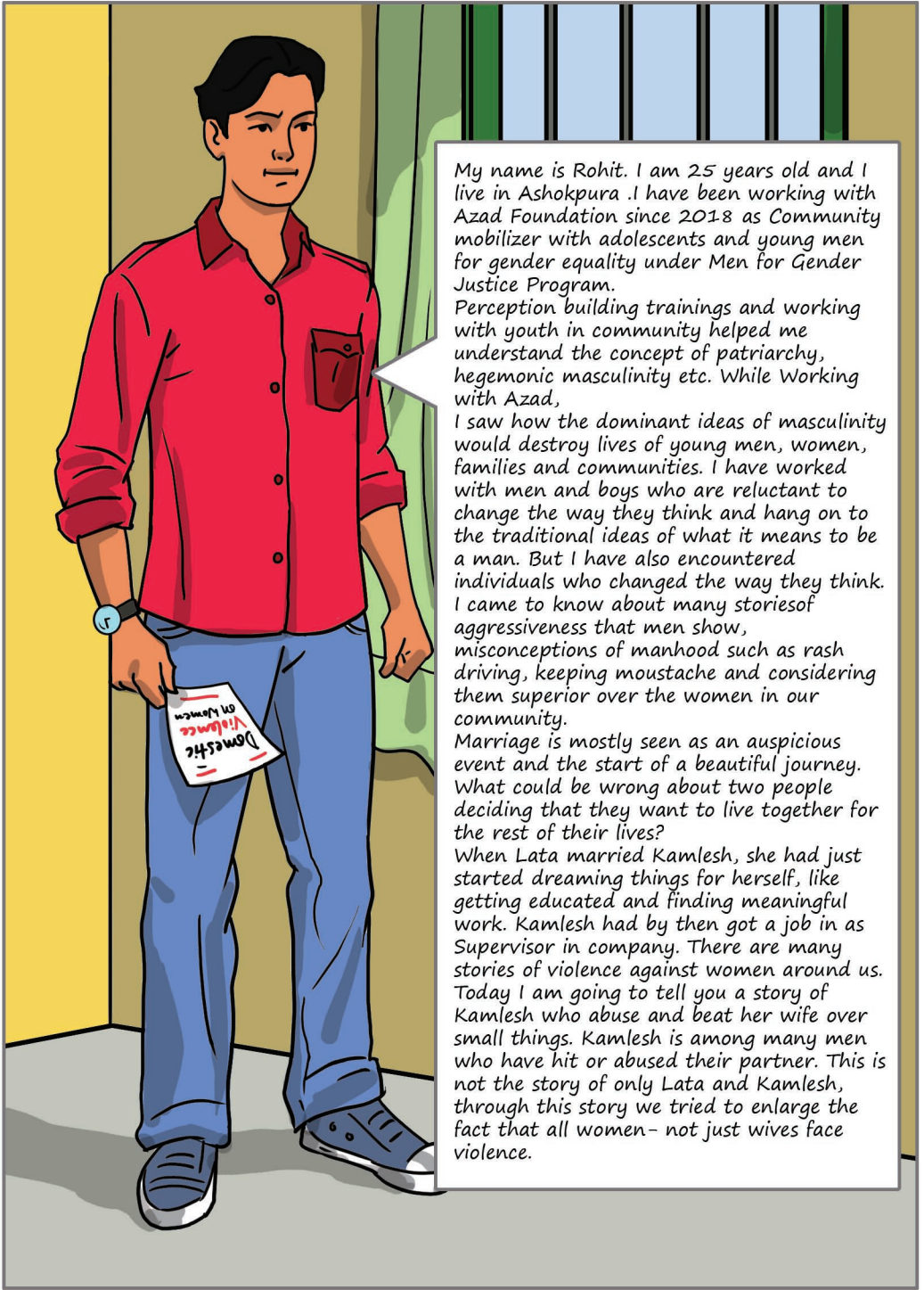


*Violence Matters*  
*Gender based violence*  
*English version PDF*  
*Azad Foundation*



**VIOLENCE MATTERS...**

Gender based violence



My name is Rohit. I am 25 years old and I live in Ashokpura .I have been working with Azad Foundation since 2018 as Community mobilizer with adolescents and young men for gender equality under Men for Gender Justice Program.

Perception building trainings and working with youth in community helped me understand the concept of patriarchy, hegemonic masculinity etc. While Working with Azad,

I saw how the dominant ideas of masculinity would destroy lives of young men, women, families and communities. I have worked with men and boys who are reluctant to change the way they think and hang on to the traditional ideas of what it means to be a man. But I have also encountered individuals who changed the way they think. I came to know about many stories of aggressiveness that men show, misconceptions of manhood such as rash driving, keeping moustache and considering them superior over the women in our community.

Marriage is mostly seen as an auspicious event and the start of a beautiful journey. What could be wrong about two people deciding that they want to live together for the rest of their lives?

