Mission Statement and the Monitoring Indicators for Special Cell for Women and Children
A Programme for Violence against Women Within the State Police System

SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

2004
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INTRODUCTION

This document states the indicators developed by the Strategic Management Group* of the Special Cell for Women and Children that are utilized to monitor the ongoing implementation of work and also to evaluate the impact of the work done at the Special Cells located within the police system in Maharashtra. Prior to listing these indicators, it is necessary to first explain some of the key terms utilized in these indicators, as these signify the perspective within which these indicators are required to be applied. Thus, this document first presents a mission statement, which explains the key terms used in the indicators, and then states the monitoring and evaluation indicators.

* The Strategic Management Group of the Special Cell was formed for a three-year period in February 2002. Its members have been listed on the inside cover page of this document.
THE Special Cell for Women and Children is located within the State Police System to work on the issue of violence against women and children. The Special Cell undertakes its work within the framework of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees its citizens protection from violence irrespective of gender, and recognizes that every human being has equal rights and opportunities. The Special Cell recognizes the woman as an individual in her own right with entitlements, including her social and Constitutional rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution of India, and as upheld by international instruments, like CEDAW, which have been ratified by India. Thus, the mission of the Special Cell is to work towards ensuring that women are recognized as individuals, with equal rights and opportunities in society, including the opportunity to live a peaceful, violence-free life.

The mission of the Special Cell is especially important given the inequality in gender relations in Indian society, resulting from patriarchal structures and other oppressive
societal structures, which result in an imbalance in power relations. In its extreme, gender inequalities are manifest as various gruesome forms of violence against women. The various forms of violence against women widely prevalent in Indian society include female infanticide, wife battering, harassment for dowry and dowry deaths, sexual harassment at the work place, rape, and child sexual abuse. The patriarchal society recognizes a woman in terms of her relationships with men, perceiving her as a daughter, sister, wife, and mother, and does not recognize her as an individual in her own right. The Special Cell, located within the police system, works with a clear understanding that violence against women is a crime, against both her and society, and that it is the responsibility of the state to prevent and counter it. Hence, the strategic location of the Special Cell within the police system facilitates the state to counter violence against women.

This Mission Statement of the Special Cell for Women and Children, which guides its work on the issue of violence against women, specifies the following aspects of its work:

- The Strategic Thrust of the Special Cell.

- The Profile of the Violated Woman.

- The Strategic Location of Social Services for Violated Women within the Criminal Justice System.

- The Special Cell’s Approach of Work.
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The Strategic Thrust of the Special Cell:
The strategic thrust of the Special Cell includes the following:

- giving visibility to the issue of violence against women in society, and legitimizing the violated woman’s concerns and needs within a pro-woman perspective;
- simultaneity of working at the individual and systemic level, within the context of trained social work practice;
- developing a strategic alliance with the police system for a more co-ordinated, coherent and in-depth response to the issue of violence against women, with the aim of integrating social services for the violated woman within the police system;
- engaging the violated woman in problem-solving through process-oriented work to empower her;
- providing social services within the criminal justice system focused on the socio-legal aspects of the issue of violence against women; and
- achieving all of the above within the framework of the ethics and values of the profession of social work, through services provided by trained, full-time social workers.

The Profile of the Violated Woman:
This Mission Statement refers to the community of violated women as “the woman”. The community of violated women includes those women who approach the Special
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Cell for help. The violated woman is one who has experienced violations of rights and/or mental/physical/sexual violence in public/private spheres of her life. The woman who approaches the Special Cell for help is one who is severely affected by the violence inflicted on her. She is one who is usually in a state of crisis, resulting from a single incident of violence or a precipitating event in a history of incidents of violence. She needs help to take control of her life, so that she can deal with her context of violence. She tends to feel helpless, and experiences fear, along with a sense of low self-esteem. She is mentally, emotionally, and physically overwhelmed, as well as exhausted, and her energies need rebuilding. In this state, she is confused about the options available to her, and is unable to make choices, and bargain for her rights.

