

Special Cell for Women

Within Police location in Bihar State

Work Progress Report
For the period of 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2025



A Collaborative Project of

The National Commission for Women, Government of India (2016-2021)

The Women & Child Development Corporation, Government of Bihar (2021-2025)

And

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

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About the Special Cell for Women

The Special Cell for Women initiative, established in 1984, initiated as a collaboration between the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and the Mumbai Police. It involved placement of trained social workers within the police system to provide psycho-social-legal support to women facing violence. The Government of Maharashtra institutionalized this approach as a scheme in 2005, the model has since been replicated in states such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, as a regular administrative measure.

Since 2009, the National Commission for Women (NCW), Government of India, has collaborated with TISS on the 'Violence Free Home – A Woman's Right' project. Initially started in Delhi at two locations between 2009 and 2015, the project was further expanded between 2015 and 2021 to Delhi and seven additional states: Odisha, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Tamil Nadu. From March 26, 2021, to March 31, 2025, the NCW, Gol continued its support for Special Cells for Women in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



About the Resource Centre for Intervention on Violence Against Women (RCI-VAW) of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The Resource Centre for Intervention on Violence Against Women (RCI-VAW) was established in 2008 under the Centre for Equity for Women, Children, and Families at the School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The creation of RCI-VAW was driven by the faculty's experience of working with survivors of violence through the Special Cell for Women and Children. This experience highlighted the need for a dedicated centre to address the issue of Violence Against Women (VAW) in a sustained and systematic manner. RCI-VAW focuses on nurturing effective interventions through training, research, and collaboration with various stakeholders to deepen the understanding of VAW and develop strategies to combat it.





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<https://tiss.ac.in/view/11/projects/rci-vaw-resource-centre-for-interventions-on-viole/>

and

<http://tiss.ac.in/view/11/projects/all-projects/special-cell-for-women-and-children-maharashtra/>

Acknowledgement

This report documents the journey of the *Special Cells for Women* initiative in Bihar (2016–2025), which has provided women-centric, rights-based support to survivors of violence while advancing efforts to institutionalize the model within the State's systems and structures.

The documentation of this report would not have been possible without the support and contributions of several institutions and individuals:

- The National Commission for Women (NCW), Government of India – for supporting the pilot phase (2016–2021) that established five Special Cells in Darbhanga, East Champaran (Motihari), Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Kishanganj districts under the project “*Violence Free Home – A Woman's Right*”, along with similar initiatives in six other states (Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu).
- The Women and Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar – for extending support to the programme from 1st May 2021 to 31st March 2025, continuing the five Cells and adding a sixth Cell in Araria district.
- Shri P.K. Thakur, former DGP, Bihar, for granting permission in 2016 to establish the Cells; the Additional Directors General of Police (Weaker Section) at PHQ; the district police administrations in all six districts; and the officials of WCDC, whose facilitation ensured that the Special Cells could operate seamlessly within the police system, providing women with access to justice and essential support.
- Ms. Harjot Kaur Bamhrah, IAS (Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Bihar & MD, WCDC), Dr. N. Vijaylaxmi, IAS (Managing Director, WCDC), and Ms. Bandana Preyashi, IAS (Managing Director, WCDC), Mr. Rajeev Verma (Director, WCDC), Ms. Anupama Ojha & Ms. Ankita Kashyap (State Project Managers, WCDC)-for their support to the programme throughout its course.
- The trained social workers of the six district Special Cells for Women, whose dedication and compassion from 2016 to 2025 have enabled thousands of women to receive essential psycho-social and legal support.
- We thank the RCI-VAW team members – Taranga Sriraman (Strategic Coordinator), Aarthi Chandrasekhar (Programme Coordinator), Medha Deo (Coordinator), and Anupriya Singh & Kumari Shikha Rani (Coordinators – Special Cells, Bihar) – for their valuable support to the work of Special Cells in Bihar.
- A special thanks to Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW, who led the work in Bihar from 2016 to 2025. He played a key role in setting up and monitoring the Special Cells across the state. He also helped in writing this report and all the annual reports over the years.
- All community stakeholders and allied agencies, whose collaboration has enriched the programme and strengthened the broader framework for addressing gender-based violence in Bihar.

This report highlights our efforts and progress from 2016 to 2025. While it aimed to establish Special Cells for Women as a regular administrative measure of the State-a goal not yet realized-the progress made so far offers hope that every woman in Bihar will soon have access to timely and dignified support.

Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal

Faculty In-charge,

Resource Centre for Intervention on Violence Against Women (RCI-VAW)

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Introduction

The Special Cell for Women & Children was established by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in 1984 in collaboration with Mumbai Police with the aim of addressing violence against women through a rights-based and survivor-centric approach. Recognizing that women often face significant barriers in accessing justice and support, the Special Cell model was designed to place full-time, trained social workers directly within police stations. This integration created a dedicated space within the criminal justice system where women experiencing violence could safely seek help, share their experiences, and access sustained support services.

The social workers stationed at these Cells provide psycho-social-legal services, including emotional support, safety planning, legal guidance, liaison with the police and other systems, and follow-up services. These services are based on the understanding that violence against women—whether physical, emotional, sexual, or economic—is a violation of their fundamental rights and must be addressed as a public and criminal concern, not a private matter. The model emphasizes that it is the responsibility of the State to prevent and respond to such violence in a timely and sensitive manner.

The Special Cell approach also works to strengthen institutional responses to gender-based violence by sensitizing police personnel and building collaborative relationships between social workers and law enforcement. Over the years, this model has evolved into a replicable and scalable intervention, with its presence now expanded across several states in India.

In Bihar, the Special Cell approach was introduced through a pilot project initiated by the National Commission for Women (NCW), Govt. of India in 2016. Following the demonstration of the Cell from June/July 2016 to April 2021 in Darbhanga, East Champaran (Motihari), Gaya, Bhagalpur and Kishanganj districts, the Women & Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar, formally adopted and scaled up the initiative. In May 2021, the programme expanded with the establishment of an additional Special Cell for Women in Araria district, extending its outreach and service delivery to a wider geographical area. This expansion not only increased accessibility for women in remote and underserved areas but also strengthened the presence of the programme at the district level. The ongoing implementation of the initiative continues in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), which provides technical and academic support to ensure that the work remains grounded in the core principles, values, and methodology of the original model.

Between 1st May 2021 and 31st March 2025, six Special Cells for Women were operational across Bihar. Each Cell was staffed with professionally trained social workers, who formed the backbone of the programme. These social workers played a vital role by directly supporting survivors of violence—offering emotional and legal assistance, coordinating with the police, healthcare, and legal systems, and conducting community outreach to promote awareness of women's rights and the services provided by the Cells. Their work was instrumental in bringing the model's vision to life through daily interventions and lasting impact.

This report presents the key interventions, services delivered, and outcomes of the intervention by the Special Cells for Women in Bihar during the reporting period of 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2025. It underscores the unwavering commitment of the social workers, the structural and situational challenges encountered in the field, and the critical support extended to women survivors navigating situations of violence. Through these insights, the report aims to strengthen the existing programme framework, encourage replication in other districts, and support evidence-based planning and policy advocacy to advance women's safety and justice in Bihar.

Special Cell for Women Approach

The Special Cell for Women operates through a team of two professionally trained social workers, with at least one being a woman, who are placed within a police station or police office. Their primary role is to provide comprehensive psycho-social and legal support services to women and children facing violence. The approach ensures that survivors receive timely interventions within the criminal justice system, while also being linked to broader support networks. The key objectives of the Special Cell for Women include:

- Rebuilding the self-esteem, self-worth, and dignity of women who have experienced violence
- Providing immediate and accessible services in crisis situations
- Offering counselling support for emotional well-being and trauma recovery
- Making referrals to relevant services such as healthcare, education, and vocational training
- Facilitating police intervention and protection where required
- Assisting in the placement of survivors in safe and service-providing institutions
- Providing accurate legal information, guidance, and aid to survivors
- Strengthening coordination between police and organisations working for the rights of women and children
- Raising awareness among women, professional stakeholders, and the general public about issues of violence against women and children
- Documenting interventions and outcomes to support review, reflection, and continued improvement of the model

Background and National Context

On 10th July 2015, the National Commission for Women (NCW), Govt. of India invited the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to present the three-decade-long history, strengths, impact, and experiences of the Special Cells for Women and Children across multiple States. The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Chairperson of NCW, Govt. of India and attended by senior officers from the State Governments of Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and the Delhi Police. The focus of the meeting was to share insights into the institutionalisation of the Special Cells approach within the police system, recognising it as a potential regular administrative measure.

Following this consultation, the NCW, Govt. of India invited TISS to submit a proposal to initiate pilot Special Cells in additional States. Consequently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between TISS and the Commission on 23rd December 2015, under which the Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence Against Women (RCI-VAW), based at TISS, was tasked with demonstrating the Special Cells for Women approach through pilot units in the States of Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

The MoU aimed to pilot the Special Cell for Women in select districts of Bihar, demonstrate its effectiveness in providing psycho-social and legal support to women facing violence, and undertake joint advocacy to expand these services across the state. The larger objective of the MoU was to institutionalize the Special Cell model as a regular, State-funded and State-administered programme, ensuring sustainable and structured support for women."

Role of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai under the MoU with the National Commission for Women (NCW), Govt. of India & Women & Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Govt. of Bihar

As per the MoU dated 23.12.2015 with NCW & 29.09.2021 with WCDC, the RCI-VAW at TISS, Mumbai, was entrusted with the responsibility of implementing and advocating for the Special Cells for Women pilot model in the identified States. The key roles and responsibilities under this collaboration include:

1. Personnel Management

- Coordinating recruitment and appointment of social workers and coordinators.
- Managing contractual employment, performance appraisals, and day-to-day supervision.

2. Capacity Building

- Conducting induction and refresher trainings for social workers, police personnel, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Providing training on violence against women, crisis intervention counselling, gender sensitisation, and legal frameworks.

3. Pilot Cell Establishment and Support

- Facilitating planning, setup, and operationalisation of pilot Special Cells for Women in each district.
- Providing ground-level support to acquire necessary permissions, space within police stations, and stakeholder cooperation.

4. Technical Advisory

- Offering guidance to Police Departments, State Governments, and NCW on best practices and strategies to address violence against women and children.

5. Monitoring and Supervision

- Ensuring quality through field visits, quarterly reviews, district and regional-level consultations, and telephonic case conferencing.

Initiating Special Cells for Women in Bihar: Preliminary Steps

With support from the National Commission for Women (NCW), Government of India, through D.O. letters addressed to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Bihar, the Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence against Women (RCI-VAW), TISS, initiated coordination with the Women Development Corporation (WDC) and the offices of the Additional Director General of Police (CID, Law & Order) and Inspector General of Police (Weaker Sections), Police Headquarters, Bihar. This coordination aimed to secure support for identifying locations for five pilot Special Cells for Women, finalizing the selection process, and obtaining written permissions for their establishment within district-level police offices.

On 10th February 2016, Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, Faculty In-charge, RCI-VAW, TISS, and Ms. Taranga Sriraman, Programme Coordinator, RCI-VAW, met with Shri Alok Raj, IPS, Additional Director General of Police (CID, Law & Order), and Dr. N. Vijaylakshmi, IAS, Managing Director, Women Development Corporation, to formally initiate the process for setting up five pilot Special Cells in Bihar. This initiative was undertaken by TISS, Mumbai, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with NCW, Government of India, on 23rd December 2015.

During the meeting, Dr. Trupti expressed appreciation for the support extended by the Police Department and the Women Development Corporation for placing trained social workers, in teams of two, at district headquarters-level police offices in five identified districts. A detailed note outlining the approach, timelines, and roles of stakeholders was submitted.

Based on the discussions and the review of State Crime Records Bureau data, the districts tentatively identified for the NCW-TISS Special Cells for Women were:

1. Darbhanga
2. East Champaran (Motihari)
3. Gaya
4. Bhagalpur
5. Kishanganj

A formal request was made to the Bihar State Police Department to issue a letter granting permission for establishing the Special Cells in specific police locations (Police Station, Superintendent of Police Office, or district police headquarters) in each district. This permission was required for TISS to issue recruitment advertisements and coordinate with district police authorities for space allocation and operational planning.

Following verbal approval from the Police Department and the Women Development Corporation (WDC), Bihar, the Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence against Women (RCI-VAW) of TISS published the recruitment advertisement on its website in March 2016, inviting applications from eligible candidates for the positions of social workers in the identified districts. The selection process was conducted on 21st and 22nd April 2016 at the Gender Resource Centre Building, Patna, with the selection committee comprising representatives nominated by WDC and the Police Department, along with members from the RCI-VAW team at TISS.

Subsequently, on 27th May 2016, the Police Headquarters, Bihar, Patna, issued a formal permission letter to all concerned Senior Superintendents of Police/Superintendents of Police in the identified districts for the establishment of the Special Cells. The letter directed district police administrations to provide the necessary infrastructure and administrative support to enable the Cells to function effectively at the district level. A copy of this letter is attached as **Annexure-01** of this report.

Recruitment of Social Workers

The selection process involved:

- Initially inviting applications in advance, followed by walk-in interviews which proved more effective.
- Conducting group discussions and structured personal interviews.

Each step was evaluated through a structured marking system. Minutes of all selection proceedings were documented and shared with members of the Selection Committee. In April 2016, all **five pilot Special Cells for Women and ten social worker positions** were filled, along with coordinator post.

Induction Training of Social Workers

The RCI-VAW of the TISS conducted comprehensive month-long induction training sessions in May-June 2016 for the newly recruited social workers & coordinator. These were organised in batches to accommodate staff from multiple States. The personnel from Bihar participated in sessions alongside colleagues from Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi, allowing cross-learning and exposure.

The induction training took place at the TISS campus in Mumbai and included:

- Classroom-based training on perspective building, laws, schemes, and intervention strategies.

- Field-based learning through observation at functioning Special Cells in Maharashtra.

The objectives of the induction training were:

- To build perspective on the structural and systemic nature of violence against women.
- To develop a feminist, survivor-centric approach to intervention, ensuring that social workers support survivors with empathy and without judgment.
- To equip participants with practical skills, including:
 - Legal knowledge pertaining to domestic violence, sexual violence, and related legislations.
 - Crisis counselling and psychosocial support techniques.
 - Suicide prevention strategies.
 - Methods of working with families and community members to build support systems for survivors.

Commencement of Work in Pilot Special Cells in Bihar

The table below presents the key dates for commencement of the five pilot Special Cells for Women in Bihar, specifically noting the reporting of social workers and the allocation of space in each district.

Name of District & Cell Location	Date of Reporting of Social Workers at district	Date of Allocation of Space
East Champaran (Mahila Thana, Motihari)	2 nd week of June 2016	2 nd week of June 2016
Bhagalpur (DRDA Office)	2 nd week of June 2016	2 nd week of June 2016
Darbhanga (Mahila Thana, Leheriasarai)	2 nd week of June 2016	2 nd week of June 2016
Gaya (Senior Superintendent of Police Office)	2 nd week of June 2016	1 st week of July 2016
Kishanganj (Superintendent of Police Office)	2 nd week of July 2016	3 rd week of July 2016

Media Coverage of Phase-I -Cells (2016-21)

As part of the second phase of implementation, an additional Special Cell for Women was established in Araria district on 08th March 2022. This expansion was undertaken under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between TISS and the Women and Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar. The Araria Cell marked the addition of a new location to the five existing pilot Special Cells (in Bhagalpur, Gaya, Kishanganj, Darbhanga, and East Champaran), all of which were already functional. The launch of the Araria Cell on International Women's Day symbolised the Government's continued commitment to institutionalising a survivor-centric and rights-based response to violence against women across the State.

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Section -1: The work-progress of the Special Cells for Women, Bihar from 1st June 2016 to 31st March 2025 (MoU with the National Commission for Women, Govt. of India & the Women & Child Development Cooperation, Govt. of Bihar)

Between 1st June 2016 and 31st March 2025, the Special Cells for Women across six districts of Bihar have provided psycho-social-legal interventions to a total of 9,482 individuals. This includes 6,831 registered applicants who received ongoing support and 2,651 individuals who availed one-time crisis interventions. Of this total, the data from Araria district covers the period from March 2022 to March 2025, while the data from the remaining five districts—Bhagalpur, Gaya, Kishanganj, Darbhanga, and East Champaran—reflects interventions provided since the inception of the Cells in June 2016.

