



Save Indian Family – Karnataka (Regd.)

“Help for Men in Distress”

All India Helpline (SIFOne): 0-8882-498-498 Extn 1



PRESS RELEASE:

ANNUAL NATIONAL MENS CONFERENCE DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE FROM GENDER INJUSTICE

This Independence Day, group of 50 NGOs, under the umbrella of Save Indian Family (SIF) movement and 180+ activists across nation will gather in Mumbai to brainstorm advocacy of gender neutral laws. The seventh national confluence has been earmarked to evolve with strategy of protecting men, facing undue harassment, due to the biased and misuse prone laws. The biased laws resulted primarily due to the perception of treating “***all Men as Criminals and all Women as Angels***”. India has got Independence from the British but the Men are yet to gain Equality. It’s ironical that “India”, presumed to be a patriarchal society, has marginalized men like never before. The group will also discuss the concerning issue of suicide of men and deteriorating health status and lack of medical facilities for men and boys.

Suicides reflect the social trauma and mental status of men. The data from NCRB 2014 illustrates the alarming situation men are facing in present scenario. **Every 5.9 min a man is committing suicide in India with family disputes as single largest reason of male suicide.** As per the latest statistics from NCRB, we wish to highlight following:

- Rate of **Male to Female Suicide** has increased from **2.05** in 2013 to **2.10 in 2014**. Rate of **Husband to Wife Suicide** has increased from **2.17** in 2013 to **2.21 in 2014**. This means that with the prevalent Anti-Men environment in India, more Men and Husbands are committing suicide. India, indeed, is becoming unsafe for men.
- In India, a **Man committed suicide every 5.9 minutes** in 2014. While a Woman committed suicide every 12.36 minutes. Unfortunately, **Government is yet to show any intent to bring equality for Men in Law**. In 2014, India witnessed Men Suicide (89129), Husband Suicide (59744), Women Suicide (42521) while least was Wife Suicide (27064).
- Another startling fact is that suicide of women in **age group 30-60 years** is 39% of total women suicide while the same **for men is 55%**. This clearly shows that the 16% men were more vulnerable than women in the age group of 30-60 years. It is pertinent to mention that this is the age group which is contributing maximum to GDP of India and hence government’s *loss of focus to men of these age groups* specifically will have a direct effect on the GDP of the country.
- The NCRB 2014 Suicides data also gives another clear indicator of how growing to **be an Adult male in India is crime**. Till the age of 18 years, for every 100 suicides, boys and girls have almost equal proportions. **The moment a boy becomes a man, i.e. of every 100 suicides of adults in India, 2/3rd of the suicides are by Men.** The moment **laws**

PR Contact: +919632812802

Email: sifkarnataka@gmail.com
Follow us on Twitter: [@SIFKtka](https://twitter.com/SIFKtka)

Website: <http://www.sifkarnataka.org>
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become biased, Men's suicide sky-rockets by another 25%-28%. It indicates that *women are safer in Husband's house whereas Men are unsafe once they become adult.*

- It is ironical that **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, in their own report in 2007 had said that of every 100 children sexually abused, 53 are boys but still the Rape laws of India or other **laws do not cover men as victims** because of which we see a huge increase of Suicide of Male gender the moment they become adult. **The suicides are either because of false rape case threats or them being victims of Rape by women and no law covers them.**
- *Cannot be directly established but indeed in 2013-2014, Hope was generated for Men in India with launch of SIF One (National helpline for Men – 8882498498) and also the directions from Hon'ble Supreme Court in 'Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar' gave a huge relief to Husbands / Married men and that's where we are pleased to see their suicide count coming down.*
- As per the **Accidental deaths (by unnatural causes) data of NCRB 2014, 80% of victims are Men** but still the Government is not waking up to make workplace, society, public areas, homes safer for men.
- More than **85% of Traffic Deaths and over 81% of Traffic injuries victims are Men** and still the Government is ignoring men completely in their policies and their budgets.

Single largest reason as revealed by NCRB for suicides were found to be family disputes (21.7%).

The Confluence of activists will discuss the expansion of SIF one helpline further. The Non-sponsored, non-funded helpline is a Single number National helpline service run by volunteers 24x7 to counsel and guide men in distress. In the absence of any support structure and government aid or distress centers for men, several women helpline numbers too have been seen flooded with complaints from men. The distress of Men in India is further strengthened by the fact that SIF One got 34% more calls as compared to Government Women helpline in last 1 year.

Men are marooned especially if the complainant is a woman in case of disputes. 65 crore male population doesn't have a law to protect themselves, in case they face cruelty or any form of abuse at the hands of any female. Ministry of WCD itself reported that male child Sexual abuse is 6% more than female child yet the laws remain biased to protect girl child alone. Amendments in various laws to protect women fail to protect men under similar scenario of molestation and sexual abuse. The forum will formalize a strategy to create legal sensitization and seek constitutional amendments and urge lawmakers to enroll men while framing laws to protect interest of men.

Whereas a plethora of initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, absence of a dedicated **"Ministry of Men Welfare"** explains Gender Apartheid and the poor

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health conditions of men and lack of medical aid facilities for men. Illness caused 16078 men and 7663 women to commit suicide. AIDS was a cause for 184 men and 48 women to suicide. Men are more prone to various forms of cancer. It is equally prudent to focus on Prostate Cancer while focussing on Breast Cancer. Cancer led 407 men and 175 women to commit suicide.

Other prolonged illness forced 10425 men and 4992 women to end their lives. Where men are prone to illness & health hazards Indian men do not receive any respite in the Indian society. The activists during the confluence will evolve with a strategy to create groups to sensitize parliamentarians to evolve with a timeline and a concrete plan to address male specific health issues.

Men overburdened with the social expectation of providing and protecting their families and society face larger social trauma. Bankruptcy took away 2098 men Vis a vis 210 women i.e. almost 10 times a man is under the pressure to be the Provider and Protector. It is widely known that bankruptcy related suicides are by men who are sincere and responsible citizens, not being able to live up to the expectations of either the lender or the one who he is responsible to provide. Poverty was the reason for suicide of 1419 men and 280 women; unemployment was behind suicide of 1965 men and 242 women. Thus strengthening the fact that men are more vulnerable to social stigma and when unable to meet the expectation of family and society are more prone to committing suicide.

National Confluence is aimed at evolving with strategic initiatives to ameliorate the deteriorating situation of men in Legal front, Health care and Social status; To reach out to men in distress through various channels, campaign and to stand by all Men to address their pain and support them for better living; To restore the dignity of men and bestow on them equality in true sense.

Thanking you !

Chandra Shekhar Agrawal

Convener – Save Indian Family, Karnataka.

Phone: 0-9900541815

PR Contact: +919632812802

Email: sifkarnataka@gmail.com

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