



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

**SHAHEEN WOMEN'S
RESOURCE AND
WELFARE
ASSOCIATION**

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FOUNDER-DIRECTOR'S VOICE

“ Our’s is a journey beyond boundaries, beyond time, possibly for as long as gender-based violence and abuse exists. I feel that a violence-free social structure can be achieved only when we are able to eliminate gender inequality and control over women’s sexuality. ”

ABOUT US

Shaheen Women's Resource and Welfare Association (popularly known as Shaheen), established and registered in 2002, is a women-led, grassroots level organisation based in the heart of Old City, Hyderabad. The organisation sets an example through its challenging secular practices, simultaneously working with Muslims, Dalits and OBCs.

We have a gender-sensitive approach, respecting equal spaces for all.

- We recruit violence survivors as employees, following a survivor-specific and re-integrative model
- We facilitate a conducive work space, where women can feel safe and wanted.
- We ensure a gender-inclusive learning environment, where both boys and girls participate in the activities together at the resource centres. This kind of an ambience is hard to find even in the formal co-education schools in the area, where the setup is obnoxiously orthodox in nature.

VISION

A society in which gender, class, caste or religious status do not impinge upon one's resources, rights or freedom – whether inside the home or in public spaces.

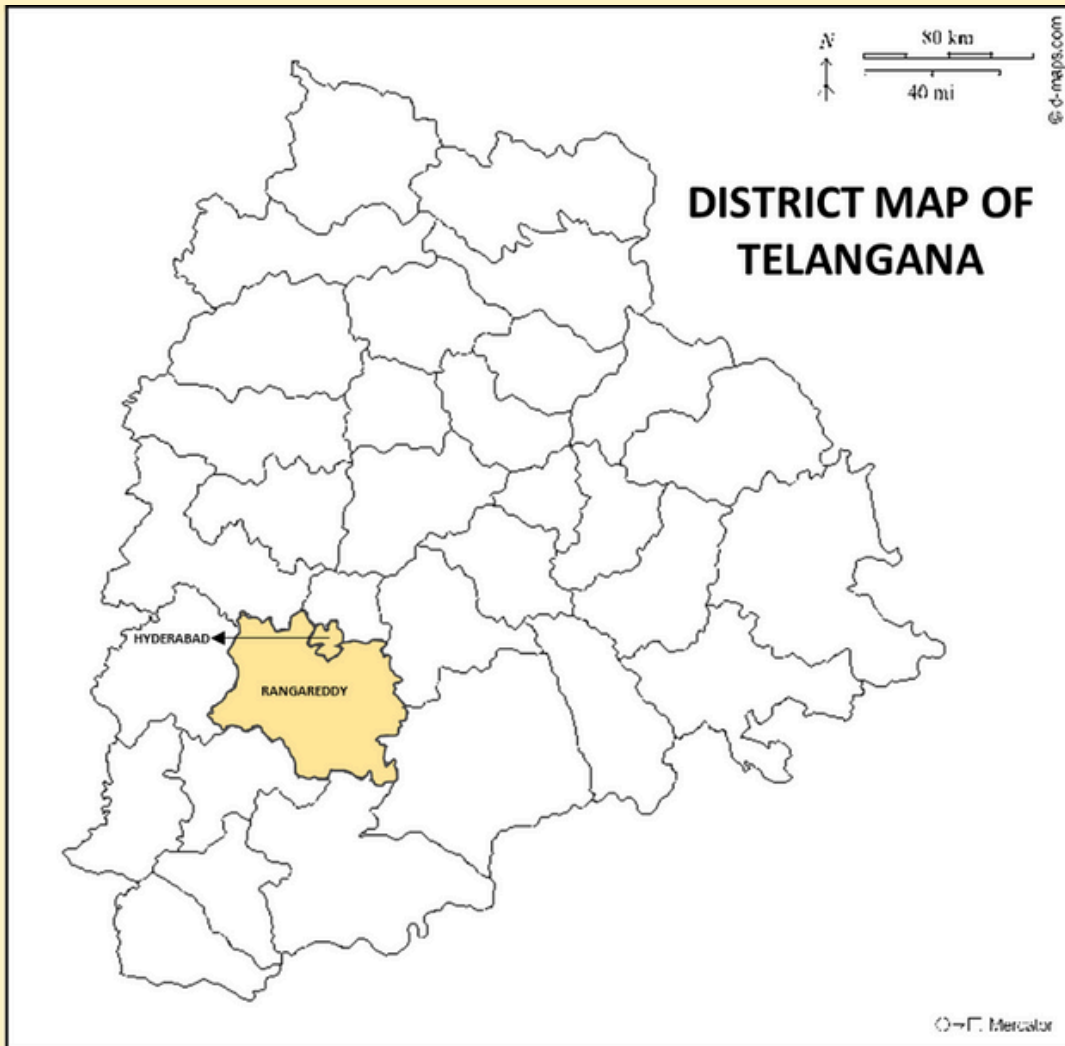
MISSION

To enable a conducive environment for women to restore their identities, self-dignity and socio-economic stability.

OUR TEAM

Our family comprises of the CEO, who is currently also the Founder-Director of the organisation. She forms the core, immediately followed by the steerers of the organisation – the second-in-line management team of Social Leaders. These women, who are from the community Shaheen works with, have undergone colossal self-development in order to empower themselves and become inspiring figures. Many of them are violence survivors themselves and have been once part of the primary stakeholders receiving intervention at the organisation. Since Shaheen has a huge contribution in re-shaping their violence-free lives, the organisation has gained their trust and gratitude over the years. This core team is connected and supported by the Operations Team Head, the Research and Analysis Team Head and the Finance Team. Additional support and assistance are provided by the Executive Committee comprising of the Board Members, the various volunteers, the office helpers and the other agencies and individuals positioned in the periphery.

