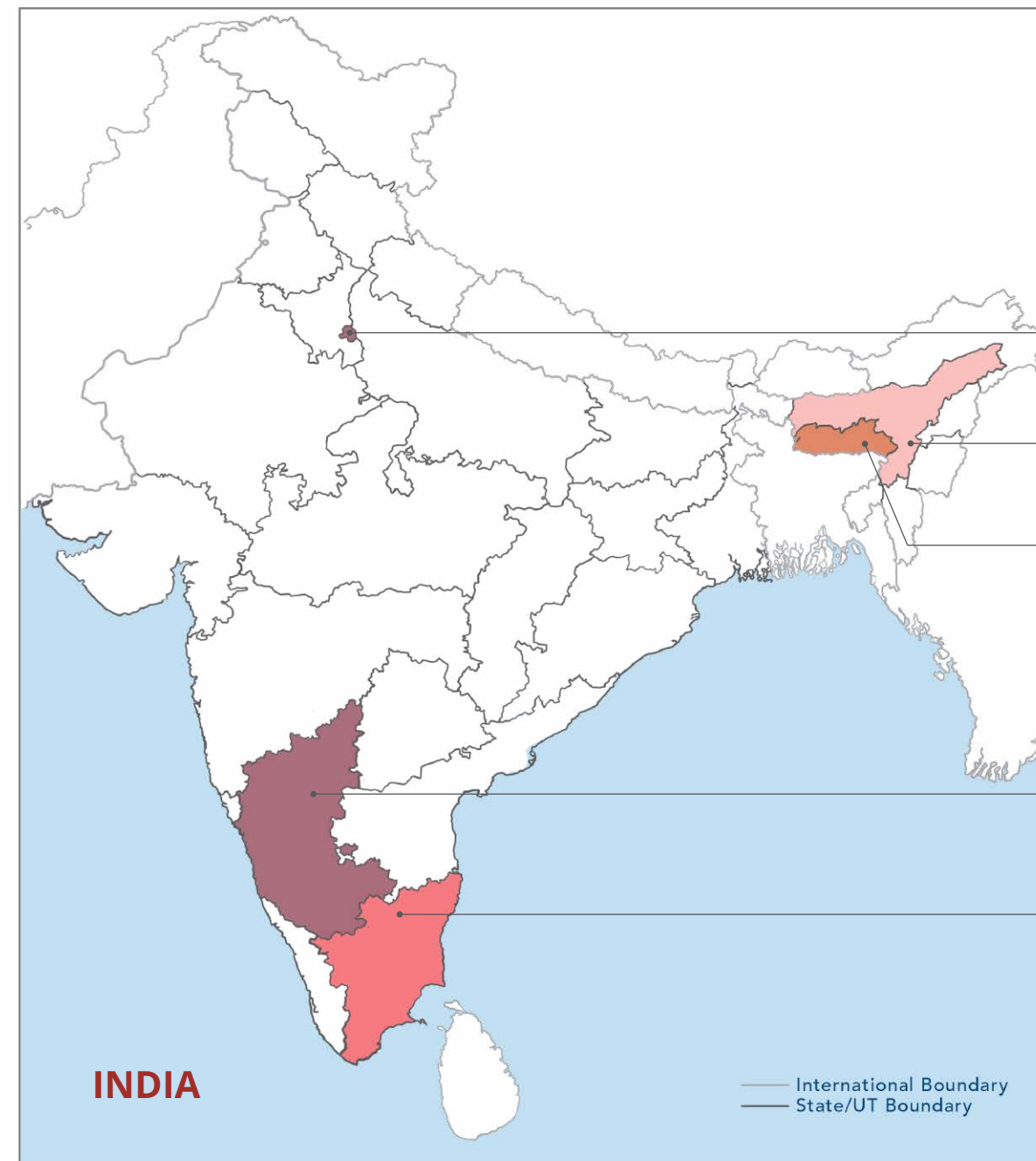


~~STAY HOME. STAY SAFE.~~ AT HOME. AT RISK.

