

Introducing Child Secretariat – Meeting Minutes

Date: 19 /06 /07
Collectorate

Venue: Mini Conference Hall,

Minutes of the Child Secretariat Meeting with Collector and District Officials

1. Welcoming the Participants:

The meeting started off with the district collector Tenkasi.S.Jawahar welcoming everybody. He said that this initiative is first of its kind in Tamil nadu and applauded the NGOs who've initiated such an effort along with the NCRC. "I congratulate all of you and assure you of the district administration's continued support." were his opening words.

Then the welcome address was given by Mr. Ashok, Joint Secretary of CSt and Project manager of LCI. In his welcome speech he mentioned that it's a dream comes true for the NGOs to work along with government agencies and assured the collector that together it would be a grand success for the cause of the children. He welcomed all officials from the education department, and the nodal officer for CSt, the DRO-(R&R) Shri.K.S.Kandasamy.

The collector then added that CSt is a shining example of NGO-Govt. Co-operation and expressed his happiness towards the education department being present in full force.

2. Introducing the Child Secretariat:

Mr. Jerald, the secretary of CSt then gave a presentation to the gathering about the CSt. Starting from the history of the Children's core group which evolved out of the common children's day event organized by all NGOs working with children, the presentation extensively talked about the vision, mission and the objectives of the CSt and the strategy with which these aims would be achieved. He also explained the role of different departments in the CSt. This CSt will be Chaired by the District Collector and the responsible people from various departments become the members of the Steering Committee in the Children development unit.

3. Discussion:

In the time set out for discussion, a representative from NIMHANS pointed out the lack of services for special children in Nagapattinam government hospitals.

Responding to discussions and adding from experience Mr.Kannayiram, consultant UNICEF pointed out that many mechanisms to protect the rights of children do exist and the need is to make these function properly. He also pointed out the need to regularize NGOs by registering them under the JJ Act. In many instances the NGOs do not divulge details of the children they serve, which might in some cases lead to trafficking and this should be monitored by the CSt. He also suggested that resource directory about the available services

in the NGO sector, exposes of nouveau child right violations like the sumangali thittam prevalent in some parts of Nagapattinam. He also suggested that a net work of NGO working in Thirupoor can be considered, so that they will take care of the children who goes there for work.

Ms.Revathi of Vanavil suggested that the police department be also proactive in preventing begging activities in bus stands and places of Worship.

The District superintendent of police Ms.Kalpana Nayak said that this CSt is a commendable initiative taken by the NGOs for the first time in Tamil nadu. She also assured the NGOs of total support from the police department in any child rights abuse issue.

The collector remarked that the meeting had a good presence and that many issues came up in the discussion which would be kept in mind in the functioning of the CSt. “Lot of talk is done about the children as our future. But no one cares about their present life. Unless we create a better present for them we can’t have any future” with these concluding words the collector asked all members of the district administration to work towards the goals of Cst.

4. Vote of thanks:

The formal vote of thanks was given by Sr.Mercy, the president of the CSt in which she recalled all the times when the official has come to co-operate with the NGOs in the district and said a special thanks to the collector for accepting to be the ex-officio chairperson of the CSt steering committee with warmth and willingness. With that the meeting came to an end.

Annex

List of Participants

Enclosed as a Excel Document