OUR AREA OF WORK



State – Telangana

Districts – Hyderabad, Rangareddy

Zone – South Zone

**Number of Circles – 03 (Erstwhile Circle - I,
Erstwhile Circle - II, Rajendra Nagar)**

Number of Wards - 07

Areas (Urban Slums) – 25

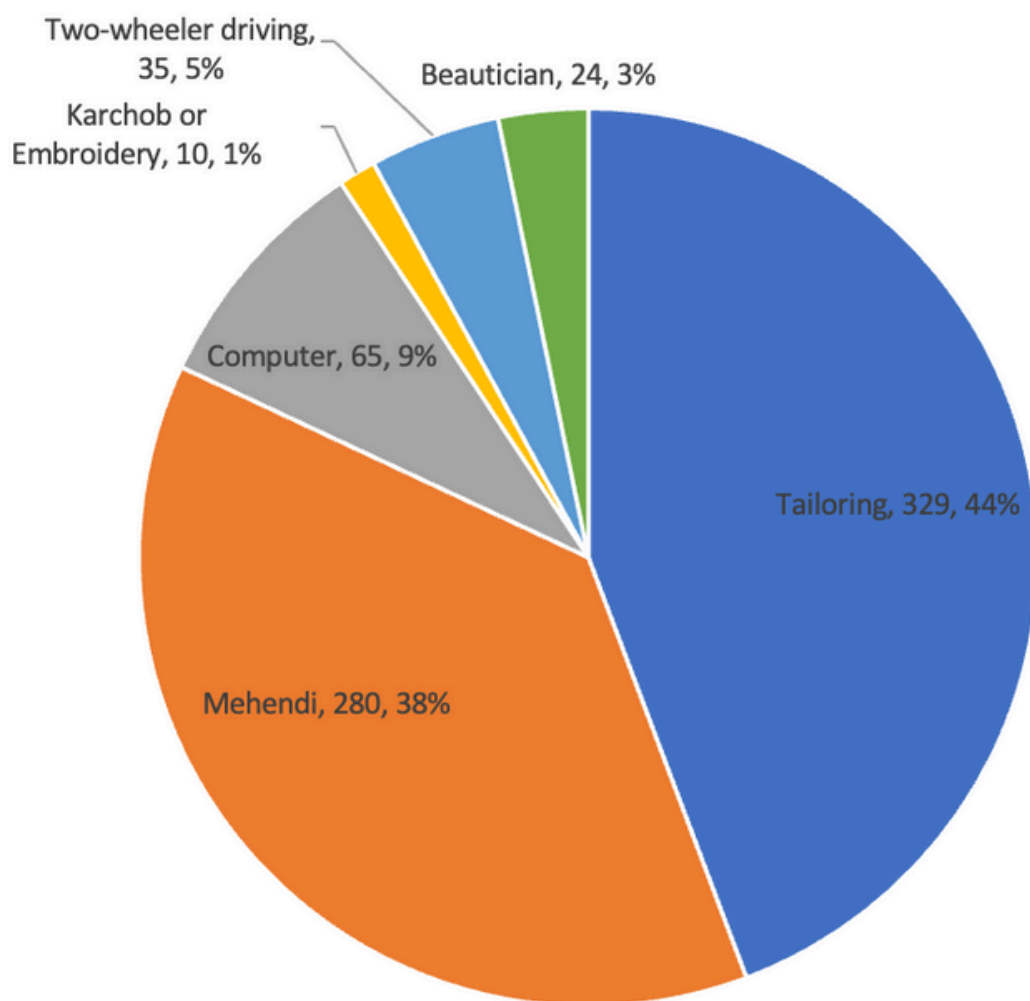
OUR CURRENT PARTNERS



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 01

Economic Empowerment & Vocational Trainings

Enrolment in Vocational Skill Courses



In the year 2024-25, Shaheen organised around 8 livelihood programs, wherein, they conducted meetings with various job placement cells and organisations, setting up interviews for the trained young men and women.

Moreover, 6 financial literacy classes were held where the importance of managing and securing one's finances were explained.

6 purse activities were also conducted to show young women how to manage a budget with limited money in one's savings.

6 dump box activities were conducted to raise awareness on unpaid care work.



A Story of Valour

Velery (name changed) is a 16 year old girl who resides with her family at Hassan Nagar. Her mother is a housekeeper and her father works in GHMC. Velery is the only child and she has completed her SSC. Velery is in touch with Shaheen for the past two years. Apart from tailoring classes, she attends many awareness sessions on sexual reproductive health rights, educational mela, workshops on gender, legal rights, sexual abuse, leadership etc. This narrative will show how Velery, through her rights' awareness gained leadership qualities and helped her friend from dire crisis.

Velery and Praveena (name changed) are best friends from school. Praveena had no interest in studies; she only liked wandering around and hanging out with friends. Velery tried to convince her to concentrate on her studies but she did not listen at all. Praveena enjoyed wandering with the boys. She used to steal money from her house and went out with her friends. A male teacher of hers kept noticing her actions. He began befriending her. He kept touching her in the class repeatedly on some pretext or the other. Sir called Praveena to meet him alone. Velery, who was aware about sexual abuse tried warning her friend and asked her to stay alert. Praveena had been brain-washed by the man, who promised her good marks in the exams.

