



“Why the word **FEMINIST**? Why not just say you are a believer in human rights, or something like that?

Chimamanda: Because that would be **DISHONEST**.

Feminism is, of course, part of human rights in general- but to choose to use the **VAGUE** expression human rights is to deny the specific and particular problem of gender.

It would be a way of pretending that it was not **WOMEN** who have, for centuries, been excluded.

It would be a way of denying that the problem of gender targets women. That the problem was not about being human, but specifically about being a **FEMALE HUMAN**.

For centuries, the world divided human beings into **TWO GROUPS** and then proceeded to exclude and **OPPRESS** one group. It is only **FAIR** that the solution to the problem acknowledge that”

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Mission of LCHR is to empower the weak, the poor, the needy and the powerless, accompanying them to claim their inalienable rights and human dignity, which has been impaired by inhuman social structure and unfavourable circumstances.

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“The time has now come, when the court must become the court for the poor and the struggling masses of this country. They must be sensitized to the need of doing justice to the large masses of people to whom justice has been denied by a cruel heartless society for generations” (AIR 1982 SC 1473)

Activities of LCHR from January to March, 2016

On January 11, 2016, Ravi Sagar and Shobha K.P. appeared before the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, Delhi for hearing of 11 schools among which were 5 from Karnataka, 2 from Tamil Nadu and 1 from Delhi. 10 schools were granted minority status certificate and one was listed for further hearing in August 2016. Further they have filed 2 more schools for the grant of minority status certificate.

On January 16, 2016, Ravi Sagar gave a lecture on “RTE and It’s Implications” in a “In-Service Teachers' Training Programme” at St. Paul's Institute of Education, Phesama, Nagaland in which 105 teachers from different schools participated.

On January 18 and 19, 2016, Abinash Narzary participated in a two-day workshop on “Liberating Social Activism through Social Media” organised by WAY Foundation at Chandmari, Guwahati.

On January 21, 2016, Ravi Sagar was the resource person and spoke on “Recent Legal Provisions Related to Management of Institutions” at MSFS Provincial House, Narengi in which community leaders participated.

A group of 3 officers from NITI Ayog, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India visited the office of LCHR on January 21, 2016 for monitoring and field verification of the project “Nai Roshni” of 2014 – 2015. The Director of LCHR welcomed the team and briefed them implementation of the project.

On January 22, 2016 the team along with the

Deputy Director of LCHR and Abinash Narzary visited Simelibari and South Mandakata under Bezera Development Block, Kamrup, Assam. The officers spent whole day meeting the trainees and the beneficiaries of the training programme. The team thanked LCHR for implementing the project efficiently. They expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome and the hospitality offered.

After the cozy winter vacation LCHR team was brought together at Umsiang, Meghalaya for a two-day workshop on January 24 and 25, 2016 to rejuvenate before the team enters into the activities of the year ahead. The team spent time with each other relaxed, enjoyed and returned with much life and energy.



On January 30, 2016, Shobha K.P. and Abinash Narzary were the resource persons in 3 legal awareness camps on Motor Vehicle Laws, Assam Excise Act and MGNREGA organised at Teldipot, Datalpara and Fatashil Ambari in the Kamrup district of Assam. The camps were organised in association with District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup. The numbers of participants were 45 at Teldipot, 38 at Fatashil and 50 at Datalpara.



On January 31, 2016, Shobha K.P. and Abinash Narzary facilitated the first workshop for the Legal Fraternity at Jowai. The workshop was held in Cathedral Church. 4 lawyers and Fr. Hilarius participated. Discussion was made on formation of Legal Fraternity and conducting legal awareness programmes in the rural areas. Issues confronting the people were discussed. It was decided that the lawyers would move out to the rural areas for awareness programmes.



