

# 16 Days of Activism

## Ara and SARAN



Organized by: Sahyogi

Supported by: OXFAM

**S**ahyogi with the support of OXFAM India organized awareness session at school level in Ara and Saran district to make the students aware on the issue of Gender Based Violence. A human chain was also organized in Ara and Saran district to make the general mass aware on it and seek solidarity to end violence against women.

Sahyogi organized awareness session on Gender Based Violence on 8th December 2015 in Govt. +2 Girls High School, Ara and on 9th December 2015 in Gopal Singh Inter Level School, Saran. The purpose of the awareness session was to orient students on gender based violence. The participants of the programme were students, teachers, school staffs, media personnel and Social Activists. In each district around 150 students and 30 teachers and staffs participated in the programme. The programme was presided principal of the school and facilitated by Ms. Rajani and Ms. Bindu Kumari (resource person and women rights activist).

The programme was started with welcome note by teacher of the school. Ms. Rajani (Sahyogi) introduce the purpose of the programme. She said that from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. Gender Based Violence (GBV) is widespread in Bihar at all socio-economic level. Lack of knowledge and awareness about legal and support provision at part of victims and absence of family and social support on the issue result in fear among victims because they do not feel empowered to take action and they do not have access to necessary legal advice and fear further criminalization by judicial system/police. In most cases, victims/survivors believe they have no option but to remain in an abusive environment. Women and girls have to play a crucial role as they are the victim, and there is no evidence in history of solving the problem without seeking solution by victim/survivors. So as a women and girl we will have to voice our concern and respond to every incidence and should not compromise or prepare ourselves to live in status quo.

Further she said that in many cases survivors do not respond to the violence as she does not recognize it as violence at first stage until it turns life threatening. The girls and boys are nurtured in the society in a way where boys are always pretend to be superior to girls and learn violence from their parent which is omnipresent in the family/neighborhood. Wife beating is the most common form of GBV in the proposed target area and children learn the same from their parent and this perpetuated and inherited as culture in absence of awareness among boys and girls (adolescents) in school. The major reason for GBV prevalence is absence of awareness to recognize and respond at first level. There is also absence of opportunity nurture the next generation to stop gender based violence (school level). There is urgent need to address this if we want development. The goal of development can not be achieved in isolation and especially when 50 % of your population is suffering. But its equally important for women and girls to recognize violence and discrimination and react to it. For this there is need of wider awareness and 16 Days of Activism is an opportunity to make the people aware on it.

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Ms. Bindu shared the form, type, structure, place of occurrence, support services/facility/opportunity available for victim/survivors. She shared that Women and children experience domestic violence through physical abuse, sexual assault and threats. Female foeticide, dowry death or harassment, sexual trafficking, public humiliation are part of such domestic violence. Domestic violence causes grievous physical injury and psychological trauma, affecting the health of women and leading to fear and loss of self-confidence. Women are also exposed to sexual abuse and assault in work spaces, especially in the unregulated informal /small sector. Violence against women, both rich and poor, puts a strain on the nation's social and legal services and leads to heavy loss of productivity. Violence against women can be attributed to their lack of power that comes from non ownership of property and shelter, which is often available to them only through their husbands. This and their child-care responsibilities often force them to stay in abusive domestic relationships.

To prevent violence against women and to protect the rights of aggrieved women, the legislation 'The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' was passed by the parliament. According to this act every women who have been deprived of their right to life by the act of husband or relatives of the husband, can file a complaint to the protection officer, police officer or magistrate in the form of 'Domestic Incident Report' (Similar to FIR). Complaint can be filed by the victim /aggrieved person or relatives, it will be considered as the prima-facie evidence of the offence. Every 'Domestic Incident Report' has to be prepared by the Protection Officer which will assist in the further investigation of the incidence. The protection officer will pass certain orders i.e. protection of the women, custody of respondent and order of monetary relief to the victim. She further said that teacher can play crucial role in addressing GBV at school.

The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensure equality before the law and equal protection of law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment. Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard added Ms. Bindu.

