

Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development

Workshop on
Making Homes, Violence Free for Women



Madurai Symposium 2019

Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai

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Organized by



Kalanjiam Foundation



Domestic Violence an Outline

One-third of women in India in the age 15-49 have experienced physical violence. About 1 in 10 would have experienced sexual violence. Totally, 35 percent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence reveals a study.

Women in Indian society are always revered and are grand divinity in social domain. Cherishing women goddesses as the embodiment of wealth, education and protection is embedded in the spiritual beliefs. Yet the gender discrimination in practice has its roots in its traditions and is coupled to that of the patriarchal system. This patriarchal influence and the male dominant social order have given room to the practice of domestic violence at homes, even at the behest of the in-laws.

Domestic violence is not a social problem to that of India. It is prevalent across countries - either developed, developing or the under developed. It's a global cultural issue having past references that has got the appropriate attention in recent years.

Violence against women often goes as a legitimate right of the male and goes down mutely. When the violence is being perpetrated by the members of their families it is grave for the women and she has no other space to take shelter. **"From the cradle to the grave, women are objects of violence from those nearest and dearest to them. And it is a never ending cycle for there is considerable evidence of intergenerational transmission of domestic violence"**. (Freeman, 1979, p 239)

The above passage shows the pathetic state of women, and the significance of the above statement is still valid. This shows that the discrimination and exploitation on the basis of gender goes along with a women's life. Practices like pre-birth selection, female foeticide, infanticide, homicide and suicides happening because of gender discrimination, threatens the life of female gender all through her life cycle phases. Sexual abuse, assault, incest, molestation,

harassment, marital rape, early marriages and childbearing, restriction on mobility, trafficking, dowry harassment, are all the other forms of violence women encounter.

Women & Empowerment

It is in the 1980's that the Micro finance has got introduced in India among women to impact their lives. Self-Help Bank Linkage Programme facilitated through this initiative resulted in playing a crucial role to bring out positive economic impact in the lives of women. Over the years the SHG women empowerment initiatives have transformed into a social movement. NABARD annual report 2019 states that there are 12 crore poor families reached out through 1 crore SHGs. They have a cumulative savings of Rs. 23,000 crore. The groups have accessed loan of Rs. 58,000 crore during that year and have a bank loan outstanding of Rs. 87,000 crore.

The SHGs have facilitated financial inclusion of the women from unorganized sectors into the formal banking, reducing the cost of funds considerably by bringing them out of the usurious money lenders. The easy credits have helped them try out livelihoods of their choice using the loan funds at their disposal. It has also brought out many first time women entrepreneurs from the remote and far-flung corners of our nation. Women had got access to technologies at their disposal, increasing productivity and income, thereby resulting in healthy families. The access to finance has aided them to make financial decisions at home and also helped to create education access for their children.

SHGs have significantly contributed to the development of the individual skills of the women and also produced many grassroots leaders to the fore. Thus the SHGs have given space to the overall advancement of women in various spheres, in that way empowering them in the process. Yet, it is not the case for all women. There are many hindering factors that block the women's quest to overcome the odds in achieving better state of life. Domestic Violence is found to be one such hindering block that comes from the family members against the wellness of women.

Domestic Violence: Realizing the need to address domestic violence the government, NGOs and development stakeholders have been making vigorous efforts to deal with the issue. Many legal acts, enactments and establishments have been put in place to assist the women in need. However, they are all the last resorts that would help women to get the righteous justice





they seek, to help women get around the problem of domestic violence; informal means and measures still play a vital role in our society.

This workshop attempts to bring the stakeholders and the community into one platform to pool the experiences, to capture the issues being faced by women and find the way forward options. The objective of the workshop is to

- Learn from the mutual experiences of various stakeholders
- Document the varied informal systems in our social setup
- Identify mutual co-working space to build happy families

Participants

Officials from Government departments, NGO Representatives, experts, counsellors, and community leaders who are involved in working with domestic violence are expected to share their experience. The workshop will help the stakeholders learn through mutual sharing and to evolve a community centered model to address the social issue.

Date and venue

The workshop will be held on Saturday, 21 September 2019, at Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai from 10.00 to 5.00 pm

Anchored by: Advanced Centre for Enabling Women Empowerment (ACEWE) is a specialized knowledge centre being established by DHAN Foundation, housed at The DHAN Academy with anchorship of Kalanjiam Foundation to undertake research, pilots, demonstrations, networking, training and documentations on Women Empowerment.

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