



# Daughter Of the Hills

**TRAFFICKED AND RESTORED**



Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha  
(SANGRAM)



Script: SANGRAM and VAMP

Illustrations, Design & Layout: M B Suresh Kumar, +91 9945081242

# SEX WORK IS WORK



FINANCIAL SECURITY

# FREEDOM TO LIVE AND WORK



SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

# VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE



DECRIMINALISATION



RIGHT TO HEALTH

ACCESS TO TREATMENT



OUR FIELD OF OPERATION

# ~VAMPA ANYAY MUKTI PARISHAD~ ~VAMP~



COLLECTIVIZATION FOR JUSTICE



TRAINING & OUT REACH

EDUCATING CLIENTS & WORKERS



Darakha is a small village in Nepal.



Kopisha is a bubbly and beautiful girl who lived in Darakha. She dreamt of travelling outside her town and seeing the big city.



Kopisha fell deeply in love with a city bred young man called Bahadur.



Kopisha eloped with Bahadur.



They got married in a temple far away from Darakha.





Bahadur told her that there were many opportunities for them to earn money in India. Kopisha was overjoyed.



Bahadur brought Kopisha to Allahabad a big city in India, and they met an agent, Shyam.





Bahadur told her that Shyam will organise work for her. He left her with the agent saying that he would return shortly. He did not return.



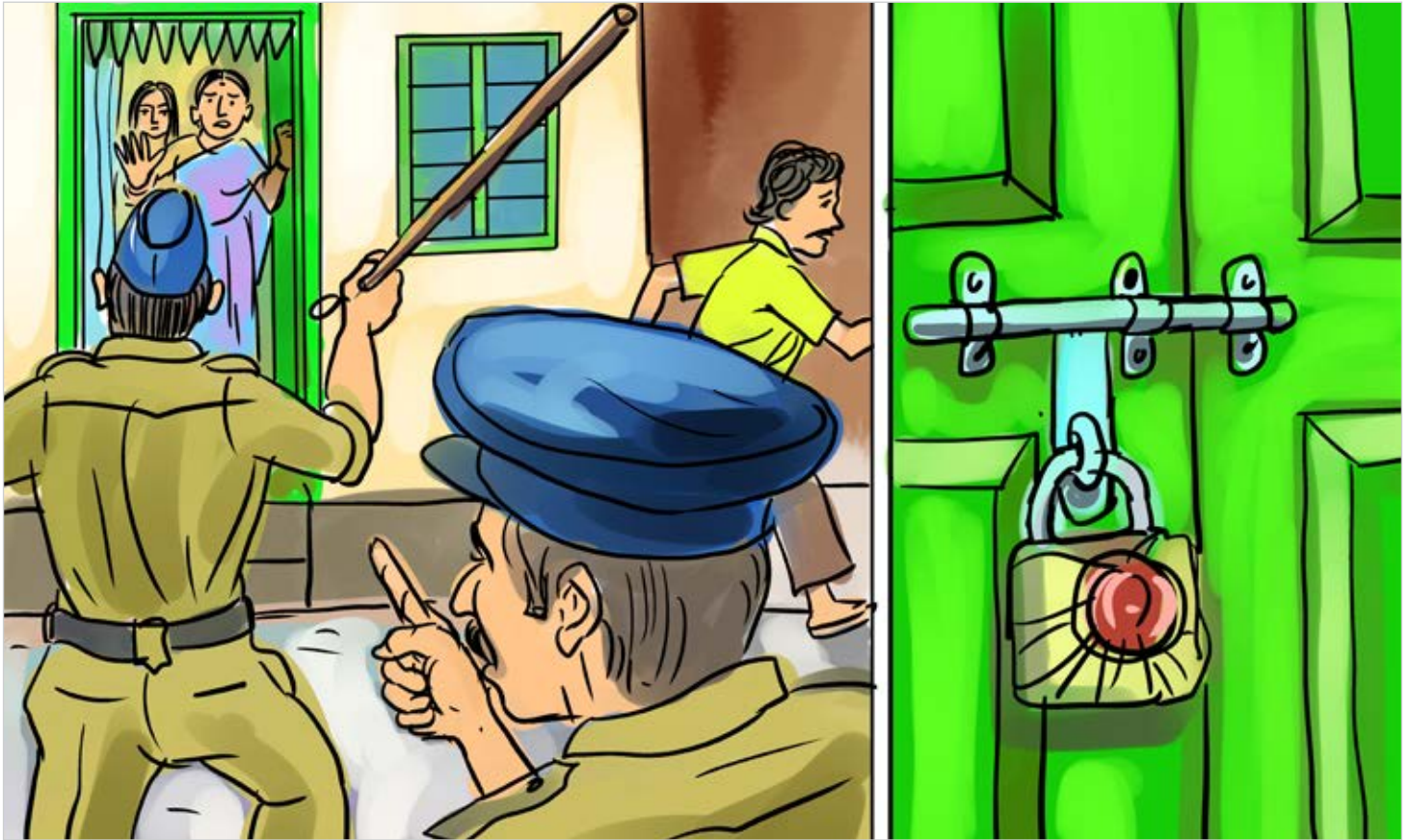
Kopisha was taken by the agent to a brothel madam and money exchanged hands.



Kopisha felt trapped in a situation where she could not go back home, nor continue to live in Allahabad without money. She started doing sex work to survive.



The brothel owner physically abused Kopisha when she asked for her dues. Kopisha missed her family, but the brothel owner took away her mobile.



After a few months there was a raid and the brothel was sealed by the police.

