

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION CHALLENGE, 2021 - 22 REPORT

The Community Intervention Challenge organised by Red Dot Foundation in collaboration with Agami was an opportunity for law and criminology students to identify the issues of safety and gender based violence in their own locality. This was a 4-week long challenge engaging 46 students using the Safecity application and crowdsourced data.

Objective of the Challenge

The aim of this challenge was to involve students and their communities in different ways to create solutions for ending sexual and gender-based violence using crowdsourced data, community engagement and institutional accountability.

Theory behind the Challenge

In terms of criminology, the Routine Activity Theory suggests that a motivated offender will look for a suitable target in the absence of any guardianship to execute the plan of committing an offence. This theory studies the routine activities of a potential criminal in order to study the circumstances that give him/her the opportunity to commit a crime. Ergo, the study of prevention of crime takes place from understanding the pattern in which the crime is committed. Through the Community Intervention Challenge, we encouraged students to focus on the ground level issues by studying the patterns in which crime occurs in their localities or cities. This included studying the location, time, date, day, category of crime, etc., through the Safecity dataset. The objective of the challenge was to invite students to critically analyse gender-based violence using insights from evidence-based data and developing innovative solutions for safe spaces within their communities.

The challenge was scheduled in weekly segments, where every week students had to complete a task. These tasks were given to them at the onset of the challenge. The duration of this challenge was 4 weeks, starting from 1st December 2021 till 30th December 2021.

Tasks of the Challenge

1. Week One (1st - 5th Dec)

Students set up the Safecity app on their devices. They attended a thorough orientation session on how to use the app/webapp - webapp.safecity.in/. They then introduced the Safecity app to their friends and family and invited them to report any experiences. The goal was to document 10 incidents each which served as samples for the basis of their findings.

2. Week Two (6th - 12th Dec)

Once the sample data was collected through the app, they analysed it and found the patterns of crime in areas that had the most number of reports registered. The task was to look at these patterns through the prism of criminology. The week ended with a Masterclass on Storytelling and learning how to narrate the stories of gender-based violence through data and research.


3. Week Three (13th-19th Dec)

After the patterns were identified in their target locations, the next step was to look for solutions. They visited these localities to understand the areas where simple implementation could change the level of security. The focus of this week was to break the pattern of crime. The students came up with ideas for prototypes on measures that could reduce crime in their areas. We made sure all participants practised social distancing and wore masks adhering to the Covid-19 Protocols whilst doing the social audits.

The week ended with a Masterclass on Criminology of Gender-Based Violence where students learned about the dynamics of gender in public places through various criminological theories.

4. Week Four (21st- 30th)

The final task for the challenge was to apply the solutions on ground. We shared the data with the students, they investigated the patterns of crimes in their areas, they worked on prototypes that would reduce the instances of gender-based violence.



The week was spent building and testing the prototype that would be helpful to their community. For example, the Himmat Project worked on reducing gender-based violence in and around college campuses. Around 10 students submitted reports on their prototypes, out of which the top 8 ideas were selected for the second round where they could further refine and pitch their ideas.

On 11th January 2022, a final workshop on the Art of Pitching was conducted to help the students learn the techniques of how to deliver their ideas in a given period of time.

Outcome of the Challenge

The participants received an opportunity to learn through the four Masterclasses:

- Storytelling Masterclass conducted by Mrs. Marissa Borges
- Criminology Masterclass conducted by Prof. Andrea Adams
- Solution Building Masterclass conducted by Ms. Keerthana
- Art of Pitching Masterclass conducted by Mr. Sachin Malhan

Participants experienced the unique method of learning and applied the elements of the classes in practice through the target locations they had identified.

The final task for the students was to prepare a report on the issues identified in their target location, the dataset studied to find patterns and the innovative solutions that they proposed in order to end the issue of gender-based violence in their target locations. A jury picked the final winning ideas.

The jury consisted of:

- Jitesh Brahmshatriya, Director Cities - Buro Happold
- Priya Hingorani, Senior Advocate at the Hon' Supreme Court of India
- Sachin Malhan, Co-Founder of Agami
- Dr. Andrea Adams, Professor at University of District Columbia, Ethicist and Advocate
- Prathima Manohar, Founder & CEO, The Urban Vision



On 18th January, the final event of the Community Challenge took place with eight finalists presenting their pitch for their proposed solutions. Each finalist was given five minutes for presentation and two minutes for questions. The jury selected the top four best solutions to be rewarded on the criteria of originality, impact, implementation, feasibility, durability, scalability and inclusivity along with points for pitching and answering questions.

Some of the ideas that were proposed were mental aid systems for survivors of gender based violence, a network of police stations that could keep track on emergency cases, sex education for school and college students, mass reporting, review system for police stations, etc.

The cash prizes for the top three winners were as follows: 1st Prize - Rs. 20,000 / - , 2nd Prize - Rs. 10,000 /- and 3rd Prize - Rs. 6,000 /-. The jury members went through the reports and the pitches and after much deliberation made the final decision of announcing the following students as the winners of the Challenge:

- First Prize to **The Himmat Project** by Megha and Sreeja

Recommended easy infrastructural changes like setting up fluorescent lights and putting up posters of local police helpline numbers for public safe spaces around college campuses.

• Second Prize to **The ParirakSaka Project** by Amrita Jolly:
Suggested appointing a group of people called ParirakSaka (protectors) to help people who face any kind of crime.

• Third Prize to **The Geri Project** by Astha Kumari:
Highlighted the culture to 'Geri' (*a common term in Punjabi that refers to a leisurely stroll or journey on a vehicle*) in Punjab and factors that could enable robust reporting of non-verbal sexual harassment on streets.

• Third Prize to **The Intervention Project** by Sachinendra:
Proposed involving the NCC and the NSS for public safety of women, reviewing the active involvement of police stations, rating institutes on safety for women.

We would like to thank Dr Andrea Adams for sponsoring the prizes and Agami for being our partner on this challenge.