

Children Core Group Meeting with government officers

Date : 16.05.2006

Time : 04.30 pm – 06.00 pm

Venue : Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Agenda

1. To sketch plans to minimize the drop outs of children in school
2. To increase enrollment of students in schools in the beginning of academic year

The meeting was attended by the NGOs forming the core group committee for children, community organizers and institutions involved in education and the district educational officers. Mr. Godson of UNICEF explained the initiatives taken by NCRC and UNICEF on the same line last year. He also added that we could always do it better by taking the experience of the previous year as well as considering the willingness of the NGOs to contribute their best for the cause.

Following were the suggestions/outcome of the discussion:

- * Children above five years of age should be targeted for campaign to be admitted in school
- * Measures should be taken to ensure children below 14 not to drop out from schools; for the physically challenged it could be 18 years
- * Mapping child labour activities in the district
- * The campaign has to be done in the months of May and June
- * NGOs to bring out gross root level problems of children in the villages
- * All the NGOs working for children have to be accommodated in the campaign for enrollment
- * Finding out the reasons for drop outs. In the discussion, few reasons also were sighted like the seasonal employment opportunities that reduce interests in children to go to school and attainment of puberty keeping the girl child away from school especially among Muslim community
- * Finding out transport facilities available to the school children and the proximity of school from the temporary shelters
- * Finding out the difficulties involved in the up gradation process like moving to middle school from the primary
- * Sample study of poor children have to done with the view to finding out if that affects their education
- * Quality in education, especially in teaching has to be ensured for children not to loose interest in schooling

- * NGOs and volunteers to hold interactions with teachers to identify specific problems of the students

In order to take up a collective campaign by the educational department and the NGOs, it was decided to prepare an action plan to campaign in taluk as well as block wise. Suggestion to open up more residential schools in the district was also put forth. However, the idea was rejected as the residential schools were not for the regular students but for the drop outs and that the residential schools are allotted according to the number of drop outs in the district not wise versa.

It was decided to meet the Additional Collector in a span of a week with the action plan for the campaign.

Annexure: List of the participants

CHILDREN CORE GROUP

Meeting on 16.05.2006 at NCRC Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.

| Sl. No | Village/ Organization | Name of the Person | Phone/Mobile | E-mail |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Asst. Ely. Ednl. officer | N. Shanmuagam | 94425 18421 | - |
| 2. | WB - ICDS | N. Marimuthu | 94431 10954 | |
| 3. | SNEHA | B. Kavitha | 98421 54802 | - |
| 4. | NYK | N. Jayaraman | 98435 68604 | - |
| 5. | GOOD SHEPHERD | Sr. Mercy Joseph | 98405 70122 | srmercy_ngt@sancharnet.in |
| 6. | Dist. Ely. Ednl. officer | N. Balasubramanian | 99422 57702 | - |
| 7. | Every Child | T. Prabhu | 98654 83336 | prabhuyogi@gmail.com |
| 8. | LCPN | S. Ashok Kumar | 98651 70411 | Vedha_maharajn@yahoo.co.in |
| 9. | UNICEF | Dr. Godson Mohandoss | 98424 55664 | mgodsen@rediffmail.com |
| 10. | UNICEF | S. Kannayiram | 94440 11098 | skannayiram@yahoo.co.in |