

Annexure: 1

Case Studies

Case Study No. 1:

Name of the village: Fughana,

District: Muzaffarnagar

Thirty years old Shabana explained her experience of violence and said ‘My home was partially damaged, resources looted and burnt. My cows were taken away. We know who assaulted us- it was Jats from our village. We had recognized them and had gone to lodge complaint against them, but the police had refused to take action.

On the day of the riots, we heard people shouting slogans against Muslims. So we realized that it was Jats mob. We fled to the forest, where we remained for three days. We all were so shaken and scared that we talked in whispers so nobody could hear us. As we fled in a hurry, we had nothing to eat. Somehow we fled to the near village where camps were arranged by the local Muslims. We stayed in camps for three months, where the camp organizers gave us food. One of my family members died of T.B. in the camp due to the lack of medical care. We all are living in constant fear. We were not able to think about the future. The male members of our family were worried to leave women alone and go out to cities for work. We are angry at the perpetrators of violence and the police who, rather than securing us, stood and watched as our lives crumbled.’

Case Study: 2

Name of the Village: Lisad

District: Shamli

Fifty years old Rukhsana Bano described her story of violence and said ‘I have eight children, out of which two young sons have gone to work outside the village. The violence snatched everything from us. Before this incident, we lived quite comfortably with a good source of income by cultivating our own land. We had buffalos, cows, and many essential instruments of farming that has been looted in riots.

On the day of the riot, I, along with my family, fled to the forest, hearing the news of Muslims being killed, their property being destroyed and burnt. My house was looted and burnt. We stayed for eight months in the camp and then moved to Loi village, where we started to build our house by using the compensation. The difficulty which we faced during this period cannot be defined in words. I remember the time when we fled from our home without taking anything. We had nothing to eat, nothing to wear, and even for a month we were in same cloths in which we fled from our house. The bad time, we have gone through will never be removed from our mind. We are still scared about the future of our child. I do not allow my children, especially for the girl child, to go out in the night; I worry that something bad may happen.

Case Study: 3

Name of the village: Lisad

District Shamli

Rehana was the mother of three children currently living in Jogi Khera colony. She explained her sufferings, and said that 'I was at home with my husband, we heard the shouting of people, my husband went outside the home to see who was shouting and what was happening and never returned. I fled with other villagers to the forest. When we reached the forest my neighbor told me that a mob of people grabbed my husband and killed him. He was killed with the brutality; I never thought my husband would die like this.' (During this conversation Rehana was constantly crying).

She further explained her difficulties being a single mother of three children. She said 'I also experienced a lot of anxiety after my husband's death, many times I thought to take my own life, how could I survive without my husband but I had to live for my children, nobody is there to look at my children. Life was so tough at relief camp because in each camp more than 5,000 people were staying without any facilities. My oldest child is just ten years old, I used to work in homes, and my all children cut their education because the money that I earn is not sufficient even for the survival.'

Case study: 4

Name of the village: Fugana

District: Muzaffarnagar

Nafeesa was living with her family in the Fugana village. She revealed the facts about the attack and how women were abused and subjected to rape. She said that rape and sexual assault were freely used on women in her village. Women particularly young girls were subjected to sexual harassment, during the riots around hundreds of women faced physical and sexual violence but remained hushed because of the honor of the family. She also expressed that many women were ready to poison themselves to death so that they would not be assaulted by the Jats. She further said that we are alive after facing so much difficulty during and after the riots. Words cannot define how we lived in the forest with so much fear, without having food or even water in the highly warm weather.

She expressed her anger towards the administration, saying that government has enough power to control the riots, but they did nothing to control it. If the government will not save us from these attacks, then who will?