When Lata married Kamlesh, she had just started dreaming things for herself, like getting educated and finding meaningful work. Kamlesh had by then got a job in as Supervisor in company. There are many stories of violence against women around us. Today I am going to tell you a story of Kamlesh who abuse and beat her wife over small things. Kamlesh is among many men who have hit or abused their partner. This is not the story of only Lata and Kamlesh, through this story we tried to enlarge the fact that all women- not just wives face violence.



Lata



Kamlesh



Mother



Sahil



Vinay



Boss

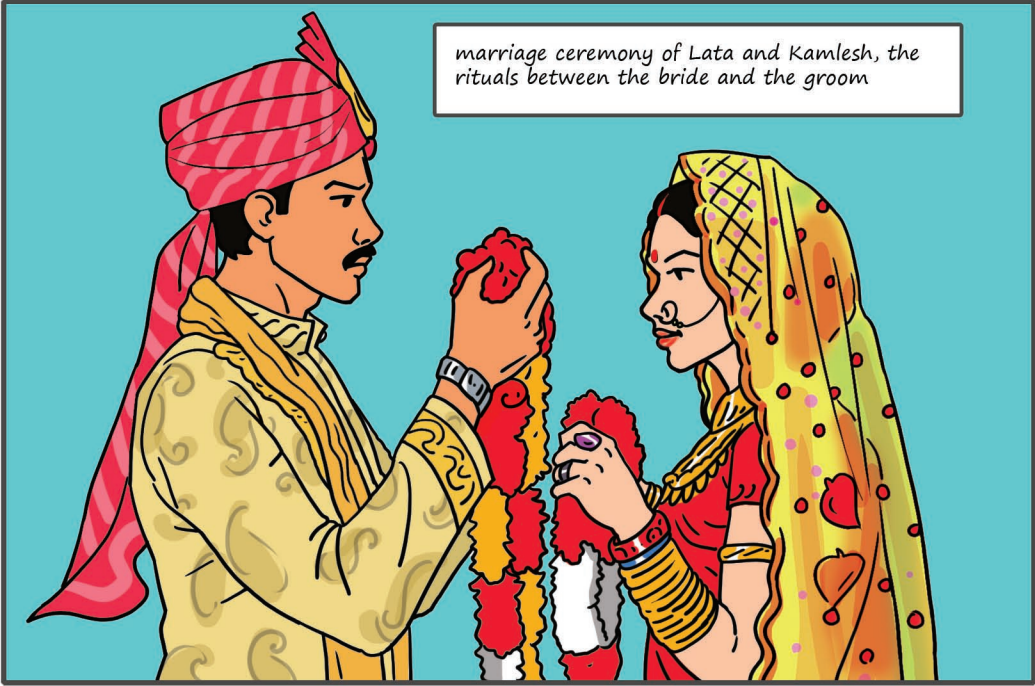


Suresh

Lata and Kamlesh are happily married. Kamlesh works in a company while Lata is a homemaker. 'Violence Matters' is the story of Lata, who's life after marriage has been marked by emotional and physical abuse by her husband.

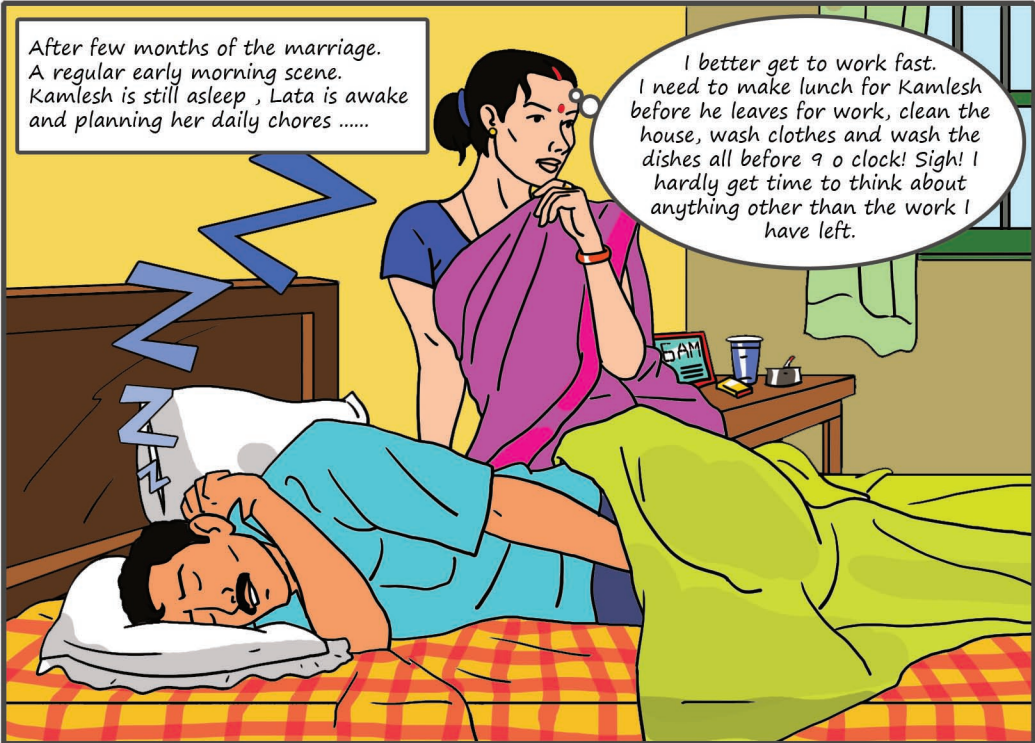
While Lata decides to leave the house and shift at her brother's place further also she joined the driving course. But is violence against women question what a relationship stands for?

