

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON ISSUES RELATING TO SAFETY AND SECURITY OF  
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TELANGANA STATE**

The Government of Telangana State, vide G.O. Ms. No. 01 Women, Children, Disabled & Senior Citizens (Schemes) Department, dated 02-09-2014, have constituted a Committee consisting of senior officers from different services to suggest measures for effective implementation of various legislations meant for safety and security of girls and women in the Telangana State and also give suggestions on the further policy changes / steps required in this direction.

Government has constituted the committee with the following members :

1. *Dr. (Smt.) Poonam Malakondaiah, I.A.S*
2. *Smt. Smita Sabharwal, I.A.S*
3. *Smt. Shailaja Ramaiyer, I.A.S*
4. *Dr . Soumya Mishra, I.P.S*
5. *Ms. Charu Sinha, I.P.S*
6. *Smt. Swati Lakra, I.P.S*
7. *Sri Sunil Sharma, I.A.S, Secretary, WC, DW, SC & JW Dept & Convenor*

The Committee has been mandated to deliberate on various issues relating to safety and security of women and girls in Telangana State, and scrutinize the various Acts / Legislations already in force and suggest measures for its effective implementation by various departments such as Police, Education, Health, Rural Development, law, Labour, review reputed NGO's working in this area and other agencies and submit its report within 15 days.

*The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, Plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993.*

### **CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

*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.*

### **Constitutional Privileges**

- (i) **Equality before law for women (Article 14)**

- (ii) The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them (**Article 15 (i)**)
  
- (iii) The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children (**Article 15 (3)**)
  
- (iv) Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State (**Article 16**)
  
- (v) The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (**Article 39(a)**); and equal pay for equal work for both men and women (**Article 39(d)**)
  
- (vi) To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities (**Article 39 A**)
  
- (vii) The State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (**Article 42**)
  
- (viii) The State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to

protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation  
**(Article 46)**

- (ix) The State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people **(Article 47)**
  
- (x) To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of **women (Article 51(A) (e))**
  
- (xi) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for **women** belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every **Panchayat** to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a **Panchayat (Article 243 D(3))**
  
- (xii) Not less than one- third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the **Panchayats** at each level to be reserved for **women (Article 243 D (4))**
  
- (ix) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for **women** belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every **Municipality** to be reserved for **women** and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a **Municipality (Article 243 T (3))**

- (x) Reservation of offices of Chairpersons in **Municipalities** for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and **women** in such manner as the legislature of a State may by law provide (**Article 243 T (4)**)

The Committee studied various legislations enacted for the safety and security of women:-

a) **Women Specific Legislations:**

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.

**1. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956:**

An Act to provide in pursuance of the International Convention signed at New York on the 9th day of May, 1950, for the prevention of immoral traffic.

**2. The dowry prohibition act, 1961 (act no. 28 of 1961) with (maintenance of lists of presents to the bride and bridegroom) rules, 1985 - 1990, an act to prohibit the giving or taking of dowry:**

Definition of "dowry".-in this Act, "dowry" means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly---

Meaning of dowry defined.-Articles received as presents and gifts at the time of marriage cannot be termed as dowry.

Amount paid to the prospective son-in-law for purchase of property on the joint names of daughter and the would-be son-in-law whether amounts to dowry

Dowry Prohibition Act, whether bars the traditional giving of presents-  
The Dowry Prohibition Act does not, in any way, bar the traditional giving

of present at or about the time of the wedding which may be willing and affection are gifts by parents and close relations of the bride to her. Such presents or dowry given by the parents is, therefore, not at all within the definition of the aforesaid statute

**3. The indecent representation of women (prohibition) act, 1986 - (no. 60 of 1986) - {23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1986}**

An Act to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisement or in publication writings figures or in any other manner and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**4. The Commission Of Sati (Prevention) Act 1987 (No.3 Of 1988):**

An act to provide for the more effective prevention of the commission of sati and its glorification and for matters connected herewith or incidental thereto

**5. The protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005 no. 43 of 2005 - [13th September, 2005.]**

An Act to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**6. The sexual harassment of women at workplace (prevention, prohibition and redressal) act 2013 - (no. 14 of 2013):**

An Act to provide protection against sexual harassment of women at workplace and for the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and for matters connected herewith or incidental thereto.

**b. Women related legislations are:**

**1.The Indian Penal Code, 1860**

The Indian penal code, 1860 - act no. 45 of 1860 1\* - [6th October, 1860.]  
**Offences Relating to Women & Children in Indian Penal Code**

- 292- Sale etc., of obscene books.
- 293- Sale etc., of obscene objects to young persons
- 294-obscene act and songs
- 304-B- Dowry death
- 305-abetment of suicide of a child or insane person
- 312-causing miscarriage
- 313-causing miscarriage without women's constant
- 314-Death caused by act done with intent of cause miscarriage (if act done without woman's consent punishment will be more)
- 315-Act done with intent to prevent child being born alive or to cause it to die after birth
- 316-causing death of quick unborn child by act amounting to culpable homicide
- 317-exposure and abandonment of child under 12 years by a parent or person having care of it.
- 318- concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body
- 326A & B causing grievous hurting by use of acid.
- 354 A to D - assault on woman with intention to outrage her modesty (Nirbhaya Act)
- 363 -A - Kidnapping or maiming a minor for purpose of begging.
- 366-A Procuration of a minor girl.
- 366-B- importation of a girl from foreign country

- 369-kidnapping or abducting of child under 10 years with intent to steal from its person
- 370 and 370 A - Trafficking of persons
- 372- selling minor for purposes of prostitution etc.,
- 373-Buying minor for purposes of prostitution etc.,
- 376 A to D - Rape
- 377-Un- Natural offences
- 493-to 498 A- offences relating to marriage
- 509-Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman

#### **Central Acts relating to Women & Children:**

- The Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976
- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- The Immoral traffic (prevention) Act,1956
- The indecent representation of woman (Prohibition) Act, 1986
- The Juvenile Justice (Care &Protection of Children)Act, 2000
- The Medical Termination of pregnancy Act, 1971
- The Muslim Women (Protection of rights on Divorce) Act,1986
- The Pre- Conception and pre \_natal Diagnostic (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act,2006
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act,2005
- The Young Persons (Harmful) Publications Act,1956
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,2012



- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Nirbhaya Act)
- The transplantation of ( Human organs & tissues) Act, 1994

### **State Acts relating to Women & Children**

- The A.P. Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1988
- The A.P. Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997
- The A.P. Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation ) Rules, 1995

## **2. The Indian Evidence Act, 1872**

"Evidence" means and includes--

(1) All statements which the Court permits or requires to be made before it by witnesses, in relation to matters of fact under inquiry; such statements are called oral evidence;

(2) All documents produced for the inspection of the court; such statements are called documentary evidence;

## **3. The Indian Christian marriage act, 1872 - act no. 15 of 1872 - [18<sup>th</sup> July, 1872.]**

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the solemnization in India of the marriages of Christians.

## **4. The Married Women's Property Act, 1874 (Act) No. 3 of 1874- dated 24<sup>th</sup>. February, 1874)**

An Act to explain and amend the law relating to certain married women, and for other purposes.

## **5. The Guardians And Wards Act, 1890**

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Guardian and Wards.

## **6. Workmen's Compensation act, 1923**

Employer's liability for compensation - if personal injury is caused to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment his employer shall be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the provisions.

## **7. The Trade Unions Act, 1926**

An act to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions..

