



**PARIHAAR
FOUNDATION**

**An Urgent
Appeal**



Absent in statistics, unnoticed by researchers, neglected by national and local authorities and mostly overlooked by civil society organizations - the situation of widows is poignant and, in effect, invisible.

Have we ever thought of what happens to a lady and her family when the bread earner dies?

Where does a divorce for no fault of hers, leave a lady?

Who is responsible for the social ostracism the lady undergoes after her husband's demise?

If the village loses 300 men in a calamity or mishap, what happens to the family after that?

Who has the count of such women and children in our large and diverse country?

Who is bothered about these – Government? Corporate? Business houses? Common man?

Who... Who... Who?

PARIHAAR FOUNDATION - a group of passionate people have made this their Life Mission...

And they need genuine support and help to sustain this noble cause !!



Courtesy: India Development Project



Helping Widows find a Life! An Awareness and Support Initiative

'Never Alone' - Theme for the Empowerment Program

PARIHAAR FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization registered under society's act promoting welfare of widows, strives to eradicate the woes of widows from society. Besides widows, Parihaar also endeavours to provide its services to divorced women.

Dr N. B. JAYAPRAKASH, Ph.D. a social entrepreneur, actor and film maker, recognized by the Commonwealth Vocational University has dedicated his life for the cause of ensuring the Widows are restored their rights to a happy fulfilling life.

VISION

RESTORE SOCIAL STATUS OF WIDOWED AND DIVORCED WOMEN, AND SENIOR CITIZENS

VALUES

TOLERANCE, PRAGMATISM & SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

MISSION

- Transform the society for indiscriminating, complete participation of widowed and divorced women in mainstream society.
- Provide a multi-dimensional approach to solve financial, social, emotional, moral, medical and physical issues of widowed and divorced women.
- Providing social support services to needy senior citizens.

ACTION STATEMENTS

- Securing the interests, future and livelihood of widowed and divorced women.
- Sowing seeds of social status for widowed and divorced women today, to reap social transformations tomorrow.
- Social support services to senior citizens, fighting for rights of senior citizens lobbying with the government agencies.

THE CONTEXT IN INDIA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE:

In Indian society, predominantly being a patriarchal one, widows lost all privileges and authority within the family and the society at large. They were confined to the four walls of the house, wearing white outfits and devoid of any ornaments or make-up that would make them look desirable. Social and family gatherings were out of bounds for widows and she was served only non-spicy food, which was considered to subdue sexual passion. They were considered bad omen. The main cause for all this included the need to hold and amass the wealth of the deceased which otherwise would belong to her and her offspring and to protect her from being sexually abused by other men in the society. In some tribes and castes, she was burnt alive in the name of 'Sati' or she was forced to remain as a wife to the brothers of the deceased. People never considered her human, but were only serving the selfish needs of the men in the society. The same was never the case for a widower. He remarried and started a family as normally as possible. Widowhood was ceremoniously thrust upon her for the rest of her life. The offspring too suffered neglect and lack of basic amenities for grooming their life. This uncivilized custom continued till independence with a greater or lesser degree in most part of India without impunity.

INITIAL REFORMS:

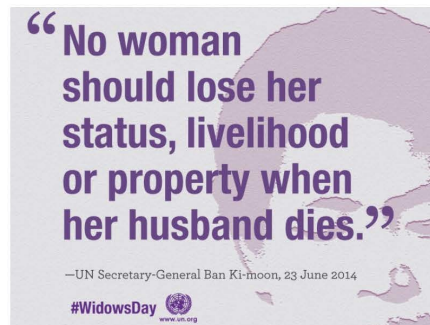
Governor General Lord William Bentinck of the East India Company; William Carey, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar and many other activists paved the way for abolishing this undesirable and inhumane practice.

After independence the Indian government made various legislation to protect the widows and her children. All was tuned towards keeping them alive and legally giving some rights to property. But she was still considered a bad omen!

CONTEXT TODAY:

She is still the vulnerable section of the society who seeks acceptance, empowerment, rights to live as a normal human, to find companionship, remarry and start life afresh and to be employed at equal status and be seen with justice and empathy. It is estimated that in the Republic of Congo, nearly 50% of women are widows. There are an estimated three million widows in Iraq and over 70,000 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

It is estimated that 7 to 16% of all adult women in the world are widows. It is estimated that there are over 245 million widows worldwide, nearly half of which live in extreme poverty and are subject to cruel violence.



INDIA - A REALITY CHECK!