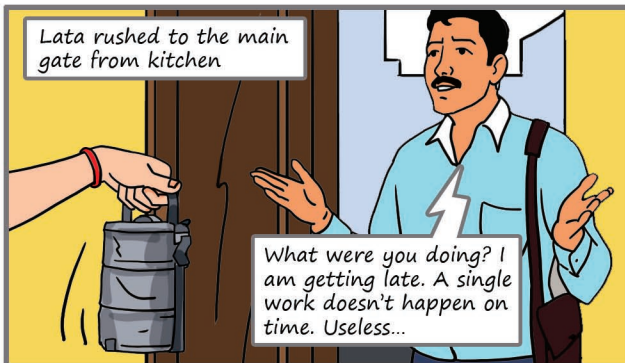
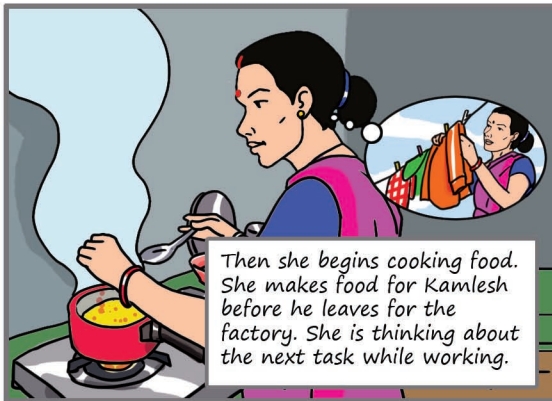
marriage ceremony of Lata and Kamlesh, the rituals between the bride and the groom

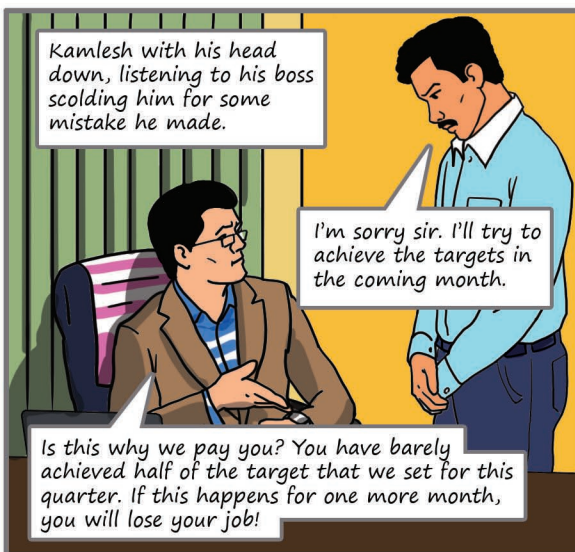
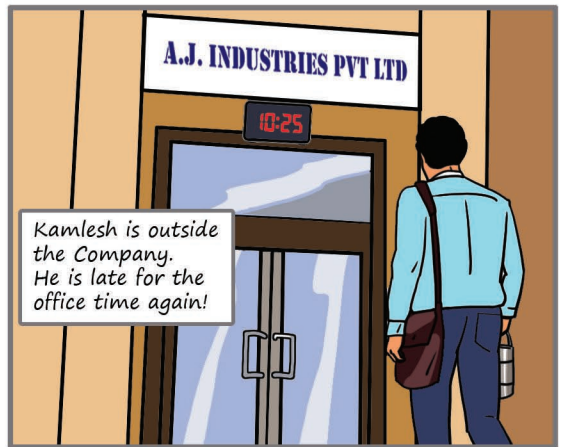


