

Case study

Mrs. Sushma Dhande* is 26 years old and lives in a village around 30 km south of Nagpur, together with her husband she has two young girl-children. After the first girl-child was born, Sushma's husband and parents-in-law started to **abuse and mistreat the mother** for bearing a girl instead of a boy. When the second girl was born it became even worse and they started **beating her as well as the two girl-children**. In order to protect her from the ongoing violence, Sushma's parents filed a complaint at the Butibori Police Station in May 2008. The case was transferred to the Sangam's Counselling Cell, which initiated a **process of dialogue** between the couple. Finally, after around two months a **compromise** was reached with the help of a mutual letter of agreement. Now, like all the cell's cases, it is still followed up by the Counselling Team.

**Name changed*

The future

Over the next few years we would like to extend the Awareness-Raising activities of our Counselling staff members in order to reach out to more villages.



Get involved

The long-term success of the Sangam's Counselling Cell can only be assured by putting the cell on a sound financial basis.

Any contribution to our Counselling Cell is therefore highly appreciated.

All donations to the Ecumenical Sangam will qualify for deductions under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 (50 % Income Tax Deduction).



Sangam's Counselling Cell



Ecumenical Sangam

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About Ecumenical Sangam

Founded in 1993, the **Ecumenical Sangam** is a non-profit Health and Community Development Organisation aiming to empower the poorer sections through the provision of **healthcare, education, awareness raising and long term skill building activities.**

In Bamhani village, 35 km south of Nagpur, the Sangam runs a Base Centre which includes a Training Centre for Technical and Sewing Classes, a Kindergarten and a Rural Health Centre.



Through the Base Centre and three Sub-centres in Shedeswar, Gondwananagar and Narayanpur, the Sangam is working in **45 villages** south of Nagpur.

The Counselling Cell in Butibori

The Counselling Cell for Women in Distress was established in **2006**. Since then, **three experienced female Social Workers** are at the permanent service of women in need and work in close collaboration with the Butibori Police Station to enquire into reported cases of domestic violence.



Domestic violence can appear in various forms. Whether it is the husband or the parents-in-law who maltreat the woman; the ones who suffer are women and children. Most cases of domestic violence happen when there is an **excessive consumption of alcohol** by the man.

In the process of counselling, first the victim is consulted, followed by sessions with every affected person, and even friends are listened to. The aim is to find a **consensual** solution for the problem.



As a non-government facility the Counselling Cell provides help that is an **alternative to divorce** which means lots of problems for a woman in Indian society. Counselling Cells also create awareness, and atrocities do not remain unseen anymore. Thanks to **daily house visits** in different villages, the Social workers are reaching out to a growing number of families. Since 2006, **150 cases have been referred** and a compromise reached in 130 cases.