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**Report of visit to Sundergarh District on**

**REVIEW OF VARIOUS CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS,  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND HOLDING CAMP COURT**

**26th – 27th, February 2013**

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**Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCP CR)**

### **Background:**

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 the commission has visited the district 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 get a first hand sense on what is happening in the ground
3. Organise camp court in the district to hear cases of grievance/complain related to child protection and redress existing cases with the commission.

### **Visit Team:**

The team constituted of Smt. Saraswati Hembrum, Chairperson, OSCPCR, Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member, OSCPCR and Mr. Manoranjan Das, OSD, OSCPCR

### **Coordination on sites:**

Prior to visit the district the OSCPCR has sent formal communication along with an agenda. Apart from this several round of interaction with various district level officials including Collector and Superintendent of Police organised to ensure their participation and overall arrangements. The DSWO, DPC and DIPRO were contacted specially to see the overall coordination, field visit and formal meetings.

### **List of Programme Visited:**

During the period team have visited/performed following programmes;

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

**Observation and Recommendations:**

During the visit the commission has noted many good practices in the institutions and good amount of commitment among the various concerned authorities. After carefully observations/visit to programmes, interaction with various stakeholders and verify available records and documents the commission has recommend following specific points to the district administrations with an objective to improve the quality of the programme.

Sl no	Programme	Activity undertaken	Recommendations
1	Anganwadi Centre	Visit Karamdihi – 1 & Baligudi Anganwadi Centres, interaction with beneficiaries and verify centre documents. This is the block (Subdega) where ICDS programme is first piloted.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All the children coming to Anganwadi Centres were not provided dresses. Hence, Commission recommend the district authorities to make sure that, all children are supplied with dress as per the provisions.</li> <li>2. The Janch Committees are formed in the centres, but the members are not aware about their role and responsibility. The Commission recommend the district administration to orient the members and ensure their quality involvement.</li> <li>3. Monitoring to various centres by higher authorities level are seems very week. The Collector and other higher authorities are recommended to look in to it properly.</li> <li>4. In one centre commission has noticed one serious issue of falsification of signature of one Janch Committee member by Anganwadi workers. Commission has recommended the district administration to give word of warning to the concerned authorities and ensure that, this type of things is not happen next time.</li> </ol>

2	Primary Schools	Visit Karamdihi and Baligudi Primary Schools, interaction with Children and Teacher	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All the teachers has to ensure proper class room transactions so as to enhance the teaching and learning process effectively</li> <li>2. Understanding on Child Rights among children seems week. Hence, the commission advised the DPC to make necessary arrangements to orient and disseminate appropriate information among the children.</li> <li>3. Schools are not provided with funds to run Mid -Day Meal programme since last six months. Teachers were expressing their difficulties before the commission in managing the programme. Commission has recommended the district administration to immediately release the funds.</li> </ol>
3	Child Care Centre	Visit Jai Shankar CCI at Belsara village of Tangarpali Block and Adrut (managed by Rawa Academy) at Sudergarh Town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The information among the staff members on standard care guideline and its implications is practically nil. The administration has to make effort on building capacity to maintain standard care practices as prescribed by State Government</li> <li>2. There is no any individual care plan prepared for the children. Many children heaving their biological parents are also staying in the institutions. The organisation has to prepare individual care plan for each individual child and follow it properly. Efforts have to make by District administration to reunification of children in the family set up.</li> <li>3. The organisation has to come out from the traditional charity based approach for the children to right based approach for the children who in need of care and protection.</li> </ol>

5	Visit special school	Visit special school for deaf and blind (SARTHAK ) run by District branch of Red Cross Society	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keeping the need of the school the commission has recommended both the School may be upgraded up to High School level.</li> <li>2. Necessary maintenance work of the building has to ensured before rainy season</li> <li>3. Release of funds to the institution need to be regularise</li> </ol>
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**Camp court:**

The commission has heard 3 registered cares related to child protection and all three cases disposed off. This is to be noted that, in spite of advertisement in daily news paper, no cases of any violation came during camp court. However child right violation cases are very strongly visible in community and institutions.

**Meetings with various child protection Mechanisms:**

In the visit there was also a review meeting organised with various child protection mechanism and authorities of SSA with an objective to review the implementation of Right to Education initiatives and functioning of various child protection mechanism in the district.

Following are the key recommendations for different committees/bodies;

Committee	Observation	Recommendations
Child Welfare Committee	No body from the Child Welfare Committee has participated in the meeting. So commission could not access the functioning of the committee	The district administration is advised to ensure participation of the committee members when ever such meetings are organised.
Juvenile Justice Board	It seems that the board is working well in the district. They express their problem of lack of cooperation from Police departments in dealing the juvenile cases.	The Commission recommended Superintendent of Police to look in to the matter with proper orientation of all police personnel on JJ Act.
SJPU	The SJPU is formed in the district officially but no any meeting and training organised for the members. Most of the	The State Government is recommended to develop a special operational guideline for the SJPU members along with required training and support.

	police personnel trained once open a time are now transferred.	The Superintendent of Police recommends to organising periodic meeting with SJPU members and reviewing the programme.
DCPS	The District Child Protection Society – DCPS has formally formed in the district since last two years. The District office failed to provide any update on the functioning of the Society.	The Commission has recommended the district administration to reconstitute the society taking active member from civil society. Apart from this regular meeting has to organise as per the byelaw for business transactions.
RTE	The district SSA is making every effort to implement various planned activities in relation to RTE. The DPC in charge 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. There is huge data mismatch on many of the categories. The data provided by DPC does not match the data available with OPEPA. 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 and interventions by district is not adequate. As per the field experiences and media reports many children are engage as a child labour and migrate to other part of cities along with their parents in search of livelihood.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The DPC in charge have recommended making available proper data with detail segregation. There should be always two categories on various activities ie. i. Completion and 2. Under process.</li><li>2. The Commission has recommended to follow strictly the grievance redress mechanism as per the government of Odisha notifications. District Inspectors are advised strictly to follow the guideline and maintain records.</li><li>3. The district is lacking behind in properly organising “Sikshya Sambad”, hence recommend the district SSA to strictly follow the guideline.</li><li>4. The Commission strongly recommend to the state government to go for a child labour survey in the district and district administration is recommended to ensure proper identification of out of school children and mainstream them in school.</li></ol>

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**Press meet:**

There was a press meet organised by DIPRO. Around 15 press from electronics and print media participated in the meet. Smt. Saraswati Hembrum, Chairperson and Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member OSCPCR addressed the press. We make a small presentation 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 protection issues in the district. The commission also responded various questions raised by participants.

**General Recommendation:**

1. For the better convergence and effective implementation of various child protection mechanism in the district the Collector has to organise time to time review/coordination meeting (preferable in two/three months) with all the committees/bodies.
2. Women and Child Development Department of Government of Odisah has to develop and share a tool with all Collectors to monitor the programme. This will help the district administration to monitor various programme more structure way.
3. There was no participation from any of the top level officials of the district during the visit of the Commission. Hence, the Commission could not able to do any consultation on various issues identified.

**Follow up:**

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

**Attachments:**

1. Programme schedule
2. Media coverage
3. Selected Photographs

  
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