

**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**WOMEN GAINING GROUND CONSORTIUM**  
**“STATE-LEVEL MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND**  
**NETWORKS ON DISABILITY RIGHTS AND MOVEMENTS”**  
**13.03.2022**  
**VENUE: HOTEL RED VALVET, PATNA**



**Submitted to:**  
**CREA, NEW DELHI**  
**Submitted by:**  
**ASS, MUZAFFARPUR**

On 13.03.2022, a State Level Meeting with Stakeholders and Networks partners was organized on the issue of disability rights and movements in Bihar at Hotel Red Velvet at Patna by ASS in a joint venture with CREA, Akili Dada, IWRA, YUVA, SRUTI Disability Rights and Gramonnati Sansthan- Mahoba. The state-level meeting is financed by CREA, New Delhi.

### **Participants in the State Level Meeting**

58 stakeholders and network partners.

### **Welcome to the Guests**

The respected guests were welcomed by Bandana Sharma, Founder and Secretary of Aakanksha Seva Sadan, Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Throwing light on the subject, Bandana Sharma said that ASS has been working without any discrimination with the support of CREA by taking every community and language together for the true development of society. She highlighted the need to work on the rights of adolescents and disabled women, their political identity, youth participation, and the sexual rights of Dalits and the marginalized in Bihar. She also welcomed and introduced Ms. Shakshi assigned as a sign language interpreter for this event.

After the welcome session, the introduction of all the stakeholders and network partners were presented and the program was formally started.

### **Messages from Representatives of CREA**

(1) **Babita Singh**, Representative of CREA said that CREA is a human rights organization with a feminist thought established in the year 2000. CREA works closely with all organizations whether they are government or non-government and envisions a just and peaceful world, where everyone lives with dignity, respect, and equality. We build feminist leadership, expand sexual and reproductive freedoms, and advance the human rights of all people. She further stated that CREA wants to achieve:

- Political participation of youth, adolescent girls, and girls with disabilities.
- Prevent sexual violence with the help of movement and administration at the local and regional levels.
- Encourage the political empowerment of women and work as a catalyst for developing their leadership capacity and promoting an inclusive platform for them.
- Make women and the disabled aware of their rights and activate the possibility of encouraging leadership in them.

(2) **Vallari Sharma**, Representative of CREA described the geographical presence of CREA. She narrated that at present, CREA is working in 5 countries. In India, CREA is working in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal and partnering with Aakanksha Seva Sadan in Bihar, YUVA in Jharkhand, Gramonnati in Uttar Pradesh, and Shruti Disability Rights in West Bengal covering issues of Youth, Adolescents and Disabled.

### **Open Session/Debate**

(1) **Sampa Sen Gupta** from Shruti Disability Rights, Kolkata gave his view on the RPwD Act, 2016, and the Rights of women in the State Level Meeting. She emphasized that it is essential that person with disabilities should enjoy the same rights as normal people. There should be special schemes and proper rules need to be made to ensure that they should get reproductive rights, medical facilities, social security, information about family planning, etc.

She further stated that there is a provision of 5% reservation for the person with disabilities in all schemes and development programs in India. It is not easy to make changes in the law. The RPWD Act, 2016 provides that “the appropriate Government shall ensure that the person with

disabilities should enjoy the right to equality, life with dignity, and respect for his or her integrity equally with others.” The Government has to take steps to utilize the capacity of the person with disabilities by providing an appropriate environment. In the RPwD Act, 2016, 21 identification and symptoms of disability are identified. When the first chapter of this Act was finalized, Govt. erased this chapter as Govt. does not want to work on it. But, if we work together and form a platform, changes may be possible. We should also observe that the rules are followed for the person with disabilities in Bihar.

She further said that it is not essential that the children of Divyang should also be Divyang by birth. There are different schemes for the person with disabilities in different states in India. Are a person with disabilities has easy access to these schemes should be taken care of. Only, Tamilnadu is the only state in India where the disabled are enjoying their rights with a 5% reservation also. If there is sexual harassment with a person with disabilities then there should be a provision to file a case or not. If pregnancy happens due to any reason, then her abortion is done by the family without taking her opinion. There should be freedom of speech at the Panchayat level also. No one should accompany disabled women or women at the time of voting, and there should be true participation in the election. It is implemented in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh states and should be implemented in other states of India too. She emphasized that these issues should be an essential part of our campaign.

