

I. **Project Title:**  
**AWARENESS ADVOCACY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME AGAINST WITCHCRAFT & WITCH HUNTING IN INDIA**

II. **Duration:** Twelve Months

III. **Approved Budget**

Rs.1500000

IV. **Description of the project**

The project has been focused on reducing violence occurring on witch hunting or witchcraft based violence perpetrated against women and their family members in the home and in the society at large.

This proposal will sensitize, aware, and advocate for preventing witch hunting and its related violence conflict and post conflict and harmful traditional practices, such as torturing, stripping, social boycotts, murders. The proposed project will be implemented through partnership with having a good presence and active in the concerned districts/blocks.

V. **Proposed Area**

All blocks of PALAMU district of Jharkhand

VI. **Beneficiaries**

- Witchcraft victims
- Ojha/ Guni-Quacks
- Community opinion leaders
- Tribal community head man (PARDHAN)

**Other stakeholders**

- Police, administration
- State government officials
- CBO
- Media personnel
- Local NGOs
- Nehru Yuva Kendra
- Mahila Samakhya

VII. **Major components of the project:**

- a) Partnering with NGOs in proposed districts
- b) Community Mobilization
- c) Awareness campaign- School student, College students, Teachers, PRI Members, SHG members, Police Staff, Welfare dept. staff, Ojha/Gunis, Political cadres, religious leaders, etc.
- d) Campaign on implementation of the Witchcraft prevention act 2001.
- e) Convergence NLSA/JHALSA/DLSA, Administration
- f) Seminars- district/state level
- g) Partnership with Media/NGO and other line departments

## VIII. Strategies

- A. Strengthening PRI committees, Para Legal Volunteers, Sahiya (ASHA), Anganwari workers, Village Police, Women SHG members, and Youths.
- B. Convergence with Police department, Education department, health department, Welfare department,
- C. Lobbying with government departments for implementation of Witch prevention Act, 2001.
- D. Collaboration and networking with NGOs to address Witch hunting implementation issues.
- E. Capacity building with police officers, students, teachers, health centers, youth, women's & religious groups etc.
- F. Provision of the services of a lawyer on a part time basis to provide advice and representation when Witch hunting cases occurs.
- G. Meetings with Magistrates and Judges to promote effective implementation of Witch Hunting Prevention Act, 2001.

## IX. Situation Analysis

Violence against women in the name of witch hunting and its dreadful practices is a big challenge and issue in Jharkhand. The history of witch hunting goes back to its ancient times and existing in the society. Mostly women blamed and accused as Witch. But only weaker family or society is blamed. No one will ask to man who has influence in the community and villages. Surprisingly it prevailing in the society when the literacy rate was very low and now level of socio-economic status has been changed compared to pre and post independence period. It is a major concern that even in the modern era why this dreadful practice is in existence.

Since the victim belongs to deprived community therefore they are unable to approach and access legal and political support. It becomes more terrific when whole village and community units against the victim(s). The Ojha/Guni (black magic healers) identifies the witch and probes to villagers or community punish her. Once a women identified and blamed as Witch her life becomes worst even near relatives do support her and she never get rid of this. It has become as an easy task for the family or the community to condemn such kind of crime with the support of community. This particular issue is common in rural areas of Jharkhand. The percentage of witch craft and witch hunting cases is continuously increasing.

**Figure:1 Witchcraft killing**

Witchcraft Killing	India	Jharkhand	Haryana	Andhra Pradesh	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh	Bihar
2014	156	47	0	2	32	24	16	6
2013	160	54	0	15	24	11	7	0
2012	119	26	0	24	32	10	8	13
2011	240	36	5	28	39	15	17	0
2010	178	15	57	26	31	18	8	2
2009	174	37	30	27	28	23	6	2
2008	175	52	25	23	23	17	15	0
2007	177	50	30	33	28	14	8	0
2006	186	29	34	26	36	13	10	11
2005	197	26	28	75	25	13	9	1
2004	111	26	0	24	22	14	11	0

2003	140	19	0	37	26	26	9	0
2002	151	26	0	23	39	24	4	1
2001	126	21	0	20	30	13	14	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2290</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>37</b>

(Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/over-2000-women-killed-in-india-for-practicing-black-magic-in-14-years/1/696147.html>)

Although government has passed Witchcraft Prevention Act in the year 2001, but no such strictaction is taken against the offender involved in such crime. Neither the women are getting properprotection & security who are the victims of witchcraft. The major reason behind this is highpercentage of illiteracy, belief & practices of false myth and misconceptions, superstition, dependency on Ojha, Guni and baidya (Quacks) for treatment, lack of awareness, etc among the rural community norproper initiatives are taken of wider scale by government or any voluntary organizationon this particular issue.

