

Mahiti Manthana Baseline Analysis



IT for Change

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I. CONDUCTING THE BASELINE SURVEY

The baseline was conducted between September 29, 2005 and October 9, 2005 and again between November 1, 2005 and November 4, 2005. 18 villages were surveyed in 3 Talukas of Mysore district and 302 women were interviewed in total.

The process involved several steps.

Developing the Survey: The initial survey was developed in English, based on inputs from other similar surveys conducted with rural women in India as well as a survey that the Government of India had developed to study its own Mahila Samakhya programme in selected districts in the country. The survey includes five sections: village-level information, individual and household level information, MSK processes and activities, access to information and notions of empowerment, and access and use of ICTs. For all questions, pre-coded responses were prepared and code numbers assigned. In addition, notes to the enumerators were prepared in relation to certain questions. Once this survey was developed, it was sent to the offices of Mahila Samakhya Karnataka (MSK) in Bangalore and Mysore for their review and feedback. Following this, a pilot test was conducted in one village and the responses and reactions of the women were used to modify the survey into its final format. This was then translated into Kannada and printed.

Selection of Villages: The villages were selected on semi-random basis. Those in which tele-centers were to be set up were selected purposefully, based on the age and strength of their sanghas, their proximity to the taluk centers and the size of the village. As this is a pilot project attempting to understand the empowerment potential of new technologies on rural women under 'normal' conditions, we chose those villages/ sanghas that met these criteria. For the remaining villages that fell in the categories of general intervention and control, we randomly selected villages from a roster provided by MSK. Again, compared to those villages that weren't on this list, these ones were relatively better in the sense that their sanghas were reasonably active and engaged in regular savings.¹

Selection of Enumerators: In addition to 3 Mahiti Manthana project persons who supervised the baseline process and conducted interviews themselves, field enumerators were chosen to assist in the interviewing. Masters degree students from sociology and social work departments were chosen from local colleges in Mysore. The candidates were tested for their knowledge of Kannada, their writing skills and overall aptitude and motivations. With much difficulty, 12 suitable girls were found and selected from a large list of candidates. These girls were trained over a period of 4 days, during which each question and the accompanying codes were explained, mock interview sessions were held, doubts were raised and answered and tips on interviewing were given to the girls. The first day was selected as a test day and the girls were paired so that one could ask questions and the other could note responses. During the day, on-the-spot training was given to them so that they avoided prompting or paraphrasing of questions and so as to create an environment of comfort in which the sangha woman could respond as she chose. Following this, de-briefing sessions were held each evening in which problem areas were brought to attention, difficult sections were re-explained and the girls could clarify the coding of responses.

Establishing Contact with the Sangha Women: As we were conducting individual interviews, we required the village women to be available during the day so that we could complete an entire set of

¹ One year since the baseline was conducted a post-note can be added here: not all villages originally selected to be 'telecentre' villages did in fact become so. Some were dropped because of logistical reasons, the lack of participation on the part of the sangha women or the community, politics, and other related hurdles. Other villages not originally on the list were chosen based on emerging factors and considerations. And so, these changes in fact make the sample selection more random, adding validity to the process.

interviews while at the village. The conditions of rural infrastructure – particularly the roads – and the poor quality of communications (telephone lines, etc) made it difficult for us to go back and forth between villages. So, we requested Mahila Samakhya staff to inform all selected villages of our schedule and plans, and we initially traveled to each village with a staff member of MSK, whom the women were familiar with. Despite this arrangement, we were unable to execute our plans smoothly largely due to miscommunications. In some cases, MSK staff had not told the women of our arrival and therefore only 4-5 women were available to be interviewed from all sanghas when we arrived. In other cases, we were unable to contact MSK staff in case of change of plans on our side because they were out in the field and unreachable for most part of the day. After a couple of particularly awkward situations in which we received frantic calls from village women who'd been waiting for our arrival all morning (and where we were unaware of plans made for us to visit them on that day), we decided to personally undertake the responsibility of planning the village visit schedule, began to inform an active member in the village of our arrival plans, and traveled to the villages independent of MSK staff accompaniment. This process worked reasonably well.

The Interviews: At the start of the interview session, the purpose and context of the survey was clarified to the respondents. They were also encouraged to express their true opinions and told that there were no right/wrong/ preferred answers to any questions. Initial questions were kept simple and general so that the women warmed up to the process. Later, more complex questions requiring them to articulate their views on sensitive issues and gender-based issues were asked and responses recorded. Enumerators were also encouraged not to follow the questions as asked in the baseline but to present them in colloquial and simple terms. While allowing women to respond in detail and narrate stories where it helped clarify their viewpoints, enumerators were asked to maintain focus on the interview questions and proceed with reasonable rapidity. Each interview took approximately 1-2 hours, depending on the speed of the interviewer, the knowledge and experiences of the sangha women, and other external factors. At the end of the process, the motive for doing the survey was clarified again and our roles were also explained.

II. CODING AND ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY

Data-Entry of Responses: Once the entire survey process was completed, the survey sheets were compiled. The questions were analysed from an operationalising point of view. Based on the actual responses received to the questions, some codes were deleted, new codes were added and existing codes were collapsed. Standard codes were assigned to Yes/No questions as well as for missing responses and not applicable responses. Data-entry persons were then sought who have prior experience in these kinds of projects, knowledge of Kannada and familiarity with using MS excel. The purpose of the survey and the nature of the coding were explained to them and a few trial entries were done to test the appropriateness of the codes. The data entry persons then entered responses for each section under the new coding process into an excel sheet format. Where responses did not fit any codes, these were translated back into English and entered into the sheet as is, for later classification.

Interpretation of Data: Once the coded formats were returned, the data had to be re-looked at, and again, new codes were created and existing codes collapsed for each variable. Some variables were dropped because of they failed to meet the purpose because of the weakness of the question or the codes assigned. The remaining data was then entered into a statistical programme for analysis.

Results: The results are largely in the form of frequency tables that give the break up of the responses for each variable. In some cases, descriptive statistics including mean, median, minimum and maximum values are listed. In the end of the results section, some cross tabulations are explored. These will be further explored when endline data is added.

III. PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS

There were some ethical considerations to the administration of the survey.

As rural conditions prevented us from going back and forth between villages, we caused the women respondents to miss a day of work and give up their numerous responsibilities to be a part of our survey – for which they received no compensation and no promises of future benefits – and the only reason they participated was because we were coming as associates of MSK. [We tried to ease the situation by doing interviews in batches and giving women a chance to carry on their housework for part of the day while we were interviewing other batches]. This issue was of course problematic, but it was in a way 'advantageous' from a research point of view because the responses given by the women were not driven by any monetary incentives they would receive. In addition, as the MSK staff didn't accompany us to villages beyond the first couple of days (as mentioned earlier) women were not as compelled to respond in a particular way to questions relating to MSK activities and participation in the baseline survey.

Another ethical consideration came up when women articulated their personal problems (such as their health status as a HIV positive person), or household problems (such as poverty), or larger women-related problems (such as the lack of access to infrastructure, such as water). All we could do in these cases was to lend a sympathetic ear, as we were not in a position to promise anymore. This, however, is a typical power-related problem faced in field-level research, where the researcher captures data to meet his/her ends, leaving behind a respondent who must continue in the same poor status or condition, without any hope for a better future.

In addition to the ethical considerations, there were three major problems encountered while doing the field surveys. The first was the lack of privacy. In the best of scenarios, a single room or space was available to conduct the surveys in which 8-10 enumerators and respondents were sitting at any given time. In the worst case, enumerators were spread across different locations, including classrooms, community rooms, rooms inside people's homes (these were the least private for obvious reasons), and outdoor locations – under trees, at temple common spaces, and so on. Where women were at a common space, efforts were made to create an 'individualised' atmosphere by making women sit away from each other; yet overhearing each others' responses and consulting each other, were not uncommon. In addition, despite our efforts to make our arrival in the village as unobtrusive as possible, we were of course objects of curiosity of the villagers, who hung around the interview area for most part of the day, trying to glean what we had come to do. In some cases, elderly women and men interjected with their opinions and responses and the enumerators had to very politely explain the concept of privacy and request them to leave. This was difficult for the enumerators to do, and was not always received well by the villagers.

The second problem was on the part of the sangha women respondents. There was no way of affecting the kind of sangha women who were present to be interviewed. Very old sangha members as well as those who had not been members for 6 months could not be interviewed due to their lack of sufficient involvement in the process, and they felt excluded. Not only these women, but many of those who were selected for interviewing were quite unclear of MSK processes and structures and unable to answer our questions with clarity (this will be revealed further in the baseline results). In some cases, there were politics within a sangha group or between sangha groups (this was usually along caste lines as well as divisions along old and new sanghas), and so, we would find that one a certain section of the MSK sangha members were present when we arrived in the village and the rest has to be called for – these politics had to be tread very carefully, as we tried to get as random a sample as possible in the village.

The third issue to be handled was the enumerators chosen to undertake the task. These girls largely lacked prior interviewing experience and despite mock sessions and repeated instructions, tended to take some 'short cuts' – avoiding certain questions, prompting and para-phrasing responses, not taking

detailed notes where responses were vague or didn't fit the pre-defined boxes and sometimes, just missing questions (this last point will be discussed in a bit).

On a larger level, there was bias in every step of the process. The process of creating pre-assigned codes meant that certain types of responses were expected, inclining the enumerators to fit the responses into these codes and categories. The enumerators themselves introduce bias in terms of the codes they assigned. For example, if a respondent was asked why she did not contribute to Mahila Samakhya curriculum and her response was "because I am not educated", the enumerator decided whether this meant a lack of confidence or a lack of knowledge on what to contribute, or whether this was a special category response that needed a new code. There was no way to ensure that the enumerators all followed a similar scheme of categorizing responses. At the level of data entry, those responses that fell into the 'other', had to be pre-fit into existing codes, which introduced bias at yet another level. Also, certain nominal variables were used as ordinal variables, where it was felt that a certain hierarchy exists. An instance here would be with the 'head of the household' category, where 'self' is given a code of 1, 'another female member' is code 2 and 'another male member' is code 3. Here the code values are biased with the assumption that a woman living in a household where she is the head will have different (better) chances than a woman living in a household where another woman is the head, in turn compared to a woman who lives in a household where a man is the head.

The next section presents the data obtained from the survey conducted in 2005. The results are organised into categories under which the data is presented in larger chunks. Interpretation of the results is presented at the end of each sub-chapter.

IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

I. Individual and Household Level Information

Background Details of the Respondents Surveyed

TABLE 1. Villages Covered in the Baseline

Villages from which the Respondents were Surveyed				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Attiguppe	17	5.7	5.7	5.7
Bilugalli	36	12.1	12.1	17.8
Bannikuppe	17	5.7	5.7	23.5
Chamanahallihundi	16	5.4	5.4	28.9
DevrajColony	37	12.4	12.4	41.3
GMaralli	9	3.0	3.0	44.3
Hulhalli	8	2.7	2.7	47.0
Hatwala	3	1.0	1.0	48.0
Hosavarinchi	25	8.4	8.4	56.4
Kaduburu	35	11.7	11.7	68.1
Kalale	3	1.0	1.0	69.1
Karya	6	2.0	2.0	71.1
Lanke	20	6.7	6.7	77.9
Madapura	24	8.1	8.1	85.9
Masage	4	1.3	1.3	87.2
Mulluru	14	4.7	4.7	91.9
Nayakanahundi	12	4.0	4.0	96.0
Shatralli	1	0.3	0.3	96.3
Somanahalli	11	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

A total of 19 villages were selected for the baseline and the number of women from each village varied depending on the number of Mahila Samakhya sanghas in that village and their availability on the dates of survey (refer to earlier sections for more details on this). There were 20 or more respondents from villages such as Bilugalli, Devraj Colony, Hosavarinchi, Kaduburu, Lanke and Madapura compared to Hatwala, Kalale, Masage and Shatralli, from which only a few women appeared for the survey.

TABLE 2. Religion of the Respondent

Religion of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hindu	296	99.3	99.7	99.7
Muslim	1	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 3. Caste Background of the Respondent

Caste Background of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
General, IIIA, IIB	49	16.4	16.4	16.4
IIIB, IIA	90	30.2	30.2	46.6
ST	23	7.7	7.7	54.4
SC	136	45.6	45.6	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 4. Linguistic Background of the Respondent

Linguistic Background of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Kannada	294	98.7	98.7	98.7
Telugu	3	1.0	1.0	99.7
Konkani	1	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Almost the entire sample of sangha women identified themselves as Hindus (99.3 percent) and only 1 woman identified herself as Muslim. More than half of the sample of women is from Scheduled Caste (SC) backgrounds, including castes such as Madigarus, Paravarus, Kurubarus, and so on, and a few (7.7 percent) are from Scheduled Tribe (ST) backgrounds. Almost one-third of the sample constituted women from caste groups such as Ganashettrus, Madivalashettrus and Lingayats, who fall under the categories of IIIB and IIA. Respondents from 'general' caste groups such as Namdharis and Brahmins constituted 15% of the sample. Where language is concerned, almost the entire sample of women speaks Kannada as the primary language (98.7 percent), with a small minority speaking other languages such as Telugu and Konkani.

Background of the Individual Respondent

TABLE 5. Main Characteristics of the Respondent

Characteristics of the Respondent		Age of the Respondent	Number of Years of Schooling of the Respondent	Annual Income of the Respondent
N	Valid	298	298	297
	Missing	0	0	1
Mean		38.7	1.35	7659.14
Median		35	0	5000
Std. Deviation		12.36	2.79	12741.77
Range		66	12	164000
Minimum		14	0	0
Maximum		80	12	164000

TABLE 6. Age of the Respondent

Age of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
14-24	24.0	8.1	8.1	8.1
25-34	88.0	29.5	29.5	37.6
35-44	91.0	30.5	30.5	68.1
45-54	56.0	18.8	18.8	86.9
55+	39.0	13.1	13.1	100.0
Total	298	100	100	

TABLE 7. Years of Schooling of the Respondent

Number of Years of Schooling of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 Years of Schooling	229.0	76.8	76.8	76.8
1-5 Years of Schooling (Some Primary)	33.0	11.1	11.1	87.9
6-9 Years of Schooling (Some Upper Primary)	28.0	9.4	9.4	97.3
10+ Years of Schooling (High School / College)	8.0	2.7	2.7	100.0
Total	298	100	100	

TABLE 8. Annual Income of the Respondent

Annual Income of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 – 999	19.0	6.4	6.4	6.4
1000 – 4999	116.0	38.9	38.9	45.3
5000 – 9999	109.0	36.6	36.6	81.9
10000 – 19999	41.0	13.8	13.8	95.6
20000+	13.0	4.4	4.4	100.0
Total	298.0	100.0	100.0	

The main characteristics of the respondent sangha women – age, years of schooling and annual income – are reflected in the above tables. The mean age of the sangha women is 39 years, with the youngest respondent being 14 years and the oldest being 80 years. The break-up of the age categories reveals that 30 percent of the women are in the age groups of 25-34 years and another 30 percent are between 35-44 years. A large portion of the sampled women have never been to school – 77 percent of the entire sample. The mean years of schooling is just over 1 year, with the highest level of schooling being 12 years. The average annual income earned by the respondent (including the income earned jointly with other members of the household through activities such as own-farm cultivation) is Rs.7,660. From this table, we see that almost 80 percent of the respondents earn less Rs.10,000 per year, thus falling well below the income poverty line. A mere 4.4 percent earn over Rs.20,000 per year, with the highest income earned being Rs.1,64,000.

TABLE 9. Marital Status of the Respondent

Marital Status of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	7	2.3	2.3	2.3
Married	244	81.9	81.9	84.2
Separated/ Divorced	3	1.0	1.0	85.2
Widowed	44	14.8	14.8	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Four-fifths (82 percent) of the sample is currently married and almost 15 percent are currently widowed.

TABLE 10. Main Activity of the Respondent

Main Activity of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
None/ Too young or old to work/ Studying or Training	11	3.7	3.7	3.7
Household Work/ Childcare	4	1.3	1.3	5.1
Coolie Labour on others Land/ Migrant Labour	182	61.1	61.3	66.3
Off-Farm Casual Labour	1	0.3	0.3	66.7
Animal Husbandry	3	1.0	1.0	67.7
Salaried Work	5	1.7	1.7	69.4
Own-Land Agriculture/ Sharecropping	86	28.9	29.0	98.3
Family enterprise/ petty shop/ traditional occupation	5	1.7	1.7	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 11. Secondary Activity of the Respondent

Secondary Activity of the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
None/ Studying/ Training	123	41.3	41.3	41.3
Household Work/ Childcare	43	14.4	14.4	55.7
Coolie on Others Land/ Migrant Labour	58	19.5	19.5	75.2
Off-Farm Casual Labour	2	0.7	0.7	75.8
Animal Husbandry	14	4.7	4.7	80.5
Salaried Work	4	1.3	1.3	81.9
Own-Land Agriculture or Sharecropping	49	16.4	16.4	98.3
Family enterprise/ petty shop/ traditional occupation	4	1.3	1.3	99.7
Politics/ Government	1	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

The main activity² reported by 61 percent of the respondents is agricultural labour on others land and migrant labour in others estates. Almost one-third of the respondents (29 percent) reported labour on their own agricultural land as the main activity. Other activities such as animal husbandry, salaried work, family enterprise activities, and domestic work constitute the main activity for a very small percent of the sample. In terms of secondary activities, 41 percent were not engaged in any other activity, while 15 percent were engaged in non-remunerative activities included housework, collection of water, child care, and so on. Almost one-fifth (20 percent) reported agricultural labour on others land as their secondary activity while 16 percent reported own land agriculture as a secondary activity.

Respondent's Participation in Organisations other than Mahila Samakhya

TABLE 12. If Respondent is a Member of other Sanghas/ NGOs

Membership in other Sanghas or NGOs				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	287	96.3	96.3	96.3
Yes	11	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 13. If Respondent is a Member of other Community/ Village Level Groups

Membership in Other Community Groups				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	227	76.2	76.2	76.2
Yes	71	23.8	23.8	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 14. If Respondent Participates in any Government Scheme or Programme

If Respondent Participates in Any Government Programme/ Scheme				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Doesn't Participate	248	83.2	83.2	83.2
Beneficiary/ Labourer	45	15.1	15.1	98.3
Manager/ Selector	5	1.7	1.7	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Respondents were asked if they belong to any other sanghas or NGO activities, such as Stree Shakthi, MYRADA, ODP, GUARD, DEED, NISARGA, and so on. Almost all women (96 percent) responded that they weren't part of any sanghas other than Mahila Samakhya. When questioned about their participation in other community groups like PTA, religious groups, farmer cooperatives and management committees, one-fourth said that they did participate in such fora, while 3/4ths said that they did not. In terms of government programmes like Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Committee, SC/ST Corporation, Ashraya Committee, SJSY Loan programme, PMRY, and so on, 83 percent do not participate in any such government programmes. 15 percent participate as programme 'beneficiaries' or labourers and a very small percentage contribute their efforts towards selection of beneficiaries, motivation of the community and support in implementation.

