



2016-17

ANNUAL REPORT

Partners for Law in Development



F-18, First Floor, Jangpura Extension
New Delhi- 110014

Tel. No.: 011- 24316832 / 33

Telefax: 011- 24316833

pldindia@gmail.com

programmes@pldindia.org

trainings@pldindia.org

www.pldindia.org

www.cedawsouthasia.org

Copyright © 2017

Partners for Law in Development (PLD), New Delhi

Cover Photo: Workshop on laws on sexual violence, Bhuj, March 2017

Written by: Partners for Law in Development

Layout and Design: Partners for Law in Development

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Core Strategies

1. Capacity Development
 - Sexual Harassment at Workplace
 - Laws on Sexual Violence
 - Witch Hunting law in Rajasthan
2. Information Resources
 - Sexual harassment and violence against women
 - Resource book on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
 - Feminist law archive
 - Bi-monthly legal news
3. Knowledge Creation
 - Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law
 - Mapping the stats of sexual health and well being in India

B. Cross Cutting Initiatives

1. Advocacy with Government and Human Rights Mechanisms
2. Talks and Conferences
3. Publications and Reports
4. PLD in the News and in Print

C. Organizational updates

PLD is a non profit legal resource group founded in 1998 that facilitates assertion of social justice and women's rights. We view law as an essential resource in the struggle for social justice, and gender equality as central to the attainment of social justice. We believe that human rights shape social justice goals by establishing a framework for the realization of the rights of the disadvantaged and the marginalised. Our understanding of rights and dignity of all persons is drawn from human rights law and the constitution on the one hand and the contextual realities of disadvantaged groups on the other. Our thematic areas of work address women's rights in contexts of marginalisation shaped by sexuality, culture, caste, conflict and development. PLD is registered as a public charitable trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (registration no: 10514/ IV of 16-12-98).

A. CORE STRATEGIES

1. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The capacity development initiative began trainings on three relatively new laws: 2013 amendments to the IPC, sexual harassment at workplace and on child sexual offences that over time assumed significant focus on sexual harassment. Of the nearly 50 trainings conducted by PLD training team in this period, 37 relate to sexual harassment at workplace. The legal duty to implement the law at workplace created an opportunity for PLD to proactively engage with agencies, state governments and institutions, and respond to external demands. Attention to all three laws continues to be the focus of grassroots trainings for civil society/ community organisations. Since July 2016, we also commenced trainings for the Rajasthan government on the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act 2015, since the notification of both the Act and its Rules (2016).

Sexual Harassment at Workplace

PLD conducted about 37 trainings/ discussions on the subject of sexual harassment from April 2016 to March 2017. Having begun work with government of Rajasthan in 2014-15, we have now also begun working with the government in Bihar. This has helped widening outreach to district level thereby contribute to improved redress for the women marginalized on account of social factors and rural, semi rural, small town contexts.



The following trainings were conducted in this period:

TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY PLD

NEW DELHI

| PLACE | DATE | NO. OF PAX. | PARTICIPANT PROFILE |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| New Delhi | 8 April, 2016 | 37 | ICC members, NGO heads, HR officers of private companies, educational institutions, NGOs, such as Landesa, Breakthrough, ASER, MSF, CREA, Avizwa Solutions, FAT, AATISH, JGU, Nazariya, Nari Sakhi Manch, AALI, Action Aid and the former Chair of Rajasthan State Women's Commission. |
| | 29 Nov., 2016 | 33 | Ministry of Broadcasting, ICAI, Bharti Foundation-Airtel, lawyers, NGOs from Delhi, NCR, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Lucknow, Ministry of Broadcasting, ICAI, Bharti Foundation-airtel, Advocate, Sambhavana Institute-HP, Strategic Alliance Management Services, PRADAN-MP, TARSHI, Breakthrough, PEC-Ahmedabad, IHES, SLD, NFIW, UN Women, i-Probono, The Naaz Foundation, Feminism in India, SADRAG, South Kolkata Sannidya, CWDS, Satchitananda Foundation, Humsafar- Lucknow and Independent consultant. |
| | 25 March 2017 (organized by WSS) | 20 | Discussion with members of WSS and Pinjara Tod on concerns related to consent, enforcement in informal progressive activist spaces. |

