

Minutes of the first Preparatory Meeting for Global Symposium for working with men and boys

Date: 14th August 2013, Venue-CHSJ Office

Welcome and Introduction

On August 14, twenty one civil society representatives, activists, academicians working on gender based violence and on men and masculinities including nine from CHSJ participated in a one day meeting organised by Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ).¹ The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Share about Global Symposium and the hosting of the 2nd Global Symposium in New Delhi, India
2. Expectations of the participants with regards to the Global Symposium?
3. Reasons for bringing the symposium to Delhi
4. Expectations of the participants from this symposium
5. An action plan. How to take the work forward?

Dr. Abhijit Das, Director CHSJ, welcomed all the participants and shared the context, main objectives along with justification for the 2nd World Symposium on Men and Masculinities to be held in Delhi. He briefly shared the 1st Global Symposium held in Rio De Janiero, and the need to bring the symposium to the South Asia region taking conflict, marginalisation of women, patriarchy, masculinity and gender based violence into account. He further stated that though the 2nd Global Symposium would be held in November 2014; there was a need for civil society, and other actors to plan and come together on a common platform to successfully take the process forward. The discussion was moderated by Gautam Bhan, a leading national social activist working on issues related to men and sexuality and by Poonam Kathuria, a leading women activist working on men and masculinities from Swati, and a member of SANAM.

Following are the details of the discussion of the preparatory meeting in a table format comprising comments of the participants and action points to be taken from the meeting.

Some of the key observations/comments of the participants and key action points are given below:

Observation and Comments from the Participants		Action Points
Discuss and understand why we are bringing people together; what are the expectations from the Global Symposium?		
Gautam Bhan	To have an understanding of the general purpose, ethos of the event and to keep in mind the target audience	- The symposium will focus on creating a space where cultural expressions and issues can be brought out to build a continuum and give a further momentum to this processes even after the symposium is over.
Jashodhara Dasgupta (Sahayog)	To address masculinity through culture by means of cultural expressions and cultural mediums as oppose to panel and discussions. Symposium should have a horizontal framework in the context of health and happiness.	
Sanjay Srivastava (IEG)	To look the overall format but panel discussions cannot be disassociated	

¹ Names of the participants who attended are attached as Annexure I

Sukanya Gupta (Swayam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A specific action plan for different regions and areas should be the outcome of the symposium. - Symposium should include issues related to young boys and young population. 	
Poonam Kathuria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating space for participants to hold discussions as well as enjoyable time. - The reflection of complexity of development discourse in South Asia perspective in to the symposium platform is needed through globalization and social justice lens - To have conversation with common people on masculinity and its impact on equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T <p>e sub-themes should include why there is a need to engage men elaborately.</p>
Anand Pawar (Samyak,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symposium to be taken further from what is currently going on and have the sense of continuity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To take issues from different regions & come up with a strong action plan for various regions of the world. - No work should be done sectorally - Action wise theme should be prepared such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To provoke ✓ To activate ✓ To deepen ✓ To ignite ✓ Platform to communicate
Sarojini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues from different regions to be invited and then a strong action plan can be worked out. - To have a clear understanding of the symposium on regional level or global level. To form linkages between previous and the new symposium. - In the midst of several other movements taking place in the current scenario, we should visualize the movement in overall purpose of the symposium. - Need to bring strong women based history too into the symposium sub theme - There is a need to work on bringing academic databases and adding them in the common body of knowledge. 	
Sarita Barpanda (CHSJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It should be an added point if the symposium could throw light on politicizing patriarchy and impact of masculinity in patriarchy. 	

