

“FROM PERSECUTION TO PREVENTION”: STATE INTERVENTION IN ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A CASE STUDY OF MSSK, JAIPUR

CENTRE FOR COMPETITION LAW AND ECONOMICS
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महिला सुरक्षा एवं सलाह केन्द्र पूर्व

महिला थाना गांधी नगर, जयपुर

मो. : 99506-98807

Gender discrimination is a direct blow to democratic fabric of the country. Such a conduct has wide social and economic repercussions. With such an issue rampant in our society, there is an immediate need for civil society organizations and the government to intervene in the issue. The intervention has to be a combination of an academic exercise and grassroots activism so that the root of the issue is addressed.

Sumit Jain, Senior Resident Fellow, Centre for Competition Law and Economics (CCLE) team came to Jaipur and took great interest to look into gender-based violence especially domestic violence and also go in detail about different mechanism to address this violence. He studied MSSK (East) which is first center of Rajasthan started on 1st January, 2002. It is revolutionary mechanism because civil society members are sitting in Women's police station premise. Another mechanism was one-stop crisis management center started in 2013. This is called Aparajita centre. This also first center of whole Rajasthan. He went to Mahila Police Station (East) and some other police stations to know their views about domestic violence.

I am very happy to see his commitment to gain knowledge about all interventions and to understand the process of counselling, support structures, and also detailed classified documentation process. This Centre had annual report mentioning all interventions and challenges. We will be happy if this study will be useful for like-minded people who are working in the field of gender-based violence. This Centre is run by NGO called Mahila Punarwas Samoh Samiti. After 2011, WCD is providing financial support to all centers of Rajasthan. We see these centers as empowering centers for women because here trained counsellors look the problems of women from women's point of view and prepare them to take independent decisions about their life.

Renuka Pamecha

Renuka Pamecha

(Convenor)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APP	Assistant Public Prosecutor
CCLE	Centre for Competition Law and Economics
DCR	Department of Child Rights
DIR	Domestic Incidence Report
DV	Domestic Violence Report
FIR	First Information Report
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
MSSK	Mahila Suraksha Evam Salah Kendra
NCRB	National Crime Record Bureau
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PO	Protection Officer
PWDV	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
SHO	Station House Officer
SJED	Social Justice and Empowerment Department
SS	Suraksha Sakhi
WCD	Women and Child Development
WED	Women Empowerment Directorate

OVERVIEW

The report on Mahila Suraksha and Evam Salah Kendra (MSSK), Jaipur East is a summary of the work undertaken by the Centre for Competition Law and Economics (CCLE) to curb the menace of gender-based violence in the state of Rajasthan. MSSK, (Jaipur East) is one of the 40 such Kendras present across the state where these institutions work alongside the selected Police Station of a district preferably a Mahila Police Station, and provide immediate and long-term support to the domestic violence victim. The report reflects on the scope and limitations of working with such Kendras and makes certain recommendations for the government to implement so that the issue of domestic violence is tackled effectively and efficiently.

MSSK, Jaipur (East) has been running since 2002 with the combined efforts of the Rajasthan police department and a group of NGOs working on women-centric issues. The Kendra is run by an NGO, *Mahila Punarvas Samooh Samiti*. The CCLE Team worked alongside this Kendra. The team worked at every step of the redressal process. The purpose of this association was to understand the entire ecosystem of Domestic Violence (DV) prevention at the district and state levels and intervene wherever implementation gaps were found. The purpose was also to understand the lifeline of a case, prevalent modes of detection, the support provided by MSSK to the victims and the scope and limitations of such Kendras in the overall law and policy framework when it comes to addressing the issue of DV in Rajasthan.

The CCLE team found out that MSSK, Jaipur (East) plays a pivotal role in addressing the issue of DV in the given district. As far as the scope of the work is concerned, such Kendras provide a holistic remedial process where the victim is provided immediate and long-term support. MSSK (Jaipur, East) maintains records at multiple levels which allows it to work in a transparent and efficient manner. The Kendra maintains a separate file for each case which has all the details related to the victim. The counselling provided by the counsellors is substantial in nature where they are able to go to the root cause of the issue and provide emotional support to the victim. All this makes the MSSK an indispensable part of the grievance redressal machinery.

