

THE ALOYSIAN TIMES 2018

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From the Principal's Desk



“A social problem does not exist in a society unless it is recognized by the society to exist. In not being aware of a social problem a society does not perceive it, address to, discuss it, or do anything for eradicating it. So the

crucial point is identification of a particular issue by the society as a problem.” In recent past there have been major developments that have occurred in all sections and sectors of the society yet there is a major section that remains underprivileged. The increasing crime rates and cruelties that are prevailing in the society still remain a major concern for each one of us. It is a privilege to know that these issues are being noticed by the youth and somewhere they are being moved by them.

Nurturing creativity and inspiring innovation are two of the key elements of successful education and a college magazine is the perfect amalgamation of both. It harnesses the creative energies of the academic community and distills the essence of their inspired imagination in the most brilliant way possible. Hence, I am delighted to know that “The Aloysian Times” News-letter of Department of English of St. Aloysius College has provided a means to the youth to express their views on these prevailing social issues and as a Principal I feel honored that there are many who wish to bring a change and be the change.

Rev. Dr. Fr. G. Vazhan Arasu

Message from the HOD



“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.”

- Mother Teresa

In the prophetic words of Mother Teresa, lies a very strong message which usually remains unnoticed. Social issues are an amalgamation of various ill-doings by the people by and large and when such deeds show some permanency in their social behaviour, they rise and from a personal issue it becomes a social issue. India, with all its history, has been a platform of umpteen social issues on all fronts, be it religious, gender specific or economic backgrounds. However, the youth today is extremely vigilant and careful to such issues.

In the times like today, the youth has shown a lot of significant responsiveness to the various social issues the world faces. The Millennials and the Generation X have come together to conquer over such evil practices, which have become extremely critical in the world and make the world a better place to live in.

In a collective chorus let us join voices to say no to any further encroachment of our human rights. We dream of a world which is safe, just, fair and harmonious for both the sexes. We do not want to merely exist but LIVE a full life with our heads held up with pride.

I am extremely happy and proud of the students of the English Department who have openly shared their views and opinions in their articles and poems. I hope for a better world for a better tomorrow.

*Dr. Mrs . Neelanjana Pathak
Head, Department of English*

Editorial

It's easy to say that "life is all about choices" — but it's misinformed.



Neha Mahawar



Kanika Shinde

It's easy to think that the homeless man had a choice awhile back that put him into the position he's in. It's easy to say that a struggling single mother with four kids didn't have to have kids. And it's easy to say that those who are impoverished are there because of poor life decisions. But it's difficult to try and understand all of the implications our society puts on the less fortunate that put them into those situations. To say that "life is all about choices" when talking about poverty is easy simply because it puts the blame on the impoverished individuals rather than the society that has allowed the fortunate ones to do well. Now, it's not the fault of the fortunate ones for being fortunate by any means. But failing to recognize that the society that makes some people fortunate also makes others unfortunate is ignorant. We witness inequality against women in our own homes, sexual violence against women can be

heard on daily basis, female feticide is continuing, religious-communal violence is on the rise, untouchability is still a reality, child labor is widely practiced etc. Therefore, there is a lot needs to be done for the situation to improve. And without changing the mind set and beliefs of the people it is a very difficult task. For this purpose educating people about various social problems and sensitizing them towards changing their way of thinking is the best way forward. Because without people trying to change themselves, any governmental or non-governmental efforts will prove as a half-measure. If we want to make India as a true world leader and a modern 21st country of the world, it is imperative that that we make an improvement on our social front. We need to fight our own battles of self-respect, self-preservation and self- upliftment. We alone bear the capacity to destroy and bear it all. We will not rise to a better position until we acknowledge our battles and fight them.

Working on the Departmental Magazine was in itself a learning experience for us, we got an opportunity to express our views and put in our best efforts in compiling the thoughts and ideas of all the students. We would like to sincerely thank our esteemed Principal Rev. Dr. Fr. Vazhan Arasu and our Vice Principal Fr. J. Ben Anton Rose whose actions create a legacy to dream more, learn more and achieve more. We would also like to acknowledge and thank our Chief Editor Dr. Mrs. Neelanjana Pathak and Teacher In-charge Dr. Mrs. Soma Guha Das and all are teachers for trusting us with the job and providing their valuable inputs. Lastly, we would like to thank each student for their continuous support and understanding which helped us to stay afloat during the editing of the Departmental Magazine.

