



The Prajnya Trust

**Annual Report
2013-14**

Letter from the Managing Trustee

Each year when I sit down to write this, I have a sense of déjà vu. I have been here before—so much gained, so much accomplished, so little growth, so much to do.

In many ways, 2013-14 was one of our best years. We began to seriously do gender violence awareness training, especially in the area of workplace sexual harassment prevention. The 2013 16 Days Campaign was our most substantial campaign so far—with unprecedented resource creation, a focus on training processes and even better public engagement without any public events. This approach has always been very important to us.

The downside: We didn't do much of anything else. Our history work took a backseat except for the Prajnya Archives' Call for Photos, The First Graduate. Our peace education work was confined to the odd blogpost. We exit this financial year with a hundred questions: Should we continue? Our present work-model is over-dependent on volunteers and unsustainable; what are the prospects of scaling up? What value do we add to the collective effort to change society?

Last year was a bonanza year financially with some large donations carried over and generous giving during our fundraising drive. We enter 2014-15 with both financial and human resources depleted. Our volunteers remain in the community but their circumstances do not permit them to give anything like the time we require now from our team.

So where do we go from here? This is the question I feel like I end this note with every year. But asked in the last year of this campaign cycle, as we approach our eighth year, the question takes on a certain urgency. I hope as I write this in one year, we will have answered it constructively.

Swarna Rajagopalan

April 2013

April tends to be a quiet month at Prajnya. We're working on accounts, taking stock of the last year. It is also a time when we meet to plan the year that has just started, to put details behind airy declarations. And in 2013, we experimented with fundraising in April-May.

In our fundraising appeal, we anticipated the year's main challenges:

"This is going to be a year of some comings and goings in our team. No one ever really leaves because everyone volunteers, but we anticipate that there will be some changes in how much time and what kind of time people will be able to give. The ability to outsource some work (such as transcription) or to pay trainers an honorarium will go a long way to allowing us to function. We are anxious that while people are newly aware and eager to be informed or to act on women's rights and security, we should be available to do this work. This should not be the year that we lie low because of a lack of human and other resources. Please help us make this transition."

We set out to raise Rs. 300,000, and we received Rs. 177,002 within the fundraising drive period.

April was Shakti Fellow Divya Bhat's last month with us and she made a short presentation of her Chennai research at the Women's History Roundtable Series.



"Divya's focus on medical professionals has meant that most of her interviews have been with doctors and forensic experts. She stressed the importance of collecting strong forensic evidence that could conclusively prove a rape in court, as the case could otherwise devolve into a 'he said, she said' battle. She observed that the system was weighted against victims of rape, noting the lack of psychological care for survivors, bureaucratic hurdles to the quick collection of forensic evidence, a lack of specialised medical equipment in hospitals, and societal attitudes that cast blame on victims."

May 2013

When not being steamed or roasted by Chennai's kattri season, we spent May preparing a full slate of youth-oriented gender violence awareness outreach programmes. This preparation kept us busy in June, July and August.

What made May memorable was the effort that two Friends of Prajnya put into supporting our work.



Through her brand Neela Thaamara, Kavitha Reddy, helped our fundraising drive by sharing proceeds from the sale of some beautiful shopping bags.



And Suchitra Laxman made this lovely presentation about us that we could share with friends.

We are very grateful to have such good friends!

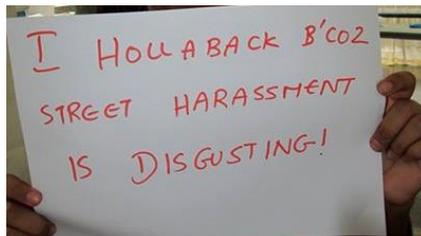


On May 19, 2013, Prajnya runners Hemant and Ravikiran ran the Bangalore marathon wearing Prajnya T-shirts to raise awareness about gender violence.

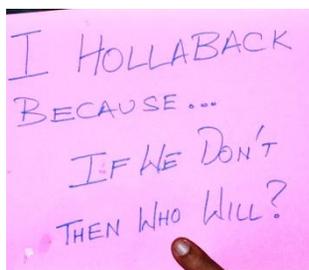
June 2013

In June, Hollaback! Chennai took centre-stage.