However, the violated woman who approaches the Special Cell for help is also a survivor, because despite the fact that she has been a victim of violence and has lived through threatening experiences, she is now ready to engage in a problem-solving process and to challenge her context of violence. She realises that violence is unacceptable, and can no longer be tolerated. As a result of this realization, she decides to seek external intervention. Her need to come out of the context of violence gives her the spirit to struggle for her rights, and not compromise with the situation of violence. However, because of her distressed state, she needs the help and support of the Special Cell to engage in problem-solving.
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The Strategic Location of Social Services for Violated Women within the Criminal Justice System:

The Special Cell is strategically located within the state police system. The legitimate power and authority inherent in the police system enables the Special Cell to say “no to violence” at the individual and societal levels. The Special Cell believes that the police’s power and authority can be constructively used to curb violence against women in society. The Special Cell uses its location within the police system to begin its problem-solving work by focusing on the violated woman’s rights as a citizen, as well as her legal rights. Further, the Special Cell serves as a model of social service within the police system, with a pro-woman understanding. The collaboration of the Special Cell (as a field action project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences) and the police system enriches the systemic response to the issue of violence against women, and enables the needs of the violated woman to be addressed holistically in the following ways:

- the police system addresses the legal aspects; the Special Cell works with the psycho-social-legal aspects of the problem of violence against women,
- the police system addresses the problem in the here and now; the Special Cell engages in problem-solving by taking into account the context and history of the violated women, and empowers her to take control over her life,
- the police system accepts the woman’s context of violence as a reality, and uses state power to discriminatorily repress/protect; the Special Cell’s work is focused on bringing about change in the violated
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woman’s position and situation, and it works on the basis of trust in the violated woman, with the aim of empowering her to protect herself and her rights.

The synergy resulting from the differential strengths and contributions of the police system and the Special Cell enables a coordinated, multi-agency response to the issue of violence against women. Such a coordinated response is needed as a violated woman has complex needs arising from her context of violence, which require specialized social services, along with legal measures. Moreover, the Special Cell links the police system with women’s organizations and other social service groups, thereby enhancing a coordinated response to the violated woman’s needs. Through its location in the police system, the Special Cell creates emotional, physical, mental, and legal space for the violated woman within the Criminal Justice System, where she can engage in addressing her needs and concerns in the problem-solving process within a facilitative environment. The Special Cell is working towards integrating social services for the violated woman within the police system.

The Special Cell’s Approach of Work:
The Special Cell’s priority of work is the violated woman, and it is committed to work in the interests of violated women as a marginalized and vulnerable group. The Special Cell works with all women, irrespective of caste, class, and ethnicity. The Special Cell recognises the violated woman as a person with rights and entitlements, and enables her to
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gain access to these through the problem-solving process. The Special Cell believes that the violated woman has innate strengths, as well as the potential capacity to make her own decisions, and determine the course of her own life. She is empowered through the problem-solving process, which validates her experiences. The Special Cell acknowledges with humility the violated woman’s spirit to survive, and her struggles.

The Special Cell’s interventions related to the issue of violence against women draws from the framework of Social Work practice and the pro-woman perspective. Further, the role of the Special Cell’s social worker is central to the process of interventions. Thus, the Special Cell’s approach of work is described below in terms of the following:

- the framework of Social Work practice within which the Special Cell intervenes,
- the pro-woman perspective within which the Special Cell intervenes,
- the role of the Special Cell’s social workers, and
- the Special Cell’s process of social work interventions with women and children.

