

A Report on the One Day Orientation cum Planning Meeting on Involving Men as Fathers in Protection of Children's Rights

Date : 20th December 2012

Venue : Hotel Landmark, Ranchi

Participants : 16 (representatives of NGOs)

Proceeding

Introduction

Ms. Kalyani welcomed the participants and briefly shared about the purpose of meeting. After this the participants introduced themselves to the house.

Subject Entry

Mr Satish introducing about Forum to Engage Men (FEM) said that this is not a project it's a campaign which demands for a commitment and resources. Sharing about the purpose he said that FEM is trying to develop a network of MEN to work on GENDER EQUALITY in the name of Father Care and for this we are in Jharkhand. He then briefly described about the history of evolution of the network.

He said that this network talks about the relation between men and women. After that he gave a historical background of the women's movement followed with the development of men's organization to address the gender issues and in the process how various organizations including MESWA emerged. This men alliance was formed in almost every country including India in the name of FEM with as independent institution.

After that he presented the outcome of the two action research one in UP and the other one in Maharashtra through power point. In which he highlighted how the hegemonic masculinity of a men was changed and in the process the various challenges were faced. Basically the presentation tried to show how the stereotype of role of men changed and men adopted a caring role, looking after children and moreover started accepting the leadership of women.

He also presented the outcome of the intervention in MP in the name of Men's action for equality to ensure public / social accountability of men in reducing the instances of early marriages', education, health and nutrition.

All this presentation followed a video named "चुप्पी तोड़ी" and some other clips describing the changes in the various project locations and the cases of change.

Various IEC materials developed to support this campaign was also shared with the participants and their suggestions were invited. It was presented that this is for MP and this can be modified for Jharkhand to best suit the socio – cultural situation.

The post lunch session started with the emphasis that FEM is trying to develop a network in Jharkhand and some other new areas also if the NGOs in the house feels that there is a need for

it. He further added that for this the donor is happy to build the capacity of the network members. He clearly said that this could be an independent network and the representatives of the civil society sitting in this house is free to opt name for their network and decide what exactly they want to do as the priority for Jharkhand could be different than other state. The house unanimously agreed on the concept but felt that there is an immediate need to build perspective on this approach as this is totally different than what has been done and propagated till date.

This followed with a group discussion on the under mentioned topics;

1. What are the key issues related to gender quality and child rights
2. What are the various interventions going on in the state by the government and NGOs to promote equality

The compiled presentations of the group on both the issues are mentioned below;

1. key issues related to gender quality and child rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women dual responsibility – household as well as earner for the family ● 90% of the agricultural / forest work done by women ● 60% women in PRI but their voice is not heard / politically not strong enough to put their voice forward ● No decision making ● No control over resources ● Restriction in mobility ● Domestic violence ● Witch hunting ● Religiously controlled ● Low literacy / awareness ● Not organized ● Poor access to rights and entitlements ● Low priority to women health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor state of girl child education ● Early marriages ● Malnutrition and anemia ● Discrimination (sex & caste) in home , school and community ● Poor state of JJ act and its provisions ● High number of children engaged in mining activity ● Poor education quality ● Less number of teacher in the schools ● Migration and trafficking of girl child

2. Various interventions	
Government	NGOs
NRHM and MGNREGA (various provisions) SACS Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya / NPEGEL Cycle to girl child Kanyadan yojna MKSP / NRLM JJ act provisions not in functions ICPS launched SCPCER in place but non functional	Networks Various innovative projects SHGs Campaigns Child line & women help line

Way forward for Male Network in Jharkhand

An open session was organized on how to take this network forward. He emphasized the need for collective ownership from within the state and it shouldn't be an external driven network. The house agreed that we have representation of 6 districts and around 16 representatives of NGOs are in this house so we can start a network with these 6 districts and from each district a Core Member was selected. District wise list of the Core Members is given below;

- From Giridih – Mr. Arjun
- From Lohardaga – Mr. Fatmi
- From Ranchi – Mr. Rajiv
- From Bokaro – Mr. Gautam
- From Deoghar – Ms. Kalyani

It was unanimously agreed that Ms. Kalyani will be a member as a feminist and expert on the gender issue and will mentor the men's network of Jharkhand.

After agreeing on the network Mr. Satish shared future plan of action for building the capacity of the network and also shared about the resources availability to oil this network in the beginning.

Planned activities;

- State level capacity building of some 30 NGO representatives
- Campaign on gender equality in the field of respective network members
- Follow up training

He briefly described that we have some fund available for Coordination & Communication for the lead NGO and will also support some campaigns.

It was agreed that the network should be coordinated from Ranchi as it is the capital of Jharkhand and strategically important for running this network effectively.

The meeting concluded with the next meeting date of the Core Group member in the 1st week of January, 13 in which way forward for the network will be sketched and then with vote of thanks the meeting concluded.