

Report on the Pre-adoption Workshop

Jointly organized by District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) West Bengal and Atmaja: The Association of Adoptive Parents on 18 June, 2022, at ICMARD Building, Scheme- VIII (M, Block-14/2, Bidhannagar Rd, Ultadanga, Kolkata, West Bengal 700067

Twelve pre-adoptive parents (PAPs) attended the workshop. The day's proceedings began at around 11:10 AM with welcome address by Supriya Sarkar (DCPU) and Sheemantika Nag (Atmaja) followed by a session on introduction of the participants and the resource persons. Then, Gautam Gupta gave an excellent start-off by outlining the differences between having biological child and child by adoption and how the two converge.

The first discussion meeting in the morning session, led by Nilanjana Gupta, described the desire for 'parenthood' 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, Sheemantika Nag, Subha Mukhopadhyay and Anjan Basu Chowdhury on their experience, understanding and approach to create the bonding seemed to have moved the participants. Sudipta Debnath gave detailed description on the procedural and legal steps, while Subir Banerjee pointed out the psychological, medical and nutritional concerns and needs. A play-act session arranged by the DCPU-ISSA-Atmaja team enacted a mock adoption meeting, to be held after the referral and before adoption is approved, enthralled all present and has been much appreciated. Swapan Naskar discussed the issue of disclosure. The open forum, led by Anup Dewanji, Dipankar Patra and Prasun Ganguly, basically collected individual opinions and feedbacks from the participants with more spontaneous discussion.

The end had to come at around 5:00 PM with closing remarks by Sudipta Debnath and Anup Dewanji and thanks to each other.

According to the 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 organization 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. Special mention for the play-act session was the highlight of almost all the feedback.

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