

Human Rights Cell in the Community Living Project

Human rights as we say are the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled.

Examples of rights and freedoms which have come to be commonly thought of as human rights include;

- [civil and political rights](#), such as the right to [life](#) and [liberty](#),
- including the right to participate in [culture](#),
- the right to be treated with respect and dignity,
- the [right to food](#),
- the [right to work](#),
- And the [right to education](#) .

When it comes to mentally ill people, the provisions relating to the human rights of mentally ill patients have hitherto been neither specifically documented in any code nor been prescribed or elaborated by Judiciary in India. But it is admitted on all hands that barring few exceptions, the mentally ill person deserves the same privileges as enjoyed by any other human being. They include a right to better and more accessible care, to good recovery and increased hopes of reintegration into society.

However, the Stigma, residual disability and its intolerance, and more importantly the inability of the mentally ill to protest against exploitation, have all made basic human rights of the mentally ill a major cause of growing concern. The term human rights in a broad sense mean “those claims which every individual has or should have upon the society in which he/she lives.



Hence a human rights cell was formed in the community living project on the 26th November 2009. The core members of the cell were people from the Kovalam community. The cell members consist of: The Panchayat Head, Mr Janaki Raman, ward members of the local Panchayat, key SHG functionaries of the village and some community members.

The meeting was organized on the 26th November afternoon at the community living center. The women of PC assembled after lunch to share their complaints and grievances to the guests who were available to listen to then and solve them.

Initially the committee members introduced themselves to the PC women and asked them to speak free if they had any unresolvable complaints or issues for which they needed support or help.

Welcome note and a small briefing as to why all the residents were assembled at the activity hall was given by the occupational therapist. Then the ward members and the Panchayat head spoke a few words on the same. Residents were then told as to when the meeting would be held every month. The residents were very happy to see members from the community interact with them. And also expressed their feeling to them

Few of our residents also met the committee members after the meeting got over in person and expressed their problem and few also expressed their wishes. The committee members took down the resident's grievances and said they would definitely help them and support them in getting it resolved. The team of PC will work hand in hand and help in the sorting out of the grievances.

The committee was very much welcomed by the women of PC and they see it as an additional support offered by the community.

The committee will be held on the last Saturday of every month..