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Magnificat



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EDITORIAL

Yet another year has passed, and the Catholic Church will celebrate Girl Child Day on 8th of September, the Birthday of Mother Mary. We have the biggest example of how women are to be seen, our very own Blessed Virgin Mary. She was not just confined to home. She was seen authoritarian enough, to having asked Jesus for a favour even when it was not the time, at the wedding feast at Cana. She is the greatest example of courage and hope. She walked with Jesus through his entire passion because she was perceived strong enough to bear the pain for the greater salvation. Even after His death, she was actively present with the disciples, preparing them for the way forward. All of this was possible because of the way she was brought up by her parents.

Our girls need to be brought up to achieve what is destined for them and this requires of us as a family or society, to create an environment

for our girls to grow without the fear of any of the evils that are present in today's world and causing a hindrance for their growth specially the attitude of merely an 'object for satisfaction'. When we are in a hurry to teach our daughters and sisters what they shouldn't be doing, we should rather focus their attention to the biggest role model ever - Mother Mary, and teach them to imbibe her values in every way and we can be rest assured.

What girls need is not reservations or special quota, they just need to be left to live a life without any constraints and they have the ability to reach where they are destined to be. That is when they are empowered.

Girl Child Day Greetings to you all!



“Girls are the Spirit of Our Nation, Save Them and Stop their ‘Exploitation’”

Girl Child Day Greetings to all mothers, daughters, sisters and friends as the Catholic Church in India celebrates it on September 8th!



MESSAGE

"The history of the civilization could actually be written in terms of the level of its women", H.G. Fulton J. Sheen. These words from the great prelate of the Church, clearly indicates the gravity of the respect and dignity which a women deserves in the human society.

As we near yet another International Girl Child day, we, especially in our society, have to work together to create an environment which is conducive for every girl child to attain her true potential in her life. We have to make sure that conflicts do not put down the girl child from growing to her full potential. If at all any conflicts happen we must accompany the girl child that no scars of the negative experience affect her progress and integral growth. This cannot be achieved with mere external support or assistance, but by elevating the girl child from within to reach her highest possible horizons. This year's theme calls us for a change in our attitude towards girl child.

May God bless us all!

✦ **Jacob Mar Barnabas**
Chairperson, CBCI Council for Women

We have to make sure that conflicts do not put down the girl child from growing to her full potential.

WHO IS A GIRL AND WHAT IS A GIRL?

Every year on 8th September the CBCI sends us Prayer and Reflection with a theme to celebrate 'Girl Child Day' my question is, Are we as Catholics truly and sincerely keeping up this special day for the Girl Children in our Diocese and in each Parish. Since the celebration is coincided with the birthday of our Dearest Mother Mary everybody will be preparing for nine days Novena in honour of Mother Mary with great devotion to her.

Well, that's fine, but at the same time are we preparing the girl children also to prepare for the celebration. I feel it is the duty of every mother in the family to imbibe and inculcate in the mind of each and every girl child how Mother Mary was brought up by her mother St Anne, who made a sanctuary for her, read the scriptures and prepared Mary in Holiness to say 'Yes' to the will of God and God chose Mary as the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A girl child is God's unique creation and the greatest gift to the world. She is a Mother, Daughter, Sister, Wife- a power house of strength and solace; when a girl child is born, you and I should shout with joy and say, "It's a girl! Let's rejoice and celebrate.

The maker will bless you abundantly for cherishing His choicest work of art and above all, you will participate in God's magnanimous plan of creation by supporting and strengthening the girl who later, mother's the created.

According to the "International Girl Child Day" it is celebrated worldwide on 11th October. Each year's Day of Girls has a theme; "ending child marriage", "innovating for girl's education", "Empowering Adolescent Girl's: Ending the cycle of violence", "The power of Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030, "Girl's Progress = Goals Progress: what counts for Girls" etc. Today, are the above mentioned themes truly and sincerely implemented and working?

Various events to promote the day of girls are planned in several countries. It is true that the world is growing and is getting more developed with each passing moment, but there is still vulnerability.

Girls are the spirit of the world; we must and should save them and stop their exploitation. She is an important part of the society and one should value their life. It was very sad to

see a video that showed a 6 years old child married to a 35 years old man. Don't we feel ashamed? At this juncture the government should act seriously on these atrocities taking place in our country time and again. "It is time that the world hears their voice and stop violence against girls, for a better world". Today, we are proud to say that empowering a woman, we empower a girl child. By educating a girl child, we make it possible for her to grow up to become an empowered woman. Think a world without us.

