



# 16 Days of Activism

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## Report of activities conducted by Vacha

25.11.2016 – 10.12.2016

VACHA CHARITABLE TRUST | [www.vacha.org.in](http://www.vacha.org.in)

**16 days of activism** against gender based violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25<sup>th</sup> November (international day for “Elimination of violence against women”) to 10<sup>th</sup> January (Human Rights Day).

### **History:**

On 25 November 1960, sisters Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal, three political activists who actively opposed the cruelty and systematic violence of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, were clubbed to death and dumped at the bottom of a cliff by Trujillo’s secret police.

The Mirabal sisters became symbols of the feminist resistance and in commemoration of their deaths 25 November was declared International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Latin America in 1980. This international day was formally recognised by the United Nations in 1999.

In June 1991, the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), alongside participants of the first Women’s Global Institute on Women, Violence and Human Rights, called for a global campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

VACHA is a women’s organization working with girls and women and youth on their issues since last 30 years. Every year Vacha in solidarity with the global call for action in 16days of activism, organise actions, programmes challenging violence and creating awareness on girl’s and women’s rights in communities we engage with as well as with different stakeholders.

In the current year too Vacha has engaged with educational institutes like schools and colleges, Bastis and activists interested stakeholders through various activities conducted in different locations in Mumbai. We have conducted activities like Film Screening, Poster making, Health and Gender fair, Essay Competition, Warli Painting, Navy visit, Sport’s Day, Art & Craft Exhibition, Wall Painting. These activities have been conducted in 7 different places in Mumbai – Andheri, Bandra, Jogeshwari, Malad,

Santacruz, Kalyan and Dombivali . More than 5000 participants have been actively participated including boys and girls, out of which 3760 were girls and 1353 were boys.

## Activities:

### 1. Film screening:

Vacha works with adolescents from deprived communities and they usually don't get chance to watch movies/films. So, We had organized film screening for these adolescents in 3 different locations, where we work. 250 girls and 13 boys have participated in this activity. Films based on girls and women, were screened, these films



depicted their struggle with life and how they come out of that. We had screened and discussed films such as “Nil Battey Sannata”, “Armaan”, “Lilkee”, “Hayat” to build girl's confidence and to fight against violence. Women and girls got inspiration from such movies.

## 2. Poster Making:



We always encourage adolescents to express themselves through different activities. So, as a part of 16 days of activism, this year, we had discussed with adolescents, why we participated in 16 days of activism and how it is important for them also to participate. We briefed them about what is violence and girls and women suffer from this and asked girls to express themselves and things happening in their surroundings related to violence through making posters. We had organized poster making activity in 3 different locations in Mumbai. Total 173 girls were participated in this activity. While making posters, they discussed issues in their daily lives and also it helped them in increasing their creativity and thinking capability. They got to know what violence is and how to tackle with it. They made so many interesting and meaningful posters expressing their feelings and experiences from past.



### 3. Gender and Health Fair:

Health and Gender is always an unfocused issue in India. People don't have much idea about what Gender is and also children don't know their body parts properly. So, from the last 10 years we work with adolescents as well



as youth in educating them about Health and Gender. We organize seminars, trainings, workshops and fairs go make them understand better. So, this year also, during this 16days of activism, we had conducted Health and Gender Fair in 7 BMC schools for adolescents. More than 2700 adolescents have participated in this activity, out of which 2090 were girls and 646 were boys. In these fairs, different stalls had organized with different activities. There were separate stalls for girls



and boys. Stalls were arranged like "One minute", "9 pins", "Snake & Ladder", "Height & Weight" and many more. Each and every game communicates some messages related to health and gender. Through these fairs, adolescents got to know more about gender, their own health and their body parts. Through these games/activities, we educate them how it can help them understanding themselves better and protect themselves. So, children learnt to respect each other and learn about gender equality.

#### 4. Essay Competition:

We work with adolescents from deprived communities and most of them are not getting proper education. So, they are not very good at reading or writing. During these 16 days, we had conducted essay writing competition in 2 BMC schools in Mumbai to encourage students to write and to make them understand the value of education and how it can effect their day to day life and how education makes difference in reducing violence. Total 500 adolescents have participated in this activity, out of which 315 were girls and 186 were boys.