Case study: 5

Name of the village: Kharad

District: Muzaffarnagar

Sultana was eight months pregnant when riots took place in her village on 8th September. Her husband took her in his arm and ran towards the forest to save their lives from the rioting mob chasing them from behind. She said 'We never thought about something so horrific. We had not given a chance even to lock our house. We just ran. I was worried about my child and I was not sure that my child would survive. Fortunately, I gave birth to a baby girl in relief the camp. I forget to sleep and sit the whole night just to shelter my child. It was a rainy season; because of the rain the weather was too cold we had nothing to cover our child, so I covered my daughter under my shawl and took her as close as possible to my chest and remained sitting the whole night.' She also explained her difficulty in delivering child in the camp; she suffered from vaginal infection and high blood pressure.

Sultana and her Husband Faheem said ‘we have lost everything including our dignity however, no killing took place in our village but our mosque, Quran and homes were destroyed, and they abused us, how we can go back? Should we return to get ourselves killed?’

On the leaders’ visit, she remarks, ‘Sab ate hain or jhute wade krke chale jate hain, karta koi kuch nhi hai (all come and make false promises, no one fulfills them).’

Case study: 6

Name of the village: Lisad

District Shamli

Rubeena fled with her husband when the mob was coming to their house. They fled towards the forest with other villagers. Rubeena and her husband parted in the forest as they ran to save their lives from the rioters that were still chasing them. She said, ‘Somehow we reached to the near village but I did not find my husband with other villagers with whom we ran from our village. I lost my control and cried so much. Some people said he is in another village some said he was captured by the rioters, but no one was sure where he has gone. I was worried about my husband even I was so hungry but could not eat anything for two days. Finally, after four days, my husband came to the place where I stayed. The happiness having seen my husband alive was immense.’

She further said the life in the camp was tough, ‘*Allah kisi dushman ko bhi aisi pareshani na de.*’

Though, we come from lower-middle class family but my family always lives hygienically. The life in camps was so unhygienic, with no clean water facility, no sanitation facility. But still, we are thankful to those local people who arranged camps in this difficult time. We do not have any faith in government. It was police officials who denied for the help of minorities.

Case study: 7

Name of the village: Lank

District: Shamli

Shabana was a mother of three children. She ran with her family when the riots began in her village. She said ‘when we were running towards the forest, rioters grabbed my mother-in-law and brother-in-law, they cut my brother-in-law into pieces by a sharp weapon in front of my mother in law and threw him over my Mother-in-law and burnt them alive. While we were running, we looked back and then ran again. We could not save them because of fear. My husband has gone into the severe depression after this incident, how one can see their family being cut and burnt alive? This was the worst time for us, as we lost everything, family, house, and other property. Property we can be bought in the future but what about our family members whom we lost.’

The discussion with Shabana and her husband revealed that they have gone through lots of pain due to the violence.

Case study: 8

Name of village: Lisad

District: Shamli

Afsana explained her difficulty she and her family faced because of the riots. She said ‘we lived in a joint family and my family was so big. There were fifteen to twenty members in our family, including children. There were eight women in the family when the riots began, male members of our family said to all women and children of the family to go inside the room and lock it. We did the same and remained locked inside the room for a whole night even did not go for the nature's call because of the fear. As the rioters shouted in the lens “chopped every one and spared no one. And pick up their women. (*Ek ek ko kat do kisi ko mat chhorna or inki aurton ko utha lo*) Next morning we were rescued by forces and reached to the Loi relief camp. The time we spent in our house was horrific. It was our house that became a horror house in a few hours.’

Case study 9

Name of the village: Kutba

District: Muzaffarnagar

Kutba was one of the worst affected villages in the riots, where many people killed and forced to leave the place, Sanowar said. She told her story about how her house set on fire ‘my husband used to sell clothes as a hawker. There was room in our house in which all the selling clothes was assembled. They threw kerosene on our roof and burnt. We saw our house being burnt. After this incident, we could not sleep for many days. They burnt everything and most importantly, the room which was full of new clothes and was a source of our income. She added that in our village, many women were raped. When the riots began, male members of many families were at their working place; rioters found it as an opportunity and attack their houses and raped women.’

Case study: 10

Name of the village: Lissad

District: Shamli

Sixty years old Batul explained that ‘my house was near the market. It was like a mansion with fifty-two doors. They broke doorways bedposts set arches on fire. They took everything from my house. They left nothing, not even a single stool and rest of things burnt with the house. We had saved jewelry for our daughter’s wedding. Two girls were going to marry soon. We are left with nothing.’

Case Study: 11

Name of the village: Lissad

District: Shamli

A twenty-year-old Yasmeen told a story of the killing of her husband and other family members. She said ‘when the riots broke out, I was just fifteen day’s old married girl. Even the henna (Mehendi) was not removed from my hands. My husband was killed as he took a step outside the house. Then my father in law and brother in law ran to save him both of them were killed too. My husband was chopped in a manner that I could not even see him. My sister in law got injured while running

towards the forest; rioters broke her leg with a wooden stick. Somehow, we reached the forest and stayed there for three days. Three male members of our family were killed in front of us. We could not save them.' While she was telling her story, she was constantly crying.

The story of Yasmeen was shocking even the researcher felt the goosebumps while listing all these.

Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University

Annexure 3

Interview Schedule for Women Respondents

Personal Profile:

Age:

Marital Status

Number of Children

Education:

Religion:

Occupation:

Income:

Possession of Ration Card:

Possession of Voter I Card:

Village:

1. Today, do you feel secure in your current residence?
 - i) Secure
 - ii) Less secure
 - iii) No difference
2. Do you want to return to your home?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
3. What kind of help government provided after riots?
 - i) Monetary
 - ii) Safety / security
 - iii) Medical help
4. Do you think the administration has given adequate monetary help?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) Not Much
5. Do you think people still discuss the riots?
 - i) Yes people discuss the riots frequently
 - ii) People discuss the riots occasionally
 - iii) No the riots are not discuss anymore
6. Do you feel that the mob and ensuing reactions united your group more?
 - i) Yes to a large extent

- ii) Yes but to a limited degree
 - iii) There is no change in community relations
7. What was the role of police during riots?
- i) Active
 - ii) Passive
 - iii) Neutral
 - iv) Against your community
 - v) Provided help after long term perpetuation
8. When did you approach the police?
- i) During the riots?
 - ii) After the riots
 - iii) Not given chance
9. How did police behave when you approached them?
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10. How long did it take you to attend the justice?
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11. What kind of attitude the male members of other community displayed towards you and other women during the riots?
- i) They were extremely violent
 - ii) They showed mercy towards women
 - iii) Some of them were helpful
12. What kind of violence you faced during riots?
- i) Physical
 - ii) Sexual
 - iii) Psychological
 - iv) Social
 - v) Emotional
13. How did you arrange/ manage to provide meal/food for your family /yourself in the camps?
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14. What kind of attitude the male members of your family displayed towards you?
- i) They were as helpless as you were
 - ii) They were silent
 - iii) Even they were violent towards you
 - iv) They struggled for family

15. What was the role of community organizations aftermath riots in providing help?
- i) Helpful
 - ii) Not helpful
 - iii) Neutral
16. Women of other community were?
- i) Invisible during riots
 - ii) They were equally involved in violent activities
 - iii) They were passive observer
 - iv) They were equally harassed
 - v) They helped us during/ after riots
17. What kind of help you were given by NGOs?
- i) Monetary
 - ii) Helped in legal matters
 - iii) Spread awareness regarding laws and rights
 - iv) Not available
18. What kind of help you were given by the local leaders?
- i) Monetary
 - ii) Helped during rehabilitation
 - iii) Safety
 - iv) No help were provided by them
 - v) They were biased
19. Have you lost any member of your family?
- i) Murdered
 - ii) Missing
 - iii) No
20. Have the riots changed your life? If so in what ways?
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21. As women what kind of problem did you face during your stay at rehabilitation camps?
-
22. What is your perception about the causes of Violence?
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Annexure 2

Field Work Photos



Researcher's discussion with the survivors at Loi Sarai, 1 June 2017.



**Destroyed and empty houses of the victims in Phugana village Muzaffarnagar
31st May 2017**



Living conditions of the Survivors at Akbarpur Sunehti camp, 18 June 2017