

Minutes of the Meeting on 'Gender & Education' held on 11th April, 2013 at 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

The following attended the meeting:-

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| 1. Dr. Charu WaliKhanna | Member, NCW |
| 2. Sh. S.S. Jena | Chairman, NIOS |
| 3. Sh. Vineet Joshi, IAS | Chairman, CBSE |
| 4. Ms. R. Jaya | Member Secretary, NCTE |
| 5. Sh. Kuldeep Agarwal | Director, NIOS |
| 6. Ms. Parveen Sinclair | Director, NCERT |
| 7. Ms. Gouri Srivastava | Head, DWS, NCERT |

In attendance was:

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| 1. Ms. Richa Ojha | Sr. Research Officer |
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At the outset, the Dr. Charu WaliKhanna, Member, NCW welcomed all the participants. A brief presentation on the functioning of the Commission and the report alongwith the recommendations of the Gender & Education Committee was made to the participants.

The meeting was held as per the direction of Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development in continuation to the meeting held on 13th March, 2013 with Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Sh.M.M. Pallam Raju and Members of the NCW Expert Committee on Gender & Education. The present meeting was held between NCW and the representatives of NIOS, CBSE, NCTE, NCERT to deliberate and prepare achievable action plan in order synergise and converge efforts for combined strategies in creating gender and caste sensitization in the country through primary and secondary education system.

The objective of the deliberations was to combine the strategies in creating a platform for cooperation for making dent in the mindset through existing

means and resources. The representatives presented a brief outline of already existing programmes material and resources available viz a viz gender.

Member NCW reiterated the highlight of the report by stressing the need to make dent in mindset of children from 4 years to 14 years as change is inter-generational.

In order to create gender sensitivity, it is imperative to address the target groups in the formal education system i.e. the academic, the curriculum, the legal frame work and the human resource, was the view of Chairperson, CBSE. He also opined that the process of assessment of the teachers requires change. He also stressed on the need for holistic assessment of teachers and comprehensive evaluation covering non- scholastic areas of students.

Director, NCERT stated that the National Curriculum Framework, (NCF)-2005 and textbooks based on the philosophy of NCF are gender inclusive in content portrayal and visual depiction. She stated that even though textbooks or related materials may be gender inclusive the major issue is related to attitudinal changes among all stakeholders. Attitudinal changes or changing the mindset of people belonging to all ages that are socially and culturally conditioned cannot be time-bound or be of an immediate nature. She added that the responsibility of inculcating gender sensitivity in children and promoting a culture that values both boys and girls has to be the joint responsibility of the school, family and the community. She mentioned that the growing years of the children are very important in shaping attitudes and values and in this very context, the role of parents become very important. Therefore, for promoting equity in society parents, teachers-educators and educational administrators have to work together.

Professor Parvin Sinclair mentioned that NCERT has developed curriculum for two-year B.Ed. Courses which includes one optional paper

on Gender Issues in Education. Gender has been integrated in one of the core papers on schooling, socialization and identity. She added that the four-year Integrated B.A. (Education) Course and B.Sc. Ed. Reflects concerns on gender. She further mentioned that the National Population Education Project of NCERT has prepared materials on education of adolescence and the material prepared addresses different conflicts that children of this impressionable age face and has useful coping up strategies reflected in them.

Director, NCERT stated that slot can be given to NCW on gender issues once a week on Educational Channels like Gyan Darshan or Gyan Vani to take it further.

Chairman, NIOS informed that their organization deals with dropouts and children above the age of 14 years and have developed a project “ Mitra” running successfully in Odisha .

It was further discussed that a joint effort in collaboration with NCW may be made at both National as well local levels in order to create a platform for coordination and widespread gender/caste sensitization by involving various stakeholders in education process by convergence of ideas, resources, and expertise.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN :

- At national level -
 - i) CBSE schools to impact gender sensitization and value education through its 14000 schools all over the country. It was also discussed that CBSE schools may also be designated as resource centre for NIOS and assist them in process of ingraining gender sensitization.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN - A convergence of the resources of CBSE and students of NIOS with material developed

and vetted by NCW on gender sensitization, has possibility to lead to wider outreach and impact.

- ii) The representative of NCERT informed that there was enough material and resources in curriculum developed by them on gender and human rights sensitization. However, the curriculum being a state subject, a lot of their suggested material was not being incorporated in the state education syllabus.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN - NCERT resources related to gender needs to be explored for its utilization and dissemination by NCW.

- iii) It was further discussed that various forums and autonomous institutions like NIOS, NCERT etc. have developed their own material on gender education.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN - It was a considered view that the same may be forwarded to NCW for further comments and inputs through its partners.

- iv) It was also decided that Ministry of HRD in collaboration with NCW would hold a joint National consultation in Delhi to be inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of H.R.D.
- v) The participants unanimously welcomed the suggestion declaring one week in a year as gender and education week in all the Schools of the country. The week to include essay, poem, poster competition on gender/caste issues to be held throughout the country. It was also suggested that in case of inter school competitions, NCW may award the winners during the International Women's Day celebration in the month March every year.
- vi) A nationwide launch of e-material on rights based approach and gender sensitization by NCW and MHRD in coordination with CBSE.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN :

- At local level –
 - i) It was further discussed that a pilot study is required to be undertaken to document the constraints in education system viz-a-viz gender and success stories if any in Bulandshahar, UP and West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh with analysis of their syllabus and curriculum. The districts have been selected in order to provide representation from both North and South of the country.
 - ii) To involve school monitoring committees, PRIs and Sarpanchs in creating awareness on gender issues in govt. schools.
 - iii) NCW to undertake awareness programmes in identified areas in collaboration with NIOS. It was also decided that NIOS would assist NCW in the awareness programmes through their existing infrastructure and resources as per norms. In continuation to the same it was also discussed that media/special communication strategies on gender rights awareness would be developed and NIOS would provide technical and financial support through NCW's partners.

Chairman, CBSE informed the participants that CBSE had already developed value education work book for teachers and value cards for inculcating moral and value education amongst children from Nursery to upto Class XII. A copy of the same was provided to NCW for information. On similar line, another set of material on gender sensitivity is under process at CBSE and a draft copy had also been provided to NCW for further comments and inputs. Member NCW informed that due process would be followed and the minutes of the meeting would be circulated for due approval of all concerned in due course.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks