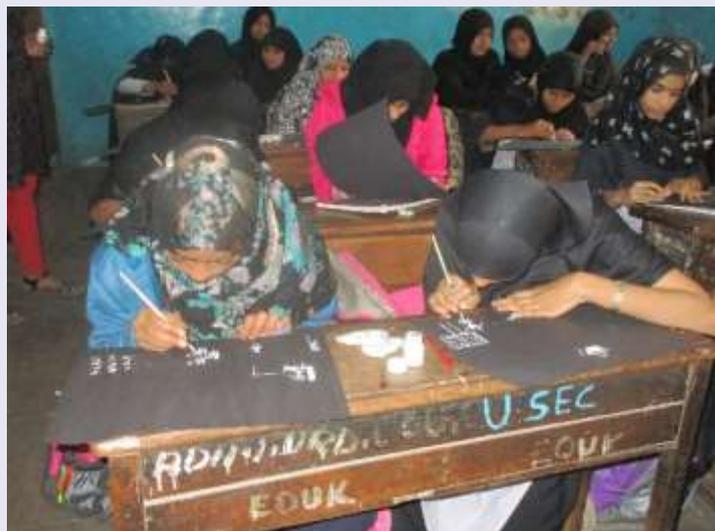


We communicated them how it is important to write and communicate their feelings. Wherever and whenever possible, we encourage girls and women to write and to express. So, we had given them the topic “Right to Education and Its Value in their Life”.

#### 5. Warli Painting:

Warli painting is a tribal art mostly done by Adivasi from North Sahyadri Range in India (Dahanu, Talasari, Jawhar, Palghar, Mokhada, and Vikramgad of Palghar district). It originated from Maharashtra, where it is still practiced today. Their extremely rudimentary wall paintings use a very basic graphic vocabulary - a circle, a triangle and a square. So, in the ancient times, women used to do these paintings and communicate to each other through these paintings. Each and every painting of theirs was

communicating some messages. So, we encourage adolescents to carry on the activity and understand the importance of this. So, we had conducted Warli painting workshop as a part of 16 days of activism and the theme given to girls was “Things which doesn’t allow Education”. We had conducted this activity in 1 BMC school in Mumbai and 40 girls were participated in this activity. So, girls were expressed their experience and things which comes as a barrier to complete their education through the painting.



## 6. Navy Visit:

During the 16 days of activism, Vacha had organized a visit to Indian Navy for adolescents. Total 33 adolescents were participated. The motto was to aware them about the Navy and the work they do for the nation. They inspired by the work Indian Navy do to protect the nation and also it gave them some idea to make their career in Indian Navy.

## 7. Sport's Day:

In developing countries like India, access to public space for playing is always a hard task for adolescents. They don't get easy access to playgrounds, especially adolescent girls. That is the reason, they don't stay much active and strong. So, Vacha encourages adolescents to





play on regular basis and try to make them public space available to play. So, to encourage adolescents and make them understand why it is important to play and stay active, Vacha had conducted Sports day in Kalyan as a part of 16days of Activism in an open playground.

Kabaddi was the sport of that day. 220 adolescents had actively participated and played Kabaddi with more than 1000 viewers. We briefed them why we had conducted this activity and why they should regularly play and stay active. It makes adolescent girls more brave, confident and they can raise voice and fight against violence.

### 8. Art & Craft Exhibition:

An art and craft exhibition, “Best out of Waste”, was conducted in one BMC school in the slums of Malvani, Malad in Mumbai. Vacha students have been working on garbage disposal in that area for 4 years. Students themselves created lots of creative stuff made



out of wastage, like wall hangings, decorative items, reusable products



etc. Around 750 adolescents have participated in this exhibitions, out of which 450 were girls and 300 were boys.

A film screening was also done on “Story of Stuff”, so that they can get an idea of what to do with the wastage and dedicate themselves to

make the city clean. Some interesting pictures has been displayed of that basti to make them realize that, there is no clean space to play. Community members, local news reporter, local corporator have visited the exhibition and appreciated the work Vacha students are doing. We also got published in Newspaper for the same.

### 9. Wall Painting:

Vacha works in bastis (slums) and this year as a part of 16days of activism, adolescents, who are part of Vacha, had taken an initiative in painting the walls with different messages and images. We have conducted wall paintings in 7 different bastis in Mumbai. Total 470 adolescents were participated in this activity, out of which 279 were girls





and 191 were boys. Girls in their day to day life, experiences many issues related to violence and they wanted to express their feelings through these wall paintings. They have painted walls in their slums with support from us. They have incorporated such beautiful and meaningful messages

to communicate the society to stop violence against girls and women. They have painted their feelings and experience what they face in their everyday life.