

**NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON  
CEDAW IN PREPARATION OF THE  
ALTERNATE REPORT  
TO THE IV & V PERIODIC REPORT**

2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2012, New Delhi



**THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMAN**



1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Address by Ms. Indira Jaisingh Hon'ble Member, CEDAW Committee & Additional Solicitor General, Supreme Court of India "Restoring Human Rights of women using the Foundational frame work of India".
3. **Session I** : The Current Economic status of in India and Women's Condition in the areas of Employment
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5. Session III: Suppression of Trafficking and Exploitation of Prostitution Article 6
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## **North-East, Urban Settlements, Conflicts, Widowed Women, Muslim Women and Chhattisgarh**

9. Way Forward: Towards Preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Alternative report 2012
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**The National Consultation was organized on 2nd & 3rd Oct. 2012 to prepare the Alternate Report to the IV & V Periodic Report at YMCA, New Delhi – 110 001.**

The National Consultation was the culmination of the Regional Consultations towards preparation of the **IV and V Periodic NGO Alternative Report on CEDAW** on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Hyderabad, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Chhattisgarh, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Maharashtra, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Odisha and 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Punjab. The National Consultation aimed to bring together women's organizations and networks working around CEDAW as an instrument for change. The consultation aimed to plan for the **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Alternative Report**.

The meeting was attended by 75 participants from many organizations within and outside Delhi. The key-note Speaker was Additional Solicitor General, Supreme Court of India Ms. Indira Jaisingh.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Ms. Koely Roy, NAWO-West Bengal; Executive Committee Member, NAWO** welcomed all the participants to the National Consultation. She introduced Dr. Ruth Manorama, President of **The National Alliance of Women** to all the participants. She highlighted the purpose of the consultation which paved the way forward in putting down the Alternative report writing process.

**Dr. Ruth Manorama, President NAWO** highlighted the purpose of the meeting which was to build stronger alliances and strategies for promoting and protecting women's rights in the country using the Alternative report writing process as a mechanism for holding the State accountable to its obligations under CEDAW. She also gave a synopsis of the Guidelines for the preparation of the alternate report. The Government of India has published its draft report to the CEDAW committee in November 2011 in its website which could be used for reference. She urged the participants involved in report writing to look into issues of women's freedom and human rights as discrimination leads to deprivation of rights; she also requested them to analyze equality in education and employment, steps taken by the government and its policies, legislations, gaps and obstacles. Women with disability, Dalit women, armed conflict in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir needs to be given importance. She also mentioned that the recommendations for the alternative report must logically flow from the various regional consultations that were held.

The aim of the consultation is to engage in discussion on issues of the **Economic status of rural women in India, illegal trafficking, women with disability, critical concerns relating to dalit and tribal's** and many other important issues in the context of CEDAW.

The reports from the CEDAW Regional Workshops on critical issues and valuable suggestions were given by South India, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, North- East, Goa ,Odisha and Maharashtra.

## ADDRESS BY MS. INDRA JAISINGH

The key-note was delivered by the Additional Solicitor General, Supreme Court of India **Ms.Indra Jaisingh**.

Ms. Indira Jaisingh addressed the gathering on **'Restoring Human Rights of Women Using the Foundational frame work of CEDAW: Equality, Non-Discrimination, State Obligation and Fundamental Freedom'** based on her analysis as a member in CEDAW and her experiences as a woman activist.



Ms. Indira Jaisingh elucidated the formation of the CEDAW Committee which is a political process and at this particular juncture, India was looking for global visibility in all international forums. The **CEDAW Committee** comprises of a group of 23 members drawn from different regions of the world. The 23 member committee works with the help of many sub committees. She wanted everyone to be aware of these processes while working on the CEDAW Alternative Report. To highlight the case on equality, she mentioned the case of an indigenous woman from Canada who was married to a non indigenous person and a victim of the domestic violence; the court had earlier allotted her premises in an area earmarked for indigenous persons. The proceedings in Canada went against her. She applied to the CEDAW Committee and filed a complaint under the Optional Protocol. The working group came to the 23 member committee and the Committee was of the view that the complaint is not maintainable because she did not go for an appeal under the national laws. Ms. Indira Jaisingh explained that **she argued against the consensus view** that the indigenous Canadian lady does not have to appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada works on law and not on facts. **The committee reversed the decision and the complaint was held to be maintainable as the Committee was to address international law and not national laws.**

Ms. Indira Jaisingh observed all the 23 members are permitted to ask questions and she consistently asked questions on the Article 2 which is the basic and most important issues are discussed in that context. **The two key questions that she raised were:-**

1. **Whether there are any guarantees of non discrimination in their respective constitutions?**
2. **The states approach towards personal laws?**

**Talking about personal laws**, Ms. Indira Jaisingh spoke about a case which has gone on appeal to the Supreme Court from the Gujarat High Court. In this particular case a Parsi girl married to a non Parsi, *was not allowed to enter the fire temple to perform the last rites of her family member as she was married to a non-Parsi.* She filed a petition in the court seeking the right to enter the fire temple. The court observed that when a woman marries her husband she takes on the religion of her husband. Ms. Indira Jaisingh questioned the **national commitment of respecting secularism**. She said that she had been around the country, mobilizing people who were married outside their community and approached them to become petitioners to come forward and say that **they married outside their religion by choice and never wanted their spouses to change their religion.**

An effort was being made to link CEDAW with the Indian Constitution and challenge the judgment on the grounds that it counters the basic structure of the Indian constitution.

Ms. Indira Jaisingh **addressed the age of marriage for the Muslims** and the High Court decision of accepting the age of puberty as the age of marriage as per Muslim Law. According to her, this raised serious questions relating to the issue of child marriage. **“For the personal laws to change the demand has to come from the community”**, she urged the activists and NGOs **to work out a clear cut strategy to achieve the desired with focussed and clear aim**, set out after due deliberation.

## SESSION I

The first session began with the Current Economic status of India and Women's Condition in the Area of Employment and Economic Life by Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay, Director Women's Study Centre, Kolkata University.

She said though the Ministry Of Statistics gives us an impression that women are involved in economic activities, only 17% of them are involved in economic activities that too from the rural areas. The **urban - rural divide** is very distinct. Only 12% of households in both urban and rural areas are female headed households, increasing their vulnerability as the men have the freedom to migrate to the cities in search of employment.

Due to the demographic transition, India today has fair number of women and men who are working.

**In 2009 -10 within the age of 15 - 59 years**, it comprised of 59% rural males and 61% females. And in the urban areas, the percentage is marginally higher. 56% of rural males and **27% of the rural females** belonged to the labour force. In urban areas 56% of males and **15% of females** belong to the labour force. There is a high rate of **unemployment** among females

From 2004-05 to 2009-10, there has been a decrease in the female working population. The reasons were identified and analyzed. Some key issues that emerge are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

### There is a difference between employment and livelihood.

*Livelihood cannot be termed employment because 'employment' gives you certain rights and 'livelihood' does not. One can only sustain oneself with livelihood. There is defeminization of work force resulting in women being pushed out of the work place.*

There are three categories of employment:-

- ✓ Regular or salaried employment.
- ✓ Self employment.
- ✓ Casual employment.



**Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay said that** globalization has resulted in drop in regular employment for women. There has been a definite shift towards casual employment and marginalization of labour and women work in the informal sectors. Over a period of time two categories of discrimination emerged side by side, namely:-

? Male - female discrimination ? Rural and urban female divide in employment both these categories are discriminated in their work place.

She mentioned about the growing trend of self employed women; nearly 56% of working women were self employed. Most women are self employed, not by choice but to sustain their families.

According to statistics, from 2004 to 2009 employment of female workers has fallen by 7% in the urban areas and by 3% in rural areas unlike male workers. With globalization, **female worker trends of unemployment and displacement are being reinforced**. New categories have been formed namely the '**working poor category**' where the majority of them are women. **Employment and poverty go hand in hand for women.**

**Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay said that Migration was another cause for concern.** Intra district migration is a major cause of concern. These of migrations are from the central, northern, southern, western, eastern regions of the country in search of work and livelihood. **The growth model of the country through systematic integration has to include women and create more employment and equitable income distribution.**

Women own only 20.8% of the deposits in their accounts in the scheduled commercial banks and 1.3% of the total deposits. Women's access to credit is also very low. Self help groups (SHG) have been able to address their financial requirements. 72.5% of savings and 82% of outstanding loans have been micro financed with SHG banks.

#### **Specific Recommendations by Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay are:-**

In all the women related schemes at the time of evaluation, it should not be of concern as to how many women are getting benefitted, but whether these women are elevated from their vulnerable conditions.

- ❖ Whenever the GOI carries out an assessment report, it needs to assess whether the said vulnerability still exists, before the previous programs were carried out.
- ❖ The women's access to credit of all types and access of the livelihood is threatened. They should look into the **failure to develop this capability** of the women and lay down measures to resolve this problem.
- ❖ There is a need to consider this as an exclusive policy, and not as an inclusive policy like the others.
- ❖ To make the policy inclusive, the various dimensions where the capability failure is present, need to be studied in detail.
- ❖ The threat from micro finance institutions have to be protected by regulation of micro finance institutions; Reserve Bank of India has already recommended several measures in this regard.

#### **Points that came up for discussions were:**

##### **Ms.Soma Parthasarathy**

1. **Microfinance:** The Microfinance Bill which is being moved is regressive and is likely to harm women, even while it claims to be taking women's interest into consideration. The Reserve Bank of India has put in place certain rules to regulate the microfinance institutions and it is required that they continue to do so. Women's groups working on SHG's have also given their inputs on a feminist point of view and these views need to be taken into consideration.
2. **Livelihood as a subsistence economy:** Access to land, water, forests and common property resources is critical for SC/ST women who form the majority of the working poor. She said it was necessary to look into the current policy regimes and the implications towards women's rights and access to commerce and natural resources as subsistence economy.
3. She highlighted the focus of the **government investment in the manufacturing sector and not the agricultural sector.** She said that marginalization and displacement are not only outcomes of the pattern of investment that are occurring in the broader economy, but also more specifically part of the design to contractualize the agricultural lands. This contractualisation has only resulted in their access to labour

and their resources being implicated. It would not be possible to lobby for women's rights if the entire regime is going towards **contractualisation**. The capital formation into the hands of a few, denies women the rights and access to resources.

**Ms.Nafisa Bharot:**

She observed that **protection of Biodiversity** was important in the context of livelihood and globalization.

## SESSION II

### General Recommendations 19- Violence Against Women

The chair of the Second Session was **Ms. Koely Roy**, the Executive Committee Member (NAWO) who spearheaded the discussion on **Violence against Women**. She highlighted the various forms of violence that are perpetrated in institutions, Cultural violence, Media violence and Economic policy related violence in brief.

It was observed by Ms. Koely Roy that **violence is often perpetrated on women as they are the most vulnerable**. She recommended **legal education to be made mandatory, strong punishment** especially for rape, registration of protection homes, compensation for rape victims and formation of **sexual harassment committee** in all institutions and corporate firms. Amendments in the legislations needed to be carried out to curb discrimination on the Dalit women and to address issues of bonded labour.

**A : Ms. Anuradha Kapoor from SWAYAM** supported her findings with some hard facts on **Violence against Women**. She opined that acts of violence committed on Dalit and tribal women, Women with disabilities or Communal violence should be dealt separately because the implications for these women go beyond violence as violence undermines women's fundamental rights.

- ❖ In her findings **she observed that**
- ❖ Crimes against women have **increased by 48%**.
- ❖ Conviction rates are much higher in IPC crimes than in rape and domestic violence.
- ❖ Conviction rate is **less than 15% for Domestic violence**.
- ❖ **Sexual assault and domestic violence:** the gradation of the conviction shows that *the judiciary is lending credence to the gravity of the offense*; the key fact remains that **domestic violence is more than 45% of all crimes against women, and is not given its correct due in the overall perspective**.
- ❖ Sexual assault has **increased by 31 %**; *rape against SC and ST has increased*.
- ❖ **Spousal violence has increased by 70%**. The conviction rates are miniscule.
- ❖ Dowry Murders have shown a 28% increase and suicide rates have also gone up.
- ❖ There is a 29% increase in murders and 36 women are killed every day.
- ❖ **The murder of the wives has increased by 28%**.
- ❖ In response to the above, the government report states that measures to stem the same are being implemented by the introduction of PWDA and appointment of 6000 Protection Officers; the fact of the matter is that :-
- ❖ The medical facilities have not started functioning till date.
- ❖ Protection officers becoming Dowry Prohibition Officers will be difficult to implement on ground, as they are already over burdened, and the efficiency will be further reduced.
- ❖ While the civil society is consulted when legislations are formulated, but the final shape of the enacted law is different from the earlier recommendations of the civil society eg. the Sexual Harassment Bill.



### ❖ **Many forms of violence have emerged:-**

- ❖ Dowry murder.
- ❖ Domestic violence against intimate partners.
- ❖ Honour killings - women are married out of choice and they are killed by caste panchayats.
- ❖ Violence against Elderly women.
- ❖ Violence on the basis of non conforming sexualities - they are expected to be part of the hetro-sexual group.
- ❖ Child marriage.
- ❖ Public sexual harassment, Acid attacks, Cyber crimes, Witch hunting, Sex selective abortion and violence related to eviction.

Talking about section 498A, **Ms. Anuradha Kapoor** said the number women who are filing cases is very low compared to the data. **Dowry Prohibitions Act also needs to be amended.** The **Criminal Assault Amendment Bill does not address concerns of marital rape.** The Supreme Court has given **extraordinary judgments on the honour killing**, but the fact remains that the State is yet to act in this matter.

Delhi, being the crime capital has special women cells, but they don't appear to even register the crime. Though recommendations have been made on how violence against women have to be dealt by the police department, medical authorities etc, they do not follow the advisories.

### ■ **Some of the CEDAW recommendations that are not followed**

- They had set a **national plan of action** to address gender based violence has not evolved effectively.
- Resource allocation continues to be very poor.
- Gender sensitization is taking place, however the quality is pathetic. The involvement of women group in developing these modules is absent.
- Legal aid services provided to women are not quality services, and are not even available at the rural level.