What is a Girl:
G - give up her
I - innocence
R - real
L - life



"Today's Girl children are Tomorrow's Hope of the world"! ✦



Ms. Emily Raj
Diocesan Secretary, Mysore

GLOBAL POLL SAYS INDIA MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRY FOR WOMEN

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, SYRIA COMES LATER IN LIST



India has been ranked as the most dangerous country out of the world's 10 worst countries for women, behind Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia, according to a poll conducted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The same poll conducted in 2011 had placed India at the fourth place. The findings are based on perceptions of experts on women's issues. India was followed by Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen,

Nigeria and U.S.A — in that order. "The world's second most populous nation, with 1.3 billion people, ranked as the most dangerous on three of the topic questions — the risk of sexual violence and harassment against women, the danger women face from cultural, tribal and traditional practices, and the country where women are most in danger of human trafficking including forced labour, sex slavery and domestic servitude," according to the Foundation ✦
(The Hindu.com)



YOU WILL REAP WHAT YOU SOW

After his father's death, the son decided to leave his mother at an old age home and visited her on and off. Once he received a call from old age home, your mom is very serious, please come and visit her. So the son went and saw that his mom was very critical and on her dying bed. He asked : Mom what can I do for you. Mom replied: "Please install fans in the old age home, as there are none. Also put a fridge for betterment of food because many times I slept without food". The son was surprised and asked: Mom, while you were here you never complained, but now you have few hours left and you are telling me all this, why? Mom replied: "it's OK dear, I managed with the heat, hunger & pain, but when your children will send you here, I am afraid you will not be able to manage! ✦



नारी हूँ मैं, नर को जन्म दिया मैंने, सृष्टि के दर्द की, आधी भागीदारी निभाती हूँ मैं, पीड़ित हूँ मैं भारी, मगर हारी नहीं हूँ, संघर्ष जारी है मेरा, मुल्य से भी हारी नहीं हूँ मैं, नई नस्ल नारी जाति की, फिर निकल उठेगी, मंज़िल पाने तक, फिर से यह संघर्ष जारी रखेगी, नारी हूँ मैं, सृष्टि के दर्द की, आधी भागीदारी निभाती हूँ मैं।

दूसरी आधी सृष्टि के हाथों, पीड़ित यह नारी, शहीद हुई वह नहीं सी बच्ची, बुझ गया वह चिराग तो क्या —2 मोन भी उसका, प्रेरक बना इस जंग में, नारी हूँ मैं, सृष्टि के दर्द की, आधी भागीदारी निभाती हूँ मैं।

नारी हूँ मैं, वक्त की परवाह नहीं, दर्द का एहसास नहीं, दायित्व निभाती हूँ मैं, संघर्षों की दौड़ जारी है मेरी, नारी हूँ, नारी हूँ मैं, सृष्टि के दर्द की, आधी भागीदारी निभाती हूँ मैं।

कुरबान हुई हज़ारों बेमिसाल कलियाँ, जो उठ खड़ी हुई, इस जंग की राह पर, मिट्टी में गाड़ दिया गया तो क्या—2 वह मिट्टी भी, नारा लगाएगी उसी के लिए, नारी हूँ मैं, सृष्टि के दर्द की, आधी भागीदारी निभाती हूँ मैं।

मंज़िल हमारी आधी, आधी भागीदारी,—2 न बुझेंगे, न मिटेगे, ये जोश हमारे, सच्चाई की शक्ति हमारी, न्याय की युक्ति हमारी, हम हैं नारी जाति, आबादी का आधा हिस्सा, सृष्टि के दर्द की आधी भागीदारी, नारी हूँ मैं, सृष्टि के दर्द की, आधी भागीदारी निभाती हूँ मैं।



Ms. Molly Chieran
Delhi



सऊदी अरब में अब १.७ करोड़ महिलाएं भी चला सकेंगी गाड़ी, ६० साल से था महिलाओं की ड्राइविंग पर प्रतिबंध

इस बदलाव की घोषणा पिछले साल सितंबर में हुई थी। सऊदी अरब दुनिया का अकेला ऐसा देश था जहां महिलाओं की ड्राइविंग पर रोक थी।

