

MASVAW

(Men's Action for Stopping Violence Against Women)

A Journey
Towards Justice



Building a people's movement against VAW in
North India

What is the MASVAW?

MASVAW is a campaign started by a group of concerned men and boys who collectively felt responsible for this situation and decided to bring about a change within themselves and in other men and boys in North India (Uttar Pradesh & Uttara Khand)

The Situation of Violence against Women in Uttar Pradesh, India

- According to the amnesty International the levels of violent crime against women in Uttar Pradesh are extremely high.**
- Violence within home widespread in UP and effect women through out society**
- A very common expression, 'it is their family matter'.**
- State machinery also further discriminate in the matter of community and family**
- Lot of violence takes place behind closed doors.**

Why should work with men?

- **Men are not violent by birth**
- **Men are involved as perpetrators and perpetuators**
- **Men are socialized by the patriarchal social system**
- **Men play a bystanders role in cases VAW**

Why should work with men?

- **Men are role models for other men**
- **Men react when they feel violence against themselves**
- **Men can be survivor of gender based violence**
- **Men are in position of authority**

Genesis of MASVAW

MASVAW has been working since 2002 with the objective of “increasing awareness among men about violence against women as a larger social issue, and motivating men to shun violence, protest against violence, support survivors and provide new role models in Uttar Pradesh and Uttara kand state of India.”

MASVAW Belief

**Violence against women and
Girls is not only a women's
issue, but an issue of
concern for society at large.**

Strategies of MASVAW

- Men as perpetrators and perpetuator, targeting their behaviour with women.
- Men in peer groups, targeting their behaviour with friends.
- Men in positions of authority
- Men in leadership (media, academic, activist)

Working with Peer Groups :

(Student in University, College, school)

To:

- stop and discrimination,
- challenge the abusive language
- reconstructing the alternate masculinity,
- Motivate to shun violence,
- protest against violence,
- support survivors and
- provide new role models

Through:

game, competition, film-show, symposium, meetings, rally, provide educational materials, and trainings

Working with: Media professional in print and electronic media

To:

- Challenge the policy,
- Work as a pressure group
- Raise the issue at larger level,
- Provide the support to the survivors,
- Provide new role models

Through:

consultation, Meetings, symposium, networking,
capacity building, information dissemination,
publishing news letter

Working with: Person who have authority (Local self government Representative)

To:

- Create sensitive policy and implement with quality
- support to survivors,
- provide new role models and
- raise the issue in public

Through :

counseling, symposium, meetings, information sharing, rally and seminar

Working with: men in community through Campaign and connecting women's organisations

To:

- Stop Gender based discrimination,
- Reduce tolerance of violence in community,
- Protest against violence,
- Support survivors and Demand justice
- Accept and support and celebrate women's leadership
- Challenge and create new social norms

Through:

meetings, rally, awareness & advocacy campaign,
Using right to information act, felicitate gender equitable men

DOMAINS OF CHANGE – BRINGING IMPACT

1. Changed conception of violence

- violence is not only physical. Destroying dignity, restricting her to express, not respecting her decision, putting only own decision)
- Realizing own violent behaviour
- Realizing that I must first change my self

DOMAINS OF CHANGE – BRINGING IMPACT

2. Changed relationship with spouse

- respect, friendship, partnership, autonomy, Responsible sexual behaviour
- Stopping Non- Consensual sex
- Increased autonomy of wife - Freedom of movement, decision making power,
- Greater respect with more trust
- Sharing house hold work and child caring
- Taking responsibility of contraceptive and family planning

DOMAINS OF CHANGE – BRINGING IMPACT

3. New management of conflict and anger

- Deflect anger by leaving sources of stress
- Find expression by writing down
- Listen instead of command,
- seek resolution by discussing in family

DOMAINS OF CHANGE – BRINGING IMPACT

4. Broader range of emotional expression

- Easily share with friends and partner
- Not feeling shame in crying
- Can feel other's emotion
- Feeling that sharing emotion is not weakness but strength
- Better friendship, more listening and more sharing,

DOMAINS OF CHANGE – BRINGING IMPACT

5. Leadership, mentoring, influencing others

Formal:

- Sponsoring workshop, film festival, contests,
- Live cable broadcast on VAW issue with local celebrities
- Teaching about VAW

Informal:

- Talking to people on the street, in taxi, on the train
- Spreading messages on every possible occasion

DOMAINS OF CHANGE – BRINGING IMPACT

6. Violence against women intervention - Public action in VAW cases

- University Anti sexual harassment committee
- Follow-up of news papers and raising costs for hospital charges
- Bringing media attention to cases, raising publicity

What men say they have gained?

- Self awareness and self development
- Realisation that I must change myself first
- Better marriage/ partnership
- Better friendship, better communication with peers
- Broader range of emotional expression
- Respect and recognition in society
- Personal fulfillment and satisfaction in contributing to positive changes for now and for future generations

Challenges

- Reactions from family
- Difficult to escape 'Patriarchy'
- Using politically correct things
- Cost of leadership/mentorship/public action
- Increased expectation of others
- The challenge of Paternalism
- Maintaining quality in new leadership
- The challenge of accepting that the 'process has begun' rather than the 'goal has been achieved'!

Learning

- Curriculum adopting transformation principle
- Space for reflection on power, privilege relationship
- Support in practicing equitable Gender Just behaviour
- Public action in violence and injustice cases
- campaign
- Linkage between public and private
- Actor from inside of Institution becoming activist

**MEN
OF
QUALITY
ARE NOT
AFRAID
OF
EQUALITY**

Thank You