A Smarter City?



Abraham Varghese
M.A. III SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

“I have immense pleasure in announcing this news that our actions have forced the government to include this city, our city under the smart city program of the central government. It is my vision, hence my mission to take this city to a smarter future”

Hundreds had gathered around the podium and more were rushing in, as the local leader was screaming to the public about his so called vision of a smart city and because of his speech, which apparently was for the benefit of the people, the common public was in chaos- never ending line of traffic and police trying their level best to handle the vehicular traffic as well as the bovine presence on the road. The public was not much inspired by the ideals of this local politician, they were just busy in admiration- because someone important had come, making them feel important- at least for a day.

“They should start A Smarter Citizen Program.... that would make more sense”

“What doesn’t make sense here?” asked the son to his father, who was sitting on the driver seat, looking at the gathering. The duo were stuck there for more than half an hour, somehow they forgot that a leader was coming to the city to speak for the rapid development of the city- Ah! The irony!

“Tell me dad! What doesn’t make sense here “, asked the son, now more curiously.

“The perception of the people listening to this vision- precisely that’s what is wrong with our country right now. That’s why may be we don’t feel the city has truly become smarter” , replied the father, now looking at his watch.

“Ha! Well that’s new. I mean I thought you were going to blame the politician; I hear that every day when you are reading the newspaper. Blaming the people- That is new. But please explain?” , replied the son with a confident look on his face.

The heavy traffic had caused the small- time vendors or the extremely small time vendors to come out and visit every window on the road and present their products. Bubble solution, toys, flutes were now part of the busy traffic.

“At least someone is having a good time because of this” , chuckled the father and looked at his son, who still had the same look on his face and was waiting for a reply.

“What?” asked the father.

“Please tell me! Why blaming the people? How are they linked?” repeated the boy.

“What is your concept of a smart city?” asked the father with a subtle smile on his face.

“One where people would not reply a question by asking a question in return” , replied the boy with an eye brow raised.

The Sarcasm was quickly picked up by the father who in return gently took out his bottle and had a sip of the water and looked at his son with a queer look, which was quickly read by the son.

“ My concept of a smart city “ started the boy, “.. is what I believe is the general concept of one. A city developed at all spheres is the ideal smart city. Both the rural as well as the urban front must be developed. Properly irrigated fields, good conditioned multi lane roads, good hospitals with efficient facilities, corruption free government offices, well built grounds and stadiums to promote sports, developed transportation facilities, international standardized educational institutions.”

“and?” asked the father prompting his boy for more of his vision.

“and a city that has appropriate place for our leaders to come and speak so we can reach home sooner” said the boy with a chuckle looking at the leader who was still on.

“ well, you got the idea, that’s my concept of a smart city” added the boy.

“See that’s the general perception son! And that’s precisely where we go wrong. Your definition of a smart city is absolutely right but incomplete “said the father.

”Incomplete?” repeated the boy with a perplexed look.

“Yes- I read this somewhere that ‘smart cities lack and thus need smart citizens’. And that’s what you missed. The development you mentioned with all the facilities truly builds a smart city but it takes smart citizens to sustain one. Citizens, who believe and understand the concept of sensibility and responsibility. Only sensible and responsible people would initiate a

sustainable development which is a smart development and thus lead on to a smart city. Responsibilities, fulfilled with a sensible mind develop a person who is the core unit of a society. 'Just Well conditioned multi-lane roads doesn't build a smart city rather it is 'Well Conditioned multi- lane roads with law abiding traffic ' that truly makes the city smart ', Explained the father.

"I understand dad. But does that mean this project is futile"? Asked the son, his eyebrows crossed.

"No! Never! "Exclaimed the senior and he continued, "see this perception is going to change. I understood and now you did, tomorrow more will and a change will be brought. We have some hindrances but slowly it will be cleared and truly we shall be a smart society living in a smart city".

