

ANNUAL REPORT

2026





STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

Creating safe spaces is a shared responsibility that demands courage, compassion, and collective action.

We stand with survivors, caregivers, and all those committed to building safer spaces where every woman and child's dignity and rights are protected.





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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

It's a refreshingly new type of excitement to know that MAYA turned five years old.

Five years of listening, showing up, trying, failing, and trying again. That is what we call, the MAYA effect.

I still remember what was going on in my mind whilst starting MAYA. It wasn't to build a brand, or following. It was just to independently do the most I can, with what I have. I kept thinking to myself, "how can I help?". And continuing to ask that question, five years later, pushes me forward everyday.

One thing I've realised over the past five years is that we rarely know what will work until it does. That uncertainty has become a source of hope rather than hesitation. I'm excited for what lies ahead for MAYA, especially because of the small but powerful moments of hope we continue to find in our conversations with children and caregivers.



**ANJANA
PALAMAND**

Founder, MAYA

This report is a testament to is a testament to those moments we've witnessed over the last five years, and I look forward to discovering many more of them with you.

I owe the success of MAYA to my entire team, and to our supporters. It takes a village to drive even the smallest amount of change in our society, and they have had my back throughout. I am especially grateful for all the experts whom I have interacted with, who selflessly worked with us to ensure that the quality of our work stands out.

With gratitude,
Anjana



Since its inception, MAYA is committed to ending sexual violence, and supporting vulnerable communities through education, engagement, survivor-centred resources, and systemic advocacy. We have been able to engage with more than 2,200 children and caregivers, in over 40+ schools, colleges, orphanages, and residential apartments covered. Child safety and mental health awareness sessions have been conducted on issues such as the POCSO Act, child sexual abuse, and reporting mechanisms.

MAYA AT A GLANCE



Prior to this, MAYA has made compassion a reality through action. We have provided aid to multiple children through our fundraising programs (Project Dana & the Fall fundraiser) by providing 300+ notebooks, ₹10,000-worth of stationery, story books, games, toys, and other necessary educational supplies to three orphanages.

MAYA's flagship initiative 'Sukoon' has helped multiple underprivileged students across India by equipping them with resources that support emotional and mental well-being.

Our research team at MAYA has developed 2 guides and 2 research reports on child safety, AI-driven sexual harm, and marital rape. We have also submitted recommendations and comments to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to strengthen child protection in this digital economy.



OUR CASE FOR CHANGE



Sexual violence in India is highly underreported, stigmatized, and associated with many myths and stereotypes, which make it difficult for survivors to speak up, and for the community to take any preventative measures.

Stereotypes, such as "abuse is always done by strangers," "women lie," or "sexual violence only happens to girls and women", continue shaping people's perceptions, silencing survivors, and letting sexual violence increase in India.

MAYA was conceptualised to counter such misconceptions and to educate communities on preventing sexual violence. We focus on providing necessary information and training programs to children, adolescents, and to their parents and teachers, to encourage them to be more proactive about sexual violence.

SPOTLIGHT



We Reached the Supreme Court!

This year, MAYA's report on marital rape was cited in a petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, examining marital rape litigation at a time when the exemption still exists. Seeing our work contribute to a matter of national constitutional significance reinforces our belief in the power of accessible, evidence-based legal advocacy.



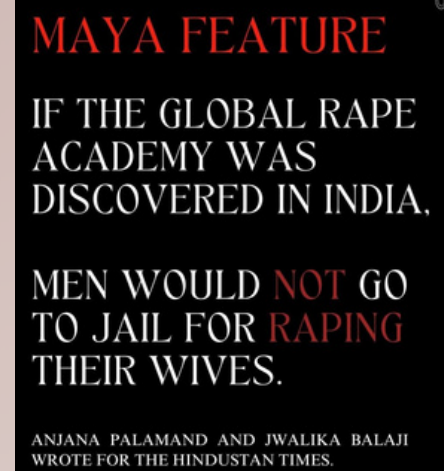
Founder Featured in Magazine

Anjana Palamand was featured by Wednesday, a platform highlighting gender bias and inequality, through the article "**Anjana Palamand: On Building a World Where Safety Is Guaranteed.**" The feature highlighted MAYA's mission to break the silence surrounding sexual violence by promoting informed conversations within families, institutions, and communities, while championing for long-term systemic change through awareness and education.



