

**A REPORT ON  
CHAIRPERSONS  
TOUR TO KERALA  
STATE (ERNAKULAM  
DISTRICT)**

**ON**

**27.12.2010**



- 15 Adv. Bindhu.M.A. Legal Counsellor, Mahilamandirum, Kaloor Ernakulam
- 16 Adv. Anupama Johny Legal Counsellor, De-Paul Legal Counselling Centre Angamally, Ernakulam
- 17 Adv. Jaimole.P.K. Legal Counsellor, Cultural Academy for Peace, Ernakulam
18. K.G.Vincent Liaison Officer Regional Assistant Director of social welfare Office Ernakulam
19. Adv. Mekha Dinesh.K. Legal Counsellor Liss India Family Counseling Center Ernakulam
20. K.P.Shamsu Superintendent, Govt.Children's Home Kakkanad Ernakulam
21. John Joshy.K.J Child Welfare Inspector, Regional Assistant Director of Social Welfare Ernakulam



Dr. Beena, IAS, District Collector, Ernakulam welcomed the Chairperson and she appreciated the activities of the Commission and our visit to Ernakulam.

One of the factors that led to the renowned Kerala model of development achieving many positive social indicators is empowerment of Women through education said Dr. Girija Vyas. Kerala is the model of all other states .However they suffer a lot of problem in their house and work place, they were abused sexually, mentally and physically they should not be an end. Despite the high literacy there are many evils existing in the state.

In Kerala with 50% of seats reserved for women in local bodies, it means women are coming forward to take social decision. Exciting of many laws do not protect women like” Protection of women Act”, “Domestic violence Act 2005”, “Dowry Prohibition Act”, instances of crime against women are increasing. More Programs should be formed to women groups and provide them training. We already have successful examples like Kudumbasree, which are acclaimed globally for economically empowering women.

The major findings of a study on Child abuse in India 2007 are that 53.22% of children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse and this included both boys and girls. Some times parents, themselves and under obligation might be allowing a stranger more access in their home. The threat could be nearer home too. Quite a few incidents have been reported in which close relatives have been found to be the culprits’ .And sexual abuse is simply not even mentioned. Nobody is taking to this social ill head on even when it is stalking be it at home or out side.

Many cases at home about the “Dowry” since awareness has increased .But the lack of awareness that to approach in case of any such happen going to the police is the last things a parent would think of. In India 2001-2002 is that single women 11% at the age of 28-30. She is suffering ill, malnutrition, ignoring their houses. At the year of 2009, 25,000 complaints it is very huge number. Jagrathasamidhi and other local bodies can improve a lot but monitoring system cannot adopt grass root level. In permanent reservation for women in local self govt is 33 % India but women’s conditions and their problem is increasing in huge number, IPC is giving safe guards for women.

Another great problem is child marriage; one case reported 2008 in Kerala. It isolated once married young girls are typically forced to leave behind the family, friends and community. She forced to move to their new husband’s home. Early marriage results in loss of childhood, girls are inhabited from realizing their dreams and their rights are violated and they lose the ability to choose how their

life is fulfilled. Their sexual and reproductive health is sacrificed, some times to the point of causing of death.



Mrs. Bitty K. Joseph Project Manager of People's Council for social Justice said Violence against women is a serious problem in Kerala. Overall one third of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 have experienced sexual violence. In total 35% have experienced sexual violence. Married women were also asked about their experience of emotional violence. Nearly two to five 375 married women have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their husband.

Adv.K.B.Sujatha said Kudumbasree and other Women group societies have produced a lot house hold articles like Kondatum, Pickles, Jams, Soap, Snacks .This bundle of production, they can't find market .Door to Door marketing is very difficult. They produced these materials is very confidently. Handicraft and hand loom items can't earn good price. They forced to fight modern market hand made items is not just like a car. It contains in itself methods, emotion, habit and most important pass from the hereditary.

The awareness programme end at the time 11.30

## **Press Conference by Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson, National Commission for Women on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2010**

Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Dr. Girija Vyas has lauded Kerala's performance in initiating measures to uphold women's welfare.

High literacy rate coupled with the 50 per cent reservation in local bodies have helped the State in maintaining a lead in tackling women's issues, she said at a press conference here.

She expressed concern at the imbalance in male-female sex ratio, a phenomenon found in many States. Kerala, which had a commendable record in retaining higher female births, recorded a decline as per the latest figures, she said, underlining the need for greater awareness on the issue. "Child marriage is a worrisome issue in many States though it has been less rampant in Kerala. Nevertheless, the menace is known to exist in two districts of the State, Malappuram and Kasaragod," she said. Domestic violence is a major problem in many parts of the country. Even in Kerala, it is a big problem, she said. The commission has been receiving complaints on complex issues arising out of certain marriages involving non-resident Indians.

The Rajya Sabha is to consider a Bill on sexual harassment at work places soon. A Bill on sexual assault is likely to come up before Parliament later. Stringent punishment and rehabilitation of the victims are among the proposals.

The commission has been eliciting opinion of various States on the marriageable age. The suggestion from Kerala is to increase the minimum age of the male from 21 to 24 and that of the female from 18 to 21. Discussions will be held in different States before arriving at a conclusion, she said.