

Speech of His Excellency the Governor of Jharkhand, on the occasion of inauguration of workshop on "Rights of Girl Child and future implication of imbalance of sex ratio" on 20th August, 2010 under the aegis of Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board, at C.C.L. Auditorium, Darbhanga House, Ranchi.

Shri Wilfred Lakra, Advisor to Governor, Chairperson Central Social Welfare Board Smt.Prema Cariappa, Secretary, Women Child Development Board Shri Rajiv Arun Ekka, State Coordinator of Unicef Mr.Gurunani, Chairperson, Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board Smt. Pratibha Pandey, officials of Social Welfare Board, representatives of NGOs, media representatives, Ladies & Gentlemen;

It gives me profound happiness to inaugurate this state level workshop on "RIGHTS OF THE GIRL CHILD AND FUTURE IMPLICATION OF INBALANCE OF SEX RATIO" which is being organised by Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board, in collaboration with UNICEF.

Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board which is the state unit of Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi under Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India is doing a yeomen service by providing necessary financial assistance and technical guidance to the voluntary organizations through variety of programmes and schemes in order to facilitate and strengthen their role in empowering women through education and training, through collective mobilization and awareness creation through income generating facilities and by provision of support services.

Besides Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board also organises seminars and workshop on important socially relevant issues at regular intervals in order to raise awareness and build public opinion about the legal and human rights of women & girl child and to run campaigns against social evils affecting them.

This workshop organised by Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board will provide a suitable platform to discuss the topic with its pros and cons in a detailed manner and empower the entire stakeholder to evolve and formulate a suitable strategy to address the problem in a effective way.

Violence against women is a universal phenomenon and one facet of this violent is pre-natal discrimination. Our country has a long and unfortunate

history of sex discrimination and use of ultra sound scanning, invitrofertilization etc has aggravated the situation. Girls not only face inequality and inequity but they are now even denied the right to born if their families do not wish their women folk to deliver baby daughters. Despite the legal emancipation of women in India, their education and employment in modern occupation, the traditional bias against female children has not undergone a substantial change.

It is very disheartening to note that sex ratio has altered constintly in favour of boys since the beginning of 20th Century and the effect has been most pronounced in northern states.

It is significant to mention that one of the greatest threats to our contemporary civilization is the menace of imbalanced sex ratio. The increasing imbalance between men and women is leading to many crimes such as illegal trafficking of women, sexual assaults, polygamy, dehumanisation of society.

In the present scenario when we plan to address this problem it is obvious that Government alone can't check this menace. It will require the combined and sincere effort of Government, Non Government Agencies and society as a whole to effectively deal and eradicate of social menace of female foeticide.

To conclude I once again convey my sincere thankfulness to the organiser of this workshop i.e. all the officers and staff of Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board and UNICEF and special thanks to the Chairperson Central Social Welfare Board, under whose able leadership and guidance the arrangement of this workshop has been possible in successful manner. Last but not the least my thanks to the Media officials and the representatives of voluntary organization who are participating in this workshop and who has an important role in propagating social awareness and bringing about social change.

Thank you,