

MEMBERS CONNECT WITH PARTNERS FROM SRILANKA:

- a) Jantakshan- Technology for People
- b) IPID: Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development

In Sri Lanka, we have three members- Jantakshan, IPID and SABAH Sri Lanka. On 18th May, we had interaction with Jantakshan and IPID. Regrettably, SABAH Sri Lanka, could not participate due to attending relief work in North of Sri Lanka.

JANTAKSHAN: Mr. Ranga Pallawala

At present, Jantakshan is working on four programmes of which two programmes are in partnership with World Vision and Care Sri Lanka. With Care Sri Lanka, the programme is on livelihood, implemented in three divisional secretariat towards the south eastern part of the country. To begin with, base line survey is to be conducted, giving scope to identify homebased workers and their work, as Jantakshan, incorporated the homebased workers into the programme. The programme focusses on marginalised and vulnerable agriculture community, empowering them with information on software and hardware of the agriculture and farming. The information support in on ***climate forecasting***, the ***weather forecasting***, about soil, helping to maximize their income and minimize their risk of climate factor enabling to optimize the farming season. The forecasting information will help to explore various income options during non-farming seasons, as well. In addition, linking existing information within government and non-government sectors, community will have one stop access to information, enabling them to do planning. The programme also aims to organise and link homebased workers with the authorities and local governance.

Sharing further on ***local governance programme***, implemented in eastern province of Sri Lanka- Baticola. The programme aims to capacitate local representatives to get more engaged with citizen. The first year programme will train local government representatives to develop training module. Also, consultation would be undertaken to form legislation for deeper engagement with community by local representative.

On asking about the ***structure of local government***, it was surprise to know, presently, there is no political body at local level, therefore, bureaucrats are in authority to function. However, provincial council is managing the functions of local governance. Provincial council acts between Local government and Divisional Secretariat. The Local government has to report to Provincial council and Divisional Secretariat, the later, has maximum authority as it falls under Central government. Though, push has been made to conduct local election.

On asking about homebased workers representation in local governing body, in light of upcoming elections, Mr Ranga responded "there is citizen participation space in the local governance. But space of community in local governance get diverse". Because, few services are provided from divisional secretariat, few by provincial council and few by local. Hence, the representation of homebased workers in Local governance may not

benefit to all services required by homebased workers, due to division of role and function.

Jantakshan being “technology for people” organisation has trained some homebased workers leaders in assembling of LED bulbs. The project imparted training to homebased workers leaders to assemble the LED bulbs (parts of which were imported) at their home and market it locally. Being a successful intervention, Jantakshan plans to do an assessment to produce case study.

It was interesting to learn, under IUP project (with HomeNet South Asia), for livelihood, electricity consumption survey at the household level was conducted. In Sri Lanka, electricity is covered 24* 7 with coverage to 96% of country’s population. In spite, it becomes unaffordable for poor due to high consumption of poor usage on appliances. In order to seek solution, a survey was conducted. The survey finding stated, consumption can be reduced by 20% if some small adjustments were made. One of them was usage of LED bulbs instead of normal bulbs. Exploring the rates of LED, which was expensive in compare to normal. However, learning to assemble LED locally, community might adopt technology sooner due to affordability. Therefore, 20 homebased workers were trained to assemble the LED bulbs, which helped in two ways- reduced electricity consumption and also, alternative livelihood; generating income for women homebased workers.

The case study on LED will released by August 2016.

IPID –Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development is a Research organisation with focus on monitoring and evaluation. Until 2014, IPID was not working with homebased workers. However, partnering with HomeNet South Asia on study “Risk and Vulnerability of homebased workers in South Asia”, IPID has started working with hbws. Talking about scope to work on homebased workers issue in Sri Lanka, Ms. Mallika, highlighted:

Organising of homebased workers: As homebased workers are not organised, hence, they face various problems for their economic and social security. Citing the finding of Study “*Risk and Vulnerability*” 2015 (HNSA), she said, “husband are taking homebased workers product to market to sell their products, but, women don’t go to sell in market. Therefore, women are limited to have market access and information, in spite of making products on their own”.

Occupational health and linking with social security programme is another finding, which study highlighted to take action.

Homebased workers in supply chain for making shoes in Sri Lanka: Around 100 homebased workers are part of the supply chain, fixing soles on the shoes. They are also into mending and doing patch work on shoes. In Sri Lanka, there is a good scope to take up the supply chain study on homeworkers involved in shoe making".