

FIELDWORK REPORT

M.A. WOMEN'S STUDIES

GOA UNIVERSITY

SUBMITTED BY	DEA PAREEK	
ENROLLMENT NUMBER	202000163	
NAME OF THE AGENCIES	VISHAKHA JAIPUR, CACRA VILLAGE, SANTA CRUZ BALWADI & COLVALE PRISON	
COORDINATORS IN THE AGENCIES	VISHAKHA JAIPUR	Mr. BHARAT
	CACRA VILLAGE	SNEHA
	SANTA CRUZ	SNEHA
	COLVALE PRISON	Matron- Surekha
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INTRODUCTION and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is a comprehensive report compiling the fieldwork experience for the course of Fieldwork Skills and Practices (WSC-115). My fieldwork took place in four different agencies, the first one started in a NGO in Jaipur, Rajasthan; Vishakha. The other three were Cakra village, Santa Cruz anganwadi and Colvale Prison, in Goa. The agencies that I worked with, in Goa were with my fieldwork partner Ms. Riya Gadekar.

I would like to thank my professor Ma'am Prachi Prabhu for giving me this opportunity to be a part of such various organizations and have diverse experiences. I would also like to thank Ma'am Sulochana Pednekar for her support and assistance for all our work in Cakra village. I also express my gratitude towards my fieldwork partner Riya Gadekar for her immense support and encouragement throughout our fieldwork duration.

AGENCIES WORKED IN-

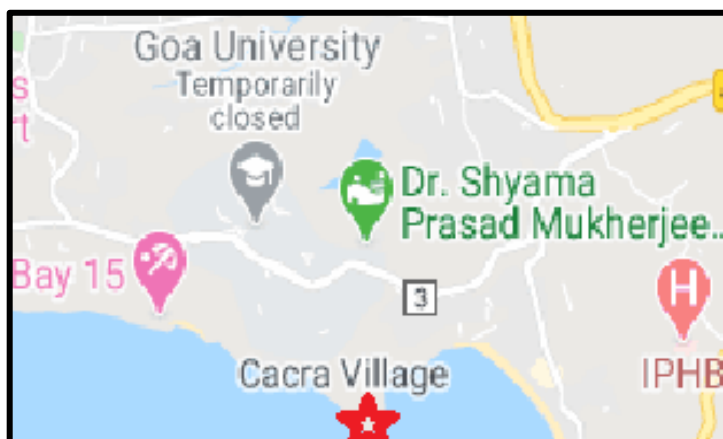
❖ VISHAKHA, JAIPUR

Vishakha is a non-governmental organization based in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It works towards the rights based intervention required in the fields of education, healthcare and combating violence against women and girls, primarily in Rajasthan as well as a few other regions in the country. The organization is famous for being a key litigant in filing a PIL in the case of Prevention of Sexual harassment at the Workplace in 1997



where the Supreme Court of India has issued landmark guidelines, popularly known as the Vishakha Guidelines, which became a base for the amended Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. This organisation aims to re-establish women's identities in the society by helping them to have full access to knowledge and rights that will help in the collective empowerment of women. A few of the objectives of Vishakha include- creating empowering spaces for women through education, enhance women's access to their rights to health and equity, advocate gender sensitive policies and publish women-centric researches and studies. The major target group of Vishakha includes women from Rajasthan and nearby areas, and young adolescent boys and girls in order to impart gender sensitive information and education.

My work with Vishakha involved analysing the content of their website and other social media platforms of the organisation and review the information that was put out for the public. Furthermore, scrutinise the same and make relevant changes to improve clarity and understandability.

