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500 villages in A.P. to be made child friendly



• [Rani Devalla](#)

Child welfare schemes will be monitored by NCPCR



Member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rupa Kapoor addressing stakeholders on protection of child rights in Visakhapatnam on Thursday.

Planning new strategies and setting new goals, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is keen on transforming villages into child-friendly ones.

With 14 States coming forward to take the lead, the NCPCR intends to bring all the stakeholders on a single platform. Giving a new definition to child-friendly village model, member of NCPCR Rupa Kapoor said that the initial focus would be on a minimum 30 villages across the selected States.

“The key objective is to create a conducive environment for children where they are treated with dignity and respect and empowered with holistic education. With a combination of underdeveloped and developing villages, the target is to reach out to villages across the States and bring in a definite ‘change’ through various interventions in the first phase before January next,” she said at the zone-level meeting held in the city on Thursday.

Involving District Administration, over a dozen departments, local NGOs, communities and Schools, the NCPCR plans to hold periodic meetings with department heads to track the changes and help monitor the development. This apart, a constant monitoring mechanism will be in place to ensure that the existing schemes meant for children are actually reaching out to them or not.

To bring about change

“The aim is to bring about change at the grassroots level and help mould children into assets. In the process, we can also bring down the crime rate among juveniles,” said Ms. Rupa Kapoor, adding that creating a recreational space and setting up of ‘Bal Panchayat’ for children in every village top the agenda.

Collector Pravin Kumar said every department and stakeholder should feel responsible to do their bit to the novel concept centred towards development of children. “Effective governance along with the support of civil society groups will help derive positive results. The departments and NGOs should complement each other in accomplishing the task and bring out realistic modalities to achieve the target,” he said.

According to member and in-charge chairperson of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, S. Balaraju, a total of 500 villages across 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh had been mapped for the purpose.

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