

Report of Commission for SAM and Holistic Health Ministries Annual Gathering 28th to 29th July 2016 – Chiguru

The first Annual Gathering of SAM and Holistic Health ministries for those involved in Social Action and Holistic Health Ministry was held from **28th to 29th July 2016 at Chiguru** Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. 32 participants including the PLT were present for the two days sessions. The gathering included sharing our mission in a short, explicit and creative way in PPT (Power Point), SAM and HH Strategic Plan, input session on Thematic Priorities and Strategic Plan of MDU by Mr. Sathyan and Sr. Aruna and action plan for the future. The gathering concluded with the planning and sharing of action plan, vote of thanks and thanksgiving prayer.

The first day session began with the registration, opening prayer by Sr. Vinaya and welcome address followed by Sr. Sabina our Provincial's opening message to the group. She emphasized on loving our vocation, to see and hear in the eyes of God the cry of the oppressed, calling us to respond radically- Chapter 2015. She asked us to discuss and share in small groups the questions; what is the best ministry practiced and what we need to do more? The group shared the reflections. Sister related a story of the pigeons to bring the meaning of **“how can we cross over and go beyond the differences and become more human and to build more collaboration”**.

After the presentation of the strategic planning for SAM & HH Commission by Link person Sr.Pushpa, the sisters and staff presented their annual reports. It was noticed that in all the reports the sisters and staff were aiming to spread the Good Shepherd mission of socio-economic justice, sustainability, advocacy and empowerment of women and children.

The SAM Commission Convener Sr. Jacqueline invited Sr. Aruna to present the MDU India Strategic Plan. Sister highlighted on Integration of Ministries/Commissions, mapping of NGOs for joint advocacy, programs, sustainability, local fund raising, etc. She also mentioned that every training and session should be shared among the community sisters and the staff to make our mission more effective.

In the afternoon Sr. Jacqueline introduced Mr. Satyan the MDU Manager, the resource person to continue the session on **Thematic Priorities**. He began the session by appreciating the sisters of the Province for the wonderful work done in

different parts of our country. He placed two questions to the participants i.e. “what are the various forms of injustice?” and “what is the possible solution?”

The participants shared their views and solution in common; majority of them expressed the problem of minimum wages, unequal distribution of wealth, and wealth gap. And the solution was that we empower the women to fight for justice to share the country’s resources equally. He highlighted the Global Scenario to Indian Scenario on Economic Justice, the economic status of the world and India.

He mentioned that The Good Shepherd Congregation was committed to offer many forms of social support and personal empowerment opportunities to expand programs and initiatives that bring practical relief from poverty. Good Shepherd Projects have developed sustainable strategies for economic development in local communities, support fair trade, increase consumer awareness, create and participate in networks of human rights.

Mr. Satyan explained Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on NO POVERTY. He said, “We need to work towards eradicating poverty, equal rights, building resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations. There is a great need to create sound policy frameworks, ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities, and enhancing the use technology”.

The 2nd day meeting begun with the prayer after which Mr. Sathyan dealt with the thematic topics about girl child. He asked the participant to share the problems of girl child in India especially in our work areas. The following were few issues shared: infanticide, child marriage, child labor, rape, dowry, lack of education, no freedom to move around, discrimination, no right to make their own decision etc. He then explained to us the global scenario on the status of girl child later narrowed down to Asia-pacific and to India. In general he spoke about seven forms of Discrimination such as;

- Malnutrition
- Poor health
- Lack of education.
- Over work
- Unskilled
- Mistreatment
- Powerlessness



Together we reflected the stand of the Good Shepherd Sisters at congregational level and the position papers on girl child. He challenged us to reflect on what are the ways the central East India Nepal would address the issues of girl child ministries.

After the tea break we had a session on human trafficking. Mr. Sathyan explained the What, How and Why of Human trafficking

- **What** happens during trafficking - Recruited , Transported, Transfer Harbor , Receipted
- **How** it happens its threat, coercion abduction, and decapitation fraud abuse of power or vulnerability, giving payment or benefits.
- **Why is it done - Exploitation** includes, Prostitution, Sexual exploitation, Labour (consent), Forced labour, Slavery or similar practices, Removal of organs. The reality and facts of human trafficking in the global, Asia -pacific and in India. The efforts made by UN to prevent human trafficking and what is the good shepherds sisters stand on the issue and at last how are we going to address the issue of Human trafficking

In the afternoon the sharing was on human rights. The 30 human rights were explained clearly through video clippings. Then the participants were grouped into regional and society wise to discuss on the concrete action plan which could be taken up in our own area and in the ministries. After the action plan we had a meaningful concluding prayer conducted by the convener Sr. Jacqueline, followed by vote of thanks and a gift to Mr. Sathyan by Sr. Mary.

The Annual gathering was an eye opener in many aspects. It gave each one of us in-depth knowledge and understanding of the problems and the possible solutions that we could provide. It also helped us understand how we could work in our own capacities to reduce the problem and its impact on our society.

