

# DISTRICT CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**Venue: Disha Education Centre, Wasseypur, Dhanbad**

**Organized by,**



**Agenda for the District meeting on Consultation on Human Rights and Law**  
**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

## Agenda

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Resource Person</b>
	Registration of Participants	
02:00 PM to 02:15 PM	Welcome Address & Introduction to Human Rights Law Network	<b>Md. Shadab Ansari,</b> Advocate HRLN, JHC
02:15 PM to 03:00 PM	Objective of the Meeting, Right to Information, Issues in the Village, Open House Discussion	<b>Md. Shadab Ansari,</b> Advocate HRLN, JHC

03:00 PM to 04:00 PM	Domestic Violence, the issues in the village, Open House Discussion	<b>Md. Alam,</b> Advocate HRLN, Dhanbad <b>Md. Mobin,</b> Advocate HRLN, Dhanbad
04:00 PM to 04:45 PM	Right to Education, issues in the village, Open House Discussion	<b>Md. Mumtaz,</b> Advocate HRLN, Dhanbad
04:45 PM to 05:00 PM	Refreshment	
Vote of Thanks		



The stage was occupied by **Md. Shadab Ansari**, HRLN, Ranchi, **Md. Mumtaz**, Advocate, Dhanbad, **Md. Alam**, Advocate, Dhanbad, **Md. Mobin**, Advocate, Dhanbad, **David**, Activist, Law Student, Dhanbad.

**Session 1:**

02:00 PM to 02:15 PM	Welcome Address & Introduction to Human Rights Law Network	<b>Md. Shadab Ansari</b> , Advocate HRLN, JHC
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The session started with a brief introduction by **Md. Shadab Ansari**, Advocate HRLN, JHC, Ranchi. He spoke of the work done by HRLN and its network across the country and across the globe, the objectives and functioning of HRLN as a pro-bono legal support organization. The objective of the introduction was also for the participants to understand and get a grasp of the current scenario and how HRLN, can help them with their various issues. Works done by the Advocates of HRLN was explained to all the participants.

Md. Shadab Ansari added the work done in Dhanbad district by HRLN advocates and asked the participant to help them in finding out problem which can be solved through the court. David, an activist, appreciated the work of HRLN and said that they are ready to help HRLN in every possible way.

**Session 2:**

02:15 PM to 03:00 PM	Objective of the Meeting, Right to Information, Issues in the Village, Open House Discussion	<b>Md. Shadab Ansari,</b> Advocate HRLN, JHC
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Greeted and welcomed the participants and talked about how HRLN, Ranchi, in order to discuss about the Human Rights in the vulnerable district of Dhanbad, where the problem is not only the ones in which people are struggling for the implementation of legislations in a fair and just manner, including creating awareness about the rights of women and children and providing free legal aid as well as to suggest the Government in order to improve the conditions of the poor people, talked about how HRLN has always organized Workshop on Human Rights and Law, Women and Law, Child and Law programme. HRLN has always supported victims through litigation and preparing reports which have been used by standing committee of the Parliament for drafting of laws.

He stated that there is a National Human Rights Commission in New Delhi which accepts complaints across the country but many States have their own State Human Rights Commissions whose jurisdiction is limited to that state only. He further said that complaint always lie against government institutions, cases of civil nature, cases in which para military or army is involved or sub-judice cases are not entertained by the commission. He said that the complaint should not be vague or ambiguous; it must be specific and disclose human rights violation as to who the perpetrator is and who the victim is. It is not necessary that the complaint can be filed only by the victim; anyone can approach the commission on the behalf of victim. Lastly the complainant should include prayer/relief claimed.

Md. Shadab Ansari, further stated that commissions could only recommend action against the culprit or compensation to the victim, and it is up to that government whether to obey that recommendation or not. He further said that recently Allahabad High Court in its decision held that the orders of Human Rights Commission are not recommendatory but it is authoritative in nature and government have to follow it. He also cited few examples as to how a complaint can be raised in HRLN.

This meeting was taken up in the village Wasseypur, Dhanbad district, and was attended by mostly women and children. When Md. Shadab Ansari started talking about Right To Information, the very first reaction of the participants was that of disbelief, as they had heard

about it, but believed it to be like any other legislation/policies of the Government which is only on papers. But it was tried and explained to them how it works, its objective, to empower aloof citizens like us, who are always kept in the dark, as a result of which people don't want to get involved in the work which requires government process, as they have this notion that going to government offices, the only way you can get your work done by is giving bribes or else you have to come to the office every other day, to get some progress in your work. It was made clear to them that the said Act was enacted to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, to check corruption, and to give meaning to our democratic India.

