

NHRC issues new guidelines to end discrimination against widows

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/nhrc-issues-new-guidelines-to-end-discrimination-against-widows/articleshow/112438020.cms>

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In May 2022, the villages of Hervad and Mangaon in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district made history when they passed a resolution to ban regressive customs that demean and ostracise widows - wiping off kumkum, forcibly breaking bangles, preventing them from wearing colourful clothes or attending social functions, and even driving them away as harbingers of bad luck. Inspired by these villages, several others followed

Building on this momentum, MP Supriya Sule introduced the 'Protection of Rights of Widows and Single Women and Abolishment of Widowhood Practices' Bill in July 2022 in the Lok Sabha to eliminate discriminatory practices against widows. Two years on, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has finally stepped up with an advisory that was issued to the centre, all the state govts as well as Union Territories on the 'Protection of human rights of widows'.

"The NHRC has noticed that widows face many problems beyond the emotional distress of losing their spouse," explained an official from the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC). "They are still isolated from society, struggle financially, receive little family support, and sometimes even lose their homes." To tackle these, the NHRC's new guidelines issued on June 11 include ten key measures which include setting up a "widows' cell" in each district to help them access welfare schemes without needing a marriage certificate, access to identification documents like Aadhar, PAN and ration cards, legal help to protect their rights to property, community-based support groups to help widows feel included and remarry if they wish to.

Apart from calling on both state and central govts to report back on the progress within two months, the NHRC has also advised the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and relevant state departments to maintain a centralised online database of all govt-run homes for widows and deploy teams at the district level to regularly inspect these ashrams and homes to monitor their living conditions. In response, the MSHRC launched awareness camps last month in four districts of Akola, Amravati, Washim, and Yavatmal of the Amravati region focused on the struggles of widows, especially those of farmers. "We began in Amravati due to its high number of widows-557-and the alarming rate of farmer suicides. We featured five case studies of local widows to reflect issues outlined in the advisory," said an official from MSHRC.

One common problem for widows in rural areas is the right documentation to apply for benefits. "Many don't have marriage certificates, and if they submit a form with a picture of them in a coloured sari or wearing ornaments, their widowhood is questioned," she explained. Many widows are also forced out of their in-law's home, losing their rights to property or maintenance under the Hindu Succession Act. To

address their financial insecurities, the MSHRC is collaborating with the agriculture department to provide skills training and free seeds to farm widows.

Another persistent problem is repressive practices by families who don't allow widows to participate in auspicious occasions, or wear ornaments or colourful clothes after their husband's death. "There was a govt resolution that banned these customs which humiliate a widow by defacing her. However, there's no penalty for these acts because they harm a woman's dignity but don't cause physical injury. Complaints can only be filed under human rights violations if these acts cause bodily harm, but most women don't report. This is why prevention and awareness campaigns are so important."

Since 2022, attitudes have started to shift, and people are beginning to move away from glorifying widowhood but it's still prevalent with hardly any comprehensive statistics available since the GR was passed. "The data we have is mostly qualitative," says the official. "This is why we invite block development officers, govt officials, panchayat heads, and NGOs to our awareness camps to point out the gaps in their services that result in widows being subject to indignity or being deprived of their rights."

These issues aren't just confined to rural areas either. "It's rampant in urban centres like Mumbai and often enforced as part of funerary rituals," says the MSHRC official recalling a recent incident at a police camp in Worli. "Just the other day, a woman at a police camp in Worli was forced to break her bangles, wipe off her vermilion, and given a lecture on the things she must give up as a widow by a group of women who descended on her. Another widow is expected to leave her house whenever a prospective groom and his family visit for a marriage proposal for a younger woman in the family, as she is seen as bad luck."

"There is still no legal protection for women who are subject to such practices," reiterates Pramod Zinjade from Pothre village in Solapur, an activist for the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who turned his attention to widows' rights after a co-worker died during Covid and within minutes of the pyre being lit, a group of women stripped his wife of her vermilion, bangles and anklets.

Shocked by this "insulting" tradition, Zinjade encouraged gram panchayats to pass resolutions banning these customs. "Today, at least 15,000 out of the 28,000-plus gram panchayats in Maharashtra have agreed to ban widow customs," he says. "Yet, in many villages, on occasions like Nag Panchami, widows and Dalit women are considered unlucky if seen in the morning. Consequently, widows hide their faces with their saris when they step out, out of a sense of guilt."

Delhi teen dies of electrocution; Swati Maliwal says nothing changed

<https://ianslive.in/delhi-teen-dies-of-electrocution-swati-maliwal-says-nothing-changed--20240811120846>

New Delhi, Aug 11 (IANS) A 13-year-old boy died due to electrocution while playing cricket in Delhi, after which AAP MP Swati Maliwal, in an indirect attack on the Kejriwal government, said nothing has changed.

The boy died while playing cricket on Saturday afternoon, on a ground in West Delhi's Kotla Vihar Phase 2. He was rushed to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital but was declared brought dead, the police said.