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

SYNTHESIS OF FINDINGS: PROTECTION OFFICERS* (POs)

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 POs
INTERVIEWED: 11**

Delhi
2

Assam
1

Meghalaya
1

Karnataka
3

Tamil Nadu
4

**141 cases from
5 states**

* <https://scroll.in/article/830882/twelve-years-since-the-domestic-violence-act-how-well-do-protection-officers-help-women-in-need>

INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

“Before the pandemic, we received around 5 cases every month. In the last 3 months since the pandemic, we have handled 29 cases of physical and sexual violence”.

PO, Tamil Nadu

“During the lockdown, survivors seeking maintenance called me to enquire about the status of their court cases”.

PO, Delhi

“I think cases of domestic violence are under-reported. Because of the lockdown, women could not reach out to the police. Women might face violence but they do not report. The community also prevents women from reporting to the police. Sometimes the village headman can mediate. Only in extreme cases of physical and dowry-related violence do survivors go to police”.

PO, Assam

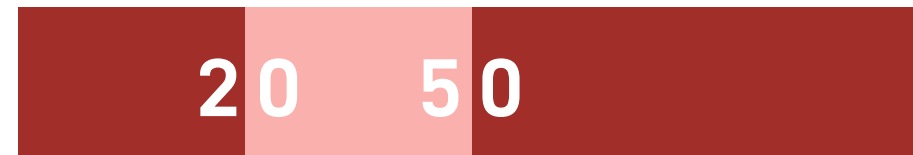
“Before the lockdown, we received one to two cases in two months, but after the lockdown, we received four to five cases in two months”.

PO, Meghalaya

“Domestic violence cases have definitely increased. People have had no earnings and not enough food”.

PO, Karnataka

WHO IS THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR?



20 year old married women,
mostly home makers, some
with young children

MOST NAMED PERPETRATOR

Husbands

In-laws

Sons

Karnataka

- Mentally and physically disabled women
- Transpersons
- Construction, factory, and migrant workers

