

Feminist Urban Futures: Inclusive Cities for Women and Girls

Jagori has worked for over 35 years to end all forms of violence against women and build feminist leadership and community women's collectives towards advancing their constitutional rights. For over two decades, Jagori has engaged deeply with issues of urbanization and exclusion of women from the project of city making. In working with migrant women and women evicted from informal settlements, Jagori developed the initial architecture of what it takes to build gender inclusive and safer cities and spaces for women/girls, where women can assert their right to the city. It pioneered a model of community led initiatives in Delhi in partnership with UN Women, UN Habitat, UNICEF, Oak Foundation, Safetipin, Women In Cities International, Huairou Commission, government agencies and sister organisations.

In the recent decades the world has experienced unprecedented urban growth, resulting in cities facing extraordinary demographic, environmental, economic, social and spatial challenges (UN Habitat). In 2015, 54 percent of the world's population lived in cities, projected to increase by 2030. India Census (2011), estimated the population of urban India at 377.10 million, projected to reach a staggering 575 million by 2030, and to 875 million by 2050 (MoHUA, 2018). UN Habitat's New Urban Agenda (NUA) notes, "[b]y 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends".

This rapid process of urbanisation has led to exclusion of women and girls especially from marginalized populations. With one in three women facing sexual violence either at home or in public spaces (UN Women), and a growing

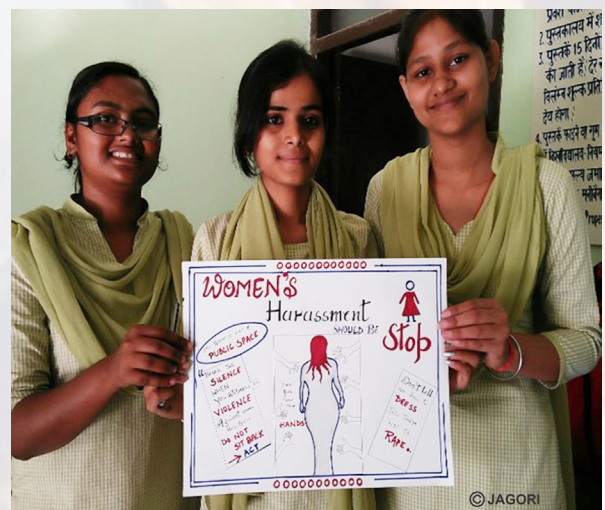
feminization of urban poverty, women are not seen equally as rightful claimants of either the public or the private space, neither in the community nor in the city. Lack of a gender analysis has led to deficits in urban design of public spaces, housing, transportation, infrastructure, services. The governance of cities too lacks a gender lens and adequate financing for gender equality, among other issues.

In a shared planetary endeavor, it is crucial to turn these challenges into opportunities for the world's urbanites. SDG 11 focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It aims to provide safe and affordable housing, create accessible and sustainable public transport systems, with special attention to the needs of diverse women, children, trans* and LGBTQI communities, older persons, women workers, homeless women, and persons with disabilities. It also focuses on expanding participatory and democratic urban planning methods, reduce environmental impacts and create safe and inclusive green urban spaces. Most importantly it hopes to strengthen the socio-economic and environmental linkages between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. Jagori has been contributing to SDG Goals 5, 6, 11 and to the shared vision of the NUA which emphasizes that - **cities need to be more inclusive, equal, and accessible for all, with a commitment to respect and advance human rights for all.**

Jagori builds on these principles emphasizing the need to look at the city through the eyes of women in their full diversity and with an intersectional lens. A *'safe' city is a city where women/girls live their lives free of fear, discrimination and from all forms of sexual violence and harassment.*

Women's safety is inclusive of:

- Right to the city and Right to safety - at all times, in all spaces
- Right to a political voice, participation and equal right to resources in urban local governance, including to plan and imagine city-spaces
- Right to autonomy, mobility, bodily integrity and freedoms
- Right to decent and secure employment/livelihoods, health, social security, housing, public provisioning of services and access to effective redress systems
- Right to leisure with measures to reverse harmful social norms including of unpaid care burden on women/girls



In the last decade or so, Jagori has scaled up the *Safe Cities model*. The initiatives have expanded both geographically, and across several sectors, and in partnership, has resulted in strategies of community actions and campaigns, research and education, capacity development of stakeholders and communities.