## **8. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 [1st October, 1929]**

An Act to restrain the solemnization of child marriages

## **9. The payment of wages Act, 1936 - Act No. 4 of 1936 1\* (23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1936)**

An Act to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of 2\*[employed persons].

## **10. The Payment Of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1937**

Any person desiring the permission of the Authority to act on behalf of any employed person or persons shall present to the Authority a brief written statement explaining his interest in the matter, and the Authority shall record an order on the statement which in the case of refusal shall include reasons for the order, and shall incorporate it in the record.

## **11. The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937**

An Act to make provision for the application of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) to Muslims

## **12. The Employers' Liability Act, 1938**

An act to declare that certain defences shall not be raised in suits for damages in respect of injuries sustained by workmen whereas it is

expedient to declare that certain defences shall not be raised in suits for damages in respect of injuries sustained by workmen.

**13. The Minimum Wages Act, 1938 Act No. 11 of 1948 1\* [15th march, 1948.]**

An Act to provide for fixing minimum rates of wages in certain employments.

**14. The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 - [Act No. 34 of year 1948, dated 19th. April, 1948]**

An Act to provide for certain benefits to employees in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto

**15. The Factories Act, 1948 - Act No. 63 of 1948 1\* (23<sup>rd</sup> September 1948)**

An act to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour in factories

**16. The Minimum Wages Act, 1950 (vide notification no. S ro776 dated 14-10-1950)**

These rules may be called the minimum wages (central) Rules, 1950.

**17. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 (amended by Acts Nos. 42 of 1953, 34 of 1960, 53 of 1961, 58 of 1981 and 61 of 1986) - this act extends to the whole of India except the state of J&K.**

**18. The Cinematograph Act, 1952 (21<sup>st</sup> March 1952)**

An Act to make provision for the certification of cinematograph films for exhibition and for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs.

**19. The Mines Act 1952 - (Act No. 35 of 1952) - (15<sup>th</sup> march 1952) - (as modified up to 1983).**

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Regulation of labour and safety in mines.

**20. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 - (Act No. Xliii of 1954) - (9<sup>th</sup> October 1954)**

An Act to provide a special form of marriage in certain Cases for the registration of such and certain other marriages and for divorce.

**21. The Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955**

It is an act to “prescribe punishment for the preaching and practice of “untouchability” for the enforcement of any disability arising there from for matters connected therewith”.

**22. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (28 of 1955)**

One of the conditions specified in the section for a valid marriage is that neither party has been subject to recurrent attacks of insanity or epilepsy. (Cl. (ii) (c). - Effect to this provision read with S.12 (1) (b) of the Act is that a marriage of an epileptic person becomes voidable and may be annulled at the option of the petitioner if it is proved that at the time of marriage the respondent was epileptic.

**23. The Hindu Adoptions & Maintenance Act, 1956**

[Act No. 78 of 1956][21<sup>st</sup> December 1956]

This Act applies to any person who is a Hindu by religion in any of its forms or developments, including a virashaiva, a Lingayat or a follower of the Brahmo, Prathana or Arya Samaj.

**24. The Hindu Minority & Guardianship Act, 1956**

An act to amend and codify certain parts of the law relating to minority and guardianship among Hindus.

**25. Hindu Succession Act, 1956, [Act No. 30 of Year 1956, dated 17th. June, 1956]**

An Act to amend and codify the law relating to intestate succession among Hindus Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows: -

**26. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 - Act No. 53 of 1961 1\***

An Act to regulate the employment of women in certain establishment for certain period before and after child-birth and to provide for maternity benefit and certain other benefits.

**27. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966**

An Act to provide the welfare of the workers in beedi and cigar establishments and to regulate the conditions of their work and for matters connected therewith.

**28. The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 (33 of 1969)**

**Section 2: Definition** - a) 'Degrees of prohibited relationship' shall have the same meaning as in the Special Marriage Act, 1954',

**29 The Indian Divorce Act, 1869 Act No. 4 OF 1869 1\* - [26th February, 1869.]**

An Act to amend the law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes

**30. The Contract Labour (Regulation And Abolition) Act, 1970**

It applies to every establishment in which twenty or more workmen are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding twelve months as contract labour.

**31. The medical termination of pregnancy act, 1971, (Act No. 34 of 1971)**

An Act to provide for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

### **32. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973**

The law relating to criminal procedure applicable to all criminal proceedings in India is contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

### **33. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976- [Act 25 Of 1976 Amended By Act 49 Of 1987]**

An Act to provide for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination, on the ground of sex, against women in the matter of employment and for matters connected herewith or incidental thereto

### **34. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Rules, 2013**

Definitions on bonded labour in the Act have been sufficiently clarified by the Supreme Court in its various judgments and recommendations of the National Human Rights Commissions and Committees. They shall all be taken into consideration while interpreting the provisions in the Act.

### **35. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service) Act, 1979 - (No. 30 of 1979) [11th June, 1979]**

An Act to regulate the employment of inter-State migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service and for matters connected therewith.

### **36. The Family Courts Act, 1984- (No.66 of 1984)-[14th September, 1984]**

An Act to provide for the establishment of Family Courts with a view to promote conciliation in, and secure speedy settlement of, disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters.

### **37. The Muslim Women (Protection Of Rights On Divorce) Act 1986 (Act No.25 of 1986 dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 1986)**

An act to protect the rights of Muslims women who have divorced by, or have obtained divorce from their husbands and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**38 . The Mental Health Act 1987 - (No.14of 1987) 1**

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the treatment and care of mentally ill persons, to make better with respect to their property and affairs and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

**39. The National Commission For Women Act, 1990 No.20 of 1990**

An Act to constitute a National commission for women and to provide for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

**40. The Protection Of Human Rights Act 1993**

(As amended by the Protection of human rights (Amendment) Act, 2006- No.43 of 2006)

An Act provide for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commission in state and Human Right Courts for better protection of human rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**41. Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 (Care And Protection Of Children) (Act No. 56 of 2000) [30th December 2000]**

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this enactment.

**42. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1956 act no. 61 of 1986 [23rd December, 1986.]**

An Act to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.

**43. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 - (Act No. 57 of 1994) - [20th September, 1994]**

An Act to provide for the regulation of the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex linked disorders and for the prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide; and, for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

**44. The Andhra Pradesh Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1988:**

This act is to prohibit the dedication of women as Devadasis in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

**45. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1971:**

This act is to protect the rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by or have obtained divorce from their husbands and provide for matters connected there with or incidental there to.

**46. The Prohibition Of Child Marriage Act, 2006:**

This act is to provide for prohibition of solemnization of child marriages and for matters connected there with and incidental there to.

**47. Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997:**

This act is to prohibit ragging with in or out side educational institutions.

**48. The Transplantation of (Human Organs and Tissues) Act, 1994:**

An act to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs or tissues for therapeutic purposes and for prevention of commercial dealings in human organs or tissues for matters connected there with or incidental there to.



## **49. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976:**

An act to provide for the abolition of bonded labour system with a view to preventing the economic and physical exploitation of weaker sections of the people and for matters connected there with or incidental there to.

### **1. SPECIAL INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR WOMEN**

#### **(i) National Commission for Women**

*In January 1992, the Government set-up this statutory body with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, review the existing legislation to suggest amendments wherever necessary, etc.*

#### **(ii) Reservation for Women in Local Self -Government**

*The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts passed in 1992 by Parliament ensure one-third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural areas or urban areas.*

#### **(iii) The National Plan of Action for the Girl Child (1991-2000)**

*The plan of Action is to ensure survival, protection and development of the girl child with the ultimate objective of building up a better future for the girl child.*

#### **(iv) National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001**

The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has prepared a “National Policy for the Empowerment of Women” in the year 2001. The goal of this policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women.

