

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jab Koi Sataye To Kis Ko Batayein**

***Over 80 Shalinis of Substance raise awareness on women's safety towards Women's Day***

NEW DELHI 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010: On 6<sup>th</sup> March Shruti(19), and 80 other *Shalinis* (Dignified Women), initiated a campaign "*Jab Koi Sataye To Kis Ko Batayein?*" in Mongolpuri.

As Shruti and her friends, part of Udayan Care's fellowship programme for girls, rightly ask "Without women being safe, is there any point in celebrating Women's Day? Through this campaign, these ***Shalinis of Substance*** attempted to encourage women to speak against the injustice and shared measures available for women, by law .

Advancing on their mission, and traversing the bylanes of Mongolpuri, they sensed a sense of fear and insecurity in the women, especially mothers like Suman. Her daughter is in Class III, but as Suman says, "I doubt I can allow her to continue higher studies, because, given the lack of safety for girls, I won't be able to send her alone when she is a little older."

Mongolpuri has brought the law and order situation into sharp focus with the recent attacks on women. The situation is worse for girls, like from underprivileged communities. The lack of awareness about their rights, living conditions which offer little protection and lack of support to take recourse, make them even more vulnerable. Moreover, women said that "even if we call the police they take so long to arrive, that it is no point." Some others however, expressed courage and said, "if anyone harms us, we will not let them go free."

Says Dr. Kiran Modi, Managing Trustee and Founder, Udayan Care, "The Udayan Shalini Fellowships (USF) work to make young girls aware of their rights, while supporting their higher education. USF offers more than just monetary assistance. Every *Shalini* (Dignified Woman) is *Mentored* by senior educationists who guide her through her education. This combination of overall personality development and academics enables the girls to blossom into self confident, socially responsible young adults."

Shruti and her friends were happy to see that the women, young girls and family men were responsive to their one-one-interactions with them. Like Shruti, over 1800 girls have been inducted into Udayan Care's Shalini Fellowship Programme over the last eight years from Delhi, Kurukshetra, Dehradun, Aurangabad and Kolkata. Girls who've completed class X are selected from government schools, through an indigenously developed selection criteria, called NAT: Needs, Ambition, Talent, and supported for 5-6 years till they complete higher education. "We have a vision to spread across the country," says Dr. Modi

**SOME FACTS**

- Statistics reveal a girl is raped every hour in Delhi
- Delhi recorded the highest rate of crime against women at 27.6% as against the national average of 14.1%. (National Crime Records Bureau 2010)
- A leading news channel in 2010, reported that over 500 women were raped in Delhi, almost three times higher than in Mumbai.
- The same channel also reported a 27% rise in kidnapping and sexual harassment of working women

**Udayan Shalini Fellowship campaign 'Jab Koi Sataye To Kis Ko Batayein?'** seeks to raise awareness and question the State on correct implementation of the measures available for women.



**About Udayan Care:**

Udayan Care was registered as a Public Charitable Trust in 1994. Udayan Care provides homes to children who are orphaned while also giving girls financial and development support to continue higher education and communities to train themselves in vocations, by engaging socially committed individuals, who provide a transformative, nurturing and mentoring environment, to help them realize their full potential.

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