आखिरकार करीब 60 साल बाद सऊदी अरब में महिलाओं को वाहन चलाने की अनुमति मिल गई है। इस बदलाव की घोषणा पिछले साल सितंबर में हुई थी। इसके बाद सऊदी अरब सरकार ने इस महीने की शुरुआत में महिलाओं के लिए पहली बार लाइसेंस जारी किया था। सरकार के इस फैसले से वो डेढ़ करोड़ महिलाएं खुश हैं जिन्हें अब गाड़ी चलाने के लिए किसी और इजाजत की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी।

अब हमें ड्राइवर की जरूरत नहीं

— बता दें कि सऊदी अरब दुनिया का अकेला ऐसा देश था जहां महिलाओं को वाहन चलाने पर पाबंदी थी।

— प्रतिबंध के हटने पर खुशी जाहिर करते हुए फार्मसी की एक छात्रा हतून बिन दाखिल ने कहा— बाहर जाने के लिए ड्राइवर का इंतजार करने के दिन अब खत्म हो गए। अब हमें किसी पुरुष की जरूरत नहीं है।

पिछले साल मिली थी इजाजत

— पिछले साल सितंबर में क्राउन प्रिंस मोहम्मद बिन सलमान के आदेश के बाद सऊदी शासन ने इसका ऐलान किया था। सऊदी अरब दुनिया का आखिरी देश था, जहां अब तक महिलाओं की ड्राइविंग पर रोक थी।

— प्रिंस सलमान के विजन 2030 के मद्देनजर देश में महिलाओं को कई क्षेत्रों में अधिकार दिए जा रहे हैं। ड्राइविंग का अधिकार भी उसी का हिस्सा है। हाल ही में यहां महिलाओं को बिजनेस शुरू करने का अधिकार दिया गया है। उनके स्टेडियम में जाने पर लगा प्रतिबंध हटा लिया गया है।

(DainikBhaskar.com)

"I raise up my voice-not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard...we cannot succeed when half of us are held back."

- Malala Yousafzai

Five Dedicated Women Cops who have Set the Bar High

They wake up before dawn, don their khaki uniform and are out in the world putting wrong-doers behind bars. They are revered by their male counterparts for their dauntlessness. They return home with pride and awareness of the fact that they are one more day closer to their mission of seeing their country free from crime and violence. India has witnessed a steady increase in the number of women battling patriarchal mindsets and joining the police force. While most of them are exemplary at what they do, these five gutsy women have raised the benchmark of dedication towards work in the police forces.



ASLAM KHAN

While police officers are expected to fulfill their primary role of maintaining peace and order in the city and averting crimes, there are some who do not shy away from going an extra mile to ameliorate the lives of their fellow citizens. One such police officer who went beyond her call of duty to prevent a family from crippling under financial crisis is IPS Aslam Khan, DCP of North-West Delhi. The family lost their only earning member in an accident. She decided to step in and deposited half of her monthly salary in the account of the family of the deceased. She also resolved to bear all the educational expenses of the family's children. Her altruistic act definitely has created a ripple effect as the deceased's daughter aspires to become a police officer like her. Kudos to her for reviving the country's faith in humanity.



SWATI LAKRA

Do you envision a country where women venture out of their homes without a shred of fear in their minds? Then, Swati Lakra should be your beacon of hope. This Hyderabad IPS officer has left no stone unturned to bring the burning issue of women's safety in the limelight. As the head of Hyderabad's SHE teams, she has been amassing appreciation for the stellar work she has been doing to make Hyderabad a safe and secure city for its women. It was under her leadership that the Hyderabad police launched "Bharosa", a one-stop support centre for women and children who are victims of sexual abuse in 2016. Last year, she added a new child-friendly court to the centre for speedy disposal of cases under POCSO. Swati ardently believes in the leadership qualities women possess and aspires to see more women join the police. She has been urging the government to implement 33.3% reservation for women across all ranks of the police force. We surely need more Dabangg police officers like her in our country.



REMA RAJESHWARI

Rema Rajeshwari, IPS
Sensitivity training under the "Gender

Peace Program", restoring an abandoned primary school, rehabilitating "Joginis" and saving child brides, promoting safe driving! Confused? No, this is not the manifesto of a political party contesting elections. These are just a few items under the long list of successful initiatives that Munnar's first Female IPS officer Rema Rajeshwari has undertaken in her decade-long police career. At present, she is posted as the Superintendent of Police in the Jogulamba Godwal District of Telangana. She is a regular contributor to some leading publications where she writes about the need to rope in more women in the security forces.

Recently in news for her crusade against fake news, she has been trying hard to prevent the spread of bogus WhatsApp messages in her district that warn of child kidnappers and murderers. Her efforts have bore good results as no fake news related deaths have been reported in Telanagana for the past few months.