Health and Education of women are vital parameters to assess the empowerment of women in any society. This empowerment acts as an enabling factor in creating a sense of safety and security among women and girls. In view of this, the committee analysed various health and educational parameters relating to women as brought out in various reports.

Undivided AP's overall literacy rate at 67.02 per cent as per 2011 census is much lower than the National average of 73.0 per cent and the female literacy rate at 59.10 per cent is significantly lower than the national average of 64.60 per cent. When compared to other states in the country, the literacy rank of undivided Andhra Pradesh has gone down from 28<sup>th</sup> place in the 2001 census to 31<sup>st</sup> place in 2011 among all the States and Union Territories. Telangana literacy rate as per 2011 census is 66.5 of which female literacy rate is only 57.9.

Reduction of mortality of women during pregnancy and child birth is an area of concern for the Government. As per the SRS 2010-2012 (sample registration system) MMR (maternal mortality ratio) of India is 178. It has declined from 212 in 2007-2009. In undivided AP, MMR has come down from 134 to 110 in the same period. While the decline is 34 points in India, it is only 24 points in undivided AP. During the same period MMR is 66 in Kerala, 90 in Tamil Nadu and 87 in Maharashtra. The highest MMRs districts in Telanagana are Adilabad 182, Khammam 118 and Mahaboobnagar 117.

Undivided AP has an IMR of 41 as against IMR of 42 for the country as per 2013 SRS. This is the highest in South India with Kerala 12, Tamil Nadu 21, Karnataka 32, Maharashtra 25. Rural IMR in undivided AP is 46. This is again highest in South India with rural IMR of Kerala being 13, Tamil Nadu 24, Karnataka 36, Maharashtra 30. In fact the rural IMR in Bihar is 44 and is lower than in rural undivided AP. The urban IMR in undivided AP is 30 as against the national average of 28. Undivided AP urban IMR is the highest in South India with Kerala 9, Tamil Nadu 18,

Karnataka 25, Maharashtra 17. The highest IMRs in Telangana are in Mahaboobnagar 56, Medak 51, Adilabad & Nizamabad 50.

SRS 2012 states that death rate in AP is 7.4 against all India death rate of 7.0. Life expectancy at birth is 65.8 in undivided AP which is lower than the national average of 66.1.

NFHS - 3 data shows that in undivided AP, 54.8% of women in age group of 20-24 are married by the age of 18, which is much higher than the national average of 47.4%. This is also very high compared to Tamil Nadu 22.3% , Kerala 15.4% and Karnataka 41.8%. The median age of women in undivided AP at first birth as per NFHS 3 survey is 18.8 years and is lower than the country average of 19.8 years. This is also the lowest in South India with Tamil Nadu 21, Kerala 22.7 and Karnataka 19.9 years.

As per NFHS 3 survey,% of 15-49 years women who are anemic in undivided AP is 62.7%. This is not only higher than the national average of 56.2% but is also highest in Southern India with Tamil Nadu 53.9%, Karnataka 52.2% and Kerala 32.7%.

Census 2011 data reveals that decadal change (2001-2011) in child sex ratio (0-6 years) in rural undivided AP is -22 while for rural India it is -11. In fact Rural Karnataka (+1), Tamil Nadu (+3) and Kerala (+4) have shown positive decadal change. As far as the decadal change in child sex ratio for urban undivided AP is concerned it is even worse than the rural undivided AP with a decadal change of -20 as against -1 for urban India. Neighboring states have shown positive decadal change in urban areas Karnataka (+6), Kerala (+5).

In undivided A.P. Human Development Index (HDI) at 0.473 is the lowest in South India. This has a bearing on the increase in crimes against women. The incidence and rate of crime committed against women across the states in India, Union Territories and Cities during 2013 clearly proves that the percentage contribution to All India total crime by the undivided state of Andhra Pradesh is 10.60% (which is the highest in the

Country) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10.5%) and West Bengal (9.64%). In terms of cities, Delhi contributes the maximum (21.41%).

The Committee conducted a series of meetings with senior officials of stakeholder Departments and also conducted study visit of good practices in Gujarat, Kerala and Delhi. The Committee also had discussion with the officials of Tamil Nadu Government in Women & Children Welfare Department. The Committee also studied the modality conduct of unarmed combat training to school and college girls in the State of Rajasthan.

After this Committee has conducted a series of interaction with various stakeholders as follows:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting with whom</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
1	10/09/2014	Meeting with IT corridor women Employees	114
2	11/09/2014	Meeting with NGOs	132
3	12/09/2014	Meeting with Self Help Groups (SHGs) & MEPMA members	128
4	12/09/2014	Meeting with College Girls	324
5	13/09/2014	Meeting with Principals of schools	136
6	13/09/2014	Meeting with Housewives'	142
7	15/09/2014	Meeting with WCDSC Department officers and CDPOs	157
8	15/09/2014	Meeting With Police officials and SHOs of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rangareddy	58
9	15/09/2014	Meeting with Medical & Health Department	65

10	16/09/2014	Meeting with State Home officers, Superintendents of Children's Home, Social Welfare & juvenile welfare	115
11	16/09/2014	Meeting with Media officials and Journalists	122
12	17/09/2014	Meeting with women in Media	72
13	17/09/2014	Meeting with Labour Department	46
14	17/09/2014	Meeting with Transport Department	62
15	19/09/2014	Meeting with Telangana Women NGO Assn. and other Govt. Women Employees	75

The Committee has also widely publicized wcdsctg2014@gmail.com e-mail id and invited suggestions from all interested citizens.

A number of issues relating to safety and security of girls and women were brought to the notice of Committee. After detailed deliberations and careful study, the Committee hereby recommends the following short term measures for immediate and urgent implementation by various departments. It is requested that necessary budget may be provided by the departments for these measures during the current financial year :

### FIRST RESPONSE SYSTEM

#### 1) HELPLINE FOR WOMEN :

- There is an urgent need to start a 3 digit emergency helpline, exclusively for women.
- This helpline will help in counseling aggrieved women and help them approach the appropriate authority to address their grievances.

- The ‘24 hours one stop support centres’ which will be providing support and assistance to all women, will be integrated with this Women Helpline.
- Steps should be taken to establish this women’s helpline immediately.

**2) 24 HOURS ONE STOP SUPPORT CENTRE AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND THREE IN GHMC AREA. (with an aim to expanding it to subdivision level in a phased manner)**

The Committee recommends to start one stop support centre at every sub division which will act as a Single window for redressing the grievances of woman. Woman in distress due to dowry harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault or child victims under POCSO Act or any other such atrocity can approach the centre for redressal.

Every centre will have :

- Counsellor (Trained from reputed institutes)
  - Lady Advocate with ten years of legal practice.
  - Police personnel headed by a lady Dy.SP.
  - Representative from Women and Child Welfare department
- and
- Doctor

In addition each centre will have a mutli disciplinary mobile team which would be linked with the helpline. This will ensure an organic link of these one stop support centres with the woman helplines.

The role of the one stop support centre would be :

- To make the victim aware of the legal rights.
- To make her confident enough to take appropriate decisions on her own to solve her problems through various options available to her.
- To undertake counseling of family members to bring justice to the victims.
- To address the issue of domestic violence and VAW in coordination with the police protection officer-service providers appointed under PWDVA 2005 and also legal aid authorities.
- To refer to other service agencies like hospital, shelter homes, etc.
- Be a link between the police and other agencies for rendering help to needy woman and children.

