

Rape culture or not, it is we who decide!

- Kashish Sodhi

A few days back, while traveling to my office, I met a woman — about five years older than me, a dancer, an ambitious model, a fun-loving and spiritual person. We happened to get along randomly! On our way towards Okhla Bird Sanctuary metro station, we continued talking — about life, parents, passion, goals, friends, traveling, etc. We exchanged numbers and texted back in a few seconds after separating.

That day was one hell of a day!

I got late while leaving from work and dropped the chance of meeting her while traveling back to Gurgaon. I boarded the metro and took my preferred spot (near the door). I habitually listen to music while onboard, but not that evening. That evening, I was just pondering, stressing my nerves so strong, just recollecting what that gorgeous woman had said earlier in the day.

What she stated will hit you strenuously and I'm gonna quote it without altering, "You know, I asked my brother last weekend — what are you most afraid of when you are out? (like traveling or shopping or partying till late) His response was simple — I am just terrified that no one snatches my phone! Or I seldom dodge encounters as I am frightened as hell towards any threats. I was like — nothing more? To which he responded NO."

"Now, imagine how much alarmed I am? I have to take care of what I am wearing and have to keep myself conscious perpetually — is my strap visible, am I resting in the right position. I have to hold that nerve full of anxiety and walk quicker when I am alone! People talk about gender equality and feminism and numerous other things. I think when this atmosphere transpires from every woman's inner self, that day I will approach gender equality as a reality and not merely a notion (which it currently seems to be)"

Throughout my 1:30 hours of the course, I just kept on looking for explanations and peeked into myself as to how much have I made a girl protected. It could have been very easy for me to put on some stories on Instagram and Snapchat, and censure the society, the mentality, the upbringing, the families, the friend circle, etc.

Has that helped? Ask this question to yourself again? Has this exercise helped any woman of the nation? Did any of your female friend mention about feeling protected and unharmed even around 7 pm?

Limited response could be yes! But a conventional answer each individual would have — Never!

It's remarkably good how the youth is utilizing social media today, that's commendable. But, just put your-

self in the thought of leaving from your friend's place late or from office/tuition, what is the first notion that appears in your consciousness?

It's the anxiety that sinks in that makes you vulnerable and low on self-confidence, which can be critical.

The new season of Ted Talks India — Nayi Baat presented a lot of female voices who are striving towards gender equality and sexual violence. But the most significant speaker — Madhumita Pandey (a doctoral researcher and a lecturer in criminology) just caused chills to me. She reached with an answer to the question which every Indian asks — "Why do men rape?"

She interviewed more than 100 convicted rapists in Tihar Jail for her doctoral thesis. She followed the ethical guidelines which were set by the British Psychological Society and examined only the willing participants. Questions such as — "do you masturbate? When did you first have sexual intercourse? Did you ask for consent?" were asked and the results, clearly not shocking!

What her research stresses on is extremely insightful and is accurate to the point that we humans manage to overlook issues on the other side of the nexus such as everyday eve-teasing, debasing language against women, sexist jokes, and harassment. Long-term precautionary measures



shall include the society's locus on these less alarming issues, which ultimately lead up to intense violence or build tolerance towards it. She has advised the society to shift towards structural changes that address the asymmetric power relationship between men and women in the country.

The dilemma of lack of personal identity among women (especially in the rural communities) necessitates the education and empowerment of women while guaranteeing the development of a healthy perception of masculinity amidst young men.

Socio-cultural influence and conventional gender roles play

pivotal roles in subjects such as victim-shaming, toxic masculinity, and rape culture.

Another element that is more prevalent amongst sex offenders — 'victim-blaming'. It is a very common phenomenon that demands to be replaced. Sex offenders in their narratives effortlessly put a question mark on the victim's character. How can it be improved? Or how can the rape culture standstill?

The key to this barrier lies in education — Sex Education!

In India, there is a distinct perception among people when the word sex drops in. It is nothing to be embarrassed about; we agree to it, yet we manage to evade conversa-

tions on the topic with our family members. Why?

