



YOUTH horizons

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Golden Years

Fifty years and marching on steadily. This quarter marks the beginning of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra's 50 years of existence. Vishwa Yuvak Kendra began its glorious journey five decades down the lane when the Indian Youth Centres Trust was established on 10 August 1961. As the year of the Golden Jubilee celebration starts, VYK looks back at its past glory and plans for its shining future with the support and co-operation of all.

The Agro-based Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Awareness Generation Programmes on Women Empowerment and General Entrepreneurship Development Programme are three important reaching-out programmes of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra. During this quarter these three programmes were conducted in Assam in collaboration with the Society for North East Handmade Paper Development (SNEHPAD).

The farmers group at Kunder Gaon, Jorhat, was more than willing to improve its livelihood through agro-related activities. Livestock farming, mushroom cultivation and medicinal plant cultivation appealed to the farmers. The students group from four colleges of Jorhat had specific questions to raise during the three-day Awareness Generation Programme on Women Empowerment. Non-inclusion of girl students in the National Defence Academy course, social restrictions and limitations imposed upon girls and the negative impact of visual modernisation were some such issues. The participants of General EDP were unemployed



youth from Missamora and the nearby villages of Golaghat district. Most of them aspired to do something in life, but lacked information and facilities to learn and develop their skills. It was observed that the people at the grass-roots level were aware of the changing scenario of developing India. They needed assistance in identifying their needs and achieving their goals.

Vishwa Yuvak Kendra also conducted a Certificate Course in Youth Work, one of the most popular courses among NGO workers and MSW students and a training programme on Right to Information during this quarter.



Suresh Ambekar
Director



Nurturing Power

Certificate Course in Youth Work

With the passage of time it has been realised that youth work is required for the holistic development of young people of our nation. The youth has immense potential to bring changes and therefore there is a need for trained youth workers. Considering the growing requirements indicated by small as well as large youth and social welfare organisations involved in youth work, and also after studying the important role of trained personnel, especially those working in rural areas, in accelerating the socio-economic and human resource development in our country, the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra has been conducting a Certificate Course in Youth Work regularly since 2003.

The seventh certificate course was conducted from **1 July-8 August 2010**. The programme was a combination of academic sessions, library reference and field work. Thirty participants from 10 different states that included Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar, Assam, Bihar, Delhi,



Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh participated in this programme.

It was a residential course and during the course, topics such as youth and youth work, personality enhancement, working with people, formation and management of an NGO, social and health issues of youth, enhancing resources and entrepreneurship development were discussed. Library assignments, project proposals preparation and so on were given as after-class work. Fifteen-day English speaking and yoga classes by Sanjay Anand from Art of

The youth has immense potential to bring changes



Living were also a part of the course along with activities such as participation in group discussions, public speaking and debating.

Director, VYK, said that the purpose of this course was to help the participants to understand the structure of society and identify the needs of the community, to plan and implement appropriate programmes. It was expected that the knowledge of skills and techniques would enable the participants to discharge their functions with greater competence. Apart from the in-house faculty, experts from various fields interacted with the participants. Eminent resource persons were Dr. Samiksha Singh, Sunil Keswani, Selvi, Manish Sisodia, Dr. Rajesh (University of Delhi), Major General Surat Sandhu, Dr. Rajesh (SPYM), Dr. Zeenat, Mayank Upadhyay, J. Sharma, D. Bhattacharya, Dr. V.P. Vaidik and Dr. Sujata Rao. The participants had one-week field exposure. During this period they did a baseline survey of a community near Vasant Kunj.



Realising a Dream

Right to Information

To create maximum awareness, sensitisation and education among the NGO workers on the fundamental concepts and nuances of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra organised a programme on Right to Information from **28-30 September 2010**.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Wajahat Habibullah by lighting the lamp. In his inaugural address he stated that the Right to Information Act has its special place in the legislation. This was the dream of the Father of the Nation who talked about power in the hand of the common man. The Constitution of India in article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression and the Supreme Court has held that this guarantee includes the right to information. But till recently it was almost impossible to exercise that right without using influence. He also shared the survey result of Transparency International, which was a matter of shame for India, where transparency and accountability was lagging behind. Our Constitution, our laws and particularly the RTI Act helps if there are any complaints, grievances



and the people are not getting their rights. They have the right to ask the concerned departments and authorities to get the information without any violence. In Delhi many examples can be shared in the case of ration card, widow pension and so on. By just asking a simple question about the status of their applications, their

Our Constitution, our laws and particularly the RTI Act helps if there are any complaints, grievances and the people are not getting their rights

work, which had been pending for a long time, can be done. The Act also compels all Government offices to keep all information on their website. The Government of Rajasthan has circulated a note to

Gram Panchayats to disseminate information outside their offices to make the citizens aware about their programmes and policies, funds allotted and funds utilised.

The topics such as the background of the RTI Act, scope and provisions of the Act, citizens' right under the Act, machineries

under the Act, application and implication of the Act, implementation of the Act— Problems and Challenges, were taken up by Anjali Bhardwaj, Satark Nagrik Sangthan, M.S. Kasana, Former Joint Director, Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, Pankaj K.P. Shreyaskar, Deputy Secretary and Assistant Registrar, Central Information Commission, Manish Sisodia, KABIR and Rajiv, Pardarshita. Forty-seven participants from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka, Manipur, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi participated in the programme.





Reaching Out

Assam

Assam is one of the richest biodiversity zones in the world and has a wide array of tropical rainforests, deciduous forests, grasslands, bamboo orchards and numerous wetland ecosystems. Assam's biggest contribution to the world is tea.

Despite its rich natural resources, and the supply of up to 25% of India's petroleum needs, the growth rate of Assam's income has not kept pace with that of the country.

Agriculture accounts for more than a third of Assam's income and employs 69% of its workforce. Assam's agriculture is yet to

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experience modernisation in the real sense.

With implications to food security, per capita food grain production has declined in the past five decades. Productivity has increased marginally; but is still lower in comparison to highly productive regions. Apart from tea and petroleum refineries, Assam has few industries of significance. The Assam Agriculture University is located at Jorhat, Assam. It is the only agricultural university among the Seven Sisters.

Vishwa Yuvak Kendra conducted the Agro-based Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Awareness Generation Programme on Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development from **24 September-1 October 2010** in collaboration with the Society for North East Handmade Paper Development (SNEHPAD).



Agro-based Entrepreneurship Development Programme



The Agro-based Entrepreneurship Development Programme was conducted at Kunder Gaon, Titabor, Jorhat.

The Titabor sub-division of Jorhat district is famous for its fertile land and quality rice production. Kunder Gaon is at a distance of four kilometres from Titabor town and 14 kilometres from Jorhat, district headquarters. Kunder Gaon is under Namchungi Gaon Panchayat and Baghchung Development Block.

Titabor is famous for its fertile land and quality rice production

There are 87 households in the village and the total population is 520. Almost all households are involved in paddy and vegetable cultivation, tea plantation and animal husbandry activity. They all have small ponds but there is not any planned irrigation system in

the village. People use both chemical and bio fertilisers. The colour of land is black, the PH of the soil is slightly acidic. However, agro-based entrepreneurship is yet to develop in the village.

The programme was formally inaugurated by S.K. Pujari, Project Director, DRDO, Jorhat. Pujari emphasised the need for creating a market for the agro-based products of Assam. Syed Altaf Hussain, Retd. Deputy Director (Industry) and Vice-President of SNEHPAD, spoke on the scope of Entrepreneurship Development in the Agro Sector. Md. Naved, Programme Officer, VYK, shared his experiences with farmers of other states and encouraged the participants to look forward to bringing changes in agriculture. Apart from the discussion and interactive sessions the participants had an exposure visit to Assam Agriculture University.