The Framework of Social Work Practice within which the Special Cell Intervenes:

The Special Cell’s work draws from the values, principles, and interventions of Social Work practice. Human beings are central to social work methods and interventions, which are based on the belief that all human beings can change,
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including both the oppressed and the oppressor. Thus, Social Work practice is built on the premise that a planned problem-solving process can bring about social change, as human beings are resourceful and have the potential for transforming their own lives. Social work practice recognizes complex social and individual realities, with varying stakeholder perspectives. Social Work practice is committed to marginalized and vulnerable stakeholder groups, and the Special Cell’s commitment to violated women is in accordance with this, as violated women are marginalized.

The Social Work values that the Special Cell especially adheres to include respect for all human beings, irrespective of gender, validating individual histories and experiences, and belief in women’s capacities to make evolved, considered, and informed choices. These values are based on principles such as the following:

- self-determination, where a woman is encouraged and supported to make informed decisions about her own life,
- individualization, where a woman is respected in her own right as a person/individual, and not on the basis of her relationships,
- acceptance of a woman in totality with a non-judgmental attitude towards her, irrespective of her particular choices and behaviours,
- participation of the woman in the problem-solving process, and
- confidentiality and privacy to the woman, in accordance with her needs.
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The Pro-woman Perspective within which the Special Cell Intervenes:

The Special Cell’s work is built on an understanding that society is patriarchal, and it has developed its pro-woman perspective on the basis of feminist analysis. The Special Cell’s analysis of the issue of violence against women views women as oppressed from a historical perspective, as well as in the present context. A patriarchal society deprives women of equal opportunities and resources in relation to men. The Special Cell is committed to the struggle for the rights of women, so that they can gain equal opportunity and resources thereby gaining control over their own lives.

The pro-woman perspective within which the Special Cell intervenes recognises that the violated woman is not responsible for the violence inflicted on her, and that within a patriarchal society, the misuse of power by men makes her vulnerable to, and a victim of violence. The Special Cell perceives her as a survivor of violence, as she has the potential to engage in empowering processes. Moreover, the Special Cell acts on the premise that violence against women is not a personal matter to be resolved by the family alone, and that instead, violence against women is a social issue that needs to be addressed within the public domain. In fact, “the personal is political”, as individual women’s experiences of violence are embedded within larger socio-political societal forces, which discriminate on the basis of gender.
The Role of the Special Cell’s Social Workers:

The Special Cell’s social worker is an integral part of the social services provided to the violated woman. During the problem-solving process, the social worker intervenes in the interest of the violated woman. The social worker’s commitment to women’s issues, with focus on the issue of violence against women, is a crucial aspect of the Special Cell’s service delivery.

The Special Cell’s social worker intervenes within the framework of Social Work practice. Thus, the social worker is trained and qualified. The role of the social worker requires skills in undertaking simultaneous actions at multiple levels of intervention, as the issue of violence against women is a complex one. The complexity of the issue demands interventions at the individual level, as well as at the level of systems.

The Special Cell’s Process of Social Work Interventions with Women, Children, and Systems:

The Special Cell’s process of social work interventions pertains to both violated women and girl children. This process is directed towards enabling the woman to make informed and considered choices and decisions in relation to her own life.

The process of interventions emphasizes joint problem-solving between the social worker and the violated woman, in the interest of the woman. Thus, the woman determines the time, space, and pace at which she wants to undertake
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the change process. In fact, it is the violated woman who initiates the problem-solving process by approaching the Special Cell for help. The Special Cell considers the participation of the violated woman as a crucial and integral part of the problem-solving process.

The Special Cell’s process of interventions is primarily directed at the individual level, with a focus on immediate crisis intervention, as the violated woman seeks help at the time of a crisis. Usually a violated woman approaches the Special Cell for help as a result of a precipitating event/factor, which is linked to the crisis in her life. The violated woman experiences the crisis in the mental/physical/sexual/emotional aspects of life. Subsequent to immediate crisis intervention, if the woman desires, the Special Cell’s interventions focus on her longer-term development.