VAIJAYANTI MANDHAWDHARE

Nagpur's police inspector Vaijayanti Mandhawdhare scripted history by becoming the first woman in the city to lead the bomb squad. She completed her two weeks of training at Lune in a range of aspects of handling the task of the specialised unit. Her work would involve attending to regular bomb detection calls, conducting anti-sabotage tests at vital and iconic installations and also at sensitive venues like shrines and crowded places.





D ROOPA MOUDGIL

“When we joined the National Police

Academy for IPS training, we were told that we are officers first and then women,” Roopa Moudgil, told SheThePeople.Tv.

The first lady IPS officer of Karnataka is fearless and super dedicated to her profession. She is renowned for taking on cases involving politicians and senior IPS officers. This led to her getting transferred over 40 times in 17 years of service but that doesn't seem to bother her much.

She was recently in news with her report on the alleged preferential treatment to sidelined AIADMK leader Sasikala in jail. This Women's Day, she even released a music video to inspire women. Besides singing, she

also has learned Bharatanatyam and classical music.

With such passionate police officers working for our country, we can definitely pin our hopes on seeing a better India ❖



WHEN SHE EARNS MORE: As Roles Shift, Old Ideas on Who Pays the Bills Persist –Part I



Tara Siegel Bernard

Gender dynamics have become much more egalitarian over the past half-century, but certain attitudes may endure when it comes to men, women and money. For most of the 12 years of Nick and Natalie Foy's marriage, Ms. Foy has been the primary breadwinner.

She started a career in banking right out of college. Mr. Foy took a more circuitous path, working as a youth pastor before deciding to get what he called a “real job.”

During the transition, he and his wife had

intense conversations about whether he was trying hard enough to find work. “That non-traditional role added pressure that neither of us foresaw,” said Mr. Foy, 36, who now runs a financial planning practice in Charlotte, N.C.

Over the past half-century, gender roles in the United States have become much more egalitarian. Women now outnumber men in college and collect more degrees. A rising share of women earns more than their husbands, and men are taking on more responsibility at home.

“He absolutely didn't think I was going to quit grad school,” she added. “He's totally a feminist, this feeling just came out of some deep place that one should be able to support a wife if one is going to be a husband.”

What may come as a surprise — especially to those under 30 — is that despite these shifts, certain expectations persist when it comes to where men fit into the household dynamic.

“We have held on to that idea that men are supposed to provide, but have loosened up on the idea that women have to be homemakers,” said Alexandra Killewald, a Harvard sociology professor. Today, nearly a third of women who are married to or living with a man contribute at least half of the couple's total earnings, according to a Pew Research Center survey last year. By comparison, in 1980, just 13 percent of married women earned more than, or roughly the same as, their husbands.

But seven in 10 adults also told Pew that for a man to be a good husband or partner, it was “very important” that he be able to support his family. Only about three in 10 said the same about women.



The academic literature is mixed on how disparities in earnings affect marital relationships. A 2015 University of Chicago study found that opposite-sex couples in which women were the top earners reported greater relationship strife and were more likely to split up. The study also suggested that women who earned more did more housework in order to make their husbands feel better about the situation.

More serious marital troubles may be tied to whether a husband simply has a job at all: Professor Killewald's research, from 2016, found that when married heterosexual men weren't employed full time, their risk of divorce was greater. But as long as they had full-time jobs, men who earned less weren't at higher risk of divorce.

Professor Killewald knows from her own experience, however, that more traditional ideas can erupt when you least expect them to.

She and her boyfriend were in graduate school when they started to talk about getting married. At one point, her boyfriend, who later earned a Ph.D. in physics, blurted out: “But I can't support you.”

Professor Killewald was completely perplexed. “What exactly do you think is going to happen when we get married?” she recalled saying.

“He absolutely didn't think I was going to quit grad school,” she added. “He's totally a feminist, this feeling just came out of some deep place that one should be able to support a wife if one is going to be a husband.”

They got married anyway, and she still

earns more than him.

Attitudes may be changing, if slowly. Another study, from 2016, detected a generational shift: Couples who married in the 1990s or later were at no greater risk of splitting up when a woman outearned her husband, compared with couples married in the 1960s and 1970s, when a higher-earning wife was more likely to lead to divorce.

