

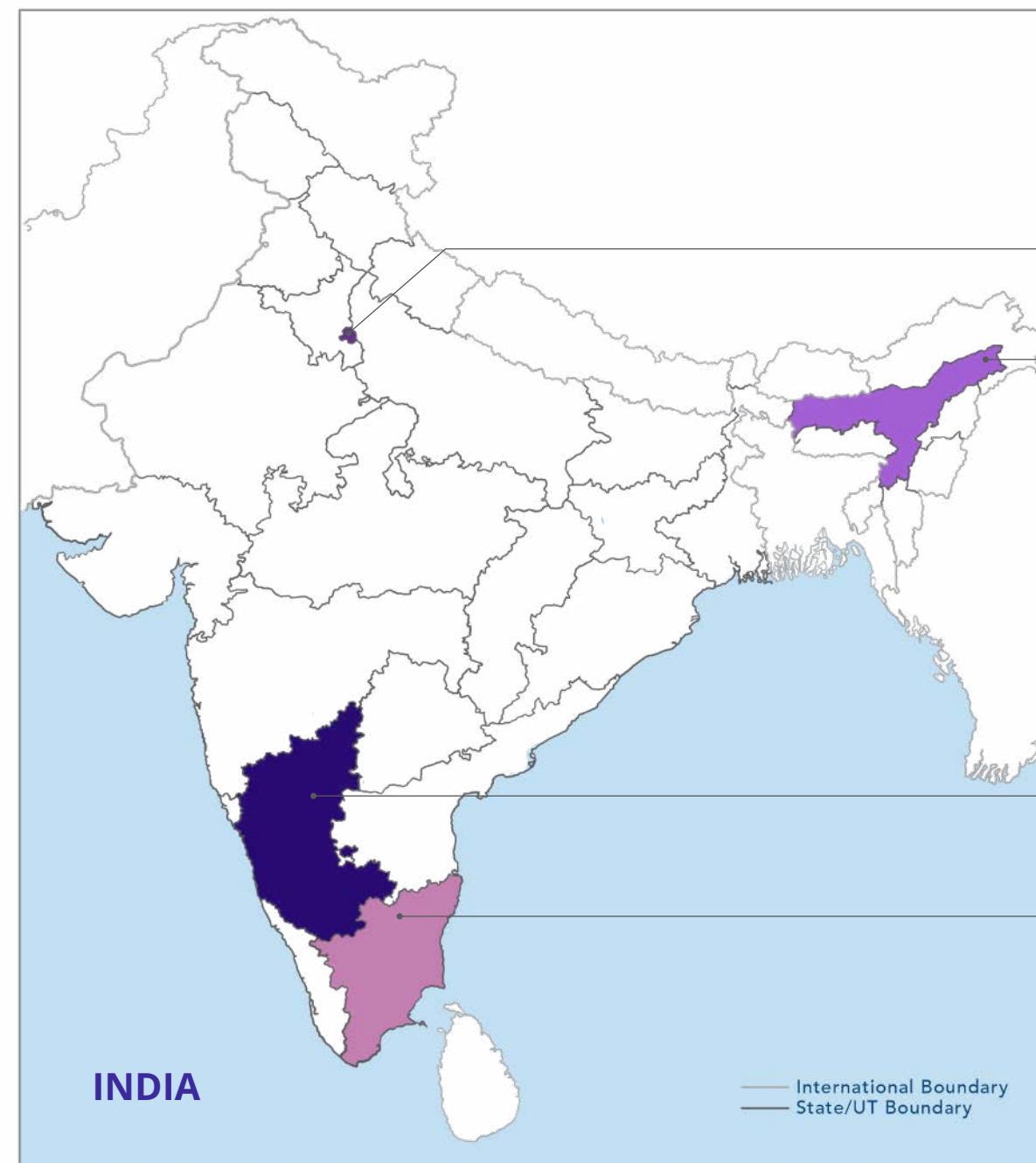
~~STAY HOME. STAY SAFE.~~ AT HOME. AT RISK.

