

Panel Discussions on Gender
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Recognizing Domestic Violence as a Public Health Concern-Maharashtra

- **Dilaasa, a crisis centre in Mumbai**, is a joint venture between an NGO and the public healthcare system that addresses the issue of domestic violence from the secure space of a public hospital
- Through trainings and capacitybuilding exercises, the centre attempts to bring about attitudinal changes among those in the healthcare system, so that they can provide those affected by domestic violence with the **medical, psychological and legal assistance that they need**. Since the healthcare system is the first point of access for many of those affected by violence, Dilaasa offers counselling services to women who have experienced abuse

Mobilizing Communities on Rights Awareness

The Saurashtra Kachchh group on Violence against Women (SK-VAW), Gujarat

- challenges the deep-rooted patriarchal and traditional society that accepts violence against women (VAW) in the home and relegates women to being secondary members of the community.
- Initiated by **SWATI, an NGO** that works on issues of women's rights and empowerment, the SK-VAW aims at building leadership skills and capacities among women enabling and empowering them to combat VAW in their own lives.
- SK-VAW's activities include **advocacy and raising awareness about the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act**
- 25000 members in 5 dts

Parivartan

- A **Delhi Police initiative**, came into being in **2005** and its mandate was to check the rising incidence of rape and sexual assault against women in the city.
- It was launched in **northwest Delhi** and essentially operates at two levels:
- **first changing the mind-set of the community towards VAW**
- **second changing the attitude of the police force itself.** The programme interacted closely with social scientists, gender specialists from UN agencies, lawyers, psychologists and police officers in the field.

Literacy to Education: Women's Self-Help Groups for Economic and Political Empowerment 23 Mahalir Association for Literacy Awareness and Rights (MALAR), Tamil Nadu

- **Kanniyakumari district** ==demonstrates the transformation of an organization, from one that deals solely with **literacy delivery to one that encourages economic self-reliance and autonomy for women.** The MALAR federation works on the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability and believes in equipping women with the financial and social tools they need to take care of themselves, independent of their families.
- addresses other social issues-- **domestic violence, dowry and alcoholism.**

Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking Impulse NGO Network (INGON), Meghalaya

- **PROTECTION FROM TRAFFICKING**
- The Impulse NGO Network (INGON) in Shillong, Meghalaya, has been working to rescue and protect young girls, who are trafficked from the North-East, lured away from their homes by false promises of wellpaying jobs or fame, since 2000.
- The girls end up in sex trafficking rings in large cities such as **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata** and **Bangalore** and usually have no hope of escaping from such captive situations.

Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking

Impulse NGO Network (INGON), Meghalaya

- INGON uses a unique strategy known as **the 'Meghalaya Model'**, in its rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation operations.
- Rescue operations include networking with other organizations and the media to spread the word;
- rehabilitation efforts incorporate **counselling and providing skills-training to rescued girls and repatriation is aimed at reuniting the trafficked girls with their families, if possible.**
- While the police usually concentrates its efforts on rescue activities and often arrests the very women and children who are 'trafficked', INGON's 'Meghalaya Model' urges the government and legal systems to bring the traffickers to justice

Radio as a Tool for Gender Mainstreaming 39 Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), Gujarat

- premise that the empowerment of women was possible through the successful interplay of 4 components: **collective awareness building; capacity-building and skills development; participation and decision-making power and actions to bring about gender equality.**
- has more than **12,000 rural women members, spread across 165 villages.**
- Today, the radio serves as a distance learning tool and helps to raise awareness on issues of gender and good governance.
- The network uses local symbols, examples rooted in the cultural context of the region and the local language (Kutchi) so that the villagers can identify with it.
- This makes the KSN radio programmes extremely popular and an excellent vehicle to reach the target audience

Increased Access to Disaster Relief for Women as an Idiom for Women's Rights affected by Tsunami Ekta, Tamil Nadu

- comprehensive packages to orphaned girls or to girls with single parents, encouraging them to pursue their education and assisting them in accessing adequate healthcare and life-skills training.
- The components identified for the Ekta intervention were **educational assistance for girls affected by the tsunami**, **shelters/homes**, **legal aid and medical camps**.
- The organization also enabled 'single' women (women whose husbands/brothers/sons had died in the tsunami) to become more aware of their own rights and equipped them to demand these rights and establish their place within the community.