District-wise Intervention

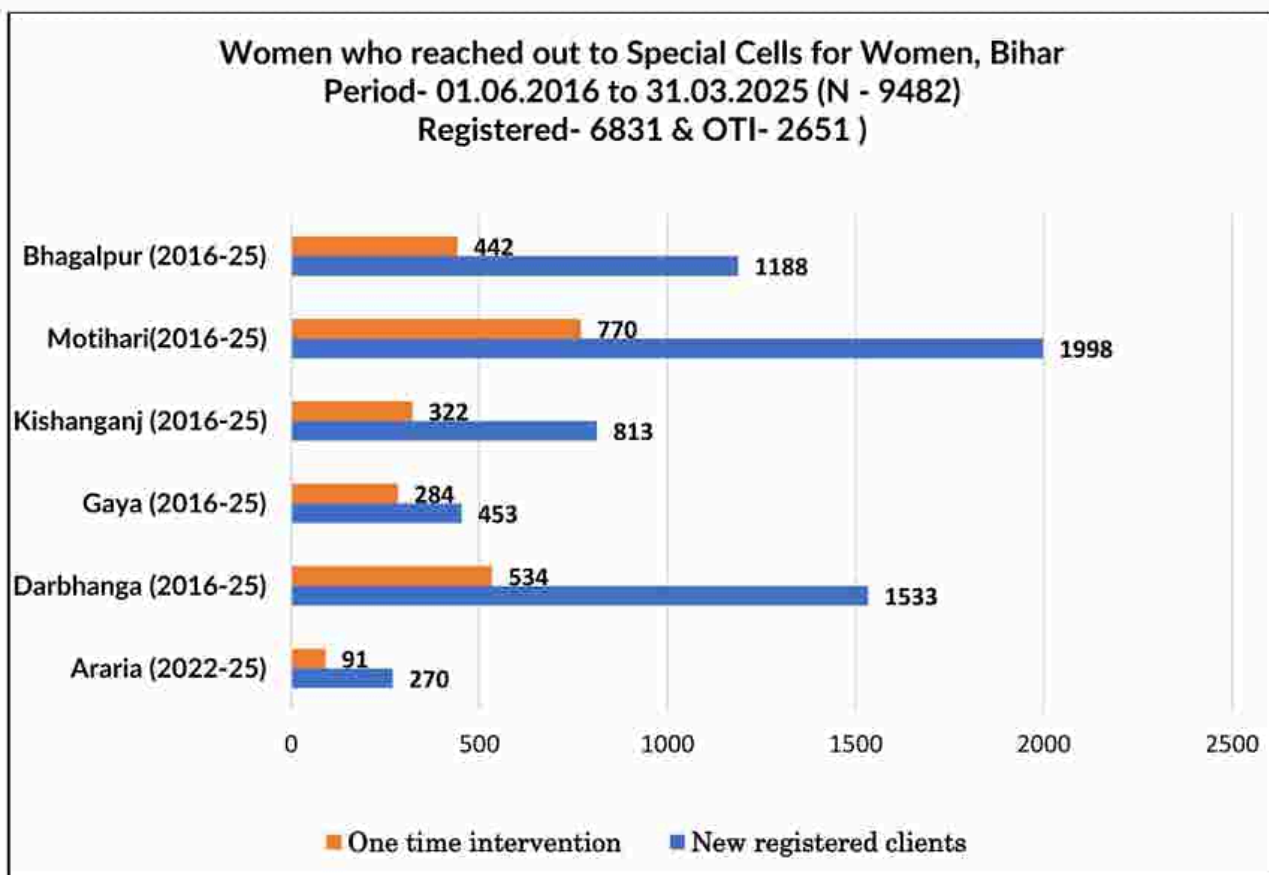


Figure 01: Total number of interventions by Special Cells for Women, Bihar

New registered clients are those women who approach the Special Cell and make a written application, entering into a formal process for seeking long-term support from the Special Cells. Details of such clients along with the process of intervention in their case is recorded in the intake register. As seen in the figure 01 above, 6831 survivors registered at the Cells during the reporting period and Motihari (East Champaran) recorded the highest number of registered cases, followed by Darbhanga and Kishanganj. Gaya district reported relatively lower referrals, primarily due to infrastructural challenges during the initial phase. Initially, there were space constraints, and later, when the Superintendent of Police (SP) office was shifted to a new building, the Special Cell continued to function from the old premises, which housed limited offices. Consequently, many survivors ended up approaching the temporary SP office directly, resulting in fewer referrals to the Cell during that time.

One-time Intervention/Brief Intervention: -The nature of intervention offered may vary depending on the need of the survivor approaching the Cell. It may be one-time intervention, where the individual comes in for specific information and guidance or requires crisis intervention; for instance-

One-time interventions have an important role in the work of the Special Cell. It may involve extending crucial support during a crisis that the survivor is facing or may involve helping the survivor navigate the criminal justice system by imparting knowledge which in itself often seems complex and intimidating. One-time interventions also pave the way for long-term interventions as the person may return to the Cell for future support. **The Special Cells for Women in Bihar State recorded 2651 One-Time Interventions during the reporting period from 1st June 2016, to 31st March 2025.**

Referrals to Special Cells for Women, Bihar

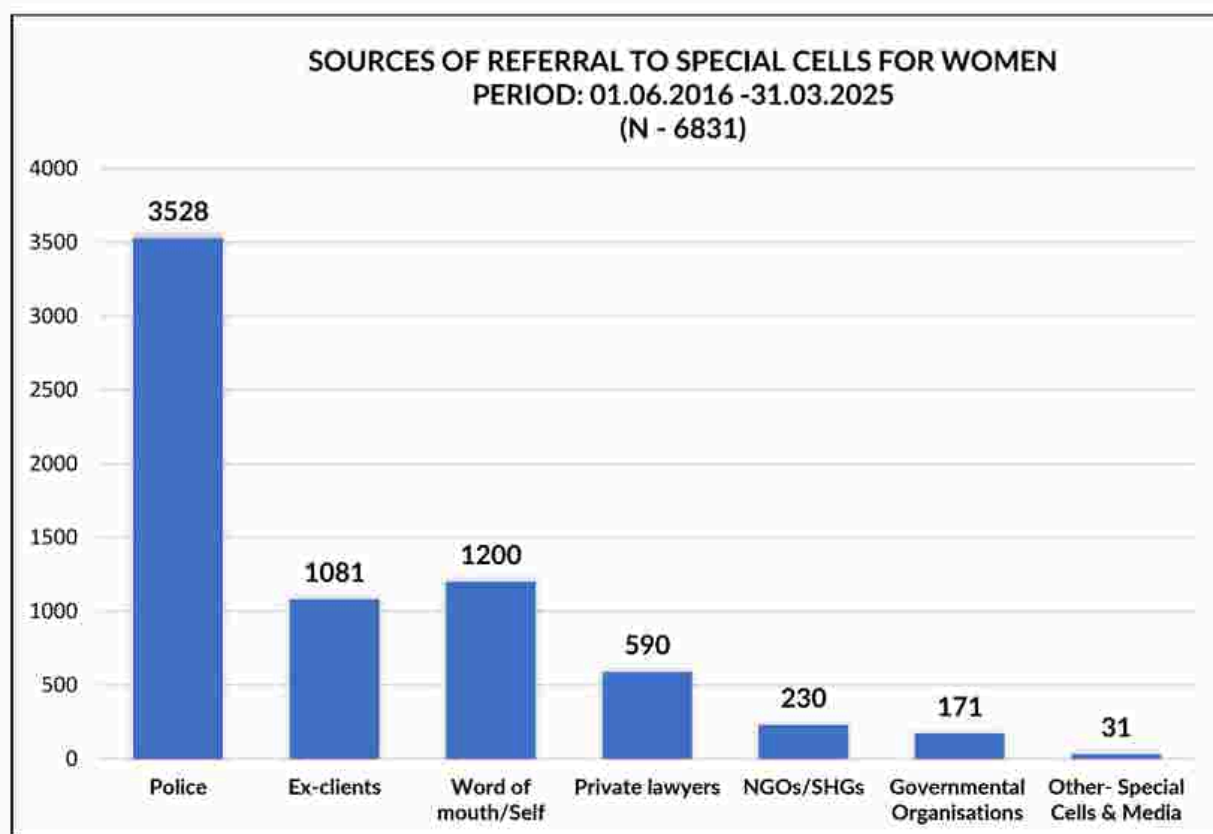


Figure 02: Source of referral to Special Cells for Women, Bihar

As illustrated in Figure 02, the Police remain the primary source of referrals to the Special Cells for Women. Of the total applications received, 3,528 survivors (51.6%) were referred by the police, underscoring the importance of embedding the Cells within the police system to effectively respond to cases of violence against women. In districts such as Darbhanga and Motihari (East Champaran), where the Special Cells are located within the Mahila Thana, police referrals have been particularly high, reinforcing the significance of physical proximity to police services in ensuring access for survivors. Importantly, 1,081 survivors (15.8%) were referred by former clients of the Special Cells. This reflects a deep level of trust, satisfaction, and credibility in the services provided, as women who have previously received support are actively recommending the Cells to others. Such survivor-led referrals not only validate the quality of interventions but also help build safer pathways for women in distress. Additionally, 1,200 survivors (17.6%) approached the Special Cells through self-referral or word of mouth, often influenced by community outreach and awareness initiatives that aimed to enhance visibility and accessibility of the Cells' services.

Private lawyers accounted for 590 referrals (8.6%), demonstrating their longstanding familiarity and professional trust in the Special Cells' approach and support mechanisms. This reflects the Cells' strong credibility among legal practitioners. Further, 230 survivors (3.4%) were referred by local NGOs and Self-Help Group (SHG) members, indicating collaborative ground-level partnerships within the districts.

Another 171 survivors (2.5%) were referred through government stakeholders, including One Stop Centres, Helpline services, District Magistrate offices, hospitals, Panchayat representatives, and para-legal volunteers. These referrals point to an expanding network of institutional collaboration, beyond the police system, to create a more integrated support structure for survivors. Lastly, 31 survivors (0.5%) were referred either by Special Cells in other districts or learned about the services through media outreach, highlighting the broader visibility and inter-district connectivity of the programme.

Profile of Registered Clients of Special Cells for Women

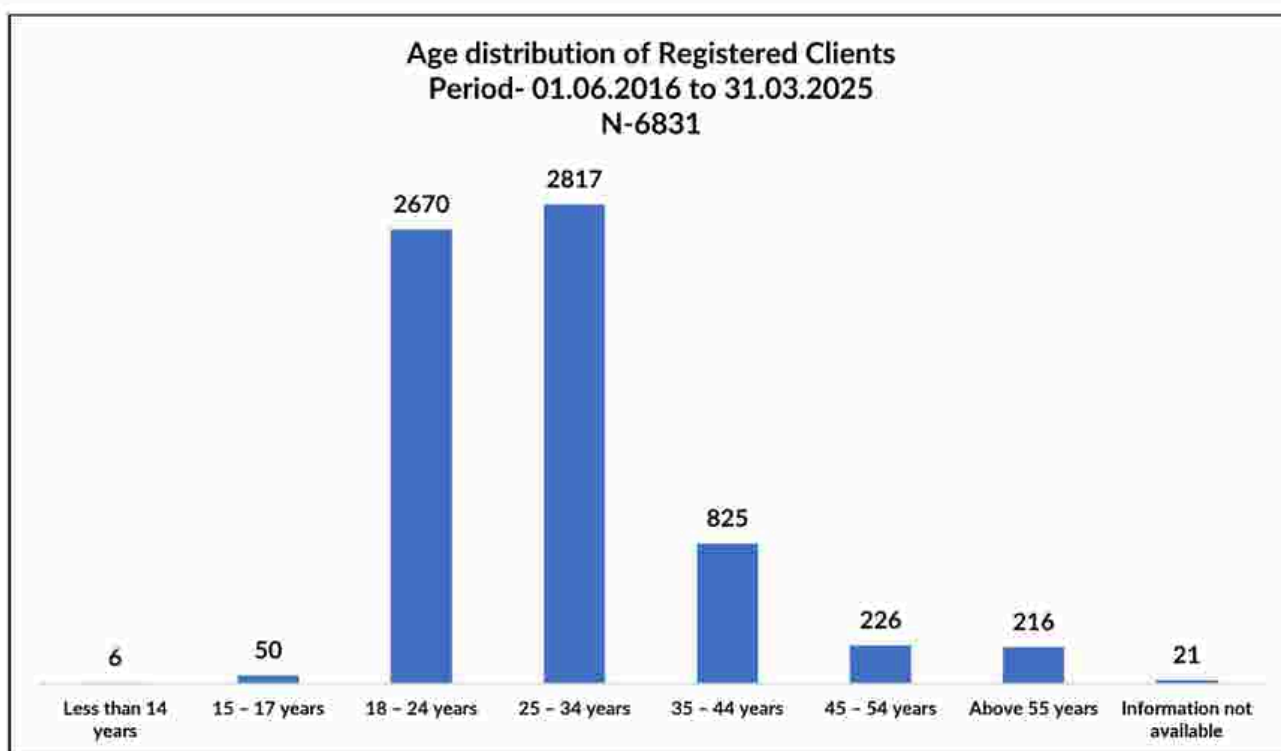


Figure 03: Age distribution of the registered clients of the Special Cells for Women, Bihar

The Figure 03 presents the age-wise distribution of survivors who registered with the Special Cells for Women across the six districts of Bihar. The data highlights that a significant proportion of survivors seeking support were young women, particularly those in the early stages of adulthood.

The largest group consisted of 2,817 women (41.2%) in the 25 to 34 years age bracket, followed closely by 2,670 women (39.1%) aged 18 to 24 years. Together, these two groups represent over 80% of all registered cases. This underscores that women in their reproductive and early adult years face heightened vulnerabilities to various forms of gender-based violence. Factors such as marriage, early motherhood, economic dependency, and lack of institutional support often intersect during these life stages, placing women at greater risk.

The data also indicates that older women continue to access the services of the Special Cells, reflecting the pervasive and lifelong nature of violence against women. A total of 825 women (12.1%) belonged to the 35 to 44 years age group, while 226 women (3.3%) were aged 45 to 54 years. An additional 216 survivors

(3.2%) were above 55 years of age, including senior citizens. These figures serve as a stark reminder that gender-based violence is not limited to the young, and that women across all age groups require access to safe, survivor-centric support services.

Moreover, 56 survivors (0.8%) were minors under the age of 18. In these cases, interventions were extended to the guardians of the minor survivors, with issues ranging from child sexual abuse, child marriage, to instances where the minor had left home, often in the context of romantic relationships. These complex cases required sensitive, multi-pronged responses that addressed both legal obligations and emotional well-being, while ensuring the child's safety and long-term protection.

This age-wise distribution clearly demonstrates that violence against women and girls is a cross-generational issue. It reinforces the need for sustained, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed interventions, tailored to address the diverse needs of survivors at different stages of life.

Educational Qualification of Registered Clients

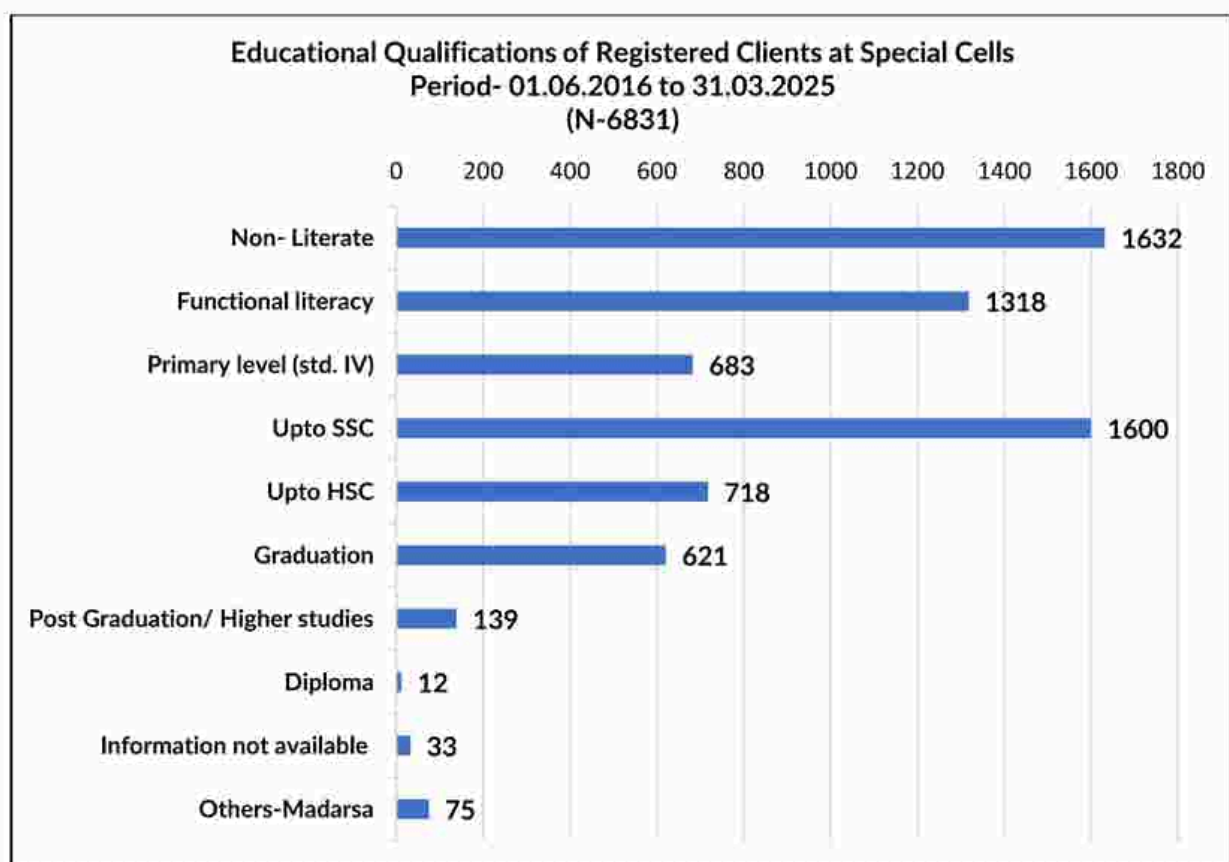


Figure 04: Education qualification of the registered clients of the Special Cells for Women, Bihar

The **Figure 04** demonstrates that violence against women transcends educational boundaries, affecting individuals regardless of their literacy level or academic qualifications. Among the survivors who approached the Special Cells for Women, a substantial number- 1,632 women (23.9%)-were non-literate, while 1,318 women (19.3%) had only functional literacy, indicating minimal reading and writing skills without formal schooling.