The Special Cell’s interventions are provided within a facilitative and conducive environment, to encourage sharing and joint, constructive problem solving. The Special Cell’s process of interventions are designed to meet the varying needs of violated women, keeping in focus their differential skills and strengths. Further, this process enables the woman to rejoin the larger world again with a renewed sense of self.

In addition to intervening with the violated woman at the individual level, the Special Cell also addresses the issue of violence against women at the macro-level by working towards bringing about social change at the level of systems. The Special Cell’s interventions at the macro-level
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with systems in the interests of the violated woman include the following:

- building awareness among police personnel, members of women’s vigilance groups, professional groups, women’s groups, and caste panchayats, as well as among youth, children and various community groups,
- advocacy for law and policy change pertaining to the issue of violence against women,
- contribution to social work education by integrating practice experiences into the teaching-learning process, with regard to the issue of violence against women and gender analysis, and
- documentation, research, and dissemination related to the issue of violence against women.

Thus, the Special Cell’s interventions at the level of the individual woman and at the level of systems enable a multi-faceted response to the complex issue of violence against women in the interests of the violated woman.
THE monitoring indicators have been developed under ten categories, with each category representing an area of work of the Special Cells. Each of these areas is further segmented into specific indicators representing social work interventions within a particular area of work. These indicators are to be used holistically and not individually, as each of them represent a part of the work done at the Special Cells.

A. Social work interventions for providing emotional support and strengthening the psychological self of the violated woman:

1. Initiating the problem solving process within the framework of professional social work values and practices, with special emphasis on acceptance of the woman as a person, which is her entitlement, and thereby strengthening her human spirit and her capacity to respond proactively to her life situation.

2. Facilitating the woman’s process of self-determination by providing the following inputs:
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(a) focusing on her as a person;
(b) listening to her, and providing emotional support, positive feedback and reinforcement;
(c) giving her quality/specialised time;
(d) providing legitimacy to her concerns;
(e) helping her to explore and reflect upon her problem in relation to different perspectives by reviewing societal myths and expectations pertaining to gender roles;
(f) helping her to identify her priorities through the process of self-reflection in relation to her values and belief system;
(g) helping her to recognise the importance of herself first as a person and then in her multiple roles and relationships;
(h) providing her with opportunities to develop, rehearse, and model her skills with regard to redefining her relationships; and simultaneously enabling her to build her self-confidence and self-esteem;
(i) enabling her to build on her strengths, and minimise the hindering factors in relation to her reaction to the violence by suggesting alternative communication styles and response patterns; and
(j) engaging her in an exploration of her abilities, interests, likes and dislikes, so as to enable her to recognise her self-worth and develop her self-respect and self-confidence.
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**B. Social work interventions for negotiating for non-violence with various stakeholders:**

1. Building commitment for non-violence among all the stakeholders by explaining the damaging effects of violence at the psychological and sociological levels.

2. Ensuring that violence is a non-negotiable in the problem solving process by consciously asserting with all stakeholders, especially the violator, that violence against women is not acceptable.

3. Enabling violated women to recognise the rights of women as human beings and as citizens, especially their right to protection from violence by:
   
   (a) encouraging them to articulate their experiences and feelings;
   
   (b) building their self-confidence and self-esteem;
   
   (c) building their understanding of their context of violence, and developing their critical analysis of the same; and
   
   (d) empowering them to say no to violence.

4. Emphasising with the Criminal Justice System the rights of violated women as human beings and as citizens, especially by advocating their right to protection from violence, and demanding redressal.

5. Ascertaining with the families of violated women and concerned others, the rights of women as human beings and as citizens, especially by urging them to protect women from violence.
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6. Facilitating violated women’s right to access resources from the Criminal Justice System on the basis of their rights as human beings and as citizens, especially by analysing and highlighting the needs of violated women.

7. Building alliances with/within the police system to enable the police to recognise violence against women as potential/actual crime by understanding the damaging effects of violence at the levels of the individual and society, and developing their critical analysis of the same.