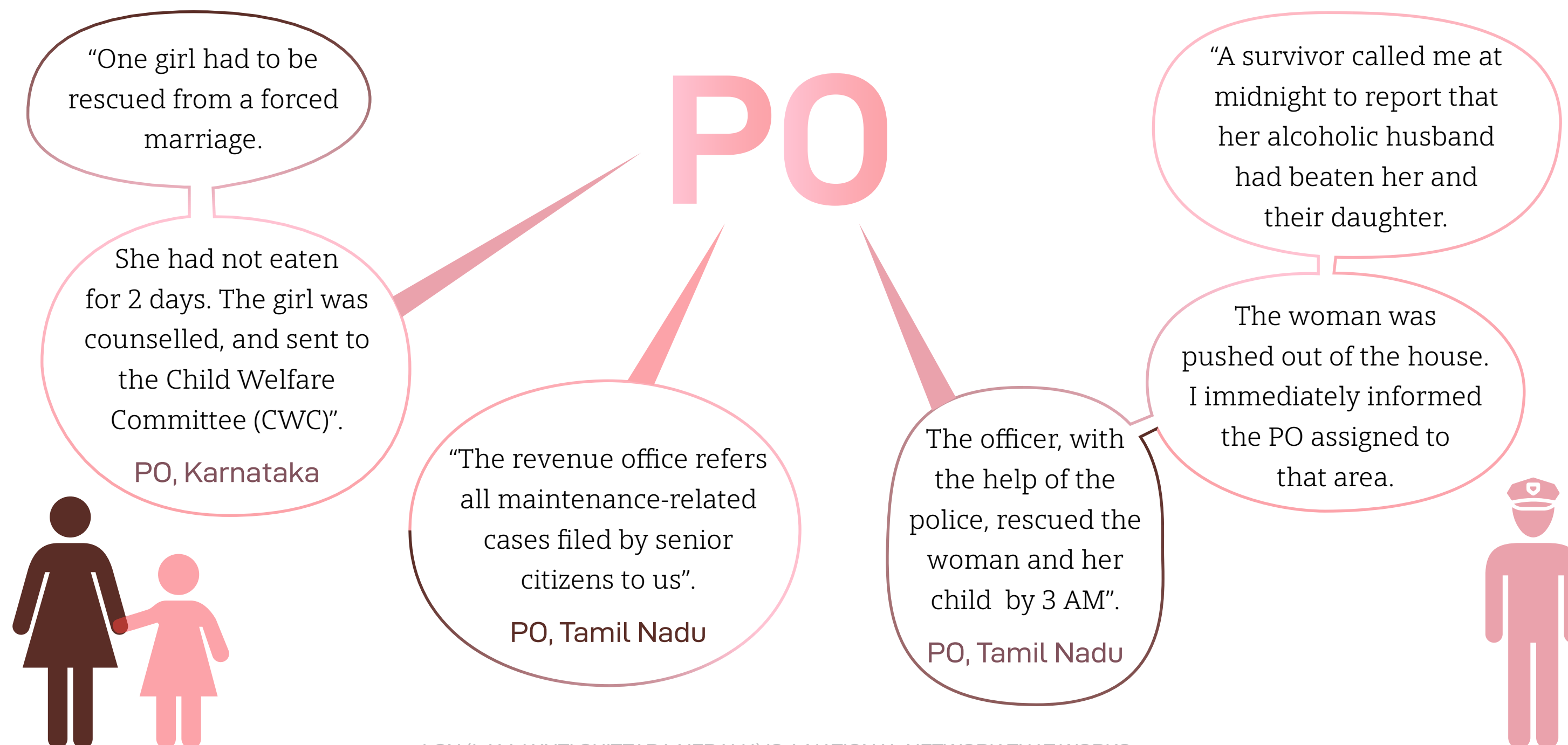
Tamil Nadu

- Senior citizens above 70 years
- Workers in match and firework factories
- Agricultural labourers



STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

9 out of 10 Protection Officers reported cooperation



PANDEMIC TRIGGERS CHILD MARRIAGES

2 districts of Karnataka reported
90-100 child marriages

“Many child marriage cases had to be stopped in the middle of the night. They wanted to hide and complete the wedding. FIRs had to be filed in 3 cases. Such cases were very challenging because our staff had to travel and work at odd hours--midnight to early morning”.