#### **Messages from Other Participants**

(1) **Rajendra Jee (T-20DF, Patna)** said that we should use the word “Divyang” instead of “Viklang” because the word “Divyang” has been added in the Act by Modi Ji.

(2) **Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh (Bihar Viklang Adhikar Manch, Patna)** said that actually “Viklang” is generally used not “Divyang.”

(3) **Sampa Sen Gupta (Shruti Disability Rights, Kolkata)** said that the word “Divyang” has been added to our law but we have to break this barrier of the word and think over to change the society.

(4) **Bandana Sharma (Aakanksha Seva Sadan, Muzaffarpur)** said that we should not go the use of definition but should discuss the exact issues for which this event is organized. We should strictly follow the Agenda and should not alter it by discussing other irrelevant issues here as the new Act has come; the definition has changed, breaking of social barriers, etc. Rather, emphasis should be placed on how to work better at the social level.

(5) **Kalpna Khare (Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba)** said that we should have to fight for an equal socio-economic and political share of women, especially for the “Divyang.” A child with a disability is treated as a second-class citizen and nothing is agreed to. He/she needs to make his own decision and work should be done to achieve it. Therefore, a collective concrete strategy should be made so that the battle can be fought ahead. There are separate schemes for children and adults disabled. Even, Nirbhaya scheme is not implemented in all states.

(6) **Dimple Jasmin (Transgender and Bihar Kinnar Kalyan Board, Patna)** said that in Bihar transgender are not enjoying any rights and they are somehow making a living. They do not get any support in Bihar. In Bihar, not a single meeting is held for transgender. We do not need ration but “RIGHTS”. So, protect our rights. Emphasized linking transgender in this type of platform for betterment.

(7) **N. K. Sharma (Bihar Netrahin Parishad, Masaurhi)** said that in all disabled and gender committees women's participation should be made essential and in these committees disabled should be given priority. A disabled person should be a commissioner that will help injustice to

the disabled at the earliest. There is no need to hire an Advocate and to go to the civil court for justice. No Advocate wants to take the case on domestic violence of a disabled. There should be no discrimination in law against the disabled. So, we need to work on it.

### **Lunch Break**

After the lunch break, the session started with a song sung by Kalpana Khare, Akhtari Begum, and others.

### **Group Discussion:**

Group discussions were arranged on two issues: (i) **Gender-Based Violence** and (ii) **Political Participation of Young Disabled Women** by framing up 2 panels.

**Rajni Sahay (Sahyogi), Kalpana Khare (Gramonnati Sansthan), Bharat Koushik (Kinnar Adhikar Manch), and Radha (Disabled Woman) were the panelists of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).**

### **Statement of the Panelists:**

(1) **Rajni Sahay** said that there are a lot of challenges for young women and they do not get the opportunity to go forward. Male always dominate them. After winning the elections, her husband or any male of her family handles their work. Women after getting 50% reservation are not making the right progress. Opposite responsibilities are imposed in the minds of women with disabilities. We need to work on it. She emphasized the freedom of disabled women and said that their socio, economic and political participation should be assured. They should be regularly updated on Govt. schemes and programs and able to take benefit of it. She said that we should try the following strategies:

- They should be linked with different govt. committees.
- Training for elected women.
- Putting up the proposal in the Gram Sabha.
- Formation of networks/groups/committees to fight for the rights and different problems of young women and the disabled.

(2) **Kalpana Khare** said that there is a need to prepare concrete strategies from reservation to discrimination.

(3) **Bharat Kaushik** said that gives disabled freedom to work and makes them independent. They should work on their own. He said that CREA needs to work on it.

(4) **Radha** said that a woman who is disabled by birth is a problem in itself. The women are talented to do any work but were not given the right platform and encouragement.

### **Other important views on GBV**

♦ **Babita Singh (CREA)** said that women do not get any honorarium for domestic work. But the women working in the Anganwadi and Jeevika are given an honorarium. This mentality should change.

♦ **Rajnandani (Action Aid)** said that violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It knows no social, economic, or national boundaries. Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death. She emphasized that there is a need to promote the right of all women and girls to live free of violence and abuse.

### **Conclusion Emerged**

(1) Leadership building of the young women and disabled women is essential.