IN TERMS OF PREVALENCE OF WIDOWHOOD, INDIA RANKS HIGHEST IN THE WORLD
THERE ARE 34 MILLION WIDOWS

8% OF TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION ARE WIDOWS; 50% OF FEMALE POPULATION ARE OVER 50;
OF EXISTING WIDOWS 64% ARE AGED 60 & ABOVE; OUT OF WHICH 80% ARE AGED 70 & ABOVE.

IN CONTRAST ONLY 2.5% INDIAN MEN ARE WIDOWERS.

AT 60 YEARS & ABOVE, 93% AND 68% OF WIDOWS ARE ILLITERATE IN RURAL & URBAN AREAS.

International Widows Day (annually June 23rd) is a United Nations ratified day of action to address the "poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries".



Your support can keep those smiles intact...their dreams alive...and their lives more purposeful!

ACHIVEMENTS and SUCCESS STORIES...

- REMARRIAGE POSSIBILITIES
- VOCATIONAL and PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS
- EMPOWERMENT and ACCEPTANCE THROUGH FAMILY COUNSELING
- LEGAL SUPPORT
- OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY
- ADOPTING VILLAGE IN ODISHA TO WORK WITH OVER 300 WOMEN
- POPULAR MOVIES IN KANNADA HAVE HANDLED THE THEME OF WIDOW EMPOWERMENT



Senior Citizen Marriage:
Krishnaiah Setty (67) and Ashwathamma (55),
facilitated by their daughter from USA



IN ODISHA...

The idea of working for the Welfare and Empowerment of Widows came in the mind of Mr. Gokulananda Ojha, Member-Secretary of the India Development Project Akhupal, Ghatgaon, Keonjhar District, Odisha during implementation of an Agricultural Project in Bholabeda village of Joda block in Keonjhar District of Odisha in India. The first program was conducted on 23rd June 2017 with The former PIA, Watershed, Ghatgaon.

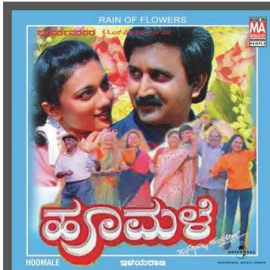
Mr. Brundaban Sahoo joined the programme as Chief Guest and inaugurated the Programme. The GAGGA project and plantation program will employ the widows to give them a livelihood. The plantation programme was organised under the leadership of Mrs. Malati Barik, a Widow under whose leadership 40 Acres of Analog Forestry has been taken up in Akhupal Village.

Parihaar Foundation is to introduce social support services for windowed women here.

OTHER SERVICES AND INITIATIVES

- Helpline for widowed and divorced women with Hotline support
- Moral, social and security support services
- Trusted information
- Emotional, legal and medical counselling
- Career development and Livelihood creation
- Mediation & conciliation services avoiding divorce
- Widow pension (Govt and Non-Govt)
- Nutrition support
- Companionship solutions and Marriage services
- Education and Outlook change mentoring programs
- Legal and medical counselling
- Social support services for Senior citizens
- Govt ID Card for Senior citizens

Parihaar Foundation observed International Widows Day on June 25, 2017 to commemorate inauguration of Parihaar Foundation Centre at the new premises in Bangalore in association with Parivarthana Trust.



Hoomale Kannada movie on Widow Marriage



Uma sharing her journey through widowhood



"Anthavalla Aarambha" Kannada Film on Social Cause

For many women, becoming a widow does not just mean the heartache of losing a husband, but often losing everything else as well. – Cherie Blair, wife of former Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

WE HUMBLY APPEAL FOR...



GOVERNMENT SANCTIONS
AND SUPPORT



A VOICE TO INCREASE AWARENESS
AND BRING SOCIAL CHANGES



FUNDING SUPPORT
FOR ACTIVITIES



A STRONG AMBASSADOR AND SET
OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE WHO
WILL CHAMPION THE CAUSE

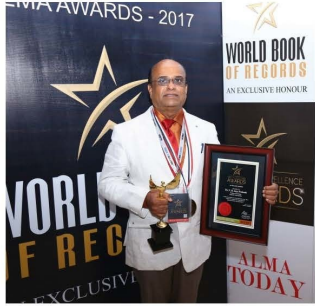


ANY FINANCIAL, SPATIAL
AND REACH OUT SUPPORT

Any assistance, help or support in the
above can give us the confidence to take
forward our initiatives with more conviction!

