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## The Need for Trauma-Informed, Holistic Shelter Design for Women Survivors of Violence in India

**Ishika M.R. Ghosh<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Rekha S. Nair<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Student of Bachelor of Architecture, Sir J.J. College of Architecture, Mumbai, India

<sup>2</sup>Professor of Bachelors of Architecture, Sir J.J. College of Architecture, Mumbai, India

**Email Id: [serviceheb@gmail.com](mailto:serviceheb@gmail.com)**

### ABSTRACT:

Violence against women (VAW) remains a pressing issue in India, deeply rooted in societal norms and gender inequalities. Despite legislative efforts and increased awareness regarding women-centric issues in the society, existing women shelters often fail to adequately address the complex design needs of a built environment which indirectly affects the physical and mental growth of survivors, thereby increasing their distress. This research advocates the critical need for trauma-informed, holistic shelter design in India, which provides comprehensive support and can facilitate long-term healing. Shelters should transcend beyond physical boundaries; it should facilitate healing, rehabilitation and encourage financial empowerment. Through a broad investigation comprising interviews, surveys, and case studies, this study sheds light on the current landscape of violence against women, identifies gaps in existing shelter services, and proposes architectural interventions to create safe, empowering environments for survivors. The findings of this user-centric approach study highlights the urgency of transformative architectural solutions that prioritize survivors' well-being and promote community resilience.

**Keywords**-financial empowerment, holistic shelter, rehabilitation, trauma-informed, Violence Against Women (VAW)

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