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Visit report of Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member, OSCPCR to Malkangiri District

Date: 21st 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 Malkangiri district on 21st of June and visited various programme along with district administrations and undertook a review meeting with district level officials.

Objective of the visit:

The objective of the visit was 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 (Yuva Yoti Orphanase)
2. Visited a girls hostel at Gobindpali (Run by Missionaries)
3. Visit Special School for Deaf , Dumb and Blind(Erma baka)
4. Visit Child Fund India office
5. Attended district level Review meeting

Observations and recommendations:

A district level review meeting was organised with DCPU and selected committee members of various child protection mechanism of the district. Collector Cum District Magistrate preside the meeting. After the discussion with the personnel and interaction with various institutions the Commission recommend following areas for effective implementation for the best interest of the child;

Recommendations

1. The information among the staff members of Yuba Yoti orphanage on standard care guideline and its implications is practically nil. The same organisation is also running special school in the same campus. The DCPU has to make effort on build capacity of functionaries to maintain standard care practices as prescribed by State Government and see that both the programme run as per the guideline.
2. There is no any individual care plan prepared for the children residing in various CCIs and Special Schools. 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 recommendations. Efforts have to make by DCPU to reunification of children in the family set up as per the ICPS mandate. All efforts have to take not to separate children from their biological parents.
3. 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.
4. The Special School for Deaf, Dumb and Blind (Erma baka) in Malkangiri is running without funds from the Government. The supply of subsidise rice is also held up since last April 2013. The School is managing out of the donations which the founder used to manage from different sources. Hence W&CD is recommended to take necessary steps to include the School to provide necessary support. District administration is recommended to arrange subsidise rice and regular health check for all the children.
5. In the district last year around 60 children died from a virus known as Japanese Encephalities. It was confirm from the state that, it was caused from mosquitoes. Hence, district administration is recommended to take necessary precaution measures in consultation with state authorities to avoid such situations.

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 time to time. But, it seems that the proper information is not percolate dawn in to the grassroots. There is huge gap between micro and macro level. Hence following specific recommended are made to activate the process.