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NAME OF INTERN: THONGAM SHAKHENBI

M.A SOCIAL WORK (2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR)

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social work trainee started the internship from 19<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at National Commission for protection of child rights (NCPCR).

Plan of the working days in NCPCR

1. To devise the method for looking into the cases of those convicts in Tihar jails who claim to be juvenile under section 7A of the JJ Act. Worked on Tihar Jail Data out of 109 inmates 78 are juveniles are still being kept in Jail. A writ petition has been filed in court. The case is still going on as well as data collection. Data Analysis was done by intern. The data excel sheet has been given to office.
2. To prepare a schedule/roster for the jail visits and to evolve a system of data evaluation
3. Time line review on the minor help locked up as couple went for holidays. (task given by NCPCR Member Nina Nayak)
4. To present the data evaluation format in the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 including NCPCR and DSLSA members on the Tihar jail data analysis.
5. Children Homes and Shelter Homes desk review
6. To help in the Inspection of children Homes visit with the members of NCPCR
7. Attended training on Child Right's perspective in India organised by NIPICIDD. The issues discussed were JJ Act, Trafficking, Child Labour, Nutrition, Education, Complaints in National Human Rights Commission Mechanism.

Some of the observation and suggestion are as follows

- There has to be a more flexible relationship in between the home and the state. Authorities need to come forward and facilitate the process of training people. Inform about the new laws and standard which the institution needs to keep up in pace with. These trainings should be on a regular basis. The homes needs to keep in pace with amendments in the existing laws.
- Training on working with children from different age groups. Different age groups have different needs. These needs and questions should be addressed and dealt with Children come from varied background. If they all come from poor background it does not make them as one. Varied background (child might be a victim of child labour, sexual abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, children in conflict with law).

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These cases need to be worked separately and followed up.

- Special care and facilities for disabled children - Children with disability need special care and attention which is not possible in a home where disabled children are in minority.
- Non- formal education- Children who stay in home for a shorter duration. Their education should not be stopped because of the situation they are in. Non Formal education should fill in by the time the children go back to formal education
- Employee and pay scale should be flexible and it should depend on the quality of the work.
- Collaboration with different stakeholders(NGO's, State) as it is a need to get in touch with all the agencies working for child rights, as their services are required for over all development of a child. Needs of all necessary services educator, counsellor, doctor, helper, balanced diet, guidance. A home is not a place where these services can be provided completely. But the services can access to home. A doctor can be appointed on a regular basis. Life skill training centre can be opened in collaboration with NGO's or agencies which impart life skill training.
- Counselling centre is a must for these homes so that if children have an issue related to their psychological health it can be taken care of. There should be a different sanitation and health care unit for each home. As sanitation and hygiene is a crucial importance.
- Most of the homes do not have education on sex education. In the children comes from different from various backgrounds where in the past they have been subjected to physical and sexual abuse. For them looking at sex would be very different and it needs professional help where education is concerned.
- Health & Nutrition is one of the most important recommendations made in JJ Act which should be given to children. Most of the homes make food which is as per the home's convenience. Most of the time fruits and milk which is a must for children is not provided in their regular diet. Juices are never given. Vegetables and pulses are very repetitive. One pulse doesn't contain the entire nutrient.
- Funding and social auditing should be main concerned as there has been lots of chaos in the Homes in functioning spontaneously. These hold all the access of needs and requirement of the Homes of the children.

Some of the learning and observation upon NCPCR

- Each state Department working for Child Right's should have separate Communication and Media Unit. People are most of the time not aware of policies and laws which can be used for protecting one's own right. If there is proper advertisement of these services provided by the service providers which could be State or Ngo's using different modes of Media could be very helpful for service recipients as well as people in general. Sensitization among people regarding child rights is very necessary.
- Equipped professionals come with good price. If right amount is not invested the result might not be very good as we can already see.

- Training session for the existing people working in these organizations would be helpful in a sense that the people already working in the field so they have field knowledge that knowledge only needs to be substituted by the laws and other weapons which one can use while fighting for child rights. But again conferences and seminars at national international level are important.
- One of the major observations made during the internship period was. One department is not aware of what other department in the commission is dealing with.
- Nutrition expert doesn't know of JJBA Act because that's not his/her area of expertise. If one is working for rights everything related to children should be known at least in the surface. A child development is dependent on health, education, nutrition, participation, hygiene etc. The departments should be given a platform so that they exchange their ideas with each other and look into different areas give their valuable inputs in the best interest of the child.

It was grateful opportunity to work under Ma'am Nina P Nayak(Member), Ma'am Deeba Naseem(consultant), Mr B.K Sahu(Registrar).It was because of their support that the intern could more detail in our learning's on issues related to child rights closely. The intern always got a chance to freely express her opinion and give her inputs in matter of great concern. Learning was enriched as the intern got a chance to move out in the field and observe the reality at grass root level. She was well able to draw a link in between grass root level and policy. The internship period went very smooth as the fellow intern Miss Divya Balyan proved to be very supportive in the tasks assigned to the interns. It was because of her support that the intern could complete tasks on time.

Overall it was a great privileged and opportunity to able to intern in NCPCR which the people are dedicated and well experienced in the field of Child Rights and able to see their passion and zeal through their work. This make the social work trainee very enthusiastic and to be more skilled towards this field and for future also. There was less interaction and less time to interact with all the co-workers and Members of the NCPCR but it was worth meeting some of them which had nurtured me very well.

Thank you to each and everyone who have been able make this internship fruitful and enriching.