

Seminar on Elimination of Violence against Women

Seminar was organised by the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission, Mumbai with the support of International Justice Mission, Mumbai on 25th November, 2023 at the Sahyadri State Guest House, Mumbai at 10.30 am to 1.00 am.

The dais was adorned by;

Chief Guest : Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Dy. Chairperson Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly

Resource Person : Justice Sadhana Jadhav, Dr. Pradnya Sarvade, Dr. Kavita Lalchandani, Dr. Maju Lodha

MSHRC – Chairperson Justice K. K. Tated, Member M. A. Sayeed, Member Sanjay Kumar.

The event was managed by;

MSHRC – Registrar, Dr. S. N. Dholam

IJM – Mr. Yesudas Naidu, Ms. Cathy

It was benefited to;

The officers from various police station of Mumbai, District Probation officers and Protection officers, Law student, NGO and Social worker etc.

Introduction of the Programme : M. A. Syed, Member MSHRC emphasized the significance of the present day, highlighting the diverse forms of Goddesses such as Saraswati and Lakshmi. Despite this celebration, he addressed the harsh reality of insufficient protection and violence against women in real life. Additionally, he advocated for a broader focus on transgender individuals, stressing the importance of inclusivity. He touched upon the diversity of people from various areas of work in the panel.

Dr. Manju Lodha, Founder of Lodha Foundation : Dr. Lodha delved into the realm of cultural traditions, articulating her thoughts in a poetic and lyrical manner. She intricately explored the challenges faced by various mythological characters, underscoring the transformative impact these struggles had on their lives and historical narratives. She also reflected on our cultural and professional advancements while advocating for the implementation of more rigorous laws. Overall, her discourse exhibited a profound and artistic expression of these ideas.

Dr. Kavita Lalchandani : Dr. Kavitha shared insights on fostering societal change, emphasizing the pivotal role of education, starting from schools. Her perspective revolved around the idea that families, schools, and colleges play crucial roles in shaping mindsets. Beginning from kindergarten, she highlighted the need for a

community-wide focus on ensuring the protection of women, underlining the transformative impact of education at various levels.

Dr. Pradnya Saravade : Dr. Pradnya addressed the issue of cyber exploitation against women, drawing from her experience as the head of the railway department in Maharashtra. She recounted specific cases, including one where a woman fell victim to a fraudulent loan app, leading to the manipulation of her photos for sexual exploitation and subsequent blackmail, tragically resulting in her suicide on the railway tracks. Using these examples, she emphasized the urgent need to prioritize respect for women and highlighted the potential dangers of technology misuse.

Justice Sadhana Jadhav : Justice Sadhana Jadhav discussed the evolving legal landscape, tracing its development from Lord Macaulay's introduction of acts like the Modesty Act and Exploitation Act to the current existence of Section 498A. Emphasizing the importance of utilizing these legal provisions, she highlighted a crucial point – that women can also be perpetrators, stressing the need for unity among the entire female population to address these issues collaboratively.

Dr. Neelam Gorhe : Dr. Neelam Gorhe discussed the diverse government initiatives aimed at combating women exploitation and protecting their rights. Addressing workplace discrimination, she emphasized the significance of speaking up and advocating for one's rights. Dr. Neelam Gorhe underscored the need for cultivating respect at home, starting with honoring mothers and teachers. Additionally, she advocated for the establishment of various support centers for women to seek assistance.

Concluding Address by Chairperson Justice K. K. Tated : Justice Tated has made urge that everyone should accept the fact that equality is there and should not question on equality. Highlighted the role played by MSHRC in protecting the human rights by citing example of JJ hospital, Raigad Woman Hostel issue, etc.

Acknowledgement : Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Member MSHRC has mentioned the gist of each discussion from dais; in addition to that Mr. Sanjay Kumar specifically mentioned that support of funds to progressive initiative from the side of government is also welcomed.