*Project Title*: *Social Campaign to Control Witch Hunting*

**Organisation description**

GSKVM is a non-profit and non-political Non-Government Organization ISO certified Society operational in Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh States in India since 1990. Its PAN Number is AAAAV1296N and Planning Commission/Niti Ayog <http://ngo.india.gov.in/view_ngo_details.php?ngo_id=graminsamaj> ID: JH/2009/0002734. We are registered under the Society Registration Act, FCRA Act and exempted under the sections 12 (A) and 80 (G) of the Income Tax Act.1961.

We have so far been supported by JSACS, Ranchi,Tribal Development Commissioner Govt. of Jharkhand, KVIC, Govt. of India, BBC Media Action, New Delhi, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India, Manos Unidas, Spain, AIEF, USA, Stop TB Partnership, WHO/UNOPS, Geneva and World Bank /DPMU etc.

We are a credible society, we are Member of Stop TB Partnership. <http://www.stoptb.org/partners/partner_profile2.asp?PID=70399> Accredited with Credibility Alliance [www.**credibilityalliance**.org](http://www.credibilityalliance.org) and empanel with National CSR Hub at TISS, Mumbai, also a member of India CCM for GFATM for the period 2015-18 <http://india-ccm.in/>

**Project Description**

Although government has passed Witchcraft Prevention Act in the year 2001, but no such strict action is taken against the offender involved in such crime. Neither the women are getting proper protection & security who are the victims of witchcraft. The major reason behind this is high percentage of illiteracy, belief & practices of false myth and misconceptions, superstition, dependency on Ojha, Guni and baidya (Quacks) for treatment, lack of awareness, etc among the rural community nor proper initiatives are taken of wider scale by government or any voluntary organization on this particular issue

**Goal:**

Reduce the vulnerability of the women and girls subjected to practice of witchcraft and those who practice/encourage the same should face dire consequences of the act. This will be possible only through Awareness, Advocacy, Rehabilitation and Legal support facilitation.

**Objectives:**

1. To create an ideal environment for fruitful implementation of ‘The Prevention of Witch Practices Act 2001’.
2. To educate, aware and mobilize the stake holders on the issues related to witch-craft practices and witch hunting leading to women violence in the all 12 districts in Jharkhand.
3. To unite with government line departments CDPO, health Departments, PRI and other stakeholders at the block ,districts and state level by enforcing The Witchcraft Prevention Act 2001 in Jharkhand.
4. To sensitize & advocate the block, district and state government to ensure proper implementation of Witchcraft Prevention Act.
5. To promote legal and counseling support to the victims.

**Target population:** The target group will comprise of:

1. Witchcraft victims, Ojha / Guni
2. Community opinion leaders, Tribal community head man (PARDHAN)
3. Other stakeholders like Police, administration, State government officials, CBOs, Media personnel, Local NGOs

**Activities:**

* Development of IEC materials, Public Awareness Camps on Legal and Fundamental Rights, Cultural Programs ,Wall writings, pamphlets and posters.
* Establishment and setting up of legal and counseling center which will be easily accessible to all.
* Meetings with Media Personal, NGO, CBO, Teachers Workshop/Seminar /Symposia School Level Awareness Program.
* Coordination meetings with Govt. Officers and Police Officials, CDPO, Representatives of Health Departments and PRIs.
* Orientation programs for all the victimized women .Along with new skill development trainings programs for all the women.

**Reference:**

1. Jharkhand women lynched in midnight ‘witch hunt’

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/5-Jharkhand-women-lynched-inmidnight-witch-hunt/articleshow/48406526.cms>

1. 27women lynched in Jharkhand after being branded as 'witches' Bharti Jain | TNN | Mar 16, 2016, 10.38 PM IST .Source: [http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/127-women-lynched-in-Jharkhandafter- being-branded-as-witches/articles how/51431368.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/127-women-lynched-in-Jharkhandafter-%20being-branded-as-witches/articles%20how/51431368.cms)

**Expected Outcome:**

●Reduction in Witch Hunting cases in the area will occur in Ranchi District in Jharkhand.

● 1200 stakeholders with proper Knowledge on Prevention of Witch Practices Act, 2001, provisions and programs on legal issue will develop.

● 12 Legal level awareness workshop Mass awareness on the issue will develop. Timely legal advices and counselling will help in sorting out the problem.

● Local administration and police departments will become more sensitive and positive towards reducing the witch hunting problem of women violence in the area.

● Positive environment will be build up in the area for reduction of the issue concern.

● IEC materials, Public Awareness Camps on Legal and Fundamental Rights, Cultural Programs Wall writings, pamphlets and posters

●Positive impact among Media Personal, NGO, CBO, Teachers Workshop/Seminar /Symposia School Level Awareness Program. Coordination meetings with Govt. Officers and Police Officials, CDPO, Representatives of Health Departments and PRIs

●Sustainability of Legal Counselling towards elimination of Witch Crafts

**Legal Aspect**

Government of Jharkhand in its 17 sitting on 03rd July 2001 adopted the earlier law of Bihar witchcraft prevention Act 1999.

* Article 3: Identification of Witch

Imprisonment of 3 months or Rs. 1000/- fine or both.

* Article 4: Exploitation of women in the name of witch.

Imprisonment of 6 months or Rs. 2000/- fine or both

* Article 5: Identification of women as Witch under some conspiracy

Imprisonment of 3 months or Rs.1000/- fine or both.

* Article 6: Harassment of women declared as witch by witch’s doctor (Ojha)

Imprisonment of 1 year or Rs.2000/- or both

**Experience in Witch Hunting Prevention**

GSKVM has good experience in Witch Hunting Prevention. 829 cases has been sort out through counselling A programme has been successfully chalked out in collaboration with National Mission for Empowerment of Women, Ministry of Women & Child. GSKVM had served Toll Free 18003456525 Missed Call:7870632026. Total number of complain has been reported 884. Out of 552 is through Toll free and rest 332 is at missed call. Out of 884, 829 has been sort out through counselling.12 FIR 7 Court pending and 36 in reported.

**Beneficiary**

* A widow
* An old lady
* A women from poor family
* A Dalit /backward/minority/tribal women
* Witchcraft victims
* Ojha/ Guni
* Community opinion leaders
* Tribal community head man (PARDHAN)

**Other stakeholders**

* Police, administration
* State government officials
* CBO
* Media personnel
* Local NGOs

The overall benefit of the project has been to create an ideal environment in the project area for fruitful implementation of ‘Prevention of Witch Practices Act in 2001’.

* Step toward stopping such as Women branded as witches are tortured inhumanly, Pouring human excreta in her mouth, To get rid of the, even killing of the women takes place, Beating the woman in front of community, Murder of the other members of her family, Capture on her movable and immovable property, Not to give new born baby in her lap, nor even newborn brought in her sight, Newly wed brides are not allowed to look at her. Not to invite that women in functions, throw out that woman out the village, Boycott of that woman from any of the social fests and other misconception.
* Reasons :Dispute on land and other properties, Superstition, Illiteracy, unawareness and lack of information, Sexual harassment, Belief on ghost – witches and Ojha / Guni
* Lack of economic well being
* Personal or familial enmity
* Lack of health services and facilities in rural areas
* No right of daughter or wife on parental or husbands’ land.
* Lack of right of land to Adivasi women. What are the measures to stop witchcraft?
* Literacy, proper education and awareness
* Right of tribal women in the property of parents and husband.
* Development of Ojha / Guni as health care worker through trainings