

Observation Report: Active Bystander Awareness Event

Date and Time: 21st December 2024, 1:00 PM

Location: Kathriguppe

Target Audience: BBMP Workers(Pourakarmikas)

Number of Instructors: 1

Instructor: Nikitha

Mode of Delivery: Interactive Session, Skits, Role-Play Activities

Topics Covered:

- Understanding Active vs. Passive Bystanders
- Gender Equality and Social Empowerment
- Safeguarding Women from Exploitation
- Encouraging Empathy and Responsibility

Language of Instruction: Primarily Kannada with few English dialects

Participants: Approximately 25

Materials Used: None

Activity Overview

Session Initiation:

The session commenced with a focus on gender equality, with instructor Nikitha opening the discussion by highlighting how traditional societal norms often lead to systemic oppression of women. Using relatable and impactful real-life examples, she challenged participants to think critically about ingrained biases. Participants actively contributed their thoughts, setting an engaged tone for the rest of the session. The introductory discussion aimed to raise awareness of the role that individual actions and collective attitudes play in either perpetuating or dismantling inequality.

Key Exercises and Discussions:

1. Understanding the Concepts:

- Nikitha explained the difference between **active** and **passive bystanders**, underlining the importance of taking action rather than remaining silent when witnessing injustice.
- Participants were encouraged to share personal experiences or situations they had witnessed that required bystander intervention. This open dialogue fostered mutual understanding and provided valuable context for applying these concepts in everyday life.

2. Interactive Role-Playing Activities:

Scenario 1:

- A skit depicted a domestic quarrel between a husband and wife in a neighborhood. The audience was asked to brainstorm and discuss how they could intervene responsibly as active bystanders.
- **General Responses:** Suggestions included approaching the situation calmly to mediate, alerting close family members, or involving local authorities to ensure the safety of everyone involved.
- The instructor emphasized the importance of prioritizing safety, being non-confrontational, and seeking professional help if needed.

3. Scenario 2:

- Another skit portrayed a financially struggling parent saving money to buy a bicycle for their child. The audience explored how they could support the parent without overstepping boundaries.
- **General Responses:** Ideas ranged from pooling resources within the community, offering second-hand bicycles, connecting the family with local charities, or starting small crowdfunding efforts to help alleviate the financial burden.

4. Guest Address by the Police Sub-Inspector:

- The local police sub-inspector delivered an informative talk focusing on women's safety in the community. He outlined specific measures law enforcement has implemented to protect women, shared emergency contact information, and urged participants to reach out to the police whenever necessary.
- He invited the women present to voice any safety concerns and assured them of the police department's unwavering commitment to addressing societal challenges and fostering trust.

5. Recognition and Rewards:

- The Durga Devi Foundation celebrated the active participation of the women attendees by awarding them medals and certificates, recognizing their commitment to learning and empowerment.
- All participants were gifted hoodies as a token of appreciation, fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging continued engagement in community-driven initiatives.

Closing Activity: Discussion and Reflection

The session concluded with an open floor discussion where participants reflected on what they had learned. Many shared personal takeaways, such as newfound confidence in standing up against injustice and a deeper understanding of gender equality. The dialogue emphasized collaboration, the importance of small but meaningful actions, and fostering safe spaces for everyone in the community.

Personal Reflections and Observations:

- The introductory discussion on gender equality resonated deeply with participants, many of whom expressed gratitude for having a platform to share their thoughts and learn from others.
- The role-playing activities effectively illustrated real-life scenarios, enabling participants to empathize with others and critically assess possible interventions.
- The address by the police sub-inspector added a layer of practical insight and reassurance, bridging the gap between community members and law enforcement.
- Participants demonstrated creativity and enthusiasm, particularly during the brainstorming sessions, showcasing their willingness to engage with the subject matter.

