

Safe Delhi For Women

Training of Delhi Transport Corporation Instructors

June 15-17, 2010

Nand Nagri Training Centre, New Delhi

Safe Delhi for Women, a joint initiative of Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), Delhi Government, JAGORI, UNIFEM, engaged with the Instructors of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) in three day training from 15th -17th June, 2010 at the DTC Training Centre, Nand Nagri Depot. This training has been supported by United Nations-Trust Fund on Ending Violence against Women and Women in Cities International, Canada, as part of the Gender Inclusive Cities Project.

The training brought together 50 Instructors to enhance their perspectives and knowledge to reflect on why violence and sexual harassment is all-pervasive and the need to find ways to eliminate it. JAGORI facilitated the training in co-operation with AAKAR and Centre for Health and Social Justice. Rahul Roy, Satish Singh, Seema Srivastava and Madhu Bala were the key facilitators. Sessions were also taken by Shipra Narang Suri, JAGORI/UN-Habitat, Consultant, on international experiences of strategies and critical intervention with public transport.

The training was inaugurated by Anne Stenhammer, Regional Director, South Asia Office, UNIFEM; Geetika Sharma, Joint Director, DWCD, GNTD; A.K Shrivastava, Sr. Manager, Training, DTC and Suneeta Dhar, Director JAGORI.

The 'No Tolerating Harassment' belief according to Anne Stenhammer was the starting step for stopping harassment. She motivated the participants, recognizing them as pivotal in ensuring safe transport and thus a safer city for women. She also appealed for expanding the existing provisions for women's safety like those of the helpline numbers and women special buses.

Geetika Sharma seconding her statement felt the need of State's initiative towards gender sensitive infrastructure and implementing stricter measures on Anti-Sexual Harassment. She also shared her personal experience of traveling in a bus with a feeling of insecurity and realized the significance of the bus staff to take a step forward in checking this violence against women.

The interactive methodology adopted during the training ensured that there was scope to share personal experiences and initiate discussions to facilitate the understanding on the issue. The training curricula was divided into different sessions and ranged from conceptual understanding of gender, masculinity and violence against women to enhancing communication skills and developing key messages. This module would then eventually be part of the curricula for the future trainings conducted by the Instructors with the drivers and the conductors.

As the training proceeded, openness to learning began to be reflected in the thoughts of the participants. One of the participants exclaimed that, "*Agar samaj ko badalna hai toh ek pragati-sheel soch hone ke zarurat hai aur samaj tabhi badlega jab soch badlegi*". (A progressive approach and change in mindset to stop violence against women).

The participants were also provided with reading materials, books on '*Mard, Mardangi and Mardwaad*' and '*Bhala, Yeh Gender Kya Hai*', helpline booklets and video spots on sexual harassment by JAGORI, a film '*Zor Se Bol*' by AKSHARA.

At the end of this stimulating three-day workshop, it was overwhelming to see the Instructors, endorsing the cause in the long run. This gave a vision for future effective and sustainable relationship with DTC, together to make Delhi Safe for Women.