TRAININGS CONDUCTED FOR GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES

BIHAR (with Women's Development Corporation)

| PLACE | DATE | NO. OF PAX. | PARTICIPANT PROFILE |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Patna | 13-14 June, 2016 | 61 | WDC head office Staff, helpline coordinators from all districts, and officers from departments of Tourism, Animal Husbandry, CID, Panchayati Raj, Election, IPRD, Art Culture & Youth, Rural Works, Planning & Development, Cooperative, Cane Industry, PHED, Mines & Coal, Forest & Environment, Dairy, Board of revenue, PHC, AIR, Saksham, Education, Health, Law, Sadhna News, Social Welfare, BRLPS, Dainik Bhaskar, Sanmarg, Infrastructure Development Authority |
| Patna | 21-22 Feb., 2017 | 70 | Commercial tax, SSUPSW, Bank, Law, Saksham-DSW, UDHD, H.R, Election, WDC, PMC, Education, Revenue, Forest, Transport, NBPDC, BIADA, |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|---|
| | | | PHD,BSLSH, Tourism, Police, Animal Husbandry, NGO, Cooperative, Energy, Health, Industry, Art Culture and Youth, SC/ST Welfare, Parliament Affairs, ICDS, Agriculture, Minority welfare, UNFPA, BCEBC, Press, RCD, Labour, Social Welfare |
| RAJASTHAN (with Women and Child Development) | | | |
| Jaipur | 6-10 June, 2016 | 102 | On request of Superintendent, Rural Police, Jaipur for staff of various Police Stations in Jaipur district |
| Jhunjhunu | 17 -21 Oct., 2016 | 400 (86+77+90+77+90 in each session) | Education, Economics and Statistics, Information and Public Relations, Women and Child Development, DRDA (rural development agencies), Public Health Engineering dept, Commercial taxes, Agriculture, Pollution control, Animal Husbandry, Minority, Labour, Dairy, Polytechnic, Administration, Ayurved, PWD, Forest, Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Energy and Power, Health and Medical, Skill development, Textiles, Housing Board, Tehsil Nagar Nigam, JilaUdyog, ICDS, local NGOs, police, NIFT, Food and Civil supplies. |
| Kota | 7 Nov., 2016 | 95 | |
| Boondi | 8 Nov., 2016 | 20 | |
| Jhalawar | 9-10 Nov., 2016 | 85 | |
| Bhilwara | 28-29 Nov., 2016 | 80 | |
| Pratapgarh | 13 Dec., 2016 | 56 | |
| Banswara | 14-16 Dec., 2016 | 140 (over 3 days with 57+52+29 per session) | |
| Rajsamand | 2-3 Jan., 2017 | 58 | |
| Jodhpur | 31 Jan., 2017 | 80 | |
| KERALA | | | |
| Sakhi Women's Resource Centre | 16-17 Feb., 2016 | 40+10 | LCC members, ICC members of government departments, people working with unorganised sector from Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram |
| TRAININGS CONDUCTED FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS | | | |
| MADHYA PRADESH | | | |
| Indore | 18-19 Feb., 2017 | 49 | Members of NIFW, CFW, Aaganwadi worker, Prerna, NNVS, MBDA Seva Sangathan, teachers, NFID from 18 districts - Anuppur, Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Barwani, Sivni, Dabra, Damoh, Guna, Jamnakalani, Jabalpur, Khargone, Mandla, Sagar, Sidhi, Ujjain, Dewas, Singrauli, Indore. |
| TRAININGS CONDUCTED ON REQUEST FROM INSTITUTIONS/ COMPANIES | | | |
| Jindal Global University, Sonipat | 22 July, 2016 | 40 | University Staff Security Staff |

| | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|
| Jindal Global University, Sonipat | 31 Aug, 2016 | 40 | University Staff Security Staff |
| Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Delhi University | 23 Aug., 2016 | 80 | Students from B.A. Elementary Education, BA (H) Social Work |
| IIT, Delhi | 27 April, 2016 (2 sessions) | 150 | Mostly Ph.D students in 7 sessions with batches of 20-30 each |
| | 7 Sept., 2016 (2 sessions) | | |
| | 21 Sept, 2016 (2 sessions) | | |
| | 28 Sept., 2016 | | |
| Supreme Court of India | Between 28 Aug., 2014 and 13 Oct., 2016 | 20-30 | Lawyers and Administrative Staff |
| Tower Research Capital India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon | 19 Jan., 2017 | 15 | Office Staff |

Laws on Sexual Violence

These trainings are organized in collaboration with local organizations with experienced staff, local activists and other community organisations in the area. What is most rewarding about these trainings however is to gain understanding of the local issues and cases and how the activists tackle them, what are the barriers and how these barriers are negotiated.