Mentioning recent electrocution deaths in the national capital, the former Delhi Commission for Women chief said this time also nothing will change and the blame game will continue till people forget the deaths.

Taking to social media platform X, Maliwal posted in Hindi, "In Delhi, a 13-year-old boy was electrocuted to death while he was playing cricket. Earlier, a woman and her son in Gazipur and a UPSC aspirant in Patel Nagar died of electrocution.

"This time also nothing will change, only blame game will continue, till the people forget...No value of human life," her post read.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) has issued notices to the Delhi government, Delhi police commissioner, and vice chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), in connection with deaths due to drowning and electrocution in the national capital.

The NHRC in a statement said, "The reported incidents, as in the recent past, are indicative of the "negligence by the civic authorities, which is a matter of concern."

Power regulator Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has announced assistance of Rs 7.5 lakh in case of loss of life and Rs five lakh on more than 60 per cent disability due to electricity-related mishaps in the national capital.

On Friday, Maliwal attacked the AAP government accusing it of only making false promises to clean the river. She called for setting up sewage treatment plants in the national capital to depollute the river.

Two kids die in separate rain-related incidents in Delhi

<https://www.news9live.com/city/delhi/two-kids-die-in-separate-rain-related-incidents-in-delhi-2652375>

The National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) has issued notices to senior Delhi officials, including the government, police commissioner, and DDA vice chairman, in response to recent incidents of drowning and electrocution in the city. The rights body has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports

Adan Khan Updated On: 11 Aug 2024 13:13:PM

New Delhi: Two kids died in separate rain-related incidents in the national capital. In the first incident, a 13-year-old boy died due to electrocution while playing cricket in West Delhi's Kotla Vihar Phase 2. According to the police, the boy came into contact with a live wire attached to an iron pole carrying electricity to a cow shed near the cricket ground. He was immediately rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where he was declared brought dead. The police have registered a case under section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. In another incident, seven-year-old Tarun drowned in accumulated rainwater in a park in the Aman Vihar area of Rohini district. The police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the child's death, but initial reports suggest that rainwater had accumulated in the park, leading to the tragic incident.

NHRC seeks accountability

The National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) has issued notices to top Delhi officials, including the government, police commissioner, and DDA vice chairman, over recent incidents of drowning and electrocution in the city. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports highlighting the deaths of at least 13 people in Delhi-NCR, including six due to electrocution and four due to drowning in overflowing drains during heavy rain.

The Commission expressed concern over the "negligence by civic authorities" and sought details on the steps taken or proposed to prevent such incidents from recurring. The notices aim to hold authorities accountable for the tragic incidents, which exposed the city's inadequate infrastructure and civic negligence.

Compensation

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has announced compensation for electricity-related mishaps: Rs 7.5 lakh for loss of life, Rs 5 lakh for over 60 per cent disability, Rs 1 lakh for 40-60 per cent injury and hospitalisation benefits ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000. Compensation is also provided for loss of animals and poultry.

Delhi: Boy electrocuted after touching iron pole carrying live wire while playing cricket

<https://www.indiablooms.com/news-details/N/99028/delhi-boy-electrocuted-after-touching-iron-pole-carrying-live-wire-while-playing-cricket.html>

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#Delhi, #Accident, #Electrocution

New Delhi: A 13-year-old boy died from electrocution after coming into contact with a live wire while playing cricket in Delhi on Saturday afternoon, media reports said.

The incident occurred in West Delhi's Kotla Vihar Phase 2, where the boy was electrocuted while retrieving the ball, according to an NDTV report.

He allegedly received an electric shock from an iron pole carrying a wire to a cow shed located in a corner of the ground.

Despite being rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, he was declared dead on arrival.

The police have registered a case under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, related to deaths caused by rash or negligent acts not amounting to culpable homicide, the report said.

Earlier, in late July, a 12-year-old boy also died of electrocution in southwest Delhi's Bindapur area after coming into contact with a live wire while returning home from a tuition class.

In another incident, a 28-year-old man died from electrocution at his home in southeast Delhi's Mithapur area, the report said.

The National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) has issued notices to the Delhi government, the police commissioner, the vice chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and other senior officials regarding recent incidents of electrocution and drowning in Delhi.

The NHRC expressed concern over what it described as "negligence by the civic authorities" and noted that at least 13 lives were lost in Delhi-NCR recently, including six due to electrocution and four due to drowning in overflowing drains amid heavy rain.

The Commission has sought information on the steps taken or proposed by the authorities to prevent such incidents from recurring.

In response to the electrocution cases, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has announced financial assistance of Rs 7.5 lakh for the families of those who lose their lives and Rs 5 lakh for individuals who suffer more than 60 percent disability due to electricity-related accidents. The regulations also outline compensation for injuries, hospitalization, and the loss of animals, birds, or poultry due to such mishaps.