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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 May 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Promoting Women's Rights and Equality

Violence is among the most severe human rights violations, and women are often attacked for sexual reasons or even on account of their gender. The phenomenon of femicide is on the rise and reports estimate that of all women killed in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members. Women human rights defenders are also often the deliberate targets of violence.

Under international treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, governments have a legal obligation to protect women from violence, to promote the human rights of all women and to ensure their economic, legal, social and political empowerment. This requires acting to prevent all forms of violence, reforming discriminatory laws and policies and ensuring that survivors of violence have access to justice.(1)

Attaining equality between women and men and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women are fundamental human rights and United Nations values. Women around the world nevertheless regularly suffer violations of their human rights throughout their lives, and realizing women's human rights has not always been a priority. Achieving equality between women and men requires a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which women experience discrimination and are denied equality so as to develop appropriate strategies to eliminate such discrimination.(2)

The Necessity of Women's Rights Ensuring women's rights is essential for several reasons:

Promoting Economic Development:-

When women have equal access to education, employment, and resources, they contribute significantly to the economy. Empowered women can enhance productivity, spur economic growth, and improve the financial stability of families and communities.

Reducing Poverty:-

Gender equality helps in reducing poverty. Women who are educated and economically independent are better equipped to support their families, leading to improved living standards and reduced poverty levels.

Enhancing Social Well-being:-

Women's rights are crucial for the well-being of society as a whole. Gender equality leads to better health outcomes, educational achievements, and increased social cohesion. Societies that respect women's rights tend to be healthier, safer, and more inclusive.

Promoting Peace and Security:-

Women's participation in peace-building and conflict resolution processes leads to more sustainable and effective outcomes. Women bring unique perspectives and solutions to the table, which are essential for creating lasting peace and security.

Upholding Human Rights and Justice:-

Women's rights are human rights. Ensuring that women can live free from discrimination, violence, and oppression is a matter of justice and morality. It is essential for building a fair and just society where everyone can thrive.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is dedicated to the empowerment of marginalized communities, with a particular focus on promoting and safeguarding the rights of women in Rajasthan, India.

Women's rights are fundamental to achieving equitable and inclusive development, and our work aims to address the numerous challenges faced by women and girls.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has been at the forefront of advocating for women's rights and gender equality.(3) Over the past three decades, we have positively impacted over 2,37,000 lives, primarily focusing on women and children in rural and under-served areas. Some of the work which we are doing consist of:

Women's Empowerment Programs:-

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan runs comprehensive empowerment programs that include skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support. These programs help women gain financial independence and confidence to make informed decisions about their lives.

Education for Girls:-

We place a strong emphasis on the education of girls, recognizing it as a crucial factor in achieving gender equality. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan operates Pathshala Schools, provides scholarships, and conducts awareness campaigns to ensure higher enrollment and retention rates for girls in schools.

Health and Nutrition:-

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan organizes health camps and awareness programs focusing on women's health, maternal and child care, and nutrition. We also provide sanitary pads and promote menstrual hygiene management to break the stigma associated with menstruation.

Legal Awareness and Support:-

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan offers legal literacy programs to educate women about their rights and provides support to victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and other forms of abuse. We collaborate with legal experts and local authorities to ensure justice for women.

Advocacy and Community Engagement:-

Through various advocacy campaigns, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan engages with community leaders, policymakers, and the general public to promote gender-sensitive policies and practices. Our initiatives aim to shift societal attitudes towards gender equality and women's rights.

Indian government has also implemented numerous policies and programs to promote women's rights and gender equality. These efforts aim to create an environment where women can live with dignity and participate fully in all aspects of life. The Indian Constitution guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on gender. Several laws have been enacted to protect and promote women's rights, including:

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: Provides protection to women from domestic violence and abuse. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013: Safeguards women from sexual harassment at their workplaces. Also The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006: Prohibits child marriages and protects the rights of children, particularly girls.(4)

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP): Launched in 2015, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative aims to address the declining child sex ratio and promote the education and empowerment of girls. The program has been successful in raising awareness and improving the status of girls in society.(5)

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY): This scheme provides free LPG connections to women from below poverty line (BPL) households. It aims to reduce health hazards associated with cooking using traditional fuels and empower women by improving their quality of life.(6)

Mahila E-Haat: It is an online marketing platform that enables women entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products. This initiative supports women in gaining economic independence and expanding their businesses.(7)

Women Helpline Scheme: The Women Helpline Scheme provides 24-hour emergency response services to women in distress. It offers immediate assistance, including rescue and support services, to victims of violence and abuse.(8)

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana: This savings scheme encourages parents to invest in the education and future of their girl children. It offers attractive interest rates and tax benefits, promoting the financial security and education of girls.(9)

Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017: The amendment to the Maternity Benefit Act increased the duration of paid maternity leave for women employees from 12 to 26 weeks. It also introduced provisions for crèche facilities and work-from-home options, supporting working mothers.(10)

Women's rights are fundamental to achieving a just, equitable, and prosperous society. The efforts of Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, in collaboration with local communities and the Indian government, demonstrate that meaningful change is possible through sustained commitment and innovative approaches. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan urges the international community and the United Nations Human Rights Council to continue supporting initiatives that promote women's rights and gender equality. By investing in women's empowerment, we invest in the future of our world, ensuring that every woman and girl can live with dignity, freedom, and opportunities to realize their full potential.

(1) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women/2014/rights#:~:text=Under%20international%20treaties%20such%20as,legal%2C%20social%20and%20political%20empowerment.>

(2) <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Events/WHRD/WomenRightsAreHR.pdf>

(3) <https://www.rksindia.ngo>

(4)

https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/15436/1/protection_of_women_from_domestic_violence_act%2C_2005.pdf

(6)

<https://www.pmu.gov.in/#:~:text=PMUY%20Benefits,Pressure%20Regulator%20%E2%80%93%20Rs.%20150>

(7) <http://www.msmedinewdelhi.gov.in/en/Mahila%20eHaat.asp>

(8) https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/WHL_G.pdf

(9) [https://www.nsiindia.gov.in/\(S\(lkt1bjjt23uwfa25nq1fc3zz\)\)/InternalPage.aspx?Id_Pk=89](https://www.nsiindia.gov.in/(S(lkt1bjjt23uwfa25nq1fc3zz))/InternalPage.aspx?Id_Pk=89)

(10) https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/maternity_benefit_amendment_act2017_.pdf