

Report on Meeting with Maharashtra Govt by Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR

Venue: Office of Principal Secretary, DWCD, Govt. of Maharashtra

Date: August 8, 2011.

Time: 12 Noon to 1.30 pm.

Agenda: To discuss about rights of migrant children and policy on street children. We also propose to discuss promoting research and advocacy on child rights and matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and to find out appropriate remedial measures.

Discussion during the meeting:

A presentation was made on the situation of children in Maharashtra and the programs implemented by the state, and a hard copy of the same was given to Dr.Dube.

The discussion was around the following topics:

Issue	Programs implemented	Recommendations of Dr. Dube
Child Labour (CL) , Street Children	<p>State Govt. was quite concerned about the issue, and the Chief Sec., GoM himself had called several meetings to address it, by trying to involve different Depts. To converge and work out an integrated plan.</p> <p>Most of the children are rescued with the help of SJPU, and Home Dept. was coordinating the working of SJPU. Childline has conducted trainings of SJPU and other police Dept. functionaries.</p> <p>It has been noted that almost 85% of working children are in the agricultural sector. Very soon, a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, GoM is going to be conducted to address the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Dube was concerned about the large number of child labour in the state, and said that the problem needs to be taken very seriously by the state. 2. The data related to CL was old and outdated, and comprehensive survey to get the latest data needs to be conducted by the Labour Dept. 3. There should be proper and regular training of SJPU. 4. Considering the RTE Act, the focus should not only be on hazardous, but also non-hazardous occupations. 5. There should be proper

	<p>problem of children of sugar cane workers.</p> <p>The DWCD Minister is also taking interest in this issue, and had facilitated rescue of large number of children in Dharavi. The drive will be continued for elimination of child labour.</p> <p>NCLP, which is operational in 18 districts, covering 361 schools with 16000 children, also has a provision of bridge school for working children, and in view of RTE, the scheme will make it compulsory for all children to attend formal school, and academic support to cope with formal education will be provided through the scheme to facilitate the learning of children covered by the scheme to cope with formal education.</p> <p>Till now, NCLP, Integrated Scheme for Street Children, etc. were being directly implemented by the Central Govt., but now state Govt. has been made accountable for the same. District level Committees have been set up, where Labour Officers are members.</p>	<p>convergence among Depts. of Labour, WCD and Education.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. There should be proper monitoring structure at the district and state level to ensure care and rehabilitation of working children. 7. Reliable data must be collected also to get the number of street children in the state. A time frame for this needs to be set for the same. 8. Protocols for all officers/bodies involved in the implementation of programmes for street and working children must be prepared. 9. Dr. Dube quoted the instance of Kurla, where the children were directly sent to NGOs by the Police. Proper mechanisms must be set up for safety, rescue and rehabilitation of working children.
<p>Women prisoners' children</p>	<p>Work was being done by NGOs in the bigger prisons of the state with the help of the NGOs. This was being coordinated by IG Prisons.</p> <p>The children in prisons did not have any stimulation, so placing the balwadis outside the four walls of the prisons was important. The state Govt was planning to have anganwadis started in the staff quarters located outside the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There needs to be a proper policy for the children of women's prisoners. There should be a GO on this. 2. There is a need to have the data on how many children are there in the prison along with their mothers. The Home Dept. needs to provide the data. 3. There should be proper coordination between DWCD