### ■ **Some Recommendations for the Police:-**

- The police officers who are involved in investigation of cases should not be part of the routine law and order machinery.
- It is observed that majority of the evidence is lost/ not collected, primarily due to lack of professional training and availability of policemen which is why the conviction rates are so low.
- Special training in investigation, specifically for sexual crimes and protocols should be outlined in terms of a standard operating procedure, so that women get their due justice.
- 24 hr help lines should be made operational through the police, but connected to all the other emergency services.

### ■ **Legal- Recommendations**

- Increase the number of courts to reduce the delay of the legal proceedings at sub divisional levels.

- Time bound trials.
  - Victim witness protection programs.
  - Rehabilitation of the victims.
  - Increase in the quality of provisions and services, shelter homes especially for women.
- The **role of media** in the manner of reporting and disclosing details for survivors should be looked into.

**B. Presentation on Muslim Women was made by Ms. Sheba George, SAHRWARU and Ms.Hameeda Nayeem**

**Ms. Sheba George** brought out issues of discrimination of Muslim women and the clear violation of their rights enshrined under CEDAW. The salient aspects are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.



■ **Access And Poor Availability Of Social Security Schemes: Violation of Article 1, 2,3,13,14,15 of CEDAW**

There has been an **increase in ghettoisation of the Muslim community**. Families are denied houses on rent and are unable to purchase land in many places. In Gujarat, there has been forced ghettoisation like Bombay Hotel, where many of the Muslim families relocated after the 2002 Anti Muslim Violence in Gujarat.

The terminology and nomenclature of most of the schemes are not inclusive and reflective of the religion and culture of the religious minority community and they are

also patriarchal in nature. She cited some examples like the Budupu Lakshmi in Andhra Pradesh, Kanyadan Yojana, Ladli Lakshmi Yojana in Madhya Pradesh, Kuwan Banu Mameru in Gujarat.

While some Muslims are being benefitted under these schemes, it is desirable to have names/ nomenclatures that reflect the pluralism of secular India, so that the sense of alienation does not set in .

**Prostitution and trafficking of Muslim girls** due to *poverty, unilateral divorce, abandonment, unemployment and migration of men for employment*, continues to be of great concern.

■ **Political And Public Life- Article 7 CEDAW**

There is minimum representation of Muslim women in all bodies of decision making and governance across the states.

The two child norm clause for elected representatives in local governance has affected Muslim women as some of them have been removed from their post, based on this norm. She alleged that these are barriers for women who are already under represented in political and public life.

The policy of the government to control population growth under the family planning programme has affected women and impacted political

participation of Muslim Women violating Articles 4(2) and Article 12 CEDAW.

Obstruction by the political parties in the involvement and growth of women by giving them seats and position are discriminatory and violative of Article 1,2 and 7 CEDAW.

#### ■ **General Recommendation 19- Violence Against Women**

- There is sexual harassment, discrimination and exclusion of Muslim women in public and political life and at the workplace.
- **Impact of Programmes For Muslim Minority On Muslim Women**

It violates Article 3 of CEDAW in guaranteeing Basic Human Rights and Fundamental Rights. Gaps in accessing the Rights under Article 1, 2 of CEDAW, inspite of the 15 point programmes and multi sectoral programmes for minorities, is due the poor not being provided access to basic facilities and infrastructure, even in minority concentrated areas. There is disparity in availability of water, sanitation, electricity, roads, health centres, schools and public transportation.

Women are being subordinated in playing their roles in governance as elected members even in the Muslim communities where Muslim women are elected representatives; their spouses play the larger role in local governance, thus it is a violation of Article 1,2,5,7 of CEDAW.

#### ■ **Economic and Social benefits- Violations under Article 1,2,13 of CEDAW.**

The implementation of the schemes in the follow up of the Sachar Committee recommendations, have underutilized the grants under the multi sectoral schemes and the 15 point programme of the Government.

There is complete failure in the State of Gujarat as the state government has rejected any programme recommended under the guidelines of the Sachar Committee.

Even under the Multi Sectoral schemes meant for religious Minority, the behavior and attitude are discriminatory towards the beneficiaries from the religious minority Community.

- **Violation of Article 1,2,14 CEDAW under MGNREGA.** The nature of jobs provided do not keep in mind the skills and abilities of Muslim women in rural areas. Indira Awaas Yojana (Housing) is not available to Muslim women. It is also a part of the multi sectoral programme.

- **Article 10 : Education.** In minority concentrated districts, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan the class rooms have been modernized with technologies like computers. Department for social exclusion for socially excluded groups of Dalits, Muslims and tribal have been included in the Universities. However there are certain gaps.

- While under the UGC there is remedial coaching and coaching for entry into professional services, the number of Muslim girl's participating is very low.
- There is no affirmative action for Muslim girls by providing free coaching to train them for professional services.
- Infrastructure to encourage higher education in Muslim women is limited in terms of provision of hostels, girl friendly toilet facilities,

girl's common rooms, proximity of high schools and colleges, access to issue of books from library for Muslim girls.

- Under the multi-sectoral plan, Kasturba Balika Vidhyalaya programs have not been implemented in the minority concentrated districts, indicating non implementation of schemes as follow up of the Sachar committee recommendations.

#### ■ **Employment –Article 11**

- The state public services are discriminatory towards recruitment of Muslims in higher positions of administrative and executive services.
- Recruitment process is non transparent and discriminatory towards Muslims in public and private sectors.
- MGNREGA programme should have employment that is apt to the abilities and skills of the Muslim women.

#### ■ **Health –Article 12.** Health service providers show bias towards Muslim women in some states like Jharkhand, UP, Bihar. In states like Madhya Pradesh, where there is a population of above 5 lacs, there is no health centre within 5 km radius. Attitudes towards Muslim women in reproductive and maternal health are very stereotyped. Poverty among Muslim women is pushing them towards surrogacy and submitting to clinical testing to support family income. **Certain recommendations are :-**

- Premarital counseling centres for Muslim girls and boys.
- Anemia and poor nutrition has increased. Muslim women require special attention.
- Sensitization and monitoring and penalizing of hospital staff who indulge in high discriminatory behavior and mistreatment in the government hospitals towards pregnant Muslim women and women in labour.

#### ■ **Ms. Sheba George laid down specific recommendations for the Muslims:**

##### ■ Introduce a **social security system for self employed persons** in the informal sector, especially home based workers.

##### ■ **Credit should be given to Muslims** from financial institutions, banks and various cooperations for self employment, micro enterprise and small and medium scale industries. Measures may, therefore, be taken for enhancing credit to Muslims in priority sector advances. Any shortfall in achievement of targeted amount in minority – specific programmes should be parked with National Minorities Development and the finance corporation. Specific programmes should be funded with this amount. Separate cooperative societies and cooperative banks should be started for various Muslim artisanal groups especially for women. Formalities for registration for all these institutions and allotments of necessary funds to support these institutions should be made easier.

##### ■ **More branches of banks** should be opened in Muslim concentration areas.

##### ■ **Industries should be set up and opportunities for work created** in areas of Muslim concentration to enable them to get employment.

