

January - March, 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1, 2 & 3
GLOBAL CONFERENCE
ON HOMEBASED
WORKERS

PAGE 4
GENERAL BODY MEETING

PAGE 5 & 6
URBAN PROGRAMME

PAGE 7
OUTREACH
PROGRAMME

PAGE 8
INTERACTION WITH
MALDIVES HOMEBASED
WORKERS



GATHERING OF HOMEBASED WORKERS AT GLOBAL LEVEL

GATHERING OF HOMEBASED WORKERS AT GLOBAL LEVEL

110 HOMEBASED WORKER REPRESENTATIVES AND SUPPORTERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE GATHERED FOR THE FIRST TIME & ADOPTED A GLOBAL DECLARATION OF HOMEBASED WORKERS.

FEBRUARY 2015:- More than 110 Homebased workers, their organizations and supporters from 24 countries – Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, U.K., Uganda and USA, participated in “**A Global Conference of Homebased workers**” in New Delhi.

The objective of the conference was to build solidarity and networks of homebased workers and their organizations, share experiences and learnings, adopt a global declaration on homebased workers, and to undertake exposure of participants to artisans market (Surajkund).

The conference started with the Presentation on “**Brief History of the Global Movement of Homebased Workers**” by Ms. Renana Jhabvala; which was then followed by the remark from Ms. Lucy Nyambura, Homebased Worker from The Kenya Federation for Alternative Trade (KEFAT), Kenya.



Inaugural Session: - (L-R)- **Lucy Nyambura**, Homebased Worker from Kenya,
Dr. Martha Chen- International Coordinator, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) Network and Professor, Harvard University, USA ;
Ms. Chandni Joshi, Enforcer, HomeNet South Asia (HNSA);
Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Ambassador of India to Austria & Permanent Representative to UN Office in Vienna & IAEA and former Secretary General of South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) ;
Ms. Renana Jhabvala, President, HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) and Chair of Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Dr. Martha Chen gave the **Keynote Address** at the Conference and the session was **inaugurated** by Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma.



Dr. Sheelkant Sharma

Dr. Sheelkant Sharma in his Inaugural Speech mentioned that *"This is a historic occasion where the homebased workers from the continents are represented at the first of its kind, and I must say that one of the most rewarding things about my tenure as SAARC – SG was the rare opportunity to be associated with HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) & SEWA in pursuing a project in South Asia for Homebased Workers and I deeply cherish that association".*

He highlighted the role of women in peace building and in particular the importance of bringing together the women workers who belong to the marginalized and the most impoverished section. For detailed speech;

<http://www.homenetsouthasia.net/pdf/Dr. Sheelkant Sharma.pdf>

The conference continued with the group work on **"Identifying Issues & Solutions"**. The significant outcome of the conference was the "Delhi Declaration of the Homebased workers' adopted by the participants after intensive consultation and discussion. The participant declared their commitment to supporting, building and strengthening organizations and gaining recognition, rights and representative voice.

On the 9th February; **Ms Roberta Clarke** in Valedictory address referred about the Kathmandu Declaration which was historic building on ILO Convention C-177 for home workers. She emphasized on Beijing Platform for action where hbws is also component focused. She mentioned "Women Globally tell us voice, choice and safety and We need International and National commitments to ensure women participation in decision making the public sphere, private sector to influence resources.



She committed by expressing solidarity for common cause of strengthening and expanding of partnerships mentioned in the delhi declaration; advocacy for larger convention of ILO convention C-177 and in contribution of hbws in national economies and also in visibility of families and communities. For detailed speech; <http://www.homenetsouthasia.net/pdf/Ms. Roberta Clarke.pdf>

On the 9th of February, the delegates adopted a Global Declaration of Homebased Workers – which was the first of its kind in the whole world. The Detailed Declaration can be checked on <http://www.homenetsouthasia.net/pdf/Declaration-of-Home-Based-Workers-2015.pdf>



ADOPTION OF GLOBAL DECLARATION ON HOMEBASED WORKERS

FIRST GENERAL BODY MEETING OF HNSA: First General Body Meeting of HomeNet South Asia was organized on 10th Feb, 2015 at Hotel Radisson Blu, Dwarka, Delhi. The Objectives of the General Body Meeting were i) To get to know HomeNet South Asia Trust (HNSA) ii) To get to know each other iii) To understand the structure and rules of HNSA & iv) To approve the composition of the Advisory Board.

HomeNet South Asia has 49 member organizations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. First General Body Meeting was attended by 37 member organizations and participants from Latin America, East Europe, Africa and South East Asia were observers.

The meeting started with the Presentation on Achievements & Future Activities of HomeNet South Asia by *Ms. Renana Jhabvala, Chairperson, HNSA*. The meeting continued with the Presentation by Member Organizations on their work on homebased workers. Later on, Structure of HNSA & Rules of Membership were presented by , *Ms. Firoza Mehrotra, Director- Programmes & Monitoring , HNSA*

At the end of the meeting; HomeNet South Asia's Trustees appointed First Advisory Board of HomeNet South Asia for the tenure of next 3 years.