National Legal Aid Service Authority (NLSA), Jharkhand Legal Aid Service Authority (JHLSA)and District Legal Aid Service Authority (DLASA)are the key stakeholders in this regard and Para Legal Volunteers have been trained and empowered. It could be a better opportunity to utilize them towards combating against witch hunting in high priority districts and areas.

The major concern is lack of sensitivity and fear of law among the community because when the any incidence occurs subject to witch hunting whole community or village get involved with pride.

If one can read or watch news in media it will be found at least 1-2 cases weekly. Some of the glimpse of Media coverage has been referred to highlight incidents related to dreadful action of witch hunting in Jharkhand.

## Media NewsLink

### Palamau 'witch duo' lynched, bodies missing

SUDHIR KUMAR MISHRA

**Ranchi, Aug. 7:** Two middle-aged women were today beaten to death with sticks in remote Sajhiara village in Hussainabad subdivision of Palamau, some 100km from district headquarters Daltonganj and over 350km from Ranchi, for allegedly practising witchcraft, but their bodies have not yet been recovered.

Source: [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160808/jsp/frontpage/story\\_101247.jsp#.V6hNPckfPIU](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160808/jsp/frontpage/story_101247.jsp#.V6hNPckfPIU)

Five women were recently lynched in Jharkhand on the suspicion of witchcraft. The state, in fact, ranks first in terms of murders in this category, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) from 2008 to 2013.

However, when it comes to witch-hunting, other states are not far behind. Odisha, for example, saw 177 murders for 'witchcraft' during this period. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2,257 'witchcraft' murders have taken place across India since 2000.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/jharkhand-tops-in-witch-hunt-murders-rajasthan-ranks-low/>

### **3 of Jharkhand family burnt to death over 'sacrifice plot'**

- **Sanjay Sahay, Hindustan Times, Ranchi**
- Updated: Apr 19, 2016 00:59 IST

Three members of a family were burnt to death and one severely injured in Jharkhand on Sunday after villagers set their house on fire alleging that they were planning to kill a minor girl in a ritualistic sacrifice.

The incident took place in Chipo Thaka Toli village in Lohardaga, about 90km from Ranchi, and is the most recent in a spate of similar attacks in the state, which has witnessed maximum cases of witch-hunting in India from 2008 to 2013, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). (HT Photo)

(Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/jharkhand-3-of-family-burnt-to-death-on-suspicion-of-human-sacrifice/story-UVf4kUNc25xTsuta5cZQcl.html>)

### **5 Jharkhand women lynched in midnight 'witch hunt'**

[Alok K N Mishra](#) | TNN | Aug 9, 2015, 06.21 AM IST

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/5-Jharkhand-women-lynched-in-midnight-witch-hunt/articleshow/48406526.cms>

RANCHI: Five women were branded as witches and stripped and lynched in a village assembly at Kanjiya Maraitoli village under Mandar police station on the outskirts of the state capital in the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The women were all in their 50s. Police identified the assailants and arrested 27 of them. Many of the arrested assailants are students of Mandar College.

### **5 of Jharkhand tribal family attacked with machete, 3 dead**

(Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/5-of-Jharkhand-tribal-family-attacked-with-machete-3-dead/articleshow/53557411.cms>)

RANCHI: Three persons were killed by machete carrying assailants who attacked five members of a tribal family at Rasen village under Dasham Falls police station area on Thursday night. The assailants were reportedly from among the victims' extended family and possibly known to them (victims). Two are in critical condition at a hospital in Ranchi.

What happened exactly before the murder is not known so far. The injured persons are not in a condition to speak. The neighbours of the victims have told police that the attack took place well past their bedtime and they do not have any idea about what happened.

The deceased are 50-year-old Dimba Munda, Mungiya Kumari, 14 and Kanchan Munda 10. "The assailants thought that Somvari Devi, 63, was also dead in the attack but she survived along with her eldest son Hari Munda, 16, who managed to escape from the spot but not before he sustained critical injuries," said rural SP Raj Kumar Lakra.