#### **WOMEN SAFETY AND POLICE**

### **3) BLUE PRINT FOR WOMAN FRIENDLY POLICE STATIONS :**

- Woman help desks to be setup in all the police stations with woman police personnel and professional counsellor to help women and children seeking police help without any fear or inhibition.
- The counsellor will counsel the victims and help them to lodge a FIR in case of a cognizable offence.
- The counsellors will be outsourced by the Government through a reputed institute which has professional competency in this area.

- Separate counseling room for lady petitioners.
- Separate visitors waiting room.
- Rest room for women police personnel.
- Wash room exclusively for women.

#### **4)INDUCTION OF MORE WOMEN IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

- 33% reservation for women at all levels in the police department.
- This should be done to enhance the Gender balance within the state police.
- To run special recruitment initiatives to achieve this gender balance
- To reduce eligibility criteria for recruitment process to induct more woman. To introduce training in two wheeler driving (non-gear) to ensure that the woman police personnel reach their destination on time.

#### **5. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION AND POLICE RESPONSE:**

FSL labs in Hyderabad and at four other places (Karimnagar, Warangal, Nizamabad and Mahabubnagar)



DNA laboratory in Hyderabad to be strengthened. A green corridor to be provided for women / girl related heinous offences.

Time line for submission of report :

- FSL report : 10 days.
- Doctors' report : 03 days.
- Doctors Short opinion : 01 day.
- Potency test : 03 days.
- DNA test : 30days
- Charge sheet : 90 days

6. Fast Track Courts in all districts to deal with women / girl related heinous cases. Video conferencing to be made mandatory for rape victims. The list of such cases may be made immediately by the police stations.

7. Awareness camps by the local police on laws related to women safety and security in Educational Institutions.

8. Women Rakshaks on the lines of Delhi Police to be started in the Police Commissionerates and District Head quarters.

9. Funds to be provided annually to the police stations for these awareness campaigns.

- Category A Police Station : Two lacs per annum
- Category B &C Police Station : One lacs per annum
- Category D-F Police Station : Fifty thousand per annum

10. Reiterate the mandatory registration of cognizable offences in all police stations.

11. Section 66-A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to be made Non-bailable.
12. There is a strong concern that viewing of porn sites is leading to crime against woman. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the government to block the porn sites.
13. It has been found that during investigation of offences under the IT Act like harassing online, sending obscene mails or posting obscene matter about a person on social media, the social media like Google, Facebook, Whatsapp do not respond. State Government needs to tie-up with the state heads of these media groups so as to cooperate with police in investigation. This matter may be taken up by the I.T. Department.
14. In all cases, where the accused is an NRI, it has been found that to prosecute him in the country is difficult as he invariably does not return to the country till the case is disposed causing great mental agony to the victim. Therefore, the Ministry of External Affairs must be requested to review all extradition treaties with emphasis on INTERPOL protocols.
15. Security of Tenure for all field level officers . Delinking of posting with political interference as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India guidelines.
16. Gender sensitive workshops and trainings in criminal justice system including police, judiciary and prison department. This may be included in the induction training itself, and subsequent refresher trainings to identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of the women victim of violence including victims of trafficking and

to receive and treat all victims respectfully, with a view to avoiding secondary victimization.

17. Strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be devised and followed in all cases relating to Crime against Women and Children.
18. Telangana Police website to be created and upload Acts and rules regarding crime against women to create awareness among the women and girls.
19. Police patrolling in hotspots to ensure safety of working women and girls in work places and educational institutional.
20. Women police stations in the districts to be expanded to all sub division levels.
21. There is a need for a special unit in every district head quarter hospitals to deal with rape / sexual violence cases of women / children to ensure that medical examination is done immediately & with sensitivity. The unit must include a trained Radiologist and Gynecologist.

SOPS for medical examinations of all women and child victims of violence need to be setup by medical & health department

### **SAFETY WHILE TRAVELLING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

#### **22. SHE-TAXIS**

- Introducing the concept of taxi / auto exclusively driven by women and meant for women passengers.
- These taxis / autos would be pre-paid taxis with several security features for both the driver and the passengers.
- Safety features like :

- Emergency switches to drivers and passengers inside the taxis / autos
  - Safety map for emergency response. For example location of mechanic shops, police stations, hospitals, etc.
  - GPS tracking with 24x7 control room preferably with a 3 digit number and safety officers.
  - Advanced fare meters
  - Sufficient budget to be provided for giving training to the woman in driving and for providing subsidy by the government and also tying up with the banks to provide loans at lesser rate of interest to the woman for purchase of these taxis / autos.
  - Giving wide publicity for using these taxis / autos.
  - Giving priority to these taxis / autos at the railway stations, airport, corporate offices maternity hospital where woman work and return home late.
23. The system of on call autos / taxis can be started where with a call the autos / taxis could go to the passenger in the least possible time. These autos / taxis should be linked to the GPS system and a centralised call centre. This will ensure the recording of the identity of the auto / taxis as well as the driver, which will lead to accountability of the driver / owner.
24. The Labour Law of Shops and Establishment Act which states that an organisation must ensure that the woman employee working late beyond 8 pm must be safely dropped at her home along with proper security by transport provided by the organisation to be strictly enforced.

## **25. Regulation of Auto Rickshaws/Taxis**

- Enumeration of all autorickshaw owners must be done by the Transport Department on priority basis.
- Change of address and ownership particulars in the registration certificates must be continuously updated.
- The details of the owners / drivers must be updated in the departmental website from time to time to track the drivers / owners in case of emergencies.
- Autorickshaw owners and drivers must be encouraged with to fix GPRS System linked to a Central Control Room on the lines of Delhi model. TMV Rules may be amended for fitment of GPRS System in autorickshaws.
- Earmark auto / taxi stand in coordination with GHMC, police, traffic department at identified places viz., Malls, bus stands, auto stands, taxi stands, shopping malls, commercial complexes, railway stations, vegetable markets and at all public mobility places.
- All taxis /autos should be painted with a particular florescent colour to identify them as taxi / auto.
- Overhead light indicating that the vehicle is a taxi, to be made mandatory.

## **26. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- All public transport buses to have a wire mesh separating ladies and gents passengers and separate entry to be made mandatory.

- Ladies special buses to be introduced in certain routes
- Expand public transport system in places where more number of women are employed and also increase frequency of service in routes of colleges .
- Police patrolling to cover bus stations and bus stops especially near women educational institutions and during the night time.
- Sufficient lighting at bus stations and bus stops and from the bus stands to the main road.
- Provide sufficient number of clean ladies toilets with luggage racks at major bus stations.
- Provision of public telephones at major bus stations.
- Women passengers often experience groping, staring, unnecessary touching, whistling, stalking, unwelcome comments and soliciting at the bus stops. RTC should take up public interest advertising to stop this menace. The bus conductors and drivers should be sensitized to be responsive to such behavior and be accountable in case of inaction. The Police should take strict action on offenders in such cases and organize special beats during peak travelling times to colleges and work places in specified routes.
- Cyberabad area where large number of women employees work is extremely ill-connected in terms of public transport and this should be immediately corrected by providing more buses.
- Public and prominent display of bus route services and frequent announcement of arrivals and departures of buses at all bus stations.

