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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Countrywide Survey/Inspection of Swadhar Greh- Academia/NGO's Meet.

Taking cognizance of recent reports in the media regarding gross violation of the rights of women, living in Swadhar Grehs in the country, the National Commission for Women (NCW) constituted an enquiry committee and got inspection of such homes in some selected States to ascertain the factual status of these homes. Simultaneously, the Commission also planned a Survey / Inspection of all the Swadhar Grehs in the Country. In order to make this Survey/Inspection more meaningful for knowing the predicament of residents of these Swadhar Greh, the Commission organized a daylong consultation with academia, NGOs and Government Departments in the premises of the Commission on **13.09.2018**. Academicians of different Centres of Women Studies in universities including Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia, Punjab University, SNDT Women University, Mumbai University, University of Pune, IGNOU, Bangalore University, Shri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidayala, Andhra Pradesh, University of Hyderabad, etc. and representatives of NGO's such as JAGORI, Guild of Services, New Delhi, National Forum for Single Woman's Rights, Udaipur, Rajasthan, SWAYAM, Kolkata, West Bengal, along with the representatives of Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Council for Vocational Training, New Delhi participated in the deliberations.



Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women in her opening remarks impressed upon the participants to work out a plan of action for a comprehensive and in-depth survey of all Swadhar Grehs in the country, as there was a dire need to carry out the assessment of the implementation of the scheme at the ground level so that the functioning of these homes could be improved and the objectives of the scheme are optimally realized. Smt. Sharma stated that the Swadhar Greh Scheme would lose its sheen if the implementation was not monitored effectively. She highlighted that irrespective of the duration of the stay in Swadhar Greh, the women need to be prepared to join the mainstream society and also empower them economically. She emphasized that survey of Swadhar Greh will provide feedback for substantial up gradation of the scheme.

During the consultations, a detailed framework for gathering both the qualitative and quantitative data was discussed and the draft Interview schedule prepared by the office of the Commission was critically examined with a view to make it focused and effective to capture the real status and to encourage the inmates to bring out the factual status including their difficulties and violation of their rights in these homes. A tentative plan was also discussed so that all the Swadhar Grehs in the country could be surveyed within a period of one year.

Interactive Meet with State Commissions for Women:

The Commission organized an interactive meet with State Commissions for Women (SCW's) on 24th September, 2018 at the premises of the Commission in New Delhi. The meet was chaired by Smt. Rekha Sharma chairperson NCW and was attended by 16 SCWs from across the country. Before the start of the formal meeting, Ms. Alka Sharma, Strategic ICF

Coach and Consultant spoke on the topic of 'Psychological Empowerment of Women'. She highlighted that empowerment can happen only if internal and external barriers that result in fear, self doubt, risk averse instinct and cultural stereotypes were taken care of.



During the interactive meet, Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, NCW, stated that the National and the State Commission for women have been working together for achieving the objective of empowerment of women and the meeting would further cement the relationship and take it to new heights. During the deliberations the action taken by the State Commissions and NCW on, Inspection of Prisons, inclusive laws for differently-able women, model guidelines for women hostels, widow pension Schemes, issues related to marriage and home stay tourism were reviewed. The meeting also finalized the action plan for residual period of 2018-19, particularly in relation to research studies on identified topics, Organizing Seminars on identified issues, Review of Inspection of Jails legal awareness programs, Digital Literacy programs, Competition for College/ Universities students on laws related to women etc.

Making Delhi Safe for Women: Meeting with Delhi Police



The National Commission for Women organized an interactive meeting with senior officials of Delhi Police on 26th September 2018 in the Conference Hall of the National Commission for Women at New Delhi. The meeting was convened with a view to improving coordination between the National Commission for Women and Delhi Police, curbing crime against women and making Delhi a safe place for women. Delhi Police shared information on the good practices being followed by them and also apprised the commission about some of the new initiatives taken by them. The Commission and Delhi Police agreed on the following:-

