

National Workshop on Combating Child Labour and Child Trafficking

This report provides the summary of the events of the two days National Level Capacity Building Workshop for Child Rights Social Workers, held at Christ University, in association with Indian Network of Professional Social Work Associations (INPSWA), Child Rights Trust (CRT) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) on 18 & 19 August 2016.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the “National Level Capacity Building Workshop for Child Rights Social Workers” was started on 18/08/2016 at 10:30 AM. **Dr. Hemalatha**, Associate. Prof. Social Work Dept. Christ University was the master of ceremony. **Dr. Victor Paul**, Head, Dept. of Social Work, Christ University delivered the Welcome Speech. The workshop was



inaugurated with watering of plant by the dignitaries. **Mr. N.V. Vasudeva Sharma** Chairman, Programme Committee Executive Director, Child Rights Trust, enlightened the event by providing the Overview of the Workshop. The inaugural address was delivered by **Mr. R. Ragavendra Jannu**, Commissioner of Labour, Govt. of Karnataka, in his speech he informed the participants that a new “Anti child labour action plan” is being drafted by the Govt. of Karnataka. The key note address was delivered by **Mr. Lukose**

Vallatharai, Independent Consultant, Public Policy; he highlighted two important factors that lead to increased school dropout rates among the children. Followed by the Keynote address, the guests of honour **Prof. Mariko Kimura**, President, IFSWA-Asia Pacific, **Prof. Michiko Hirato**, Treasurer, IFSWA-Asia Pacific and **Dr. Anil Joseph Pinto**, Registrar, Christ University adorned the event by sharing their rich thoughts and experiences. **Prof. L.S. Ghandi Doss**, President, INPSWA, delivered the Presidential Address, emphasizing the issue of migration happening at the present times, and the consequences that affect the children. Finally, vote of thanks was given by **Mr. M.V. Sriganesh**, Secretary General, INPSWA.



Plenary Session 01

Following the Inaugural session, the first plenary session started at 11:45 AM. The session was based on the topic “**Child Labour and Child Trafficking - Policy Assessment for Action**”. The session was chaired by **Prof. D. Muralidhara**, Professor, NIMHANS. The



panel consisted of two resource persons. The first resource person **Dr. Kshitij Urs**, Action Aid, Bengaluru made his presentation on “Global Policy.” He highlighted the importance of decolonizing of our minds before proposing the



policies. The second resource person **Dr. Neelam Sukhramani**, Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, presented on “National Policy.” She gave an overview of Indian legal frameworks that are concerned with child rights and protection. After the presentations made by the panellists, the floor was open to the participants to express their comments and clarifications.

Plenary Session 02

The second plenary session started at 2:00 PM. The session focused on the theme “**Child Labour and Child Trafficking - Challenges in the Field for Practitioners (Current and Emerging Challenges)**”. The session was chaired by **Ms. Anitha Kanniah**, Freedom Project India. The panel consisted of three resource persons. The first resource person **Mr. R.Venkat Reddy**, National Convenor, MV Foundation, Telangana, presented on the topic “Experiences of MV Foundation in Elimination of Child Labour & Protection of Child Right to Education through Community Mobilization.” He used the term “Adultarchy” – referring to adults imposing their power on children. The second resource person **Mr. Lakshapathi**, Director, APSA, Bengaluru, presented on the topic “Rescue and rehab of children in need of care and protection and especially child labour. APSA – an urban experience.” He shared the experience of rescuing trafficked children from the brick industry in Karnataka and the challenges they faced in the mission. The third resource person of the session, **Mr. Rajkumar**, IJM, Chennai/Bengaluru presented on the topic “Rescuing of children to protect their human rights– experiences of IJM.” He clarified the penalty entitled for those persons who found guilty of employing child labours.



Plenary Session 03

The third plenary session started at 3:45 PM. The session was given the topic “**Exemplary Models - Context and Results.**” The session was chaired by **Prof. Jayanthi Bai H L**, Professor, School of Law, Christ University. She laid the foundation for the session providing an overview of the topic. There were two resource persons in the panel. **Ms. Suchitra Rao**,

Consultant, UNICEF presented on the topic “UNICEF and Government of Karnataka (GoK)”. She drew a brief outline on some of the approaches used by UNICEF and GoK to ensure the protection of child rights. Subsequently, the second resource person **Fr. Regi Jacob**, Director, BOSCO, presented on the topic “NGO Efforts.” He narrated the real life stories of those children who are benefitted out of the services of BOSCO, the NGO that exclusively works for Child rights.



