
FIGHT FOR HER RIGHTS: A CASE STUDY OF BAILANCHO EKVOTT NGO

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Abstract: Women In India Face Social Inequalities Ranging From Gender Specific Abortions, Dowry, Domestic Violence, Eve Teasing And So On. Most Women Are Not Aware Of Their Rights And Other Times Their Legal Rights Are Not Protected, As They Should Be. Women Empowerment Plays A Significant Role In Letting Them Know Their Rights. Bailancho Ekvott Is An Ngo That Works For Women Empowerment In Goa, Founded By Ms.Auda Viegas. This Research Paper Moves Around An Understanding About Bailancho Ekvott, Delving Into The Different Stages It Goes To Achieve Justice For Women. This Research Also Investigates The Challenges An Ngo Faces While Attaining Justice For Women Equality Taking The Case Of Bailancho Ekvott Ngo.

Keywords: Women Rights, Inequality, Domestic Violence, Women Empowerment.

Introduction: Empowerment Is A Multi-Dimensional Process, Which Should Enable Women Or Group Of Women To Realize Their Full Identity And Power In All Spheres Of Life (Surekharao And Rajamanamma, 1999). It Consists Of Greater Access To Knowledge And Resources, Greater Autonomy In Decision Making To Enable Them To Have Greater Ability To Plan Their Lives, Or To Have Greater Control Over The Circumstances That Influence Their Lives And Free From Shocks Imposed On Them By Custom, Belief And Practice. "Empowerment Comes From Women's Groups Who Seek To Empower Themselves Through Greater Self-Reliance. They Have Right To Determine Their Own Choices In Life. They Also Seek To Gain Control And Access To Resources". Empowerment Is Process, Which Helps People To Gain Control Of Their Lives Through Raising Awareness, Taking Action And Working In Order To Exercise Greater Control (Indiresan, 1999). Bailancho Ekvott Is A Symbol Of Womanhood, Which Was Born Out Of Own Experience As A Means For Providing Justice And Empowerment To Women. Founded In 1992, Their Objective Is To Provide A Space For Women To Voice Out Their Numerous Problems, To Feel A Sense Of Belonging And Learn Skills That Will Empower Them Self-Reliance. Bailancho Ekvott Is A Non-Funded, Non Government Organization Working For Women, Children And Environment Conservation Causes. According To Auda Viegas, Women Are Not Merely Abused Because Of Lack Of Education Or Poverty But Because Women Are Unable To Take Care Of Themselves Despite Education And Their Salary.

Review Of Literature: Research Conducted By (Farmer & Tiefenthaler, Farmer, & Sambira, 2005) Have Considered Income Or Class A Variable To Be Controlled For; Domestic Violence Service Providers Have Not Emphasized Long-Term Economic Viability, Just As Social Service Providers Have Not Made Domestic Violence A Central Concern.

Research Conducted By (Brown & Harris, 1978; Kessler, 1979; Mcleod & Kessler, 1990), The Co-

Occurrence Of Poverty And Ipv (Intimate Partner Violence) Interventions In The Criminal Judicial System That Women Experience Are Disadvantageous Not Only In Their Increased Risk For Experiencing Chronic And Acute Stressors And Subsequent Feelings Of Powerlessness But Also In The Resources They Have To Cope With These Conditions.

Objectives

1. To Study The Aims And Objectives Of Bailancho Ekvott Ngo In Empowering Women In Goa.
2. To Find Out The Challenges An Ngo Faces While Attaining Justice For Women In Goa.
3. To Assess The Impact Of The National Policy Of Empowerment For Women In India.

Research Methodology: Both Primary As Well As Secondary Data Have Been Used In The Research Analysis. Primary Data Was Obtained From An In Depth Interview Of Ms. Auda Viegas, The President Of Bailancho Ekvott. Secondary Data Has Been Obtained From Newsletters, Journals And Periodicals. The Research Also Involved Critical Evaluation Of The Legal Provisions And Judicial Systems.

Bailancho Ekvott: A Step Towards Women

Empowerment: The Aims And Objectives Of Bailancho Ekvott Are (1) To Consolidate Women Power And Demand A Just Place In Society. (2) To Eradicate The Mindset That Has Made Women Second- Class Citizens. (3) To Empower Women To Demand Economic, Social Recognition For Their Labors At Home And Work Place. (4) To Interact With Like-Minded Public Organizations, Ngos And Do Whatever Possible To Avoid Fragmentation Of The Objectives That Assist Women. (5) To Weed Out Various Social Practices That Have Resulted In Dehumanizing Women. (5) To Fight For The Rights Of The Girl Child. (6) To Protect The Environment And Make It Safe.

Initially Bailancho Ekvott Provided A Space For Women To Share Their Feelings. The Ngo Was Founded On The 5th October 1992 With Only Five

Members. The Ngo Helped Women To Collect Their Family Share, As It Was Their Right. Later Bailancho Ekvott Evolved From Not Only Providing A Space For Women To Share Their Burden But Also To Seek Grievance Redressal. The Ngo Assists Women To Write A Police Complaint And Provide Other Legal Aid, Sort Out Family Matters, Assist Them In Getting Protection From Domestic Violence And So On. Bailancho Ekvott Provides Helps To The Women Who Are Abused, Who Are Sexual Exploited (Women In Sex Trade), Raped Victims.

