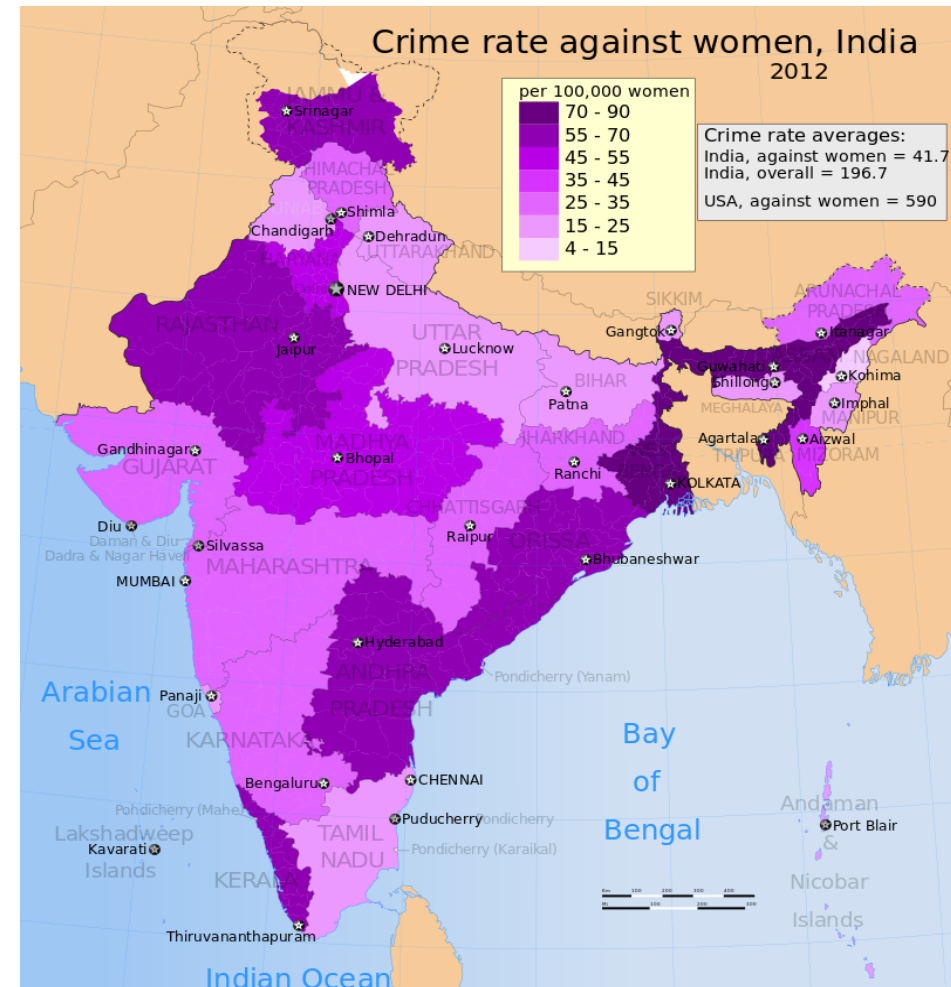


# Domestic Violence Programming in a Low Resource Setting Jan Seva Community Centre, Kolkata, India

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## Domestic Violence in Kolkata, India

Domestic violence describes the misuse of power by an individual in a relationship to socially, economically, psychologically, or physically harm. India has one of the highest rate of sexual violence against women due to the patriarchal cultural traditions. Approximately 31.9% of total crimes against women in India were related to domestic violence by the husband and in-laws throughout India in 2018. In West Bengal, the prevalence of domestic violence in women is 40.3% which makes it the eighth highest state in India. Lower socioeconomic status, lower caste status, lower levels of education, younger age, and employed women are at greater risk for domestic violence.

