

Film Festival in Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Apart from the Madurai regional consultation, two film festivals were also conducted across Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Kerala saw six film festivals being conducted on the issue across the state in December with rich discussions taking place across a wide segment of society.

On December 6 in Thiruvalla Sangham, Tiruvalla, the films 'Bell Bajao' and 'Father, Son and

Holy War' were screened and the discussion on these films went on for two and half hours with 50 participants who included a diverse groups such as Philip George



(senior human rights activist), Kumar (Handloom Development Society, Thiruvananthapuram), Magline Peter(Theeradesa Mahila Vedi, Kerala), Ekalavyan(writer) and Vinod Koshi(Tiruvalla Sangham). K C Santhosh Kumar presented the films and moderated the discussion.

- On December 10 in S N College, Alathur, as part International Human Rights Day programmes a screening was organised by the Film Club and Human Rights Forum of the college. 'Bell Bajao', 'Listen Little Man'

and 'Voices against Violence 1 and 2' were screened followed by discussions led by Ramya Rajan (asst. Professor in charge of Film Club).

- On December 22 at the Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School, Thrissur, a Film Festival was organized. 50 students participated in it. 'Bell Bajao', 'Girl in the Box', 'Jor se Bol', 'A Sunny Day', 'Ariu' and 'Pola' were screened. Ms Pritha, NSS Programme officer led the discussion.

- On December 28 at the Sri Rama Govt. Polytechnic College, Thriprayar, Thrissur, a screening was conducted as part of the State Level camp on Gender Justice organised by the State NSS Technical Cell



and Kerala State Social Justice Department. Films were screened from 5 pm to 8.30 pm. 'Bell Bajao', 'Arivu', 'Jor se Bol', 'Dekh Le', 'TEDx WomenTalk' were and screened and discussed. 100 students and teachers participated.

- On December 29 at the L B S Engineering College, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram a film screening was conducted as part of State Level camp on Gender Justice organised by State NSS Technical Cell and Kerala State Social Justice Department. Films 'Bell Bajao', 'Arivu', 'Jor se Bol', 'Dekh Le' and 'TEDx Women Talk' were screened and

discussed. 100 students and teachers participated actively in the discussions

- On December 31 at the Souhrada Club Govt. Higher Secondary School, Ayyanthole, a screening was conducted with 102 students participating. 'Bell Bajao', 'Jor se Bol', 'Arivu', 'Pola', 'A Sunny Day' and parts of 'Manjuben Truck Driver' were screened.



In Tamil Nadu, film screenings were organized in seven locations - Arul Anandar College, Karumathur on December 18 (216 participants), Department of Agriculture, Gandhigram University, Dindigul on December 19 (133 participants), ICOSA, Chennai on December 20 (18 participants), Madurai Institute of Social Sciences, Madurai on December 22 (167 participants), Sri Meenakshi College, NSS Camp at Nilaiyur I Bit, Madurai on December 25 (73 participants), EKTA Office, Madurai on December 25 (32 participants comprising academicians and NGO representatives) and Yadava College, NSS Camp at Alathur, Madurai on December 29 (32 participants).



The films that were screened were 'Sunny Day', 'Arivu', 'Bell Bajao', 'Pola', 'Five Friends', 'Men Care', 'Dekh le', and 'Joy of Fervency'. All the films

helped participants reflect on self, family and society. The films ‘Men Care’ and ‘Arivu’ were quite influential, with participants saying they really brought about a change in their mindset prompting them to express that they would help their parents and future life partners. A participant said, “*Pola* made me cry. I come from a village and we find the same situation there. Suicide is not the solution. The problem can be solved by discussing with family members and working together as a team.” Another said that ‘Bell Bajao’ motivated him to intervene to stop domestic violence incidents. Prejudices that were expressed during discussions included questions like, “Why should girls wear sexy dresses? That’s why we see them. It’s not our fault” and that “Violence against women is now common, but one thing should be recognized that boys and men too are subject to various forms of violence by women.”



In all the colleges where the films were screened, the films and the discussions that followed were eye openers to the students. They appreciated the selection of films. Organisers however said that one screening was not enough and that there should be a continuous series of such screenings and discussions in every college to actually bring a change in the minds of youth for a gender just society.