### **27 women lynched in Jharkhand after being branded as 'witches'**

[Bharti Jain](#) | TNN | Mar 16, 2016, 10.38 PM IST

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/127-women-lynched-in-Jharkhand-after-being-branded-as-witches/articleshow/51431368.cms>

NEW DELHI: For those who think "witchcraft" and "witch-hunting" have no place in modern India, here is the stark reality. As many as 127 women were lynched and murdered in Jharkhand between 2012 and 2014 after been branded as "witches".

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, minister of state for home Haribhai Parathibhai Chaudhary quoted data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to state that 26, 54 and 47 cases were reported under "murder for witchcraft" in Jharkhand during 2012, 2012 and 2014 respectively.

## **A State in India Just Outlawed Witch-Hunting, but Many Fear That Won't Stop the Practice**

**Women are often killed for allegedly practicing witchcraft**

[Rishi Iyengar@Iyengarish](mailto:Rishi.Iyengar@Iyengarish) Aug. 17, 2015

Source: <http://time.com/4000006/assam-witch-hunting-bill-passed-jharkhand-india/>

STR—AFP/Getty Images Indian police talk to villagers after five women accused of practicing witchcraft were killed in Kanjia village in India's eastern Jharkhand state on Aug. 8, 2015.

Earlier this month, a group of local youth in the Indian village of Kajiya Maraytoli in the eastern state of Jharkhand dragged 53-year-old Etwaria Kholkho out of her home and accused her of being a witch.

Of course there are some examples of initiative taken to prevent Witch Hunting in Jharkhandstate but needs more focus and interventions.

### **X. Experience**

Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch(GSKVM) has been sound knowledge of Reducing incidence of dreadful practices of witchcraft and violence among vulnerable women through Awareness, Advocacy, Rehabilitation and Legal support facilitation.

With Support of NMEW, We have implemented various programme in Palamu and adjacent district and advocate with government to control witch hunting practices. Concept note may be seen at [www.nari.nic.in](http://www.nari.nic.in)

After action and research we received National Achiever Award in 2017

Md.Hashmat Rabbani  
Secretary  
Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch  
Policeline Road,DALTONGANJ,Palamu  
W(431159447) W:gskvm.1ngo.in



**परियोजना : “डायन प्रथा एवं डायन अत्याचार नियंत्रण  
हेतु जागरूकता वकालत एवं पुनर्वास कार्यक्रम”**

**लक्ष्य : डायन प्रथा प्रतिषेध अधिनियम, 2001 को प्रभावी ढंग  
से लागू करने हेतु अनुपालन सुनिश्चित कराना**

**डायन प्रथा प्रतिषेध अधिनियम, 2001**

- ❖ यदि कोई भी व्यक्ति जो किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को डायन के रूप में पहचान करता हो और उस पहचान के प्रति अपने किसी भी कार्य, शब्द या रीति से कोई कार्यवाही करे, तो इसके लिए उसे अधिकतम 3 महीने तक सजा अथवा 1000 रुपये जुर्माने की सजा अथवा दोनों से दण्डित किया जायेगा।
- ❖ यदि कोई भी व्यक्ति जो किसी औरत को डायन के रूप में पहचान कर उसे शारीरिक या मानसिक यातना जान-बूझकर अन्यथा प्रताड़ित करता है, तो उसे 6 माह की अवधि के लिए कारावास या सजा अथवा 2000 रुपये तक जुर्माने अथवा दोनों सजा से दण्डित किया जायेगा।
- ❖ ऐसे किसी भी व्यक्ति को जो किसी औरत को डायन के रूप में पहचान करने के लिए सार्वय या अनवधानता से अन्य व्यक्ति को या समाज के लोगों को उकसाता हो, बड़बंदा रचता हो या उन्हें सहायता देता हो, जिससे उस औरत को हानि पहुंचे, तो 3 महीने तक का कारावास अथवा 1000 रुपये के जुर्माने अथवा दोनों सजा से दण्डित किया जायेगा।
- ❖ किसी भी डायन के रूप में पहचान की गयी औरत को जा भी शारीरिक या मानसिक हानि या यातना पहुंचाकर अथवा प्रताड़ित कर झाड़फूंक या फिर टोटका द्वारा उसके उपचार के लिए कोई कार्य करता है, तो उसे 1 साल की कारावास का सजा अथवा 2000 रुपये तक जुर्माने अथवा दोनों सजा से दण्डित किया जायेगा।