- **Sensitization and training of local government officials** for the allocation of government schemes in an unbiased manner.
- **Increase budgetary allocation** to ensure proper development of the 90 Muslim concentration districts that have been identified.
- Include **rural skilled activity under the MGNREGA** to provided employment opportunity to Muslims. Most rural Muslims are traditionally involved in skilled activity.
- Under the Food Security Act, **include all Muslims along with scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as beneficiaries.**
- Appropriate directions should be given to the concerned authorities to provide employment to Muslims proportionate to their size in the population of the area under the rural employment and entrepreneurship programmes.

**Ms. Hameeda Nayeem discussed the violence faced by women and their families and demilitarization of Kashmir**

**Ms. Hameeda Nayeem** observed that in the 90's, when Kashmir was declared to be a disturbed area, it empowered the military to check the homes and arrest citizens without any warrant and also to shoot unarmed civilians with the intent to kill. Today Kashmir has the highest military concentration in the world. Kashmir exemplifies the militarization for external use as well as to quell violence within the State . ***Kashmir is said to be the integral part of the India but no one has ever related to the miseries and sufferings of the people in Kashmir.*** Ms. Hameeda Nayeem said she would like to address the situation of all women who take radical stand against the militant nationalism and chauvinistic nationalism, which reduces human beings to animals and kills them to build jingoistic nationalism. The situation in Kashmir shows the same kind of experiences like Chhattisgarh, Northeast etc. Since 1990, Kashmir has been subjected to a rage of legislative provisions like The Armed Forces Special Powers Act, The National Security Act and the variant of Public Safety Act (implemented in the state which was made in 1978 for timber smugglers but has been used to arbitrarily arrest anyone without trial for 2 yrs and it is this law which is been used for all this 23 yrs under which people are put behind bars for 14 - 18yrs); in the year 2010, even boys of the age group 9 to 20 yrs are booked under this law, some of them are still in jail.

Ms. Hameeda Nayeem said **Communication lines often break down** in the State of Kashmir and the state authorities have now got an order to ban social media like face book etc. The media has been gagged now. She drew the attention of the participants to The Armed Forces Special Powers Act which violates the non-derogation provisions of the international law including the right to life, the right to be free from arbitrary deprivation of liberty, Article 3 of CEDAW and from torture which includes inhuman or degrading



punishment as enshrined in the National Covenant Civil And Political Rights to which India is also a signatory. AFSPA also violates Article 21 of the Indian constitution.

**If one solid recommendation can come regarding demilitarization in Kashmir, it would be to revoke all these special laws** because they are the greatest threat to the sense of security and dignity of women. If this can be achieved it will be a landmark achievement in the women's movement.

### **C : Women with Disabilities - Ms. Kuhu Das and Ms. Asha Hans,Sansristi**

- **Ms. Kuhu Das** discussed issues of women with disabilities and stated that until a few years back, women with disabilities hardly found any place in women's empowerment. It was recognized only very recently, when UN CRPD came up with the **UN Conventions on The Rights Of Persons With Disability 2006**, which came into force in 2008. **The Government of India, which drafted the legislation for people with disabilities, has not submitted its report till 2011.**

UN CRPD, Article 6 speaks about the women with disabilities and the new Bill which has been drafted contains relevant and appropriate articles and clauses. She also observed that disabled women are marginalized and deprived. The most crucial aspect is **social stigma and poverty**. There are **different categories which are defined by the type of disability**, which again is complex as it situates both gender and the issue of disability within it.

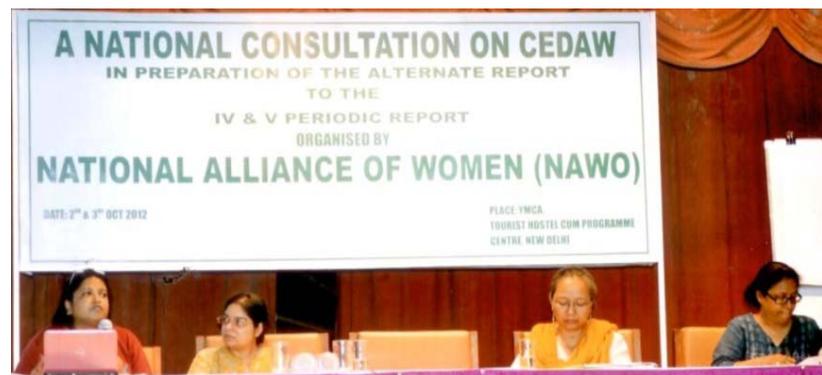
The number of the disabled women, 2001 census was 9million, but current population is 12.2 billion and the number of women will be 5.4 billion, when the 2001 census was taken the ratio was 2.1 billion. The number of disabled people will be 2.4 billion. About 45% of these people are women about 1.1 billion women are disabled in India

According to the UNDP findings, **literacy rate among disabled women is as low as 1 % in 1998**. The situation has not improved very much. The strategy paper submitted to NCW, India *97% male children do not get education*, however there are no details on figures of the education regarding disabled girls.

**Health :** The World Bank report in 2007 says that disabled women have little access to medical facilities even for gynecological problems.

**Livelihood :** Disabled women are paid the lowest salary, compared to disabled men and non disabled women. There are no data available officially to validate this stand.

**Violence on Disabled Women :** They are 2 to 3 times more likely to be subjected to physical and sexual abuse. In a study, about 50% disabled



women were abused. Between Feb. to August 2012, 16 cases of rape of disabled women were reported.

Ms. Kuhu Das reiterated for **all development programs should include women with disability**. The scope should not only be restricted to inclusion, but there should be **effective participation** also. There is a need for **representation of women with disability** and to make the system accountable towards disabled women.

**As recommendations**, she said that the government should take **firm measures to build the capacity of the disabled women and children**, to empower them so that they are able to enjoy their rights to the maximum.

■ **Ms.Asha Hans** highlighted certain crucial aspects which are often left untouched regarding women with disabilities. She opined that women with disabilities cannot access education, health, employment / livelihood opportunities, socialization, tourism, etc. in **absence of accessible and safe infrastructure, be it buildings, transit or external environment**. **Lack of accessible public amenities and poor maintenance of public spaces** pose another threat to women with disabilities.

She flagged a few issues that disabled women in villages have to face every day :-

- **Access to water, health, sanitation, agriculture and education.**
- **Transportation.**
- **Access to village markets.**
- **Lack of safe and clean public toilets** poses a serious safety and public health hazard.
  - ❖ In addition, toilets in all the cities are poorly designed. For example, the entrance to the women's toilet is often at the same place as the entrance to the men's toilet and this adds to its inaccessibility for women.
  - ❖ In slums and rural areas, the problem is even more severe as there are **no private toilets**.
  - ❖ The lack of or the very poor state of the public toilets leaves them no option but to use open fields, exposing them to the danger of sexual assault.

While discussing issues of access to information, Ms.Asha Hans said **Women with Disabilities face higher risk of HIV/AIDs** because of **lack of information**. The implications

of this in terms of HIV is, that women with disabilities (particularly those with speech, hearing and intellectual impairments) are **more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse**, than men with disabilities or non-disabled women.



**The Following Points Were Flagged As Recommendations:-**

- Add **UNCRPD Art 9 on Accessibility** in CEDAW.
- Change **Art 15 of CEDAW** to incorporate the terminology of **UNCRPD (Art 15 on recognition as legal entity of PWD and WWD)**.
- Add Article 20 of UNCRPD on **Personal Mobility**.
- Add Article 22 of UNCRPD **Respect for Privacy**.
- Incorporate Article 28 of UNCRPD on **Adequate Standard Of Living And Social Protection**.

