



Organising and Career help for young women in the service sector

International Women's Day

8th March 2010

Event report - Bangalore

Event organized by:



in cooperation with Paycheck India Project @ IIM- A, ITUC, UNI, and
WageIndicator Foundation

Websites

<http://www.paycheck.in>

<http://dfl.wageindicator.org>

<http://www.unitespro.org>

“Women are the real architects of society” to mark the achievements of women,

International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8th of every year, to mark this day,

Decision For Life team had organized event at Ashraya Hotel in Bangalore. It is a major day of global celebration of women. In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women’s economic, political and social achievements.

History of International Women’s Day:

The history of International Women’s Day is the event originated in 1908. In New York, women garment makers proved to demand better working conditions in the company. The Women has worked in very bad conditions and also earned half of men's wages. They died too early from deprived health. They did not have the right to vote.

In 1910, an International Conference of women determined that each year a day should be set aside to press for women's demands. International Women’s Day stands for equality between women and men. At this time in England, women were demanded the right to vote. They stands for their slogan "Give Women the Vote" to struggle for women to obtain social equalities.

So International Women’s Day is remembered the battles for a long fought to build a society that is fair to all its members in a society in which diversity, tolerance, safety, social justice and social equality between women and men. And Women celebrated what they have done and are can do.

Importance of International Women’s Day:

The United Nations General Assembly is a group of delegates from each Member State to celebrate the International Women’s Day. United Nations General Assembly found International Women’s Day to establish the social progress and peace. International Women’s Day required the active participation and equality of women. The Women acknowledged contribution of women to international peace and security.

International Women’s Day colors:

International Women’s day colors of the year 2010 are white, green and purple.

Decisions For Life team had organized informational meeting for working women in service sector to get acquaintance about Rights at Work Place, Government supported Helpline, Domestic Violence in Family and Human trafficking for Commercial Sexual exploitation.

The Speakers for the event were Ms. Geeta Menon, Social Activist (Stree Jagaruthi Samiti), Ms .Hema Deshpande, Coordinator (Vanitha Sahaya Vani) and Ms. Sheela Ramanathan, Lawyer (Human Rights Law Network).

The event started by Ms.Satarupa Choudhury – DFL Campaign member welcoming all the participants and followed by anchor Ms.Aparna – DFL Campaign member introducing all the guest speakers to the participants.



Ms.Geetha Menon - Social Activist (Stree Jagaruthi Samiti) talking to participants

Ms.Geetha Menon, started off with the first session by screening a documentary “Anamika” about human trafficking for Commercial Sexual exploitation followed by discussion as how to stop these trafficking and help those young girls from being sexual exploited. She also told us how girls are fixed into worst situation and the various tortures given to these girls to work for them. These girls become mentally and physically weak state because of the torture and accept defeat in life.

She also appealed to the participants to inform her about any such activity taking place around us in order to help those victims return back to decent life. She told everyone to use innovative methods to trap the abusers and bring them to justice.



Participants watching video on Human Trafficking



Ms .Hema Deshpande, Coordinator (Vanitha Sahaya Vani) sharing her insights

The second session was handled by Ms. Hema Deshpande, who gave us the details about Vanitha Sahaya Vani, a Government supported organization which aims to supports women. 1091 or 100 is the helpline number for Bangalore jurisdiction.

“Just a phone is away to rescue women from Domestic Violence” said Ms.Deshpande. As this is supported by Government all the legal support and expenses is taken care by the State Government. She gave suggestion to many participants’ problems. She also appealed to DFL members help spread her organisations goals and also their exclusive helpline meant for women in distress.



Participants interacting with each other during tea break

After interesting discussions during the tea break all participants settled down for Ms. Sheela Ramanathan's session which dealt with Rights at work place and how to deal with Sexual Harassment at work place, she connected the participants to incidents that happens at work place to go deep into the topic. She told us about the various levels of harassment faced by women at work place.



Ms. Sheela Ramanathan, Lawyer (Human Rights Law Network) giving inputs on Sexual Harassment at work place

She also gave us the details of “Vishaka guidelines”, where according to Indian law where a committee has to be compulsorily formed in any organization and how the Sexual Harassment committee legal structure should be in an organization. One outsider is a must in this committee and this should be headed by a top women employee of the organization. She also gave ideas to deal with harassment at various places. For example at bus , roads etc...

She also recommended to purchase and distribute copies of the Sexual Harassment video produced by India Centre for Human Rights and Law.

Ms.Satarupa and Ms.Aparna gave their closing thank you remarks and declared the meeting closed.

The event came to an end with a note to **“Raise Voice against any kind of Harassment imposed on Women”**.