8. Building alliances within the police system for provision of relief (immediate and long term) for violated women by intervening jointly in the interests of violated women.

C. Social work interventions for building support systems for violated women:

1. Providing social services within the police system to:
   (a) facilitate the violated woman’s fulfillment of her rights as a citizen; and
   (b) respond to the woman in her context of violence by rebuilding her human dignity, self worth and self-respect.

2. Explaining the police system’s procedures and structure to the violated woman to develop her capacity to access the police system.
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3. Linking the violated woman with the police through interventions listed under Category C (engaging police help) so as to enable her to find the socio-legal and procedural paths best suited to her needs and entitlements.

4. Explaining the violated woman’s position and perspective (both general and specific to her case) to systems, including her dyadic relationships, families, neighbourhood, community, kinship groups, the police and other components of the Criminal Justice System, the health system, etc., so as to gather support and understanding for her.

5. Introducing the violated woman to various forums and groups, including women’s groups, so as to facilitate self-reflection in terms of her perception of herself, and her relationships with her environment; especially within the context of her violence, by encouraging her to expand her social world and redefine her relationships.

6. Training police personnel and other arms of the Criminal Justice System to build recognition of women as citizens by developing their analytical understanding of oppressive gender relations, violence against women, and family violence, together with the required interventions for effective responses from the Criminal Justice System.

7. Dissemination of research findings into the Criminal Justice System, so as to develop a critical analysis within this system of the violated woman’s social realities, together with effective systemic response from the Criminal Justice System.
8. Providing emotional support to the violated woman to enable her towards self-determination by engaging her in the problem solving process to make independent and informed decisions through the following interventions:

(a) listening to and respecting the woman’s feelings and experiences of violence;
(b) enabling her to identify and seek options available to her,
(c) preparing her to actively engage in the problem solving process through the use of social work methods and principles of counselling;
(d) enabling the woman to identify the focal point of the problems she faces and the required action, as well as building her commitment to action;
(e) facilitating her to document the facts of the case, so as to make a formal commitment to joint action;
(f) establishing contacts and developing linkages with significant resource persons and assessing their potential in helping women by undertaking home visits, collateral visits, and visits to police stations/police offices, etc.;
(g) creating an awareness in the woman of her internal strengths and developing her resources and capacities through a process of constant dialogue, reflective discussion, and encouraging feedback to enable her to overcome her feelings of helplessness;
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(h) educating the woman about her socio-legal, sexual and economic rights to make informed choices and independent decisions for her life; and

(i) building visibility on the issue of violence against women by addressing various groups including caste groups, mahila mandals, community based organisations, panchayats, citizen groups, student bodies, and educational institutions so as to recognise the existence of, and prevent, violence against women.

D. Social work interventions for engaging police help in the interest of violated women:

1. Harnessing police authority to help violated women, so as to enable them to establish their legal and normative rights by:
   
   (a) explaining and negotiating with the police, the needs and rights of violated women, in relation to their multiple roles and their relationships with multiple social institutions;

   (b) enabling the police to recognise the legitimacy of cases of violated women through interventions, such as accompanying them to the police station, giving them letters of introduction/referrals, and arranging meetings and discussions with the police at different levels in the police system;

   (c) enabling the police to find appropriate legal and procedural paths for violated women best suited to their circumstances, so as to intervene to
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stop, and prevent recurrence of violence, including registration of criminal cases, use of preventive measures under the IPC and CrPC, etc.; and

d) enabling the police to recognise violence against women as a crime, irrespective of the context of the violence, including violence occurring within familial and other intimate and significant relationships.

