SOCIAL POLICY ADVOCACY CAPACITATION WORKSHOP

The session was organised at Chennai from 5th to 7th Jan'19, there were 16 participants from the provinces of South West India (SWI) and Central East India/Nepal (CEIN). The resource persons were Fr. Aloysius Irudayam and Mr. Paul Divakar. Sr. Precilla Noronha the Convener of Province Justice and Peace commission welcomed the participants. Sr. Taskila, APJP contact and Sr. Mariam PLT link councilor for JP commission introduced resource persons of the workshop.

The participant's general expectations were to learn skills of advocacy, how to do advocacy in grass root level and arrive at international level etc.

Day: 1 Topics dealt were:

- **List of specific legislations related to rights of women**
- **List of specific legislations related to rights of Children**
- **Types of Policy Analysis**
    a. Analysis 'for' policy
    b. Analysis 'of' policy
- **Steps to Policy Analysis:**

- **Social Justice Frame work for Policy analysis**
- **Group Discussion** – The participants were asked to analyze a policy based on Social Justice Frame work for Policy analysis.

Day: 2 Topics dealt were:

- Architeture of Social Policy Advocacy
- Stages of Social policy
- Effective Policy
- How to address the Policy gap
- Flow of Right Based Social Advocay Process
- What is Policy Brief
- Grievance Redressal Mechanisms
- Tools for Socal Accountanbility
- How to do the Fact finding
- Advocaty Mapping and stake holder Analysis
- Press release

Day: 3 Topics dealt were:

Srs. Udaya and Anthonia were selected by lot to present their issues to the group. In the process of presentation Fr. Aloysius helped us to formulate and to correct the Policy brief. Sr.kala voluntarily shared the Policy brief with us. It was a good chance to learn from each other's sharings, insights, and reflections. Mr. Paul Divaker took up the next session on-

- United Nations System and UN Organizations
- International bill of human rights
- Vienna Declaration & Program of Action
- Chief security officer Intervention(CSO)
- Shadow reports

At the end of his session, we were given the questions for final evaluation of the 3 days session in the small groups and present it in the larger group. Questions for the evaluations are…

1) **What have I learnt during past three days?**

Learnt about-

- ❖ the steps and procedure of advocacy
- ❖ Gained in-depth understanding of Children, women and human rights.
- ❖ What is advocacy and why we need advocacy and how to prepare for it.
- ❖ Learnt to write Grievance Redressal and policy brief and advocacy notes.
- ❖ Public hearing and fact finding process
- ❖ Importance of advocacy in today's socio, political context.
- ❖ Systematic, and effective way of doing advocacy
- ❖ It demands more knowledge, skills, risk taking and going beyond the comfort zone.
- ❖ Advocacy can be used in small level to begin with.
- ❖ Don't stuck with one view, learn to look at multiple views

2) **What is the learning's which will be practical use for me in my work?**

- ♦ Grievance Redressal and policy brief and advocacy Note

- Architecture of social policy advocacy
- Using Evidence for building tools – RTI
- Five steps advocacy procedures can be applied in all the field, social, education and in research.
- Make us to be focused in particular issue and prioritizing
- Help us to identify the focused problem and do the advocacy
- Advocacy skills
- Systematic way of writing a complaint letter, policy brief, Advocacy note.
- Different approaches to social Action

3) Which are the topics in which I need to be more enlightened?

- UN intervention procedure for advocacy. Practical examples could have be used
- UN detail
- Writing shadow report
- All the topics dealt in detail way, we have not assimilated all the topics, we need more days to work on practically

4) What is the level of the participation of the participance in all the session including all the home work?

- **60%** to 70 % active participation.
- All participated well, involved in the group discussion, attentive in classes in raising questions.
- This is a different type of workshop because it is new, time consuming and demanding which we are not used so some of us felt little tiring. But this is the way we need to do. Though all participated some were not able to express in the bigger group.
- Though the topic was bit difficult still every one tried to do the home work according to their understanding.

5) How do you estimate resource person's presentations and conducting session?

- 80% expertise in their Topic.
- The resource persons were professionals, well planned and prepared sessions with the proper timings. Interested interested in the learnings of the participants. Able to accept our limitations and encouraged us to do our best in the future.
- Resource persons were knowledgeable and well verse in their subject .
- Able to come to our level of understanding.
- We appreciate their enthusiastic and vigorous heart at this age .

6) I am passionately interested in doing human right based advocacy?

- Yes our group members are passionately interested in preparing and doing right based advocacy.
- Yes, it is very useful tool to transform oneself as well as the social structures. We need to go beyond our comfortable zone and take risk to join the advocacy forums in our areas.
- Some of us have little interest in this field.

After the final evaluation we thanked Mr. Paul Divaker for being the resource person for the three days session.

Fr. Aloy helped us to prepare the practical / specific/ concrete planning and follow up advocacy program for our Province.

We segregate ourselves in the group according to the state and worked out in one issue as a practical point.