

**Report**  
**Two (one-day) District Level Training programmes**  
**On**  
**Human Rights in Rajasthan**



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**National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

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## Introduction

Two (one- day ) district level training programmes on Human Rights were organized for the women members of Self Help Groups of in Tonk and Karauli districts in Rajasthan . These training programmes were organized by Kerala Development Society (KDS- Delhi) with the support of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).



**Mr. Mahesh Narayan Sharma delivering the keynote address in Tonk**

## **Objectives of the Programmes**

The major objectives of the programme were to sensitize and inform the women from poor and marginalized communities who are actively taking part in economic and social decision- making through SHGs about the various aspects of human rights. Such programmes for the women facilitate the empowerment of women in society by generating awareness among those who participate and further take it to more members through their active interaction in the society. Various Acts and UN conventions related to human rights such as Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993; The Bonded Labour System (Abolition ) Act, 1976; Child Labour Issues & Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; SC/ST issues & Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Civil Liberties Act, 1988 & The Forest Rights Act, 2006; UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 and its optional protocols were among the main topics of the two training programmes.



**Mrs. Ruchi takes session on Right to Education in Tonk**

## Self Help Groups : Strategies and Training Approach

Self Help Group (SHG) is a group in which members provide each other with various types of help for a particular shared cause. These groups are organised and led by lay people, rather than professionals. An SHG normally cover 10-20 members, while one member represents a family and an SHG group covers 10-20 families. Though some of the SHGs are formed without any external support most of them are evolved under different categories of projects and programmes. By and large, local NGOs provide continuous support services to these SHGs as local promoters. These SHGs meet regularly through the frequency of meetings is varied. As some of them hold weekly meetings some others meet either fortnightly or monthly. The agenda of their meetings, by and large, include various aspects of the ongoing micro-credit operations, employment and various government schemes, basic services such as drinking water, toilets, drainage, housing, education, etc. They have great potential in increasing legal awareness among their members and non-SHG members of their community. In our training programmes female based SHG members are the means and end beneficiaries of the programme.



**Dr. Jacob John talks about the Human Rights Institutions during training programme in Tonk**

Self Help Groups (SHGs) which have become a powerful social capital<sup>1</sup> in rural areas of state of Rajasthan is taken as the target group for the training programme organized on the theme of human rights. The general perception is that SHGs are formed only for economic gain. However, SHGs can become the agents of development in addressing the injustice behind the exclusion, deprivation and

<sup>1</sup> Social Capital refers to such features of social organization like trust, norms and networks that can help to improve the efficiency of society by facilitating coordinated actions.

disempowerment of the poor. Keeping in view that social capital of women-based SHG members have tremendous potential in addressing the issues of human rights specially women, child and people coming from the poor and marginalized community, the participants were selected from the members of SHGs promoted by the Samuhik Vikas Sansthan in Tonk and Indira Gandhi Mahila Bal Vikas Shikshan, in Karauli. Women members are in better position to create awareness among other SHGs members, their families and neighbours to enable them to seek justice. SHG leaders could bring human rights issues of co-members, family members or even neighbours in these SHG meetings and seek remedial measures, thus it is visualized that the coverage of the programme through a small group can be expanded through using the social capital of SHGs.

### **One Day Training Programme on Human Rights in Newai , Tonk District, on 12 December 2013**

**Participants :** On 12 December 2013, the training programme was organized at Modi Vishram Bhavan, Newai. Mr. Mahesh Narayan Sharma, SDM, Newai inaugurated the training programme. A total of 116 women members of twenty different SHGs of Newai district participated in the training programme. The participants representing seven villages of the Tonk district are members of the SHGs promoted by the Samuhik Vikas Sansthan, Newai. Active participation in the gathering was reflected by the eagerness of women discussing their personal experiences with regard to right to education, voting rights, child marriage etc. Also, the group representing the varied age class i.e. below 20 to above 50 years of women members raised a number of questions related to the process of sending their complaints to the Human Rights Commission in case of human rights violation. Majority of the participants never attended schools and expressed it as one of the main handicaps in their development as a human being and to get their rights. Knowledge is power and learning/education is not confined to any specific age group was clearly demonstrated by the women attending the programme coming from the villages viz, Chainpura, Bidoli, Hanutiya, Muniya, Newai, Gunsli, Kareda.





**Mr. Munnalal Rao addresses the participants in Tonk**

**Content/Material:** KDS Delhi has compiled the material in as a simplified booklet in Hindi using the training material of NHRC. The training kits contain various provisions of human rights relevant to the target groups.

**Programme Sessions:** Training programme organized in four different sessions was conducted by the resource persons viz, Mrs. Ruchi, Mrs.Pushpa Rajvanshi, Mr. Munnalal Rao and Dr. Jacob John. Introducing the theme of the training programme, Mr. Mahesh Narayan Sharma, the SDM, Newai delivered the keynote address. He requested the participants to take the full advantage of such programmes which forms an important base for their empowerment.



**Mrs. Pushpa Rajvanshi takes session in Tonk**

**Session I:** In the first session of the programme, Mrs. Ruchi S introduced the term “Human Rights”. What the participant understood by the rights human beings was elicited from the responses of the participants in the beginning of the session. In the introductory session, she talked about the constitutional provisions relating to human rights and asked the participants about their awareness level regarding the same. Each article mentioned in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, 1948 was explained one by one. With the help of various illustrations, she presented the main issues of human rights related to marriage, voting, employment, child education etc. The session saw an active discussion on various human right issues and experience sharing by the participants.