Empowering Single Women 53 Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan (ENSS), Rajasthan(2000)

- The social and economic isolation faced by widows in India led to the formation of the Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan (ENSS).
- The collective holds out hope for widows and other single women in the conventional and highly patriarchal state of Rajasthan.
- The ENSS initiative has challenged traditional patriarchal mores and rituals and helped organize women, who have **been abandoned or rejected by their families and by society, enabling them to improve their quality of life.**
- has more than 26,000 single women (including widows) members, from both rural and urban areas, in **26 districts of Rajasthan.**

Women as Agents of Change in Combating HIV/AIDS

The Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)

- The incidence of HIV/AIDS is high because of the **Devadasi tradition** that makes both young girls and women very vulnerable to the disease.
- followed an integrated approach that included all programme elements (information, education and communication [**IEC**], the management of sexually transmitted infections [**STI**] and **condom promotion, preventive measures, voluntary counselling and testing**)
- covered approximately 600,000 people. Sex workers were involved in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, thus empowering these women to be part of the greater change.
- In addition, special attention was paid to orphans and other children vulnerable to the disease.

Capacity Building and Sensitization to PRIs

Sakhi, Kerala

- Created in **1996**, Sakhi works to enable women claim their rights in the state's development
- create a training framework for the Women's Component Plan (WCP);
- build up a pool of state-level trainers well-versed in gender and development issues;
- prepare a comprehensive manual on WCP, **gender planning, budgeting and auditing**; and identify project ideas that could be adapted, at a later date, into the plan formulations of local self governments and the WCP and VAW and training

Empowering Women through Literacy

Mahila Samakhya (MS), Uttarakhand

- assisted the establishment of alternative legal forums (**Apni Adalats**) that provide **gender-sensitive justice**.
- Women are given **intensive training and regularly receive inputs on legal provisions** and frameworks required to try cases related to crimes against women.
- They also explore leadership roles within the panchayat structure.
- The MS programme has a health component as well, which aims at educating women **and eliminating local superstitions** about female health, urging local communities to recognize how integral women's health is to social development

Engendering Livelihood Area Networking and Development Initiatives (ANANDI) and Devgadh Mahila Sangathan (DMS), Gujarat

- a change in the status of women and thus enhance justice and people's entitlements.
- Their strategy relies on education and awareness as significant factors in the process of capacity development.
- ANANDI has enabled the emergence of **tribal women's federations that have played an increasingly important role in the struggle to claim rights for poor and marginalized populations.**

Engendering Livelihood Area Networking and Development Initiatives (ANANDI) and Devgadh Mahila Sangathan (DMS), Gujarat

- encourages alliance-building and grassroots mobilization for women and enhances their ability to intervene in complex political processes.
- The process adopted by ANANDI facilitated the formation of an **autonomous women's organization, Devgadh Mahila Sangathan (DMS) in the Panchmahaals area of Gujarat.**
- helping to empower them and assists them in developing livelihoods opportunities for themselves and for their communities
- public distribution system, forming Seed and Grain Banks, releasing mortgaged lands, providing training in agriculture and horticulture and engaged in campaigns such as the Right to Food and the Right to the forest

Engendering Institutional Spaces Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi

- to mainstream gender concerns within the work place, in order to create and promote a gender-friendly environment in the organization.
- This role is played by **the Committee for Gender Awareness and Mainstreaming in PRIA (CGAMP)**, which was established in 1998.
- builds staff capacities on gender issues, advocates for relevant policies to be adopted within the organization and deals with sexual harassment issues.
- also makes provisions for employees who have become just parents (options to work part-time, rest for pregnant women, paternity leave, child support, etc.).
- CGAMP's success is largely due to **an appreciation of women's dual roles** (at home and at the workplace) at the higher levels of the organization and the commitment of the organization's leadership, the strong gender-related capacity building efforts that have been undertaken for all the staff.