On the limitation front, the CCLC team found that there is a lack of training for police officials. While the Mahila Thana maintained due records of the DV cases reported to it, there was no such register available with the other police stations. Even though MSSK is run through collaborative efforts of NGOs, the Kendra doesn't maintain any roster of individuals or organisations who are made responsible for conducting various advocacy activities to raise awareness around the issue of DV. Based on the interaction with various stakeholders, it was realised that there is an absence of legal support for the victim and a lack of internal coordination between various departments of the government. Such Kendras are modestly funded bodies and Aparajita centres (one-stop centres) act in an opaque manner.

Based on the findings, the report concludes that MSSK is one of the nodal institutions working on the prevention of DV in the Jaipur (East) district. There are, in total, five governmental departments which are important stakeholders in the case prevention of DV. The Kendra is manned with trained professionals and regularly carves out immediate and long-term support for the victim in a sensitised manner. The individual and combined efforts of the NGOs in Jaipur (East) are a point of inspiration and reflection for the government at the same time. Based on the intervention, a combination of further points of work and recommendations are made by the CCLC team under the joint headers of focus on advocacy measures, the requirement of training of police officials, provision of legal support, transparency in Aparajita Kendras and a more convergent approach within the relevant department.

Introduction

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a menace which ruptures the overall social fabric of a country. The menace is catastrophic, especially in those societies where patriarchy is deeply rooted in the norms of society. The control of a male over the economic resources and decision-making power in the family generally undermines the position of the women and this power imbalance gives a serious blow to gender equality. This imbalance in extreme cases leads to violence against the female gender.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) or domestic violence is a particular category of GBV which is highly prevalent across all the socio-economic classes where the perpetrator is a family member esp. the husband. These cases are not only complex in terms of detection because of a kind of taboo associated with them but are grossly unreported as well. The ‘Crimes in India: 2021’ of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has reported that the majority of the cases under crime against women were registered under ‘Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives (31.8%)’¹.

Rajasthan being the eighth most populous state has a sex ratio of 973 which is lower than the national average of 1020 as per the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) survey.² The same survey also shows that the incidence of spousal violence among married females in the state of Rajasthan is 24.9% in the age group of 18-49 years with the highest prevalence in rural areas³.

Despite the several steps taken by the governments both at the Central and State level with clear law and policy frameworks on the prevention of domestic violence in the form of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV Act, 2005), provisions against ‘cruelty’ by the husband under IPC, still, the incidence of such crimes are conspicuous in the state.

¹ Maximum cases of ‘crimes against women’ in UP, most rape cases in Rajasthan in 2021, says NCRB”, The Print, 30 Aug 2022; <https://theprint.in/india/maximum-cases-of-crimes-against-women-in-up-most-rape-cases-in-rajasthan-in-2021-says-ncrb/1107482/>

² NFHS-5, 2019-2021, State Fact Sheet- Madhya Pradesh; http://rchiips.org/nfhs/NFHS-5_FCTS/Rajasthan.pdf

³ *ibid.*

Context

Rajasthan is divided into 33 administrative and 40 police districts and has a huge government machinery and administrative setup to deal with women-centric issues esp. crimes against women. The government's Women Empowerment Directorate (WED) under the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department (SJED), Department of Child Rights (DCR), Police Department (Home), are some of the prominent departments mandated to work towards women safety and welfare. In addition to the above departments, other agencies like Legal Service Authorities and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the field of gender also work in tandem with the departments on this issue.

WED is the nodal department for the implementation and monitoring of different women-related policies and statutes like Rajasthan State Policy for Women 1996, Girl Child Policy, 2013; PWDV Act, 2005; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013; Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2015 and the implementation of *Mahila Suraksha evam Salah Kendra Niyaman evam Anudaan Yojana* across the state. Based on a state government policy of 2011, these MSSKs were established across the state in all 40 police districts.

The major objectives and responsibilities of these Kendras are to provide proper hearings to the ordeal of the woman and provide her right guidance and counselling support, provide counselling to family members esp. husbands in the cases of GBV, act as a coordination agency between the judiciary, protection officers (POs), police etc. in the domestic violence cases, provide financial assistance and accommodation support to destitute women, provide immediate medical support to the victims of DV and assist the woman in the legal procedures like filing Domestic Incident Report (DIR)/First Information Report (FIR) and legal aid.