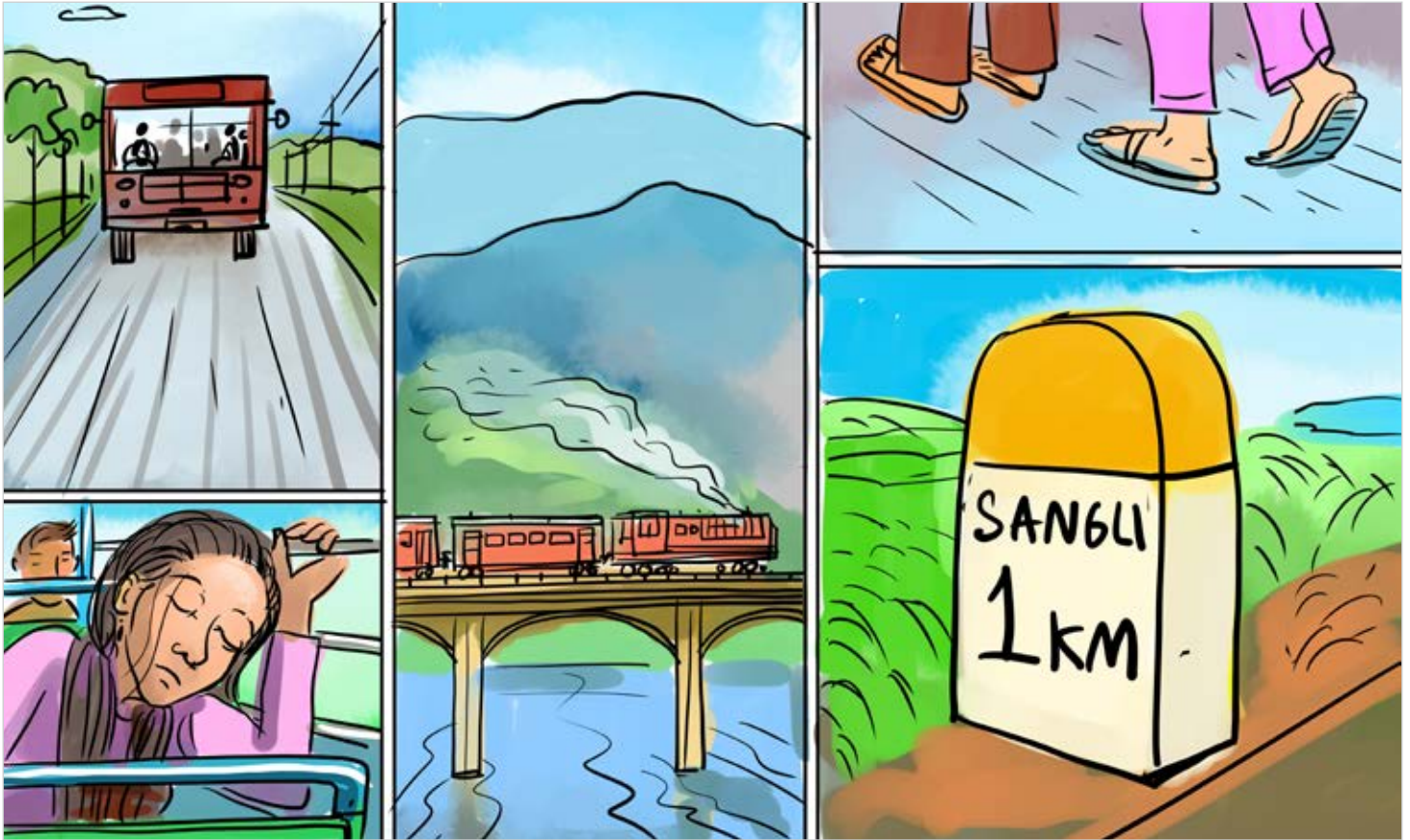


Kopisha escaped the raid and ran away. She was scared that the police would send her to a rescue home like Sarita, who was still in custody. Now she wanted to go back to Darakha.





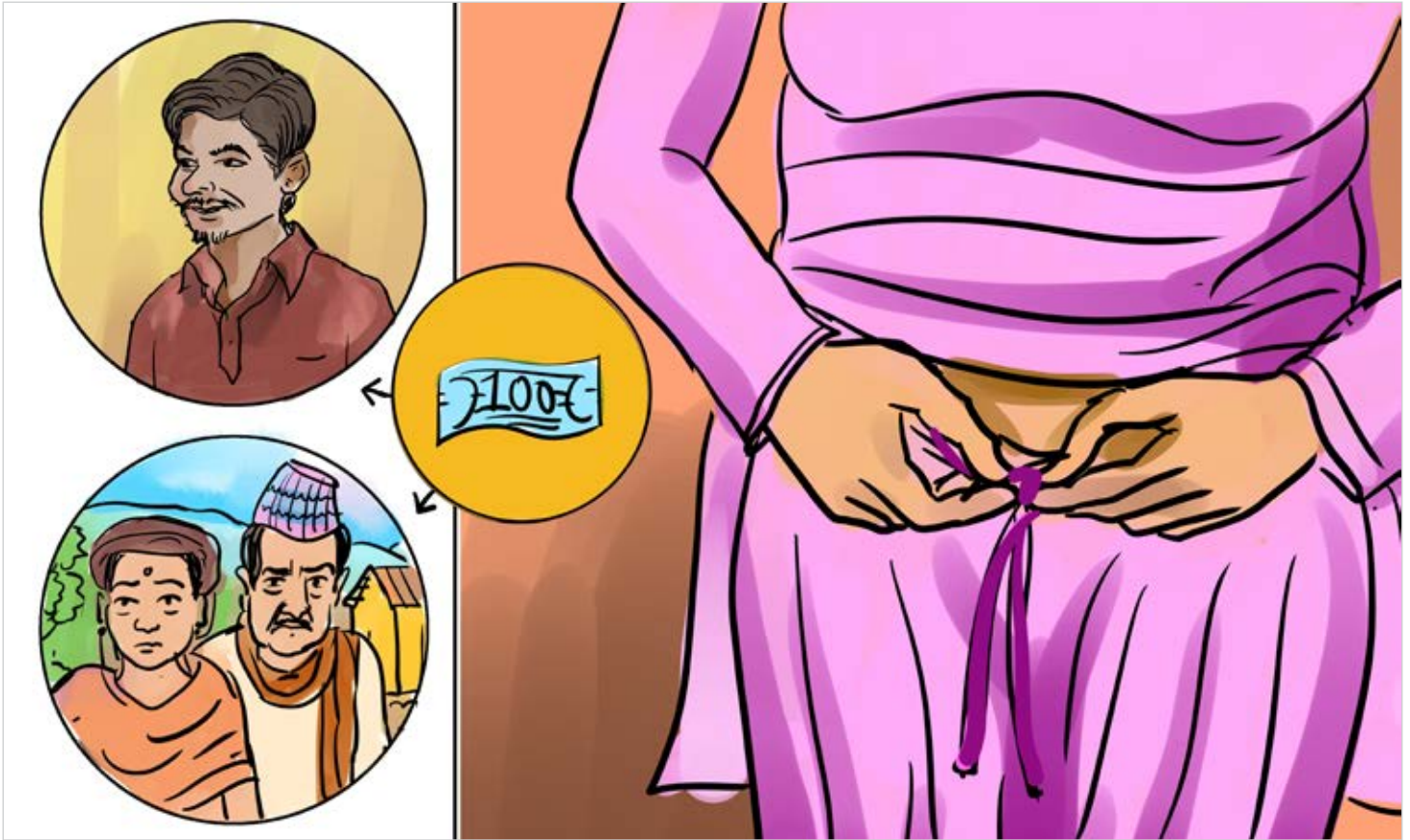
She went back to Shyam, the agent for help. He agreed to help her and took her far away from the brothels of Allahabad.



