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Meet on women's rights held in city

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore, Dec. 8: The Indian patriarchal society has institutionalised violence against women and wife-beating is considered normal and even a sign of masculinity, Justice Sadashiva said.

He was speaking at the one-day colloquium organised by the Gender Studies Unit of the National Institute of Advanced Studies on violence against women and wom-

en's rights, here on Tuesday.

He also elaborated on the need to use international human rights and domestic laws to seek redressal for violence against women.

Ms Bhargavi Nagaraj, development journalist, said there was a need for state accountability in the face of increasing violence against women. Relating incidences of violence reported in daily newspapers, she said they warranted serious attention of the state machin-

ery.

Ms Nagaraj pointed out that the state was uneasy when dealing with feminist critiques and that a path for effective dialogue should be evolved.

She also advocated the judicious use of international law to seek redressal for violence against women. Describing domestic violence against women as "intimate terror," she stressed the need to see it as human rights abuse and not

just dismiss it as a private family matter. She also advocated the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Dr B.K. Anitha, GSU, who presented a paper on the findings of the Status of Rural Women in Karnataka, said the study had yielded some contradictory findings, that were not amenable to superficial interpretation.