



# Annual Report 2024-25

- Anti-Sex Trafficking Initiatives
- Livelihood to Victims of Violence
- Prevention of Sexual Abuse & Exploitation



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# Foreword



The year 2024 has been a year of growth and new beginnings for ARZ. One of the biggest steps forward was the expansion of our livelihood initiative, WISH, into North Goa—our first effort in the region to provide alternative employment and disrupt the local sex trade. Victims of sex trafficking face many layers of discrimination based on class, caste, and gender. This year, we made great strides in breaking those barriers and opening new paths to rehabilitation. The impact of Covid-19 still lingers, especially for trafficking victims. While the world returned to normal, for them, normalcy meant continued exploitation. This has required extra effort to undo the damage done by the pandemic.

Covid-19 also led to a rise in online sexual exploitation. To address this, ARZ worked hard to build stronger networks and partnerships to stop traffickers who operate in the digital world. 2024 has set a new standard for our work, and we are determined to carry this momentum into 2025 and beyond. Our commitment to ending sex trafficking is stronger than ever, and we will continue to work towards a future where no one is left behind.

This year, ARZ also focused on knowledge-sharing by publishing research, handbooks, and awareness materials to support individuals and institutions working to end trafficking. None of this would have been possible without the collective effort of our partners. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Goa Government, the Goa State Commission for Women, the Directorate of Women and Child Development, Goa State Legal Services Authority, FRRO, Directorate of Prosecution, Goa Police, and the Child Welfare Committee, whose role in this fight is invaluable.

We also acknowledge the contributions of our donors—ECPAT Luxembourg, the Azim Premji Foundation, Ashraya Hashta Trust, and CSR partners like Robertet's—whose support allows us to sustain and expand our initiatives. Most importantly, we recognize the strength of the survivors who have engaged with our programs and taken steps toward new opportunities. Ending trafficking requires all of us to work together, and we remain committed to this shared goal.

**Ms. Juliana Lohar**  
Deputy Director, ARZ



This year has been one of perseverance and progress. We have faced many challenges, but each one has taught us something valuable. Our livelihood unit has grown, and we have worked hard to get entitlements for the Devadasi group in Goa. For too long, these women have been ignored because people think the Devadasi system exists only in Karnataka and Maharashtra. At ARZ, we are working to change that and make sure they get the support and dignity they deserve.

To push this forward, ARZ took the Devadasi Sangh to Karnataka, where we met with government officials like the Deputy Commissioner, the District Social Welfare Officer, and the Department of Women and Child Development. We also sat with NGOs that have been fighting for Devadasis' rights for years. Hearing their experiences helped us understand the struggles better and how we can strengthen our own demands in Goa.

We also met with Devadasi groups in Karnataka to find ways to come together and fight for pensions and entitlements—not just in Karnataka, but across India. At the same time, our survivors' group continues to push for pensions for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, which is one of our biggest goals.

In 2024, we focused on bringing people together and making our voices heard. In 2025, we will push harder to make sure these demands turn into reality. We are not just speaking up—we are making sure things change.

**Ms. Bhimavva Chalwadi**  
President, Goa Rahavasi Devadasi Sangh & Goa Survivor's Association



# About ARZ



Arz (anyay rahat zindagi) is a development organization founded by professionals from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, in 1997. Arz NGO has been appointed as the “NODAL NGO” of AHTU, by the Goa police to conduct rescues and by the Department of Women & Child development, Government of Goa to provide rehabilitation services to the victims of sex trafficking admitted at the government state protective home.

ARZ has been working to prevent child sexual abuse and has set up livelihood programs in both the districts covering North and South Goa that provide economic opportunities for survivors and at-risk individuals, including the children of survivors.

LIVELIHOOD &  
REHABILITATION TO  
VICTIMS

ANTI- SEX  
TRAFFICKING WORK

PREVENTION OF  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION





# Progress- LIVELIHOOD



Women's Initiative for Self Help

**EMPOWERING VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING IN GOA**

An Initiative of



Anyay Rahit Zindagi



Paper Bags (Flat-bottom)      Paper Bags (with Handle)

Tissue Napkins      Toilet Tissue

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WISH is an initiative of Arz to economically rehabilitate the victims of sex trafficking. WISH is a collective of women who have faced sexual violence and victims of sex trafficking, who are working towards economic empowerment through different business alternatives.