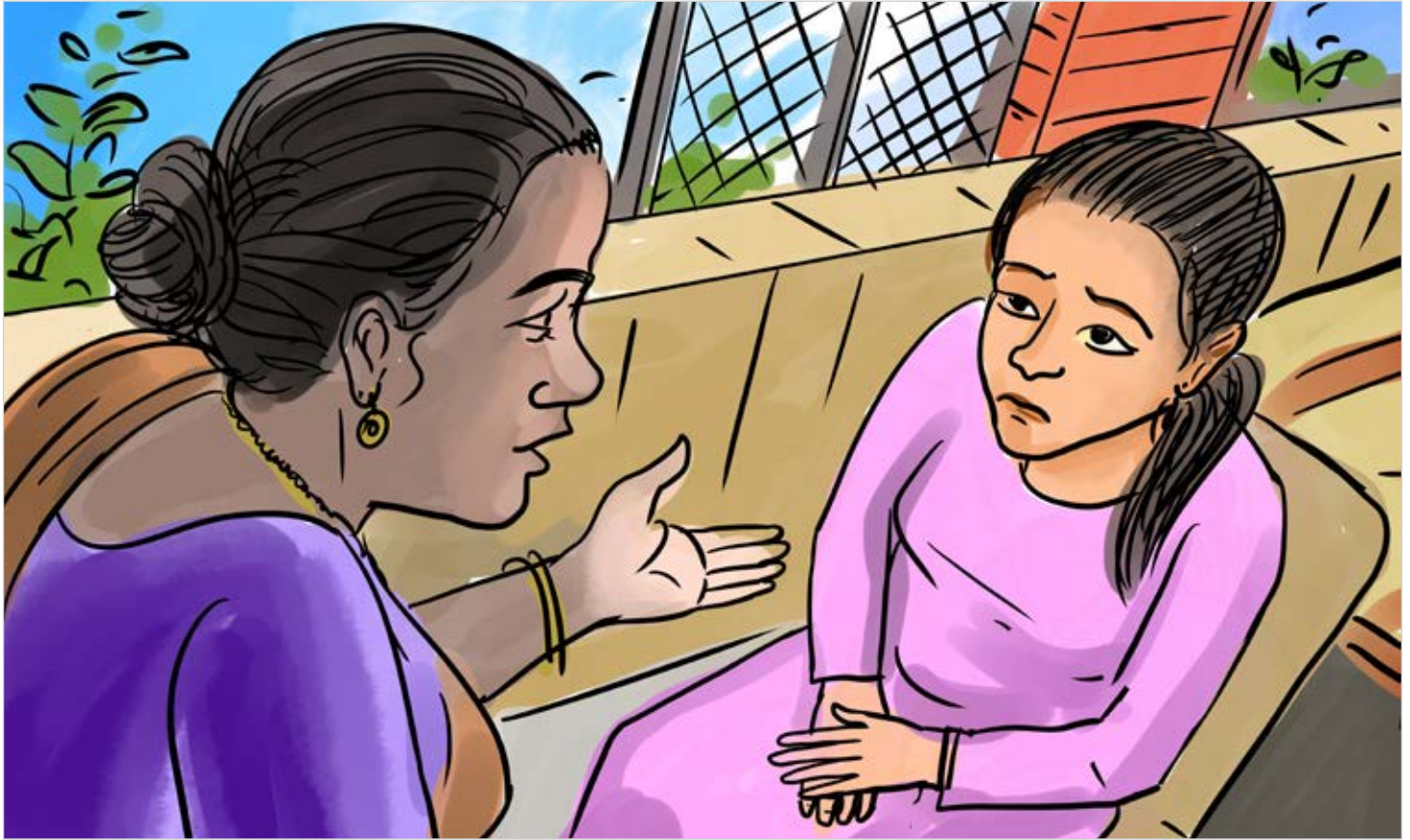
The travel to the new place was never ending. Shyam and Kopisha travelled two nights and two days to reach Gokulnagar, Sangli in Maharashtra.



