

National Association of the Deaf
Annual Report 2010 – 2011

**Report on the Advanced Leadership Training & Women's Leadership
Workshops held on 1st & 2nd February 2010 in Hyderabad, (AP), South
India Part I**



The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) & Deaf Enabled Foundation (DEF), Hyderabad jointly organized two workshops, namely the Advanced Leadership Training Workshop & the Women's Leadership Training Workshop on the 1st & 2nd of February 2010 in Hyderabad. Professor Madan Vasishtha was the resource person for both the workshops. Dr. Madan M. Vasishtha was born in India. He completed his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Gallaudet University which is the only University for Deaf people in the world. Dr. Vasishtha has worked in various capacities such as teacher, supervisor, program evaluator, principal and superintendent in several schools around the United States. He is currently a lecturer at the Gallaudet University

Advanced Leadership Training Workshop:

There were 110 participants for the Advanced Leadership Training Workshop of which 70 were Deaf men and 40 were Deaf women who came from several cities around India. At the workshop Dr. Vasishta taught the participants about the relevant laws and the rights they could exercise to live better lives. He informed the participants about various subjects including United Nation Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the American Disability Act (ADA) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD). He presented his observations on a comparative study of the American Disability Act (ADA) and the Persons with Disabilities Act (PWD) in India. He also made a presentation on the technology for the Deaf that is currently available and also those which will be available in the future such as Video Relay Interpreting, etc.

Dr. Vasishta conducted a group exercise in which six groups of 15 members each were given the task of discussing and suggesting what they wanted to include and change in the current PWD Act. Each group was then asked to prepare a chart with their suggestions. Following this there was a question and answer session for about two hours which addressed the queries of the participants. The participants found the workshop very good and empowering.

Report on the Advanced Leadership Training & Women's Leadership Workshops held on 1st & 2nd February 2010 in Hyderabad, (AP), and South India Part II





Women's Leadership Training Workshop:

This workshop was attended by about 100 Deaf women leaders from all over India. During this workshop the women who came from different backgrounds shared that they felt helpless in almost every area of their lives. They shared that they had many complaints to make to their parents or schools concerning domestic violence, harassment, cheating cases related to property matters and sexual abuse.

Dr. Vasishta got the women to form five groups of 20 each and gave them the exercise discussing and writing down how the Deaf women could be empowered and how they could face their problems and find solutions to them. Most of the women expressed that there was a need for educating women about the laws and their rights, providing information on pregnancy, birth and health awareness and also providing awareness about abuse.

Dr. Vasishta then collected the charts and spoke to the women encouraging them saying that it was important for them to have knowledge of their rights and be educated about abuse and alimony. He emphasized that the women leaders played a very crucial role in the development of Deaf women. The video recording of both the workshops which were held in Sign Language are available.

3rd National Deaf Conference organized by National Association of the Deaf & Deaf Welfare Association. 13th to 14th June, 2010



The 3rd National Deaf Conference was jointly organized by The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) & Deaf Welfare Association (DWA) at the Indian Institute of Management, Dehradun (Uttarkhand) on the 13th and 14th of June 2010.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Shri. Matbar Singh Kandar, who is the Minister of Social Welfare from Uttarakhand. The other prominent persons present there included the Mayor Shri Vinod Chamoli; Shri. Zorin Singha, the President of National Association of the Deaf (NAD); Shri A.S. Narayanan, General Secretary of NAD and Shri Umesh Grover, General Secretary of Deaf Welfare Association. The conference was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour Shri. Matbar Singh Kandar. Many Deaf leaders and Deaf persons from across the country participated in the conference to make it a big success. .A total of 125 deaf people and leaders attended the

conference.

Shri. A. S. Narayanan, General Secretary of NAD shared about the background of the Sign Language Institute which has been approved by the Finance Minister, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee. This has been included in the 11th Five Year Plan after the Deaf community had done several demonstrations and conducted strike on four occasions at various places in New Delhi.

Shri. Zorin Singha, the President of National Association of the Deaf (NAD), shared about the paper on Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) drafted by the Deaf leaders and made an appeal to the Minister to remove the Persons with Disabilities Act and force the SJE to draft and pass a new law instead. There have been many recommendations to get a new law since there are many problem areas in the PWD Act. It is insufficient in dealing with the problems of the disabled appropriately. Shri. T.K.M. Sandeep, Treasurer of NAD made a presentation on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and made comparisons with the current PWD Act. The Conference instilled a lot of confidence in all the participants as they were better informed on the opportunities available for the Deaf and many of them stated that they would spread this information on Deaf Rights to many more people. They expressed their happiness at having gained so much through this conference.

