

Engaging Young Men to Address Gender-Based Violence on Women

Harish Sadani

In Our Fight for Gender Equality, Who Is Our Enemy?

- In our fight for gender equality, our enemy is **not Men - but Men's Attitudes, the dominating mindset**
- Men are seen as 'part of the gender problem', can we address the roots of the problem without involving 'Men as part of the solution'
- Empowerment of women and transformation of the powerful cannot be mutually exclusive agendas, they have to go hand in hand

**India's First Organization of Sensitive Men Working to
Stop Gender-Based Violence on Women Since 1993**



**WANTED
MEN
WHO BELIEVE
WIVES
ARE NOT FOR
BATTERING**

If you are a man strongly opposed to violence towards wives from their husbands, and would like to help stop it, then send us your name, address, and phone number, if you have one.

We are a group of journalists, media professionals, and social workers.

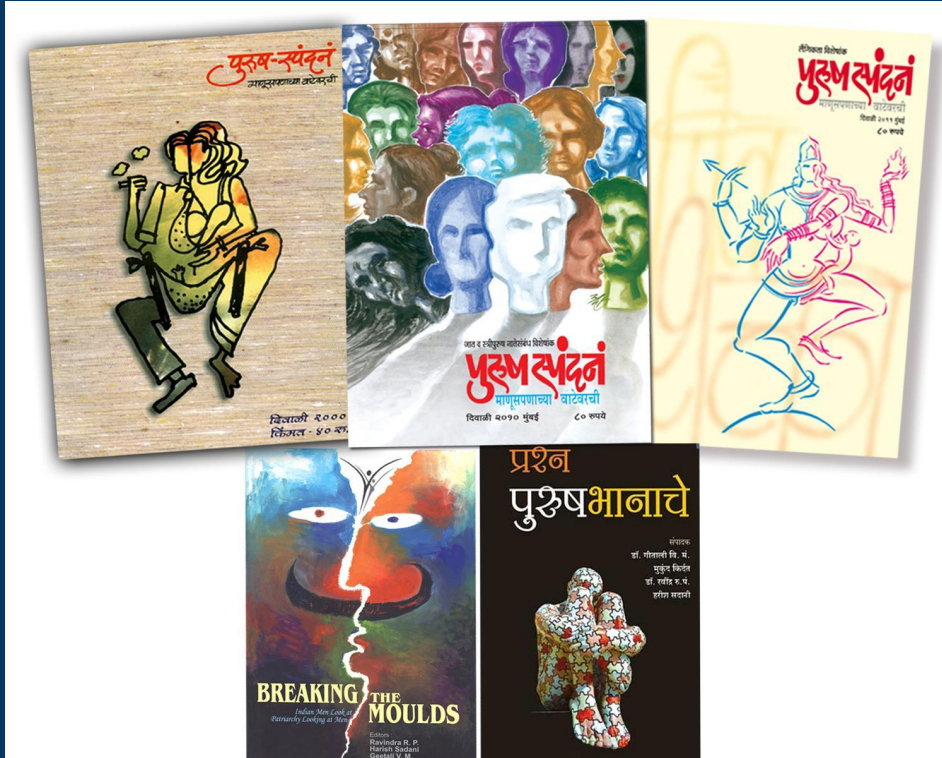
**WRITE IN AT ONCE TO
"MEN AGAINST
VIOLENCE"
P.O. 758,
BOMBAY 400 021.**

**Appeal in September 1991 that gave
birth to MAVA on 11 March 1993**



MAVA's Work: Engaging & Mentoring Men & Boys Using Out-of-the Box Methods

- Cultural Advocacy: Through annual magazine, workshops, theatre, film fest, songs, wall newspapers
- Speaking up against violence against women
- Youth Education – colleges, schools, cmty. young men, boys challenge sexism & redefine masculinity



Publications



Annual Magazine Issue 2020 on Toxic Masculinity

Gender-Sensitization & Mentoring Programs Among Men

- The mentor- mentee program among young men in 20s began in Pune in 2007 which was later on spread to 9 different districts of Maharashtra
- Young men are engaged in series of activities that enable to deconstruct, unlearn and relearn on gender and related matters
- Engaged men take up active stand for women in their lives and reach out to peers using own means

Workshops on Perspective Building & Leadership Development for Potential Student Leaders of Select Colleges/Universities