By this time, the traffic had cleared and slowly the cars were moving forward.

"See I told you, slowly the blocks and obstructions will be cleared", chuckled the father.

"Well you are already smarter than the smart city dad! "Replied the boy laughingly and the duo drove along the clear path, while the loudspeakers still blared -

"Better hospitals, roads, offices, colleges, schools and every other facility will be developed and thus a smart city will be established because of OUR party, so your votes.....".

Hurdles of Third Millennium Society



KAMAL KHOKHAR SDB
M.A. I SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

Since the inception of human beginning, there has been some or the other stumbling blocks causing the downfall of human beings that has been depriving them of their pure and pristine nature. The nature of human beings is so pure at their birth that they can be called angels. The changes occur with the social consciousness. But the gradual growth in the society which is an amalgamation of virtues and vices categorizes him as a good or a bad person. The character of a person is the outcome of the type of society he lives in. Man makes the society and the society makes a man. To make a beautiful society, every man needs to cultivate in himself the virtues that build a harmonious world around him.

But today the world is being victimized by the prevalent social evils in our societies like terrorism, corruption, ill treatment of women, child abuse, racism, lack of self responsibility, careless use of natural resources etc. We can enlist such a number of hurdles and evils prevailing in our society that make its complete impact under the human passions and contribute in the failure of our society which finally hampers the human beings living in it. There is the famous saying by Daniel.J. Boorstin ". Destruction is easy for humans but creation is too difficult." Nowadays with the use of mass destruction weapons the human origin is just covered under the earth without having a second thought that no one can create human beings until unless the creator wills. Terrorism is nothing but the desire to exhibit one's passion to destroy humanity for no reasons. Corruption is to outdo by wrong means to gain selfish interests. Ill treatment of women is just neglecting the equality of human dignity and using them as objects of pleasure. Child abuse is a failure to respect and care for the weaker section of humans. Racism is nothing but the paralysis of human mentality of not accepting others as they are. Lack of sense of responsibility is the most vicious evil that leads to the destruction

of every civilization and society. Everyone who lives in a society is responsible for its growth and development. This is what is lacking most in our day to day life and is hampering the growth and building of society and lack of care for the natural resources is like hitting the axe on one's own legs. Natural resources have been endowed on humanity but there is a unanimous misuse of such precious resources that is gradually leading to the end of all.

Having reached the 21st century if man has not learnt to be a man, he should call himself an animal. It is high time to end such evils from our society and to make it a better world for you, me and the entire human race. The change of the world demands self change. Saving the society leads to self safety. There is no human being who does not want to be safe while living on earth. Let us change ourselves which will change your society and our world will be a better place to live and love.

Acid Attack in India- Where Does the Nation Stand Today



ASHISH SINGH

M.A. I SEMESTER

(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

Acid attack is not something that is unheard of in India. It has shocked the conscience of our nation again and again - with mutilated faces, unbeaten survivors coming to the frontlines to share their horrific stories, and families driven to bankruptcy supporting recovery costs. The Indian Penal Code was modified in 2013 for the first time to add regulations tailored to acid attacks. But have we done enough? Do enough of us care? Why should we care? Why should we care anymore than we do for a general fight for women's rights and safety in India about acid attacks?

Because acid attack is possibly the worst infliction on another human - leading to complete debilitation, loss of income and opportunity, and even social sequestration - and it can happen to anyone, at any time. The means to this evil remain quite accessible to most and the causes provoking such malice can be unimaginably trivial.

Accepting a drink from a local shopkeeper? Or rebuking harassment on the streets? Just being at home sitting on a couch? These are all known causes of attacks on acid attack survivors. The last story - is that of Piyali Dutta - who got caught in a cross-fire and now is an acid attack survivor for life. Sonali Mukherjee's story - attacked while sleeping in her own house for standing up to harassment - is one that should keep all of us awake as it could have been, or still can be, anyone. 85% of victims are women, so acid attack can overwhelmingly be classified as gender violence. For the 15% male victims, the primary cause of attack is property dispute.