A quiz on general knowledge and agriculture, conducted by Bani Bora, Programme Officer, VYK and Prakash Thakur, Secretary, SNEHPAD, made the concluding session lively and interactive. Fifty participants attended the programme. Thakur divided the participants into five groups according to their interests and future plans and entrusted the responsibilities of follow-up action to each group.

Topics	Resource Persons
Promotion and Financing Farm Sectors in Assam—Role of NABARD	Mayur Bora, DDM, NABARD
Soil Condition, Irrigation, Water Conservation and Application of Bio-fertilisers	Nobin Bora, Convenor, ATMA
Entrepreneurship Development based on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	Dr. I.C. Baruah, Professor, Assam Agriculture University
Utilisation of Agro-waste and Mushroom Cultivation	Dr. Ajit Bordoloi, Senior Scientist, NEIST
Poultry Farming, Fish Breeding and Animal Husbandry for Farmers	Dr. Gokul Sharma, Dairy Development
Technology Inputs in Agriculture and Value Addition of Natural Fibre	Dr. Dipul Kalita, Scientist, NEIST
Cash Crop and Idea Generation in Agriculture Marketing	Dr. Chandan Hazarika, Professor, Assam Agriculture University





Women Empowerment

The Indian Constitution grants equality to women and empowers the state to adopt measures in favour of women. The laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different areas. To enhance awareness and to help women understand the need for empowerment, the Kendra organised Women Empowerment programmes at J.B. College, Jorhat, from **25-27 September 2010**.

It was expected that by organising such a programme in a renowned college, the message could be conveyed to a larger group and more academicians could be involved in the programme.

Jorhat is one of the most historically and geographically important places of Assam as it was the last capital of the Ahom Kingdom. This place is also known as the cultural capital of Assam. Jorhat is internationally famous for Majuli, the biggest river island and is a two-hour drive from Kaziranga National Park, home of the one-horned rhino. It is outfitted with many national level institutions such as the Regional Research Laboratory (presently NEIST), Rain Forest Research Institute, Central Eri and Muga Research Institute,

Topics	Resource Persons
Status of Women in India, Need for Women Empowerment	Bani Bora, Programme Officer, VYK
Women Empowerment through Economic Independence	Mayur Bora, DDM, NABARD
Economic Issues Related to Empowerment of Women in Assam	Dr. Muchumi Konwar, HOD, Economics, DCB Girls College
Women and Primary Health Care	Dr. Minakshi Thakur
Women Empowerment through Education	Dr. Archana Bhattacharjee, HOD, English, Kakajan College
Socio-economic Empowerment Issues of Women in Assam	Dr. Labanya Majumdar, Retd. Dean, AAU, Jorhat



Tea Research Institute, Medical College, Engineering College, Assam Agricultural University and so on. As a place of educational excellence, students from the entire northeast come to study here.

On behalf of J.B. College, the programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Bolin Hazarika, Head, Political Science Department, along with faculty member Subhasish

Sharma. The programme was formally inaugurated by Dr. Anmona Bora, Head, English Department, J.B. College. Apart from discussions on issues related to women empowerment, there were group discussions and presentations by the participants who also interacted with successful women entrepreneurs of SNEHPAD. Thirty-five participants from four colleges of Jorhat, C.K.B. Commerce College, J.B. College, Jorhat College and P.J. College, took part in the programme. The participants had informative and interactive sessions with Bani Bora, VYK faculty.



General Entrepreneurship Development Programme



Unemployment is one of the most crucial problems in Assam and Northeast India, creating socio-economic imbalance in the region. Offences such as theft are increasing and youth are getting attracted towards insurgency. The tendency of suicide is also increasing among youths. Such a major problem cannot be solved merely by creating some Government jobs. People must go for effective entrepreneurship so that various sources of employment generation come out of it.

To create awareness, sensitise and motivate unemployed/underemployed youth to take up

entrepreneurship as self-reliant ventures, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra conducted a General Entrepreneurship Development Programme at Missamora village of Golaghat district from **27 September-1 October 2010**.