<p>Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards and SJPU</p>	<p>prison.</p>	<p>and Home Dept. for the children of women prisoners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Proper monitoring mechanisms need to be established for the work done on this. 5. SCPCR should be made in charge of this Scheme.
	<p>Dr. Dube was concerned about the working of the these bodies in the state.</p> <p>It was reported that the Dept. has been able to form new CWCs based on ICPS guidelines, and all district now have CWCs and JJBs in place.</p> <p>There were some difficulties in weeding out members who did not meet the criteria of membership of CWCs (e.g. members should not have their own organizations), but through wide publicity, Dept. has managed to get the right people. State Advisory Board (SAB) was involved in the selection process.</p> <p>The working of CWCs has been studied and SOPs for CWCs have been prepared. The same have been put by the MWCD on their website and they are also planning to adopt them at the national level.</p> <p>Capacity building modules are available for training of CWCs, and under the ICPS, division-wise training of CWCs will be conducted, as soon as DCPUs are formed.</p> <p>There was a HC Committee comprising Justice Ranjana Desai and Justice J.N. Patel to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There should be one nodal officer each to monitor the work of CWCs, JJBs and SJPU. 2. There should be systematic effort for training of CWCs, JJBs and SJPU. 3. Home Dept. and DWCD should converge properly to strengthen the capacity of members of all these bodies.

	<p>monitor work related to JJ System, which was meeting regularly to monitor the work of the Govt.</p>	
<p>Children in Institutions/shelter Homes</p>	<p>The Secretary stated that there are a large number of children in Institutions in Maharashtra. At the National level too, Institutional care schemes were being encouraged. Parents also felt secure by putting their children in institutions, but there were many difficulties of raising children in Institutions. Thus there are lakhs of children covered through various Depts. in different kinds of shelters. Hostels, etc.</p> <p>The staff for monitoring is not enough, and POs are very overworked. With the ICPS, there is provision for staff including Counsellors in each Home.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maharashtra has large number of children in unregistered Homes, and they are not being monitored at all. Efforts should be made to make it mandatory that all the Homes get registered under the JJ Act. 2. Dr. Dube cited a case of rape in Bandra Home run by a Convent, where the DCWO, who went for investigation said that no such event took place. All Homes must be visited by DCWOs on a regular basis. There should be adequate number of staff for inspection and monitoring of Homes. 3. Standards of care in each Home must be monitored on a regular basis.
<p>Setting up ICPS Structures</p>	<p>State has already signed an MoU and GR for the SCPS and DCPU is issued. The papers for forming the State Society are being processed.</p>	<p>Maharashtra needs to speed up work on rolling out ICPS in the state.</p>
<p>Inter Departmental Coordination</p>	<p>There is a provision under ICPS to set up an Inter Departmental Committee, and once the State Society is formed, there will be regular meetings for this.</p>	<p>This is the most urgent need and Dr. Dube would be interested in personally attending a meeting of Inter Departmental Committee to address the issue of children needing protection.</p>
<p>Malnutrition</p>	<p>The Secretary mentioned that they were trying to address the issue of late payment. Government has now started the reimbursement scheme, though advance payment was still not agreed upon. The payment was delayed due to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Dube shared a report on his visit to Govandi, where rag pickers accessing the dumping yard live. He said the issue of malnutrition could not be solved by feeding programmes alone, but it required a comprehensive

many factors. The CDPOs were handling large budgets with only one clerk and no accountant.

The AWW training centres were not able to provide regular training as there was a budget of only Rs.35 per trainee per day. The procedures for payment were also very rigid. The AWWs had to prepare their own food when they attended any training.

approach of providing safe water, sanitation and health facilities to the families to ensure availability of safe environment.

2. He said DWCD must send a response to the report on the Govandi Malnutrition issue to him.
3. AWWs and SHGs preparing meals must be paid on time.
4. AWWs must provide pre-school education, and for this, they should be trained adequately on the subject.
5. Dr. Dube also asked for a list of AWW Training Centres to follow up the issue of training of AWWs.

Participants in the meeting:

Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR
Ms. Vandana Krishna, Principal Secretary, DWCD, Govt. of Maharashtra
Ms. Kamini Kapadia, UNICEF Consultant for ICPS
Mr. P.M. Kakad, Section Officer, Home Dept.
Ms. Leena Pimple, DWCD
Mr. S.Gaikwad, Jt. Director, Labour Dept
Mr. R.G. Gunjad, Jt. Secretary, DWCD
Mr. K.G.Valvi, Section Officer, DWCD
Mr. Raviraj Ilawe, ACL, Commissioner of Labour Office
Ms. S.R.Samant, DWCD