² Respondents were asked what is the major activity engaged in and this was entered as the 'main' activity. Respondents were also asked whether they engage in other activities, and these were recorded as 'secondary' activities. There is no overlap between the two, and so, those who quoted agricultural labour as the main activity did not again report the same as the secondary activity.

Background Characteristics of the Household

TABLE 15. Head of the Household

Head of the Household				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Self	76	25.5	25.5	25.5
Other Female	21	7.0	7.0	32.6
Other Male	201	67.4	67.4	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 16. Basic Characteristics of the Household

Characteristics of the Head of the Household		Age of the Head of the Household	No. of Years of Schooling for Head of the Household	Size of the Household
N	Valid	298	298	298
	Missing	0	0	0
Mean		45.69	1.50	5.04
Median		45	0	5
Std. Deviation		11.76	2.81	1.96
Range		64	13	10
Minimum		16	0	1
Maximum		80	13	11

TABLE 17. Main Activity Engaged in by the Household

Main Activity of the Household				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agricultural Labour (Coolie)	186	62.4	62.4	62.4
Agriculture-Own Land	57	19.1	19.1	81.5
Non Agricultural Activity	55	18.5	18.5	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Twenty-five percent or 1/4th of the respondents reported themselves as the head of the household.³ Seven percent reported another female – mother/ mother-in-law/ daughter – as the head of the household, while the majority (67 percent) reported another male such as the husband/ father-in-law, brother-in-law/ son-in-law/ father/ son as the head of the household. The mean age of the head of the household is 46 years and the mean years of schooling of the household head is low, at 1.5 years.

In general, the average household constitutes 5 members, with the smallest household constituting 1 member and the largest including 11 members. The main activity engaged in by the household tends to be coolie labour on others land (62 percent of the sample), followed by agricultural labour on own land (19 percent). While majority of the sample relies on agriculture as the mainstay occupation, 19 percent or almost one-fifth rely on non-agricultural activities, including family enterprises, salaried work, and so on, to support the household.

³ A household was defined to the respondents as a group of people who live together and eat their meals together.

TABLE 18. Main Characteristics of the Household Members

Characteristics of the Household Members		# of Males in the Household	# of Females in the Household	# of Household Members Below 16 Years	# of Household Members 16-60 Years	# of Household Members Above 60 Years	# of Illiterate Adults in the Household	# of Adults with 1-8 Years of Schooling in the Household	# of Adults with 8+ Years of Schooling in the Household	If HH has Children Below 16 Currently Not in School
N	Valid	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		2.47	2.48	1.43	3.27	0.26	1.99	1.01	0.71	0.11
Median		2	2	2	3	0	2	1	0	0
Std. Deviation		1.33	1.21	1.20	1.42	0.56	1.16	1.08	1.11	0.32
Range		8	8	5	10	3	6	5	9	1
Minimum		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maximum		8	8	5	10	3	6	5	9	1

From the table above, we get a glimpse of the basic household profile. On average there are 2 males and 2 females in a household, with the minimum numbers of each being 0 and the maximum being 8 members in a household. There is on average, 1 member below the age of 16 years, 3 members between 16-60 years of age (falling into the labour force population). Very few households have members above the age of 60 years. The number of illiterate adults in the household is on average 2, and there is 1 member with 1-8 years of schooling (primary and upper primary). Again, very few households have adult members with 8 or more years of schooling. Finally, for those household members below the age of 16, we find that 11 percent are currently not attending school for reasons including lack of affordability, lack of facilities and loss of interest on the part of the child.

Characteristics of the Dwelling

TABLE 19. Ownership of Dwelling

Ownership of Dwelling				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rented/ Lease/ Relative's House	48	16.1	16.1	16.1
Own House/ Government Provided	250	83.9	83.9	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 20. Quality of Dwelling

Quality of Dwelling				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Kuchcha	161	54.0	54.0	54.0
Pucca	137	46.0	46.0	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Most of the respondents (84 percent) live in their own home, either built by them or built under a government housing scheme. A small portion reported that they live in a rented/ leased/ relative's home. When asked to describe the quality of the flooring, roofing and walls, 54 percent of these dwellings were found to be mostly kuchcha while 46 percent were found to be mostly pucca.⁴

⁴ Kuchcha materials include: grass, mud, unburnt bricks, bamboo, thatch, and reeds while Pucca materials include cement, concrete, asbestos sheets, bricks, stone, iron, timber, tiles, iron and slate.

TABLE 21. Hours per Day that the Dwelling has Electricity

Number of Hours of Electricity Received Per Day				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 Hours Per Day	111.0	37.2	37.5	37.5
1-4 Hours Per day	62.0	20.8	20.9	58.4
5-9 Hours Per Day	70.0	23.5	23.6	82.1
10-16 Hours Per Day	33.0	11.1	11.1	93.2
17+ Hours Per Day	20.0	6.7	6.8	100.0
Total	296.0	99.3	100.0	
Missing	2.0	0.7		
Total	298.0	100.0		

TABLE 22. Access to Water Source

Access to Water Source				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Public Source	239	80.2	80.2	80.2
Private Source	59	19.8	19.8	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

More than one-third of the households do not have access to electricity. Almost half of the households get between 1-9 hours per day, while the remaining minority gets more than 10 hours per day. Only a couple of households reported 24 hours of electricity per day. Where access to water is concerned, most respondents rely on public sources of water – common wells and tanks, ponds, rivers and canals, piped water to hand pumps and taps – to meet their daily water needs. Only a small number – 20 percent – have their own private access to water.

TABLE 23. Facilities in the Household

Basic Household Facilities						
	If Toilet Facility Exists in Household		If Sanitation Facility Exists in Household		If Access Path Exists to Household	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No	271	90.9%	227	76.2%	262	87.9%
Yes	27	9.1%	71	23.8%	36	12.1%
Total	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%

As table 23 reveals, the majority of households do not have toilets, sanitation or a paved access path – with only 9 percent, 24 percent and 12 percent reporting to have these facilities.

TABLE 24. Type of Cooking Fuel used in the Household

Type of Cooking Fuel				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Firewood/Dung	288	96.6	96.6	96.6
LPG/Kerosene/ Gober gas	10	3.4	3.4	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 25. Drinking Water is Purified

Purify Water for Drinking Purposes				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	143	48.0	48.0	48.0
Yes	155	52.0	52.0	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Almost all households rely on firewood, dung and other natural resources for their daily fuel needs, and very few use LPG or kerosene for cooking purposes. The number of households who purify drinking water through boiling/ filtering/ alum/ water filter and other such means is roughly the same as those who do not purify water through any of these means.

Household Income and Wealth Details

TABLE 26. Annual Income of the Household

Annual Income of the Household				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 – 9999	82.0	27.5	27.5	27.5
10000 – 19999	127.0	42.6	42.6	70.1
20000 – 29999	50.0	16.8	16.8	86.9
30000 – 39000	19.0	6.4	6.4	93.3
40000+	20.0	6.7	6.7	100.0
Total	298.0	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 27. Share of the Respondent's Income to the Total Income of the Household

Respondent's Share of Total Household Income				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0 - 19 %	54.0	18.1	18.2	18.2
20 - 39 %	93.0	31.2	31.3	49.5
40 - 59 %	73.0	24.5	24.6	74.1
60 - 79 %	31.0	10.4	10.4	84.5
80 - 100 %	46.0	15.4	15.5	100.0
Total	297.0	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1.0	0.3		
Total	298.0	100.0	100.0	

More than two-thirds of the households (70 percent) earn less than Rs.20,000 per year and only 13 percent of households earn above Rs.30,000 per year. Taking the Below Poverty Line criteria for Karnataka, where the income level is set at Rs.12,000, almost 40 percent of the households fall below the poverty line.⁵ Using the \$1 a day criterion, which amounts to roughly Rs.17,000 per person per year, or roughly Rs.85,000 per household, given that the average household size is 5 persons in this sample, we find that almost all the households fall below the poverty line.

From the earlier details on respondent's contribution to total household income, the ratio is calculated. The spread is fairly even with 18 percent of the women contributing between 0-19 percent and 15.5 percent contributing above 80 percent of the total household income. The largest section of women – 31

⁵ Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/06/stories/2006100613750500.htm>

percent – contributes between 20-39 percent of the household income. On the whole, it can be said that sangha women contribution makes a significant difference to the household income, where household income is largely below poverty line statistics.

TABLE 28. Size of Agricultural Land Owned

Size of Agricultural Land Owned				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	122	40.9	40.9	40.9
< 1 acre	49	16.4	16.4	57.4
1 - 2.49 acres	90	30.2	30.2	87.6
2.5 - 4.99 acres	27	9.1	9.1	96.6
5 - 9.99 acres	8	2.7	2.7	99.3
10 - 50 acres	2	0.7	0.7	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 29. Size of Agricultural Land Sharecropped

Size of Agricultural Land Sharecropped				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	245	82.2	82.2	82.2
< 1 acre	8	2.7	2.7	84.9
1 - 2.49 acres	43	14.4	14.4	99.3
2.5 - 4.99 acres	2	0.7	0.7	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 30. Size of Agricultural Land Leased

Size of Agricultural Land Leased				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	264	88.6	88.6	88.6
< 1 acre	13	4.4	4.4	93.0
1 - 2.49 acres	16	5.4	5.4	98.3
2.5 - 4.99 acres	5	1.7	1.7	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 31. Whether Agricultural Land is Irrigated

Irrigation of Agricultural Land				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	244	81.9	82.2	82.2
Yes	53	17.8	17.8	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Forty one percent of the households do not own any land of their own. Another 45 percent own less than 2.5 acres of land, falling in the category of marginal farmers. Only a mere 10 percent own more than 2.5 acres of land. A small percentage of households engage in sharecropping and leasing of agricultural land – about 18 percent engage in the former and 11.5 in the latter category. A large majority of the

households do not have modern irrigation facilities – only 18 percent use modern irrigation facilities for their land.

TABLE 32. Ownership of Various Assets

Ownership of Assets by the Household								
	Farm Assets		Livestock		Means of Transport		Big Durables	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No	164	55.0%	141	47.3%	185	62.1%	168	56.4%
Yes	134	45.0%	157	52.7%	113	37.9%	130	43.6%
Total	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%

Respondents were asked if they owned farm assets such as ploughing or threshing equipment, oxen, bullock cart, tractor, fodder cutting machine, and so on. Forty five percent responded that they owned at least one of these and 55 percent didn't own any of these. When asked about ownership of livestock such as chicken, goat, sheep, cows, pig or buffaloes, more than half of the women (53 percent) reported that they owned livestock and the rest did not. Not many households own vehicles such as cycles, motorbikes, bullock carts or other vehicles – only 38 percent reported owning any of these means of transportation. Finally, 43 percent of the respondents reported owning at least one of durables such as music player, television, fridge, cooking stove, mixer, pressure cooker, telephone or camera while the remaining 57 did not own any of these items.

TABLE 33. Access to Credit

Access to Credit				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	43	14.4	14.4	14.4
Yes	195	65.4	65.4	79.9
Haven't Accessed Credit	60	20.1	20.1	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 34. Main Source of Credit

Main Source of Credit				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Relative/ Friend/ Community	50	16.8	16.8	16.8
Moneylender/ Pawnbroker	49	16.4	16.5	33.3
Sangha Member or MSK	111	37.2	37.4	70.7
Other NGO/Sangha/Society	5	1.7	1.7	72.4
Government	3	1.0	1.0	73.4
Bank	19	6.4	6.4	79.8
Not Applicable	60	20.1	20.2	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

Majority of the households – 65 percent – have access to credit through various sources, and 20 percent of the households reported not accessing credit as yet. Of the main sources of credit accessed, formal sources such as MSK accounted for 37 percent of the total (more than 1/3rd), while other government

schemes, other NGO programmes or bank loans accounted for less than 10 percent of the total. Informal sources such as relatives, friends, money lenders, community members, etc account for about 1/3rd of the total sources of credit accessed by the respondents' households.

Synthesis of Findings on Individual and Household Level Data

This section reveals the background of the respondents chosen for the baseline survey. On the whole, it can be said that the respondents come from a fairly homogeneous religious and linguistic background – almost all are Hindus and Kannada-speaking. The majority of the respondents, more than 80 percent, are currently married, have never attended school, and fall well below the income poverty line, earning Rs.10,000 or less. Mahila Samakhya is the main organisation that the respondents belong to and very few, if any, participate in other sanghas, NGOs, community groups, or government projects. In terms of activities, the respondents themselves and their households tend to rely on land as a source of income, in particular, working on others' land as daily wage labourers to support the household – thus a large portion of the sampled households also fall below the income poverty line defined by Below Poverty Line or by \$1 a day criteria. Also, few of the respondents' households tend to have access to facilities, including a private water source, toilet facilities, sanitation facilities, a paved road, and almost all rely on natural sources of fuel, such as firewood and dung. There is some variation in the size of agricultural land owned by the respondents' households, but majority of the households do not have modern irrigation facilities for their land and tend to own, lease or sharecrop less than 2.5 acres of land (when they own land at all) – clearly revealing that they constitute the landless and small farmer category.

There are some differences in the sample – while more than half of the respondents come from disadvantaged SC and ST backgrounds, about 45 percent fall into categories that would be considered other backward castes or forward castes. There is reasonable variation in the age of the respondents, with the sample being fairly well divided between those who are 25-34 years, 35-44 years and the rest above and below these categories. In terms of the characteristics of household members, again we see that the head of the household varies though in most cases this person tends to be a male member. While most respondents live in a dwelling that they own or received through a government scheme, the quality of the house is most pucca in half the cases and mostly kuchha in the other half, and further, the hours of electricity that the household receives also varies greatly, between those who don't have any power to those who get more than 10 hours a day. The sample is also equally divided between those who purify their drinking water and those who do not. Although income levels are fairly similar across the respondents, the share of the respondent's income to the total household income differs greatly, with almost equal percentages contributing less than 40 percent and more than 40 percent of the household income. There is also difference in the ownership of household assets such as livestock, big durables, farm equipment and vehicles as well as in the patterns of access, source and use of credit (loans) by the household.

From this section, we see that certain factors could be of interest in the later sections of the analysis, in examining how some of the differentiating individual and household factors affect the respondents' participation in MSK, knowledge of issues, perceptions on empowerment and so on. Caste, for one, is expected to be a strong marker as well as the age of the respondents. Disparity in ownership of certain assets could also impact other variables, where income levels seem to indicate greater similarity.

II. Mahila Samakhya and Sangha Processes and Activities

Respondents Participation in Mahila Samakhya

TABLE 35. Number of Years in Mahila Samakhya Sangha

Number of Years in MSK				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0-2 Years	171.0	57.4	57.8	57.8
3-6 Years	63.0	21.1	21.3	79.1
7-10 Years	12.0	4.0	4.1	83.1
11+ Years	50.0	16.8	16.9	100.0
Total	296.0	99.3	100.0	
Missing	2.0	0.7		
Total	298.0	100.0		

TABLE 36. Reasons for Joining Mahila Samakhya

Reasons for Joining Mahila Samakhya Sangha (Multiple Responses)		
	Frequency	Table %
Convinced/Motivated by Other Sangha Members	87.0	(29.4%)
Sangha Women are United/It is a Good Support Group	99.0	(33.4%)
To Engage in Savings/ Get Loans	225.0	(76.0%)
To Access Information and Resources/ To Find Solutions	221.0	(74.7%)
Total	296.0	(100.0%)

More than half of the sangha members surveyed have been members of Mahila Samakhya for 2 years or less. One-fifth (21 percent) have been members for 3-6 years. Interestingly, 17 percent of the respondents have been members for 11 years or more. When asked why they joined Mahila Samakhya, respondents gave multiple reasons for doing so. The table above reveals that the most popular reason for joining the sangha was to engage in savings and have access to loans, closely followed by the need to access information, resources and find solutions to problems – 3/4ths of the women in the sample quoted this as reasons for joining the sangha. Almost 1/3rd of the women also reported that they joined the sangha because they were inspired, convinced or motivated by other sangha members or Mahila Samakhya staff (29 percent) and because they found the sangha a united and supportive group for women's issues (33 percent).

TABLE 37. Membership in Theme Committee

Theme Committee				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Education	43	14.4	14.4	14.4
Health	50	16.8	16.8	31.2
Legal Rights	47	15.8	15.8	47.0
Panchayat Raj	30	10.1	10.1	57.0
Self-Reliance	37	12.4	12.4	69.5
Economic Independence	51	17.1	17.1	86.6
Don't Know	40	13.4	13.4	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 38. Special Role in Sangha

Special Role in Sangha				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	204	68.5	68.5	68.5
Yes	94	31.5	31.5	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 39. Received Mahila Samakhya Training on Non-Theme Issues

MSK Training on Non-Thematic Issues				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	107	35.9	35.9	35.9
Yes	191	64.1	64.1	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

The division of respondents amongst the 6 theme committees of Mahila Samakhya is roughly equal, with a slightly lower percentage belonging to the Panchayat Raj theme committee. 13 percent of the members could not recall which theme committee they belonged to when asked by the enumerators. Almost one-third of the respondents (31.5 percent) reported that they hold special roles as sangha members, including minute taker, joint signatory, representative of School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) or Grama Sakshara Samiti (GSS) or Panchayat Standing Committee. When asked if the respondent had received training from MSK in areas such as vocational training, life skills, gender, nutrition, midwifery, and so on, almost two-third or 64 percent said that they had received one of these trainings.

Interactions with MSK Staff other than at Training

TABLE 40. Means of Interacting with Mahila Samakhya staff outside of Taluk-Level Meetings

Means of Interacting with MSK Staff		
	Count	Table %
MSK Staff Visits Village	128.0	(43.4%)
Training Sessions in Village	33.0	(11.2%)
On the Phone	156.0	(52.9%)
Letters/ Written Correspondence	74.0	(25.1%)
Messages Passed through Others	66.0	(22.4%)
Total	295.0	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked how they interact with MSK staff outside of theme committee or executive committee meetings held at the taluk-level. There were multiple means through which they got to interact with MSK staff, the most frequently used means being the use of the telephone (53 percent said they could use this device to talk to MSK staff); followed by in-person interactions when MSK staff visited their village (43 percent interact with MSK staff through this way). Letters or written correspondence (postcards) and messages passed through others (for example, Continuing Education Committee members) were methods used by almost a quarter of the sample of respondents.