- (2) Domestic violence against young women and disabled women should be prevented.
- (3) Environment building in the family and society is important.
- (4) Priority in the family on choice and freedom should be promoted.
- (5) Improved mentality of the people on disabled socio-economic and political participation.
- (6) Giving Equal opportunity to the disabled.
- (7) Improved knowledge of the disabled on Govt. schemes and programs and about the linkage process.
- (8) Demand should be made for separate registration for transgender and disabled women.
- (9) Counseling the family members of the transgender and disabled should be done so that they can move forward.
- (10) Giving 4% reservation for the disabled in the Panchayat and civic body elections.

**Bibha-Viklang Manch, Akhtari Begum-Izad, Sudarshana Chakravarti-Shruti, Chandrakala Munda-YUVA, Bandana Sharma-ASS, Sanju Singh (Disabled Woman) were the panelists of the political participation of young disabled women.**

#### **Statement of the Panelists:**

- (1) **Bibha Kumari** said that Patriarchy is entrenched all over India. If there is more discrimination against a disabled woman, then the family is first responsible for it. If the family does not support her what is the fault of the government? Therefore, their identity is their self-respect and we need to protect it.
- (2) **Akhtari Begum** said that the discussions that have been made here are fruitful ones and it helps us in a deeper understanding of the subject. We should come in a united way to take this social disorder as a challenge. She said that bank loans should be provided to disabled women without any guarantee and should also be given travel allowance. The social barriers of the disabled should be erased and Govt. should also come forward strongly for the development of the disabled. We all should fight for Disabled rights. The cases of women violence are increasing in Bihar and we should work for its prevention.
- (3) **Sanju Singh (Disabled Women)** said that where is the fault of the girl child who was born with a disability? The child who was born normal is liked by all but the girl child who was born with a disability is not. She has no identity. This should be changed and the newborn girl with a disability should be treated equally to a normal child. We have no participation in any type of scheme. There should be separate bathrooms everywhere for us. We need to unite and raise our voices. Divyang women cannot produce a normal child is an illusion that I have broken. I am a mother of a normal child.
- (4) **Sudarshana Chakravarti** said that the speech of Sanju touched his heart. Society itself is a culprit of violence. She emphasized that the sexual harassment cases of disabled women, must be shared on social media or a voice must be raised against it at the social level.
- (5) **Chandrakala Munda** emphasized that the political participation of the young disabled women especially tribal women should be ensured. It helps them to improve their confidence and status. She was also of the view that it is only possible with the support of the government.
- (6) **Bandana Sharma** said that the political participation of the young disabled women at the panchayat level is essential. They should have the freedom to speak and thought.

#### **Conclusions Emerged**

- Lame, dumb, etc. names are given to the disabled by society. Sexual violence is also more with the disabled. The disabled are seen as a burden in the family. They have no respect.



- There is no scheme for the disabled in Sugam Bharat Yojana. It is also necessary to arrange separate toilets for the disabled. There is a scheme for pension only for the old person.
- Special disability schools should open up in every district of Bihar.
- Society is the real culprit for GBV. The life of a young girl (marriage, livelihood, education, etc.) is decided by males only.
- Most of the girls are harassed after marriage.
- The disabled are always suppressed. They should get their rights.
- The cases of violence happen not only with disabled women but also with women overall. If the husband beat her wife then she does not protest. The violence put women confined to the boundaries of homes. The panchayat women representatives are also not spared by this.
- This evil (GBV) has been for centuries and we have to make a strategy with its changed form like gang rape, burning, accident of Hijab, etc.
- There should be no discrimination in the society then real women empowerment will achieve. Every effort should be made to establish a safe society.

### **Future Strategies**

Stakeholders and Network partners discussed the usefulness to work with the local administration on Youth, Adolescents, and Disability issues. In the discussion, the following future strategies were formulated:

- Inclusive movement and a united platform should be promoted.
- Capacity building of Adolescents.
- Women's Leadership Building and Mentoring.

**Vote of Thanks:** Bandana Sharma gave a vote of thanks to all guests and praised their true participation. She also praised the support of CREA for this wonderful occasion. She insisted that the discussions made and strategies drafted here will promote solid steps for the overall development of young women, disabled women, and transgender and their voices will be heard to bring a lasting change in their present situation.