They were made to understand, that these government officials are public servants, meaning thereby, they work for us and not vice versa. They were explained the process of filing the RTI and also that if they belong to the disadvantaged group of the society they can claim exemption from the fees. And the concerned government servant will have to answer their query expeditiously or at the max within 30 days from the filing.

Other objectives like Government schemes whether they are being implemented strictly in these areas or not. Mukhiya of the village was asked to share the problems in his area. Public Interest Litigation was explained. And lastly, they were also asked for volunteers from that area.

### **Session 3**

03:00 PM to 04:00 PM	Domestic Violence, the issues in the village, Open House Discussion	<p><b>Md. Alam,</b> Advocate HRLN, Dhanbad</p> <p><b>Md. Mobin,</b> Advocate HRLN, Dhanbad</p>
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Md. Alam, greeted and welcomed the participants. Firstly, he discussed about their knowledge about domestic violence and its condition in their village, from which it came into light that these innocent people don't even have the proper idea about domestic violence. They think that any such incident which takes place once in a while will not be covered under the ambit of domestic violence, as it happened at the spur of the moment and the next morning or say after a few hours everything was back to normal. Here they were made to understand that any such incident which happened only once or twice also needs immediate attention, because if they sit quite for the first and the second time, it will only allow the perpetrator to use them as their easy targets, only to take out their frustration on them and satisfy their male ego. It was also explained to them that, they are not at fault over here, them thinking that, since they did or did not do a particular thing,

so the abuse is the outcome of that. But it is the perpetrator who because of his failures, inflicts such atrocious acts on them. And only because they are family, they should not sit and suffer silently, they need to understand that, had the perpetrators also considered them their loved ones, they wouldn't have inflicted them with such pain and suffering in the first place, which leaves them scarred for life.

Then, Md. Mobin, further took the discussion on the reliefs provided to them by law. He explained to them how, if the aggrieved person if not able, then any person who has the knowledge about such incident can file complaint. And also that, they don't have to wait until the commencement of the act, but even when they have reason to believe that it is going to happen, they can complain and seek protection. That it is not necessary that they have to knock the doors of the court, but they can identify the Protection officer of the particular area for immediate relief, who will then take up the case, help in filing the same, get the victim medical treatment, and even get her in the shelter home or any such safe place, and the rest of the processes. Making it clear to them that, they don't have to be afraid as to what will happen to them, where they will go, who will help them, and they were also explained about the free legal aid. Concluding it he also explained to them, that the abuse need not only be physical, but it can also be, sexual, verbal, emotional, or economical in nature.

#### **Session 4**

04:00 PM to 04:45 PM	Right to Education, issues in the village, Open House Discussion	<b>Md. Mumtaz,</b> Advocate HRLN, Dhanbad
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Md. Mumtaz, greeted the participants, and firstly, asked the little ones to raise their hands, to show, how many of them go to school, the response was not at all surprising, with so less raised hands. To which they said that the schools are there only for name sake, the teachers are so less and also under trained and in that also in most of the days they don't come to school, then there is the infrastructure problem. And even when they come to school, because of the big gaps the children also are not interested in attending schools. In this way nobody is benefiting in any way, but the only difference is that the only ones who are suffering in a large scale are these poor innocent people.

These people were asked about their knowhow in the matter of right to education, and the only thing they knew, which is in a way a main point also, is that, every child who has attained the age of six years and is below the age of 14 years has the right to be educated in these government

schools free of cost, with the daily mid day meal. So here it was clear that they are aware of their rights, but had no means to its proper implementation. Md. Mumtaz concluded his session, explaining them how they can approach this matter, by filing PIL, and how HRLN can help them in this matter, free of cost, to bring them immediate relief.

The district meeting was concluded by **Md. Shadab Ansari**, Advocate HRLN, Ranchi, **Md. Mumtaz**, Advocate, Dhanbad, **Md. Alam**, Advocate, Dhanbad, **Md. Mobin**, Advocate, Dhanbad, **David**, Activist, Law Student, Dhanbad.

The participants were once again facilitated and thanked. Further their role within the project and network was further emphasised. We spoke about the discussions that took place and the action plan:

1. Awareness programme in massive scale about different government schemes and the rights of the people
2. Volunteers who will help in the bridging of work and people of Wasseyapur to HRLN, Ranchi.
3. PIL on Right to Education, the poor condition of the schools, teachers and most importantly the future of the country.

**Vote of Thanks by Md Shadab Ansari**

**Registration Sheet**