

Minutes of the meeting with Core Group of MASVAW Uttar Pradesh

Venue: CHSJ Office, New Delhi Date: 14th of June 2012

With view to chalk out future strategies for strengthening activities of MASVAW, one day long meeting held at the office of CHSJ, New Delhi on 14th June 2012. Including the invitee members, following members were present in the meeting:

1. Mr Raj Deo
2. Dr Sanjay Singh
3. Mr Santosh Kushwaha
4. Mr Satish Singh
5. Mr Shishir
6. Dr Abhijit Das
7. Mr Mahendra
8. Ms Jashodhara Das Gupta
9. Mr Virendra Kumar Rai

The Agenda: The agenda for this meeting were as under

- 1. How MASVAW could be strengthened?**
- 2. MASVAW's work focuses on VAW but what will be the stand on Men's role in caring?**
- 3. Strategy for strengthening core group of MASVAW?**
- 4. Structure of MASVAW including, Secretariat, Anchoring etc?**
- 5. Other Issues**

Following were the views and suggestions from the members with regard to different agenda:

- 1. How MASVAW could be strengthened?**
 - Membership should be increased with different categories like Youth, Institutions, Students forums etc
 - What will be the process of change in attitude?
 - Sharing the news of grieves and happiness
 - Local actions and reactions?
 - NGOs were the part of strategy of MASVAW in initial stages where as we can't ignore even today
 - Media don't recognize these as their issues, hence their role is missing on the issue
 - Some people don't want to associate as they are not mentally prepared to face several questions in the public
 - The youth or male who learnt and accepted MASVAW's principles, what type of support we are extending to them? How much space we have created/given to them
 - Seek change mentors for Media

Strengthening MASVAW

Concern was raised regarding how MASVAW should be strengthened. It was suggested that the membership should be increased with different categories like Youth, Institutions, Students forums, etc., being informed about MASVAW. The news of grievances and happiness should be shared with them and on other forums. MASVAW should keep a track of local actions and give systematic reactions.

Further, it was discussed that since NGOs were the part of strategy of MASVAW in initial stages, therefore, we cannot ignore them even today.

Some people don't want to associate with MASVAW as they are not mentally prepared to face criticism in public. Also, what type of support are we extending to the youth or male who learnt and accepted MASVAW's principles? How much space we have created/given to them should be analysed.

Media don't recognize Men's role in gender equality as their issues, hence their role is missing on the issue. We must seek change mentors for media.

2. MASVAW's work focuses on VAW but what will be the stand on Men's role in caring?

- Campaign should go in the periphery of Youth
- What will be the process of change in attitude?

3. Strategy for strengthening core group of MASVAW?

- Why organization is needed is the matter of confusion. What we want to do that needs an organization. We laid our focus on conducting meetings of district forums etc. If MASVAW is our common vision, then we have to redefine the role of core group
- Core group of MASVAW should be enriched with the association of such members those have owned the objectives of MASVAW
- Initiate process of association with Trade Unions, Media people and lawyers towards strengthening Core group of MASVAW. Talk with Trade Unions needed.
- Ms Jashodhara offered that if 4-5 people come forward for discussion, a dialogue with trade Unions could be organised at lucknow

4. Structure of MASVAW including, Secretariat, Anchoring etc?

- If campaign is not anchored by an organization, the possibilities of diffusion of campaign increases
- Campaigns should not be decentralized
- Responsibilities should be locally driven
- CHSJ should take the responsibility of coordination. Sahayog will support at Lucknow level. We may also be able to receive the support of Youth constituency
- How the coordination and support needs of MASVAW could be met?

5. **Other Issues (The suggestion for future):**

Several experiences in journey of MASVAW were shared during the meeting like

"MASVAW's campaign has been able to reduce the cases of eave teasing and violence and it has also been able to break the silence of community on VAW in different areas. Reporting of cases of violence have raised where as Media has raised coverage on these issues. Girls can be seen going schools on Cycles that was never before."

Similarly success story of ensured participation of women in Panchayats in the district of Banda as an outcome of the MASVAW's intervention and Story of right to work of women in MNREGA by a MASVAW group in Azamgarh were shared in the meeting. These success stories influenced the future dimension of MASVAW.

Other issues emerged as need of serious consideration for future planning of MASVAW was as under:

- Need of the review of the campaign
- What will be the process of planning, review and monitoring?
- MASVAW's interest areas should be defined
- Changes in men's behavior will add the benefits in feminist movement that may encourage the interest of feminist movements to work with men's groups
- Usually youth faces the curse of Patriarchy it is why it is felt that youth might be interested in change. Work with youth and student may be key strategy of change process
- Intervention in Men's forums should be ensured
- An effort should also be done with the Trade Unions. Issues should be raised with new angles not only in the periphery of Violence like "Why Gender Equality is important for all? Why important for all to address the issue of Violence
- Student model could not show the big change. We Can't give up community model. We started our work with trust but now we have evidence and result that lead us to go ahead. Now it is not a matter of trust because we have also gained knowledge and evidence. Need of work with men is necessary. NGO based model is not only a model. We have experiences of change in Maharashtra. Similarly football club of West Bengal was shared as a model for change process. Contacts should be enhanced and strategy for raising contribution (Chanda) should be implemented.
- We should also think on new ways of raising contributions. It should also be taken care that the interests of youth clubs in new era have been changed so we should think that how our values could be incorporated to these club's values
- Critical analysis of MASVAW should be done keeping in mind that why people associated with MASVAW very fast in beginning but now it has gone to weak zone
- Change can be seen at work with community. We have also worked with PRIs. These experiences should be reviewed and incorporated in further action.

- We should relook the approach of MASVAW for its future planning
- Support structure for change should be strengthened
- The answer of why people will associate with MASVAW can be the strategy.
- MASVAWs branding is necessary like the white ribbon campaign like we support GE, we oppose violence etc
- How the visibility of MASVAW could be enhanced? How MASVAW could maintain a special identity?
- Following may be the issues that can be incorporated with MASVAW
 - i) Equal participation of women in employment opportunities
 - ii) Participation of women in Panchayat
- Sixteen days activism is not only a campaign that will be sufficient for change process. Different campaigns are needed
- Making efforts for changes in the institutions. It will not be only lighting candles or distribution of hand bills
- Gender analysis is also needed in this Economic and Political Arena, Change in Gender Relations should be merged in future issues. It is to be assessed that what are the solid issues and type of actions to be done in district forums
- With regard to Coordination and follow up it came up that
 - i) CHSJ should take the responsibility of coordination. Sahayog will support at Lucknow level. We may also be able to receive the support of Youth constituency
 - ii) Raj Dev will take the lead role in district forums on the issue of "Women and right to work and Santosh will do the lead role on "Women's participation in PRIs"