**Access to legal justice**

The Supreme Court of India made a sun rise PS, on the rise in cases of child rape and the corresponding lack of infrastructure. We are glad to report that despite the challenges against reporting new cases, the highest number of complaints has seen a rise by a whopping 26% over the previous year. The data also shows a significant increase in cases of cases filed by minors, with only 32% of them reporting the event.

In this context, the Jan Sahas team conducted a survey in 2018 which revealed that 78% of respondents had faced sexual violence in their lifetime. 78% shared that they encountered it as children, while 74% of them had faced it as minors but of them only 32% had reported the event. In this light, the increase in the reporting of cases is an encouraging trend which hints towards the breaking of social constructs of shame and victimization.

Ministerial actions on the law have been slow and steady. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, in its latest statement, reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that the law is implemented effectively. The Ministry has also taken steps to ensure that the beneficiaries of the law are aware of their rights and entitlements and are informed about the various avenues available to them.

**Reclaiming Spaces**

Kulath Milkha Vivasan Hospital (KMHV) is a non-profit in Haryana village led to the Parvati Shakti to honour women who have attained higher education by naming the village streets after them. The initiative was announced in March and the Parvati Shakti has shared the process with PS women participating in the same. KMVS believes in enabling an ecosystem that prioritises women’s safety through collaborative efforts between the Judiciary, civil society groups, community, and local level service providers and other ethnic groups. The local level service providers, stakeholders, are involved in designing and understanding the challenges and is involved in designing and understanding the challenges and solutions.

The current situation is indeed promising but further education and training of the village staff is required to ensure that the women are aware of their rights and entitlements and are informed about the various avenues available to them.

**In the News**

The news! The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017 which criminalises triple talaq and renders the errant husband liable for three years’ imprisonment, has seen mixed reactions. While one faction views it as a victory and redemptive machinery for Muslim women, an opposing segment believes the Bill may further marginalise the plight of Muslim women. HRD Ministry looks at the Bill as a liberating machinery for Muslim women who were given “instant talaq” when wife asked him for vegetables.” On the other hand, Flavia Agnes of Majlis voiced her dissent stating that it would serve as a convenient way out for husbands without paying maintenance for the duration of the trial. The bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha and is pending in the Rajya Sabha. It is expected to be passed in the current session.

**I Witness – the Influencers field visit**

It was an eventful Saturday on July 27th when representatives from the group visited with the confident and cheery leaders of one of our NGO partners, Vacha. Read about the various experiences and achievements of the newly passed Triple Talaq bill and join us in celebrating the work and journey of our grassroots coalition partners, Jan Sahas and KHVS.