Over the years, Jagori has partnered with Oak Foundation and 17 NGOs in Ranchi and Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, to build a collaborative model of advocating for gender inclusive spaces for women/girls. In the last few years, Jagori has initiated a **Network of Cities**, to provide technical support to women's community groups and networks across select cities/districts (Bahadurgarh, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhuj, Cochin, Guwahati, Hazaribagh, Jhajjar, Karnal, Kolkata, Ranchi, Rohtak, Mumbai and Thiruvanthapuram). Our strength lies in our commitment to multi-sector and multi-partner rights based approaches and sharing of our tools, methodologies and strategies.

Jagori has developed a comprehensive **Strategic Framework for Cities** identifying key sectoral areas of intervention in the short term, mid-term and long-term.

1. Urban Planning and Design of Public Spaces

Jagori advocates for urban policies and schemes that address the needs of the last woman, girl and transperson. This includes the need to design polycentric city-spaces, with mixed land use and ensure '*eyes on the street*'. Among reasons for declining workforce participation of women in India, is lack of housing for single women, and students, high rents/cost of housing and lack of support services. Women workers in the informal sector would benefit enormously from a multi-purpose women's centre, in non-motorised zones in the city, within mainstream markets (especially where there are left-over spaces in the city), with a gender lens, that ensures a friendly environment where access to public utilities, storage, electricity, child care centres, as well as easy access to redressal services - police vans/stations, health facilities, one stop centres, shelters for survivors of violence.

Our studies have shown that time and space use of women/girls are different from those of men. During day time, women tend to use public spaces as they undertake their

multiple households chores and productive work - groceries, taking children to schools, visiting health centres with senior members of the family and so on. Thus urban planners need to ensure that streets, community toilet complexes, water stand points, houses and other services serve older, disabled, and pregnant women. Jagori provides inputs from its research studies (Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana), safety audits and group discussions to city planners, local urban authorities, police, municipal corporations, district development authorities on an ongoing basis., including on the engendering the master plan.

2. Provision and Management of Urban Infrastructure

Effective maintenance of infrastructure is a huge issue in cities – potholes, leaking water stands, unkempt toilets and drainage systems, lack of night shelters for women and so on. Working with communities Jagori builds capacities to tracking and monitor urban policies/schemes/infrastructure and budgets and highlight the huge high price paid by women/girls due to gender gaps in services. Jagori research has indicated how poorly maintained infrastructure (pavements, street lights, water and sanitation, parks, vending areas, transport, etc.) have resulted in increased harassment and taken a toll on women's health and time use. Safety audit data is useful to monitor gaps on a regular basis and provide local agencies data about improved lighting, plugging water leakages, building in-situ handles for disabled women in toilets, building safe work zones, boundary walls, and so on.

3. Public Transport

Access to and use of public transportation is a gendered phenomenon. Jagori data indicates that women make multiple trips, more than men do and that public transport (at bus stops, in the bus) are among the many sites of harassment/violence, deeply affecting young women students and women from the queer community. Studies (Girija Borkar) has highlighted how young women students travel longer distances with higher costs in search of safer transport options. In Delhi, metro services are considered safer by women as compared to buses. However there remain issues of the first and last mile connectivity and bystander apathy. As a consequence, women/girls have faced pressures to adapt their dress, behaviours, regulate their timings, avoid walking alone, use taxis that have an emergency app, or else opt to stay at home

and not go out after dark. Women from Jharkhand (Jagori study) have shared that girls are not sent out alone by parents and they prefer to walk rather than use public or shared transport. Thus for transport, there is need to look at both the infrastructure (bus stops, routes, vehicles), institutions and also review governance protocols and whether specific allocations are made for women and girls.