TABLE 41. Frequency of Interacting with Mahila Samakhya Staff outside of Taluk-Level Meetings

Frequency of Interacting with MSK staff Other than Taluk-Level Trainings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less Than Once a Month	43.0	14.4	14.5	14.5
Once Per Month	175.0	58.7	59.1	73.6
2-3 Times Per Month	47.0	15.8	15.9	89.5
4+ Times a Month	31.0	10.4	10.5	100.0
Total	296.0	99.3	100.0	
Missing	2.0	0.7		
Total	298.0	100.0		

Respondents were asked how often they interact with MSK staff using any of the means described in the earlier table. A large percentage – 59 percent – said they interact with the staff members once a month, while 14 percent interacted with the staff less than that. About 25 percent interact with MSK staff more than once a month, some (10 percent) as frequently as once a week.

TABLE 42. If Respondent Finds the Current Frequency of Interaction Sufficient

If Respondent Finds Frequency of Interaction with MSK Staff Sufficient				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	194	65.1	65.3	65.3
Yes	103	34.6	34.7	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 43. Reason for Finding Frequency of Interaction with Mahila Samakhya Insufficient

Main Reason why Respondent Finds Frequency of Interaction with MSK Staff Insufficient				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Can't Learn New Issues/ Information	145	48.7	48.8	48.8
Can't Discuss/ Sort All Problems	19	6.4	6.4	55.2
Can't Ask Questions	4	1.3	1.3	56.6
More Interaction is Needed to be Useful	26	8.7	8.8	65.3
Not Applicable	103	34.6	34.7	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

A majority of the respondents – 65 percent – felt that the frequency with which they were interacting with MSK staff was insufficient and only 35 percent reported the current level of interaction to be sufficient. When those who felt it was insufficient were asked why they felt so, almost half (49 percent) responded that this frequency was not enough to learn new issues or get new information from the staff members. A few also felt it was insufficient to sort out all problems (6 percent) and a general feeling for about 9 percent of the sample was that more interaction was necessary for the programme to be effective.

Details of Sangha Meetings

TABLE 44. Number of Sangha Meetings Held Each Month

Number of Sangha Meetings Held Every Month				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	13.0	4.4	4.4	4.4
2	7.0	2.3	2.3	6.7
4	278.0	93.3	93.3	100.0
Total	298.0	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 45. How Respondent Learns about Sangha Meetings

How Respondent Learns of Sangha Meeting Times				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fixed at Previous Meeting	41	13.8	13.8	13.8
Meeting Times are Set	191	64.1	64.1	77.9
MSK Staff Informs Orally	14	4.7	4.7	82.6
MSK Staff Sends Notice/ Letter	27	9.1	9.1	91.6
CEC Member Informs Orally	4	1.3	1.3	93.0
Sangha Member Informs	21	7.0	7.0	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

Almost all respondents belong to sanghas where meetings are held on a weekly basis (4 a month). A few – 20 respondents – belong to sanghas where meetings are held once or twice a month. In terms of how respondents learn of meeting times, by and large – 64 percent – meeting times are set and so the day and time is known. In some cases – 14 percent – meeting times are fixed at the previous meeting while a few rely on MSK staff members, CEC members or sangha members to inform them of meeting times.

TABLE 46. If Respondent Misses Sangha Meetings

If Respondent Misses Sangha Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	21	7.0	7.0	7.0
Yes	277	93.0	93.0	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 47. Why Respondent Misses Sangha Meetings

Reason for Respondent Missing Sangha Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Interesting/ Didn't Know or Wasn't Involved in Setting Meeting Time	6	2.0	2.1	2.1
Time Inconvenient/ Household Responsibilities/ Weather/ Transport	167	56.0	58.0	60.1
Health Reasons	95	31.9	33.0	93.1
Multiple Reasons [Health & Other Responsibilities]	16	5.4	5.6	98.6
Never Missed a Meeting	4	1.3	1.4	100.0
Total	288	96.6	100.0	
Missing	10	3.4		
Total	298	100.0		

Only 7 percent reported that they never miss attending sangha meetings, while 93 percent responded positively to the question of whether they had missed a sangha meeting thus far. When asked why they missed sangha meetings⁶ more than half responded that it was due to household or childcare responsibilities, the need to visit relatives, weather-related reasons or transport related problems. Health is another significant reason and this along with responsibilities account for more than a third of the reasons behind sangha women missing meetings (32 percent). A few members – 6 percent – missed meetings for multiple reasons involving health problems. Interestingly, 1 percent of the sample said that they have never missed sangha meetings thus far.

TABLE 48. How Respondent Learns of Discussions at Missed Sangha Meetings

Means of Learning about Sangha Meeting Discussions if Respondent Misses it				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Review Minutes	2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Receive Info from Another Member	168	56.4	56.8	57.4
Ask for Info from Another Member	62	20.8	20.9	78.4
Get Info from MSK Staff	8	2.7	2.7	81.1
Get Info at Following Meeting	28	9.4	9.5	90.5
Don't Find Out What Goes On	27	9.1	9.1	99.7
Not Applicable	1	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	296	99.3	100.0	
Missing	2	0.7		
Total	298	100.0		

Most members who miss meetings rely on getting information on the meeting proceedings from another member (57 percent) or by asking another member for information (21 percent). A few rely on sangha processes, such as reading the previous meeting minutes at every meeting (1 percent) or getting information at the following meeting to catch up (10 percent). Around 9 percent reported that they do not find out what goes on at the meetings they miss.

TABLE 49. If Respondent Could Recall 3 Topics from Sangha Meetings

If Respondent is Able to Recall 3 Topics or Issues from Sangha Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	162	54.4	54.5	54.5
Yes	135	45.3	45.5	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

When asked to recall three topics at sangha meetings and how these topics were covered (for example, through discussion, lectures, case studies, role playing, etc), only 45 percent – less than half of the respondents – were able to provide three topical areas, while the rest – 55 percent recalled less than 3 or sometimes no topical issues covered at sangha meetings.

⁶ Even those respondents, who reported to have never missed sangha meetings gave reasons for what circumstances may cause them to miss sangha meetings in general.

Details of Executive Committee Meetings

TABLE 50. Number of Executive Committee Meetings⁷ Held Each Month

Number of Executive Committee Meetings Held Every Month				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	11.0	3.7	3.7	100.0
Not Applicable	287.0	96.3	96.3	96.3
Total	298.0	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 51. How Respondent Learns of EC Meeting Times

How Respondent Learns of Executive Committee Meeting Times				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Meeting Times are Set	1	0.3	0.3	0.3
MSk Staff Sends Notice/ Letter	9	3.0	3.0	3.4
CEC Member Informs Orally	1	0.3	0.3	3.7
Not Applicable	287	96.3	96.3	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

The tables above show that EC meetings are held once a month for the 11 women who are members of the EC. These women are largely informed by MSK staff through letters and notices and one woman reported that meeting times are set, while another reported that the Continuing Education Committee (CEC) member informs her.

TABLE 52. If Respondent Misses EC Meetings

If Respondent Misses Executive Committee Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	11	3.7	3.7	3.7
Not Applicable	287	96.3	96.3	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 53. Why Respondent Misses EC Committee Meetings

Reason for Respondent Missing Executive Committee Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Interesting/ Didn't Know Time/ Wasn't Involved	3	1.0	1.0	1.0
Timing Inconvenient/ HH Responsibilities/ Weather/ Transport	5	1.7	1.7	2.7
Health Reasons	3	1.0	1.0	3.7
Not Applicable	287	96.3	96.3	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

⁷ The Executive Committee consists of leadership level sangha women chosen from each taluk, who are involved in more intensive training and other activities of Mahila Samakhya. In this sample survey, 11 women were Executive Committee members.

All of the EC members reported missing meetings. The main reason for this was time constraints - household or childcare responsibilities, transport or weather problems, other engagements. A few also missed EC meetings because of health reasons.

TABLE 54. How Respondent Learns of Missed Meeting Proceedings

Means of Learning about Executive Committee Meeting Discussions if Respondent Misses it				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Receive Info from Another Member	2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Ask for Info from Another Member	3	1.0	1.0	1.7
Get Info from MSK Staff	4	1.3	1.3	3.0
Don't Find Out What Goes On	2	0.7	0.7	3.7
Not Applicable	287	96.3	96.3	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

The means of learning about missed meetings was quite varied, including intimation by MSK staff, being informed or asking another member, or not learning about the goings on at all.

Nature of Activities Undertaken at Sangha Meetings

TABLE 55. Frequency of Engaging in Various Activities at Sangha Meetings

Frequency of Engaging in Various Activities at Sangha Meetings								
	Savings		Review and Planning		Discussion on MSK & Theme Committee Activities		Discussion on Village/Individual Issues	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Every Meeting	291	97.7%	81	27.2%	38	12.8%	30	10.1%
Some Meetings	5	1.7%	144	48.3%	143	48.0%	140	47.0%
Almost Never at Meetings	1	0.3%	67	22.5%	98	32.9%	118	39.6%
Varies Depending on the Situation/ Need	1	0.3%	5	1.7%	17	5.7%	7	2.3%
Missing			1	0.3%	2	0.7%	3	1.0%
Total	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%

Savings as an activity is undertaken at every meeting by almost all members – 98 percent reported this. In comparison, activities around reviewing the previous meetings discussions and processes as well as planning activities and events for the future is done at every sangha meeting by only 27 percent of the respondents. Most respondents seem to engage in this at some meetings (48 percent) or almost never (23 percent). Thirteen percent of the respondents reported that discussions, activities and planning around Mahila Samakhya themes and processes take place every meeting. For the majority, these kinds of discussions take place some meetings (48 percent) or at very few meetings (33 percent). Similar is the case with discussions around individual problems or issues and village-level problems or issues. These tend to take place at some meetings (47 percent) or almost never – 40 percent. Only 10 percent reported that these kinds of discussions take place at every meeting.

Frequency of Engaging in Various Activities at Sangha Meetings						
	Mediation or Arbitration		Recreation or Entertainment		Village-Level Activism	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Every Meeting	68	22.8%	118	39.6%	49	16.4%
Some Meetings	66	22.1%	83	27.9%	82	27.5%
Almost Never at Meetings	116	38.9%	89	29.9%	122	40.9%
Varies Depending on the Situation/ Need	45	15.1%	4	1.3%	42	14.1%
Missing	3	1.0%	4	1.3%	3	1.0%
Total	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%

The number of women who engage in mediation or arbitration at every meetings and at some meetings is roughly equal – almost one-fourth of the respondents reported that mediation or negotiation takes place every meeting or some meetings. A large number (39 percent), however, reported that they almost never engage in these activities. Where recreation and entertainment is concerned, 40 percent reported that this happens at every sangha meeting while about 30 percent each reported that this happens sometimes or mostly never. Organising village level events, participating in dharnas (protests) and campaigns are rarely undertaken by 41 percent of the sangha women respondents. Interestingly, 16 percent reported that they engage in this often – every meeting almost – while more than one-fourth (28 percent) do these kinds of activities some times.

Training by Mahila Samakhya Staff

TABLE 56. Frequency of MSK Training at the Taluk-Level

Frequency of MSK Trainings at the Taluk-Level				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than Once a Month	131.0	44.0	45.0	139.9
Once a Month	159.0	53.4	54.6	99.7
Twice a Month	1.0	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	291.0	97.7	100.0	
Missing	7.0	2.3		
Total	298.0	100.0		

Most sangha women attend MSK training (including theme committee meetings) at the taluk-level once a month – 55 percent reported thus. Another 44 percent reported that they attend taluk-level trainings less than once a month, with a portion of those members (45 women) having never attended taluk-level meetings thus far.

TABLE 57. If Respondent Could Recall 3 Topics Covered in Theme Committee Meetings

If Respondent is Able to Recall 3 Topics or Issues Covered at Theme Committee Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	203	68.1	68.1	68.1
Yes	95	31.9	31.9	100.0
Total	298	100.0	100.0	

A majority of the sangha women – more than two-thirds – could not recall three topics covered at their respective theme committee meetings, while 32 percent were able to report three topics and the way in which they were covered (lectures, case studies, role plays, training by experts, and so on).

TABLE 58. If Respondent Raised Questions or Issues at MSK Training

If Respondent is Able to Raise Questions or Issues at MSK Training Sessions				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	81	27.2	28.1	28.1
Yes	178	59.7	61.8	89.9
Not Applicable	29	9.7	10.1	100.0
Total	288	96.6	100.0	
Missing	10	3.4		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 59. If Respondent is Able to Discuss Issues with MSK Staff

If Respondent is Able to Discuss Issues with Staff at MSK Training Sessions				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	80	26.8	28.0	28.0
Yes	177	59.4	61.9	89.9
Not Applicable	29	9.7	10.1	100.0
Total	286	96.0	100.0	
Missing	12	4.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 60. Reason Why Respondent Did Not Raise Questions or Discussion Issues

Reason for Respondent Not Raising Questions or Discussing Issues				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Yet Had the Need	21	7.0	7.7	7.7
Not Yet Had the Opportunity	4	1.3	1.5	9.1
Not had the Confidence	12	4.0	4.4	13.5
Not had the Knowledge to Raise Questions	36	12.1	13.1	26.6
Multiple Reasons for Not Doing So	4	1.3	1.5	28.1
Not Applicable	197	66.1	71.9	100.0
Total	274	91.9	100.0	
Missing	24	8.1		
Total	298	100.0		

About 60 percent of the respondents said that they were able to raise questions at MSK meetings as well as discuss issues with MSK staff during meetings. About 1/4th of the respondents felt that they could not do so. The reasons for this is largely because they don't have the information or knowledge necessary to raise questions (13 percent) and because they haven't yet had the need to raise such questions (8 percent).

TABLE 61. If Respondent has Contributed towards Mahila Samakhya Curriculum Development

If Respondent has Contributed Towards Curriculum Development for MSK				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	198	66.4	67.6	67.6
Yes	83	27.9	28.3	95.9
Not Applicable	12	4.0	4.1	100.0
Total	293	98.3	100.0	
Missing	5	1.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 62. Reasons Respondent Doesn't Contribute towards Mahila Samakhya Curriculum Development

Reasons Respondent Does Not Contribute to Curriculum Development (Multiple Response)		
	Count	Table %
Not Yet Had the Need/ Haven't Been to Trainings	71.0	(41.8%)
Not Yet Had the Opportunity/ Environment is Not Supportive	15.0	(8.8%)
Not Had the Time	5.0	(2.9%)
Not Confident	31.0	(18.2%)
Don't Know What to Suggest/ Not Educated	91.0	(53.5%)
Total	170.0	(100.0%)

A little more than a quarter of the respondents (28 percent) have contributed towards Mahila Samakhya curriculum by suggesting topics or issues that need to be covered. The majority, however, haven't contributed to the curriculum that goes into their training sessions. When asked why this was so, respondents gave multiple reasons. The most common reason felt by more than half the sample of women who haven't yet contributed is that they do not know enough and aren't 'educated enough' to suggest topics (54 percent of the total). A large number of this group – 42 percent – also felt that they haven't been to enough trainings yet and haven't yet had the need to contribute towards the curriculum. Almost one-fifth (18 percent) of the group lacked the confidence to contribute towards the curriculum.

TABLE 63. Most Preferred Medium of Training according to Respondent

Best Medium of Training According to Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Don't Know/ Haven't Been to Many Meetings/ Not Interested	11	3.7	3.9	3.9
Not Many Methods [Mostly Lectures]	2	0.7	0.7	4.6
Lectures/Instruction	70	23.5	24.6	29.1
Participative- Role Play, Case Study, Games, Songs, Discussion	139	46.6	48.8	77.9
Charts, Graphs, Video, Multimedia	33	11.1	11.6	89.5
All Methods of Training are Good	19	6.4	6.7	96.1
Not Applicable	11	3.7	3.9	100.0
Total	285	95.6	100.0	
Missing	13	4.4		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 64. Least Preferred Training Method According to Respondent

Worst Medium of Training According to Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Don't Know/ Haven't Been to Many Meetings/ Not Interested	7	2.3	4.1	4.1
Lectures/Instruction	44	14.8	25.6	29.7
Participative- Role Play, Case Study, Games, Songs, Discussion	42	14.1	24.4	54.1
Charts, Graphs, Video, Multimedia	39	13.1	22.7	76.7
All Methods of Training are Good	29	9.7	16.9	93.6
Not Applicable	11	3.7	6.4	100.0
Total	172	57.7	100.0	
Missing	126	42.3		

Total	298	100.0		
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Participatory methods, such as case studies, role plays, games, songs, discussions, and so on, are the most preferred method of training according to 49 percent of the respondents. Lectures and instruction from MSK staff and others is second most preferred by 25 percent, and visual media like charts, graphs and videos are the third most preferred by 12 percent. Interestingly, 7 percent said “all trainings methods are good” and so this group didn’t cite their least preferred training method. The table on least preferred methods shows that the divide amongst respondents is roughly equal, with around 25 percent each reporting that lectures and discussion, participatory methods, and visual media were their least preferred methods. A large number of the respondents’ responses to this question were not recorded.

Synthesis of Findings on Mahila Samakhya Processes and Activities

The length of membership in Mahila Samakhya sangha varies in the sample, with over half being in the organisation for two years or less and the remaining percent being members for between 3 and 16 years. The need to access information, resources or loans was quoted as the main reason for joining the sangha by the women.

Of the entire sample, the numbers in each of Mahila Samakhya’s 6 theme committees is about the sample. In addition, a third holds a special role in the sangha and two-thirds have received training on issues other than the 6 themes.

Sangha meetings are almost always held every week and meeting times are usually at a set time though they sometimes get fixed at previous meetings. Most respondents have had an occasion to miss a sangha meeting for reasons largely relating to responsibilities and housework, health and inconvenient timings. In such cases, they rely on receiving or asking for information on the meeting from other members or waiting until the following meeting to get information. Similar responses were elicited from the small sample of respondents who are Executive Committee members, who relied on letters sent by Mahila Samakhya to know about meeting times.

Recall rates are extremely low – 15 percent could not even recall which theme committee they belonged to, despite this being a central pillar of Mahila Samakhya. When asked to recall substantive issues discussed at sangha meetings, less than half were able to do so, and when asked about three issues discussed at theme committee meetings, an even lower percentage – about one third – were able to do so. In general, savings, loans and finance-related information is a high priority at sangha meetings compared to all other activities, which are undertaken at some meetings or almost never. In particular, it was interesting to note that discussions around Mahila Samakhya themes and activities, as well as on village and individual problems and events is a low priority at sangha meetings, with less than 15 percent reporting discussion on these at each meeting.

Aside from trainings at the taluk level, the sangha women interact with Mahila Samakhya staff in multiple ways, but the frequency of interaction is roughly once every four weeks, something that the majority of the sample found insufficient to learn new issues, solve problems and so on. Taluk level meetings themselves tend to be held once a month or less, at which a good number – 60 percent or more – reported that they were able to raise questions and discuss issues with Mahila Samakhya staff. A much lower percentage – 28 percent – reported having contributed to the curriculum followed by Mahila Samakhya. When those who hadn’t engaged in either process were asked why, they reported that they hadn’t done so because they lacked information and knowledge required engage in such processes, because they hadn’t felt the need yet, or because they lacked the confidence. Preferences for training methodologies vary with participatory methods like case studies, songs, role playing, and discussion and so on being reported as the most popular method by half the sample but also as the least preferred

method by another quarter of the sample. Lectures and oral instructions were liked and disliked by approximately a quarter of the sample and multimedia based interventions were liked by fewer numbers.