Missamora village is under Dergaon Development Block of Golaghat District. The village is situated almost in the midst of Dergaon and Golaghat town. The main livelihood of the area is paddy and sugarcane cultivation. They produce high quality molasses. However, monkey menace is a major problem in the area.

The jute rope making cluster is near the village. The total population of the village is about 1,400 and literacy rate is 86%. About 40% of educated youth are totally unemployed and 25% are partially employed. Most of the partially employed are engaged in agriculture, small business and private service. There are many social organisations in the village

Topics	Resource Persons
Entrepreneurship: Meaning and its Relevance	Md. Naved, Programme Officer, VYK
Selection of Project and Project Viability	T. Sahai, Extn. Officer (Industry)
Scope for Agro-based Industries in Golaghat District with Special Reference to Animal Husbandry Activity	Bharat Deori, SDO (Agriculture)
Preparation of Bankable Projects and Banking for New Entrepreneurs	Sailen Das, DDM, NABARD, Golaghat
Experience Sharing with a Successful Entrepreneur	Jogen Bora, Successful Entrepreneur
Business Development through Utilising Technological Inputs	Dr. C.N. Saikia, Retd. Deputy Director, RRL (NEIST)

such as clubs, mahila samitis and SHGs. The villagers produce sufficient vegetable for their own consumption.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Pronob Baruah, Project Director, DRDA, Golaghat. Prakash Thakur, Secretary, SNEHPAD, spoke about the programme objectives and encouraged the participants to get maximum benefits. Thirty-seven unemployed youth from nearby villages participated in the programme. Md. Naved, Programme Officer, VYK, discussed risk taking and product identification during the interactive sessions.



Awarding Excellence

Congratulations SNEHPAD

We are immensely happy to share that one of our member organisations—Society for North East Hand Made Paper Development (SNEHPAD), Jorhat (Assam)—has been honoured with the National Award for excellence in service for promoting the Village Industries Sector by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, on **31 August 2010** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Prakash Thakur, Secretary, SNEHPAD, received the award.

SNEHPAD was established in 2005 under the guidance of a committee headed by the then Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat, in the presence of the representatives of KVIC, Mumbai, DI&CC, Jorhat, DRDA, Jorhat, NABARD and banks,

to manage the UNDP/KVIC Projects on Handmade Paper and to popularise them in the northeast region for employment and income generation. The Managing Committee is headed by Retd. Joint Director (Agri) Jatindranath Das as the Chairman. Syed Altaf Hussain, Retd. Deputy Director (Industry), is the Vice Chairman and Prakash Thakur the Secretary. The Society has been legally registered under SR Act XXI of 1860. It got affiliation by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in 2007.

**Prakash Thakur,
Secretary, SNEHPAD,
received the award**



Aiming High

“I am not looking for a small job for my survival any more. My work has got recognition and it has given me appreciation, my family is happy.”

Anjali Bora, 30, used to prepare jute material, after receiving training from SNEHPAD. Observing her aptitude for learning, SNEHPAD nominated her for Vishwa Yuvak Kendra’s five-week-long Certificate Course in Youth Work 2009 in Delhi. Interaction with resource persons and participants from different states helped her in developing her communication skills and confidence. From a learner, Anjali became a successful trainer in DRDA, KVIC and NABARD’s programme. She earns about ten thousand rupees a month.

glory

Fielding Hopes

Block Field Work

Amresh, Shantappa, Mahesh and Naresh, students of MSW, fourth semester, from Inamdar MSW College, Gulbaraga and Naresh M. Nayak, Amaresh L. Itgikar, Mahesh S. and Rampur Shantappa, MSW students from Gulbarga University, Karnataka, successfully completed their one-month Block Field Work Training programme from **24 June to 23 July 2010.**

During this period of Block Field Work, they studied the background of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, its structure, capacities and functioning. They organised focus group discussions and group meetings with young people and women on child labour, immunisation and health and hygiene in the Netaji Nagar Slum Community. They also conducted literacy classes for non-school going children and participated in a weekly health camp, which was held every Saturday.