The MSSKs across the state are run by NGOs selected by Zila Mahila Sahayata Samiti headed by the District Collector of each district. As per the policy, the police department is responsible for providing a suitable place within the premise of the selected police stations for establishing the Kendras and also providing human resources and other office amenities. Priority is given to Mahila Police Stations for the setting up of such Kendras. The Superintendent of Police of the district is

responsible for monitoring the functions of these Kendras. The affiliated NGO sends a quarterly report to the concerned SP who along with her remarks sends it to Zila Mahila Sahayata Samiti for evaluation purposes. This report is finally submitted to WCD Commissioner/Director on a timely basis.

Intervention by the Centre for Competition Law and Economics (CCLE)

MSSK, Jaipur (East) has been running since 2002 with the combined efforts of the Rajasthan police department and a group of NGOs working on women-centric issues. The Kendra is run by an NGO, *Mahila Punarvas Samooh Samiti*.

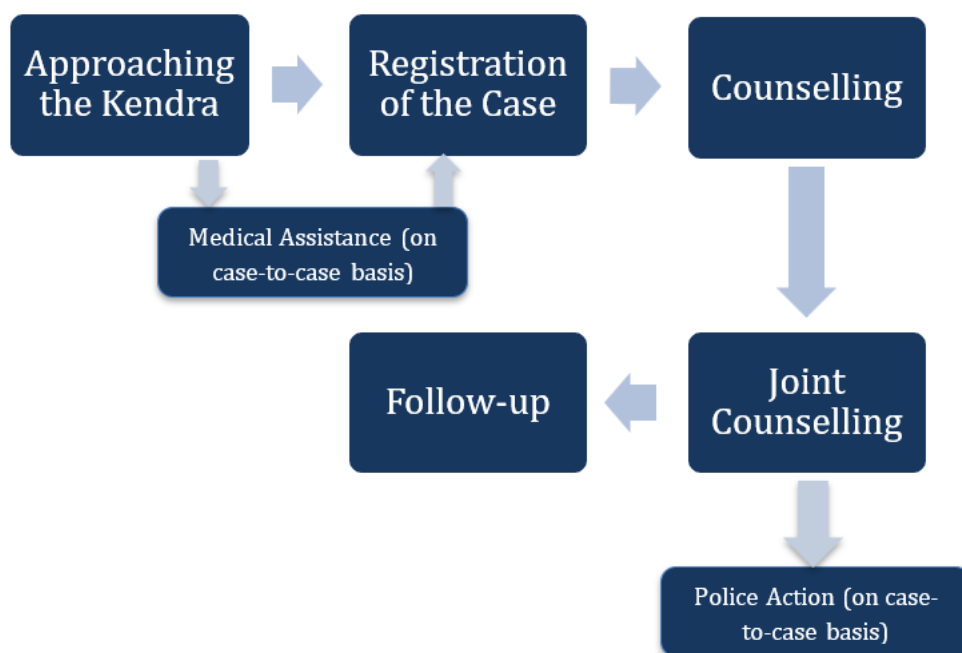
The CCLE Team worked alongside this Kendra. The team worked at every step of the redressal process. The purpose of this association was to understand the full ecosystem of Domestic Violence (DV) prevention at the district and state levels and intervene wherever implementation gaps were found. The purpose was also to understand the lifeline of a case, prevalent modes of detection, the support provided by MSSK to the victims and scope and limitations of such Kendras in the overall law and policy framework when it comes to addressing the issue of DV in Rajasthan. The findings were recorded and certain pointers for further work and recommendations were identified.

Structure of MSSK

A typical Kendra has one female and one male constable, two counsellors specialised in gender and law. These Kendras receive an annual grant of 3.15 lakh from the government of Rajasthan. It maintains detailed records which capture information about the victim from her socio-economic background to the details of violence-incidence and the nature of support sought. The Kendra in a study published an annual report of the work undertaken by it. As per the internal records of the MSSK, there were, in total, 827 cases being reported to it in 2022. The type of cases ranged from eve-teasing to traumatic mental and physical violence faced by the women over the years.