Overall, the section on Mahila Samakhya reveals that while the respondents attend many meetings for sangha, executive committee, theme committee or other training purposes, the quantity and quality of participation at these meetings varies significantly – in terms of frequency at which they are held, range of issues discussed, the participatory nature of the meetings and the ability to recollect the proceedings of the meetings. Further analysis can be done to examine how these factors are affected by the duration of membership of the respondents as well as how other factors including the age, caste and asset ownership affect the nature and degree of participation in Mahila Samakhya activities.

III. Empowerment – Access to Information, Knowledge Levels, Participation at the Village Level and Decision-Making Within and Beyond the Household

Respondent's Access to Information on Health Issues

TABLE 65. First Contacted in a Health Emergency

First Contacted in a Health Emergency				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No One	9	3.0	3.1	3.1
Husband/ Relatives/ Friends/ Neighbours	36	12.1	12.2	15.3
MSK Staff/ Sangha Members	11	3.7	3.7	19.0
Public Health Sources	123	41.3	41.7	60.7
Private Health Sources	53	17.8	18.0	78.6
Traditional/ Folk Healer	7	2.3	2.4	81.0
Multiple Sources	5	1.7	1.7	82.7
Not Applicable	51	17.1	17.3	100.0
Total	295	99.0	100.0	
Missing Values	3	1.0		
Total	298	100.0		

Respondents were asked to think back to a health-related emergency in the household and whom they first approached when this occurred. A fairly high number of the sampled women seem to have approached public health sources such as the PHC, taluk or district hospital, or government health functionaries like ANMs, RMPs and social workers – 42 percent of the total. Eighteen percent approached a private doctor or clinic on this problem. Informal sources such as family, friends or community members were first approached by 12 percent. Interestingly, 3 percent said they didn't approach anyone when such a problem occurred and 17 percent said this was 'not applicable' as they hadn't dealt with a health emergency in the past.

TABLE 66. If Respondent is Aware of four or more Health Institutions

If Respondent is Aware of Four or more Health Institutions				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	256	85.9	86.2	86.2
Yes	41	13.8	13.8	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing Values	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

Respondents were asked whether they were aware of health institutions available in case they need information or access to services in the village in case of a health problem. A majority of the respondents – 86 percent – were not able to come up with four institutional sources of support. A small minority of 14 percent were able to cite four or more institutions or persons who can be approached for support with health problems.

TABLE 67. Ease of Approaching Various Health Institutions

Ease of Approaching Health Institutions								
	Primary Health Centre		Private Doctor or Clinic		Taluk/ District Hospital		Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
I find it easy/ comfortable	212	72.4%	92	31.3%	122	41.5%	211	73.5%
They Lack Understanding of Women's Issues	0	0.0%	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
They Lack Understanding of Caste Issues	0	0.0%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%
I Cannot Afford the Facilities/ Have to Pay Bribes/ I'm Poor	68	23.2%	148	50.3%	114	38.8%	56	19.5%
Lack of Quality Care/ Not Treated Well/ Not Available	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
I Lack Support/ Cooperation from Family/ Community	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
I Don't Know Who They Are/ How to Access/ Procedures to Follow	11	3.8%	49	16.7%	56	19.0%	16	5.6%
Total	293	100.0	294	100.0%	294	100.0%	287	100.0%

Almost three-fourths of the respondents said they found it easy to approach the PHC (72 percent) or an Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (74 percent) in case of a health problem. Comparatively the percentage of women, who felt that approaching a private doctor or clinic is easy, is much lower, at 31 percent, as also those who felt that it was easy to approach a district or taluk hospital (42 percent). Of those who reported that it was difficult, the main reason behind this across all reasons is financially-related, with reasons such as poverty, inability to afford the services and inability to pay the bribes or incentives needed to access the services being cited by 23 percent in the case of PHCs, 50 percent in the case of a private doctor, 39 percent in the case of a taluk or district hospital, and 20 percent in the case of an ANM. Another significant reason reported in the case of private health providers and taluk/ district hospitals is the lack of information/ knowledge on who the institution is, what kinds of procedures are followed there and how these services are to be accessed – by 17 percent in the case of the former and 19 percent in the case of the latter.

Ease of Approaching Health Institutions								
	Dai		Registered Medical Practitioner		Folk/ Traditional Healer		Medical Officer	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
I find it easy/ comfortable	171	62.2%	114	42.9%	102	38.6%	71	27.3%
They Lack Understanding of Women's Issues	2	0.7%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
They Lack Understanding of Caste Issues	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
I Cannot Afford the Facilities/ Have to Pay Bribes/ I'm Poor	52	18.9%	41	15.4%	74	28.0%	54	20.8%
Lack of Quality Care/ Not Treated Well/ Not Available	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	1	0.4%
I Don't Know Who They Are/How to Access/ Procedures to Follow	47	17.1%	107	40.2%	81	30.7%	134	51.5%
Person/ Institution Doesn't Exist	1	0.4%	2	0.8%	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
Total	275	100.0%	266	100.0%	264	100.0%	260	100.0%

With other health institutions, 62 percent found it easy or comfortable to approach a village dai, while lower percents – 43 percent in the case of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs), 39 percent in the case of traditional or folk healers and 27 percent in the case of Medical Officers – found it easy or comfortable to approach these sources. Where difficulty in access was perceived, the main reason was the lack of knowledge on who the institution or person was and what procedures are to be followed – this was reported by as high as 52 percent of the sample in the case of the Medical Officer, 40 percent in the case of the RMP, 31 percent in the case of a folk healer and 17 percent in the case of a dai. Lack of affordability of facilities was also an obstacle for close to one-fifth of the sample reporting this in the case of a Dai, RMP and Medical Officer, and 28 percent reported it in the case of a folk healer.

Gender and caste related barriers seem relatively small, as also the lack of quality and timely care and treatment at various health institutions.

TABLE 68. Means of Getting Information on Health Issues

Means of Getting Information on Health Issues		
	Frequency	Table %
No Sources of Information	35	(11.8%)
Husband/ Relatives/ Friends/ Neighbours	100	(33.7%)
MSK Staff/ Sangha Members	161	(54.2%)
Government Health Functionaries	106	(35.7%)
Private Health Sources	53	(17.8%)
Written Media/ Plays/ Drama/ Street Theatre	2	(.7%)
ICTs: Radio or Television Programmes	6	(2.0%)
Total	297	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked all the possible sources they could approach if they had a general query relating to health, especially women's health, and needed to information/ answers. Twelve percent said that if they had general queries relating to health, they wouldn't be able to access any sources of information. An almost equal number of the sample – roughly 1/3rd – said they could approach informal sources like family and friends or government health functionaries (ANM, Dai, RMP, PHC staff, etc). Mahila Samakhya staff and sangha women are a likely source for information for more than half the sample – 54 percent. In comparison, private health sources would be a source for much fewer women (only 18 percent felt they would get information from them), and written media or ICT are an option for very few women.

Respondent's Access to Information on Legal Issues

TABLE 69. First Contacted in a Legal Situation

First Contacted in a Legal Situation				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No One	12	4.0	4.1	4.1
Husband/ Relatives/ Friends/ Neighbour	18	6.0	6.1	10.2
MSK Staff/ Sangha Members	3	1.0	1.0	11.2
Institutional Sources: Police, Court, Panchayat, Lawyer	15	5.0	5.1	16.3
Village Elder/ Caste Leader/ Elite	4	1.3	1.4	17.7
Multiple Sources	1	0.3	0.3	18.0
Not Applicable	241	80.9	82.0	100.0
Total	294	98.7	100.0	
Missing Values	4	1.3		
Total	298	100.0		

Similar to health, respondents were asked whom they first approached when a legal situation or dispute arose in their households. A majority seemed to have not faced this kind of a situation thus far – 82 percent of all women. Amongst those who faced situations like property disputes, divorce, rape, domestic abuse, and so on, 5 percent said they would approach institutional sources such as the police, a lawyer, the court or the Panchayat. Six percent said they would go with informal sources such as husband, family or neighbours and 4 percent said they wouldn't approach anyone if this situation arose.

TABLE 70. If Respondent is Aware of four or more Legal Institutions

If Respondent is Aware of four or more Legal Institutions				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	214	71.8	72.5	72.5
Yes	81	27.2	27.5	100.0
Total	295	99.0	100.0	
Missing Values	3	1.0		
Total	298	100.0		

Respondents were asked whether they were aware of the persons or institutions they could approach if a legal situation arose. Close to 3/4ths of the sample were unable to think of even four institutions they could approach in this case. Almost 28 percent, however, were able to think of 4 or more institutions such as those mentioned in the tables below.

TABLE 71. Ease of Approaching Various Legal Institutions

Ease of Approaching Legal Institutions								
	Police Station		Lawyer		Nyaya Panchayat		Caste Panchayat	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
I find it easy/ comfortable	105	35.8%	78	27.4%	204	71.6%	193	69.9%
They Lack Understanding of Women's Issues	2	0.7%	3	1.1%	2	0.7%	0	0.0%
They Lack Understanding of Caste Issues	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	0.7%	0	0.0%
I Cannot Afford the Facilities/ Have to Pay Bribes/ I'm Poor	102	34.8%	92	32.3%	47	16.5%	39	14.1%
I Don't Know Who They Are/ How to Access/ Procedures to Follow	82	28.0%	112	39.3%	30	10.5%	43	15.6%
Person/ Institution Doesn't Exist	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%
Total	293	100.0%	285	100.0%	285	100.0%	276	100.0%

A large percentage– 72 and 70 percent – seem to be fairly comfortable with approaching the Nyaya Panchayat and Caste Panchayat respectively in the case of a legal dispute. Just over one-third find it easy to approach the police and about 27 percent that they found it easy to approach a lawyer. When the reasons for difficulty in approaching these institutions were explored, again the two major reasons are affordability of services/ need to pay bribes to secure services and lack of knowledge on procedures and processes related to various institutions. In the case of the former, 35 percent felt so about the police, 32 percent about a lawyer, 17 percent about the Nyaya Panchayat and 14 percent about the Caste Panchayat. In the case of the latter, 28 percent felt there was an information gap to access police

services, 39 percent to access a lawyer, 11 percent to access a Nyaya Panchayat and 16 percent to access a Caste Panchayat.

Ease of Approaching Legal Institutions								
	Court		Social Justice Committee		Political Leader		Village Head	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
I find it easy/ comfortable	65	23.1%	131	47.6%	221	77.0%	235	82.5%
They Lack Understanding of Women's Issues	3	1.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.4%
They Lack Understanding of Caste Issues	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
I Cannot Afford the Facilities/ Have to Pay Bribes/ I'm Poor	98	34.9%	31	11.3%	46	16.0%	32	11.2%
I Don't Know Who They Are/How to Access/ Procedures to Follow	114	40.6%	111	40.4%	19	6.6%	17	6.0%
Person/ Institution Doesn't Exist	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	281	100.0%	275	100.0%	287	100.0%	285	100.0%

Approaching the village head or a political leader seems to be an easy option for majority of the sample – 83 percent and 77 percent respectively – in the case of a legal dispute. The Social Justice Committee (SJC) of the Panchayat is also seen as a comfortable option for 48 percent of the sample, while only 23 percent finds the court option easy. Difficulty in access is less of an affordability or bribery issue in these institutions, where this was seen as a hindrance largely with the court (35 percent) and to a smaller extent with a political leader (16 percent) or the SJC or village head (11 percent). While lack of knowledge on the processes relating to accessing courts and SJC is high with 40 percent of the sample feeling this way, most women seemed fairly familiar with how they could access a political leader or village head.

Again, as in the case of health, gender and caste-based obstacles are not seen an issue except by a handful of women in the sample.

TABLE 72. Means by Which Respondent Gets Information on Legal Issues

Means of Getting Information on Legal Issues		
	Frequency	Table %
No Sources of Information	57	(19.2%)
Husband/ Relatives/ Friends/ Neighbour	78	(26.3%)
MSK Staff/ Sangha Members	139	(46.8%)
Government Officials/ Panchayat/ Tehsildar/ Accountant	83	(27.9%)
Legal Sources - Police, Lawyer	21	(7.1%)
Written Media/ Plays/ Drama/ Street Theatre	7	(2.4%)
ICTs: Radio or Television Programmes	4	(1.3%)
Total	297	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked all the possible sources from which they could get information on legal rights in case they needed to. MSK staff and sangha women seem to be the most commonly accessible resource, with 50 percent of the women reporting them. Government officials, Tehsildars, village accountants and Panchayat members are seen as a source of information for 28 percent of the women, while informal sources like husband, family, friends and neighbours are a source for 26 percent of the sample. Almost

one-fifth of the sample (much higher than in the case of health) said they don't have any sources of information on legal issues.

Access to Information on Government Schemes/ Services and Access to Banks

TABLE 73. Means by Which Respondent Gets Information on Government Schemes and Services

Means of Getting Information on Government Schemes				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Sources of Information	44	14.8	15.1	15.1
Husband/ Relatives/ Friends/ Neighbour	43	14.4	14.8	29.9
MSK Staff/ Sangha Members	84	28.2	28.9	58.8
Government Officials/ Panchayat/ Politicians/ Gram Sabha	34	11.4	11.7	70.4
Written Media/ Plays/ Drama	76	25.5	26.1	96.6
ICTs: Radio or Television Programmes	2	0.7	0.7	97.3
Multiple Sources	8	2.7	2.7	100.0
Total	291	97.7	100.0	
Missing Values	7	2.3		
Total	298	100.0		

If a respondent wanted to get information on government schemes, policies, services or entitlements, 15 percent of them would not be able to get this kind of information from any source and another 15 percent would rely on their family and associates to get this kind of information. About 29 percent said they would use MSK staff or sangha women as a resource and almost the sample percent (26) said they relied on written media such as newspapers and pamphlets or dramas, plays and street theatre to get this kind of information. Interestingly, only 12 percent of the women reported actually getting this kind of information from government sources like district officials, Panchayat members, politicians or at Grama Sabha meetings. A small minority also said they would approach multiple sources to get information relating to government schemes and services.

TABLE 74. If Respondent has Applied for any Government Scheme or Entitlement

If Respondent has Applied or Availed of Government Schemes				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	158	53.0	57.5	57.5
Yes	117	39.3	42.5	100.0
Total	275	92.3	100.0	
Missing Values	23	7.7		
Total	298	100.0		

More than half of the respondents – 58 percent – have not applied for any government scheme or entitlement, while about 43 percent say they have applied.

TABLE 75. Reason Why Respondent has Not Availed of Government Schemes

Reason that Respondent has Not Availed of Government Schemes				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Had the Need So Far	12	4.0	4.5	4.5
Time Constraints/ Too Many Responsibilities	15	5.0	5.6	10.2
Too Many Formalities/ Paperwork/ Requirements/ Too Poor	9	3.0	3.4	13.5
Government Officials are Not Cooperative	27	9.1	10.2	23.7
Household/ Community Members are Not Cooperative	16	5.4	6.0	29.7
Not Aware/ Don't Have Information Eligibility/ Processes	67	22.5	25.2	54.9
Multiple Reasons	3	1.0	1.1	56.0
Not Applicable	117	39.3	44.0	100.0
Total	266	89.3	100.0	
Missing Values	32	10.7		
Total	298	100.0		

When those who hadn't applied or availed of such services were asked why so, the main reason seemed to be that they did not have information on eligibility, requirements, processes, formalities, and so on to apply for these schemes or weren't even aware that they existed (quarter of the sample). Ten percent felt that government representatives' lack of support/ cooperation was a hindrance while other reasons such as the lack of time (6 percent) and lack of cooperation from household members (6 percent) were quoted by a few women.

TABLE 76. If Respondent Has Visited a Bank in the Past 12 Months

If Respondent has Visited a Bank in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	33	11.1	11.1	11.1
Yes	264	88.6	88.9	100.0
Total	297	99.7	100.0	
Missing Values	1	0.3		
Total	298	100.0		

A large number of the women – 89 percent – have visited a bank in the past 12 months and a small percent – 11 percent – have not visited a bank yet for reasons such as not having a need or chance yet (especially for new members), long distance, and lack of familiarity with bank processes.

Knowledge Base on Health, Legal Rights and Political Participation

TABLE 77. Respondent's Knowledge Base on Health

Questions Relating to Knowledge Base on Health										
	Pre and Post Pregnancy Care for Women		Diseases Transmitted by Drinking Water		Vaccinations for Children Under 2		Frequency of Visits of an ANM		Benefits of Institutional Delivery for Women	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Incorrect/ Don't Know	142	47.8%	118	39.7%	100	33.8%	77	26.0%	88	29.7%
Partially Correct	103	34.7%	117	39.4%	127	42.9%	137	46.3%	128	43.2%
Fully Correct	52	17.5%	62	20.9%	69	23.3%	82	27.7%	80	27.0%
Total	297	100.0%	297	100.0%	296	100.0%	296	100.0%	296	100.0%

Respondents were asked questions relating to health, especially maternal and child health. Answers were rated as 'incorrect', 'partially correct' and 'fully correct'. Almost half of the women sampled (48 percent) didn't know what kind of pre- and post-natal care a woman should receive, while about one-third (35 percent) knew something about it. While 40 percent each didn't know or didn't know fully what kinds of diseases get transmitted through water, about one-fifth were aware of the answer. A similar breakup of percentages was observed with knowledge levels on vaccinations for children under the age of 2, with 34 percent not knowing at all, 43 percent having some idea about this and only 23 percent knowing the vaccinations to be given. When asked how frequently an ANM should visit the village and the kinds of services she should provide, 26 percent didn't know at all and 28 percent know fully well. Approximately half – 46 percent were somewhat aware of the ANMs roles and responsibilities. Finally, on the benefits of institutional delivery from the mother's and child's point of view, about 30 percent didn't know at all, 43 percent were somewhat aware and 27 percent were fully aware of the advantages.

