

District Level Federation of Children Groups

Date :27 /10 /07

Venue : Officer's club

District Level Federation of Children groups was an initiative taken by the Child Secretariat in Nagapattinam district. Fifteen NGOs came with their children for the meeting.

1. Purpose of the Meeting:

- To federate all the children groups/ parliament /clubs started by all the NGOs working with children in the district.
- To prepare a platform for the children to raise their issues and concerns.
- To have better interaction among the children groups.
- To understand the best practices done by various children groups across the district.
- To form a group of representatives of the children who will act as a bridge between the Child Secretariat and the children.
- To select representatives from the children to be sent to the state level federation of children groups.

2.List of NGOs & Children participated in the Meeting:

Invitation was sent by the Child Secretariat to all the NGOs who are involved in the formation and training of children groups in the district. Each NGO was asked to come with six children (3 boys & 3 girls), above the age of ten. The following is the list NGOs and the total number of children attended the meeting.

| S.NO | Name of the NGO | Total Number of Children | |
|------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | | Boys | Girls |
| 1 | <i>RAISE INDIA</i> | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | <i>CREATE</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | <i>VESA</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | <i>PDA</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | <i>TMSSS</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 6 | <i>AVVAI</i> | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | <i>SNEHA</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 8 | <i>DMI</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | <i>GOOD SHEPHERD</i> | 4 | 3 |
| 10 | <i>VANAVIL</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 11 | <i>LCI</i> | 3 | 3 |
| 12 | <i>REAL-PLAN</i> | 4 | 4 |
| 13 | <i>RIM</i> | 6 | - |
| 14 | <i>CARE-PLAN</i> | 4 | 1 |
| 15 | <i>SAVE</i> | 1 | 3 |
| | TOTAL | 44 | 41 |

3. Program of the Day:

The meeting started with a song. Ms. Danalakshmi from Sneha made the children alive by her singing. All the children joined with her. It was followed by a game, in which the children were asked to find a partner and introduce about the partners to the whole group.

Then Mr. Jerald, Secretary of CSt welcomed all the participants and he explained the need for the district and the state level federation of children groups. He also explained the process already started to form this federation of children groups in blocks level. The NGOs who took the responsibility in organizing block level federation was not able to make it due to various reasons. Hence he said, the child Secretariat has taken the steps to organize this district level federation of children groups. He also mentioned that this kind of forum clearly gives an opportunity for the children to exercise their right to participate. The participatory role of the children will help the children to protect themselves.

Ms, Danalaksmi from Sneha explained the rights as well as the role of the children. Since the children were given lot of training on their rights by different NGOs, she was mainly focusing on the participatory role of the children. She also explained how the children can participate in their family activities, school events and in the society. The children also shared their opinions. Finally, she clearly stated that the children should realize their role and the responsibilities of the children before they claim for their rights.

4. State Level Federation of Children Groups:

Mr. Jerald explained the State level Federation of Children Groups which is going to be held in Madurai on 3rd and 4th November. The opinion was asked from the children as well as from the NGOs representatives who came for the meeting. Since in Nagapattinam, the NGOs are doing remarkable activities with the children, every body felt that proper representation from the children groups from Nagapattinam should be there for the state level meeting. Mr. Jerald gave a suggestion that two children (1 boy and 1 girl) from each NGO can be selected by the children themselves who have come for this meeting. Every body accepted the suggestion.

Based on the suggestion, children from each NGO were asked to gather in different places, and they were asked to select two representatives of their own who will represent for the state level meeting. Before the selection process, The children were advised to select the children who are able to communicate well and those who have some understanding about the rights of the children. The NGOs staffs were asked not to involve in the process of this selection. The children gathered and discussed among themselves and finally they selected their representatives by a secret ballot system.

