

The Role and Impact of NGO in non-violent protest against Women Harassment in India

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to share the main role of NGOs in protest against violence against women harassment. The inclusive authenticity of violence and harassment against women is that women are not just victims, but also reasonable actors, inspired and undefeated nonviolently to respond to it. The NGOs have given much help and effort to keep this authenticity harassment against women. Non-governmental organization (NGO) is an association of citizens, independent of the government, to provide resources or serve a social or political purpose. The World Bank graded as an NGO worked mainly on development projects or NGOs to promote a cause, and one of the most serious causes to play a unique role and wonderful for women harassment. The most effective weapon against sexual harassment is prevention. The bullying does not disappear by itself. In fact, it is more likely that if the problem is not solved, the harassment will worsen and become more difficult to fix as time goes on. Non-violence is one of the divine qualities. And violence is in no way justified as the focus of the study on reliability critical jargon of NGOs harassment and non-violence of women. The research methodology of this research work is based on available resources and the associated learning materials. Secondary sources are books on valuable works by authors, jurists and distinguished judges; Print coupons; Periodicals and periodicals.

Key words: *Strapping, Judicious, Advocacy, Jargon, NGO, Council, Women's.*

Introduction

Violence against women covers many forms of violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that in women is disproportionate compared to a man. There are many types of names for violence against women. Nearly half of the women with children in homeless aid remain due to the defeat of domestic violence. Every human being is in human virtue to certain basic human rights. Both the United Nations and regional human rights organizations, such as the Council of Europe, have recognized the need to specifically protect and promote the rights of women and the corresponding responsibilities of the national government. The human rights of women are listed by treaties, conventions, resolutions and declarations of the United Nations or a regional organization for human rights. The treaties are formally adopted by the national governments and then legally create obligations for governments binding. Any state that has ratified the human rights treaty, all linked to specific sides of the country, must ensure that the human rights of citizens are protected, which means that the government has committed itself to prevent and abort acts that violate human rights And to take

positive action to ensure that such injuries do not occur. According to international law specific organs, usually specialized agencies, committees or special reporters, monitor the human rights situation of a country. These bodies also examine reports and complaints about the violation of human rights, which are usually produced by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), but also by private individuals.

Review of Literature

The term, "non-governmental organization" or NGO, came into currency in 1945 because of the need for the UN to differentiate in its Charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies and those for international private organizations. At the UN, virtually all types of private bodies can be recognized as NGOs. They only have to be independent from government control, not seeking to challenge governments either as a political party or by a narrow focus on human rights, non-profit-making and noncriminal. The structures of NGOs vary considerably. They can be global hierarchies, with either a relatively strong

central authority or a more loose federal arrangement. Alternatively, they may be based in a single country and operate transnational. With the improvement in communications, more locally-based groups, referred to as grass-roots organizations or community based organizations, have become active at the national or even the global level. Increasingly this occurs through the formation of coalitions. There are international umbrellas NGOs, providing an institutional structure for different NGOs that do not share a common identity. There are also looser issue-based networks and ad hoc caucuses, lobbying at UN conferences. In environmental politics, this occurs in the unique form of the nine "Major Groups", listed in *Agenda 21*. At times NGOs are contrasted with social movements. Much as proponents of social movements may wish to see movements as being more progressive and more dynamic than NGOs, this is a false dichotomy. NGOs are components of social movements. Similarly, civil society is the broader concept to cover all social activity by individuals, groups and movements. It remains a matter of contention whether civil society also covers all economic activity. Usually, society is seen as being composed of three sectors: government, the private sector and civil society, excluding businesses. NGOs are so diverse and so controversial that it is not possible to support, or be opposed to, all NGOs. They may claim to be the voice of the people and to have greater legitimacy than governments, but this can only be a plausible claim under authoritarian governments. However, their role as participants in democratic debate does not depend upon any claim to representative legitimacy.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study to pertain the points of non violence protest against women's annoyance but the basic focus of the research is to describe the essential steps of the NGO's regarding the non violence protest. NGO had been taken several steps for this with the help of examples if some NGO's activities for the betterment of women are in India as well as around the world.

Hypothesis: NGO plays a vital role in the protesting against women Harassment.