TABLE 78. Respondent's Knowledge Base on Legal Rights

Questions Relating to Knowledge Base on Legal Rights										
	Daughter's Legal Share in Natal Inheritance		Legal Age at Marriage for Girls and Boys		Women's Share of Wages for Same Work		Procedure for Justice in Case of Rape		Punishment for Child Marriage Offenders	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Incorrect/ Don't Know	131	44.3%	72	24.2%	137	46.8%	190	64.4%	227	76.4%
Partially Correct	23	7.8%	109	36.7%	40	13.7%	91	30.8%	45	15.2%
Fully Correct	142	48.0%	116	39.1%	116	39.6%	14	4.7%	25	8.4%
Total	296	100.0%	297	100.0%	293	100.0%	295	100.0%	297	100.0%

Awareness on legal rights varied. On a daughter's legal share to her parents' property, 44 percent didn't know, 8 percent had some idea and a fairly high number – 48 percent – were aware that a daughter has equal share in natal property. Similarly, on the legal age at marriage for a girl and for a boy, almost a quarter didn't know, 37 percent got it partially right, and about 39 percent knew what the right age at marriage should be. The awareness levels were much divided on women's legal share of male wages for same kind of work. Almost half didn't know that women enjoy equal wages for the same work, but on the other hand, 40 percent were aware of gender equality in wages. Awareness on punitive action and justice was much lower. Only 5 percent knew the procedure to be followed if a woman is raped in order to seek justice and almost two-thirds – 64 percent didn't know at all. Similarly, three quarters (76 percent) didn't know what the punishment was for child marriage offenders, while only 8 percent got this response right.

TABLE 79. Respondent's Knowledge Base on Political Participation

Questions Related Knowledge Base on Political Participation										
	Reservations for Women in Panchayat		Eligibility for Participation in Gram Sabha		Panchayat Standing Committees		Roles of the Panchayat in Village Development		Government Resources in the Village	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Incorrect/ Don't Know	272	91.9%	160	54.1%	278	93.6%	112	38.2%	108	36.4%
Partially Correct	15	5.1%	22	7.4%	9	3.0%	67	22.9%	90	30.3%
Fully Correct	9	3.0%	114	38.5%	10	3.4%	114	38.9%	99	33.3%
Total	296	100.0%	296	100.0%	297	100.0%	293	100.0%	297	100.0%

As with legal rights, awareness on political participation and governance was also varied. Interestingly, almost all the respondents – 92 percent – didn't know what percentage of seats is reserved for women in the local Panchayat and a mere 3 percent were aware of the 33% reservation. On being asked who is eligible to attend Grama Sabha, 54 percent did not know that all citizens are eligible to attend the meetings, and just over one-third were aware of this. The three standing committees of the Panchayat were unfamiliar to the women, and again, 94 percent didn't know about these at all, and about 3 percent were familiar. The responses were more equally divided on the roles and responsibilities of the Panchayat in village development as well as on the kinds of public resources available in the village. In each case, about one third didn't know at all, had some idea and were fully aware.

Participation in Village Issues and Forum – Own and Others

TABLE 80. Women's Participation in Decisions at the Village Level

If Respondent Thinks that Women Should Participate in Village-Level Decision Making				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	55	18.5	18.8	18.8
Yes	238	79.9	81.2	100.0
Total	293	98.3	100.0	
Missing Values	5	1.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 81. If Respondent Participates in Village-Level Forum

If Respondent Participates in Village Level Forum				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	209	70.1	72.1	72.1
Yes	81	27.2	27.9	100.0
Total	290	97.3	100.0	
Missing Values	8	2.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 82. Reason Why Respondent Does not Participate in Village Level Forum

Reason Why Respondent Doesn't Participate in Village Level Forum				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Interested	44	14.8	16.7	16.7
Time Constraints/ Responsibilities	32	10.7	12.1	28.8
Information Constraints: Don't Know Enough/ Can't Understand	40	13.4	15.2	43.9
Can't Influence Decisions/ Women Not Allowed to Voice Opinion	24	8.1	9.1	53.0
No Access to Public Spaces/ Women Don't Go There	14	4.7	5.3	58.3
No Permission from Husband/ Family	20	6.7	7.6	65.9
Multiple Reasons	9	3.0	3.4	69.3
Not Applicable	81	27.2	30.7	100.0
Total	264	88.6	100.0	
Missing Values	34	11.4		
Total	298	100.0		

From the above tables, we see that a majority of the women sampled believed that women should participate in village-level issues and decision making bodies in order to learn new things, provide a woman's perspective on issues and stand equal as men. Only 19 percent believed that women should not participate for reasons revolving around their inability to voice their opinions in public places and their lack of knowledge on issues discussed at these spaces. Yet, when asked whether they participate in village-level bodies such as Gram Sabha, PTA, Unions, caste-based groups, etc, a much lower number reported that they did – just about 28 percent – while the majority (72 percent) said that they didn't participate in such bodies. Some reasons behind their lack of participation – 17 percent were not interested in these issues and 12 percent said that they had too many responsibilities and commitments to engage in these activities. Information constraints – not knowing enough, not being educated enough – were felt by 15 percent of the sample and another 9 percent felt that as women, they couldn't or weren't allowed to influence decisions in public spaces. Lack of permission or support from the husband or family to participate in these forums was a reason cited by 8 percent of the sample.

TABLE 83. If Respondent Participates in Gram Sabha Meetings

If Respondent Participates in Gram Sabha Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	239	80.2	82.7	82.7
Yes	50	16.8	17.3	100.0
Total	289	97.0	100.0	
Missing Values	9	3.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 84. If Respondent Takes Part in Decisions/ Influences Others' Opinions at Gram Sabha

If Respondent Makes Decisions/ Influences Others at Gram Sabha Meetings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	21	7.0	7.3	7.3
Yes	27	9.1	9.4	16.7
Not Applicable	239	80.2	83.3	100.0
Total	287	96.3	100.0	
Missing Values	11	3.7		
Total	298	100.0		

A majority of the women – 83 percent – do not attend Gram Sabha meetings and about 50 women (17 percent of the sample) reported that they did. When those who attend were asked whether they participate in decision making processes and influence others decisions in the forum, just about 9 percent of the total (or a little more than half of the women who attend) felt that they could while 7 percent felt that they could not do so.

TABLE 85. How Respondent Responds to Village-Level Problems or Issues when they arise

How Respondent Deals with Village-Level Problems/ Issues				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Did Nothing	105	35.2	39.2	39.2
Discussed Informally with Family/ Community	26	8.7	9.7	48.9
Discussed/ Strategised with MSK/ Sangha	36	12.1	13.4	62.3
Discussed/ Strategised with Panchayat/ District Official	81	27.2	30.2	92.5
Participated in Dharna/ Campaign/ Registered Complaint	14	4.7	5.2	97.8
Multiple Actions: MSK, Local Authorities, Direct Action	6	2.0	2.2	100.0
Total	268	89.9	100.0	
Missing Values	30	10.1		
Total	298	100.0		

On women's social capital and mobilisation efforts, respondents were asked to recall a village-level problem (or were hypothetically suggested a problem that could affect the village) and what they did when this problem arose. Almost two-fifths (39 percent) said that they did nothing about it because they had no time, didn't think they could make a difference, didn't feel that it was their business, or knew from past efforts that they couldn't do anything about it. Another 10 percent left it at informal discussions with family, neighbours and the community. On the other hand, 13 percent of the women discussed and strategised the issue with MSK staff or sangha women and a good 30 percent – almost one third – discussed these issues with Panchayat leaders or district officials. A smaller percentage of women – 5 percent – took to action with dharnas, campaigns or formal registry of a complaint, and 2 percent said they engaged in action at multiple levels, including discussion with MSK, local authorities and protest.

Interaction with Local Elite/ Leaders

Respondents were asked whether they had interacted with various village-level elite in the past 12 months. If they said that they hadn't interacted with this person, they were asked why and responses were recorded. Similarly, if they had interacted with the person, they were asked whether it was an informal interaction around a social occasion for example, or a formal interaction relating to their position – such as to seek clarification or assistance, to participate in meetings with them, to raise complaints or protests with them and so on. Information on 10 such figures have been recorded below.

TABLE 86. Nature of Interactions with Various Elites in the Past 12 Months

Nature of Interaction With Power Elites						
	Panchayat Leader		Caste Leader		Gouda/ Village Head	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Not Interacted: Position Doesn't Exist/Don't Know if Exists	87	30.0%	72	26.0%	97	35.3%
Not Interacted: Haven't Had the Need So Far	19	6.6%	10	3.6%	13	4.7%
Not Interacted: Lack of Confidence/ Time/ Availability	16	5.5%	11	4.0%	9	3.3%
Not Interacted: Family/ Community Doesn't Allow	8	2.8%	8	2.9%	5	1.8%
Interacted: To Exchange Pleasantries/ At Social Events	31	10.7%	31	11.2%	25	9.1%
Interacted: Formally Relating to Their Position/ Seek Info	129	44.5%	145	52.3%	126	45.8%
Total	290	100.0%	277	100.0%	275	100.0%

Thirty percent of the sample said that they hadn't interacted with a Panchayat president because a person of this position didn't exist in their village or they didn't know who this person is. A few respondents gave reasons such as not having the need, not having the time or confidence, and not being allowed to by their families or communities. Of the half of the sample who had interacted with a Panchayat president, 11 percent did so on informal occasions such as at village or social occasions and a good 45 percent did so relating to the position and responsibilities of the Panchayat leader.

One-quarter of the sample said that they didn't know who a caste leader was or that such a position didn't exist in their village. Very few hadn't interacted with a caste leader for other reasons and about 11 percent had interacted with the person on informal occasions. Just about half the sample – 52 percent reported interacting with a caste leader to seek assistance, raise issues or ask questions relating to his/her position. Similarly, with the gouda, or village head, a third of the sample said that a person of this position didn't exist in their village or they didn't know who this person was, and another 10 percent said that they hadn't interacted with the person because of a lack of time, lack of confidence, lack of freedom from household members and not having the need to. Forty six percent said that they had interacted with the Gouda to bring up complaints or seek help.

Nature of Interaction With Power Elites								
	Headmaster		Anganwadi Teacher		Moneylender		Village Accountant	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Not Interacted: Position Doesn't Exist/ Don't Know if Exists	62	21.2%	47	18.4%	111	39.6%	109	42.1%
Not Interacted: Haven't Had the Need So Far	7	2.4%	10	3.9%	3	1.1%	9	3.5%
Not Interacted: Lack of Confidence/ Time/ Availability	3	1.0%	1	0.4%	3	1.1%	18	6.9%
Not Interacted: Family/ Community Doesn't Allow	3	1.0%	5	2.0%	2	0.7%	4	1.5%
Interacted: To Exchange Pleasantries/ At Social Events	13	4.4%	16	6.3%	5	1.8%	5	1.9%
Interacted: Formally Relating to Their Position/ Seek Info	205	70.0%	177	69.1%	156	55.7%	114	44.0%
Total	293	100.0%	256	100.0%	280	100.0%	259	100.0%

Twenty one percent said that they didn't know who the headmaster/ mistress is or that such a position didn't exist in the village, while about the same percent (18) said this about the Anganwadi teacher. One woman reported that she hadn't interacted with the Anganwadi teacher because the person was of a different caste. A few women hadn't had the need to so far (2 and 4 percent respectively) and some had interacted on informal occasions – 4 percent in the case of the headmaster/ mistress and 6 percent in the case of the Anganwadi teacher. A majority of the sample had interacted with the headmaster/ mistress as well as with an Anganwadi teacher on formal reasons including at trainings and meetings, relating to their position, to raise questions, etc.

About 40 percent of the sampled women said that a moneylender didn't exist in the village or they didn't know who this person was. Very few reported not interacting with a moneylender for various reasons and a good number – 56 percent – had interacted with a moneylender in relation to his position. With regard to the village accountant, 42 percent didn't know who this person was or if the position existed in the village. About 7 percent said they did not have the opportunity or that the person was not available in the village, while about 4 percent said they had no need thus far. On the other hand, 44 percent of the sample reported interacting with the village accountant in relation to his position or to seek assistance or clarification.

Nature of Interaction With Power Elites						
	Land Records Official		Religious Leader		Zamindar/ Land Owner	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Not Interacted: Position Doesn't Exist/Don't Know if Exists	114	40.9%	58	20.9%	110	40.0%
Not Interacted: Haven't Had the Need So Far	21	7.5%	9	3.2%	6	2.2%
Not Interacted: Lack of Confidence/ Time/ Availability	33	11.8%	8	2.9%	3	1.1%
Not Interacted: Family/ Community Doesn't Allow	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%
Interacted: To Exchange Pleasantries/ At Social Events	71	25.4%	85	30.7%	29	10.5%
Interacted: Formally Relating to Their Position/ Seek Info	38	13.6%	115	41.5%	125	45.5%
Total	279	100.0%	277	100.0%	275	100.0%

Close to half of the sampled women – 41 percent – said that they didn't know who a land records official was, or weren't sure if the person existed in their village. Almost 12 percent said that they lacked the confidence, time or the official was not available and so they were unable to interact with him, while 8 percent said they hadn't had the need to. Interestingly, of those who had interacted with this official, more had done so on informal occasions – 26 percent – than for formal reasons relating to the position – 14 percent. One-fifth of the respondents were not sure if a religious leader existed in the village but almost 1/3rd had interacted with this person on informal occasions such as at gatherings, social events or to exchange pleasantries. A good 42 percent had interacted with a religious leader in relation to his/ her position. With the Zamindar (landowner), responses fell on both extremes – 40 percent were not sure who this person was or if the position existed in the village. On the other end of the spectrum, 46 percent had interacted with a Zamindar in relation to his/her position such as to seek employment or assistance.

Respondent's Perceptions on Voting and Political Leadership

TABLE 87. If Respondent Voted in the Past Election

If Respondent Voted in the Past Election				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	7	2.3	2.4	2.4
Yes	285	95.6	97.6	100.0
Total	292	98.0	100.0	
Missing Values	6	2.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 88. Factors Affecting Respondent's Vote for a Candidate

Factors Affecting Respondents Vote		
	Frequency	Table %
I Am Told Whom To Vote For	9	(3.1%)
I Must Identify with the Party/ Person	92	(31.3%)
Person/ Party Must Share My Background	58	(19.7%)
Person Must be Genuine/ Party Must Have Good Ethics	126	(42.9%)
Person/ Party Must Understand/Meet Development Issues	204	(69.4%)
Person/ Party Must Understand/ Meet Gender Issues	10	(3.4%)
Total	294	(100.0%)

Almost the entire sample of women had voted in the past election – 98 percent of the total and a mere 2 percent had not voted. Respondents were asked to give all the characteristics that they look for in the person or political party they vote for. A majority – 69 percent – felt that the candidate or party must understand local issues, provide facilities and meet local development needs. Another significant factor was the values or ethics of the political party, something that 43 percent of the sample felt was an important criterion. The ability to identify with the person or party was considered important to 31 percent of the sample as was the need to have a common religion, caste or shared background (20 percent). An interest in gender issues was mentioned by very few respondents – just about 3 percent of the sample.

TABLE 89. If Respondent has Thought about Getting Involved in Politics

If Respondent has Thought About Being a Political Leader				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	232	77.9	78.4	78.4
Yes	64	21.5	21.6	100.0
Total	296	99.3	100.0	
Missing Values	2	0.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 90. Reason Why Respondent Has Not Thought about Political Leadership

Reason Why Respondent has Not Thought About Political Leadership				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Interested/ Too Many Responsibilities	73	24.5	26.5	26.5
Household Members Won't Allow	18	6.0	6.5	33.1
Community Won't Allow Because I'm a Woman	5	1.7	1.8	34.9
Community Won't Allow Because I'm a Dalit	3	1.0	1.1	36.0
Community Won't Allow/ I Can't Because I'm Poor	57	19.1	20.7	56.7
Don't Have Leadership Qualities/ Influence/ Knowledge	29	9.7	10.5	67.3
Multiple Reasons, Mainly Poverty	13	4.4	4.7	72.0
Don't Know/ Can't Say	13	4.4	4.7	76.7
Not Applicable	64	21.5	23.3	100.0
Total	275	92.3	100.0	
Missing Values	23	7.7		
Total	298	100.0		

While voting behaviour is high in this sample, three-fourths of the respondents (78 percent) have not themselves considered taking up political leadership. The main reasons cited in the table is the lack of inclination or time (27 percent felt so) and the inability to do so because of poverty and the lack of a strong financial backing (21 percent). 11 percent felt that they didn't have the qualities or networks required to be a leader and a few mentioned gender or caste considerations as a hindrance. Interestingly, though, 22 percent of the sample had considered taking up political leadership activities.

TABLE 91. Reason Why Respondent Thinks Women Make Better Leaders than Men

Reason Why Women are Better Leaders than Men				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Women Understand Women's Issues Better	78	26.2	27.3	27.3
Women Understand Community Issues Better	53	17.8	18.5	45.8
Women's Experiences Make Better Leaders/Address All Needs	43	14.4	15.0	60.8
Women Are More Efficient/ Capable/ Less Corrupt	25	8.4	8.7	69.6
Women, Unlike Men, Don't Care Only About Power or Prestige	3	1.0	1.0	70.6
Multiple Reasons	39	13.1	13.6	84.3
Not Applicable	45	15.1	15.7	100.0
Total	286	96.0	100.0	
Missing Values	12	4.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 92. Reason Why Respondent Thinks Men Make Better Leaders than Women

Reason Why Men are Better Leaders than Women				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Men Are Born Leaders/ Innate Capacities	7	2.3	2.4	2.4
Men Have Wider Contacts/ Influence	6	2.0	2.1	4.5
Men Are More Respected By Everyone	4	1.3	1.4	5.9
Men Have Greater Mobility in Public Spaces	21	7.0	7.3	13.3
Both Are Same: Men and Women are Both Good Leaders	7	2.3	2.4	15.7
Not Applicable	241	80.9	84.3	100.0
Total	286	96.0	100.0	
Missing Values	12	4.0		
Total	298	100.0		

Respondents were asked whether they thought that men make better leaders than women or vice-versa. About 81 percent believed that women make better leaders than men, while 16 percent of the sample believed that men are in fact better leaders. The reasons cited by the former group included the view that women understand women's issues (27 percent) and community issues (19 percent) better, are more capable and efficient than men (9 percent) and hold life experiences which make them better leaders (15 percent). On the other hand, the small percentage that believed that men make better leaders felt so on account of the view that men had greater mobility and freedom in public places (7 percent), are born leaders (2 percent) and have greater contacts and influence (2 percent). Interestingly, 2 percent of the sample felt that men and women are both 'equal' when it came to leadership.

Decision-Making in the Household

Various decisions typically made in the household were presented to the respondents and they were asked who had made these decisions in the respondent's house, if such decisions had been made, and whether the respondent was able to participate in the decision making process and influence others' perspectives.

