

Minutes of Children Core Group Meeting

Date : 12.04.2006

Time : 04.30 pm – 06.40 pm

Venue : Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Welcoming all the participants, Mr Jerald declared the following as the agenda of the meeting.

- Discussion on Prime Minister's Child Assistance Scheme
- Planning for children parliament in the presence of local politicians
- Summer programme

Prime Minister's Child Assistance Scheme

As the scheme had not included the students of matriculation schools, it was decided to send registered letters to all the officials of the district including the District Collector, demanding inclusion of all the tsunami affected children in the scheme without any discrimination. It was also decided to wait for a span of one week and drop letters to the state level officials, if further development was not shown by the district administration. The group felt that the government is unwilling to share the list of beneficiaries to NGOs despite having the data. Therefore, it was decided to send an annexure with the letter containing the list of all the school going children affected by the tsunami as the beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, discussion on the issue of dropping the 'dull' children from appearing from the public exam in Natarajapathy School came up. The group decided to send letters to all the district officials and Societies working for children, with a view to preventing any such further incident.

As the Tsunami Legal Action Committee (TLAC) is planning for a summer camp in Kodaikanal for boys and girls between 10 and 16 years of age either in the last week of April or first week of May, Mr. Jerald asked the group to mobilise participants for the camp as well as render monetary helps for the same.

Children Parliament

The following were decided in the discussion for the children's parliament in the presence of local politicians:

- ✓ The Children's Parliament will take place on the 29th April between 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm
- ✓ The venue of the parliament is *Arockiamatha Kalyana Mandapam*, Puthur
- ✓ Local politicians from all the parties would be given the invitation to participate in

the parliament with a caution of not using the occasion to canvass their political manifesto

- ✓ A draft voicing the opinions and concerns of the children in the district would be prepared after interaction of NGOs with the children which would be presented to the politicians on the day of the parliament
- ✓ Politicians, in turn, would address the concerns of the children during their allotted time
- ✓ Issues related to education, child labour, child marriage, health and sanitation, child abuse, trafficking of children, concerns of disabled, orphan and mentally challenged children were discussed as the prominent ones in the district.
- ✓ The following NGOs/personals were given the task of preparing draft on the speculated area of concerns:

NGOs/personals	Area of concern
SNEHA	Fishing community
AVVAI	Dalit
Phoenix Federation	Unorganised workers
LCI	Physically & developmentally challenged
Mr Prabhu & Ms Dhanalakshmi	Child trafficking
Mr Prabhu	Government Schemes

- ✓ The draft would be submitted on 19th April in the core group meeting
- ✓ Each NGO also would bring 5 children (including 3 girls & 2 boys) each from their allotted area to voice the opinions of the children in the preliminary children's meet on the 23rd of April
- ✓ Wall posters would be prepared announcing the event
- ✓ Children in the proximity of Nagapattinam would be brought for the parliament after they had food in their respective houses; snacks would be provided after the function

Summer Programme

Following the discussion on the children parliament, organising taluk level cultural programmes for children during summer was discussed. It was decided to give the responsibility to NGOs working in the area. Detailed discussions on the programme and planning of the same would go in to the agenda of the later meetings.

The next meeting of the core group would be held on 19th April.

Annexure: *List of the participants*

CHILDREN CORE GROUP

Meeting on 12.04.2006 at NCRC Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.

Sl. No	Village/ Organization	Name of the Person	Phone/Mobile	E-mail
1.	SNEHA	Gabriel Shanthi	9443872752	-
2.	Good Shepherd	Sri Mercy Joseph	984570122 -240029	Srmercy_ngt@sancharnet.in
3.	Good Shepherd	Josephine Sudha	-	-
4.	SNEHA	S.H. Jenitha Rani	9443885121	-
5.	SNEHA	B. Kavitha	9842154802	-
6.	PDA, Madurai	D. Xavier Prince	264048	-
7.	Karunakarya Trust	R. Anandan	9380954321	Ranandan2004@rediffmail.com
8.	Phoenix Children & Youth Association	Tamilmathi	9842657963	phoenixfederation@gmail.com
9.	Phoenix Federation	K.A. Seethalakshmi	9842657963	phoenixnagai@sify.com
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13.	SNEHA	P. Vanaja	9344132296	-