## Domestic Violence at Jan Seva

Jan Seva, the Society for Indian Children's Welfare, and the Community Health Program seeks to reduce the incidence of domestic violence among Jan Seva community mothers through strategy development, capacity building, and evidence-based intervention for self-empowerment and defense through broad-based support, collaboration, and connectedness in the community. In 2019, the Community Health Program team members conducted 109 household surveys out of the total 217 students enrolled in the community centre school. They identified 9 cases of domestic violence in 2019 making a reported prevalence of 4% out of the total households.

## Efforts to Combat Domestic Violence at Jan Seva

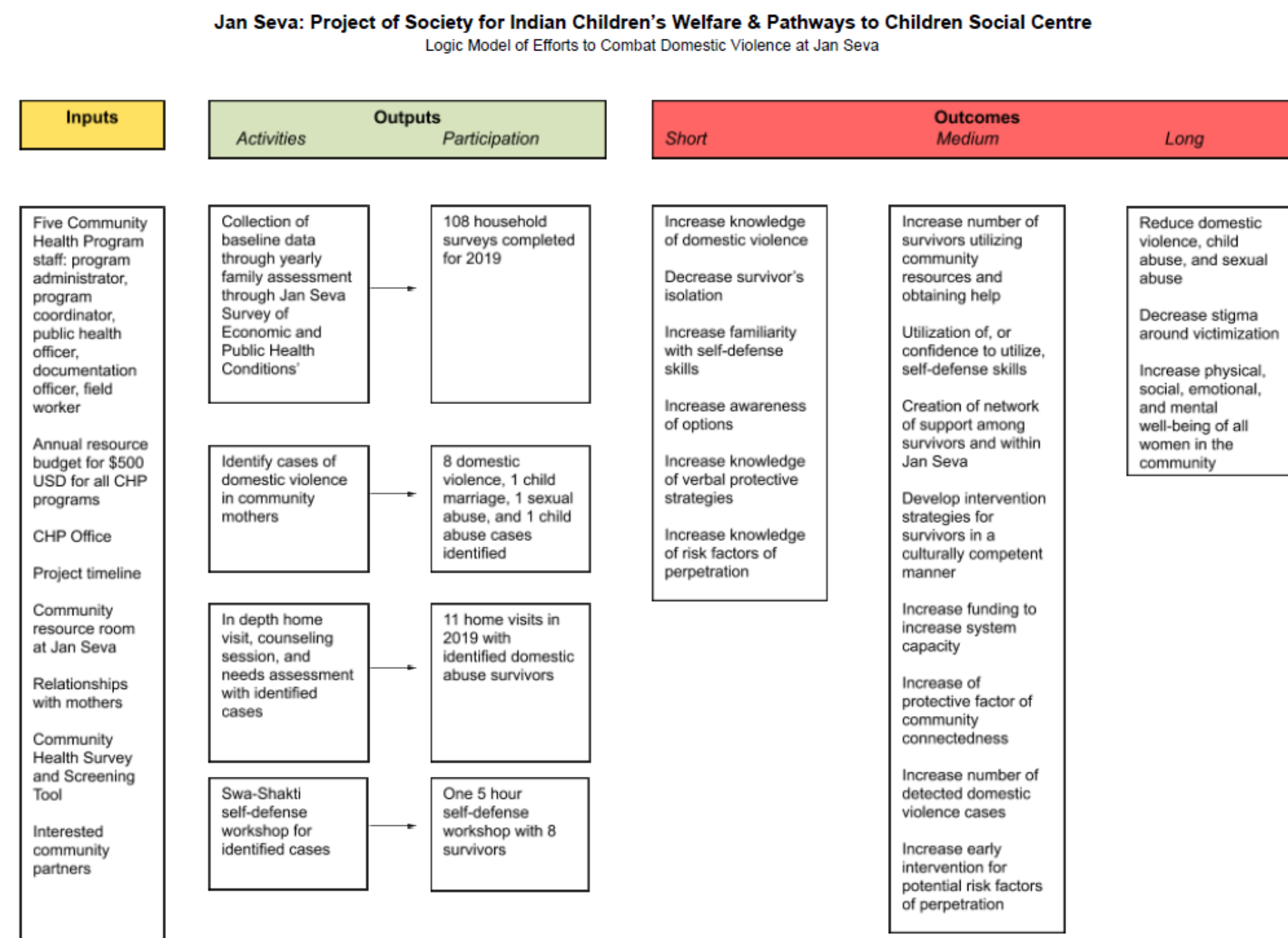


Figure 1 Logic Model of Efforts to Combat Domestic Violence at Jan Seva

## Program Goals and Success Measures

The immediate outcomes, as served through household surveys, identification of cases, in depth home visits and counseling sessions, and participation in a Swa-Shakti self-defense workshop are to increase surveillance, knowledge of domestic violence, decrease survivor's isolation, increase familiarity with self-defense skills, increase awareness of options for support, increase knowledge and capacity to use verbal protective strategies, and to increase knowledge of culturally relevant risk factors of perpetration of domestic abuse. Mid-range outcomes of the efforts to combat domestic violence through Jan Seva are to modify behavioral change. The long-term goals are a reduction in the incidence of domestic violence by an increased report of domestic violence, a decrease in stigma and shame around victimization, and wholly, an increase in the physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being of all women in the community.

Measures of success include an increase in the number of survivors utilizing community resources to obtain help, utilization of (or confidence to use) physical and verbal self-defense skills, creation of a network of support among survivors, development of culturally humble intervention strategies, increased funding to increase system capacity, and increased community connectedness. As a result of these collaborative efforts, the programs seeks to decrease the number of reported domestic violence cases.

Table 1 Demographic Overview of Domestic Violence Cases at Jan Seva

ID #	House - hold Size	Mother's Education Status	Mother's Occupation	Reported Monthly Income (rupees)	Father's Occupation	Reported Monthly Income (rupees)	Caste Status	Religion	Self-reported Abuse Characteristics
