

REPORT BY STOP ON NETWORK BUILDING IN UTTARAKHAND

A “Capacity-Building Workshop to Prevent Human Trafficking” was organized by STOP (Stop Oppression of children and women) in Nainital and Dehradun regions of Uttarakhand on the 2nd and 4th of December, 2022. The following is a structured report of the event:

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP:

The aim of this workshop was to build a network of organizations with the intent to empower them in the prevention of all forms of violence, especially against women and children. The workshop discussed all the forms and mechanisms through which human trafficking takes place, with a special focus on the region of Uttarakhand. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen the capacities of different grassroots stakeholders that work on the prevention of human rights abuses.

METHODOLOGY:

The workshop had two main phases; Planning and Implementation.

Planning: One of the core objectives of the workshop was also to strengthen partnerships and explore synergies with partner organizations. Additionally, the workshop sought to capacitate organizations that are small in scale with regard to their financial resources, as well as those that work at the grassroots within remote and rural villages/towns in the region. The following stages were involved in the planning of the workshop:

- *Lead partner organization identification:* STOP researched and reached out to its network of grassroots organizations that operate within the Uttarakhand region. It conducted two virtual consultations to identify the main issues and concerns that are particular to this geographical area. Each organization discussed at length the various challenges that they face at the community level, which were then annotated thematically.
- *Second line of partnership generation:* As part of this consultation, each organization was encouraged to reach out to its own partner organization network (while adhering to the overall criteria for potential participants that had been shared beforehand). In this manner, STOP was able to bring into its partnership fold, several organizations that registered for the workshop in order to become part of the larger anti-trafficking movement led by STOP.
- *Research and Logistics:* A module was consequently developed by the team at STOP, which was based on its preliminary consultations with relevant organizations. The

goal was to develop workshop content which is region specific as well as one that would allow the participants to visualise possible scenarios that occur in their areas. As part of its logistical arrangements, a senior manager from STOP visited the state and its local organizations to determine the most suitable geographic location for conducting and hosting the workshop. Based on the field visit and with assistance from local partner organizations, two locations were identified, which cover the regions of both Kumaon and Garhwal. The workshop arrangements were subsequently made in Dehradun and Nainital.

Implementation: The workshop's content was divided into two sections: informative and experimental.

- *Informative:* The organizations discussed the existing laws that will help them in directly addressing issues of trafficking. They also discussed initiatives, local government schemes and infrastructural benefits that would assist them in undertaking preventive actions to combat human trafficking. The workshop also discussed state level mechanisms that can be instrumental in spearheading preventive activities of human trafficking.
- *Experimental:* Following the feedback that was gathered from each organization and based on preliminary discussions with each team member, STOP developed local scenario-based exercises for the workshop. The aim was to capacitate organizations in understanding not only the word of the law but also its applications to different scenarios. Additionally, these simulation exercises allowed the participant organizations to develop a deeper understanding that is rooted in a learning-by-doing approach facilitated via experience-based sensitization.

MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING THE WORKSHOPS:

Nainital:

- The Immoral trafficking prevention Act
- Deep web of trafficking
- Money is given to the police to let them traffic the victims
- POCSO Act, and the Child Welfare Committee
- Migration was seen as a favourable climate for trafficking
- Domestic violence practiced more where the wives don't want to talk about the violence they actually face

Dehradun:

- Domestic Violence Act
- Child Labour Prevention Act
- IPC Codes for trafficking for above 18 years of age

- Involvement of the DCPU along with the police
- “Samjhauta” or mediation in child marriage cases
- Child sex trafficking performed by newlywed couples in Haridwar
- Childline support

OUTCOMES:

The outcomes of this workshop were intended to empower the participant organisations in multiple ways:

- A WhatsApp group was created by connecting all the members who had attended the STOP workshop, to allow for a mutually supportive network that facilitates regular and responsive communication.
- Training manuals were sent to the respective organizations via email.
- A resource directory is currently being created based on the information gathered about the work of the various member organizations.

IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

STOP first researched the work and outreach of the member organizations online, and then contacted them via phone and WhatsApp. A plan was formulated to conduct the workshop on the 2nd of December 2022 for Nainital, and 4th of December 2022 for Dehradun.

LIST OF PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS:

Nainital:

1. Dharohar Open Shelter Home
2. PRAGATI
3. AARPAAN
4. Kumaon Vani Community Radio
5. Geetasha Society
6. PRAYAS
7. CARD
8. VIMARSH
9. SPARDHA
10. Mahila Haat
11. JJVKS
12. Kumaon Vani Community Radio
13. CHAHAT

Dehradun:

1. Lok Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan
2. Mahila Evam Bal Utthan Samiti
3. Samriddh Gram Niyojan
4. Village Development Society
5. Sanaru Sahayata Society
6. Lok Jeevan Vikas Bharti
7. Tarun Paryavaran Vigyan Sansthan
8. SRADHA
9. LTVB
10. Mount Valley Development Association
11. Saraswati Jan Kalyan Evam Swarojgar Sansthan
12. JANDESH
13. Adarsh Yuva Samiti
14. Mount Valley Development Association

WAY FORWARD:

STOP and the member organizations are planning to organise a stakeholder meeting at an opportune time in the near future to report back and evaluate the impacts of their various programmes on their respective stakeholders.

VENUES:

Hotel Padmini Palace in Dehradun and Hotel Himalaya in Nainital were chosen as the two venues where the workshops were conducted for the region of Uttarakhand.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

Thirty-seven grassroots organizations attended this workshop, amongst which nineteen came from Nainital and eighteen from Dehradun.

REPORT PREPARED AND EDITED BY:

STOP Research Team and Dr. Bernard Tamas (Adviser)