



# Rashtra Mahila

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

## Capacity Building of State Commission for Women - Training Programme by NCW at LBSNAA, Mussorie



The National Commission for Women conducted a three day training programme for Chairpersons and Members of State Women Commissions in collaboration with LBSNAA, Mussoorie from 19th to 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019; Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson NCW inaugurated the program. It was attended by the members of NCW namely; Smt. Kamlesh Gautam, Smt. Soso shaiza, Smt. Rajulben L. Desai, Smt. Chandramukhi Devi and Smt. Shyamala S Kunder. In total 33 representatives of 16 State Women Commissions at the level of Chairperson, Members and Member Secretaries from the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal participated

in the training programme.

The main issues discussed in various technical sessions were: (i) Gender, Patriarchy Men and Masculinity, (ii) Laws related to Women, (iii) Challenges in dealing with cases of violence against women, (iv) Stakeholders perspectives to issues concerning Gender, (v) Importance of non verbal communications while dealing with survivors and (vi) Challenges and possibilities for convergence amongst Commissions for Women & Girls. The deliberations were concluded by a session on 'Leading the Commission: The way forward' was coordinated by Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary NCW and National Gender Centre of LBSNAA.

## An Interactive Meeting with State Commissions for Women

The Commission organized a one day interactive meeting with Chairpersons and Member Secretaries/representatives of the State Commissions for Women on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019, in the Conference Hall of the NCW. The meeting was presided over by Smt. Rekha Sharma the Chairperson, NCW wherein Chairpersons / Members of State Women Commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal participated.

This interactive session was the continuation of the NCW's endeavor to enhance interface between NCW and State Women Commissions. The objective of the discussion was to provide a common platform for sharing good practices, so as to strengthen the Complaint Redressal Mechanism. The meeting also focused on issues such as 'Human trafficking', 'Rights and conditions of domestic workers- with special reference to female domestic workers' and the prevailing menace of 'Dowry in Indian Society'.

Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women in

her inaugural address welcomed all participants to the meeting and stressed upon the importance of Online Complaint Management System for speedy justice, while expressing her optimism about the Digital Literacy Campaign being run by National Commission for Women. She further informed that the next step in Digital Literacy would be to train the trainers and requested SWCs to work proactively for bringing in more trainers. The deliberations comprised of presentations by State Women commissions followed by discussion amongst the participants on the following subjects:-

- (i) **Digital Literacy Programme:** The discussion was initiated by Ms. Janice Verghese one of the team members of Cyber Peace Foundation. She gave the details of the programme launched by NCW in June 2018 in collaboration with Facebook in which around 60,400 women have been covered. Phase II of this program is targeted to cover more than 1 lakh women, while covering 11 states with at least 10,000 women per state.
- (ii) **Laws relating to Dowry:** Director of the A.P. State Women Commission discussed the key provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act and the



Andhra Pradesh Dowry prohibition Rules 1998, followed by suggestions on remedial measures like education, socio-economic empowerment of women, doing away with the societal pressure regarding marriages of girls, concerted campaign and organizing awareness camps etc. to contain the menace of Dowry in the Country. Chairperson Gujarat SWC, informed about the rules framed by the State Govt. under dowry Act and active monitoring being done through 44 Dowry Probationary Officers in the State.

(iii) **Domestic Workers with special reference to women:** Chairperson, SWC Uttrakhand, expressed her views regarding women participation in labour force, as more than 50% of labour force in Uttrakhand comprised of women, who were working in both organized and unorganized sector. The main concerns of the women domestic workers were job insecurity, lesser wages, vulnerability to physical, mental and sexual abuse, unhealthy working conditions etc. She suggested social security measures for domestic workers, specific laws for protecting them from exploitation, enforcement of minimum wages and evolving a mechanism for protection of their rights and Redressal of their grievances. Chairperson, Himachal Pradesh SWC, gave an overview of the situation in the State. She raised similar concerns and stressed the need for regulation regarding their recruitment, contract, Redressal mechanism etc. The SWC, has already requested State Department of Child Development for collecting data and other related information. She stressed the need for invoking the provisions POSH Act, 2013 and IPC to protect the rights of domestic workers. Member, Bihar SWC, raised concerns regarding lack of institutional set up to regulate, protect and empower the domestic workers in the State.

(iv) **Anti-human trafficking Laws:** Chairperson, Jharkhand State

Commission for Women pointed out that the tribal areas of Jharkhand are the source points of trafficking and low literacy rate and high poverty rates were the reason for this situation. She cited several achievements of the State Commission on rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking. She strongly felt that Training of Anti Human Trafficking Units, proper implementation of Section 13(3)(b) of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and an Advisory body using a network of NGOs under the guidance of State Women Commissions can help in controlling human trafficking. Chairperson Haryana State Women Commission termed human trafficking as a new form of modern day slavery. She mentioned the State Police scheme known as Durga Shakti Yojana/app, which gives emergency help to women in distress and also work towards prevention of such crimes through increasing vigilance. Representative of Tripura State Women Commission informed that girls from Tripura have been trafficked to Haryana for forced marriage and even polyandry.

Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, NCW while concluding the discussion, drew attention to existing legal framework and suggested that efforts need to be made to generate legal awareness and ensure the implementation of laws.

The participants unanimously expressed their pleasure in being part of the purposeful interactive Consultation and thanked the National Commission for Women for organizing it successfully.

Shri A. Asholi Chalai, Joint Secretary, National Commission for Women conveyed his gratitude to Hon'ble Chairperson, Members and Member Secretary of NCW and all the invited participants from SCWs for a fruitful and enriching deliberation. He stressed on the need of change in mindset for any kind of social change. He concluded on an optimistic note that this meeting will not just remain on paper and the issues touched will be worked on the ground.

## World Yoga Day Celebration

NCW organized World Yoga Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 in the premises of the Commission. Officials of NCW also participated in the program organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development at NIPPCD, Haus Khaz, New Delhi at 7:00 am. Members NCW participated in the Yoga Day celebrations at LBSNAA, Mussoorie, where they were attending Capacity Building program for State Commissions for Women.



## Women Safety Cell

### Monitoring of acid attack cases in the Country:

The Women Safety Cell of NCW, in the month of May-June 2019 reviewed MIS, maintained on the Commission's website wherein, 810 cases of acid attack victims/Survivors uploaded by 20 States/UTs, were monitored on the parameters of: (i) status of payment of compensation, (ii) medical relief, (iii) filing of charge sheet and (iv) progress in prosecution. The Commission communicated the deficiencies in this regard to the concerned Stated/ UTs Govt.



## Successful intervention by NCW

The Commission received a complaint on 16.06.2019, through the office of Hon'ble Minister, Women and Child development, for immediate help in case of a women who came to Delhi, leaving her two children aged 10 years and 3 years at Amethi, as she was under threat to her life by her husband. The Commission contacted the complainant and found that her family in Delhi was worried about the safety of the children. The Commission in tandem with the rescue team of police officials and Child Welfare Committee rescued the children of the aggrieved woman and handed them over to their mother. This case was successfully disposed off within 24 hours.

## Complaint & Investigation Cell

The status of complaints received in the Commission during the month of June 2019 is as follows:-

Month	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old+New)
June	1341	577

## Jan Sunwai

Considering the increase in the number of complaints and to ensure their speedy and effective disposal, the Commission conducts Mahila Jan Sunwai in collaboration with District legal Service Authority and concerned police Authorities at District level in different States. They are chaired by Chairperson or/and Members of the Commission. During the month of June 2019 Jan Sunwai were held in the four Districts. Cases were heard and in addition to number of cases closed, the Commission also issued suitable directions to DLSA/ Police Authorities for taking further action expeditiously in the remaining cases.



## Commission Inspects Mental Health Institute (Centre of Excellence in Mental Health) SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack Odisha.

The Commission visited Mental Health Institute (Centre of Excellence in Mental Health) SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack with a two member team comprising of Smt. Chandramukhi Devi, Member, Ms. Swati. JTE, NCW on 29th June, 2019. Also present were members of Odisha State Commission for Women Smt. Snehanjali Mohanty, Smt. Kusum Rath, Smt. Sasmita Nanda Liason Officer, and Adv. Gargi representative of DLSA Cuttack Director –cum-Medical Superintendent (Dr. Sarada Prasanna Swain) and other officials of the Hospital.



Some of the main observations of the Commission based on the inspection were as follows:

- There were only 39 female patients against the sanctioned capacity of 55.
- A wide range of skill development programmes like modular training for tailoring, carpentry, door mat, sofa-cover mat making items, box packing, office boy training in banking and purchasing, mobile cover, decorative items making etc are being conducted for the female patients. The inmates

are engaged for three hours on a daily basis in all these activities, which also works as therapy for them. These activities are found to be productive and useful for female patients self independence post their treatment.

- Sports event is organised among all the 4 mental hospital in the State every year. Cultural events, celebrations on national festivals and on patient's birthday are organised. However, there is a need for more recreational activities of various types, which may be helpful in the improvement of mental health of the patients.
- 2 clinical Psychologist and 2 Social worker staff provide counselling to the family members for continuation of medicines, follow up and side effects of medicines if any.
- Standard operating procedure protocol available with the institutional are formed as per NABH standards, for all procedures and treatments of Patients.
- Four NGOs like Hope charitable trust and sevathirth are associated with the hospitals.

## Commission inspects Circle Jail Cuttack

A two member team comprising of Smt. Chandramukhi Devi, Member, NCW and Ms. Swati, JTE, NCW proceeded to Chaudwar, Cuttack, Odisha on 29.06.2019 and inspected Circle Jail Cuttack. During the inspection, Shri Rabindranath Swain, Jail Superintendent, Smt. Snehanjali Mohanty, Hon'ble Member of Odisha State Commission for Women, Smt. Kusum Rath, Smt.