Jagori has conducted gender sensitization trainings for drivers, transport crew, safety marshals in Delhi and other places. We have advocated for inclusion of women's helpline numbers in all transport vehicles, the need for regulations and trained helpline staff. We have also advocated for sustained training, allocation of budgets and financial infrastructure/services for women auto drivers in Jharkhand. Campaigns have been undertaken with transport unions, auto-unions, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and others. Jagori continually provides inputs into policy documents.

Indrawati (49) from Purwa Village, Chandwa Block, Latehar district, Jharkhand – post her participation in safety audit sessions by Jagori, conducted a 2 km audit in her panchayat. The findings were submitted to the Mukhiya (Head) of the panchayat, highlighting safety gaps. As the Mukhiya participated in the safety audit, he committed to bringing up the issue of road repairs and maintenance work.

4. Policing

It is important to recognize that while women's safety is high on the policing agenda, among the challenges to be addressed are that investments into CCTVs are higher, than on prevention/redress efforts and ending impunity. Jagori has undertaken a study on the police helpline in Delhi and provided inputs in other similar studies. Along with community leaders, inputs are given into the development of gender sensitive protocols for prompt victim support, attending meetings with the police on cases of violence filed by women and undertaking trainings on request. Jagori has also provided inputs into a model policy document for women in police organised by CHRI. Jagori's Chair was a member of the LG's Committee on Women's Safety study in Delhi (2018). Jagori has shared key findings from their study on gender responsive budgeting (Delhi, Jharkhand) and advocated for increased investment

of funds for prevention of violence, collection of gender-disaggregated data, and better coordination between concerned stakeholders on women's safety.

5. Legislation, Justice and Support to Survivors

Survivors of sexual crimes need prompt access to appropriate legal, social, emotional and/or psychological services. Jagori provides feminist counseling, legal referrals and services to survivors, builds collectives of women survivors, and of para-legal, -health workers in communities to be peer responders. Jagori organizes safety chaupals in communities, where women plan how to monitor progress and follow up on their demands with local authorities. It undertakes trainings for community women's safety fora in Jharkhand to equip them with skills for accessing safety, justice and rights. Jagori has undertaken trainings of one stop centre staff, counsellors and women's groups in Ranchi and works with state/district legal authorities and state commissions of women for supporting survivors access to justice.

Jagori provides technical assistance on development of protocols and gender sensitive procedures to numerous agencies. As part of the women's movement, special submissions have been made to the (Late) Justice Verma Committee (2012), Justice Mehra Commission (2012), UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women (2013), UN Special Rapporteur on Sanitation (2017), Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission of Women, Delhi Government, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), and select Parliamentary Standing Committees on women's rights and safety over time.

6. Education

Schools, colleges and universities are important sites for learning about empowerment of women and girls and their right to the city and voice in governance. The important role of boys/men to end sexual harassment and violence against women/girls is critical. Jagori has partnered with youth groups, start-ups, media agencies, communities, gender resource centres, school teachers, men's organisations, and to incorporate gender perspectives in curricula, effective responses of the sexual harassment Committee to advance safety in schools, communities and paint messages in public parks (Delhi, Jharkhand) and other public spaces. Sangat and

Jagori has led the One Billion Rising Campaign in Delhi and Jharkhand, reaching out to a wide audience on a regular basis. The campaign messages are focused on ensuring that women are not mere victims of violence, but agents of change; and that they shall not retreat from public spaces, but occupy them and, that more women in public spaces, and in public transport, would make cities safer for all.

7. Public Awareness

In recent times, there has been increased reporting of sexual crimes by women/girls, however access to justice is still a huge issue. Activities aimed at increasing public awareness, including both long-term sensitization campaigns and short term outreach efforts, have been an essential feature of addressing patriarchal norms and values, and for asserting the constitutional rights of women. Jagori has engaged in public education using cultural expressions such as public art, radio, music, theatre, films, graffiti, dance, public hearings, exhibitions, as a way of communicating concerns and demands of women to a wide audience. Posters, cards, media articles, women's charter (Jharkhand) on women's safety have also been published. Jagori has been a member of a Special Task Force for Women's Safety headed by the Lieutenant

Governor of Delhi (2017), Mahila Panchayat Committee of Women's State Commission-Delhi and National Commission Expert Committees on study of widows and development of gender sensitive materials for adolescents.