FIRST APPOINTED ADVISORY BOARD OF HNSA

URBAN PROGRAMME:-

The Inclusive Cities project, initiated by HomeNet South Asia aimed to build the capacity of membership-based organizations of the urban working poor and ensured greater representation of the urban working poor within urban planning and policies.

HomeNet South Asia's overall objective, under this project was to aid very low-income urban homebased workers to become more visible to policy makers and other agencies and institutions, and to help them enter into ongoing dialogues with city officials and planners through the creation, strengthening and expanding of homebased workers' membership-based organizations and networks.

This project has provided an important opportunity to create, strengthen and expand the HomeNets' membership-based organizations and networks. The homebased workers themselves have a great deal to say to urban planners and policy makers, and are beginning to enter into productive dialogues with city officials, urban planners, academics, media, and other concerned agencies and institutions.

Detailed studies of key issues facing urban poor home-based workers were carried out in five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and in three South East Asian countries (Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand), through this project. The study was instrumental in understanding the situation faced by urban poor homebased workers and in identifying interventions that could address challenges of homebased workers. The study helped to mobilize and organize homebased workers around urban issues and the project has led to **formation of 226 groups and organizing of 6457 HBWs**. The Programme also focused on Capacity Building of Leaders on Importance of organizing, Group Management, Leadership Qualities and taking up their group issues with City Authorities. More than **100 leaders have been trained** under this urban programme.

REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Organized 6457 HBWs into 226 groups in South Asian Countries
2. Trained more than 100 leaders on "Organizing & Leadership"
3. Became Membership Based organization and appointed its First Advisory Board on 10th Feb, 2015
4. Regional Conference on City Authorities led to adoption of 'Asian Cities Declaration'
5. Global Conference on Homebased Workers led to adoption of "Delhi Declaration" & "Action Plan"
6. Homebased Workers numbers in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh were estimated from Labour Force Surveys of respective countries.
7. Developed various Information & Knowledge Products:- Vision, Achievements, urban studies, 10 key facts on hbws; etc.

Regular dialogues and awareness raising programs conducted with policy makers has led to greater visibility of issues of HBWs and better civic amenities for them. A significant outcome of this approach was adoption of '*Asian Cities Declaration on Homebased workers*' in 2014 by mayors, city administrators, senior government officers, network of homebased workers, practitioner, researchers from South Asia and South East Asia at the Regional Conference. It proposes key recommendations on urban planning, regulations, housing, basic infrastructure (water, sanitation, electricity and transport), and Livelihood, Occupational Safety and Health

issues. The declaration has been used as roadmap by city officials to undertake appropriate measures in their administrative units.

In Nepal, the Joint Secretary of Ministry of Federal Affairs and local Development, resolved to highlight HBW in government machinery by including them in social inclusion strategy, policy planning processes, profile of Municipality and VDCs, local census; protecting HBWS against natural disasters; and promoting products by HBWs at ministerial level.

In Pakistan, the Local Government Additional Secretary stressed the need for developing a legal framework for HBWs, ensure social security coverage and reserve space for HBWS products in weekly markets.

NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:-

1. In Nepal; the groups formed in the squatter's settlement meet every month to further strengthen and formalize the group. The groups have been motivated by introducing savings mechanism in their group which also helps them to attend regular group meetings. In the meetings; groups have been able to take up their civic and livelihood issues.

Jagritinagar: - A dialogue meeting between HBWs of Jagritinagar and Ms. Renu Rai from Tanker Section KUKL was organized on 31st October, 2014. The objective of the dialogue meeting was to discuss on the quality of the water provided to Jagritinagar through the tanker from KUKL. The quality of the water was sent to laboratory for testing of the quality of the water. Orientation program to women HBWs was organized in Jagritinagar with aim of creating awareness to the homebased workers regarding the plans and policies of the government, and other facilities trainings, within the national level, discussing on the allocation of the budget for the women empowerment and identifying the methods and procedures to run the skill based trainings program in coordination with the local Municipality. As a outcome of the regular group meetings and meeting with city authorities; Drinking water is regularly distributed in Jagritinagar which is managed by the HBW group.

