

SWARUPNAGAR DISTRICT MEETING

Date: 28.11.2020

Time: 11am-2pm

Reporting by: Sandipan Das

Edited by: Venkatesh Kodukula



Women and Adolescent Empowerment

Schedule for Meeting

Time	Session	Speaker
11:00- 11:05	Introduction of HRLN	JharnaAcharyya , Activist of HRLN
11:05-11:20	Violence against women	Aindreela Dey (Advocate of HRLN)
11:45-12:15	Forest Rights Act 2006	Indrajeet Dey, SoumitraKarmakarChakraborty,SouratNandi(Advocates of HRLN)
12:15pm-12:45	Right to Property and other land related issues	Malay Bardhan , (Advocate)
12:45pm-13:15	Discussion with victims	DillipPramanikSouratNandi , Raju Pramanik , Gopal Mallik, Bablu Bhakta

TABLE OF CONTENTS

S. No	Particulars	Page Number
1.	Introduction	4
2.	Speakers& Subject	5-6
3.	Discussion	7-11
4.	Documentary film on Trafficking	12
4.	Recommendation & Action Plan	13
5.	Annexure A - Participants List	14-15
6.	Annexure B - Pictures	16-19

-

Introduction

Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and at other times merely as slave. Gender gap exists regarding access to education and employment. Rural women are more prone to domestic violence than that of urban women. A large gender gap exists in political participation too. The study concludes by an observation that access to education and employment are only the enabling factors to empowerment, achievement towards the goal, however, depends largely on the attitude of the people towards gender equality.

Women's empowerment is the process of empowering women. Women's empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society. Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of a country.

Youth empowerment is achieved through participation in youth empowerment programs. However, scholars argue that children's rights implementation should go beyond learning about formal rights and procedures to give birth to a concrete experience of rights. There are numerous models that youth empowerment programs use that help youth achieve empowerment. A variety of youth empowerment initiatives are underway around the world. These programs can be through non-profit organizations, government organizations, schools or private organizations.

Youth empowerment is different from youth development because development is centred on developing individuals, while empowerment is focused on creating greater community change relies on the development of individual capacity. Youth empowerment programs are aimed at creating healthier and higher qualities of life for underprivileged or at-risk youth. The five competencies of a healthy youth are: positive sense of self, self-control, decision-making skills, a moral system of belief, and pro-social connectedness. Developmental interventions and programs have to be anchored on these competencies that define positive outcomes of healthy youth.

Speakers

- 1. Dola Dey Mitra, Ex-officio Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, 24 Parganas (North) and Social Activist on Child Welfare**
- 2. Piyali Acharya, Social Activist**
- 3. Mr. Ramen Sardar, Local Panchayat Member**
- 4. Shyamali Das, Menstrual Hygiene Expert**
- 5. Aparajita Bose, Asst. Co-Ordinator, HRLN, Kolkata Unit and State of West Bengal**
- 6. Sanchayita De Jadav, Social activist, HRLN, Kolkata Unit**
- 7. SoumitraKarmakar Chakraborty, Law Officer, HRLN, Kolkata Unit**
- 8. Sandipan Das, Law Officer, HRLN, Kolkata Unit**
- 9. Ankan Biswas, Social Activist and Consultant, HRLN, West Bengal**

Subject

- **Child marriage**
- **Menstrual Hygiene**
- **Govt School Should provide more Computer Education**
- **Self-help group of House Wives**
- **Prenatal Sex Determination**
- **Documentary Films on trafficking**

Child Marriage

The child marriage is an unlawful practice and it is a practice carrying forward from pre-independence era. That was due to lack of knowledge this practice was started and also the parents thought a girl is expensive to be maintained and if not, conducting of their social marriage early age then it is not possible to give marriage them later. In this present era this practice has reduced but unfortunately it is still in practice, until this practice is being abolished, the development of the society and the women empowerment will never be developed.

A group was formed consisting of girls of aged 11 to 17. The subject discussed in the workshop was Child Marriage. They sought assistance from Dola Dey Mitra and Ankan Biswas, who were the guest speakers for the respective session. They mentioned that they attend marriages of their family, friends and relatives but they are not known about the importance of marriage in life.

Over 500 cases of child marriage were reported in West Bengal since mid-March when the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown was imposed, officials said, claiming that in most cases, underage girls were married off by families who lost their earnings due to the shutdown.

Despite restrictions in travel and movement, there has been no let-up in child marriages over the past few months, although the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights has thwarted several such cases upon receiving complaints. At least 22 cases of child marriage were registered this month at the WBCPCR helpdesk, which was set up on June 1, amid reports that the illegal practice was rampant in several parts of the state, Moumita Chatterjee, a consultant of the statutory body.

