

Highlights of minutes of beat meetings with CLG and beat officers - July 2005

Beat 3: villages- Boriakala, Temri, Doomertari, and Dhaneli

Feedback- none

Problems raised by CLG members and Police response

Boriakala- asked for action against gambling and liquor sales. Police responded affirmatively

Doomartarai- requested police to take action over anti-social elements, to which the police responded that had raised the areas but no one could be arrested as the people ran into open fields. Police requested assistance by the villagers in nabbing them.

Police expectations from the CLG

Beat officer emphasized the villagers to submit details of the tenants.

Comments

The women members of Borikala village complained that the police did not arrest gamblers only took the money that had been bet and left.

It was the first time that the CLG blamed the police openly about their misconduct and corruption

Beat 4: villages Mana colony, Mana Basti and Bhatgoan

Feedback- None

Problems raised and police response

Mana Basti- asked for increased and patrolling, and after 9pm. Police said their vehicle size does not allow them into village interior, however on the suggestion of the villagers they agreed to patrol on foot and change the time.

No police presence in market, to which police replied there was no staff and those around had to respond to emergency calls. The reply did not satisfy, and police said they would take care of it in following weeks

Mana Colony- CLG reflection on 'displacement of crime', as gambling had moved to open fields. No police response required.

Bhatgoan – The Sarpanch complained of three youth engaged in illegal activities, and when he complained to police about them was abused by one of them. On the advice of police and going against villagers (who had sympathy for them and wanted them let off with a verbal warning) he gave a written petition against them to police.

Expectation of Police from CLG members

The police thought that although people complain of the problems, they are not very open to giving names of the wrong-doers. Hence, their activity becomes limited to the knowledge of crime rather than on taking action against them.

Comments

It was inspiring to see attendance of CLG on time despite adverse weather conditions.

The advice from Mr. Lahre on a written complaint, and then leaving it to the police to frame charges, is against the legal milieu of the country and ant- system. Hence it is essential to sensitize the police over such irresponsible remarks, however one police officer gave the various sections under which they could be booked. A gap in knowledge amongst police personnel is against the guiding principles of community policing and being the facilitators the onus to sensitize and fill the gaps lies on the CHRI staff

Legal Literacy and empowerment – Women’s Rights

Beat 1, 2, 3, 4

The session

The participants were first informed about the kind of violence faced by women in the society and then the acts and laws regarding it.

Then certain categories were discussed such as laws relating to sexual violence, domestic violence, violence at the work place, Tonhi and the rights of women in police interaction.

CLG was asked to discuss the problems and difficulties faced by the women in their areas. They described the major problems as domestic violence related to alcohol abuse, malnutrition, teasing and misbehaviour.

Comments

The women members of CLG from Borikala and Dhaneli took very active participation in the meeting. Despite bad weather about fifteen women from the neighbouring Dhaneli village came to the meeting after traveling up to 3 kms. Heavy rains did not dampen their enthusiasm.

The major issues raised by the women members of the CLG was domestic violence, caste discrimination, violation of their property rights, the unnecessary pressure to give birth to a male child and misbehaviour by some notorious elements in their villages.

When the lower caste women raised the issue of caste discrimination or “Chua-Chut”, the OBC women tried to defend their stance and gave arguments regarding this action. Although both caste women go to each others house and share a friendly relationship, however they try to avoid taking food and water when they are there.