Additionally, 683 women (10%) had completed primary education. At the same time, a significant portion of survivors had attained higher levels of education, with 1,600 women (23.4%) completing senior secondary education (Class 10), 718 women (10.5%) finishing higher secondary education (Class 12), 621

women (9.1%) holding graduate degrees, and 139 women (2%) possessing postgraduate qualifications. Furthermore, 75 women (1.1%) had received Madarsa education, and in 33 cases, educational background details were not available.

This distribution clearly reveals that domestic and gender-based violence is not confined to any one educational group—it affects women across the spectrum of literacy and learning. The presence of a large number of women with little or no formal education also highlights the programme's outreach to marginalised and underserved populations.

This inclusive access has been made possible through sustained community engagement, local-level awareness campaigns, and strong partnerships with grassroots stakeholders, all of which have enabled women from varied educational backgrounds to come forward, report violence, and seek timely support.

Forms of Violence Faced by Survivors Coming to the Special Cells for Women

The majority of women who approach the Special Cells for Women report experiencing domestic violence, primarily at the hands of their husbands or in-laws. As depicted in **Figure 05**, the nature of violence faced by survivors includes a combination of emotional, physical, financial, and sexual abuse. It is important to note that these forms of violence are often interconnected and overlapping—survivors rarely experience only one type. Emotional violence, in particular, tends to accompany other forms of abuse and is almost always present in abusive domestic environments.

Of the total registered applications, **2,557 survivors (85.6%)** reported being subjected to **emotional violence** by their husbands. This includes verbal humiliation, threats, intimidation, controlling behaviour, and isolation from support systems. In **2,467 cases (82.6%)**, women reported **physical violence**, ranging from slapping and hitting to more severe forms of bodily harm. **Financial violence** was reported in **4,833 cases (70.8%)**, where women were denied access to household income, forcibly stripped of their earnings or dowry, or deliberately kept financially dependent and powerless.

While domestic violence remains deeply stigmatized, reporting **sexual violence within marriage** presents an even greater challenge. Many women hesitate to speak about it due to social taboos, deep-rooted shame, and lack of societal recognition of marital rape. Despite these barriers, 2,819 women (41.3%) disclosed facing **sexual violence** from their husbands. These disclosures often occurred after multiple sessions, once a survivor began to feel a sense of privacy, trust, and emotional safety with the Special Cell social worker. The survivor-centric and non-judgmental environment of the Cells—where women are heard without pressure—enabled many to share deeply painful experiences that they had never disclosed before.

The data clearly underscores that violence in intimate relationships is often **multi-dimensional**, and survivors require **holistic support services** that acknowledge and respond to the complexity of their lived realities. The Special Cells provide such a space—grounded in empathy, confidentiality, and sustained engagement—allowing women to articulate their experiences of abuse in their own time and terms.

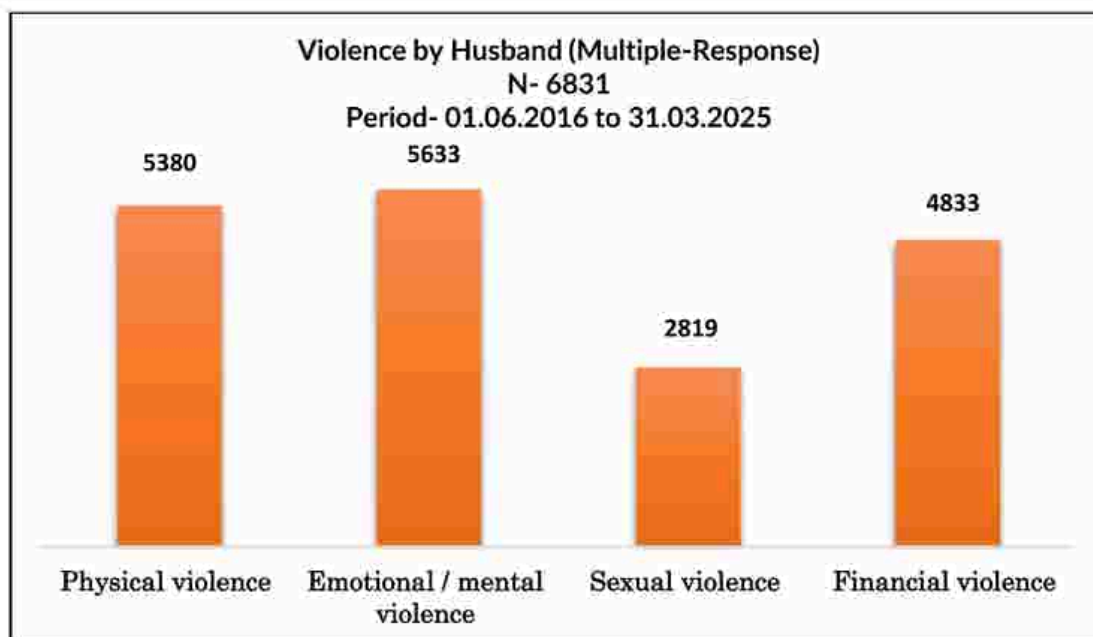


Figure 05: Types of Violence by Husband

Case Study: Access to Rights

Background:

A 20-year-old woman was referred to the Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur, by the Mahila Thana. She had been married for a year, during which she experienced emotional and financial abuse from her husband. After the marriage, her husband took possession of all her jewellery and began demanding additional dowry. She further disclosed that her husband appeared emotionally attached to his sister-in-law and never established a physical relationship with her. Throughout the year, she suffered in silence, unable to share her distress with anyone. It was only after a year that she confided in her mother, which gave her the courage to seek help from the formal support system.

Expectations from the Special Cell:

When she approached the Cell, the woman expressed that she felt deeply disrespected and devalued in her marriage. Her primary expectation was to achieve financial independence and to receive some form of monetary relief from her husband, as she intended to separate from him and needed interim financial support while residing at her natal home and searching for employment. She made it clear that she did not wish to continue the marriage. The social worker at the Cell provided her with emotional support, listened without judgment, and began working collaboratively with her to determine the next steps.

Intervention and Joint Meeting:

The Special Cell issued a written request to the husband, followed by repeated phone calls, inviting him to attend a meeting at the Cell. During the joint counselling session, the social worker clearly articulated the nature of violence experienced by the woman and explained her legal rights. The woman asserted her wish for separation on her own terms, and the social worker facilitated this discussion, ensuring her voice remained central throughout the process.

Outcome:

As a result of the negotiation, a lump-sum financial settlement was agreed upon and paid by the husband to the woman. Although she was determined to start working and build her independence, she expressed fear and uncertainty about entering the workforce for the first time. The social worker provided ongoing emotional support and confidence-building interventions to help her navigate this transition.

Last Known Status:

At the time of the last follow-up, the woman was residing with her natal family and had started working at a mall, marking her first step toward financial independence. The social worker continued to provide emotional support and was guiding her through the process of filing for mutual divorce, in line with her wishes.

Violence by Marital Family

The Figure 06 sheds light on an important but often under-recognised dimension of domestic violence: abuse inflicted by marital family members, in addition to the husband. The data reveals that women who approach the Special Cells for Women frequently face violence not only from their spouses but also from other members of the husband's family, including mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and other relatives residing in the marital household. The Emotional violence was the most commonly reported form of abuse perpetrated by marital family members, with 4,041 cases (59.2%) indicating verbal humiliation, threats, controlling behaviour, taunting, and social isolation enforced by relatives of the husband. Physical violence by marital family members was reported in 3,587 cases (52.2%), which included being beaten, pushed, or physically restrained by in-laws or other relatives. Financial violence, such as denial of access to basic resources, forcible control over dowry items or personal earnings, and dependency enforced through manipulation, was reported in 2,337 applications (34.2%).

A particularly concerning and sensitive finding is that 385 applications (5.6%) documented instances of sexual violence perpetrated by non-spouse marital family members—such as fathers-in-law, brothers-in-law, or other male relatives of the husband. These cases, though statistically fewer in number, underscore the seriousness and complexity of the threats that women may face within the extended family environment. They highlight the layers of vulnerability experienced by women, especially in joint family structures, where the presence of multiple abusers within the household creates a climate of sustained fear, coercion, and trauma.

These patterns of abuse indicate that domestic violence is not limited to the marital dyad but can be deeply embedded in wider familial structures. The recognition of in-laws and extended family members as perpetrators is crucial in designing comprehensive intervention strategies. The Special Cells' approach—grounded in survivor-centric counselling, legal awareness, and coordinated support—enables women to disclose these experiences and seek redress beyond the conventional spousal framework of domestic violence.

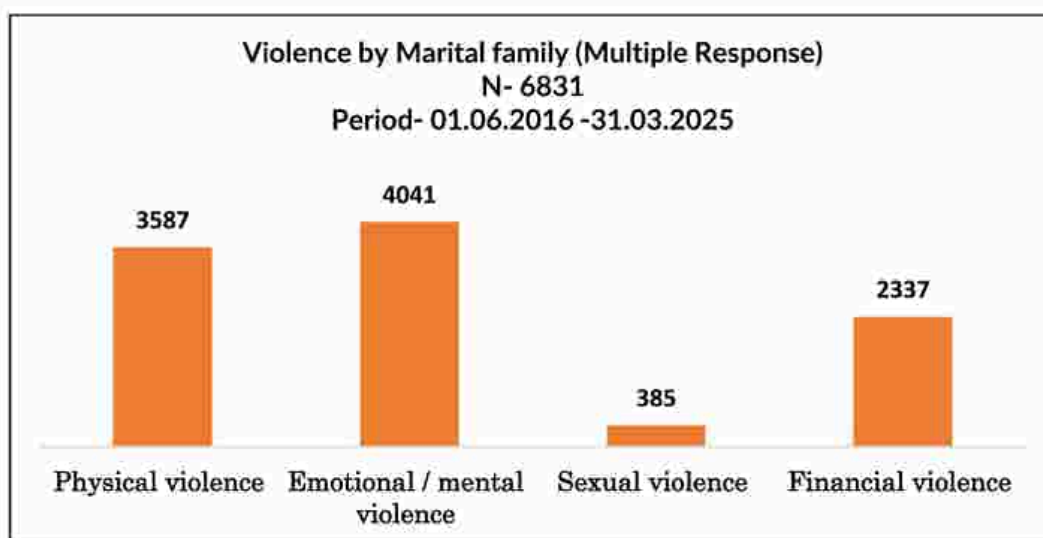


Figure 06: Violence by Marital family members

Reasons for Registering at the Special Cells, Bihar

Reasons for Registering at the Special Cells, Bihar [From 01.06.2016 to 31.03.2025] N-6831 (Multiple-Response)	
Out of marriage relationship/second marriage by husband	1688
Refusal to give streedhan	905
Alcohol abuse/ substance abuse by husband	1561
Desertion by husband	1065
Child custody disputes/ disputes over visitation rights	229
Harassment of natal family members of the woman by the husband/family	1032
Deprivation of matrimonial residence	1553
Child abuse/violence towards the children (by husband/family)	411
Dowry demands (by husband/family)	2331
Violence by natal family	197
Violence by children and their spouses	222
Violence by live-in partner	74
Online violence	6
Breach of trust in intimate relationship	553
Harassment by neighbours	131
Sexual Harassment at Workplace	33

One significant pattern of violence observed across cases handled by the Special Cells for Women is the harassment of the survivor's natal family by the abuser. This form of abuse, documented in 1,032 instances (15.1%), is often a strategic attempt to isolate the woman from her primary source of emotional and practical support. By creating fear, tension, or social pressure within her parental home, the abuser seeks to weaken her coping mechanisms and force her into continued dependence. In response, social workers at the Special Cells actively engaged with the survivor's natal family and other trusted individuals, helping to restore and strengthen her support network. This approach not only countered the isolating tactics of the abuser but also ensured that the survivor had safe people to turn to during periods of crisis.

In 411 cases (6%), abusers used children as tools of coercion—either by directly harming them or by manipulating the survivor through threats related to the children. These situations reflect the complex and layered nature of domestic violence, where harm is extended beyond the immediate survivor to other vulnerable family members. Social workers intervened in such instances with careful risk assessment, child safeguarding measures, and coordinated responses involving legal and child welfare authorities, when needed.

Another prevalent and deeply distressing form of violence was the forced eviction of women from their matrimonial homes. This was recorded in 1,553 cases (22.7%). Women facing such eviction were often left without shelter, financial resources, or immediate recourse to justice. In these cases, Special Cell social workers undertook joint meetings with the survivor's in-laws and natal family members, and conducted home visits to advocate for the woman's right to residence. These actions were grounded in the legal

provisions under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005, which recognizes a woman's right to reside in her matrimonial home, regardless of ownership or title.

Dowry-related violence remained alarmingly high, despite long-standing legal prohibitions and sustained social campaigns against the practice in Bihar. A total of 2,331 cases (34.1%) involved complaints of dowry demands and associated abuse. These included physical, emotional, and financial forms of violence resulting from unmet dowry expectations. The persistence of such cases underscores the continued social acceptance of dowry in many communities and highlights the urgent need for ongoing public awareness and legal enforcement efforts.

Economic violence was another frequently reported issue. In 905 cases (13.2%), women were denied access to their *Streedhan*—including gifts, valuables, and personal belongings received during marriage. Other forms of financial abuse included withholding of household expenditures, restricting access to shared bank accounts, or pressuring women to give up their earnings. Such acts of economic control heightened survivors' vulnerability, restricted their autonomy, and made it harder for them to leave abusive relationships.

Interestingly, despite the state government's prohibition on alcohol, 1,561 women (22.9%) reported that their husbands were habitual users of alcohol or other substances. While substance use was frequently mentioned as a contributing factor to violence, it is important to clarify that alcohol or drug use is not the root cause of domestic violence. Many perpetrators continued to exhibit violent and controlling behaviours irrespective of intoxication. These findings reinforce that domestic violence stems from deep-rooted power imbalances, social conditioning, and the abuser's desire to exert control—not from substance use alone.

Apart from violence within marriages, other patterns of abuse also emerged. In 74 cases (1.1%), women reported violence by live-in partners. Additionally, 197 cases (2.9%) involved abuse by the woman's own natal family, often in response to choices around marriage, autonomy, or property rights. In such cases, the survivor's safety required reinforcing alternative support systems—friends, extended family, or institutional shelters—so that she could safely access help and rebuild her life.

Technology-facilitated violence was documented in six cases. Though the number appears small, it marks an important trend of increasing online harassment, digital stalking, and misuse of personal content—pointing to the need for gender-sensitive cyber safety mechanisms.

Furthermore, 553 cases (8.1%) reported issues involving a breach of trust by intimate partners. These often had serious emotional and psychological consequences for survivors, particularly in relationships where marriage or long-term commitment was expected. Lastly, 33 women (0.5%) reported incidents of sexual harassment at the workplace. These cases highlight the need for ongoing interventions to ensure safe and equitable workspaces, including the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Together, these patterns reflect the complex, multi-dimensional nature of gender-based violence. The work of the Special Cells, through its survivor-centred and rights-based interventions, plays a crucial role in addressing not only the immediate impact of violence but also in challenging the structural and social conditions that enable it.

Case Study: Facilitation of non-violent reconciliation and importance of follow up

Brief background: A 30 years old woman registered at Special Cell for Women, Gaya, before the lockdown in 2020. She was referred by Police. She shared facing violence by her husband after 6 years of marriage. She narrated that husband does not give time to her. She also suspected that he was in an out-of-marriage relationship. Tired of her husband's behavior she decided to stay at her natal family. She wanted joint meeting with husband and expected that husband and she should stay separately. When lockdown was imposed, woman stopped coming to Cell. In the year 2021, Social Workers of Cells engaged in strategic follow-up with women who had registered at the Cell but not approached after 1-2 meeting. On contacting woman, she shared that she is at her natal home and her husband had refused to live with her. Social Worker requested her to come to Cell to discuss this further and offer support. Woman came to Cell and shared that her husband asks her to stay at marital family when he is out at work in the city, but she wanted to stay with him where he works.