They stated that they are compared in their home with their male siblings which is practically the root of gender inequality. They further added that their parents think marriage will protect girls from violence, particularly in times of crisis or insecurity. They also marked that they have seen that as a wife, young and tender aged girls are more obedient. They mentioned that a number of their friends had been dropped from their respective schools due to this cause.

Menstrual Hygiene

Menstrual Hygiene is a quintessential aspect of hygiene of for the women and girls of adolescence age. Menstruation and associated activities are surrounded by silence, shame and social taboos that are further manifested in social practices that restrict mobility, freedom and access to normal activities in India. The Indian pretext regarding menstruation is still regarded as something unclean or dirty in Indian society. As the result, when this topic was introduced to the group 2, they were feeling ashamed.

A group was formed which consisted of girls 14-18 years aged. The subject discussed in the workshop was Menstrual Hygiene. Soumitra Karmakar Chakraborty, Law Officer, HRLN, Kolkata Unit; Sanchayita De Jadav, Social activist, HRLN, Kolkata Unit and Shyamali Das, Menstrual Hygiene Expert were the guest speakers of the respective session.

The group stated that till date, many use pieces of cloth during menstruation but in recent times some of the schools have made arrangements for sanitary napkins at school. They mentioned during the menstrual periods, they are not allowed in religious practices and social occasions. Most of them refrain themselves from going to schools, tuitions classes. They also mentioned that sometime the restrooms are very dirty which creates problem for them during this time and it leads them to different kinds of infection due to poor knowledge of menstrual health management.

Maintaining personal period hygiene is the key to safe and peaceful menses. The objectives of the workshop are mentioned below:

- To address the challenges and hardships many women and girls face during menstruation.
- To highlight the positive and innovative solutions being taken to address these challenges.
- To catalyze a growing, global movement that recognizes and supports girls' and women's rights and build partnerships among those partners on national and local level.
- To engage in policy dialogue and actively advocate for the integration of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) into global, national and local policies and programs.
- To create an occasion for media work, including social media.

Computer Education in Govt. Schools

A computer is an electronic machine which can be used to solve a problem or perform a certain function according to the instructions given to it. Today computers are used almost everywhere. Computer education is the process of learning about or teaching about the computers. It includes the basic knowledge of computer system, skills, ideas, and the basic terminologies related to the computer system. It also includes the advantages and disadvantages of computers, the potential of a computer system, how a computer can be used to solve different problems of day-to-day life or how can a computer be programmed to solve the extreme problem. Computer education has become an integral part of the twenty-first century. It has gained a lot of importance in today's life. Today, computers are used in almost every field. Therefore, it has become necessary to learn about computers. Computers help the students to learn about the world and know what is happening in it. It helps them to aim for excellent jobs in the future and succeed in it. The computer has become a standard of education throughout the world

SoumitraKarmakar(Advocate), Ankan Biswas(Advocate) and Piyali Acharya(Social Activist) were the guest speakersdiscussing about the benefits of computer education and why it should be included in the curriculum in Govt. Schools(mentioned below).

- Computer Education Improves Research Skills
- Computer Education helps in getting Jobs
- Computer Education helps in Enhancing Technology
- Computer Education increases the efficiency of a person
- Computer Education helps in Creating a Better Education Environment
- Computer Education makes Communication Easy
- Computer Education Connects us to the Online World

Women, Economy and Self Help groups

Self-help groups (SHGs) are implemented around the world to empower women supported by many developing country governments and agencies. Relatively large number of study purpose is to demonstrate the effectiveness of SHGs.

Women are one of the most deprived and dominated by males in the society as they lack of financial independence. The women also play an important role in the economy of country. The promotion of such SHG leads to sustainable development.

In this group Sandipan Das (Advocate) and Ankan Biswas (Advocate) shared their knowledge and raised awareness amongst the group members as they lack knowledge regarding government facilities available to the SHG. The Central government is providing facilities of Mahila Samriddhi Yojana (Micro Finance Scheme for Women) and West Bengal Swanirbhar Sahayak Prakalpa (WBSSP).

The group members mentioned that they want to be economically independent but due to gender inequality they are unable to utilize the same. They questioned that if they were deprived from such benefits, then how they can take legal steps from the Court.

Prenatal Sex Determinations

Prenatal sex discernment is the prenatal testing for discerning the sex of a fetus before birth. Prenatal sex determination was banned in India in 1994, under the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act. The act aims to prevent sex-selective abortion, which, according to the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, "has its roots in India's long history of strong patriarchal influence in all spheres of life". Prenatal sex determination has caused the Child sex ratio to go down at alarming rates, in India, which is also another factor that led to its banning. However, Supreme Court raps Central Govt. for "Sloppy" implementation of PNDT Act. Over time, there has been a substitution effect of more families participating in pre-natal sex determination instead of the previously popular act of female feticide.

