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INTRODUCTION

What is Sexual Violence

Sexual violence occurs throughout the world regardless of country, race, social strata, religion. Although in most countries there has been little research conducted on the problem, available data suggest that in some countries nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner, and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.

As per WHO, Sexual violence is defined as:

any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.

[Click here for more details](#)

Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, Passed By Lok Sabha On 19 March, 2013

Defined Sexual Violence against Women as::

Section 375 of the Indian Penal code, defined rape as sexual intercourse by a man with a woman under circumstances falling in any of the six following descriptions:

1. Against her will.
2. Without her consent.
3. With her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person in whom she is interested in fear of death or of hurt.
4. With her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband, and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married.
5. With her consent, when, at the time of giving such consent, by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication or the administration by him personally or through another of any stupefying or unwholesome substance, she is unable to -

understand the nature and consequences of that to which she gives consent.

6. With or without her consent, when she is under sixteen years of age.

also includes

- ⌘ Oral penetration, urethral/ anal penetration,
- ⌘ Fingering, use of objects (other than penis) for vaginal, urethral and anal penetration.
- ⌘ Manipulation of any part of the body of a woman so as to cause penetration into the vagina, urethra, anus or any other part of body
- ⌘ Application of mouth to the vagina, anus, urethra of woman and regards it as a 'rape' under the various circumstances explained in the law. [Click here for more details](#)

CEHAT WORK ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

(I). Implementing a Comprehensive Health Sector Response to Sexual Violence

Since 2008, CEHAT has been implementing a comprehensive model response to sexual assault at three public hospitals in Mumbai - Rajawadi Hospital, Cooper Hospital and Bandra Bhabha Hospital. The model is based on the guidelines laid down by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is the first of its kind to be established in the country. A gender sensitive proforma for medical examination has been implemented, that lays emphasis on a detailed documentation of history and recording of only relevant examination findings. [Click here for more details](#)

Research

Research as part of this project is aimed at building evidence about sexual violence in the Indian context, understanding the response of health facilities to survivors of sexual violence, and generating evidence on effectiveness of CEHAT's model of intervention.

Advocacy

Policy Advocacy for implementation of comprehensive and gender sensitive protocols for responding to sexual violence.

Having worked with the health sector for 6 years, establishing a comprehensive health system response to sexual violence, which has produced evidence that the health system can indeed be sensitised to provide good services to survivors, CEHAT has been advocating for implementation of gender sensitive protocols across the health sector in India. As part of this effort, we have made submissions to various State governments, Delhi Court as well as the Central Government and are part of a committee constituted by the -



For Sexual
Assault
Survivor

- ⌘ [FAQs on sexual violence](#): Common Questions regarding sexual assault
- ⌘ [What to do if youve been Sexually Assaulted](#) Immediate steps to take

Central Health Ministry to formulate such protocols for the entire nation. CEHAT's effort has been to ensure that the protocols are comprehensive as well as gender sensitive, and that they give adequate attention to healing from trauma, facilitation of which is the main responsibility of the health system.

[Click here for more details](#)

Capacity Building

CEHAT conducts routine capacity building trainings with doctors and nurses across three hospitals where it is implementing interventions. The training consists of building a perspective on sexual violence, understanding the key components of a comprehensive health care response to sexual violence, and building skills to implement the same. Case studies and exercises are used to enable doctors to implement each component of the response right from seeking informed consent, to formulating an opinion and providing treatment and support in a gender sensitive manner.

[Click here for More details](#)

(II). Right to health care for survivors of sexual assault: Public interest litigation

CEHAT filed an intervention petition in the Nagpur High Court on 9th Sept 2010 in a Public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Dr. Ranjana Pardhi and others against Union of India in 2009. The Nagpur bench of Mumbai High Court concluded this PIL in favour of the Maharashtra health department on 29th Jan 2014. The division bench itself stated to the Interveners (CEHAT) that injuries are often present in struggle related to sexual assault and also made a case for inclusion of height and weight as important components of sexual assault examination proforma. By doing this, the honourable high court has taken regressive steps yet again and this would definitely hinder the process of seeking justice for survivors of sexual assault. The Maharashtra medico legal protocol continues to contain unscientific parameters such as height/ weight, vaginal and anal elasticity and overemphasis on injuries. Treatment guidelines have still not become a part of this protocol. An analysis of the Maharashtra protocol was undertaken and widely shared with organisations and health activists to build pressure on the Government of Maharashtra to stop such an implementation.

CEHAT is currently in the process of challenging this protocol in the Supreme Court of India with expert advice and legal counsel of the Lawyers Collective and the petition in the Supreme Court has been filed. Simultaneously efforts are on to engage the health secretary and her office in Maharashtra to implement the MoHFW guidelines which have been released as uniform protocol for sexual assault health care across the country and are deemed to be on par with the WHO guidelines.



