

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is a non-profit organisation, working with the mandate for a humane social order based on truth, justice, freedom and equity.

T raining on Mental Health and Counseling Skills for CityMakers Programme Partners in Karnataka

Bengaluru, Karnataka: The training was designed to enhance the capacities of CityMakers network partners who are working on the issue of Urban Poverty and also managing shelters for the CityMakers (Homeless residents) across the State. The idea was that the partners will further train the field workers and shelter coordinators who are directly working with the CityMakers in their field areas or at the shelter home. The training aimed at helping the staff understand counseling skills & techniques, process of counseling, qualities of counselor, theories & types of counseling, counseling of children in difficult circumstances, person with substance use and women in distress. A total of 19 people attended and benefitted from the training programme.



IGSSS organized a training programme in collaboration with NIMHANS.

I nternational Literacy Day Commemorated

Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh: The International Literacy Day which falls on 8th September was celebrated with much excitement in the Women Resource Centre's (WRCs) at Narvaliya, Barod, Gundipada, Gopalpura and Dhebar village of Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh on 9th September, 2013. The programme was graced by the village headmen (Sarpanch), religious leaders (Tadwi) members of the local governance in their



respective villages and in total 254 people attended the celebrations.

During the programme, the women shared their understanding that the International Literacy Day is celebrated to spread the awareness on Adult Literacy and Education. They further shared about the significant changes brought about in their lives after attending the functional literacy classes, sessions on Legal Literacy and knowledge on improved agricultural techniques. This has helped women gain control over their engagements with the outside world as well as negotiate the demands of their daily living better.

Several events such as best handwriting, drawing and singing competitions were also held during the occasion.

Capacity building Workshop for NGO Partners

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh: A three-day Capacity Building Workshop was organised from 5 – 7 September, 2013, for the NGO partners under the CityMakers Programme. Around 12 partner organisations - SJSS (Delhi), LAXMI (Ghaziabad), Manav Sewa Sanstha (Agra), PACE (Lucknow), AKAJSS (Allahabad), AVS (Muzzafarpur), STEP (Guwahati), Sabuj Sangha (Kolkata), GUIDE (Vijaywada), BUILD (Mumbai), PARASPARA Trust (Bangalore) and St. Xaviers Nonformal Education Society (Ahmedabad) attended the programme.



Significant sessions on varied topics such as the challenges faced by the Street Vendors, importance of Networking and Advocacy with regard to the Right to Shelter and the issue of homelessness, building perspective on housing rights and community led action, engaging legislators concerning Right to Shelter and understanding health related vulnerabilities of homeless communities and approaches to deal with were debated and discussed.

This workshop helped in developing a deeper insight on the issues concerning CityMakers and a roadmap with regard to the implementation of the programme in their own cities.

**International
Literacy Day**

Special

RECLAIMING Space: Sunki Ben's Story

By: Prashant Thorat, Project Coordinator – Gender Programme, Jhabua

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Sunki Ben, from Barod village, Jhabua, shared that she previously owned a piece of land but after the death of her husband, his relatives conspired with the Patwari and captured her small homestead. As she had no source of income, this only precipitated her decline into poverty. At this juncture, she met women from her hamlet who were attending the literacy classes being facilitated in her village by IGSSS. Hearing their positive experiences, she was encouraged to join the classes. After attending the literacy classes for a certain period, she grew in confidence and was emboldened to share her experience of losing her land with the rest of the group members at a legal literacy session. She found out about the legal procedure through which she could begin processes of reclaiming her land and filed a complaint at the Tehsil office. The Tehsildar ordered the Patwari to immediately register the land in the name of Sunki Ben. But when she met with Patwari, he assumed that she was illiterate and hence resourceless, and started pressurizing her to pay him money. Sunki stood her ground and told him to do his duty, as per the order of the Tehsildar. She also warned him that if he failed to comply, she would call the Collector and register a complaint against him.

The Patwari was shocked and surprised to hear this from Sunki Ben and retorted by saying that as an uneducated tribal woman, she should not be making such false claims. Sunki Ben then showed him the number of the Collector and said that the Collector Madam herself had given out this number at a joint gathering with the women of the literacy group. She had said that she would be on call to address any violation that happened on the ground – and that Sunki Ben intended to make good on this offer. The Patwari backtracked and did the needful immediately.

This story of reclamation of rights is not only of hers alone – many women in Jhabua have found the courage to reclaim their own spaces and voices in the troubled context. A common refrain has been that literacy, for them, becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which they deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.



IGSSS WEEKLY

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FRI DAY TTERS



be a change runner

be a change runner



JOIN US!!!

SUPPORT US!!!

&

RUN WITH US

IN

ADHM

2013

Winters are unrelenting and harsh in Delhi. Enveloped in warm heated apartments we fail to understand how ruthless and painful cold can be when home is out on the streets. But for a migrant group of population who are forced to leave their native land because of poverty and flock to cities like Delhi in the hope of earning their livelihood, a street is the only affordable place. Thus, every winter brings uncertainty for them, whether they will outlive the cold and earn their life. IGSSS relentlessly works towards providing a life of dignity to the homeless citizenry through voicing for their rights, undertaking campaigning concerning their issues and taking concrete steps such as providing shelter to a sizeable homeless population. Through participation in ADHM, IGSSS aspires to utilize the resources raised to organise a winter campaign for the homeless populace and save them from struggling, languishing and dying from bitter winter without food and a roof over their head on the streets of Delhi. IGSSS appeals to each of you - Join Us - Run with Us – Help us in organising a winter campaign for a Homeless this winter.

We look forward to hear from YOU!

Please send us your valuable feedback/suggestions about this edition of IGSSS Weekly and also share your ideas for making it even better.

You can write to us at – doc@igss.net

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