one instance the home was located in a different district altogether. Furthermore, 16% of the homes could not be located at all.

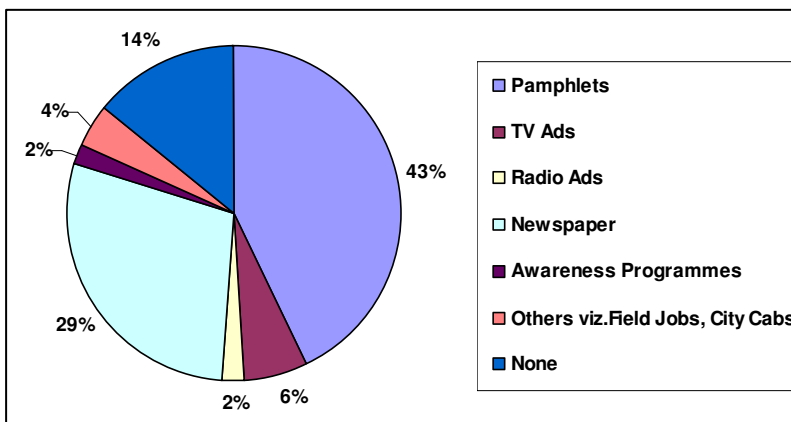
*“NGOs running the Homes have complained of delay in the release of grants, excessive procedural requirements, complicated accounting system and inadequate government response to their grievances.”*

During this study, all the homes have tried to comprehend as to what causes the delay in release of funds.



More than 66% of the homes concentrate on Tailoring, and related activities viz. Embroidery, Maggam work as their basic training programme thereby eventually convert into tailoring centers.

Ineffective awareness methodology used by the homes/ government to create awareness of their existence. Lack of standardized methodology also contributes to the problem.



## Key Issues

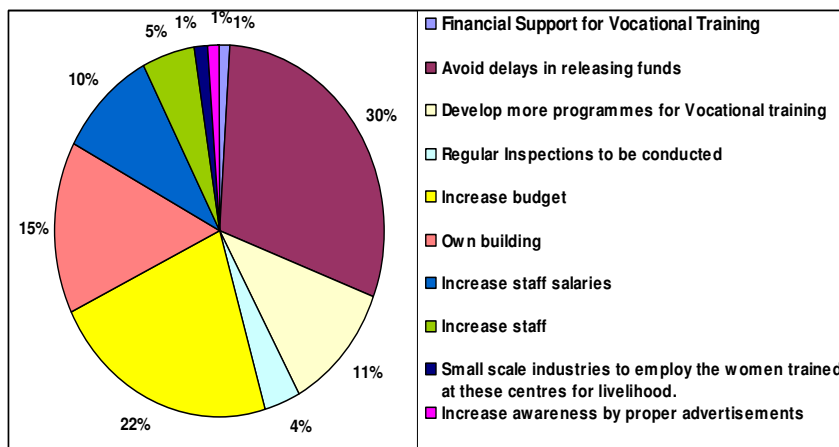
Inadequate measures are being taken towards publicity of the homes.

43% (21 homes) are using pamphlets, 6% (3 homes) are using Television as a medium for publicity.

Legal, medical and Counseling services are not being provided at short stay homes whereas Swadhar and Ujjawala homes provide the same.

Trained staff in providing psychological support for the women is a serious deficiency in the programs.

Not enough focus on building capacities of the team involved in running the homes.



Majority of the feedback received from most of the short stay homes in-charge highlights that funds are not released timely, infact the delay is sometimes more than 2 years which makes the functioning of the homes difficult, thereby quality of services offered suffers and deteriorates. Further, need for more and improved vocational training options have been emphasized by most of the homes.

### Suggestions and Recommendations

- Capacities of NGO personnel have to be built in areas of gender perspective, counseling, rehabilitation mechanisms, legal issues of women, innovations for vocational training – keeping in mind the market requirements- and local fund raising.
- Increase focus to enhance publicity of the homes. This will encourage more women in need to access the facilities.
- Strong emphasis on counseling is recommended, as mandatory and regularly trained personnel would improve the counseling systems at the home.
- Market surveys and studies have to be conducted by NGOs, at least at the local level to ensure that income generating activities and vocational trainings imparted to the women serve the purpose.
- Regular funding from the Government will ensure better services to the women.
- Creating linkages between the home and different Government departments for providing more services to women.

Name of Surveyor:  
Date:

Survey of Homes for Women and Girls

Type of Home:  
District:

**Questionnaire  
General Details**

1. Name and address of the Home with contact no. and email

	2. Year of Starting
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3. Name of Organisation implementing the program with contact no. and email

	4. Year of Starting
--	---------------------

6. Home Sanctioned for No. of inmates

--	--	--

8. Staff involved in the Home as per Budget

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11. Extra Staff involved in the home apart from the sanctioned budget

Yes	No
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What are the publicity measures taken about the home

	Pamphlets
	TV Ads
	Radio Ads
	Newspaper
	Others, please specify

13. Name of Head of the Organisation

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14. Name of the Incharge of the Home

--

15. Qualification  
16. Years of Experience in the sector






**Infrastructure Facilities**

17. Home run in premises of (please mark a tick for the appropriate answer)

Own	
Rented	
Leased	
Donated	

Others, please specify

18. Actual Rent

--

19. Rent Sanctioned as per Budget

--

20. Did the Home shift its premises from one location to another since its initiation

Yes	No
-----	----

21. Reasons, If Yes

Facilities Available at present location (please indicate with yes/no)

22. Bathroom	
23. Toilet	
24. Kitchen	
25. Mess	
26. Plates	
27. Beds	
28. bedseets	
29. utensils	
30. notice boards	
31. play material	
32. Locks for security	

Others, please specify below

33. Computers

Yes	No
-----	----

34.a. Tables and Chairs

Yes	No
-----	----

34.b. Total No. of Rooms

Yes	No
-----	----

34.c. Sanitary Napkins provided to women

Yes	No
-----	----

35. What facilities are available for entertainment (please mark a v where applicable)

T.V.	Magazines	VCD/DVD player	Newspaper	Cable Connection

36. Food Provided

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Tea/snacks

37. Timings

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**Security for Women**

38. Are there men among the Staff	Yes	No	39. If Yes, at what level

40. Are men staff from other team members of the organisation allowed inside the home	Yes	No	41. If Yes, why and any rules apply to them

42. Is there a security guard for the home?	Yes	No

43. Have there been instances of outsiders forcefully entering inside the home?	Yes	No	44. If Yes, how was it handled?

45. Do the local police provide any special protection service through visits or special patrolling in the area?	Yes	No

46. Did any of the inmates escape from the home?	Yes	No

47. If yes, how many and why?

48. What measure are taken to find them and follow-up?

**Support for Women**

49. What is the shortest duration of stay of an inmate at the home	<input type="text"/>	50. What is the longest duration of stay of an inmate at the home	<input type="text"/>
51. What is the average period of stay of any inmate at the home	<input type="text"/>	52. What is the prescribed period for any inmate to stay at the home as per the guidelines of the scheme?	<input type="text"/>
53. Is there an advocate to support women with legal aid	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No	54. Is there a support system to provide medical facilities for the women	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No
55. Do the staff spend time with women for counseling - one-to-one	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No	56. Do ALL women share their issues with the counselor/social worker	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No
57. Is there a first-aid kit available at the home	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No	58. Are ALL women tested for HIV before/after they are admitted into the home	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No
59. What are the trainings provided at the home? (please write in full and clear letters)	<input type="text"/>		
60. How many women have been trained at the home?	<input type="text"/>	61. Is there a placement facility available for the women	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No <input type="text"/> Indicate number
62. Do the women engage in indoor games	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No	63. Do the women engage in outdoor games	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No
64. Are women provided with education facilities	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No	65. Do the women attend school / college	<input type="text"/> Yes <input type="text"/> No



**Financial Status**

66. What is the total Budget for each year		
67. When was the last instalment released (please indicate dd/mm/yyyy)		
69. Do you receive the funds regularly every half-year	Yes	No
68. When was the instalment prior to the last instalment released (please indicate dd/mm/yyyy)		
70. Is it a delay from the NGO side with delay in reporting	Yes	No
71. Is it a delay from the government side with transfer of funds	Yes	No
72. Does the home generate revenue from other sources through	Any other source	
a. income generating activities	Yes	No
b. fund raising	Yes	No
73. Are vegetables grown at the home?	Yes	No
74. Are fruits grown at the home?	Yes	No
75. Any other plantations?	Yes	No
76. Any suggestions that can improve the functioning and status of the home?		