From February 1 to 3, 2016, training programme for all the members of Manab Adhikar Manch (human rights groups) of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts was organised by LCHR at Kristo Ashaarama, Mancota, Dibrugarh. Members of the groups were trained on the role of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in providing free & compulsory education to the children, group management skills, ways and means in preventing child labour in order to provide free & compulsory education, implementation of RTE in the schools of plantation areas of Assam etc. The resource persons were Mrs. Sewali Borborah, Chairperson of CWC, Dibrugarh, Felcita D' Souza, Programme Coordinator, LCHR, Mr. Satya Narayan Boruah, District Legal and Probation Officer, District Child Protection Unit,



Tinsukia, Fr. Naos Lakra, social worker and Mr. Santosh Ekka, Advocate.

Shobha K.P. and Abinash Narzary went to Diphu on February 5, 2016 for looking into the possibilities of forming the Legal Fraternity over there. They met Bishop Rt. Rev. Paul Mattekkt and discussed about the formation of Legal Fraternity in Diphu.

From February 5 to 7, 2016, training programme for all the members of the Manab Adhikar Manch (human rights groups) of Udalguri, Nagaon and Sonitpur districts of Assam was organised at DBSTI, Tezpur by LCHR. The members were trained on the role of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in providing free & compulsory education to the children, group management skills, ways and means in preventing child labour in order to provide free & compulsory education, implementation of RTE in the schools of plantation areas of Assam etc. The inaugural programme was attended by Hon'ble Sri Mridul Kumar Kalita, District and Session Judge, Sonitpur, Fr. Cletus Sebastian, Director, DBSTI and Ravi Sagar. The resource persons of the programme were Mr. Kanakeswar Sharma, Chairperson, CWC, Sonitpur, Mr. Soniram Guwala, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Sonitpur, Felcita D' Souza, Program Coordinator, LCHR and Mr. Amal Dutta, Advocate, Gauhati High Court.



On February 7, 2016, the meeting of the district coordinators of 5 districts of Assam was held at DBSTI, Tezpur.

On February 11, 2016, Ravi Sagar & Shobha K.P. visited Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore as an

exposure visit. They had a good interaction with the Chairperson of the organisation Ms. Darshana Mitra and the other staff members.

On the same day, Ravi Sagar delivered a lecture on “Educational and Cultural Rights” at a regional workshop organised by the Karnataka Regional Education Commission (KREC). The workshop was held at CROSS Karnataka. Shobha K.P was also present in that workshop.

On February 12, 2016, Ravi Sagar was the resource person and spoke on the “Right to Education and Its Implication” to the members of the KREC at KROSS, Bangalore represented by the heads of Educational Institutions.

Abinash Narzary attended the second workshop of the Legal Fraternity at Tezpur on February 13, 2016 which was held at Bhairabkunda in Udalguri district. 8 members of the fraternity were present. Discussion on how to carry out more activities in the rural areas was done. It was decided to organise awareness programmes on “Family Law” in 6 places.



Ravi Sagar and Shobha K.P. participated in a two-day “Lawyers Meet” at Bangalore from February 13 to 14, 2016. The programme was jointly organised by Streevani, Pune, Indian Social Institute, Delhi and Mont Fort Social Institute, Hyderabad.

LCHR celebrated its 10th foundation day on February 15, 2016 in its office. It celebrated its 9 successful years of dedicated and committed work



for the poor, marginalised and the needy.

On February 16, 2016, an interview was conducted by LCHR in its office for the recruitment of new staff members.



On February 21, 2016, Ravi Sagar, Shobha K.P. and Abinash Narzary facilitated workshop for the legal fraternity at Shillong, Meghalaya.



On February 23, 2016, Ravi Sagar attended a two-day consultation on “Adivasi Issues” organised by PAJRA at Bishop's House, Tezpur. He spoke on the “Constitutional Mandate and Its Values” to the 46 participants.

On February 27, 2016, Ravi Sagar and Abinash Narzary facilitated workshop for the Legal Fraternity at Bishop's House, Imphal, Manipur.

On February 28, 2016, Shobha K.P. and Abinash Narzary facilitated the first workshop of the Legal Fraternity at Kohima, Holy Cross School,



Dimapur. 5 lawyers from the state of Nagaland participated. Discussion was made on finding out more members for the fraternity, legal awareness programmes in rural areas etc. It was also decided that the second workshop would be held on March 19, 2016 at the same venue.