We wrote on Marital Rape for Hindustan Times

Anjana Palamand, together with Jwalika Balaji, authored a Hindustan Times article "**Tech & Worsening of Sexual Violence within Marriage.**" The article explored technology-enabled sexual violence within marriages, the legal framework governing marital rape, and the need for legislative reform to strengthen survivor protection.



450+ downloads and views of our reports!
(2025-2026)



TIMELINE

2021-22

-  Raised **₹35,000** within three days.
-  Conducted first awareness session at Saraswathi Charitable Trust, educating **10 girls** on safe touch and unsafe touch
-  **Dasara Donation Drive** - distributed **300** notebooks
-  Donated **₹10,000** worth of stationery, storybooks, toys, and bedsheets and blankets to three orphanages.
-  Through Project Abhaya, MAYA raised awareness amongst **60+** children on POCSO Act and child abuse

2023

-  Partnered with NBD (IISc) to raise awareness on child sexual abuse.
-  Initiated free therapy programme for students and partnered with IDIA Legal to conduct:

40+
therapy sessions

3
awareness talks

40+
students supported

2024

-  Our Founder Anjana Palamand was nominated for the **Changemaker Awards** by Tales of Humankind.
-  Partnered with IDIA Legal to facilitate sessions on gender identity, sexuality and **LGBTQIA+** inclusion.
-  MAYA released a guide on understanding child sexual abuse.
-  Conducted MAYA's first caregiver-focused CSA awareness session with domestic workers at a residential apartment, impacting **50+** caregivers.
-  Awareness session for **200+** students with Rotaract JP Nagar
-  Child safety guide permanently placed in a school library; more than **700** students have access to the guide.



TIMELINE

2024

-  First awareness programme conducted outside Bengaluru, reaching **40** Army Aviation Unit families at Nagrota Military Station, Jammu.
-  Delivered awareness session on online safety awareness to **100+** students at National Public School, Rajajinagar.
-  MAYA released a guide on responding to disclosure of child sexual abuse.

-  Conducted child safety sessions with Rotaract HSR for approximately **100** government school students.
-  In partnership with Rotaract District 3191, we conducted **10+** awareness sessions on child sexual abuse, reaching **800+** children.
-  Expanded MAYA's Free Therapy Programme for Survivors of Sexual Violence.
-  Founder Anjana Palamand was featured by Wednesday, highlighting MAYA's vision for advancing systemic change through consent education and community engagement.
-  Submitted policy recommendations to the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) on the **Draft Amendment relating to AI-generated information**, with a focus on AI-facilitated sexual harassment.

2025



What Defined 2026

Published and released MAYA's research report, "**Consent Doesn't End at the Wedding: Debunking Myths and Challenges Around Criminalising Marital Rape in India.**"

Founder **Anjana Palamand**, together with **Jwalika Balaji**, authored a feature for Hindustan Times examining how technology is enabling sexual violence within marriages and advocating for the criminalisation of marital rape and survivor-centred legal reform.

Hosted the virtual launch of the marital rape report, bringing together participants for discussions on consent, autonomy, dignity, and legal reform.

MAYA's report on Marital Rape was cited in a petition before the **Hon'ble Supreme Court**, seeking the **criminalisation on marital rape**.



MAYA IN NUMBERS

1,25,000 INR+
raised

40+

institutions reached



1

Nomination

3+

Magazine &
News Feature

2200+

Children and caregivers reached

4

Research Projects
& Guides

OUR FINANCES

For the year August 2025 – July 2026

₹3000

Design
Expenditure

₹0

Income

₹3358

Logistics
Expenditure



MEET OUR TEAM



Anjana Palamand
Founder, President



Bratati Lahiri
Research Director



N Varshitha
Social Media and
Design Director



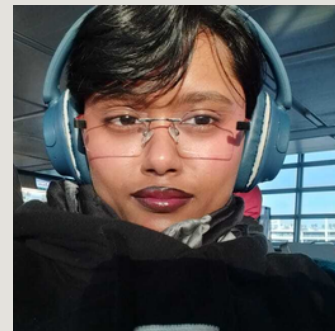
Sai Pranith Bhagavatula
Tech Consultant



Thanushree
HR Associate



Kaavya B
PR & Comms. Associate



Debadrita Dinda
PR & Comms. Associate



Gopika Jayakumar
Research Associate



Arya Antherjanam V
Research Associate



Manjari Acharya
Social Media and
Design Associate



CALL FOR ADVISORS

We, at MAYA, would like to have a strong advisory network that will assist us in making our programs and advocacy work more effective. Professionals from fields of child rights, child protection, prevention of sexual violence against children, child education, and other related areas of law and policy are invited to provide their guidance.

