



# Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR)

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆୟୋଗ

**Rajendra Meher**

Member

ରାଜେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମେହେର  
ସଭ୍ୟ

No. 793 / OSCPCR, Dt. 24.7.2013  
OSCPCR- 86/12

To,

Smt. Usha Padhee, IAS  
Commissioner-cum-Secretary  
Department of School & Mass Education  
Government of Odisha

Letter No. ....

Date .....

**Sub: Recommendations to streamline Seasonal Hostel for Migrant Children.**

Dear Madam,

Thank you very much for all cooperation and support in making the assessment of Seasonal Hostel programme in the district. The team got a sense of the implementation of the programme in the region and also the challenges faced by the children and their parents.

Based on our field visit, interaction with various stakeholders the Commission come out with a set of recommendations which require attention and action before starting of the next session.

The recommendations are attached herewith for your information. We look forward to receiving an action taken report (ATR) from you within two months from receiving the letter and a continuing dialogue and engagement thereof, to support the migrant children in accessing right to education.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rajendra Meher  
Member, OSCPCR



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Letter No. ....

Date.....


Memo No. 794 /OSCPCR, Dt. 24.7.2013

Copy forwarded to The Commissioner Cum-Secretary, Labour and Employees State Insurance Department, Government of Odisha

  
(Rajendra Meher)  
Member, OSCPCR


Memo No. 795 /OSCPCR, Dt. 24.7.2013

Copy forwarded to The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Women and Child Development Departments, Government of Odisha for Information.

  
(Rajendra Meher)  
Member, OSCPCR

Memo No. 796 /OSCPCR, Dt. 24.7.2013

Copy forwarded to The State Project Director, Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) for information and necessary action.

  
(Rajendra Meher)  
Member, OSCPCR

**OSCPCR Recommendations**  
**to Streamline Seasonal Hostels for Migrant Children**

**Introduction:**

There has been a steep rise in the number of children of western Odisha migrating to Brick kilns sector in Andhra Pradesh, Chennai and other parts of the state. Thousands of children every year leave their homes from the various Districts of Western Odisha to work as migrant labourers in Brick kilns spread all over the country. No authentic data is available on how many children leave their houses every year. In fact, every third hand that moulds or carries a brick is that of a child. Children who should be in their schools travel to brick kilns, they miss one year, have to repeat their classes next year, and in the process become drop outs of schools. So there is a distinct generation of children growing up unattended and unlettered, with only brick making as their skills. As adults they join the stream of unskilled and cheap migrant work force.

For many of the migrants leaving their native village with family implies not only subjugation to extremely exploitative condition at work site, but also buries the intricately woven socio-economic cultural and emotional fabric of the families left at village. The worst sufferers are the children. The children have a horrible fate to succumb unknowingly and absolutely without any fault, their future graveyard is readied. Since the entire family moves leaving behind the aged, the child who is at the school going age helps his / her parents in the work place. The labour contractors prefers child in the unit as the work at the brick kilns will not be complete without a child labour because certain jobs can be performed only by small hands and height.

**Initiatives by OSCPCS:**

Government of Odisha have been implementing Seasonal Hostels to prevent migration of children and ensure that they continue with their schooling without any disturbances. The study is a small step to look critically in to functioning of Seasonal Hostels by an expert team headed by Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member, OSCPCR and recommend suitable measures for the best interest of the child. Prior to this study, review of implementation of seasonal hostels in these districts, review of records and civil society consultation organised to get feedback to plan things accordingly.

**Recommendations:**

Following are the specific recommendations the OSCPCR wanted to make before the Government with an objective to strengthen the implementation of Seasonal Hostels for Migrant Children in the State.

1. **Identification of Migrant Children:** Identification of eligible Children prior to setting of Seasonal Hostel is an important exercise in the whole programme. This exercise need to be carried out in each migration prone village in active collaboration with School Management Committee (SMCs) and other stakeholders and information need to capture in a prescribed format. Creation of awareness using various IEC will help to make visible of the programme.