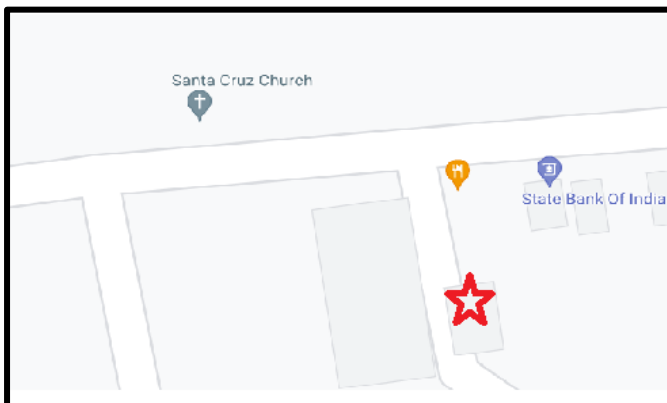


❖ CACRA VILLAGE, GOA

Cacra village is a small village on the bottom side of the Taleigao Plateau near Goa University. This village can be addressed as a fisherman's colony as the major occupation of its residents is fishing from the nearby shore. Cacra is adopted by the Goa university for social experiments and fieldwork to benefit the people of the area through educative and resourceful means. This village has an anganwadi which had served as the base ground to conduct activities and sessions with the women and children of the area, this anganwadi had a helper and a worker who would look after the work of the anganwadi, resource management and supply as well. There is also a temple with an open space around it, and is centrally located in the village which was also used as a ground to conduct outdoor sessions with the children.

My work in Cacra Village involved engaging the women and children in sessions and activities concerning with Covid-19 awareness, Health and Sanitation, Waste Management, Menstrual Hygiene, Eco-friendly Practices and Inter-Personal Skills development. The sessions involved imparting knowledge regarding the aforementioned topics through power-point presentations, videos, discussions and playful activities.

❖ SANTA CRUZ ANGANWADI



The Santa Cruz anganwadi is a government anganwadi located near the Santa Cruz church. This anganwadi serves as the most prominent means of delivering education, medical resources, food supplements and services to the children, women, to-be mothers and mothers of the nearby area. Just like the anganwadi in Cacra, this too

had a helper and the same worker who attends the Cacra anganwadi. The anganwadi helped in serving as a platform to reach out and interact with the children, young girls and women residing in the Santa Cruz area in order to conduct educative sessions and activities. Most of the people who attended the sessions came forward just to take the resources that are provided to them but at the end they did participate in being a part of the sessions.

The fieldwork activities in this setting were the same as that in Cacra village, as here I got to interact with a new group of people all together. A total of two sessions were conducted in this anganwadi on the topic of Covid-19 awareness,

health and sanitation, menstrual hygiene, waste management and eco-friendly practices.

❖ COLVALE PRISON



The prison in Colvale, also known as the Modern Central Jail is situated in Colvale, around 6kms from Mapusa. The prison houses both male and female inmates in two separate blocks and have recently made a new block housing foreign women

inmates. The jail is guarded by at-least four police officers at the initial three gates at all times. In order to enter the women's block, one needs to cross seven gates, and the IDs are checked at every entry point along with a written registration for the purpose of visit. Once crossed the first/main gate of the prison, all personal belongings like bags and phones are kept in a locker, and thorough frisking is done. The fieldwork permit allowed me to visit the women's block, although the jailor said that a round could be made in the foreigner's block at the disposal of the matron, but the matron refused due to safety concerns. The women's block had a huge cemented ground as an outdoor space and the cells on the left side of the gate in a U-shape. The cells were of different sizes with a washroom in each, and two re-creational halls with table-tennis, television, and sewing machines. At the time of our first visit, there were around 15-20 inmates, but hardly ten came forward to interact. By the second visit, we hardly had five inmates as most of them refused to join and got a little hostile, while a few other got their bails. The prison held the convicted and the under-trials together.

My work in the prison involved a two-day session, the first day was majorly introductory whereas on the second day an interpersonal skill development session was conducted with the inmates.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED-

My fieldwork settings included four different agencies, following are the activities that were planned in each agency-

❖ VISHAKHA, JAIPUR

- The major work involved analysing the website content of Vishakha and making necessary changes in the same, one major activity that was planned with the agency was to visit a rehabilitation centre in Bikaner, 335 kms away from Jaipur, and interact with the staff and people there, but due to rising Corona cases and commuting restrictions, this activity plan could not be executed.

