

Report on Gender Sensitization Workshop conducted on October 23 and 24

Gender Sensitization workshop is a program organised by State Mission for all Kudumbashree officials to make them aware of the need for special care given to suppressed gender. The program was conducted by Smt.Mercy Kappan and Sri Roshan Chandra of Visthar, Bangalore.

The programme is well scheduled and fruitful. There were many activities like group discussion, debates, tablo... The session started by making small groups which was in a different way. Each persons were given a picture. People having similar picture forms a group. Likewise the whole workshop was a different experience. First activity was to find out whether each want to be a male or female in their next birth. It was to find out each persons experience as what they are and what they feels they might experience when they become opposite sex. Interestingly 90% of them wants to be of same sex in their next birth. They are satisfied in their own gender but want the society to change their attitude in treating people differently. There were 2-3 people who want to find out how they will be, if they are born in opposite sex.

Next task was to find out how male think of themselves and female and what female think of themselves and male. The main finding was that both the male and female are of same quality, both good and bad except some genetic change. But the society treat them differently. Upon further discussion it was found that partiality is due to many factors like tradition, religion, culture etc. These factors influence our attitude in different ways.

Healthy discussions took place all of them shared their views and idea of the society and how they can bring changes. Each programme was explained by

respective programme managers and discussed how they can converge and make better results.

One main point is the feeding of knowledge to children's mechanically, as most of the institutions do now adays. Childrens learn what they are taught as such which cause them to swallow everything they are given without making an effort to learn on their own.

Session also included a movie named Manhole directed by Smt Vidhu Vincent which tells the story of manual scavengers which recordically does not exist through the eyes of a girl.

Looking forward for such programmes which will make us think about the necessity of a change to make a better world.

DPM, DDU-GKY

Wayanad