

VILLAGE LEVEL MEETING

Organized by: Social Service Centre (SSC), Shillong

In Collaboration with People's Rights Forum, Meghalaya

Venue: Mawrah Village

Date: 18th July, 2011

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The Village level meeting on “Right to Food Issue” was organized by Social Service Centre (SSC) in collaboration with People's Right Forum, Meghalaya on 18th July 2011. Around 65 participants presents in the meeting. The participants were the representatives of the Village which include the headman, Secretary, women's group, teachers, students and the villagers.

A wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting including the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), the Public Distribution System, children's right to food (ICDS, Mid-day Meal), Farmer's Right, BPL Cards, etc

The programme began with a welcome speech from Mr. Tunni well Majaw, who welcome the SSC staff and the participants who have gathered for the programme.

Mr. Tunni well appreciated the SSC who contribute so much for the betterment of the village, especially reaching out to the least privileged of the village. He also thanks the SSC for introducing to the village the programme on People Right's Forum. He expressed ‘we need handholding support to deal with issue like right to food and other related issue, as we lack knowledge and often we are being led in the wrong way’. He concluded by saying that we should stand united for our own rights.

The main discussion was then led forward by Ms. Elizabeth who spoke in detail about the, PDS system, the fair price shop, ICDS, BPL category and the price lists. After communicating to the people regarding the different topic, the participants were much empowered and different question were raised as follows:

Comments about the different issue;

- It is the first time to know what our right is.

- Very often we know what we should get but due to the fear that what we get too will be taken away we used to keep quiet.
- Often we used to tell the headman regarding the quality of rice and the sugar but it just ends there, therefore, now we feel it is better just to be satisfied
- The quality of the goods that our children receive is not up to the quality.

Soon after the sharing of the individual, Ms. Elizabeth encourages the community by telling them that they need to know what is happening. They need to have a strong committee to follow up to all that is happening. The forum will be able to help unless the people raised the issue. She also expressed her concern about the real situation of the beneficiaries who are being deprived of their rights. She said, however the issue of Right to Food (RTF) should continue and persist till the end. Thus a spirit of cooperation and collective thinking from the village community is needed to strengthen in this issue.

Finding

The participants also share about the problem

Mr. Lambok share about the quality of rice which is often not good, and is full of stone and mix with other particulars.

- They are entitled only with 32 kg out of the 35kg
- Sugar is not regular, when they get too is always mixed with water and red in color
- The fair price shop is not regular.
- The ICDS goods are not often up to the quality.

Conclusion

The day's meeting came to conclude with a vote of thanks from the Secretary where he thanks the SSC and the Forum for enlighten them with this kind of programme.

PHOTO GALLERY