Add Article 30 of UNCRPD on **Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sports**.

Ms. Indrani Sinha made a powerful presentation on Trafficking and Exploitation of women. She drew the attention of the participants to certain issues that required to be addressed as follows:-

- ❖ Lack of food security.
- ❖ Lack of options for livelihood.
- ❖ Low social status.
- ❖ Lack of access to assets and resources.
- ❖ Lack of development opportunities (education and training).
- ❖ Disabled women especially victimized due to their perceived vulnerabilities.
- ❖ Lack of decision making opportunities in private and public spaces.
- ❖ Unsafe and coercive migration.

While discussing the gaps that were present, but have not been looked into by the State to deal with the issues of trafficking and prostitution, she highlighted the key issues as under:-

- ❖ Lack of an **integrated approach** in dealing with the issue.
- ❖ Lack of **information management to facilitate migrants**, within the country and internationally.
- ❖ Lack of **tracking mechanisms** for moving women and girls.
- ❖ Lack of **political will to actually put an end to trafficking** and **poor gender responsive budgeting** for anti trafficking schemes and policies.
- ❖ Trafficking promoted through cultural and traditional practices.
- ❖ Lack of concerted efforts to address specific vulnerabilities of disabled, tribal and minority women.
- ❖ Conflicting role played by Panchayats.
- ❖ **Judicial delays – justice** delayed is justice denied.
- ❖ **Stigma and social ostracism.**

■ **Some of the recommendations flagged by Ms.Indrani Sinha are:-**

- Micro level budget availability and service provisions.
- Mainstream human trafficking as a development issue and not just as crime prevention.
- Availability of information for migrants and tracking mechanism at the Panchayat and Municipality level and making women's issues the country's priority through **convergence of ministerial processes – reminding the nation that “we are half the sky”**.
- Fearlessly addressing socio-cultural and traditional practices and specific vulnerabilities faced by disabled, tribal and minority women by CSOs and government agencies, with a viewpoint to stop human trafficking.
- Perspective building on entitlements and rights (migrant and labour) of women.

## THIRD SESSION

The Third Session was on *Suppression of Trafficking and Exploitation of Prostitution Article 6* by Ms.Indrani Sinha, SANLAAP



## FOURTH SESSION

**A : Critical Concerns Of Dalit were articulated by Dr. Ruth Manorama, Ms.Asha Kotwal ADMAM ,Ms. Grijesh from Rajasthan and Advocate Lucie from Tamil Nadu.**



In the discussions by the panelists, critical cause of concerns that were highlighted is:-

- The **inalienable rights** assured by the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and it was re affirmed in CEDAW, which the Constitution guarantees to all its citizens, is being **denied to the Dalit and tribal women**.
- In a study done by **Adv.Lucie** in 30 villages, about 300 Dalit children are trafficked as domestic workers and were victims of forced sex. Some of the recent cases that have been reported on atrocities being committed on Dalit girls were trafficking for prostitution, rape on children especially girls as young as 5 and 6 year olds and victimization through exposure to HIV/AIDS.

**Ms.Asha** observed that **recognizing the fact that women do not constitute homogenous constituencies** and that there exist different types of exploitation, both structural and systemic needs to be accepted by society; she agree with **Dr. Ruth Manorama** who had opined that the issues of Dalit women has been addressed in the concluding remarks and the CEDAW Committee was asking for

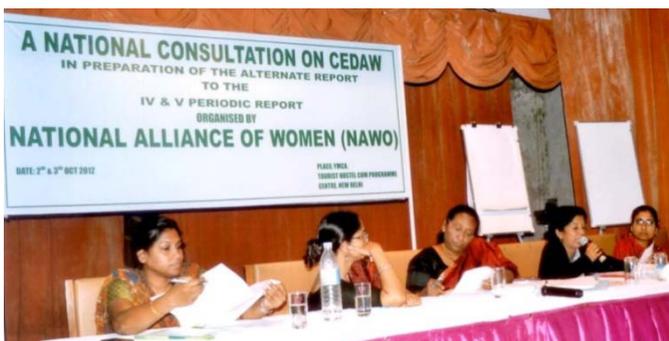
disaggregated data regarding caste.

She said that systemic violence that the Dalit women face, has only increased and became worse, in terms of the backlash of violence; By *backlash of violence*, she explained that when the Dalit women asserts herself, violence is used to shut her up. **This backlash violence should be dealt properly and the whole culture of functioning with impunity** should be looked into.

Issues of education, poverty, trafficking, disability, wage discrimination, access to health, food, water, land resources, and even issue like women in conflict, should be looked into, through a social exclusion lens.

Ms. Asha said that no review was being carried out by **NRHM** to check the Dalit women's levels of access to the program under NRHM. Women are discriminated even while accessing government schemes like jaanni suraksha or any other health programmes or political participation.

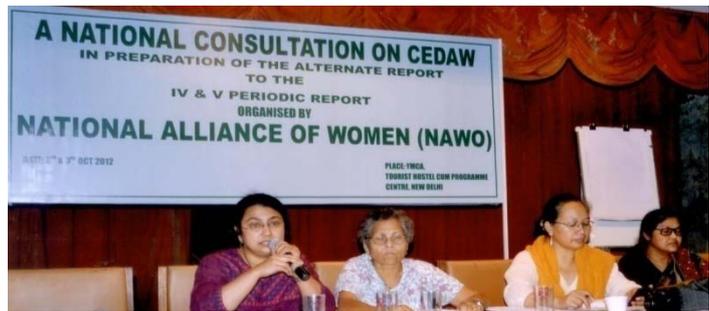
Ms. Asha also explained **certain points for consideration** that should be taken up to the government ,the major aspect being that dalit women should have **more than 5 acres of land**, in her name *to ensure livelihood as well as dignity*. As India is now on the phase of growth, Dalit women should pursue higher education and also work with sufficient policies providing for opportunities to enable them becoming entrepreneurs, both - within the public and private sector. There should be a support system to build their capacity, which is a barrier to the dalit women's growth and development.



**B : Concerns of Tribal Women was articulated by Ms. Pramila Swain, Ms. Vasavi Kiro and Ms. Sreekala. Ms. Monisha Behal spoke on issues in The North East. Both the sessions were chaired by Ms. Jarjum Ete**

■ Some of the issues that were flagged by **Ms. Sreekala** , that also emerged during the discussion on the North East, are :-

- The North East has been engaged with the CEDAW process from the beginning and since then, the CEDAW Committee has been consistently raised the issue of the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act**; however, nothing has been done. She insisted that the point has to be raised again in the coming **alternative report**.



- The Government does not have many special programs to realize **The 1325 Resolutions Commitments**. The Planning commission without mentioning 1325 has mentioned some features of the resolution. However, the Government has not completely honoured even the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan document.
- **A task force on Violence Against women** needs to be set up in the conflict zones. Rehabilitation, which is one of the features of the resolution, can easily be achieved without questioning national security.
- **Displacement** is another major cause of concern. There is inaction by the Government on issues relating to displacement, construction of mega dams and mining.
- There is hardly any law on displacement and no law on displacement related conflict; education needs to be addressed. Negligible recognition of displacement due to conflicts has greater consequences, as it has policy implications and implications on women's rights.
- The CEDAW Committee had not been provided requisite data; The North East does not have a budgetary resource allocation, which was a specific concluding comment last time.
- **Witch hunting** is a rampant practice especially among the tribal women which was also looked into in the concluding comments.