Financial planners and therapists who specialize in financial issues have found that certain feelings and patterns recur among heterosexual couples with female breadwinners, and that there are several ways to address them. (Most of the strategies apply to anyone with a partner, including same-sex couples or men who earn more than their wives.) ❖

Reading Aloud to Young Children Has Benefits for Behaviour and Attention

It's a truism in child development that the very young learn through relationships and back-and-forth interactions, including the interactions that occur when parents read to their children. A new study provides evidence of just how sustained an impact reading and playing with young children can have, shaping their social and emotional development in ways that go far beyond helping them learn language and early literacy skills. The parent-child-book moment even has the potential to help curb problem behaviors like aggression, hyperactivity and difficulty with attention, a new study has found.

The researchers, many of whom are my friends and colleagues, showed that an intervention, based in pediatric primary care, to promote parents reading aloud and playing with their young children could have a sustained impact on children's behavior. Participating families received books and toys

when they visited the pediatric clinic. They met briefly with a parenting coach working with the program to talk about their child's development, what the parents had noticed, and what they might expect developmentally,

and then they were videotaped playing and reading with their child for about five minutes (or a little longer in the part of the study which continued into the preschool years). Immediately after, they watched the



The parent-child-book moment even has the potential to help curb problem behaviors like aggression, hyperactivity and difficulty with attention, a new study has found.

videotape with the study interventionist, who helped point out the child's responses.

"They get to see themselves on videotape and it can be very eye-opening how their child reacts to them when they do different things," said Adriana Weisleder, one of the authors of the study. "We try to highlight the positive things in that interaction — maybe they feel a little silly, and then we show them on the tape how much their kid loves it when

stronger positive impacts on the children's behavior.

"The reduction in hyperactivity is a reduction in meeting clinical levels of hyperactivity," Dr. Mendelsohn said. "We may be helping some children so they don't need to have certain kinds of evaluations." Children who grow up in poverty are at much

characters, to think about the feelings of those characters," he said. "They learn to use words to describe feelings that are otherwise difficult and this enables them to better control their behavior when they have challenging feelings like anger or sadness."

"The key take-home message to me is that when parents read and play with their

"We try to highlight the positive things in that interaction — maybe they feel a little silly, and then we show them on the tape how much their kid loves it when they do these things, how fun it is — it can be very motivating."

they do these things, how fun it is — it can be very motivating."

"Positive parenting activities make the difference for children," said Dr. Benard Dreyer, a professor of pediatrics. He noted that the critical period for child development starts at birth, which is also a time when there are many pediatric visits. "This is a great time for us to reach parents and help them improve their parenting skills, which is what they want to do."

The Video Interaction Project started as an infant-toddler program, working with low-income urban families in New York during clinic visits from birth to 3 years of age. Previously published data from a randomized controlled trial funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development showed that the 3-year-olds who had received the intervention had improved behavior — that is, they were significantly less likely to be aggressive or hyperactive than the 3-year-olds in the control group. This new study looked at those children a year and a half later — much closer to school entry — and found that the effects on behavior persisted. The children whose families had participated in the intervention when they were younger were still less likely to manifest those behavior problems — aggression, hyperactivity, difficulty with attention — that can so often make it hard for children to do well and learn and prosper when they get to school.

Some children were enrolled in a second stage of the project, and the books and toys and videotaping continued as they visited the clinic from age 3 to 5; they showed additional "dose-response" effects; more exposure to the "positive parenting" promotion meant

higher risk of behavior problems in school, so reducing the risk of those attention and behavior problems is one important strategy for reducing educational disparities — as is improving children's language skills, another source of school problems for poor children.

But all parents should appreciate the ways that reading and playing can shape cognitive as well as social and emotional development, and the power of parental attention to help children flourish. Dr. Weisleder said that in reading and playing, children can encounter situations a little more challenging than what they usually come across in everyday life, and adults can help them think about how to manage those situations.

"Maybe engaging in more reading and play both directly reduces kids' behavior problems because they're happier and also makes parents enjoy their child more and view that relationship more positively," she said.

Reading aloud and playing imaginative games may offer special social and emotional opportunities, Dr. Mendelsohn said. "We think when parents read with their children more, when they play with their children more, the children have an opportunity to think about

children when their children are very young — we're talking about birth to 3 year olds — it has really large impacts on their children's behavior," Dr. Mendelsohn said. And this is not just about families at risk. "All families need to know when they read, when they play with their children, they're helping them learn to control their own behavior," he said, so that they will come to school able to manage the business of paying attention and learning ❖

Perri Klass,
is a pediatrician who writes about children and families, about medicine, about food and travel, and about knitting. She lives in New York City, where she is Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics at New York University




PORTER NO. 15: Life of a woman Coolie at Jaipur Railway Station

Authorities initially told her there were no women porters and hence it would be difficult for her. But she persisted and was eventually given the badge number.

