

An Awareness among the Marginalised Women For RSCW

(An Empirical Study of the Marginalised Women in Dholpur City)

Rajni

Research Scholar,
Deptt.of Sociology,
Sunrise University,
Alwar

Rajesh Kumar Sharma

Research Guide, Lecturer & Head,
Deptt.of Sociology,
Sunrise University,
Govt. Girls' College,
Dholpur, Rajasthan

Teena Sharma

Research Co-guide,
Deptt.of Sociology,
Sunrise University,
Alwar

Abstract

The history of the marginalized woman in India reflects her sorrows, pains, tortures and exploitations. Indeed the marginalized woman had nothing good to be mentioned. She was meant only for drudgery and slavery. Nobody had a heart, tongue and ear for her, and in every age she found herself a mere puppet in the hands of her unchangeable seeming destiny. The process of women empowerment is bringing about a revolutionary change in the condition of the marginalized woman, and with it she finds herself blessed. It will not be wrong to say that now in the changed social environment, everything is accessible to her, but more or less, still her condition is the same. RSCW is there to protect her, but she is not familiar with its aims and working.

Keywords: Marginalized, Drudgery, Anonymously, Black Past, RSCW, Discrimination

Introduction

More than 40 complaints against "violence against women", 10 rape cases registered everyday, 3 women are killed just because of dowry in every 48 hours. It is not a fiction but these are terrible facts of Rajasthan state. It is to be considered that these facts are official which get registered in various police stations of the state every day. Hundreds of women, victims of violent persecution and outrage, don't even dare to come forward just because of family pressure, loss of shame amongst people and threat in this male dominated society and lose their identity in the darkness of anonymousness. Similarly, due to some traditional social evils such as dowry system, purda system and child marriage which have been practicing for many years, women don't have a special status in the society. Rajasthan State Commission for Women (RSCW) was set up a statutory body on May 15, 1999 under The Rajasthan State Commission for Women Act, 1999. It is playing a dominant role in the state to provide safety to the women. However, in small cities like Dholpur, the marginalized women are still ignorant of RSCW and its functions. Maybe some of them are familiar with it, but for several types of fear they do not break the ice and keep suffering at the hands of the people.

Objectives of RSCW

1. To bring marginalized women into the mainstream.
2. To redress the grievances of the suffering women across the State of Rajasthan.
3. To safeguard the interests of women across the State.
4. To review prevailing laws concerning women and to request the government to make amendments for women to get justice.
5. To recommend remedial legislative measures.
6. To advise the Government of Rajasthan on all Policy matters affecting women.

Functions of RSCW

1. To investigate and analyze all unjustified acts committed against women and to request the government to take action.
2. To take steps to make the existing laws more effective and ensure their implementation.
3. To review existing laws and recommend amendments.
4. To prevent any discrimination against women in state public services and state public enterprises.

5. To take steps to alleviate the condition of women by suggesting practical welfare schemes, appealing to the government to provide equal opportunities.
6. Appealing to the government to take strict action against any public servant found by the commission to be working against the interests of women.
7. To submit Annual/ Special Reports to Govt. with its recommendations.

Support Services

24 Hour Helpline

A 24 x 7 toll free Helpline Number 1091 is operational at the commission for the speedy redressal of grievances of women complainants.

Complaints Cell

The commission sends directives to the state law enforcement agencies and administrative authorities based on factual reports against the complaints by women to provide relief and justice.

Point Programme for women empowerment:

1. Safe motherhood
2. Reduction in infant mortality rate (IMR)
3. Population stabilization
4. Prevention of child marriages
5. Retention of girls in schools at least till class X
6. Safe and secure environment for women
7. Economic empowerment through self help groups (SHGs) and opportunities of self employment

Public Hearing Cell

The commission organizes public hearing programs in all 33 districts of Rajasthan state on regular intervals for the benefit of women who are unable to reach it due to some reasons.

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Gender Cell

The commission organizes seminars and workshops targeting youths for gender sensitization.

Cognizance

The commission takes cognizance in the cases reported in print and electronic media related to atrocities on women.

Inquiries

The commission sets enquires and takes follow up actions brought to its notice related to grievances of women.

Rehabilitation

The commission runs rehabilitation programs for women in destitute to make them self reliant and start life afresh with dignity and conviction.

Special Courts

Seven Special Courts are set up in the state to hear cases of atrocities against women.

Monitoring

The commission monitors the working of women's homes, children's homes, girls' hostels and hospitals, and sends reports to the Government to improve their conditions.

Online Complaints

Anybody can submit complaint related to women's grievances in the online form available at the official website of the Rajasthan State Commission for Women.

Mahila Salah and Suraksha Kendra (MSSK)

39 MSSK centers are run across the Rajasthan state by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to address the grievances of women victims.

Zila Mahila Sahayata Samiti

These Samitis are in operation in all 33 districts of the state since 1997. The Samiti is chaired by the Zila Pramukh and the District Collector serves as its Vice-Chairperson.

Mahila Desk

These desks are set up in all police stations of Rajasthan. Any woman can approach the desk for the redressal of grievances.

Networking with NGOs

The commission works in close collaboration with several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to resolve the issues concerning women.

Publications

The commission submits annual report / special report to the State Government who in turn places it before the legislature along with a memorandum of action taken or proposed to be taken.

Right to Information (RTI)

Any information related to Rajasthan State Commission for Women can be obtained from the Deputy Secretary of the Commission as per the provisions of the RTI.

Other Important Orders: Some of the important orders passed by the commission for women empowerment are:

1. In any criminal case, only a policewoman can search a woman.
2. Medical examination of a woman can be done only by a lady doctor.
3. Mother's name is to be written in birth certificates and school certificates along with father's name.
4. Single woman can adopt a child.
5. 30% state government jobs and 50% seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions are reserved for women.

Objectives of The Study

1. To study the actual living and working conditions city of the marginalized women in the
2. To be familiar with their fears and agonies
3. To learn about their aspirations and hopes
4. To be familiar with their awareness for RSCW and their familiarity with its functions
5. To make them familiar with RSCW, its functions and its support services

HYPOTHESIS

1. In Dholpur city, the condition of the marginalized women is not good
2. They need support services in order to survive successfully in the society
3. Many of them are not familiar even with the reservation policy for them, and so are deprived from education and jobs

4. They are not familiar with RSCW and its support services
5. RSCW has sufficient support services in order to support such women

Methodology

The work is empirical conducted on 50 marginalized women in Dholpur city randomly selected for the study. For the systematic study observation method was adopted; participant observation was made; primary data were collected through schedule; secondary data were collected from internet site and books. With the sample size of about 20% of the total marginalized women in the city, all the steps of social research were adhered to while making the study.

Findings

1. About 60-80% marginalized women in Dholpur city are illiterate and are bound to work more or less under the same conditions as before.
2. Only 10-20% of them are in other jobs
3. Child marriages are common among them, and so 80-100% fell victims to child marriage
4. Each of them expects some support service that can help her be from the drudgery
5. None of them has knowledge about RSWC and its support services
6. 60-80% of them suffer from penury and starvation
7. Each of them wants her children to go to school and to do some other respectable job
8. None of them wants her children to do the traditional drudgery
9. They need the support services of RSCW in order to lead a respectable social life.

10. RSCW can evidently help the marginalized women get over their agonies

Conclusion

RSCW is an effective government agency to root out the problems of the marginalized women. There is an utmost need of awareness among the marginalized women for RSCW and its support services. RSCW can play a dominant role in making such women free from their black past which is still haunting them and not allowing them to lead a respectable life. It can prove itself to be a panacea to the miseries of the marginalized. It can help them not only lead a better family life but also enjoy a respectable social status.

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