- Separate waiting rooms for women passengers, managed by women supervisor and attendants in the bus station.
  - CC TV to be made mandatory in all major bus stops.
  - The name of the locality must be clearly mentioned in the name boards of shops and establishments at least in two languages of Telugu, English or Urdu, so that a women / girl can know exactly where she is in case she is being taken away forcibly or has lost her way. Road signages must also be extensively provided.
27. Gender sensitization training for cab drivers, RTC drivers and autorickshaw drivers by incorporating a module in “SAFAR” trainings.

### **Safety and Security of Women at Workplace**

28. Under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2012. Every employer shall compulsorily--
- (a) Provide a safe working environment at the workplace which shall include safety from the persons coming into contact at the workplace.
  - (b) Display at any conspicuous place in the workplace, the penal consequences of sexual harassments; and the order constituting, the Internal Committee under sub section (1) of section 4;
  - (c) Organize workshops and awareness programmes at regular intervals for sensitizing the employees with the provisions of the

Act and orientation programmes for the members of the Internal Committee in the manner as may be prescribed;

- (d) Provide necessary facilities to the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, for dealing with the complaint and conducting an inquiry;
- (e) Assist in securing the attendance of respondent and witnesses before the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be;
- (f) Make available such information to the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, as it may require having regard to the complaint made under sub-section (l) of Section 9;
- (g) Provide assistance to the woman if she so chooses to file a complaint in relation to the offence under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force;
- (h) Cause to initiate action, under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force, against the perpetrator, or if the aggrieved woman so desires, where the perpetrator is not an employee, in the workplace at which the incident of sexual harassment took place;
- (i) Treat sexual harassment as a misconduct under the service rules and initiate action for such misconduct;
- (j) Monitor the timely submission of reports by the Internal Committee.

The committee found that in many offices and workplaces the implementation of these provisions is only on paper. Therefore it is recommended that its implementation should be strictly monitored / supervised by the Home Department as envisaged in the Circular Memo



No. 11124/A2/2003-8 General Administration (Services Welfare) Department dated 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2005. The Home Dept shall bring out a half yearly report on the compliance of these provisions by the various offices/organizations and this report shall be exhibited in public domain.

**Strict measures to prevent female foeticide**

Pre Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Prohibition of Sex selection Act 1994 and Rules 1996 is an Act to provide for the prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception, and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

**Machinery available at State, District & Sub-district level under PV & PNDT Act**

**A: AT STATE LEVEL:**

- 1.State supervisory Board headed by the Hon'ble Minister for HW & FW Dept
- 2.Multi-Member State Appropriate Authority headed by the Addl. Director (MCH); O/o. CH & FW; AP;
- 3.State Advisory Committee headed by the Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare Dept.

4.State Level Inspection & Monitoring Committee headed by the Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare Dept.

5.State Level Task Force Teams

**B: AT DISTRICT LEVEL**

1)District Advisory Committee headed by the Collector & District Magistrate concerned.

2)Sub-District Level Advisory Committee

The Committee found that the STATE SUPERVISORY BOARD has convened meetings only 4 times so far since 2003 though it should meet once in a quarter without fail.

Similarly, the MULTI-MEMBER STATE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY FOR PC & PNDDT ACT , and the STATE LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, the State Level Monitoring Committee have not conducted meetings as per schedules since 2003. The District Level Advisory Committee meetings have also not being conducted regularly. As a result, implementation of the PC & PNDDT Act in the State has not been effective.

This is evident by the following Data:

**2011 census Child Sex Ratio: Undivided Andhra Pradesh & Districts**

Sl. No.	District	Child sex ratio		
		2001	2011	Decadal dip
1	Warangal	955	912	-43
2	Kadapa	951	919	-32
3	Anantapur	959	927	-32

4	Nalgonda	952	921	-31
5	Vizianagaram	980	955	-25
6	Karimnagar	962	937	-25
7	Chittoor	955	931	-24
8	Prakasam	955	932	-23
9	Kurnool	958	937	-21
10	Mahabubnagar	952	932	-20
11	Adilabad	962	942	-20
12	Visakhapatnam	976	961	-15
13	Srikakulam	967	953	-14
14	Nizamabad	959	946	-13
15	Khammam	971	958	-13
16	Rangareddy	959	947	-12
17	Guntur	959	948	-11
18	Krishna	963	953	-10
19	Medak	964	954	-10
20	East Godavari	978	969	-9
21	Nellore	954	945	-9
22	Hyderabad	943	938	-5
23	West Godavari	970	970	0
	<b>AP</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>-18</b>

29. For effective implementation of this Act, it is recommended that:

- (i) State Level supervisory body should meet once a quarter without fail.

- (ii) All district collectors to conduct regular meetings of the District Advisory Committee.
- (iii) Strict action to be taken against unqualified persons doing ultrasonography.
- (iv) To take the details of all Radiologists working in the state.
- (v) There is need to launch a massive IEC campaign to be taken up among all general public, medical, para medical and others regarding the PC&PNDT Act.
- (vi) It is recommended for inclusion of PC&PNDT Act in the curriculum of UG&PG medical students.
- (vii) Vigilance on the hospitals where illegal abortions are done by staff of District and Sub-District Appropriate Authority.
- (viii) To conduct decoy operations.
- (ix) To conduct IEC Activities / Public awareness campaign on PC & PNDT Act to be organized at village, Mandal with the help of convergent department such as ICDS, IKP, Mandal Samakhyas, Self help groups, ASHA.
- (x) 100% registration of Birth in villages.
- (xi) Compulsory registration of Ultrasound clinics
- (xii) Speedy disposal of cases through Fast Track Court.
- (xiii) At present State Appropriate Authority is Addl. Director (MCH) and District Appropriate Authority is District Collector. Hence interaction is not possible. So it is recommended that CHFV should be made State Appropriate Authority. Special focus should be on low sex-ratio Mandals and digitalization of all centres.

## **Effective steps to be taken to prevent Human Trafficking**

The United Nation Trafficking Protocol which was adopted by the UN member states in 2000, provided a globally acceptable definition of trafficking as follows.

Trafficking in persons shall mean the (acts of) recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction of fraud of deception of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or removal of organs. The consent of the victim shall be irrelevant in human trafficking . Apart from the United Nations protocol was adopted by India in 2000 convention on prevention and combating.

- o **Telangana is a source, transit as well as a destination state** - There is strong evidence that a sizable number of victims trafficked for the purpose of prostitution are not only women but children too. Telangana ranks second with AP in the country for the supply of women & children for the purposes of prostitution and sex trafficking. 20,000 women & children are sold every year from the region.

### **Modus operandi for trafficking for the purpose of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.**

- Forced marriage, Fake marriage, pretentious love affairs, Child marriage, Buying /selling victims, Forcing women into prostitution

through violence, threats, False job promises, Misrepresentation about the nature of work/occupation such as escort services, massage parlors, dance bars, house maids, False representation about life style etc.

- In the name of religious and customary practices such as Devadasi, Jogini etc.
- The erosion of livelihood options and accompanying changes in social and cultural conditions, lead to girls and women becoming prime targets of traffickers who offer them escape from their situation with promises of opportunities for a better life elsewhere. The victims are those ridden with poverty, less education and skills, and limited work options and dreams of better life. Caste composition reveals that 72% of trafficked women belong to backward castes, schedule castes, and schedule tribes. The trafficker is largely a female/male or friend who is eager to extend help and succour and identifies vulnerable girls and women and capitalizes on their distress. These procurers have links with receiving agents, and destination points in other places and metropolitan cities.