8. Information Technology

In this age of digital literacy, applications and social media, Information Technology plays an increasingly important role for big data collection. A number of initiatives use mobile, smart phones, to connect individuals with emergency services and monitor neighbourhoods for potential safety issues. Jagori partners with 'Safetipin', to undertake safety audits across several cities in Delhi, Haryana, Kerala and Jharkhand. Community women and youth collectives are trained to use the app and present key recommendations to local authorities. The data is shared in public spaces with key stakeholders through a forum - Open Street Audit Mapping (OSAM). However, discussions on digitisation and technology has also raised concerns about growing surveillance, and misuse of data. Cyber-crimes have also increased. Women/youth in communities are being trained on how to report online and advocate for privacy controls and stricter protocols for use

Research Studies and Publications

- Is This Our City? (2007)
- Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative: Report of Baseline Survey Delhi (2010)
- Strategic Framework for Women's Safety in Delhi (2012) and Updated document (2015)
- Study on Violence Against Women in Public Spaces in Ranchi and Hazaribag, Jharkhand (2016)
- Report: Partnerships for Forward Looking Strategies on Women's Safety and Rights in Delhi, (May 2016)
- Safety of Women in Public Spaces in Delhi: Governance and Budgetary Challenges, Jagori, CBGA (2017)
- Report: Women Safety Audits in Ranchi and Hazaribag, Jharkhand (May 2018)
- Women's Safety in Public Spaces in Ranchi and Hazaribag: Governance and Budgetary Challenges, Jagori, CBGA (2018)
- Narrative Report: National Consultation on Feminist Urban Futures: Cities for Women and Girls (October 2018)

(<http://www.jagori.org/research-reports>)

- Charter on Women Safety in Jharkhand (August 2017)
- Women Voices: Charter of Demands (April 2018)

(<http://www.jagori.org/brochures>)

Reflection on New Urban Agenda: Women Safety and New Urban Agenda, IDPR, Oct 2017
(<https://online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/abs/10.3828/idpr.2017.15>)
Article: Gender and Sustainable Development Goals, 2018
(<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0971521517738451>)
Short films and spots
(<http://www.jagori.org/video>)

Campaigns

16 Days of Activism, I Will Go Out Campaign, One Billion Rising, Safe Festival Delhi and Safe Karnal Campaign, Delhi Metro Campaign on Bystander Intervention (2017), Meet to Sleep (2017), Ek Saath, International Anti-Street Harassment Week .

Jagori works in partnership with several organisations including AALI, Action Aid, Akshara, AMCS, AWN, Bread for the World-Protestant Development Service, Breakthrough, Badlao Foundation, CFAR, CBGA, CHSJ, CREA, Darpan, ENSS, Ekjut, ICRW, ITDP, JSP, KMVS, MHT, Misereor, New Concept, NEN, NFI, Prerana Bharati, Sangat, SHARC, Sewa Bharat, Samvad, SVS, Srijan Foundation, SMS, Vinoba Bhave University, VVJKS, WNTA, Women Studies Centre-Ranchi University, Community based organisations and Government agencies in Delhi, Haryana and Jharkhand

B-114, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017;
Phone: +91 11 2669 1219/20, Telefax: +91 11 2669 1221, Helpline: +91 11 2669 2700, 8800996640, jagori@jagori.org, www.jagori.org, www.safedelhi.in, Facebook: jagori jagori; Twitter: JagoriSafeDelhi, @JagoriDelhi



Field Office: 2A, Ram Narayan Apartments, Joda Talab Road, Bariatu, Ranchi- 834009, Jharkhand
Tel: 07294145556; safecities.jharkhand@jagori.org