Sasmita Nanda Liason Officer, and Smt. Gargi, DLSA Cuttack were present. The team carried out the inspection using the NCW prescribed format.

Some of the important highlights of the inspection are as follows:

- No lady warden was present on duty in the jail during the inspection.

- Overcrowding in female Wards/Barracks. No facility to keep personal belongings of the inmates. The windows in the barracks were not covered with net/mesh.
- No segregation between convicted and under trial prisoners.
- Inadequate toilet and bathing facilities.
- Inadequate medical facilities/ health services with no female doctor, nurse or psychiatrist for the treatment of the female inmates. No medical examination of women inmates on admission and thereafter.
- The canteen of the jail was found to be dirty and some of the items in

canteen were expired as on the date of visit.

- Inadequate skill development/Vocational training programmes , no separate room for recreational activities ,inadequate library facilities with no provision for further education through Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode leads to a situation where female inmates remain idle for the whole day.
- State Legal Service Authority must curb the malpractice of legal aid lawyers demanding money from inmates for taking up their cases and take stern action against such lawyers.

## Activities by NCW Administrators

### Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma

- Chaired a meeting with Smt. Vineeta Dixit, head of Public Policy Airbnb regarding further extension and signing of the Statement of Understanding between NCW and Airbnb Ireland UC for strategic partnership to generate technology enabled livelihood opportunities in tourism and hospitality for India's micro entrepreneurs especially for women in North Eastern States. It has been agreed to further extend the project for a period of 1 year, with no material changes in its terms and conditions.

### Member, Smt. Chandramukhi Devi

- Had a meeting with Minister of Tourism Cell, Department of Tourism, Bihar to discuss welfare of women and about their unattended requirements on 02.06. 2019.
- Met the family of a deceased acid attack victim at Aliganj, Bhagalpur. The Member was apprised that the girl was taken to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, where she succumbed to her injuries during treatment.



### Member, Smt. Soso Shaiza

- Chaired workshop from 27.05.2019 to 2.06.2019 on Homestay Tourism in Senapati & Ukhrul, Manipur.

- Met Hon'ble Minister of Sports Shri K. Rijju on 06.06.2019 in his office in the Ministry of Sports, New Delhi and discussed various issues regarding the participation of Women from North East in sports.
- Attended the meeting on 14.06.2019 at Ansal Plaza Khelgaon, New Delhi, as a Member of BCCC (Broadcasting Content Complaints Council) and gave her fruitful input.
- Conducted a meeting in Mumbai with DGP Shri Subodh Jaiswal Kumar, regarding Suo-moto cases taken up by NCW in the State.



### Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Member

- Attended Sangha's Annual General Meeting in Mumbai on 30.06.2019, for felicitating Achievers of the years and received "Rajya Mahila Samman" award.



### Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary

- Chaired an interactive session with a group of 47 interns of National Human Rights Commission on 04.06.2019 in the premises of the Commission. The objective for the visit was to understand the working of the Commission and have an interactive session with the interns and the Officials accompanying them.

## Suo-moto Cell

The Commission took Suo Motu cognizance of total 29 cases reported in the print Media during the month of June 2019. Some of such important matters are as follows:-

### Denial of justice to rape survivor in Bathinda

The news published in various national dailies dated 04.06.2019 that the police and politicians denied justice to the rape survivor in Bathinda, was taken suo moto cognizance by the Commission and constituted a fact finding team. Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Hon'ble Member of the Commission along with Ms. Kanchan Khattar, Senior Coordinator NCW conducted an inquiry on 06.06.2019 regarding denial of justice to the rape survivor. On the intervention of the Commission, the investigation is being supervised by a senior police official. Further, the District Legal Service Authority, Bathinda was impressed upon for providing the compensation to the victim.



### Kerala police woman hacked and burnt alive

The news published in various national dailies dated 15.06.2019, reported

that a woman police constable died after she was allegedly hacked and set ablaze in broad daylight by another policeman in Mavelikkara in Kerala. The Commission took cognizance and sought a detailed action taken report from Kerala Police. It was informed that the accused has been arrested.

### Ill-treatment of female patients in Jalandhar, Punjab

The Commission took cognizance of the media report from Jalandhar where 33 women were made to lay down on floor after tubectomy operation in a family planning camp at Jalandhar. The Commission sought a detailed action taken report from Punjab Government.

### Women set on fire for resisting rape dies in Bihar

The Commission took suo moto cognizance of the media Report published in Hindustan Times, Delhi 07.06.2019, captioned "Women set on fire for resisting rape dies in Bihar". Commission constituted an inquiry committee on 10.06.2019. Hon'ble Member Smt. Chandramukhi Devi along with Ms. Palak Jain, JTE NCW, conducted an inquiry and held a meeting with Shri Ashish Bharti SSP, Bhagalpur. This was followed by an interaction with Media at Circuit House, Bhagalpur.