The Ngo Also Organizes Awareness Programs In Schools, Colleges, Village Panchayats About The Rights Of Women, Children And The Environment. However, The Turn Out For These Awareness Programs Is Quite Low. Bailancho Ekvott Ngo Also Provides Rehabilitation, Short Stay Home And Free Legal Aid. Telephonic And Other Services Such As Counseling Are Also Provided.. Women Are Also Taught Skills Such As Jewelry Making, Candle Making And So On. These Handicrafts, Articles Are Exhibited And Put Up For Sale. The Revenue Earned For The Sale Is Given To The Woman For Her Work. A Small Amount Is Funded For The Ngo As Well. The Ngo Is Non-Funded But Is Self-Financed Which Gives It Self-Independence.

The Ngo Also Provides Rehabilitation And Education For Street Children Who Are Victims Of Their Circumstances. In Most Cases, Children Who Have Gone Missing Fall Prey To Gangs And Later Engage In Anti-Social Activities. The Ngo Helps These Children In Providing Education And Rehabilitating Them.

Challenges Bailancho Ekvott Faces: Helping Distressed Women Is In Turn A Challenge For The Ngo As By Doing So The Husband Of The Victim Eventually Becomes An Enemy Of The Ngo. The First Approach Of Bailancho Ekvott Is Always To Sought Out The Problem In The Marriage Among The Family Members. If This Does Not Work, A Legal Action Is The Next Choice. However, The Society Portrays Bialancho Ekvott In A Different Way. They Create Wrong Views About The Ngo, Thus Creating A Negative Image About The Ngo. The Ngo Has Received Many Threats As Well As Stoning.

The System Is Another Challenge She Believes. The Police Being A Part Of The Society And Culture Have Ears That Are Open, Palms That Are Open. Our System Is Too Corrupt. Another Challenge Is The Willingness Of Women To Withstand Their Trial In The Court. In The Case Of Rape, Our System Needs To Have A New Outlook In Achieving Justice. A Woman Raped In Canacona Will Face Even More Difficulties In Achieving Justice. The Inadequate Handling Of The Raped Victim By The Police Makes It Even More Difficult For The Raped Victim. Transport Is Also Another Problem. The Raped

Woman From Canacona Will Have To Travel All The Way To Gmc At Bambolim Making It Even More Difficult For Her. Therefore, Speedy Justice Is Not Possible In Such A Case.

Bailancho Ekvott Has Requested The Government And The Concerned Authorities To Have The Checkup At Hospicio Hospital Margao. The Supreme Court Made It Compulsory For Ngos To Be Present While Recording A Statement. The Lawyers Criticize The Ngos As "Stalk People" Of The Police. The Process Of Achieving Justice Is Slow And Not Very Effective. Does Education Help A Woman To Be Empowered? Ms.Auda Viegas Criticize The Indian Education System For Not Being Practical. Women Are Now Aware Of Their Rights As Compared To The Earlier Days. However, Women Misuse Some Of The Laws Itself.

The Impact Of The National Policy Of Empowerment For Women: The Government Of India Launched A Nation Policy For Empowerment Of Women In 2001 To Bring About The Advancement, Development And Empowerment Of Women (IRSSH, 2012). The Laws Made For This Purpose Are Helpful To A Certain Extent. They Are Not Implemented Very Strongly If They Were Then The There Would Have An Exceptional Improvement In The Status Of Women. It Has Been 17 Years Since This Policy Was Made But It Has Yet To Be Strictly Implemented, To Successfully Empower Indian Women. So Far, There Is Only Superficial Empowerment Of Women (The Hindu, 2014).

No Doubt, There Are Remarkable Changes In The Position Of Women In Free India, There Is Still A Great Divergence Between The Constitutional Position And Stark Reality Of Deprivation And Degradation. There Still Exists A Wide Gulf Between The Goals Enunciated In The Constitution, Legislations, Policies, Plans, Programmes And Related Mechanisms On The One Hand And The Situational Reality On The Status Of Women In India, On The Other. Although, Gender Discrimination Has Been Banned By The Constitution And Women Have Been Guaranteed Political Equality With Men, Yet There Is A Difference Between The Constitutional Rights And The Rights Enjoyed In Reality By Women. Still We Lag Behind. We Need To Reframe Our Policies For The Development And Empowerment Of Women.

Conclusion: Our Indian Law System Is Not Very Effective And Speedy Which In Turn Hinders Achieving Equality And Justice For Women. The Real Problem Lies In The Patriarchal And Male-Dominated System Of Our Society That Considers Women As Subordinate To Men And Creates Different Types Of Methods To Subjugate Them. The Need Of Us Is To Educate And Sensitize Male Members Of The Society Regarding Women Issues,

Which Would Eventually Change The Mindset Of Men.

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