

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting for Children

Date : 02nd March 2006, Thursday
Time : 5:00 pm to 6:45 pm
Venue : NCRC Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

The main agenda of this meeting was to discuss and finalise about the **ONE DAY PROGRAMME TO BE CONDUCTED FOR THE 10TH STANDARD STUDENTS**. Handbills for the event were ready – it was given to the NGOs for distribution to the targeted group. The banners were handed over to the respective NGOs.

- The event was scheduled on 26th February 2006 at Velankanni could not be held due to unexpected reluctance of the Church School administration in providing space.
- This has been very disappointing as the NGO in charge – PDA had taken lot of efforts in organizing the event but all in vain.

Nevertheless, the event will be held at Vedaranyam and Tharangambadi on 5th and 12th March 2006 respectively for encouraging the students to do their best in the forthcoming board exams.

- TMSSS, in charge for the event at Vedaranyam, has fixed the venue and made other necessary arrangements too.
- OfERR, which is in charge of the event in Tharangambadi anticipate nearly 300 students to take part and have volunteered to provide food for all the participants.
- The students will have to take care of commuting to the venue on their own. The venue is TLEC School, located very near the famous Tharangambadi Fort and the rent for the day would be Rs. 1200/- which will be paid from the Children's Corpus fund.

It was suggested that all the NGOs in the area should be invited for the event and students in every village – fishermen, agriculture, dalit or any other should be informed about the event.

- All the Children NGOs were requested to make their representatives and volunteers available on both the days (5th and 12th March 2006) to help conduct the event without any problem.
- TMSSS and OfERR were requested to ensure proper arrangement of tea and snacks so that no shortage complaints are faced.
- It was suggested that a bit of entertainment should also be part of the day so that the children are not exhausted at the end of the day.

- It was told that NEC faculties are experts and they will have their own tools and techniques to keep the students attentive as well as make them enjoy the session.

The next issue discussed was regarding the **PM'S CHILD ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION.**

- The college students who were helping TMSSS prepare the consolidated report, based on the data collected by NCRC's VIC coordinators, have got busy with preparations for their semester exams and hence the report is pending.
- On the other hand, Mr. Gerald, NCRC told that recently the **DEEO** had invited him for a **meeting and told that they are ready to provide the data that the NGOs require.**
- Also, the CEO of NCRC discovered, through the common meetings in Chennai, that no problem has occurred in any other district regarding the implementation of PM's schemes. The scheme is applicable to all tsunami affected children irrespective of whether they are studying in government school or matriculation and private schools.

At this point, a doubt was raised by one of the NGO regarding a statement in the scholarship scheme – it states that the scholarship is for those tsunami affected children whose parents have directly or indirectly lost their source of livelihood. In such a case, all tsunami affected need not be eligible for the scheme. Clarification on this shall be done with the district administration and thereby proceed with their consent.

Next issue was the **IGNORANCE OF GO # 33** by many schools and educational institutions. The waiver or exemption of fee for Tsunami affected students is not provided and due to the inability to pay fee, the students are suffering.

- SNEHA quoted true instances of students being sent out of classrooms, being punished cruelly for not paying the fee and how it has led to affect on children's health and many school drop outs.
- Despite the district collector's instructions to provide fee waiver to the genuine cases and warning to most of the heads of educational institutions against such acts, the scenario is not changing.
- Phoenix addressed similar problems being faced by college students – if at all waiver on fee is given, the students are told to join extra courses, which is mandatory in order to get the degree but the fee for which are quite high.
- **It was decided that after this meeting, the additional collector shall be met with regard to both the issues – GO # 33 and the PM's schemes – and how to implement them effectively.**

The NGOs were told to stop doing charity or favours for Government schools or institutions as they are taking NGOs' efforts for granted and not showing any mutual understanding also.