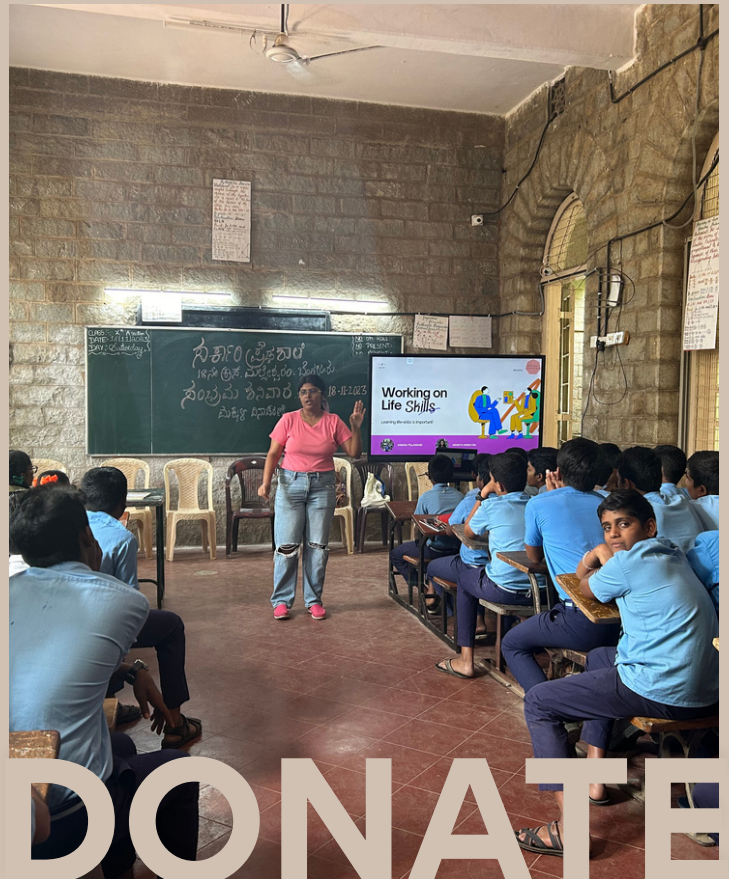
If you are interested in supporting MAYA as an advisor, please reach out to anjana@ourmaya.in.





Change occurs because of people who care. At MAYA, we believe that making our communities safer and more inclusive requires teamwork and a number of people who are dedicated to the cause.

We are looking for volunteers, interns, or new members in our team who have expertise or interest in Finance, PR & Communications, Marketing, Social Media, and Logistics. Please fill this [form](#).



Every child has a right to live in a secure and empowering environment. With your donation, we can achieve MAYA's goal of preventing sexual violence and creating free access to survivor-oriented resources, education and engagement.

Even the smallest donations make it possible for us to reach out to even more people including children, parents, teachers, care givers and other members of the community.

To make a donation, please reach out to



anjana@ourmaya.in



LOOKING AHEAD

MAYA intends to further intensify its advocacy campaigns for its Marital Rape Report in order to ensure that the results of this project become part of broader discussions on policy changes, awareness, and systemic changes.



We also hope to collaborate with more schools and educational institutions to disseminate awareness and prevention initiatives that will help engage in more of these discussions.

Moving forward, we intend to adopt a top-down approach where we target not only children but also their caregivers and parents. In doing so, we will empower these people with the awareness of how to hold proper conversations, and we hope to create more safer spaces for children both at home and in schools.

THANK YOU

To all of you who were part of MAYA's journey, thank you for believing in our vision and supporting us in creating a safer place for children and adolescents. To all our **supporters**, your belief and trust encourage us in all our actions. To our **funders**, your support enables us to make our dreams come true and put programs on ground in more places. To all our **students**, thank you for your curiosity and courage in being part of discussions that bring change.



To all our team members, volunteers & interns, your empathy, dedication, and hard work lie at the heart of everything that we do, thank you for dedicating your time and energy towards MAYA's cause.

CONTACT US



Founder/ collaborations

anjana@ourmaya.in

Email/

initiative.maya@gmail.com

Website/

<https://www.ourmaya.in/>

Work with us/ help us

people@ourmaya.in