Sunita Dhar (Jagori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept of femininity needs to be interlinked with masculinity. - To create a space for understanding men's perception of femininity and vice versa. - The content to be conceptualized as a global village in areas as young, adolescent, students, communities, activists, etc. - Funding has to be in different layers. 	
Subhash Mendharpukar (Sutra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Global symposium can act as platform for a movement. 	
Overall Theme of the Symposium		
Sunita Dhar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The symposium should include the young people since they are now taking leadership beyond college activities. 	Overall theme should evoke the feeling and lead to provocation and reflection.
Laxman Belbase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to expand the canvas, masculinity and issues around masculinity must be understood closely and should be politicized. - The context of child rights issue need to be brought into the bigger picture of the symposium's discussions. - The theme should go beyond India and focus on global thinking and global shift within men and masculinity 	<p>Include migration, environment, climate change</p> <p>Include culture and faith</p> <p>To exclude terms like men and boys, conflict and peace</p>
Sanjay Srivastava (IEG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symposium needs to bridge the old divide between academic and activist - The complex issues can be shared with larger groups. - Sanjay and Anand share the thought that Indian NGOs work in an abstract and academic manner which is not common in other western countries. 	It would be good if we can include in the overall theme: Understanding Masculinities, Social Justice, Gender Justice, Globalization; Violence and Development
Jashodhara Dasgupta (Sahayog)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the reasons for holding the symposium in Delhi is not to simplify the complex issue of masculinity and gender equality; rather there is a need to bring ourselves as well as participants out to bring out the complexity beyond development framework. 	<p>It was decided that the theme of the Symposium will be Social Justice, Violence and Development</p> <p>The title of the symposium needs to be modified as follows: "Second Global Symposium on Masculinity in a Globalizing Word : 2014"</p>
Dr. Mangesh Kulkarni (University of Pune)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an opportunity to bring in the masculinity perspective to the symposium 	
Poonam Kathuria (Swati)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is also an opportunity to bring out South Asian issues to the global world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The word 'second' in the theme is to give a sense of going toward the third symposium
Sarojini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The goal should emphasis the politicisation of masculinity and that 	

	should be the fulcrum of the symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The word 'globalizing' is addressing the global relations taking place - Symposium should aim to focus on equality and our focus will be to showcase global scenario and this should reflect in the goal - Our aim should be to Create awareness, Talk, Influence & Advocate
Anand Pawar (Samyak)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have a synergy between academic and the activist in order to attract participants globally as well as locally 	
Subhash Mendharpukar (Sutra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would be good idea to include advocates, bar council, political parties in the symposium for a long term impact. 	
Satish Singh (CHSJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since the symposium will be based on equality and equity, it is our responsibility to showcase these to other countries. 	
Abhijit Das (CHSJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symposium should aim at expanding a dialogue and go deeper into men who care and address issues related to masculinity. The South Asia process needs to be started. The symposium has a global nature so there should be tailored messages for the donors. It would serve as a continuum process before September 2015. 	
Potential Stakeholders		
Sunita Dhar	To decide whether to invite people for symposium or to have a registration process (with a registration fee)	<p>The list of possible stakeholders as detailed out</p> <p>Women's organisations/groups – Allies, LGBTIQ groups and networks, SRHR and Health groups, Youth and students, Organisations working on VAW/ GBV, Ethnic/ tribal rights groups, Trade Union/ migration related groups - reach out, Academics , researchers, human rights activists, Media persons, film/ theatre persons-makers, UN, INGO, Bi –Multilateral organisations, Foundations, other donors, Corporate sector , CSR, Advertising, Celebrities, Law-makers/ policy makers/ legislators, Other development groups</p>
	Students and youths, politicians and parliamentarians are to be included as possible stakeholders	
Anand Pawar	There should be a consensus on level of corporate sector's involvement, participation of indigenous groups & involvement of the advertising sector?	
Abhijit and group	There was a general consensus on involving celebrities' who would add certain values and who can influence others could be involved.	
Group	The other stakeholders being considered are the ones who can mobilise such as: students, invitees, workers, donors and those who could we reach out to masses.	
Potential Working Committees to take the Symposium Forward		
Jashodhara Dasgupta (Sahayog)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment and dedication required from volunteers in terms of their time and work as a part of the committees. - The TORs should clearly spell out the 	<p>Structure of the working committees:</p> <p>The committees should be</p>

