

A Workshop on sensitization of Media Person on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offence 2012 was held at Hotel New Marion today (22.11.2014). Participants from both print and Electronic Media attended the workshop. The workshop was chaired by Dr Sruti Mohapatra, Chairperson Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. She spoke on various laws and provisions on protection of Child rights as well as the role and functions of the Commission. She emphasized the role of media in particular who play one of the vital roles in such matters. Sri Rajendra Meher, Member, Odisha State Commission for protection of Child Rights spoke on the issue of revelation of identity by the media and its consequences. He praised the active participation of the media due to which it has been possible to take suo motu cognizance of maximum number of cases in the last two years. Dr Rabindra Kumar Mohanty, Reader in Sociology, Biju Pattnayak State Police Academy who was the Resource person in the Workshop spoke elaborately on Section 228A Indian Penal Code and, Section 21 of JJ Act and 23 of POCSO Act. Section 21 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 speaks " No report in any News paper, magazine, News Sheet or visual media of any enquiry regarding a juvenile in conflict with law or a child in need of care and protection under this Act shall disclose the name, address or school or any other particulars calculated to lead to the identification of the juvenile or child or shall any picture of any such juvenile or child be published. Provided that for reasons to be recorded in writing, the authority holding the enquiry may permit such disclosures in the interest of the juvenile or the child.(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub section (1) shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to Twenty Five Thousand Rupees. Similarly as per section 23 of the POCSO Act the revelation of the identity without having complete and authentic information or disclosure of identity by any media without specific directions from the competent court is punishable with imprisonment and fine. In the Workshop Smt Santoshi Sahoo, Deputy Secretary, OSCPCR and Sri Manoranjan Das, OSD, OSCPCR were also present.

OSCPCR was established in the year 2010. The first chairperson, Mrs. Saraswati Hembram, joined on 01.11.2010 and for two years Commission functioned with only the

Chairperson. Two members joined in September 2012. Presently OSCPCR is functioning with Dr. Sruti Mohapatra as acting Chairperson, and Sri Rajendra Meher, as Member. Despite limitations in person power, the two members apart from looking into cases of child right violations have been relentlessly visiting various districts and reviewing the status of child rights in the districts ( **18** districts visited till date); reviewed the activities of S&ME, WCD and Labor vis-à-vis child right issues; have taken up in-depth and detailed assessment of two specific issues - child labor and education of children with disabilities; inspected various homes; initiated research; and conducting consultations with both government and civil society; etc.

Towards publicizing the issue and bringing visibility to rights of children Commission has launched a quarterly newsletter Prayas, publishes an annual report and has a website ([www.oscpcr.nic.in](http://www.oscpcr.nic.in)). Several publications have been published on child rights also.

- ❖ Cases registered – 452
- ❖ Cases closed - 206
- ❖ Directives sent - 96
- ❖ Compliance report received from the districts – 49