2. Facilitating the police to prioritise violence against women as a crime, in day to day practice, by:

(a) dialoguing at different levels of the police system, to advocate on the issue of violence against women;

(b) sharing information and practice experiences of police interventions on the issue of violence against women across different levels of the police system, so as to enhance learning on this issue within the system;

(c) activating the police to challenge the violators and significant others so as to deter violence against women;

(d) training of police at different levels in the system so as to build their critical awareness on the various dimensions of the issue of violence against women;

(e) disseminating research findings within the police system, so as to build analytical knowledge on the issue of violence against women, in order to enable police to apply this in practice; and
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(f) enabling participation of police personnel on various networks and forums on the issue of violence against women for a co-ordinated response to effectively deal with this issue.

E. Legal Aid to facilitate the violated woman’s journey through the criminal justice system:

1. Preparing the violated woman to make informed choices regarding her decision to access the law by demystifying the law, and thus, enabling her to obtain her legal rights and entitlements, through the following interventions:
   
   (a) explaining the nature of legal options available to her in the Indian Civil and Criminal Law, as well as in customary laws;
   
   (b) providing her para-legal services, including explanation of laws with examples in case laws, knowledge of her legal rights and entitlements, and the nature of resources required to obtain these;
   
   (c) providing her with/referring her to legal advisory services; and
   
   (d) explaining to her the complex nature of processes and procedures of the Criminal Justice System.

2. Enabling the violated woman to access the Civil and Criminal Justice System in accordance with her decision to obtain her legal rights and entitlements, so that she receives reliefs and remedies in Law through the following interventions:
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(a) participating with the violated woman in her negotiations with her family and significant others on issues affecting her, including mutual consent divorce, contested divorce, streedhan and belongings, maintenance and custody, etc.;

(b) enabling her to prioritise and strategize her path through the Criminal Justice System to obtain her legal rights and entitlements;

(c) providing her with legal aid through referrals to legal aid individuals/agencies with a pro-woman perspective;

(d) developing her skills to access the Civil and Criminal Justice System by creating opportunities for her to interact with officials of the Civil and Criminal Justice System, including prosecutors, probation officers, investigating officers, family court personnel, etc.; and

(e) creating a conducive environment for the violated woman, and preparing her to register a criminal case, give the required statements, depose as witness, etc. in criminal cases, such as rape, molestation, dating violence, child sexual abuse, etc.

3. Explaining and negotiating with the Criminal Justice System (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, probation officers, police investigators, and other professionals) the needs and the rights of the violated woman, so as to recognise and prioritise violence
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against women as a crime; thus facilitating women’s journey through the Criminal Justice System.

4. Explaining and negotiating with community arbitration systems, including jamats, caste panchayats and samaj panchayats, so as to obtain support and justice from customary/community laws for the violated women.

F. Social work interventions related to arranging shelter for violated women:

1. Ensuring protection of the violated woman so as to provide her immediate security in relation to her threatening circumstances (physical, mental, and sexual) by:

   (a) arranging temporary shelter/residence, for the woman and her children along with the required services, through referrals to hostels, institutions, rented/shared accommodation, and within other systems, including hospitals;

   (b) negotiating for long-term residence for the violated woman and her children with her natal and matrimonial families;

   (c) exploring possibilities for residence for the violated woman with relatives, neighbours, friends and employers; and

2. Ensuring protection of the abused child in his/her best interests, so as to provide her/him immediate security
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in relation to his/her threatening circumstances (physical, mental, and sexual) by:

(a) making appropriate referrals and arranging temporary shelter in both government and non-government organisations;

(b) negotiating and mediating with the Child Welfare Committee, to draw upon the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act 2002, as well as with government and non-government organisations for the space and services required by the abused child for immediate and long term shelters.

G. Social work interventions related to working with men in the interest of violated women:

1. Challenging men’s beliefs and attitudes, so as to work towards prevention of violence, related to:
   (a) violence against women;
   (b) social expectations of gendered roles; and
   (c) oppressive social roles and rules within the understanding of patriarchy and social hierarchy including class and caste.