She ended the day with the assurance of meeting again the next day.



**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**WOMEN GAINING GROUND CONSORTIUM**  
**“STATE-LEVEL CONSULTATION ON LANDSCAPING OF ADVOCACY**  
**STRATEGIES WITH STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS”**  
**14.03.2022**  
**VENUE: HOTEL RED VELVET, PATNA**



On 14.03.2022, a “**State Level Consultation on Landscaping of Advocacy Strategies with State and Non-State Actors**” was launched. The guests were welcomed by Bandana Sharma. She expressed her happiness about the launching of the state-level program and said that we will work in partnership with the Government.

She welcomed prominent guests: Santawna Bharti, Suman Singh, Savita Jee, Sanju Singh, Ranjit Ji, Milthilesh Singh, Kusheshwar Das, Namita and Anand Prakash and all other participants in this state-level program.

A total of **68** participants participated in the state-level consultation.

#### **Inauguration Ceremony**

The state-level consultation was inaugurated by lightening the lamp jointly by Dr. Sunil Singh, Vaishnavi Jee, Dr. Bharti, Sampa Jee, Kusheshwar Jee, Babita Jee, Kishori Jee, and Mithilesh Singh. After the inauguration ceremony, the program was formally started.

#### **BRIEF PRESENTATION OF WGG BY CREA AND SHRUTI**

(1) **Babita Singh (CREA, New Delhi)** said that women should not only go for political participation but they should look forward to improving their identity too. If we walk on one issue inclusively then we will be successful. Gender discrimination makes it difficult to be successful but whatever we want is good, it won't work anymore. Central and state governments are not working smoothly for women's empowerment and therefore the gap is increasing. If there is not a gap then there is no need to frame policies. Any work can be done by the community itself. Women have to secure their rights in a demanding manner. We should try how to come on one platform to work with solidarity in this direction. But, how can we act when data is not available?

(2) **Sampa Sen Gupta (SHRUTI, West Bengal)** said that we will have to do the work for awareness of the young and disabled girls at different levels (government, non-government, local bodies, and panchayats) to bring them on one platform. She said that these policies will be implemented in Bihar with how much success cannot be said. When the right data is not available how can we get success? How much and to what extent the Budget 2022 will succeed is yet to be observed. Social audits of one-stop centers, low-cost housing, and shelter homes should be done. We should come on one platform to make a big movement.

#### **STATE LEVEL DATA ON WOMEN AND DISABILITY IN TERMS OF THEIR LEADERSHIP AND ACCESS TO DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONAL SPACES BY PRAXIS & OTHERS**

(1) **Vijeta Laxmi (Praxis)** said that Praxis is working for WGG. They will work for the implementation of the policy of the Govt. on gender and sexual violence issues. Taking the disabled child to schools and hospitals, who will marry her etc., are some of the important questions. The proposal of marriage came but not materialized, there is indecent behavior too but we have to fight with these challenges.

(2) **Santawana Bharti (Woman Activist, Bihar)** said that from 2009 special facilities have been provided. There are more than 600 KGBV. In KGBV, 25 seats are “RESERVED” for disabled women but yet the seats remain vacant.

(3) **Ranjit Patel (Amar Trishala, Muzaffarpur)** said that Bihar is the first state in India where a child protection officer exists. But, there is a shortage of mental health practitioners. We should think about how youth policy will be developed.

(4) **N.K. Sharma (Bihar Netrahin Parishad, Masaurhi)** said that Disability Act has come into force but in reality, it has not been implemented at least 50% at the ground level. Planning



should be done for education, rehabilitation, and employment of the disabled concretely. There are one-crore organizations in Bihar. He said that it is important that NGOs and CREA should work together to bring changes. The change will come not by speaking only but by doing work.

(5) **Ekta Sinha (I-Shaksam, Jamui)** said that because of the non-availability of proper data, there is a problem in working together.

(6) **Kumari Vaishnavi (Vaishna Swablamban, Patna)** said that it is important that a proper platform is needed that helps us to make a big movement.

#### **PRESENTATION OF 16 DAYS ACTIVISM PROGRAM BY BANDANA SHARMA**

**Bandana Sharma (Aakanksha Seva Sadan, Muzaffarpur)** said that when we have woken up, we also have to wake them up. With the same thought, a video clip of “**16 days activism to protect us and our rights**” was shown that was organized by Aakanksha Seva Sadan in 2021 in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar.