### 30 . Measures proposed for prevention of trafficking

- Ujwala homes started by the central government have no infrastructure and limited capacity so it needs to be strengthened. State government to look into this issue. Capacity to be increased to 100 inmates(it is 25 as of now).
- The following need to be watched as well as utilized as information sources - Hotel/Motel owners, Taxi/Auto drivers, Hawkers at Railway

stations, and bus stations, village level Anganwadi workers, local social action committees (SHG's).

- Reinvigorating, Child Welfare Committees in districts, Social Welfare Officers, Probation officers, Social action committees(SHG's).
- Ration cards to be issued to sexually exploited women.
- Aadhar cards to be provided to sexually exploited women.
- Children of sexually exploited women to be admitted in schools.
- Data base on trafficking at Police station level, district and state level to be collated. CID has an important role to play in collation of state wide data.
  - Data on suspected traffickers has to be collected and put up on police websites in urban areas. Posters of suspected traffickers to be put up in railway stations, bus stands, public places in rural areas for awareness amongst rural women. Women and child welfare department can release necessary funds for this.
  - Data base of sex offenders to be collated and shared.
  - Missing girls/women data base to be collated and shared with NGO's, social action committees(SHG's), anganwadi workers to keep watch.
  - Linking calls for information on trafficking, with woman helpline network.
  - Identifying village level procurers who lure the girls. This can be done with the help of anganwadi workers and social action committees(SHG's).
  - SOP's for rescued victims need to be followed scrupulously.

### **Media coverage:**

- Wide publicity by the media on brothel raids, exposing and shaming traffickers, closure of such establishments and awareness campaigns is very important and should be taken up immediately.

### **Surveys**

- Monitoring school dropout rate amongst girls in trafficking prone areas
- Monitoring girls residential hostels (school and college level) in trafficking prone areas.
- Identifying geographical pockets, so that areas prone to trafficking are mapped immediately.
- A large number of girls from tribal areas become victims of trafficking and there is need to launch awareness programs in tribal/rural areas on a large scale, through documentaries, to create awareness amongst teachers, principals, parents and the students about the traps laid by traffickers to lure targets.

### **31. Functioning of Anti Human Trafficking Units.**

In the combined state of Andhra Pradesh 5 AHTUs were established, vide. GO.Ms. No. 165, Home (PS&CA-2) dept. dt. 25-06-2011 of which one is in Karimnagar, and another at Women Protection Cell, CID, Hyderabad are in Telangana state. These AHTUs have a strength of 1 Inspector, 2 SI's, 2 HC's,, 2 PC's in each Unit under the supervision and control of Supdt. of Police, who will provide



infrastructure facilities. The Govt. of India has yet to approve another AUTU at Warangal.

### **Suggestions for strengthening AHTU's**

- There should be AHTUs in every police range, thus covering all the districts. Staff should consist of Inspectors, SIs, HCs, PCs . It should be headed by a DSP.
- After rescue of a victim, she should be sent to a short stay home, where a counsellor can counsel her and help her during this traumatic period, before she is sent for rehabilitation. For this the government needs to start short stay homes immediately. As of now only NGO's run short stay homes.
- It can be ensured that the funds required for the rescue operation, transportation, food, medical expenses, rehabilitation and other incidental expenses are provided by the Women and Child Welfare Department.
- The local NGOs can be associated during these operations at every stage.
- Coordination with state HIV control program is required.

### **Stree Shakti Committee at Village Level**

32. All committees working on women issues at village level should be merged as a single committee known as Stree Shakti Committees.

- They should meet once in a month to discuss women and children issues. Social Action Committees of SERP should be trained on women issues and their services should be utilized. Aanganwadi workers should be trained as counsellors.
  - It is found that several crimes are committed when women in rural areas go to answer the call of nature. Therefore the ISL programme along with IEC to be taken on priority.
33. Zilla Mahila Kendrams should be established in pranganams in all districts.
34. Separate Women Commission for Telangana state should be established

#### STRENGTHENING RESCUE AND REHABILITATION HOMES

- Trained Social Counselors should be appointed in all the Homes
- Police Out Posts to be setup near women/children Homes and Police Patrolling should be done near the Homes. At least one Lady Police Security Guard should be provided at each Home
- The funds received by NGOs directly from GOI should be routed through State Government and District Collector. Details of funds received by the NGOs should be placed in public domain.
- Women Rescue Homes should be established in each district by the government to provide shelter to women victims. At present only NGOs are running such Homes which are not sufficient

- Regular Health checkups should be done by visiting Medical Officers once in a month and visiting ANMs once in a week in the Homes.
- The height of compound walls at all the homes should be raised with electrical fencing.
- Permanent infrastructure like buildings with security to be provided in all the women homes run by the Government
- Diet Charges should be increased to Rs.1000/- per month (present charges are Rs.750/- & Rs.850/-) which means Rs. 26.30/ Rs. 28.30 per day per three meals which is not sufficient.
- The hostel / home / facility should be located / housed in a **building** approved and registered by the District Collector / Competent Authority and should comply with all the norms required for such buildings as prescribed by the District Collector / Competent Authority in this regard. It should have safe, adequate and suitable infrastructure facilities. Registration shall be made mandatory and a legislation in this regard be brought immediately.
- In the Homes/Hostels where there are more than 50 inmates, a CCTV camera Digital Video Recorder (DVR) should be installed at the gates.
- The list of such registered hostels / homes / facilities should be handed over to the District Superintendent of Police for proper check and monitoring. The District Superintendent of Police will

arrange for police beats to cover regularly all such homes particularly during the night hours. The Superintendent of Police shall review the beat books periodically at least once in a month.

- The District Collectors should review the safety and security of such hostels / homes / facilities as part of their monthly law and order meetings.
- The Police Department should draw up a list of retired police officials, ex-servicemen and home guards available in the District, so as to assist the concerned managements to draft from the list, security personnel for such hostels/ homes/ facilities.
- The monitoring authorities should ensure that the residents of the hostels / homes / facilities are not subjected to any form of mental or physical harassment.
- The District Collector should categorise the facilities based on the vulnerability and accordingly devise suitable monitoring mechanisms.
- The list of the registered facilities should be uploaded in the district website along with the phone number of the concerned warden and security person for the information of the public. This will encourage people to inform the district administration about any unauthorized facility being operated without proper registration.

### 35. GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE TO BE ESTABLISHED

There are many acts existing to ensure the safety and security of the women but they are ineffective due to improper implementation and due to lack of awareness.

The Women and Child Welfare Department has not concentrated much on the safety and security of women and girls till now and it did not effectively form a part of the mandate. The various acts can be effectively publicized and effectively monitored at various levels.

The committee recommends the constituting of a “Gender Resource Centre” at the State Level, headed by the Chief Minister. The other members should be the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Principal Secretary Women and Child Welfare, IG-CID, Principal Secretary Health, Principal Secretary Education, Principal Secretary Rural Development, Secretary Law, Director, Gender Resource Centre. This Committee will meet once in three months.

At the District Level, the District Collector will head committee with the SP, DM&HO, PD-DRDA, PD-DWCDA and District Judge as members. They will meet every month.

### **36. COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES ACT**

**At present many** marriages are not being registered. Lack of registrations lead to second marriages, illegal marriages and child marriages Women are deprived to claims there rights in the absence of marriage certificate

#### **Recommendations**

- Campaigns should be conducted on registration of marriages by Women and Child Welfare Department through local bodies.