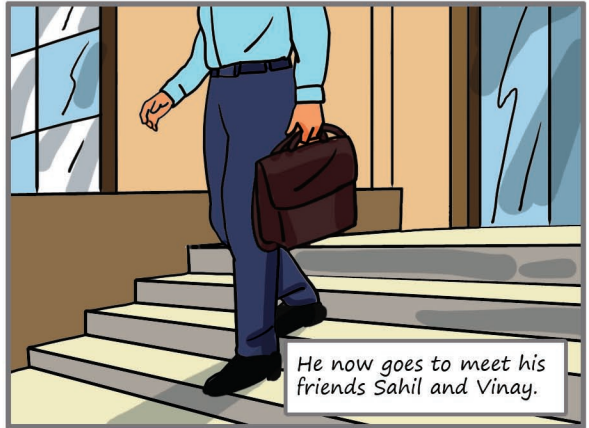
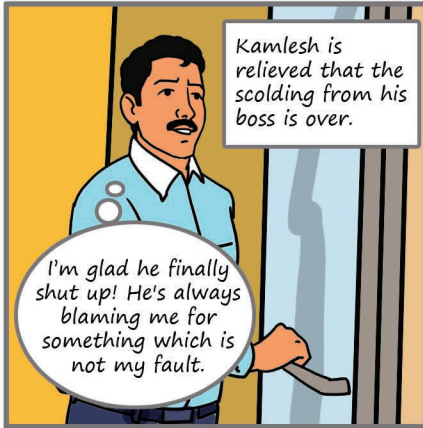
After few months of the marriage. A regular early morning scene. Kamlesh is still asleep, Lata is awake and planning her daily chores .....

I better get to work fast. I need to make lunch for Kamlesh before he leaves for work, clean the house, wash clothes and wash the dishes all before 9 o'clock! Sigh! I hardly get time to think about anything other than the work I have left.









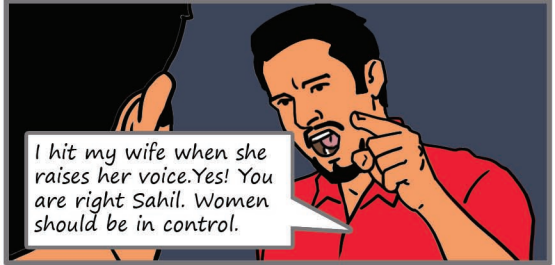


My wife's constant complaining makes me really angry. But she hasn't complained since I slapped her day before yesterday.



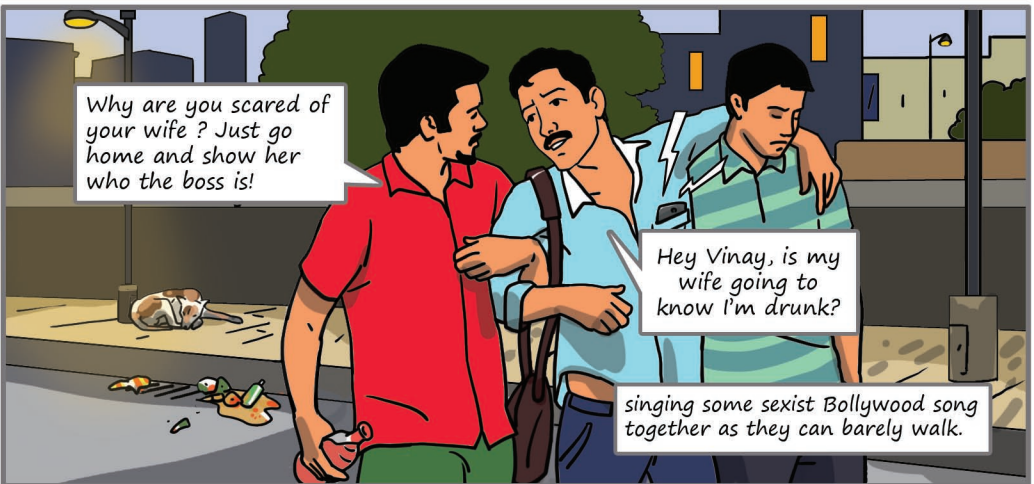
Women should be aware of their limitations.

I hit my wife when she raises her voice. Yes! You are right Sahil. Women should be in control.



all of them laughing.....

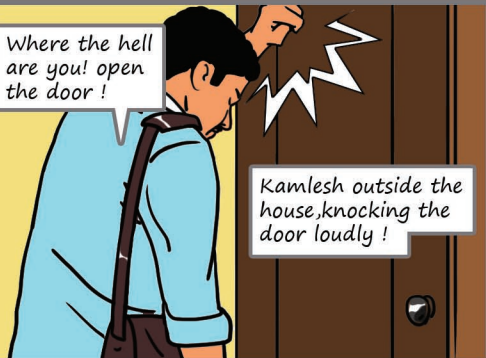
Why are you scared of your wife? Just go home and show her who the boss is!



Hey Vinay, is my wife going to know I'm drunk?

singing some sexist Bollywood song together as they can barely walk.

Where the hell are you! open the door!

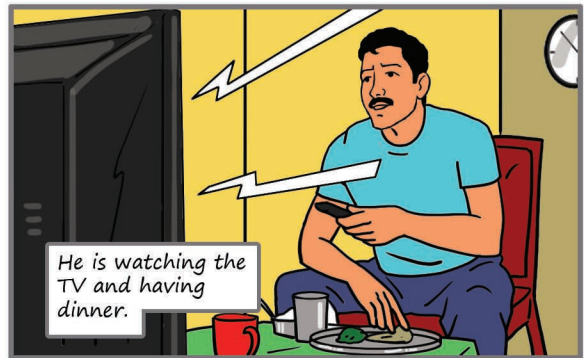
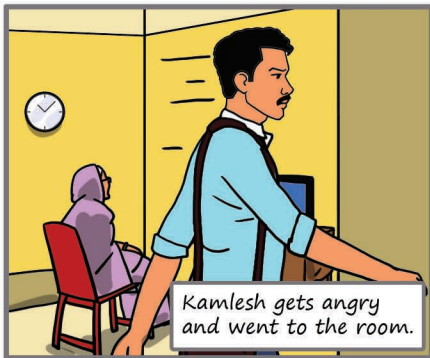


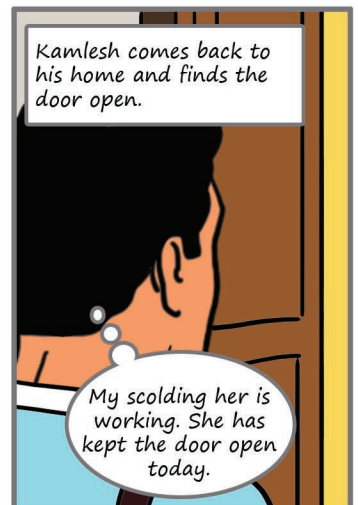
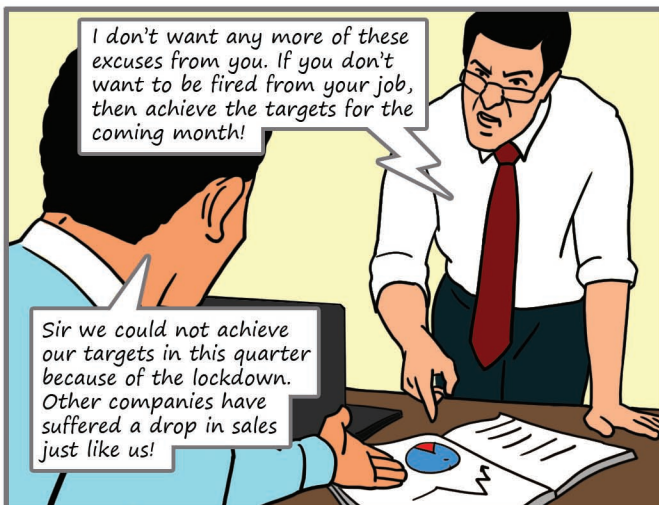
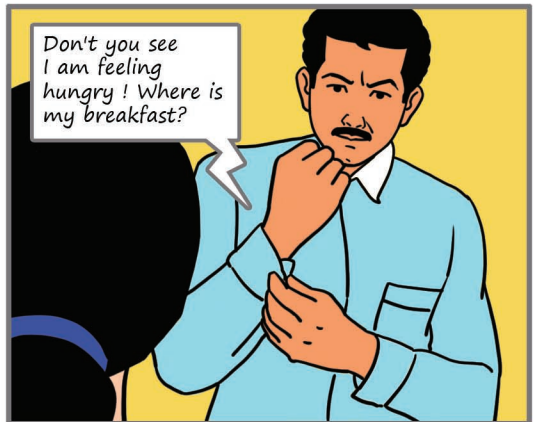
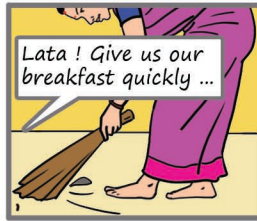
Kamlesh outside the house, knocking the door loudly!

**KNOCK**  
**KNOCK**

Are you sleeping again? What's taking you so long!

he is knocking the door once again









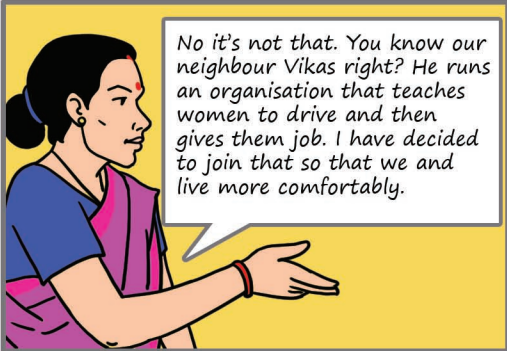
Lata has been worried about their financial position. Kamlesh has often denied her money for sanitary pads, saying that there is shortage of money and it can't be wasted on luxurious things. Lata has been trying to find a job since then, so that they can live a bit comfortably. She is scared to tell this to Kamlesh, wondering how he would respond to it.