What factors allow such attacks? Un-counseled anger and frustration is behind the crimes as much as pre-disposition to sociopathic traits, violence and societal chauvinism plays a significant role (85% of the victims are women). But the real culprit to blame is the ease to get away with it. Anger over rejection (41% of attacks in India from 2010 - 2013 were by spurned lovers) causes the desire to lash out and inherent disregard for women in specific and human suffering in general, seeds the thought, but the lax laws - both to limit availability and to counter the crime - is what allows the perpetrators (who happen to list from white collar officials to migrant workers) convert their thoughts in to action.

Before insertion of Sections 326A-326B in the Indian Penal Code (as recent as 2013), acid attack could only be prosecuted as violence against women. This tremendously hindered data availability and made arrest and punishment subjective and lenient. The Indian Penal Code amendment on the 2nd of April 2013 included provisions for prosecution of perpetrators, treatment and rehabilitation of the victims, right to self-defense against acid attack and control of acid sales. The laws however, for sure 'too late', might also be 'too little' in their current state.

Let's take a look at the acid sales restrictions, prosecution and rehabilitation realities post 2013 to understand why.

When consulted, Acid Survivors Foundation India (ASFI; partner of Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI)), broke down the acids taking primarily West Bengal, India and Bangladesh as examples. Availability of acids (12% or higher concentration, or in forms which can be concentrated to higher strength) depends on usage. The organized sector - fertilizer and other heavy industries - are mostly under regimented control system, so leakage or misappropriation, although feasible, are not too common.

The unorganized sector on the other hand, in lieu of the large migrant and rural population in these sections, have a myriad of acids abundant depending on the industry. Gem and jewelry business - a prime consumer of aqua regia - thrives on mostly migrant workers who therefore have access. Hard to track and censor, they therefore need to be targeted through awareness campaigns (one of the most successful ways to curb attacks - as demonstrated in Bangladesh - has been by limiting availability through massive campaigns). Assailants can also concentrate lower strength acids still available unrestricted.

The statistics substantiate the importance of source of availability in tackling this problem. Murshidabad - the cotton hub of Bengal - have much higher number of attacks given the availability of acid used for fading work which is often sub-contracted to a hard to trace and migrant worker base.

Paints and household cleaners remain another easy to avail source and even though regulation has now been passed in India, the police force is understaffed to go after the

numerous shops selling acids as household cleaners or cleaners with acid above permissible levels.

In general, the logistics of confiscating and testing illegal chemicals and prosecuting offenders remain extremely cumbersome for most South East Asian countries. Additionally, passed regulations in which the Supreme Court assigns the Sub division officer (SDO) responsible for overseeing control) doesn't detail out ownership and implementation roles specifically to make sure funds and resources are dedicated to this effort.

In some, loopholes remain owing to falling a step short in the laws in defining ownership and allocating resources for making sure the provision of selling acid only with records to control access gets implemented.

The prosecution statistics published in the situational analysis of acid violence in eastern India report published by ASFI tell a similar story. Of the attacks registered from 2010-2014 (most prior to 2013 went into grievous assault bucket) only 60% resulted in filing of charge sheets - 81% of the perpetrators were able to obtain bail, 49% are absconding.

Even securing rehabilitation and government compensation as provisioned by law now (mere 3 lakhs in comparison to average 50 lakhs needed for 50-60 surgeries depending on the severity of the attack) remain painstakingly slow process (only 3 out of the 38 cases ASFI headquarters in Kolkata has filed for has received compensation so far).

Drawing comparison to acid control legislation successfully implemented in Bangladesh (now constantly mentioned in international forums as exemplary in this regard), the factors hindering the same from happening in India need to be considered and countered. The size of the country, region to region differences, and lack of coordination between center and state governments come up as the prime factors. So specific roles and responsibilities and resource allocation is vital.