TABLE 93. Who Makes Key Decisions in the Household

Who Made Key Decisions in the Household								
	Education of Children		Marriage of Children		Own Health		Division of Labour	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No Decisions Made	7	2.5%	13	5.1%	1	0.3%	4	1.4%
Self	111	39.2%	87	34.0%	112	38.5%	182	63.0%
Self and Husband/ Other Household Members	95	33.6%	81	31.6%	24	8.2%	39	13.5%
Other Household Members Without Respondent	70	24.7%	75	29.3%	154	52.9%	64	22.1%
Total	283	100.0%	256	100.0%	291	100.0%	289	100.0%

Where child education is concerned, the respondent made all key decisions in 39 percent of the cases, while the respondent along with her husband or other household members made the decision in one third cases (34 percent). In about a quarter of the cases, though, the respondent was not involved in the decision making process. With decision-making on children's marriage, the responses between those who had made the decisions themselves, those who had made decisions along with other household members and those who were excluded from the decision-making process were roughly equal at 34, 32 and 29 percents respectively. Interestingly, when asked who made decisions on respondent's own health, while 39 percent said that they made these decisions themselves, more than half the sample – 53 percent – reported that they were not involved in decisions relating to their own health and bodies. The situation is significantly different with the division of labour and responsibilities in the household, where almost two-thirds – 63 percent – made the decisions on this aspect and just about one-fifth (22 percent) was excluded from the decision making process.

Who Made Key Decisions in the Household								
	Daily Household Expenses		Purchase of Durables		Purchase of Assets		Taking Out Loans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No Decisions Made	3	1.0%	4	1.4%	62	20.9%	3	1.1%
Self	161	55.1%	147	51.6%	67	22.6%	93	33.5%
Self and Husband/ Other Household Members	23	7.9%	34	11.9%	69	23.3%	75	27.0%
Other Household Members Without Respondent	105	36.0%	100	35.1%	98	33.1%	107	38.5%
Total	292	100.0%	285	100.0%	296	100.0%	278	100.0%

On daily household expenses, 55 percent or half of the respondents made key decisions by themselves, while about 8 percent made decisions with others in the household and 36 percent were not involved in the decision-making process at all. On larger household purchases such as on durable items, about the same divide was observed with 52 percent making decisions themselves but another 35 percent being excluded from the decision making process. Given the low asset ownership observed in earlier tables, 21 percent reported that they had not made any decisions relating to the purchase or sale of assets. Where such decisions had been made, 23 percent said that they were the key decision makers and the same percent said that they made decisions along with the husband or family member. In exactly one-third cases, the respondents were not involved in decision making on household assets. Finally, on decisions relating to loans for household or business expenses, 34 percent said that they were the key decision makers, 27 percent said that they made decisions on loans with other household members and 39 percent said that they were excluded from the decision making process.

TABLE 94. If Respondent Participates in Decisions/ Influences Others in Household Decisions

If Respondent Influences/ Controls Decisions in the Household								
	Child Education		Marriage of Children		Own Health		Division of Labour	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No/ Never	19	6.9%	12	4.8%	10	3.6%	15	5.3%
Yes/ Frequently	250	90.6%	224	90.0%	268	96.1%	265	93.3%
Not Applicable	7	2.5%	13	5.2%	1	0.4%	4	1.4%
Total	276	100.0%	249	100.0%	279	100.0%	284	100.0%

Regardless of who made the decision in the household on various issues, respondents were asked whether they have the ability to participate in the process and influence others decisions. In the case of child education and the marriage of children a majority of the respondents said that they were frequently able to participate in the decision making process – 91 and 90 percent respectively. Although a large percentage of the respondents had others making decisions for them on their own health, 96 percent reported being able to participate in the process and influence others. Similarly, 93 percent felt that they could influence others in decisions relating to the division of labour in the household.

If Respondent Influences/ Controls Decisions in the Household								
	Household Expenses		Purchase of Durables		Purchase of Assets		Taking Out Loans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No/ Never	15	5.2%	10	3.5%	15	5.1%	15	5.5%
Yes/ Frequently	271	94.1%	269	95.4%	215	73.4%	255	93.4%
Not Applicable	2	0.7%	3	1.1%	63	21.5%	3	1.1%
Total	288	100.0%	282	100.0%	293	100.0%	273	100.0%

In all cases except decisions relating to assets, a high percentage of respondents reported being able to influence others and participate in decision making – 94 percent in the case of decisions on household expenses, 96 percent in the case of purchase of durables and 93 percent in the case of taking loans. Where household assets are concerned, a lower number of 73 percent reported that they participated in decision making, but this is largely because in almost one-fifth of the cases, no decisions were made on asset purchases.

Overall, even in households where the respondent does not make decisions by themselves on various issues, they largely tend to be involved in the process and can contribute their opinions and perspectives.

TABLE 95. If Respondent Has Control Over Decisions Relating to her Savings

If Respondent Has Control Over Savings				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No/ Never	65	21.8	31.4	31.4
Yes/ Frequently	142	47.7	68.6	100.0
Total	207	69.5	100.0	
Missing	91	30.5		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 96. If Respondent Has Control Over Her Self-Earned Income

If Respondent Has Control Over Self-Earned Income				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No/ Never	62	20.8	27.1	27.1
Yes/ Frequently	167	56.0	72.9	100.0
Total	229	76.8	100.0	
Missing	69	23.2		
Total	298	100.0		

More than two-thirds of the sample reported that they had control over their savings and related decisions, while the remaining one-third (31 percent) felt that they didn't have complete control. Where own income is concerned, a greater percent of almost 73 percent said that they have control over their income and are able to retain it in order to make decisions, although 27 percent did not have control over their income.

Ownership and Control over Assets

TABLE 97. How Respondent Obtained Various Assets

How Respondent Obtained Various Assets										
	Irrigated Land		Barren Land		House or Building		Livestock		Jewellery	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Doesn't Own the Asset	286	96.6%	271	91.9%	240	81.1%	243	82.7%	156	52.7%
Inherited/Gifted From Parents	6	2.0%	4	1.4%	12	4.1%	15	5.1%	63	21.3%
Inherited/ Gifted from Husband/ In-laws	1	0.3%	11	3.7%	14	4.7%	10	3.4%	36	12.2%
Purchased from the Market/ Loan Taken for Purchase	0	0 %	1	0.3%	3	1.0%	21	7.1%	41	13.9%
Received Through Transfer/ Scheme/ MSK Sangha Loan	3	1.0%	8	2.7%	27	9.1%	5	1.7%	0	0%
Total	296	100.0%	295	100.0%	296	100.0%	294	100.0%	296	100.0%

The respondent's ownership of various assets was traced in terms of how the respondent had obtained the asset. In the case of land – irrigated or barren land – ownership levels were in general low, with 97 and 92 percent saying that they didn't own the asset. Of the small percentage who did own land, it had been obtained through various means including inheritance from parents, husband or in-laws, and transfer from the government. Where a house or building is concerned, 81 percent didn't own this asset, 4 percent had obtained it from their parents, 5 percent from their husbands and 9 percent through government schemes. Of the 13 percent who own livestock, most tend to have purchased it from the market or through loans (7 percent) or have received it from their parents (5 percent). As expected, jewellery ownership is highest among all asset ownership, with just about half the sample owning this asset and 53 percent reporting they did not. One-fifth obtained it from their parents (21 percent), while about equal numbers obtained it from their in-laws or husband or through purchase in the market.

TABLE 98. If Respondent Has Control Over Various Assets

If Respondent Has Control Over the Use and Sale of Various Assets										
	Irrigated Land		Barren Land		House or Building		Livestock		Jewellery	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No/ Never	0	0%	7	2.4%	15	5.1%	13	4.4%	33	11.2%
Yes/ Frequently	9	3.0%	16	5.4%	39	13.3%	39	13.2%	105	35.7%
Not Applicable	288	97.0%	271	92.2%	240	81.6%	243	82.4%	156	53.1%
Total	297	100.0%	294	100.0%	294	100.0%	295	100.0%	294	100.0%

Regardless of ownership, respondents were asked if they had control over the asset, defined in terms of making decisions on the use of the asset as well as the sale of the asset. Of the few who owned irrigated land, all said that they had control over the use or sale of the land, but of those who owned barren land, 5 percent said they had control whereas 2 percent reported that they did not. With both building/house and with livestock, about 13 percent said they have control over the use or sale of the asset, and roughly 5 percent reported that they did not. The pattern of higher control is reflected in use or sale of jewellery, with 36 percent claiming that they had complete control but 11 percent reporting that they didn't.

Respondent's Perceptions on Marriage and Childbearing

TABLE 99. Ideal Age at Marriage for a Woman

Ideal Age at Marriage According to Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less Than 18 Years	31	10.4	10.5	10.5
18 - 20 Years	250	83.9	84.7	95.3
21 Years and Above	14	4.7	4.7	100.0
Total	295	99.0	100.0	
Missing	3	1.0		
Total	298	100.0		

Most respondents – almost 84 percent – when asked the ideal age at marriage is for a girl, reported the legal age of 18 years and thereabouts. Almost 11 percent of the sample, however, reported ages under the legal age, with some respondents going as low as 12 or 14 years. A small percentage felt that the ideal age is between 21-25 years.

TABLE 100. Ideal Number of Children a Woman Should Have

Ideal Number of Children According to Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	1	0.3	0.3	0.3
1	30	10.1	10.3	10.6
2	254	85.2	87.0	97.6
3	7	2.3	2.4	100.0
Total	292	98.0	100.0	
Missing	6	2.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 101. Number of Children the Respondent Has

Number of Children the Respondent Has				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	9	3.0	3.1	3.1
1-2 children	144	48.3	50.0	53.1
3-4 children	106	35.6	36.8	89.9
5 or more children	29	9.7	10.1	100.0
Total	288	96.6	100.0	
Missing	10	3.4		
Total	298	100.0		

A small number of respondents felt that women should ideally have no children or only one child (10 percent), but the majority – 87 percent – responded that women should have 2 children in the ideal scheme of things. Very few women felt that women should have 3 children (2 percent) and none reflected numbers higher than this. When compared to the actual number of children that the women have, we find that just about half the sample fits this ideal number, at 50 percent, with almost half having borne more than the number of children they think is ideal. Thirty seven percent had 3-4 children and 10 percent had 5 or more children, the highest number being 9 children.

TABLE 102. Ideal Spacing between Birth of Children

Ideal Spacing Between Births According to Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	4	1.3	1.4	1.4
2	67	22.5	22.8	24.1
3	166	55.7	56.5	80.6
4	27	9.1	9.2	89.8
5	29	9.7	9.9	99.7
6	1	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	294	98.7	100.0	
Missing	4	1.3		
Total	298	100.0		

When asked what is the ideal number of years a couple should give between the birth of children, more than half of the sample (57 percent) said that the couple should give 3 years, while a quarter (23 percent) said the couple should give 2 years. Some reflected a longer spacing between births with 9 percent saying that the couple should wait 4 years and 10 percent saying the couple should wait 5 years.

TABLE 103. Best Family Planning Method According to the Respondent

Best Family Planning Method According to the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rhythm Method	4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Condoms	7	2.3	2.4	3.7
Sterilisation/ Operation	265	88.9	90.1	93.9
IUD/ CopperT	5	1.7	1.7	95.6
Contraceptive Pills	6	2.0	2.0	97.6
Don't Know/ Can't Say	7	2.3	2.4	100.0
Total	294	98.7	100.0	
Missing	4	1.3		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 104. Worst Family Planning Method According to the Respondent

Worst Family Planning Method According to the Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Condoms	3	1.0	1.2	1.2
Sterilisation/ Operation	6	2.0	2.4	3.6
IUD/ CopperT	126	42.3	49.8	53.4
Contraceptive Pills	81	27.2	32.0	85.4
Injection	4	1.3	1.6	87.0
Family Planning Isn't Good/ Safe	11	3.7	4.3	91.3
Don't Know/ Can't Say	22	7.4	8.7	100.0
Total	253	84.9	100.0	
Missing	45	15.1		
Total	298	100.0		

Despite the relatively high number of years of spacing between child births, the most preferred method of family planning or contraception was sterilisation, with almost 90 percent believing this to be the best method. Very small percentages of women – roughly 2 percent in each case – felt that condoms or oral contraceptive pills were the best method. In fact, when asked what the least preferred method of family planning is, half the respondents (50 percent) felt the an Intrauterine Device (IUD) was the worst and a third (32 percent) felt that oral contraceptive pills were the worst method. Four percent felt that family planning itself was not a good idea and 9 percent didn't know which the worst was.

TABLE 105. Ideal Decision-Makers on Family Planning

Ideal Family Planning Decision Making According to Respondent				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Household Members/ Women/ Elders	25	8.4	8.5	8.5
Husband	38	12.8	12.9	21.4
Woman Herself	115	38.6	39.1	60.5
Husband and Wife Together	116	38.9	39.5	100.0
Total	294	98.7	100.0	
Missing	4	1.3		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 106. Who Made Decisions on Family Planning in the Respondent's Case

Who Made Decisions on Family Planning in the Respondent's Case				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
It Was Unplanned	28	9.4	9.9	9.9
Household Members/ Women/ Elders	26	8.7	9.2	19.1
Husband	59	19.8	20.8	39.9
Self	119	39.9	42.0	82.0
Husband and Wife Together	48	16.1	17.0	98.9
Not Applicable	3	1.0	1.1	100.0
Total	283	95.0	100.0	
Missing	15	5.0		
Total	298	100.0		

Respondents were asked who should ideally make decisions on family planning or childbearing. Almost equal numbers – about 40 percent – felt that the woman should make these decisions herself or the

husband and wife should make these decisions together. Some – 13 percent – felt that the husband should make the decision while another 9 percent felt that other household members and women should make these decisions. Comparing this to the actual way in which it happened in the respondent's case, we find that 10 percent of the cases were unplanned and in another 9 percent, household members made decisions for the woman. In a higher than ideal number – 21 percent – the husband solely made decisions on having children, and in a large number – 42 percent of the cases – the respondent alone made decisions. Though 40 percent believed that a couple should make decisions together, in only 17 percent of the cases did this happen.

Perceptions on Gender and Violence against Women

TABLE 107. Respondent's Perception of Injustices Faced in Society by Women

The Kinds of Injustices Faced by Women in Society		
	Frequency	Table %
Women Face No Injustices/ Men Face More Injustices	29	(9.8%)
Health Related Problems (Especially Women's Health)	10	(3.4%)
Lack of Education and Opportunities	31	(10.5%)
Lack of Time/ Too Many Responsibilities	53	(17.9%)
Unequal Wages/ Unequal Asset Ownership/ Poverty	19	(6.4%)
Domestic Violence/ Husband's Torture/ Alcoholism	173	(58.4%)
Lack of Security Outside the Home/ Rape/ Harassment	57	(19.3%)
Harassment by Family Relating to Dowry/ Marriage/ Childbirth	144	(48.6%)
All Kinds of Injustices	3	(1.0%)
Don't Know	15	(5.1%)
Total	296	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked whether they felt that women face injustices in society and if so, what kinds of injustices they believed women face. Multiple responses were given by each respondent. Ten percent of the sample felt that on the whole, women do not face injustices in society and men in fact face as much or more injustices in society. Health problems, especially those relating to women's health, were felt as an issue by 3 percent of the sample. Lack of education and opportunities (11 percent), lack of time due to multiple responsibilities (18 percent), and lack of equal wages or share in assets (6 percent) were some of the reasons cited by the women. A major injustice that more than half the sample quoted (58 percent) is domestic violence and abuse, harassment from the husband or alcoholism of the husband. Harassment from other household members due to insufficient dowry, inability to bear a child or a son, being unmarried, divorced or widowed, for having too many children and so on was also a major problem faced by women according to 49 percent of the sample. Lack of security and mobility in public spaces, sexual harassment and rape were considered a problem by 19 percent, or almost one-fifth of the sample.

TABLE 108. Respondent's Perception of the Kind of Women Who Aren't Respected by Society

The Kinds of Women Who Aren't Respected by Society		
	Frequency	Table %
Those Who Don't Have Children/ Sons	14	(4.8%)
Those Who are Divorced/ Separated/ Unmarried/ Widowed/ Raped	23	(7.8%)
Those Who Are Not Subservient to Husband/ In-laws	84	(28.6%)
Those With Bad Character/ Talk Loudly/ Move Freely	262	(89.1%)
Those in Relationship with Other Men/ Consume Alcohol	6	(2.0%)
Those Who Are Poor/Rich/Uneducated/ Going to School	14	(4.8%)
Don't Know/ Can't Say	10	(3.4%)
Total	294	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked which kind of women they thought did not receive respect in society and multiple responses were given. Personal characteristics such as those with a 'bad' character, those who talk too much or too loudly, move around freely with others, travel to unknown places – were felt to lack respect in society by 89 percent of the sample. A high number of respondents – 29 percent – felt that those who do not obey their husbands or in-laws and aren't subservient to them are not respected. Other reasons cited by a few respondents each related to a woman's sexuality, marital status or childbearing. Some responses tended to be in extremes where for example, some respondents felt that those who are very poor aren't respected, while others felt that those who are rich aren't, some felt that the uneducated women aren't but others felt that those who go to school aren't, and some felt that dark people aren't respected – these accounted for 5 percent of all responses.

TABLE 109. If Wife Beating Occurs in the Village

If Respondent Reported that Wife Beating Occurs in Her Village				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No/Never	132	44.3	45.2	45.2
Yes/ Frequently	160	53.7	54.8	100.0
Total	292	98.0	100.0	
Missing	6	2.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 110. Respondent's Perception of When it is Okay for a Husband to Beat/Abuse his Wife

When is it Okay for a Husband to Beat/Abuse his Wife?		
	Frequency	Table %
It Is Never Okay To Abuse A Woman	23	(7.8%)
If a Wife Fails in Household Responsibilities	106	(35.9%)
If a Wife is Disrespectful/ Disregards Husband/ In-laws	134	(45.4%)
If Natal Family Does Not Give Enough Dowry/ Family Problems	20	(6.8%)
If Wife is Unfaithful or Husband Suspects So	134	(45.4%)
If Husband Has Consumed Alcohol	133	(45.1%)
If Wife Asks for Money/ Doesn't Handover Salary	12	(4.1%)
Simply/ For No Particular Reason	16	(5.4%)
Don't Know	5	(1.7%)
Total	295	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked if domestic violence/ wife beating occurred in their village. Fifty five percent claimed that it happened every now and then or frequently, while 45 percent claimed that it never or rarely happened. When asked when they thought it was okay for a husband to beat or abuse his wife,

multiple reasons were given. Only 8 percent of the sample responded that it is never alright for a husband to abuse or beat his wife. Of the rest, almost half (45 percent) felt that it was okay if the wife was disrespectful or disobedient to her husband or her in-laws; the same percent felt that wife beating was okay when a wife was unfaithful to her husband or was suspected of being so; and again the same 45 percent of the sample felt that it was okay if the husband had consumed alcohol. Failing in domestic responsibilities such as childcare, cooking, etc was considered grounds for beating by 36 percent of the sample. A few women felt that reasons like lack of dowry or family problems or just any reason could be used to justify wife abuse.

TABLE 111. How Should a Victim of Abuse/ Beatings React?

