

Report on Training Programme on Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV) – Maduranthakam (28th September, 2023)

Socio-demographic of Maduranthakam

Maduranthakam is a municipality in Chengalpattu district in Tamil Nadu. As per census 2011, population in Maduranthakam is around 275,953 and out of the total population, 19.4% of the people lives in urban area while 80.6% lives in rural area. Agriculture, cultivation, industrial (household), marginal works are some of the occupations in Maduranthakam. When we look into the literacy rate, it is around 74.3% here. People there are still struggling to complete their education and find work related to their field. Awareness about the importance of education and finding a better job for themselves are rising in these areas.

When it comes to cyber-crime and reporting behaviour, there seems to be a lack of awareness among people. Although every household at least own one android phone and are very much active in social media platforms such as Facebook, twitter and Instagram, it is necessary to be aware of how one's information can be easily misused and can end up becoming a victim in this day and age. Cyber-crime is the form of crime where it is difficult to apprehend the perpetrators and because of this anonymity, with each passings days, different kinds of frauds are coming to light. People have faced financial lose, invasion to privacy and have faced many more problems because of cyber-crime. People in rural areas are unaware of how to tackle cyber-crime if they ever become a victim to it. With this program we provided them information on various forms of cyber-crimes and also provide them with awareness of the measures that they can use to avoid any cyber related issues that can cause them agony and these measures can also help them protect themselves against cyber-crime and also put an emphasis on how and where they can report cyber-crime.

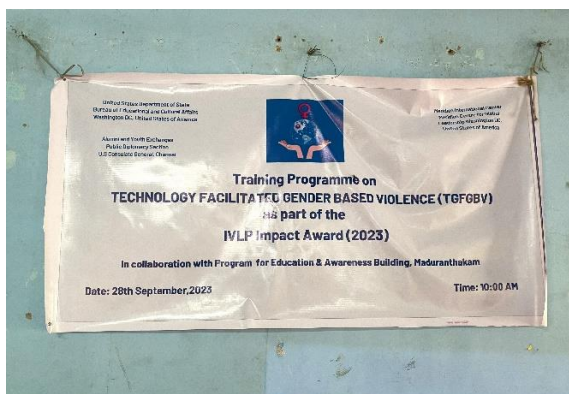


Image 1: Program in Maduranthakam

Training Program – Maduranthakam

The Program commenced with inaugural address from Mr. Muthukumar. Mr. Muthukumar is the field supervisor for the NGO Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB). He has been working with this PEAB for 20 years now. He has helped a lot of young children receive the education they deserve. He highlighted about the importance of women going to school and how education can turn their life for better and how it can improve their quality of life. Youngsters who grow up in economically backward society mostly tend to study up to elementary or finish high school and look for job. The main reason they do that is because they lack awareness on how good education can be and also because they lack the resource for it. This NGO help these students gain the awareness for how education can help them acquire better jobs and thereby improving their quality of life

Dr. Priyamvatha explained how the program was introduced and also the main motto of the training i.e., how the women who attends this training program can help others who need it and share the knowledge they gain.



Image 2: Inaugural address



Image 3: Dr. Priyamvatha felicitate Mr. Muthukumar with shawl



Image 4 & 5: Inaugural address and welcome address

About the partnering institution

Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB) was found in the late 1990s in an aim to provide education for dalit children who did not have resources. Dalit is one of the Indian Caste systems, previously referred as ‘untouchable’ and they experience abuse and are denied basic human rights from other dominant caste members. Lack of resources and the necessity to spend all day in physical labour meant that only few families could prioritise education and even those who tried to study, faced discrimination. PEAB focused on helping children finish high school as students usually drop out early or right after primary school. Today PEAB is a community led organization and has added a focus on personal development, leadership and development of careers.

About the trainers

Two trainers were involved in training program. First, Dr. M. Priyamvada, Professor, Department of criminology, University of Madras. Second was Mr. Thomas Gowthaman, who is currently a Ph.D. research scholar in Criminology from University of Madras. He is also Junior Research fellow, University grant Commission and is also qualified for assistant professor. He trained the participants and provided them with awareness on technology facilitated violence against women and the preventive measures that they can adopt to stay safe. The training modules were explained in tamil (regional language) by Mr. Thomas Gowthaman and Dr. Priyamvada.

Training program details

Program Schedule		
10am to 11am	Inauguration	
11am to 12 noon	Session - 1	Introduction to Digital Technology
12 noon to 1pm	Session - 2	Overview of TFGBV
1.00pm to 2.00 pm	Lunch	
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Session - 3	Forms of TFGBV
3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Session - 4	Awareness, prevention, and detection on TFGBV
4.00pm to 5 pm	Session - 5	Response to TFGBV
5.00pm to 5.30pm	Evaluation, Feedback and Closing Remarks	

About the venue and participants

Participants for the program included college students, school students, homemakers, women from self-help groups, young professional from Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission- Ms. Jayashree, Assistant project officer and community organizers were present. A total of 68 participants were present including the chief guest. The venue for the program in Maduranthakam was a community hall located in Karunguzhi, Maduranthakam. Although the crowd were of a mixture of different age group, everyone was eager to learn and actively participated throughout the program.



Image 6: Participants



Image 7 & 8: Session 1

Session 1

In this session the resource person started with advantages and disadvantages of internet usage. The participants were very interactive. They shared their knowledge on purposes internet can be used for i.e., to shop online, to connect with people who are far away, online banking, use it for matrimonial purposes and so on. The resource person opted to connect more with participants by explaining everything in a simple manner with lots of real-life example.