Awareness campaigns appealing to public to not sell, distribute, or use - especially with listed consequences of high profile convictions and warning women to be aware of the signs and to take threats seriously (in almost all of the cases being handled by ASFI Kolkata there had been pre-warnings and even something as simple as knowing to scream when being approached is known to be a deterrent) need to have central govt. allocated funding. Same is needed for widely publishing immediate first aid steps (acid burns need to be treated fast and right to minimize damage). Elimination of bureaucracy is needed for victim rehabilitation (most are unable to continue previously held jobs, many are shunned and ostracized by their families).

Definition of roles in implementing control, tougher punishment (Bangladesh has up to capital punishment for acid violence) and fast track courts dedicated for trying these

cases comes next. Most victims lose the motivation to pursue the fight after the initial months pass as the irreversibility of their condition become apparent to them. Hopelessness and depression sinks in replacing anger and motivation for justice, lowering further the rate of prosecution and conviction of assailants.

On the opposite end of the globe - Columbia responded swiftly in shock and horror after attack on Natalia Ponce De Leon in 2014. Within 2 years of the attack Columbia passed a law named after her, making penalty for acid attacks comparable to that for homicide.

Why does our conscience as a nation need to be shocked again and again with multiple faces over so many years leaving us vulnerable in the meantime to such a cruel and destructive crime? The life the survivors have to lead have made us shudder at thought - we need to continue shuddering until every woman (and man) in India is safe against acid violence. Today? We are far from that place.



COLLEGE DIARY

JULY – SEPTEMBER

(2018)

July 2018

- **July 3rd – 6th** – IQAC of college organized presentations on different criteria of new format of SSR.
- **July 9th** – The Principal conducted the Orientation programme for first year students on “Vision, Mission and Profile of the College” in two shifts.
- **July 10th** – Dr. (Mrs.) Roopali Ahluwalia and Dr. (Mrs.) Elena Philip conducted the Orientation programme for first year students on “Autonomy and its Benefits”.
 - Dr. (Mrs.) Anjali D’Souza oriented same group of students on “Examination Scheme under Autonomy”.
- **July 11th** - Mrs. Siby Samuel conducted the Orientation programme for first year students on “Computer Literacy”.
 - Mrs. PremLata oriented same students on “The College Library/Reading Room and its Effective Use”.
- **July 12th** - Dr. (Mrs.) Runa Pal conducted the Orientation programme for first year students on “Cultural Activities”.
 - Mr. Harish Dubey oriented same group of students on “Sports and Athletics”.
- **July 14th** – The College Alumni conducted the Orientation programme for first year students on “Prospects and Challenges for Students”.
- **July 13th** - Dr. (Mrs.) Mandira Kar conducted the Orientation programme for first year students on “Societies and Club”.
- **July 21st** - Department of Economics organized Quiz Competition on “Indian Economy”
- **July 31st** – Department of Hindi organized 138th jayanti of Munshi Premchand , theme was “Introduction of Premchand’s stories and novels.

August 2018

- **August 7th** – Department of Hindi organized Speech Competition on “My Country My Responsibility”.
- **Department of English organized debate competition on** : “ In the Opinion of the house, over-exposure to social media is leading to decline in ethical values and in some cases even depression in the youth.”
- **Department of English organized speech competition on** “Power Corrupts and absolute Power Corrupts absolutely”

- **August 8th** - **Department of English organized Essay competition on: “My Country my Responsibility”**
- **August 8th**—Department of Hindi organized Essay Competition on “My Country My Responsibility”
- **August 9th** – Department of English organized Creative Writing Competition.
- **August 10th**— Mr. Christopher Grossman, the Counsel for Political & Economic Affairs interacted the students of Political Science on the theme of “The U.S.- Indian Relationship Today- An Optimistic Path Into the Future
- **August 10th** - Department of English organized a Guest Lecture on “Phonetics” by Dr. Meena Keller, Govt. Mahakaushal Arts and Commerce (Auto) College, Jabalpur, M.P.
- **August 11th**- Department of Hindi organized a guest lecture by Dr. PragyaAnuragi on Hindi Katha Sahitya.
- **August 13th** - A faculty member of Department of Chemistry delivered a special lecture on Chromatography to student participants in the Certificate Course conducted by DIC.
- **IQAC** of college released its biannual news letter.
- **August 16th** – Department of Hindi organized Kavya Paath Competition on Introduction of Subhadra Kumari Chouhan.
- **August 17th** – Department of Hindi started special Hindi Spoken Classes for Non Hindi Students.
- **August 20th** – Department of Hindi started certificate course on Patrakarita.
- **August 21st** - Department of Hindi organized a guest lecture by Dr. Dhirendra Pathak on News Making.
- **August 23rd** - Department of Hindi organized a guest lecture by Mr. NafeesUllah Shah on Photography.
- **August 25th** – Department of Political Science conducted Quiz Competition.
- **August 29th** – Department of Economics organized conducted Group Discussion on “Resources in India”.
- **August 30th** - Department of English organized a Guest Lecture on “NatyaShastra” by Mr. Shubham Arpit , Ex-student , St. Aloysius’ College, Jabalpur.
- **August 31st** – Department of Economics organized quiz Competition on “Current Economics Issues”.