182	4	10	Housewife	0	Cable Operator	5000	General	Hindu	N/A
304	4	Madhhyamir	Housewife	0	Daily laborer	5000	General	Hindu	N/A
343	4	5	Housewife	0	Garage Worker	10,000	SC	Hindu	N/A
363	3	10	Housewife	0	Call Center	7000	General	Hindu	Emotional
364	3	10	Housewife	0	Plumber	6000	General	Hindu	Verbal, Physical, Sexual
365	5	10	Housewife	0	Daily laborer	10500	SC	Hindu	Emotional
367	4	H.S.	Nurse	7500	Fruit Seller	5000	ST	Hindu	Emotional
371	4	8	Maid	2000	Painter	8000	SC	Hindu	Verbal, Physical
397	4	4	Factory Worker	3500	Rickshaw puller	5000	SC	Hindu	Verbal, Physical

- The mean monthly total household income among families with those who reported domestic violence in 2019 was 8278 rupees ~ \$108.

## Limitations to Current Programs and Future Prospects

The Domestic Violence program at Jan Seva is 2 years old, and is still in the beginning stages of implementation. There has not been enough resources to evaluate the cross-sectional data for predictive measures in determining association for domestic violence cases. Additionally, there has been difficulty assessing for domestic violence. ACE questionnaires and domestic violence questionnaires have been adapted from the United States, but the Community Health program workers have found it difficult to complete due to low literacy and willingness from the aggrieved women. There needs to be more efforts in establishing a domestic violence questionnaire suited from the low literacy and low resource setting that will better evaluate what type of programming is needed to meet their program's mid-range and long-range goals and outcomes. Programming right now is restricted to the victims of violence, and will benefit from eventual expansion to the perpetrators to effect changes in their behavior. More research will need to be done on reinforcement to determine how often domestic violence programs are needed to enforce empowerment and sustainability.

Jan Seva is currently implementing household surveys to identify cases, in depth home visits and counseling sessions, and offering participation in a Swa-Shakti self-defense workshop to increase surveillance, knowledge of domestic violence, and self-empowerment. Current program implementations are still adapting, but the Community Health program team is adjusting and strengthening partnerships with women support groups with the goals of improving domestic violence incidence.

## Acknowledgments

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Pathways to Children