Research Methodology

The research methodology of this research work is based on available resources and relevant study material. The secondary sources include books on valuable work of distinguished writers, jurists and

A. Harassment & Non Violence against women

Recent years have seen significant progress in the awareness of domestic violence and violence against women in general. The issue has become more visible in the media and has been addressed by an increasing number of NGOs and other organizations. However, despite these changes, violence against women remains to a large degree hidden and surrounded by taboos, underpinned by a strong tradition of shame and guilt in the case of disclosure, especially in small villages and towns. It incorporates powerful stereotypes about women and men's traditional roles in family life, and expectations about the appropriate or acceptable response to "inappropriate" behavior by women. Polish folklore still contains such folk sayings as "a husband who does not beat his wife, does not love her," and "if a husband does not beat his wife her liver rots." Women victims have imprinted in their minds all the stereotypes about women and men's social roles, as well as a number of myths, such as children needing the father, even if he is abusive. The Catholic Church perpetuates the conservative model of the family and traditional gender roles. Its influence in this field cannot be overestimated. The Church teaching on indissolubility of marriage combined with powerful social myths and stereotypes, in view of serious legal and institutional deficiencies in the family violence intervention system, make a decision to leave an abusive relationship very difficult.

The Polish criminal justice system is neither effective nor responsive to victim's needs. The police often treat domestic violence as a family matter and are reluctant to intervene. Although domestic violence is publicly prosecuted, police do not properly collect evidence; evidence is produced only through the woman's effort. The pre-trial proceedings often last two to three years before the case is actually tried in court. In the meantime, victims and perpetrators often live together under the same roof, causing victims to be vulnerable to further violence and other forms of pressure from the perpetrator. Police often refuse to intervene, explaining that it is either a private matter or that they cannot do anything to protect the victim unless they are provided with more evidence. If the victim has the luck to see the perpetrator convicted, the sentence usually does not alter the situation. Sentences are usually suspended (more than 90%) and the spouses

often still live together, even if they are divorced. Equally inadequate is the way the police and courts treat the cases of rape. As rapists usually receive appallingly low sentences, women are often unwilling to report the crime. Domestic violence and violence against women are still not adequately recognized as a grave social problem in this country. Since the new government entered into power in the fall of 1997, a visible backlash occurred on the issue. Violence against women and children is marginalized and hidden under the gender-neutral term of domestic violence and in general discussions about the high crime rate.

The government neglects the problem of violence against women and neglects to implement a comprehensive policy on its prevention. The Governmental Plenipotentiary for Family Affairs has not implemented the program against violence against women from the National Plan of Action. The other governmental program, *Against Violence-Equal Chances*, was revised so that it does not meet its primary goal to empower women-victims of violence.

Essential Actions of NGO against Annoyance

Many women's rights NGOs around the world are working to advocate for the protection of women from all forms of gender-based violence. Advocacy refers to a process, initiated by citizens or groups of citizens, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to bring about change. Two broad types of advocacy can be distinguished: individual advocacy and systems change advocacy. Individual advocacy focuses on changing the situation for an individual and protecting her rights. Systems advocacy refers to efforts to change policy and practice at the local, national or international level, to change the situation for groups of individuals who share similar problems. While systems advocacy works to improve the *system* to the benefit of individuals, it is a long-term approach to problem solving requiring sustained effort. All effective advocacy strategies will aim to affect change at various levels- including increasing community awareness of the issue, influencing law and policy making and improving the government response to violence against women. Because systems advocacy aims to affect long-term social change, it is generally considered a process that addresses strategic needs, in contrast to addressing the immediate and day-to-day needs of victims. At the same time, however, advocacy is also a tool

that is both influenced by practical needs and can be used in conjunction with practical activities. An effective strategy to address violence against women should incorporate both practical and strategic activities, and many NGO actions function on both of these levels simultaneously. . The manual *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* defines the main goals of women's human rights advocacy as the following:

- To increase the understanding of human rights to include abuses suffered predominantly by women;
- To expand the scope of State responsibility for protection of women's human rights in both the public and private sphere; and
- To improve the effectiveness of the human rights system at the national and international level to both enforce women's human rights and also to hold abusers accountable.
- An effective advocacy initiative or strategy requires organization, strategizing, information gathering, coalition building and action. The following are brief guidelines for advocates in developing an advocacy strategy, adapted in part from *Women's Human Rights Step by Step*, Women Law & Development International and Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Project (1997)

A. Identify a clear issue or problem that can be resolved through action

NGOs and advocates must begin with an identifiable issue around which they want to promote change. While advocates must understand the problem in all its complexity, an effective advocacy strategy should be focused on well-defined issue(s) that can be addressed and resolved. In identifying the issue to be addressed, advocates should ask the following questions:

1. What are the priorities?
2. What is the most important thing to accomplish?
3. What is the most likely to succeed?

In identifying an issue to be addressed, advocates should be informed by the experiences of their constituents- women who have been victims of violence. Women's real-life experiences will both determine the nature of the problem and the potential solution(s). Advocates should understand the term 'constituents' in its broadest sense, meaning women of both the majority and

minority cultures. Likewise, advocates must be aware that their constituents' experiences of violence are influenced by a number of variables, such as their race, ethnicity, socio- economic class or sexual orientation or whether they are disabled or have refugee status. An advocacy strategy should, therefore, incorporate the varying needs of the constituents.