The Girl Child labour -- MV Foundation

- The MV Foundation (Shanta Sinha) in Andhra Pradesh, has done exemplary work in **combating the malaise of child labour** and bringing children to the schoolroom.
- In this context, it has revitalised the existing school system, **created residential schools** and rescued a number of working-children (including girls), from highly exploitative and inhuman working conditions.

Social Action Committees in AP

- 11832 Village level Social Action Committees,
- 516 Mandal level Social Action Committees
- and 4 District level Social Action Committees formed to deal with the cases related gender discrimination, to act as watchdog committees to monitor MDG goals.
- 85.546 SHG members who received gender training and selected to work on protection of women rights as members in these committees.
- A social agenda was developed to address gender issues and **District level Gender Resource Groups (GREGs)** were created with women activists, old SHG leaders, NGOs.

Social Action Committees in AP

- **These GREGs provided gender training based on woman life cycle to all SHG leaders in mandal samakyas, resulted in the formation of Social Action Committees to implement the social agenda.**
- **All the Staff in 13 districts Community Coordinators, Assistant Project Managers, District Project Managers was sensitized to gender issues through training based on project cycle, which helped in a situation where demand was created from below and staff was able to respond with in the project**

Social Action Committees in AP

- **Social Action Committees became very active, started taking up a number of gender specific issues, preventing and dealing with domestic violence, violence against women, child marriages, child labour, trafficking of women, providing support to young widows, creating awareness on HIV AIDS. The training of counsellors and gender community resource persons led to a quick response to prevent violence in districts.**

Social Action Committees in AP

- Mandal level SACs have received a total No of 17602 cases related to gender based violence, and 12488 were resolved by them, some of them were through court and police.**
- Mandal SACs receive cases on fixed week days at Community Managed FCCs and visit victim.**
- Help line is established at district level to receive cases on daily basis.**
- After receiving a call, victim is advised what she has to do immediately to protect herself and the case will be informed by phone to the nearest MSAC member for immediate follow-up.**

Social Action Committees in AP

- MRO, MPDO, CDPO, SI and a local NGOs also are part of the FCC along with SHG women in MSAC, help the victims by providing different services while resolving the case like **Ration card, NREGS job card, or work under NREGS, school or hostel for her children, medical care and shelter etc.**
- MSAC members do negotiation, help to file case in police station or take the case to the lawyer or court, provide a loan for income generation etc apart from linking up with the mentioned services
- MSAC members get the victim her maintenance or permanent alimony through their negotiations with the other party.

Social Action Committees in AP

- In such cases MSACs take help from the officers to **check the assets ownership and register them in the victims name legally.**
- In many cases MSACs resolve the cases by **removing misunderstanding between couples** in such cases also they **follow up the cases even three years to ensure safety to the women**
- To speed up the justice MSACs are organizing Adalaths in coordination with Legal aid cells in the districts.

Gender Pledge-GPP

- *I will get my daughters marry after 18 years old only I will send all my girl children to school I will resist all types of violence on women*
- She will do gender enquiry about domestic violence, health, education of girls, Migration on work. If any woman or girl left the village on work she will enquire and get the information where she has gone, whether she is safe in her work place etc.
- every village 20 to 30 SHGs are existed. VO SAC will form a village level gender forum with all these Gender Point Persons.
- Every SHG Gender Point person will report the status of the SHG women in her group. If there are any cases they will make a plan to deal with that case. If they could not resolve the case they will send the case to MSAC through their VO leader.

Achievements are not ordinary

- 8000 girls belonging to the poor were sent to corporate schools for intermediate course to pursue their higher education.
- In tribal areas SACs are monitoring quality education in government schools with the help of NGOs.
- 14229 single, widowed women were identified and linked to school for their children, and pension scheme.
- In the vulnerable areas of the state from where women are being trapped in trafficking,
53663 SHGs received Rs. 651.35 crores in 2008-09 and 4610 groups received Rs.57.63 crores in 2009-2010 up to September as loans under bank linkage programme