VISHAKHA WEBSITE CONTENT

Page- <https://vishakhawe.org/about-us/>

Vishakha is celebrating its 28th year of establishment for rights based intervention in the area of education, health, and combating violence against women and girls. In the past two decades Vishakha has worked towards empowering women, girls and marginalized communities primarily in Rajasthan along with other parts of the country. Vishakha has also served as one of the key litigants in filling a joint PIL in the case of Prevention of Sexual harassment at the Workplace in 1997 where the Supreme Court of India has issued landmark guidelines, popularly known as the Vishakha Guidelines, which became base for the amended Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Vishakha aims to re-establish women's identity as individuals with full access and knowledge of their own rights and to work towards the individual and collective empowerment of women, children, youth and other marginalised communities through securing their rights and building their self-esteem through positive affirmations.

Objectives

- To create empowering spaces for women through consciousness raising and education.
- To promote innovation within the education system so that access is equitable and learning encompasses life skills.
- To establish community-based activity spaces for men and women to encourage dialogue on issues of participatory governance and village development.
- To enhance women's access to their right to health and equity.
- To support women in their struggle for justice against discrimination, oppression and violence. Locating empowerment within the self of women through healing and meditative practices.
- To advocate for gender sensitive policies and rights of women and marginalised groups.

❖ CACRA VILLAGE

- The village gave us a great opportunity to conduct various activity sessions with a range of people. We got to interact with women, new mothers, pregnant ladies, young girls and children. Our centre to conduct the sessions was the anganwadi of the area and the major topic we dealt with was the Corona outbreak, health, hygiene, sanitation and waste management. In order to address all these topics, we devised a plan at length, this included giving sessions to the participants on the aforementioned topics through power-point presentations, videos, discussions and questioning rounds. Along with the said topics we also planned an only activity session focusing on the interpersonal skills development of the children.



- The Covid-19 awareness activity involved a picture only power-point presentation where we explained what is corona, how does it spread, how to identify the symptoms, precautionary measures, types of masks, importance of masks, cleanliness and social distancing and disposal of masks. The presentation was then followed by a video explaining the same for better understanding. After the presentation and video, a general discussion was made to know how much the people know about the virus and their opinions or questions about the same and we also demonstrated the correct way to wear a mask. Once this was over we did a colouring activity with the children where we distributed a paper with a drawing of a dustbin and then we asked the children to colour the same enhancing their creativity and finer motor skills. Post the entire session of the day we distributed sachets of hand sanitizers among the children.
- The health and sanitation and menstrual hygiene session included a power point presentation regarding the importance of personal cleanliness, sanitation and its linkage with health, importance of drinking clean water and consuming well-cooked food, different types of diapers available for babies and adults and how to use them correctly, different types of menstrual sanitary wear like pads, cloth pads and menstrual cups, how to use and dispose them correctly, basic session on female anatomy and what are periods and menstrual cycle phases. This presentation was first explained in detail and then a general discussion took place with the women present in the anganwadi, we showed the different pads and the correct way to wear them and dispose them practically, after which a video was shown on the same.
- The waste management and eco-friendly practices session focused on environmental health and sustainability, we covered the different types of pollution, how it is impacting the environment, animals and us, usage of dustbin, different types of waste and their proper disposal, steps that can be taken to help our environment, different types of alternatives for plastic and various eco-friendly materials and practices. This session was followed by a discussion with the participants in order to address their questions and make them more aware of the severity of climatic changes due to waste.



he interpersonal skills development session was one of the most interesting sessions that was conducted by far, we interacted with the children and joined them in this session, as it mostly comprised of games and had hidden developmental aspects in the games, it was highly enjoyed by the children. In order to conduct this session, we chose an open space and did this outdoors near the temple area. This session comprised of four activities-

- a) Trust-fall- This activity majorly focused on building trust among two participants. One of the participants was blindfolded and were supposed to free fall on their back showing complete faith and trust in their partner who would catch them and break their fall.
- b) Role play- In this activity, groups were made and given situations. They were then supposed to decide among them as to who will play which role and enact the situation.
- c) Emotional charades – Every participant was secretly given a situation and then asked how they would feel in the given circumstance. They were then supposed to enact their feelings in front of the group from them to guess without saying a word.



- d) Click clap – This game is designed to test the responses and reflexes of the participants. The host would say either “click” or “clap” and the participants followed the instructions and either clicked or clapped. The host will randomly switch between the two words and whoever fails to follow the lead is eliminated.

All these activities were repeated twice as every participant demanded for it to be done again.

