

City Official's Workshop Report

Moratuwa City

Held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013

At

Hotel Sri Palee

Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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## **1. Introduction**

An increase in the number of people moving to urban areas, population growth and lack of government planning and investment, has led to an increase of informal settlements and overcrowding in existing settlements in Sri Lanka. With no secure tenure of land, many poor people have no affordable alternative but to illegally occupy government land, leaving them vulnerable to eviction. Sri Lanka's urban informal settlements are characterized by poor quality housing and inadequate water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste infrastructure, resulting in pollution, ill health, and poor social wellbeing.

Women living in urban poor settlements in Sri Lanka engage in some form of income generation activity. They are considered as Home Based Workers and characterized by small scale in operation, unorganized and engage in primitive stage of entrepreneurial activities. They also have few social protection mechanisms and networking with mainstream micro and small enterprises. HBWs are neglected and marginalized in service delivery as majority of them are not identified in mainstream enterprise development services due to scale of operation.

To uplift the livelihoods of HBWs, project intends to link them with local livelihood support schemes and also to facilitate dialogue with city officials to include home-based workers in the city's decision making processes and policies that affects their living environment as well as the livelihood. In light of above city official's consultative workshop was organized in each project location.

## **2. Planning.**

The city officials work shop in Moratuwa was planned to held on 22th January in Katubedda, Moratuwa at the Sripalee hall. Government officials, Officials from NGOs and other private organizations as well as 10 Home Based Workers covering all the divisions were invited. Participation of government officials was confirmed only after getting the Director General of Economic Development Ministry as government has issued circular restricting government officials participation to programs organized by Non-government organizations.

Convenient location for all the participants had to choose as project is not providing any transport allowance. It was planned as presentation of findings with Homer based workers in Moratuwa carried out by Janathakshan with the support of University of Peradeniya and financial assistance of Home Net South Asia.

## **3. Participation to the program**

Given the participation of Director General of Economic Development ministry local authority and divisional secretariat officials participated. Representing the Moratuwa municipal council, Mr. Angamma, commissioner of the council participated. Representing the Divisional secretariat Mrs. Shermila Premachandra, assistant director of planning also attended. In addition three assistant directors from Industrial Development Board of Sri Lanka and one from National Designing center, representatives from internal departments of Moratuwa municipal council and divisional secretariat and Non-government and private sector organizations were also among the participants.

#### 4. Agenda of the program

Time	Schedule
10.00-10.05 am	Welcome speech
10.05-10.15 am	Lightning the oil lamp
10.15-10.45 am	Introduction about the project – Mr.Ranga Pallawala, Director, Janathakshan.
10.45-11.10 am	Address the audience- Mr.Dhamma Dissanayeka, Director General, Ministry of Economic Development
11.10-11.20 am	Address the audience- Deputy commissioner, Municipal Council, Moratuwa.
11.20-11.40 am	Presentation regarding previous survey-Mr.Prasad Rathnayeka, Project Manager.
11.40-11.50 am	Address the audience by planning director “Divineguma” in Moratuwa
11.50-12.30 pm	Presenting ideas by other officials and discussion
12.30-12.35 pm	Thanking speech
12.35-1.00 pm	Lunch

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## 5. Proceedings

By lighting the traditional oil lamp the occasion was initialized by officials. Then the audience was welcome with a brief introduction of the program.

Director of Janathakshan, Mr.Ranaga Pallawala addressed the audience and gave an introduction about the project, its objectives, the future activities and how the project is going to be implemented. He presented his ideas under three sub sections which were,

1. Introduction to the “Janathakshan”.
2. Introduction about the project “Strengthening the Urban Home-Based Workers for Greater Visibility and Participation in City Governance”.
3. Expectations of the project from government and non-government institutes

Then the project manager Mr.Prasad Rathneyeka has presented the findings of city level research carried out on HBWs in Moratuwa area.

Issues and possible solutions to address them were presented covering infrastructure and livelihood areas. Five divisions were included for the survey as Moratumulla, Koralawella, Moratuwella, Indibedda and Molpe. Key infrastructure issues include poor access roads inside the settlements that cause problems in transporting raw materials as well as finished products. Poor drainage is one othe major infrastructure issue that Koralawella and Moratuwella settlers are faced with. Access to water and electricity is constrained to some of the settlers who are considered encroachers.

Poor credit services, effect of fluctuating foreign exchange rates on the price of tools used in wood crafting, increasing electricity bill are major concerns in livelihood sector. In addition linkage with poor infrastructure facilities with livelihoods was also discussed. Majority of the HBWs in Moratuwa are engaged in wood crafting. They depend on the buyer of their product though the business type is own account.

