



National Seminar

"GIRL CHILD: SURVIVAL AND GROWTH"

24 January 2017 at Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001

The National Seminar organized by Deep Welfare Organization (DWO) & Educational Forum For Women Justice & Social Welfare (EFWJSW). Hon'ble State Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale blessed and honoured the morning inaugural session by being the Chief Guest. He guided and assured his help for carrying out further work to empower girls.

At the outset of his speech he applauded the phenomenal work undertaken by EFWJSW, DWO and Veteran Social activist, renowned journalist Principal Académique Prof. Vikram Dutt, for their continuous inspiring and untiring contribution towards Children Rights and disability.

Hon'ble Minister emphasized to work towards breaking the shackles of conservative behaviour and practices of keeping the girls out of the sphere of leading a life of oppression and deprived of enormous opportunities. Number of NGO'S and Social activists are assembled here, must draft strategies to plan "What should be done for the girls overall development" He added I will take your suggestions to GOI, Our government is committed to the cause. I will help in all possible ways and will convince other concerned ministries too.

Prof. Vikram Dutt presided the Seminar

Hon'ble minister Athawale ji released seminar Souvenir



Shri Ajay Prakash, Secretary, DWO, in his welcome address thanked Shri

Athawale ji for his encouragement by his gracious presence and guiding the Seminar. DWO is working on women empowerment, their main mission is to visualize the available opportunities to realize the power and potential of the girls and to show the right direction for their upliftment. DWO provides awareness and is operative since 2005. They are engaged in providing protective environment for girl child. Mr. Prakash emphasized on mothers education along with the importance of girls education. He focused on gender respect, providing dignity to all girls and women. No constitution teaches to treat male and female on different footings.



Dr. Indira Mishra:

Dr. Indira Mishra is the founder President of EFWJEW, This NGO works for the education of poor children, working for disabled persons, Legal counseling, training on sexual harassment prevention, prohibition and redressal, organizing health camps for the population with lesser opportunities. They also provide counseling sessions for Prison inmates. This is only illustrative list of their activities.

Dr. Mishra narrated her own story: when her second girl child was born, there was gloomy atmosphere amongst her close relatives and the friend circle, she was asked why she did not undergo Ultrasound test to find out if it was not female foetus again. To answer the society and change mind set she distributed sweets on the birth of her second daughter, such steps are the need of the time. Great encouragement from her father and such incidents made her more adamant to work on girl child empowerment, her nutrition health and over all development.

She has done research work on such subjects. If she gets Ministry's support she envisages conducting special strategic programmes for the unorganized workers and girl child.

Shri Pramod Kumar, Member Standing Council of India, Advocate Supreme Court of India.

Offered, comprehensive legal services to NGO, those are committed to support women and girls of the underprivileged sector.

Rakhi Bakshee:

Renowned broadcasting professional and senior TV Show host on Rajya Sabha TV show "The Quest" Presently attached to Women's Feature Service (WFS). The NGO deals with Women issues. The WFS is a media organization specializing in development issues. It operates all women news-feature service of views and analysis of women and their perception of development.

Sharing her vast experience she focused on inviting communication to analyze the causes to understand and adopt strategies to eliminate the deprivation of opportunities of one sector of our society. Girls are multitasking. We all ought to assist them while they are at job and need any sort of assistance. Many girls who are unable to cope with Sexual Harassment at work place leave jobs; this is sheer attack on the 50% human resources and grave hindrance on the balanced development of our society. Media should be more gender sensitized. Girls are bringing medals /pride to India then why

make gloomy face at her birth. They are doing fine as Arm forces, working as welders in JBC Company, mechanics, tire puncture repairer or any work you take name.

Sapna Grover- Saraswati Sewa Sadan, Ambala:

Her message was that each and every one in society must be a watchdog to protect life of Girls, she added the protection should not be ceased, soon after her marriage. Continuous training must be imparted to her to run her new household in appropriate way.

Reena Pandey – Jharkhand:

Greeted all the girls, present at seminar and wished them all success in life. She said Dr. Indira Mishra's anguish is ground reality. (Referring to story narrated by Indira). She is working for tribal area women of Jharkhand for the last 20 years. Many schemes are operative in the tribal belt but still very cast gap exists between the life pattern of urban and the tribal women. She needs assistance from urban more knowledgeable social activists to filling up the gap. She said unless mothers are economic self-sufficiency/ independence not much reforms can take place. There is big gap of discrimination between male female child, illiteracy, superstitions, but female foeticide practice is not found in tribal culture.

She requested the august gathering to acquire knowledge from government schemes and organize a seminar on awareness on economic vistas suitable for tribal population for generating their economic independence.

Indira Saxena:

Inspirational & Motivational message by Indira Saxena. My dear little sisters, all of you have lot of hidden talents and creativity. Do not let your dreams and potential put in somebody's custody to be thwarted by discrimination, violence and dominated by hierarchy. Each time a girl is born we need to celebrate through some ritual. Like: Planting a fruit tree in the designated garden in Bihar and a similar one in UP. When girl is grown up the fruits give her economic strength all through her life.

NASA's first Indian astronaut Kalpana Chawla's story is great inspiration for any girl. Being born as second female child in family, her own father dishonored her birth and she was left in hospital with her mother without any care. Few people supported her education and her own determination took her to such heights that whole India is proud of her. What does this success story tell us is that working jointly to deal with the issue and unlocking your potential is the remedy to deal with unjust attitude of our society. Let us track the available resources and assist the unapproachable with support to unlock the female strength. We Hope Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Women and Child will extend its liberal support to our endeavors.

Dr. Gyanendra, ex. Director of Mahila Vikas Sansthan

Encouraged young girls to come forward and participate in all non-traditional activities.

Numbers of participants were invited by Prof. Vikram to express their views.

Diksha

A young dancer, showed her splendid dancing skills, despite being differently abled. She has only one leg. Dr. Gyanendra rewarded her in appreciation for her beautiful skills and mental strength.

A few girls recited self-composed poems



Prof. Vikram Dutt

Seminar Organizers were delighted to have Prof. Vikram Dutt as Presiding officer for the Seminar. He is veteran in the field of Social work Journalism. He has more than twenty-five years of training, & leadership experience in children rights, communication and education. He made more than 50

documentary films and recipient of numerous awards interracially.

He asked all the girls to take an oath that will not get married if the in laws side asking for dowry, and will get married with dignity without dowry. Further, the boys were also asked to protect girls in problem on road or at work place and not accept or demand dowry in their or their brother's marriage. He said girls must be raised just as equal human being. Take home message home, you all are capable and change the opinion of others in family, in friends group.



Dr. Indira Mishra Vote of thanks

Dr. Mishra thanked Hon'ble Minister Shri Ramdass Athawale, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Vikram Dutt, Shri Ajay Prakash, media, Constitution Club staff, ONGC, State Bank Of India, Bank of India, Media Partner Panchayat Khabar, LIC, RCF, EIL, all other supporter and all the participants and guests, who made the seminar memorable. Could not make this seminar without the help of numerous visible and behind the scene contributors.

Recommendations:

- Draft Strategic work plan for awareness of female strength
- Develop education and training material to be used by peer group (Bilingual)
- Leaflets on available girls beneficiary schemes
- Seek ministerial assistance in carrying forward our work plan
- Documentary films for the unorganized sectors where mostly families are illiterate
- All kids go to school campaign

Report by Dr. Indira Mishra
& Indira Saxena
26 January 2017