The following trainings were conducted in this period:



| Place | Date | No. Of Pax. | Participant Profile |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| GUJARAT | | | |
| Ahmedabad | 8-9 Aug., 2016 | 38 | District and Taluka Coordinators of Nari Adalat, Mahila Samakhya, Gujarat. The district covered in this training was Kheda, Botad, Anand, Bhavnagar, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Dahod, Kutch, Porbandar, Ahmadabad, Jamnagar, Devbhumi, Dwarka, Surendra Nagar, |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|----|--|
| | 10-12 Aug., 2016 | | Junagarh, Mehrudu, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha, Aravali and Bharuch. The training on 10-12 was for community worker from Nari Adalats. |
| Bhuj (in collaboration with KMVS) | 16-18 March, 2017 | 40 | Members of KMVS, KMVS's Urban & legal, Sakhi Sangini, Saiyere Jo Sangathan from blocks of Nakhatrana, Mundra, Mandavi and Bhuj. |
| JHARKHAND | | | |
| Ranchi | 20-21 Dec., 2016 | 29 | Members of Mahila Samakhya, Prerna Bharti, Tulsi (SHG), Ganapathi (SHG) from district of Girdeesh, Latehar, Western Singbhumi, Devdhar, Eastern Singbhumi, Ranchi, Chattara, Palamu. |

Witch Hunting law in Rajasthan

After the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, and its Rules were notified, PLD was invited to the inaugural event in Jaipur to announce the implementation of the law, with the Minister and senior officials of police, legal aid and the departments. PLD was prepared the summary of the law printed as a brochure by the WCD (bearing PLD and WCD logos) for circulation throughout the districts. Thereafter, PLD has been enlisted to conduct district level trainings on the law, the details of which are given below.



| PLACE | DATE | NO. OF PAX. | PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE |
|------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Jaipur | 5 July, 2016 (State level inaugural meeting) | 80-100 | Minister, Chair State Women's Commission, DGP (Police), State Legal Aid Board, Secretary WCD, UNFPA, WCD District Programme Officer, CSOs. |
| Bhilwara | 16 Jan, 2017 | 35 | ICDS, WCD, AVVNL, Police, PHED, RSAMB, Health, Skill Development, Judiciary, Education, SDM, SJED and NGO, Zilla Parishad, Agriculture, DIPR, INCHT, Roadways, Employment, DSO, PWD, Housing Board, ALDM lead bank. |
| Chittaur | 17 Jan, 2017 | | |
| Rajsamand | 18 Jan, 2017 | 50 | |
| Udaipur | 19 Jan, 2017 | | |
| Dongarapur | 20 Jan, 2017 | 58 | |
| Tonk | 13 Feb, 2017 | 22 | |
| Sawai Madhaopur | 14 Feb, 2017 | 44 | |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----|--|
| Bundi | 15 Feb, 2017 | 31 | |
| Kota | 16 Feb, 2017 | 35 | |

2. INFORMATION RESOURCES

Sexual Harassment and violence against women

PLD created a new poster in Hindi namely, '*mabihao ke kanoon par ek nazar*' which covers laws relating to domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace, acid attack, child marriage, witch hunting, and sexual assault.



PLD's posters on sexual harassment at the workplace have been translated into Bangla by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) in 2017 and into Gujarati by Sahiyar in 2016; and the translation into Telugu is ongoing.

Resource book on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act



This booklet in Hindi titled, *Bal Yaun Shoshan par Kanoon* (2016) has been published on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). It also outlines the procedures, provisions of Criminal Procedure Code and Juvenile Justice Act and its interlinkages with POCSO.

Feminist Law Archives

The 3rd phase of developing Feminist Law Archives is underway. Four new themes have been added – women and health; women and work; multiple marginalities; speech, expression and censorship. The Archives is the only online source on women's movements engagement with the law.



Bi-monthly legal news

PLD's online newsletter enters its 10th year in 2017. Started in 2008, we have successfully released 6 newsletters every two months with a focus on gender, sexuality and culture; and a consolidated annual digest every year.

3. KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law

The study seeks to understand the ways by which change in legal age of sexual consent renders adolescents and young adults more vulnerable, and impacts efforts to build agency and leadership in girls. One part of the study involves documentation of social context as it plays out in the lives of girls in romantic relationships, and the views of service providers who work with/ for adolescents; the second part involves understanding judicial approaches when confronted by consensual relationships. The primary data collection through field work as well as analysis of case law was the main focus of this project in the year.

Mapping the status of Sexual Health and Well being in India

PLD is undertaking a country assessment on the theme for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). This study is part of a larger inquiry including mapping of reproductive health and well being a segment undertaken by an organization working on women and health.

B. CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES

1. ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Draft National Policy on Women 2016

National Commission on Women organized meeting to discuss and invite comments on the Draft National Policy on Women, 2016 on June 23, 2016 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. PLD submitted its comments on the draft policy in writing to the MWCD and the NCW in advance, discussing these at the meeting.

