

The SHE-stoppers!

In the past fortnight, the SHE teams at Sabarmati Riverfront have rescued a 19-year-old girl, a mentally disturbed man and a divorced woman with a child, all who were contemplating suicide



There are seven team members including five women and two men who patrol the riverfront, said PSI J P Bhadarka, in-charge of the SHE Team

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Ateen having a tiff with her boyfriend, a mentally disturbed man and a divorced woman with a child having a tiff with her brother, all contemplating suicide were rescued by the SHE team at Sabarmati Riverfront recently.

The SHE surveillance squad at Sabarmati West police station has had its hands full in the past fortnight. Round the clock patrolling on the upper and lower promenade of the Sabarmati Riverfront saved three lives in the past 13 days.

On July 16, a 19-year-old girl sitting on the lower promenade of the riverfront at Vallabh Sadan was threatening someone on a mobile phone to take a plunge into the Sabarmati Riverfront. She was constantly crying. A surveillance squad member passing by picked up the tone and kept a watch on her. She was then coaxed to go to the Sabarmati West police station by women members of the team. "We inquired about her problem. She said her boyfriend had refused to meet her at the riverfront despite her constant pleadings," PSI J P Bhadarka, in-charge of



“ We have been briefed on how to identify eve-teasers or suicidal people, counsel them, make them meet their parents or guardians and ensure that they are safe

JP Bhadarka, in-charge of SHE team

the SHE Team at the police station told *Mirror*.

"We summoned her parents and boyfriend. He was attending a college lecture and could not leave the class. We calmed the nerves of the shocked parents and everybody left happy," Bhadarka said.

The earlier night Bhadarka was informed of a man who had been sitting on the upper promenade near Ellis Bridge since 10 pm. The SHE team patrol had kept a watch on him. When Bhadarka's shift began at 12 midnight on July 15 she was informed by her previous shift about the man who was about 28 years of age. Around 2 am Bhadarka and other members approached him. "Our first impression was that he was normal, but when we asked his name he could not remember. The only thing he kept repeating was the name of an ashram that he claimed

was in Mehsana and that he used to serve there."

The PSI asked him about his mobile phone and he said that an autorickshaw driver had grabbed his phone and cash and dropped him near Vadaj from where he had walked to the riverfront. "We called up the Mehsana control room and learnt that he had gone missing for the past two days and his parents were looking for him. He was mentally challenged and had a tiff with his father two days ago and left home. He was made to sleep and was given tea and snacks in the morning. His father who came the next day said he had run away several times in the past. He was married and had taken some money and cellphone before leaving home a couple of days ago."

The third case was that of a 27-year-old woman from Juhapura staying with her parents who had a tiff with

her brother. She was loitering on the lower promenade at Ambedkar Bridge between 10 and 11 am on Friday. The SHE team was alerted that she was about to jump with a young daughter. The team rushed to the spot but she tried to flee. She insisted that she wished to die. The team persuaded her to visit the police station. "We learnt that she was married for the past 10 years and had filed a case of harassment against her husband. She had decided to divorce. She had two children, an 8-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter. She wanted to commit suicide because her brother had rebuked her. Her parents said they are even in talks for a groom for her and she would soon remarry. We counselled her and parents took her home."

Suspicious activity, be it eve teasers or persons in a depressed state of mind contemplating suicide are under radar of SHE teams trained to spot such persons. There are seven team members including five women and two men who patrol the riverfront.

Riverfront West Police Inspector M A Singh said, "There have been three incidents in the past fortnight and the SHE team have saved lives. Besides, the Riverfront they also spread out across the city to hot spots where women face problems from eve teasers."