Vacha is a term in several Indian languages meaning speech, articulation and self-expression.

Established as a women’s library and cultural centre in 1987, today Vacha focuses on rights of girls, girlhoods and youth issues.

Vacha’s vision is of a world without exploitation, oppression, or discrimination against women, girls or any other section of society.

Vacha sees itself as an organisation that is part of the larger women’s and human rights movements.

Books and Reports

Rights of Adolescent girls in India
A critical look at laws and policies (English)

Review of IEC material in Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati on general and reproductive health of adolescent girls (English)

Experiencing Girlhood
Stories from bastis in Mumbai (English)

Women’s Question
A quiz book on women’s issues (English)

Bole Kishori
Expressions of girls living in Mumbai’s bastis (Hindi/Marathi)

Maidan Khula Ab Der Kis Baat Ki
Inspiring stories of women from the sports field (Hindi/Marathi)

Masti Ki Pathshala
Games and puzzles on Health for children (Hindi/Marathi)

Aaple Khel Aarogyashi Mel
Documentation of traditional games of women in Maharashtra (Marathi)

Geet Vacha
Lyrics of girls’ and women’s empowerment songs (Hindi/Marathi)

Audio - Visual

Bheetar Bahe Mukti Dhara
A film on women from Indian Independence struggle (Hindi/Marathi/Gujarati - CD)

Sakhion Ke Sang
Songs for women (Hindi - CD)

Kishori Geet
Songs from girlhood (Hindi - CD)

List of additional resources available on www.vacha.org.in/publication.html

All donations to Vacha are exempt under section 80G of the Income tax Act.
“...that repository of stree shakti in the form of books at Vacha continuously challenged and provoked my thought processes.”
- Pinky Virani in foreword to Bitter Chocolate (book on child sexual abuse).

**Girls’ Resource Centre**

Visibilising girls’ and girlhood issues and facilitating participation of girls in public life are the objectives of this programme. This programme imparts knowledge, exposure and life skills to girls in the age group of 10-16 years. Focus is towards their empowerment and better preparedness for life in future. It initiates women and girls for participating in community life. Safe centres for girls are created in bastis and in schools to make regular interventions through activities.

Activities are in form of regular sessions, workshops, educational visits, information fairs, film screenings with discussions, health checkups and mobile library leading to improvement of 21st century skills like those of language, computer, photography and communication through public speaking, production of newsletters, posters and leaflets by girls from deprived sections.

“Vacha you will have fun, you will do all kinds of fantastic things.”
- Gloria Steinem (feminist journalist, activist)

**Youth Empowerment**

This programme works with girls and boys in building their confidence and in ensuring their effective participation in community life. Training is imparted to them in 21st century life skills like spoken English, computer literacy, use of digital cameras, and interviewing and surveying.

Young people have taken social action by creating newsletters, wallpapers, by participating in street theatre and by advocating for basic rights in their neighbourhoods. They visit places of importance in civic life and interact with people in authority about their issues. A mobile library helps them access newspapers, books and other resources.

Remedial programs in schools help students improve their reading and writing skills to ensure they do not drop out of school.

“...that repository of stree shakti in the form of books at Vacha continuously challenged and provoked my thought processes.”
- Pinky Virani in foreword to Bitter Chocolate (book on child sexual abuse).

Access to information is important to any struggle, movement or development programme. The women’s movement introduced in the eighties the concept of a women’s library, and Vacha opened one of the first such libraries in 1987. Today, it has nearly five thousand books, research reports, journals, and other documents on and by women, and also for youth. Major areas include History, Literature, Sexuality, Development issues, Health, Education and Violence against women. In community centres, over 2000 Children’s books in seven different languages are made available to those who enroll for Vacha library.

Vacha also produces, translates, collects resources on issues of Girls and girlhoods.

“The Balkishori tape is very inspiring, invigorating, empowering. Wow!”
- Kamla Bhasin (feminist activist and author)

**Library and Cultural Centre**

Vacha regularly engages in research and documentation on women’s and girls’ issues. The aim is to increase visibility of women and girls and highlight contributions of women and girls. Today the focal area is on adolescent girls, their voices, perceptions and self expressions.

Vacha conducts trainings and workshops on the themes of gender, peace and democracy. The objective is to develop understanding of gender construction among young people and devise strategies to combat it. Trainings are organized with young people working with NGOs and with students of NSS units of colleges. Another theme of training for girls in second decade of life is about growing up issues.

“The role of women freedom fighters, those unsung heroines who shed their traditional roles has hardly been studied. This film (Bheetar Bahe Mukti Dhara) seeks to bridge a gap that has become wider with the death of every woman freedom fighter”.
- The Times of India
Visitors are welcome to the project office at:
Project Vacha
Municipal School building, Tank Lane,
Off S.V.Road, Santacruz (W), Mumbai - 54.

Donations/correspondence may be addressed to the registered office:
Vacha Charitable Trust, 5, Bhavna Apartments,
S.V.Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 56.

022 26055523  www.vacha.org.in  vachamail@gmail.com