### **Address by the Chief Guest**

Mr.Dhamma Dissanayeka, the Director General of Economic Development Ministry addressed the audience stating the importance of using appropriate in developing HBWs. He mentioned that the project can be easily related with the government programs like “divineguma” which is connected in three sectors as Home gardening, Home Based works and animal husbandry and livestock. He added that coordination between Government organizations, non-government organizations, and Private organizations is important to achieve the objectives of these types of projects. He requested the participating government organizations to form a coordination mechanism in the city so poor communities can bring their issues that can be solved in a multiparty arrangement.

### **6. Plenary Discussion**

Commissioner of the Moratuwa Municipal council presented his ideas positively for this program. He agreed to help Home Based Workers to solve their problems related to infrastructure, Social issues and livelihoods. He mentioned some of the ongoing programs of Municipal council are already addressing some of the issues mentioned.

Assistant Planning Director of Moratuwa Divisional Secretariat, also the responsible person to implement the Divi Neguma National program presented her ideas on behalf of the Divisional secretariat Moratuwa. Current poverty in Sri Lanka is around 8.9% and main aim of the Divineguma is to decrease the poverty through sustainable livelihood development. IUP project can harness some of the benefits of of Divi Neguma program both are working for poor with the objective of developing their livelihoods ultimately.

Deputy Director of Industrial Development Board (IDB) addressed the gathering and presented his ideas. IDB functions under the Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development. In terms of this Act the IDB is the Prime State Organization entrusted with the responsibility of development to the Industrial Sector. Throughout last 40 years IDB has catered mainly to the Enterprises, individuals and institutions of the industrial sector of Sri Lanka. It has a network of regional and district offices covering each district. In fact, it is the only such organization within the private and government sectors of the country. According to the deputy director they can engaged with this program and help for the Home Based Workers in managing their small industries.

In Sri Lanka, Samurdhi Authority implements many programmes throughout the country for public poverty reduction. Diversified programmes reach individuals, families and groups, both in village and in urban environments. Loan schemes are implemented for micro enterprises initiated by individuals or groups of poor in the community. Participatory development efforts are one of the more favoured approaches of Samurdhi Authority. Its programmes operate at all levels of the administrative system like Grama Niladhari level, zonal level, divisional level and national level. There is a wide network of administrative institutions at different levels



implementing Samurdhi programs. For this city officials work shop Samurdhi officer at the Moratuwa area, participated and presented their capabilities in engaging with this program in order to help Poor Home Based Workers.

President of the women society in the area addressed the gathering and showed up the issues with the women when conducting their small enterprises. They have financial issues, exploitation by the middle men and marketing issues in their products. When they do transactions by checks they have to be rip off by middle men. So, she presented her ideas that they can help those women by engaging with this program.

Assistant director of the National Design Centre told that they can help Home Based Workers who are engaging with the wood crafting and they can also give the technical knowledge regarding the finishing of the furniture by trainings. They are capable in giving knowledge on designs for other handicrafts.

Other than the government organizations, officers from some non-government organizations participated for the occasion.

Director of the “farms Lanka” presented his ideas of this program and what they can do collaboratively. Presently it is conducting programs in areas Education, Agriculture, Women Home Based Works and Disaster Management. With their field scope our program can be liaised easily. From Another NGO called “Sewanatha” which is working for the Socio economic Development of the poor households, a project officer presented her ideas. She told that this can give the financial support for the Home Based Workers in order to improve their livelihoods.

A project Officer from the “Sarvodaya” presented his ideas as this is a very important activity for community development and they also can join with this actively.

After present their ideas by all officers, Project manager Mr.Prasad Rathneyeka further explained the future plans how it is going to be conducted the project. By identifying special issues of Home Based Workers they are going to be solved with the help of other city officials in order to improving livelihoods of Poor Home Based Workers.

Participated home based workers have built a good rapport with city officials and they presented their issues with city officials and discussed about them. According to the representative Home Based Workers, workshop has been built a good opportunity for them to adduce their sorrows and issues in a positive manner.

After discussions all were set for the lunch and city work shop has been over successfully.

## **7. Out comes emerged / Possible solutions**

According to the commissioner, with in the municipal council rules and regulation proper infrastructure facilities for all households can be provided through certain schemes. (Electricity and water for unpermitted dwellers)

Municipal council has started a program to prevent drug addiction with in the area. So, social issues face by Home Based Workers can be reduced from it, and they mentioned that their concern about Home Based Workers in these activities.

Health related programs (Mosquito prevention programs) are conducted in the area. With that, officers were agreed to collaborate new programs related to other health issues also which are influencing for Home Based Workers slum areas.

Related to the Samurdhi program officials agreed to solve problems with Home Based Workers' land ownership.

Home Based Workers are facing difficulties with marketing their products. So, attention was given to established proper marketing facilities in the area. President of the women society in the area emphasized this matter and they will work with Women Home Based workers through these matters.

