

International Conference on Community-based Empowerment of Vulnerable Children

2nd Consultative Workshop

August 16, 2011



Orphan Support Program
Helping Hand for Relief & Development – Pakistan

2nd Consultative Workshop

Date: August
Venue: HHRD office
No of Participants: 16
No of Organizations: 11

Agenda:

- Tilāwat
- Introduction to HHRD
- Conference & Its Thematic Areas
- Open Discussion
- Vote of Thanks

Objectives:

- To initiate HHRD Networking with other 3rd sector organizations in the field of child empowerment.
- To discuss the theme of upcoming International conference of HHRD with development professionals.
- Looking volunteer contribution for the conference.



Introduction to HHRD:

Conference & Its Thematic Areas:

Open Discussion:

Mr. Asim Nadeem, Coordinator Capacity Building, introduced HHRD, Upcoming Conference and Thematic Areas of the Conference. He also conducted the open discussion in the workshop

Conclusion Made:

The conclusion of the workshop is in Annex-I under the heading of Knowledge Gained



Vote of Thanks:

After Having in depth discussion, Mr. Arif Khalil, Program Manager Orphan Support Program, share his views, and said that HHRD will incorporate participants' input in upcoming workshop. At the end, he said thanks to all of the participants from HHRD, and wished that the participants will contribute for the workshop with the same sprit as they had shown in the workshop.



Role of Community:

Since negative outcomes of child development may also harm the society; therefore child development is not the sole responsibility of a family. In this regard, community, being a subset of society, must play its role in upbringing of the child. The role of community becomes more important in case of vulnerable children. However, there were different views about role of community, which are as:

- There may be one-to-one help where a community member provides any kind of help or assistance to a vulnerable child. In other words, an individual adult provide a relief to an individual child who has any type of vulnerability.
- Community may organize itself into a group – formal or informal – to address the vulnerability of children. According to participants, the role of community may be of provision of relief.
- Community has to compel the state that is ultimate responsible for addressing the vulnerability of children. The community has to play this role since that state is not playing its role properly.

Child Rights and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

Participants have some reservation to the jargons 'Child Rights' and 'MDGs'. According to them these terms have be developed in UN or west, and a faith-based organization, like HHRD, has to get its guidance from revealed sources.

Child Labor:

Similar to Child Rights and MDGs, participants have reservation on Child Labor. According to few participants, some skills like knitting carpet can be learnt efficiently in childhood. They also added that if a child helps his/her parents in earning some income, at home or family's agro-farm, without leaving his/her studies; then there should not be any harm to it.

Prioritized Topic for Conference:

Participants ranked Universal Primary Education as the most important topic for conference. In last workshop, it was Child Rights.

Participatory Approach:

Participants appreciated the participatory approach in designing the contents of the workshop.

Conclusion:

It seems that participants other than development sector do not consider the roles of community in creation of safety-nets for addressing child vulnerability. In Pakistani society, the role of community is still considered as philanthropic in nature or leaving the collective responsibilities to the state.

It seems that participants other than development sector are not much aware of Child Rights or MDGs; however, they criticized these terms. One of the reasons of such behavior may be that the Child Rights and MDGs are promoted by NGOs, and there are many myths about these NGOs – raising Child Rights or MDGs to get foreign funding, or have some foreign/ agenda.

In brief, it will be a hard task to consider the recommendations of all stakeholders in upcoming workshop.