

Background

The training workshop on Gender and Law for activists, lawyers and academics, conducted by Partners for Law in Development in Association with FARR was held from 19th January to 23rd January 2006 at Panthnivas, Puri. The workshop was attended by 30 participants which included activists, lawyers and academics. It was facilitated by 4 Resource Persons, namely, Geeta Ramaseshan, Saumya Uma, Madhu Mehra and Amita Punj.

The objective of the workshop

The workshop is aimed at developing an understanding of the relative concept of gender law and human rights and the relation between these. It aims to develop an understanding of the concept of gender in general, its implications for individuals, family, society, State and legal system. Further, it is aimed that the participants get an in depth knowledge and understanding of Law and Human rights, they are expected to understand the dual nature of law as a resource and as a challenge to the realisation of women's rights and thus better equip them in social justice work at all levels..

Workshop Approach and Methodology

The workshop was conducted in different phases each phase focussing on one of the core components of the overall objectives.

- Understanding Gender
- Understanding the Law
- Unpackaging the Law
- Civil and criminal Procedure
- Women's Human Rights: CEDAW
- Principles of CEDAW

The sessions contained group work, plenary discussions, film shows and resource inputs to stimulate and to facilitate participant's involvement and easy learning. Participants were given a resource Kit for background reading.

Introduction

The workshop began with an informal round of introduction followed by an interactive session wherein the participants were given a background to the entire training, and its objectives and resource kit containing reading material was introduced. The participants were asked to talk about their expectations from the training, which were then mapped against the contents and objective of the workshop so as to indicate parity between the three.

Expectations of the participants	Sessions and objectives of the workshop covering particular expectation	
	Session	Objectives
Better idea about human rights especially those relating to women and children	Women's human rights: CEDAW	To provide an overview of the comprehensive treaty on women: CEDAW
Engagement of women's movement with law especially the liberating and restraining aspect of it. To gain idea how to use law as a tool for social change.	Understanding the law – substance structure and culture. Women's movement	To provide conceptual framework for engaging with the law by explaining different faces of law from a feminist perspective.
Learning strategies and methods to deal with and address women related issues especially in backward region.	Unpackaging the law – sexual assault, domestic violence, property rights	To strengthen the ability to critically examine laws and their application from gender perspective.
Better understanding of rights and their implementation in the state	Human rights and constitutional standards	To introduce human rights as a framework to determine the legitimacy of laws.
To know how CEDAW can provide framework to fight for women's rights	Principles of CEDAW – equality	
To understand how law is gendered and how to make it in-discriminatory	Unpackaging the law	To develop feminist perspective on law.
To gain ideas how to use law as social change	Engagement with law, women's movement in law	To provide an overview of feminist engagement with law
To know about national and international agencies and how they extend support to strengthen efforts of NGO at grass root level.	Domestic application of international standards	To explain ways in which international standards can be applied at the national level.
Understanding domestic laws	Procedure – civil and criminal	To develop understanding of two branches of law
Skills on interpretation on international human rights standard and how to contextualize them locally.	Domestic application of international standards	To explain ways in which international standards can be applied at the national level.