Jaipur: Manju Devi stands tall in her fraternity, being the first woman porter of the North-West Railways, in a profession that is considered a male bastion. She has been the sole breadwinner for her three teenage children. She lost her husband 10 years ago. After overcoming family disputes and psychological hurdles and encouraged by her mother Mohini, Devi acquired her deceased husband Mahadev's porter license no. 15 and took to the demanding task of hauling luggage of passengers at the Jaipur Railway Station.

Authorities initially told her there were no women porters and hence it would be difficult for her. But she persisted and eventually given the badge number, she had said.

It took her a while to get a grasp of the realities of her job and the challenge included designing her own uniform. Now, clad in a red kurta and white salwar,

she sets out every day to work in multiple shifts, to make ends meet for her family. Manju was among 112 women who were felicitated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development; besides former beauty queens — Aishwarya Rai and Nicole Faria — mountaineer Bachendri Pal, Anshu

Jamsenpa, missile woman Tessy Thomas and private detective Rajani Pandit. "I weighed 30 kgs and the passengers' luggage was also 30 kgs but it was nowhere to the burden of feeding three children," Devi narrates in jest ❖

(The Indian Express)



बालिका सशक्तिकरण



सशक्तिकरण क्या है? — किसी कारणवश समुदायों या समाज में पिछड़ चुके लोगों (चाहे गरीबी के कारण हों या अशिक्षा के कारण, चाहे जातीयता के कारण हो या लिंग भेद के कारण) को समाज की मुख्य धारा के साथ जोड़ना ही सशक्तिकरण है।

उद्देश्य — समुदायों से पिछड़ चुके लोगों को अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाने का कोई मौका नहीं मिल पाता है। अतः विकास कार्य में उनका कोई योगदान नहीं होता। इस कारण उन्हें सशक्त करके आगे लाना, उन्हें उनके अधिकारों से परिचित कराना, समान हक दिलाने का प्रयास करना ही सशक्तिकरण का उद्देश्य है।

बालिका सशक्तिकरण—काष! गर्भस्थ शिशु बोल सकता और माता-पिता उसकी आवाज़ सुन पाते। गर्भ में ही शिशु अपनी प्रतिभा दिखा पाता और माता पिता को उसका एहसास हो पाता तो शायद बालिका भ्रूण हत्या न होती।

सरकार के कथनानुसार, गाँव के लोगों तक शिक्षा पहुँच चुकी है,

जिस कारण बालिका शिक्षा और महिला सशक्तिकरण में लोगों की जागरूकता बढ़ रही है। मगर आज की स्थिति बयां करती है कि महिलाओं की स्थिति बेहतर नहीं है। उन्हें या तो गर्भ में ही मार दिया जाता है, या फिर बेटे के जन्म लेते ही, जीने की जंग शुरू हो जाती है। यदि ऐसा नहीं है तो फिर महिलाओं और पुरुषों के अनुपात में इतना अंतर क्यों है?

बालिकाओं को बचपन से ही बेड़ियों में जकड़ दिया जाता है। उन्हें हमेशा यह याद दिलाया जाता है कि वह एक लड़की है, उसे लड़की की तरह लज्जा की चादर ओढ़े रहना चाहिए। 'बेटी देश का भविष्य है'— यह वाक्यांश अक्सर सुनने में आता है लेकिन हकीकत कुछ और ही है। यदि ऐसा नहीं है तो बालिका भ्रूण हत्या, महिला घरेलू हिंसा, दहेज के लिये प्रताड़ना, बालिका यौवन शोषण, बाल-विवाह, लिंग भेद जैसी खबरें देखने-सुनने को नहीं मिलतीं। यह एक अलग बात है कि इस तरह के वातावरण को समाप्त करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा कई कानून लागू किए जा रहे हैं, फिर भी अपेक्षित परिणाम नज़र नहीं आ रहे हैं।