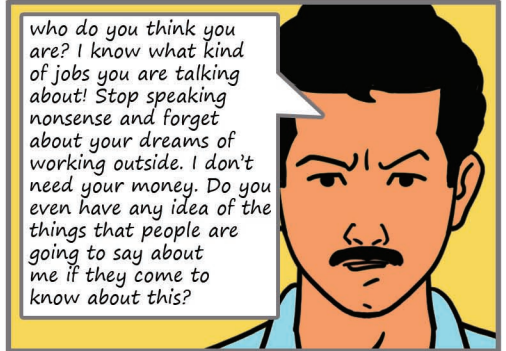
I have something to share with you.



What is it? Don't you ask for money like always!



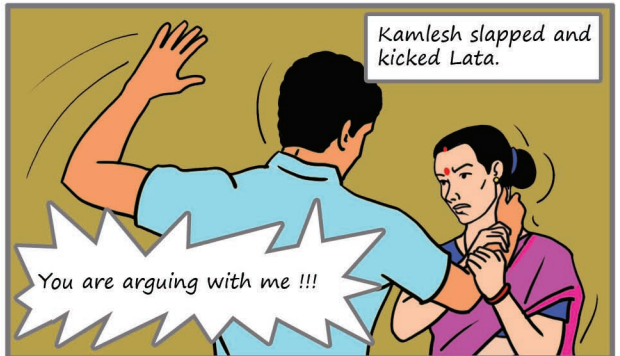
No it's not that. You know our neighbour Vikas right? He runs an organisation that teaches women to drive and then gives them job. I have decided to join that so that we and live more comfortably.



who do you think you are? I know what kind of jobs you are talking about! Stop speaking nonsense and forget about your dreams of working outside. I don't need your money. Do you even have any idea of the things that people are going to say about me if they come to know about this?

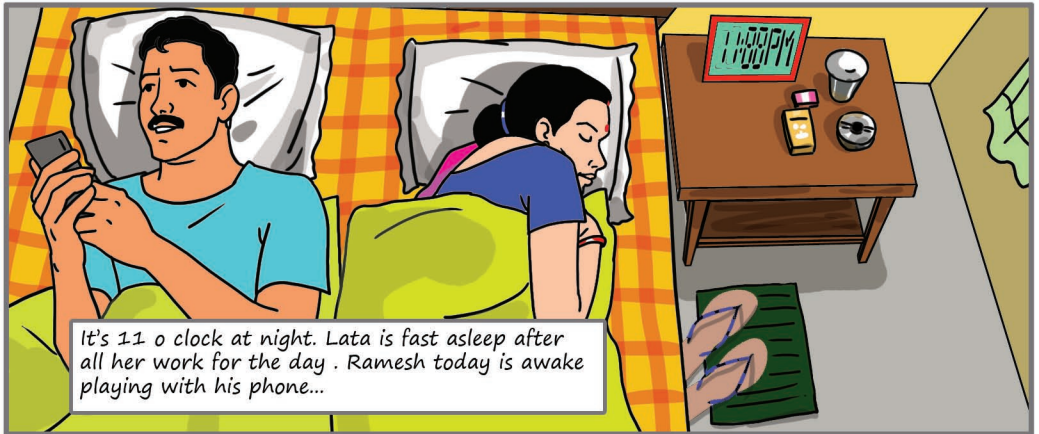
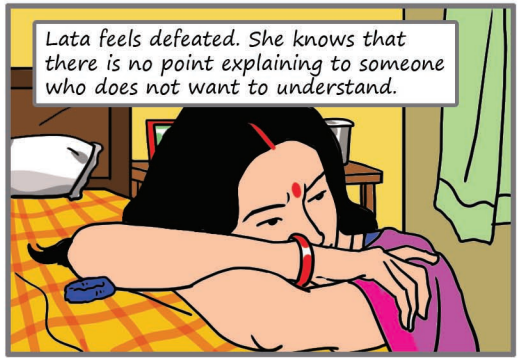
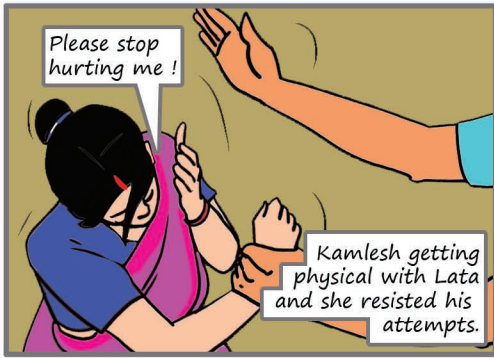