Praveena's elder sister was about to get married, hence her father had bought jewellery and 2 lakh rupees for expenditures of marriage. When Praveena shared this information with her teacher, he convinced her to bring the money and that he would marry her. Influenced, she stole the money and jewellery from the house and handed them over to him. He asked her to leave and said that he would make all arrangements for marriage. Next day, she did not find him in the school.

She tried to contact him, but his phone remained switched off. Praveena got scared and did not return home. As it started getting dark, her parents worried for her and contacted Velery. A frantic search for Praveena followed, and finally Velery found her in front of school. She was crying inconsolably. Praveena confided in her friend, who suggested that she should inform her parents. Praveena revealed that she was pregnant and did not know how to disclose everything to her family. She felt helpless and scared and wanted to give up her life. Fearing losing her friend, Velery used her presence of mind and suggested her to seek Shaheen's help. She convinced her that Shaheen would bring her out of her crisis and that she should abandon the idea of committing suicide. Next day, they went to Shaheen centre at Hassan Nagar. They met the staff-in-charge and shared everything. Shaheen took them to the SHE team and filed a complaint. Later, Shaheen team spoke to her parents too. The parents were shocked and upset. Meanwhile, the police tracked the man down in Goa, arrested him and retrieved the jewellery and money from him. He was also fired from his school job. Along with her sister, the parents thought of getting Praveena married too. They searched for a suitable groom, shared with him about her pregnancy. He agreed to marry her, knowing her past. Praveena is happily married now. She is very grateful to Velery and to Shaheen for helping her get out of the problem.