■ **Ms. Monisha Behal** stated that she was concerned about the *non recognition of the word 'armed conflict'* by the Government of India and said there had to be a redefinition of the word **armed conflict** as it is not confined to Kashmir or the North East but also in Gujarat and Chhattisgarh.

**Internally Displaced People** are still in the relief camps nothing in terms of any relief has been given to them. She highlighted that North East also has issues of **arbitrary detention**, and Women have acquired **new identities as widows/ half widows** because of these arbitrary detentions. Peace negotiations are severely entrenched by gender inequities and bias.

■ **Ms. Vasavi Kiro** also put forth issues of **displacement due to development** in the tribal areas of Jharkhand and the total apathy of the government in finding any solutions to the problems that persist.

She insisted that there should be a debate on development in the tribal areas as there were many projects that are in the pipeline in the tribal areas which would displace tribals in large numbers and there is no authentic data which is available on the number of people who have been displaced till now.

Development should be based on the 5 principles that were laid down by the first Prime Minister and these are required to be followed in the tribal



areas also. Provisions were made for a **tribal advisory council** under the **V Schedule** in the Constitution in tribal areas; till date **no tribal advisory has been formed**.

Under the **Forest Rights Act**, land rights /titles were to be given to the tribal people; there are 10 crore indigenous tribals and till date not even 50 lakh have got land rights. More so, they are not even

aware that such a law exists and because of their geographical situation the Government does not make an effort to create awareness either. 25-30 crore depend on minor forest produce and there a lakh court cases pending on them. **The Government stated that they would take these cases back**; till date they have not done that either. The Indian constitution has **20 Articles for the benefit of tribals** but these articles seem to have no teeth and claw. The recommendations of the **Steering Committee Chairperson Mr. Munda during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan** have not been implemented by the government.

- **Ms. Pramila Swain** observed that in Odisha the **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (or PESA), 1996** was **not being implemented properly**. There are many mega developmental projects (16 mega projects in one district) that have begun in the tribal areas which have resulted in displacement and alienation of land of the tribal population there. Many banks are offering loans to buyers for land belonging to tribals. More than **60% of the population** depends upon **Forest and Minor Forests Produce**; there are **no mechanisms for processing it or market linkages**. **Health services and education among tribal's is abysmal**. Health facilities are being availed only by those who are financially sound. **Traditional knowledge of collecting medicinal plants** by the tribal's has not been utilized and neither has it been encouraged by the State. **Tribals who raise questions, are often labeled Maoists and eliminated by the state forces**. Tribal children are not interested in the curriculum taught in schools. **Sexual exploitation of tribal children in some of the residential schools** is rampant.

The Government has also been issuing licenses to open liquor shops due to which the State has seen a sharp increase in violence and poverty.

She also held the government responsible for **land alienation** as there existed absolutely **no government control**.

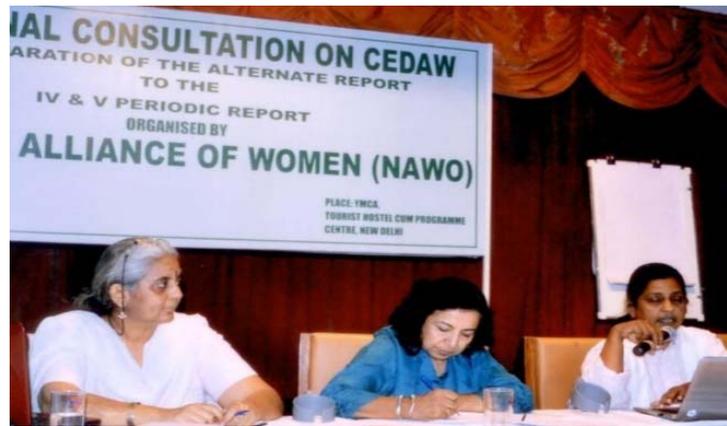
**Critical Concerns Related to Rural Women and their issues were highlighted and recommendations to ameliorate the situation was presented by Dr. Neelavalli from IWID, Tamil Nadu and Ms. Soma Parathasarathy was chaired by Ms. Nafisa Barot.**



**A. Dr. Neelavalli** in her discussion about rural women noted that a large number of populations in India live in the rural areas and the rural population lives in absolute poverty. The feminization of poverty and growing income disparities prevent the benefits of economic development being transferred to women. The Indian Government is the main contributor by means of the poorly framed empowerment policy.

**CEDAW article on specific land rights for women is missing.** Widespread poverty, such social practices as the caste system and son preference, as reflected in a high incidence of violence against women, significant gender disparities and an adverse sex ratio, present major obstacles to the implementation of the Convention.

She observed that ***there is a wide gap in implementation of National Policy for the Empowerment of Women by the Government of India. Even, in the National policy there is no assurance of ensuring Land for women, whereas, Indian women own less than 0.05%.*** More than **500 million women, do not have any ownership in any land.** It is no way close to equality by any standard of measure. Even the women's land control is questionable.



The government shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas. It shall also take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, which they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

- (a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
- (b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;
- (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
- (d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
- (e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;
- (f) To participate in all community activities;
- (g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
- (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

She observed that Indian rural women play a significant role in the economic survival of their families through:

- Meeting the survival needs of the family
- Supplying water, fodder and fuel
- Child care, Old age care

- Maintenance of household, cooking, washing etc
- Meeting the Cultural needs
- Emotional care

She mentioned that **health care facilities, property rights, political participation and education** of the rural women are major causes of concern that need to be addressed. Service provider's role has to be brought in by means of legislation, which is presently absent. **Social security programmes do not reach the aged women, disabled and physically ill women.** The education level of rural women is very less. They have no access to any special training to generate income. Most of the semi-skilled jobs are still the prerogative of men. The vast majority of women are placed in Agricultural laborers or construction laborers subjecting to discriminatory wages and to least job positions. The high percentage of rural migration to urban has revealed in the increasing percentage 2.07 to 6.5 million women in the construction work in 2009-2010. SHGs have failed to generate employment or self-employment and break the cultural barriers that prevent women to access many jobs.

**B. Ms.Soma Parthasarathy**, an independent researcher, spoke on the emerging issues of rural women in the context of **rural development and the Feminization of poverty** in the globalization scenario.

She observed that a majority of women in rural India are at levels of subsistence economy and not in a market economy. They are in a situation of what **Article 14 itself acknowledges**, as the **non-monetized sector** of the economy. There is a huge gap in the policy level, as well. It was found that there are large number of legislations and policies that have been announced on land, forest, water, and so on; some of these have created space for women, for instance the Forest Rights Act has enabled women to come into the position of decision making by participation in claiming for community forest rights. There are some efforts to distribute land in some small amounts to women as a measure for single women, but on the other hand, larger mega events that are happening in the country, completely ignores gender discrimination.

The **Land Acquisition Act** itself, is talking about creating a land bank; the amendment are only on **compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement** as the focus and it doesn't allow a debate regarding the land acquisition process; **it denies women the right to claim the land.** If a land bank is created, the first charge should be to benefit rural women.