WISH is an initiative of Arz NGO to empower victims of sexual violence.  
Your purchase will contribute in empowering and rehabilitating victims of violence.  
Contribute by placing bulk orders for Tissue Napkins, Toilet roll, Paper Bags with handles and Envelopes.



For further information and to place your orders contact us on  
+91 94238 88649 / +91 9850962490



<b>Livelihood &amp; Skill Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65 women and girls were provided with livelihood</li> <li>• 24 women and girls received training in tailoring and printing</li> <li>• 8 victims at the Government Protective Home were given skill-training followed by livelihood</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Rehabilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 89 women and girls were provided psychosocial counselling</li> <li>• 160 family members received counselling and psychosocial services</li> </ul>
<b>Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1612 were made aware about reducing consumption of single use plastic</li> <li>• 1802 cloth bags stitched by the survivors of sexual violence were distributed free of cost to support reducing plastic use.</li> </ul>

# Innovation- Skill Training

This year marks the beginning of ARZ's skill training programs in screen and iron printing and tailoring, created in response to the needs and aspirations of marginalized community. We believe that these practical skills open up opportunities for economic independence, creative expression, and community support.



Participants can choose between two tailoring courses:

- ◆ 3-Month Course – Focuses on making saleable products like bags and clothes, along with pricing and marketing skills.
- ◆ 6-Month Course – Covers advanced skills like tie-dye, embroidery, crochet, and portfolio building.



The printing course offers:

- ◆ Basics of printing
- ◆ Theory
- ◆ Operations of the screen and iron printing machines
- ◆ Fabric Analysis for Printing
- ◆ Practicals

Many participants start with the short courses either printing or tailoring to earn quickly and have the option to extend to six months while working part-time at WISH's livelihood unit. The program also includes life skills and employability training.



I really enjoyed the embroidery classes. It's something I can do at home too, and it helps me feel calm.

I liked having a place to go outside of home. These trainings gave me both—skills and a safe space away from everything happening at home.



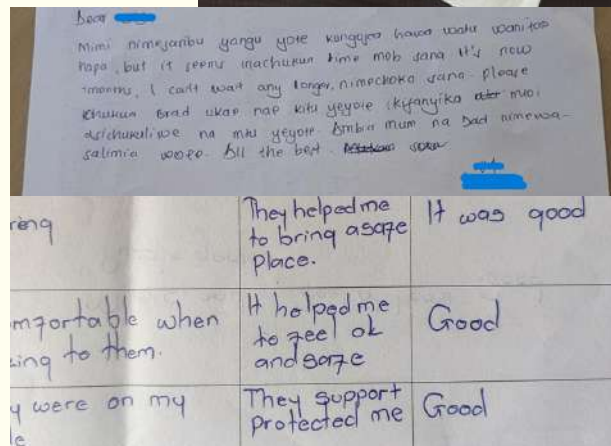
# Progress-ANTI TRAFFICKING

<b>Rescue Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12</b> victims were rescued. 11 were lodged at the Government Protective Home. The victims were trafficked from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda.</li> <li>• <b>8</b> vulnerable persons were rescued before they were trafficked for sexual exploitation</li> </ul>
<b>Repatriation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>14</b> victims were repatriated to Kenya, Uganda, Nepal, Bangladesh and India.</li> </ul>
<b>Reintegration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>69</b> victims were reintegrated back to the society or their family.</li> <li>• <b>35</b> home investigations and home visits were facilitated.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>18</b> victims provided with psychosocial and counselling services at Government Protective Home</li> <li>• <b>110</b> victims were provided with community-based rehabilitation services</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Aid &amp; Action against Traffickers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>50</b> victims were provided with legal aid and counseling, and assisted survivors in obtaining voter ID cards for themselves and their families.</li> <li>• <b>30</b> criminal complaints against traffickers were assisted in by preparing victims for deposition, acting as witnesses, and arranging victim testimonies.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Engagement (Awareness , Training &amp; Consultation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1931</b> community stakeholders, youth, NGO persons were provided with awareness on the issue of Sex Trafficking</li> <li>• <b>651</b> law enforcement personnel in Goa were trained on sex trafficking.</li> <li>• <b>365</b> Government and Non-Government stakeholders participated in the consultation held to Combat Sex Trafficking in source areas such as Maharashtra, West Bengal and Delhi.</li> <li>• <b>135</b> stakeholders participated in the International Consultation of Source-Destination to Combat Sex Trafficking in Goa. These included officials from Kenya, Nepal as well as Bangladesh.</li> </ul>



# Highlights- Interventions at Government Protective Home

- ◆ Psychosocial Support – Conducted 45 therapeutic sessions, including clay modeling, craft, and other activities to support well-being.
- ◆ One-on-One Counseling – Residents received weekly individual counseling from an experienced ARZ counselor.
- ◆ Skill Training in Tailoring – Launched a tailoring course, enabling residents to learn sewing, embroidery, costing and marketing skills. Residents also engaged in income-generating activities, allowing them to earn while they trained.
- ◆ Repatriation Support – Assisted in the safe return of residents to Uganda, Kenya, Bangladesh, and Nepal, ensuring necessary coordination and support.





