

Children Core Group Meeting

Date : 06.07.2006

Time : 05.05 pm – 07.10 pm

Venue : 313, Collectorate, Nagapattianm

Agenda:

1. Teachers' training programme
2. Evaluation of workshop on Children Parliament
3. Mobilising fund towards education of 1000 poor students
4. Bank account for children educational fund
5. Appointment with District Collector
6. Children in the core group
7. Handing accounts over to Finance Committee
8. Meeting with MLAs
9. Application for help

Teachers' training programme

A three hours training programme for school teachers in the Nagapattinam municipal are aiming to create child friendly atmosphere in schools has been discussed in the previous meetings. Few NGOs have confirmed the venue. As the availability of the resource persons and dates at the school could not match, the programme has been postponed to a convenient date somewhere in the third week of July. Ms. Dhanalakshmi of SNEHA has been given the responsibility of arranging the resource persons.

Evaluation of workshop on Children Parliament

- It was an enriching workshop for the children who participated. The sharing of children in ministerial positions in the Children's Parliament was very good
- The workshop helped start Children Parliament in few villages
- The children who were not in Children's Parliament were motivated to form the same in their respective villages
- There is a plan to start Children Parliament for the alternatively abled children along with the normal children
- The workshop gave a scope to achieve a lot through Children Parliament
- However, not all the NGOs forming the Core Group attended the meeting. Since, NGOs did not make it, the number of children for the workshop also got reduced
- For future workshops, confirmation of NGOs with number of children should be made in advance of the workshop

Mobilising fund towards education of 1000 poor students

Mr. Jerald said that the visit to banks and shops around Nagapattinam was not fruitful for mobilizing fund for the educational cause of 1000 poor students. Many of them are under impression that NGOs are having fund and they are ambiguous about helping. However, few NGOs have already contributed for the same.

Bank account for children educational fund

The amount collected for children sector had been in the name of three persons' account so far. The account has been changed to a joint account as 'Children Educational Fund'. The NGOs have been communicated to donate amount for education in the new account. Therefore, the new joint account in the above mentioned name has been created with a finance committee. The core group chose the following persons for the Finance Committee:

1. Sr. Mercy, Good Shepherd – Treasurer
2. Ms. Dhanalakshmi, SNEHA – Secretary
3. Mr. Rajan, LCPN – Joint Secretary

Following guidelines were also constituted:

1. The amount in the joint account would be used for the primary education of economically backward children
2. The amount would also aim at helping the socially backward children; even for their higher studies
3. The amount also would be used for the medication of deserving children
4. Preference to female and disabled children over the rest for education would be given
5. Assistance to abused children who hail from poor families would also be given
6. Sixty percent of fund could be directed towards primary education; 20% to higher studies and 29% to medical assistance

The process of helping the needy

Deserving applicants could be referred to the core group. The core group directs it to the finance committee. The finance committee holds the final decision to help after verifications in the field. The finance committee can also ask a member of the core group to take visit to the place of the applicant for verification.

Appointment with District Collector

A letter has been prepared expressing concerns over the delay in getting Prime Minister's Assistance Scheme as well as the #GO33 to the eligible children. The letter was read out to all in the meeting and was approved. The letter would be submitted to the District Collector on the day of receiving the appointment.

Children in the core group

The following NGOs that run Children Parliament would bring a child each for the monthly core group meetings from the coming month:

Name of the NGO	Sex
LCPN	To be confirmed
CREATE	Male
SNEHA	To be confirmed
Good Shepherd	To be confirmed
AVVAI	Female

The children could be from the age group of 10 to 18. The meeting will be held on the second Saturday of every month from 3 to 5 pm.

Handing accounts over to Finance Committee

Mr. Jerald read out the account and submitted the same to Finance Committee after approval and signature from all the participants of the meeting. The balance as on the date of submission was Rs.94, 420.

Meeting with MLAs

A Taluk level meeting with elected candidates from across the five Taluks of Ngapattinam has been discussed. The NGOs those took responsibility in the workshop on Children Parliament would take up the task of organizing the meetings, including getting appointment from the MLAs. The focus in the meeting could be appointment of teachers in schools where vacancies remain, more bus facility for students in peak hours, etc. The NGO in-charge of organizing meetings would prepare a checklist of demands in the area by holding meetings with other NGOs in the area.

Application for help

The Core Group forwarded the following applications to the Finance Committee for approval and assistance:

1. Educational help for 39 Dalit students towards uniform in Kittapa Municipal School, Mayiladuthurai. The estimate is Rs.6000. The application has been submitted by *Marutham* Network. The Finance Committee agreed to help them.
2. Educational help for 63 Arunthathiyar children from Thamaraikulam towards school fees (25 children), bag (20), note books (32) and uniform (9). The estimate for help is Rs.24000. The application was referred by Good Shepherd. The Finance Committee agreed to help them.
3. A poor boy from Nambiyar Nagar needs partial economical assistance to pursue his higher study in Nursing. The case was referred by SNEHA. The Finance Committee decided to help with Rs.5000
4. A ten year old cancer patient at Beach Road needs help for treatment. The child needs Rs.5000 every month. The Finance Committee decided to help for the first month. However, *Vanavil* also asked the details of the case for further assistance through advertisements.