

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting for Children

Date : 06.02.2006

Time : 05.00 pm – 07.00 pm

Venue : Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

With a view to taking a decision on helping the educational cause of poor children using the common fund sustained after the children's day celebration, the members of the steering committee came together for a meeting.

At the outset, the members had an evaluation of the workshop on the child rights and protection held in the last week of late January. The talks from the resource persons were well appreciated. The following suggestions were made:

- Many more NGOs could have come out to share their learning experience gained from the field
- Since there are difficulties in accessing mails in some places, the invitations for meeting/workshop to be sent directly in the inbox space, instead of sending it as attachments

NCRC representative initiated a discussion on furthering the Prime Minister's Child Assistance Scheme in to some plan of activities favouring the welfare of the children left out in the list. He also expressed concerns over not receiving the list of the missed out children on time. It was decided to get the list of the school children who suffer from livelihood losses due to tsunami, from the Village Information Centres (VIC) on or before 12th February and hand the report over to the Additional Collector enabling him to take a decision. The concern of the students studying in matriculation schools also would be taken to the attention of the Additional Collector. TMSS representative would get the help of MSW students to analyse and compile the information and present it in a CD. The Steering Committee would meet on 20th February to study the report.

Followed by this, discussion on using the remaining fund towards education of poor children took place. The proposal of helping the Children of *Boombumattukarars* came up. SNEHA representative was assigned to meet *Vanavil* in order to collect data and study the support need of these children before the next steering committee meeting.

The other possibility discussed was helping the skill development of the disabled children.

However, Phoenix Federation representative was asked to do a presentation on the same in the next workshop/meeting on children.

Helping the cause of the children facing public examination was identified as the major support. Many things were discussed like giving tuition, promoting the system of National Education Group (NEG) etc. But, making use of the proven educational software programme that gives the syllabus pictorial explanation in simplified method for the SSLC students was finalised. The programme would be launched in all the five tsunami affected taluks of Nagapattinam district. The following is the detail of the programme:

Date	Place
20.02.2006	Nagapattinam
26.02.2006	Vedaranyam
27.02.2006	Sirkali
05.03.2006	Thanrangampadi
06.03.2006	Keezhvelur

The screening of the programme in all the five taluks will be conducted in government schools with the permission and help of the CEO and the school authority respectively. Phoenix Federation representative would seek the permission of the CEO and collect the number of the students studying in SSLC in the district. The NCRC would send an invitation letter to all the schools for mobilising students for the programme. Phoenix Federation representative also would facilitate the availability of the educational software programme and two resource persons.

It was decided that the steering committee would meet again on 8th February to study the development. Followed by the discussion NCRC representative told the members of the committee the three main issues the NGOs working for children in the district would concentrate in the current year. They are:

1. Education
2. Malnutrition
3. orphans

It was decided to approach *Sevai* to get the list of orphanages in the district. NCRC representative would follow it up. The possibility of visiting orphanages with a view to improving the standard of living of the children would be studied in the near future. After this discussion the meeting was dispersed.

Recap of the major decisions taken in the meeting

- The steering committee will meet the Additional Collector after compiling the information on the children left out under the Prime Minister's Child Assistance Scheme. Phoenix Federation representative would get the help of MSW students to analyse and compile the information and present it in CD
- SNEHA representative was assigned to meet *Vanavil* in order to collect data and study the support need of these children before the next steering committee meeting
- Phoenix Federation representative was asked to do a presentation on skill development of the disabled children in the next workshop/meeting on children.
- The screening of the educational software for students writing SSLC public examination will be done in all the five taluks of the district. The following is the detail:

Date	Place
20.02.2006	Nagapattinam
26.02.2006	Vedaranyam
27.02.2006	Sirkali
05.03.2006	Thanrangampadi
06.03.2006	Keezhvelur

- Phoenix Federation representative would seek the permission of the CEO and collect the number of the students studying SSLC in the district. She would also facilitate the availability of the educational software programme and two resource persons.
- Education, malnutrition and concerns of the orphans are to be concentrated in the current year by the NGOs working in the district

Annexure: List of Participants

*List of participants for the Steering Committee meeting at Front Office in Collectoraee,
Nagapattinam on 06.02.2006*

S. No.	Organisation	Name	Phone	E-mail
1.	TMSSS	C. Santha Kumar	94431 88336	
2.	Good Shepherd	Sr. Mercy Joseph	98405 70122	
3.	Karunya Karya Trust	R.Anandan	93801 54321	ranandan2004@rediffmail.com
4.	Phoenix Federation	Ka. Seethalakshmi	98426 57963	phoenixnagai@sify.com
5.	Karunya Karya Trust	J.S.Raja	98413 89810	jsraja25@yahoo.com
6.	Peace Trust	S. Raja	98657 72766	peacetrust@vsnl.com
7.	Sneha	N. Dhanalakshmi	94438 85119	
8.	NCRC	Jerald		
9.	NCRC	Buruslin Mento		