A Rapid Survey Series across
4 States on the Domestic Violence Redressal
Ecosystem during COVID-19 Outbreak

1/8

SYNTHESIS OF FINDINGS: DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY* (DLSA)

AT HOME, AT RISK is a series of rapid surveys to understand how the redressal ecosystem for domestic violence has functioned during the COVID-19 pandemic. The surveys are conducted by eight member organisations of Lam-lynti Chittara Neralu (LCN) across 7 states. They are based on phone interviews with women and transgender survivors of domestic violence, and the staff of a range of service providers such as shelter homes, helplines, One Stop Crisis Centers, women's rights organizations, among others.



TOTAL DLSAs
SURVEYED: 7

Delhi

2

Assam

1

Karnataka

2

Tamil Nadu

2

* <https://nalsa.gov.in/about-us>

CALLS RECEIVED DURING THE LOCKDOWN

DSLISA*, Delhi:
150-200

“The number of domestic violence cases increased during the lockdown. There was more physical violence and verbal abuse”.

DSLISA, Delhi

“Physical, mental, economic and psychological violence has increased”.

DLSA, Tamil Nadu

*Delhi State Legal Services Authority

WHO WAS THE CALLER?

DELHI

Married women
(2-3 rescued from their marital homes)

Minor girls
(in premarital relations; physically abused by parents)

Senior citizens

KARNATAKA

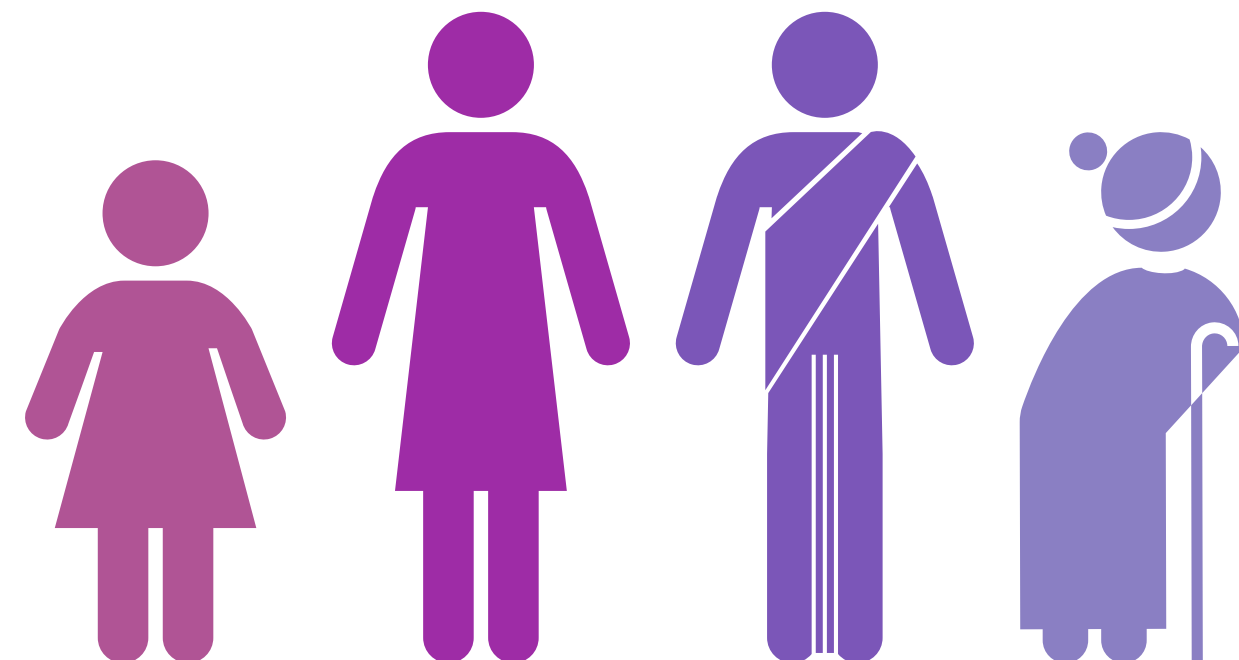
Married and elderly women

ASSAM

Newly-married women

TAMIL NADU

Married women



MOST NAMED PERPETRATOR

DELHI



DLSA, Delhi

“A woman contacted us with a complaint about her brother who lived in the same building as her but on a different floor. Their parents had died without a will. The brother would harass her often but it worsened during the lockdown. We contacted the police to take appropriate action. Things are better there”.