How Should a Woman Victim of Domestic Abuse React				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Keep Quiet About It/ Bear With It	97	32.6	33.2	33.2
Try and Change Her Behaviours	15	5.0	5.1	38.4
Negotiate with Her Husband	43	14.4	14.7	53.1
Seek Intervention of Parents, In-laws or Relatives	19	6.4	6.5	59.6
Seek External Support from Counselor/ Outside Party	18	6.0	6.2	65.8
Report to Police/ Local Authorities/ Take Legal Action	52	17.4	17.8	83.6
Seek Support from Sangha Members/ Other Women	25	8.4	8.6	92.1
Try a Combination of Strategies	23	7.7	7.9	100.0
Total	292	98.0	100.0	
Missing	6	2.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 112. How Should the Community React to Incidents of Wife Abuse/ Beating

How Should the Community React to Wife Abuse?		
	Frequency	Table %
Community Should Not/ Cannot Respond	10	(3.5%)
Depends on the Frequency of Beatings	9	(3.1%)
Depends on Whether the Victim Wants the Cmty to Intervene	101	(34.9%)
Community Should Talk to Family Members of Couple	182	(63.0%)
Community Should Talk to/ Deal With Wife and/or Husband	109	(37.7%)
Community Should Inform Sangha Members	2	(.7%)
Community Should Report Issue to Local Authorities/Panchayat	35	(12.1%)
Total	289	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked how women victims of wife beating or domestic abuse should react to it. One third of the sample felt that the woman should keep quiet about it or bear with it as no one would listen or nothing else could be done about it. About 15 percent felt that she should try and negotiate with her husband and another 7 percent felt that talking to in-laws or family members may help. Taking legal action and reporting the incident to the police was considered as an option for 18 percent of the sample, while seeking the support of sangha members was suggested by 9 percent of the sample.

In contrast, when asked how the community should react to a case of wife beating or abuse, multiple responses were given. The largest percentage of responses were in the direction of talking to family

members of the couple and getting them to intervene – 63 percent felt this way – or talking to the wife and/or husband and dealing with them directly – 38 percent felt this. Interestingly, more than 40 percent of the responses were in the direction of not responding or responding only if the frequency of abuse was high or if the victim wanted the community to intervene (35 percent felt this way). Twelve percent of the sample believed that the issue should be reported to the local authorities or dealt with in the Panchayat.

Respondent's Mobility and Time Use

TABLE 113. If Respondent is Free to Travel within the Village

If Respondent is Free to Travel Within the Village				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	8	2.7	2.7	2.7
Yes	285	95.6	97.3	100.0
Total	293	98.3	100.0	
Missing	5	1.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 114. The Kinds of Purposes for Which the Respondent Travels Around in Her Village

Purposes for Which the Respondent Travels Within the Village		
	Frequency	Table %
All Purposes	44	(15.6%)
Work Related Purposes	201	(71.3%)
Household Responsibilities	96	(34.0%)
Health	29	(10.3%)
Leisure/ Entertainment	71	(25.2%)
Visit Relatives/ Friends	81	(28.7%)
Participate in Sangha Activities	85	(30.1%)
Collect Water	116	(41.1%)
Total	282	(100.0%)

Almost all of the respondents said that they are free to move around within the village and only 3 percent said that they faced restrictions on their mobility within the village. Of the various purposes for which they moved around within the village, 16 percent said they did so for all purposes, while a majority of the responses were in the nature of work-related responsibilities (71 percent) or household responsibilities (34 percent). Collection of water also accounts for a significant reason to move around within the village – 41 percent mentioned this – and of course, sangha-related activities were a reason to travel around within the village for 30 percent of the sample. Leisure activities including entertainment (going to the movies, drama, temple, village events and so on) accounted for 25 percent, and visiting relatives and friends accounted for 29 percent.

TABLE 115. If Respondent is Free to Travel Outside of Her Village

If Respondent is Free to Travel Outside of the Village				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	22	7.4	7.5	7.5
Yes	273	91.6	92.5	100.0
Total	295	99.0	100.0	
Missing	3	1.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 116. The Kinds of Purposes for Which the Respondent Travels Outside of Her Village

Purposes for Which the Respondent Travels Outside of the Village		
	Frequency	Table %
All Purposes	13	(4.8%)
Work Related Purposes	68	(25.1%)
Household Responsibilities	89	(32.8%)
Health	90	(33.2%)
Leisure/ Entertainment	180	(66.4%)
Visit Relatives	78	(28.8%)
Participate in Sangha Activities	117	(43.2%)
Total	271	(100.0%)

Again, almost all respondents were able to travel freely outside of their village, though a slightly higher percentage – 8 percent – reported restrictions on their mobility. The purposes for which they were free to travel outside of their village varied – leisure and entertainment activities were high on the list – 66 percent reported traveling out of their village to attend community events, for religious purposes or to visit friends and another 29 percent to visit relatives. Sangha activities also constitute a major reason to travel outside the village, with 43 percent mentioning this activity. Aside from work (25 percent) and household responsibilities (33 percent), health-related factors accounted for a major reason for travel outside the village, mentioned by 33 percent of the sample.

TABLE 117. Time of the Day When Respondent reported that she is Free from Work Responsibilities

Time of the Day When the Respondent is Free from Responsibilities				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never Free	33	11.1	15.5	15.5
Mornings	2	0.7	0.9	16.4
Afternoons	57	19.1	26.8	43.2
Evenings	43	14.4	20.2	63.4
Nights	32	10.7	15.0	78.4
Some Hours in a Day	37	12.4	17.4	95.8
Mostly/ Always Free	9	3.0	4.2	100.0
Total	213	71.5	100.0	
Missing	85	28.5		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 118. The Kinds of Leisure Activities Pursued by the Respondent in Free Time

The Kinds of Leisure Activities Pursued by the Respondent		
	Frequency	Table %
No Free Time/ Always Working	5	(1.8%)
Household/ Childcare Activities/ Tasks	21	(7.6%)
Sleeping/ Resting/ Eating	66	(24.0%)
Radio/ Music/ Newspaper/ Television	16	(5.8%)
Hobbies/ Tailoring/ Horticulture/ Agarbatthis	19	(6.9%)
Go to Market to Purchase/ Sell Goods/ Work in Farm	34	(12.4%)
Sangha Activities	49	(17.8%)
Entertainment/ Cinema/ Festivals/ Religious Activities/ Relatives	157	(57.1%)
Total	275	(100.0%)

Respondents were asked which times of the day they tend to be free from work and responsibilities. Sixteen percent reported that they are never free from responsibilities while on the other hand, about 21 percent reported that they are free for some or most hours in the day. Most respondents are free in the afternoons (27 percent) or evenings (20 percent).

Respondents mentioned several leisure activities pursued in free time. A large number of the respondents 57 percent – mentioned that they watch movies, go to the cinema or drama, attend community activities, visit relatives or engage in religious activities. Twenty four percent said they sleep, eat, or take rest during their free time, others – 6 percent – read the newspaper or books, listen to music or the radio, or watch television, while some – 7 percent – pursue hobbies like tailoring, horticulture, making agarbatthis or other products. Interestingly, some women quoted what would be considered as responsibilities as their leisure activities, for example, 8 percent said they use the time to play or take care of their children, cook different foods, do housework and so on; 12 percent said that they use the time to do work on the farm, go to the market or sell goods; and 18 percent mentioned sangha related processes as leisure activities.

Synthesis of Findings on Women's Access to Information, Knowledge Levels, Participation in Village and Household Decisions, and Perceptions on Gender Issues

This section captured a series of perceptions on, knowledge relating to, and access to persons and institutions and decision-making in the household sphere. The findings on these were diverse, where in some cases awareness levels were very high while in others it was extremely low.

In the realm of health, although most of the respondents were not aware of four health institutions or persons they could access, public health sources seem to be most often approached when a health emergency arose in the household. With legal emergencies, a large percent of the sample had not experienced a legal emergency and about three-fourths were not aware of four persons/ institutions they could access in case one arose.

The ease of approaching various sources varied, with a fairly high percentage of the sample finding it easy to approach health sources like a PHC an ANM or a dai, and less than half finding it easy to approach private health sources, taluk or district hospitals, RMPs, Medical Officers or even traditional healers. Approaching the Nyaya Panchayat, caste Panchayat, political leader or village head was seen as a comfortable option by a large percent of the sample in the case of a legal situation, whereas police, lawyers, courts, and social justice committees weren't seen as accessible due to affordability and knowledge reasons. The reasons for difficulty lie in the realm of lack of affordability of the cost of services or bribes, and lack of sufficient information on the person/ institution and procedures to be followed. On a general basis, respondents reported that were most likely to get information on women's health issues or legal issues from Mahila Samakhya sources, government functionaries and informal sources.

Even with information on government schemes and services, Mahila Samakhya is the most likely source, closely followed by written materials like newspapers. Over half the sample had not yet applied for any scheme or service because of information gaps on procedures and formalities or the lack of cooperation from government officials.

Awareness levels on basic health, legal and political participation is mediocre at best, and in not even a single case were more than half the sample aware of such basic knowledge. On some legal and political questions, awareness was less than 10 percent, indicating a huge knowledge gap amongst the sampled women.

The perception on women's need to participate in village-level forum is high among the sangha members, but actual participation levels are low with just about a quarter participating in any village forum, 17 percent attending in gram sabha meetings and just half of those taking part in decisions made at the sabha. The response from women to specific village problems is more active, with about half reporting that they strategise with Mahila Samakhya staff and members or government functionaries or stage campaigns and protests at the village level. Formal interactions with village-elites and leaders are also reasonably high in most cases, particularly headmaster/ mistress, Anganwadi teacher, moneylender and caste leader. Similarly, voting behavior is high with the entire sample almost voting in the last election and all having strong reasons for voting for a particular candidate that are guided by development and ethical concerns. Again, though, we don't see a high number of women expressing interest, confidence or the ability to engage in political leadership, though the majority thought that women make better leaders than men.

Within the household, participation in decision making is much higher especially on division of labour, household purchases and durables. Even when the respondent wasn't the main decision-maker, she almost always was able to express her opinions and influence others decisions. Almost three-fourths reported that they had control over their savings and their self-earned income. Asset ownership by the respondent herself is very low, with the minor exception of jewellery, and most of those who owned assets reported that they had control over the use and sale of the asset.

On average, the ideal age at marriage according to this sample is 18-20 years; the ideal number of children is 2; the ideal spacing in between births being 2-3 years; the ideal kind of family planning method is sterilization; and the ideal decision makers on these issues is the woman herself or with her husband. In actuality, about half the women had 3 or more children and in about 20 percent of the cases, the husband had been the sole decider on family planning.

Finally, respondent's perceptions on gender issues were sought. In terms of the injustices faced by women in society, domestic violence and the husband's alcoholism as well as harassment by household members were quoted as the biggest problems; lack of respect for women was for those women who had bad, loose or immoral character, or who weren't subservient to their husband and in-laws; and wife-beating and abuse was considered okay if the wife was disrespectful to the husband or in-laws, unfaithful to her husband, failed to perform household responsibilities or if the husband was drunk. Barring about 18 percent who felt that a victim of abuse should report the matter to the police and take legal action and 12 percent who felt the community should do so, the majority seemed to think that informal processes of mediation were the way ahead if the victim couldn't just bear with it. Most respondents themselves were free to travel within or beyond the village for work responsibilities, sangha activities or visiting friends and relatives, but many reported that they rarely had free time to engage in any kind of leisure activity.

This section reveals the spectrum of perceptions and awareness on the part of sangha women, where on the one hand, high levels of interaction is seen with village elites, but on the other, there is very low participation in village forum or political forum and low awareness on development issues. In a significant number of cases, the lack of involvement or authority is a reflection of women's lack of knowledge or information that would give them the handle to intervene and influence others. Poverty and numerous responsibilities also come across as a major obstacle, preventing women's effective participation in power structures and decision-making bodies.

IV. Awareness and Use of Information and Communication Technologies

Respondent's Use of Written Media

TABLE 119. Reason Why Respondent Doesn't Read Newspapers

Respondent's Readership of Newspapers, Magazines and Books						
	Newspapers		Magazines		Books	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Doesn't Read: Not Literate	227	86.6%	227	88.0%	230	87.1%
Doesn't Read: Can't Afford	5	1.9%	6	2.3%	7	2.7%
Doesn't Read: Lack of Time	3	1.1%	2	0.8%	1	0.4%
Doesn't Read: Not Allowed To	2	0.8%	2	0.8%	1	0.4%
Doesn't Read: Not Available in the Village	5	1.9%	11	4.3%	3	1.1%
Respondent Currently Reads	20	7.6%	10	3.9%	22	8.3%
Missing	36	12.1%	40	13.4%	34	11.4%
Total	298	100.0%	298	100.0%	298	100.0%

Initially, the question posed was whether respondents read newspapers/ magazines/ books or not, and if so, why. The responses were such that a majority of the respondents did not read any of these, with a very small minority reading these media for information or to learn about current events (between 4 and 8 percent). The variables were modified to capture why they did *not* read. In all 3 cases, as can be seen from the above table, the main reason why the respondent doesn't read newspapers, magazines or books is because they are not literate and cannot read – this was the reason given by more than 85 percent of the women in each case. Lack of availability in the village was a reason cited by 4 percent of the women in the case of magazines and lack of affordability was a reason cited by 2.7 percent in the case of books.

Respondent's Awareness, Ownership, Access and Use of ICTs

TABLE 120. Respondents Awareness of the Purpose of Various ICTs

ICTs	Telephone	Radio	Television	Cable TV	VCD/DVD	Computer
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
No	61 (20.5 %)	36 (12.1 %)	56 (18.8 %)	100 (33.6 %)	195 (65.4 %)	244 (81.9 %)
Yes	236 (79.2 %)	261 (87.6 %)	241 (80.9 %)	196 (65.8 %)	99 (33.2 %)	52 (17.4 %)
Total	297 (99.7 %)	297 (99.7 %)	297 (99.7 %)	296 (99.3 %)	294 (98.7 %)	296 (99.3 %)
Missing	1 (0.3 %)	1 (0.3 %)	1 (0.3 %)	2 (0.7 %)	4 (1.3 %)	2 (0.7 %)
Total	298	298	298	298	298	298

ICTs	Mobile Phone	Tape Player	Still Camera	Video Camera	Helpline
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
No	89 (29.9 %)	48 (16.1 %)	63 (21.1 %)	125 (41.9 %)	275 (92.3 %)
Yes	208 (69.8 %)	249 (83.6 %)	234 (78.5 %)	170 (57.0 %)	18 (6.0 %)
Total	297 (99.7 %)	297 (99.7 %)	297 (99.7 %)	295 (99.0 %)	293 (98.3 %)
Missing	1 (0.3 %)	1 (0.3 %)	1 (0.3 %)	3	5 (1.7 %)
Total	298	298	298	298	298

Respondents were asked a broad question of whether they are aware of the purpose for using various ICT devices. On the whole awareness levels were fairly high for all devices, barring a few such as computers, help lines and VCD/ DVDs. Eighty percent of the respondents reported that they knew what a telephone is used for. A larger number of them – 88 percent – were aware of a radio and why it is used. Similarly, four-fifths of the respondents – 81 percent – knew what a television is used for. But a lesser portion – 2/3rds of the women – were aware of what cable television is about, while 34 percent said they did not know what it is. Compared to the percentage of women who were aware of Cable TV – 66 percent – a similar percentage was not aware of why VCDs and DVDs are used, and those aware of VCDs and DVDs constituted 33 percent of the sample.

More than 80 percent of the respondents did not know what a computer was used for, and just about 17 percent reported being aware of its use. In contrast, 70 percent of the respondents knew what a mobile phone is used for, while 30 percent said that they weren't aware of its purpose. Awareness of tape players was high at 84 percent, with only a small percentage of the respondents – 16 percent – saying that they weren't aware of what a tape player is used for. More than three-fourths of the sample – 79 percent – was aware of the purpose of using a still camera which is higher than the awareness on using a video camera - 42 percent said that they didn't know what it was used for and 52 percent knew. Almost all of the respondents (94 percent) were not aware of what a helpline is used for.

TABLE 121. Ownership and Access to ICTs

	Telephone	Radio	Television	Cable Television	VCD/ DVD	Computer
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
Don't Know/ Not Owned at Home or Village	16 (5.4 %)	35 (11.7 %)	18 (6.0 %)	66 (22.1 %)	191 (64.1 %)	258 (86.6 %)
Own at Home	6 (2 %)	67 (22.5 %)	55 (18.5 %)	41 (13.8 %)	9 (3.0 %)	1 (0.3 %)
Owned by Friend, Relative or Neighbour	141 (47.3 %)	175 (58.7 %)	212 (71.1 %)	165 (55.4 %)	70 (23.5 %)	2 (0.7 %)
Owned by Shopkeeper, Business or NGO	120 (4.3 %)	5 (1.7 %)	4 (1.3 %)	6 (2.0 %)	10 (3.4 %)	6 (2.0 %)
Owned by Village Elite, Government Functionary or Official	7 (2.3 %)	3 (1.0 %)	2 (0.7 %)	4 (1.3 %)	4 (1.3 %)	2 (0.7 %)
Owned by Multiple People in the Village	5 (1.7 %)	7 (2.3 %)	3 (1.0 %)	4 (1.3 %)	0.0 (0 %)	0.0 (0 %)
Total	295 (99 %)	292 (98.0 %)	294 (98.7 %)	286 (96.0 %)	284 (95.3 %)	269 (90.3 %)
Missing	3 (1.0 %)	6 (2.0 %)	4 (1.3 %)	12 (4.0 %)	14 (4.7 %)	29 (9.7 %)
Total	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)

	Mobile Phone	Tape Player	Still Camera	Video Camera
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
No	289 (97.0 %)	243 (81.5 %)	288 (96.6 %)	292 (98.0 %)
Yes	7 (2.3 %)	54 (18.1 %)	7 (2.3 %)	2 (0.7 %)
Total	296 (99.3 %)	297 (99.7 %)	295 (99.0 %)	294 (98.7 %)
Missing	2 (0.7 %)	1 (0.3 %)	3 (1.0 %)	4 (1.3 %)
Total	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)

Ownership and access to ICTs is one of the important criteria in determining use of ICTs. For some technologies, respondents were first asked if they owned the device at home and if not, where they could

access the device if need be, in the village community. For other devices (listed in the second table above), ownership at home alone was captured.

When asked about ownership or access to a telephone, only 2 percent of the respondents said they owned one at home and the majority (more than 80 percent) relied on friends/ relatives or shopkeepers/ business for their access to a phone. A small percentage – around 5 percent – was not sure about where they could access a telephone in the village. The numbers are higher with radios, where almost a quarter – 23 percent – own a radio set at home, while more than half – 60 percent – said that they can access a radio from their friend/ relative/ neighbour's house. Twelve percent did not know who owned a radio set in their village. Less than one-fifth of the sample owns a television at home (19 percent), but as in the case of radio, a large number of the women access televisions in their friends, neighbours or other community members' homes – 72 percent of the sample. Comparatively, almost a quarter of the sample (22 percent) did not know who owned Cable TV in the village, and only 14 percent owned connections it at home. As with the common trend, 58 percent relied on friends, relatives or neighbours to access Cable TV.

