



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

To,
Shri. Arjun Singh
Union Minister of
Human Resource Development

May 31, 2007

Dear Sir,

I have been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and have joined office on 5th March 2007. One of the issues the NCPCR is looking at is the implementation of education as a fundamental right.

In this regard it is noticed that some States in the country have worked out positive steps by issuing appropriate orders, circulars and other institutional arrangements for accommodating the needs of the first generation learners and children who are seeking re-admission after a long absence. For example they have introduced flexibility in procedures of admissions, non-insistence on birth certificates, easy access to transfer certificates, and other procedures governing examinations and so on. At the same time several children continue to face issues that exclude them from participating in the schools and eventually they get pushed out.

Further there have been efforts by some State governments to abolish child labor, and make arrangements through bridge courses to mainstream them into formal schools. Such a task has necessitated a well orchestrated coordination of the departments of labor, welfare, police and education at the State, District and sub-district level.

There is a need to review the State government's commitment to making education a reality for every child and review the systemic response of each of the State's concerned to meet the demands of first generation learners, older children and their retention in schools, as well as strategies employed to get out of school children especially child labor back into the schools.

Perhaps a meeting of CAGE on the above issues would help in reviewing the implementation of protection of children's right to education and in consolidating the efforts of States.

I shall be grateful if you could kindly give me an opportunity to meet you and discuss the above mentioned issues.

Best Wishes

Sd.
Shantha Sinha