

DISHA helps Mohan's family utilise Bal Sangopan Yojana for their grandchildren

Mohan (age 30, name changed) was working as a waiter in a small canteen in Dattapur block of Amravati district. He was married to Sangita (age 25, name changed) and had two children with whom he lived near his parents' house.

This was Mohan's mother's second marriage. His real father had left him and his mother when he was very young. His mother married his stepfather when he was in ninth grade. Now he had a sister who is in school. Mohan's parents arranged his marriage with Sangita just like everyone else in the world. The couple had two cute kids and started their home.

Once Mohan's father had a quarrel with his mother and started residing with Mohan. While everything was going well, Mohan began to doubt Sangita's behavior towards his father. He also told his mother about it but she didn't believe him. Due to this, Mohan and Sangita started arguing. At 3 am on the day of the incident, Mohan's father and wife strangled him to death and tried to dispose of the evidence by throwing his body in the canal. They spread rumors in the village that Mohan had disappeared. Mohan's mother did not believe that her son was missing.

When Mohan's body was found, the police launched an investigation and questioned his father. After interrogation, Mohan's father confessed that he and Sangita had committed murder as Mohan was interfering in his and Sarika's love affair. Later they both went to jail.

Mohan's mother and sister were shocked to hear this. Mohan's mother had lost her son, daughter-in-law and husband at the same time. Psychological first aid was first given when DISHA came in contact with her. She wanted both of them to be punished. The social worker explained the legal process to her and asked her to call if there were any problems. In her old age, she was left with the responsibility of her college going daughter and two younger grandchildren. She needed to work for all three children so she started working as a domestic help. To help her, Mohan's sister accepted a part-time job at a dispensary.

Social workers asked her to apply for the Victim Compensation Scheme for the children's future. Mohan's mother may not get the benefit of the victim compensation scheme as her husband is the accused. However, DISHA is helping Mohan's mother to apply for the compensation scheme for the benefit of Mohan's minor children.

Also, since she was an old woman, she would not be able to carry out children's responsibilities for a few more years. Therefore social worker suggested availing Bal Sangopan Yojana for her grandchildren (Grandson 5 years old, Granddaughter 2 years old). It takes a little longer to get the benefit of both these schemes but still they are necessary for the future of the children. Under the BAL SANGOPAN YOJANA of State Government, Mohan's mother will be provided with Rs 425 per month per child as foster parent of her grandchildren. Although the amount is not big, it can support Mohan's mother to take care of the children.

Mohan's mother was working hard to raise her grandchildren. Here, seven-eight months later, the court granted bail to Sangita so that she could take care of her children. Upon returning, Sangita threatened Mohan's mother to take the children away. Sangita told Mohan's mother that she would try to get bail for Mohan's father so that the two could live together. Hearing this, Mohan's mother trembled with fear. Mohan's mother was afraid that Sangita would take the children and if they had any problem with them, they would kill the children too. Mohan's mother called DISHA for help on phone. DISHA suggested Mohan's mother to ask Sangita to bring a court order to take away the children. Since then, she has stopped demanding custody of the children and focused on getting Mohan's father out of jail. Mohan's mother has turned her attention to both children and wants to keep them safe and away from Sangita and Mohan's father.

Disha is creating a legal, social and policy framework to ensure our criminal justice system is not only retributive, but also restorative. Visit our website dishaforvictim.org to know more and we look forward to your support and collaboration.