आज़ादी के बाद हमारा दश विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रगति कर रहा है, लेकिन महिलाओं को वह स्थान नहीं मिल पाया है, जिसकी वो असली हकदार है। यदि हम अपनी संतान में बेटा-बेटी का अंतर न कर उन्हें अच्छी शिक्षा दें, उनका बेहतर मार्गदर्शन करें, बेटियों को भी अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाने का पूर्ण अवसर दें तो निश्चय ही हमारा देश विकासशील नहीं, विकसित देशों की सूची में शामिल होगा। इसके लिये परिवार और समाज दोनों को बालिकाओं के प्रति अपनी सोच बदलने की सक्त ज़रूरत है। ::

क्लोटील्डा टोप्पो
कोषाध्यक्ष
कुर्जी महिला संघ, पटना



ANDHRA PRADESH



KARNATAKA



The Karnataka Regional Council for Women organized a meeting on 9th June 2018, Saturday at KROSS, Bangalore under the leadership of the Chairperson Most Rev Dr Geevarghese Makarios, Bishop of Puttur, Sr Talisha Nadukudiyil SD, National Secretary, CBCI Council for Women, Dr Lovely Yeldose, Regional Secretary, KRCBC Coordinator Rev Fr Lourdsami, the Diocesan Secretaries and women leaders from different Dioceses were present. Bishop Makarios encouraged women to have regular meetings for better coordination and he appreciated the efforts of Regional Secretary

and Joint Secretary, Ms Emily Raj. Sr. Talisha explained in detail the CBCI Guidelines to deal with Sexual Harassment at Workplace and urged the women to conduct seminars on Human Rights and to form committees in all the dioceses of Karnataka.

Adv. Jose Abraham, Supreme Court, imbibed and inculcated the very importance of Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POSCO) Act, 2012.

Both the sessions were very informative and the participation was in full strength.



REGIONAL MEETINGS

AGRA REGIONAL MEETING



समाज का कोई भी वर्ग दहेज की कुप्रथा से नहीं बचा : कोर्ट

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। दिल्ली की एक अदालत ने दहेज के एक मामले में एक व्यक्ति और उसके परिवार को दोषी ठहराते हुए टिप्पणी की कि मजबूत आर्थिक स्थिति वाले लोगों समेत समाज का कोई भी वर्ग दहेज की कुप्रथा से नहीं बचा है। अदालत ने एक व्यक्ति और उसके परिवार को 23 वर्षीय महिला को दहेज के लिए इस हद तक प्रताड़ित करने का दोषी ठहराया कि महिला ने आत्महत्या कर ली। अदालत ने व्यक्ति के इस दावे को भी खारिज कर दिया कि उसका परिवार उसकी पत्नी के परिवार से अमीर है और उन्हें उससे दहेज लेने की ज़रूरत नहीं थी।

स्वयं खरीदी जिससे अभियोजन पक्ष का दावा मजबूत होता है कि आरोपी परिवार शायद में मिली कार की ग्रैंड / गुणवत्ता से संतुष्ट नहीं था और जब लड़की के माता-पिता ने स्कोटा देने की उनकी मांग नहीं मानी तो वह अपने बूते पुरानी स्कोटा कार खरीद लए। अदालत ने कहा कि महिला ने पैसे से फांसी लगा ली थी। उसे उसके पति, सास - ससुर और देवर ने मानसिक रूप से प्रताड़ित किया था। अदालत ने कहा कि पोस्टमार्टम में मृतका के शरीर पर कोई बाहरी चिह्न नहीं पाए गए, लेकिन इसका यह निष्कर्ष नहीं निकलता है कि उसकी मौत से पहले उसके साथ कोई क्रूरता नहीं की गई। अभियोजन पक्ष के मुताबिक महिला की आरोपी से वर्ष 2005 में शादी हुई थी। लड़की के पिता ने उन्हें ऑप्टा, सोने के जेवर, 2.5 लाख रुपये नकद और अन्य उपहार दिए थे। शादी के कुछ ही दिन बाद आरोपी और नकदी, बड़ी कार और महंगी वस्तुओं की मांग करने लगे। वे बहू को प्रताड़ित करने लगे। जब प्रताड़ना बढ़ने से बाहर हो गई तो महिला ने वर्ष 2007 में आत्महत्या कर ली।

ऐसा कोई नियम नहीं है कि मजबूत आर्थिक स्थिति वाले लोग लातच से परे होते हैं। आज समाज का कोई भी वर्ग दहेज की कुप्रथा से बचा नहीं है। न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि पीड़िता शादी में ऑप्टा कार लेकर आई थी उसके बावजूद आरोपी ने



JHARKHAND VISIT

Introducing CBCI Council for Women and a meeting in Ranchi organized by the CBCI Office for Tribal Affairs



