

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT EVENT ON 'DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA: RIGHTS AND REMEDIES'

**Report on Event Conducted on
November 22, 2022 at Nagla Koyal
Village, Roorkee, Uttarakhand.**

ABSTRACT: The event aimed to spread awareness on the various forms of intimate partner and domestic violence and inform people of their rights, peppered with motivational stories designed to empower women. The event was a collaboration between the Legal Aid Centre and the Millennium Fellowship Project 'Chaitanya'.

Conducted by:
Ms. Vanshika Rana,
Co-Convener

Under the Guidance
of:
Ms. Charvi Kumar,
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I. Concept Note

Domestic violence (or Intimate Partner Violence) can take a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic and sexual abuse. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines IPV as "any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours."

Although Men also suffer Domestic violence, the law under IPC 498A specifically protects only women. Specifically only a woman can file a case of domestic violence. According to a National Family and Health Survey in 2005, total lifetime prevalence of domestic violence was 33.5% and 8.5% for sexual violence among women aged 15–49. A 2014 study in The Lancet reports that although the reported sexual violence rate in India is among the lowest in the world, the large population of India means that the violence affects 27.5 million women over their lifetimes. However, an opinion survey among experts carried out by the Thomson Reuters Foundation ranked India as the most dangerous country in the world for women.

Project Chaitanya was started by taking in mind the attitude of the society towards gender equality. As in our country India, women are being worshipped but at the same time they are also the victim of violence this showcases a hypocrite attitude. When we see these acts of violence or the discrimination that women suffer even in the twenty first century is saddening. So, we thought of why shouldn't we empower women and let them know their rights but why only women need to know about this why not everybody and for doing the same, we started conducting sessions with children, adolescent girls and women because a change can be brought if we from the start, we as a society and

we as an individual make small changes to our thinking then definitely there will come a day when there would be no need to educate people about gender equality. This event was conducted with a group of adolescent girls or women pertaining to women empowerment and talk about the issues which they face and help them out in every way possible.

II. Objectives

The main objectives of this event were threefold:

1. To create awareness among the target population of the prevalence of domestic violence in society.
2. To apprise the target population of the rights of victims of domestic violence.
3. To detail the remedies available under the law to victims of domestic violence.
4. To motivate women to become empowered and gain control of their agency.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the event, the organisers made the following preparations:

1. Researched on the prevalence and types of domestic violence as well as India's laws on the topic.
2. Obtained permission from authorities to conduct the event in a factory located in the village.
3. Made posters and pamphlets to help disseminate information in a more orderly and eye-catching manner.

IV. Conducting the Event

Ms. Vanshika Rana introduced herself and began her talk. The predominant topic was women empowerment in the face of gender-based violence. It touched upon certain themes that are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Women can attain their greatest potential when they live in a safe, joyful, and productive environment. They can contribute their abilities to the workforce while also raising happier and healthier kids. They can also contribute to the development of sustainable economies, as well as benefit society and mankind as a whole. Education is a crucial aspect of this empowerment. Girls who have education can eventually pursue meaningful work and contribute to their country's economy. Giving women the right to be strong is empowering women. Women can engage equally in school, society, the economy, and politics. Women can participate in society because they have the freedom to choose their religious, linguistic, occupational, and other interests. Women have the same access to higher education as males. They can continue their education at a high level, complete their classes, develop a skill, and study whatever they desire. Women's empowerment is a part to encourage women to feel strong by telling them that they can do everything that they want to do. Women can work outside their home, have opportunity to make up their mind. They can earn money to support their family by working through their abilities.

As some women are not confident to work in a hard condition or a high position because they still determine that it's not women's job. Empowerment helps to reduce in domestic violence due people promote and give the value to women. Women are not abused by any factors such as sexual abuse, emotion abuse and physical abuse. With the same mindset the issues of domestic

violence and sexual harassment of women at workplace were also discussed by telling them the legal remedies for the same in case any of them is facing it.

V. Response of the Target Population

The women with whom the sessions were conducted were really happy to listen to us. They were not only listening to us carefully but even asked questions and discussed their problems to which suitable remedies were told. Not only this we even helped a kid to start going to school by talking to his parents and convinced them about the same. In order to know whether the topics discussed were understood by them questions were asked which were duly answered, this ensured us that we are able to help them in some way or the other. Moreover, all the people even thanked us for imparting knowledge to them.

Five women farm labourers were benefitted out of the event conducted by us during this event.

VI. Future Plan of Action

While undoubtedly successful, this event was but a drop in the ocean when it comes to combating domestic violence, something both the organisers of the event as well as the target population were keenly aware of.

The next essential step is engaging in follow-up. Six months down the line, the organisers hope to hold another session on the issue, this time covering some of the other aspects in greater detail. At that time, they will also be able to gauge how much of the prior information has been retained by the beneficiaries.

VII. Conclusion

The project aimed at educating people about gender equality which was done by conducting sessions with women where topics like sexual harassment, domestic violence and women empowerment along with gender equality were being discussed. As many women were not aware about their rights and through our session they came to know about it which have benefitted them in some way or the other was the best part of the project. The top challenge in front of us was to how to let women talk about their instances of any discrimination or harassment which was faced by them because after knowing the rights it was our duty to help them out. Moreover, the challenge was to how to discuss sensitive issues with rural women as they are not very reluctant to talk about it but this problem was easily cleared as the sessions were designed in such a way that made them to talk about the issues being faced by them as personal interactions turned out to be a great help.

Often, early knowledge and intervention can mean the difference between life and death, especially for the wives of abusive men. It is thus important to ensure that this disease does not hide behind closed doors and can instead be brought out to be vanquished by the light.

GLIMPSE OF THE EVENT

