



News Letter-FAMILY FOCUS

Volume: 1

Issue: October 2014

Number:11



Dear Friends in India and around the World,

We at SERFAC recently concluded a seminar on “The Impact of Violence on Social Institutions: Family, Education, Community”. While the seminar deliberated on the impact of violence in and on smaller institutions, the participants were cognizant of the reality of violence present in our world today.

Violence in any form is not a confined phenomenon nor is it benign. Violence has far reaching consequences and therefore must be opposed in all its forms: wars, assaults against individuals, families, nations, wildlife and environment. Threats of intimidation and fear can be as destructive as physical violence and therefore must also be vehemently opposed. It needs to be realised that wars do not start on battle fields, but in the home and heart of people who defiantly cross all that is human to take revenge and reject civilization.

A few questions are: How can the world be made to reject violence and use of military force? How will the mindset of people be swayed towards seeking peaceful solutions? The starting point is the family where we bring up the next generation of humanity. Family is where we have opportunities to influence mindsets away from today's militarism and foster humane values of truth, honesty, integrity, transparency, kindness and generosity with focus on our children to grow up with the conviction that non-violence and peaceful resolution of conflict are essential for survival. There is no better place for such education and dialogue to start that in our homes, class rooms, places of worship and the media.

SERFAC as an institution is committed to working for the restoration of the value of human life, integrity and stability of family, well being of humanity and peace in our world. Peace does not mean the absence of war. It is a willingness to resolve conflict in a constructive manner with a spirit of good will and respect. In the words of Martin Luther King “I'm convinced that if we are to get on the right side of world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. When machines and computers, profit motives and property are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, militarism and economic exploitation are incapable of being conquered” Today these same words echo true of and in every country in our world, among all races of people and among all ages of life.

As the year 2014 slowly draws to a close may we remind ourselves that peace starts in our own heart and in our own home. Peace starts with you and with me.

Warm regards,

Catherine Bernard.

Founder and Director of SERFAC.

*Service and Research Institute on Family and Children (SERFAC) Chennai,
And United Nations Global Compact Network India (GCNI) Jointly organise*

A National Seminar:

**“Impact of Violence on Social Institutions: Family, Education &
Community in India”**

On 26th & 27th September 2014

This seminar brought together 42 delegates which included Heads of Departments, Professors, Research Scholars and Students, from reputed Universities and Colleges across the country and NGO representatives to present research papers and engage in dialogue on “The Impact of Violence on Social Institutions: Family, Education Institutions and Community Organisations in India” at its campus in Chennai. The focus of this seminar was to gain insight and develop strategies in dealing with present day forms of violence in these institutions, identify lacunae and developing a road map towards recovery of peace, unity and social stability for the next 3-5 years.



Four Plenary sessions were held under the following overarching titles:

a) ***The Cycle of Violence***

- ***“Effects of Exposure to Domestic Violence on Adolescents”*** – Ms. Anitha, Faculty of Social Work, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerala
- ***“Domestic Violence and its effects on the Emotional and Physical Development of Adolescents: A Study in Kerala”*** - Smt. J Anuja, Asst. Professor, Dept of Political Science Vimala College, Thrissur, Kerala, Dr. Sara Neena T T, Asso. Professor Dept of Sociology Vimala College, Thrissur, Kerala, Smt. Donna John, Research Scholar, Dept of Sociology, St Teresa’s College Ernakulam, Kerala

b) Exposure to Violence during the Life Span

- ***“The impact of violence on women and young children (0-6 yrs)”*** - Dr. A. Shahin Sultana, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, School of Social Science and International Studies, Pondicherry University
- ***“Gender Based Violence and Legal Provisions”*** - Dr. G. Sheefna, Research Associate, Women’s Studies Centre, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore
- ***“Prevention of Violence across life span – Psychological Perspectives”*** - Dr. V.D. Swaminathan, Professor of Psychology and Head in Charge of Social Work, University of Madras

c) The Co relation between Technology and Behaviour

- ***“The impact of Technological Violence on society: Narratives from the select schools in Delhi Metropolis”*** - Dr. Saket Bihari, Assistant Professor, IIPA, New Delhi
- ***“Cyberspace and Vulnerability of Women – A Case study on victims of virtual world”*** - Dr. B. Geetha, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai
- ***“Media Violence and Youth Violence”*** - Dr. C.Hilda Devi, Professor in Sociology, Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal
- ***“Fighting Effects of Violence against women in Media”***- Ms. Sunita Menon, Independent Professional Therapist, Chennai

d) Protection/ Prevention and Being Proactive

- ***“Commercial Sex work from Stigma to Rehabilitation and Mainstreaming”*** - Dr. Suganda Ramamoorthi, Associate Professor of Economics, Convenor, Centre for Women’s Studies, Lady Doak College, Madurai
- ***“A Study on Drop-outs among Bricklin Workers Children of Thiruvallur District, Multi Centered Approach”*** - Mr. Arockiam, Doctoral Research Scholar, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai
- ***“Proactively Ensuring Safe Environments for Women, Children, Family, Social Institutions and Community”*** - Dr. B. Madhana Rekha, Director, Centre for Women’s Studies, J.B.A.S. College for Women, Chennai



