

ACTIVISM PERTAINING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Why is it that the victim should bear both the abuse and the shame? Why should family preservation be a woman's role? Why should the victim hide and cower in fear? Something about this world must change for it to be a better place.

Commencing from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, is the time for a pejorative campaign and to take action and to end violence against women and children around the world, originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

The purpose of the campaign is to spread awareness among people, against violence to serve equality and set a base for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end Gender Based Violence.

Violence against women and children is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today. It manifests itself in various forms (Domestic violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, eve teasing etc) which resulting to physical & mental trauma impacting the health too such as severe injuries, deaths, burning, scarring, genital mutilation, femicide, etc on the victim. In case of Domestic Violence, it not only affects women who is facing violence but children who observe this at home also get impacted and fail to maintain healthy relationships. The victim does not report the violence out of shame, impunity, fear to lose economic support, children's future etc.

Despite the formation of new laws like PWDVA and amendments in the existing laws, violence still exists.

CEHAT(Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes)in collaboration with the MCGM (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai) initiated the very first DILAASA a hospital based crisis centre to respond to violence against women and children at Bhabha Hospital, Bandra in the year 2000. Henceforth the need to open more centres was felt, for which advocacy was done and now NHM runs the DILAASA centres at 11 peripheral Hospitals across Mumbai which run

with a motto “ You have a safe space” providing counseling and Medico-Legal support to the victim maintaining the ethic of confidentiality and also focusing on health consequences

CEHAT also runs a project under the WHO which provides training to the Health care professionals to make health sector responsive to the cases of violence. The training henceforth includes how to identify the victim, other prospects of violence, giving the victim a confidence about the psycho social support and providing them with the Medico-Legal Support.

“End Violence-If not now, when?”

-Sugandha Bajaj.