

Uttar Pradesh Social Watch Report Release-2007

Uttar Pradesh Social Watch Report was released on the mid way of the Millennium Development goals campaign amidst concerns reflected in the NREGA Book Release event preceding the Report Release function on 7/7/2007. In continuation of its efforts to make the government accountable to its promises through MDGs the Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network released the second State Social Watch Report. Mr Gyanendra Sharma, Commissioner of State Information Commission released the report. While Ms Sahiba Husain Former State Representative of UNICEF and the Chief of Beti Foundation released National Social Watch Report.

Mr Ashok Singh, Secretary, UPVAN gave a brief background of Social Watch process and Wada Nibhao Abhiyaan . On the lines of WNTA & NSWC Wada Nibhao Abhiyan was initiated in Uttar Pradesh (2005). The rationale being that MDGs should be interpreted as applying to each developing country/region, whilst simultaneously retaining their global relevance. In a country like India each sub-region has its own development problems and challenges. Therefore, not all the issues are being addressed in national MDG agendas, although relevant for the country as a whole, might not be applicable to each particular geographic area of the country adjusted to sub-national/regional/local conditions The purpose of WNA is localization of MDGs as it creates a chance to take the MDGs to the level where people can discuss and agree on their priorities and thus promote and strengthen democracy. The Wada Na Todo abhiyaan has been phrased as Wada Nibhao Abhiyaan in Uttar Pradesh so as to give it an assertive tone.

Mr Ashok Singh, Secretary, UPVAN shared his experience in Geneva where the representatives from the civil society across the world had gathered to review the progress done in MDG campaign. He presented the Guinness Book of world record certificate to Ms Lysa John the representative of WADA NA TODO Abhiyaan. The certificate has been awarded to the stand up event in U.P. As a part of advocacy stand up event organized all over the world in which twenty three crore people stood up against poverty. UPVAN and WADA NA TODO Abhiyaan also took active part in the event.

After the address by the Secretary, Dr Neelam Singh the Chairperson of UPVAN welcomed the guests.

Sohini Ghosh (UPVAN) presented a brief Power presentation of UP social Watch report. A core committee comprising of experts from civil society, academia, campaigns, and activists has prepared the Uttar Pradesh Social Watch Report. The report expressed concern on the slow progress of the initiatives undertaken by the state to fulfill the promises shown through the MDG. The report also threw light on the follow up strategy, which is advocacy through wide dissemination of the report to media, member organization, and government machinery for effective pressure building over development administration at various stages.

The Power Point Presentation on UP Social Watch Report was followed by a PPT on the National Social Watch Report-07 by Mr. Santosh from NSWC.

The chief guest of the event shared his views on the report and appreciated the efforts of UPVAN. He expressed concern over the follow-up strategy of the report. He spoke in detail about the dismal progress on MDG in the state.. The state has not been able to create effective infrastructure to facilitate development process. There is high illiteracy and the different government schemes designed to address poverty, social exclusion or facilitate universal education show lack of innovation. They are reduced to old wine in a new bottle.

According to him there is a need to expedite decentralization process and bring about e-governance, which can go along way in bringing about equitable growth.

Ms Sahiba Husain also expressed her opinion on the report and showed concern on the low immunization of children in the State and the slow progress in universal primary education.

Ms Priyambda Mishra (UPVAN) gave the vote of thanks. There were almost two hundred participants from member organizations, media and prominent civil society organizations who took part in the event. Members of core committee who had extended their contribution in the formulation of report were also felicitated in the event.