For Sexual
Assault
Survivor

- 🕒 [Reporting to the Police](#) : How to report the assault
- 🕒 [Medical information](#) What you should know about Hospital Procedures
- 🕒 [Dos and Donts if you want to prosecute](#): What you should know

Simultaneously efforts are on to engage the health secretary and her office in Maharashtra to implement the MOHFW guidelines which have been released as uniform protocol for sexual assault health care across the country and are deemed to be on par with the WHO guidelines.

[Click here for more details](#)

(III). Violence against women in conflict affected areas

Part of this study was to look at the response of the health system on violence against women in the conflicted affected zones in India which has been hitherto unexplored in research and academia so far. It intended to understand the response of the health system to violence perpetrated against women in conflict by documenting at the perspective of victim and survivor advocates on barriers and challenges in accessing healthcare to women affected by sexual violence with a rights-based lens. The methodology was to conduct semi-structured interview key informants who are involved in responding to survivors of sexual violence in the states of Kashmir, Manipur and Chhattisgarh.

[Click here for More Details](#)

RESOURCES

1. [Role of Health Systems in Responding to Sexual Assault – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
2. [Basic Procedures to be Followed in Sexual Assault Cases: Towards Guidelines for Support Groups and Others](#)
3. Sana Contractor. [An Observation Study on response to survivors of Sexual Assault at the Police Hospital](#), Mumbai.
4. [Violence Against Women in Armed Conflict and Role of Health Care Providers](#): A 3-day training held in Delhi wherein we invited people not just from J&K but also North east (Manipur), Chhattisgarh and Ghadchiroli - to bring in different perspectives from the country. TRAINING ON RESPONDING TO VAW: ROLE OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.
5. [Armed Conflict, Violence Against Women and Right to Health Care](#): Consultation with Health Professionals and State Women's Commission from Kashmir 15th-17th April, 2011. The aim of this consultation was to facilitate an exchange of experiences, learning, challenges and workable solutions associated with work on violence against women (VAW) and to deliberate on practical ways of engaging with Right to Health in situations of Armed Conflict. Aim of this consultation was to facilitate an exchange of experiences, learning,



For Sexual
Assault
Survivor

- 🕒 [Court Procedures](#): What you should know about court procedures.
- 🕒 [Claiming Compensation](#): Provisions for compensation for sexual assault Survivors.
- 🕒 [Recovering from Sexual Assault](#): Focussing on healing

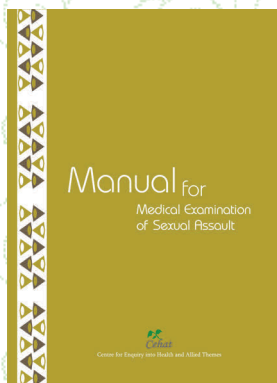
CONTRIBUTION FROM CEHAT TO THE SUBJECT

Books & Reports



☞ ***Establishing a Comprehensive Health Sector Response to Sexual Assault.*** Mumbai: CEHAT, 77 p., 2012 [ISBN: 978-81-89042-63-9].

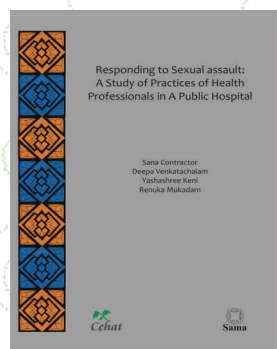
This report is based on the experience of establishing a comprehensive health care response to sexual assault at three public hospitals in Mumbai, in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. CEHAT is the first institution in India to have directly engaged with the public health sector to develop a model to respond to sexual assault. [Full Report](#)



☞ ***Manual for medical examination of sexual assault.*** Revised edition. Mumbai: CEHAT, x,64 p., 2012 [ISBN: 978-81-89042-59-2].

This manual aims to equip health care workers with an appropriate understanding of sexual violence and the needs and rights of survivors of sexual violence, and to highlight the dual responsibilities-both medical and forensic-health care workers have toward survivors.

[Full Report](#)



☞ Contractor, Sana... [et al]. ***Responding to sexual assault: A study of practices of health professionals in a public hospital.*** Mumbai: CEHAT and New Delhi: SAMA, 58 p., 2011 [ISBN: 978-81-89042-57-8].

The study showed that there are several gaps in both the medico-legal as well as therapeutic response of the hospital to sexual assault survivors.