This is to inform you that a Seminar on DEAF RIGHTS under United Nations Convention of Rights for People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was organized by National Association of the Deaf, Delhi (INDIA) from 26th and 27th June, 2010 in Vyattla, Ernakulam, district in Kerala State, South India for first time. The NAD invited to two deaf leaders came from each district of Kerala. They were interested to learn things from us through India Sign Language. Shri A.S. Narayanan, Secretary, National Association of the Deaf, Delhi spoke on UNCRPD to the deaf participants. He explained that the India Government has already ratified UNCRPD on 1st OCT, 2007. He also gave examples to them about PWD Act 1995. This disability law the India Government already has, but still not have implemented yet. There has been no benefits for the deaf through PWD ACT since its passage in 1995. It is wonderful to good news from India Govt announced about passing a New Disability Law in the month of April this year. We must give our Hearty congratulation to Mr. Mukul Wasnik, Minister for Social Justice and empowerment,

Government of India, for paving the way to opening the New Disability Law.

Finally, Good News! After a long time, the need to establish an India Sign Language Research and Training Institute is being addressed. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister announced for India Sign Language last month of Feb 26th, 2010. India Sign Language Institute is established very soon! We need you in support and unity in work for the deaf in India.

3rd National Woman's Deaf Empowerment Seminar being held in Indira Holiday Home, Sector-24-b, Chandigarh 2010





The 3rd National Woman's Deaf Empowerment Seminar being held in Indira Holiday Home, sector-24-b, Chd, on 28th & 29th August, in which 75 Woman participated from all over the places i.e. Hisar, Bhopal, Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi, Gurgaon, Dehradun, shimla, patiala, Ludhiana, Abohar, Bathinda, and so on.

This seminar was presented by deaf woman, Mrs. Geeta Sharma from Delhi and Anu from Chandigarh. In this seminar, deaf woman were the volunteers and took care of all the arrangements.

On the first day, i.e. 28th August, the brief presentation was given by our special guest, Mrs. Veena, Lawyer of HRLN on the topic of 'Domestic Violence'.

Then, on the last day, two special guest was invited to make this program more valuable, Ms. Manju Sharma, Gold medalist of Woman & Child Development, spoke on the topic of 'Empowering the Woman' & 'to access their rights'.

At the closing ceremony, Dr. Vinay Verma, MBBS, MD (Medicine), MBA (Hospital Management), Senior Consultant Physician from Alchemist Hospital, congratulated the deaf woman & wishing them all the success in their lives.

Their eyes and hands act as their voices. They cannot comprehend what you are saying neither would you be able to understand their expressions. But it does not make their life difficult.

There was hundreds of hearing impaired persons who had converged at the third national seminar on promoting empowerment of hearing-impaired women organised by a Delhi-based NGO, Deaf Way Foundation, at the Indira Holiday Home in Sector 24, Chandigarh.

At the seminar, attended by hearing impaired persons from different parts of the country like Bhopal, Pune and Hyderabad, the speakers were not only greeted in a different style, the participants waived both arms to express their desire to clap while welcoming the speakers.

Disclosing about their mode of communication, coordinator of the foundation, Era Walton, said, “I have been working with hearing impaired people for the past 27 years and I have been in Chandigarh for the past 10 years. Interacting with them is always a pleasure.”

Soon after the seminar concluded all participants gathered at the banquet hall to celebrate the birthday of one of their colleagues Geeta. Yet again they raised their arms in order to clap as Geeta cut the cake and sang the “birthday song” in their own special way. The youngsters were excited to be with the people with whom they could relate and most importantly “communicate” as well. It was party time for these impaired persons who were trying to capture every moment in their cameras.

There were different speakers namely Veena, a lawyer, and Geeta Sharma who tipped women on developing their personality and enlightened them on their rights.

Sharing her experiences with the hearing impaired persons, Era Walton asserted, “A couple of years back I had acted as a translator for a hearing impaired lady whose husband had deserted her after 20 years of marriage. The husband was not impaired. It was a learning experience.”

Being impaired makes these people more careful than us, shared Era, “Once I was in Kasuali along with this girl who was hearing-impaired. I was talking on the phone and trekking. She noticed that I might slip and held me and saved me from getting injured.”

National Workshop on Deaf's Women Empowerment on 17th December 2010



National Workshop on Grassroots Deaf Leadership, Hyderabad on 13th & 14th February 2011