To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support services especially to working women. There is Vishakha guidelines to address sexual harassment at workplace. There is Dowry Act, and we have already discussed Domestic Violence Act, 2005. There is ample of policy and laws and initiative like National and State Level Commission for Women said Ms. Bindu. We need to recognize violence and protest and seek support of our family and friend to stop it and should not hesitate to ask/initiate legal action against culprit.

The teachers also addressed the students and said that student should share any cases to teacher if they seek support. They also said that there is need of regular awareness session like this in school, as in

many cases student do not recognize it at first incidence and it is not reported until it turns ugly. They also shared that there is need to orient and equip teachers with information on provisions made to safeguard women and girls.

To sensitize general people in Ara and Saran 200 school children (boys and girls) mainly school students made a human chain with play cards displaying different slogans against GBV. The Human chain was observed by a large no. of general population and all the people passing through the road stopped and read the slogan and queried about it, which was addressed by Ms. Rajani, teacher and social activists.

# Media Clippings

## घरेलू हिंसा मिटाओ, नारी हिंसा के खिलाफ आवाज उठाओ...



नवादा स्थित गर्ल्स स्कूल की छात्राओं ने नारी हिंसा पर मानव श्रृंखला बनाया।

क्राइम रिपोर्टर। आरा

हिंसा मुक्त परिवार, हिंसा मुक्त समाज। यह नारा स्कूली छात्राओं का है, जो मंगलवार को मानव श्रृंखला बनाकर जनता को मैसेज दे रही थी। मंगलवार की दोपहर करीब बारह बजे के आसपास केजी रोड, नवादा स्थित राजकीय कन्या उच्च विद्यालय के बाहर नजारा देखने जैसा था। स्कूल की सैकड़ों छात्राएं सड़क किनारे मानव श्रृंखला बनाकर खड़ी थी। उनके हाथों में तरह-तरह के स्लोगन लिखे तख्तियां थी। जिस पर घरेलू हिंसा को मिटाओ, नारी हिंसा के लिए आवाज उठाओ..., बंधन खोलो, चुप्पी तोड़ो... जैसे स्लोगन लिखे हुए थे। जिसके जरिए छात्राएं समाज को एक नया संदेश दे रही थी। दरअसल, मंगलवार को स्कूल में सहयोगी संस्था के तत्वाधान में नारी सशक्तिकरण व घरेलू हिंसा को लेकर एक सेमिनार का आयोजन किया गया था। जिसमें छात्राओं के साथ स्कूल के शिक्षकों व संस्था के अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया। इस क्रम में कार्यक्रम को भव्य रूप प्रदान करने तथा आम जनता को संदेश देने के लिए छात्राओं ने मानव श्रृंखला बनाया। रास्ते से हर आने-जाने वाले लोग छात्रों के हार्थों में मौजूद तख्तियों पर लिखे संदेशों को जरूर पढ़ रहे थे।

Dainik Bhaskar 09 December 2015

# SAHYOGI



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# स्कूली बच्चियों ने बनायी श्रृंखला

आरा। शहर के नवादा स्थित राजकीय कन्या प्लस टू स्कूल में महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ स्कूली बच्चियों ने मानव श्रृंखला बनायी। ऑक्सफैम इंडिया के सहयोग से सहयोग संस्था की ओर से स्कूल में कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस मौके पर बिहार शिक्षा परियोजना के अपर कार्यक्रम समन्वयक अनिता कुमारी ने महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ जागरूकता पर बल दिया और बताया कि महिलाओं को कैसे प्रताड़ित किया जा रहा है।

इससे बचाव के तरीके भी बताये। कहा कि महिलाओं को अपने ऊपर हो रही हिंसा की सही जानकारी नहीं है। कई तरीके से उन्हें प्रताड़ित किया जाता है। घर से लेकर कार्यस्थल तक महिलाओं को प्रताड़ना और हिंसा का शिकार होना पड़ता है। जागरूकता के आधार पर ही प्रताड़ना और हिंसा से बचा जा सकता है। सहयोगी के रजनी ने बताया कि महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ पूरे विश्व में 25 नवंबर से दस दिसंबर तक पखवाड़ा मनाया जा रहा है।

Hindustan, 09 December 2015

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