

MODULE 5

State Initiatives to Promote Gender Equality

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Law Enforcing Agencies:

- ♣ All Women's Police Stations
- ♣ Legal Aid– Cells
- ♣ Women’s cell
- ♣ Family Courts
- ♣ Child line
- ♣ Jagrata Samithi
- ♣ Equal opportunity cell
- ♣ Service Providers and Help lines for Women and Children.

♣ All -Women's Police Stations

The stations are often staffed by specially trained female personnel. address violence against women and prevent gender-based violence

Objective

Access to justice, empower women to liberate themselves from the subjection of domestic violence and prevent gender violence.

A police station exclusively to attend to the grievances of women aims to curtail violence against women, address all types of cases in addition to women’s safety. Kozhikode City Vanitha Police Station is the first Women Police station in Asia. (GO (RT) 1669/73 Home dtd.23/10/1973). Inaugurated by the Prime Minister of



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India Smt. Indira Gandhi on October 27, 1973. There are 10 women police stations in the state.

The use of specialized cells to deal with crimes of a sensitive nature such as committed against women has been recommended since the National Police Commission of 1977 (Natarajan, 2016). These WPS are stations that typically (or tentatively) employ only female officers and, only handle cases related to violence committed against women. For this reason, officers placed at WPS receive specialized training in dealing with victims and in processing these types of crimes. The purpose of these stations is to create a male-free environment where women can report and be cooperative in the investigation. To our knowledge, these stations do not have independent authority so that filing of cases and arrests should be approved by the Head Constable of a general station.

The first WPS opened in Kerala in 1973. Since then, this form of policing spread across the country and in 2013 almost all states had at least one WPS.Kozhikode City Vanitha Police Station is the first Women Police station in Asia. (GO (RT) 1669/73 Home dtd.23/10/1973).Inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi on October 27, 1973.There are 10 women police stations in the state..... (Nov 7, 2019.)Tamil Nadu is the state with the highest density of stations

Opening all-woman police stations increased crime reportage by a significant 22% in the world's most dangerous country for women, according to a June 2018 study. This is because women are more comfortable approaching these stations.



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♣ Legal Aid Cell

- cell seeks to ensure dissemination of justice equally

An act to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal service to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizens by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity.

Legal aid a constitutional right - Articles 21 and 39-A of the Constitution are as under:- “21. Protection of life and personal liberty – No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Authorities, governmental or non-governmental also provide the assistance, which is required by these wronged ones. These authorities provide HELP, in the legal field. This HELP is turned as LEGAL AID. These authorities and different other organizations hold such LEGAL AID CLINICS through the nation with the motto to help the VICTIMS.

Legal aid is required in many forms and at various stages, for obtaining guidance, for resolving disputes in Courts, tribunals or other authorities. It has manifold facets. The explosion in population, the vast changes brought about by scientific, technological and other developments, and the all round enlarged field of human activity reflected in modern society, and the consequent increase in litigation in Courts and other forums demand that the service of competent persons with expertise in law is required in many stages and at different forums or levels and should be made available.



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Free legal aid undoubtedly is beneficial to poor people and has been instituted with the noble purpose. Yet it has become a good ground for breeding corruption. Free legal aid for a fee is common practice.

♣ The Women Cell

Cell is constituted to help maintain a harmonious atmosphere at the Institute, to enable women to pursue their work with dignity and reassurance. To address gender equality issues. This Cell functions as the "Complaints Committee"

Women cell acts as a centre to offer succour to women in distress. Counselling is provided to victims of abuse. It also monitors investigation of cases where women are victims. Abandoned and destitute women are taken to protective custody and handed over to homes meant for them. There is a 24 hours helpline in this wing. The Women Cell comprises Women Police Officers and is tasked to uphold the right and dignity of Women. Women cell conducts petition enquiry and its disposal which deals with family matters, gives legal aid and counseling and also conducts awareness classes. It also assists the District Police Chief in reviewing the progress of investigation of case in which women are victim

♣ Family Court

- A court to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. an approach ensuring maximum welfare of society and dignity of women. An approach ensuring maximum welfare of society and dignity of women
- The Central Government enacted the Family Courts Act in 1984 with an intention to encourage prompt settlement of disputes dealing with family affairs and matrimonial issue.

♣ Vigilance Committee

Initiative of the Kerala Women Commission. A quasi-judicial mechanism at the Panchayat level to protect the rights of women and children. Also known as



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Jagratha Samithi. These committees formed at the level of local government in Kerala and were constituted on the initiative of the Kerala Women Commission. They are intended to help in reducing the distance between women in the villages and the services provided by various government agencies. It acts as a quasi-judicial mechanism at the Panchayat level to protect the rights of women and children

♣ Equal Opportunities Cell

Works for affirmative action for the deprived sections such as persons from SC, ST, OBC (Non- creamy layer) categories, persons from religious & language minorities, differently abled persons and Women. UGC - establish Equal Opportunity Centres in colleges. Functions:

- i. To ensure equity and equal opportunity to the community at large in the college and bring about social inclusion.
- ii. To enhance the diversity among the students, teaching and non-teaching staff population and at the same time eliminate the perception of discrimination.
- iii. To create a socially congenial atmosphere for academic interaction and for the growth of healthy interpersonal relationships among the students coming from various social backgrounds.
- iv. To make efforts to sensitize the academic community regarding the problems associated with social exclusion as well as aspirations of the marginalized communities.

♣ Helplines for Women and Children.

Kerala government - women's helpline number 181

Vanitha Helpline: 1091

Police Control Room (For All Districts) 100

Kerala government launched a WhatsApp number to report cases of domestic violence 9400080292--, which will be available 24 hours.



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Childline number 1098

The transport department - women helpline number 1090

♣ Women Services Providers

Pink-police-patrol - enhancing the safety for women and children in public places , will function from 8 am to 8 pm.

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