CCLE worked along the lifeline of a case where it assisted MSSK in filling out the registration form and drafting a complaint for the victim. The CCLE team further worked alongside the two counsellors at MSSK, Jaipur (East) and understood the type of support being provided by the counsellors.

Fig. 1- Lifeline of the Case



Lifeline of a case

A case reaching the Kendra broadly goes through six stages (As shown in Fig. 1).

The stages are as follows:

1. **Approaching the Kendra:** The victims approach the MSSK primarily through three modes - direct, through Mahila police thana and through police stations based across the district.
2. **Medical assistance:** Once the victim approaches the Kendra, she fills out the registration form maintained by the Kendra. In case of medical attention, one of the police constables accompanies the victim to the nearby government hospital along with a letter from the Kendra to provide immediate attention to the victim. As per the law, the medical examination needs to be get done by the police for maintaining the official records. The Kendra helps in facilitating and sensitising the process. The letter given by the Kendra also has acceptability across all the government hospitals in the district as per the policy enacted by the state government.
3. **Registration of the case:** Once the victim receives immediate medical support, the Kendra fills out a detailed registration form capturing the socio-economic background, details of parents, in-laws, type and duration of violence faced, details of incidences and the nature of support sought from the Kendra. Wherever the woman is literate, she herself fills the form. In case she is illiterate, the Kendra provides writing assistance to the victim. A unique case number is allotted to every victim. The CCLE team provided writing assistance to some of the victims during its time of presence.
4. **Counselling:** Once the registration form is filled, the woman is directed to the counselling room. The two counsellors present there, give a patient hearing to the victim's ordeal and understand the cause of violence from her perspective. Counselling at MSSK is an emotional exercise as in most of the cases, the victim is denied any mental or emotional support from the husband or any of the family members. This stage, in fact, may be stated as one of the

most important functions of MSSK. The CCLE team got an opportunity to be present in these counselling sessions and take notes on what are the prevalent causes of violence. The team realised that a subjective assessment is made by the counsellor keeping in mind the merits of the situation and complete focus is paid on the woman. In certain cases, the victim was bold enough to ask for separation, divorce or punitive action against the perpetrator, while in other cases a milder stance was taken by the victim where she wanted the husband to be counselled by the Kendra.

The woman is requested to give in writing the whole case along with the support sought from the Kendra to take the matter ahead. In case the victim is illiterate, drafting support is provided by the MSSK. The CCLE team got an opportunity to assist the victims in drafting their cases.

5. **Joint counselling and police action:** Wherever the victim takes a milder stance, the husband is called to the MSSK and a counselling session is offered about the contentious issues prevailing in the relationship and marriage. The husband also shares his perspective. The counselling room is filled with general directives on how a stressed relationship can be made smooth through a few actions on the part of the couple.

Individual counselling of the husband and joint counselling of the couple is quite an effective tool, as a lot of the issues get resolved through the person-centric approach adopted by the counsellors. In a case where the victim is of the opinion that the relationship is now irreparable and seeks police action against the perpetrator, a letter is forwarded by the MSSK to Mahila Police Station for further action under the law.

6. **Follow-up action:** Wherever the husband agrees that he is willing to mend his way, a *samjhauta patra* (Understanding Deed) is given by him stating the actions due to be taken by him in the near future. If the actions mentioned by the husband are satisfactory to the woman, she also signs the *samjhauta patra* and a follow-up is taken by MSSK in 15 days to check on the case of DV.

Aparajita Kendras (‘One stop Centre’)

The MSSK also informed that there are 'Aparajita' Kendras running across the state which work in addressing the issue of DV. This Kendra is based in Jaipuria Hospital in the Jaipur (East) district. The CCLE team visited this Kendra to understand its overall functioning and provide assistance wherever required.

Observations

The CCLE team found out that MSSK, Jaipur (East) plays a pivotal role in addressing the issue of DV in the given district.