❖ SANTA CRUZ ANGANWADI

The Santa Cruz anganwadi was not a part of our fieldwork plan initially, we got introduced to it as the anganwadi worker of Cacara was the same as in Santa Cruz and she asked if we could do these sessions there as well. She felt the



need to create more awareness regarding the Corona virus among the children of the Santa Cruz anganwadi. The sessions and activities that were planned for Santa Cruz were the same as that we planned in Cacara, the only difference was that we did not conduct the interpersonal skills development session here due to space issues and that we got a permit from the Colvale prison, rest all the activities were the same. We addressed the issues regarding waste management and eco-friendly practices, health & sanitation and menstrual hygiene and promoted awareness regarding Covid-19 through the same mediums as we did in Cacara.

❖ COLVALE PRISION



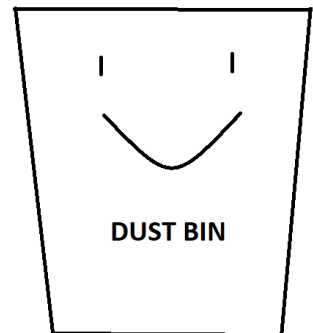
The session in Colvale prison was one of the most cherished experiences we shared as compared to all other fieldwork agencies due to the dynamic nature of us being placed for a fieldwork in a central prison as students. As the permit came late and we only got two days to actually visit the prison we could only conduct activities on one day, our first day went as an introductory visit where we got to know a little about the prison workings and then interact with the staff and the inmates. For our second visit

we planned two activity sessions, the first one was the interpersonal skills development session that we conducted in Cakra as well because we felt that as it went so well with the children there this interactive session would allow a gaming experience to the inmates and give them great room for creativity. The second activity planned was an art and craft activity where we would ask them to draw or write their feelings on a sheet using different colours so that they could express themselves in a given amount of time, but unfortunately we could not conduct this activity as we were not allowed to carry the supplies inside the prison gates. In order to compensate for our second activity, we did a random singing and dancing session along with the inmates.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED-

All the activities that were planned and are mentioned above were conducted in each specified agency. The activities that we failed to conduct are also mentioned along with the reason. Following are the activities that were conducted successfully-

- a) Colouring of dustbin for kids in Cakra and Santa Cruz.
- b) Trust fall
- c) Role play
- d) Emotion charades
- e) Click clap
- f) Dance and singing in prison
- g) Sanitizer distribution in Cakra and Santa Cruz.



The activities we could not conduct are mentioned below-

- a) Visit to rehabilitation centre in Bikaner
- b) Interpersonal skills development session in Santa Cruz
- c) Drawing activity in prison

ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN-

As we were mostly conducting and co-ordinating the activities we did not participate in most of the activities but we did engage in a few with the children in Cakra and the inmates in Colvale prison. Following are the activities in which we also actively participated-

- a) Trust fall
- b) Emotion charades
- c) Dance and singing session

INITIATIVES TAKEN-

One of the major initiatives that was planned was to conduct a beach cleaning drive in Cacra along with the children of the village, but unfortunately we could not do it as we needed a permit and assistance from the Santa Cruz Panchayat for the same but we could not meet with anyone from the panchayat office for assistance despite of going there twice.

OBSERVATIONS-

I feel that I was very fortunate to have four different settings to do my fieldwork as each of them gave me a new and different experience. My observations regarding my fieldwork has also been very diverse as my settings were entirely different from each other.

- In Vishakha- I did not entirely realise the amount of effort and work it goes at every step of making a Ngo work and reaching out to so many people every-day without fail. Although my work with this agency was only limited to working on a laptop, my introductory visit and first hand interaction with the people working there changed my perspective of the inner workings of a Ngo. Even during the times of Covid, I saw the people of Vishakha travel to nearby areas providing assistance to the adolescents and women and working continuously to make a valuable change in our society.
- In Cacra village and Santa Cruz Anganwadi- My observation at these two places has more or less been the same as I mostly interacted with the people in the anganwadi itself. Although the written efforts are highly appreciated, it is not new to know that the execution is not entirely being beneficial for the staff or the people in the anganwadi. A lot of resources are required to be provided and monitored in both these anganwadis for them to achieve the goals they are set for. I saw people just visiting the anganwadis to take the supplies on their names and go back, it is unfortunate that neither the children are being able to enjoy the benefits of the angawadi nor is the staff being paid for their efforts. It is not just the enthusiasm that is lacking in the women and children there it is also little to no provision to keep them engaged. I would not blame the participants who were there or the staff for lack of support, interest and active participation as I do understand that the anganwadi also highly lacks resources and that its importance is taken for granted by all. A lot of conscious effort in practical sense is required to revive the actual importance of these anganwadis so that everyone can enjoy and be participatory towards its provisions.

- In Colvale Prison- As a feminist I was highly taken aback on seeing only male guards on the main gates of the prison and how the staff gender ratio was so polarised. Although the jail claims to give numerous provisions to its inmates, it is entirely untrue. The prison has an all-female staff for the women's prison but the numbers are very less in comparison to the need of the prison. The guards and the matrons both are very less in number, there are two matrons for the women's cell and each works a 24-hour shift. The efforts and work load of these staff members is highly underappreciated. I got to know that one of the matrons injured her spine due to a fight with one of the inmate, and as she got hurt on duty, she didn't get any medical help or monetary assistance being a part of our legal system. Along with that there was no additional pay that was made to the staff even though they spent three to four days in a row on their duties. It is unfortunate how much our system ignores these things, even after making numerous confiscations of contrabands there is little to no recognition of the same. Addressing the inmates, though there are two recreational rooms in the women's block with a television, table-tennis supply and brand new sewing machines available for the inmates, none of the inmates are given access to the same. I did think that the staff would be welcoming as we would engage in doing activities with the inmates, but one of the matrons was extremely rude and kept on creating hindrances in our sessions making it next to impossible to conduct activities. As these people are away from the public eye and behind bars, their basic rights are way more violated than any person out in the open and free. We can't always blame the system for being corrupt, it is also us who needs to intervene to make the spaces we live in as secured, humane and habitable areas.

LEARNINGS-

I had a lot to learn from this field-work, a few things are:

- I learned more about adjusting with people and unfamiliar situations and circumstances.
- I learned to harness the skills of my partner and work on my low points with better coordination as I got the opportunity to do my fieldwork as a pair.
- I learned how we can convince children and make them learn through different strategies.
- I learned punctuality and how even our smallest actions count and can make a difference.

- I not only learned how to manipulate the knowledge that is to be imparted in a child- centric manner but also keep it connected and to the point as children tend to have a short concentration span.
- I also learned that patience and coordination are two major terms and practices that had to be followed throughout for the sessions to be planned and implemented.

LINKAGES WITH THEORY-

As my fieldwork involved both- interacting with people of various age groups and also doing work on online mode, I felt that the communication process and group-work taught in the class was of great use. My fieldwork was with a partner and I do feel that the group-work aspects helped a lot as we both understood our high and low points and coordinated our sessions and work accordingly. The major pointers I could pick out during the fieldwork based on the communication topic involved being a good listener and be empathetic towards others issues and interests and this also helped in being vigilant about our strategies while addressing the topics and changing our methods of explaining based on reading the participants' body language.

RECOMMENDATIONS-

The fieldwork experience in these 12 days has been a memorable one as I doubt any other platform could have helped u experience such diversity and have first-hand experience with so many people in such different settings. Although I do personally feel that a lot of our sessions were restricted on the basis of time and meeting people due to the global pandemic caused by the outbreak of the corona virus. However, I am thankful that I had this opportunity to work in four different settings. I am grateful to my department as well as Prachi Ma'am for making it possible to visit the prison even during these difficult times and giving this once in a life-time opportunity to experience prison and interact with the inmates. My recommendation regarding this fieldwork for future students is that no matter what, be punctual and embrace these fieldwork days as they won't come again, this is a great opportunity to learn through practical means and have innumerable experiences. Although it may seem like work at times and maybe the response from the participants does not feel appreciative, I would urge everyone to just keep on going and giving their best as one can only know the importance of this particular subject once the opportunity of being on field gets over. It was an overwhelming experience for me as I thought that even if one person learns something through our efforts and they smile, be it just for the much time we

are there, my work is rewarded. I duly appreciate this opportunity and would be more than willing to participate in further fieldworks if given the chance.