India's 3rd Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council

- PLD gave written submissions and participated at the NHRC National Consultation on preparation of its report for the 3rd cycle of India's UPR, August 12-13, 2016 at IIC, New Delhi and attended Northern regional consultation of NHRC in December 2015.
- Participated at the national consultation organised by the Ministry of External Affairs with NLUD to on May 6-7, 2016 at NLUD.
- Organized national consultation for civil society on September 9-10, 2016 to orient and collate inputs for submissions on women and LGBTI. Based on the inputs received, PLD submitted a joint stakeholder's report on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (2012-2016) for the 3rd cycle of India's Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council.

UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice

Participated in the expert meeting on Due Diligence to discuss the essentials of good practices on elimination of discrimination and violence against women 15-16 July 2016.

With CEDAW and UNSRVAW on Violence Against Women

- Made submissions to the CEDAW in response to its call on updating General Recommendation 19 and made submissions to the UNSRVAW on the call for a special treaty on violence against women.
- Facilitated consultation by UN Women, on September 23, 2016 in Delhi to brief civil society on the issues, different positions based on which UNW prepared its submissions to the CEDAW.
- Invited as panelists to the strategic consultation on developing a global response on combatting violence against women, organized by IWRAW-Asia Pacific, in Dec 5-6, 2016.

2. TALKS AND CONFERENCES

- Participated at the national consultation to discuss status of curative petition on 377 IPC, organized by the Lawyers Collective on February 4, 2017
- Made presentations on witch hunting at the XV National Conference of the Indian Association of Women's Studies, January 22-25, 2017, Chennai.
- Participated as panelist at the Law and Social Sciences Network (LASSnet) 4th international conference December 10-12, 2016, New Delhi
- Invited as key note speaker for inaugural session at 15th National Convention of Women's Studies organized by Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) on December 2, 2016.
- Presented for workshop on documenting the history of gender training in Delhi November 19-20, 2016 at AUD.
- Invited to make presentation at National conference for visually impaired women organised by All India Confederation of the Blind on November 12, 2016, New Delhi.
- Participated in Know Violence in Childhood: a global initiative meeting at Population Foundation India in Delhi on September 19, 2016
- Invited as panelist at Brave New World of Women's Rights: Conversation with women advocate from around the world
- Made presentation at Beyond the Miniscule Minority: research and gathering of evidence on sexuality and gender on May 28, 2016 in New Delhi.
- Made presentations and invited for talks at universities of Warwick, SOAS and Cambridge.

3. PUBLICATIONS/ REPORTS

New Publications:

- The Journey from Victim to Survivor: Challenges for Justice (2016) workshop report by PLD and CWDS
- *Bal Yaum Shoshan par Kanoon* (2016)
- Summary of the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, 2015 prepared by PLD and published as a brochure by WCD, Rajasthan. The logos of both PLD and the WCD are printed on the brochure.
- Status report on Gender Equality (2012-2016): Joint Stakeholder report on women and LGBTI for the 3rd cycle of India's Universal Periodic Review.



Dissemination: Since 2015, PLD has uploaded its publications on Academia.com and SSRN. In addition, physical stocks of publications and posters were disseminated actively through conferences.

4. PLD IN THE NEWS AND IN PRINT

- Little attention to victim centric support services: 16 Dec, 2016 *Hindu*
- Rape laws: a call for change: *Livemint*, March 18, 2017
- Are India's anti-rape laws as draconian as Madhu Kishwar says they are? *Scroll.in*, April 8, 2017

C. ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

| Our Team and Programme Partners | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Executive Director | Madhu Mehra |
| Research | Radhika Chitkara Aapurva Jain (Consultant) |
| Training | Deeksha Gulati Rachana Sharma Puja |
| Interns | Shreya Aradhana Ananth Zarnaim Fatima Maskhur Alam |
| Programme Assistance and Finance | |
| Administration | Kishore Tirkey (Programme Assistant) N. Jayapriya (Programme Admisitration) |

| | |
|--|---|
| Finance | Vipin Kumar (Finance Manager) Ankur Kashyap (Finance Officer) |
| Programme Partners | |
| Bihar | Woman's Development Corporation |
| Rajasthan | Department of Woman and Child Development |
| Gujarat | Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Mahila Samakhya |
| Jharkhand | Mahila Samakhya |
| Institutions/ Companies | JGU, IIT Delhi, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Tower Research Capital India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon |
| Advisors, Resource Pool and Consultants | |
| Advisors | Anuja Agrawal Kamala Sankaran Malavika Rajkota Mrinal Satish Nandini Narula Sanjay Aggarwal Uma Chakravarti |
| Mapping vulnerabilities of youth in relation to sexuality, early marriage and the law | Anuja Agrawal Aparna Chandra Jaya Sharma |
| Governance | |
| Board of Trustees | Aradhana Nanda Geetha Ramaseshan Jaya Sharma Madhu Mehra Rebecca John |
| Financial Partners | |
| McArthur Foundation; American Jewish World Service; National Human Rights Commission; UN Women | |