Child Rights Exhibition and Cultural Events

After the completion of three plenary sessions, the participants of the workshop visited the child rights exhibition arranged by the students of Social Work Department of Christ University. Following the exhibition, a cultural program was arranged for the participants by the students of Social Work Dept. of Christ University. With the cultural program the schedule for the first day of workshop came to an end.

Plenary Session 04

On August 19, 2016, the second day of workshop started with the fourth plenary session at 10:00 AM. The session was based on the topic “**Emerging Trends for Application - Policy Issues, Field Interventions and Advocacy.**” The session was chaired by **Prof. Dhanasekara Pandian**, Professor, NIMHANS and Secretary of ISPSW. The panel consisted of two resource persons. **Ms. Kavita Ratna**, Director-Advocacy, presented on the topic “SDGs, UNCRC and the Child Labour discourse.”



She did a critical appraisal of Sustainable Development Goals in relation to the UNCRC. The next resource person **Prof. Babu Mathew**, NLSIU, Bengaluru, presented on the topic “Legal advocacy.” In his presentation, he highlighted few valuable points like, “policies must precede law” and “implementation of law rests with the right holders.”

Open House Session

At the completion of all plenary sessions, the Open House session enabled the participants to express their opinions and thoughts in relation to child labour and child trafficking. The session was moderated by **Mr. N.V. Vasudeva Sharma** Chairman, Programme Committee Executive Director, Child Rights Trust. The participants actively involved in the session, they came up with different ideas and suggestions based on their experiences



and knowledge in the arena of child rights. Around fifteen of the participants expressed their perceptions, suggestions, and recommendations on child labour and trafficking.

Group Discussions and Recommendations

Followed by the open house session, the participants were divided into three different groups and each group was given a specific topic. Each group was asked to come up with new models and recommendations based on the discussions made within the group. After receiving the instructions each group took their respective places and discussed among their group members, sketching new models and recommendations in relation to the topic given to them. The topics given to each group are as follows:

Group 01: Critical Challenges in combating child labour in the current day social, political, economic situation and ways and means to address them (each dimension not more than two-social-political).

Group 02: Suggest what Govt., at Grama Panchayat to State and National level should be addressing to prevent child labour and trafficking of children (Suggest a frame work for Panchayat to identify and address)

Group 03: In the light of recent legislative changes what action points have to be taken in the next two years to combat Child Labour (JJ, CLPRA, RTE) by practitioners and academia – Take one right and provide a road map In particular what legal advocacy measures you suggest to be taken in the next two years.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was the concluding event of the workshop that started right after the group discussion. **Prof. L.S. Ghandi Doss**, President, INPSWA, presided over the session. **Mr. N. Vasudeva Sharma**, Chairman, Programme Committee Executive Director, Child



Rights Trust, delivered a brief introduction, expounding the purpose of the session. Followed by the introductory speech, **Ms. Ketrina Ruth**, Student of Social Work Dept., Christ University presented a brief report on the events that took place so far in the two days of workshop.

In the valedictory session, each group was given opportunity to present their recommendations and suggestions with regard to the topics given to them. From each group one representative came forward and presented the group's recommendations. Followed by the group presentations, eight participants representing each sector – NGO, Academic, Social Work Associations, and Students came forward and expressed their feedbacks about the workshop. Followed by the feedback session, the guests of honour **Prof. Mariko Kimura**, President, IFSWA-Asia Pacific and **Prof. Michiko Hirato**, Treasurer, IFSWA-Asia Pacific delivered their speech consecutively, expressing their thanks and appreciation to the organizers and all the participants. **Mr. M.V. Sriganesh**, Secretary General, INPSWA, briefly narrated how the workshop was initiated, planned and executed. He wished every participant would have gained rich experience and learning from the workshop.

On behalf of the Social work Department, Christ University, **Dr. K. Hemalatha**, Associate Professor, thanked the organizers and the participants of the workshop. She also expressed gratitude to IFSW for their collaboration with the Social work Dept. Christ University. And finally, **Prof. L.S. Ghandi Doss**, President, INPSWA, delivered the Presidential Address in the valedictory session. In his speech, he emphasized the need for analyzing the policies that concern children.

Followed by the presidential speech, the certificates were issued for the participants by the dignitaries. Towards the end of the session, **Prof. Shobana Takrar** delivered the vote of thanks. She expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries, resource persons, organizers and the participants.