

Report on the Online Pre-adoption Workshop

**Jointly organized by
State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) Govt. of WB
and
Atmaja: The Association of Adoptive Parents
On 22 August, 2021**

Thirteen pre-adoptive parents (PAPs) attended the workshop fully, although there were sixteen at the beginning.

The day's proceedings began at 11:00 AM with a session on introduction of the participants and the resource persons, which then followed according to the schedule with nice introduction by Nilanjana Dasgupta and Swapan Naskar. Then, Gautam Gupta gave an excellent start-off by describing adoption as a problem, turned into joy and then a special challenge of parenthood.

The first discussion meeting in the morning session, led by Anup Dewanji, considered the desire for 'parenthood', not so much for 'giving birth', overcoming the hesitation and apprehension related to adoption. This followed the plan with one Atmaja representative meeting with each couple to listen to them and understand their preparedness for adoption. The narration by Subir Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Pal, Piya Naskar and Prasun Ganguly on their experience, understanding and approach to create the bonding seemed to have moved the participants. Nilanjana Dasgupta gave detailed description on the procedural and legal steps, while Subir Banerjee pointed out the medical and nutritional concerns and needs. Another discussion session formed two groups for the ladies and the gentlemen separately with an attempt to understand the gender-specific issues and concerns. Finally, Swapan Naskar discussed the issue of disclosure. The next session is the special one in which two of our adoptees, Pooja Datta and Semanti Mukherjee, expressed their feelings and views in a candid way and also a video interview of another adoptee, Anhiti Naskar, added values to the viewpoint. The open forum, led by Gautam Gupta, basically collected individual opinions and feedbacks from the participants with more spontaneous discussion.

The end had to come at around 6:00 PM with closing remarks by Nilanjana Dasgupta and Swapan Naskar and thanks to each other.

According to the unofficial feedback, all the participants seemed to have enjoyed and benefitted from the workshop; they also appreciated the need of such workshop. Most of them felt that the organisation of the workshop was good pointing out that the interactive sessions were most helpful while appreciating the sharing of experience by the adoptive parents. They also felt positively about the sessions on procedural/legal steps, medical concerns and disclosure. Some of them remarked that such meetings may be organised more often and a support group could be formed to have such meetings.

Finally, we like to express our sincere thanks to SARA for organising this event and looking towards its continuity in future.