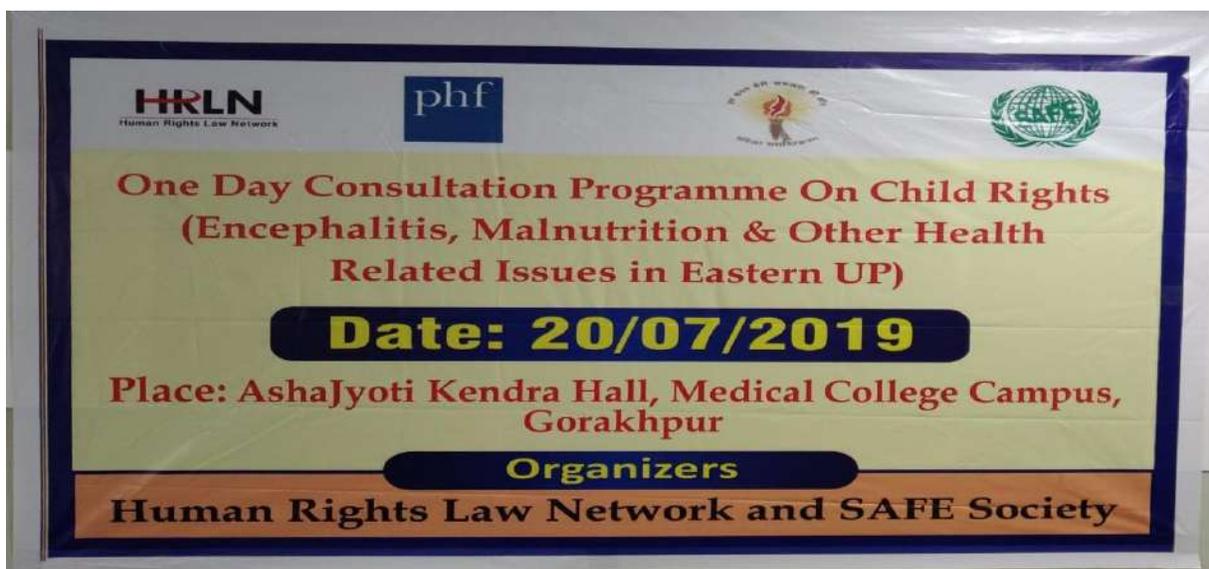


District Level Meeting on Child Rights

Topic: Child rights: Encephalitis, Malnutrition and other related issues in Eastern UP.

20.07.2019 | Asha Jyoti Kendra, BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur.

A one day consultation programme on child rights, malnutrition, encephalitis and other health related issues was organized by Human Rights Law Network and Safe Society at Asha Jyoti Kendra of the BRD medical college, Gorakhpur. We are thankful to Ms. Pooja Pandey, Director Asha Jyoti Kendra, Department of Women and Child Development, Gorakhpur who extensively helped us to successfully organize the meeting and provided us the meeting hall for free. The program was primarily attended by doctors, activists, lawyers and students.



The program also witnessed the presence of the Mr. Ashok Verma, SP Crime Branch and Chief of Anti Human Trafficking Unit and Special

Juvenile Police Unit, District Probation Officer Sarvajeet Singh, Advocate Ali Qambar Zaidi and Advocate Mohd. Danish from Human Rights Law Network, Dr VK Srivastava, Nodal Officer JE/AES, Senior Journalist Ashok Chowdhary and Manoj Singh, Advocate Kamal, Dr. Vikas Seth, HOD Pharmacology , BRD Medical college, Gorakhpur, Dr. Shiraz Wajih from GEAG and Mr. Vaibhav Sharma of the SAFE Society.



The meeting started with the lamp lightening ceremony by the SP Crime Branch and other dignitaries. After the introductory session the meeting proceeded with the agenda. The first session was focused around the menace of encephalitis in and around Gorakhpur. Valuable information and statistics was provided by Senior Journalist Manoj Singh. The second session was in form of a detailed presentation by Dr. VK Srivastava who imparted information on causes of diseases affecting children in eastern UP and measures to prevent and control the same. The third session was focused on Environment and Health wherein Prof. Shiraz Wajih for Gorakhpur

Environmental Action Group highlighted the peculiar environmental and geographical conditions contributing to the growth of encephalitis. The fourth session was conducted by HRLN which was about scope of legal intervention in such cases.

Senior journalist Manoj Singh explained in detail that the incidence of encephalitis is due to acute inflammation of the brain but till now no treatment has been discovered. In 1871, the first case of encephalitis was found in Japan. Therefore it is also called as Japanese fever. In 1925 some of its viruses were identified. In India, the first case of encephalitis was found in Tamil Nadu's Vellore town in 1961. In 1978 its first incidence was found in Gorakhpur. A total of 10-15 states of India are affected by encephalitis, in which the main states are UP, Bihar, West bengal, Assam, it has more effect in Gorakhpur and its surrounding areas in UP, although cases of encephalitis have declined in UP but not completely.



