

## Activity Completion Report Format

<b>Name of the Activity</b>			
<b>Intra District Exchange Event -Ampara District</b>			
Name of the Reporting Person: <b>Kumar Weerathne _ Monitoring &amp; Data Officer</b>			
Modality: District Event (WS/Meeting/Training/CB)			
District: Ampara	Location : Religious Places in Ampara Town 1.Gamunupura Maha Viharaya-Ampara 2.Pulleyar Kovil Ampara 3.Jumma Mustij Mosque Ampara 4.St.Ignatius Church Ampara		
Starting Date : 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2018	End Date : 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2018	Duration : <b>01 days</b>	
Responsible Organization: Womens Development Centre - kandy (To conduct Activity)			
Number of Participants:	Female :64 (Group Members :53 Facilitators :11) - WHH:09,WWD:3)	Male : 00	<b>Staff :05</b>
Resource Persons: The Event was conducted by WDC-_Kandy			
<b>Objective of the Activity</b> To increase awareness among the women group members of shared and divergent interests of women of other ethnicity, language and religion.			
<b>Output of the Activity</b> Women Group Members understood the similarities and differences of different religions , different religious practices and their key messages. Womens Group members got to know the backgrounds and cultures of different ethnicities, languages and religions by the activities they participated. Womens Group members could able to increase their knowledge on divergent interests of women's of other ethnicities, languages and religions.			
<b>Summery of the Activity</b>  15 womens groups representing Diriyakantha Forum -Ampara, WDC-Kalmunei and WDF Akkareipattu participated in the Intra District exchange event phase 2 in Ampara And Groups visited Following Religious institutions coordinated by WDC.  1.Gamunupura Maha Viharaya-Ampara 2.Pulleyar Kovil Ampara 3.Jumma Mustij Mosque Ampara 4.St.Ignatius Church Ampara  The group visited the Buddhist temple first in the morning and had a discussion with the The chief Monk of the Gemunupura Viharaya , Then he expressed his views from Buddhist philosophy or the Buddhas teachings and briefly explained five lay vows / pancha seela and linked it to the day to day life of the people. Further he expressed the teachings of any religion focuses on the well being of the people and everyone should respect each others religions and values without going in to conflicts.			

The priests of St. Ignatius church and the Jumma mosque pointed out that the importance of understanding and learning of different religions and respecting each other would definitely support the co-existence of the communities and current reconciliation process of Sri Lanka.

Participants got an opportunity to participate in the “pooja” session of the Pulleyar Kovil of the Ampara town and could able to understand their typical and endemic religious practices. And participants had a good interactive discussion with the kurukkal of the kovil to clarify their doubts. Further the priest explained the participants of the basic teachings of the Hinduism and similarities with the other religions.

### **Observations**

In addition the Participants were able to have interactive discussions with the priests of the each religion and able to solve the questions and the doubts on the teachings and various religious practices. And women groups members, representing different ethnicities, religions and various cultural back grounds were able to observe and participate in the religious practices and have understood the rationale behind the each practices. Also Its observed that the women group members were actively engaged with the religious practices and discussions and trying to learn with lots of interest.

The women group members mentioned that it was a great opportunity for them to observe and understand the different teachings ,values, beliefs and practices of different religions as they were not much exposed to different religious setups. And further they expressed that the attitudes were changed on different religions and most of the doubts were cleared after visiting the institutions.

Participants also mentioned that these activities will promote the habits of respecting other religions and admits the good practices and teachings of the different religions regardless of the extremist ideas and beliefs.

### **Suggestions and Recommendations**

Women Group members will convey this message and share their experiences gathered by this event with the members of their respective groups and motivate and guide them to respect each other.

Give the other Women group members more exposure for these kinds of events to elevate the deference and to change the rooted thinking patterns on different religions.

### **Follow ups**

The out puts of the event will be discussed in group meetings or the monthly meetings for further actions and encourage the groups to organize such events in their locality.