

Report on

Work of JMSS on violence against
women (VAW)

24/4/2010

JMSS and violence against women (VAW)

Violence against women comes under our legal issue. This is one of the major issues of Mahila Samakhya. Work being done on VAW by our Sangha and federation is quite commendable. They are addressing the issue of gender based violence through awareness and providing justice to the women. Under MS, women have a platform to get rid of VAW. Efforts are also being made by MS towards this direction to make women realize that legal education is very essential to combat VAW. Several trainings and workshops have been organized by MS during the year so that women can critically analyze the legal aspects and its implications.

STRATEGY TO WORK ON VAW

1. Mass awareness of VAW amongst women
2. Provide justice to women affected by DV at Sangha level
3. Avail alternative structure of traditional judiciary system
4. Spread awareness of gender equality among the society

ACTIVITIES TO WORK ON VAW

1. Nari Adalat
2. Awareness Campaign
3. Gender sensitization
4. Case Hearing by Samooch
5. Formation of legal committee
6. Legal Camp
7. Access to legal services

Correlation between Strategy and activities

Strategy	Activity
Spread awareness of VAW among women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness Campaign• Formation of legal committee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops/seminar
Provide justice to women victimized by DV at Sangha level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing of cases by Samooh
Avail alternative structure of traditional judicial system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nari Adalat • Access to legal services • Legal camps
Spread awareness of gender equality among the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender sensitization

1. Nari Adalat

Concept:

- Providing an alternative structure to the traditional judicial system that should be very practical, less expensive and accessible to every woman

Structure:

- Nari Adalat is set up at block level
- Nari Adalat committee is formed by 10-15 women at block level. In addition to sangha/ Federation women, Govt officials like BDO, CDPO, Thana in charge, PHC doctor, lawyer, Women Helpline representative are also in the committee and their help is needed as per requirement.
- The committee members are the women of MS Sangha or federation itself
- Around 10-15 self motivated women selected as the members who are ready to work voluntarily.
- Nari Adalat follows written rules and regulation
- Support from district and block administration is essentially taken

Process:

- Cases are registered in a prescribed format developed by the committee members.
- NA charges registration fees varying from federation to federation and cases to cases.
- The case are investigated within 2-3 days from the date of registration
- The hearing is fixed twice a month on 15th and 30th
- The date of hearing is fixed and notice is sent either by registered post or by hand to both the parties

- In the absence of any party, the hearing is postponed and new date is fixed
- After the settlement of the case, bond paper is written and signed by both the parties.
- Three consecutive follow up done by NA
- Cases(women) coming from non MS group join the MS group.
- In case of more complicity , federation takes the support of DIU/SPO.

Key stakeholders in the process

- Executive committee of federation
- Nari Adalat committee members
- Non MS NA committee members
- Legal committee members
- Sangha women
- Local eminent community person
- Women Helpline
- Childline
- Kishore-Kishori Manch
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Fact file: Nari Adalat			
PARTICULARS	Up to March 09	2009-10	Total
Total No. of Nari Adalat	11	0	11
Blocks having NA	11	0	11
NA run by Federation	11	0	11
NA run by DIU	0	0	0
Cases registered in NA	124	46	170
Cases settled by NA	68	13	81
Referred cases from police station	2	1	3
Cases pending/under process in NA	51	28	79
Cases referred to police station	5	5	10

Registered cases in NA disaggregated by nature			
PARTICULARS	Up to March 09	April 09- March 10	Total
Dowry	5	3	8
Sexual Harassment	0	1	1
Rape	0	0	0
Domestic violence	65	24	89
Bigamy	6	7	13

Child marriage	18	2	21
Unmatched marriage	1	0	1
Pseudo marriage	13	2	16
Witch hunting	1	0	1
Trafficking	0	0	0
Molestation	0	0	0
Eve-teasing	1	0	1
Inter caste marriage	10	0	10
Miscellaneous	6	3	9

Case study: Nari Adalat

Case for maintenance

District : Ranchi
 Block : Sadar
 Date of case registration : 10-06-09
 Date on which case was settled : 16-07-09

65 years old Sabra Khatun a resident of Gudri Chowk registered her case in Nari Adalat managed by Mushkan Mahila Samakhya against her husband Md. Arif for maintenance who got second married. He deprived her of all her rights. He is engaged in taking care of his first wife only. The 1st hearing was on 1st July, 09. During Hearing process her husband denied any maintenance instead he charged many illogical complaints against her. After a series of cross question by NA team member , they found out the reality. After investigation they came to conclusion that the entire allegation charged by Sabra Khatun was real. The second hearing was fixed on 3rd July in the presence of both sides and Nari Adalat fixed Rs. 1000/- per month considering Arif's monthly income of Rs.4000/- but again he denied. On 16th July 3rd hearing was fixed .This time he had to agree because of the pressure from the evidence and Nari Adalat. Both the parties signed the Bond paper for acceptance of decision. From that time onwards Sabra Khatun is getting her maintenance amount regularly. After three consecutive follow up the team found her happy .

2. Awareness Campaign

Concept:

Aware the women of VAW so that they can understand their rights and be able to address the issue and protect themselves against all kinds of violence .