[Full Report](#)

☞ Kulkarni, Sucha; Jesani, Amar and D'Souza, Lalitha. ***Sexual Assault of a Deaf Mute Juvenile in Observation Home, Umerkhadi*** on September 21, 1997, Mumbai: Forum Against Child Sexual Exploitation, September 1998, Pgs.14

[Full Report](#)



For Health
Care
Providers

- ☞ [Identifying Abuse](#): Screening
- ☞ [Signs and Symptoms of Abuse](#): How to identify Survivors of VAW
- ☞ [Psychological First Aid](#): Providing Psychological First Aid to Survivors of Violence



⌘ Jagdish, N.; Deosthali, Padma; Contractor, Sana; Rege, Sangeeta and Malik, Seema. *Comprehensive health sector response to sexual assault does the Delhi high court judgment pave the way? Working Paper No. 1*. Mumbai: CEHAT, 16 p., 2010 [ISBN: 978-81-89042-50-9]

The Paper presents its reasoned conviction on the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to the issue particularly in the context of the Delhi High Court mandate on the responsibilities of the many agencies involved in dealing with incidents of sexual assault. [Full Report](#)

Papers & Articles

A 312. Deosthali, Padma [Moving from evidence to care: ethical responsibility of health professionals in responding to sexual assault](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, X(1) Jan-Mar 2013.

A. 293. Contractor, Sana and Rege, Sangeeta. [Implementation of Protocols to respond to Sexual Assault- Experiences from the field](#). Paper presented at the *International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 15-18 February 2009, Mumbai, India.

A 278. Pitre Amita. [Caring for Survivors of sexual Assault](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*. 3(3), July-September 2006, pp.90-92.

A 268. Deosthali, Padma, [Should Case Documentations be used for Research?](#) *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, October - December 2005, Vol.2, No.4, Pgs.129.

A 254. Pitre, Amita. [Case study of an attempt to institutionalize a model Sexual Assault Evidence Kit to address care and evidence linked issues](#). presented at the *conference Lessons learnt from a rights based approach to health*. organized by Emory University, Atlanta, USA, May 2005, Pgs. 7.

A 253. Pitre, Amita, [Role of Health Professionals: What to do in Cases of Sexual Assault?](#) *Womens Global Network for Reproductive Rights Newsletter* (Update No.4), Vol.84, No.4, 2005, Pgs.23.

A 252. Pitre, Amita, [Sexual Assault Care and Forensic Evidence Kit Strengthening the case for use of the kit](#). presented at the *10th International Women and Health Meeting* in New Delhi, India, from 21st to 25th September 2005. Pgs. 6.

Cehat Library has very informative collection on [Women's Health](#), [Women's Laws](#), [Women Rights](#), [Women & Gender](#), [Women & Violence](#), [Women Prisoners](#), [Domestic Violence](#), [Sexual Violence](#), [Rape](#), [Crime against Women](#), [Women's Empowerment](#), [Women Workers](#) related subjects.



Library collection covers all types of resources such as books, Journals, articles, Documents, Posters, Documentaries, Reprints, other print & Non-print materials.

It also includes other institute reports, Government publications, reports, unpublished documents. Statistical data, Training materials, Health database etc.

[Online Public Access Catalogue of the Library.](#)



ARRIVALS OF THE APRIL TO JUNE 2014

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS OF THE CEHAT

- ⊗ Policy Paper on Maternal Health in Bihar
- ⊗ Policy Brief on Maternal Health in Bihar
- ⊗ Policy Paper on Maternal Health in Odisha
- ⊗ Policy Brief on Maternal Health in Odisha
- ⊗ Right To Maternal Health in India: are we there yet? A Report
- ⊗ Hospital Preparedness and Response: 2008 Mumbai Terror Attacks



For Health
Care
Providers

- ⊗ [Providing medical support](#): Medical support for survivors
- ⊗ [Documentation](#): Importance of Documentation
- ⊗ [How to document](#): What to remember when documenting

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

April Month

Amir Khan Visit

*Amir Khan With CEHAT Team*

It is 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2014. Aamir Khan visits the R. N. Cooper Hospital in Mumbai to felicitate teams that have implemented a gender-sensitive and scientific protocol for the medical treatment and examination of survivors of sexual assault. This protocol has been developed by Mumbai-based NGO Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) in consultation with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). It has been implemented in three municipality hospitals so far. [Click here for More details](#)

ImportantFor Health
Care
Providers

Additional referrals: How to make referrals
Basic Police and Legal Information: Understanding police and legal formalities

Training of the Trainer

Developing a Health Sector Response to Violence Against Women Train the trainer Organized by CEHAT.

Date: 11th April – 13th April 2014.

Timing: 9.00 am. – 5 00 pm.

Venue: ST. PIUS , Goregaon, Mumbai.



Participants of the Training

3 day workshop was aimed at enabling health professionals to understand the concept of a one stop crisis centre and its relevance in a hospital setting. Specific protocols for responding to domestic violence and sexual assault were presented to the participants and they were asked to develop ways in which these protocols can be implemented at the level of the health system. The participants visited Bombay based Dilaasa, a hospital based crisis centre. Here, they interacted with health professionals and engaged with them to learn from their experience of setting up such services in the given infrastructure of the health setting. This training was attended by various government officials working with the health system as well as non governmental agencies from various states like West Bengal, Haryana, and Maharashtra. The participants ranged from health care providers to child rights activists, social workers and counsellors.

Over the 3 days, various experts such as Jaya Velankar, Dr. Seema Malik, Padma Deosthali, Manisha Tulpule, Gurmit Tandon, Dr. Nikhil Datar, Sangeeta Rege conducted sessions which provided an indepth understanding of why violence against women should be considered a public health issue and what are the ways in which the health system should respond to violence against women.

The 3 days ended with different groups presenting their understanding of the role of the healthcare professionals and the health system in responding to violence against women.



CEHAT IN NEWS

April

☞ Protocols and Guidelines for Sexual Assault Response Teams: एक सम्यक प्रयोग

By Datar, Nikhil.
Loksatta 19th April 2014

रुग्णालयात बलात्काराची केस आली की त्यात डॉक्टर, पोलीस यंत्रणा आणि नंतर न्यायव्यवस्था सहभागी होत असते. अशा वेळी अशी केस गुन्हेगारी प्रकरण म्हणून हाताळावी का.?.....

May

☞ Over 100 under-15 girls in Mumbai had abortions in last one year

By Iyer, Malathy
The Times of India 11th May 2014

30,000-odd women who underwent abortions in Mumbai in 2013-14, more than a 100 were younger than 15 — an age at which their peers are busy preparing for their school or board exams.....

☞ The silence that speaks

By Aravind, Indulekha
Business Standard 17th May 2014

People often cast aspersions on the survivors of sexual violence for their silence. But experts emphasise that taking time to speak about the trauma is perfectly normal, finds...

LIST OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WORKING FOR WOMEN

☞ Ministry of Women & Child Development Government of India

☞ National Commission for Women

☞ Special Police Unit for Women & Children

☞ National Commission for Women in maharashtra

☞ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare



- ☞ Violence Against Women : CEHAT Organization
- ☞ Women Health : World Health Organization
- ☞ Violence against women : World Health Organization :

LIST OF NON GOVERNMENT AGENCY (NGO) WORKING FOR WOMEN

- ✎ [Action India](#)
- ✎ [Breakthrough](#) is a global human rights organization
- ✎ [Centre for Social Justice](#)
- ✎ [CHILDLINE](#)
- ✎ Dilaasa, Dept. No. 101, Opp. Casualty, KB. Bhabha Hospital, Bandra (W), Mumbai-400 050. Ph. 26400229, di1aasa@vsnl.net
- ✎ [Human Rights Law Network](#) c/o Socio-Legal Information Centre
- ✎ [JAGORI](#) : Counselling and Support Services for Women
- ✎ [Majlis](#)
- ✎ [MASUM](#)
- ✎ [Nari Samata Manch](#)
- ✎ [Olakh](#) : A space for women
- ✎ [Pratidhi](#) an NGO for crime Victims
- ✎ [Rahi Foundation](#)
- ✎ [Sakhya](#) - Women Guidance Cell
- ✎ [Shakti Shalini](#): Empowering the status of women in the Indian society
- ✎ [Sneha](#) Society for Nutrition Education & Health Action
- ✎ [Stree Mukti Sanghatana](#)
- ✎ [Swadhar](#)
- ✎ [Swanchetan](#) Society for Mental Health
- ✎ [Tulir](#) : Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse (CPHCSA)
- ✎ [Vimochana](#)
- ✎ Women's Centre :104 B, Sunrise Apartment, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 055. Tel. : 26685997 wom.cent@vsnl.com



Conference Alerts



National Sexual Assault Conference 2014

Many Voices, One Movement

August 20-22, 2014

Pittsburgh, PA

The National Sexual Assault Conference is a two and a half day, advocacy-based conference providing advanced training opportunities and information regarding sexual violence intervention and prevention. [Click here For More Details](#)

[Click here for Registration](#)

ABOUT CEHAT

CEHAT, is the research centre of Anusandhan Trust. CEHAT was established twenty years ago when a group of researchers and healthcare professionals decided to create an alternative health research institution which is at the interface of activism and academics. CEHAT comprises of a multi-disciplinary team such as doctors, lawyers, social workers, public health experts and counselors.

CEHAT through its research, intervention, education and advocacy, has been addressing issues of right to health care to all as well as preventing violence and caring for survivors. All projects are periodically reviewed for scientific rigour and ethical compliance by external review committees. A democratic mode of decision-making is the cornerstone of CEHAT's functioning.

www.cehat.org

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