2. Engaging the violent man in self reflection, so as to assert the equal status of the violated woman in the family and also as a citizen with legal rights, by:
   (a) listening to his perceptions, thoughts and feelings and facilitating him to express his emotions in relation to the violated woman and significant others;
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(b) talking and explaining to him the imbalance of power in gender relations and his misuse of power resulting in increasing vulnerability of the violated woman; and

(c) helping him confront his violent behaviour and ascertaining the need for equity in gender roles and relationships.

3. Informing the violent man about the legal rights of the violated woman and using official authority of, and within the Criminal Justice System, including the use of written assurances for non-violence, criminal cases, chapter cases and non-cognisable cases to initiate the process of change in his behaviour with the long-term expectation of his attitudinal changes.

4. Negotiating with men in both the natal and matrimonial families of the violated woman, as well as with significant others, to recognise her as a human being with equal rights in her family and in society so as to enlist their support for the violated woman.

5. Assessing the violent man’s mental, sexual and social health, and motivating him for the required treatment and behavioural change, along with appropriate referrals for services, including de-addiction centres, self-help groups, therapeutic help, and counselling, so as to enable him to regain control over his violent behaviour.

6. Negotiating with the violent man’s family, employer, community, and significant others, so as to build support systems to sustain behavioural and
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social change in him in the interests of the violated woman, by:

(a) explaining to them the need to support the violated woman, and obtaining their understanding for her; and

(b) engaging them in the problem solving process, including obtaining concessions for him at his workplace, as well as by obtaining financial/material help from the family and significant others.

H. Social work interventions related to the re-establishment of women’s relationships with their economic assets:

1. Facilitating the establishment of the woman’s legal and normative rights in relation to her economic assets, so as to strengthen her efforts to gain autonomy, by:

(a) assessing the details of her family’s assets, and those of others with whom she has had an economic relationship, including material and non-material resources;

(b) obtaining assurance from her family and others with whom she has had an economic relationship, regarding the payments of dues (to her), which are her entitlements, such as maintenance for her and her dependents, repayment of loans, debts, fees, rents, streedhan, inheritance, etc.;

(c) creating awareness in, and negotiating for the woman with her family, and others with
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whom she has had an economic relationship, regarding:

i) her legal and normative economic rights, such as her streedhan, inheritance, property, right to housing, savings, fixed deposits; and

ii) her right to salient documents, such as ration cards, licenses, her passport, school leaving certificate, wills, etc.

(d) consistently working to negotiate with families, police, judicial systems and other government and private institutions towards establishing and reclaiming the woman’s rights to her belongings, economic assets and resources; and

(e) systematically building the woman’s confidence and garnering support from her family and significant others for her economic independence, for example, identifying opportunities for employment, vocational and educational sponsorships and loans for self-employment, etc.

I. Social work interventions for advocacy for group entitlement in the interest of violated women:

1. Creating an environment of acceptance in society of the human rights of women, especially the violated woman, so as to give visibility to the issue of violence against women, and emphasise society’s responsibility for the same, through the following interventions:

(a) by lending support to the issue of violence against women across the country;
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(b) by proactively responding to invitations from, and by being resource persons on, various initiatives of the state and the voluntary sector, including the women’s movement;

(c) through membership, and by participating in various governmental and non-governmental forums and networks; and

(d) by expanding the services of the Special Cell to reach more and more violated women throughout the state.

J. Social work interventions related to development counselling with violated women:

1. Introducing the woman to her rights as a person and as a citizen of the state, with emphasis on social justice and equality within the framework of the Constitution of India, as well as her philosophical, spiritual, and cultural context (by building on the work done under Categories C and A), so as to strengthen her access to her entitlements.

2. Helping her gain control and confidence within a wider area of understanding of her roles and responsibilities, as well as her wants and desires, during the post crisis period, so as to strengthen her access to her entitlements and enhance her self-worth.

3. Examining new and alternative ideas generated within the counselling process, so as to enable the woman to relocate emotionally, physically and mentally for her changing life.
Presently, the concept and Programme of Special Cells is operationalised in the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.