

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Child Secretariat - Nagapattinam

Opening:

The regular Executive Committee meeting of the Child Secretariat was held on 14th day of June at 11 A.M at CSt. office. Sr. Mercy, the President of Cst officially welcomed all the members and a special welcome was given to the new executive board member Mr. Raja from Psycho Trust.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting was presented by the secretary and it was unanimously approved by all the members.

2. Announcements

Mr. Jerald informed about the steering committee meeting and the consultative workshop with the key people involved in running the residential care centers which are scheduled to be conducted on 27th June. The members suggested that it would be better to have the workshop separately on another day may be prior to the steering committee meeting.

3. Educational Assistance from Sri Ram Social Welfare Trust:

Mr. Jerald said that the amount Rs. 37, 970/ given by Sri Ram Social Welfare Trust has been spent for 54 children for their uniforms, note books and school bags. The members felt that effective monitoring has to be done to see the educational process of these children.

4. Educational Help from Boomika Trust:

The secretary has informed that due to lack of proper monitoring mechanism, Boomika Trust is trying to divert the amount through their partner NGOs and not through CSt. Suggestion came that the CSt can collect the partner NGO's name and the contact number and that can be given to the children ,so that they can get the help from them.

5. Children Meeting with Govt. Departments:

An evaluation was conducted about the meeting organized for the children under child headed house holds with the concerned departments at DMI Children's home on 12th June. Around 27 children from various parts of Nagapattinam attended the meeting. The following were the key points-

- ❖ The government officials explained different schemes, and trying to accommodate these deserving children under various schemes.
- ❖ Ms. Anbalagi, DSW has encouraged the children to join in Government hostels. But it's not favorable for all the children to stay in the Government Hostels.
- ❖ Mr. Kandasamy – the DRO performed an excellent role to stimulate the children for their better future.
- ❖ There was a feeling that Government officials have the knowledge about only the schemes and they were not in a position to counsel the children.
- ❖ CSt. must take steps to implement foster care support to these vulnerable children.
- ❖ It was an occasion for the children to come to know various schemes that are available with govt. departments and it gave them a motivation to verbalize their needs to the concerned departments
- ❖ A booklet containing different government schemes can be published and made available to the children.

6. Study Report on the Child Headed Households:

Mr. Jerald has informed that the study report on Child Headed Households are ready and the report has been handed over to the Collector for the steering committee meeting. He also mentioned that there are 221 children identified under this category. The future follow up action of CSt. was discussed -.

- A state level meeting can be organized with the support of Save the Children to disseminate the study report to the wider stakeholders. Some corporate companies and I/ NGOs can be invited for the meeting, so that the issues of these children can be heard by many. Mr. Ashok was given the responsibility to write a proposal to save the Children regarding this.
- Financial assistance can be asked to save the children to protect the well beings of these children.
- The list of children can be made available to Save the Children so that they can provide support to these children through their partner NGOs.
- CSt. can organize an open day for these children where all the departments, NGOs and these children can come together. It will be an occasion for the children to raise their concerns to the departments as well as to the NGOs.

7. Visiting the govt. run hostels:

As per the direction given by the previous collector, the CSt will visit the govt. run hostels in the month of July. A prescribed format will be prepared by Mr. Jerald to make this visit more meaningful.

8. Home visit done by Psycho Trust:

Mr. Raja from Psycho Trust explained his experience in visiting the residential care centers along with Dr. Shalini. He also mentioned that the staff members of the organization will visit these homes periodically before the doctor comes for the monthly visit. We hope that these kinds of visits will help the children to lead a better life at these centers.

9. Other issues:

- ◆ All the members raised their serious concerns regarding the financial position of the Cst. Lots of efforts have to be taken through organizing various programmes, meeting the corporate companies, and approaching the International NGOs.
- ◆ Creating a website is very much essential for the Cst to reach out to the external world.
- ◆ Publishing e-news letter by way of collecting and disseminating the news paper clippings on children issues can be thought of.
- ◆ Steps will be taken by the secretary to renew the society registration within the stipulated time.
- ◆ CSt. must be cautious in extending the membership to other people. The people who are really interested in the welfare of the children can be considered as members.
- ◆ Sr. Mercy, the president has informed that she is transferred from Nagapattinam. But she has given the assurance that she will be available for all the executive committee meetings and all the related activities of CSt.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 02.30 PM. The next Executive committee meeting will be on 12th day of July, 08.

The following members attended the meeting-

**Sr. Mercy Joseph
Mr. Jerald
Mr. Iyappan
Mr. Ashok
Mr. Raja Antony
Sr. Kala (Observer)**
