

**Remembering Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar on her 83<sup>rd</sup> Birth Anniversary**  
*In collaboration with*  
**Delhi State Domestic Workers Organization**  
**Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar Initiative**

**Date/Day:** 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 / Tuesday

**Participants:** Delhi State Domestic Workers Welfare Organization

On the occasion of late Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar's 83rd birthday, an interactive session with women from the Delhi State Domestic Workers Welfare Organization was organized. In total, 50 women participated and shared the challenges and issues they face as domestic workers. The community awareness programme that was organised on February 28, 2023 This event helped us understand the plight of women working in the unorganised sector and how they are taken advantage of. From late salary payments to being fired without notice even though the worker had been 'employed' for years.



During the time given to them to speak up, we got to hear some of the problems faced by women domestic workers.

- Of how they are told that their salaries will be paid after the due date.
- They are not given an ample amount of time to take breaks in between.
- When something is stolen from the house, they are the first to suspect the theft.
- And when an accident happens while they are working, there are no medical remedies.

The awareness of domestic worker about their rights is very important for them as they face many problems at their workplace. They face problems like they are being abused and they are being treated very badly. There are numerous other issues they face, such as having to work longer than their regular working hours and not being paid for extra working hours (overtime). They don't even know where to complain about this. Yes, obviously, they know that they can go to the police, but police also don't take their problems seriously. This is the reason they lose their confidence in arguing against the wrong doings in society.

And they are being treated like hell in their own home; also, their husbands misbehave with them, and sometimes they hit them because they are working and they are not giving money to their husbands to do gambling or drink alcohol. For any government work, to make any government document, they ask for the paper, which is not required to make that particular document; for example, they ask for an electric bill to make a ration card, which is not required.

These are just a few of the issues that domestic workers face among a slew of others. After this, some of the available legal remedies were shared by the Executive Director of MARG. He also mentioned a few government-provided schemes, such as the pension scheme and rations provided for the poor community in order to give them some leeway in saving money for the future.

At the end of the event, street plays were also enjoyed as an interactive activity. Through this, we got to see how women domestic workers are treated and the physical and mental abuse they suffer while working.

We opened the floor for the participants to discuss and share the challenges they face at work:

**Binita: -**

- There is no problem in taking a day's leave.
- They don't get leave. If they take leave, their salary may be deducted.
- Sometimes they lose their job too.
- They don't know where to share these problems.
- They don't feel confident enough to face the problems.

**Monika: -**

- There is no time limit to do work they have to work more than they are supposed to. And they don't even get extra payment for extra work.
- In any medical case, they receive no treatment; they may be injured while working, but no medical treatment is provided by the house member for whom they work.
- They are not even allowed to use the restroom in their workplace.
- They are served leftover food.

**Ranjita:-**

- Domestic abuse in the home

