

## **NGO Coordination Centre Child Care and Protection Meeting: Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005**

Moderated by Mr. Aftab, Save the Children UK

- I. Introduction of Meeting
  1. Purpose of meeting to draft a policy regarding childcare and protection for tsunami affected children that could then be presented to the government.
  
- II. Key Points for Discussion
  1. Child protection
  2. Child's right to participation
  3. Issues related to child development
  4. Issues of Child Survival
  5. Psychosocial wellbeing of the child
  
- III. Child Protection Issues
  1. Child trafficking, Child Labour, Child Beggary, Child neglect etc.
  2. Should not allow outside or unregistered organizations to take children from affected villages.
  3. A monitoring system should be in place. Govt. should place a Government Order (G.O.) disallowing anyone to take tsunami affected children outside the village.
  4. Orphaned children should grow up in a safe, comfortable place, i.e. the village itself if possible. Should be placed in the following order of preference first with immediate family, then extended family, then someone within village community, then someone within a neighboring village, institutional care and adoption should be last resort. s
  5. Importance of making the public aware of these policies through regular public announcement within the village (i.e. state radio or T.V.).
  6. One participant noted that a 24 hour service Child Help line is available and people shall be made aware of it.
  7. The Govt and the NGOs should make sure all needy children are fed so they do not turn to outside agencies for help.
  8. A Two-Tier Surveillance System should be in place to protect children against trafficking, abuse and neglect.
    - i. Village Level – A “Child Protection Committee” should be formed consisting of PRI, Community Panchayat member, ICDS worker, School Teacher, children and trained child animator
    - ii. District Level – “Child Welfare Committee” should be formed under existing Act: Juvenile Justice Act 2000. The DC should be part of this committee and members of NGO's having sound track record and having experience working with children should also be included in the committee
  
- IV. Child Participation Key Points.
  1. During planning of rehabilitation, children's view s and needs should be taken into account. Child Protection Committee and District Child Welfare

Committee at village and district level respectively should be consulted before finalizing Village Rehabilitation Plan.

- V. Issues of Child Development
1. ICDS centers should be revitalized as early as possible.
    - i. Infrastructure
    - ii. Equipment
    - iii. Skill Building of ICDS functioning
  2. A community monitoring system should ensure proper functioning of ICDS system.
  3. Make sure all tsunami affected children get back into schools
- VI. Psychosocial well being of the child
1. All organizations/individuals dealing with children should be oriented on psychosocial well being.
- VII. A Committee is formed to out line the framework of policy recommendation for tsunami affected children. This committee will draft a policy paper, by using ideas generated in today's meeting. This paper will be submitted to the larger group present on a meeting scheduled on **February 12th at 4:00 PM**. After deliberation this paper will be submitted to the Collector and various government officials. The list of Participants is below:

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