

WALKING WITH THE DISABLED

(Workshop on Government Scheme & Inclusive Education to Children with Disabilities)

Dear friends,

Greetings from the Child Secretariat.

There are nearly 40 NGOs presently functioning for the development of children in Nagapattinam District. Though many of them entered Nagapattinam as a result of Tsunami disaster in 2004, they have fast realized the need to work among children's overall enhancement.

On the other hand, the special needs of the marginalized group among children i.e. Children with Disabilities had not been adequately addressed. It is roughly estimated that the number of children with disabilities below 18 years in the district would exceed three thousand. Less than 1/5th of these children are enrolled and attending regular schools. Few others are studying in schools meant for children with disabilities. However the plight of these children is not satisfactory. They are subjected to many problems in their own family, community and even schools they attend. The main reasons for this are -

1. Sense of low esteem and complex among children in relation to their disability.
2. Non-acceptance of these children by family and community on the grounds of disability.
3. Lack of infrastructure and lack of barrier free environment both physical and social.

Though these children are entitled for both state and central Government schemes and entitlements to overcome these problems, the outreach of these schemes to children seems to be questionable. Therefore, an initiative has been taken jointly by the Child Secretariat, LC Project Nagapattinam along with the District Administration to address this issue through a workshop with all the Non-Governmental Organization working amongst children in the district.

Objectives of the workshop

- ❖ To illustrate the various government schemes available to Children with Disabilities to Non-Governmental Organizations.
- ❖ To enlighten the organizations regarding the concept of inclusive education to children with disabilities.
- ❖ To discuss the present status of children with disabilities in the district in order to draw a plan of action for their development.

Friends, our District Collector has graciously consented to be the Chief Guest of the workshop. The workshop will be held at the Officer's Club, Nagapattinam on 30th November at 09.30AM. I request the chief functionary (Person Incharge) and one field staff from each NGO can participate in the workshop. Your presence and sharing of experience will help each other to commit ourselves for the betterment for these vulnerable children.

Thank you so much for your continuous support and cooperation.

Regards

S. Jerald

Secretary

Child Secretariat

Nagapattinam

Cell – 94866 35828

Programme Schedule

Venue : Officer's Club, Nagapattinam

Date : 30 /11 /07 - Friday

Chief Guest : **Thiru. Tenkasi S Jawahar I.A.S**
District Collector, Nagapattinam.

09.30 AM	:	Registration
10.00 AM	:	Welcome Address Sr. Mercy Joseph, President, CSt
10.05 AM	:	Introduction about the Workshop Mr. Jerald, Secretary, CSt.
10.15 AM	:	Key Note Address The District Collector
10.30 AM	:	Presentation on Govt. Schemes Ms. Yamuna Bai, DDRO, Nagai.
11.00 AM	:	Discussion
11.15 AM	:	Presentation on SSA Schemes Ms. Usha Rani, CEO, SSA
11.45AM	:	Questions from the floor
12.00 PM	:	Presentation on Inclusive Education Major. Gopal Mitra, Inclusive Education Manager, LCI
12.45 – 01.30 PM	:	Lunch Break
01.30 PM	:	Sharing of Experience a. Ms. Latha, Program Coordinator, Scord b. Mr.Ragupathi, Program Coordinator, St. Joesph's Development Trust
02.00 -03.00 PM	:	Group Discussion & Action Plan
03.00 PM	:	Summery of the Workshop Proceeding
03.30PM	:	Vote of Thanks & Tea.