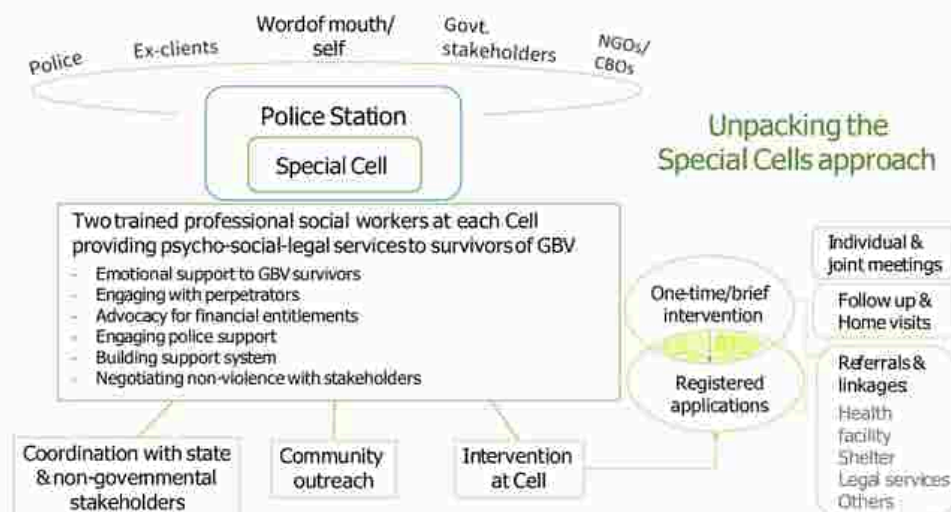
Intervention by Cell- After individual meeting with woman, request letter was sent to respondent followed by phone call. At the Individual meeting with respondent, the Social Worker challenged his behavior, conveying his wife's right to stay with him without any violence. The woman was prepared for the joint meeting and during the meeting, the woman kept her expectation of being with him at the place of his work. Four joint meetings were facilitated where the woman was empowered to place her views and issues in the safe space within the Cell.

Outcome- Finally, the respondent wrote an Assurance paper acknowledging his behaviour and committing to live with his wife in the city/town that he was working. On follow up woman shared that she is staying with her husband in rented house where he works, and also thinking to start working herself so that she can be financially independent too.

Process of Intervention at Special Cell for Women

The Special Cell for Women provides a pro-woman holistic response to the gender-based violence, it employs the joint problem-solving approach to help address the violence in short & long term, provides a support system for survivors of violence.

In order to understand the woman's history of violence better, to engage with her issue in a more meaningful way and to provide her with emotional support, social workers facilitated individual meetings as well as joint meetings and home visits.



Individual & joint meetings:

Meetings by Special Cell for Women in 6 districts (01.06.2016 to 31.03.2025)	
Individual meetings	25,524
Joint meetings	7,235
Home-visits	2,087

During the reporting period, a total of 25,524 individual meetings and 7,235 joint meetings were conducted across the six Special Cells for Women in Bihar. These meetings form the core of the intervention process and are tailored based on the specific needs and circumstances of each case. Depending on the nature and complexity of the issue, a case may involve only individual meetings, only joint meetings, or a combination of both, as determined through ongoing assessment by the social workers.

Individual Meetings

The Special Cell approach prioritizes the empowerment of women and places the survivor at the centre of all interventions. In individual meetings, social workers create a confidential and supportive environment where women can share their experiences without fear or judgment. These sessions are primarily focused on:

- Listening to the survivor's account of violence and understanding her specific concerns and needs.
- Providing information about her legal, social, and psychological rights, including remedies available under laws such as the PWDVA, 2005.
- Exploring possible courses of action while discussing the potential risks and benefits of each option, thereby enabling the woman to make informed decisions.
- Assessing the readiness and relevance of involving other stakeholders, including the perpetrator, family members, or institutional representatives in a joint meeting.
- Preparing the woman for joint meetings, including setting the agenda, clarifying her expectations, and discussing her comfort level and safety concerns.

The individual meeting is not just an intake process, it is a space of empowerment, reflection, and preparation that respects the survivor's pace and preferences.

Joint Meetings

Following individual meeting and based on the survivor's consent, joint meetings may be organized to involve the respondent (typically the perpetrator of violence) and, when relevant, other stakeholders such as family members, community elders, or officials. These meetings are structured, goal-oriented sessions facilitated by the social worker within the safe and neutral premises of the Special Cell.

The joint meeting offers a controlled setting where:

- The survivor can directly communicate her experiences, needs, and demands to the perpetrator or other involved parties.
- The perpetrator is held accountable for his actions and given an opportunity to reflect, acknowledge harm caused, and demonstrate willingness for change.
- The social worker guides the conversation towards negotiating non-violence, including setting boundaries, discussing living arrangements, and restoring the woman's rights and dignity.

- When possible, mutually agreed-upon arrangements are facilitated, such as ensuring residence, custody of children, access to finances, or pursuing legal remedies.

The role of the social worker during joint meetings is that of a facilitator who ensures that the woman's voice remains central, her safety is prioritized, and the discussion stays respectful and constructive.

Home Visits

Home visits constitute a critical component of the intervention strategy under the Special Cell for Women. During the reporting period, Social Workers conducted a total of **2,087 Home Visits** across all 06 districts. These visits serve multiple purposes, guided by the professional assessment of the Social Worker and the evolving needs of each case.

Home visits are particularly valuable in situations where:

- The respondent is unwilling or reluctant to attend a joint meeting at the Special Cell.
- There is a need to assess the safety and well-being of the woman post-intervention.
- Continuous follow-up is necessary to ensure non-recurrence of violence and compliance with commitments made during joint meetings.

Nature of Intervention at the Cell

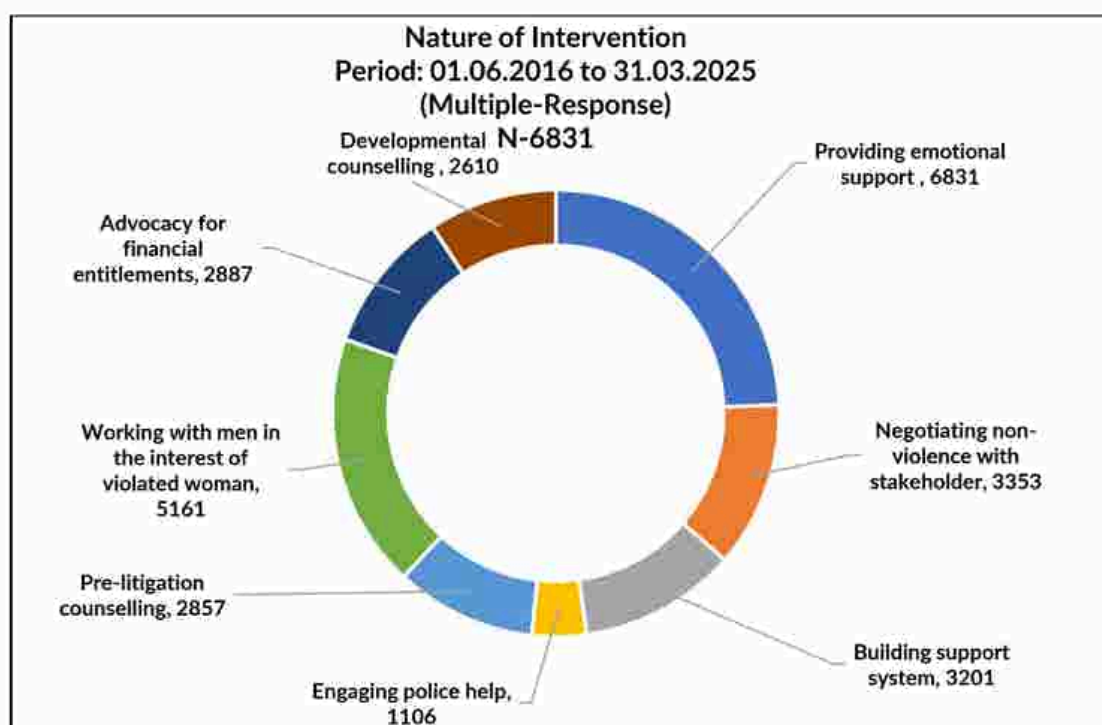


Figure 07: Nature of Interventions at the Cell

The social workers at the Special Cells play an important role in building supportive ecosystems around women facing violence. Their interventions span across the survivor's natal family, marital family, and the broader community, with the primary objective of negotiating for non-violence and creating an environment where the woman feels safe and supported. In 2,887 instances, social workers actively advocated for women's financial entitlements-including efforts to retrieve *Streedhan* and personal belongings, secure access to shared property, and facilitate maintenance or financial support from the abuser or his family.

Legal empowerment forms a key component of the Special Cell model. In 2,857 cases, women were provided with legal information and pre-litigation counselling to help them understand their rights and available legal remedies. Ensuring women are informed about their legal options is essential in enabling them to make empowered decisions and access justice when they choose to do so.

Collaboration with law enforcement is another crucial part of the intervention strategy. In 1,106 instances, social workers enlisted the support of the police, helping women file FIRs, request police intervention to call the respondent, or secure rescue in urgent situations. These coordinated efforts ensured timely responses in high-risk situations and reinforced the survivor's access to protection.

Emotional support is integral to the empowerment process and is provided consistently to all survivors. It accompanies legal and social interventions and helps women cope with trauma, build resilience, and regain confidence. The Special Cells also prioritize engagement with the respondent (the man) in the case. In 5,161 instances, social workers conducted individual or joint meetings with the man, always keeping the woman's safety and well-being at the centre. A unique and effective practice developed by the Special Cells is the "Assurance Paper"-a written statement signed by the respondent during a joint meeting, wherein he verbally commits to specific actions or refraining from violence. This document is recorded with his informed consent and retained at the Cell as a part of case documentation. Throughout the intervention process, the social worker continues to meet the woman regularly to track her changing life situation, assess emerging needs, and adjust the intervention plan accordingly. This ongoing engagement ensures that the support remains relevant, responsive, and survivor-centred at every stage of her journey.

Case study: Engaging with stakeholders in the best interest of women

Brief Background: A 22 years old woman referred to Special Cell for Women Motihari district by Police as she came to seek support from Mahila Thana. Thana personnel referred her to Special Cell. She was married in the last 9 months and was 7 months pregnant at that time. She had been residing in Nepal with her husband. In the recent past, her husband had left home without informing for 3 days. The Woman approached his employee who revealed that he lent him some money, but after that he had not reported to work. He demanded that she repay the money which her husband had borrowed. She assured the employer that she will return with her husband soon and will repay his money. On persuasion he allowed woman to go. She came to Motihari at her marital family home but they refused to take her in. She was unable to reach out to her husband and spent two days at the hospital premises.

Intervention at the Cell-When she reached Special Cell, she conveyed that till date she has not heard from her husband she wants to stay at marital family but they are refusing as she and her husband eloped and got married. Social Worker assesses her safety as process was time taking so arrangement of short-term shelter was important, but woman shared that she is safe at hospital and will continue to stay there for couple of more days as she was also receiving food and other support there. After registering her application Social Worker called her marital family who refused to come to Cell.

Home visits and working with the Panchayat-Social Worker then planned a home visit and tried to speak to respondent family but they did not agree to come for the meeting. There were villagers gathered, Social Worker felt need to engage with Panchayat member and ask him to speak to woman's marital family. Panchayat member said that he will speak to family to come for meeting. Home visit worked as an ice breaker to explain the family and Panchayat member about the process of Special Cell. Respondent's father and elder brother agreed to come to Cell at the decided date. The challenge of Social Worker was to contact woman as she did not have any mobile. Social Worker shared her mobile number with the

woman so that woman can contact her. She contacted Social Worker as plan of joint meeting was shared with her during Individual meeting.

Meeting with family-During individual meeting with respondent father and brother, Social Worker engaged with them and spoke about violence which woman is facing. She spoke about woman rights in her marital family and also that during her pregnancy it is violation that she is denied residence in her marital home. Respondent's father was not ready to change his decision, but Social Worker felt that respondent's brother was engaging so spoke with him separately. He assured that he needs couple of days and he will speak to his family as they stay in joint family so that it will be safe for woman once she will come to her marital family.

Outcome-Respondent's brother got back to Social Worker and shared that the woman could stay at her marital home and assured that there would be no violence. He also assured that he will find out about his brother and take care of the woman's delivery and after care. He gave this assurance in writing at the Cell.

Follow up-On follow up, the woman informed that she gave birth to a daughter and were keeping in good health.

Referral made by Special Cells (Multiple Responses)

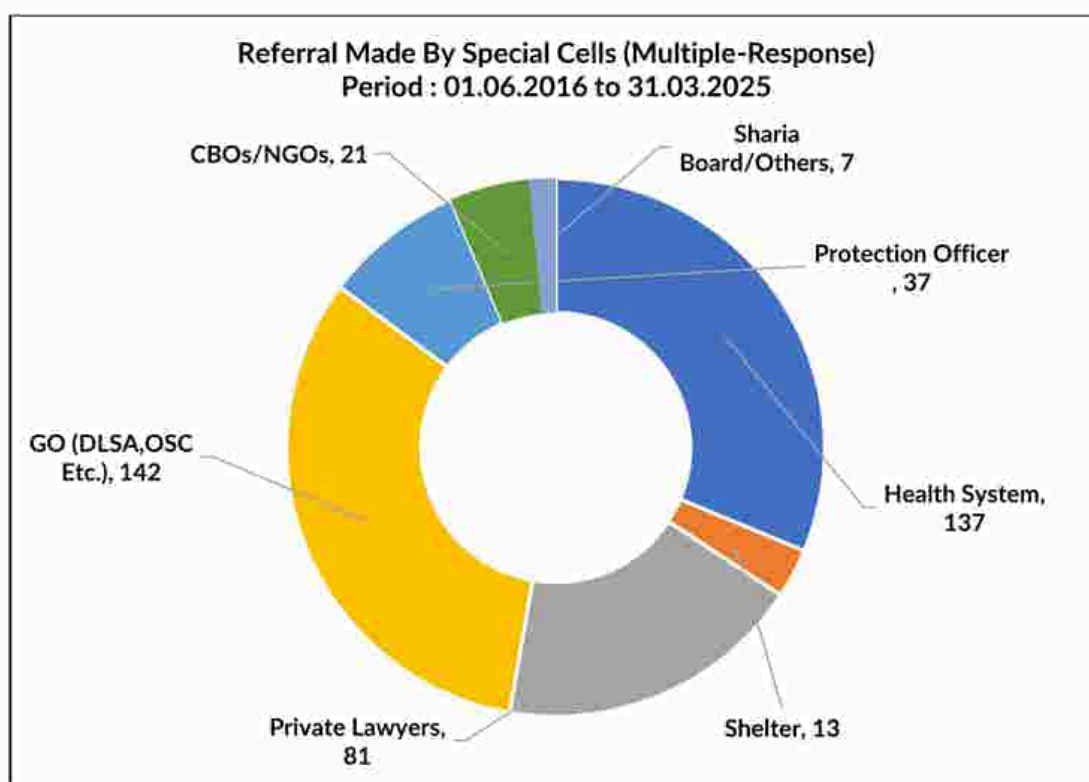


Figure 08: Referral made by the Special Cell

The Special Cells for Women in Bihar function as a vital part of an integrated support system for women facing violence, operating through close coordination with multiple stakeholders to ensure survivors receive holistic, timely, and need-based interventions. The Cells are embedded within the police system but extend their services by actively networking with various public and private agencies to address the complex realities survivors often face. Between 01.06.2016 and 31.03.2025, the Special Cells facilitated a

total of 438 formal referrals, each made based on the survivor's informed consent and the specific nature of her needs. These referrals underscore the commitment of the Special Cells to not only provide direct psycho-social and legal support but also to act as a bridge connecting survivors to appropriate external services and entitlements.

The breakdown of referrals made by the Special Cells reflects the diverse, coordinated, and survivor-centric approach adopted to address the complex needs of women facing violence:

- 137 referrals were made to the public health system, enabling survivors to access essential medical care, treatment, and, where necessary, Medico-Legal Certificates (MLCs). These referrals are particularly crucial in cases involving physical or sexual violence, where timely medical documentation plays a dual role in supporting both recovery and legal proceedings.
- 142 referrals were directed to Government-run services, especially One Stop Centres (OSCs), which provide integrated services such as temporary shelter, counselling, legal assistance, and medical support. These centres serve as vital crisis response units and help survivors transition toward longer-term safety and stability.
- 7 referrals were made to the Sharia Board in cases where survivors sought remedies under Muslim personal law. These referrals underscore the Special Cell's commitment to respecting survivors' religious and cultural contexts while ensuring access to justice through all relevant legal avenues.
- 13 referrals were made to a Shelter Home, facilitating temporary safe accommodation for a client in need of immediate protection and stability.
- 21 referrals were made to Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and NGOs, leveraging their grassroots presence and specialized services to provide ongoing support, rehabilitation, or legal aid.
- 81 clients were referred to private lawyers who are sensitized to women's rights issues. These legal professionals provided critical support in securing relief through the courts in matters related to divorce, maintenance, and cases filed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005.

Case study: Access to child and engaging with Police

Brief background: A 22 years old woman approached Special Cell for Women in Darbhanga district after getting information from another woman who had sought help from the Cell earlier. She shared that after 6 months of marriage, she began facing physical, emotional and financial violence from her husband and he was also threatening to take on a second wife. She also shared that when she and her natal family were not able to fulfill the dowry demand by her husband and marital family, they had beaten her and forced her out of her marital home and denied access to her one and half year-old child. When she approached Special Cell, she was distressed and wanted access to her child.

Intervention by the Cell- Social Worker provided emotional support as she was constantly crying. Social Worker requested her husband to come to the Cell but he refused. To facilitate the access, Social Worker engaged with local Police and accompanied woman to Police Station.

Outcome- Police personnel called husband and directed him to come along with the child. The matter was facilitated at the Police Station and through this process; the woman was able to gain access to her child, much to her relief. The woman decided to stay with her natal family temporarily until she is mentally prepared for further course of action to return to the Cell.

Case study: Access to Government scheme

A woman registered at Special Cell for Women, Kishanganj, sharing history of having separated from her husband due to dowry demand after one and half years of her marriage. When she and her natal family were not able to fulfill the demand marital family forced her out of her marital house. She had pursued the matter in Court for maintenance and it was pending. She was currently staying in rented house with her daughter. She was referred by One Stop Centre cum Helpline to Special Cell for long term counselling. Woman shared that she was working as a domestic helper and was managing to make ends meet but was worried about her 8-year-old daughter's future. Social Worker at Cell gave her information about Sukanya Samridhi Yojna which helps parents in building funds for girl children. The social worker facilitated enrolment under the scheme. This will help woman in doing financial planning as this scheme gives better interest rate on savings which will support her daughter future educational demand.

Outcomes of Intervention

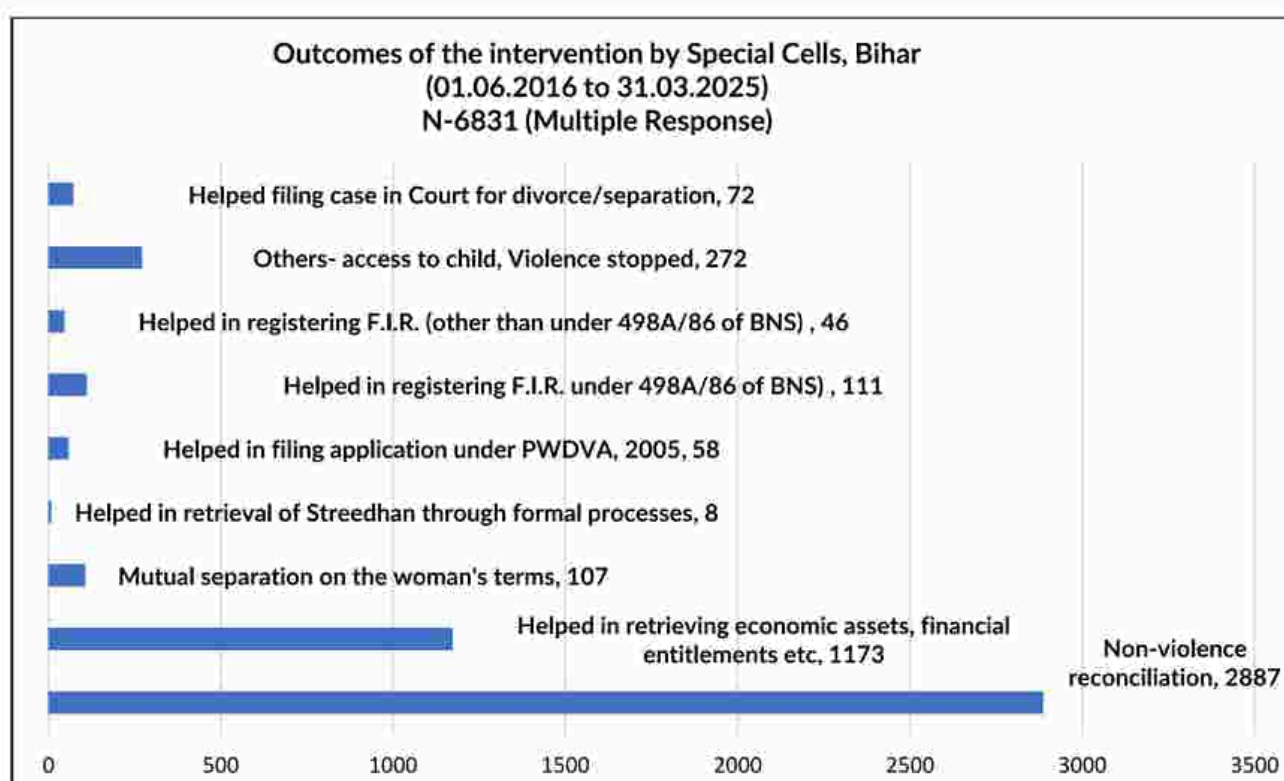


Figure 09: Outcomes of the intervention by Special Cells for Women, Bihar

The Special Cell model is grounded in a long-term intervention approach, recognizing that violence against women is complex, deep-rooted, and often recurrent. Therefore, outcomes cannot be viewed through a simplistic lens of resolution or closure. Instead, they must be understood as dynamic indicators of the support provided, the agency exercised by women, and the systems they navigate. Each outcome reflects the survivor's evolving choices, priorities, and sense of safety.

During the reporting period, as illustrated in Figure 09, the interventions by the Special Cells led to a range of significant outcomes aimed at restoring survivors' rights, safety, and dignity:

Non-violent reconciliation was facilitated in 2887 cases (42.3%), wherein survivors chose to continue residing with their partners. These reconciliations were not merely about restoring the relationship but were grounded in the survivor's informed choice and reinforced with clarity about her rights.

Terms of dignity, respect, and non-violence were negotiated, ensuring that the woman could live in an environment free from abuse.

In 107 cases (1.6%), mutual separation was facilitated entirely on the woman's terms. These decisions were the result of sustained counselling and legal support, ensuring that the survivor was not under pressure and had the emotional, legal, and logistical backing needed to exit a harmful relationship safely and confidently.

In 1173 cases (17.2%), women were able to access their economic rights, including securing monthly maintenance for household needs, children's school fees, or other financial entitlements. These interventions played a crucial role in reducing survivors' dependence on abusive partners and ensuring economic stability.

Legal interventions were pursued in 157 cases (2.3%), where survivors chose to initiate criminal proceedings. Social workers provided comprehensive support through the entire process, including complaint drafting and accompaniment to police stations. These included:

- 111 First Information Reports (FIRs) filed under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code / Section 86 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which pertain to cruelty by a husband or his relatives.
- 46 FIRs registered under various other legal provisions, including cases of sexual violence and cybercrime.

Additional outcomes of the interventions included:

- Restoring access to children, particularly in cases where survivors had been forcibly separated from them during or after incidents of violence.
- Facilitating access to safe shelter or temporary accommodation, through both government-supported and NGO-run facilities.
- Supporting economic rehabilitation by helping survivors secure employment or livelihood opportunities, thereby strengthening their financial independence.

Furthermore, 58 women (0.8%) were supported in filing cases under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005, and 9 women were assisted in retrieving their Streedhan through formal channels, including filing FIRs at local police stations.

These varied outcomes demonstrate the Special Cells' holistic and survivor-centric approach—supporting women in reclaiming safety, rights, and autonomy across personal, social, legal, and economic domains.

Case study: Engage with men in the best interest of woman

Background: - A 24 years old Afshan (name changed) came to the Special Cell for Women, Araria as referred by Women Police Station. She was facing domestic violence from her husband and marital family & she has two children. She wanted to do the job but husband & sister-in-law were not interested for that. Her father-in-law and sister-in-law said that there was no need to do the job as her husband earns a lot. They always threatened to her never speak to her husband about this. They always beat her in front of her husband but husband did not say anything. She wanted joint meeting with husband and expected that

husband & she should stay separately with children and also wanted to do job.

Intervention by Special Cell: After individual meeting with Afshan, social worker called her husband and father-in-law and requested them to come to Special Cell for meeting. At the Individual meeting with husband & father-in-law, the Social Worker challenged behaviour, conveying her Afshan's right to stay with husband without any violence. The woman was prepared for the joint meeting and during the meeting, the woman kept her expectation of being with him. Four joint meetings were facilitated between Afshan & her husband & father-in-law where the woman was empowered to place her views and issues in the safe space within the Cell.

Outcome- Finally, the respondent wrote an Assurance paper acknowledging his behaviour and committing to live with his wife in the matrimonial home only. On follow up woman shared that she is staying with her husband separately in matrimonial home and also start working as "Community Mobilizer in Jeevika.

Section-2: Intervention by Special Cells for Women, Bihar during COVID-19 Lockdown (March–May 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown from 25th March 2020 posed significant challenges for the Special Cells for Women in Bihar. With all five Cell offices closed, in-person interventions had to be suspended. However, as homes became unsafe for many women during this period, incidents of domestic violence escalated, necessitating urgent alternate modes of support.

Telephonic Support and Outreach

To address the crisis, Special Cells quickly shifted to telephonic interventions. Social workers, many using personal numbers, provided psychosocial and legal support to both registered survivors and new callers. Flyers with contact details were circulated through local networks to ensure accessibility.

Through these calls, social workers:

- Helped survivors manage anxiety and distress related to violence and lockdown.
- Developed safety plans for women trapped in violent households.
- Offered legal information and guidance.
- Coordinated with Police, 181 Helpline, and One Stop Centres (OSCs) to facilitate rescue, shelter, and access to services.
- Follow-up calls to previously registered survivors ensured continuity of support and sent a strong deterrent message to perpetrators.



महिलाओं के लिए विशेष प्रकोष्ठ, बिहार
(राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग, भारत सरकार के सहयोग से संचालित और तत्काल कार्यात्मक विज्ञान संस्थान, मुंबई व बिहार पुलिस द्वारा संचालित)

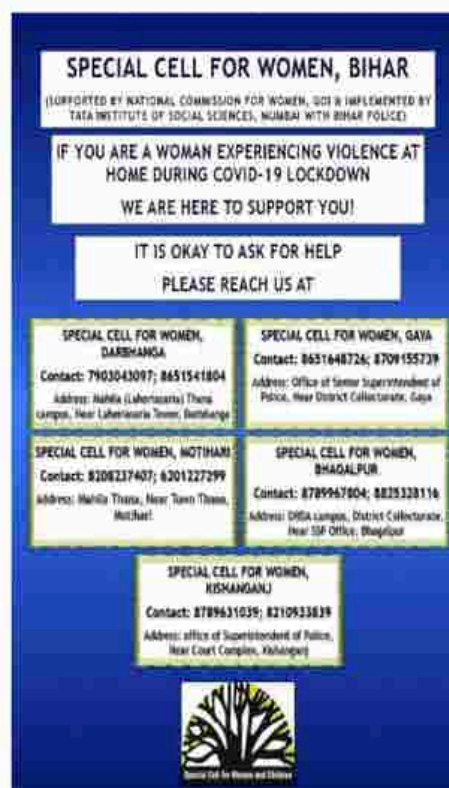
यदि आप महिला हैं और कोविड-19 लॉकडाउन के दौरान घर पर हिंसा का सामना कर रही हैं, हम यहाँ आपकी मदद के लिए हैं।

आप ऐसे समय में मदद ले सकते हैं।
कृपया मदद के लिए नीचे लिखे नम्बर पर हमें फ़ोन करें।

बिहारों के लिए विशेष प्रकोष्ठ, दारभंगा संपर्क: 7903043097; 8651541804 पता : महिला सशक्तिकरण राज्य प्रकल्प, राष्ट्रीय कोविड-19 प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र, दारभंगा	बिहारों के लिए विशेष प्रकोष्ठ, गया संपर्क: 8651648726; 8709155739 पता : महिला सशक्तिकरण राज्य प्रकल्प, राष्ट्रीय कोविड-19 प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र, गया
बिहारों के लिए विशेष प्रकोष्ठ, मोतिहारी संपर्क: 8208237407; 8201227299 पता : महिला सशक्तिकरण राज्य प्रकल्प, राष्ट्रीय कोविड-19 प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र, मोतिहारी	बिहारों के लिए विशेष प्रकोष्ठ, भादपुर संपर्क: 8789967804; 8825328116 पता : महिला सशक्तिकरण राज्य प्रकल्प, राष्ट्रीय कोविड-19 प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र, भादपुर
बिहारों के लिए विशेष प्रकोष्ठ, किशनगंज संपर्क: 8789631039; 8210933839 पता : पुलिस प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र, राष्ट्रीय कोविड-19 प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र, किशनगंज	



Hindi Flyer on Special Cells for Women



SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN, BIHAR
(SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, GOI & IMPLEMENTED BY TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, MUMBAI WITH BIHAR POLICE)

IF YOU ARE A WOMAN EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE AT HOME DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN
WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

IT IS OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP
PLEASE REACH US AT

SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN, DARBHANGA Contact: 7903043097; 8651541804 Address: Ashika (Lohariwara) Thana, Lampoon, Near Lohariwara Thana, Darbhanga	SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN, GAYA Contact: 8651648726; 8709155739 Address: Office of Senior Superintendent of Police, Near District Collectorate, Gaya
SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN, MOTIHARI Contact: 8208237407; 8201227299 Address: Mahila Thana, Near Town Thana, Motihari	SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN, BHADAPUR Contact: 8789967804; 8825328116 Address: DSIK Lampoon, District Collectorate, Near SSP Office, Bhadrapur
SPECIAL CELL FOR WOMEN, KISHANGANGA Contact: 8789631039; 8210933839 Address: Office of Superintendent of Police, Near Court Complex, Kishanganj	



English Flyer on Special Cells for Women

[illegible][illegible]

लॉकडाउन में छोटी-छोटी बात पर घरों में आपस में झगड़ा

प्रतिनिधि ६ नॉक्सहरो

कोरोना को लेकर जारी लॉकडाउन में बड़े घरों की तरह मीठाखरी शहर च ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी हिंसा की शिकायतें सामने आयी हैं। हालांकि इस तरह की घटनाओं को लेकर सरकार गंभीर है, किसी भी स्तर पर महिलाओं के साथ हिंसा हुई, तो दण्डी के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जायेगी। प्रतिनिधि ६ ने

यहां पर करें संपर्क
8208237407, 5201227299

महिला महिलाओं के सहयोग के लिए हेल्पलाइन नंबर जारी किया गया है। महिलाएं महिला थाना की अगर निरीक्षण योग्यताओं में बाधा कि प्रशासन के दो से तीन कॉल तकरोबन ऐज आ रहे हैं। इसमें वेस मामलें भी हैं, जिसका केस थाना में दर्ज है। कुछ वेस मामलें हैं, जिसमें खुद भी महिलाओं को प्रभावित किया जा रहा है। जितने भी कॉल आये हैं, उसका सम्पन्नता पीड़ित के प्रति च

नेता को फोन कर किया जा रहा है। बताया कि लॉकडाउन की वजह से लोग 24 घंटे घरों में रह रहे हैं, ऐसे में छोटी-छोटी बातों को लेकर लोग एक-दूसरे को लता करते हैं, जो कि बच कर नज़र बन रहा है। उन्होंने लोगों से इस तरह की झगड़ा नहीं करने की अपील की है।

समाधि कि 8208237407, 5201227299 नंबर पर सूचना देने पर महिला हिंसा करने वालों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जायेगी। बादा दे कि महिला हिंसा के कई मामले दर्ज हो चुके हैं, तो यदि पुलिस जॉब में है।

महिलाएं घर बैठे दर्ज करा सकेंगी अपनी शिकायत

नई पहल

विश्वजनक | संवाददाता

लोकतांत्रिक के दौरान महिलाओं के साथ किसी प्रकार का जुड़ोबुल या घरेलू हिंसा की शिकायत महिलाओं की न्याय प्रणाली के लिए महिला सशक्तिकरण कार्यक्रम की गई है। पहल के तहत महिला विशेष सेल में जातिबद्ध कर्मों जल मोबाइल फोन के जरिये महिला अलग-अलग से संबंधित जानकारी दी सकती है। लोकतांत्रिक के दौरान किसी भी महिला के साथ घरेलू हिंसा होने की शिकायत से संबंधित महिला विशेष सेल के द्वारा जारी नंबर पर शिकायत दर्ज करवा सकती है।

विशेष सेल में प्रतिनिधित्व महिला प्रदाधिकारी धारिताया घोष व लता कुमारी के मोबाइल नंबर **8789631039 व 8210933839** पर कलकत्ता कोर्टों की महिला न्याय की गुहार लग सकती है। शिकायत दर्ज किये जाने के तुरंत बाद महिला सेल के द्वारा पड़ताल शुरू कर दी जायेगी। जल्दबाई में प्र महिला विशेष सेल की कर्मों जातिबद्ध महिला के घर भी पहुंचेगी

वसूला गया जुर्माना

विश्वजनक | विश्वजनक प्रकाशक
लोक तांत्रिक का मुख्यालय की भी सहयोग से पानन के लिए पुलिस प्रशासन कागजी नकिय दिखी।

मिनाक्षर प्रकाश के हिन्दी खाना विभागावर 12 वाहनी की घाबला गला, विश्वता वाचनालय वरक लेखक इन्डोर रूपर जुर्माना वसूल किया गया।