Dr. VK Srivastava, Nodal Officer of JE and AS informed that there is no disease named AES but it is a group of diseases. He also added

that it is wrong to think that only children and poors suffer from encephalitis. It spreads in untidy and water logged areas. There is a long list of patients who are admitted in BRD medical college every year out of which 25% dies, and out of rest 75%, 50%becomes handicapped and only 25% manage to recover. Disability is of two types, physical and mental. The three major sources of encephalitis are mosquitoes, water combinations and slime algae. Mosquitos harvest eggs in the paddy fields because they could get enough nitrogen from the water and pesticidesin the paddy fields. One out of 300 people suffer from encephalitis, from which infection spreads to almost 300 to 1000 people. They also highlighted encephalitis and growing pollution in the city through slides presentation.



Brajesh Chaturvedi, the Data and Study Officer from Safe Society, discussed about the work of his organization, that how they connect with the children with the help of meditation, storytelling and also works for their rehabilitation.

Dr. Vikas Seth, Head of Department pharmacology BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, discussed about the reason that why one person suffer with encephalitis and rest 1000s only suffer with the infection, the possible reason is the weak immune system. He also discussed various ways through which one could boost their immunity and stay healthy.



Dr Sheeraz Wajih, environment expert talked about the geographical and environmental factors contributing in the growth of various water and vector borne disease. He also discussed about fast pace urbanization and informed that the small towns whose population is 5-10 lakhs are growing at a faster rate than others big cities. He added that Asia's fastest urbanization occurred in Bihar; between 2001 and 2010 where about 1100 percent of urbanization occurred in Bihar itself, which had a very bad impact on the poor people of the city. Earlier, Gorakhpur had 23% open area, which has

now reduced to 6-7 percent only. Also, there were 103 water bodies in Gorakhpur which has also reduced to just 18. All these have very alarming effect on our environment. Due to lack of proper drainage system, water logging and water logging possibility of infectious disease rises many-fold.



Senior Journalist Ashok Chaudhary expressed that the kind of attention media is paying on children and their rights is not up to the mark. The approach adopted by the print media is equally sadistic. The fear of losing subsidies and advertisements often tends to take away the critical reporting and analysis of the media.

Prof. O.N Tiwari highlighted about the J.J act that it works for two types of children, one who has committed certain crime and the other who need protection. He also reported that about 48000 cases are pending in which the maximum punishment on conviction would not be more than 3 years but still there is no trial of these cases.

Government machinery is not working properly and there is an alarming increase in violence related crime against children. According to the UN report 82 % children's are not even safe at their homes itself.



Advocate Ali Qambar Zaidi briefly introduced the functioning and initiatives undertaken by HRLN. He added that apart from litigating cases at the Supreme Court and High Courts HRLN also works in coordination with other government agencies like DLSA, AHTU, Mediation Centres, Women Cells etc. and carry out quasi legal activities like jail visits, organizing legal literacy and legal aid camps etc. HRLN also publishes informative literature for common people so that they know their basic rights.

Lastly, Mr. Vaibhav Sharma from Safe society gave a vote of thanks to the distinguished guests for their presence and highlighted certain achievements of his organization which works in Gorakhpur and nearby associated areas. The organization provides shelter to run

away kids and are begging or working roadside. The organization till date has saved 70 children who were once trafficked and has helped around 524 children to find their homes and unite with their families.

The meeting concluded with an action plan resolving thereby to form a group of activists, doctors and lawyers who can come together and contribute as much as they can in their respective capacities. It was resolved that we should focus on spreading awareness about the rights and entitlements related to health and the remedies which are available in case of violations of such rights. Necessary legal intervention may also be taken recourse of in case authorities fail to discharge their statutory duties.



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Media Coverage

‘संवेदनशील समाज से ही होगा बाल अधिकार संरक्षण’

मेडिकल कॉलेज। बच्चों से ही देश व समाज का भविष्य है। बच्चों में अपने और पराये का भेद फैलाकर हम समाज और देश को कमजोर कर देते हैं। जिस नजरिए से हम अपने बच्चों के लिए तत्पर रहते हैं उसी तरह दूसरे बच्चों के लिये संवेदनशील व जागरूक बनें तो समाज, देश मजबूत होगा। ये एसपी क्राइम अशोक वर्मा ने ह्यूमन राइट्स लॉ नेटवर्क व सेफ सोसाइटी की तरफ से मेडिकल कॉलेज के आशा ज्योति सभागार में आयोजित गोष्ठी में कहीं।

‘बाल अधिकार संरक्षण, पोषण स्वास्थ्य

एवं पर्यावरण व इंसेफेलाइटिस’ विषय पर आयोजित गोष्ठी में पर्यावरणविद् शिराज वजीह ने कहा कि आज प्रकृति विकास के साथ असंतुलित होकर तमाम विकारों का उत्पादन कर रही है। उनमें से एक इंसेफेलाइटिस के रूप में हमारे सामने है। प्रो. ओंकार तिवारी, वरिष्ठ पत्रकार मनोज सिंह, डॉ. वीके श्रीवास्तव ने भी इंसेफेलाइटिस के प्रसार व प्रभाव तथा लोगों में फैली भ्रांतियों पर चर्चा की। आशा ज्योति केंद्र की प्रबंधक पूजा पांडेय ने सभी आगंतुकों का आभार व्यक्त किया।