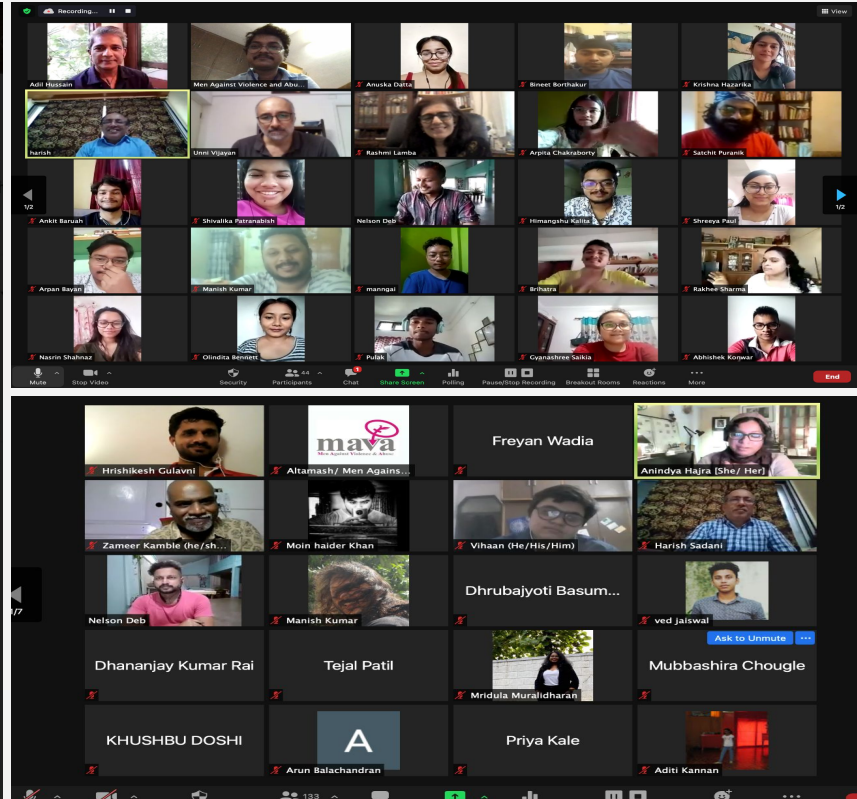
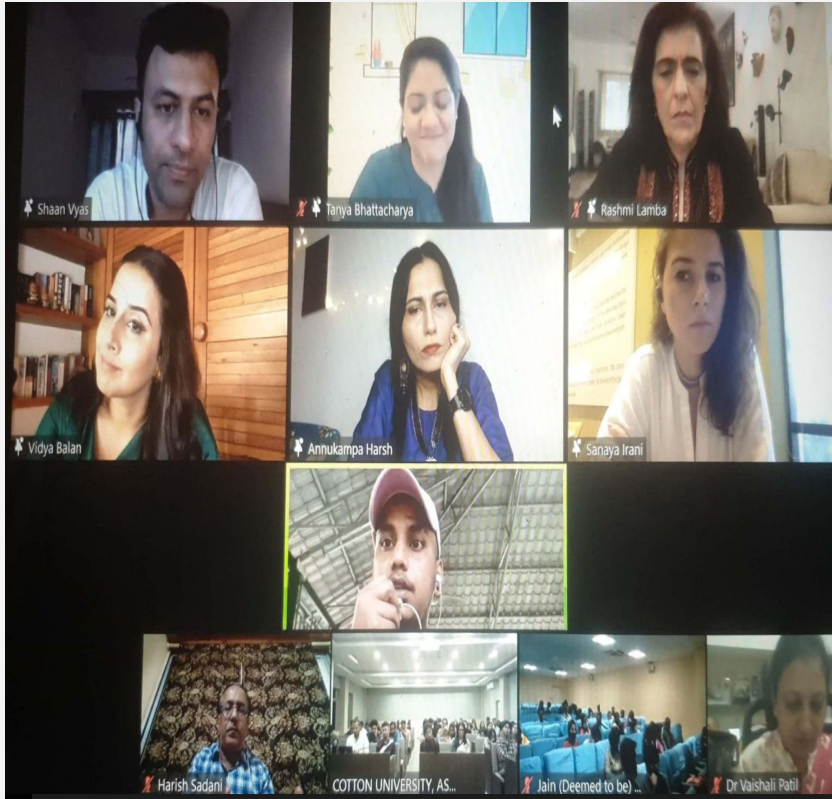
Creating a Space for Young Boys and Men to Learn, Unlearn and Self- Reflect



Gender Awareness Workshops Conducted for Colleges and Schools



Continuing the Conversation on Online Spaces



Street-Play Residential Workshops



Street-Play Performances for Diverse Groups & Mass Awareness Campaign from 25th November to 10th December



