



# Save Indian Family – Karnataka (Regd.)

“Help for Men in Distress”

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



## **PRESS RELEASE: ACICHE DIN FOR INDIAN MEN IS VERY FAR**

With this Press Release, we, members of **Save Indian Family – Karnataka**, hereby want to register our support to Gopal Shetye, who is on Hunger Strike demanding intervention from Chief Minister's Office, Maharashtra for compensation after having been acquitted of a false rape and after having rotten in jail for Seven years. Gopal, a Hotel Management graduate and who was working as a Chef in a restaurant in Ghatkopar, Mumbai was convicted for Seven years rigorous imprisonment based on a botched investigation and an ineffective Magistrate.

Gopal endured many losses by the time Mumbai High Court acquitted him. Gopal contracted Tuberculosis inside one of the many jails he was shifted. His father passed away, his wife left him, remarried and put his two little daughters in an orphanage. His mother returned to their native place as she had no one to support her. Gopal had an emotional re-union with his daughters in the orphanage but is helpless about taking care of them. He can't find a job as a Chef until his Tuberculosis is treated. He is unable to legally fight for compensation as he can only buy food and medicines for survival over engaging and paying lawyers.

Honorable PM Narendra Modi ji focus on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao should be appreciated. It is heartbreaking that Gopal's wife didn't have any concern for her two young daughters and put them in an orphanage. Gopal's wife committed adultery by remarrying without divorcing him. The daughters lost the support of their loving and doting father due to a false rape case. Feminists will not find anything objectionable to the actions taken by Gopal's wife. Society will breakdown if we go down this path.

Rape is a serious offence. It causes intense emotional distress and immense humiliation to the victim. At the same time, a man falsely accused of rape undergoes equal humiliation, disgrace and mental agony. He and his family are ostracized, humiliated and ridiculed everywhere. An honorable acquittal does little to salvage his lost honor and dignity as he has to live with the trauma of having been a rape accused throughout his life.

False rape cases makes the crime graph shoot up, play havoc with the crime statistics and tend to trivialize the offence of rape. According to the statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau, 22000 rape cases, on an average, were registered every year between 2007 and 2011.

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While in 2012, the acquittal rate in rape cases was 46%; it shot up to 75% for the first eight months of 2013.

A woman who files a false complaint faces no public backlash as her identity is protected. She also has no financial drain on her resources as a public prosecutor is provided to her. The accused's life is destroyed as his identity is made public.

## **OUR DEMANDS TO BE TAKEN FOR HANDLING RAPE CASES:**

1. The identity of both victim and the accused should not be made public during the investigation. The identity of the accused should be revealed only after having been proven guilty. The identity of the false rape complainant should be made public after acquittal.
2. Care should be taken while registering rape charges after a substantial delay or due to false promise of marriage. It will go a long way in eliminating frivolous cases and reducing judicial backlog.
3. Stringent punishment should be automatically given to the women who file false rape complaints.
4. Central Government should award compensation to the accused who has been acquitted of the rape charge. It still doesn't mitigate the mental agony and torture faced during the trial.
5. Cops who botch the investigation and ineffective Magistrates should be appropriately punished.
6. Rape law needs to be updated and made gender neutral. Post Nirbhaya, It is too widely-worded, vague and lends itself to misuse.

## **APPEAL TO THE PRESS:**

We earnestly request your immediate intervention to highlight the plight of Gopal Shetye so that the Chief Minister's Office, Maharashtra will assist in compensating him and allow him to slowly regain normalcy in his life. We also urge you to highlight the acquittals in rape cases. Failing to do so invariably leads to the impression of India being an unsafe country. The Modi government has energized the nation by giving it a vision, courage to dream big and to have faith in its ability to achieve the same but all this would necessarily require a healthy society. We request you to have the above matter find a priority place in your newspaper for benefit of the Nation. Jai Hind!

Thanking You,

For Save Indian Family - Karnataka, Bengaluru

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