This draws in a lot of discomfort but proffers birth to the idea of 'lack of awareness'. The outcome of this is pretty candid — many in our country don't even realize the term 'consent'.

From the birth of a man, until he is grown, it is a very complex period and usually in our country, he experiences privileges such as autonomy, mobility, opportunity, and power. The most amusing factor is that these privileges are reckoned to be only enjoyed by men and not women. Women instead start to endure restrictions.

We are yet to have a nationwide campaign focusing on

educating our people towards sexual violence and exploitation, and changing everyday misogynistic viewpoints.

Educating young boys and girls (both rural and urban) will enable them to understand their bodies, age-related changes, the meaning of consent, respect one's personal space, menstruation, sexual intercourse, sexually transmitted diseases, and risks of pregnancy. Also, it would be more meaningful if parents are committed to this process at the very first point. Parents should start educating their children gradually with age, which will incur a greater sense with them from the very beginning.

Putting up stories and comments on social media platforms is okay! But what is more important right now, at the moment, is people stepping up on such agendas. If you can put up a good message/caption on social media, then you are certainly capable of doing much more!

Trisha Shetty, an Indian activist, runs a non-governmental organization called SheSays which concentrates on ending gender-based discrimination and the advancement of women's rights in India. Her NGO has supported rape survivors and their families with medical and legal aid (at times financially too).

People like Madhumita Pandey, Trisha Shetty, and many more are working

towards such subjects and require everyone to support them and help India become a rape free country.

It is a tough job and not an easy one! But just reminisce about everything which appears in your mind being an Indian — rape culture, a dangerous place for women, lower ranking in terms of women's inclusion and well-being, one of the countries with the highest number of crimes against women, etc.

Four women are raped every hour in India. The real stat could be much higher.

I am just pushing each one of you to stand up and deem about taking an action that might be conducive to many and even yourself. Questioning the government, or the law, on taking action is probably evident to each one of us. But, we not being part of the developing process are equally culpable for the before-mentioned acts.

I have myself engaged with such NGOs and people dealing with human rights advocacy and gender policies. Please, step up and start taking productive actions, which can direct to the prosperity of our nation. This might not be the ultimate answer to the most prominent dilemma of the nation, but it could be multiple steps up the ladder to arrive at the coveted stature.

Think and act smartly people! This is what young India is supposed to do!

Unemployment dole: 40% women among beneficiaries in state

Jaipur: About 40% of youth who are getting the unemployment allowance in Rajasthan are women, according to the data released by Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department.

According to the department data, Rajasthan government provided unemployment allowance to 1.5 lakh youth in Rajasthan till December 15, including 60, 563 women. Among the total beneficiaries are 994 handicapped persons. The total amount disbursed so far is Rs 224 crore.

Dr Samit Sharma, commissioner of the skill and employment department, said the number of women who have

benefited from the scheme is "very encouraging". "It is a way of empowering them," he said.

The caste-wise break-up of the beneficiaries shows 111,464 from the general and OBC category, 22,115 from the scheduled castes (SCs) category and 16,611 beneficiaries from the scheduled tribes (STs) category.

The district-wise break-up shows that the highest amount has gone to Sikar, which has got Rs 29 crore, followed by Alwar (Rs 16 crore) and Jhunjhunu (Rs 15.9 crore) and Jaipur (Rs 15.57 crore).

The lowest amount went to Pali, which got Rs 49 lakh, followed by Barmer

(Rs 54 lakh), Jaisalmer (Rs 76 lakh), Pratapgarh (Rs 77 lakh) and Chittorgarh (Rs 85 lakh).

Sharma said the districts with a higher proportion of educated youth have sent in more applications and so the sum disbursed to them is more.

"In Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur, youth are more educated and aware as compared to Pali or Jaisalmer, so more applications are received from these districts," he said.

Before coming to power, the Congress government had announced the unemployment dole for the youth. Chief minister Ashok Gehlot in the 2019-20 bud-

get had announced that Rs 3000 allowance would be given to unemployed men and Rs 3500 to unemployed women from March 2019.