Shyam told Guaravva that Kopisha was his wife's sister and he left her in Gokulnagar, the red light area of Sangli.



Kopisha was desperate to earn money to repay Shyam and to go back home. She started sex work in Sangli.



Guravva saw that Kopisha was sad and withdrawn. She realised that something was not quite right about Kopisha's story. She asked Kopisha what was wrong.



Kopisha broke down and told Guravva the whole story.

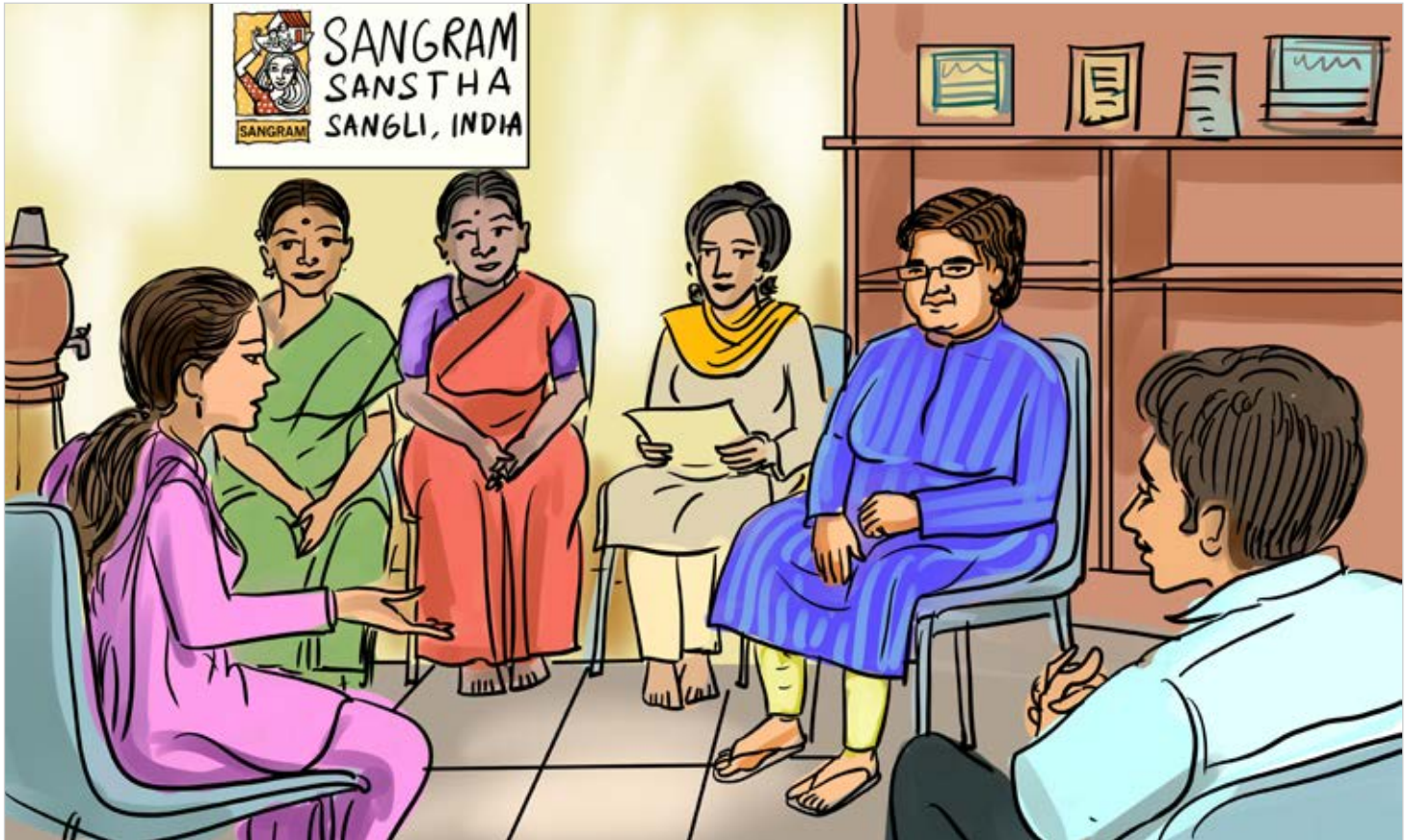


Guravva a member of VAMP, took her to the Conflict Redressal Committee [CRC] called the Tanta Mukti Samiti (TMS).