2. **Selection of Seasonal Hostel site:** Based on the number of Children, the District administration has to select setting up Hostels. If any village or a cluster of village come out with minimum twenty five children is eligible to have a seasonal hostel. Availability of Infrastructural facilities, active SMCs and other logistic requirements need to be considered while deciding the location.
3. **Coverage:** From the field it was found that, huge numbers of children are migrating every year to various parts of the country with their parents. The Government has to make necessary financial and other provisions to cover all children with this program. The present allocation is only covering a few percentages of children and others are left out.
4. **Standard Care Practices:** All possible measures need to be ensured to provide a standard Care in the Hostels. In this connection, the notification of Standard care Guideline prescribed by Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha need to adhere strictly.
5. **Child friendly environment:** The District SSA/RTE will have to ensure with necessary infrastructure and mechanism to make the hostel child friendly.
6. **Safety and Security:** Safety and security aspects of all children residing in the hostels need to be given top priority. There will be 24x7 security arrangements need to be arranged. Provisions for lady warden In all hostels as girls are also staying in the hostels need to be ensured.
7. **Entry and Exit policy:** There must be structured entry and exit policy for the children in the hostels. Parents have to hand over their children formally to the hostel authorities and take away when they come back. The Government has to develop suitable format for the purpose. Hostels should continue for 8 months instead of six months, beginning from November and ending in June. Children should be allowed to stay while their parents are still in the village and preparing to migrate. This will generate confidence within the parents to leave back their children in the hostels.
8. **Capacity Building:** All functionaries dealing with children in the hostels will have to provide separate residential training on aspects of Child protection, counseling, Standard care and documentation so that they can deliver qualitatively.
9. **Involvement of Civil Society:** Civil Society can play a remarkable role in the whole programme starting from selection of children to programme monitoring. District RTE/SSA have to take their professional support according to their strength.
10. **Programme Monitoring:** Government has to develop structured tools to ensure quality programme monitoring regularly. The Chairman SSA need to take a review of the report and take necessary measures on findings. Hostel level monitoring committees (other than SMC) have to form to monitor the programme.

11. **Quality Control:** School Management Committee need to be given responsibility and authority to ensure quality control in the hostels. They need to operate in the guideline prescribed under the programme and ensure that everything is in the line with guideline.
12. **Documentation:** Documentation at various levels has to be ensured properly. Government have to prescribe a standardize documents requirement for the centre. This can be a part of Guideline.
13. **Insurance coverage:** All the children residing in the hostel have to cover with a mediclaim and Insurance policy. State Government has to take necessary steps to make this happen.
14. **Transfer of Funds:** The District SSA/RTE has to transfer the funds on monthly basic to School Management Committee accounts directly and they will be given authority to handle the financial matters in collaboration with Head teacher.
15. **Comprehensive Guidellne:** The existing Guideline developed by School and Mass Education Departments has to be reviewed with necessary changes/modifications. Consultation with various stakeholders including children needed while finalizing the guideline.

**Conclusion:**

The study findings present only a partial picture of the children on move and point to the need to obtain more comprehensive information in order to respond to the protection needs of children on the move both at source and destinations. The aim of this study is to assist School and Mass Education Departments, Government of Odisha in planning interventions that are in the best interests of children on the hostels and inform further research needs. Additional research and understanding is necessary to guide practical interventions that will improve child protection mechanisms for these children.

**List of Members In the Expert Team:**

1. Mr. Rajendra Meher, Member, OSCPCR
2. Mr. Biswanath Tarai, Additional Director, OPEPA, S & ME Dept., Govt. of Odisha
3. Mr. Sangram Keshari Samal, Project Officer, OSCPS, W & CD Dept., Govt. of Odisha
4. Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Programme Officer, Aide-at-Action
5. Ms. Bharati Chakra, Advocacy Coordinator, Save the Children

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Meher  
24/7/13