#### **Achievements of 16 Days Activism Program**

♦ **Sarita Devi** said that she is a disabled woman that is god gifted. But she faces discrimination and is deprived of all social activities. Now, I am dependent on others. But now, with the support of Bandana Madam, I came to know about my rights. Admittedly, I am disabled by legs but I have a brain. I am not helpless, I am capable. My husband supports me very well.

♦ **Rekha Devi** a young woman said that a young woman has to face many restrictions in life. She has no freedom to go out of home and always lives under restrictions. She has a lack of knowledge earlier. But now, with the support of Bandana Madam, I am moving forward. Now, with my 100 young friends, we are fighting for our freedom.

♦ **Sanju Devi, Ex Mukhia** said that I was elected in 2016 as Mukhia but never came out of the house. But with the support of Bandana Madam, I gained confidence and constructed schools, toilets, roads, drains, and implemented widow pension and nutrition work in my panchayat with the support of people.

♦ **Asha Devi** a youth leader said that she gained confidence with the support of Bandana Madam and now encouraging young disabled women to fight for their RIGHTS. My encouragement helps them a lot and sense of feeling occur that I am not helpless, I am capable.

#### **INVITATION TO THE TEAM OF PANELISTS**

A 5 member team of the panelist was invited by Bandana Sharma on the Dias. The team consists of the Representatives of NGOs, Govt. NGOs and Govt. Partner Organizations. The names of the panelists are as follows:

- (1) Mithilesh Singh- District Coordinator, Piramal Foundation, Patna
- (2) Namita Priya-Jeevika, Patna
- (3) Kumari Vaishnavi-Vaishna Swablamban, Patna
- (4) Suman Singh-Sakhi, Patna
- (5) Sanju Singh- Social Justice Bihar and Jharkhand (women trafficking)

#### **VIEW OF THE PANELISTS**

(1) **Kumari Vaishnavi** said that I can call this leadership when women are speaking on the stage. So far, I have supported the marriage of 38 disabled women. Disabled women must have the freedom to live their life of choice.

(2) **Namita Priya** said that apart from doing saving also involved in the discussion of different women's issues.

(3) **Suman Singh** said that there was a time when no one was ready to listen to us. But today, the mindset has changed and its results can be seen in this consultation. The 80s and today's time is a symbol of struggles for women. Women should stand on their own feet, earn and be financially strong. This will improve their overall status and help them to take decisions. She further said that women suffering from human trafficking will have to do the work of rescue and rehabilitation together with the support of the government.

(4) **Mithilesh Singh** said that women should be given freedom equal to men. Their rights should be protected.

(5) **Sanju Singh** said that the trafficking of women should be prevented. Poverty, gender discrimination, lack of education, and ignorance about legal rights are some of the underlying causes of trafficking.

### **CHARTER OF DEMAND** **ON** **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

#### **(I) Challenges faced by the young women and disabled women**

- ◆ Control over sexuality.
- ◆ Banned on gender education.
- ◆ Young and disabled women are denied their rights.
- ◆ Lack of knowledge of the violence that they are facing.
- ◆ Non-reservation to disabled women at the Panchayat level and denial of opportunity.
- ◆ Sexual abuse of women and adolescent girls.

#### **(II) Strategies to be adopted**

- ◆ Young and disabled women should get the opportunity for political participation.
- ◆ Disabled women should get a reservation in all fields.
- ◆ Ramps should be established in all govt. and non-govt. offices and other places for the disabled.
- ◆ Disabled and youth should be linked in all committees formed at the Panchayat level.
- ◆ Participation of women in Gram Sabha in which women never participate should assure. In Gram sabha, different issues about women should be raised.
- ◆ No one should make fun of his/her disability in society.
- ◆ Disabled should get jobs in government or non-government organizations/institutions at the village, panchayat, block, and district level. Mind setup of people for disabled should change.

**Vote of Thanks:** Bandana Sharma gave a vote of thanks to all guests and praised their true participation in the state-level consultation. She praised the support of CREA and ended the program with an assurance of creating a **STATE LEVEL FORUM** soon to continue the fight ahead.



## PICTURE GALLERY





## PICTURE GALLERY





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