World Day for Decent Work

Event Report

(October 9th, 2011)

Trivandrum, Kerala - INDIA

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

http://www.unitespro.org
Event: World Day for Decent Work 2011

Date: Oct 9, 2011, Trivandrum

Venue: The Aries Banquet Hall, Hotel Park Rajadhani, Trivandrum

The Decisions for Life project is an ongoing research initiative in 14 countries. The project’s objective is to raise awareness amongst female workers in the services sector (age group of 18-35) regarding employment opportunities, career possibilities, family building and work-life balance.

In India, the Decisions for Life project is a joint initiative of the Paycheck Project of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad and UNITES Professionals, and is sponsored by ITUC Belgium.

The project is also supported by the WageIndicator foundation, University of Amsterdam and UNI Global Union (http://dfl.wageindicator.org) and aims to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG3) - “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women”.

In conjunction with the World Day for Decent Work 2011, a one-day conference was organized in Trivandrum, on Sunday October 9, 2011. The topic this year was:

"Living with Economic Insecurity: Women in Precarious Work"
# Agenda

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker/Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome / Introduction</td>
<td>Ms. Nisha, Coordinator, The Decisions for Life Project</td>
<td>Aries Banquet Hall</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Inauguration</td>
<td>Ms. Yvonne Fernandez, Director, The School of the Good Shepherd</td>
<td>Aries Banquet Hall</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tea</td>
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<td>Aries Banquet Hall</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Ms. Prabha Joshua, President, YWCA</td>
<td>Aries Banquet Hall</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Ms. Nirmala Joseph, Vice Principal, The School of the Good Shepherd</td>
<td>Aries Banquet Hall</td>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Utsav Restaurant</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Interactive Session</td>
<td>Q&amp;A Panel</td>
<td>Aries Banquet Hall</td>
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10:00: Welcome address by Ms. Nisha, with an introduction to the DFL Project, outlining its aims, objectives and achievements.

10:30: Inauguration of the WDDW event and lighting of the lamp by Ms. Yvonne Fernandez, Director, The School of The Good Shepherd, Trivandrum.
11:00: Tea Break and interaction.

11:15: Session 1 – Ms. Prabha Joshua – President, YWCA Trivandrum.

Ms. Joshua began by saying that she was happy to see the large number of young women in the audience – something that she felt was missing in the YWCA that she headed.

She also spoke at length about economic insecurity with regards to the working woman, and work-life balance.

She also emphasized on why it is important to create equal opportunity at the workplace, and living with economic insecurity for women in precarious work.

12:00: Session 2 – Ms. Nirmala Joseph – Vice Principal, The School of Shepherd, Trivandrum.

Ms. Nirmala's session left the audience spellbound for over an hour.

She began by giving the definition of Decent Work as defined by the International Labour Organization, which introduced it and promoted beginning 1999, – i.e., The Availability of Employment in Conditions of Freedom, Equity, Security, and Human Dignity.
Decent work involved opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income. At the end of the day there should be something that is productive that is done and at the same time there should be something that you take back home, and provide social security, or else it just becomes service.

Providing security in the workplace is the main issue these days which Decent Work does, as well as offering better facilities, better prospects for personal development, and also encourages social integration.

How to differentiate decent work from work that is imposed? When work is imposed there is no freedom to express what an employee feels about the work being done as is the case in a two-way process, or else it becomes indecent, and that’s when problems arise. The individual should be able to and given the freedom express her views and concerns, and to organize and participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Equal opportunities should always be guaranteed. The recent example of the teacher grading system was cited, which if implemented could hamper the whole education system.

Two individuals with the same work should never be treated differently. All things should be taken care of. That is the reason why the ILO has created laws to protect individuals, especially women.

Why is decent work important? Every person on earth should be able to have a job that enables them to lead a good life and in which their basic needs are met.

Mothers should inculcate values, which is also decent work – that’s the best work one can do. By educating women, you educate society. When a mother is educated she can educate her children, and when a child is educated society improves. Values are put in to the coming generation by the mother.

1:30: Lunch

2:15: Interactive Session.

3:00: Tea

3:30: Vote of thanks by Nisha