While discussing about the pros and cons of owning a mobile phone, participants mainly pointed out the health issues caused due to over using such as eye problem, nervous problems, stiffness in fingers etc.

Since majority of the participants were from rural area, they did not have much knowledge on english language and hence resource person used regional language (tamil) to have a better connection with the participants and regional language can help people grasp more information. The main aim of the program is to provide maximum information on cyber-crime to public so that they can be cautious and also help others from becoming a victim.

The resource person also put an emphasis on the advantage and disadvantages of social media where public also actively participated in revealing the knowledge they have on the topic. Though elders were not much aware of social media, youngsters were eager to participate. Some of the participants also shared their personal experience with respect to cyber-crime.

Session 2

In session two the resource person spoke about the how these cyber-crime affects girls and women in particular. This session focused on how one should be careful about what they are posting, as with just their post, people can figure out the details of their life such as residential location, who their friends are, their daily routine etc. Another major issue women in particular face are the misuse of personal photographs. The awareness for cases of such issue occurring where one's photo is surfaced on internet; they should take necessary step to delete the picture from internet was given. Usually when such incidents occur, victims will be mentally tormented and ends up taking drastic measures like suicide attempt. Threatening to release private photos or videos is also a form of mental torture. The resource person also made the public aware of how lack of awareness about technical knowledge among public is also one of the main reasons why their information is being misused and how they end up being a victim.

After the second session an activity was conducted to release tension and create a bond among the participants. Participant were grouped and made to stand in a line. Five groups were formed with ten to fifteen members in each group. The last person in the group were given a word for which they have to pass on the word's meaning only through action and the last person to whom the action is shown, should figure out the word. The participants enjoyed the activity as it created a bond among the participants and an eagerness to win made the activity fun.



Image 9: Activity conducted



Image 10: Lunch break

Session 3

Session three started with an activity which aimed at gender sensitization. An occupation was mentioned by the resource person to the participants and they have to tell the first gender that comes to their mind when they hear the occupation. Some of the words mentioned included nurse, truck driver, doctor, dancer, bodybuilder, fire fighter etc. the participants answer revealed that they aware that women can very well become a fire fighter or a fighter jet pilot while men can also become a classical dancer as well as a nurse. There is always a stereotype when it comes to occupation, as for a long time only certain genders were supposed to do certain jobs. Even though a there is a lot of advancements and we have come a long way, there are still people who judge, for example if a woman does body building and have muscles or if men choose dancing as a profession, they are deemed as outcast and mocked. Maybe it is the lack of awareness about how an occupation is not gender biased and that it should not be seen objectively.

In session three, the resource person spoke about different forms of cyber crime that has been happening around all over the world. The resource person also mentioned how important it is to protect every app with different password and also gave an emphasis on how one should not just write the password or ATM pin anywhere. Financial trouble can occur due to many reasons when it comes to cyber-crime, but sharing one-time password (OTP) is one of the main causes. Participants were given awareness of how important such passwords are and under no circumstances should one share it with anyone. Sharing personal details also should not be done if any they get any calls asking for it, posing as a bank. Focus was also given on how young girls suffer from cyber harassment and cyber bullying without even know that what they are going through is harassment and they eventually get emotionally and mentally disturbed

because of it. Trolling also comes under this. Some girls from the participants said that they turn off commenting while posting pictures in social media so that they do not have to face such forms of cyber bullying. Although youngsters seem to be aware of this, elders who were present in the program were not aware of these forms of cyber-crime faced by people who are active in social media. Some of the other forms of cyber-crime discussed includes morphing, revenge porn, identity theft etc.

Session 4

In session four, the resource person spoke about how to one should be careful about what they post in social media and how it can be misused and hence having a private account will help. Focus was also given importance on privacy setting and how it should be used efficiently. Emphasis was given how one should be careful on who they connect with on social media and if they ever feel uncomfortable or if they are being abusive, they can always report and block the individual. The resources person focused on how women and young girls should responsibly used their social media. When it comes to software update and using anti-virus, participants eagerly listened. Another topic covered was using public wi-fi and how personal information can be accessed if one is not careful.

After explaining, the resource person went around asking what the participants have learnt so far. All participants were asked and the response was really satisfactory as people were seemed to have grasped more information about cyber-crime and how they can make a safe digital environment and aware of the precautionary measures that can be used to protect themselves and mitigate the problems they face because of using internet. Majority of the participants also said that they weren't aware that women can also work and excel in all fields.

Session 5

In the last session the resource person explained as to how to complaint or report cyber-crime online. People usually hesitate to report cyber-crime because of humiliation or feel that police can't do anything to help people. Other reason is that they don't know where to complaint. This session provided awareness as to where to complain if they face cyber-crime. There is an online portal where public of any age can register a formal complaint and if they don't want to do that, they can always use social media to report by tagging cyber dost or police in their complaint. Another issue this session focused on was downloading security app in girls or women's phone so do they can use it in time of emergencies. An application named Kavalan is prominent in Tamil Nadu and if they have the app in their phone and if they are in any trouble,

they can just shake their phone thrice or press the panic button which will automatically send alert to police about her location and will use the phone's camera and video to update live video feed. In this way police can rescue the person in distress.

After this session feedback was collected from the participants and they informed that this program was helpful in providing them with the knowledge of cyber-crime and precautionary measures that they can adopt so that they are safe. Being aware of different forms of cyber-crime, preventive measures and ways of reporting can help them safeguard themselves as well as people who they know who are this situation. Participation certificate was provided to every participant who attended the program.



Image 11, 12, 13 & 14: Distribution of certificate

