

# CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT



## Workshop Report

- Date** : 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- Venue** : Blessed Joseph Vas Laity- Family and Councelling Centre,  
Thalvupadu
- Total Participants** :
- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Male         | 13        |
| Female       | 33        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>46</b> |
- Participants from** : Aandankulam, Uyulankulam, Musali, Pesalai, Naanaattan,  
Mugrungan, Thalaimannar, Eluthoor and Mannar
- Facilitator** : Francis Solomentine - Programme Officer-CHRD
- Resource Persons** : Mr.A.Azeez, Investigation Officer, SLHRC, Batticaloa  
Mr.T.Vinothan, Law Student- University of Jaffna

### Day-01

A two day programme was conducted in Mannar District under CHRD's Coalition of Civil Society Programme. The workshop was organized by Mannar Women's Development Federation (MWDF). Participants from different DS divisions within the Mannar district were selected under the following categories. The target groups were religious groups, NGOs, CBOs, teachers, organizations representing farmers and fishermen as well as women's organizations.

The workshop commenced at 9.00 am. Ms. Mahaluxmy from MWDF welcomed participants and briefed activities of their organization. Following the welcome address, Mr. M.M.Saburudeen Board Member of CHRD gave the inaugural speech. Thereafter, participants introduced themselves and CHRD Programme Officer, Mr. Solomentine briefly explained the aims and objectives of the workshop as well as CHRD activities.

Topic of the first session was Fundamental Rights conducted by the Batticaloa Human Rights Commission (HRC) Investigation Officer, Mr. ACA Azeez. Participants were divided into four groups and each group was given a case study to identify the fundamental rights violation taken place under the Chapter 3, Articles 10,11,12,13 & 14 in the Constitution.

A representative from each group spoke on the identified problems, which led to a common discussion to define Human Rights and Fundamental Rights in-depth.

Following the FR session, Mr. Azeez spoke on Women Rights. He highlighted issues faced by women in the Mannar district in the post war scenario. Furthermore, he highlighted issues faced by women in IDP camps. In addition, he spoke about Domestic Violence Act and the available legal remedies under each section. He also gave a brief introduction on Child Rights as well.

Finally the session was opened for questions on both Women and Child Rights. Mr. Vinothan together with Mr. Azeez responded to the queries of the audience.

## Day-02

The session commenced with an evaluation carried out by Mr. Solomentine. Following the evaluation, Mr. Azeez began the session on Protection and Assistance for Internally Displaced People (IDPs). He spoke about International Humanitarian Law and the common rules of international standards for IDPs. He emphasized on the duties and responsibilities of local government and non government organizations working in relation to IDPs and the available remedies for violations against IDPs.

Once again participants were divided into four groups and each group was allowed to identify fundamental rights violations taking place in the Mannar District under Chapter 3 Articles 10,11,12,13 & 14 of the Constitution. During group work resource persons were able to talk openly with participants and bring to light the problems faced by citizens concerning judiciary and State authorities in Mannar. Participants also felt that State authorities have failed maintain law and order in the Mannar district and as a result there's an increase in violations.

The next session was on PTA and ER conducted by Mr. Azeez where participants were made to understand the pros and cons of the Act and regulation.

Soon after tea break, Mr.P.T. Vintothan shed some light on the CHR activities under the Legal Assistance Programme (LAP) as well as duties of the judiciary in the Mannar district. He enlightened participants on how CHR could assist specific issues brought up by participants under its LAP. Leaflets on the topic were distributed amongst participants to raise awareness on PTA and ER.

Finally a coalition was formed within the participants to follow up issues in the Mannar district for immediate and long-term solutions. Some organizations joined the CHR coalition.

Following organizations will be coordinated by MWDF.

1. MARDAP
2. SLRC
3. MEDIA NETWORK
4. FCE
5. MWDF
6. RPR
7. LEADS
8. ANDANKULAM WRDs
9. ELUTHOOR WRDs
10. SELVANAGAR MANNAR WRDs

Finally Ms. Anjali, MWDF in her closing speech noted that the programme was one of a kind since no other organization had taken such an initiative in relation to empowering citizens to claim their rights.

Following the presentation of certificates to the participants, the workshop concluded.

***Key problems identified***

Local Transport (Entire Mannar Island)

Poor Service by Grama Niladhari (Santhipuram)

Police complaint taken only in Sinhala

Unlawful Arrest

Child Abuse

Land Registration & Acquisition

Corruption

Alcohol (Drug Abuse)

Child Laborer

Report by: CHRD Programme Unit

23 June 2010