

A Thought Provoking Discussion [30/12/2012 – 04/01/2013] on 'Nirbhaya- 12/29 Memorial'

Prof. Bholanath Dutta

MTC Global expresses its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and equally concern on the subject. May the great and noble soul rest in peace in heaven.

Let us unite to create a 12/29 memorial. So that we never ever forget this tragedy. We request views from esteemed MTCians.

Shri Virendra Goel

Though welcome thought but memorials are only show cases . We need to first create a memorial in our memory that will push us towards action from lip service.

Dr. Col (Retd.) CK Singh

It is a welcome thought. I feel that if required we should join the volunteer organisation already working on it in Delhi. There should be only one memorial in Delhi which should remind the government, judiciary for unbiased judicious action and also people of unsound mind that due punishment will be granted to those who dare to do such gruesome act.

Prof. Bholanath Dutta

As it is understood that already few volunteer organisations are working on the memorial. At MTC we may do something to mark the day and as a tribute to Nirbhaya. Possibly, we may start '**Nirbhaya Scholarship**' for meritorious economically weaker girls to pursue their studies. The same may be announced during our Annual Convention, Sankalp-2013.

Request views,

Prof. Rooshikumar Pandya

That's a much better idea, Prof. Dutta.

Prof. Senthil Kumar

Good morning to all. Yes Prof. Dutta We should do it. Scholarship to economically weaker girls will help them lot. I agree with you.

Sri Bimal Mohanty

The most befitting memorial for all time will be enactment of a 'Nirbhay Act' or 'Nirbhay code' of law encompassing all aspects of abuse of women, dealing with the crime and the punishment"

Prof. ORS Rao

While it is a good thought to institute a a scholarship, can we think of more active/ concrete steps to address the root problem (and avoid recurrence of the unfortunate incident)?

1. Considering that one of the culprits is a 17 year old boy, there seem to be a need to build awareness / sensitivity among the students so that they do not fall prey to such crimes. As more and more girl students get enrolled, there is all the more need for it .

2. In the past, there have been instances of sexual harassment in the schools/colleges by teachers/principals (though all of them are not well publicised). We could think of avoidance of such instances by preventive steps (in stead of waiting for the worst to happen) by initiating a dialogue with the MTC members.

Such concrete actions to make all girl students /teachers "Nirbhay" will possibly be the real tribute to Nirbhaya.

Dr. Vinod Dumblekar

That's a good idea, Dr ORS Rao.

Could we have a course in the management schools with the key objective of sensitising both genders about their responsibilities to each other??? It should be launched in the first semester / trimester, and adopt students with specific tasks to monitor their behaviour on campus during their stay, there.

It should be a credit course, with parity to any other subject.

Dr. Usha Devi N

All schools and colleges should have full time counselors. Apart from this TM/NLP/yoga/ Meditation should be made compulsory. If this done, inner strength of the students (boys and girls) can be developed and sexual misconduct can be minimized to some extent.

Prof. Raj Mahinder Pal Verma

Dear All,

I don't understand what " **Nirbhaya**" will be served by 'Nirbhaya Scholarship' for meritorious economically weaker girls to pursue their studies.

I feel "**Nirbhay Award**" should be given to a teacher / research scholar who show courage to stand against sexual exploitation by peers and management.

It should be given to a girl student who stand against teachers who exploit them in lieu of favours given in internal assessments ,project assignments, completion of absenteeism etc.

There is a need to block all loop holes leading to facilitation of sexual / emotional exploitation in academics.

Public reaction happen only after an incident happen but little effort is done in removing the root causes.

Mr. Stephen Narayan

Dear All,

Having done a stint in an NGO - where I had come across many Girls from weaker sections of society...exploited...harassed...beaten up...till they ran away from Home and through our volunteers at the Railway Stations in collaboration with RPF would bring such girls to the Shelter Home....there was a young girl....about 13 year old...who had been raped...she had a baby...the caretaker...Mother...was so attached to the baby...even all other Inmate Girls...about 140 odd in numbers which would go up and down depending on the rehabilitation efforts...