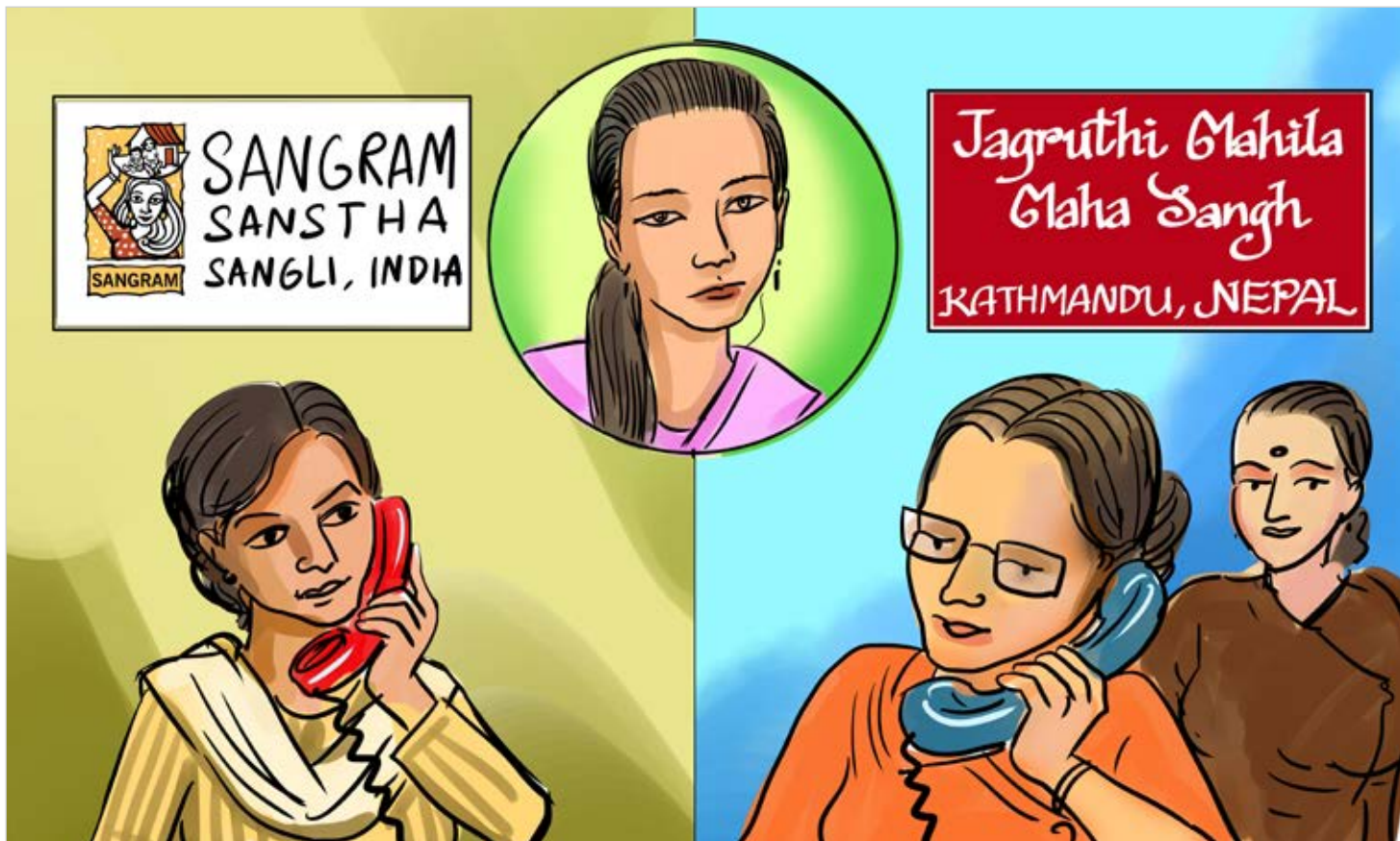


Kopisha told the committee that she did not want to do sex work and desired to go back to her parent's home in Darakha, Nepal.