Ms. Soma observed that the **Jodhas study** back in 1998, established that 30 to 60% of food security in poor households in the rainfed agricultural region, is dependent on the commons in times of crisis. It has been found that it is those same commons who are now being targeted for distribution on terms which are very vaguely defined, such as for **public purpose where the State becomes the intervener on behalf of the corporate agencies to take away the lands that are common.**

Under **Privatization of Matter, Article 14 (8) of the CEDAW**, what has now emerged is a cause of great concern as water privatization is occurring from again the commons domain, who are **small producers and dependent on water resources for agriculture as well as for fisheries and small pond.** Water supply for public use is being supplied by private people. In Rajasthan, the common pond of the community has been degraded in its quality and quantity. The water lobbies are depleting the water resources through quality degradation. Piped water solution is not the real solution, until the communities can regain control over the water bodies. Privatization of underground water is also an important problem. In the

12<sup>th</sup> Plan, there exists a lot of discussion about commercializing the commodity. **We are all suffering the consequences in the Water Bill.** Water privatization cannot be at the cost of women's strategies, to survive in the rural economy. **Water Users Association** needs to be strengthened with leadership of women so that women can have a say in how the water should be managed.

Women also, need to raise questions about the **national rural livelihood mission**, she said. Though, there are a lot of talks about micro finance creating access to credit, training and opportunities, but the nature of training and process seldom take women's concerns into consideration. There is also a need to make a statement **about how the proposed legislation on micro finance institutions does not adequately address women's rights and women's needs** until incorporated. Women would want the current guidelines issued by the RBI, are accepted as the norm till the new legislation assures women of their rights.

## FIFTH SESSION

Issues of Political Participation and Public Life, Education, Employment were discussed by Ms. Neelam Chaturvedi, Sakhi Kendra ; Ms. Bimla Chandrasekar, EKTA; Ms. Cynthia Stephen; Ms. Sabeena Martins, Bailanchoasad.

**A. Ms. Neelam Chaturvedi** in her discussion flagged few important issues that could be discussed further by the other speakers. She was of the opinion that, though the Government of India's report writing process and its website, was very good, **but it lacked the will to do any good to its citizens as far as assuring substantive equality or gender equality or carry out State obligations.** She cited a few instances where the Government has shown no concern to implement State obligation in reducing violence against women and imposes the onus on its citizens instead.

She also said that, though *Article 7 of CEDAW guarantees political participation of women*, the **criminalization of politics** has hampered the political process of women in the country. She said it was time that the Government looks into all the malpractices that take place during the elections and not brush it aside. She also brought to the attention of the participants, the

difficulties faced by the women who stand as independent candidates during elections, which were in total contradiction to what the CEDAW Article 7 envisages.

**B. Ms. Bimla Chandrasekar, EKTA, Mudurai**, discussed the political participation and public life of women in India and also drew out the positive actions taken by the State through the **Reservation of women in Panchayat** from 1/3<sup>rd</sup> in many states to 50% in states like Kerala Maharashtra, Orissa Madhya Pradesh etc. as also the initiation of the **women component**

**plan.** However, she put forward certain areas of concern that need to be looked into so as to enable maximum representation of women at the Panchayat Raj Institutions, Urban Local Level Bodies and to the future Parliamentarians, that are as follows:-

- ❖ The women leaders are merely benami leaders and this trend was seen across 60 Panchayats in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Only 2% representation can be observed in the state assemblies.
- ❖ Only soft portfolios are given to women.
- ❖ Lack of accessibility to education, particularly women of Dalit, tribal and rural areas.
- ❖ SHGs, which were seen as a powerful tool to empower women politically, have become counterproductive.
- ❖ Women's reservation bill has not been passed, which was supposed to be a gift for women on the eve of the Women's Day in 2011.

Ms. Bimla stated that in the present report to the CEDAW Committee, they would bring out disaggregated data of women in politics region-wise representation of minority women, Dalit women, tribal women and all sections of women and their representation in national and state politics and those who are in higher positions (like in the judiciary) as also the difficulties that they have to endure. She elaborated that they would also refer to the different studies that have been initiated in different states and at national level on these important issues. She also said a detailed case



study would be done on the **Panchayat Raj Act Section 205** which empowers the district collector to dismiss the elected Panchayat President, as there are 245 cases in Tamil Nadu alone, out of which nearly **30% are women**.

**C. Ms. Cynthia Stephen**, while discussing the **Political Participation of Women**, was of the opinion that there **should be a strategy to bring out the various issues** on the CEDAW document. She opined that if **Panchayat Raj Institutions** is seen as a means to empower the women by the Government, then it was only a starting point as there is a need to educate the society on the validity of women's leadership. The present scenario does not favour empowering the women. Bureaucracy has power over elected people representatives, which is a **total negation of the constitutional duty and mandate**.



#### Some of the recommendations are:-

- ❖ To carefully look at **bureaucratization and power relationship** between the IAS officers and the elected representatives at the grass root level.
- ❖ To educate the **political system and political parties**. NAWO should do a research on how women can participate effectively in the political process.
- ❖ Is there a possibility in electoral reforms?
  - Should elections be state funded to take away the issue of electoral corruption?
  - Should we also carefully look at the proportional representation?
  - It is not only representation but efficient public participation for women especially the voice-less.

**D. Ms. Sabeena Martins, Bailancho Saad** highlighted the following issues of **women in the unorganized sector:-**

- ❖ **ILO C189 convention**, which recognizes domestic workers as workers, should be **ratified by India**, which would entitle domestic workers rights of workers.
- ❖ The Government has framed **Domestic Worker Policy**, but it has not been finalized; at least the current parliament session should finalize the policy and pass an effective legislation.
- ❖ Since **Social Security Legislation** has **brought domestic workers within its purview**, the respective state governments should consider domestic workers as workers and **ensure their minimum wages**.
- ❖ Each state should constitute a welfare board, so that various schemes can be availed like pension, medical insurance, accident benefit, etc.



- ❖ The **migrant workers policy** has to be framed; most of the workers in the unorganized sectors are migrant workers and they lack documentation and they cannot avail the various benefits under the welfare board.
- ❖ Respect CEDAW in terms of discrimination; mostly the poor, adivasis, dalit women are discriminated at the work places in various forms.

Ms. Sahataj observed that urban poor live in the **slum settlements** and they have **serious issues of land**. They are caught between the Government (as the slum land is unwanted land) and the powerful land grabbers (who want to develop it). Mega projects, in which both the government and the land grabbers are involved, have **displaced the slum dwellers**; proper rehabilitation is a distant dream, unless organizations negotiate on behalf of them with the government.

The present issue of **privatization of electricity and water is also a major concern, further accentuated by poor living conditions with no health care facilities and sanitation**. There has been a sharp increase in Violence due to globalization and rapid unemployment, thus reducing women to work in unorganized sectors. There is also the **emerging concern of single, aged and widowed women**. Education, even with schemes like the Bhagya Lakshmi Scheme in Karnataka, is becoming a costly affair; the number of female children who go to school is very less. **Strengthening of the PDS** is required. There are three kinds of ration cards given i.e. BPL, APL and Antodaya; these PDS quotas are not enough to run the family.