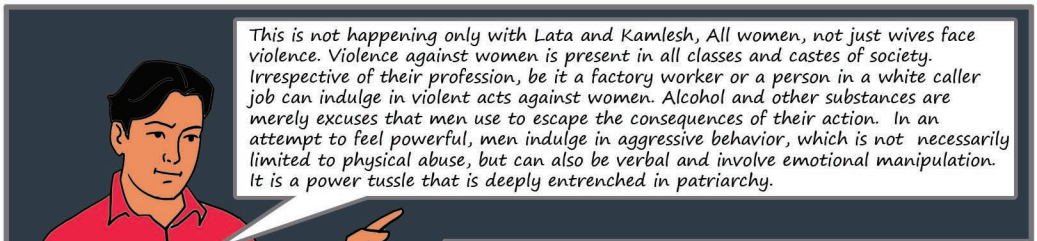
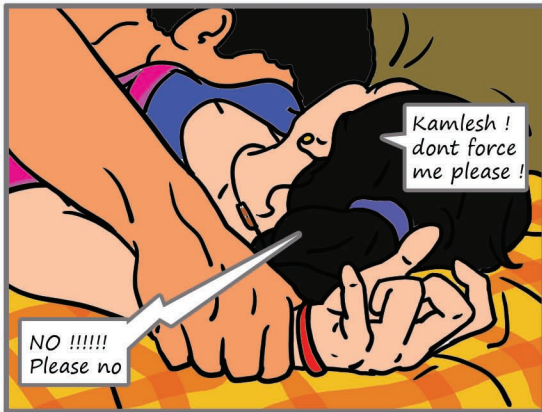
It's not how you think....

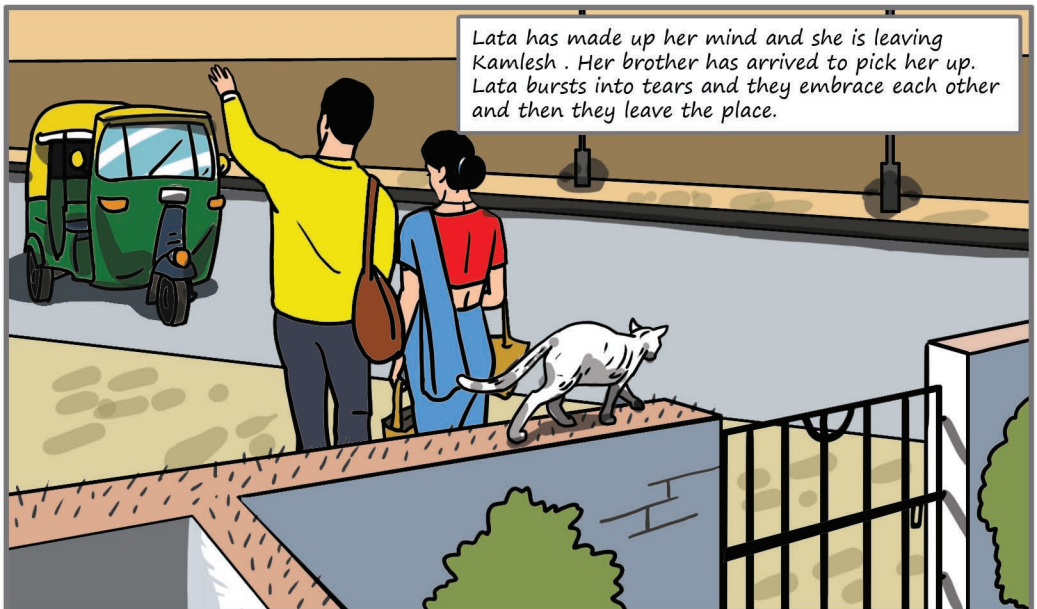
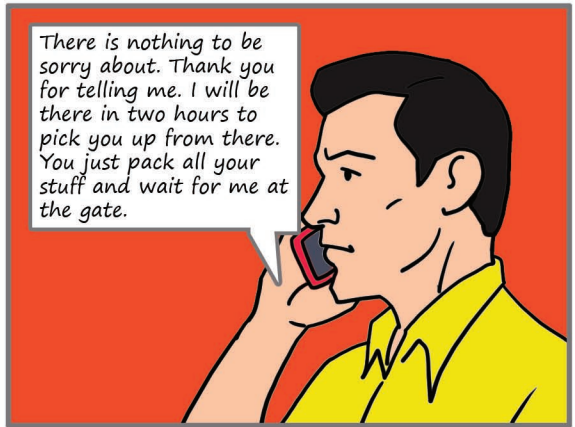


Kamlesh slapped and kicked Lata.

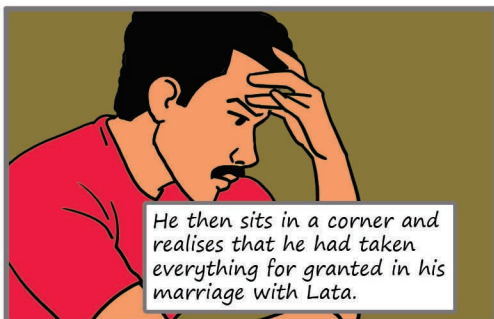
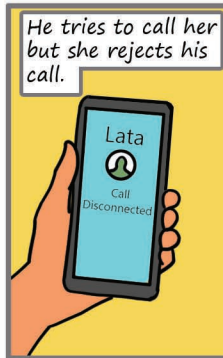
You are arguing with me !!!