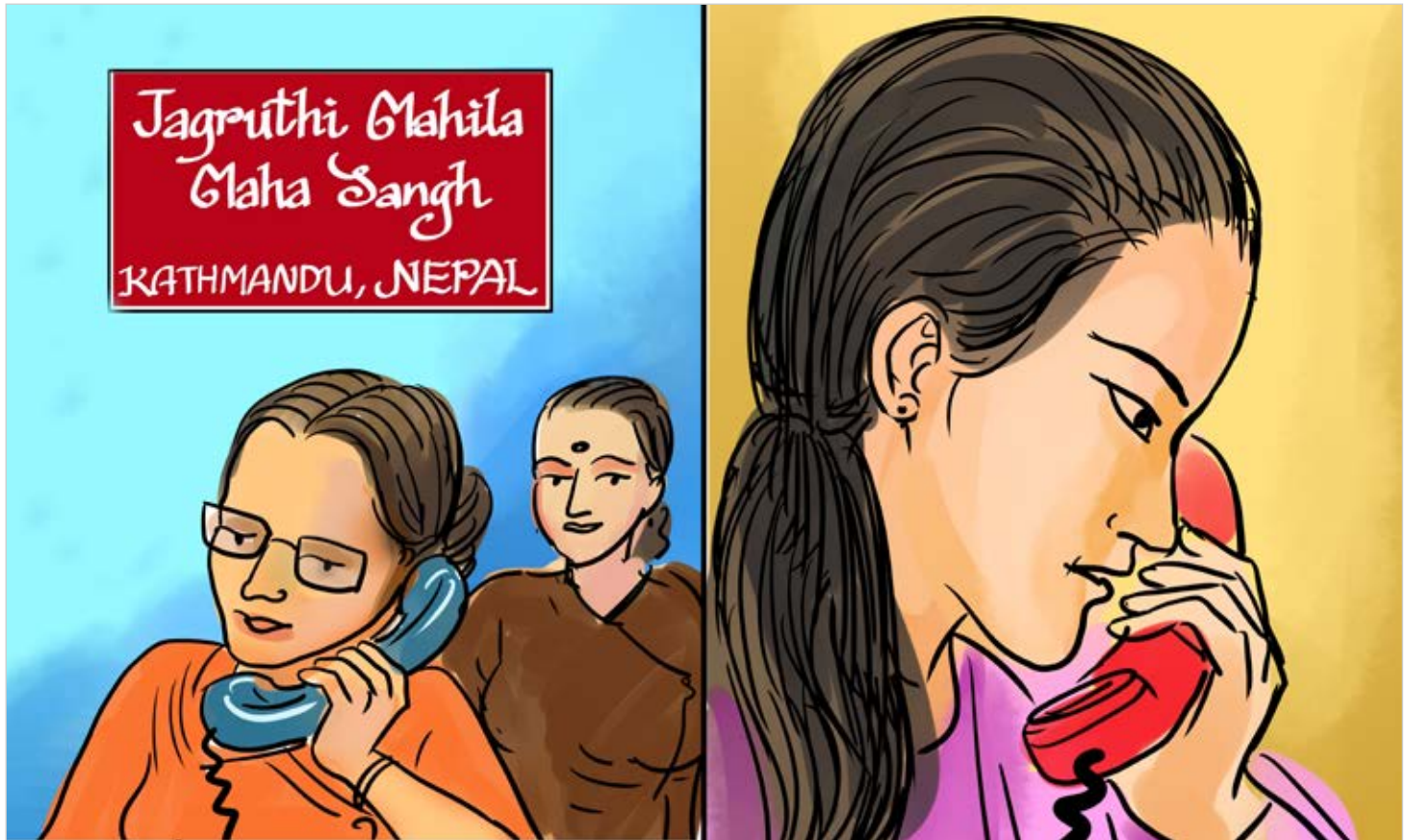




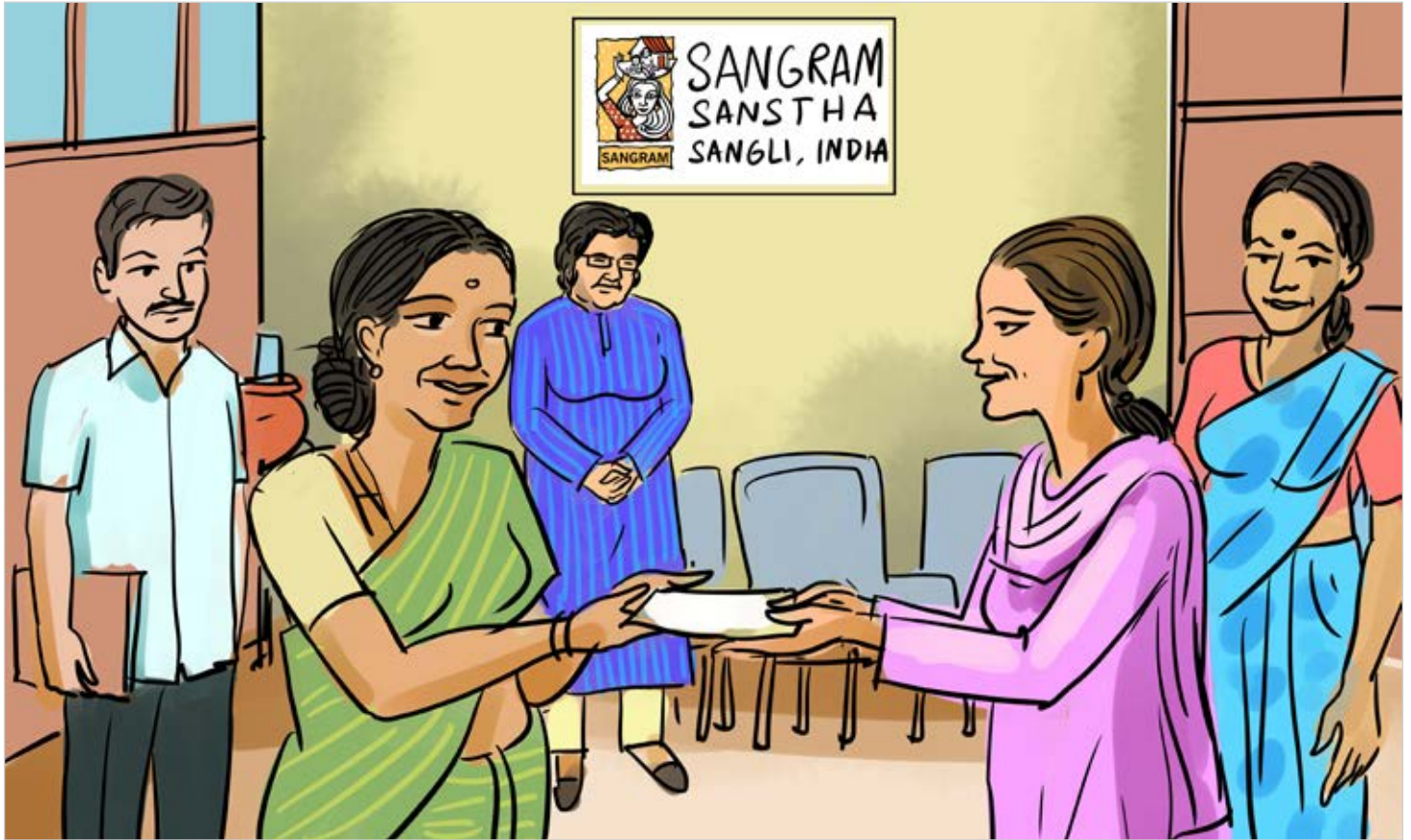
TMS realised that this was a complicated issue since it involved two countries and they would need technical support. TMS consulted SANGRAM, the NGO to help Kopisha travel back to Darakha.



SANGRAM Sanstha contacted Jagruti Mahila Maha Sangh, also known as JMMS a federation of sex workers in Kathmandu, Nepal.



