

Workshop Report

Date : 10th July 2010
Venue : Central Camp, Ampara
Total Participants :

	Tamil	Sinhala	Muslim
Male	06	38	06
Female	18	20	01
Total	24	58	07
Subtotal	91		

Participants from : Colony 10, 11, and 12, Central Camp, Ampara

Resource Persons : Mr.Lakshan Dias, Programme Manager, CHRD
Mr.T.Vinothan, Legal Officer, CHRD
Mr. F.Solomentine, Programme Officer, CHRD

Helevtas Colombo with collaboration of Helevtas Ampara invited Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) for a day programme held at Central Camp area to conduct a seminar titled “Human Rights and Fundamental Rights Public Awareness” under Development & Peace of Sri Lanka (DPSL) Project. This programme was fully supported by Helvetas Sri Lanka - DPSL, a Project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Participants from DPSL’s Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) of the communities Colony 10, 11 & 12 within the Central Camp area were participated. The target groups were NGOs, CBOs, teachers, farmers and women’s organizations.

Objectives of the programme were to aware DPSL’s Central Camp Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) members on human rights and fundamental rights and to create and improve the knowledge of the participants on legal and social aspects of human rights and fundamental rights applications.

The workshop commenced at 9.00 am. Mr. Hameed Project Officer of DPSL welcomed participants and briefed activities of their organization. Following the welcome address, President of the PCC Mr. Somasiri welcomed the Central Camp area Police OIC Mr. S.A.S.C Satharasinghe to address the audiences. Central Camp area Police OIC spoke on types of offenses and ways to prevent from those offenses by the public. He briefed the audience through examples on domestic violence, robbery, conflict with neighbor, child abuse, drug abuse, public nuisances and sexual harassments. He also advised the audience to call 119 or report to the nearest police station or else to write to him personally with evidence when any kind of offenses taking place nearby.

After morning tea break, session on Fundamental Rights was conducted by Mr.Lakshan Dias. And it was translated in Tamil language by Mr.T.Vinothan and Mr. F.Solomentine. In addition, Mr. Vinothan also briefed the audience on related topic. Resource Persons made the audience to understand the fundamental rights violations under the Chapter 3, Articles 10,11,12,13 & 14 in the Constitution and the remedies of it.

Following the resource person's talk, Mr. Lakshan together with Mr. Vinothan responded to the queries of the participants on FR violations taking place in their areas by executive and administration.

After the lunch break, participants were divided into two groups based on their mother tongue. The purpose of dividing two groups was to avoid language barrier and to build trust with the resource person so that confidential matters could be discussed. Mr. Lakshan Dias conducted the discussion in Sinhala language and Mr.Vinothan and Mr.Solomen conducted in the Tamil language. During the discussion, resource persons provided advises to find remedies for the issues rose by participants and were treated confidential. In addition, resource persons spoke on CHRDR's activities such as coalition building and legal aid programme and how CHRDR can support to deal with issues under both components. Hand books in both languages were distributed among participants to raise awareness on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights.

Finally Mr. Hameed, DPSL and Mr. Somasiri President of Central Camp Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) concluded the event by conveying their sincere gratitude to CHRDR and Central Camp OIC for their contribution towards the success of the programme.

Note: It's apt to mention that CHRDR has built up a coalition with DPSL and Central Camp Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) comprising with Village Co-existence Committee (VCC) in Ampara district to address the land rights issues in Digavapiya and Irakkamam.

Report by: CHRDR Programme Unit

20 July 2010