The Hollaback! Chennai team did classroom visits at the Alliance Française de Madras, ten minutes each to talk about street sexual harassment and the importance of not remaining silent. We also got people to hold up a sign telling why they 'hollered back'. The plan is to return every few months to speak with new batches. A second round of visits took place in March 2014.



June marked the beginning of Hollaback! Fridays at Distil, Vivanta by Taj Connemara. Every Friday for several weeks in 2013, Vivanta by Taj Connemara brought an all-woman band to play, while Hollaback! Chennai volunteers reached out to guests to talk about street sexual harassment.



In June 2013, Prajnya also organised a roundtable for HR managers in media companies on workplace sexual harassment and compliance with the law. Advocate Sheila Jayaprakash was the expert resource person and a small number of participants attended.



July-August-September-October 2013

In July, Hollaback! Chennai volunteers did an hour-long workshop on responding to street sexual harassment for the students of Women's Christian College, Chennai. This was followed by a lecture in August at the Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women and a workshop for International Studies students at Stella Maris College students in September.

In August, we had the opportunity to do workplace sexual harassment awareness training at two quite different organizations. Both places were eager to comply with the new Sexual Harassment Act, and in both organizations, the commitment of the senior management was total. As a result, our training reached every single employee of the organization, in mixed (gender) groups. Our training had three components: recognizing sexual harassment; legal rights and obligations; and how to respond—as an individual and organization.

In both organizations, our terms of reference extended past the basic workplace sexual harassment awareness training. In one, we were invited to do a workshop centred on understanding the changed nature of interactions in a contemporary workplace. Those who attended were members of a self-selected forum on gender issues. In the other, we did a special session on gender issues for the women members which was also intended as a platform to build mentoring relationships within the organization.

As much as we trained, we learned a great deal from these organizations and the participants. The most important idea, buried in our hearts, was articulated perfectly by the Managing Director of one of the firms: The purpose of awareness training is to make sexual harassment policies and committees redundant by changing the work culture fundamentally.

Both the Vishaka Guidelines and the law that has replaced them mandate the presence of an outside member (social worker or lawyer) on the Internal Complaints Committee of every organization. Prajnya has started maintaining a roster of potential members that meet the criteria laid out to help organizations comply with the law. We have also had the opportunity to help draft policies in the last year.

November and December 2013: The 2013 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence

2013 was the second year of our three-year campaign cycle, and it followed the mass protests after the December 2012 Delhi gang-rape. We made two decisions about the campaign, which arguably made the 2013 campaign the strongest we've organised in the five years of the campaign's history. The first was that post-December 2012, the accent needed to be less on creating awareness and more on deepening and giving it focus. The second was that we would place process over planning events. There would, for the first time, be no public events but just a great deal of training and resource creation.

We had an excellent team of campaign organizers: Nithila Kanagasabai as Campaign Coordinator and Ragamalika Karthikeyan as Media Associate.



From the 2013 Campaign Report

The 5th edition of the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence was held between Nov 25 and Dec 10 in Chennai. While some of this year's events were planned over two months, some others, like the workshop for beauticians on identifying and tackling domestic violence have been on Prajnya's wishlist for almost five years now! This year's campaign was perhaps our most ambitious yet, with a total of 20 events over the 16 days. A majority of events have been for a closed audience.

- The gang rape in December 2012 sparked countless conversations about gender violence. The Prajnya team thought hard about what would be the best intervention on its part and this year we are looking at a "deepening-widening" process. Now that we have acknowledged the prevalence of gender violence, what next? How do we respond to it? What sort of support systems need to be put into place? What are the legal aspects of this issue? What socio-cultural structures is this violence embedded in? We are looking to engage in substantial conversations with specific audiences.
- In 2008, we made a conscious choice to use the term 'gender violence' in the name of the campaign, and we have made conscious efforts to invite men to work with us to end violence. This year, through programmes like the forum on masculinities and our Call for Videos we hope to drive home the point that men are as much a part of the solution as women are. Not only do we believe that men can be a part of the change – we have proof that they are willing to be, with individual male volunteers and largely male groups joining hands with Prajnya to create awareness.
- But to look at gender as a binary and not a spectrum is a kind of violence in itself. Gender identities are unstable and plural; gender violence is perpetuated not just against both genders, but against all genders. This is what we plan to explore through our programme, 'The Violence of the Norm' which uses performance and discussion to highlight the impact of gender normativity on all our lives.
- We have always valorised process over events, and used the campaign as a time for initiating processes and piloting programmes for the year to come. This year was no exception. Our campaign for safer spaces in which popular Chennai businesses promise zero-tolerance towards harassment will be a sustained effort towards asserting women's rights to public spaces and their rights in these places. We are also in the process of continuing our work with nurses. Given the success of the Community Café format (which was a part of last year's calendar and has continued to remain on the GRIT agenda) in starting conversations around gender violence in intimate spaces, we set aside time for that this year as well.

