

Editorial

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

When the savior turns perpetrator

The recent incident about a married girl having illicit affairs with another male partner which went viral in social media created a sense of anguish to almost every people of the state. The moral of the married lady is indeed questionable as it infringed the rich cultural tradition of the people of this state in general and the Meitei Community in particular. Such act of women have never been tolerated by the Manipuri society, any community and local women bodies always consider such illicit affairs as an insult to the community and for that reason there were no death in mob action, no matter the rules of law established by the state does not permit to take the law in their hands. Manipur had witnessed many such incidents. News reports about civil society tonstrung such women are not new and ostracizing of such woman from the locality are common happenings.

However according to legal experts, any act by civilian, no matter how genuine is their married, it is crime to take the law in their own hand. Of recently, the government of Manipur had even expressed serious concern about any form of mob violence.

In the incident stated above luckily, it is not the community that comes forward, even though criticism to the act of the lady flooded in Social media. No criticism from any of the Women's organizations who were active in policing of the morals of women community came forward. But contrary to the series of events related to this and the follow up, the people across the state learnt that it was a police team and the Chairperson of the Manipur State Commission for Women who came to meet the lady in question. Reason for the visit of the Chairperson to the residence of the lady is yet to be found out but according to a complaint lodged by the lady to the Chief Minister of Manipur it is stated that the Chairperson of the Manipur Commission for Women and an Officer in Charge of Sekmai Police Station came and forced her sign a divorce paper. She even stated that the police officer and the Chairperson threaten her of dire consequences if the paper was not signed.

Before, Imphal Times concern is the deteriorating morals of the women folk (not all). But now, if what the lady had written to the Chief Minister stands true than definitely the fate of the lady of the state is in grave danger. The Women Commission is supposedly established as a statutory body to protect the rights of the women community of the state, seem to be acting for favour of male folk without conducting any kind of official formalities.

According to the opinion of some senior colleague, visiting to a client's (or victim's) residence by a chairperson of a statutory body is nothing wrong, if the situation demands. But in the current issue we may observe from two angles. 1) in the present case the lady, is the aggrieved party and a victim also. The authority may visit her residence or wherever she lived, if she requests; enquire about the incident and collect first hand report personally. He further said that, the recent happenings made her shameless and became laughing stock. From this angle the chairperson may visit the victim's residence and, 2) in this case she is not the real victim as she framed somebody of some charges. In such situation the chairperson's visit is unwanted. If she wants full report of the incident she may call both the parties, jointly or separately.

In the divorce case before giving a final word a full counseling is highly recommended. And one more important point to ponder is, both the parties (wife and husband) should agree divorce in one voice. If a party (wife or husband) opposes the case remains pending. And, if the applicant refuses to withdraw the case, after counselling, it will led to mediate (negotiation) by a competent authority or authorised person.

In the present case, as reported by a section media, the chairperson herself brought the divorce paper and took signature of the lady (willingly or unwillingly as contradictory reports came in). Such act of the chairperson arose many questions.

How long the divorce paper was pending in the commission? Did the commission tried for counseling? Did the aggrieved party approach the commission that she is willing to sign divorce paper? Why the commission is so eager to take signature of the aggrieved party? What is the harm by delaying to get signature, at least some few days? Is the divorce case is within the purview of the women commission?



Activists of NEFIS along with women organizations and progressive organizations during protest demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi against the brutal rape and murder of a woman veterinarian in Hyderabad last week

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OIL, Piramal Swasthya launch mobile medical vans for Assam, Arunachal Pradesh

By - Raju Vernekar
Dibrugarh, Dec 3

The Oil India (OIL) and Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute (PSMRI), have joined hands to launch SPARSHA mobile medical units in under-served areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, with initial launch of seven mobile medical vans in Dibrugarh in Assam.

Each van is equipped with two doctors, two nurses and two pharmacists. All the seven vans will conduct 168 camps in a month by providing free health check-ups, lab tests and medicines to the vulnerable population of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Charaidoo districts in Assam and Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh. Non-Communicable diseases and maternal and child health will be the major focus area under this service.

These vans were recently launched by Union Minister of State, Food Processing Industries Rameshwar Teli, along with BJP MLA Rituparna Baruah (Lahawal constituency), in presence OIL ED (HR&A) RK Talukdar, OIL Head (Assam & North East Operations) Hardeep Singh Bambrah and Dibrugarh Deputy Commissioner Pallav Gopal Jha.

According to sources in OIL here, the concept is to provide primary healthcare services to the inaccessible and vulnerable population of the remote OIL operating areas. The health services will be provided right at the door step of the beneficiaries, which would reduce the distance, cost and time. The mobile dispensaries will handle the jobs such as: Clinically diagnose and treat select Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), chronic diseases and common diseases, to conduct health check-ups, lab tests and dispensing medicines to beneficiaries as deemed necessary via valid prescriptions provided by competent medical officers and to create awareness about the



Union Minister of State, Food Processing Industries Rameshwar Teli, flagging off the medical van in Dibrugarh, while BJP MLA Rituparna Baruah and other OIL officials look on

diseases and to hold special flood relief camps.

