

OSCPCR visit report to Koraput District

Date: 20th June 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 on 20th of June 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/Programmes in the district and recommend measures for effective implementation.

During the visit following programmes were performed;

1. Visit Child Care Institutions (ASTHA, Sarvodaya Samiti etc.)
2. Visit Special School for Mentally Challenged (MANAS)
3. Visit KGBV
4. Attended Review meeting
5. Press meet

Observations and recommendations:

A district level review meeting was organised with DCPU and all committee members of various child protection mechanism of the district. After the discussion with all the personnel and CWC authorities , visit and interaction with various institutions the Commission recommend following areas for effective implementation for the best interest of the child;

Recommendations

1. There are child care organisations in the district which are not recognised under JJ Act. The district administration has to take immediate 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 strictly.
2. The information among the staff members of various CCIs 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 residing in various CCIs. Children heaving their biological parents are also staying in the institutions. The CCIs /Organisations have to prepare individual care plan for each child and produced before CWC and follow 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.
4. Children coming to CCIs are not produced before CWCs. This is mandatory for all the CCIs to produce all children before CWC. Hence, DCPU is advised to make necessary arrangements to ensure that children are produced before CWC. In this regards a Gate Keeping mechanism has to develop and followed properly.
5. The Special School-Cum-Vocational Training Centre for Mentally Challenged in Koraput is running without funds neither from the Government of India nor from the Government of Odisha since 2009. The district administration is managing the School out of Red Cross fund somehow, which is a difficult task. Hence W&CD is recommended to take necessary steps to include the School under GIA rules of the State Government.
6. Regarding the functioning of JJB in the district, it came to the notice that, 49 Juvenile cases are pending in the court since last two years and could not be disbursed because of not getting proper cooperation from the Police. In all the cases, charge sheet and not received from the Police. Hence, the district administration is recommended to take the matter in to the Children's Court and expedite trial of the cases.
7. During the review meeting, the District Labour Officer informed that they have identified 10,757 number of child labour from the district and all are dropout from the school. This information is already shared with District SSA. To address this issue the district SSA/SSA is covering 1772 number of children and another 1000 children are covered under NCLP. However the SSA could not provide the information and whereabouts of another 7985 number of children. Hence, the district administration is recommended to track the children and do necessary enrolment and rehabilitation of these children.
8. It was also came to the notice that, the District level Taskforce for rescue and rehabilitation of Child labour under supervision of District Labour Officer is not functioning as it supposed to be. Hence, it is recommended that, necessary steps may be taken to activate the committee.

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 district administration including ADMO, DSWO and DCPO. In the beginning a brief presentation was made about the various programmes visited in the district along with orient the participants on various power and function of the Commission. The commission extend thanks to all media people in highlighting child right violation issues in the district time to time. The commission member also responded various questions raised by participants.

General Recommendation:

The Commission member appreciates the active involvement of district administration and other district authorities during the visit of the Commission member.

National and State Government has implementing various programmes for the protection of children. Various policy directions has prepared and shared with authorities. But, it seems that the proper information is not percolate down in to the grassroots. There is huge gap between micro and macro level. Hence following specific recommended may be taken to activate the process.

1. 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 and need to take a review accordingly. This activity will reduce in information and practice gap.
2. The District Child Protection Unit – DCPU has to work more proactively in the district. The DCPU has to work independently taking all the line department of the district and take initiative to bring convergence.
3. Information and capacity on child protection/Child rights among various stakeholders including front line authorities is needed. Hence, the district administration is recommended to organise the capacity building event to update the information and knowledge base.

Follow up:

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

Rajendra Meher
Member, OSCPCR