

## 1) NCW STATE LEVEL SEMINAR ON "AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ABOUT WITCH HUNTING"

Two days state level seminar organized by Society for Innovative Rural Development with financial assistance from National Commission for Women in **22/23th March 2014**.

**TOPIC OF THE SEMINAR: Awareness Programmes about Witch Hunting" Jharkhand.**

**SPONSORED BY:**  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, NEW DELHI**  
**VENUE: Town Hall, Old Court, Rajmahal, Sahibganj District, Jharkhand.**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 seminar was organized. 200 beneficiaries came for the seminar. The distinguished speakers included Shabnam Parveen (Member, JSWC) Kapil Aggrawal (Advocate, Rajmahal) Pradip Kumar Aggrawal (BJP Ex-President) Awadh Lal (Cercal Inspector, Rajmahal), Abaad Hussain (Social Worker), M Chouhan (Advocate), Md. Golam Haider (Bokaro Steel City Member), Dr. Bandhu Verma (Advocate), Bindeshwar P D (Advocate), Binay Kumar Saha (Bar Council Secretary -Rajmahal) Pratap Kumar (Labour Enforcement Officer), Rajendra Bhagat (Block Welfare Officer), Mr. Musuk Sheikh (Social Worker)

### CHALLENGES

- ❖ Mindset about people in Jharkhand about Witch Hunting.



- ❖ “Superiority” of men versus “inferiority” of women (within private spaces like the family)
- ❖ Awareness Generation about Witch Hunting and Its Impact in Jharkhand.



- ❖ Awareness Generation on Government efforts regarding reducing Witch Hunting Cases in Jharkhand.
- ❖ Awareness Generation on status of women who have been victims of Witch Hunting in Jharkhand.
- ❖ Awareness Generation about the various government legislations against witch-hunting.
- ❖ Awareness Generation on the implementation of Government steps for giving

financial aid to women who have been ostracized as witches in Jharkhand.

- ❖ Awareness Generation on what counseling services can be provided to the women who are victims of witch hunting.
- ❖ Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of the superstition of witch hunting.
- ❖ Awareness of Witch- Hunting as a superstition and steps needed to stop it– by the State, civil society organisations, as well as the public at large.
- ❖ Gender budgeting and gender mainstreaming within State agencies and civil society organisations

### **DISCUSSIONS IN THE SEMINAR**

Spoke on the superstition of witch hunting and harassments faced by women in India, The Prevention of Witch (DAAIN) Practices Act, 2001., importance of education to remove Daain Practices, situations when a woman is ostracized as a witch, Women being labelled as witches on any death due to malnutrition or illness, Government Legislations to stop witch hunting, prevalence of witch hunting among Adivasis and Santhals, Where to report cases of witch hunting, Where to approach for



help in case your own family inflicts harassment on you, Statistics on Witch Hunting, Situation of Women who are ostracised as witches, Recommendations to stop witch hunting, Spoke on Need of awareness on the issue of ostracization as witches,

## **OUTLINE**

The issues of Women's Problem Witch Hunting. The legal aspects of the problems were also addressed during interactive sessions with beneficiaries.

Two day seminar was organized 264 beneficiaries came for the seminar. Resource persons shared their knowledge on various aspects of witch hunting and its impact in Town Hall, Old Court, Rajmahal, Sahibganj District, Jharkhand. Pamphlets and booklets were distributed. Knowledge on Details on statistics on Witch Hunting Cases in Jharkhand, Information on Government efforts regarding reducing ostracization of women as witches, Information on various Legislations against Witch Hunting,



Information on counseling services available to victims of witch hunting and Information on The Prevention of Witch (DAAIN) Practices Act, 2001.) were provided. Details were also provided on whom they shall approach in case of being a victim of witch hunting. All information was provided that would make them aware of their rights. Cultural Programme (Song Recitation) was also organized.