- i. The National Commission for Women will share all information related to complaints received and the Delhi Police will reciprocate by sending timely updates and expediting investigation. Delhi Police will appoint a nodal officer in every district for better coordination with the National Commission for Women.
- ii. The National Commission for Women and Delhi Police will collaborate and organize orientation programmes for women migrating to Delhi from the North Eastern States for education with a view to help such women to adjust in the changing environment.
- iii. The National Commission for Women will organize Gender Sensitization Programmes for police personnel, judicial officers, doctors and forensic experts with a view to address certain misconceptions about provisions of laws and also impress upon them the need for prompt action in such cases.
- iv. Delhi Police informed about the process of registering Zero FIRs. It was informed that they are facilitating the process of registration of FIR in such cases by calling IO of concerned police station or escorting the complainant to the concerned police station when cases relate to Delhi. In cases where the complaints pertain to other states, it was apprised that Delhi Police registers Zero FIRs and transfers them to concerned police stations.
- v. Delhi Police indicated that they would be able to conduct self-defense training programmes under the Sashakti initiative within 15 days of a request having been received from institutions. Delhi Police also indicated that the number of Sashakti trainers would be increased and 2.25 lakh women will be trained in self-defense during the current year.
- vi. Delhi Police also informed that they will install 2,000 more CCTVs in addition to the 3,000 already in place across the capital. In addition, Delhi Police has operationalized a system for utilizing 1.5 lakh private CCTVs to gather evidence during investigation, if and when required.
- vii. Delhi Police will increase efforts to identify dark and vulnerable areas in the capital to curb crime against women.
- viii. More women will be recruited in Delhi Police force and the strength of women in Delhi Police will go up to 33% of the total strength by 2025.
- ix. Community Policing will be encouraged and new steps will be taken in it.
- x. Efforts will be made to encourage people to help women in distress
- xi. Programmes will be conducted in schools and colleges to create awareness about measures taken by Delhi Police to ensure safety and security of women in Delhi.
- xii. The National Commission for Women and Delhi Police will coordinate to make the working of Cyber Cells more effective for dealing with cyber crimes against women
- xiii. The National Commission for Women and Delhi Police will organize awareness workshops to ensure safety and security of women from North East States in Delhi
- xiv. The issuance of LoC and request for impounding/suspension of passports will be made in matrimonial issues related to NRI/Overseas marriages, as per prescribed procedures and Laws.
- xv. Better coordination will be established between Delhi Police, Protection Officers, District Legal Services Authority, State Run Shelter Homes and police in neighboring States.
- xvi. Quarterly interaction will be organized between Delhi Police and the National Commission for Women to review the measures taken to enhance safety and security of women in Delhi.

Activities by NCW Administration

By Smt. Rekha Sharma Chairperson NCW

Smt. Rekha Sharma met the team of Gauravi (Sakhi) - the One Stop Centre in Bhopal on 28th September 2019. Their tireless efforts to ensure women safety and security through services ranging from social support, counseling, legal aid and temporary shelter was highly appreciated. They are also working to enable women to know their legal rights and understand the method of access to the legal systems by conducting legal awareness programmes at district and sub-district levels in Madhya Pradesh.

Chairperson NCW also , attended a training, orientation and felicitation programme for 'Aayog Sakhis', organised by Madhya Pradesh State Commission for Women in Bhopal on 28th September 2018.



By Shri Alok Rawat, Member, NCW

Sri Rawat visited Chhattisgarh to take stock of all women-related central government schemes and their implementation in the State. Representatives of the Chhattisgarh Women & Child Development Department and Health Department were also present during the visit.

Women Welfare Cell

The Commission taking into cognizance of reports about violation of women rights in various Shelter homes/ Swadhar Greh, constituted an Inquiry Committee under Dr V.R. Tripurana to visit and enquire into functioning of some of these institutions in different States. The Committee inspected 21 Swadhar Grehs in the States of Odisha (08), Karnataka (08), and Uttar Pradesh (05) during the period from 10th September to 28th September, 2018.

Suo-Motu Cell

The Commission took Suo Motu cognizance of total 17 cases reported in the print Media during the month of September 2018, the details of action taken is as follows:-

Month	No. of Cases taken up	No. of ATR replies received	No. of cases closed	Inquiry Committees/ Fact Finding Team Constituted
September	17	13	01	1

Some of important matters are as follows

Student who topped CBSE Board Examination allegedly Gang raped in Haryana-The news was published in various national dailies dated 14/09/2018. The Commission constituted a fact finding team and the report of the fact finding team was forwarded to the State Government for appropriate action. The intervention of the Commission led to filing of charge sheet in the Court.

UP cops thrash, abuse girl for 'choosing' Muslim partner-Commission sought detailed action taken report from Uttar Pradesh Police. It was informed that the woman police, who was seen in the video, and other two male officials, have been suspended after the departmental inquiry and one of the home guard was expelled from the service.

