

Minutes of the meeting in follow-up of National Consultation on the Role of Men as fathers in Protection of Children's Rights:

(A strategy of expansion of Fathers Care Initiative in the state of Madhya Pradesh)

Venue: CHSJ Office, Gandhi Bhawan, Shyamla Hills Chauk, Bhopal Date: 10 July 2012

Focusing on promotion of the collective stake towards expansion of efforts on role of men as fathers in protection of Children's rights a meeting held at the regional office of CHSJ, Bhopal. Eighteen (18) participants were present in the meeting as annexed

Discussion started with welcome address by Mr Satish Singh of CHSJ followed by an introduction by all the participants.

After a formal introduction by the participants, a Movie "We Can" that has been recently produced by CHSJ on story of Changes in Maharashtra was shown with view to introduce CHSJ's work with men on Gender Equality and Women's health rights. This was also visualized that film may again be helpful in introducing CHSJ's theme among participants along with a perception that Men can change. Explaining to the contents of each of five movies Mr Satish explained about genesis of MASVAW, its journey, its learning and its impact at Global level. He also included the history of Global Men Engage Forum along with the Origination of Forum to Engage Men (FEM) India, its issues and work. Co- relation between SANAM (South Asian Network on Addressing Masculinities) and FEM was also presented by Mr Satish (CHSJ).

Adding a brief journey of MASVAW, its issues like Gender Equality, VAW, Property rights to women and PWDV act along with learning during the journey of MASVAW in around 10 years , Virendra Rai shared the work with men in Maharashtra and MP by CHSJ that gave an understanding that man is neither discriminative nor violent by birth, the socialization process makes a child to become discriminative and violent. The leaders of these Socialization Centers are male. Hence CHSJ planned to initiate a process that can explore the role of men as fathers in protection of Children's Rights. After this, the details of National Consultation and the brief recommendation of FEM were shared with the participants. It was also shared that in the national consultation and in the national meeting of FEM it is resolved that a process of exploring role of men in the protection of Children's rights may be expanded in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. In Uttar Pradesh MASVAW is taking the stake to initiate the process and in the mean time we are having this meeting to seek a potential stake in MP that could expand the objectives of the initiative towards exploring role of men as fathers in the protection of Children's rights in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It was also informed that Mr Devendra Bhadauria and Mr Karan Jhare took the responsibility to expand this process in the state. As a part of the strategy this preparatory meeting is called to discuss regarding the further action where the highly experienced person like you all are here.

Placing above said facts, the views from the participants were collected on the issues and possibilities in the state of MP. The views from the participants were as under;

- Working with the women's issues for a long time my team felt that while addressing the issues of women, we can't exclude the work with men. It is needed to work with men towards seeking positive role of men and changes towards GE and addressing the issue of VAW. There are different contexts and Challenges in different states we should evolve a healthy discussion keeping these contexts in view.
- There is a lot of space in Art 21 "Right to Life" under the constitution of India and under the UNCRC towards ensuring child rights that should be explored and Masculinities as well as Sexuality issues should be included in the action. Work with men should be expanded in MP.
- We must take care of interlink age between Politics and Culture. It should also be discussed that what type of challenges has been faced by the males who started Caring roles. It has also been experienced that people start with very fair objectives but after some time they shift from the objectives. Sometimes this goes towards a political dimension and sometimes women/women groups are challenged for their leadership.
- It is needed to sensitize males towards GE and securing Child Rights hence proposed action is needed
- A model like MASVAW is needed in MP
- Decline in Sex ratio should also be included as an issue in work with men
- Stories of Changes should be documented and shared widely
- This campaign should be emerged in MP. Need is to go through Youth and Youth groups
- Negative results of changes should also be documented
- Issue of Male and Female budgeting by state should also be discussed

At the end a collective consensus came to organize healthy dialogue on the issues

Date of Dialogue is decided to be hold on 7th of September 2012

Facilitators/organizers group is formed who shall take the role in holding a successful state level consultation/Dialogue in Bhopal. Following are the group members who voluntarily took the responsibility

- i) Mr Devendar Bhadouria
- ii) Mr Karan Jhare
- iii) Ms Prarthna
- iv) Ms Ruchi Ghosh
- v) Mr Arun Tyagi
- vi) Mr H B Sen
- vii) Mr Junaid

Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Satish ji of CHSJ, New delhi

Preparatory Meeting for Strategic Planning on Men's role as Fathers in Protection of child Rights

10 July 12 at CHSJ Office, Bhopal (MP)

Participants List

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