Some organizations considered about the technical knowledge of Workers and they are willing to give those technological knowledge (National Designing center). Some organizations (NGO- Sewanatha) also agreed to give financial support to HBWs in Moratuwa area.

## **8. Conclusion**

Establishing a committee with the participation of representatives of all the concerned departments and parties will allow space to discuss more on the issues identified. As such, second round of meeting to be organized with key stakeholders to the project to finalize the mode of coordination body and way forward. Janathakshan needs to facilitate the process of establishing coordination body by communicating with all concerned parties. In addition immediate infrastructure needs are to be communicated to municipal council in detail thus they will attend them as soon as possible.

Annex 01: Participants list

Name	Address	Office	Position
D.N.Vijitha Kumara	Divisional Secretariat Office, Moratuwa.	Divisional Secretariat Office	Public service officer
K.V.P.S. Kumara	N0.615, Gall Road, Katubedda.	I.D.B	Assistant Director
P.P.P.S.Dikwella	N0.615, Gall Road, Katubedda.	I.D.B	Assistant Director
M.L.Coltha Silva	N0.615, Gall Road, Katubedda.	I.D.B	Deputy Director
Clarance I Mendis	91/6, Sen Piters Road, Moratuwa.	Farms Lanka	General Manager
U.D.J.Fernando	91/6, Sen Piters Road, Moratuwa.	Farms Lanka	Project Officer
Anurudda Wijesundera	91/6, Sen Pi.ters Road, Moratuwa	Farms Lanka	Project Officer
Kumudunee Liyanage	No.519/1, De soysa road, Molpe.	Women Society	President
Thilanka Ariyathilaka	No.102/2,Koswattha, Nawala.	Sewanatha	Project Officer
G.P.Wasanthamala	285/16/01,Dalthara,Piliyandala.	Women's Cooperation.	Officer, Financial
Chandra Manawadu	50/184, Jubuly Road.	Women's Cooperation.	Treasurer
S.P.K.Jayasinghe	333/6, Kesbewa Road,	Divisional	Women

	Raththanapitiya.	Secretariat Office	development officer
H.L.D.I.L.Hithdeniya	61/4,Lakshapathiya Road, Moratuwa.	Sarvodaya,Colombo.	Coordinator
K.M.J.Bandara	No.24,Uswaththa Road, Moratuwa.	SERVE	Officer
L.T.G.Priyarthne	No.24,Uswaththa Road, Moratuwa.	SERVE	Project Coordinator
Prasad Rathnayeka	No.5,Lionel Edirisinghe Road, Colombo 05.	Janathakshan	Project Manager
Thulsika Mallawaarachchi	Municipal Council, Moratuwa.	Municipal Council, Moratuwa.	Community Development Officer
B.P.Jayalal	Divisional Secretariat Office, Moratuwa.	Divisional Secretariat Office	Samurdhi Development Officer
Shermila Premachandra	Divisional Secretariat Office, Moratuwa.	Divisional Secretariat Office	Asst Director Planning
T.A.A.N.Surangi	Divisional Secretariat Office, Moratuwa.		
H.N.S.Angamma	Municipal Council,Moratuwa.	Municipal Council,Moratuwa.	Commissioner
B.Manathunga	National Desigining center, Moratuwa.	National Desigining center, Moratuwa.	Assistant Director
W.M.Piyarthne	National Desigining center,	National Desigining	Assistant

	Moratuwa.	center, Moratuwa.	Director
R.M.A.D Premarathne	No.05, Lionel Edirisinghe Road , Colombo 05.	Janathakshan	Project officer
M.P.K.Senadheera	No.05, Lionel Edirisinghe Road , Colombo 05.	Janathakshan	Project officer
K.A.Prematahne	No.05, Lionel Edirisinghe Road , Colombo 05.	Janathakshan	Project officer
M.P.Shantha	No.05, Lionel Edirisinghe Road , Colombo 05	Janathakshan	
T.Mery Pilawina Peris	No16, Janajaya Niwasa, Indibedda Moratuwa.		
P.Priyanga Perera	N0.17,Samajawadi Niwasa, Koralawella ,Moratuwa.		
M.Laksmi Perera	No.128/7, Samajawadi Niwasa, Koralawella ,Moratuwa.		
Dayani Mendis Warnakulasooriya.	NO,136/11, Samajawadi Niwasa, Koralawella ,Moratuwa.		
K.Sarojane Ponseka	No.86/17, Samajawadi Niwasa, Koralawella ,Moratuwa.		
Dhammika Peris	1A/13,Edwad Lane, Indibedda.		
Shami Apurika peris	24/1, Bandaranayeka Mawatha, Indibedda.		
K.Mihiri Perera.	41, Edwed Lane, Indibedda.		
Nayana Kumudini	2/1,Klowis Mawatha,		

	Moratuwella Moratuwa.		
R.M.Ranasinghe	No.273,Diyawrathota.		