An orientation programme for the new staff members of LCHR was conducted on March 1, 2016 in the seminar hall of Jagriti at Christianbasti. Two former staff members of LCHR namely Mr. Amal Dutta and Mrs. Rekhamoni Hazarika were invited to interact with the 4 new staff members.



On March 4, 2016, Abinash Narzary facilitated the second workshop of the Legal Fraternity at Aizawl. 4 Lawyers were present. Planning was made to install legal aid boxes and organise legal awareness programmes in Mizoram. Planning was also made to strengthen the legal fraternity and have its office in Aizawl.



On March 4 and 5, 2016, Hemanta Dahal and Mousumi Kalita from LCHR, along with Shobha K.P. attended a workshop on 'Constitutional Connects' organised by Bosco Reach Out at Ulubari. Ms. Binita Singh, the founder of 'We the People' Organization, New Delhi was the resource person. There were participants from 15 voluntary organisations from different places of North East India.

On March 5, 2016, Ravi Sagar gave a lecture on "International Human Rights Law" at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati Campus to the students of those who have chosen Human Rights as their specialization.



Abinash Narzary attended the second workshop of the Legal Fraternity at Agartala on March 6 and 7, 2016 as the facilitator. He interacted with 4 lawyers and Fr. Harry D' Silva and shared the ideas of how to strengthen the legal fraternity in Tripura. Planning was made to organise awareness programmes on land rights of the tribals and other important laws for the people of rural areas.



On March 10, 2016, Ravi Sagar was the Guest Lecturer at NEF College of Management and Technology and lectured on "Human Rights and Social Development" to the staff and students of Social Work Department.



On March 10, 2016, the 5 district coordinators' meeting was held in the office of LCHR in order to monitor and evaluate the activities of all the Manab Adhikar Manch (human rights groups) of five districts.



On March 11, 2016, the monthly staff meeting of LCHR was held in its office.

On March 12, 2016, LCHR team comprising of Shobha K.P., Abinash Narzary, Hemanta Dahal and Margret Thomas Deka and Mr. Amal Dutta, Advocate, Guwahati, organised legal awareness session on Rights and Duties of the Prisoners in the Central Jail, Guwahati in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup. 150 inmates were present for the programme along with the prison authorities.



On March 12, 2016, Ravi Sagar was the resource person at the conference of the Xavier Board for Higher Education and spoke on laws related to Tax and Labour Welfare to the 17 Principals of the Colleges of Northeast.

On March 13, 2016, LCHR in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kamrup organised an awareness programme on "Social Security Schemes" at Gobardhan village under Chandrapur Development Block in Kamrup district of Assam. Abinash Narzary, Hemanta

Dahal and Mausumi Kalita from LCHR were the resource persons. The programme was conducted in presence of about 30 persons from the village. Schemes under National Social Assistance Programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Health Mission etc. were enlightened. Other topics dealt were Indira Awaas Yojana, Pension Schemes, National Food Security Act and Integrated Child Development Scheme.



On March 13, 2016, the first workshop of the Legal Fraternity in Tura was facilitated by Ravi Sagar, Shobha K.P. and Margaret Thomas Deka at Bishop's House, Tura, Maghalaya.



On March 14, 2016, the President of LCHR Fr. Arul Susaimanickam visited the office of LCHR. He listened to the sharing made by the staff members about the activities and achievements of LCHR. He encouraged the staff members to continue to work for the cause of the poor and needy.



On March 19, 2016, the monthly monitoring and evaluation meeting was held at Lahowal in Dibrugarh district of Assam to monitor and evaluate the activities of 2 Manab Adhikar Manch (human rights groups) of the district. The meeting was attended by the office bearers of both the groups. Mr. Juwakim Tirkey, district coordinator of Dibrugarh and two staff members of LCHR Abinash Narzary and Hemanta Dahal were present.

On March 19, 2016, the second workshop of the Legal Fraternity at Kohima was facilitated by Ravi Sagar, Shobha K.P. And Margaret Thomas Deka at Holy Cross School, Dimapur, Nagaland.



