

AWARENESS SESSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Social Work Forum of the Department of Social Work Aided organized an awareness session on 'Human Trafficking' in collaboration with Madras Christian Council of Social Service and Ministry of Women and Child Development, India on the 14th of September 2018. The session went from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. The welcome address was delivered by Ms. Nivetha, Executive Member of the Social Work Forum. The guest speakers for the session from Madras Christian Council of Social Service were Mr. Padmanabhan, Mr. A.Alexandar, Ms. Nimitha and Ms. Usha. The guests were formally welcomed by the Head of the Department, Dr. Shakeela Basheer, Forum Coordinator Dr. K. Sathyamurthi and the Forum President Ms. P. Elakkiya.

The session started off by Mr. Padmanabhan giving an overview about 'Human Trafficking' who had also pointed out the difference between trafficking and kidnapping, where trafficking is a continuous commercial exploitation and kidnapping is a one-time demand. He spoke about the two strategies used in India for trafficking humans which are (1) Fake love affairs (2) Job opportunities and now the latest trend is event management trips. He also informed about the designated red light areas in India which were Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. Chennai is not considered to be a designated red light area, but Mahabalipuram and Kodambakkam are said to be high risk areas as sex tourism is high there. He explained about the four components of services provided by MCCSS which are (1) Prevention (2) Rescue (3) Rehabilitation and (4) Re-Integration. He also mentioned about the third eye of the social worker that is whatever we learnt cannot be practiced all the time in the field and sometimes it won't be applicable so the social worker must think out of the box. He shared his experiences in rescuing the victims which was a great insight to know about the realities existing in our society. He said that human trafficking is the third largest crime where India stands second in this list. The reason for making these victims drug addicts was to create a dependency on them. These victims are psychologically and physically abused, some are also affected by HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. He explained that the role of a social worker here is rehabilitation, counselling, from the time of rescue the social worker must make sure that the victims are safeguarded. He briefed about the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act where the offender is given a maximum of two years of imprisonment and also informed us about the Trafficking in Persons Act which is enacted.

The second session was led by Mr. A.Alexandar, who reasoned out why we need to talk about this issue. He briefed on the factors and reasons for human trafficking. He added that whatever efforts taken against trafficking there was not much changed and he clearly mentioned that the depth of the problem is created by the dependency of women and the patriarchy society. He mentioned the big challenges to be re-trafficking, the family of victim is not accepting them and due to poverty they go back to trade. Rebuilding the victim was the hard task for them because of withdrawal symptoms. They work on prevention aspects and gives attention to vulnerable. Their office consists of 44 staff in which five particular staff and the Director will only be knowing the whole case history of the victim, even the family coming for marriage doesn't know the details. During rehabilitation bringing the victims back from their routine section is hard, after a period of time even sex also becomes addiction, at first they resist but then they start to adopt. He also added about online trading which is followed now a days. The rehabilitation of victims includes marriage rehabilitation, small trainings, sending them to work in nearby shops. He included the challenges in taking care of the victims in their home and thus finally the session ended with vote of thanks by Ms. Saurabhi, Executive Member of the Social Work Forum.