Some of the key findings are as follows:

1. **Holistic remedial process:** MSSK, Jaipur (East) provides a holistic remedial process where the victim is provided immediate and long-term support. Based on the cases observed by the CCLE team, the Kendra provides all-in support in terms of legal assistance, accommodation in short-stay home, psychological help, skill training and information on government schemes to the victim in need. This makes the MSSK an indispensable part of the grievance redressal machinery.
2. **Maintenance of records:** MSSK, Jaipur (East) maintains records at multiple levels which allows to work it in a transparent and efficient manner. Every victim is given a visitor card with the unique case number present on it which allows her to revisit the Kendra whenever the issue of violence reoccurs. The counsellors at the Kendra were candid to suggest that once a case is reported to them, it is usually never closed from their end. The reason behind

Box-1 Observations (in brief)

- MSSK, Jaipur (East) provides a holistic remedy process to the victim
- The Kendra maintains elaborate records for a follow up
- The Kendra is manned with trained counsellors
- The Kendra has due support from NGOs and the state government department
- Aparajita (‘one-stop Kendras’) are also present

the same is that violence may reoccur to the victim at any point of time in future. The Kendra maintains a separate file for each case which has all the details related to the victim from the registration form, initial complaint letter, communication received from the husband and other related documents. Apart from the file, a consolidated register is prepared with an Index which contains brief details of the case along with the action taken by the Kendra. MSSK, Jaipur (East) further prepares an annual report of the overall work done by it. The level of documentation maintained by this Kendra can be a case study for other women's safety institutions as well on how to work in a transparent and efficient manner without compromising the confidentiality of the victim.

3. **Presence of trained counsellors at MSSK:** Owing to the transparency measures, the CCLE team, subject to a confidentiality undertaking, also got an opportunity to be present in the counselling sessions. It was found that the counsellors were able to give a patient hearing to the victim and address the root cause of the issue. Based on over 100 case studies, the team found out that the counsellors were able to resolve the majority of the cases through the process of joint counselling. This number is resonated in the annual report prepared by MSSK⁴.
4. **Presence of NGOs and State government policy:** MSSK, Jaipur (East) has been running since 2002 with a combined effort of the police department and civil society organisations. Based on the combined efforts of the involved stakeholders, the state government through its policy decided to open such Kendras in parallel with all the Mahila Thanas across the state in 2011 (40). Currently, the police constables sitting at the Kendra are from the police department while the two counsellors are hired by the operating NGO. The Jaipur (East) Kendra is run by the combined efforts of more than ten NGOs.
5. **Presence of Aparajita Kendra/ One stop Centre:** An Aparajita Kendra/ One stop Centre in Jaipuria hospital of the district is established under the scheme by the Ministry of Women

⁴ As per the report, 585 out of 827 cases are resolved at the Kendra itself through counselling.

and Child Development which works 24x7 under the supervision of the state government. This Kendra has a team of counsellors, psychiatrists, police constables and guards on paper which works round the clock to provide support to the victims of DV.

Certain gaps, however, still remain. Based on the interaction with the officials at MSSK, it was realised that there are primarily three modes of detection for DV. Firstly, through the direct mode where the woman is aware of MSSK and reports the incident to the Kendra. Secondly, through a reference made by Mahila Thana, Jaipur (East) or 17 police stations spread across the district. Thirdly and lastly, through the order of the Magistrate. Based on the combined interaction with Station House Officer (SHO), Mahila Thana, SHOs in 17 other police stations, officials at the Aparajita Kendra, NGOs and domestic violence victims, the following observations were made:

1. **Lack of training of police officials:** It was realised that while the Mahila Thana maintained due records of the DV cases reported to it, there was no such register available with the other police stations. A similar concern was shown by the officials of MSSK that the police personnel are insensitive towards the issue of DV thereby compromising the overall detection process.
2. **Lack of advocacy measures:** The MSSK is run through the collaborative approach of NGOs and the police department. The internal annual report of MSSK, Jaipur (East) also

Box-2 Gaps in the Process

- Local SHOs require training to effectively handle DV complaints
- There is less focus on advocacy measures
- The quantity and quality of legal assistance may be upgraded
- There is lack of coordination and convergence between various state government departments
- There is no separate budget earmarked for training, advocacy and public events
- Aparajita ('one-stop Kendras') operate in an opaque manner

records instances of various voluntary organisations approaching the Kendra for contribution. However, the Kendra doesn't maintain any roster of individuals or organisations who are made responsible for the conduct of various advocacy activities to raise awareness around the issue of DV. As per the conversation with various stakeholders, it was realised that there are 20-25 Suraksha Sakhis ('SS') appointed by the state government per district to raise awareness about the issue on a voluntary basis. However, when the CCLE team asked the SHO Mahila Thana to share the names of these SSs in her district, no such information was provided. MSSK officials confirmed the absence of these SSs on the ground. There are other NGOs like Mamta, Azad Foundation, Mahila Kamgaar Union etc. working on the ground but not many details are available related to them.