The concept of pre-natal sex determination arises when the family thinks that a girl child who will be born becomes liability and not asset. Whereas if a male child is born, then he becomes an asset and not liability.

In this group Sandipan Das (Advocate), Ankan Biswas (Advocate) and Soumitra Karmakar (Advocate) discussed about gender equality and girls aren't a liability. Girls deserve dignity like male to survive in the society. They discussed about the law and punishment who are involved in the pre-natal sex determination, as it is a penalized offence and punishment would go up to 5 years of imprisonment, and the license for medical practitioner will be cancelled permanently.

Documentary Film upon Trafficking

A documentary film was shown to the participants for better understanding about the trafficking situation. The movie was about how a child is targeted by the gang members and how they tried to convince or force them to go with them by giving some absurd promises for a good future. When they realize about fake promises and it is late, the will power of a human shows how they control their nerves and utilize the opportunity for escape and complain to concern authority to rescue them. Everyone has ability to prove their intelligence but it must be utilized in the perfect time. The trafficking system works in a group in different area and how they become untraceable when they use the chain system from one point to another. The film gives many ideas how to be safe from the trafficking and if somehow got trapped then before situation worse how opportunity can be taken and utilize for escaping. The participants were very seriously going through the same and want to share the ideas with others so the awareness can be made more among people

RECOMMENDATIONS& ACTION PLAN

More Awareness Meetings regarding Trafficking and other issues is required in the future.

HRLN District lawyer will look up to the cases regarding Domestic Violence, Trafficking and other issues.

Annexure A

Sl. No.	Name	Contact no.	Email Id
1.	Riya Gain		
2.	Saniya Mondal	8768623844	
3.	RimpuBarmar	8509668771	
4.	Tajmira khatun	9372260998	
5.	Paramamondal	8167752527	
6.	Julekha khatoon	7319397316	
7.	Payel Mondal		
8.	Priyanka Sarkar		
9.	Satabi Mondal		
10.	Suriyakhatoon	7076357602	
11.	Shrayashi Sarkar		
12.	Bani prova Sarkar		
13.	Baishakhi Mondal	8509469354	
14.	Anamika Sarkar	7029267071	
15.	Lalita Sarkar		
16.	Shyamali Sarkar		
17.	Tapasighosh	9732414788	
18.	Tahira Anjum	9647144181	
19.	Razia parvn	8509688179	
20.	Rima khatoon	9641558134	
21.	Faisundkhatoon	7076719600	
22.	Lipika Roy		
23.	Shyamali Roy mondal		
24.	Papia Sarkar	7478404303	
25.	Krishna Sarkar	7362914547	
26.	Baishakhi Sarkar	8001080493	
27.	Mita Sarkar	9735790890	
28.	Shrayashi Sarkar	9735790890	
29.	Muslima khatun		
30.	Mahima Khatoon	9091335072	

31.	Shyamali Sarkar	7407985655	
32.	Madhalelendra Sarkar	9732782285	
33.	Surajul Shaw	9933679782	
34.	Mariyam bibi	8207287373	
35.	Tamassumparvin	9064429815	
36.	Rashikmallick	9734801704	
37.	ShyamaliSaha	9007550475	
38.	Jesminabibi	9775553833	
39.	Marjinabibi	8001382923	
40.	Tanjila khatun	9735304648	
41.	Selimabibi		
42.	Tumpabibi	9735422841	
43.	Bani prova Sarkar	7872272078	
44.	Bivamondal	9732684747	
45.	Sharmisthamondal		
46.	Falguni Biswas	7679442994	
47.	Purnima ghosh		
48.	Samsurnaskar	8617538991	
49.	Serina bibi		
50.	Rakhi mondal		
51.	Arjinabibi		
52.	Rupa halder		
53.	Arpan dey	9051328187	
54.	Aniruddha bose	9874771515	
55.	Pradip Sarkar	9804932131	
56.	Sediyakhatum	8927042117	
57.	Jesmina khatun		
58.	Tarun Mondal	8768623844	
59.	Tanisaparvin		
60.	Aparajita Bose	8697204258	aparajita@hrln.org
61.	Sanchiyatajadav	8777646606	Sanchaiytajadav22@gmail.com
62.	Ankan Biswas	9875455162	Advocateankanbiswas2013@gmail.com
63.	Soumitra Chakraborty	8617734720	Soumitra.chakraborty91@gmail.com
64.	Papia Sarkar	7478404303	
65.	Sasurnahar	8617538991	
66.	ratnamondal	6296134541	
67.	Jharnamondal	9832554541	
68.	Pompa Das		
69.	Sushmita Das		

Annexure B







