

A GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON COOPERATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PARTNERING IN THE PROCESS	PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE IN POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL	PARTNERING IN THE PROCESS GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK INDIA
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NEW DELHI STATEMENT

SERVICE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON FAMILY AND CHILDREN (SERFAC) No. 1/157, Manimangalam Road, Varadarajapuram, Chennai – 600 048. Website : www.familyserfac.org	GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK INDIA 6 th Floor, Core. 5, ONGC Office, Scope Complex 7, New Delhi – 110003, INDIA Website : www.gcindia.org
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New Delhi Statement

Refining Strategies and Family Inclusion for Poverty

Eradication in India

August 27 & 28 2012



The Participants

Service and Research Institute on Family and Children Chennai, India (SERFAC) held its first National Initiative during August 27 and 28, 2012 on the theme “Refining Strategies and Family Inclusion for Poverty Eradication in India” in collaboration with Global Compact network India (GCNI) in the country’s capital, New Delhi.

This initiative was contextualized within the framework of the Millennium Declaration (MDG’s) of 2000 signed by 189 Heads of States ‘To reduce extreme poverty’ and further positioned the centrality of family as a social institution in the overall context of social policy, through engagement with Governments, UN systems, religious groups, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, grass root workers, media, industry, academia as well as other segments of human societies.

The context and theme of the Initiative made a unique setting for targeted dialogue and intervention strategies at all levels with key contributions that set the frame work for effective engagement at all levels to work for poverty eradication by recognizing the centrality of family and take timely and appropriate action to protect, preserve, support, supplement and promote family- centric policies and key issues that are family related. This assumes significance in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

The participants of this Initiative expressed the conviction that family is an indispensable and foundational social institution that holds the key for today and tomorrow. Family is the primary domain in which issues are addressed. Family has the potential for poverty eradication, building bridges of understanding, co-operation for work life balance, care of the elderly, intergenerational transmission of values and re-visioning re-imagining and rebuilding a new world order.

Recognizing the inherent strengths of the Indian family for its unity, its religiosity, resilience, wisdom and natural instinct for spirituality and transcendence, the sweeping changes brought on by globalization has had its impact which are more negative than positive on the Indian family.

The focus on material prosperity and wealth has subtly eroded these inherent values until 'family' succumbed and abdicated (as in many other countries) to social institutions its essential role and responsibilities of nurturing and caring for its members especially elders, women and children.

Recognizing that in this process the family was relegated to the periphery and social institutions took over the roles and functions that strictly belong to family. This "take-over" has brought in its wake numerous problems that have added to pressures on family life, leading to various forms of breakdown and dysfunction and pushed increasing number of families into irreversible conditions of poverty.

In the course of the Initiative key issues of dialogue, networking, advocacy, capacity building, policy influencing, research and information dissemination resulting in and leading up to family-centric policies emerged as some of the key issues that need urgent attention for poverty eradication in India.

The participants of this Initiative expressed the conviction that in the absence of firm and effective policy frame work on "Family and Poverty Eradication in India" and lack of

collaborative engagement amongst and from various stake holders poverty cannot be eradicated. Hence the urgent need for clearly formulated and direct strategies by Government and other stake holders for including and strengthening the foundation of the institution of 'family' and its ongoing development that is so profoundly affected by the continuing rapid social changes that have intergenerational implications, wider social ramifications and often times irreversible consequences.

Thus National Initiative ' Refining Strategies and Family Inclusion for Poverty Eradication in India' created a platform of deliberation and learning by 12 stake holders representing health care, education, social services, UN agencies and Ngo's.

In this context- we, the participants of this National Initiative collectively take responsibility and advance key outcomes through actionable agendas and time bound frame work to bring support to families living in poverty in India and recognize:

1. **That** families across India face a multitude of adverse and dehumanizing circumstances due to increasing poverty brought on by factors, agencies, institutions and systems they have no voice and no control over.
2. **That** a new world order precipitated by globalization has created a new ethos wherein families in poverty in India are further marginalized and more poor families are forced to migrate in search of work. Such nomadic living makes them more insecure, vulnerable and paralyses their ability for carrying out their functions of caring and nurturing of its members especially elders, women and children.

3. **That** the systemic fragmentation of the family in India especially families in poverty are further weakened by social isolation, deprivation and alienation, manifested in breakdown, creating female headed households and the feminization of poverty, with consequences on health, education and well being of all its members.
4. **That** families in Poverty in India are enslaved by circumstances, many of them lack the power to resist and easily become prey to social ill, such as addictions, violence, mental illnesses, abuse of women and children, theft, exploitation, corruption, murders and suicides.
5. **That** there is a most urgent need for Government of India and concerned stake holders to collaborate with each other towards developing long term strategies for economic independence of families and its members especially youth so that they do not get easily allured/ tempted towards radicalization/ culture of violence. In the same vein interfaith dialogue cooperation among different castes and social class will enable harmony and national integration to prevail.
6. **That** there are conscious needs to revision and rebuild, provide for and ensure adequate support systems to families in India for health, education, social services, religious ceremonies, protection of culture, employment, critical for the family to face up to and withstand any form of social change without succumbing to any pressure and constructively contribute to the development of the country.
7. **That** there is the urgency in India to integrate industry, associations/ chambers and corporations to contribute to advancement of family welfare measures by building up robust corporate social responsibility programs and enabling welfare policies to create a better work life balance for their employees and contributing to building up sustainable community life systems through strategies, philanthropy and volunteering activities.
8. **That** there is a need in India for an effective role to be played by non governmental organizations in dealing with research training and capacity building, advocacy and

information dissemination so that there is a place for empirical ground work which can be constructively used by the government and donor agencies for policy making exercise for “family centric” poverty eradication projects in the country.

9. **That** there is a critical role for family and non family institutions in India such as educational, social services, health care institution, day care centers/crèches, orphanages, displaced families and children to effectively supplement and complement the role of a caring environment so that inclusive, broad based, preventive and rights based approaches could be developed and support structures around them could be built.
10. **That** there is a growing recognition in India that religious persons, groups and institution can play an effective role in providing preventive, therapeutic intervention and mental health sustaining environments thereby reducing forms of anti social behavior. Their role in keeping family, institutions and society in general wholesome is vital to enabling the family emerge from poverty and enable it to fulfill its role in an ever changing environment of commerce and competition and thereby building a base for human sustainability, strong family cohesion, security and national identity.

As an Institution SERFAC will endeavor to engage in pro-active, actionable, enabling frame work and strengths- human based and family centric approaches, which though micro are vital and indispensable bed rock institutions, essential for rebuilding strong, just and equitable national and global economy.

In its implementation Service and Research Institute on Family and Children, Chennai, India will fill the gaps in the MDG’s through its ‘human-based family centric’ approaches, which are indeed ‘ the mission links’ in the development agenda in national policies and

the UN's call to action in freeing people from conditions of extreme poverty. SERFAC will engage through dialogue and peaceful measures all critical groups and state holders to create a sustainable frame work that contribute to evolution of such policies in their respective places.

Service and Research Institute on Family and Children makes a humble and urgent plea to the United Nations to establish a Charter of Rights for the Family.

Service and Research Institute on Family and Children, Chennai, India also for joins the United Nations efforts in Observing the forth coming second decade of the International Year of the Family in 2014 towards its collective goals of supporting family through effective policy frame works.

These collaborative approaches and partnerships are geared and intended to enable families to contribute to National prosperity, the Millennium Development Goals and in the embedment of the Sustainable Development Goals for Post 2015.