446 women are self-employed, using their skills to generate income
122 have been placed in jobs

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 02

Health Awareness

15 health camps were conducted, focusing on menstrual health and hygiene, diet and nutrition, sanitation, viral infections, hormonal imbalances, eye checkups.

8 health and nutrition workshops were held, wherein, the importance of health was discussed, the need to follow a balanced diet, skin and hair care were explained.

7 workshops on sexual and reproductive health rights were organised with focused discussions on thyroid disorders, polycystic ovarian syndrome and diet during menstruation.

Shaheen in collaboration with Rotary Club, Jubilee Hills, and Pushpagiri Vitreo Retina Institute organised an Eye Camp that focused on providing affordable eye care services to adolescent girls and their families in the Old City of Hyderabad. 258 disadvantaged individuals participated in the camp.



Since May 2024, Shaheen has been organising health awareness camps every month at Sultan Shahi. Young women and girls from all three resource centres participate in these monthly camps. The camps continue to encourage young people, especially adolescent girls, to understand their bodies and rights related to menstruation.

Monthly Health Camps with free medicines for more than 1200 young adolescent girls, awareness raised among 500 others, in collaboration with RV DIYA Charitable Trust



Commemoration
of World
Menstrual Hygiene
Day on 28 May



More than 35 mental health sessions have been conducted in schools, colleges and communities in Hyderabad and Rangareddy District, creating awareness among 11,000 young adolescent girls and boys, in collaboration with Aditya Birla Trust, under the banner of the MPower Project.

Shaheen's aim is to eradicate stigma attached to mental health issues.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 03

Gender Sensitisation Ensuring Violence-Free Lives

8 group discussions were conducted on topics related to gender-based violence, casteism, mobility restrictions on women, impact of child marriages on maternal health, SRHR, early pregnancy, gender issues in Egypt, etc.

7 creative sessions were held where young women indulged in artwork on different media like paper and cloth, using creativity as an expression of their latent emotions.

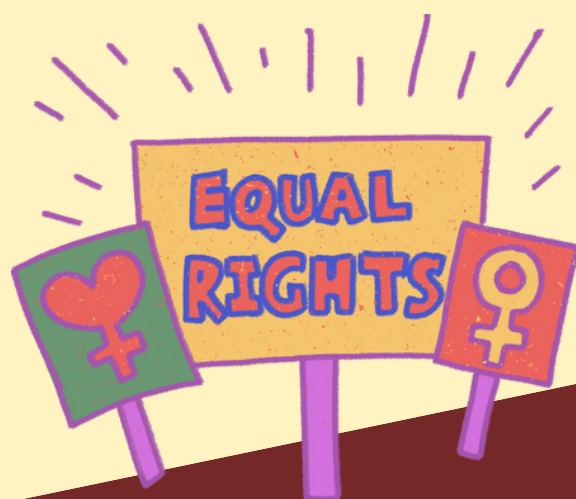
8 workshops on legal awareness were organised with focus on POCSO Act, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, Domestic Violence Act, Nirbhaya Act, women rights, fundamentals rights and duties, and cyber-crime.

6 safety maps were prepared and 5 exposure visits to police stations, DLSA office and CWD were conducted.

12 gender sensitisation workshops were held, where the difference between gender & sex, gender stereotypes, education, career, leadership and gender-based violence, masculinity were discussed.

5 leadership trainings were held with focus on patriarchy and leadership. To foster leadership among the youth and encouraging them to break the barriers of patriarchy was the objective of these trainings.

5 awareness campaigns on cyber-crime, child marriages, importance of education and health were conducted.