This Girl herself an underaged girl was not good in taking care of the baby which is why the mother (who was an unmarried lady) would often counsel her and at times would get so angry...would shout at this girl and the girl would pick up the baby and want to leave the shelter home...

One day there was a small crowd of people in the office...the rapist had come out on bail and had had a change of heart...he had come with his mother, father and his elder sister to try and convince this girl to accept him as her husband with a marriage proposal....try as they might...all the counselors drew a blank with the girl very adamant and would not even come out of the girls dormitory to meet these motley crew....

I was busy drafting some Marketing Proposal when the Mother Superior - Anita...and a Counselor approached me and told me the whole story...asking for my Help... somehow I was in the good books of all the Girls (Head Office - Shelter Home for Girls where I used to operate from....and there was another Home for Boys too which was in another corner of Delhi) besides a Juvenile Home for minors (boys) at conflict with Law. I was at a loss myself....but there were some girls who were also with these two colleagues and they had such a pleaful look in their eyes...I agreed to give it a try... I had a meeting with this girl in the visitors room first to try and find out her intentions... though a little uncomfortable with the role as I had no formal training or exposure to counselling...still I was convinced that I need to give the girl a right advice which may change her life... I began by first putting her at ease asking her how she felt in the shelter home which was her new home for about 4 years.... she didn't have many friends...neither she showed interest in learning Life Skills...Beautician, Artefacts...etc. I told her the harsh reality that when she would attain 18 years age...as a major what did she look to achieve and how she aimed at supporting her baby... she was at a loss. I then slowly told her for the sake of her baby to give her all happiness...she needed to give a thought to the proposal of the boy who had come to seek her hand.... Uneducated...unskilled...immature as she may have been....she looked into my eyes directly and asked...Sir...This is the same person who violated me...was unmoved to my tears and pains...I have gone through hell and lost all Happiness... how can he give me back the 5 years of my childhood which went in suffering... and how can I trust him that he will not repeat the offence with a legal permit... I had No Answer...

I realized then...I was more vulnerable than her....she had perhaps a mental maturity more than mine....at times we have good intention...but we also need to take into account the feelings of others.... in our zeal to do good for somebody we may actually end up pushing them into something which we had no intention of doing.... "Nirbhay's" Parents have agreed to disclose the identity of the girl - Damini...if appropriate Rules using her Name are framed to uphold a strict deterrent punishment for rapists....While Media is now on a wild goose chase raking up Biti Mohanty's case who is absconding - abroad with the connivance and help of his DIG father (Retd.)... despite this high voltage covering which shook the entire nation....the incidents of Rapes are still being reported daily from different corners of our country....

We can of course have a curriculum of Counseling...seperately for Boys & Girls from School levels....but for the drop-outs and weaker section of society where boys are just pushed into any profession to support a family and who get mixed up in Crimes due to their association with bad characters at work....we need NGO's who reach out to the grass roots and address these problems....also it is very much necessary to change the mindsets of the KHAPS who have donned the mantel of being the Justice dispensing mechanism in rural india. I would suggest that rather than having Scholarship.... the need of the hour is to raise an army of counselors and fund them for this outreach for changing the mindsets.

Brig. Ganesham

Mr Stefan

A very moving experience. Thanks for sharing.. It taught us lot many tings.

The best memorial for Nirbhaya in my view is to make our Institutions/organizations "Zero Sexual harassment" zones. MTC Global can evolve norms to rate the Institutions and carry out social audit periodically.

Pro B Nath may consider the above and seek the views of the fraternity

Wishing a Very happy, peaceful and meaningful 2013 to all members of MTC Global family

Dr. Usha Devi N

I personally feel that self defense mechanism should be taught to the girls, in order to avoid such kind of tragedy.

Sri Virendra Goel

I believe an individual will feel embarrassed even if she is recognized for he bravery in the matters of rape and sexual harassment. On the contrary if at all anybody is instituting any award in this direction, such an award should be given to any male of female or an organization who has done an act of bravery or doing a commendable work for empowerment of women.