September 2018

- **September 8th** – Department of Political Science organized a Extempore Competition for B.A. III semester students.
- **September 12th** - - The Department of Chemistry started 2 months certificate course on 'Instrumentation and Analytical Techniques in Chemistry and Biochemical Techniques' in collaboration with the Department of Botany, Physics and Faculty of Biochemistry.
- **The** Department of Chemistry initiated 'Spoken English Classes' for Chemistry PG students in collaboration with the Department of English.
- **September 14th** – Dr. R.P. Ojha delivered a lecture on "The role and importance of Hindi language' on Hindi Diwas. This was repeated on 15th September also for the students of Commerce II batch.
- **September 24th - October 13th** Department of Chemistry organized lectures, delivered by Mrs. Aparajita Sen Gupta (Junior Research Fellow in Education) for the students of B.Sc. I year on Chemical Bonding .

Innocent Death



ANWESHA SEN
M.A. I SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

You take pleasure in their pain,
Their death , your great sadistic gain.
“Mm so good” you say,
As you lay a child across the board to slay.
You scream at water a bit too hot,
and yet put them alive in a boiling pot?

Your children, you simply can't bear to hurt ,
But their children are your delicious dessert?

You Smile and lick your lips as you take the taste,
And from shame, some of us are defaced .

Go ahead, eat and be fulfilled ,
And take pleasure from the creatures you killed.

But remember!

Remember that karma will strike you back!

Taking an innocent's life for gains,

Karma will take it all with a smack!

So beware and keep your bags packed..!

Scintillating Valour



ANVITA BHATTI

M.A. I SEMESTER

(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

I am a breathing miracle,
A divine manifestation I believe.
But I was perceived as a burden,
As a reason to grieve.
Bound in the shackles of tradition,
Is my freedom of thought.
I've lost myself in the stereotypes,
Hidden under a veil my feelings rot.
My life is a predetermined charter,
My existence is clenched in the claws of chauvinism,
I strive to decipher the concept of 'equality',
Captured within the four walls of conventionalism.
I'm engulfed in the flames of disparity,
Consumed by the fire of injustice,
With imperishable resilience,
I'll rise like a Phoenix from the ashes,
Renewed I'll persist,
Unperturbed by the cacophony of clashes.
My horizon will be unbounded,
there will be no limit to my sky,
I long to be liberated ,
And soar high.

My creator has bestowed upon me,
His enormous might,
and Equipped with courage,
I'm ready for the fight.
know, Within my silence ,
resides a roaring thunder,
Submission eludes me,
I wasn't born to surrender.
My victory is inevitable,
My spirit is indomitable,
Discrimination will end,
Darkness shall succumb,
For my soul is an everlasting light,
Irrefutable is it's freedom.

“You and Me, Let’s Help Set Them Free”



ARCHANA LAKRA
M.A. I SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

Human trafficking is without a question a growing menace in our country. In a country like India where females are regarded as a deity, things have come down to a position where women and children have become unsafe. We say that we are a developing country that has the ability to compete with the foreign nations in all aspects yet still remain silent when it comes to human trafficking which although is illegal, is very actively prevalent in many parts of the country. Especially, in those areas where the rates of unemployment and poverty are high. Even the delayed action of justice has let people to lose their belief in the law and order of the country. Officials say that the racket is spread across the interior villages in which girls are taken to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Mumbai and Kolkata where they end up in brothels, sex rackets or as domestic workers. It is a shame and a big slap on the walking pace of the maintenance of country's law and order.