PO, Karnataka

SPECIAL LOCKDOWN MEASURES

Tamil Nadu

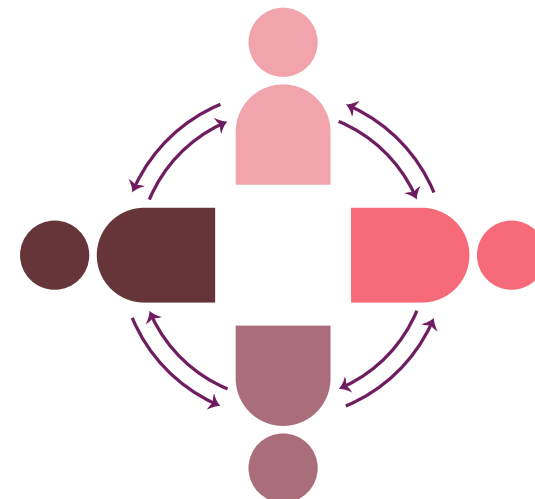


RESPONSE



COUNSELLING

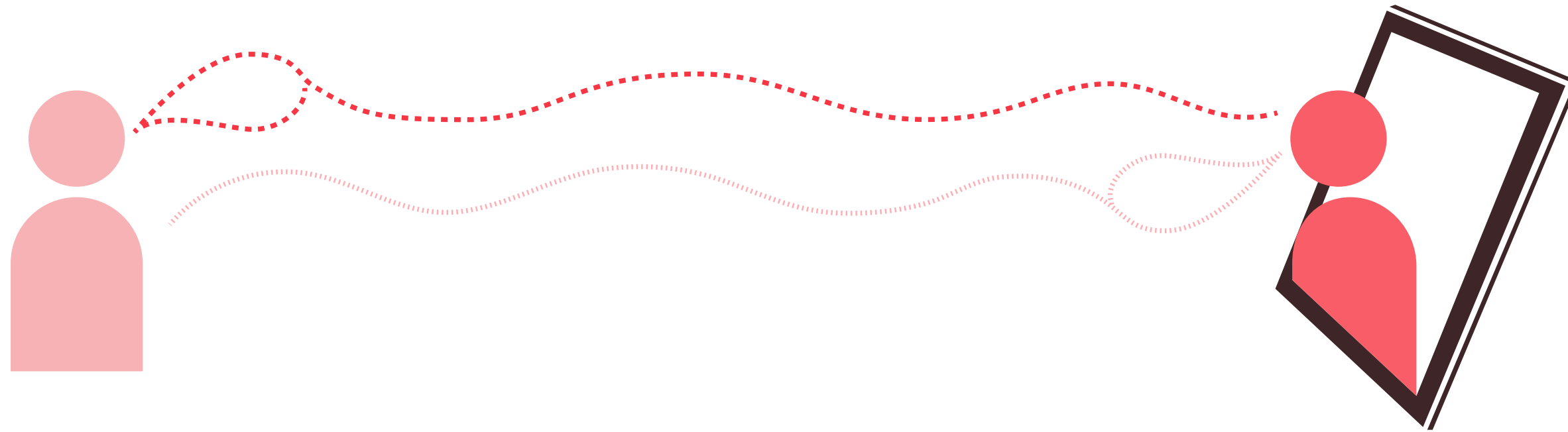
COORDINATION
with the Social Welfare
Office, One Stop Centres
and the Police



ACCESS
to the vehicle of the
Social Welfare Office
for rescues



DIGITAL SUPPORT: A MIXED BAG



“We were asked to provide online counselling, and our numbers were advertised in the papers, on television and Helo app. Hence, many survivors approached me directly”.

PO, Tamil Nadu

“Many people did not know how to file cases online. Some lawyers called me to clarify if cases could be filed online”.

PO, Delhi

“The District Legal Service Authority had also advertised our mobile numbers along with their numbers. The Police, 181 helpline and the Social Welfare Office also refer cases to us”.

