

The Influencer bulletin

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Your support is ensuring women and girls get freedom from violence and discrimination, increased access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. In this issue, we bring you updates from EdelGive's At the Same Table (ATST), where one of our NGOs, IT for Change, led a discussion on leveraging technology to facilitate grassroots leadership for women empowerment. Join us as we celebrate Milaan's selection to participate in the Women Deliver Campaign in Vancouver, and follow with us a developing story on how Nishtha is fighting for the rights of a victim of sexual violence.

Collective conversations

An At the Same Table (ATST) convening hosted by EdelGive Foundation on 25th April in Bengaluru brought together representatives from the business and philanthropy world, to deliberate on *Using Technology to build grassroots leadership for Women Empowerment*. The session hosted by Anita Gurumurthy of **IT for Change**, shared the duality of the opportunities and challenges inherent in digital inclusion and internet access, in the women's rights discourse. While technology and the internet has the potential to fortify voice, facilitate solidarity and political organising among women especially in rural areas; at the same time it is also observed that women subject themselves to self-censorship of this exposure and access. This is a result of male-dominant ideologies of the real world (hegemonic masculinities), manifesting equally in the virtual. Read more details of the conversation [here](#).

#knowledgesharing



Grassroots Leadership






In an exciting development, **Milaan** has been invited to attend the **Women Deliver 2019 Conference** being hosted in Vancouver from 3rd - 6th June 2019. The Women Deliver 2019 Conference is the world's largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women. More than 6,000 world leaders, influencers, advocates, academics, activists, and journalists, with the likes of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Gabriela Ramos of OECD and United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will flock to Vancouver from around the world with the drive to accelerate progress for girls and women everywhere.

Access to legal justice

"Why does a girl need to fight for her protection? For her education? Why should a girl fight for her survival? These are all their legal rights!"

These questions were raised by the members of **Nishtha's** adolescent groups after one of their members - a teenage girl was sexually assaulted and then brutally injured by the perpetrator. The crime was committed when the girl was alone at home. The accused, who lived in the same neighbourhood, barged into her house and assaulted her. When she tried to defend herself, the boy slashed her throat with a knife. Her screams attracted the neighbours who rushed to her rescue and overpowered the assaulter. The girl was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition and a police complaint was lodged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. While her wounds began recovering, the girl continued to be fearful for her life. This plight of the girl spurred the girls

of Nishtha's adolescent groups to embark on a protect rally. Their demands are given below.

-  Severe punishment for the accused. Justice within three months.
-  Compensation for physical, mental, emotional and social damage caused.
-  Safe housing under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana" or any other housing schemes under the government.
-  Special security by local police to prevent any harm to the victim by the accused's family.
-  Local administration like Pradhan, Block Development officer, should be responsible for ensuring dignified living conditions in her family and in her community.

Breaking convention

Shaheen Women's Resource and Welfare Association is supporting 20 girls hailing from Old City in Hyderabad to learn how to drive a car. Communities in this part of the city are known to be conservative with restricted mobility for girls. This initiative is significant as it represents a dual opportunity which is rarely accessed: to negotiate their mobility while learning an employable skill.

