

## **Report of the Meeting on Child Care and Protection**

*Venue: Collectorate DRDA Hall*

*Date: 16/02/2005 4 pm*

*Moderators: Mr.Mohan John Farrar (CCCYC) and  
Mr.Vinayraj (NGO Coordination Centre)*

### **Introduction**

The future of children, one of the most vulnerable groups affected by tsunami is inviting apprehensions from many sides. As divergent approaches only add the miseries of the poor helpless children, a consensus on child protection and welfare among the NGOs working in the rehabilitation phase is highly desirable. In this context, the meeting focused on the real issues children are facing in connection with the tsunami devastation, and the content of the policy framework regarding the child protection in order to pursuing the government machinery to take necessary actions and follow-ups to take care of the children in the tsunami affected areas.

### **The Issue of Vulnerability of Children**

There is every possibility of the children being abused in different ways. The existing situation may wither them away from schooling, increases the chances of child trafficking and child labour and will certainly create an unfavorable environment where their rights being grabbed away. In this situation there are different approaches one can choose to rehabilitate them.

### **Adoption of Children**

Participant NGOs unanimously expressed concern over the adoption issue and demanded further clarity on the G.O regarding the adoption of children in tsunami affected areas. The issue of adoption should not be taken as an option for the rehabilitation of children. As far as possible they should be in their own community and village where they could find their own emotional fulfillment.

### **Setting up of Child Care Centers**

There is a gap in availability of data regarding the child care centers in shelters. There should be a standard level regarding the functioning of these centers. The following facilities should be available for the children in the child care centers:

- Periodical Health Checkup
- Periodical Trauma Counseling
- Provision of Supplementary feeding to the children
- Child-friendly water and sanitation facilities
- Adequate space and play materials for the children
- Trained and qualified people to take care of children

### **Policy Approach and Future Plan**

There should be a policy level approach to give proper direction to the child protection and welfare initiatives. This need proper information, situation analysis and vision and demand concrete suggestions from the NGOs who are actively involving in this field. It was decided to form an interim committee, incorporating NGOs who intending to work in the area for a longer period (3 years) to give shape to the policy level approach and plan the future interventions. List of interim committee members is attached as annexure 1.

It was decided that the interim committee members will meet on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb'05 at the NGO Co-ordination Centre to discuss the policy level approach, to form the permanent committee and the agenda for the next meeting of the larger groups.

**Annexure 1**  
**List of Interim Committee Members**

S.No	Name	Organization	Contact No. and E-mail
1.	Mohan John Farrar	CCCYC	09362610017 <a href="mailto:mohanfarrar@yahoo.com">mohanfarrar@yahoo.com</a>
2.	Ayyappan	SAVE	9443498489
3.	Seethalaxmi.Ka	REAL	9842657936 <a href="mailto:Seethalakshmika@sify.com">Seethalakshmika@sify.com</a> , <a href="mailto:real@md4.vsnl.net.in">real@md4.vsnl.net.in</a>
4.	Christopher Chellappa	Karunakarya	93801 34563 <a href="mailto:info@karunakarya.org">info@karunakarya.org</a>
5.	Soundarrajan	Bharathamatha foundation	04369-223084 94439 74242
6.	Senthil Kumar	SWF	04369-220029 98423 91806
7.	V.Ramalingam	SEVAI	04368-265566
8.	Visuvasam	SIMCODESS	0451-2453748 92454 08720 <a href="mailto:simcodess@sancharnet.in">simcodess@sancharnet.in</a>
9.	James Victor	SERENE	0451-2550087 93443 03129 <a href="mailto:Juliet_avila@rediffmail.com">Juliet_avila@rediffmail.com</a>
10.	M.Gnanavalli	DWCDS	93440 11098
11.	S.Pumarselvam	ICF	04369-220256 98424 66248
12.	Nithya	PCI	093606 01278
13.	Saravanan	SVCA	04369-202099
14.	Manivannan	SVT	04369-221220
15.	Suseela	APMA	04369-224446
16.	Raja	PEACE	98657 72766 <a href="mailto:peacetrust@vsnl.com">peacetrust@vsnl.com</a>
17.	Muruganantham	ROSE	98424 19449
18.	Jagadeesan	PHA	98423 918006
19.	Kalavathy	SEVAI	
20.	Relton Samuel	World Vision	241479 04437 12736
21.	Baskaran	RPRDS	04366-247938