KARNATAKA



“A married woman had gone to visit her parents when the lockdown started. When she wanted to return to her marital home and children, she was not allowed back by the husband. We had to counsel the couple”.

ASSAM



TAMIL NADU



“There were cases of abuse on elderly women who are dependent upon their sons and daughter-in-laws”.

COUNSELLING SOUGHT BY



Delhi Tamil Nadu

“Physical, mental, economic and psychological violence has increased. Within these 3 months, all survivors reached us online and needed only counselling”.

DLSA, Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL MEASURES DURING THE LOCKDOWN

ASSAM

Shared helpline numbers through e-posters



DELHI

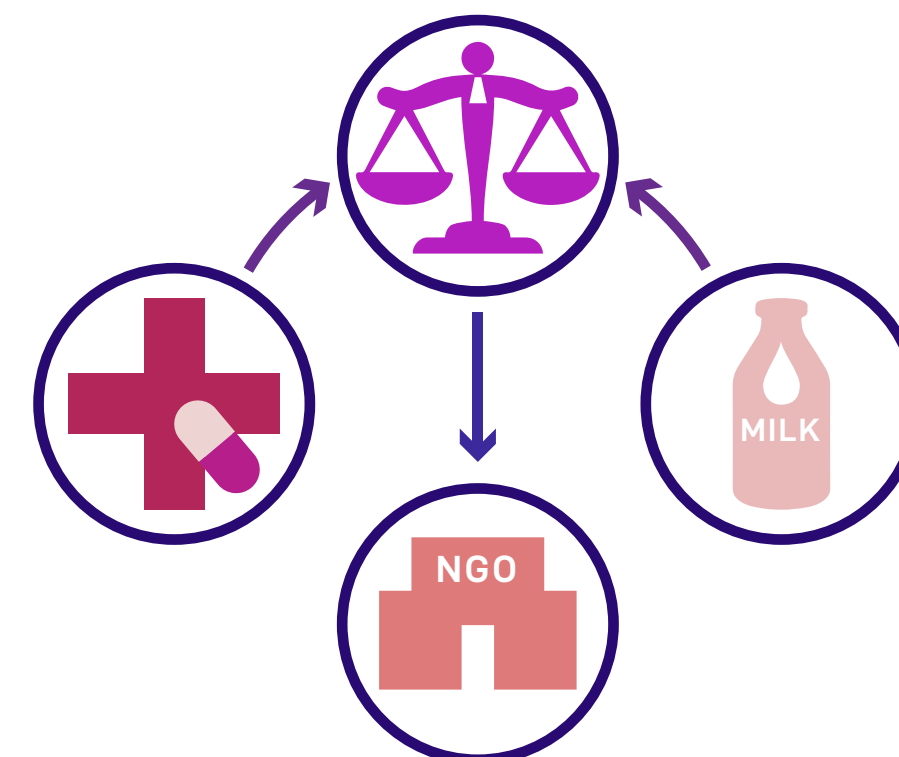
24X7 helpline

“When men lost their livelihood during the lockdown, they released their anger and frustration on women. They thought they could do as they pleased because the police or courts will not be able to help women. We worked 24x7 through our helplines. Many survivors contacted us through our phone numbers, helpline and the police. We received calls every day, especially during the first two months”.