- Another focus area of the campaign is resource creation. We would like our website and blog to function as a portal for those interested in understanding gender violence. Hence, the blog symposium on structural violence that will explore the gender-based violence embedded in social structures and customs that create a culture of impunity; and the video resource on disability, law and gender violence. We have also reports after the conclusion of events like the discussion on transport, the masculinities forum and the colloquium on gender violence and the digital media, and these can be used as resources.
- As with previous campaigns, this year's calendar addressed different kinds of gender violence – domestic violence, workplace sexual harassment, street harassment, embedded violence, violence perpetuated by the state and intersectional violence; and also the very many aspects of violence – socio-cultural, economic, legal, spatial, health, cyber.
- We reached out to different kinds of organisations, as always.
- While we hoped to reach a large spectrum of people within the city, we also engaged with a much larger audience through our online platforms (Facebook, Twitter, blog). We requested our volunteers make the campaign logo their profile picture on various online platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp) during the period of the campaign and this gave the campaign visibility and generated interest in the issue. Through the 16 days posted features, short posts, factoids and interviews on this blog.



January-February-March 2014

In January, when campaign-related work was finally done, we began to work on follow-up activities. In the last week of January, we returned to the Government Hospital to conduct a second workshop for duty nurses on responding to signs of domestic violence, something we had piloted during the 2013 Campaign. We did a second workshop in February.

January and February also saw us do 16 three-hour awareness workshops for the final year students of MOP Vaishnav College for Women. Starting with how to understand “gender violence,” the sessions went on to look at street sexual harassment and workplace sexual harassment in some depth while touching upon domestic violence in closing. The concluding note emphasised what we can each do when we experience or witness violence.



In February, the Prajnya Archives put out a call for photographs of the first female graduate in every family. We received our best response ever, with photos and stories being submitted even six months after our deadline of March 8, 2014.

In early March, we organised a roundtable discussion led by Dr. Srimati Basu, Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and Anthropology at the University of Kentucky. She shared her research on marriage, violence and IPC provision 498A. Her presentation was followed by a lively discussion.

What we received in 2013-14

<i>Receipt</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Endowment Donation	-
General Donation	229502.00
IT Refund	1880.00
Workshop fees and charges	104165.00
Total Income	335547.00

What we spent in 2013-14

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Administration	51236.41
Politics, Security, Women Initiative:	
(a) Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics & Policy	11999.00
(b) Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT)	
(i) Workshops (materials, trainer fees, etc.)	127920.00
(ii) 2013 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign	176546.00
Education for Peace Initiative	6875.73
Total Expenditure	373749.14

What we held in 2013-14

	<i>Bank</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>FD</i>
What we held April 1, 2013 (opening balance)	131772.35	2670.00	137767.22
What we held March 31, 2014 (closing balance)	94366.31	1884.00	(April 30, 2014) 159130.73

THE PRAJNYA TRUST
B-402, PRINCE VILLA, NO.7, RAJAMANNAR STREET
T.NAGAR, CHENNAI 600017

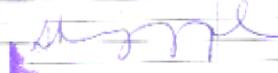
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014

EXPENDITURE	Rs. P.	INCOME	Rs. P.
To Printing & Stationery	8091.00	By Donations	229502.00
To Postage and courier	1595.00		
To Registration fees	2250.00		
To Salary	15000.00	By Donations for Workshops	105750.00
To Travelling and Conveyance	2000.00		
To internet and telephone expenses	14190.00	By Interest	11406.29
To General expenses	35.00		
To Web renewals	6775.41		
To Depreciation	1610.00		
To Project exp.	322512.73		
To Computer peripherals	1300.00	By Excess of expenditure over income	28700.85
Total	375359.14	Total	375359.14