Liasioning with Lahore Waste Management Company resulted in garbage disposal by installing garbage containers in various communities – Kot lakhpat area; Begum pura; Kasur, Shadi pura area

2. In Pakistan, regular meetings with city authorities regarding water concerns and solid waste management for very low-income HBWs' neighborhoods; strengthening coalitions with trade unions around urban issues involving HBWs in five cities (Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Kasur and Multan); marketing of HBW products has resulted in availing the facilities.
3. In Solapur (Maharashtra), liasioning with Municipal Corporation resulted in assurance of free toilets to 150 HBWs and their families.
4. Sri Lanka, Janathakshan worked on upgrading of the efficiency of a wood gassifier for food processing as a livelihood strategy; installation of home gardening kits including 20 hydroponic systems and 20 vertical gardening systems (these take up relatively little space in

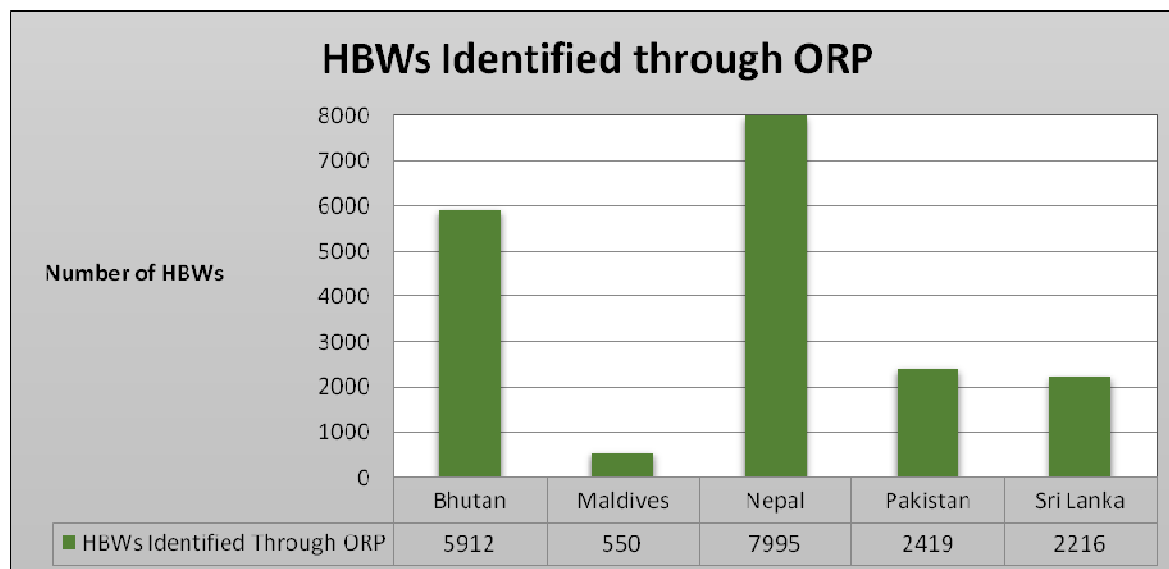
urban environments); alliance building with the Divisional Secretariat , the municipal councils and other service providers.

5. In Bangladesh, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) collected data on HBWs and their issues., created a representative committee of 41 groups , held meetings with the ward council of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on HBW issues, the city budget, and problems associated with city amenities (public services).

OUTREACH PROGRAMME: - OUTREACH programme was to reach the homebased workers who are far more scattered and isolated. The programme aimed to organize such homebased workers around livelihood. As the name says, homebased workers work from their home and so, they are isolated and invisible. They work from home and so, are not aware and informed. They are far away from such information, which is vital for their livelihood. Hence, **OUTREACH programme aimed to organize the homebased workers around livelihood by organizing them in group, cater capacity building programme and link them to supply chain.**

Outreach Programme has been implemented in five SAARC Countries-Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka with a view to support Country SABAH and to reach out the large section of Homebased Workers who have become member of Country SABAH. The key objective of the project is to identify HBWs, their trades and different kinds of needs; to organize them and form their own groups; to build capacity & enhance skill depending on their needs; to link them with SABAH as Primary & Secondary members. The skill mapping has been undertaken in 5 countries, along with 15 partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME:



1. **19092 HBWs** have been identified through the survey in five countries of South Asia
2. **8016 HBWs** organised into **545 groups**
3. More than **60 types of trades** identified
4. **2576 HBWs** trained on capacity & skills

5. HBWs encouraged to organize as groups and ***supported to register their group or form a society keeping*** in view its sustainability.
6. The programmes helped in ***building Confidence of individual HBWs*** to deal with dynamic markets, suppliers and other service providers.
7. Developed the ***women community leaders*** at the rural level who can organize rest of HBWs and work together to reach per-determine objective.
8. Upgrade from *piece rate to own account*
9. *Knowledge and understanding* to use diverse type of Fabric
10. Revived the indigenous culture and commercialize the viable means of livelihood.

INTERACTION WITH MALDIVES HOMEBASED WORKERS:-

In February 2014; a group of 15 homebased Workers from Sabah Maldives visited HomeNet South Asia for exposure. The group was provided an orientation on HNSA's programmes in order to acquaint them about interventions being taken at regional level for homebased workers. Hbws from Maldives were mostly engaged into handicrafts items; and the discussion with them took place around on livelihood; trainings taken and what additional support system do they require to enhance their livelihood. The group mentioned that they would be interested to work collectively in groups. The group also highlighted the need of economic security. And their expectation from Sabah Maldives was that one of board member requires Training of Trainers to train other members and of the member expressed interest to establish CFC in her island.