विश्वजनक वाचनालय वरक लेखनी से तीन हजार, कोटीपानी वाचनालय पाठ वाहनी से पाठ हजार पाठ वाचनालय वाचनालय 5 वाहनी का वाचनालय काटकर पाठ हजार रूपर जुर्माना किया गया।

और हर संभव न्याय विश्वजनक जायेगा। महिला विशेष सेल का धारिताया घोष व वाचनालय के सहकार के द्वारा जारी निर्देश के आधार पर की गई महिला घर बैठे भी अपनी शिकायत महिला सेल के धारिताया नंबर में दर्ज करवा सकती है। इसके निम्न नंबर की जारी किया गया है।

यल जलवायल न्याय के भीतरलारी, वाचनालय, धारिताया वरक लेखनी की लता कुमारी गई है।

Hindustan, 24.04.2020 Kishanganj (Bihar)

हिंसा की शिकार महिलाएं ऑनलाइन कर सकेंगी शिकायत भागलपुर. घर में हिंसा की शिकार हो रही महिलाएं अब घर बैठे ही विशेष महिला एवं बच्चा कोषांग में शिकायत कर सकेंगी. यह व्यवस्था लॉक डाउन के मद्देनजर किया गया है. कोषांग की ओर से पहली बार इस तरह की व्यवस्था की गयी है. कोषांग की महिला पदाधिकारी बिंदु शर्मा व राज श्री मोबाइल फोन से महिला पर हुई हिंसा की जानकारी लेंगी. इसे लेकर कोषांग ने मोबाइल नंबर जारी किया है. शिकायत दर्ज होने के बाद मामले की जांच शुरू की जायेगी. ऑनलाइन की व्यवस्था भागलपुर के अलावा मोतिहारी, गया, किशनगंज व दरभंगा में भी की गयी है. Prabhat (Local news Paper), 30.4.2020, Bhagalpur (Bihar)	27-Apr-2020 गया भास्कर Page 4  दैनिक भास्कर हिंसा की शिकार महिलाएं घर से कर सकेंगी कंप्लेन लॉकडाउन में महिला को मिलता रहेगा सहाय बिहार में 100 गुप्त व सीक्रेट सुनाने से बचा कि... कोषांग 10 लॉकडाउन के दौरान... लॉकडाउन में महिला को शिकायत... कोषांग 100 घर से कर सकेंगी कंप्लेन... कोषांग 100 लॉकडाउन के दौरान... लॉकडाउन में महिला को शिकायत... कोषांग 100 घर से कर सकेंगी कंप्लेन... Danik Bhasker, Gaya, Bihar, 27.04.2020
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Capacity Support for Telephonic Interventions during COVID-19

With the onset of the lockdown and restrictions on mobility, the mode of service delivery by the Special Cells had to adapt to telephonic interventions. Unlike in-person interactions, tele-counselling requires a distinct set of skills and presents unique challenges, particularly in ensuring the safety and confidentiality of survivors. To strengthen the capacity of social workers in this context, facilitators from the Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence against Women (RCI-VAW), TISS, conducted specialized training on the nuances of tele-counselling during COVID-19. This training was supplemented by continuous daily supervision and knowledge support to ensure effective and rights-based responses to survivors during the crisis period.

Responding to New Callers during the Lockdown

During the lockdown, the Special Cells for Women recorded a sharp increase in first-time callers, with nearly 66% seeking support related to domestic violence. Many survivors also required assistance with food and ration access, as financial violence and deprivation of essentials had worsened during this period. Social workers ensured that those facing violence were connected to ration support, while those primarily seeking food assistance were also sensitively screened for experiences of violence and linked to appropriate interventions.

About 25% of calls came from individuals, including some men, seeking information on the services available, often to confirm helpline functionality for future needs. For example, two migrant labourers from Assam, stranded in Kerala and Gujarat, contacted the Assam Special Cell through a flyer, reporting food scarcity due to loss of work. The social worker coordinated with local networks to ensure ration and food supplies reached them, demonstrating the Cells' role in addressing urgent survival needs alongside violence-related interventions.

Key intervention (March-May 2020)

- Total telephonic interventions: 259
- 120 with new callers
- 139 with previously registered survivors
- Survivors were supported through emotional counselling, legal information, safety planning, and coordinated multi-agency assistance.
- Many cases extended beyond the Cells' geographic reach, prompting local collaborations for rescue and care.

Case Example

A 32-year-old woman contacted a Special Cell after reading about its helpline in a local newspaper. She had been severely beaten by her husband and wanted to leave her home. The social worker coordinated with her natal family (20 km away) and the local Police Station House Officer, who dispatched a patrol van to rescue her. Immediate medico-legal care was arranged at a Primary Health Centre, and she was safely reunited with her parents. Follow-up ensured her safety and recovery. This case demonstrates the critical role of coordinated intervention during lockdown.

Updating Knowledge and Skills

During the year, social workers enhanced their professional skills through two key initiatives:

- **Case Study Development:** With support from the Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence against Women (RCI-VAW), TISS, social workers documented case studies capturing field challenges, dilemmas, and learnings. These case studies highlighted the diversity of interventions across states and reinforced the importance of coordinated, multi-agency responses.
- **Webinars and Virtual Learning:** Lockdown restrictions led to the widespread use of webinars, enabling social workers to update knowledge, strengthen skills, and share on-ground experiences across regions. These sessions ensured ongoing learning and professional development despite mobility limitations.

Conclusion

Despite the closure of physical offices, the Special Cells for Women in Bihar remained a vital support system for survivors during the COVID-19 lockdown. Through 259 telephonic interventions, proactive outreach, and strong coordination with state agencies, the Cells ensured that women continued to receive timely, rights-based support during an unprecedented crisis.

Section-3: Programmes Facilitated by Special Cells for Women, Bihar from 1st June 2016- 31st March 2025

The Social Workers of the Special Cells for Women actively engage in networking with government and non-government organizations, as well as community-based groups, to conduct awareness programmes across the district. These efforts aim to inform the public about the services offered by the Special Cells, relevant laws and acts related to women, and the broader support systems available for survivors of violence. While casework with individual survivors remains a core aspect of the Cell's functioning, community awareness and sensitization of key stakeholders are equally important in creating an informed, responsive, and supportive environment for women seeking justice and safety.

Intervention in the community	Araria	Motihari	Darbhanga	Bhagalpur	Kishanganj	Gaya	Total
Participated in programme as a Resource Person	28	7	58	19	36	167	315
Programme Organised	30	8	29	33	11	50	161

The Social Workers across 06 districts actively organized and participated in **161 awareness programmes** aimed at introducing the work of the *Special Cells for Women* and promoting a deeper understanding of women's rights and empowerment. These programmes provided a platform to engage with diverse community groups, raise awareness about gender-based violence, and inform the public about the psycho-social-legal support available through the Cells.

In addition, the Social Workers were invited as **resource persons in 315 different programmes** organized by government departments, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. During these sessions, they spoke on crucial issues including:

- Women's rights and gender equality
- Laws related to women and children
- Protection and support mechanisms for survivors of violence
- The role and functioning of Special Cells for Women within police systems

These initiatives have been instrumental in strengthening community engagement and encouraging more women to come forward and seek support.

Here are a few glimpses from these outreach efforts.

Special Cell for Women, Darbhanga

In November 2021, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Darbhanga, invited social workers from the Special Cell for Women to speak about the Cell's objectives and services during a district-level awareness programme. The social workers highlighted the Cell's role in providing crisis intervention, counselling, legal information, and linkages to entitlements for women facing violence. They also shared case examples and discussed collaboration with DLSA and police to ensure legal aid and timely support for survivors. The session enhanced coordination and community awareness about the Special Cell's services in Darbhanga.



On August 29th 2023, an awareness program was conducted by the Special Cell for Women, Darbhanga at Hanuman Nagar, Dilahi. The program aimed to educate and empower women, enabling them to recognize and address issues related to their safety and well-being effectively. Social Worker discussion on various aspects such as types of domestic violence and their health effects, child marriage, women's rights, and their safety. A detailed discussion took place on emergency helpline numbers 112 and 181, emphasizing their importance in times of crisis. The program saw the participation of 73 individuals from the community.



On December 04, 2024, Special Cell for Women, Darbhanga, organized an awareness program at +2 Utkarmit High Schools, Thalwara Hanuman Nagar, focusing on gender discrimination, child marriage, and their consequences. The program actively engaged approximately 80 students through creative activities such as painting, slogan writing, speeches, poetry, songs, and street plays. Participants were also informed about the services provided by the One Stop Centre and the Special Cell for Women, as well as emergency helpline numbers 112, 181, and 1098. Resource persons included a Sub-Inspector and a constable from the Mahila Police Station, DPM of the One Stop Centre, school principal, and teachers.



Special Cell for Women, Kishanganj

On International Women's Day 2022, the social workers of the Special Cell for Women in Kishanganj were invited by the Mahila Thana to engage with students and facilitate a discussion on gender discrimination and violence against women and girls.



On May 26, 2023, an awareness program was organized by the Special Cell for Women in collaboration with the One Stop Center, Kishanganj on the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day, at OSC, Kishanganj. The program aimed to educate participants on the importance of menstrual hygiene and promote practices for maintaining good menstrual health. The 50 participants attended the programme.



On April 30, 2024, Special Cell for Women, Kishanganj organized an awareness programme at Manoranjan Club to sensitize the community on gender discrimination, women's rights, and domestic violence. Social workers highlighted the support services offered by the Special Cell within the police system, including counselling and legal guidance.

A total of 40 participants, including local residents and women's group representatives, attended the session, which aimed to increase awareness of available support for women facing violence or discrimination.



Special Cell for Women, Gaya

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2020, Special Cell for Women, Gaya, in collaboration with local organization *Humari Drishathi*, organized an awareness programme for women residents of the district. The social worker from the Special Cell facilitated discussions on women's rights and available support services. Girl participants engaged in general knowledge activities related to women's issues, promoting awareness among the younger generation. The programme was attended by the Village Mukhiya and the Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) from the local police station, ensuring community and institutional participation.



On December 02, 2023, Special Cell for Women, Gaya conducted awareness programme on "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" at Kanjiya, Dobhi with the collaboration of NGO "Humari Drishti". In that programme, participants actively created slogan and poem about gender equality. Social worker explained to participant concept of "Saap Sidhi" (Snakes and Ladders) is used as a metaphor to illustrate the ups and downs of life. In this game, climbing a ladder represents joy and success, while encountering a snake signifies challenges and setbacks. There were 36 children present in that activity.



On the May 04, 2024, the Special Cell for Women in Gaya, Bihar, conducted an impactful awareness program in Chandpur. The event focused on critical issues related to gender equality and the various forms of violence faced by women. Additionally, the social worker highlighted the services provided by the Special Cell for Women and explained emergency helpline numbers 112, and 181 in details. A total of 35 participants from the local community attended the program.



Special Cell for Women, Araria

On International Women's Day 2022, the Special Cell for Women in Araria formally invited various stakeholders for an introductory event to share the objectives and work of the Cell. The District Magistrate inaugurated the programme and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing violence against women.



On December 7, 2023, Social Workers of Special Cell for Women, Araria participated in awareness program at Vasudha Kendra, Bhawanipur, Baussi. A meeting was held by Jeevika with C.L.F Group on “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”. The primary focus of the gathering was to foster discussions on gender sensitization, address issues related to domestic violence, promote awareness about women's rights, and collectively take an oath against gender discrimination. The total number of participants was 30 approximately.



On November 30, 2024, Special Cell for Women, Araria organized an awareness program at Dhama Panchayat, Ward-12. A social worker conducted discussions on domestic violence, its consequences, and relevant legal provisions. Additionally, information was shared about the services provided by the Special Cell for Women and the emergency helpline numbers 112 and 181. Approximately 30 participants actively took part in the program.



Special Cell for Women, Motihari

On International Women's Day 2020, the social workers from the Special Cell for Women, East Champaran (Motihari), were invited as resource persons to facilitate a session on violence against women and children. The programme was organized by Duncan Hospital, Raxaul, East Champaran (Motihari). The session focused on raising awareness about gender-based violence, legal rights, and available support mechanisms for survivors.



On November 25, 2023, The Special Cell for Women Motihari organised an awareness program "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" at of Gokula Panchayat in Motihari. Approximately 50 people from the community actively participated in this event. During the program, A social worker provided information about the services offered by the Special Cell for Women. Participants took an oath to combat gender-based violence.



On December 10, 2024, Special Cell for Women in Motihari organized an awareness program at Ganeshpur Ward No. 01 Panchayat, Rajpur, Keshariya Thana. The social worker discussed domestic violence, its various forms, and the harmful impact it has on women's health. The social worker also highlighted the legal rights provided to women under the Domestic Violence (DV) Act. Participants were informed about key services available for women, such as the Special Cell for Women, and helplines 181, 112, and 1098. A total of approximately 62 individuals, including PRI members, attended the event.



Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur

On May 27, 2023, the Special Cell for Women in Bhagalpur actively took part in a rally organized by the DHEW on the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day. The event, held at the District Training School in Bhagalpur, was under the campaign "Chhupi Todo, Khulkar Bolo". Around one hundred women enthusiastically participated in this initiative, which aimed to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene within the community.



On December 19, 2023, as part of the "National campaign against gender-based violence", an awareness program was conducted by the Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur, at Gosai Daspur, Nathnagar-block in collaboration with Jeevika Didi. The initiative was aimed to educate the community about the legal aspects of domestic violence, promote gender equality, and create awareness about the support systems available for those affected by gender-based violence. The total number of participants was 90 approximately.



On November 29, 2024, Special Cell for Women organized an awareness program at +2 Mokshada Girls High School in Bhagalpur, in collaboration with the One Stop Centre. The program was conducted to mark the launch of the Ministry of Women and Child Development's "Child Marriage Free India" campaign. The event featured discussions on key issues such as child marriage, gender discrimination, and the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" initiative. To further reinforce the message, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials related to child marriage were distributed among the students. The program was attended, with approximately 300 students & others.



Section-4: Monitoring and Capacity-Support Work (Visits, Telephonic, Electronic Communication, and Documentation)

A core function of the RCI-VAW Programmes team including State Coordinator is to provide continuous handholding and technical support to the Special Cells for Women. This work focuses on strengthening casework, networking, advocacy, case escalation, and documentation.

The team undertakes this support through on-ground monitoring visits, regular telephonic and electronic reviews, and case-conferencing. These efforts ensure that social workers receive timely guidance, technical inputs, and feedback for effective interventions with women survivors of violence.

Key components of monitoring and coordination activities include:

1. Capacity-Support and Field Monitoring:

- Conducting monitoring visits of 2-3 days per Cell to observe case interventions, demonstrate intervention skills, and provide feedback for strengthening practice.
- Weekly case-conferencing with Cell teams via telephonic and virtual platforms.
- Facilitating review meetings for collective assessment and planning.
- Providing case-specific legal, strategic, and psychosocial inputs to social workers.
- Undertaking needs assessments, data analysis, and trend reviews to strengthen programme planning.

2. Engagement with the Police System:

- Advocacy and coordination with all levels of the Police system and relevant Government Officers to ensure effective and sensitive responses for survivors.

3. Ensuring Supportive Cell Environments:

- Reviewing accessibility, infrastructure, and resources of the Special Cell units within Police offices.
- Engaging with senior authorities to ensure a survivor-centric, sensitive environment for women accessing services.

4. Strengthening Documentation Practices:

- Ensuring social workers maintain complete case documentation, including intake registers, case files, and assurance papers.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on the language and quality of records, including reports submitted to Police by social workers.

5. Facilitating Effective Teamwork:

- Supporting Cell teams to share responsibilities equitably and work collaboratively to ensure efficient service delivery.

Key dates of monitoring visits and establishment activities for Special Cells in Bihar

From 2016 onwards, several monitoring visits were undertaken to establish and strengthen the Special Cells for Women across different districts in Bihar.

For instance, during 2016–2017, teams from RCI-VAW and Coordinator, Special Cell for Women, Bihar visited districts such as Gaya, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, East Champaran (Motihari), Kishanganj to identify suitable locations within police offices for setting up the pilot Special Cells. These visits involved discussions with Superintendents of Police, station in-charges, and local administration to secure written permissions and logistical support.

Subsequently, periodic monitoring visits were carried out by the RCI-VAW teams to assess the functioning of the Cells. These visits focused on reviewing case documentation, providing technical guidance to social workers, liaising with police officials to strengthen referral systems, and addressing challenges faced in case interventions.

Such field visits not only ensured smooth establishment of the Special Cells but also built collaborative relationships between the social workers, police, and district administration, thereby enhancing the reach and effectiveness of the initiative.