Helpless parents, relatives and all the near and dear ones go through hell when they see no hope. They wait for years at a stretch, sometimes even for lifetimes to see the loved ones return. But with slow and uneven pace of the government, it all fades away in the darkness of hopelessness. We definitely lack somewhere because we often find non-governmental organisations taking active participation in the rectification of this horrific act instead of the governmental organisations. We need to find and fill the pot holes because it is not possible for our women and children to be lost in the country without a trace. When we can use our influence for our other personal needs, why not for this? Or is it that the criminals hide behind the white collars?

All these questions need to be answered soon.!

Powerful Needs Empowerment, Why?



CHINMAY KHARE
M.A. I SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

It is your prettiness, you owe prettiness to everyone. Friends, partners, co-workers and even to the random people on the streets. You owe it to your mother, children and even to the civilization. Prettiness is the rent you pay for occupying a space marked 'female'. What comes to your mind when you hear 'Women Empowerment'? Yes, you guessed it right, literally it means providing women with all the facilities and benefits that men enjoy. But how far have we reached in attaining it?

It is said that while giving birth to a baby, a woman experiences pain that is equal to breaking of 20 bones at the same time. Even the almighty knew how strong a woman is and that she is the one who is capable of bearing such a dreadful pain. But sadly, the one who is already so powerful needs empowerment today. Is this the world God had created?

Ever since humans into existence, women have struggled for their identity, their stature. One talks about Kalpana Chawla- her death paid the price of being an empowered educated woman.

What happened to Lady Diana? She crossed epitomes, created history, was loved and popular but where did her strength, fame, power and beauty lead her? Now let us talk of India, what happened to our dynamic First Lady Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi? She was brutally killed by her own secretary. You call this women empowerment? Even today women struggle for Equality. News today are flooded with topics of dowry, domestic violence and rape cases. Young girls who don't even hit puberty are raped, they fall prey to the male dominated society. Is this the definition of women empowerment? If yes, then we are in a great need to surf over the topic.

I have a question for each and every one. To the females I ask, do you feel safe when you go out, specifically at night without a male companion? To the males my question is, do you let any of your female family member to move out at night alone? I bet your answers will give you a reality check.



ALL IS NOT AT EASE

SONA SHARMA
M.A. III SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

Is that sun burning
And I see her ash cold
But the moment the nights calling
She turns her body into gold
When her brother is gloriously achieving
I see her cornered heart in cornered happiness
Satisfying
Yet she brings in her face brightly lit
And thinks it's the similar womb
She is indeed bright
Then when all is done
All is tied up on the table
This woman sighs
And thinks her pleasure
Less her duty
And that's how one should abide
Who does bring forth these commandments
When commands is all powerful he
The lions in the play of game of wealth
Substitutes harmony with vice
God built an order
Like a pack of cards one above the other
In breeze
But he never knew even winds can blow
So today we see
All is not at ease

IT IS ABOUT MEN TOO



ASHISH JOHN

M.A. I SEMESTER

(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

One morning I was watching a show on discovery channel, there were some divers locked in a steel cage dive in the sea and observing some sharks swimming around them, some sharks tried to attack them but they were safe because of the steel cage, as they knew sharks are carnivores predators and it is in their nature to attack, so they already arranged their safety, and then I watched another show in which some tourists were visiting a rain forest, they were using elephants for the tour, as a prevention from tigers, because similarly like sharks tigers are wild animals and can attack humans and after sometime when I was using my phone, I opened play store for downloading some applications, there I saw these are women safety applications. These applications allow us to save some contacts and if there is any danger sensed, we can send an emergency text to all the saved contacts. This reminded me of the animals in the Discovery channel and their confinement. Similarly these applications are used to avoid danger from men with dangerous intentions. So are we men really animals? Why are these applications needed? Why girls need to learn safety techniques? These applications are like a mirror to the male society. Some more questions come in my mind, "Why parents say their daughters that only you have to protect yourself, are we fathers, brothers really that useless? Cannot we protect our sisters, daughters, wife, girlfriend and friends? It makes me feel ashamed that even in our presence our girls cannot walk on the streets without fear. Why when some boys are walking on the road the speed of the girls walking ahead suddenly get faster? Even if the boys are not bad still girls cannot trust them completely, why? Is it our fault? Just because of some