**Session II:** Dr. Jacob John presented the provisions of the main Act related to the human rights in our country i.e. Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. He explained the background, organizational set up and working of the human rights institutions in India. His discussion focused on the working of National Human Rights Commission and the facilitation it provide to a common man in numerous ways in case of human rights violation. The participants raised questions related to the process of sending a complaint to the Human Rights Commission and redressal mechanism. Also, Dr. John informed about the state

level human rights commissions and specifically mentioned the role and features of such institution which exist in the state of Rajasthan.

**Session III:** Mr. Munna Lal Rao dealt with the major issues of Child Rights. Concentrating on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, he discussed the importance of development and protection of a child recognizing children to be a supremely important asset to the country. Mr. Rao spoke about the National Policy for Children 1974 which outlines services the state should provide for the complete development of a child, before and after birth and throughout a child's period of growth. In addition, another important section covered during the session included Women's Right. Mr. Rao clearly spelt out the major highlights of the UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women, 1979. Women members of the self help groups showed great interest in sharing their experience during this session.

**Session IV:** In the last session, Mrs. Pushpa Rajvanshi dwelt on the issues of bonded labour: the reason for the prevalence of such systems and reasons thereof in our society. She provided detailed information on the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Also, she discussed the status, condition, issues and Acts of the vulnerable group of the society which belong to Schedule Caste and Schedule. Participants raised the issues of continued reservation for the people maintaining high standard of living belonging to the SC/ST. The programme followed the discussion cum lecture methodology. A day long programme concentrating on various aspects of human rights saw the active participation by the women which was witnessed during the question answer session and experience sharing in all the sessions.



**Women members of SHGs attending the programme**



## **One day Training Programme on Human Rights in Shree Mahaveerji , Karauli district on 16 December 2013**

**Participants:** On 16 December 2013, One day Training Programme on Human Rights was held at Digambar Jain mandirathishay Khethra Shree Mahaveerji in Shree Mahaveerji , Karauli district . A total of 128 women members of 9 different SHGs of Karauli district participated in the training programme. The participants representing 8 village panchayats of the Karauli district are members of the SHGs promoted by Indira Ghandi Mahila Bal Vikas Shikshan, an NGO



**Mrs. Ruchi S takes classes in Karauli**

**Content/Material:** Relevant training material on Human rights containing various provisions of human rights relevant to the target groups was distributed among the participants .



**Dr. Jacob John addresses the participants in Karauli**

**Programme Sessions:** Training programme organized in four different sessions was conducted by four resource persons viz, Mrs. Ruchi S , Ms. Satisha Choudhari, Shri. Bhagawan Sahay Sharma and Dr. Jacob John. A total of four sessions were organized ie- Introduction to Human Rights, Human Rights Institutions in India, Rights of Women and Children and Rights of other vulnerable groups.



**Shri. Bhagawan Sahay Sharma takes session in Karauli**

## Impact of the Training Programmes and Way Forward

In the two training programmes a total of 244 Women Self Help Group members were trained on human rights. During various sessions of the training programmes, the grievances of several participants including certain violations of human rights were presented and discussed. Majority of SHG members are woman from poor families and marginalised communities. Most of the women members of SHGs do not have any regular income or employment. Some of them who are working or worked in Anganwadis stated that they have experienced violation of human rights with respect to of the termination of their employment tenure and monthly pay. Their awareness level about various aspects of human rights is abysmally low though some of them have a vague idea about Right to Education and Voting Rights. There is a need to orient women members of SHGs on Human Rights in light of their younger educated counterparts entering the labour force. SHG network can play a critical role in widespread dissemination on human rights and their usefulness for a smooth and healthy life given that they are properly guided and adequately supported.



**Mrs. Satisha Choudhari interacts with the participants in Karauli**

In State of Rajasthan a large number of poor women SHGs are already formed at village level. In addition, SHG clusters/ associations/federations are formed at Taluk or district level. This process is still being continued under various programmes of government and non-government agencies. The network

of woman SHGs have become a powerful social capital. We found that exposure of poor women about registering a complaint in case of human right violation and getting their right and compensation is very low. The social capital of poor women- SHGs can be effectively used in any programmes to provide access to justice.

In fact, the accessibility of justice and human rights to women belonging to poor families and marginalized communities is poor in many States and hence these woman SHGs can be means and ends of such training programmes. Such approach of conducting training programme can be used and applied in other Indian states as well. Social capital of women-based SHG members have tremendous potential in addressing the issues of human rights violation faced by people from poor families and marginalised communities. SHGs are in better position to create awareness among other SHGs members, their families and neighbours to enable them to seek justice and rights. SHG leaders can bring grievances and issues of co-members, family members or even neighbours in these SHG meetings and seek remedial measures. It shows that the coverage of the training programmes for marginalized people can be expanded through using the social capital of SHGs. In fact SHG members participated in our programmes emphasized the need for holding more such programmes for the rural women as a large proportion of the middle aged women had not attended schools in the state of Rajasthan.

To conclude, our experience shows that SHGs can become the agents of development in addressing the injustice behind the exclusion, deprivation and disempowerment of the poor. Direct beneficiaries of the project are women from poor families are marginalised communities. Most of the indirect beneficiaries are family members of the direct beneficiaries. Co-members of selected SHG are also indirect beneficiaries. In nutshell, it has resulted in empowerment of women from poor families and marginalises communities.

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