The final issue discussed in this meeting was regarding what shall be done by the NGOs for the **BETTERMENT OF THE ORPHANAGES IN THE DISTRICT.**

- A list from the Social Welfare Officer has been collected which reveals only 7 registered orphanages; SNEHA provided a list of nearly 14 orphanages based on their survey and records; Phoenix stated that there are more than 20 orphanages in the district and most of them are not in the official records.
- A discussion on this was carried out and based on each NGO's knowledge, the names and places of the orphanages were added to the present data (**Annexure B: List of Orphanages**).
- **NGOs feel that a rapid assessment-cum-study on the activities of the orphanages, its needs and drawbacks should be done** – it is felt that unwanted activities are going on in few orphanages in the name of innocent children. In order to unveil the truth in front of all, this study will be useful.
- It was therefore decided that few of the steering committee members shall visit few orphanages, accompanied by Ms. Dhanalakshmi of SNEHA on 06th March'2006, Monday.

The date for the next **WORKSHOP ON JUVENILE ACT AND PLANNING FOR SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN** was rescheduled as 21st March 2006 (Tuesday). Save the children has come forward to conduct the workshop along with NCRC.

- Mr. Krishna Kumar of AVVAI is willing to brief on the activities of their organization in Nagapattinam as a Child Helpline body. Hence, he shall be one of the resources persons at the workshop.
- Phoenix representative has initiated to bring a resource person from the Tanjore Juveniles Centre provided the date and time for the workshop is clearly fixed.
- It was decided that on 21st March, the workshop will be held between 9:00am to 2:30pm at Officer's Club, Nagapattinam and winded up with lunch for all.

At the end of the meeting, Phoenix stated that the NGO is ready to support the education of 50 school going orphans or semi orphans for one academic year. The NGOs were requested to identify the genuine cases (standard 1 to 12) from their work areas and inform Phoenix.

Annexure A: List of Participants

List of participants for the Steering Committee meeting at NCRC Office, Collectoraee, Nagapattinam on 02.03.2006 (Thursday)				
S. No.	Organisation	Name	Phone	E-mail
1.	OfERR	L. Priyanthan	98426-46103, 954364-289992	oferr-tranquebar@oferr.org
2.	OfERR	K. Naveenthran	99944-85302	oferr-tranquebar@oferr.org
3.	TMSSS	C. Santha Kumar	94431 88336	santhamsw@yahoo.com
4.	TMSSS	G.Anand Kumar	98656-60195	
5.	Good Shepherd	Sr. Mercy Joseph	98405 70122	
6.	Save the Children	S. Brisla	94441-48611	brislas@yahoo.com
8.	Save the Children	Prabhat Kumar	94444-05931	p.kumar@scfukindia.org
9.	Phoenix Federation	Ka. Seethalakshmi	98426 57963	phoenixnagai@sify.com
10.	SNEHA	S.M.Jenitharani	94438-85121	
11.	SNEHA	Dhanalakshmi.N	94438-85119	
12.	PDA	A. Poominathan	98435-64220	joepda@yahoo.com
13.	NCRC	Jerald	04365-252618, 252681	info.ncrc@gmail.com
14.	NCRC	Sangeetha V.Y.		info.ncrc@gmail.com

Annexure B: List of Orphanages in Nagapattinam

S.No	Name of the Orphanage	Place/Address
1.	<i>Name not available</i>	Alangadu, Sirkali Taluk, Vadakkal Post
2.	Divya Shanti	Vanagiri
3.	Maranada Siruvar Illam	Mani Gramam
4.	Annai Sathya (Govt.)	Sirkali
5.	Sarada Sakthi Pidam	Kotticherry
6.	Handicapped Children	Nehru Nagar, Karaikal
7.	Gypsi Child Home	Nehru Nagar, Karaikal
8.	Sathya Kapagam	Manjakollai, Nagai
9.	Joy Home	Poraiyar
10.	Gnana Poo Illam	Poraiyar
11.	Udavum Karangal (Helping Hands)	Velankanni
12.	Karunai Illam	Velankanni & Mani Gramam
13.	N.K.M.	Velankanni
14.	Anbagam	Mayiladurai
15.	Avvai	Vanagiri
16.	Annai Sathya Hostel	Karungani
17.	TLEC (Terrassa)	Tharangambadi
18.	Nambikai	Near St. Lourdu Church – Bon Secours
19.	Orphanage of Anthony Jairaj	Velankanni