Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence Against Women, estd. 2007-08: Report of work done in f.y. 2013-14

Office: TISS, Mumbai; Work areas: Maharashtra, Odisha, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana

Sponsor: Projects funded by Central and State Governments, & multilateral aid agencies.

Objectives:
• To coordinate, handhold, and strengthen the existing work of Special Cells model in Maharashtra in particular, as well as in other States, through a continued formal engagement of collaborative work & advocacy with State Governments, especially the Police and Protection system.
• To promote the strategies of the Special Cells model through replication and expansion of the same, as well as through the piloting and eventual facilitated institutionalisation of this and other models of VAW intervention; effective multi-agency coordinated response, with a focus on engaging Police support.
• To explore and innovate newer strategies to respond to VAW, and to build the capacities (both skills & perspective) of stakeholders at various levels (State structure/mechanisms & their personnel, civil society organisations & their personnel, academic institutions & their members, communities & their component groups, etc.).
• To initiate and sustain research, documentation and larger educational activities (awareness, campaigns, training, etc.) on VAW issues as well as interventions.

Programmes:
• Govt. of Haryana-funded PCMA 2006 study in context of Haryana - completed.
• Govt. Of India-funded PWDVA 2005 implementation study in 4 States - completed
• Work with Special Cells Maharashtra: Coordinated and on-ground handholding/monitoring in expansion to total 144 district and taluka-level units; 2 Research studies underway/nearing completion (on assurance papers, and on Sp. Cells' experience intervening in cases of VAW within non-domestic, non-cohabiting relationships under Pukar Urban Aspirations Grant).
• Work with Govt. Of Haryana: 5.5 years’ comprehensive work-report-cum-case-study of Special Cells work in the State, including data-analysis, strengthened work through training (refresher), additional training for stakeholders including Police, ICDS Counsellors, Service Providers regd. Under PWDVA 2005, protocols/SoP document development & finalisation etc.
• Work with Oxfam for strengthening pilot units in all 4 States (U.P., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha) and local partner agencies through induction & refresher trainings, and made advocacy efforts towards institutionalisation of Special Cell model in U.P. and Gujarat.
• Work with NMEW, Govt. Applied for funding to replicate (on pilot basis) in 3 States (Punjab, Bihar and Meghalaya), invited to appear for proposal appraisal; approval received to pilot Special Cells in Bihar from MoWCD, NRCW/NMEW & State Government of Bihar.
• Work with Govt. Of Delhi: Continued advocacy with NCW and DoWCD for expansion of Cells to all 9 districts, assisted in recruitment of new social workers.
• Work with DoWCD, Govt. of Gujarat: Successful in securing institutionalisation of Special Cells in all districts, and conducted induction training for first batch of Coordinators and social workers recruited, and collaborated with DoWCD, GRC & GVK EMRI in the design, launch and capacity-building of personnel of Emergency Response Service-based Helpline (181) for Women in Distress across the State (and initiated publication of protocols & algorithms as manual document).
• Work with Department of Home (Office of ADGP, CAW), Govt. Of Madhya Pradesh: Training & Module-development for voluntary/part-time counsellors based in Police Stations and work initiated with Police Department to prepare proposal/plan on structure streamlining (based on Special Cells models in other States) for joint advocacy for institutionalisation & resource investment by DoWCD.
• Work with DoWCD, Govt. Of Rajasthan: Training for new and existing workers of Mahila Salah-Evam-Suraksha Kendras (Police-based Special Cells), and collaborative work with DoWCD & implementing agencies (women's & civil liberties groups) to plan for & design streamlined programme structure as well as invited to take up sustained refresher training for coming years.
• Initiated work on integrating VAW intervention approach with work on livelihoods & women's economic empowerment: Initiated need-assessment and training planning work with Udyogini (Jharkhand, micro-enterprise & SHGs) and Jeevika (Bihar State NRLM programme)
• Advocacy work with other interventionists and the State to inform schemes, policies, reports and laws etc.: Inputs to Lawyer's Collective's Proposal to MoWCD/MoH, GoI, for Service Delivery Framework for Sexual Assault Survivors, inputs for improvement in functioning of the National Commission for Women as invited by MoWCD, GoI, Lawyers’ Collective’s Best Practices Manual & Fifth Monitoring Report for PWDVA 2005 implementation, collective advocacy action with other groups and agencies at national-level with GoI for increased budgetary allocation to MoWCD for PWDVA implementation across the country, NIFHR’s sexual assault case-dealing manual, participated in DASRA’s national-level DV intervention Scaling workshop, etc.

• Work on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace: Trainings and needs-assessment, organisationl/institutional policy development with private/corporate entities

• Training of other stakeholders (needs-based/on-demand): Workshops & sessions on VAW intervention with communities for CASA personnel, DV intervention as part of family therapy (workshop for students of diploma courses of CLL), Gender understanding & VAW/DV intervention basic helping skills for public prosecutors (as part of Directorate's cross-Departmental training for State Govt. Of MP), classes on feminist social work practice & feminist education for empowerment/NFE, etc. – on invitation of Schools/Centres/Faculty of the Institute.

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