Challenges Faced:

- A few participants were initially hesitant to contribute during discussions, but this improved as the session progressed and the environment became more inclusive.
 - The small group size, while conducive to deeper engagement, limited the diversity of perspectives in some discussions.
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Key Takeaways:

- Promoting gender equality requires challenging societal norms and empowering individuals to take action against injustice.
 - Active bystander intervention is a powerful tool for fostering safety and inclusivity in communities.
 - Women's empowerment must be supported by both community initiatives and institutional frameworks, such as law enforcement.
 - Building empathy and collaboration can lead to meaningful societal change, one step at a time.
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Summary:

On 21st December 2024, the Durga Devi Foundation organized an impactful active bystander awareness session at Kathriguppe, led by instructor Nikitha and attended by approximately 25 community members. The session aimed to educate participants on gender equality, active intervention strategies, and fostering a safer, more inclusive society.

The event began with an engaging discussion on societal oppression faced by women and the importance of dismantling stereotypes. Role-playing activities brought real-life scenarios to life, encouraging participants to empathize and brainstorm actionable solutions, such as mediating domestic disputes and supporting struggling families. A guest address by the local police sub-inspector reinforced the importance of collaboration between communities and law enforcement, providing reassurance and practical resources for women's safety.

As a gesture of appreciation, the Durga Devi Foundation awarded medals and certificates to women participants and distributed hoodies to all attendees. This recognition highlighted the foundation's commitment to community empowerment.

Overall, the session succeeded in inspiring participants to challenge stereotypes, embrace responsibility, and contribute to a supportive and equitable community environment. The event not only raised awareness but also fostered connections and actionable insights, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

Overview:

As part of the session, participants were asked a series of questions to evaluate their understanding of the topics covered, their experiences during the session, and their ability to apply the lessons learned in real-life scenarios. The responses provided valuable insights into the impact of the event.

Key Questions and Summarized Responses:

1. Have you attended and engaged with the entire session?

○ **Responses:**

The majority of participants indicated that they attended the entire session and found it engaging. A few mentioned that they had sufficient time to participate and appreciated the opportunity to be involved in discussions and activities.

2. Did you understand the message conveyed during the session?

○ **Responses:**

- Most participants affirmed that they fully understood the session's content, including how to support women, intervene as active bystanders, and safeguard themselves in challenging situations.
- A few participants highlighted that the use of Kannada as the primary language aided their comprehension. Minor challenges were noted when English phrases were used.

3. Were there any challenges during the session?

○ **Responses:**

- Participants reported no significant issues with the delivery or materials used.
- Some suggested including additional examples or scenarios to make the session even more relatable.

4. How do you think the learnings from this session can help you in your daily life?

○ **Responses:**

- Many participants mentioned that the session boosted their confidence to address problems such as harassment or social exploitation.
- Examples included advising others to avoid unsafe environments, providing emotional support to those in distress, and contacting authorities when necessary.
- Participants emphasized the importance of courage and proactive behavior in real-life situations.

5. Do you have any suggestions for improving future sessions?

○ **Responses:**

Some participants suggested adding more interactive visual aids, such as videos or demonstrations, to reinforce the lessons.

- While most expressed satisfaction with the content, a few requested more translation aids for non-Kannada speakers in future sessions.

6. How do you handle situations of abuse or distress based on what you've learned?

○ **Responses:**

- Participants shared that they would take steps such as calling provided emergency numbers, supporting victims with empathy, and intervening when safe to do so.
 - A strong emphasis was placed on contacting authorities or community support networks to address serious situations effectively.
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Reflections on Participant Engagement:

- Participants actively responded to questions, reflecting a clear understanding of the session's key messages.
- The session fostered an environment where attendees felt comfortable sharing personal insights and suggestions for improvement.
- Feedback highlighted the value of using familiar languages and real-life examples to enhance relatability and engagement.

Recommendations for Future Sessions:

- Incorporate additional visual aids, such as videos or live demonstrations, to diversify the learning experience.
- Provide language support or translations to ensure inclusivity for all participants.
- Continue using interactive role-play scenarios to maintain high levels of engagement and practical application.

PHOTOS FROM THE SESSION



