International day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26th June 2010

Event report – Bangalore

Event organized by:

in cooperation with Paycheck India Project @ IIM- A, ITUC, UNI, and WageIndicator Foundation

Websites

http://www.paycheck.in

http://dfl.wageindicator.org
All over the world and across regions, races and communities there are people suffering from substance abuse disorders. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking erode societies, undermines governance, and destroys families and livelihoods of people. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking is not just a law and order problem but also threatens the welfare of societies, people and institutions. The 26th of June is marked by the United Nations as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to remind people of the problems that illicit drugs pose.

Consequences of drug abuse are highly detrimental and pose serious health challenges. Also injecting drugs is the leading cause for the relentless spread of HIV. To be able to break the vicious circle of drug abuse it is important to promote development among communities where drug abuse is rampant. Thus the achievement of the millennium development goals is imperative for the fight against drug abuse.

Drug addiction and abuse has increased progressively among girls and women. Women also tend to get into the circle of drug abuse by misusing legally prescribed drugs. Deaths among women due to drug related causes have increased over the past few years. It is also harder for women to seek treatment or receive treatment as the social stigma faced by women is far greater than men.
because they are unable to fulfill the social requirement of female morality as well as their traditional role of being a good mother.

Not much research has been done on the effect of drugs on women and the treatment to be administered for women abusers, as traditionally substance abuse has always been treated as a male disorder. Hence it is important to spread awareness about drug abuse and its treatment among women.

Miracle Foundation had organized an event on Awareness on abuse Substance on behalf of ‘International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking’ at Jamatkhana Community Hall in Queens Road, Bangalore. This is a day to make them aware on the bad effect of having painkillers and chewing tobacco is injurious to health.

Decisions for Life participated in this event and spoke to many participants hailing from different walks of life. An insight about the project was given to them.

Miracle Foundation is a rehabilitation and recovery centre for women. Their main focus is to make treatment openly available for women suffering from addiction.
They believe that the therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel and are the first pioneer in the field of women in treatment, thereby opening doors for women and offering them opportunities and skills required for them to recovery from substance abuse problems/ addiction and other behavioral issues.

The day started with an informative session on drug abuse among women by the founder of Miracle Foundation Divyya Bajaj.

She described in detail what could be considered drug abuse and what the effects of drugs are especially their effect on women. The audience initially were skeptical to share their views and eventually began to share their experiences.

Divyya tried to break the social stigma around abuse by saying that it is a disease just like diabetes etc, which with proper treatment can be cured, and thus the person can continue to function normally and is no different from another person.

Those who abuse drugs are not bad people, who have no will power or who are weak morally, physically or mentally, but who do so because of other circumstances. The session ended with a round of questions that were asked by the audience about drug abuse to Divyya.
Once the session got over a two minute presentation on DFL campaign was given by the campaign members. Brochures and bookmarks were distributed to all the participants.

Many of the participants liked the DFL initiative and approached Satarupa and Gayatri (Intern campaign member) for more information about the project.

We ended the day by asking the audience to share incidents of drug abuse that they had experienced and what they felt about the decisions they need to take which could change their life’s and the life’s of their family and others.

Everybody seemed to walk out of the session preoccupied with issue of drug abuse and the decisions that they need to take. Thus the event seems to have ended on a successful note.