B. Investigate or research the nature and extent of the problem

After deciding the issues to address, the next step is to analyze whether any research is needed. Advocates should analyze the strategies and work of other NGOs in their own and other countries and decide what additional information is necessary.

C. Define a clear position and desired outcome

In order to define a position and an outcome, advocates must be thoroughly familiar with the issue or concern, based on fulfilling the steps above. It is also important for advocates to keep in mind that the key targets of the advocacy initiatives will very likely not understand the issues as well as the advocates do themselves. This is especially true when the advocacy strategies address violence against women, which historically has received little attention from government bodies. It is important for advocates to be able to communicate the desired change clearly, articulate why the specific change is required and to respond to questions or proposals that are not in accord with the desired outcome.

In defining the desired outcome, advocates should also discuss potential areas of compromise and outline issues that are not negotiable. Advocates must be willing to abandon a strategy if the only way to achieve a part of the plan is to compromise on the non-negotiable issues.

D. Build alliances and coalitions for support

Next, advocates should identify allies in the community as well as potential opponents. It may also be useful for advocates to identify NGOs in other communities or countries that have undertaken a similar advocacy strategy. These NGOs can provide value information about their experiences and may also be instrumental in influencing the government response.

E. Develop a public education plan

For the reason mentioned above, that advocates often have much more information about a particular violence issue than either the general public policymakers or even possible allies, an NGO should develop an education plan that will provide needed information about the problem or concern, that will explain the desired outcome, that will address potential objections to change and that will identify potential sources of support.

F. Other points to consider

The human rights approach focuses on systems change and, therefore, targets the human rights/legal system. While maintaining a focus on improving the human rights system, it is also important to be aware of other actors and institutions that may play a key role in combating violence against women. Cultural and societal specifics may necessitate an approach that addresses a variety of actors outside of the legal system, such as healthcare providers, trade union representatives, religious leaders and community organizations, for example. A comprehensive advocacy strategy may, therefore, target a variety of actors and institutions.

Facts and Figures regarding the study

Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. Based on country data available, up to 70 per cent of women experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetime – the majority by husbands, intimate partners or someone they know.

Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. Perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation that we know today, violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development. It takes many forms and occurs in many places – domestic violence in the home, sexual abuse of girls in schools, sexual harassment at work, rape by husbands or strangers, in refugee camps or as a tactic of war.

Femicide – the murder of women because they are women

- In the United States, one-third of women murdered each year are killed by intimate partners.
- In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner.

- In India, 22 women were killed each day in dowry-related murders in 2007.
- In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day.

Trafficking: Women and girls comprise 80 percent of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked annually, with the majority (79 percent) trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Harmful practices: Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice. Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia (31.1 million) and Sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 million).

Sexual violence against women and girls: An estimated 150 million girls under 18 suffered some form of sexual violence in 2002 alone.

As many as 1 in 4 women experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy which increases the likelihood of having a miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion . Up to 53 percent of women physically abused by their intimate partners are being kicked or punched in the abdomen. In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds. In Ecuador, adolescent girls reporting sexual violence in school identified teachers as the perpetrator in 37 per cent of cases.

Rape as a method of warfare: Approximately 250,000 to 500,000 women and girls were raped in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, at least 200,000 cases of sexual violence, mostly involving women and girls, have been documented since 1996, though the actual numbers are considered to be much higher.

Cost of violence against women: Domestic violence alone cost approximately US\$1.16 billion in Canada and US\$5.8 billion in the United States.

In Australia, violence against women and children costs an estimated US\$11.38 billion per year.

Sexual Harassment: Between 40 and 50 per cent of women in European Union countries experience unwanted sexual advancements, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at their workplace. In the United States, 83 per cent of girls aged 12 to 16 experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.

Conclusion

For a country whose population of women is a more than the total population in many other countries, India falls below the level of their treatment. The number of sexual abuse cases of domestic violence and harassment against women clearly shows that women in India do not even enjoy the basic human rights. In view of this scenario, it becomes clear that women's aid organizations play an important role. Give your support to NGOs today for professional women. So far, the study has given us a positive outlook on supporting NGOs against violence against women and analyzing facts and figures that are linked to violence, as it is very important to provide support for NGOs. This suggests the hypothesis that NGOs play an important role in the protests against women who chose the study.

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