**डायन के नाम पिड़ित महिलाएं एवं उनके परिवार के लिए हेल्प लाईन**

**अधिक जानकारी के लिए हमें मिस्ड कॉल कीजिए इस नम्बर पर - 07870632026**

**या मुफ्त में बात करने हेतु इस टॉल फ्री नम्बर पर कॉल करें - 180 03456525**

**ग्रामीण समाज कल्याण विकास मंच**

**जेल हाता, डालटनगंज, पलामू (झारखण्ड)-822101**

**Tel- 06562-222243/222867, Mob. 09431159447, 9431972633**





25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Silver Jubilee  
Celebration



ललित किशोर मीणा  
निदेशक  
**Lalit Kishore Meena**  
Director  
Tel.: 011-26862526  
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भारत सरकार  
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय  
राष्ट्रीय महिला सशक्तिकरण मिशन  
बी-12, चौथी मंजिल, C/o सी एस डब्ल्यू बी  
कुतुब इंस्टीटयूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली-110016  
Government of India  
Ministry of Women & Child Development  
National Mission for Empowerment of Women  
B-12, 4th Floor, C/o CSWB  
Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016  
Webside: <http://www.nmew.gov.in>

F.No. 11-60/2013-NMEW/13

Dated: 15/04/2015

## Message

Dear friends at GSKVM,

It is our pleasure to know that Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch (GSKVM), Palamu, Jharkhand is completing Twenty Five years. We are glad that it has reached a significant milestone in supporting the initiatives of the voluntary sector in India. Its mission to eradicate poverty and promote self-reliance by improving the life of the poor through meaningful and socio-economic growth is phenomenal. We appreciate the good work of Gramin samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch (GSKVM) doing in the field of Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Women empowerment, witch Hunting prevention and Bonded labour.

GSKVM also undertook Witch Hunting prevention project, a pilot convergence model for women empowerment under National Mission for Empowerment of Women, M/o Women & Child Development. The aim of this program was to ensure strict & forceful implementation of the Witchcraft Prevention Act 2001 and motivate, sensitize and strengthen the community against this brutal practice of violence against women. As per information more than 25000 people have joined signature campaign for prevention of witch hunting practices till March 2015.

We are happy that you are planning to bring out a special souvenir on the occasion of achieving this milestone. We wish Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch (GSKVM), Palamu, Jharkhand to achieve many more milestones in the future. We wish you all the best for the Silver Jubilee to be a grand success and look forward to a glittering golden jubilee in times to come.

Best wishes,

(L.K. Meena)



कार्यालय :- असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, पलामू।

पत्रांक...1545/

भेदिनीनगर, दिनांक...08/09/14/

सेवा में,

सभी प्रभारी चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,  
पलामू जिला।

विषय :- डायन प्रथा एवं डायन अत्याचार नियंत्रण हेतु जागरूकता कार्यक्रम संचालन के संबंध में।

उपर्युक्त विषयक पर कहना है कि विभागीय निदेश के आलोक में आपको पूर्व में भी निदेशित किया जा चुका है कि डायन प्रथा से प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में स्वास्थ्य सुविधा की विशेष व्यवस्था की जाये, क्योंकि स्वास्थ्य सुविधा के अभाव में बीमार रहने वाले बच्चों को डायन प्रथा से जोड़कर देखा जाता है।

इस क्रम में यह पाया गया कि अभी भी इस दिशा में लोगों में अपेक्षित जागरूकता नहीं है, और अन्धविश्वास के कारण महिलाओं को डायन करार देकर प्रताड़ित करने की घटनाएँ बराबर हो रही हैं। लोगों में जागरूकता पैदा करने और प्रताड़ित महिलाओं के पुनर्वास कार्यक्रम के क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण समाज कल्याण विकास मंच, जेलहाता, डालटनगंज द्वारा कार्य किया जा रहा है।

अतः आप निदेशित है कि ग्रामीण समाज कल्याण विकास मंच के कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा सम्पर्क किये जाने पर उन्हें अपने स्तर से हर संभव सहयोग उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें, जिससे इस कुप्रथा पर नियंत्रण पाया जा सके।

08/09/14  
असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह  
मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, पलामू।

