

WMO

2011

assault

the role of
health

violence

sexual
assault

care
providers



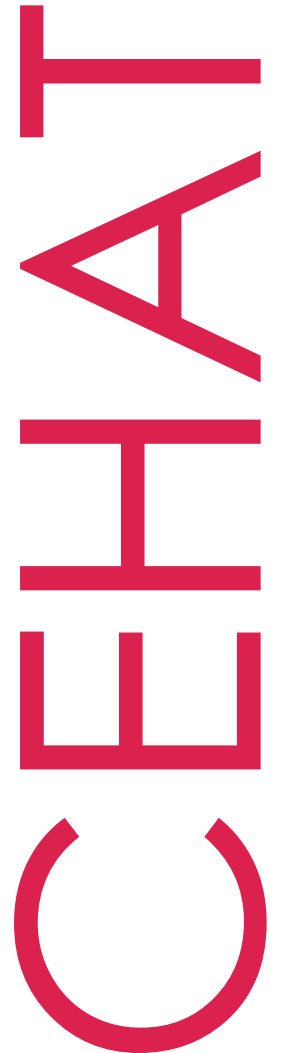
dilaasa

Dilaasa, India's first hospital-based crisis counseling department for abused women was set up at K.B.Bhabha Hospital, Bandra in 2001. This initiative was based on the premise that violence against women is a health issue and that health professionals have a critical role to play in responding to it. Since 2008, a comprehensive health sector response to sexual assault is being implemented in three hospitals of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, viz. Rajawadi, K.B.Bhabha Hospital (Bandra) and Oshiwara Maternity home. This includes ensuring that medico-legal documentation and evidence collection is carried out in a comprehensive and sensitive manner, and the survivor is provided with much needed medical and psychological aid. In the deeply hierarchical setting of a public hospital, Dilaasa seeks to provide a space for women to talk about their experience of abuse and seek help. Along with provision of services, regular capacity building trainings are conducted to sensitize hospital staff to the issue of violence and the role of health care providers in this

CEHAT (Center for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes) is a multi-disciplinary institution promoting and supporting socially relevant health related research, training, service and advocacy. CEHAT is the research center of the Anusandhan Trust, which is governed democratically through participatory management and upholds the principles of transparency, social accountability and ethics.

About the Partners

K.B.Bhabha Hospital, Bandra, K.B.Bhabha Hospital, Kurla, Rajawadi Hospital and Oshiwara Maternity home are well - equipped peripheral municipal hospitals, run by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.



About the Calendar

The prime responsibility of health care providers is to provide medical and psychological support to survivors of sexual assault. The law also mandates that they collect and document crucial medico-legal evidence which can help the survivor attain justice in the court of law. Given this unique position that health professionals find themselves in, it is of great importance that they understand their responsibilities. This calendar hence attempts to highlight the key roles of health care providers in responding to sexual assault. Through this effort, we aim to reiterate the difference that health professionals as the first point of contact can make in the journey of the survivor towards recovery.

Thank You!

We would like to thank CEHAT's PDC members and CEHAT and Dilaasa staff for their feedback and suggestions. You could support CEHAT's work on Violence Against Women through donation to the Anusandhan Trust, registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, Registration No.E-13480. You could also avail an 80-G exemption for all donations made by cheques/demand draft to Anusandhan Trust. All cheques/demand drafts should be drawn in favour of 'ANUSANDHAN TRUST – CEHAT' payable at Mumbai.

calendar

role your



January

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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31						

February

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28						

As a health
care

provider, you have
a dual role to play
in responding to
survivors of sexual
assault. The first is
therapeutic and the
second medico-
legal.

importance of informed

Consent



Sexual Assault is an extremely dis-empowering

act, therefore utmost care must be taken to respect the survivor's decision. Inform him/her about the procedures that will be performed and while doing so, respect the agency with which the survivor has reported to you.

March

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April

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Care providing



May

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June

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Sexual assault has tremendous health impact and immediate support can go a long way in preventing long-term consequences. Inform the survivor about these consequences and ensure that all medical treatment and psychological support is provided promptly.

sensitivity

July

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August

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The law entrusts you with the responsibility of recording history, examination findings and evidence collection. However, perform these roles with utmost sensitivity to ensure that the survivor is not traumatised further.

opinion • provide an

As an expert, the law expects you to provide a medical opinion at the end of your examination. Do not hesitate to do so. Inform yourself on how an opinion should be provided in a reasoned and scientific manner.

September

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October

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Link Up

November

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December

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Survivors of sexual assault need multiple

types of support in order to heal from abuse. Link them up with services that provide social, legal and psychological support. You are the first point of contact and can provide an avenue to access further help.



sexual assault

the role of
health care

workers



Dilaasa, Dept. No. 101, K.B.Bhabha Municipal Hospital, R.K. Patkar Marg, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400050. Tel.: Direct: 26400229/ 26422775/ 2462254. Extn: 4376/ 4511. Email: Dilaasa@vsnl.net.

Dilaasa, Dept. No. 15, K.B. Bhabha Municipal Hospital, Belgrami Road, Kurla (W), Mumbai 400070. Tel.: 2650 0241 Extn.: 212
Rajawadi Hospital, Near Somaiya College, Rajawadi Road, Ghatkopar - E, Mumbai - 400075. Phone: 25094149, 25094150, 25094152, 25153942

Oshiwara Municipal Maternity Home (Gyn/Obs dept. of Dr. R.N. Cooper hospital), Off S.V. Road, Jogeshwari (W), Mumbai - 400102.

CEHAT, Survey no. 2804/2805, Aaram Society Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai 400 055 (MH). Tel: 26673154, 26673571. E-mail: cehat@vsnl.com