

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL AUDIT REPORT, BIHAR

Context -

On the request of the Dept. of Social Welfare Govt of Bihar, Koshish- TISS was invited to do a social audit of **110 welfare institutions** across 38 districts in Bihar.

The Institutions were as follows:

1. Specialized Adoption agency - 21
2. Short Stay Homes for Women - 21
3. Old Age Homes - 5
4. Rehabilitation Centers for destitute – 13
5. Children Homes – 27
6. Open Shelter- 8
7. Observation Homes 11
8. Uttar Rakhsha Grih – 1
9. Special Home – 1
10. Home for Children with Mental retardation – 2

The audit report was released on 26th May 2018 by the Department of Social Welfare Govt. of Bihar.

FINDINGS -

1. **Violence** was found to be present in some form or the other across institutions, barring a few exceptions. Mental harassment through character assassination was found to be a common practice against the girls and women living in these institutions. In absence of trained staff, people falling under this category were further neglected and forced to live in pathetic conditions.
2. A very high number of persons suffering from **mental illness** were found living across these institutions. Similarly, persons with disability were also found to be present in absence of adequate mental health and disabled friendly facilities in Bihar. These intuitions were being used as rotting spaces for people with special needs.
3. **Health conditions** of the residents were found to be extremely poor across institutions. The situation was especially disturbing in homes for children and the elderly.
4. No scope for **education, vocational training** and recreational facilities were being provided across institutions, barring a few exceptions.

5. **No legal aid services** were found to be provided in institutions such as observation homes and short stay homes for women, institutions where residents are largely dependent on legal aid.
 6. **The budget was found to be inadequate** in absence of any revisions for several years. The food budget, for example, is 1400 rupees per person per month.
 7. It was found that **funds had been delayed** to NGOs running these institutions and the staff had not been paid salaries for several months, at times even years.
 8. Large numbers of **posts were found vacant** across institutions. This primarily consisted of essential posts such as the nurse, doctor, counselor etc.
 9. Institutions that are supposed to be non-custodial have also turned **custodial**. People were found to be kept in prison like situations against their consent.
 10. Girls and women are worst hit in these institutions in absence of any proper plan towards their rehabilitation. They were found to be stuck in institutional life, with very little scope for them ever being free.
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