DLSA, Delhi

Legal awareness camps (including for construction workers) by paralegals

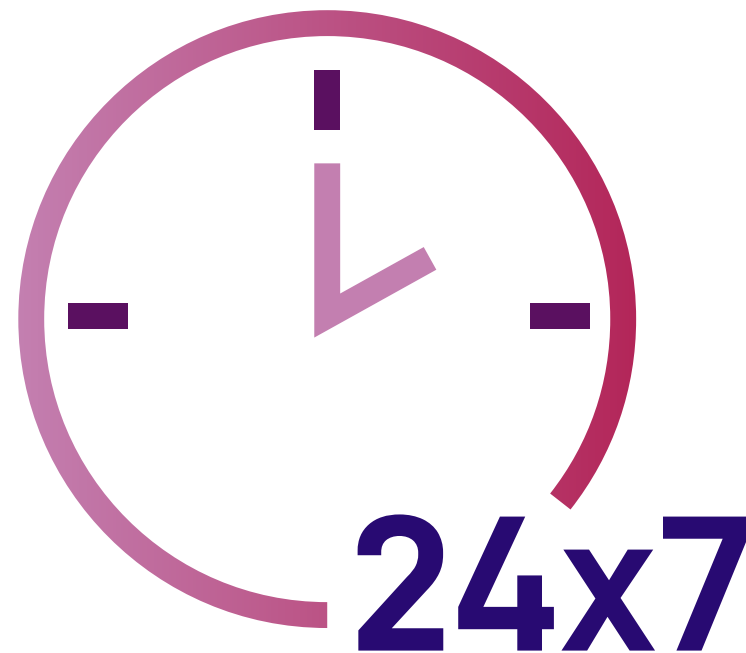
Created an outreach network with dairy outlets and chemists to identify and rescue survivors, and offer legal aid



SPECIAL MEASURES DURING THE LOCKDOWN

KARNATAKA

- Launched a 24x7 helpline
- Displayed emails and phone numbers in One Stop Centres and at the District Collector's Office



TAMIL NADU

- 24X7 phone service
- Online legal assistance and counselling

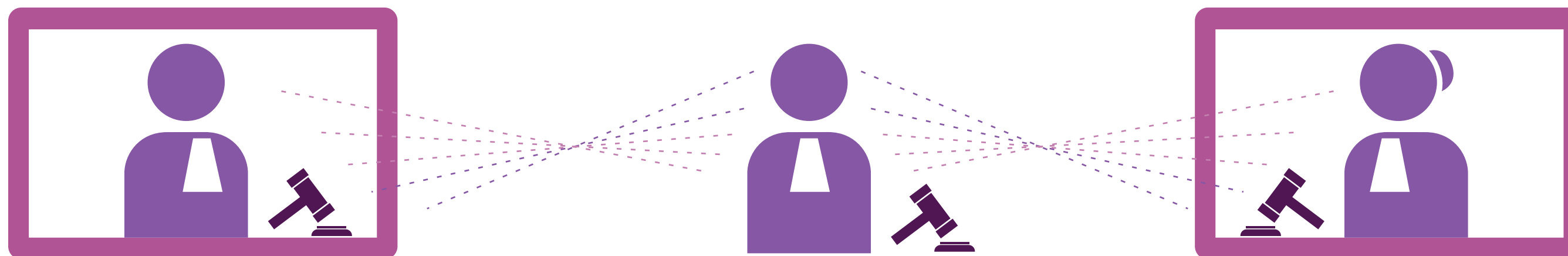


“To reach out to people in times of need, we have been additionally deputed to the taluk (sub-district) courts as well”.

DLSA, Tamil Nadu

LAST-MILE OUTREACH VIA TECH

Greater use of technology for remote meetings



DELHI

“When the lockdown was in full swing, and there was no transport, a woman was being tortured by her husband and in-laws despite Protection Orders. With the help of the local police station, we got her a court order through a video conference”.

DSLISA, Delhi

KARNATAKA

“We used video calls for our work. We were asked to visit quarantine centres. Later as the virus spread, we spoke to quarantined people through doctors and offered advice and legal help”.

DLSA, Karnataka

TAMIL NADU

“The State Legal Service Authority has sent us directives for effective functioning of the DLSA during the pandemic. Our mobile numbers have been made widely known through advertisements, social media, television, newspapers and pamphlets”.

DLSA, Tamil Nadu

ANECDOTE: THE ABANDONED SURVIVOR?



“In the month of June, an elderly woman, aged 60, was found sleeping in front of our court building. For 2 days, she did not talk to or receive food from anyone. When questioned, she did not respond as if she was heavily traumatised. She was taken to a temporary shelter in a municipal school. She was counselled and her medical checkup was done. We are trying to locate her residence and know the issue”.

DLSA, Tamil Nadu



LCN (LAM-LYNTI CHITTARA NERALU) IS A NATIONAL NETWORK THAT WORKS TOWARDS IMPROVED AND RIGHTS-BASED SHELTER SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE.

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