Types of Cases Registered	Number of Cases Registered
Domestic Violence	187
Sexual Harassment	4
Child Marriages	2
Polygamy	8
Extra-Marital	2
Acid Attack	1
Property Related	2
Others	2
Total Registered Cases in 2024-2025	208

Total Number of Child Marriages Stopped - 18

SAY NO TO CHILD MARRIAGES

Opposing Child Marriage

Nargis (name changed), a 15 year old adolescent, resides in Hassan Nagar with her parents. Her mother is a home maker and father is a mason. She has a sister and a brother. Nargis is a Class 9 dropout. During Shaheen's home visits, she got to know about their skill training courses. She got enrolled herself in tailoring classes and begun participating in empowerment programs of Shaheen like workshops on gender, SRHR, health & nutrition, awareness campaigns, Stake holder meetings, legal awareness programs, leadership training, dump box activity etc. Through these empowerment programs she got to know about her rights, legal laws, importance of education, life choices, SRHR, child marriages etc. Soon, her parents started finding a match for her. They fixed a match with a 35 years old divorcee man. When Nargis saw him, she was shocked to notice the age difference. As she was aware of her rights and the impact of child marriage on health and choices, she opposed to the marriage. But her parents kept forcing her. She told them that she would inform Shaheen team and warned them of the consequences. It was difficult to convince them but finally, after a lot of persuasion, she succeeded. She was very happy as she was able to stop her marriage. She said that she was able to do so because she was aware of her rights. Awareness and training at Shaheen helped her become stronger in will and confident. She is thankful to Shaheen for their intervention. She continues to share her knowledge with her friends and in her neighborhood.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 04

Working With Children

10 gender sensitisation workshops were conducted for adolescent girls and boys, with focus on masculinity, feminism, career choices.

6 creative sessions were held where participants created a safe art space for themselves.

6 workshops on health and nutrition and 5 workshops on SRHR were conducted.

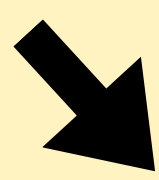
4 body mapping activities were conducted, wherein the participants were made familiar with human bodies, good and bad touch and body shaming.

7 guided imagery sessions were held to identify issues of violence and sexual abuse among the participants.

Re-Enrollment in Educational Institutions

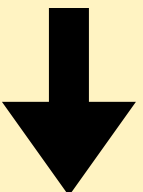


Total Number - 220



Girls - 174

Boys - 46



Regular schools and colleges - 115
Open schools - 59



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 05

Networking with Stakeholders

6 interactions with various stakeholders were held in an effort to continue rapport-building with them.

Number of Home Visits - 11340



Media Interactions



- Aha Channel, Sakshi news and Divya Vani Channel covered Shaheen's work and the interviews of the Director, the employees and the primary stakeholders were recorded.
- Media personnel from Aaj Tak visited Shaheen and interviewed the CEO, the survivors of sheikh marriages and the brokers.
- Media personnel from Times of India visited Shaheen and interviewed the staff members - Devaki and Shaheda, about the sting operations on sheikh marriages.
- Media personnel from BBC visited Shaheen and interviewed deserted women and got to know about their issues.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 06

Communal Harmony and Cultural Awareness

8 community fairs (melas) were organised to create awareness on gender equity, life choices, importance of education and health, safety of girls and women, legal laws, etc.

1 public demonstration (protest march) was conducted on the issue of Kolkata R.G.Kar Hospital Rape Case.

4 qawwali performances were held around the year at the following venues - Goethe Zentrum, Henry Martin Institute, Mont Fort Social Institute and Sultan Shahi.



Celebration of Important Days

International Human Rights Day - 10 December
= Celebration and talk by guest speaker on the theme,
“Our Rights, Our Future”

International Girl Child Day - 11 October
= Rally at Charminar on the theme “Elevating Girls’
Voices for Sustainable Development”
= Celebration featuring Young Urban Women (YUW)
leaders

National Girl Child Day - 24 January
= Talk on empowering and protecting the girl child,
sharing inspirational stories of change and
transformation

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - 3
December
= Talk on Bhopal Gas Tragedy and its aftermath
= Awareness talk on disabilities

International Women’s Day - 8 March
= Talk on women empowerment by guest speakers

100 Thousand Poets for Change
= Art platform driving social change, designed
for young women and girls

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

- All the staff members attended a training programme on mental health at Sultan Shahi office, organised by Aditya Birla Foundation and by an expert facilitator.
- Staff members Shaheda, Devaki, Rubeena, Pooja and Bushra attended a training at DLSA on “Child Friendly Legal Services for Children” and “Role of Paralegal Volunteers.”
- Staff members Devaki, Pooja and Bushra also attended a training programme at DLSA on provision of legal services to persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities.

