

## **Report**

### **Education and Employment Opportunities for Transgender – An Interactive Session**

The Department of Adult Continuing Education & Extension organized an interactive session on Education and Employment opportunities for Transgender in the light of Supreme Court decision to accept transgender as the third gender. The interactive session was held on 19 April 2014 in the department, University of Delhi. The main objective of conducting session was to make them aware of the Supreme Court decision and to seek their opinion on education and employment opportunities. In this regard , it was also informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken lead to consider their rights and opportunities through a national level committee on transgender. The report of the committee is available on ministry web site in public domain. The strategy adopted was one to one interaction and open house session. About 61 participants including 40 transgender from different VISTAR - Community Learning Centers (CLC) of department and others participated in the programme, strongly welcomed the decision of Supreme Court order of social recognition as third gender which was pending for long. In the discussion they strongly demanded for educational enhancement and skills development for better lifestyle and economic opportunity. Dr. Rajesh, Head of Department, Dr. J.K. Mishra, Joint Director, DSACS, Mr. Pramod, Research scholar, Mr. Jai Pratap Singh, Research Scholar and other department members were present and interacted with the transgender group. The NGOs representatives of Targeted Intervention (TI) programme of DSACS (Delhi State Aids Control Society), working on transgender and MSM community in Delhi NCR like

Pahal, , Aident, Arohan project functionaries actively participated in the interaction session.

In the process of community development, the department has initiated Vistaar Programme in association with NGOs of Delhi NCR. The transgender is the priority area of departmental endeavor in community development initiative. The department has established network with Delhi NCR NGOs and other stake holders working on Transgender and MSM under the umbrella of Delhi States Aids Control Society.

The interaction session was chaired by Dr. Rajesh, Head of Department, he first welcomed all the participants and gave brief introduction of the departmental endeavor under Vistaar project for community development. As department has taken lead on working on transgender through academic & community intervention. Academically department has initiated Ph.D studies. One of our research scholar Mr. Aslam is taking comparative study on transgender of India & Bangladesh. For policy frame work, Dr. Rajesh,



**(Dr. Rajesh interacting with Transgender on the issue of education and skills development)**

Head of Department, is a member of higher committee of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on transgender. Apart from policy intervention the department is intended to work directly with the transgender community for their educational & skills enhancement for their better economic opportunities. The initiative is also to empower transgender community as they face different kinds of atrocities and defamation in their day to day life.

As education & skills opportunity plays pivotal role in enhancing jobs and economic opportunities for an individual suggested by Dr. Rajesh, Head, DACEE, and seek individual opinion of Transgender. Almost all the participants welcomed the idea and suggestions of Dr. Rajesh. This is true that education and skills opportunities are in great demand in present time and many of us are illiterate and does not know how to read and write said by Sapna (TG) one of the participants. The noble initiative to work for the transgender by the department for the socially and economically neglected



(An open session in progress – Education and skills development)

would really help and change the discourse of TG in coming time opined by *Chanda* (TG). This would be helpful in opening of bank account, participating

in job opportunities complaining to police and insure self dignity as said by **Sanjana** a TG participants.

Talking to the participants revealed that many of them are still unaware of Supreme Court decision on third gender as they don't have clarity on the definition of transgender. **Neha** (TG) begging at traffic red light said that we are confused about the SC order on the categorization of Transgender. Although by the order of SC we got the rights of third gender in society but still I am susceptible about the attitude of people and society towards our community. We are also human being we must have the same rights as compared to others but people laugh on us and make hideous gesture.



(One to one interaction with transgender in interactive session)

Sri Devi (TG), highly appreciated the decision of the Supreme Court on transgender and the initiative taken by the department for the welfare and up-liftment of transgender community but she said if we go for the educational classes & skills training programme, it will mar our daily earning and our survival would be in danger as we don't have any family support, so

it will be difficult for us to join skills development programme and educational programme.

The participants gave several suggestions as TGs are socially neglected for centuries, our government should give proper attention and strategies well defined policies for overall development of our community. On daily basis we have to face atrocity and negligence by the police & society, so government must sensitize the police force so that we can lead a dignified life said by **Kusum (TGs)**. She further said as many of transgender & Kinnars are in grey hairs and they can't work for long hours, the government must provide effective pension and social security plans for our transgender community.

The participants demanded for identity card. As it will help in renting a house and other official purposes because of their gender no house owner rent their house to a transgender or Kinnar, shared by **Sanjana** a TG. She also showed her interest for functional literacy & skills development programme of the department, as this will help in getting jobs and can start new enterprise. Many TGs showed their interest for vocational courses like tailoring, beautician, Mehndi, toys making, computer etc. and strongly demanded financial support in form of soft loan to start his or her own enterprise.

Several suggestions came while discussing with transgender like there must be a helpline services for the care & support of TGs, those who are illiterate they should also have an opportunity to get jobs in government sector, The sensitization on the TGs issues should be started from school level, so that the attitude towards transgender should be positive. We should have all rights as given to other human being in the society. The health personal, administrative staff and the police should be sensitize first as they are the main barrier in our day to day life. We beg at red-light, go for sex work only to earn our living. We don't want to get involve in these things, we like to

live a venerable life like other human being, but we don't have any social security.

The interaction session ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Pramod, Research scholar, Dept. DACEE. The department will keep working for educational & skills opportunities for TGs. The transgender showed their interest in interactive session and demanded more discussion on the issues concerned.

### **Recommendations**

1. It was resolved to undertake community need assessment of transgender highlighting educational and employment opportunities in Delhi.
2. It was also resolved to undertake various action researches on social integration, convergence, right to education, right to adult education, right to livelihood opportunity, right to dignified life etc.
3. It was decided to work for their rehabilitation and social development.
4. It was resolved to strengthen working with transgender through community learning centre as initiated in Delhi in collaboration with NGOs and other stake holders.
5. It was also decided to provide platform to all vulnerable population such as sex workers, transgender, injecting drug users, minority girls, aging population and other vulnerable groups.

**Reported by:** Pramod Kumar, Research Scholar, DACCE. University of Delhi.