

Follow up block level Meeting



Dated: 24th June 2005

Venue: 313, District Collectorate

As decided by the Child Focus meeting on education held on 14th the block level meeting of the four blocks namely Nagapattinam, keelaiyur, thalanaiyur and vedaranyam took place on 24th June at 313, District Collectorate. District Elementary Education Officer, AEEOs and NGOs from the four blocks participated. The meeting was organized jointly by Unicef, Nagapattinam and NCRC.

At the outset the Mr. Ajai of NCRC gave the introduction and summed up the outcomes of the last meeting. He also pointed Unicef and NCRC along with other NGOs wanted block level meetings so as to facilitate dissemination of information as well as scope for micro-planning.

A list of the NGOs working in the four blocks was enlisted in order to involve them in the forth coming school enrolment campaign. Accordingly the following NGOs were working in the respective block:

NGOs working in Nagapattinam Block:

1. Peace Trust
2. Karunakarya
3. CCS
4. Avvai
5. Sneha
6. TMSS
7. REAL

8. World Vision
9. Kudumbam
- 10.

Keelaiyur

1. .Peace Trust
2. Gramodaya
3. Sneha
4. PDA
5. TMSS
6. Sevalaya

Vedaranyar

1. HRDL
2. Gramodaya
3. Create
4. Face

Thalainaiyur

1. DPH
2. Peace Trust
3. Gramodaya
4. Sneha
5. TMSS
6. PDA

The issue which came up was the problem of survey which is done by both government and NGOs. Therefore a common consensus that emerged was a need for a coordinated effort. The survey by district authorities as well as the alternate survey by NGOs can be compared and action taken to enroll all the students either in school or bridge courses.

The DEEO Mr. Paneerselvam pointed out that SSA will help in enrolling and setting up the Bridge schools who are dropped out. He wanted the NGOs to carry out survey by which it can supplement the on going efforts of the district school authorities. In addition the DEEO informed that if any area has a non-enrolled children's population of more than 15 SSA can start a bridge school. Moreover he talked about the detailed survey by district authorities in the Village Education Register.

One of the important issues raised in the meeting other than the survey is issue of fees.

Ms. Jenny of World Vision highlighted the issue of school authorities forcing the parents to go NGOs if they are unable to pay the fees.

This point was supported by Mr. Fr. Antony Raj who pointed the exorbitant high fees in high and higher secondary schools.

The DEEO replied that all Government and aided schools cannot ask fees but only the nursery and self finance schools do this. Therefore he wanted a evidence complaint to take action against the errant school authorities.



When the meeting was digressing to include other broader issues Unicef District Consultant Mr. Godsen Mohandoss, intervenred and brought back to course too focus on enrolment and related issues already discussed in order to derive concrete results.

The meeting agreed on the following conclusion:

- i) DEEO assured that he will share the intermediate results of the survey which will be carried out.
- ii) The DEEO will issue a circular to all schools to enlist the children who are affected by tsunami.
- iii) Sharing of alternate reports of NGOs to district authorities.

The meeting ended with a positive note to meet finally on the first week of July to decide the areas, methods and dates for the campaign.

Participants list:

Sl. No	Name	Organisattion	Ph. No.	Email.
1.	Sarangapani	Gramodaya	04332-267749 9842460630 9842460540	gramodaya@satyam.net.in
2.	S. Raja	Peace Trust	04365-242866 9865772766	peacetrust@vsnl.com

3.	A. Moovendan	SKAVNS	04364-271060 9443161090	skavns@yahoo.co.in
4.	R. Anandan	Karunakarya	9843544109	ranandan2004@rediffmail.com
5.	Arul Doss	Karunakarya		
6.	R. Ramalingam	Rejuvenate India Movement	9444382062	
7.	K. Jayarathan	CCF	263059	jayarathan2002@yahoo.com
8.	Ajai	NCRC	9842902781	ajaijacob77@rediffmail.com
9.	Louis	Save the Children	9444421819	s.joseph@scfukindia.org
10.	Ruth Gamston	HRFDL	9842643386	elevatethepoor@yahoo.com
11.	L. John	HRFDL	04364251216	vasravi@yahoo.com
12.	Godsen	UNICEF		mgodsen@rediffmail.com
13.	G. Sivaprakasan	AEE0, Vedaranyam	225991	
14.	R. Balasubraman	AAEEO, Thalaiyur	252858	
15.	P. Kumar	AEE0 Thalainairu	9443265043	
16.	G. Nagarajan	AEE0	9842365256	
17.	Fr. Anthony	TMSS	9443350270	
18.	Jesitha	Kudumbam	9362711954	
19.	Jenny	World Vision	9443712751	jennyprem@yahoo.com

Second Block level meeting

On the 27th of June, at the Sembanarkoil Elementary school, a follow-up block level meeting on school enrolment campaign was held in which Officials and NGOs from senbaranar koil, kollidam and sirkali participated. During this meeting, the following persons were present.

1. S. Jesudass, OFFER
2. Mr. Vansanth , Action Aid,
3. L. John paulose HRFDL
4. C. Peter Devanesan, HRFDL
5. R. Ramalingam, RIM
6. D. Ganesan, AAEE0, Kollidam
7. S. Paulraj, AEE0, Sembarkoil

8. C. Kanagaraj, AAEEEO, Sembanarkoil.

Mr. D. Ganesan expressed grave concern that children are unwilling to go school in Palayar, which is very closer to sea. The parents are also not interested to send their children to that school. They want a temporary school in the temporary shelter. In case any NGO come forward to establish a temporary school, the AEEEO said, he can depute two teachers. The HRFDL responded that the matter will be negotiated with few funding bodies if we could find proper funding, the HRFDL will construct a temporary school. Only few NGO representations and not all the AEEEO attended, the meeting was ended with the idea of drawing a proper plan of action in the forthcoming final enrolment meeting.