In the year 2024-25, apart from group capacity building workshops, several staff members attended seminars and workshops individually, representing the organisation.



- Pooja attended a two-days workshop JALSA on art and health in Bangalore; participated as a panelist and shared her experience and perspective “Many Mirrors Many Masculinities: A Conclave” by the YP Foundation and Talash in Delhi; attended a two-day national YUW conclave in Lucknow.



- Pooja and Bushra attended a book release function in Bangalore - ‘De-Construction of Masculinities.’
- Sultana and Archana attended a two-days mental health workshop at MANNU, Hyderabad.



- Sultana and Farhana attended a conference in Bangalore on “National Assembly of Women from Marginalised Communities.”
- Archana became a member of the Child Protection Committee.

Research Report

An empirical study report, in association with Shaheen was prepared by a law student in the month of November, on the ‘Constitutional Validity of Criminalizing Marital Rape in India: A Socio Legal Study.’

Our Heartfelt Condolences

Zehra Jabeen (20 March 1988 - 28 November 2024)

One of Shaheen's core pillars, Zehra was an asset to the field of social work. An extremely hard-working, talented, young and dynamic leader, her untimely demise left the entire organisation in shock and in a state of bereavement.

We pray for her soul to find eternal peace.



In Picture: Left

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **New Trauma Centre** - Shaheen established **SAKHI “One-Stop Crisis Centre” (OSC)** at Champapet in January 2025. Sakhi 2 Charminar, operating under the OSC framework, a governmental initiative, has emerged as a sanctuary for women confronting abuse and abandonment. Serving 39 communities, the centre reaches deep into urban spaces where domestic violence, neglect, and emotional trauma often remain hidden beneath silence and stigma. The centre stands out for its proactive approach in assisting destitute women, providing them legal, medical as well as emotional aid. Temporary shelter is also arranged for homeless women and their children, ensuring safety during the most vulnerable moments of transition.

140 cases registered at SAKHI Centre between January 2025 and March 2025.

- **Infrastructure Expansion** – With support from the Rotary Club, Shaheen completed the **construction of the first floor at Sultan Shahi office/resource centre** in October 2024. This has significantly increased the available space for skill training activities. Additionally, Shaheen received 5 tailoring machines, 4 jack electronic machines and 1 designer electronic machine through donation.

- **Reduced Dropout Rates of Girls** - Through Shaheen's intervention, dropout girls have been continuing their studies and appearing for their 10th boards through the **Telangana Open School Society (TOSS)**.
- **Rising Voices** - Girls and young women from the community have been negotiating with their parents and raising their voices against forced early marriages.
- **Increased Media Visibility** - Shaheen's visibility through media has increased in different channels like Divyavani, Aha Channel; mass media communication by MANNU students; trailblazer and print media like Times of India and Aaj Tak.
- **Entrepreneurship Milestones** - Shaheen students received the opportunity to put up a mehendi art stall at Goethe Zentrum, through which they earned money. Shaheen also received a bulk order of stitching 150 bags for Cancer Hospital.
- **Honour of Awards** - The chief functionary and founder, Ms. Jameela Nishat was honoured with 2 awards - 'Nari Shakti Award' by Zee Telugu Channel and 'Vishist Mahila Puraskaram' by the Women and Child Welfare Department.

WAY FORWARD

This year, Shaheen took new initiatives and adopted new techniques of intervention. a range of uniquely designed programs and initiatives that fit the needs of the community. Shaheen has set the motion to help reach the desired goals.

Shaheen has been growing and spreading its wings across international borders too. For the last 23 years, it has been serving as a beacon of hope for the vulnerable population of society. Shaheen will continue its journey for as long as it takes to eradicate violence against the human race.