5. List of Children selected for the State level Federation of Children Groups:

| S.NO | Name of the NGO | Name of the Children |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>RAISE INDIA</i> | 1. Yamuna 2. Manikandan |
| 2 | <i>CREATE</i> | 1. Ezhilarasan 2. Renuka |
| 3 | <i>VESA</i> | 1. Karunakaran 2. Ehilarasi |
| 4 | <i>PDA</i> | 1. Jeyaprakash 2. Puvana |
| 5 | <i>TMSSS</i> | 1. Prasana 2. Margaret |
| 6 | <i>AVVAI</i> | 1. Rajitha 2. Vadivelmurugan |
| 7 | <i>SNEHA</i> | 1. Naveena 2. Pauvn Kumar |
| 8 | <i>DMI</i> | 1. Kavitha 2. Santha Kumar |
| 9 | <i>GOOD SHEPHERD</i> | 1. Sugumaran 2. Vinithra |
| 10 | <i>VANAVIL</i> | 1. Lakshmi 2. Mahesh |
| 11 | <i>LCI</i> | 1. Sudha 2. Purusothaman |
| 12 | <i>REAL-PLAN</i> | 1. Sobnath 2. Thirivalarselvi |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | |
| 13 | <i>RIM</i> | 1. Arulsamy 2. Vettri Selvan |
| 14 | <i>CARE-PLAN</i> | 1. Prakash 2. Rajasekar |
| 15 | <i>SAVE</i> | 1. Saranya 2. Priyanka |
| | TOTAL | 30 |

Totally 30 children were selected by the children themselves to represent the State level federation meeting in Madurai on 3rd and 4th November. This group of 30 children will be hereafter called “*Children Advisory Committee*” (CAC).

6. List of Children Selected for the District level Federation of Children Groups:

Followed by the election for the state level representation, the members were elected for district level federation. Here the children are asked to elect one representative from their blocks and the representative should be from the Children Advisory Committee. Since more NGOs are working in Nagapattinam block, two representatives were selected.

Based on this, the children from CAC gathered according to their blocks and elected their representatives by a secret ballot system. Since LCI is exclusively working for the differently able children, special provision was given to select one of their representatives. The following are the children elected for the district level federation from respective blocks. This group is called as “*Children Central Committee*” (CCC)

| S.NO | Name of the Block | Name of the Child | Name of the NGO |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | VEDARANYAM | Selvi. Yamuna | Raise India |
| 2 | NAGAPATTINAM | Selvan. Sobnath Selvi .Kavitha Selvi Sudha | Real –Plan DMI LCI |
| 3 | THARNGAMBADI | Selvn. Arulsamy | RIM |
| 4 | SIRKALI | Selvan. Rajasekar | Care – Plan |

7. Future Plan:

- ✓ Both these groups will function for one year. Within this one year CSt will facilitate the NGOs to organize children groups in block levels. Then, from the block level, representatives will be sent to the district level federation of children groups. Till then these two groups (CAC & CCC) will be functioning.
- ✓ The Children Central Committee will meet and interact with the Children Advisory Committee once in three months and discuss with them the issues and concerns and represent to the Child Secretariat. Thus CCC will act as a bridge between the CSt and the CAC.
- ✓ Periodical training and meetings can be organized for these two groups.

8. State Level Federation of Children Groups Meeting at Madurai:

After the lunch break, a separate discussion took place with the NGO staff members and the children who are going for the state level meeting.

State Level Children's Alliance Meeting

**Venue- Vellautha Nadar Rajalekshmi
Marriage Hall**
Plot No-436, 9th East Street
KK Nager
Madurai -625 020
Ph- 0425 169990912

Date – 3rd & 4th November,07

The following are the key points emerged during the discussion.

1. The children will leave for Madurai in two vehicles (Mahindra van) on 2nd evening by 8PM and they will come back to Nagapattinam on 5th morning.
2. The children should come with necessary dress, bed sheets and toilet materials.
3. Food and accommodation will be taken care of by the organizers at the venue.
4. At the inauguration, the children will enact a street play focusing on their present life after tsunami.
5. The NGOs staff members – Mr. Victor (Create), Mr. Francis(Care Plan), Mr. Rajesh (PDA) and Ms. Vanitha (Avvai) have volunteered to go with the children for the meeting.

6. To meet the expenses for the traveling , it was decided that each NGO will Contribute Rs. 1000/. The money can be given either by cash / DD. The DD can be drawn in the name of the “**Child Secretariat**” payable at Nagapattinam. The amount should reach the Secretary of CSt, Mr. Jerald before Thurs day evening, 25th October.

The children were extremely happy about the day. Since they were elected to represent themselves for the district and the state level federation, they also realized their role and the responsibilities. The NGOs appreciated the initiatives taken by the CSt and expressed the feelings that this kind of forum for the children should continue for the betterment of the children.

Of course, It is new beginning which throws rays of hopes and confidence. Let us walk with the children and lead them to the world of joy and happiness.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