The government set a limit of 1.6 lakh beneficiaries per year and allotted a budget of Rs 524 crore under the scheme.

As per the eligibility criteria, any unemployed graduate whose family income is less than Rs 2 lakh per annum is eligible. The allowance will be given for a period of two years.

The official said that under the previous BJP government, a total of 1.56 lakh beneficiaries got the allowance and a sum of Rs 121 crore was disbursed.

LIC : Leap as a Leader in Life Insurance Business Sector in Current Financial Year

Udaipur: Life Insurance Corporation of India started its development journey on 01 September 1956. At the same time, to date it is providing its effective and speedy services in India and abroad

Along with this, the corporation is giving continuous employment to the youth/women. In the same sequence, the corporation is recruiting new assistant and development officers.

As per data released on 30.11.19, Life Insurance Corporation of India remains the market leader even today. The corporation's market share was 74.71 percent on a policy basis in March 2019, which increased to 76.28 percent in November 2019. Similarly, on a premium basis, the market share was 66.24 percent in March 2019,

which increased to 71.00 percent in November 2019. Due to the faith in the LIC of the public, even today, the corporation continues to dominate the insurance sector even today, which is increasing month by month. In September, the market share in policy was 73.42 percent, in October it was 78.25 percent and in November it was 84.82 percent. Similarly, on a premium basis, the market share grew to 63.62 percent in September, 66.13 percent in October and 71.59 percent in November.

The Udaipur divisional office of Life Insurance Corporation of India is also establishing many new dimensions under which the board has remained the first all-India level. The Board has shown growth in new business data on all the

grounds. At present about 173 types of SMS are being sent by the corporation to the policyholders. In order to provide digital services to the policyholders, the Udaipur board has mobile no. It also remains the first place in the pan-India level in storage.

The Corporation provides several alternatives modes of premium payment for the convenience of its policyholders, in which the premium can also be paid on Paytm, LIC App, Life Plus and Premium Points provided at the offices of the authorized Development Officer and Agents of the Corporation.

Apart from this, if the premium due in the policies of the corporation is paid by credit card, then no fees will be borne by the policy holders.

Divyangs showed talent in Hyderabad

Udaipur: Narayan Seva Sansthan organized a Divyang Fashion and Talent Show in Hyderabad. In which 40 Divyangs shocked the audience by sitting on wheelchairs and wearing calipers and artificial limbs, exposing their physical talent. Rajya Sabha member T.G. Venkatesh said that some of the skills that the Divyangs showed on this platform, proved that they too are no less than anyone.

The trustee-director of the institute Devendra Chaubisa said that by organizing this type of talent show in every city is not only encouraging the differently abled but also trying to give a message to the society that it is enabling the disabled brothers and sisters from the mainstream to come forward to connect, so that their contribution to the development of society and country can also be ensured. Divyang artists Jagdish Patel, Yogesh Prajapat, Ahmed Raja, Bajrang Nehra expressed their gratitude to Padmashree Kailash 'Manav' and the president Prashant Aggarwal, the founder of the institute.



Every effort to make the state as a child friend - Beniwal

Udaipur: The joint action of Rajasthan Children's Commission, District Administration Udaipur, Rajasthan Police Bachpan Bachao Andolan, & entire rescue team to bring the children from Gujrat was congratulated by Sangeeta Beniwal, Chairman of the Rajasthan State Child Rights Protection Commission on her surprise visit of Udaipur. Beniwal first interacted rescue members after discussing with the Dr. Shailendra Pandya, Member of Rajasthan Children Commission later with the children who had resuscitated them from child labor by going to the shelter home, run by the Shri Aasra Vikas Sansthan, While wishing the district administration and the District Superintendent of Police for this achievement, Beniwal directed for strict action against the employer and better rehabilitation of the children.