Ms.Sahataj poignantly expressed that on one side, India is shining and on the other side, women are fighting poverty.

Some of the **recommendations** put forward by her, are:-

- ❖ Pattas should be given in the name of women.
- ❖ Health care facilities should be improved to cope up with new forms of diseases; Government should have additional resources to combat the same.
- ❖ Provide **crisis centers for women** who are battered and deserted.
- ❖ Provide **recreational centers and resources for skill development**.
- ❖ **Comprehensive slum development and single window agency** should be introduced.
- ❖ Stop water and electricity **privatization**.
- ❖ Provide **hawking places** for hawkers.
- ❖ Include **slum women in police stations and neighbourhood watch schemes** in all the development schemes of slums
- ❖ Proper implementation of **Domestic Violence Act**.

## SIXTH SESSION

The Sixth Session looked into the issues of the problems of the urban poor by Ms.Sahataj, Women's Voice the session was chaired by Ms. Sharada Sathe





### WAY FORWARD :

At the end of the two day national Consultation on the CEDAW Alternative report writing process, Adv. **Shiela Jayaprakash** and **Ms.Tulika,AALI** gave some important points that need to be kept in mind while writing the report. Their observations were that the reports need to be **precise and to the point**. If **issues have been addressed in the concluding comments**, should not be brought in again. **Prioritizing issues** was very important which could be achieved by **flagging issues of utmost importance** so that the CEDAW Committee could go through it. Some specific issues of the North East and Jammu and Kashmir which require to be brought into focus should be highlighted. Gaps in the recommendations should also be highlighted to make the task easier.

### CLOSING REMARKS:

**Dr. Ruth Manorama** thanked the participants for engaging in the consultation. She requested the participants to send their papers so that the information could be collated and would help in putting the NGO Alternate Report.



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS :  
NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON CEDAW  
NEW DELHI (OCTOBER 2012)**

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1.	Dr. Ruth Manorama	NAWO	Bangalore
2.	Ms. Shashi Sail	NAWO – Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh
3.	Ms. Indrani Sinha	SANLAAP	Kolkata
4.	Ms. Koely Roy	NAWO-West Bengal	Kolkata
5.	Ms. Neelam Chaturvedi	NAWO – UP	Kanpur
6.	Ms. Sharada Sathe	NAWO – Maharashtra	Mumbai
7.	Ms. Pramila Swain	NAWO – Orissa	Bhubaneswar
8.	Ms. Sheba George	NAWO – Gujarat	Ahmedabad
9.	Ms. Sharifa Khanam	STEPS	Tamil Nadu
10.	Dr. Sabina Martin	Bailancho Saad	Goa
11.	Ms. Rahima Khatun	Nari or Sishukalyan Kendra	Howrah
12.	Ms. Renu Mishra	AALI	Lucknow
13.	Ms. Yamuna Menon	MOWCD	New Delhi
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16.	Ms. Nilanjana	Jagori	New Delhi
17.	Ms. Kuhu Das	Association for Women with Disabilities	Kolkata
18.	Ms. Mehnaz Khan	Sakhi Kendra	Kanpur
19.	Ms. Cythia Stephen	TEDS, Mahila Samakhya	Bangalore
20.	Ms. Vasavi Kiro	NAWO Jharkhand	Jharkhand
21.	Ms. Grijesh Dinkar	CDR-Jaipur	Jaipur
22.	Ms. Anita Sheetal	Samarpan Association	Himachal Pradesh
23.	Ms. Anita Sharma	HP Voluntary Health Association	Shimla
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28.	Ms. Sheila Jaiprakash	Advocate	Chennai
29.	Ms. Lalita Missal	NAWO - Orissa	Orissa
30.	Ms. Aparna Rout	JEETA	Orissa
31.	Ms. Subhashree Rai	PRAGATI	Orissa
32.	Ms. Bishaka Bhanja	Jajnaseni	Cuttuk
33.	Ms. Mehjabeen Pathan	SAHRWARU	Ahmedabad
34.	Ms. Syed Tanweer Nasreen	University of Burdwan	Burdwan
35.	Ms. Kavita Shamella	SAHRWARU	Ahmedabad
36.	Ms. Shakila Khan	Rehbaz Mahila Mandal	Indore
37.	Ms. Shalini Joshi	NIRANTAR	Delhi
38.	Ms. M. Anthony Mary	Association for Women Awareness in Rural Development	Tamil Nadu
39.	Ms. Shabham Khan	Mewat Development Society	New Delhi
40.	Ms. Hamida Naeem	Kashmir University	Srinagar
41.	Ms. Jamila Nishat	SAHEEN Women Resource and Welfare Association	Hyderabad
42.	Ms. Swarnjeet Kaur	Women Resource & Advocacy Centre	Chandigarh
43.	Ms. Asma Parveen	Navdisha Sahara Mahila Mandal	Delhi
44.	Ms. Manorama Di	National Mission for Empowerment, GOI	New Delhi
45.	Ms. Dhyti	Action India	New Delhi

Sl. No	Name	Organization	Area / State
46.	Mr. Ajaya Deep	Action India	New Delhi
47.	Ms. Ninglun Hunghal	Social Activist	New Delhi
48.	Ms. Shakhila Banu	Speak India	Andhra Pradesh
49.	Ms. Shaik Shajaha Begum	REAPS	Andhra Pradesh
50.	Ms. Monisha Behal	NEN	Guwhati
51.	Ms. Anuradha Kapoor	Swayam	Kolkata
52.	Ms. P.Meena	Karnataka Graha Karmikara Sangha	Banguluru
53.	Ms. Shataj	Women's Voice	Bangalore
54.	Ms. Veda Bharadwaja	The Hunger Project	New Delhi
55.	Ms. P.A. Lucia	Human Right Movement	Tamil Nadu
56.	Ms. Kamini Athawale	NAWO Chattisgarh	Chattisgarh
57.	Ms. Sunila Singh	Consultant	New Delhi
58.	Ms. K.P.Soma	Researcher	New Delhi
59.	Mr. M. Saptarishi	PLD	New Delhi
60.	Ms. Jimsi	Advocate	New Delhi
61.	Ms. Suneeta Thapa	Social Activist	Arunachal Pradesh
62.	Ms. Sanita	SAHRWARU	Ahmedabad
63.	Mr. Bablu Loi Tongban	Human Rights Association	Manipur
64.	Ms. Neelavali	IWID	Chennai
65.	Ms. Reshma Arif	Social Activist	New Delhi
66.	Ms. Beena Lakshmi Nigram	Manipur Women's Network	Manipur
67.	Ms. Sabana Praveen	N.S.KK	Delhi
68.	Ms. Toshmeena Ahmed	NSKK	Delhi
69.	Ms. Asha Kotwal	Aid Man	Delhi
70.	Ms. Asha Hans	SMRC	Delhi
71.	Ms. Seema Baquers	HRLN	Delhi
72.	Ms. Anjali Aggarwal	Samarthan	Delhi
73.	Ms. Archana Dwivedi	NIRANTAR	Delhi
74.	Ms. Lakshmi Vivek	NAWO -Delhi	Delhi
75.	Ms. Deepa Rathore	NAWO-Delhi	Delhi