Three Workshop sessions were held using the research data presented in the plenary sessions. These interactions enabled an informed dialogue, offered further clarity on the subject, thereby enabling the 3-5 year road map be developed as concrete plan of action which are as follows:

- Having one meal a day together, family prayer together, going out together as a family at least once in a month, doing household activities together, sharing of roles and responsibilities
- Encourage and exemplify face to face interaction, Appreciating one another in family, visiting family members and relatives during important occasions
- Preparing the youth for marital life, educating them on positive parenting
- Educate students for freedom of choice with responsibility
- Master technology even domestic technology and not become slave to technology
- Parents and teachers to help develop healthy hobbies
- Develop an anchor in spirituality
- Provide media literacy to parents and children
- Dedicated and committed to their own profession as teachers & Improving their skills in teaching
- Love one another and become good citizens
- Introduce innovative life skills and value education for students
- Creating conducive environment for learning for girls
- Start counselling centres in all institutions
- Concentration is needed on “HI- Happiness Index” instead of HDI & Balanced life style
- Allot time for outdoor activities to avoid “Techno addictions”
- Educate both female and male on gender equality by promoting equal treatment at home, in schools, religious institutions etc.
- Introduce gender sensitisation programme, value education programme in schools and colleges
- Gender sensitisation should be given to officials
- Provide self defence mechanism to protect and safeguard women and girls from violence
- To Join the membership of SERFAC





SERVICE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON FAMILY AND CHILDREN (SERFAC)

NO: 1/157, Manimangalam Road, Varadharajapuram, Chennai – 600 048

Ph: 044 – 64625903, 65150118, Email:dirserfac@gmail.com, serfacworld@gmail.com

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP IN SERFAC

(Please fill in and return to SERFAC)

We at SERFAC seek your help in taking the message of family unity, family happiness, family togetherness and peace to more couples /families and larger social and institutional settings. To do this we invite you to become a member of SERFAC. There is a small fee to help us move forward in fulfilling this mission.

As a mark of our gratitude we wish to keep in touch by remembering you on your special days.

Your Name (s):

Names of your child /children

Address for communication:

Tel.Nos:

Email id.

Your Date(s) of Birth :

Date of your Marriage :

For priests & nuns : Date of your ordination /
religious profession or feast day:

- Tell us something about yourself / yourselves:
- Are there any names you wish to suggest to help connect for inviting them to become members of SERFAC.
- Is there any other way you wish us at SERFAC to keep in touch with you:

Your signature (s)

Date:

Form / fee details are overleaf:



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STATEMENT OF INTENT

I /We hereby recognize that marriage and family are the basis for a healthy society. I /We believe that gender equality is the essence of stability, justice, peace and happiness in family, society and nation.

I/We subscribe to and support the values, mission and work of SERFAC by becoming a member(s):

Date:

Signature:

S.No	Membership status:	Entrance Fee (in Rs.)	Annual Fee (in Rs.)	Lifetime Membership (in Rs.)
1.	Couple / Individual	250.00	500.00	5000.00
2.	Organisation / Institutional Members	1000.00	2000.00	15000.00
3.	NGO Members	500.00	800.00	5000.00
4.	Students	200.00	500.00	-

This duly filled form is to be returned and addressed to: **Director SERFAC, 1/157, Manimangalam Road, Varadarajapuram, Chennai – 600 048.** The Membership fee may be sent by cash or demand draft drawn in favour of SERFAC General Account: on any bank in Chennai.

By Bank Transfer: (India Only)

A/C Name : SERFAC General Account

A/C No. 0370104000057789

IFSC Code : IBKL 0000370

MICR : 600259017

Bank Name : IDBI

**For Foreign membership please email
to us for a separate form & Bank**

Bank Address: IDBI, Tambaram, No.4, Near Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital,
Duraisamy Reddy Street, Tambaram West, Chennai – 600 045
Tamil Nadu, India.

Donations to SERFAC are Tax Exempt under 80G.