During this period of Block Field Work, they studied the background of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, its structure, capacities and functioning

As an observational tool, they studied the past and present activities run by VYK as community development projects. They were also oriented about project planning and designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, the technique of fund raising, organising of various training programmes and some administrative tips of NGOs.

The students were supervised by Vikas Kumar, Programme Officer, VYK.



Improving Lives

VYK had been working on health, literacy and income generation in the Sarojini Nagar Community for the last 10 years. As the community was being relocated before the Commonwealth Games, it was therefore decided to shift its activities to Harijan Basti in Vasant Kunj. The community has around 200 hutments with a population of approximately 1,800. As per the findings of a baseline survey, the people of the community are deprived of major basic amenities. Most of the children do not go to school and the health and economic status of the people is also very low. Vishwa Yuvak Kendra organised its first health camp in the community on **9 October 2010**, where doctors examined the patients and medicines were provided. The Kendra is planning a massive awareness campaign on health and education to be followed by literacy and vocational classes for girls and boys.





Constitutional and Legislative Provisions for Women in India

Constitutional Provisions

The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralising the cumulative socio-economic, educational and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensures equality before the law, equal protection of law, prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantees equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment. Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard.

Constitutional Privileges

- (i) Equality before law for women (Article 14)
- (ii) The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them (Article 15(i))
- (iii) The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children (Article 15 (3))
- (iv) Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State (Article 16)
- (v) The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39 (a)); and equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39 (d))
- (vi) To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of

economic or other disabilities (Article 39 A)

(vii) The State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42)

(viii) The State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46)

(ix) The State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health (Article 47)

(x) To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51 (A) (e))

(xi) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat (Article 243 D (3))

(xii) Not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level to be reserved for women (Article 243 D (4))

(xiii) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Municipality to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality (Article 243 T(3))

(xiv) Reservation of offices of Chairpersons in Municipalities for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such a manner as the legislature of a State may by law provide (Article 243 T (4))

Legislative Provisions

To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support services especially to working women. Although women may be victims of any of the crimes such as 'Murder', 'Robbery', 'Cheating', etc, the crimes, which are directed specifically against women, are characterised as 'Crime Against Women'. Broad classification of legal rights for women are as follows:

Dowry

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 says, "Dowry means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person, at or before or any time after the marriage, in connection with the marriage of the said parties but does not include dowry or *mahr* in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies. The expression 'valuable security' has the same meaning as in section 30 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)."

Section 304 B, IPC: (1) Where the death of a woman is caused by any burns or bodily injury or occurs otherwise than under normal circumstances within seven years of her marriage and it is shown that soon before her death she was subjected to cruelty or harassment by her husband or any relative of her husband for, or in connection with, any demand for dowry, such death shall be called "dowry death", and such husband or relative shall be deemed to have caused her death. For the purpose of this sub-section, "dowry" shall have the same meaning as in section 2 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (28 of 1961).

(2) Whoever commits dowry death shall be punished with imprisonment for

a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.

Section 113 A, Indian Evidence Act:

Where a married woman commits suicide within seven years of her married life and it is shown that her husband or his relatives had treated her with cruelty, it would be presumed by the Court that her husband or relatives had aided (abetted) her suicide.

Section 174, Code of Criminal

Procedure: Police to enquire and report on suicide, etc. (1)

When the officer in charge of a police station or some other police officer specially empowered by the State Government in that behalf receives information that a person has committed suicide, or has been killed by another or by an animal or by machinery or by an accident, or has died

under circumstances raising a reasonable suspicion that some other person has committed an offence, he shall immediately give intimation thereof to the nearest Executive Magistrate empowered to hold inquests, and, unless otherwise directed by any rule prescribed by the State Government, or by any general or special order of the District or

Sub-divisional Magistrate, shall proceed to the place where the body of such deceased person is, and there, in the presence of two or more respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood, shall make an investigation, and draw up a report of the apparent cause of death, describing such wounds, fractures, bruises, and other marks of injury as may be found on the body, and stating in what manner, or by what weapon or instrument (if any) such marks appear to have been inflicted.