At Gumla



Gumla



At Hazaribagh



Hazaribagh



At Khunti



At Ranchi



Simdega



Ranchi



Simdega

The CBCI Council for Women visited Jharkhand along with the CBCI Office for Labour and an NGO working for Domestic Workers, arranged by CBCI Office for Tribal Affairs, from 11th to 16th July. It was aimed to know and experience the life of the people and the functioning of the Commission for Women at each Diocese. We could visit five Dioceses – Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega, Gumla and Hazaribagh. The Bishop in each Diocese arranged a meeting with the Women Commission, where we could introduce the nature and activities of this office. The Council for Women thank the Bishops and all those who co-operated with us to make this visit a success and appreciate their noble works for the cause of women empowerment in Jharkhand Region.

SESSIONS ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE TO SDB SEMINARIANS, BANGALORE



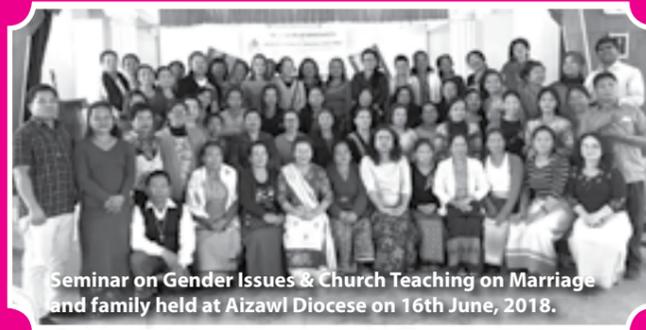
SEMINAR ON CBCI GUIDELINES TO DEAL WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE, KRISHNAGAR DIOCESE, WEST BENGAL



SESSION AT KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI FOR WOMEN FROM FARIDABAD & GURGAON DIOCESES



TOT ON CHURCH'S TEACHINGS ON MARRIAGE & FAMILY ORGANIZED BY NORTH EAST REGIONAL WOMEN COMMISSION FROM 4TH – 6TH JUNE, 2018



Seminar on Gender Issues & Church Teaching on Marriage and family held at Aizawl Diocese on 16th June, 2018.

YOUTH ORIENTATION PROGRAM HELD AT KEORAPUKUR PARISH, BARUIPUR DIOCESE, WEST BENGAL ON 28TH MAY, 2018



SEMINAR ON POC SO ACT, 2012 HELD AT CATHEDRAL CHURCH, IDUKKI DIOCESE, KERALA ON 10TH JUNE, 2018

SEMINAR ON COUPLE COUNSELING AT ST. ROBERT CHURCH, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND ON 17TH JUNE 2018.



TRAINING ON CHURCH'S TEACHING ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY, NONGSTOIN DIOCESE



Mawpat Parish (21.02.2018)



Nonbah Parish (23.06.2018)



Mairang Parish (30.06.2018)



Maweit Parish (30.06.2018)

KCBC COUNCIL FOR WOMEN - VISIT TO KANDHAMAL IN JUNE, 2018



Wind in her Sails

Gold Award winner Ms. Stella Richard



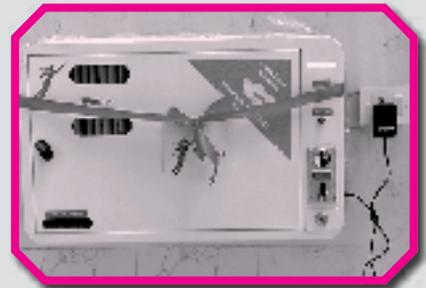
Stella Richard's strong commitment to service and to the values that help individuals, Schools, Colleges, Institutions, Rural areas succeed earned her the Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE) Gold Medal winner awarded by IIT-New Delhi & Ministry of Science & Technology on 28th May 2018. The recognition has what made her firm Winstar become great. The Gold Award represents the highest achievement in woman empowerment, recognizing women who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable Take Action projects that have sustainable impact in their communities and beyond.

The only catholic person in India got this Distinction recognition identified through a process of screening and team of jury selection. This award not only a certificate and medal but also with cash reward to scale up the business.

Yes, the Feminine Hygiene Products especially sanitary napkins with innovative new approach and technologies through vending machine to help more girl children during emergency period. Also, the special incinerator machine resolves the used napkins in germ-free method of disposal by the ladies.

Stella Richard believes in leadership through service. She committed not just expanding the business to better serve, but also to improving the communities need. ❖

To know more about installing the machines at your institutions, please contact :-



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