Bank details for voluntary kind Contribution
Parihaar Foundation
State Bank of India, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070.
Account Number : 33368623966
IFSC : SBIN0006767

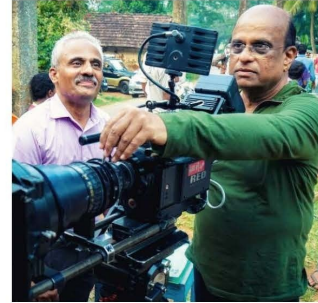
THE VISIONARY BEHIND THE EFFORTS...



Dr N.B. JayaPrakash, Stage, TV and Film actor, fondly known as JP, has experience of promoting this cause since ten years, also cofounder and trustee of Parivarthana trust; promoting widow marriages since twenty five years. He is the founder and managing trustee of PARIHAAR FOUNDATION which is dedicated to promoting welfare of widowed and divorced women, and also senior citizens. He serves full time with the support of many selfless social transformers in his team. He has built up private Media Venture called 'Bioscope Ambitions a passionate movie to fund his social goals.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION...

Nadahalli Sripada Rao, founder and managing trustee of 'PARIVARTHANA' (Transformation), a trust promoting welfare of widows. Sripada Rao has written novels on widow marriages and to set an example himself has married a widow with a child, in 1988. Parivarthana has conducted more than twenty successful widow marriages. The trust has produced a Kannada feature film called "HOOMALE" based on widow marriage. The film bagged state, national and international awards. Yet another film titled "Anthyavalla Aarambha" with strong social message is being produced. Rao is also supporting & serving Parihaar Foundation as Patron-in-Chief.



Sripada Rao and Dr N.B. JayaPrakash

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MILANA - Gather, Inspire & Get Inspired

Under its program Milana, Parihaar Foundation is involved in conducting activities such as sports day out, cultural fests, etc to keep our beneficiaries active and engaged.

We also aim to bring guest speakers at such occasions as we believe that being inspired and inspiring others will make more positive impact in the lives of our beneficiaries.

MITHARA Nutrition support

Mithara meaning nutritious diet in Sanskrit is a project that focuses on distributing provisions for widow's family in the backward communities across the state.

We aim to distribute provisions on a monthly basis to at least 500 families. We plan to implement this program in association with our key donors and sponsors.

SPANDANA Social Support System

Spandana, as the name suggests focus on providing helpline and rescue services to widowed women. They are also provided with legal counseling and support.

AAROGYA SIRI Health Camps

Aarogya Siri's key objective is to conduct free health camps hand in hand with well known hospital groups across the state for our beneficiaries. We also do an awareness campaigns in the target locations promoting good health among needy community. We aim to do more and more such camps in all the required regions.

SVAATANYA Sustainable Living

Under this program, we provide training under various disciplines and promote self sustainability in the lives of beneficiaries.

Through this program we aim to train at least 400 beneficiaries and document their success stories in this financial year. The trainings will be conducted in association with government and private bodies. Tailoring, Embroidery, Basic Computers, Candle Making, etc are few to name



PARIHAAR FOUNDATION

Development of widowed & divorced women

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PROGRAMS

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Tolerance

Pragmatism

Social Transformation

VALUES

MISSION

Transform the society for indiscriminating complete participation of widowed and divorced women in mainstream society.

Provide a multi-dimensional approach to solve financial, social, emotional, moral, medical and physical issues of widowed and divorced women.

Providing social support services to needy senior citizens.

VISION

Restore social status of widowed and divorced women.

BACKGROUND

The concerns of widows cannot be dissociated from those of other single women, or indeed from those of women in general. Widows do experience special difficulties and deprivations, connected with the restrictions that are imposed on their lifestyle and the persistence of negative social attitudes towards them. In the context of social action, it is right to organise and support widows in their specific demands (e.g., relating to pensions, property rights and other entitlements). One also needs to understand intimate links between the predicaments of widows and a wide range of patriarchal institutions such as patrilineal inheritance, patrilocal residences and the gender division of labour. The cause of widows must be seen as an integral part of the broader battle against gender inequalities.

Widowhood has received very little attention as a cause of deprivation. In India, the experience of losing one's spouse is, overwhelmingly, a female experience. Further, the consequences of losing one's spouse are very different for men and women. A widower not only has greater freedom to remarry than his female counterpart, he also has more extensive property rights, wider opportunities for remunerative employment, and a more authoritative claim on economic support from his children. Had the living conditions of widowers been as precarious as those of widows, it is likely that widowed persons would have attracted far more attention.

Using data from the successive censuses, mortality rates are 86 per cent higher among widows than among married women. These results confirm the notion that widows in India experience particularly high levels of deprivation.