



National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Government of India



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Commissions for Protection of Child Rights should not shy away from their advisory role: Justice Lokur

Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge of the Supreme Court of India today called upon the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights & the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights to be far more active to deal with the violation of child rights in the Country. While, addressing the National Workshop on Protection of Child Rights at Gurugram, Haryana, Justice Lokur said, these Commissions are doing good work but the same is not visible. For their visibility they should work in close coordination and highlight the same among the people. He said that these Commissions are not watch dogs but collaborators with the Governments, civil society organisations and the people. Stating that the powers given to the commissions are huge, he wanted these commissions to use these powers for the benefit of the children.

Justice Lokur suggested that the Commissions should give their advisory recommendations if there is anything wrong. There is an array of Child Rights Issues such as Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Child Labour, Education, Hygiene & Malnutrition which requires urgent attention by the Commissions, he added.

Discussing the various provisions of the Constitution of India, Justice Lokur said the framers of the constitution had envisaged the Rights of the Children & made specific provisions for them. He asked whether the Commissions have achieved the goals set-out in the Constitution for ensuring Child Rights. Justice Lokur praised the Bollywood Director of the Film KAHAANI 2, Mr. Sujoy Ghosh for making such a beautiful film dealing with the subject of Child Sexual Abuse.

Addressing the gathering Mr.Sujoy Ghosh narrated his experience about a reported case of Child Sexual Abuse while he was studying in the United Kingdom.That incident prompted him to make a film on the subject to create awareness among the people.He said that generally such abuses are kept secret which is why he thought of doing this film.Mr.Ghosh said that film is an effective medium for social messaging.

The Chairperson,National Commission For Protection OF Child Rights (NCPCR),Smt.Stuti Kacker said the Commissions at the National & State Level work in parallel & would require coordination and understanding to multiply their efforts as they are dealing with children which constitute 40% of the country's population.She informed the workshop that the NCPCR & State Commissions (SCPCRs) are actively working towards protection of rights of children through monitoring of effective implementationof laws,policies, programmes and grievances redressal mechanism.

She informed that a meeting was held during January,2016 to create a common platform for NCPCR and SCPCRs to deliberate on issues concerning child rights. In that meeting, the State Commissions stressed the need of capacity building and operational knowledge on the emerging issue on child rights. In response to that NCPCR along with UNICEF has develop a comprehensive resource book which is user- friendly and easy to use, she said.

Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat, Chief Field Services, UNICEF said the convention on Rights of the Children lays down the various rights of the children which needs to be implemented she said that the children have the basics rights to life, survival, development, protection and participation.Due to various factors, these rights are not available to children. She wanted all the concerned agencies to work together to ensure these rights to the children.

Justice Lokur released the **Resource Book for Commissions for Protection of Child Rights** on the occasion.

The two-day workshop is being organized by NCPCR with support from UNICEF where Chairpersons Members and Member Secretaries from 34 States Commissions besides Chairperson and Members of NCPCR are participating. During the course of the workshop panel discussion on “Understanding the Commission’s Role for Children’s Education”, “Exploring the law and role of Commissions under JJ Act, POCSO Act” and “Child Rights issues in India”. Besides presentation on other child rights issues are scheduled to be held.

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