Will kidnap girl, hand over to you: BJP MLA to youth-The news was published in Tribune, Delhi. Commission sought an explanation for giving the alleged objectionable statement. The MLA in his reply submitted that his statement was misconstrued and shown in the media. He pleaded for acceptance of unconditional apology by the Commission.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED In the Commission

During September 2018, the Status of complaints received in the commission was as follows:-

Month	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old+New)
September	1259	315

NRI Cell

The Commission organized a consultation meeting on 31.10.2019 at Punjab University, Chandigarh with relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the issue of economic rehabilitation of the women aggrieved of NRI marriages. The objective of this meeting was to discuss about the possible role of different stakeholders, tentative plan of implementation and monitoring. The important participants in the meeting were academicians from Department of Social Work of Punjab University and Punjabi University, representatives from socio-religious organizations such as Shiromani Gurudwara Management Committee, DAV Management Committee, and representatives from civil society organizations of 13 districts of Punjab.

NEWS

1. Kerala nun rape case: PC George withdraws petition against NCW notice

The Commission summoned MLA Sri P.C. George for his adverse remarks against the Nun allegedly sexually abused by the Jalandhar Bishop Franco Mulakkal. He filed a petition in the High Court challenging the notice issued by NCW that asked him to appear in New Delhi on September 20. PC George withdrew the petition that he filed after the court declined to interfere in the case. While doing so he submitted that he did not make any defamatory statement against the victim, her family members or the community. Rather, he expressed a genuine doubt in the petitioner's mind, which did not harm anybody's feeling.

2. Police stations to have Sexual Assault- Evidence Collection Kits

All police stations across the country will now be equipped with Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (SAECK) or "rape investigation kits" in order to collect blood and semen samples in addition to other important evidence to initiate immediate investigation into cases of sexual assault. These kits will help investigating officers to start immediate medico-legal investigation and help provide further evidence in cases of sexual assault and rape.

As part of the pilot project, in the initial phase, as many as 3960 such kits will be procured by the Union home ministry and all states and Union Territories will be provided 100 each of these SAECK. While Rs. 79.20 lakh would be spent on procuring the kits as part of the pilot project, an additional Rs. 4.91 crore will be spent to train police officers and other medical staff of local hospitals in their area of jurisdiction. The kits will have all the essential items required in providing crucial evidence such as blood and semen samples in such cases. The kit will contain a set of test tubes and bottles, with details of contents and specifications along with instructions on collection of evidence from the crime scene. The kits will then be sent to the closest forensic laboratory to provide the results within the two months. Initially, at least three kits will be provided to each of the 15,640 police stations in the country after

which the number would be gradually increased. The cost would be shared jointly by the Centre and the respective states.

3. Ms V R Lalithambika India's veteran woman scientist to lead India's Gaganyaan project

The ISRO has entrusted the Gaganyaan project programme to Ms V R Lalithambika, a veteran of more than 100 space missions, the soft-spoken 56 year old scientist, who has been a key member of the team behind the launch of a record launching of 104 Satellites on one day. The 56 year old scientist was not only the key member of the team that was behind the launch of a record 104 satellites in one go, but she also played a significant role in the execution of over 100 space missions.

4. Women's Hockey Team of India wins Silver

In the Asian Games 2018, the women's Hockey team of India got silver Medal. Congratulations to India's Women's hockey team for winning and showing young women everywhere the power of focused determination and teamwork. They played with tenacity, composure and grit! Enjoy the moment, ladies...you've earned it.

5. Ms Keithair Misquitta- a woman aviator from Mumbai

A delightful news came on 10th September 2018 that Ms Keithair Misquitta, a woman aviator from Mumbai, together with Aarohi Pandit is attempting a world record for circumnavigation of the earth in a Light Sport Aircraft (called Mahi).

6. Award to NCW Publication

The special commemorative publication of the Commission on completion of its 25 year journey has been awarded Gold at the DAC SAARC Awards, 2018 on 6th September 2018. NCW which was established on 31st January, 1993, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its setting up earlier this year and brought out the Publication on this occasion as a "Coffee Table book" in an attempt to chronologize journey over the years. The award is indeed a recognition of NCW's efforts to provide a stable, healthy and prosperous life to women across the Country.



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