3. **Legal assistance:** As stated earlier, some of the victims approaching the Kendra are determined to separate and take police action against the perpetrator. Based on the counselling provided by MSSK, the Kendra issues recommendation letters to the police for further action in 10% of the cases. Based on our interaction with SHO, Mahila Thana, most of the victims are perplexed by the legal niceties of the process and are left at the counsel of the Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) provided by the state government. Due to the lack of wherewithal and overall societal norm working odd against the woman, the police files a closure report ('final report') in approximately 45% of the overall cases reported to it. Even worse, DIR/ FIR is registered in less than 30 out of the 827 cases reported to MSSK.
4. **Lack of coordination between various departments:** As per the conversation with various stakeholders, there is a lack of interdepartmental coordination which puts the process of prevention of DV in jeopardy. There is no schedule of timely meetings on the work done in various quarters. This results in an information gap between officials working in various state government departments like the police, WCD and social justice.
5. **Funding measures:** There is a lack of funding measures on the part of the government. As stated earlier, MSSKs are modestly funded bodies with an annual grant of INR 3-3.15 lacs for overall functioning. There is a requirement to allocate separate funds for conducting

training of MSSK officials, and conduct advocacy and public events to gain wider publicity around the issue and measures to tackle the same.

6. **Opacity in Aparajita Kendra:** Even though such a Kendra has a staff of 15 personnel on paper, there were three personnel available at the time of the visit conducted by the CCLE team. There was general reluctance on the part of the concerned official to divulge any data in terms of cases being reported to the Kendra on a monthly and annual basis and bifurcation of it. There is no information on what is the compensation structure for the personnel working at the Kendra. On being confronted in terms of the number of advocacy events conducted by the Kendra, the officials had no answer. Even internally, there is no availability of annual reports for an independent organisation to study the functioning of the Kendra and design an intervention for its efficacy.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The MSSK is one of the nodal institutions working on the prevention of DV in the Jaipur (East) district. Another significant institution is Aparajita Kendra/ One Stop Centre. There are, in total, five governmental departments which are important stakeholders in the case of prevention of DV. The MSSK plays a crucial role in addressing the issue of DV in the district in a sensitised manner. The Kendra is manned with trained professionals and regularly carves out immediate and long-term support for the victim in a sensitised manner. The individual and combined efforts of the NGOs in Jaipur (East) are a point of inspiration and reflection for the government at the same time.

Based on the intervention made by the CCLE Team, a combination of further points of work and recommendations are made:

1. **Focus on advocacy measures:** A roster of NGOs working on the ground should be made at the MSSK level. This would allow the Kendra to coordinate and undertake more such events and campaigns in an integrated manner. Small booklets and brochures could be

published and distributed to the public which are already present at the Kendra. The state government should grant more funds to the MSSK for the conduct of advocacy events so that more cases of DV can be detected. The MSSK may rope in NGOs which are currently working on the ground and have the last-mile reach for this purpose. The Suraksha Sakhis (SS) either should have provided monetary incentives for their work or an alternative mode of livelihood for keeping them motivated. This can also be done if, such SS should be recruited from SHG groups.