(2) The report shall be signed by such police officer and other persons, or by so many of them as concur therein, and shall be forthwith forwarded to the District Magistrate or the Sub-divisional Magistrate.

(3) When there is any doubt regarding the cause of death, or when for any other reason the police officer considers it expedient so to do, he shall, subject to such rules as the State Government may prescribe in this behalf, forward the body, with a view to its being examined, to the nearest Civil Surgeon, or other qualified medical man appointed in this behalf by the State Government, if the state of the weather and the distance admit of its being so forwarded without risk of such putrefaction on the road as would render such examination useless.

(4) The following Magistrates are empowered to hold inquests, namely, any District Magistrate or Sub-divisional Magistrate and any other Executive Magistrate specially empowered in this behalf by the State Government or the District Magistrate.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

An Act to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987

An Act to provide for the more effective prevention of the commission of *sati* and its glorification and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas *sati* or the burning or burying alive of widows or women is revolting to the feelings of human nature and nowhere enjoined by any of the religions of India as an imperative duty;

And whereas it is necessary to take more effective measure to prevent the commission of *sati* and its glorification.



The Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005

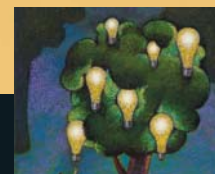
Definition of domestic violence:

For the purposes of this Act, any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it:

(a) harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or

(b) harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or

(c) has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b); or (d) otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.



The Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2007

A Bill to provide for prevention and redressal of sexual harassment of women at the workplace and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Some of the crimes against women are:

- i. Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)
- ii. Kidnapping and Abduction for different purposes (Sec. 363-373)
- iii. Torture, both mental and physical (Sec. 496-A IPC)
- iv. Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)
- v. Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)
- vi. Importation of girls (up to 21 years)

Special Initiatives for Women

(i) National Commission for Women (1992)

In January 1992, the Government set up this statutory body with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, to review the existing legislation to suggest amendments wherever necessary, etc.

(ii) Reservation for Women in Local Self-Government (1992)

Constitutional Amendment Acts passed in 1992 by Parliament ensures one-third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural areas or urban areas.

(iii) The National Plan of Action for Girl Child (1991-2000)

The Plan of Action is to ensure survival, protection and development of the girl child with the ultimate objective of building up a better future for the girl child.

(iv) National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001)

The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resources Development has prepared a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in the year 2001. The goal of the policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women.

The sun does not shine there, nor do the moon and the stars, nor do lightning shine. All the lights of the world cannot be compared even to a ray of the inner light of the Self. Merge yourself in this light of lights and enjoy!



BEST MEDICINE

H₂O

Teacher: What is the chemical formula for water?

Student: h.i.j.k.l.m.n.o.

Teacher: What?

Student: Yesterday you said the formula was 'h to o'.

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voices

iQ 11

Jorhat is internationally famous for:

- a. The biggest river island
- b. White Bear
- c. Sword Fish

Who or what employs 69% of Assam's workforce?

- a. Industries
- b. Cinema
- c. Agriculture

Which dream of Mahatma Gandhi's has been recently fulfilled?

- a. Right to Information
- b. Right to Peaceful Existence
- c. Right to Free Speech

Readers, here are five questions taken from this newsletter. All you have to do is select the right option and send it to us at vyk@vykonline.org. The winner gets an exciting prize!

Who has immense potential to bring changes?

- a. Rahul Gandhi
- b. Manmohan Singh
- c. Youth

Which organisation is celebrating 50 years of existence?

- a. VYK
- b. KAS
- c. SNEHPAD

Congratulations

Winner of quiz no. 10:
Purabi Lahon,
Kuouri Pukhuri,
Jorhat, Assam