"I came to know of the We Can Campaign through one of my students who had participated in it.

What impressed me is that the campaign talks of the smaller forms of violence that we ignore, though they happen daily in homes.

I feel very strongly that violence against women is not acceptable, and we must end discrimination in homes. I want all my students get this message.

I believe in the campaign's stand on how schools can help children live in homes that are safe and happy for them. We can do this by (a) intervening when there is a crisis at home (b) having teachers sensitively counsel affected children and (c) by alerting children that they can seek help from friends,



teachers and principals if they feel threatened.

"In our school the

teachers, students and I

are collectively making

changes in our attitudes

and practices"

My teachers have admirably counselled children facing violence at home. They take the children aside and talk to them at length. My teachers tell me that many children they have spoken to have found a new will and zest to study.

Our day often begins with talking to children during morning assemblies - about violence against women within homes. I often personally raise such issues.

I also ensure that girls in my school break stereotypes. They play basketball and work in science labs. I am so happy to see many girls take enthusiastically to it. I am keen that girls in all schools become good human beings who are able to counter violence against them positively"

Ms. Usha Mishra, Principal Senior Secondary Girls School, Dakshinpuri, New Delhi

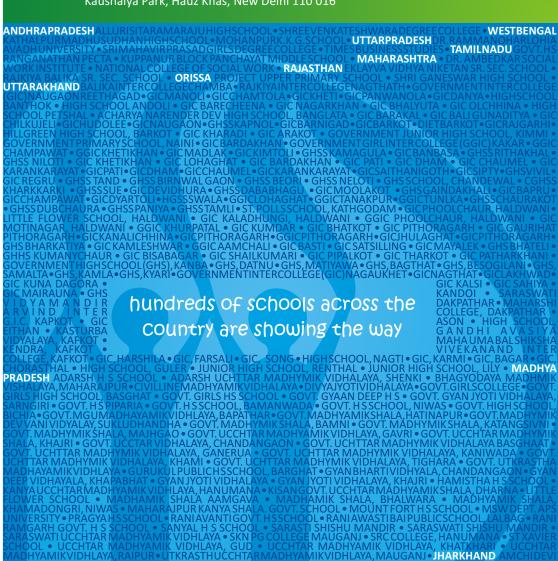
Sign up for the We Can Campaign

Get in touch with us at the addresses below. You can share your experience and challenges so other schools can learn from them.

local alliance address



We Can India National Secretariat, 4/203, 1st Floor, Kaushalya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110 016



NEWDELHI



How schools are delivering better education by addressing Domestic Violence

Across India, schools are delivering better quality education by addressing the adverse impact of Domestic Violence on children. Here are what people from different parts of the country are saying about their experiences...

Supporting affected children

"One of my class 4 students had become suddenly very irregular. When asked, he would say he had gone to his village. I decided to visit his family, and there I discovered that his mother was being abused by her husband. That is why she would often go to her parent's home with her son.

Later, I visited the family again with a counsellor from a local women's organisation. After many meetings and follow-ups, the situation has improved and the boy is able to focus a bit more on his education"

Madhuben Rathod, Principal Prarthna

Improved student performance

"After attending the We Can Campaign event, the Headmaster and I organised a similar session with the school staff; focussed on identifying children who had witnessed domestic violence, and supporting them. We believe this initiative has improved student performance in the Higher Secondary Board Exam last year. Now our school has become a model to many others"

Mr. Vishwanathan, President PTA Govt. Higher Sec. School, Ranganatham Pettai Karur, Tamil Nadu

Change is difficult, but possible

"When I read about the We Can Campaign in 2008, I felt that the work was difficult, but possible. I started by talking to students about domestic violence. Then I found it necessary to discuss it with the school management. It was hard at first, but eventually the management introduced domestic violence as a topic for discussion with guardians.

Initially the guardians protested strongly, telling us to focus on education instead of irrelevant issues. It took several meetings before we were able to convince them.

Today the management and the guardians committees have together decided that our village should be a Changemakers' village. The board at the school gate now reads 'Balika Inter College **Changemaker**, Chamba'"

Anjali Chandola, Professor Balika Inter College, Chamba, Uttarakhand

We Can Question Box

"We now have a Question Box where girls can anonymously share their personal dilemmas. A committee of lady teachers have been formed to respond and counsel the girls. This has made it so easy for us to discuss things that we otherwise would not have raised"

Prabha Sharma, Student Tala High School, Madhya Pradesh

Special teacher to address domestic violence issues

"I have appointed a new teacher specifically to help students experiencing domestic violence. This teacher works with students to build their hope and confidence through different sessions, and meets with parents every quarter. Seeing the benefit of this initiative, I have influenced two other schools to do the same"

Ponnurajam, Headmaster Onu Ramasamy Middle School, Devaram, Tamil Nadu



Adding the mother's name

"We have introduced an additional column in the 'admission and school leaving forms' for the mother's name"

Kalpana Dave, President Prarthna Vidyalay,

Encouraging gender neutral behaviour

"We have introduced gender neutral behaviour in the school. We try to ensure that boys and girls both play outdoor games. Boys also welcome guests, prepare for prayers and serve tea - tasks that were earlier done by girls."

Dharamsinh Parmar, Principal Shreemati V K. Patel High School, Patan, Gujarat

Reaching out helps everyone

"I have often noticed students who seemed disturbed, and though I wanted to talk to them to find out why, I kept my distance, thinking it was their personal matter. Then, at a We Can Campaign meeting, I realised how domestic violence affects children, and that moved me. Since then I make every effort to reach out to such students, talk to them and listen to their problems."

Raj Kumar Mahobia, Teacher High School A, Umeria, Madhya Pradesh

what's your story?

your inspiring story may help many other schools to address domestic violence, and improve education

addressing domestic violence in schools

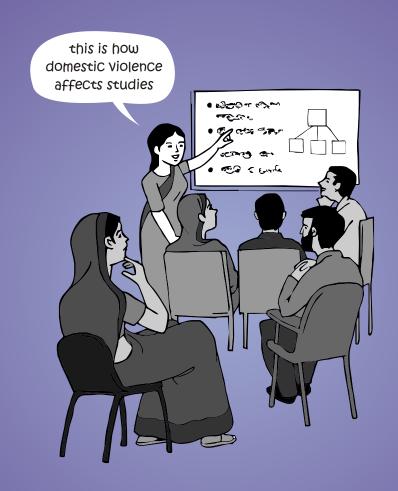
- which of these are practiced in your school?
 - encouraging boys and girls to adopt gender neutral roles

have a "no violence" policy for the school





listening to Children and respecting them



raise awareness about domestic violence with teachers and parents



influence public opinion through Campaigns