



Dr. Yogesh Dube's Visit to Tamil Nadu: A Report

**Assessment of Education & Other Child Rights issues
and Investigation of Children Home in
Madurai and Ramanathapuram Districts**



National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

5th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36- Janpath

New Delhi – 110001

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DATE, DURATION AND PLACES OF VISIT

Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) visited Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu from 17th to 19th November 2011.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

The objective of the visit was to follow-up and review of the RTE complaints received by the Commission from the Madurai district and inspection of the Children Home of Ramanathapuram District.

VISIT TO MADURAI DISTRICT- 17TH & 18TH NOVEMBER 2011

Dr. Yogesh Dube (Member- NCPCR) had a meeting with the District Collector of Madurai along with senior officials of other Departments like Labour, Social Welfare, Education/ SSA, Health, police, Women and Child Development, among others. The meeting at Madurai discussed about the issues, such as child labour, children in conflict with law, rehabilitation, Juvenile law and Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. During this visit Dr. Dube reviewed the complaints relating to RTE cases received from the district too.

Dr. Dube too participated in the pledge ceremony, organised by the District Administration, Madurai. All the senior officials present in the occasion took pledge on 19th November 2011, i.e., the birthday of the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi to mark the 'National Integration Day'.

VISIT TO RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT- 18TH & 19TH NOVEMBER 2011

During his visit to Ramanathapuram district, Dr. Yogesh Dube visited the Government Orphanage, Ramanad (a Children's Home for Girls) on 18th November 2011. He was informed that the children admitted to the Home are broadly from 4 different categories:

- a. orphans without parents of relatives;

- b. children with single parent;
- c. children whose parents are imprisoned or the abandoned children; and
- d. children of such parents who are suffering from incurable diseases.



While inspecting the Home, Dr. Dube came to know that the building, which provided shelter to more than 100 girls who are in need of care and protection, is on rent amounting to nearly Rs. 10000 per month. The member expressed his concern over having no building of its own although the Home was established in 1984. In response to this the District Collector informed that 25 cents of land was allotted for the same in Achadiparambu village, 8 km away from the Ramanathapuram town. Now the administration feels that the place may not be convenient for the Home and suitable place be allotted in the town itself.



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPDR interacting the children of the Sathiya Ammaiyaar Ninaivu Orphanage, Ramanathapuram

Dr. Dube found the Children Home functioning efficiently. However, he further drew the attention of the administration on regular inspections of all children homes and recognition as well as verification of licenses issued by the Social Welfare Department, if it is an NGO-run Home. Also urged to take care of the maintenance of the particulars

of every individual child separately, regular health check-up and examination by doctors, impart health and hygienic education, etc. to make the environment better, safe and homely. He stressed on the basic minimum facilities for proper mental and physical growth and all round development of the children and sensitisation of staff of the Homes. Last but not the least, he urged for the mainstreaming of children to quality education so as to enable them to realize the really potentialities.



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR inspecting the Children Home, Ramnad

Dr. Dube recommended the maintenance of the building, currently giving shelter to about 115 girl children. He felt that the space on rent is quite less to accommodate so many children but certainly the quality can be improved. He specially requested the social Welfare Department to take appropriate measures for the educational mainstreaming of disable children.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Expressing its concerns on rights of children in general and the situation of Children Homes in Ramanathpuram, the member directed the respective departments/ authorities to initiate immediate action to improve upon the following to ensure the rights and entitlements of the children:

MADURAI DISTRICT:

- i) Ensure mapping of schools and survey of out-of-school children in the district with immediate effect;
- ii) Undertake mapping of available infrastructure to ensure the compliance of RTE Act, 2009 and furnish a report on requirements;

- iii) Carry out a survey of the child labour in the district, identify, rescue and rehabilitate by creating child labour fund;
- iv) Ensure constitution of and operationalise the district child labour task force;
- v) Ensure that all NGO-run children/shelter homes and orphanages are duly registered with the Government (as required under Section 34(3) of JJ Act and are monitored regularly to ensure that the homes meet the minimum criteria in terms of infrastructure and required personnel;
- vi) Status of CWC, JJB and SJPU and the orientation training of their members;
- vii) Furnish status report on School Health Programme and Immunization drive in the district;
- viii) Services like Child Care Institutions (Shelter Home, Children Home, Observation Home, Special Home, Aftercare Home and Home for Differently-abled Children) available in the district; and
- ix) Status of ICDS and functional Anganwadi Centres with buildings in the district.

RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT:

- (i) Ensure favourable environment in the Children Home with basic minimum facilities for proper mental and physical growth of the children over there;
- (ii) Initiate repairing and maintenance work of the Children Home Building immediately, which is very much in bad condition;
- (iii) The quality of the Children Home needs to be improved to provide better, safe and family environment;
- (iv) The current space on rent is very small, so efforts shall be made to provide additional space to the children as well as effort to make on building;
- (v) Ensure all round development of the children in the Homes and explore their talents and facilitate them to reach their goals;
- (vi) The Consultation Committee headed by the District Collector along with the team members ensure supervision and monitoring on regular basis;
- (vii) Steps are taken immediately to close down the homes run by NGOs without recognition of the Social Welfare and Social Defence Department;
- (viii) The staff of the Homes are sensitized to care of the children including maintenance of particulars of every individual child separately;
- (ix) Hygienic facilities are provided in the homes (Orphanage). Health of the Children should be examined by doctors and necessary education should be imparted to children in this regard; and
- (x) The children living in the Homes shall be mainstreamed to formal school system after preparing them for age appropriate classes.

Keeping in view the concerns, the Commission directed the concerned State Departments and the District administrations to address aforesaid issues and send an action taken report (ATR) to the NCPCR at the earliest.