



# Family Counselling Centre - Empowering Women and Children



## Key Findings

A total of **221 cases** were handled by the FCC.



**28 events** were organised

by the FCC such as

- World Children Days
- World Human Rights Day
- International Women's Day
- National Day for the Girl Child
- Anti-Child Labour day
- International Day for non-violence

## Background

The Family Counselling Centre (FCC) project was initiated in 1999 and was implemented until 2013. The project aimed to protect the rights and well being of women and children. Trained Blossom staff offered psychological, legal, economic and medical support to women and children who are in need, particularly those victimized by domestic violence. Moreover, by establishing the FCC, Blossom Trust worked to raise awareness about the role of women in society and their rights.

Funded by the Central Social welfare Board in New Delhi, the FCC was a member of different committees, such as the District Advisory Committee for Crime against women and the prevention of domestic violence, and the District Advisory Committee for prevention of child abuses, child trafficking and child prostitution.





## Results

A total of 221 cases were handled by the case workers of the Family Counselling Centre. The majority of cases were related to marital issues. The centre also organized events, bringing together women from all over the district to address important issue such as women's rights, children's rights and prevention of gender based violence.



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## Strengthening the role of women in society

The role of women within the local community are often undermined by strong patriarchal societal values. As a rights-based women empowerment organisation, Blossom Trust is committed to improve the lives of the women in the local communities. The establishment of FCC was a tool of Blossom Trust to do so. The activities of the FCC induced:

- Provide Premarital and Marital Counseling
- Conduct counseling awareness programmes for school and college student
- Training school and college counseling services, focusing on career guidance
- Conduct one day training sessions on Counseling Skills and Approaches for female police personal
- Conducting workshops on adolescent and reproductive health
- Weekly attendance at family related cases at the Virudhunagar all women police station
- Joining the Police Mobile Counseling team to villages once per week



## Success of the Family Counselling Centre

Since its inception in 1999 until 2014, the FCC has handled and consulted more than 220 cases in the local community. The majority cases were related to marital issues and marital advice. The legal age for the marriage for girls is 18 years old, however in reality many girls get married earlier. Through the FCC, there was a focus to keep girls in school longer and only marry after the age of 18. Other cases were related to children's education, family disputes and financial help. Moreover, the FCC was involved in the organisation of multiple events such as International Women's Day, National Day for the Girl Child and World Human Rights Day.