

Pairavi Gender Resource Centre

an initiative of **GRASSROOTS INDIA TRUST**

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WHY PAIRAVI GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE?

Over 37 percent of married women in the country are victims of physical or sexual abuse by their husbands. According to a study, the women in Himachal Pradesh faced less violence at home compared to other states in the country. More women face violence in rural areas (40.2%) as compared to those in the urban areas (30.4%). Bihar province ranks at top while Madhya Pradesh accounts for 45.8%, ranking third in the National Family Health Survey. Domestic violence against women in the Madhya Pradesh has increased three times in the last 5 years, police records say. From 7,283 cases in 2001, the figure went up to 23,215 in 2005. Madhya Pradesh had the highest rates of rapes reported. Dowry disputes are a serious problem. Although providing or taking dowry was illegal under the Dowry Prohibition Act, dowry was practiced widely. In the typical dowry dispute, a groom's family members harassed a new wife whom they believed had not provided a sufficient dowry. This harassment sometimes ended in the woman's death, which family members often tried to portray as a suicide or accident. Sati, the practice of burning widows on the funeral pyres of their husbands, was banned, but continued in a few cases despite the ban. Panna, where PGRC has direct operation, had such an incidence few years ago. A married woman in Indore was forced to engage in the practice of "agnipariksha," where her hands were placed in a fire to test her fidelity to her husband, at the request of her in-laws. In remote villages, witchcraft accusations and punishments still occurred. Dalit ("untouchable" caste) women have been stripped naked by mobs and paraded around in public to humiliate Dalits who offended other castes. This, coupled with poverty, illiteracy, bondage within age-old traditions and customs, secondary level of status in the society, no participation in social activities and no involvement whatsoever in decision making process, makes their life all the more pathetic and inhumane.

Social Problems of Women

- Economic dependence;
- No access to their basic rights like education, work, information, etc.;
- Feeling of insecurity;
- No say in decision making process;
- Non-availability of basic minimum facilities and resources;
- Social pressures and age-old anti-women traditions/customs;
- Politically weak;
- Unorganized; and
- Poor health.

Looking at the enormity of violence against women at home and outside particularly in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, Pairavi Gender Resource Centre was constituted. It was formed in early 2006. Intensive activities are going on in Panna district (on pilot basis) whereas macro level networking and information collection followed by analysis. Many more intensive activities have yet to start once the resources are generated.

OBJECTIVES

- To educate the women about their rights under Violence Against Women Act 2000, Indian Penal Code 1860, Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act 2005, etc.
- To document the cases of violence against women at home as well as in society.
- To minimize violence, both physical as well as mental, against women within home, at workplace, and in society.
- To assist the victims through legal, psychological and economic support.
- To sensitizing the police, lawyers, judges and concerned officials towards the issues of violence against women.

ACTION & APPROACH

To achieve the aforesaid objectives, in its right earnest and spirit, we do the following activities:

- Organization of awareness camps, workshops, meetings
- Sensitization Meetings with officers, police, lawyers, judges, etc.
- Networking with grassroots NGOs/CSOs on the issues
- Publication of a Monthly Newsletter in Hindia
- Conducting studies, survey, analysis
- Counseling of victims

MAIN CONTACT

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