# Progress-PREVENTION



ARZ works across Goa to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children by engaging with at-risk communities, including devadasi groups and the second generation of trafficked victims. Through education, behavior change, and awareness programs, ARZ empowers vulnerable individuals to break cycles of exploitation and pursue dignified livelihoods.

<b>Strengthening Community Vigilance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 Children's clubs were formed</li> <li>• 287 children were trained through 40 sessions</li> <li>• 805 parents were trained through 29 sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Awareness &amp; Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2865 individuals were reached out through awareness programs</li> <li>• 246 children were provided awareness through 7 intensive workshops</li> </ul>
<b>Legal &amp; Crisis Interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 124 children were provided with counselling and psychosocial support</li> <li>• 8 child sexual abuse cases</li> <li>• 39 domestic violence cases</li> <li>• 6 vulnerable persons were provided with legal assistance</li> </ul>
<b>Education &amp; Vocational Training Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67 children were provided with educational assistance</li> <li>• 9 children of victims of Sex Trafficking were provided employment services through a Hotel Management course</li> </ul>
<b>Devadasi Entitlements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Devadasi Meetings were conducted</li> <li>• Devadasi Entitlements Visit to Karnataka was organized with the Devadasi Group of Goa and ARZ staff</li> <li>• Consultation on Devadasi Practice in Goa was organized by ARZ</li> </ul>





# Achievements

## NCW chief pledges to pursue Anti-Trafficking Bill in Parl

Staff Reporter  
Panaji

Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Vijaya Rahatkar has said that it will follow up the pending Anti-Trafficking Bill in the Parliament. She also said that efforts will be made to get all the anti-trafficking communications on



to the international consultation of source states and countries organised in Goa in October, 2024, where it was felt that to combat sex trafficking in Goa, it was important to reach out to source states and share information about the sex trafficking. The consultation was inaugurated by Rahatkar. Son.

Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar, NCW Chairperson pledged to pursue Anti-Trafficking Bill during the consultation organized by ARZ in Delhi



Organized an international consultation of source-destination to combat sex trafficking in Goa



Implementation of POTI project to create awareness to stop using single use plastic through promotion of cloth bags stitched by survivors of sexual violence



Launched 'Nanhe Panne', a children's magazine featuring the youth and children of Mormugao Taluka, Goa



Launched "Safe Pravas" Poster to prevent labour & sexual exploitation of girls lured for employment abroad



## Trafficked Goan woman bags award for saving self, making effort to help other victims trapped in Muscat

Staff Reporter  
Vasco

Business Harjan was awarded the 2021 WISH Bravery Award for her courageous action in exposing human trafficking. Harjan, a Goan woman, returned from Muscat after being trafficked under the guise of a domestic job. Upon her return, she shared her experience with the Arz NGO, providing a video of 10-15 women still trapped in Muscat. Arz reported the matter to the Goa Crime Branch, leading to the arrest of two traffickers. The Goa State Commission for Women (GSCW) also intervened.



to help other women trapped in Muscat by the traffickers. Pandey said that Harjan contacted a local agent, Ashid, to find work abroad as her family was struggling financially. She was promised a maid's job in Muscat with a salary of Rs 30,000. Upon arrival, her passport and visa were confiscated, and she was locked in a room with other women. Harjan was selected by a 'sheikh' who was told paid Rs 4 lakh. But after she refused his sexual advances, she was returned to the agency, where she requested the agent to send her back to India. He, however, demanded Rs 1 lakh for her return. Harjan's husband, using

force, approached the police, secured her release for Rs 30,000. Before leaving, Harjan filmed a video of the 11 other women still trapped, all of whom requested her to help them return back to India. She later shared this video with authorities. Meanwhile, the poster for the 'Safe Pravas' project to ensure the safety of Goans seeking employment abroad was launched on Sunday. The poster was created through a joint collaboration between Goa Police, GSCW, and Arz, the social NGO for the anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU) of Goa Police.

