National Seminar on Violence against Women
Sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR),
MHRD, Government of India, New Delhi
21st & 22nd August, 2013
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

“Violence against Women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace.”

Introduction:

Variously referred to as “Sexual Violence”, “Gender Violence”, or “Violence against Women”, this age-old issue and reality has gained urgency only recently because of the significant work of women advocates and survivors in naming the problem. It includes domestic violence, rape, trafficking in women and girls, forced prostitution, and violence in armed conflict, such as murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy. It also includes honour killings, dowry-related violence, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection in favour of male babies, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices and traditions. These forms show that violence against women may be viewed as a “continuum” occurring at various life cycle stages of a woman’s life.

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as, “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public and private life.”

Violence against women in its various forms is a violation of human rights, the very nature of which deprives women of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms. It is a serious obstacle to equality between women and men and perpetuates inequality. Violence against women intersects with multiple forms of discrimination. While violence against women is universal, its manifestations and women’s personal experiences of it are shaped by factors such as economic status, race, class, religion, etc. Violence against women remains hidden in the culture of silence.

Advancement in technology has also brought about new forms of violence against women. Early detection of sex of the child has given rise to increasing instances of female foeticide. Easy access to new forms of information and communication technologies has given rise to new forms of harassment and violence such as cyber or phone stalking and increase in demand for pornography.

Chief Patron: Prof. A.D.N. Bajpai, Vice Chancellor, HPU Shimla
Patron(s): Prof. Kailash Thakur; Prof. Shyam Parshad Sharma
Convener(s): Dr. Sanjay Sindhu; Prof. Meenakshi Sooden; Nalin Ramaul
Organising Secretaries: Dr. Vivek Negi; Dr. Brajesh Sharma; Ms. Sujata Bali
The causes and factors of violence against women include entrenched unequal power relations between men and women that foster violence and its acceptability, aggravated by cultural and social norms, economic dependency, poverty and alcohol consumption etc.

Violence against women has consequences for women’s health and well-being. Health consequences include poor physical and reproductive health, poorer mental health and social functioning. Violence has profound effects – direct and indirect – on a woman’s reproductive health. This includes unwanted pregnancies and restricted access to family planning information and contraceptives, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and psychological problems. Victims suffer physical injuries and chronic health conditions also. Besides, it carries a heavy human and economic cost, hinders development and can also lead to displacement. Beyond its human and emotional costs, violence against women has considerable economic and financial costs to survivors, families, communities, and governments. It has a direct cost on the resources from social services, the justice system and health-care agencies to treat and support victims and to bring perpetrators of violence to justice. It costs individual women and their families, communities and nations at many levels, by reducing the capacity of victims to contribute productivity to the family and the economy.

Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) means that India is bound to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat violence against women and girls. Existing statutory and customary laws should be reviewed in their entirety to resolve contradictions and fill loopholes. A strong and comprehensive framework should include preventive and protective measures, support for survivors and children, redress for victims and holding perpetrators to account, measures on enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, and provisions for adequate and regular funding. Even the best legislation cannot stand on its own. Effective implementation requires educational and sensitisation work in the community, a functional judiciary and law enforcement system, the adequate training of law enforcement officials, and heightened awareness among the medical community of the special requirements tied to the treatment and handling of survivors of violence.

There is need to break the silence and ensure that violence against women is not just a woman’s issue but primarily a political, social, economic and cultural issue that concerns men as well. While men represent the majority of perpetrators of violence against women, they have an important role to play in preventing and combating violence against women. Because of their role models as fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons, men and young boys should be part of the solution and thus be involved in eliminating violence against women. If men felt involved, they should help promote changes in attitudes among other men. It is not women or men working alone to end gender-based violence that yields the best results. It is the partnership between them that has the greatest impact and reach.

"Violence against women continues to persist as one of the most heinous, systematic and prevalent human rights abuses in the world. It is a threat to all women, and an obstacle to all our efforts for development, peace, and gender equality in all societies. Violence against women is always a violation of human rights; it is always a crime; and it is always unacceptable. Let us take this issue with the deadly seriousness that it deserves."

Ban Ki moon, United Nations Secretary General
Objectives of the Seminar:
1. To raise awareness on the issue of gender-violence and analyse the causes and factors of violence against women.
2. To analyse how the violence against women impacts the lives of women victims, their families and society.
3. To identify educational and social strategies to address the issue.
4. To collect, share and develop innovative responses and best practices for elimination and prevention of violence against women.
5. To give recommendations and concrete proposals for action for elimination and prevention of violence against women.

CALL FOR PAPERS:
We cordially invite the academicians, researchers, representatives of the Civil Society and Student research scholars to submit their Research Papers on the sub-themes to be covered in different Technical Sessions during the National Seminar on Violence against Women. Full paper along with an abstract not exceeding 500 words must be sent by email attachment. Only abstracts (without full paper) will not be accepted. The Sub-Theme being taken up in the research paper must be specified. All the submissions must be made in word format, preferably in 12 font size, Times New Roman (with 14 Font size for titles) in A4 size format with 1.5 line spacing. Paper submission must accompany a certificate by the author(s) that the paper is his/her original work and has neither been published nor submitted for publication elsewhere.

Deadline for submitting papers:
Authors are requested to submit full papers along with their abstract on or before 5th August, 2013 through email on the ID: nalinramaul76@gmail.com
The manuscripts will be reviewed by review panel. The decision of the reviewers will be final and binding. The decision of the reviewers on the acceptability of the paper will be intimated by 12th August, 2013 through email only. The hard copies may be sent to: Dr. Sanjay Sindhu, Course Director, Department of Law, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla, H.P. – 171005.

The schedule will be strictly followed. The organisers will not be able to entertain any requests for extension of the deadlines. The details of the Seminar are also available on the Himachal Pradesh University Website: www.hpuniv.nic.in
Registration:
  Registration is compulsory for all the participants. The registration form duly filled in must be sent along with the research paper. Student Delegates need to get the registration form forwarded and recommended by the Supervisor/ HOD/ Principal.
  However, the Registration Fee will be payable only after acceptance of the research paper. The authors will be notified on the mode of payment of registration fees including the bank details for online transfer once their paper is accepted for presentation. All the authors for each paper must be registered.

Publication:
  Some of the selected papers may be published in the form of an edited book by a renowned publisher with ISBN number. Seminar Proceedings may be given to all delegates in the electronic form, in addition to forwarding the same to Policy making agencies for their consideration.

Best Paper Award:
  A Panel of Experts on Best Paper Awards will consider outstanding presentations for several designated awards. The decision of the Panel will be final and binding. All accepted papers are eligible for consideration. The Best Paper Award will be given for each Technical Session. There will also be an Award for Outstanding Student Paper. The awards for the Best Papers will be announced on the second day of the Seminar. Best Papers will be awarded on the basis of credits earned in Paper Writing Skills and Paper Presentation Skills.

Reimbursement of Travel Expenses:
  The organisers have limited funds for meeting travel costs of the delegates and therefore cannot guarantee reimbursement for all. However, depending on the availability of sufficient funds, either full or partial reimbursement of travel expenses may be made to a few delegates as per ICSSR guidelines/ University Rules.

Accommodation:
  Limited modest accommodation is available for out-station delegates attending the seminar. Therefore, while we will try our best to accommodate all the delegates, we cannot guarantee accommodation. However, luxury accommodation can be arranged on request made well in time and will have to be paid for separately by the delegate.

Local Hospitality:
  Lunch and refreshments (snacks and tea/coffee) during the two days of the seminar will be provided by the organisers. The delegates are expected to take care of any additional expenditure incurred by them.

Climate in Shimla:
  During August, it is generally pleasant in Shimla. However, if it rains, it will be cooler and may require warm clothes. So delegates are advised to bring warm clothes with them.

REGISTRATION FEES

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CONTACTS

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