

Report of Civil society workshop Dehradun, 4 November 2008

Attending CSOs and Individuals.

- Abhilasha Bisht, DIG, Crime , Uttarakhand Police
- Ajay Chouchan, Reporter, Amar Ujjala, Dehradun
- Amita Rawat, Astd. Prog Coordinator, CASA, Dehradun
- Anil, Voice of India, Dehradun
- Ashish Srivastava, RLEK (Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra)
- Charan Singh Azad, Gram Vikas Jan Chetna Samiti Hardwar
- Durga Prasad, Amar Ujala compact, Dehradun
- Gaurav Kumar, RLEK Dehradun
- Geeta Gairola Mahila Samakhaya, Dehradun
- Jahanavi Tiwari, DISHA, Dehradun
- Kailash Kanndwal, Corrospendent, Garwal Post
- Kamla Pant, Pragatisheel Mahila Manch Dehradun
- Kusum Gidiyal , Society for Enviornment and Development, Dehradun
- MA Ganapati , IG , Law and order, Uttarakhand Police
- Padma Gupta, Uttarakhand Mahila Manch, Dehradun
- Pratibha, uttarkhand Mahila Manch, Dehradun
- Rashmi Painuly , Bindu, Dehradun
- Renu D Singh, Samadhan, Dehradun
- Shayama Prasad Sharma, Janhit Seva Sansathan, Hardwar
- Usha Rawat , Hindustan, Dehradun
- Vipin Raturi , Mahila Navjagaran Samiti, Chamba, Tehri Garwal
- Virendra Painuly , JSS Dehradun
- Vivek Silswal, Participatory Development Institute, Rishikesh

Deliberations

Renu Singh, Samadhan,

Samadhan likes to work with the police; it does not like to confront the police but insists that it should adhere to rule of law and the constitution. Its experience is that at lower level the police are very insensitive. There is a recent example to that effect. They have harassed and humiliated a minor by not registering an FIR when she was raped by her step father. They made her go from pillar to post even to record her statement and did not give the copy of FIR and medical report for over two months. The police seems to have become a party in the case in a manner that the case has got diluted and justice would never come to the child who has been wronged. Women police have become very insensitive and have no sympathy with the victim. Police encounter a lots of pressure. It is incumbent of NGOs to come together and devise some strategy to remove it.

Inspector General of Police, Law and order M A Ganpathi

Well we agree that our subordinates are not very sensitive and they do not work as per the rule of law. That is why we are there to supervise. The NGO and civil society workers should approach us , we shall definitely take action. We are taking some measures to improve it in their training. (He however did elaborate on the measures taken).

Police accountability in the rural Uttarakhand is very poor because of the existence of revenue police. Police has no jurisdiction in those areas which comprises about sixty percent of area and forty percent of population. Civil society should bear this in mind too. We have an interactive Uttarakhand police website. Please complain at the website complaint comes to us, the higher police officials. An action would certainly be taken.

Padma Gupta, Uttarakhand Mahila Manch

The superior police officers listen but the lower level lack basic courtesy. They even do not hesitate to throw people out of the police station. Common man comes in contact with them more and it is paramount that they are trained in good behavior. If it is done police will rise in people's estimation.

Gita Gairola, Mahila Samakaya

My whole family is in police. But now even I am scared of police. Earlier I was not. There seems to be a change for worse in police behavior over the period. Mr. VN Rai from Haryana police academy has made a module to train lower level police personnel. The same is required to be adopted in state police training academy.

Kamla Pant: Pragatisheel Mahila Manch

I think that after the bifurcation of state from Uttar Pradesh there has been change in image and behavior of police. Because of Uttarakhand movement the level of knowledge and confidence of woman have increased. However it is required that this knowledge spreads to a deeper, lower level and police at the lower level is made sensitive. Most of

the people live in the villages and there the attitude and mindset of the police has not changed.

Gaurav Kumar, RLEK

Information in regard to the newly setup police complaint authority should be widely advertised. Even people in the urban areas do not know about it. And the rural folks who bear the brunt of the bad policing and need to know about it the most have absolutely no clue about it. We must give a memorandum to the state government and the Commission to advertise their coming into existence.

Jahanavi Tiwari, Disha

State is not doing its duty. It is the responsibility of the state to advertise about the newly set up Police Accountability Commission that we are hearing today. There is no point of enacting any law if people do not know about it. The law should be such that it brings change at the ground level and unless it is used by the people at large this would not happen.

Consensus in the meeting

A monitoring committee be setup consisting following

- Kamala Pant
- Jahanave Tiwari, Disha
- Gita Girola , Mahila Samakhya
- Sambandh Network
- RLEK, Legal Cell (Convenor)
- Kusum Gidiyal
- CASA, Mountain Forum

The next meeting of the monitoring committee will be held at RLEK office on 17 November 2008 at 4 PM.

Tentative Tasks of the Committee

- Send a letter informing the newly Police Complaint Authority that such a monitoring committee consisting of NGOs has been created.
- Send a letter to the Home department of the state government and the Police Complaint Authority that they should advertise themselves because people do not know about it
- To devise strategy to monitor it in time to come