Started the WISH Bravery Award with the first recipient being a trafficked Goan Woman who managed to rescue herself and lodged a complaint to help the others

## Bag-making machine to provide 40 jobs for sexual exploitation victims

Staff Reporter  
Vasco

Seeing the increasing need for providing employment to more victims of sexual exploitation, Arz (Anyay Rahit Zindagi) has bought a new advanced machine to make bags and is expecting to provide employment to around 40 victims through this endeavour.

The social organisation has procured the machine with financial support from ECPAT Luxembourg. The bags, to be manufactured, can be used for takeaways,



Arz is targeting business from big firms for orders, clothes, grocery, etc.

"Now we are looking for business from big companies and those engaged in business to provide us orders," said Arun Pandey, director of Arz.

"It is only then we will be able to provide employ-

ment to the victims and enable exit of the victims from sexual exploitation," he said.

Arz had initiated WISH (Women's Initiative For Self Help) in 2006 to economically empower victims of sex trafficking and enable their exit from commercial sexual exploitation. Till date, WISH has provided economic rehabilitation to around 3,600 victims of sexual violence in Goa, Pandey said.

Presently, WISH is providing employment to 55 victims in its different business programmes.

Expansion of WISH- Livelihood unit to provide economic rehabilitation to more victims of sexual exploitation



A meeting was held with Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan, IAS, Belgaum District, to discuss compensation for Devadasis in Goa.



# Achievements



ARZ started the World Day Against Trafficking Rolling Trophy to be held every year



ARZ founder Mr. Arun Pandey on behalf of ARZ received the Kashinath Damodar Naik Samajik Krutadnyata Puraskar for the year 2023



ARZ in collaboration with Goa Police busted an international sex trafficking racket arresting the king pin and rescuing the victims



Ensuring that the women engaged in commercial sexual activities get their rights



State-Level Meet to tackle the issue of domestic violence in Goa held on International Women's Day



Successfully engaged government and community stakeholders to combat Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation



Report on CSE in Goa (2019-2024) and Handbook for service providers on Sex Trafficking Laws in India released by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant



ARZ founder Mr. Arun Pandey on behalf of ARZ received the Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj Award by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa



# Success Stories & Testimonials

Daisy, a single mother from Kenya, was trafficked to Goa under the false promise of a job. Hoping to build a better future for her child, she instead found herself being abused and commercially sexually exploited by her traffickers. Her VISA and passport were confiscated not allowing her to leave the country.

A joint rescue operation by the Goa Police and ARZ led to her release. She was placed in the Government Protective Home, where she initially struggled with anger and betrayal. With counseling and livelihood training, she slowly regained confidence. However, she awaited a repatriation order for a long time as her case was kept pending in the court.

Daisy took up tailoring, dedicating herself to learning and improving her skills. She managed to complete the certificate course, pass the exams and also earn a livelihood simultaneously. In the meantime, ARZ managed to secure a travel permit for her and she went back to Kenya just before her birthday. This opportunity has helped her work towards independence and rebuild her life.



*"The monthly meetings with the other residents and staff helped me put out my suggestions freely. I felt encouraged and relaxed during counselling sessions. However, I need support to buy a stitching machine to start my own business when I return."*

*- Daisy*

Divya (name changed) was trafficked to Muscat under the false promise of a housemaid job. Upon arrival, she was confined with 11 other women and deprived of basic necessities such as food, water and sanitary needs. She was then sold to a Shaikh for commercial sexual exploitation, but she managed to escape before the abuse began. After returning to Goa, she faced harassment from pimps demanding money as her husband had promised to pay 30,000 to facilitate her return. She then sought help from ARZ, where she received legal assistance and psychological support while she was also provided with employment at WISH. ARZ filed a case against the traffickers, leading to their arrests. Recognizing her courage, the NCW chairperson honored Divya with the WISH Bravery Award. Meanwhile, police continue their efforts to break this market of sex trade.



*"I am proud of myself for having the courage to escape from Muscat. ARZ empowered me to fight against these traffickers and also be ray of hope for those trapped in Muscat."*

*- Divya*



# WISH: ARZ'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT UNIT

## PRODUCTS & SERVICES



Paper Bags, Tissue Paper and Rolls



Screen Printing



Conference products



Iron Printing



Diverse fabric and paper products at WISH



Tailoring

YOU CAN SUPPORT VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE BY PURCHASING PRODUCTS FROM WISH  
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