During the visit, Dr. Shailendra Pandya, Member of the Commission, assured the Child Welfare Committee, Udaipur to provide all possible help and guidance by the Commission while talking about preparing the medical and counseling reports of these children at the earliest. Arriving at the Gayatri Seva Sansthan office in Sector 4, the Commission Chairman,

taking information about the efforts being made by the institute in the tribal area called upon the voluntary organizations to come forward for child labor elimination.

During the meeting and visit with the Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Shailendra Pandya, Member, Child Commission, Child Welfare Committee Udaipur and Rajsamand Chairman Dhruv Kumar Charan, Bhavna Paliwal, Assistant Director of Child Empowerment Department, Meena Sharma, Divisional Labor Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare Committee Member Jignesh Dave, Rajeev Meghwal, Suresh Chandra Sharma, Children's Home Officer K. K. Chandravanshi, Deputy Superintendent of Police Udaipur and departmental officers were present.

Khanak Jain Winner at Paus Music Festival

Udaipur: The Paus Sangeet festival was organized at the Arbuda Kala Mandir Music Training Institute at Surajpole circle, in the main hospitality of Chief Guest Artist Narayan Bhati. On this occasion, Khanak Jain, a flute student of the institute was awarded for the performance of Raag Bhupali. In the program, Divya Kansara performed guitar, Abhiram Gaurav performed Tumhi Ho Mata Tumhi Ho, lakdi ki Kanthi and Gayatri Mantra on Organ. At the end of the

ceremony, the chief artist and the chief guest were honored by presenting a logo. Students and guardians of the institute were present on the occasion. Smt Manju Garg, Narayan Salvi, Gopal Gothwal, Nutan Vedi, Abbas Bhai, Pushpendra etc. were present in the program.

Anandita selected for national-level competition

Udaipur: Anandita Tamra, a student of class 12 of the CPS school, has been selected in the school level national badminton competition. Recently, in the selection camp held in Hanumangarh, Anandita has secured second place and made her place in the Rajasthan team for the competition. Anandita will now participate in the national competition to be held in Maharashtra from January 3 to 4.

Gehlot greeted by wearing a garland of cotton

Udaipur: Chief Minister Mr. Ashok Gehlot, who came to visit the free surgical and ophthalmic camp organized in the state postgraduate college campus of Nimbahera (Chittorgarh), was welcomed and greeted by State Congress Committee Secretary Pankaj Kumar Sharma by offering a garland of tricolor and cotton on the helipad.

29th State Blind Sports Competition concludes

Udaipur: The 29th state-level Blind Sports competition was held on Friday under the joint aegis of State Pragna Chakshu Higher Secondary Blind School, Udaipur, and Rajasthan Blind Sports Council, Ajmer. The program was concluded at the Government Pragna Chakshu Higher Secondary Blind School, Ambamat, Udaipur. Sports competitions were organized at Kachel Telli Samaj's Nohra, Mallatla.

Towing - Kassi, ordinary race, kabbadi, chess competitions were organized in the program.

The chief guest of the closing program was Ganpat Lal Talesra, Chairman Dr. Abha Sharma, distinguished guest Lions Confederation President Chandmal Kachhwa and Colonel Pradeep Kapoor were present. In the above competitions, contestants from senior A and senior B categories from all the districts of Rajasthan participated. The accommodation and meals of all the contestants were arranged in the local school with the help of Bhamashahs.

In addition to competitions, a conference was held to discuss Braille and new technology topics. At the end of the program, Bhamashahs and activists who supported the event were honored.

Here are the results

In the ordinary race, Sandeep Kumar of Jodhpur, Arvind of Sirohi in a leg race, Mukesh Meena of Udaipur in the shot put, Arif Mohammed team in Rassa - Kassi, Ashok Kumar team in Kabbadi, Manohar Lal Tanwar of Ajmer in chess. Similarly, Dinesh Lekhray of Jodhpur in the ordinary group B senior race, Sohanlal of Dungarpur was first in a leg race. In the ordinary race, Junior was Nanuram of Udaipur and Sandeep Kumar of Jodhpur in the shot put. Along with this, the winners who finished second and third in all these competitions were also awarded at the closing ceremony.

