

## Minutes of Core Group Meeting for Children

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
**Time:** 3.30 PM to 5.30 PM  
**Venue:** No.313, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.

### AGENDA

- ☐ Welcome Address
- ☐ Confirmation of previous meeting's minutes
- ☐ Feed back on the workshop on care of the tsunami affected children - issues and concern
- ☐ Cuddalore workshop details
- ☐ Core group way ahead
- ☐ Children's day celebration planning

### **Annexure 1 - Participant List**

#### **1. Welcome Address**

The meeting commenced by officially welcoming the participants and the children by Mr. Jerald core group member and NCRC – Children Sector Head. The participants included representatives from 6 NGOs and 4 Children. He also explained to the kids the purpose of this meeting.

#### **2. Confirmation of previous meeting's minutes**

A copy of the previous core group's meetings minutes was distributed and the participants were asked to give their approval. Ms. Dhanalakshmi of SNEHA asked regarding the Natrajan Damyanthi School's problem, the other members explained that, World vision had given uniforms for the students of the Natrajan Damyanthi, the students report that the school told them that they would give them the uniform once they pay the school fees. Thus the core group members enquired to Word Vision who in reply said that they had distributed the uniform to the students directly by December 2005 and they have got the students signature when they received the uniforms. The core group suggested them why don't they go to the school and ask if they can wear the

uniforms on a particular day stating the donors are coming, so that we will know if the children have received or not. But world vision had not taken any further steps so the core group decided not to follow this up.

One of the children named Vinithra was also from the same school so when she was asked if she had got any uniform she told that she did not get any uniform.

Ms.Dhanalakshmi of SNEHA told that most of the Head Masters and Mistress's are not aware for the Government Orders issued so far.

**Mr. Jerald informed that they have written letters to the Chief Educational Officer and the D.E.O.**

### **3.Feed back on the workshop on 'care of the tsunami affected children – issues and concern'**

Ms.Malar of CREATE was asked to share her views and learning from the workshop, she said that in Vedaranyam there are not many children home, so she learnt about the functioning of home and also about the Juvenile Justice Act 2000. She said the group discussion really provided a good sharing platform.

Sister Mercy from Good Shepherd said many draw backs were pin pointed which is good because it will be rectified in our way ahead. She also emphasised that the drawback which were pointed out has to be followed up. Child protection committee has been formed at panchayat level in the district thus we have to check in the panchayats and monitor what are their activities and learn there functions. She pointed out that even a child welfare committee has to be formed.

Ms.Dhanam said even though they were aware of the JJ Act, thus we should bring awareness for those people who are in the homes, the staffs and also the community so that we make sure that they know that child care is the right of the child. We should further study if the child protection committee are functioning properly if not we should see to that it functions properly.

She further emphasised the committee should be functioning in Nagapattinam instead of Mayiladuthurai. Also to communicate to the guardians in case they are not able to take care of the children they can as well be sent to the children's home

Ms.Malar of CREATE also explained that there should not be any exclusions and we should not confine orphan or semi orphan only to those who lost their parent/s in tsunami but also other children.

Mr. Jerald from NCRC told that they have to take the inputs of the workshop further. For the guideline that has been prepared by the Core Group, he said that further assistance has been sought from Ms. Girija Kumarababu for finalizing the same.

He further told that the children (orphans and semi orphans) who are in the community so as to identify the guardians and help them to get assistance (fund) to support the foster children as told by Ms. Girija Kumarababu in the workshop.

### Discussion Points

1. To conduct a survey in the district level on orphans and single parent children
2. Ms. Dhanam of SNEHA told that they are at present working with around 40 villages, so they would initiate collecting these details.
3. REAL Mr. Arivu also told that REAL is also working in and around 20 villages and they would also be able to collect similar such information.
4. CREATE also accepted to do the same exercise in 10 villages where in they work.
5. It was suggested that the areas should not over lap with each other, thus area of survey has to be worked out clearly and circulated.
6. A format to be developed so that all the different groups collect the same information and doesn't leave any important information.
7. The format to mainly contain the Name of the Child, age, gender, details of the guardian and the details (address, relationship, income) of them, etc.
8. To develop a format as quickly as possible and to carry out the study as soon as possible.
9. The Child protection committee for the Nagapattinam district is in Mayiladuthurai and stress was laid on the involvement of the NGOs for the next committee which will be formed shortly.
10. The district welfare committee to be formed at village and panchayat level too by the Child protection committee.
11. To identify the panchayat level committee through the Block development officer or through the panchayat members themselves.
12. To go and learn their functions and check for the gap once the list is obtained from the officers.
13. To get information in panchayat level in the format as name of the panchayat, number of villages, roles and responsibilities of the group, contact details, members of the group, etc.
14. Even important sectors like health, watch dog committee all has to be found out and other functions related to children can be known from some former Panchayat Leaders.
15. To have training at block level in orienting about the JJ Act and these members can also be a part of it.

#### **4. Cuddalore workshop details**

Mr. Jerald of NCRC shared his experience about the presentation he made about the children core group in Cuddalore on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2006.

- The evolution of the core group, how it formed and the role – functions of the core group.
- The Cuddalore resource center is viewing the Nagapatinam Children's core group as a model.
- In Cuddalore, there are totally 5 NGOs who work for the children and they would be forming a core group together.

#### **5. Core group way ahead**

Mr. Jerald of NCRC told the members that other district resource centres look the core group as a model and thus lot of responsibilities vest on the core group. He said, in this context we have to discuss in detail how to carry this set up forward.

Mr. Arivu from REAL told that this is an important issue and only when all the members are present we can talk – discuss about it. So the members discussed and decided that a separate meeting to be organised on the following and all the core group members to attend the meeting and to take a decision on it. They further emphasised that the member who don't attend that would be taken\* out from the core group.

Further they planned to send a circular and also to call all the members and communicate the same.

They decided to meet by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 in the Roof top hall in NCRC and to have a whole day discussion.

#### **6. Children's day celebration planning**

Children's day planning meeting which had taken place in different taluks were asked to share their experience.

##### Vedaranyam

Around 13 NGOs would organise it jointly. The venue is yet to be fixed. They are expecting around 1500 children and 100 volunteers. The budget which they have drawn comes up to Rs. 60000, except for the NGO – FACE who have accepted to give Rs.5000 others have not told how much they would be contributing. Around 25 members had participated in the planning meeting.

##### Sirkali

The Sirkali cluster is planning to concentrate on school drop outs. They are planning to have a seminar and ask children working to share their views and experience. They are finding collecting fund as a problem. They have planned to have the celebration on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2006.

#### Nagapattinam

NGOs in Nagapattinam held four planning meetings for celebrating children's day. 13 NGOs will jointly organize the function. 750 children are expected to attend the function. The NGO Avvai will take the lead. Rs. 30,000 has been mobilized for this.

#### Action

S.No.	Task	Assigned to
1	Village level format to identify the semi/ orphan living in the community	
2	Foster Care Assistance details	
3	Guidelines finalization	
4	CPC formation and identification at Panchayat level	
5	Core group planning meeting on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2006	

## ANNEXURE 1

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Name of the Person</u>
1	TMSSS	K.Kavitha
2	SNEHA	Dhanalakshmi
3	REAL plan	Arivu Mani
4	SNEHA	Kalvi
5	Create – Vedaranyam	Malar Vizhi
6	Good Shepherd	Sr.Mercy
7	Phoenix federation	S.Vimal kumar T.Ramanujam

### Children Participation

1. R.Priyatharshini
2. P.Prabhakaran
3. S.Sugumaran
4. D.Vinithra