

# CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT



## Workshop Report

- Date** : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- Venue** : Rural Development Foundation Training and Research Centre,  
Vavuniya
- Total Participants** :
- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Male         | 13        |
| Female       | 31        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>44</b> |
- Participants from** : Chettikulam, Chithambarapuram, Poontottam, Samayapuram,  
Rambaikulam, Poovarasankulam, Aasikulam and Vavuniya
- Facilitator** : Francis Solomentine - Programme Officer-CHRD
- Resource Persons** : Mr.T. Thyabaran- Attorney-at-Law, Vavuniya  
Mr.A.Azeez, Investigation Officer, SLHRC, Batticaloa  
Mr.T.Vinothan, Law Student- University of Jaffna

### Day-01

A two day programme was held in Mannar District under CHRD's Coalition of Civil Society Programme. The workshop was organized by Women Development Organization (WDO). Participants from different DS divisions in the Vavuniya district were selected under the following categories of religious groups, NGOs, CBOs, university and school students, teachers, and members of fishing and farming communities and women's organizations.

The workshop commenced at 9.00 am. Ms. Siloginy from WDO welcomed the gathering and briefed about the activities of their organization. The CHRD Programme Officer, Mr. F. Solomentine gave a brief explanation of the workshop and CHRD activities.

The first session on Fundamental Rights was conducted by Batticaloa Human Rights Commission Investigation Officer Mr. A.C.A. Azeez. Participants were divided into four groups and each group was given a case study to identify the fundamental rights violations which have taken place in the case study under the Chapter 3 articles 10,11,12,13 & 14.

Following lunch break, one representative from each group spoke on their identified problems. And a common discussion was held about the differences between Human Rights and Fundamental Rights in depth.

Following the FR session, Mr. Azeez spoke about Human Trafficking. He highlighted the problems faced by women in the Vavuniya district, as well as illegal migrant workers and illegal asylum seekers. Participants were allowed to discuss about the Fundamental Rights and Human Trafficking and Mr. Vinothan together with Mr. Azeez responded to the concerns raised by the audience. The day wound up at 4.30pm following the Q&A session.

## Day-02

It commenced with evaluation by Mr. Solomentine. Thereafter, Mr. Azeez conducted the session on Protection and Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). He spoke about the common rules of international standards for IDP's and International Humanitarian Laws. He explained the duties and responsibilities of local government and non government organizations who are working towards the IDPs. He also expressed the way to overcome the aggressive situation in the camp.

After tea break, session on PTA and ER was conducted by Mr. T.Thayabaran. Participants were made aware of the pros and cons of the act and regulation. Following lunch break participants were divided into four groups and each group discovered the fundamental rights violations which have taken place in the Vavuniya District under the Chapter 3 articles 10,11,12,13 & 14. In the Women Rights session Mr. Azeez highlighted problems faced by women in the Vavuniya district and in IDP camp. In addition he spoke about the Domestic Violence Act and legal remedies under each section as well as Child Rights.

Participants were permitted to raise questions on Women's Right and Child Rights. Mr.Vinothan together with Mr. Azeez responded to the audience.

The final session was conducted by Mr. Vintothan he spoke about activities related to CHRDR's Legal Assistance Programme (LAP) and about the court proceedings in Vavuniya and type of cases filed in the courts. He also explained how CHRDR's LAP can support to deal with issues which were identified. He explained how to file a fundamental rights application in the Supreme Court as well. Finally a coalition was formed within the participants to solve the issues in the Vavuniya district for immediate and long-term solutions. Following villages also joined CHRDR's coalition.

1. CHETTIKULAM
2. CHITHAMBARAPURAM
3. POONTOTTAM
4. SAMAYAPURAM,
5. RAMBAIKULAM
6. POOVARASANGKULAM
7. AASIKULAM
8. VAVUNIYA TOWN

Finally Ms.Anjali from WDC made the closing speech. Following the presentation of certificates and distribution of leaflets to the participants, the workshop concluded with Mr.F.Solomentine thanking the organizers and participants for their support and cooperation.

### ***Key problems identified***

Local Transport (For isolated areas)  
Police complaint taken only in Sinhala  
Unlawful Arrest  
Child Abuse  
Land Registration & Acquisition  
Corruption  
Alcohol (Drug Abuse)  
Child Laborer