Activities under a wareness campaign:

Women are made aware of VAW through the following activities:-

- Nukkad Natak,
- leaflet distribution
- Rally
- Wall writing,
- Community Meetings
- Trainings
- Workshops etc

Key stakeholders in the process

- Sangha women
- Kishori Manch
- Kishore Manch
- Federation members

3. Gender sensitization

Concept:

The specific nature and degree of gender differences vary from one society to another and typically in favour of men. Therefore MS is making efforts to disseminate the balanced message defining the role and power so that both of them can get equal opportunity in every sphere of life

Process:

Gender sensitization programs have been organized in terms of workshop, training, seminar and General Council Meeting (Aam Sabha) for women groups, community, Kishori Munch, MSK and MS staff.

Key stakeholders in the process

- Sangha women
- Kishori Munch
- Kishore Manch
- Federation

4. Hearing of cases by Sangha

Concept:

Facilitating the women who are the victims of DV by providing them justice at their door steps with no cost at all

Process:

Victimized women come to the Samooh with their complaints against the wrong doers and the cases are registered by the Samooh members.

The case is investigated by the Sangha members and solved in the presence of both the parties. The older women groups have good reputation among the community and their decisions are respected by all. If they cannot solve the issue they refer it to Nari Adalat.

Key stakeholders in the process

- Sangha women

Fact file: Hearing of cases by Sangha			
PARTICULARS	Up to March 09	April 09- March 10	Total
Registered cases in Sangha	353	77	430
Cases settled by Sangha	335	64	399
Cases pending/under process in Sangha	10	8	18
Cases referred to Nari Adalat	8	5	13

Case settled by Sangha

Got back the dues of 7 years

District : Ranchi
Block : Sadar

A woman called Roshan had been doing household work in the house of a homeopathy doctor for the last 7 years. She also looked after his handicapped child at Doranda but he never paid her wages. He always promised to give after 2 months or after 3 months. When she began to insist for her wages, the behavior of the doctor changed. He started to behave rudely that compelled her to quit the job. To get back her wages she approached Kolpada Mahila Samooh in June 2009. She told them her entire story. The women went to the doctor and told him to pay Roshan's wages. When he denied paying, the women threatened him to refer the case to Nari Adalat. On hearing this he paid Rs. 36000/- to Roshan the whole amount of her wages of 7 years.

5. Formation of legal committee

Concept:

The committee members are responsible for working against domestic violence, social evils, and gender discrimination against women through awareness.

Process:

Committees are formed by Sangha women at village and Panchayat level. Around 2 women are selected from each Sangha at village level and two women from each village level committee form a panchayat level committee representing their Sangha and villages.

Key stakeholders in the process

- Sangha women
- AWW
- ANM
- Sahia
- Para teachers
- Village eminent person

FACT FILE: LEGAL COMMITTEE			
PARTICULARS	Up to March 09	2009-10	Total
Formed legal committees	624	124	748
Members in committee	1383	448	1831

6. Legal counseling Camp

Concept:

It brings about awareness among women of their rights, their decent place in the society, their role in local administration and equal rights in every sphere of life.

Process:

Legal camps are organized at village, block and district level for the women of Sangha, members of Kishore and Kishori Manch, Members of Nari Adalat, Members of federation etc. some experts are invited as resource person who have good knowledge of women related laws. The participants are given adequate information about the same.

Key stakeholders in the process

- Sangha women
- Federation members
- Kishore and Kishori Manch
- Lawyer/Doctor/Councillor

7. Access to legal services

Concept:

MS targets to ensure women not to be silent sufferers any more as there is great support from many a departments to avail them righteous place in the society but for want of proper knowledge and access to these services.

Process:

Women are provided enough knowledge about all the facilitator for VAW such as women helpline, police station, women's police station, court, family court etc and their mobility is increased towards availing these facilities.

Key stakeholders in the process

- Sangha women
- Federation members

Impact of our interventions

- Women got aware of their rights.
- Social evils like child marriage, domestic violence and gender biasedness has decreased.
- Women are able to raise voice against any type of injustice against them.
- Women are aware of laws related to them and taking full advantages of them.
- Women groups are capable of handling issues of their own.
- Victimized women are now get justice at their doorsteps by women groups.
- Nari Adalats are getting stronger to handle all types of women related issues.
- All women groups including federations have their own legal committee through which they have solved a number of cases.
- Women have begun to identify their rights and raise voice against violence prevailing in the society or within the village.
- Nari Adalats have gained so much faith among community and as a result women prefer settling the cases in Nari Adalats.
- Legal literacy skill has increased among women and they have learnt how to register the case, noting the case number, taking the receipt and getting acquainted with all legal procedures.

- Media is also playing an important role in highlighting our movement for gender discrimination against women.
- Legal committees of Federation group have built good rapport with the local police station and local administration.
- Started documenting the process and the successful case studies.

Trainings held on the issue

Name of training	State level		Dist. level		Block/cluster level		Total Participants
	Batches	Participants	Batches	Participants	Batches	Participants	
Domestic violence	1	15	-	-	-	-	15
Gender	-	-	4	120	25	779	899
Legal training	-	-	5	237	7	731	968