

Report on the Gender Sensitization Workshop held at ANTRI, 15th February 2015.

A workshop on Gender Sensitization was organized by the Directorate of Tribal Welfare in collaboration with ANTRI on the 15th of March 2015. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize welfare officers and staff towards issues of gender both at the level of policy making and implementation. Welfare staffs of AAJVS working at the Reserves in Tirrur, Middle Straits and Kadamtala along with staff working among the Great Andamanese and Shompens were present. Also present were Secretary Tribal Welfare, Director ANTRI, Executive Secretary AAJVs and Shri Manish Chandi, Member ANTRI RAB.

Dr. Madhumita Mazumdar who along with Prof. Vishvajit Pandya was invited as a resource person for the workshop opened the proceedings by introducing the problem of Gender in Tribal Welfare Policy. She explained the category of Gender, the notion of Gender inequality and the processes of Gender Sensitization that needed to become part of the entire welfare policy making cycle from its inception to its implementation. She drew attention to the ways in which the Ministry of Women and Child Development had mandated the practice of Gender Budgeting as integral to all policy making. Forty-Six ministries were directed to implement this policy in 2004 after the first Gender Sensitive Budget was introduced. The institutionalization of Gender Budgeting it was expected would help formulate schemes directly targeted towards women's health, education and empowerment. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was also directed to do the same.

In keeping with GOI's mandated policy of Gender sensitization through Gender Budgeting it was appropriate that the Department of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Islands too take steps to address issues related to gender in tribal welfare for the PVTGs. Dr. Mazumdar however