Each of the seven vans would conduct 24 service camps in a month and the mobilisation of beneficiaries will be facilitated by engaging two field volunteers in each location of service. Given the inaccessibility of primary health services in the remote areas, the SPARSHA Mobile healthcare Service at the beneficiaries' doorsteps comes as a boon for the needy patients.

During the launch of the vans, Teli said, "I appreciate the efforts being made by OIL to provide healthcare services in its operational areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Going by the shortage of doctors in rural and tea garden areas, the SPARSHA project would immensely benefit its covered population. I also acknowledge the contribution by the "Piramal Swasthya" in running Govt and CSR projects across India including 104 services in Assam. If time permits I will personally visit the camps to have a look at the activities and will also inform the community members through the village and panchayat members to avail this service".

Talukdar stated, "OIL is extending mobile dispensary services in the remotest parts of its operational areas of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Charaidoo districts of Assam and

Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh where medical services are not readily accessible. We have collaborated with "Piramal Swasthya" to implement the "OIL SPARSHA mobile dispensary project" for the next four years, we will contribute towards the healthcare sector of our region."

Piramal Swasthya CEO Vishal Phanse, said "India has embarked upon the journey towards "universal health" and Piramal Swasthya has been contributing to achieve this aim with its experience and expertise. The medical service in Assam and AP, would certainly help in moving the health indicators of the states significantly".

OIL has been conducting mobile dispensary services in the OIL

operational areas in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh through its in-house healthcare team of doctors and paramedics and catering to the primary healthcare needs of poor, free of cost since 1980s. This service has also been supplemented with Project SPARSHA under which mobile health camps are conducted in remote areas, where the primary healthcare is a challenge.

"Piramal Swasthya" is operational in 21 states in India through its 35 innovative public health care programs and it has served over 10.7 crore people till now. It employs over 2500 employees, including nearly 250 doctors, who work with motto of public service. In the last 12 years, its focus has been on influencing policies, governance, and accountability of the public health care system as a knowledge and implementation partner of the NITI Aayog.

Recently, Piramal Foundation partnered with NITI Aayog to transform 25 districts across 7 states in India. It has built partnerships with governments, technology partners and international organizations, including with Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Harvard Graduate School of Education and World Diabetes Foundation. These projects are implemented through "Piramal Swasthya", "Piramal Sarvajal" and "Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership."

A Letter to B.R. Ambedkar

By -Inamul Haq

Jai Bhim!

I do not know how to start this letter. As the father of Indian Constitution, I have so many questions regarding my basic rights that are not being fulfilled. Baba Sahab, you took lot of difficulties in framing the constitution, borrowing fundamental rights and duties from other constitutions of the world. While framing it, the constitution became the book of every individual irrespective of religion, caste, colour and creed. Baba Sahab, today, I am going to question you about the caste, class, religion, because these things will remain dominant in our society, you know well the case of Rohit Vemula, a PhD candidate from Hyderabad Central University, who wrote his last words that when equality is denied, everything is denied, and my birth is fatal incident. This is not one case in this country, where students are being forced to do suicide on the name of caste and religion. The crime of Rohit Vemula was that he belongs to lower caste. Recently, a bright student of IIT Madras Fathima lathief was also forced to give her life and in her phone note, it was found that she was being harassed on the name of religion. Her last words were my name itself is a problem. Baba Sahab, you have worked too much, but I think, you must have rise again and fight for this opium that divides us on name, identity, region and soon. Baba Sahab, who created this caste and if he created what kind of similarities and difference he found in upper and lower caste.

Baba Sahab, the constitution that you provided to this country have been buried slowly and slowly by the fascist government. They murdered the real meaning of democracy and democracy remains only headline. The power hunger reached too much extend that with tax money, political parties are doing horse trading in order to form government. With tax money, the Prime minister is visiting foreign countries, enjoying Mushroom dish and Aam ka ras. However, when the students protests against the fees hike, they are being charges with sedition and well wishers of politicians are calling such institutions as anti-national, sex racket, and urban naxalite hub. Why there is no space for dissent.

Baba Sahab, in this country why a Kashmiri is treated as second class citizen, why we people are caged. Where are our rights that you granted like liberty, right to life and right to law? Why we are being pushed into state of exception and state of liminality. The state of Kashmir that was connected with India through article 370. Instead of consulting the representatives of Kashmiri people. The present government created such panic in the valley, which had terrified everyone. On 5th August 2019, the Article 370 was abrogated unconstitutionally. Besides that, on the same day till yet, seven million Kashmiri's have been caged. Baba Sahab, what is their crime, being Muslims or something else. The communication and internet remained suspended. Schools and other institutions were closed. Baba Sahab, definitely, you had to wake up again in this country. Otherwise, we will be more colonized.

Note: The letter has been written in a competition organised by department of social science, Central university of Gujarat on constitution Day held on 26/11/2019. The letter was awarded the first prize. The writer Inamul Haq is a Research Candidate, Central University of Gujarat.