creeps in the society the image of all men gets ruined. Those kinds of men cannot be considered as humans. They are actually worse than animals. We all have to fight against them; we have to fight not only for the safety of our girls but also for the safety of the image of male society. The laws need to get stricter. Only protesting is not enough. We have to fight against them. We have to make our girls realize that they are not alone in this battle; we actually understand their pain and will fight with them. The males have to know that the women are no less than them in any manner. Even if a man is physically stronger, it does not mean this strength is to harm women, but to protect them. The day these women safety applications are not needed and when girls do not need to learn safety techniques, that day will actually be the victory day of males and the actual Independence Day for females.

“Whenever a man says his daughter or sister to do not wear this dress and to do not go there, I will stand against him. And if he asks me what I will do if my sister does the same. I will reply him with, with kind of brother I am if even in my presence my sister cannot live freely.”

Like Father, Unlike Son



NEHA MAHAWAR
M.A. I SEMESTER
(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

A slow commotion,
all headed in one direction,
a five year old frantically looked around,
with tears reaching up to his chin.

His safety blanket had been lifted,
the most dreadful had happened.
that five year old had lost his family,
he stood there, frozen.

A moment ago, he was safe
and now he was at his most vulnerable.
He was looking around, resisting the truth,
Still hoping it was just a mistake, simple.

He knew it was done purposely,
his heart knew it was true.
But he was fighting the thought,
after all that thought was terrifying, it was new.

All of a sudden, while sitting at a bench at the station,
he convinced himself of what had just taken place.
He knew he was brought there to be left.
There was a reason why that day he couldn't keep pace.

He couldn't figure out why,
he just knew that his mother would weep each night to sleep,

and that she always was bruised at different places each day,
but when he was around, a bright smile she would keep.

He sat on that bench, remembering the latest events.
He recalled his mother's helpless cries.
He had heard noises which sounded like things being thrown.
probably they were utensils of all shape and size.

He remembers nothing of his father,
a man he saw enter his house only at night,
he would lock his mother in a room,
and leave before the sun came anywhere in sight.

His mother was so happy when they had left from home,
"I will always love you, remember that" she said.
He had only smiled at her then.
He kept moving with her, casually swinging his head.

Somehow he on and off kept losing her.
So he held the end of her shabby saree.
But as the crowd started moving,
the end of the saree was pulled, numb was he.

He looked to his right then to his left,
his eyes were welling up with the panic.
He needed to cling onto that shabby cloth.
He felt pukish, he felt sick.

He ran around and about.
He couldn't find his mother anywhere,
crying, he had searched the entire place,
there was not a place to spare.

He couldn't understand what had happened.
He sat in a corner, tears continuously flowing down his cheek.
He didn't know what to do, where to go.
He had become the weakest of the weak.

Years rolled by,
that boy had had his share of struggle.
At times, he would steal, sometimes beg,
and would always end in trouble.

Sometime after, he managed to marry,

uneducated, unemployed was all he was,
days into the marriage and history repeated,
he was hitting his wife without a pause.

That night he left the house and roamed,
next morning his wife was black and blue,
when he came back and saw her state, he realized,
his father was a monster and he had become too.

When he saw her, he understood,
he understood why his mother abandoned him,
poor mother had no clue,
he would turn out just as grim.

He was angry and sad,
but now he knew what took his childhood away,
something that was so easy and dangerous,
to which even he had fallen prey.

Never did he touch his wife to hit her again.
But how many of the others could also brag?
that they know their women, their wives.
are their partners and not their punching bag?