Sr. No.	Date	Monitoring & Capacity Support visit
1.	17 th -18 th June 2016	Meeting with SSP, Bhagalpur and ground work for setting up the Cell by Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar
2.	20-22 nd June 2016	Meeting with SSP, Darbhanga and ground work for setting up the Cell by Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar
3.	23 rd June 2016	Meeting with SP, East Champaran (Motihari) and ground work for setting up the Cell by Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar
4.	24 th June 2016	Meeting with DIG, Gaya and SP, City for setting up the cell by Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar
5.	11 & 12 th July 2016	- Meeting with Sh. Anil KishorYadav, IPS (I.G.P, Weaker Section, Bihar) regarding overall updates on setting up of Special Cell. - Meeting with Sh. Rupesh Kumar Sinha (Project Director Women Development Corporation, Bihar) regarding overall updates on setting up of Special Cell in Bihar.
6.	13 th July 2016	Visit to Special Cell, Gaya for setting up the Cells by Ms. Medha Deo, Coordinator, RCI-VAW & Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar
7.	14-15 th July 2016	Meeting with DM, SP, Kishanganj& ground work for setting up the Cells by Ms. Medha Deo, Coordinator, RCI-VAW & Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar
8.	16 th July 2016	Monitoring visit to Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur by Ms. Medha Deo, Coordinator, RCI-VAW & Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells for Women, Bihar

9.	20-21 st January 2017	Monitoring & observation visit of Special Cell, East Champaran (Motihari) Mr. Balwant Singh
10.	23-27 th January 2017	Monitoring visit & advocacy meeting of Special Cell, Darbhanga by Mr. Balwant Singh
11.	24 & 25 th January 2017	Monitoring & observation visit of Special Cell, Bhagalpur by Ms. Medha Deo
12.	30 th August to 1 st September 2018	Monitoring & observation visit of Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur by Mr. Balwant Singh
13.	7-9 th May 2018	Monitoring visit of Special Cell, Gaya by Mr. Balwant Singh, State Coordinator, RCI-VAW, TISS
14.	31 st March- 1 st April 2022	Special Cell for Women, Motihari by Ms. Anupriya Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
15.	24 th -25 th May 2022	Special Cell for Women, Araria by Ms. Anupriya Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
16.	30 th June-1 st July 2022	Special Cell for Women, Kishanganj by Ms. Anupriya Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
17.	28 th -29 th July 2022	Special Cell for Women, Gaya by Ms. Anupriya Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
18.	1 st -2 nd September 2022	Special Cell for Women, Darbhanga by Ms. Anupriya Singh, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
19.	3 rd November 2023	Special Cell, Kishanganj by Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, Faculty In-charge, RCI-VAW, TISS & Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW
20.	4 th November 2023	Special Cell, Araria, by Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, Faculty In-charge, RCI-VAW, TISS & Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW
21.	2 nd January 2024	Special Cell, Gaya by Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
22.	5-6 th January 2024	Special Cell, Bhagalpur by Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
23.	11-12 th January 2024	Special Cell, Motihari by Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
24.	4-5 th March 2024	Special Cell, Kishanganj by Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
25.	6-7 th March 2024	Special Cell, Araria by Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
26.	31 st July & 1 st August 2024	Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur by Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar
27.	6-7 th December 2024	Special Cell for Women, Bhagalpur by Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW, TISS
28.	9-10 th December 2024	Special Cell for Women, Gaya by Mr. Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW, TISS & Ms. Shikha Kumari, Coordinator, Special Cells, Bihar

Section-5: Review Meetings of Special Cells for Women, Bihar (2016–2025)

From June 2016 to March 2025, internal review meetings for the six Special Cells for Women in Bihar were organized periodically as part of the monitoring and capacity-building framework of the initiative. These meetings were vital for assessing the progress of the Cells, addressing operational challenges, sharing learnings, and planning for improved service delivery to women facing violence.

In the initial years (2016–2021), when the project was supported by the National Commission for Women (NCW), joint review meetings were often held in Patna or Guwahati, bringing together teams from the Special Cells in Bihar along with those from Assam, Meghalaya, and Odisha. These multi-state reviews enabled cross-learning, exchange of experiences, and harmonization of practices across states. The sessions included presentations of casework data, discussions on field challenges, and interactive workshops on rights-based intervention strategies, gender-sensitive counselling, and strengthening partnerships with police and other stakeholders. Post-2021, with the Women Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar, taking over the project's support, review meetings were conducted primarily at the state level in Patna and at district levels across the six Cell locations. These meetings were typically held on a quarterly or bi-annual basis and were facilitated by the WCDC team along with representatives from RCI-VAW. The agenda of these meetings included:

- **Progress review:** Assessment of case interventions, outreach activities, and the Cells' collaboration with police and district administration.
- **Capacity-building sessions:** Training on legal frameworks (e.g., PWDVA 2005, IPC provisions), psychosocial support, documentation standards, and crisis response during emergencies such as COVID-19.
- **Problem-solving discussions:** Addressing operational issues such as infrastructure gaps, referral bottlenecks, and strategies to improve community awareness.
- **Experience-sharing:** Social workers presented anonymized case studies highlighting innovative approaches to negotiation, community intervention, and securing entitlements for survivors.

These review meetings not only enhanced the technical capacities of social workers but also strengthened coordination mechanisms among stakeholders, resulting in more responsive and survivor-centric services. They also served as a feedback loop for the project's strategic planning, ensuring that lessons from the ground were integrated into future program design and policy advocacy.



Review meeting Chaired by Mr. Rajeev Verma, Director, WCDC, Bihar, Patna on 05.11.2023

Section-6: Multi-Agency Rights-Based Psycho-Social-Legal Interventions by Special Cells for Women in Bihar (1st June 2016 – 31st March 2025)

The Special Cells for Women in Bihar have functioned as an institutional mechanism to respond to gender-based violence through a **survivor-centric and rights-based approach**. A core strength of the model lies in its **multi-agency coordinated response**, ensuring that survivors receive holistic, timely, and sustained support through the convergence of government departments, statutory bodies, and community stakeholders. The following interventions reflect how this integrated model was operationalized during the reporting period:

1. Police Department

Special Cells for Women were established within police offices, ensuring seamless coordination with law enforcement. This proximity enabled survivors to access timely support while navigating the legal system, including help with lodging First Information Reports (FIRs) and ensuring immediate safety in high-risk situations. Social workers facilitated survivors in understanding legal provisions, preparing complaints, and pursuing justice.

During the reporting period (2016–2025):

- **157 women** were supported in lodging FIRs under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including cases of:
 - Cruelty by husband or in-laws
 - Sexual assault
 - Harassment and threats
 - Offences under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)**

2. Women & Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar

The Special Cells' social workers worked in close coordination with the Women Helpline (181) and One Stop Centres (OSCs) to extend their reach and provide holistic services. Survivors were referred for:

- Temporary shelter
- Legal assistance (e.g., filing cases under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 [PWDVA])

Community-level awareness programmes were also jointly organized to:

- Sensitize the public on women's rights and legal protections
- Inform communities about the availability and services of the Special Cells for Women
- Encourage survivors and their families to report incidents of violence

3. Health Services

Timely medical intervention is critical in cases involving **physical assault or sexual violence**. Special Cells sustained direct linkages with government hospitals and primary health centres to facilitate emergency care, medical examinations, and medico-legal documentation.

During the reporting period:

- **137 survivors** were referred to public health facilities for **medical treatment and medico-legal support**.

4. Legal Aid Services

Ensuring survivors' access to justice remained a central mandate. Through active coordination with **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)**, the Special Cells facilitated free legal aid, representation, and guidance through judicial processes.

Between 2016–2025:

- **142 women** were referred to the DLSAs for assistance in:
 - Filing cases for maintenance and child custody
 - Seeking relief under **PWDVA, 2005**
 - Initiating divorce proceedings

5. Shelter Facilitation

Access to safe accommodation remained a **significant challenge**, as most districts lacked short-stay homes. Despite this, social workers facilitated **temporary shelter for 13 women** by coordinating with available facilities, often outside the district, to ensure survivors' safety during crisis situations.

6. Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Partnerships with local NGOs and grassroots organizations enhanced outreach and survivor follow-up, especially in **remote and marginalized communities**. These organizations contributed to:

- Mobilizing local support
- Conducting awareness campaigns
- Strengthening reintegration and rehabilitation efforts

7. Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)

In cases involving **minors or child sexual abuse**, Special Cells coordinated closely with the CWCs to:

- Ensure child protection protocols were implemented
- Facilitate legal proceedings under the Juvenile Justice framework
- Link children with appropriate rehabilitation and support services

8. Collaboration with Sarpanch and Mukhiya

Recognizing the **social influence of local governance leaders**, Special Cells engaged village-level representatives such as **Sarpanch and Mukhiya** to:

- Support survivors in negotiating safe resolutions
- Mobilize community backing for gender justice
- Conduct awareness drives on women's rights and legal protections

Section-7: Important Facts and Challenges in Addressing Violence Against Women through Special Cells for Women in Bihar (2016–2025)

Trends in Registered Cases

The number of women seeking support from the Special Cells for Women steadily increased over the years, demonstrating rising awareness and trust in the intervention. The five Cells operational in Phase I (2016–2021) registered 3,845 applications and handled 1,649 one-time or brief interventions. In Phase II (2021–2025), with WDC's support, six Cells—including the new Araria Cell—registered 2,986 applications and handled 1,002 brief interventions. Outreach activities, awareness drives, and media coverage contributed to the growing visibility of the Cells. Police referrals accounted for 51.6% of cases, while 15.8% came from ex-clients, 17.6% through self-referral or word-of-mouth, and the rest through community and media outreach.

Space Challenges in Gaya and Araria Districts

The functioning of the Special Cells in **Gaya and Araria districts** faced notable space-related challenges. The Gaya Cell was originally housed in the SSP office, an old building that was later demolished. Despite the demolition, the Cell was not relocated and continued to operate under **unsuitable conditions** until 2022, when it was finally provided with **independent and clean premises** for its operations.

In Araria, the Special Cell—established in February 2022—operated from space provided by the district police administration within the Mahila Thana. However, the space lacked a **dedicated, confidential area**, which often compromised survivor privacy during counselling sessions and case interventions. Both cases underscore the **urgent need for policy-level provision of independent, confidential, and permanent spaces for all Special Cells** within police premises.

Preference for Non-Violent Reconciliation

Analysis of registered cases indicates that many survivors prefer reconciliation over legal separation or prolonged litigation. From 2016 to 2025, 42.3% of cases were resolved through reconciliation facilitated by social workers via structured counselling and negotiation. This trend highlights the importance of flexible, survivor-driven approaches that prioritize the choices and agency of women.

Challenges in Implementing the PWDVA, 2005

Although the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act is a key legal instrument, survivors face several obstacles in accessing its benefits. Financial constraints—such as costs associated with traveling to court and arranging support—remain significant, even with free legal aid available through District Legal Services Authorities. Protection Officers (POs) are often assigned additional duties, making them less visible and less available to domestic violence survivors, which discourages many women from pursuing formal legal remedies.

Respondent-Related Issues

Engaging respondents presents considerable challenges. Alcoholism and substance abuse among respondents often lead to refusal to participate in interventions, while the scarcity of affordable rehabilitation facilities in rural areas hinders solutions. Many respondents migrate to other states for work,

making it difficult for social workers to involve them in the intervention process. Such non-cooperation frequently results in case delays or dropouts by applicants.

Supporting Survivors Seeking Separation

Social workers at the Special Cells play a crucial role in empowering women who wish to separate from abusive partners, despite social stigma. They facilitate negotiations for mutual separation and work to mitigate the impact of violence and separation on children. From 2016 to 2025, 107 women achieved mutual separations on their own terms, supported by the Cells in accessing community and family support systems.

Section-8: Exchange Programme with Special Cells for Women, Bihar

As part of the research initiative *"Tangled Realities of Adolescent Girls and Young Women – A Study of Socio-Legal Interventions on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Maharashtra & Bihar by Special Cells for Women"*, undertaken by Prof. Anjali Dave and Dr. Sandali Thakur with the support of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an inter-state exchange programme was conducted in June 2024.

Between 24–29th June 2024, a team of four social workers and one Regional Coordinator from the Special Cells for Women & Children, Maharashtra, visited the Special Cells for Women in Bihar. The objective of the programme was to study the operational framework, intervention strategies, and stakeholder engagement processes of the Bihar Special Cells, with a view to identifying effective practices that could be adapted and integrated within the Maharashtra Special Cell's programme.

During the visit, the team members undertook field observations and held interactions with Cell social workers, district-level police authorities, Women Development Corporation representatives, and other local stakeholders. The team reviewed case management systems, counselling methodologies, police–social worker coordination mechanisms, and referral linkages with service providers. The team members also observed & discussed the strategies developed by the Bihar Cells for addressing cases of violence against adolescent girls and young women, with emphasis on ensuring survivor-centric support and access to justice.

The exchange visit facilitated cross-learning and knowledge transfer between the two states. Key practices identified in Bihar will contribute to strengthening programme delivery and institutional responses within the Special Cells for Women & Children in Maharashtra. The programme also reinforced inter-state collaboration, advancing the shared objective of enhancing socio-legal interventions for women and young girls affected by violence.

Section-9: Efforts toward institutionalization of Special Cells for Women in Bihar State

Since 2015, systematic efforts have been made to establish and institutionalize the Special Cells for Women as a permanent, state-supported mechanism for addressing gender-based violence in Bihar. The initiative was initially introduced as a pilot to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Special Cell model, with the long-term goal of integrating this model into the State Government's administrative framework as a regular programme.

Launch of Pilot Special Cells for Women with a support from National Commission for Women (NCW), GoI (2015–2021)

On 23rd December 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the NCW, Govt. of India, and the Institute to collaboratively implement the project "*Violence-Free Home – A Woman's Right*". Based on the Special Cell for Women approach, the project was launched in five districts – Darbhanga, East Champaran (Motihari), Bhagalpur, Gaya, and Kishanganj – with due approval from the Government of Bihar.

Proposal for Institutionalization (2017)

In August 2017, a proposal for institutionalization and expansion of the Special Cells as a State Government programme-including their integration with the existing 23 Mahila Vishesh Koshang (MVK) programme in Patna district, was formally submitted to the Director General of Police, Bihar, and the Managing Director, Women Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar. This was the first formal step toward securing state ownership of the model.

Revised Proposal for Statewide Expansion (2018)

In March 2018, during consultations with Shri Atul Prasad, IAS, then Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, the Institute presented a proposal to establish 38 district-level and 101 sub-divisional Cells in a phased manner. The proposal also recommended integration and streamlining of 23 existing Mahila Vishesh Koshangs (MVKs) (Women's Special Cells), operated by WCDC, with the five Special Cells implemented by the Institute, to ensure uniformity and state-wide reach.

NCW, GoI Recommendation for Institutionalization (2020)

In February 2020, NCW, GoI addressed a formal communication to the Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare Department, strongly recommending that the Special Cells be institutionalized as a regular state programme and expanded across all districts of Bihar.

Transition to WCDC (2021)

Following the conclusion of the MoU between NCW and the Institute in April 2021, the Women and Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar, took over the management of the five existing Special Cells and established one additional Cell in Araria district (effective 1 May 2021). Technical and operational support continued to be provided by RCI-VAW of the Institute.

Mahila Vishesh Koshang Expansion and Recruitment (2022–2023)

In September 2022, WCDC initiated a plan to establish 210 Mahila Vishesh Koshangs (MVKs) (based on Special Cell for Women's approach) at the circle level and, vide letter no. WCDC/1555/22 dated 7th September 2022, sought the Institute's support for preparing question papers and facilitating the recruitment process for counsellors. The RCI-VAW of the Institute assisted with the written examination (November 2022) and interviews (January 2023), for which an allocation of INR 4,36,154/- was made to RCI-VAW of the Institute. However, the recruitment process was later cancelled due to administrative reasons.

7. Renewed Efforts and Assurance (2024)

On 31st July 2024, the RCI-VAW of the Institute resubmitted its proposal to the Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Bihar, reiterating that the core objective of the NCW-Institute collaboration since 2016 was to pilot the Special Cells model and institutionalize it as a regular state programme. The Women and Child Development Corporation has assured that efforts to launch Special Cells for Women (Mahila Vishesh Koshangs) at the circle level will resume, demonstrating the state's sustained commitment to strengthening institutional mechanisms for addressing gender-based violence

Section-10: Training Conducted by RCI-VAW, TISS in Collaboration with WCDC, Bihar

RCI-VAW, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Women and Child Development Corporation (WCDC), Government of Bihar, conducted several training programmes to strengthen the response to violence against women (VAW) in the state:

1. **Training in Patna:** A training programme was organised from 16.12.2016 to 21.01.2017 (6days) in Patna for key personnel working under WCDC. Participants included counsellors from 23 *Mahila Vishesh Koshang* units based in Patna, Rehabilitation and Training Officers from Short Stay Homes across various districts, and tele-operators from the 181 women's helpline. The training focused on improving their understanding and response to cases of violence against women.
2. **Training for Jeevika Groups:** RCI-VAW also conducted focused training sessions for members of Jeevika women's self-help groups. These were held in:
 - Muzaffarpur district on 9th and 10th June 2022,
 - Gaya district on 20th July 2022, and
 - Ara district on 16th November 2022.

These sessions covered the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and information about various national and state-level services available to support women and children facing violence. The training aimed to build awareness and strengthen community-level response mechanisms.