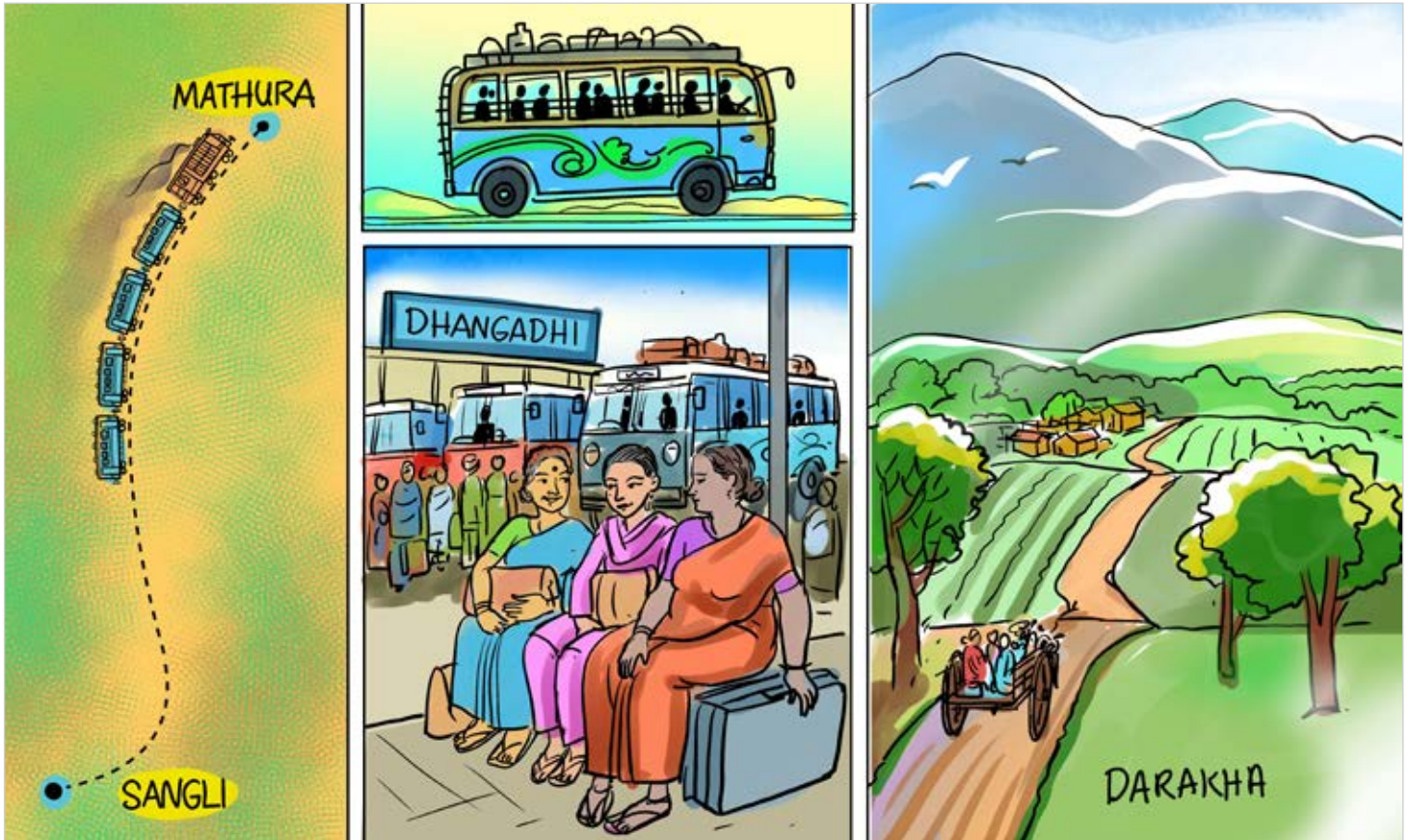
JMMS workers spoke over the phone with Kopisha in Nepali and asked her what help she required to come back home.



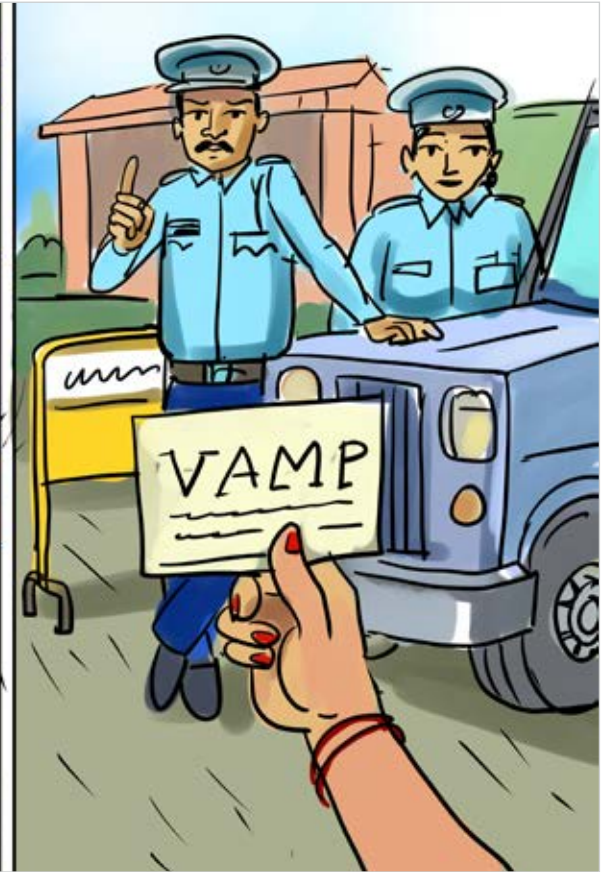
Kopisha wished to take some money with her to give her old parents. So SANGRAM Sanstha gifted her Rs.10,000.



Guravva, the brothel owner and Mahananda, a Committee member; decided to go to Darakha to drop Kopisha safely at home.



It was a long journey. They travelled from Sangli to Mathura by train. Took a Mini bus from Mathura to Dhangadhi and after travelling for 3 days they reached Darakha.



Travelling with a young Nepali girl was not without hostility from the locals. The trio escaped hostile men and suspicious law enforcement by showing the official letter and ID cards of SANGRAM and VAMP.



Kopisha's mother wept with joy on seeing her daughter.  
Both embraced and kissed each other.