	<p>work to be undertaken by the people in the committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The full time dedicated CHSJ staffs that are coordinating a particular theme should be available. 	<p>at different levels and allow space for conceptual discussions and for informal interactions. It could be formed at International and at Regional level</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global Steering Committee (global representation) 2. Global Thematic committees-(Academic + Programme-curating) (global representation) 3. Global Advisory committee will also have India and South Asia representation 4. Coordinating Committee – It will be formed with representation from other committees 5. South Asian Regional Organisation Committee 6. Youth Engagement Committee 7. Logistic Committee- This has to have practical sense
Ashraf (Prawah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To take a call on volunteership in detail (whether part time or fulltime) since it is premium to decide the scale of this program. - The number of volunteers should be decided who will be a part of committees 	
Sunita Dhar (Jagori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given the complexity of the issue, two to three thematic anchoring required to put together their ideas 	
Sathyashree (NFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be 8-10 people in a team (preferably CHSJ staff) who are empowered to take decisions and are available 24x7 	
Jashodhara Dasgupta (Sahayog)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CHSJ is the secretariat and consultants could be hired, there is a need to firewall the activities of the organisation. 	
Abhijit Das (CHSJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be three levels of hierarchy-India, Global and South Asian. There are three levels of working-Thematic, Programmatic and Logistic which are needed at all three levels 	
Sunita Dhar (Jagori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To do the core activities six months in advance (prior to the symposium) - Each programmatic event can be conceptualised, planned and worked out through the steering committee 	
Jameel (IPPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Symposium should aim to focus on bringing in the “human Rights” element somewhere 	
Budget		
Abhijit Das(CHSJ)	Some funding will be provided for international agenda.	
Sunita Dhar (Jagori)	As a funding strategy, registration with some fee should be considered.	
Manodeep (CHSJ)	The conflict of interest between trade unions and CSR of large companies in the symposium should be kept in mind. Most of the large corporate have their own CSR unit and are involved in philanthropic work.	
Sunita Dhar (Jagori)	Money could be taken from those funding agencies whose ideologies match with ours.	
Other Suggestions		
Revision of concept note as the first draft gives an impression that men and boys were victims		
The Symposium should close with a thumping rally along with a petition being submitted to the Prime Minister.		
The proposed date for the symposium are 21-24 November 2014, however 23 November is Sunday so getting media on Sunday will be difficult.		
There should be consensus building (over email preferably) along with an agreement if all present		

agree with the groups decisions.
Since the venue for the symposium will depend on the numbers of the delegates (750 approx); institutions (academic, FICCI etc) can be approached to host sessions
Regional sessions will be vibrant and are original to ensure wider participation;
Some of the key venues suggested were: JNU, Pragati Maidan, Hotel Ashoka,
The suggestion of partnering with Delhi Government came so that we could book the halls in advance and at low cost
For accommodation, university, low cost NGOs, Hotels, Bed and breakfast joints, transport service, logistics to be managed by a travel agency

Work Distribution to take the process forward

Area of work	Who
Prepare the minutes of the meeting	- CHSJ and Gautam Bhan to support in finalising the minutes
To revise the concept note which will be sent to the larger group for finalisation by 27-28 August 2013	- Mangesh Kulkarni - Sanjay Shrivastava - Laxman Belbase
Finalisation of TOR process of the works that will be done by different committee members of the symposium	- Sarojini - Sunita Dhar
Clubbing (clustering) of the themes together	- Sanjay Shrivastava - Nandita
Discuss and come out with work plan to take forward the South Asian Process forward	- Poonam Kathuria - Satish Singh - Anand, - Jameel, - Kausar, - Imtiaz
Start the fundraising process and find opportunities	- Sunita Dhar (Jagori) - Abhijit Das (CHSJ) - Kamala Bhasin (SANGAT) - Subhash Mendharpukar (Sutra) - Nandita (ICRW) - Sunita Menon (Breakthrough)

ANNEXURE: 1Participants – 14th August 2013

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