

Report of the Meeting on Child Care and Protection

Venue: The Terrace, Collectorate

Date: 22/02/2005 4 pm

Moderator: Seethalakshmi (REAL)

Introduction

This was a meeting of the interim committee members formed in the previous meeting.

The agenda for this meeting was to formulate policies/mechanisms to:

1. generate a data bank of Tsunami-affected children
2. Make a training manual/policy
3. Training of field staff as well as NGO staff involved in child care.
4. Prevention of Child Trafficking
5. Prevention of community labour system (wherein fishermen encourage their wives & children to work for wages.)

Mr. Ayyappan (SAVE) shared a survey form being used presently by Government officials to obtain data about the affected children. This survey is supposed to focus on childrens' education. The form asked for details such as religion/caste of the child. All the members unanimously agreed that such details are irrelevant when it comes to educational & religion should not be a factor.

Data Bank Generation:

The members formulated the following action plan to get a data bank of tsunami-affected children.

- Get a list of educational institutions (such as schools, colleges, polytechnic, ITI, nurse training centers etc) within 5 kms of sea shore.
- Conduct institutional-level counseling programs for the students.
- SAVE has offered to collect the required data for Sirkali Taluk.
- PEACE has offered to collect the required data for Vedaranyam Taluk.
- Other committee members who are interested in collecting relevant information for the remaining taluks must get in touch with Seethalakshmi.

Training manual/policy and training of field staff:

The following organizations will handle this responsibility:

SAVE

IAHV

REAL

PEACE

Karunakarya

They will collate relevant information on child care training and come up with a suitable training policy shortly.

Karunakarya explained that their non-formal education system for school drop-outs conducted between 9:30 am to 12:30 am in Kallar was proving to be successful.

Child trafficking & community labour system:

The most effective way to deal with this would be to educate the respective communities by means of awareness programs.

The committee will be meeting again on 2nd March at 4 PM at the terrace.

Annexure I

List of organizations who attended the meeting on Child Care & Protection on Feb 22, 2005, 4 PM at The Terrace, Collectorate

S.No	Name	Organization	Contact No. and E-mail
1.	Mr. Umakanth (rep: Mr. Ananda Yogi)	Sai Prem Mission	04365-249122
2.	N Palanichamy	HOPE, Dindigul	9443675048 npchamy@yahoo.co.in
3.	A. Aloysius G. Ayyappan	SAVE, Tirupur	9842213011 9443498489 0451-3090752 save@md4.vsnl.net.in
4.	P. Arul Dass (rep: Christopher Chellappa)	Karunakarya	093801 34563 9842841152 info@karunakarya.org
5.	Seethalakshmi (rep: Roche)	REAL	9842657963 9443874247 seethalaksmika@sify.com real@md4.vsnl.net.in
6.	S. Raja	PEACE	9865772766
7.	Manu	IAHV (Art of Living)	9865511339
8.	Kumaran	HOPE	