

DAY 1: 26 AUGUST 2013, SEMINAR ROOM 1

India International Centre 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi-110001

TIME: 3:30- 4:30 PM

The Session for Inclusive in Development Programme & Income Security was taken by

1. *Chair: Dr. Ginni Shrivastava, Founder Director, Astha Sansthan, Udaipur*
2. *Reshma Thapa, Program Officer, WHR, Nepal*
3. *Dr. Archana Kaushik, Professor, Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi*
4. *Geeta Malhotra, Country Director, Read India*

Topics Covered:

- a) *Inclusive in development program and income security by Reshma Thapa, Program Officer, WHR, Nepal*
- b) *Social Security in Old age through gendered terrains by Dr. Archana Kaushik, Professor, Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi*
- c) *Empowering elderly women in rural communities on livelihood and entrepreneurship development by Geeta Malhotra, Country Director, Read India*

Abstracts from this sessions are:

1. Title: Presentation on a study conducted at READ India Centres

Author: *Geeta Malhotra, Country Director, READ India*

The status of women and their empowerment in terms of various indicators such as access to education, health, household decision-making power, financial autonomy, are areas of concern. The development process is not gender neutral; women, specially, in rural areas, are not in a position to have equal space in the society.

The women at the age group of feel insecure in the family as she develops the feeling that she is not able to contribute to the family economically or otherwise as compared to the younger age group who does the household work, goes to the farm and take care of the children. The main insecurity is the illness as she is always worried if she develops any sickness, the major portion of the family's income will go in her treatment.

READ (Rural Education and Development) empowers rural women on Education, Livelihood and Social Development. READ creates a safe environment for women in Community Library and Resource Centres established in rural areas. Various programmes on Education, Livelihood

and Community Development are organised in participation with local communities with special focus on women.

READ did a primary survey among 100 respondents at its five Centres in India among the women above 45 years of age. 30% were in the age group 45-55, 44% in 56-65 and 26% above 65. The purpose was to know their perceptions and attitudes towards them as well as their families.

96% of the women wanted to learn on social development aspects. This clearly shows that the elderly women would like to learn how she could create her own position in the family. 58% wanted to learn the new livelihood skills so that they can contribute to the family's income and 39% women wanted to start their own small enterprise.

While analysing the income they earn through the programmes at the READ Centres, the interesting finding was that 45% spend their earning on their grandchildren. While asking what exactly they wish to spend on, the response was "on their health". The mindset is not to become a burden on the family when one is sick. They want to save money for their old age.

The basic findings that emerged were:

- Aged women need safe place to go and spend some time (Meeting places to get their own space and work with youth and children).
- They need change and someone who listen to them and spend time with them
- They need information and knowledge on various government schemes like pension and other benefits
- They need secured and healthy life with respect and dignity

(The survey design and analysis were done by Mr Yashpal Malik, Programme Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation).