

A woman in a red and gold patterned sari is shouting with her hands cupped around her mouth. She is in the foreground, looking upwards and to the right. In the background, a crowd of people, mostly women, are visible, some with their hands raised. The scene appears to be outdoors, possibly at a protest or a public gathering. The overall tone is one of activism and social justice.

# **GENDER JUSTICE**

**ONE IN THREE ADOLESCENT GIRLS  
MARRIED OR IN UNION HAVE  
EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL, SEXUAL  
OR EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE BY THEIR  
HUSBAND OR PARTNER**

OXFAM GOAL

# ADVANCING GENDER JUSTICE



By 2020, more poor and marginalised women will claim and advance their rights, and violence against women will be less prevalent.

## OUTCOMES

1.

Enhanced realisation of gender mainstreaming across Oxfam India's work.

2.

Reduced social acceptance of violence against women & girls within the private spaces at individual, community & institutional levels.

3.

Improved positioning of Oxfam India on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) within private spaces in South Asia.

## OXFAM INDIA'S IMPACT

1,91,708

Total

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98,007

Female

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In the year 2015-16, we had 98,007 female beneficiaries from a total of 1,91,708 beneficiaries.



## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (EVAW) PROGRAMME

The major focus of EVAW programme has been to address the issue of domestic violence. Domestic violence is considered to be a private affair. Cases of domestic violence are least reported and are difficult to track considering the taboo associated with speaking about it publicly. Given the complexity of the issue Oxfam India's strategies and interventions have been multi-layered to address violence against women in both formal and informal spaces. These efforts are extended to six states of the country – Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand through various programmes and campaigns.

Direct measures taken by Oxfam India to support the survivors of domestic violence include,

- Improve survivors' (of violence against women and girls) access to formal and informal judiciary systems through different interventions such as women support centres, community collectives and networks of women's rights groups.
- Enable change in social norms amongst individuals, communities and institutions to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) and challenge gender discrimination.
- Support national and state level networks, advocate with government machinery for the effective implementation of the Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) and other relevant laws, programmes and policies related to preventing VAWG.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### CHHATTISGARH

- Nyay Samiti and Sanghwari Mahila Manch were successful in banning alcohol in 12 project villages, followed by another 5 villages in the neighbouring areas in Garyaband district.

- 17 justice and vigilance committees comprising 668 members, 36 youth groups with a team of 821 members and 36 women's groups have been formed to actively fight domestic violence.
- 23,689 women, girls, men and boys have directly and 87,600 indirectly been reached through community mobilisation and campaign activities on the issue of violence against women.
- 2 new Women Support Centres (WSC) have been established and 36 cases of violence against women were registered at these centres.

### UTTAR PRADESH

- 184 cases were registered by four Women Support Centres (WSCs), providing counselling to the affected women.
- 21 Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) were registered on domestic violence.

### UTTARAKHAND

- Around 15,283 women, 16,322 men, 31,950 girls and 28,532 boys were mobilised on the issue of violence against women and girls in the last six months.
- The vigilance committees have referred 178 cases related to domestic violence, dowry, rape, physical and mental torture to WSCs.

### BIHAR AND JHARKHAND

- 990 cases of domestic violence were handled by Mahila Dastaks (women's groups in Bihar). 892 of these were solved by them, and 98 were referred to either the Mahila Thana (women's police station) or Mahila Helpline (women's helpline).
- Two helpdesks have been set-up in the months of October and November, with the help of the police in two districts of Jharkhand to provide support and services to survivors of violence.
- 1,656 meetings of Jagruk Samiti were held and attended by 22,113 people, of which 17,987 were women.

### ODISHA

- 534 cases of domestic violence were addressed by three Women Support Centres (WSCs). They were provided counselling services, medical and legal aid, along with shelter and vocational training.
- 54 vigilance committees active across 54 intervention villages in the districts of Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Rayagada and Kandhamal, and have been trained by our partners - Institute for Social Development (ISD) and Indira Social Welfare Organisation (ISWO). They are now raising awareness on domestic violence issues in their own villages and also linking cases of domestic violence with our WSC and various other support services.



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The '16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence' is a global campaign that starts on 25th November, i.e. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and continues till 10th December, Human Rights Day. Its aim is to raise awareness about gender-based violence, a human rights issue at the local, national, regional, and international levels. This year during 16 Days of Activism, Oxfam India engaged with the young to challenge social norms around gender inequality in their own lives. The campaign saw rallies, street plays, workshops, candle marches spread across our various regions.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### CHHATTISGARH

- Night Walk was organised in the mid-night in the capital city of Chhattisgarh, where women and girls broke the stereotypes of restricted mobility during night; men and boys also walked on the street to show their solidarity. The event had a spectacular success when people went on the street singing, dancing, sloganeering challenging binaries of class, caste, religion and gender. The event was in joint collaboration of Oxfam India, Raipur Municipality Corporation, Chhattisgarh Mahila Adhikaar Manch and Radio Mirchi.
- State level constitution on women and media was organised for the first time in Chhattisgarh, where media and civil society came together to discuss representation of women in media and the issues of women in media.
- The issue of VAW got tremendous coverage during 16 days, Oxfam India and partners were in news more than 110 times.

- 23,689 women, girls, men and boys have directly and 87,600 are indirectly reached out on the issue of violence against women.

### UTTAR PRADESH

On 9th December a walkathon was organised in collaboration with Women Powerline '1090' and 'Inner Wheel' in which 500 people participated and took a pledge on neither conducting nor supporting violence against women and gender based discrimination in her/his life.

### UTTARAKHAND

Around 16,000 students took pledge for ending violence against women and girls.

### BIHAR AND JHARKHAND

- Bihar - RUN to End Violence against Women (5 December): The critical situation of violence against women, presents a strong rationale for creating awareness and engage a wide range of stakeholders. Therefore, a 'Run for Ending Violence against Women' was held in Patna. It had more than 1,000 participants.

- Jharkhand - RUN to End Violence against Women (1 December) and Run for Ending Violence against Women was organised in Ranchi.

- Gender sensitive messages were sent out by Aircel Mobile Network in Bihar and Jharkhand to their customers, as part of the 16 days campaign to support Oxfam India's initiatives.

### ODISHA

- 150 autos carted 13 posters on various issues of Violence Against Women during the period (for a month in the city of Bhubaneswar) and we had collaborated with the Bhubaneswar Auto Union for this purpose. We engaged with them on a brief thematic discussion before they carried the posters.
- The Konark dance festival was held from December 1st to 5th to raise awareness on the issue of VAWG. We put up a Sand Art Installation on the theme on women empowerment. The event saw huge national and international participation.

## THE OUTREACH FIGURES FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM ACROSS THE STATES WERE VERY ENCOURAGING.

Region	Total Outreach for 16 days of Activism Men , Women and Youth
Bihar	1,20,000
Jharkhand	49,000
Chhattisgarh	1,20,000
Uttar Pradesh	6,10,000
Uttarakhand	45,000
Odisha	2,21,000

## PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT (PWDVA), 2005

The PWDVA Act 2005 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to protect women from domestic violence. It was brought into force from 26 October 2006 providing a definition of "domestic violence", which is broad and includes not only physical violence, but also emotional/verbal, sexual, and economic abuse. It is a civil law meant primarily for protection orders and not meant to penalise criminally.

## ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

### #OUTOFSPOTLIGHT

Have you ever wondered why women are expected to take their spouses' surname after marriage? That's because it is a common practice which has been prevalent in our society for the longest time. These practices are better known as social norms. Unfortunately, they are responsible for devaluation of women and the root cause of violence against them. Oxfam India wanted to raise awareness about these very norms that shape our everyday thoughts and behaviour. Eight Indians dared to step into the spotlight to answer six simple questions. Their responses were made into a video - 'These Indians are under the Spotlight for all the Wrong Reasons', a social experiment that was our very first attempt towards questioning norms that create inequality. We also challenged netizens to step into the spotlight by taking the 'Are You in the Spotlight? Quiz.' The video was watched by over 50,000 people online and over 3,000 engaged with the quiz. Leading online websites such as BuzzFeed, Huffington Post, ScoopWhoop, Indiatimes, Indian Express & CNN IBN featured the video

### ARE YOU IN THE SPOTLIGHT?



**92.5% women in Delhi reported experiencing some form of sexual violence. 59% reported experiencing it in the last 6 months.**

### #WHYTHEFARQ

In association with India Today television, Oxfam India amplified the #WhyTheFarq campaign that questions social attitudes, behaviour and practices that are fuelling extreme gender inequality. The campaign included promos, news stories, vignettes, half hour episodes and a debate special, all of which tackled the issue of the Farq between social norms for men and women.

### DELHI METRO ACTIVATION

Oxfam India in collaboration with its partner ComMutiny – The Youth Collective (CYC) promoted #WhyTheFarq for a month using Delhi Metro as a medium. 3 trains with a total of 54 panels carried messages on social norms around gender equality.