पत्रांक...1545/

भेदिनीनगर, दिनांक...08/09/14/

प्रतिलिपि :- सचिव कार्यक्रम प्रभारी, ग्रामीण समाज कल्याण विकास मंच, डालटनगंज को उनके पत्र दिनांक 08.08.2014 के प्रसंग में सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक क्रियार्थ प्रेषित।

08/09/14  
असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह  
मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, पलामू।

F. No. 11-60/2013-NMEW/87 .  
e-Office No.- NMEW/27/2015  
Government of India  
Ministry of Women and Child Development  
National Mission for Empowerment of Women  
(Admn. Section)  
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B-12, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Samaj Kalyan Bhawan,  
Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016  
Dated- 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

To,

The Pay Accounts Officer,  
Ministry of Women and Child Development,  
Shastri Bhavan,  
New Delhi – 110001.

Sub: Release of 3<sup>rd</sup> & final instalment of grant to the Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch, Palamu Distt., Jharkhand for completion of Thematic Convergence project titled "Awareness Advocacy and Rehabilitation programme against Witchcraft & Witch hunting against Women in India".

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Sir,

I am directed to convey the sanction of Competent Authority for release of 3<sup>rd</sup> & final Instalment of GIA amounting to Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh only) to the Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch, Palamu Distt., Jharkhand for completion of Thematic Convergence project titled "Awareness Advocacy and Rehabilitation programme against Witchcraft & Witch hunting against Women in India", during the current F.Y. 2016-17.

2. The grant is subject to the following conditions:-
  - a) That the funds sanctioned shall be utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. A separate account in respect of the sanctioned amount is to be maintained.
  - b) The accounts of the grantee institutions or organization shall be open to inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor – General of India under provision of CAG (DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit by the Principal Accounts Officer of the Ministry or Department whenever the institution or organization is called upon to do so.
  - c) The Grant-in-Aid is towards recurring expenditure for undertaking Thematic Convergence Project.
3. The details of the approved project budget for this project was already been communicated/forwarded to you vide this office sanction order dated 30/12/2013.
4. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is authorized to draw an amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh only), being remaining third & final instalment of grant and disburse to above mentioned grantee through ECS /electronic clearance etc.

*L. K. Meena*

एल. के. मीणा / L. K. MEENA  
निदेशक / Director  
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Women & Child Development

5. The Bank details of the grantee are as under:

i)	Name of the Bank and Branch	:	Indian Bank, Daltonganj, Palamu, Jharkhand-822101
ii)	Account No.	:	6179294549
iii)	IFSC Code	:	IDIB000D067
iv)	MICR Code	:	822019002

6. The Institution/organisation shall maintain a record of all assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government Grant such assets shall not be disposed of encumbered or utilised for purposes other than those for which grants were given without prior sanction of the Government of India, should the institution/organisation cease to exist at any time, such properties will revert to the Government of India or disposed of in accordance with the orders may be given by the Government of India.

7. The grantee Organization will monitor and supervise the expenditure and will keep proper check on accounts. On completion of the project, the grantee Organization should submit a draft project report for approval of the Ministry along with audited statement of accounts and Utilization Certificate in respect of subsequent grants released for this project by the Ministry. Draft report is approved by the Ministry. The Organization would provide ten copies of the main report and 25 copies of Executive Summary of the report along with a soft copy of the final project report.

8. The expenditure involved is debit to Demand No. 97, Major Head 2235-Social Security and Welfare, 02- Social Welfare, 103- Women's Welfare, 70- Protection and Empowerment of Women, Detailed Head 01- National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), Object Head 70.01.31- Grant-in-aid (Plan) for the financial year 2016-17.

9. This sanction is issued under the financial power delegated to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Government of India and in concurrence with the Internal Finance Division vide their Comp. No. 8328, dated 28.09.2016, 1:14 pm through e-office.

10. The details of this sanction have been entered at Serial No. 49 of the grant-in-aid register (2016-17) in respect of the scheme.

Yours faithfully

(L.K. Meena)  
Director to the Government of India  
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Fax No: 26868830

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary, Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch, Jail Hata, Daltonganj, Distt. Palamu, Jharkhand-822101
2. Accountant General of Audit, Central Revenues, AGCR Building, IP Estate, New Delhi.
3. US (IFD), Ministry of Women & Child Development Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. PS to AS (PS)/PS to JS (NMEW).
5. PAO, Ministry of Women & Child Development.
6. Sanction Folder/Guard File.