Human Rights Day Rally Involving Youth from Colleges & NGOs

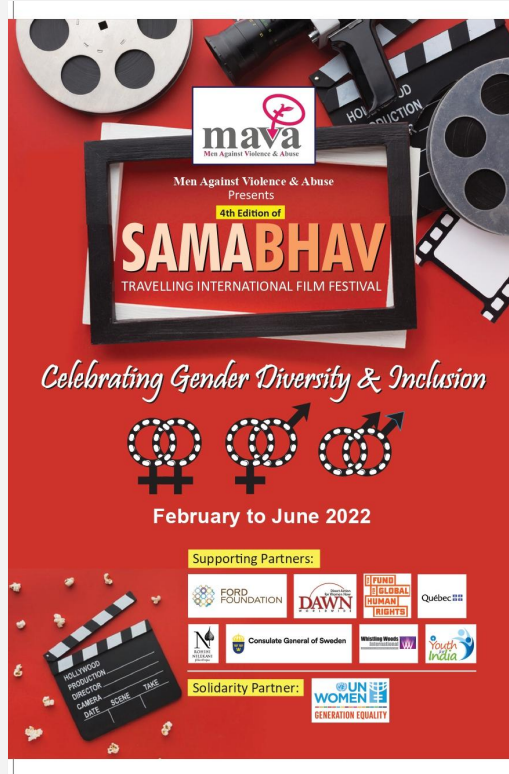


Yuva Abhivvyakti: Expression Through Art



SAMABHAV

Celebrating Gender Diversity through Film Screening & Dialogues





Internal Committee of
Bunts Sangha's S M Shetty College
of Science, Commerce & Management Studies
In collaboration with
Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA)

Presents

SAMABHAV INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ON GENDER DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

11-12 March 2022

10 am to 5.30 pm



ENTRY FREE

13-14 NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FILMS

WILL BE SCREENED

VENUE : SM SHETTY COLLEGE AUDITORIUM,

HIRANANDANI GARDENS NEAR SAKINAKA METRO POWAI

Supporting Partners



Consulate General of Sweden
Mumbai

To Register Click: bit.ly/3BZj35c

For More Information

Contact: 8169902607/9082996525

Promotional Poster of Samabhav Mumbai

Notable Outcomes of the Gender Initiative over the 14 years

- 900 + trained youth mentors reached out to 5,00,000 peers using innovative media
- Young men taking up personal stand for women in their lives
- Recognized by Ashoka Changemakers US; Harvard University documented impact of the youth initiative
- MAVA team invited to conduct workshops on gender sensitivity and anti-sexual harassment by different groups across India

MAVA has advanced the Gender Sensitization & Mentoring Initiative to 3 New Geographical Regions through Maanush Project

Upscale through collaboration with 3 local organizations in the Region:

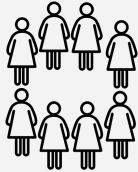
- Jain University in **Karnataka**
- ANANDI in **Gujarat**
- Bodhana in **Assam**



Challenges at Work



Men's rights groups with anti-women agenda trying to disrupt work, observe Men's Day, want anti-discriminatory gender laws to include men as a category

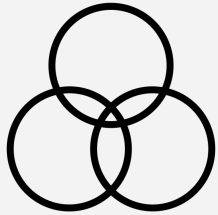


Engaging with women's groups allaying their fears and reservations on male-engagement



Sustainable funding in the context of increasing government curbs on raising resources through foreign sources

Challenges at Work



Intersectionality of gender with religion/caste, sexuality, politics and governance not identified by partner agencies hence limiting gender mainstreaming. E.g. Govt saffronising education, enacting CAA instilling insecurity among minorities, censoring of content



Toxic masculine traits linked with Hindu nationalist agenda being rewarded by the State. Thus, an aggressive Hindu hetero-normative, one who can protect 'motherland' from the dangerous 'other' (othering of Muslims has been a systematic process)

How Do We Address Some of These Challenges

Despite the pressure from men's rights groups, MAVA has unapologetically raised its concern towards the misogynist mindsets and demands put forward by these groups.

For example, when a demand was made to formulate *National Commission for Men*, MAVA went on record to say that it was not required and instead an open conversation on masculine and patriarchal expectations with men needed to be initiated





MAVA has made conscious and continuous efforts towards keeping intersectionality at the core of its advocacy work.

For example, all in-house publications, training manuals/curriculum and gender sensitization sessions brings together issues of class, caste, religion, sexuality and disability while addressing gender



MAVA since its inception has tried to engage and collaborate with relevant and diverse social networks and movements to work in the field of gender and masculinity thus working together rather than silos

For more details, connect with us through

Website: **<http://mavaindia.org>**

Facebook: **<https://www.facebook.com/mavamumbai>**

Instagram: **@mava_Mumbai**

Youtube : **MAVA Mumbai**

Twitter: **<https://www.twitter.com/mavamumbai>**

THANK YOU!