

Minutes of Children Core Group Meeting

Date : 19.04.2006

Time : 04.40 pm – 06.30 pm

Venue : Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Mr Jerald welcomed all the participants, especially the new comers to the meeting. The agenda of the meeting was to hold exclusive discussion on organising the children parliament. Mr. Kannayiram from UNICEF was also present for the meeting. As *Arockiamatha Kalyana Mandapam* at Puthur, the venue decided in the previous meeting for the programme was not available on the 29th of April, it has been decided to change the venue to either GVR Marriage Hall or Sivasakthi Marriage Hall depending on the availability. It has also been decided to combine the Anti-Child Labour Day with the Children Parliament and hold functions together on 29th April.

As the election manifesto has been already prepared by the parties, the participants were in favour of holding another Children Parliament after the announcement of the election results, inviting the winning candidate to listen to the issues of children.

Issues of children identified by NGOs

All, except Phoenix Federation had brought the rough draft of the issues identified in their respective fields. Although, the consolidated draft did not emerge, the following were reported as the major issues:

- Implementation of GO33
- Uniforms to be given more in number and in time
- Better and clean preparation of free lunch at school
- Vacant positions of teachers to be filled
- Better transport facility during school hours
- Temporary shelter environment not convenient for adolescent girl children to get ready and go to school in time
- Better toilet facilities in school
- Free compulsory education to be given for all children up to 12th standard
- Scholarship to be given to all children
- Special coaching classes for Hindi and English and intensive classes for weaker students
- Career support to be given to adults and qualified professionals to support education of their siblings

- Special provisions to be implemented for nutritious food for children
- Better drinking water, sanitation, medication and electricity facilities to be provided
- Career guidance and information on education and government schemes to be disseminated
- Children to be provided with play materials
- Computer literacy for all students
- Caning and misusing children's service under the ground of caste to be stopped
- Programmes for drop-out children to rejoin schools to be arranged
- Children committee to be formed to address their own problems
- Effective regularization of foot wear and note book schemes
- Medical camps in schools and summer camps in villages
- Efforts to be taken to tell children about child rights
- Elderly parents with children to be given monetary benefits to support education of their children
- Child marriage to be abolished
- Movement to stop trafficking of children
- Counselling to parents
- 'Children Safety Week' to be organised
- Every hospital to host a psychiatrist
- All the disabled to go in to the list of GO33
- Better job opportunities for the disabled
- Free care and education for orphaned and semi-orphaned children
- Better facilities in day care centres
- Information centres to be made available to children in all the taluks
- Schools to emulate disabled-friendly infrastructures
- Libraries to be made available for children in every village and school
- Allowing all the children to write public examinations

A drafting committee has been formed to consolidate and come out with final draft incorporating all the above said points. All the members of the data collection team are also the members of the committee with the inclusion of Mr. Kannayiram and Mr. Jerald. The drafting committee would meet on 21st April for the same. In order to share the idea and involve the other NGOs in the children parliament programme, a meeting of all the NGOs working for children in the district would be organized on the 24th April at 3 pm in Officers' Club, Nagapattinam.

Annexure: List of the participants

CHILDREN CORE GROUP

Meeting on 19.04.2006 at NCRC Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.

Sl. No	Village/ Organization	Name of the Person	Phone/Mobile	E-mail
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