- It should be made compulsory to produce marriage certificates to access government benefits.
- Wide publicity of provisions and benefits of this act needs to be done

### 37. PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

This act enables to provide effective protection of Women rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family

Problems	Recommendations
PDs and RDOs are designated as protection officers but only PD WDCW is dealing with the DV act cases	More Protection officers should be designated
Accessibility of the protection officers is restricted	Mandal level DV cell may be established
Lack of Staff in the DV cell and also budget	Staff recruitment and required budget should be provided
Cases are pending for a long time at family courts	Fast track courts and mobile courts should be established and all the long pending cases should be cleared
Police and judiciary department are not responding immediately to DV cases	Convergence meetings and capacity building programmes should be taken up periodically to have better understanding on DV ACT.

Free Legal Services should be provided by State / District Legal Services Authority to the DV Act victims. Samjhauta Centres to be established in each District to counsel DV Act victims.

## **GIRL AND WOMEN SAFETY AND SECURITY IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:**

### **38. INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

- Construction of toilets in all schools and colleges where girls are studying and allocation of a maintenance grant to government institutions to ensure the toilets do not remain in disuse.
- Construction of compound walls in all girls schools, colleges and residential and welfare hostels. Adequate lighting in corridors, hallways and grounds and wash room areas.

39. Visitors timings have to be strictly regulated and supervised in all residential and Welfare hostels. Clear permissions to be given after due check whenever children are to be taken away by relatives from hostels. The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued guidelines for protection of child rights which could be studied and suitably adopted.

40. Need to extend Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya which caters to the most disadvantaged girls, from present 10<sup>th</sup> standard to 12<sup>th</sup> standard and to also provide compulsory hostel facilities during all vacation period to the girls in these schools, if they would like to stay back instead of going back to guardians or family.

41. The insistence on Transfer Certificate for admission of girls in the 8<sup>th</sup> standard and above in schools is leading to difficulties for drop

- out girls to reenroll in schools. As a matter of principle, this TC requirement should be waived at least in the KGBV schools , so that drop -out girls can immediately enroll for high school education .
42. As the KGBV schools cater to the most vulnerable group of girls in rural areas these schools must be provided with trained social counselors, as they face severe problems of broken homes, sexual abuse, and discrimination. There are 398 KGBV schools in TS and these schools can be provided with one trained social counselor to ensure that the girls from most educationally backward regions of the state are enabled to sustain their education to a higher level.
  43. All girls residential schools/ hostels must have quarters at least for the warden in the campus, so that there is effective monitoring and responsibility taken for the security of the girls in the institution.
  44. In the meeting of school principals there was a request to supply churidhar pyjama for girls for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> std in govt schools. Presently it is being supplied to students from the 8<sup>th</sup> std only.
  45. Compulsory posting of at least one lady teacher in all girls schools.
  46. Need to increase access to intermediate and degree colleges within reasonable radius of villages as girls are forced to drop out after high school education due to far off location of colleges.
  47. Regulation of Paying Guest and working women hostels for women in the private/Public sector in the lines of Tamil Nadu government. Biometry systems for access to these hostels to be put into place.



48. Setting up of a Mahila/Woman's university in Telangana State.
49. Since the female literacy in the State is very low special programs must be taken to for improving Adult Female Literacy.
50. Trained social counselor (at least one) in every school and college to be made mandatory. In the case of government schools as it may not be possible to employ a separate counselor, a student friendly teacher to be identified and specially trained for this purpose.
51. Formation of kanya shakti/ nari shakthi committees in every school and college to take up all issues related to awareness, grievance redressal , child sex abuse, safety and security of children and women. Conduct of special programs etc. This committee could consist of sensitive and active students and teachers who would like to take up issues of gender awareness and deal with the gender problems reported in the educational institution.
52. All staff / drivers/ security personnel in schools/colleges to be screened for antecedents in sexual/other crimes. Need to debar any teacher/ warden/security personnel from employment in these institutions by way of compulsory prior police verification if they are found to have dubious/ criminal antecedents, as is done in Tamil Nadu vide their GO. MS. No. 31, SW&NMP Dept, dt. 26.06.2014.
53. It is also advisable to ensure that no male wardens, attenders or watchmen are posted in girls residential schools and hostels to prevent sexual abuse of girl children.
54. During the discussion with school principals as well as college girls there was a strong demand for compulsory sports and physical

activity to give girls a sense of empowerment , remove fear of physical attacks. There is a direct need for mandatory unarmed combat trainings for all girls in schools/ colleges. The police department can earmark a team of women police who will train the girls in all government schools as is being done in Rajasthan. Compulsory NCC /NSS units in all schools and colleges.

55. Cell phones to be banned in all schools and there shall be regulation of internet facilities in all educational institutions.
56. Gender sensitization across all the educational institutions, including schools and colleges. Age appropriate sensitization starting from middle school. The sensitization will have to address both boys and girls. The HM&FW Dept should organize workshops for adolescent girls / boys under Yuva Clinic scheme as adequate budget is available under NRHM. Sex Education that is already included in the high school curriculum also came up for discussion in various interactions & the major issues raised were skipping the lessons, asking the students to read it themselves etc. There is a need to come out with clear age - appropriate/pedagogy for these lessons for boys & girls & train biology /concerned teacher in this pedagogy, so that it is meaningfully & maturely covered in schools.
57. There is an urgent need to look at the Saksham Report (2013) brought out by the UGC proposing “Measures for Ensuring the safety of Woman & Programmes for Gender Sensitization on Campuses” instead of reinventing the wheel, as far as conduct of gender sensitization programmes and inclusion of gender in the curriculum

is concerned. The Report provides an indicative course module on gender sensitization & workshop series on gender, masculinity & issues pertaining to Sexual harassment & knowledge about the laws & rights, which can be suitably modified & used as per the training requirements.

58. Printing of child and women helpline numbers in all government text and note books and issuing one page advertisement and advisory in the last page regarding safety and security of girls, prevention of child sex abuse.
59. Orientation of SMPCs, parents and teachers and sensitizing them towards safety and security of girls. Legal awareness to the school management committee on the legal enactments related to women.
60. Compulsory inclusion of child sex abuse prevention, gender inequalities and social / human values in the school and college curriculum with age appropriate content and pedagogy. The assistance of TISS, Hyderabad maybe taken to handhold the curriculum preparation in dialogue with the respective curriculum regulation authorities and training of master trainers. Also there is a need to reexamine the existing curriculum for gender discriminatory lessons and revise such curriculum. The curriculum should also include some of the major laws related to women and provide children with some understanding of what is good and bad behaviour and act as a deterrent and prevent wrong behaviour related to gender roles and responsibilities and sexual behaviour and violence.

61. Networking of counselors of all schools, on a periodical basis for information dissemination and experience sharing.

## PREVENTING CHILD SEX ABUSE

62. Child Abuse continues to be, one of the most heinous crimes designed and perpetuated by human beings against some of the most vulnerable and defenceless sections of the community. Globally, it has been recognised as a challenge, and numerous instruments, from the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924<sup>1</sup> to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>2</sup> and the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action<sup>3</sup> have called upon nation States to create and enhance Child Protection Systems to ensure that *"in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world"*.
63. According to the World Health Organisation, *"Child abuse and neglect, includes all forms of physical and emotional ill- treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, development or dignity."*
64. Sexual abuse is defined as the involvement of a child in sexual activity

that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or else that violates the laws or social taboos of society. Children can be sexually abused by both adults and other children who are - by virtue of their age or stage of development - in a position of responsibility, trust or power over the victims. 5

65. In India, Child Abuse occurs in various spaces including the home, neighbourhood, schools, and temporary homes of shelter for abandoned and neglected children, railway platforms, jails and refugee camps. The problem is deep rooted and is one that the community is hesitant to accept and acknowledge. According to a national study on child sex abuse, conducted by the union Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, child abuse has touched 53.29%..\_
  
66. After interacting with different sections of women from all walks of life, the committee realised that child abuse is rampant and rising at an alarming rate across schools, within the confines of homes, and wherever possible. Therefore a massive awareness campaign needs to be launched immediately, to create awareness amongst parents, a sense of responsibility amongst the school principals and teachers, and also equip the child with tools to handle such adults/ other children.