2. **Training of police officials:** The state government should initiate training of the police officials so that they can provide proper direction to the approaching victims at the station level. The police stations should also be mandated under the law to maintain a register for the victims approaching them concerning GBV and DV apart from the main logbook maintained by them.
3. **Legal support:** The state government should grant funds to MSSK for the provision of good quality legal-aid to the victims of DV. These advocates may work with the victim across the lifeline of the case unless a relief is granted from an appropriate authority. The Kendra may conduct an assessment of the advocates before empanelling them to ensure quality.
4. **Transparency in Aparajita Kendras:** The state government should ensure that these Kendras operate in a transparent manner. Information like the number of cases reaching the Kendra, their bifurcation and the number of advocacy events conducted by them should be available on a standing basis in the public domain. Further, an annual report of the work undertaken by them should be published. These Kendras can take cues from the process followed by MSSK when it comes to adopting transparency as an efficient measure.
5. **Inter-departmental coordination:** The state government needs to ensure a coordinated response of five departments to address the menace of DV and GBV. Given that more than 40% of the cases reported to MSSK are from the lower strata of society, the victim is in need of an immediate support structure from the DCW and social justice department. The state

government should mandate coordination between the five departments at the state-level on a monthly basis to coordinate their activities when it comes to addressing the issue of DV. This would go a long way, not only in terms of supporting the victims but also generating capacity in the people of the state.

About the team



Mr. Sumit Jain is Assistant Professor and Senior Resident Fellow at the Centre for Competition Law and Economics. Mr. Jain has around a decade of post-qualification experience in government consulting and has implemented, monitored and evaluated social policies at the grassroots level in more than five states of the country. He is responsible for the overall project management and leadership. He has worked on the implementation of the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS), National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and Right to Information (RTI) Act with the Government of Rajasthan and prepared a monitoring system for disposal of Bio-medical Waste (BMW) for Chennai Municipal Corporation. He is a public policy graduate from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore.



Mr. Vikrant Singh is a public policy professional and Senior Resident Fellow at CCLE with diverse experience working in the field of governance, social policy, law and policy research. He has been associated with various State governments, think-tanks, research organisations and grassroot-level organizations in the past. He has worked with Pranab Mukherjee Foundation and has led a constitutional research project on the “Delimitation of Constituencies in India” under one of the former Secretary Generals of Lok Sabha and former consultant to the President of India. Vikrant is a public policy graduate from National Law School of India University, Bangalore.



Ms. Nazaqat Lal is an Advocate and Solicitor practicing in the Bombay High Court, Mumbai. She is a consultant to the CCLE and a graduate from Government Law College, Mumbai in 2013 and qualified as a Solicitor in 2015. Her practice areas include real estate, commercial litigation, estate planning and testamentary matters. She has represented two major Public Sector Undertakings in their litigation and arbitration, respectively. She has represented developers and societies in redevelopment projects. She also writes extensively and regularly publishes articles related to her practice areas.



Mr. Abhishek Raj is a practising Advocate at the Karnataka High Court. He is a Consultant to the CCLE and a host of state governments. Abhishek has worked with one of the Big four consultancy firms in the past and provided strategic inputs to key government departments to increase investments. He played a pivotal role in the Centre's work in the two recent Competition Commission of India's orders against one of the prominent Big Tech entities where the Commission has imposed a combined fine of INR 2,200 crore. Abhishek is a law graduate of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar and has completed his public policy from National Law School of India University, Bangalore.



Mr. Siddharth Mishra is a public policy professional and a Consultant with CCLE with diverse experience in Government consulting, driving evidence-based advocacy campaigns and policy communications. He is currently empanelled with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI and a host of state government departments. He has worked with the Government of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in providing monitoring and evaluation support for government programmes like Kalia Scheme for farmers in Odisha, Land records administration in Madhya Pradesh, Narua-Gurua-Bari Scheme for rural development in Chhattisgarh. He has done his B.Tech. from CSVTU Bhilai and Master of Public Policy from National Law School of India University, Bangalore.



Mr. Vineet J. Samuel is a Consultant to the CCLE. He is a policy commentator and analyst who contributes regularly to senior publications across the subcontinent. His work has been featured in The Hindu, The Indian Express, The New Age, Bangladesh and Mizzima, Myanmar, apart from his contribution to several online portals. With work experience in Myanmar and India in the field of Social Policy, Democratization and Governance and Public Finance, he has turned his focus to the future of work in the gig economy. Vineet has completed his graduation from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and his Master of Public Policy from NLSIU, Bangalore. He has been a German Chancellors Fellow and currently a Doctoral Fellow at Hertie School, Germany.

The Centre for Competition Law and Economics

Spacetime, 5th Floor, Savitri Complex

Greater Kailash-II, Delhi-48

centrecomplaw@gmail.com