Sixty four percent said that they did not know where to access to a VCD or DVD in the village. A quarter – 25 percent – relied on their friend, relative or neighbour for access to VCDs or DVDs and only 3 percent owned these at home. A large majority of the women said that they couldn't or didn't know where they could access a computer within the village (87 percent). The rest relied on various sources, including other NGOs or businesses, government buildings, and informal sources. One woman owned a computer in her household.

When asked whether they owned a mobile phone at home⁸, almost all – 97 percent – said they didn't own one. Ownership of a music player at home is relatively low in this sample, at 18 percent, with a large majority, over 4/5ths not owning this durable item at home. Almost all respondents do not own either still cameras or video cameras at home – the percentages are 97 and 98 respectively not knowing the devices. Interestingly, 2 respondents said that they owned a video camera.

TABLE 122. Respondent's Use of ICTs in the Past 12 Months

	Telephone	Radio	Television	Cable Television	Tape Player
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
Never	103 (34.6 %)	124 (41.6 %)	113 (37.9 %)	153 (51.3 %)	130 (43.6 %)
< Than Once a Month	59 (19.8 %)	7 (2.3 %)	19 (6.4 %)	6 (2.0 %)	18 (6.0 %)
1-3 Times a Month	78 (26.2 %)	13 (4.4 %)	24 (8.1 %)	16 (5.4 %)	10 (3.4 %)
4-7 Times a Month	23 (7.7 %)	10 (3.4 %)	30 (10.1 %)	20 (6.7 %)	11 (3.7 %)
8-30 Times a Month	17 (5.7 %)	14 (4.7 %)	12 (4.0 %)	12 (4.0 %)	16 (5.4 %)
30+Times a Month	5 (1.7 %)	107 (35.9 %)	81 (27.2 %)	65 (21.8 %)	101 (33.9 %)
Total	285 (95.6 %)	275 (92.3 %)	279 (93.6 %)	272 (91.3 %)	286 (96.0 %)
Missing	13 (4.4 %)	23 (7.7 %)	19 (6.4 %)	26 (8.7 %)	12 (4.0%)
Total	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)

⁸ From this point on, for the rest of the ICTs, ownership at home was alone captured, and ownership by others in the village was not.

	VCD/ DVD	Mobile Phone	Computer	Still Camera	Video Camera	Helpline
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
Never	217 (72.8 %)	242 (81.2 %)	260 (87.2 %)	179 (60.1 %)	249 (83.6 %)	280 (94.0 %)
< Than Once a Month	19 (6.4 %)	16 (5.4 %)	5 (1.7 %)	85 (28.5 %)	19 (6.4 %)	3 (1.0 %)
1-3 Times a Month	21 (7.0 %)	6 (2.0 %)	1 (0.3 %)	7 (2.3 %)	0 (0 %)	2 (0.7 %)
4-7 Times a Month	7 (2.3 %)	2 (0.7 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)
8-30 Times a Month	0 (0 %)	1 (0.3 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)
30+Times a Month	11 (3.7 %)	3 (1.0 %)	0 (0 %)	3 (1.0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)
Total	275 (92.3 %)	270 (90.6 %)	266 (89.3 %)	274 (91.9 %)	268 (89.9 %)	285 (95.6 %)
Missing	23 (7.7 %)	28 (9.4 %)	32 (10.7 %)	24 (8.1 %)	30 (10.1 %)	13 (4.4 %)
Total	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)	298 (100 %)

This table traces how frequently respondents have used various ICTs. The time period for recall is the past 12 months.

Despite the lack of availability of a telephone at home, almost 2/3rds of the respondents have used a phone and only 35 percent said they had never used it in the past 12 months. Twenty percent have used it just a few times in the past year, while a quarter – 26 percent – has used it 1-3 times a month. While access to a radio is relatively easier, almost half – 42 percent – have not listened to a radio even once in the past 12 months. On the other extreme, a sizable number – 36 percent – listen to a radio multiple times a day. The sample is thus fairly divided between those who never use a radio, and those who use it on a daily basis. Thirty eight percent said that they hadn't watched television even once in the past 12 months, as shown in the table. Again, similar to the radio, a number of respondents fall on the other end – 27 percent – who said that they viewed television several times a day. A similar contrast exists with Cable TV, with 51 percent having never watched Cable TV in the past 12 months and almost 22 percent watch it with high frequency – every day. Though ownership of a tape player is low in households, use rates are fairly high, with 34 percent (one-third) saying that they listen to a tape/ music player everyday of the month, and close to one-fifth listening to it, but with lesser frequency. Almost half – 44 percent – said they had never used a tape player in the last 12 months.

Compared to radio, television and telephone and tape player, usage levels are rather low where the other ICTs are concerned. The majority of the sample reported that they have not viewed any VCDs or DVDs in the past 12 months (73 percent of the sample), while some had viewed VCDs or DVDs a few times in the past year (6 percent) and some had viewed them 1-3 times a month (7 percent of the total). A good 10 percent said that they have used mobile phones in the past 12 months (despite the low ownership at home), while 81 percent said they hadn't used it at all. Although almost 11 percent of the responses on use of a computer in the past 12 months were not captured, for those where data is available, we find that almost all the respondents said that they hadn't used a computer (87 percent), while a few women had used it a few times in the past year. Usage also is fairly low with still cameras, where 60 percent not having used a camera in the past 12 months and 33 percent have used it a few times in the past year. Eighty four percent haven't used a video camera in the past 12 months, but a small percentage (6 percent) said that they have used it a few times in the past year. Finally, as awareness and access levels are really low with a helpline, usage is also concurrently low, with 94 percent of the women reporting that they haven't used it in the past 12 months. Just about 2 percent have used helpline based services in the past one year.

Usage Patterns of ICTs and Reasons for not Engaging with ICTs

TABLE 123. Respondent's Use of a Telephone for Various Purposes

If Respondent has Used a Telephone for Various Purposes				
	No	Yes	Missing	Total
For Personal Purposes	110 (36.9 %)	186 (62.4 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For Business Purposes	266 (89.3 %)	30 (10.1 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For MSK-Sangha Purposes	224 (75.2 %)	72 (24.2 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For Interacting with the Government	271 (90.9 %)	25 (8.4 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)

TABLE 124. Reason for Not Using a Telephone in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Used Telephone in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Available at Home/ Village	33	11.1	11.7	11.7
High Cost/ Lack of affordability	4	1.3	1.4	13.1
No Time to Use/ Timings are Inconvenient	1	0.3	0.4	13.4
Not Allowed to Use	6	2.0	2.1	15.5
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	44	14.8	15.5	31.1
Not Applicable	195	65.4	68.9	100.0
Total	283	95.0	100.0	
Missing	15	5.0		
Total	298	100.0		

The table reveals the usage patterns for those who have used a telephone in the past 12 months.⁹ Majority of the women – 62 percent – have used a phone for personal purposes, such as calling relatives, friends and others. Ten percent of the sample has used the telephone for purposes related to their occupation or business, while 24 percent said they'd used a telephone to communicate with MSK or other sangha members. A small percentage (8 percent) has used a phone for communicating or interacting with a government person.

Those who didn't use a phone for any of the above purposes were asked why they hadn't done so. The main reason given was that this facility was not available at their homes or in the village, making it inconvenient to use it. Some respondents also felt that they haven't had the need yet or haven't found a telephone useful as yet – 16 percent of the sample. A few women gave other reasons including cost, lack of time and lack of authority to use a telephone.

TABLE 125. Respondent's Viewing of Television for Various Content

If Respondent has Used a Television for Various Content				
	No	Yes	Missing	Total
For Current Events/ News	98 (32.9 %)	198 (66.4 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For Entertainment	110 (37.2 %)	186 (62.4 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For Social and Health Information	246 (82.6 %)	50 (16.8 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For anything that is on the TV	251 (84.8 %)	45 (15.1 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)

⁹ Respondents were asked if they specifically used the phone for these various purposes, and not if someone in the household used the phone for the various purposes.

TABLE 126. Reason Not Viewed Television in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Viewed Television in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Available at Home/ Village	64	21.5	23.2	23.2
High Cost/ Lack of Affordability	2	0.7	0.7	23.9
No Time to Use/ Timings are Inconvenient	6	2.0	2.2	26.1
Not Allowed to Use	1	0.3	0.4	26.4
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	6	2.0	2.2	28.6
Electricity/Power is Infrequent	2	0.7	0.7	29.3
Health Problems	2	0.7	0.7	30.1
Not Applicable	193	64.8	69.9	100.0
Total	276	92.6	100.0	
Missing	22	7.4		
Total	298	100.0		

Almost two-thirds of the respondents view television for current events and news (66 percent) as well as for entertainment purposes such as songs, dramas, soaps, movies, devotional programmes, sports and so on (62 percent). Some women – 17 percent – view social and health related content on the television and some women said they view just about anything that comes on the television (15 percent). While viewership is fairly high, there are several reasons why women do not view the television. The main reason is because it is not available in their homes or in the village and so they lack access to a television set (23 percent). The other reasons such as lack of time, affordability, authority, power supply and reason for use, constitute a small percent of the reasons why respondents said they did not view television.

TABLE 127. Respondent's Viewing of VCDs or DVDs

If Respondent has Viewed VCDs or DVDs for Various Content				
	No	Yes	Missing	Total
For Entertainment	197 (66.1 %)	100 (33.6 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)
For Social, Educational and Health Information	285 (95.6 %)	12 (4.0 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)

TABLE 128. Main Location for Viewing a VCD

Main Location for Viewing a VCD/DVD				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Home	26	8.7	9.4	9.4
Neighbour/ Friend/ Relative	37	12.4	13.4	22.7
Sangha/ MSK Location	3	1.0	1.1	23.8
Community Location	17	5.7	6.1	30.0
Not Applicable	194	65.1	70.0	100.0
Total	277	93.0	100.0	
Missing	21	7.0		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 129. Reason for Not Viewing VCDs or DVDs in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Viewed VCD/ DVD in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Available at Home/ Village	80	26.8	28.8	28.8
High Cost/ Lack of affordability	10	3.4	3.6	32.4
No Time to Use/ Timings are Inconvenient	9	3.0	3.2	35.6
Not Allowed to Use/ Not Comfortable Viewing at Home	6	2.0	2.2	37.8
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	70	23.5	25.2	62.9
Health Problems	1	0.3	0.4	63.3
Not Applicable	102	34.2	36.7	100.0
Total	278	93.3	100.0	
Missing	20	6.7		
Total	298	100.0		

Viewing of VCDs or DVDs tends to be low amongst the respondents and those who view them, tend to view entertainment-type content on VCDs or DVDs. The table shows that 34 percent viewed it for entertainment while only 4 percent viewed social, educational or health-related content on VCDs or DVDs. Respondents were asked where they are most likely to view VCDs, and some of those who did not view VCDs regularly also expressed where they are likely to view them. The home of a neighbour, friend or relative seems to be the most common viewing location for 12 percent of the sample, while some also viewed VCDs/ DVDs at home or at a community location. One percent of the sample said that they had viewed VCDs at a sangha or MSK location.

TABLE 130. Respondent Listens to Radio for Various Kinds of Content

If Respondent has Listened to a Radio for Various Content				
	No	Yes	Missing	Total
For Current Events/ News	171 (57.4 %)	126 (42.3 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)
For Entertainment	124 (41.6 %)	173 (58.1 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)
For Agricultural Information	240 (80.5 %)	57 (19.1 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)
For Social Information	265 (88.9 %)	32 (10.7 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)
For Health Information	258 (86.6 %)	39 (13.1 %)	1 (0.3 %)	298 (100 %)

TABLE 131. Reason for Not Listening to the Radio in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Listened to the Radio in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Available at Home/ Village	73	24.5	26.9	26.9
High Cost/ Lack of affordability	3	1.0	1.1	28.0
No Time to Use/ Timings are Inconvenient	4	1.3	1.5	29.5
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	3	1.0	1.1	30.6
Electricity/Power is Infrequent	1	0.3	0.4	31.0
Not Applicable	187	62.8	69.0	100.0
Total	271	90.9	100.0	
Missing	27	9.1		
Total	298	100.0		

Entertainment of the nature of songs, dramas, cooking shows, quizzes and sports (58 percent) and current events (42 percent) are the main kinds of content listened to on the radio. While 19 percent listen to the radio for agricultural information, around 11 percent get information on social issues and 13 percent on health issues. For those who don't listen to the radio, the main reason for this is because it is not available at home or in the village (25 percent). The rest of the reasons are comparatively insignificant.

TABLE 132. Respondents Use of Still or Video Camera

If Respondent has Used a Camera for Various Purposes				
	No	Yes	Missing	Total
For Social or Family Events	221 (74.2 %)	75 (25.2 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)
For MSK or Sangha-Related Events	242 (81.8 %)	54 (18.1 %)	2 (0.7 %)	298 (100 %)

TABLE 133. Main Reason for Not Using Still or Video Camera in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Used a Camera in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Available at Home/ Village	78	26.2	28.9	28.9
High Cost/ Lack of Affordability	6	2.0	2.2	31.1
Not Allowed to Use	1	0.3	0.4	31.5
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	74	24.8	27.4	58.9
Not Applicable	111	37.2	41.1	100.0
Total	270	90.6	100.0	
Missing	28	9.4		
Total	298	100.0		

A reasonable number of respondents have used a still or video camera in the past 12 months – 25 percent for social or family events and 18 percent for MSK-sangha related events, including the taking of photos for bank loan applications. As the table shows, the main reason for not using a still or video camera in the past 12 months is because the facility is not available at home or in the village, creating an issue of access – for 29 percent of the respondents. Another significant reason is that many didn't have the need to use a camera, didn't find the device useful or didn't know what to use it for – articulated by 27 percent of the respondents.

TABLE 134. Use of a Computer for Any Purpose

If Respondent has Used a Computer for Any Purpose				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	289	97.0	97.6	97.6
Yes	7	2.3	2.4	100.0
Total	296	99.3	100.0	
Missing	2	0.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 135. Reason for Not Using a Computer in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Used a Computer in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Not Available at Home/ Village	49	16.4	17.7	17.7
High Cost/ Lack of Affordability	1	0.3	0.4	18.1
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	219	73.5	79.1	97.1
Power/ Electricity is Infrequent	2	0.7	0.7	97.8
Not Applicable	6	2.0	2.2	100.0
Total	277	93.0	100.0	
Missing	21	7.0		
Total	298	100.0		

Almost all the respondents – 98 percent – have not used a computer in the past 12 months and those who have, have used it for getting information or related to their occupation (such as at milk dairies). The main reason for not using a computer is because the respondent didn't know what it was useful for, didn't find the device useful or hadn't had the need to use it so far – 79 percent felt this way. Eighteen percent of the respondents didn't use a computer because it wasn't available at home or in the village.

TABLE 136. Respondent's Use of a Helpline in the Past 12 Months

If Respondent has Used a Helpline for Any Purpose				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	287	96.3	97.0	97.0
Yes	9	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	296	99.3	100.0	
Missing	2	0.7		
Total	298	100.0		

TABLE 137. Reason for Not Using a Helpline in the Past 12 Months

Main Reason why Respondent has Not Used a Helpline in the Past 12 Months				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Facility is Not Available (Helpline or Phone)	14	4.7	5.2	5.2
Don't Find Useful/ Haven't Had the Need/ Don't Know	244	81.9	91.4	96.6
Not Applicable	9	3.0	3.4	100.0
Total	267	89.6	100.0	
Missing	31	10.4		
Total	298	100.0		

Only 3 percent of the sample has used a helpline in the past 12 months for purposes including seeking information, seeking emergency help or some kind of service. The remaining 97 percent have not used a helpline, the main reason being that they do not know what the facility is used for, or haven't had a need to use it so far – 91 percent of the sample. Some also haven't used the facility because it isn't available or the telephone that is required to use it isn't available – 5 percent gave this reason.

Synthesis of Findings on Awareness and Use of ICTs

The final section explored women's access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), as the Mahiti Manthana intervention attempts to integrate ICTs into the existing knowledge and empowerment processes of Mahila Samakhya. Where older ICTs – i.e. the print media – is considered,

usage by women is extremely low because majority of the women are not literate and because these resources tend to be unavailable or unaffordable. That said, the new ICTs have a wide variation in their familiarity to the women, their availability at home or in the village, and their use by sangha women.

Most respondents are aware of new ICTs like telephone, mobile phone, television, cable TV, tape players and still cameras, but many were not aware of VCDs, DVDs, computers, video cameras or help lines. Ownership of all of these at home is extremely low, except for tape player, radio and television. Most relied on friends, neighbours or relatives to access these ICTs. Usage by women, as expected, is quite high for radio, television, telephones and tape players, but low for the newer ICTs like computers, cameras, help lines or VCDs.

Of those who did use a telephone, most do so for personal reasons and some for Mahila Samakhya purposes, while the reason for not having used it was unavailability in the village and not having a need or not knowing how to use it. Current events, news and entertainment are the main genres viewed on television and listened to on the radio for those who have used these facilities and for those who haven't, unavailability of the facility at home is the biggest constraint. Few of the respondents have viewed entertainment VCDs and fewer still have viewed educational content and the majority hasn't viewed VCDs because these are not available in the village, women are not familiar with the medium, or haven't had the need or use for it thus far. These reasons were cited for the low usage of cameras, computers and helpline were the same as with VCDs and DVDs.

On the one hand, use of ICTs is a function of age, education, caste, economic class, occupation and of course, gender. In this regard, the household and individual data would be useful in terms of learning who has used ICTs and for what purposes so far. On the other end, the use of ICTs to learn about current events, news and so on, has direct impacts on women's knowledge levels, awareness of external institutions, and ability to participate in an informed manner in village and household decisions.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The baseline survey was conducted to develop a deeper understanding of the socio-economic profile of the respondents and to also glean their perception and participation in Mahila Samakhya and sangha activities as well as wider village level activities. As the Mahiti Manthana project intervention attempts to use ICTs within the existing goals of Mahila Samakhya, the baseline also captured awareness, availability and use patterns.

The results of this survey, as presented and analysed in this document, are part of a larger initiative which seeks to systematically capture the impact of the Mahiti Manthana intervention. These results will thus be re-examined with the data that emerges on the same above themes from the end-line survey. Using the two time-frames (pre and post project) as well as the two groups (intervention group and 'control' group), the specific contribution of the Mahiti Manthana ICT intervention can be understood. Furthermore, the data from both survey exercises will be juxtaposed with findings from qualitative research efforts to develop a more nuanced and thorough understanding of the Mahiti Manthana project within its wider community context.