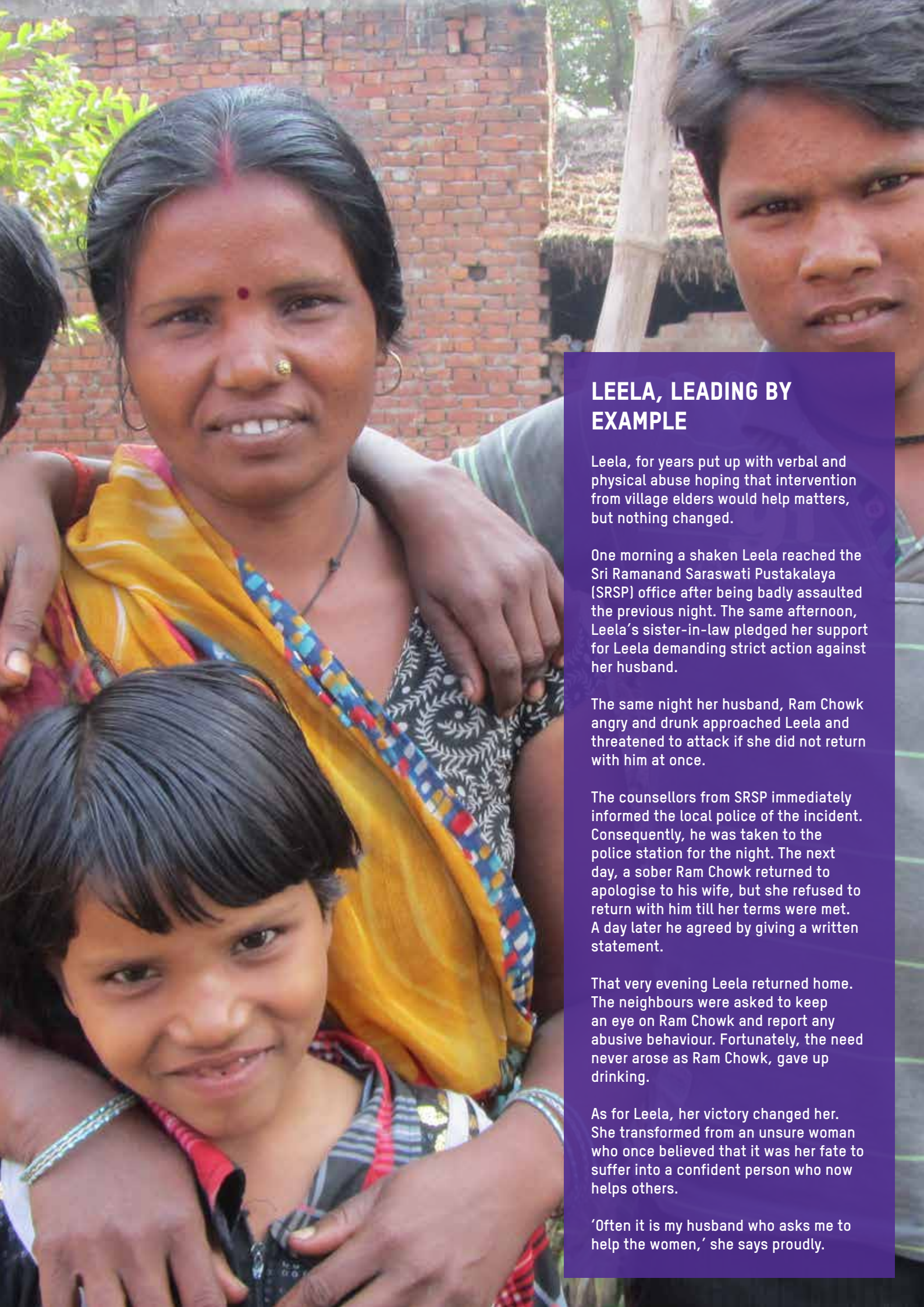
The ads were put up in the Yellow line of the metro which caters to commuters from diverse background from students to working professional. The messaging of the ad was designed to encourage a response which could be sent via SMS. Commuters engaged with the ads and shared their responses via messages.

**Just one in eight women whose parents own agricultural land inherits any of it.**

**For every 10 men in engineering & other technical university courses, there are only 4 women.**







## LEELA, LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Leela, for years put up with verbal and physical abuse hoping that intervention from village elders would help matters, but nothing changed.

One morning a shaken Leela reached the Sri Ramanand Saraswati Pustakalaya (SRSP) office after being badly assaulted the previous night. The same afternoon, Leela's sister-in-law pledged her support for Leela demanding strict action against her husband.

The same night her husband, Ram Chowk angry and drunk approached Leela and threatened to attack if she did not return with him at once.

The counsellors from SRSP immediately informed the local police of the incident. Consequently, he was taken to the police station for the night. The next day, a sober Ram Chowk returned to apologise to his wife, but she refused to return with him till her terms were met. A day later he agreed by giving a written statement.

That very evening Leela returned home. The neighbours were asked to keep an eye on Ram Chowk and report any abusive behaviour. Fortunately, the need never arose as Ram Chowk, gave up drinking.

As for Leela, her victory changed her. She transformed from an unsure woman who once believed that it was her fate to suffer into a confident person who now helps others.

'Often it is my husband who asks me to help the women,' she says proudly.