



South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)

SAARC Apex Body

"In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC"



SAIEVAC's REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON HRD STRATEGY ON CHILD PROTECTION AND VAC (SAIEVAC ACADEMY) POINTS TO POSITIVE DIRECTION



The SAIEVAC Secretariat organized a 3-day Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy) from 26-28 June 2014 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The consultation was organized with funding support from the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and is hosted by the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), Royal Government of Bhutan.

Participated by 25 academicians, HR professionals, trainers and child rights advocates (drawing from government, universities and academic institutions, civil society and / or other international agencies) and 2 child observers, the consultation deliberated on how SAIEVAC in collaboration with leading academic institutions across the region and beyond can support HRD in order to further evolve child protection training and capacity building initiatives.

Among other things, the consultation was able to forge partnership with regional academic institutions (both in South Asia and South East Asia) having expertise in child protection related academic works, trainings and research.

Child protection as a relatively new area of work, there is a need for action, support and exchange related to both

capacity and evidence building across the region. SAIEVAC Academy is envisioned as a means to bringing together existing resources and identifying or developing new ones contributing to cross-country learning and exchange. Through a gradually phased plan and mutually supportive approach which includes exchange and opportunity for increased dialogue, it is felt that the “Academy” will be able to support and enhance linkages for learning (by serving as a clearinghouse or resource hub for regional study, training or advocacy, also acting as a conduit for cross-country exchange and learning and as a knowledge management center), for ending violence against children.

Based on the capacity development needs as outlined in the SAIEVAC Work Plan (2010- 2015), i.e. “Professional Training and Learning”, all States will have built the capacity of professionals who work with or for children (for example social workers, counselors, foster care-givers, police officers, lawyers, judges, teachers, health care professionals, school principals, youth workers, people employed by detention facilities and child-care institutions, immigration and humanitarian workers, government officials/policy makers, etc.).

This situation is in itself the rationale for identifying and drawing contents and methodologies from existing resources and perhaps further consider the development of a set of “generic” training curriculum or modules which can be used for various participant audiences (e.g. government employees, politicians, members of parliament, influential or traditional leaders, opinion makers and religious leaders, care givers etc.). In addition, the development of a network of skillful trainers can also contribute to addressing or filling capacity building needs and gaps.

In addition to existing resources and to address the need for further professional development of staff, the establishment of an enduring partnership with academic institution/s at the regional level and beyond that have relevant expertise and experience was discussed be an excellent means to explore and address these requirements. Through the establishment of formal partnerships, support can be provided specifically related to additional capacity building, training, research and provision of academic programmes in the SAARC Member States to meeting the objectives of ending violence against children and establishing greater accountability for securing the rights of the child (as stipulated in CRC, CEDAW and other related SAARC instruments).

Presentations and briefings from institutions / organizations across the region and beyond described successful strategies, capacity building and academic courses at varying levels aiming to build skills for multiple stakeholders and participant groups. These existing opportunities helped to create a foundation for both the mapping exercise and identification of regional experts who will further contribute towards and provide direct support to the planned SAIEVAC Academy and those accessing services from the wider network. Please access and download specific presentations by going to this link <http://goo.gl/TkZ61C>

Moreover, the practice of forging partnerships with academics in the areas of research, training and academic programmes on key social issues have been proven to be a best practice globally. In this respect HRD Strategy on Child Protection and VaC (SAIEVAC Academy) consultation provided that opportunity to explore and map potential partnerships with academic and training institutions both within and outside South Asia that can help in realizing the aims and objectives of SAIEVAC in grasping the existing opportunities for mutual exchange and learning in the South Asian context.

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