



Mahila Panchayat Program

The system of Panchayat is rooted in our society, and being a man dominated and hierarchical group, they never delivered justice to women. Mahila Panchayat program is a campaign which talks about women rights and security. Legal awareness and formation of Mahila Panchayats is another initiative taken for empowerment of women. These Mahila Panchayats offer crisis intervention and legal aid at community level and help tackle local level legal disputes and assist in reduction and reconciliation of violence against women.

Sahyog care for you has experience to promote the setting up of Mahila Panchayats. Mahila Panchayats is an innovative collective approach for community participation in dispute redressal. After need assessment and motivation, community women leaders are identified and these women are then motivated to volunteer as Mahila Panchayat Members. The women groups are trained in legal issues, dispute redressal mechanism, trained in the laws relevant to crimes against women, given exposure about the existing legal position regarding property, maintenance, marriage, custody, etc. They are also given training in counselling, FIR writing, pursuing with police station, how to proceed for legal recourse. The Mahila Panchayats itself acts as a "Watch Dog" and its members, after orientation, and training, can handle delicate and family disputes. They find solutions at the local level through the workers in the field itself. They link up with lawyers and issues which cannot be resolved at the Mahila Panchayat level are either resolved by the lawyers or alternative course of action is determined in consultation with lead NGO, lawyer and Delhi Commission for Women.

Mahila Panchayats have started taking cases and resolving them at the community level. These cases affect to maintenance, domestic violence, alcoholism and other issues. In most cases Panchayats have been able to resolve the cases at their own level. In some cases, they had to take joint action to bring pressure on the men concerned so as to obtain redressal for the women complainants.

GOAL OF THE PROGRAM:

The goal of the program is to provide effective redressal mechanism within the community to protect right of every women in the state. It is a dream of every citizen of this country that one day there would not be any domestic violence against a woman in the society.

- To build up the capacity of grassroots women to deal with day-to-day domestic violence in the family.
- To become aware about their rights and get justice without fear and panic.
- To equip with knowledge and information so that they could fight strongly against the society particularly male dominated.
- To provide a forum for solving their conflicts and family disputes within the society.
- To build up a community level group of volunteers who can assist victims on the spot.
- Creating rights' awareness amongst women from marginalized communities.
- Providing a platform for articulating rights' abuses.
- Facilitating redressal through counselling and legal procedures.
- Mobilizing men and women towards communal vigilance and proactive action.