On March 20, 2016, the monthly monitoring and evaluation meeting of the office bearers of Manab Adhikar Manch (human rights groups) of Tinsukia district was held at Rajgarhali Tea Estate in the house of Ms. Bharati Urang. It was attended by two staff members of LCHR Hemanta Dahal and Abinash Narzary. The coordinator of Tinsukia district Ms. Elina Toppo and office bearers of 3 Manab Adhikar Manch were present. The office bearers were elucidated on how to keep their groups active and take up various activities concerning child rights.

Welcome

Legal Cell for Human Rights welcomes the four energetic and young law graduates to its family. Also welcomes Mr. Ananta Daimari to its family as an office assistant.

Hemanta Dahal: LL.B. from Tezpur Law College.
Margaret Thomas Deka: LL.B. (Hons.) from JB

Law College, Guwahati and LL.M. from Gauhati University.

Pampi Bharadwaj: LL.B. From BRM Government Law College, Guwahati.

Mousumi Kalita: B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) from NEF Law College, Guwahati.

Ananta Daimari: High School.



Hemanta Dahal

Margaret Thomas Deka

Pampi Bharadwaj

Mousumi Kalita

Ananta Daimari

Words of Experience

Working for the innocent people from marginalized societies is a proud feeling for me. There are many laws and schemes to protect the unprivileged peoples but in true sense, are they really helpful to them? The burning condition of our country itself is an example to the question. Legal Cell for Human Rights is a voluntary organisation which put its effort for the people who are entitled to the privileges.

Before joining LCHR, people misguided me not to join such voluntary organisation. We should always be aware of the people who pre-judge a thing without having enough knowledge. After the first week of working in LCHR, I feel proud to be part of it. I ignore those people who tried to misguide me. After knowing LCHR more closely, I am very positive about this organisation and feel myself lucky to be part of it.

– Hemanta Dahal

Farewell

Thank you dear Felcita D' Souza and Mamoni Dey Sarkar for your valuable contributions to LCHR



and for your dedicated work for the poor, marginalised and the needy. LCHR wishes that all your dreams come true.

Intern speaks



I am Sulogna Roy Choudhury, a student of North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong pursuing B.A. LL.B (Hons) (10th Semester). I have undergone one month internship from 19th January 2016 to 19th February, 2016 in Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) Guwahati.

Throughout the internship I have been assigned with tasks like study on child rights and preparing of report on the training programmes. During my internship I have also attended two trainings, one in Tezpur and another in Dibrugarh, namely "Training of Para Legal Persons (PLPs) on Child Rights". After attending the trainings I have gained in practice and came to know the prevailing conditions in the marginalized sections of the society especially tea gardens.

I have also done internship last year in December 2014 to January 2015. During that period I have also attended two trainings of PLPs on various legal issues. It is great experience to work with LCHR because I learnt things practically rather than theory. The field work helped me to know the gaps that are faced by the marginalized sections of society. I have actually learnt the insight of human rights and gradually I am getting interest in this field. The working environment of LCHR is very friendly; interns are given the opportunity to learn.

I appreciate whole family of LCHR for their endeavour to work for the marginalized sections of society and for their effort to eradicate the evils prevailing in the society.

Farewell Speech by Ms. Mamoni Dey Sarkar



I am here to give my farewell speech. It is not easy for me to express all that is in my heart. Yet, I would like to say that it has been an amazing experience working in LCHR for the last six and half years. This is the place where I worked like in a family. Ravi

Sagar helped me in all my difficult times.

How could I make you know my dear friends the pain of separation that I go through. I recall those days when I came to work in this organization, it was unknown to me that there are wonderful people beside my home. Today, I am convinced that good peoples live on this earth. Words fall short to express my feelings at this time.

While working in LCHR, with the help of Ravi Sagar, Shobha and colleagues, I learned various lessons for life. I got many good friends through LCHR. No doubt there have been ups and downs. I will miss you all. I will carry fond memories of my job and people in my heart. I will not say goodbye to you all. Whenever I will pass through Guwahati I will visit you all. I will stay in touch with all of you. Thank you one and all.



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