67. Therefore there is an urgent need to make a tool kit for all schools in the twin cities to start with, which will consist of a manual for teachers, a guide for parents, a facilitators handbook, a guide for children, several audio - visuals, posters and fliers.
68. It is necessary to establish a network of school counsellors covering all Government and Private schools, for dissemination of information and experience sharing.
69. Under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, all villages, mandals and districts have Child protection committees which are non-functional. There is need to have an umbrella committee at the district level which will coordinate the activities and focus of the mandal and village level committees. They will coordinate with the police for implementation of POCSO, and the education and health departments too for awareness campaigns.
70. Therefore the formation of an **umbrella committee at the state level Gender resource committee** linked to **Women Safety committees at the district level** is imperative, which will deal with all issues pertaining to women and girls - foeticide, infanticide, child sex abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, dowry, Observation homes, Children Homes, Juvenile homes, rescue and rehabilitation homes and State Homes for women and hostels. The

purview of the committee will encompass preventive measures in these areas along with post incident measures.

71. It is then proposed to make CSA, a compulsory part of the curriculum, by March 2014. Subsequently, from March to June 2014, it is proposed to have the Training of Trainers (TOT)
72. Each school should have a child protection committee with a clear child protection policy which involves protection in school, in classes, while travelling to and from the school, while going for picnics, during various indoor and outdoor activities, and in hostels (in the case of residential schools).
73. The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child rights has issued comprehensive Guidelines for Prevention of Child Abuse which can be adopted suitably.
74. During most of our discussions with various groups of women , it was constantly suggested that there is a need to address issues of gender inequality by way of preventive measures , especially by conducting massive awareness campaigns. Further there were several women who represented that the time has come to address young boys and men and not only women in such campaigns, so that it will act as a deterrent against violent crimes and harassment of

women and also promote acceptable male behavior related to women that is not promoted by our societal subcultures that either raise women to the platform of divine goddess or throw her down to the extreme of vamp and victim. Historically women have come out into public spaces in the past 20 years in such unprecedented numbers but the family and social subcultures have remained restrictive defining women's roles and behavior in conventional patriarchal terms refusing to accept the new boldness and diversity of women's activities and roles . Because of this male subculture of control, violence and subjugation remains un-discussed and is often even enhanced/ reinforced by films and media, and family mores there is a subtle acceptance of male violence and sexual crimes. Hence it was felt that there is a dire need to address boys and men in sensitization campaigns.

75. Gender sensitization across all departments with women interface, particularly police, women and child welfare, health, transport, media, judiciary etc.
76. **SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN IN MEDIA**

- Press Academies should have Gender Sensitization in their basic training course.
- Women in Media should be provided with Safe Transport back home if they work beyond 8 pm, as per the provisions of the Shops & Establishment Act.
- As a Social Responsibility, under the Information & Broadcasting Act, the Electronic and Print Media should give free time/space (at least 5 minutes in 24 hrs for electronic / media channel) for creating



awareness regarding various legislations relating to safety of Woman and Child.

- In all Cinema Theatres, there should be compulsory advertisements for creating awareness relating to legislations on women safety and security. This should be done just before screening of the movie and just after display of Censor Board Certificate.
- All media organizations should set up grievance cells as per the provision of the sexual harassment of women at Workplace (Prevention) Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013.
- There should be a quality cell constituted with both media and non media persons to look into gender sensitivity issues being written and broadcast in newspapers and TV channels on a periodical basis.
- While giving accreditation to the I & PR Department should ensure adequate and compulsory representation of women journalists.
- There should be adequate & compulsory representation of women in press council.
- Commodification and commercialisation of women in advertisement, films electronic and print media/posters, Holdings has to be regulated
- Effective guidelines should be devised for the media, regarding protection of the identity of the women survivors.

## **LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AND CRIME AGAINST WOMEN**

77. The government needs to examine the excise policy as all sections of women and girls represented that crime against women is increasing because of liquor consumption. Therefore belt shops

should not be allowed, and location of liquor shops near residential areas, schools, colleges, homes and hostels has to be reviewed immediately and shops need to be relocated. Enforcement should be delinked with excise department.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR**

78. Shops & Establishment Act enjoins upon various provisions wherein Chapter V in Shops & Establishment Act deals with the regulation of working conditions for women

### Sec. 23

No women employee shall be required or allowed to work in any establishment before 6.00 AM and after 8.30 PM

### Sec.24 Maternity period

The period of absence from duty for in respect of a women employee is entitled to maternity benefit but not to any wages for any of these periods.

Every women who has been for a period of not less than six months preceding the date of her delivery in continuous employment of the same employer shall be entitled to receive from her employer for the period of

- a. Six weeks immediately preceding the date of delivery and

b. Six weeks following the date of such maternity benefit and in such manner as prescribed. The Maternity Benefit Act is also applicable in Factories.

The above two provisions of the Shops & Establishment Act cover a major chunk of women employees in the state and proper enforcement of the above sections will go a great way in alleviating the grievances of women employees. The above Act is applicable to Media houses and software companies also. Certain exemptions are given to software companies regulating the hours of work but it is mandatory that women should be provided with transportation and proper security.

79. It was also decided that a campaign should be launched in all major construction sites by putting up banners and insisting on the contractors to provide toilets to women workers including crèches where required. Steps also be taken to avoid sexual harassment and also protect the dignity of working women. A constant vigilance and frequent squads by the Labour Department will help a lot in this direction. The women help line number should be prominently displayed at all construction sites.
80. There is another enactment with regard to equal pay for equal work and the equal remuneration Act insists on payment of equal wages to both men and women when they are performing the same nature of work. The effective enforcement of the above Act by the labour department will ensure that there are no anomalies in the pay between men and women.

81. The committee suggested that the Labour Department should put up banners regarding the laws applicable to women in all the major malls, shops & establishments and the women help line number should also be mentioned on the banner to facilitate the calling of the above number when any women employee who feels harassed or victimized.
82. Medical aid and minimum facilities such as toilets, school, crèche should be provided to migrant women workers at work sites.

In addition to the measures stated above, the committee intends to review the provisions of existing legislations and their implementation relating to safety and security of women and girls and recommend amendments, if any.

The recommendations given above in each of the major areas are not exhaustive and the Committee is seized of the fact that certain areas still required to be covered. The Committee therefore plans to visit different parts of the State and interact with various vulnerable groups of women and girls and elicit their concerns relating to their safety and security.

While the Committee has studied certain good practices in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi, the Committee also intends to study best practices elsewhere both within and outside the country. The final report containing medium term and long term measures will be submitted to the Government by the end of November, 2014.

The Committee places on record its deep sense of gratitude to all those who have given their valuable suggestions in preparation of this report.

Keeping in line with the vision of the new State of Telangana which envisions that the Telangana State shall be a safe haven for all women and shall capacitate and encourage them to play an effective role in all aspects of nation building the Hon'ble Chief Minister has taken this visionary step to understand the problems as the women in the State of Telangana and enabling a new paradigm for their empowerment on behalf of all women and girls of this State, the Committee places on record its heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao garu for taking path breaking steps towards realizing this vision.

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