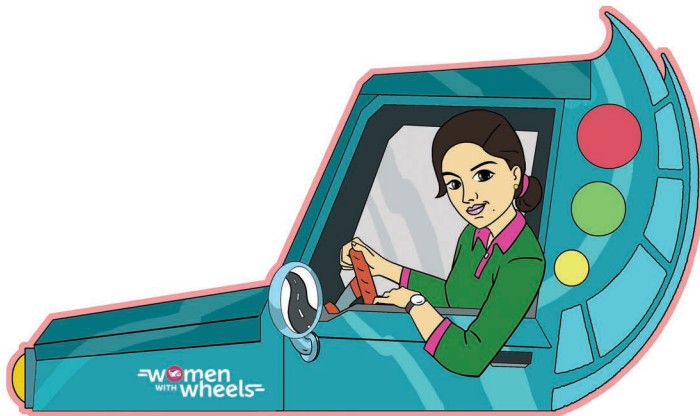
## Debriefing note:

Violence against women is one of the world's most egregious forms of discrimination and abuse of human rights. It takes place in every country in the world, across all strata of social and economic classes. Women and girls still experience violence at a staggering and traumatic rate despite a lot of efforts. This violence causes harm and misery to women, children, families, communities.

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Globally 1 in 3 women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, mostly by an intimate partner. This is a stark reminder of the scale of gender inequality and discrimination against women. The vast majority of this violence is perpetrated by men, specifically against women and girls. While most men may never use or condone the use of violence, the simple fact is that men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of gender-based violence. The root causes of gender-based violence can almost exclusively be narrowed down to two things; the fundamental condition of gender inequality for women, and the violent, harmful and controlling aspects of masculinities which are the result of patriarchal power imbalances.

In an attempt to feel powerful, men indulge in aggressive behavior, which is not necessarily limited to physical abuse, but can also be verbal and involve emotional manipulation. It is a power tussle that is deeply entrenched in patriarchy. Alcohol or any other substance abuse are just excuses. "Will a man under the influence of alcohol or drugs hit his boss or colleague or a stranger walking past him? No. Only his wife because he thinks she's a weak target.

We can learn from the "Violence matters" that the thing which we need to know and should be taught is respect ourselves and learn to be happy, in whatever choices we make. It is okay if a girl doesn't like to cook or manage home. It is equally fine if a man doesn't want a settled career and pursue something else. The key is happiness and valuing oneself. It raises questions we all need answers to, collectively, as a society, what does it take to keep a family/relationship together? Just a silent acceptance of all that is unfair? And is it the responsibility of just the woman to do so? Within a marriage, what a husband says or does and how the wife perceives it is governed by their gendered upbringing. What is okay for a man to say or do is not okay for a woman or vice versa. This is gendered conditioning and governed by this, women are often told to take things in their stride and move on for the sake of the relationship. Do not hurt the dignity of another person in a relationship, every person has the right to life with dignity. As a society, we need to mobilise and collectively come together to address these deeply entrenched patriarchal norms. We need to include not just girls, but men, parents, in the conversation to deeply transform the norms that underpin these practices.



### **About Azad Foundation :**

We are a professional feminist organization working across social and religious divides to enable resource Poor women to themselves by engaging them in viable non-traditional livelihood options.

We are committed to breaking patriarchal boundaries and structures so that the women can exercise control over their lives and live a life of dignity.

We do this through transformative capacity building programs around the self and the skills needed for NTL, based on adult learning principles. We engage with both men and women in their communities so that both can construct a safe and supportive space for their development.

### **About the project :**

Azad Foundation believes that engaging with young men. It is an integral part of the process for empowerment of women on their journey to access non-traditional livelihoods with dignity and reclaim control over their own lives.

Men for Gender Justice is a program of Azad foundation , work with young men and boys towards enabling them to build their Perspectives on patriarchy, gender based violence, masculinities facilitate men to change their behavior for gender justice and support women to pursue non-traditional livelihoods with dignity. Engagement of Men in unpaid care work also enable women to work outside home and dedicate more time to education and income generation activities.

Azad Foundation engages with young boys between age of 14-20 by organizing them through community youth clubs, street plays, campaigns and sports sessions. Azad's approach of peer groups helps support each other to take action against gender based discrimination in family and community.

## *My commitment / Action for Gender Equality*

### *Individual/family level*

1.....

2.....

3.....

### *Community level:*

1.....

2.....

3.....



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Azad Foundation.*

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*Supported By:*

*EMpower – The Emerging Markets Foundation*

*Azad* Foundation

