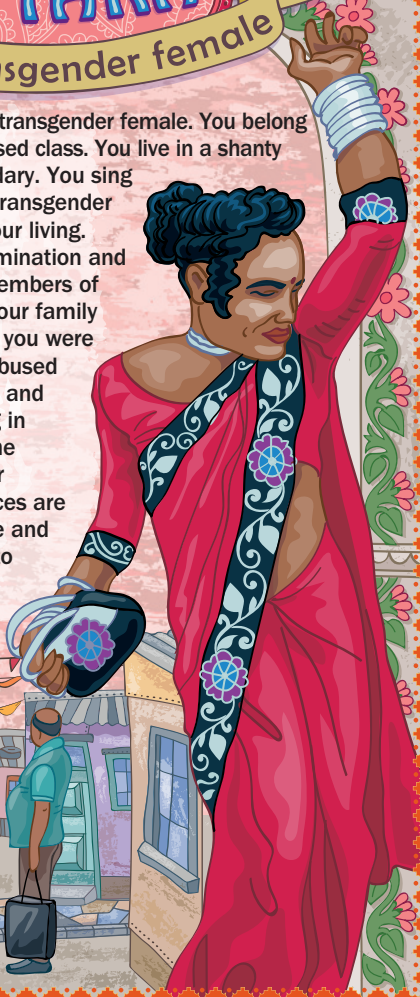


SITARA

The transgender female

You are a 28-year-old transgender female. You belong to a socially marginalised class. You live in a shanty outside the city boundary. You sing and dance with your transgender community to earn your living. You face social discrimination and do not mingle with members of other communities. Your family abandoned you when you were very young. You are abused by the society leaders and powerful people living in the area. When the floods set in your household finances are in a perilous state and you struggle to get help.



GAME PLAY INSTRUCTIONS

Please elaborate your answers as you get into character! Share your character's thoughts and feelings with the group.



Round One

A Disaster Management Officer from the City Government comes knocking. She asks:

Why didn't you come to the neighbourhood meeting about the floods? You explain that – as a transgender person – you are not allowed to attend official or indeed, any public gatherings.

How have the floods affected you and what would improve your situation? You take risks and travel long distances to perform as this is the only way to earn money. You live in a slum house and it always gets flooded with drain water, affecting your health. You don't have a water supply or sanitary services and so it is difficult for you to fulfill your basic needs. You are usually the last person to get help from the wider neighbourhood and fear for your safety, too. The floods are pushing up the price of food and you don't have savings.

Round Two

This time, you manage to attend the neighbourhood meeting.

There are ideas for new projects to prevent water contamination and install water-saving technologies, and start a network of volunteers. These are all interesting to you, but you are not sure if you will be allowed to participate. You would also like to contribute to neighbourhood activities, if your personal safety is guaranteed. You are not literate, but have access to a mobile phone. The information on flood levels and health safety measures will help you. You wonder: will such information be accessible to people like you?

Discuss with the group.