Way Forward

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), through its Resource Centre for Interventions on Violence Against Women (RCI-VAW), has played a critical role in demonstrating the Special Cell for Women model in Bihar from 2016 to 2025. This initiative has supported thousands of women survivors of gender-based violence through structured, professional, and rights-based psycho-social-legal services embedded within the police system. During the first phase (2016–2021), Special Cells were established with a support of the National Commission for Women, Govt. of India, in five districts, where a total of 5,494 women (3,845 registered cases and 1,649 brief interventions) received direct support. Building on this foundation, the initiative expanded to a sixth district in 2021, and over the subsequent four years (2021–2025), an additional 3,988 women (2,986 registered cases and 1,002 brief interventions) were reached through this model. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Bihar, RCI-VAW worked in close coordination with both the Bihar Police and the Women & Child Development Corporation (WCDC), submitting multiple proposals and engaging in sustained advocacy for the institutionalization of the Special Cells. Despite several rounds of discussions and policy engagement, the full administrative takeover of the Cells by the Police and WCDC was not achieved due to structural and bureaucratic challenges.

A significant momentous was accomplished in 2022, when progress was made toward establishing 210 Mahila Vishesh Koshang (Special Cells for Women) at the circle level across Bihar. This expansion aimed to enhance accessibility and efficiency in addressing women's safety and protection needs at a more decentralized level. By January 2023, the selection process for personnel recruitment was successfully completed, marking a pivotal step toward operationalizing these new Special Cells. However, the recruitment process was abruptly stopped due to administrative decisions, preventing the formal induction of personnel. Despite these challenges, the WCDC has assured that efforts to launch the Special Cells for Women (Mahila Vishesh Koshang) at the circle level will resume soon, reinforcing the state's commitment to strengthening institutional frameworks for gender-based violence interventions. The progress made so far highlights the importance of sustained policy advocacy, interdepartmental coordination, and resource allocation to ensure the institutionalization and long-term sustainability of the Special Cells for Women in Bihar.

Permission letter for setting up the Special Cells for Women within Police location in Bihar State

ज्ञापक 537 /म0अ0को0

Xi विविध-07/16

अपराध अनुसंधान विभाग, बिहार, पटना ।

प्रेषक,

पुलिस महानिदेशक
बिहार, पटना।

सेवा में,

वरिय पुलिस अधीक्षक, गया/दरभंगा/भागलपुर
पुलिस अधीक्षक, मोतिहारी/किशनगंज

पटना, दिनांक:- 27/5/16

विषय:- हिंसा से प्रभावित महिलाओं को Socio-Legal मदद, परामर्श देने के उद्देश्य से विशेष सेल का गठन।

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग भारत सरकार तथा टाटा सामाजिक विज्ञान संस्थान, मुम्बई के संयुक्त प्रयास से हिंसा प्रभावित महिलाओं को Socio-Legal मदद, परामर्श देने के उद्देश्य से राज्य के 5 जिला यथा- गया, दरभंगा, भागलपुर, मोतिहारी, किशनगंज में पायलट यूनिट गठन की स्वीकृति दी गई है। चयनित जिला में दो-दो सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता प्रतिनियुक्त होंगे जो जिला पुलिस बल के साथ समन्वय स्थापित कर विशेष सेल के लिए निर्धारित कार्य करेंगे।

महिलाओं एवं बच्चों के लिए गठित किये जाने वाले इस विशेष सेल को जिला पुलिस अधीक्षक के कार्यालय में अथवा समीप में ही कार्यालय हेतु स्थान उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। विशेष सेल के प्रभावकारी ढंग से कार्य करने हेतु निम्न आवश्यक सुविधाएं जिला पुलिस कार्यालय द्वारा उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी-

1. विशेष सेल को साफ सुथरे एक या दो कमरा स्वतंत्र रूप से उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।
2. विशेष सेल को उपलब्ध कमरा में सभी आवश्यक उपस्कर यथा कुर्सी/टेबल/प्रतीक्षालय में बैठने की सुविधा/विद्युत पेयजल आदि उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।
3. विशेष सेल को दूरभाष/कम्प्यूटर इण्टरनेट/संचिकाओं एवं महत्वपूर्ण कागजातों को सुरक्षित रखने हेतु आलमिरा/लेखन सामग्री/डाक सामग्री/आवश्यकतानुसार वाहन/विशेष सेल में प्रतिनियुक्त सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता के लिए प्रशासन द्वारा निर्गत प्राधिकार पत्र तथा परिचय पत्र उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।
4. विशेष सेल को एक प्रशिक्षित पुलिस कर्मचारी (प्राथमिकता में महिला) को प्रतिनियुक्ति की जाएगी।
5. विशेष सेल के कार्यस्थल को इंगित करने हेतु एक बोर्ड, जिसपर विशेष सेल का उल्लेख तथा उसकी कार्यवाही अंकित हो लगाया जाएगा।

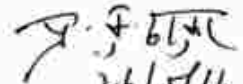
(टाटा सामाजिक संस्थान के दिनांक 10.02.2016 के पत्र के साथ संलग्न राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग तथा टाटा सामाजिक विज्ञान संस्थान एवं अन्य के कार्यों से संबंधित संक्षिप्त नोट आवश्यक जानकारी हेतु संलग्न है, की कॉडिका-4 जो Role of Police से संबंधित है द्रष्टव्य)

टाटा सामाजिक विज्ञान संस्थान के पदाधिकारी जिला के पुलिस अधीक्षक से मिलकर आवश्यक प्रारम्भिक प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित करेंगे। प्रतिनियुक्त सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता प्रशिक्षणोपरांत जून, 2016 तक अपने जिला में योगदान देकर कार्य प्रारम्भ करेंगे, जिनकी सूची जिलावार निम्नांकित है-

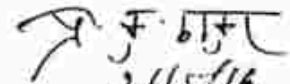
क्र.सं.	सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता का नाम	पदस्थापन जिला का नाम
1	श्रीमती श्रद्धा पुष्प	गया
2	श्रीमती पूजा कुमारी	
3	श्रीमती प्रतीमा कुमारी	दरभंगा
4	श्री सुनील कुमार	
5	श्रीमती अफरीन अहमद	किशनगंज
6	श्रीमती निशा कुमारी	
7	श्रीमती दीपावली चौहान	पूर्वी चम्पारण(मोतिहारी)
8	श्रीमती पुनम कुमारी	
9	श्रीमती राजश्री केशरी	भागलपुर
10	श्री संतोष कुमार	

अतएव उपरोक्त के आलोक में कार्रवाई करते हुए की गई कार्रवाई की सूचना शीघ्र पुलिस महानिरीक्षक, कमजोर वर्ग, अपराध अनुसंधान विभाग, बिहार, पटना को उपलब्ध करायी जाय।

अनुलग्नक:-यथोपरि।


26/5/16
पुलिस महादेशक
बिहार, पटना।

- प्रतिलिपि:- 1.तृप्ति झावेरी पांचाल, सहायक प्रोफेसर, टाटा सामाजिक विज्ञान संस्थान, पोस्ट बॉक्स नं.-8313, देवनार, मुम्बई-400088 को उनके पत्रांक शून्य, दिनांक 12.05.2016 के आलोक में सूचनार्थ।
- 2.पुलिस महानिरीक्षक, पटना/भागलपुर/दरभंगा/मुजफ्फरपुर प्रक्षेत्र को सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।
- 3.पुलिस उप-महानिरीक्षक, मगध/दरभंगा/पुर्णिया/बेतिया/भागलपुर क्षेत्र को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक क्रियार्थ।
- 4.श्रीमती रिचा ओझा, सिनियर रिचर्स ऑफिसर, राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग, भारत सरकार, फ्लॉट नं.-21 जसोला इन्सटीच्यूशनल एरिया (नीयर डी.एल.एफ. टॉवर), नई दिल्ली-110025 को सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।
- 5.श्री रुपेश सिन्हा, प्रोजेक्ट डायरेक्टर, महिला विकास निगम, पटना को सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।


26/5/16
पुलिस महादेशक
बिहार, पटना।

Consolidated data of Special Cell for Women, Bihar - 2016-25									
			Araria (2021-25)	Motihari (2016-25)	Darbhanga (2016-25)	Bhagalpur (2016-25)	Kishanganj (2016-25)	Gaya (2016-25)	Total
Sr. No.	Client Profile	Details							
1	Total Clients Interacted	Total Intervention	361	2768	2067	1630	1135	1521	9482
1.1		Registered Cases with the Cell	270	1998	1533	1188	813	1029	6831
1.2		One-time Intervention/Brief Intervention	91	770	534	442	322	492	2651
Details of the Registered Clients									
2	Clients referred by	Police	261	1187	850	490	321	419	3528
		Ex-clients	2	300	375	133	125	146	1081
		Word of mouth/Self	0	292	149	306	192	261	1200
		Private lawyers	0	98	113	188	125	66	590
		Non-Governmental Organisation/SH G	1	58	32	36	24	79	230
		Governmental Organisations and Officials-181	2	61	10	23	26	49	171
		Others- Media	4	2	4	12	0	9	31
3	Gender of the clients	Adults (female)	269	1945	1483	1107	759	945	6508
		Adults (male)	0	32	35	76	46	78	267
		Children (female)	1	21	9	5	5	6	47
		Children (male)	0	0	6	0	3	0	9
		Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Age of the clients	Less than 14 years	0	1	3	1	1	0	6
		15 – 17 years	1	20	12	4	7	6	50
		18 – 24 years	136	928	577	322	306	401	2670
		25 – 34 years	99	789	630	567	314	418	2817
		35 – 44 years	26	174	188	190	129	118	825
		45 – 54 years	4	49	55	46	30	42	226
		Above 55 years	3	37	64	53	26	33	216
		Information not	1	0	4	5	0	11	21

		available							
5	Education of the clients	Non- Literate	107	604	364	204	155	198	1632
		Functional literacy	28	282	368	312	150	178	1318
		Primary level (std. IV)	56	122	192	65	117	131	683
		Up to SSC	20	705	275	198	186	216	1600
		Up to HSC	26	148	150	206	78	110	718
		Graduation	8	122	124	160	84	123	621
		Post Graduation/ Higher studies	0	11	47	36	23	22	139
		Diploma	0	1	5	3	2	1	12
		Information not available	8	1	4	0	11	9	33
		Others (madrassa)	17	2	4	4	7	41	75
6	Types of violence by husband	Physical violence by husband	242	1635	1216	923	548	816	5380
		Emotional violence by husband	255	1665	1286	960	581	886	5633
		Sexual violence by husband	30	1059	735	519	110	366	2819
		Financial violence by husband	234	1432	1058	871	489	749	4833
7	Types of violence by marital family	Physical violence by marital family	143	1171	747	714	308	504	3587
		Emotional violence by marital family	183	1373	796	712	387	590	4041
		Sexual violence by marital family	9	69	182	85	5	35	385
		Financial violence by marital family	85	552	659	556	171	314	2337
8	Reasons for registering at the Special Cell (Multiple response)	Out of marriage relationship/second marriage by husband	92	598	313	209	173	303	1688
		Refusal to give 'Streedhan'	2	599	162	46	14	82	905
		Alcohol abuse/ substance abuse by husband	81	524	326	208	108	314	1561
		Desertion by husband	79	487	90	135	76	198	1065
		Child custody disputes/ disputes over visitation rights	3	63	104	38	1	20	229
		Harassment of natal family members of the	1	561	159	103	30	178	1032

		woman by the husband/family							
		Deprivation of matrimonial residence	99	692	255	200	72	235	1553
		Child-battering (by husband/family)	5	148	159	19	7	73	411
		Dowry demands (by husband/family)	75	681	584	355	246	390	2331
		Violence by natal family	0	44	77	29	24	23	197
		Violence by children and their spouses	5	62	48	44	18	45	222
		Sexual Harassment at workplace	0	1	15	9	0	8	33
		Violence by live-in partner	0	28	15	14	6	11	74
		Sexual Violence in another situation	22	56	29	3	4	12	126
		Breach of trust in intimate relationship	22	354	100	32	16	29	553
		Violence by neighbours	1	23	42	16	23	26	131
		Online violence	0	2	1	0	1	2	6
		Others-	3	12	6	14	7	9	51
9	Previous intervention before coming to the Cell (multiple response)	Natal family/ marital family	153	1209	788	597	179	366	3292
		Police	18	466	336	392	300	397	1909
		Private lawyer	3	119	149	62	56	58	447
		GOs (DM Office/DLSA/Lok Shikayat Kendra etc.)	2	134	93	52	75	165	521
		NGOs	1	22	27	16	10	27	103
		Panchayat members/village headman/Mukhiya	221	837	583	233	236	368	2478
		Others-	2	1	1	26	13	30	73
10	Intervention by the Special Cell (multiple response)	Providing emotional support and strengthening psychological self	270	1998	1533	1188	813	1029	6831
		Negotiating non-violence with stakeholder	166	1137	796	322	489	443	3353
		Building support system	98	677	697	758	433	538	3201

		Engaging police help	69	280	221	254	83	199	1106
		Pre-litigation counseling/ Legal Awareness	198	1122	214	382	523	418	2857
		Working with men in the interest of violated woman	193	1858	1187	738	551	634	5161
		Advocacy for financial entitlements	184	895	693	460	360	295	2887
		Developmental counselling	58	513	674	788	147	430	2610
11	Referrals made (multiple response)	CBOs/NGOs	0	1	14	4	2	0	21
		Health System	7	18	54	25	10	23	137
		Shelter	0	3	2	4	2	2	13
		GO (WCD/DLSA/SC W etc.)	1	15	14	42	9	61	142
		Private Lawyers	0	3	21	42	0	15	81
		Protection officer under the PWDV Act, 2005	0	7	10	3	2	15	37
		Others- Shariya Board- for divorce)	0	0	1	4	0	2	7
12	Other interventions in the community	Home Visits	155	478	346	413	246	449	2087
		Collateral Visits (meeting/interaction with State & Non-State Stakeholders	94	125	347	358	143	309	1376
13	Outcomes (multiple response)	Helped filing case in Court for divorce/separation	0	23	20	13	2	14	72
		Helped in retrieving economic assets, financial entitlements, personal belongings / lump-sum settlement	3	293	514	167	48	148	1173
		Helped in retrieval of Streedhan through formal processes (eg; IPC S.406, PO, Court order etc.)	0	0	0	1	6	2	9

		Helped in filing application under PWDVA, 2005	0	5	22	15	2	14	58
		Helped in registering F.I.R. under 498/BNS-86	9	20	14	40	12	16	111
		Helped in registering F.I.R. (other than under 498A/86 of BNS)	1	9	18	4	9	5	46
		Non-violent reconciliation	123	1131	508	402	353	370	2887
		Mutual separation on the woman's terms	0	24	31	25	11	16	107
		Court orders received in the best interest of the woman	0	2	5	21	3	9	40
		Others- Access to child, Violence Stopped	9	130	51	30	21	31	272
14	Programme facilitation & participation	Programmes organised	28	7	58	19	36	167	315
		Participation in programmes / seminars / meetings	30	8	29	33	11	50	161
15	Meetings with clients & stakeholders at the Cell	Individual meetings	940	3498	2003	2660	1416	1723	25524
		Joint Meeting	207	1347	1095	514	466	465	7235

List of team-members associated with Special Cell for Women in Bihar		
Districts	Special Cell Address	Name of the person
E, Champaran (Motihari)	Special Cell for Women, Mahila Thana, Near Nagar Thana, Motihari- 845401	Poonam Kumari
		Deepawali Chawhan
		Sunita Kumari
		Anand Kumar
Bhagalpur	Special Cell for Women, DRDA Campus, District Collectorate, Near SSP Office, Bhagalpur- 812001	Rajshree Keshri
		Trilok Kumar
		Bindu Kumari
		Priyanshu Choudhary
		Jyoti Jaiswal
Gaya	Special Cell for Women, SSP Office, Near District Collectorate, Gaya- 823001	Shradha Pushp
		Chandramani Sangita
		Sandhya Kerketta
		Farhat Jahan
		Abhiruchi Kumari
Darbhanga	Special Cell for Women, Mahila Thana/Leheriasarai Thana, Near Leheriasarai Tower, Darbhanga- 846001	Sunil Kumar
		Pratima Kumari
		Shobha Shukla
		Ranju Kumari
		Kanupriya Jha
Kishanganj	Special Cell for Women, S.P. Office, Kishanganj, Bihar -855107	Aafreen Ahmad
		Paromita Ghosh
		Lata Kumari
		Shahnaz Firdous
Araria	Special Cell for Women, Mahila Thana, Araria, Bihar- 854311	Chandramani Piyush
		Bi Shabila
		Ishika Nayan
		Nootan Kumari
Coordinator	WCDC, HQ-Bihar, Patna	Anupriya Singh
Coordinator	WCDC, HQ-Bihar, Patna	Kumari Shikha
Coordinator	RCI-VAW, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	Balwant Singh
Programme Coordinator	RCI-VAW, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	Aarthi Chandrasekhar
Strategic Coordinator	RCI-VAW, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	Taranga Sriraman
Faculty In-charge	RCI-VAW, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal

Report prepared by: Resource Centre for Intervention on Violence Against Women (RCI-VAW)

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Read more about RCI-VAW work at

<https://tiss.ac.in/view/11/projects/rci-vaw-resource-centre-for-interventions-on-viole/>
and

<http://tiss.ac.in/view/11/projects/all-projects/special-cell-for-women-and-children-maharashtra/>