

OSCPCR visit report to Kalahandi District

Date: 24th – 25th, April 2013

Introduction:

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 36 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 (4 of 2006), the State Government make the Orissa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules, 2009 which was notified on the 25th November 2009. The Commission normally perform the functions, such as examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation, inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases and look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures.

As a part of the above mandate Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member, OSCPCR has visited the district during 24th – 25th of April and organised various programme along with district administrations.

Objective of the visit:

The objectives of the visit are as follows;

1. To review and assess the functioning of various child protection mechanism in the district and recommend measures for effective implementation.
2. Monitor the implementation of Right to Education act and recommend suitable measures of compliances under RTE.

During the visit following programmes were organised/visited;

1. Visit Anganwadi Centre
2. Visit Primary Schools /KGVB
3. Visit Child Care Institutions
4. Special School for deaf and blind
5. Organise RTE monitoring meeting with District SSA
6. Organise meeting with DCPU and CWC
7. Press meet

Observations and recommendations:

Sl no	Programme	Activity undertaken	Recommendations
1	Anganwadi Centre	Visit Bhangabari and Dumal Anganwadi Centres, interaction	1. The " Janch Committees " are formed in the centres, but the members are not aware about their role and

		<p>with beneficiaries and verify centre documents.</p>	<p>responsibility. The Commission recommend the district administration to orient the members and ensure their quality involvement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Centre Monitoring by higher authorities seems very week. The Collector and other District level authorities are recommended to look in to it properly. 3. During the visit, Commission has identified seal "chatua" without mention of manufacturing date. The administration has to ensure that, proper level with manufacturing detail is ensured in the pocket.
<p>2</p>	<p>Primary Schools/ KGVB</p>	<p>Visit Bhangabari and Madul Primary Schools, Kamthana KGVB interaction with Children, SMC members and School Teacher</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools are provided with various innovative ideas and required infrastructure to make the education more interesting, like, podium, idea box etc. The use of these equipments is very negligible. The SSA has to take measures to use these infrastructures, so that children will get benefit out of these systems. 2. The School Management Committees are formed in all the schools. The school teacher need to make sure that, they are involved qualitatively in the school affairs. 3. It came to the notice that, there are schools where excess number of teacher and schools where less teachers. The district administration/SSA has to take necessary measures to rationalise the teacher's position in the district. 4. This is highly recommended to upgrade the standard in the Kamthana KGVB so that children can continue their study in 9th and 10th standard.

3	Child Care Institutions	Visit Nehru Seva Sangah and Bal Gopal Seva Niketan CCI Bhawani Patna	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bal Gopal Seva Niketan is not recognised under JJ Act. The district administration has to take initiative to ensure that all CCI s in the district are recognised under JJ Act. The procedure and Guideline developed by W&CD for this purpose has to adhere 2. The information among the staff members on standard care guideline and its implications is negligible. The DCPU has to make effort on build capacity of functionaries to maintain standard care practices as prescribed by State Government. 3. There is no any individual care plan prepared for the children. Children heaving their biological parents are also staying in the institutions. The organisation has to prepare individual care plan for each individual child and produced before CWC and follows it as per the CWC recommendations. Efforts have to make by DCPU to reunification of children in the family set up as per the ICPS mandate.
5	Visit special school	Visit special school for deaf and blind managed by W&CD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The School is not getting financial approval from W&CD for running high schools since 2010, hence facing financial difficulties to take care of children coming under this class. Women and Child Development Department is advised to look in to the matter on priority basic.

Meeting with SSA functionaries:

A review meeting was organised in the district by SSA. The district SSA is making their effort to implement various planned activities in relation to implementation of RTE. The DPC has made a presentation on the overview of the status of RTE in the district. The commission has also sought few clarifications from the participants. Apart from this there is no proper data and process available on grievance redress as per the government notifications. The data shared on children out of school is very low as reported by media and study from the District Labour Officer. As per the interaction and media report number of children are out of school, engaged as a child labour

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and migrating other part of cities along with their parents. This was also shared by many members in the press meet.

Recommendations:

1. The Commission has recommended to follow strictly on the grievance redress mechanism as per the government of Odisha notifications. Proper process of receiving complains and steps taken should document systematically.
2. The district is lacking behind in implementation of "Sikshya Sambad" hence recommend the district SSA to strictly follow the guideline.
3. As regards to RTE compliances, the district is also behind in many areas, i.e. single teacher in Schools, appointment of Subject teacher, school infrastructure , Continues Comprehensive Evaluation etc. The Commission recommend the Government to make effort to comply all norms.
4. The Commission strongly recommend to the district SSA to revisit the out of school survey in the district and ensure proper mainstream them in school. In case of migrant children the district can also plan for opening seasonal hostels in the district.
5. The participation of Children in School Management Committee is not treated seriously as per the discussion and observation in field. The district SSA has to take special attention to ensure the qualitative involvement of children in the SMCs.

Meeting with DCPU and CWC

A joint meeting was organised with DCPU and CWC members. Though DCPU process is new in the district, but started active engagement in various child protection matters. Within a short span of time, they have developed good rapport with various structures and taking initiatives on the matters related to child protection. The CWC is also functioning in the district and taking cases comes to their notice.

After the discussion with all the personnel and CWC authorities the Commission recommend following areas;

1. The DCPU has to take immediate steps in regards to recognise the Child Care Institutions. The guideline prescribed by W&CD has to follow in this regards.
2. The DCPU has to make plan for ensure standard care in CCIs as per the guideline.

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3. There are number of children in CCIs who has their biological parents. The DCPU has to make plan to indentify the children and plan for family reunification after due process.
 4. As regards to CWCs, they need to increase their visibility in terms of function and role. A sign board mentioning location of Office, detail about the members and sitting date will help general public to relate CWC in various child right violations.

Press meet:

There was a press meet organised by DIPRO. Around 20 press from electronics and print media participated in the meet. Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member OSCPCR addressed the press in the presence of DSWO and DPC. In the beginning a small presentation was made by the member about the various programmes organised in last two days along with orient the participants on various power and function of the Commission. The commission extend thanks to all media people in highlighting various child right violation issues in the district. The commission member also responded various questions raised by participants.

General Recommendation:

The Commission appreciate the active involvement of district administration and other district authorities during the visit of the Commission member. It helps the commission to review the programme effectively.

For the better convergence and effective implementation of various child protection mechanism in the district the Collector & DM has to organise time to time review meeting with all the committee/bodies in the district.

Follow up:

The commission will undertake a follow up review of various decisions and recommendations after three months i.e. in the month of August 2013.

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