



Together, building healthier communities

Exploratory work on Prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Jharkhand

The work draws cue from the Government of India's NFHS 4 survey of Jharkhand, where around 40% of married women aged 15-49 years had experienced some form of violence by their husbands. This sensitive issue with prevailing patriarchal attitudes in the society which often sanctions discrimination against women that elicits polarizing reactions from both communities and systems, it was best to tread cautiously, understand stakeholders, their willingness and receptivity.

Often the challenge faced by those working on GBV is the lack of understanding about its prevention. Experience of SNEHA, a Mumbai based charitable organization working in Dharavi slums for more than 15 years on issues of GBV helped in contextualizing and adapting their approach of preventing gender-based violence in rural and urban areas of Jharkhand. Engaging with relevant stakeholders towards creation of government-supported systems and processes in addressing the issue and also by understanding the prevention programs of the government an actionable program was designed with several government departments, the police, local NGOs, women's groups, Panchayati Raj Institutions and frontline workers.

Women's Groups in 20 villages of West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand went through a participatory exercise called 'participatory learning and action (PLA)' developed by Ekjut to discuss about issues related to GBV. Advisory Committee was formed with government and non-government institutional actors to strengthen the referral systems for advice.

Rural (West Singhbhum)

Issues specific to rural Jharkhand, like early and adolescent marriages and its associated risk, domestic violence, witchcraft and child trafficking were covered in the participatory meetings conducted by the Sahiyas and supported by the Sahiya Saathis of 20 villages. Several government systems came into play during the intervention that helped the survivors to get justice.

A baseline and endline study informed us about the impact of PLA on acceptability of violence and the feasibility of preventing of gender-based violence among rural communities. Around 60% of the women attending the group meetings were interviewed and the impact was seen in the following indicators, e.g. significant increase in the proportion of women reporting that violence was unacceptable 9% points ($p < 0.001$), while the prevalence of violence by husband in the past year had decreased 16.8% points ($p < 0.001$) and help-seeking for violence had increased 18% points ($p < 0.001$). However, less than 5% women sought help from health, legal or police services for any form of violence.





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Urban (Ranchi)

In Ranchi district, Ekjut conduct formative research through focused group discussions and semi structured interviews, primarily with daily wage women workers commuting daily to the city from suburbs and villages to understand the context of gender-based violence in the urban context of Ranchi district. Ekjut also engaged with different stakeholders like police, health department, women and child development department, civil society organisations and urban local bodies as part of their on-going activities to jointly design an effective program to address the problem of gender-based violence.



The urban component of the work involved orientation of 80 CID inspectors on sensitizing them on issues of gender, and developing a framework to align on the major gaps existing in the GBV response mechanism.