PO, Tamil Nadu

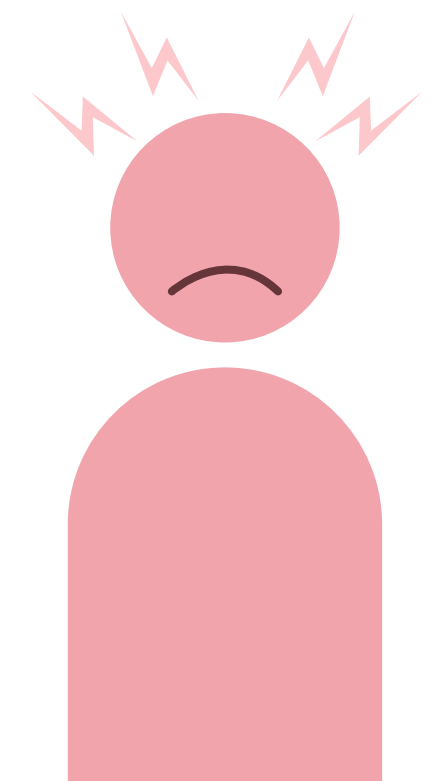
CONCERNS OF PROTECTION OFFICERS

Karnataka

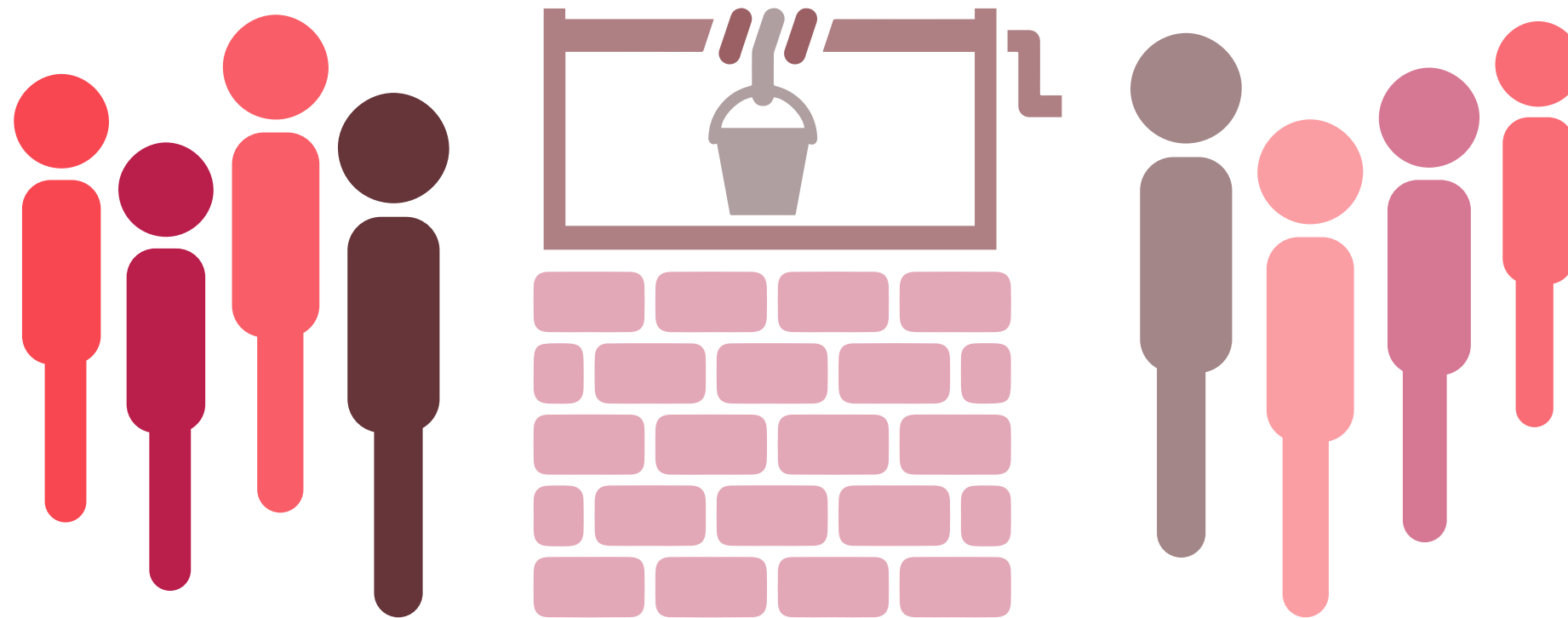
- “Why should only the Department of Women and Child Development be attending to women’s issues during public health emergencies? All the departments should work together”

Tamil Nadu

- “One protection officer is not enough for one district”
- “During this lockdown, we were available 24 x 7. So we received many messages. Many a times, we offered counselling on the phone, but I am not sure if it works 100 percent. The husband talks first, then the wife talks...it goes on like this till late night. One call takes nearly 1 hour and we are literally tired, unable to take care of ourselves”
- “During the pandemic, there was no public transport. We had to hire auto rickshaws and taxis. It cost us too much”



FIGHTING CASTEISM



During the lockdown, there was a request for drinking water supply from a village that had a positive case of Corona. A Protection Officer intervened to arrange for water from the neighbouring village. But the villagers refused because their neighbours belonged to a lower caste. After persistent intervention of the Officer, the problem was solved.



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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