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2014

LIABILITIES	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	ASSETS	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
CORPUS FUND					
Balance as on 1.4.2013	118004.00		Cash on Hand		1884.00
Add: Corpus Donation	0.00	118004.00	Cash at HDFC Bank		94366.31
Loan from Ms. Swarna Rajagopalan	28186.00		FDs with Hdfc Bank		
Add: Recd. during the year	0.00				
	28186.00				
Less: Repaid during the year	0.00	28186.00	-A/c. No 26814	38084.00	
			-A/c. No.46285	87488.11	
			-A/c. No 50521	10978.29	
			-A/c. No 52526	13379.05	
			-A/c. No 54020	6743.25	154672.70
GENERAL FUND					
Balance as on 1.4.2013	158573.86		Int accrued on above		2823.00
Add:IT Refund	1880.00				
	160453.86				
Less: Excess of Exp over Income	28700.85	131753.01	TDS		5981.00
			Fixed Asset		
			Recorder	4906.00	
			Camera	5827.00	
				10733.00	
			Less: Depreciation at 15%	1610.00	9123.00
			Computer accessories		9093.00
TOTAL	277943.01		TOTAL	277943.01	

For THE PRAJNYA TRUST


 Managing Trustee

As per Books of Account and records produced and
 Explanations given

S. Anamaram Thattai
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT



THE PRAJNYA TRUST			
B-402, 'Prince Villa', No.7, Rajamannar St.,			
T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.			PAN:AABTT4334M
STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR INCOME-TAX PURPOSES			
FOR THE ASST.YEAR 2014/15			
		Rs.	Rs.
INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES			
	Voluntary Contributions		229502
	Interest		11406
	Others		105750
	TOTAL		346658
APPLICATION OF INCOME			
	Amount applied for charitable purposes incl. administrative exp.	375359	
Less:	Amount deemed to have been applied to charitable purposes during the year 2012/2013 under Cl.(2) of the Explanation to Sec.11(1)	69073	
		306286	
	Income accumulated for application to charitable purposes to the extent it does not exceed 15% of the income	40372	346658
	Surplus/Deficit		Nil
Encls.to the Return:			
Audited Income and Expenditure Account, Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31/03/2014			
Audited Balance Sheet as at 31/03/2014			
Application exercising option U/s 11(1)			
Audit Report in Form 10B & Annexure			
List of Trustees			

For THE PRAJNYA TRUST


Managing Trustee

PRAJNYA FACTFILE

- Prajnya was established as a public charitable trust in January 2006. It was registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961 (695/06-07). (PAN: AABTT4334M)
- The Trust launched Prajnya Initiatives for Peace, Justice and Security in September 2007.
- Prajnya's work is organized into thematic initiatives each of which addresses a cluster of issues and is anchored by a cornerstone project that will form its core agenda.
 - Politics, Security and Women
 - Education for Peace
- Donations to Prajnya from 01-04-2008 to 31-03-2011 qualify for deduction under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as per I.T. Dept. Notification DIT (E) No. 2(573)2006-07 dated 26-09-2008.
- At this stage, we are not eligible to receive donations either from anyone who is not an Indian citizen.
- Anyone who holds an Indian passport may donate to Prajnya, however, we require a passport copy in order to accept the donation. Do email us to inquire: prajnyatrust@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

Swarna Rajagopalan, political analyst and writer, Managing Trustee.

Shilpa Anand, businesswoman

D. Jayashree, Ayurvedic physician

Anjale Stephanos, management professional

Saundarya Rajesh, entrepreneur and Human Resource professional

Advisory Panel

Stephen P. Cohen, Rajmohan Gandhi, Ingrid Srinath, Ammu Joseph

Prajnya Coordinates

Registered Office: B-402 Prince Villa, 7 Rajamannar Street
Chennai 600 017.

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Blogs: <http://prajnya.wordpress.com>
<http://keepingcount.wordpress.com>
<http://gritprajnya.wordpress.com>
<http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com>
<http://pencilblue.wordpress.com>
<http://prajnyagamecheck.blogspot.com>
<http://prajnyaforpeace.wordpress.com>

Twitter: @prajnya

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/prajnyatrust>

Contact person: Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee
91-98400-79133, swr.prajnya@gmail.com