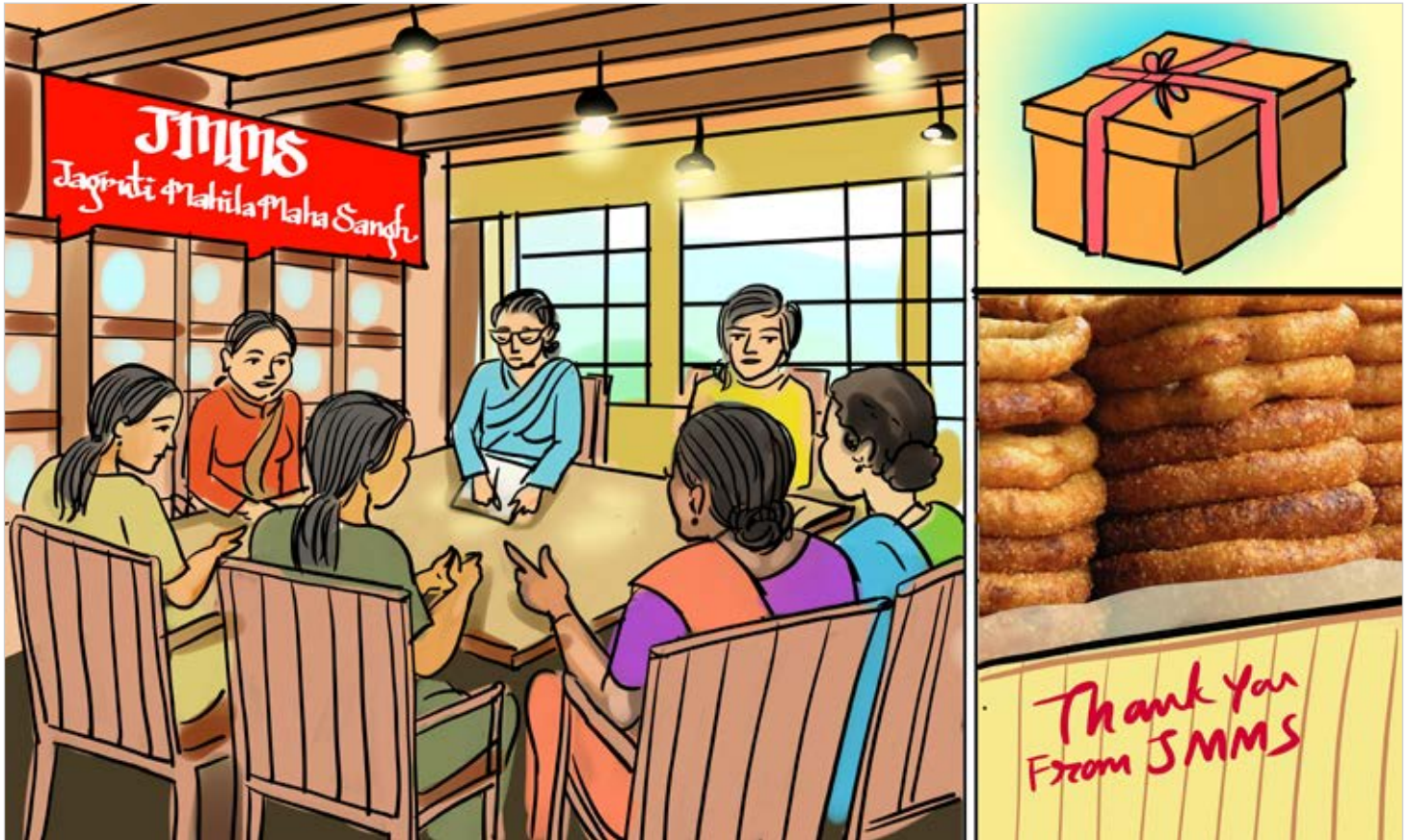
Guravva and Mahananda told them that Kopisha was abandoned in Sangli and they brought her back.



Kopisha's family welcomed Guravva and Mahananda into their home. They had a good dinner and stayed there that night.



The next day they travelled to JMMS located in Kathmandu.



Guravva and Mahananda briefed the members of JMMS. In appreciation of their courage, JMMS members offered them a large box of sweets.



When they realised that Guravva and Mahananda had very little money, the sex workers in JMMS gave them money to travel back comfortably to Sangli.



This is the message that Guravva and Mahananda had for the large group of friends who come to hear about their adventurous journey.

Sex Work Allies South Asia [SWASA] is an initiative to empower sex work leaders and regional networks and build alliances with civil society in order to address harmful practices, advocate for change in discriminatory laws and policies resulting in improved HIV and health services and access to justice for sex workers. The initiative will develop and strengthen networks of sex workers by strengthening their skills to address discrimination, laws and policies. Given the challenges faced in advocating for the amendment of policies and laws in country, the strength of collectives coming together under regional networks will enable the collectives to learn from each other's experiences and struggles.

This graphic narrative builds on the work of SWASA in Nepal and India, supported by American Jewish World Service.

## Organising sex workers to fight for rights.

VAMP (Veshya Anyaya Mukti Parishad) is a collective of around 5000 sex workers from Western Maharashtra and Northern Karnataka, in India. As the collective processes gained strength VAMP was often confronted with mainstream redress mechanisms which were moralistic and anti- sex work. VAMP Tanta Mukti Samitis [Conflict redress Committees] were thus developed to explore organic community solutions for all the internal and external issues that confronted the collective. They organise regular meetings, intervene and resolve local disputes, file police complaints, hand over violent clients/bullies to the police, keep track of money lenders to ensure equitable rates of interest. They also keep track of new entrants to ascertain that they are adults and in sex work of their own volition.



Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)  
Baljagat, Balaji Nagar, Sangli -416416, India  
[www.sangram.org](http://www.sangram.org)