

## **Report on the Implementation of the Bal Bandhu Scheme for Protection of Child Rights**

**For the office of Honorable Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, New Delhi**

**Report Period: October 2010 to February 2011 Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

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The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has commenced its work under the Bal Bandhu Project for Protection of Child Rights (BB Scheme), supported by the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), since October 2010, (upon receiving the requisite funds from the PMNRF). An advertisement for recruitment of functionaries such as Resource Persons and Project Coordinator was released in September 2010, and since then, the following activities have been carried out according to the Guidelines for Implementation of the Scheme:

### **1. Overview of appointment of functionaries –**

- 1.1. Advertisement for the position of Project Coordinator and Resource Persons was released on 10th September 2010.
- 1.2. Appointment of Resource Persons and Project Coordinator was done in November 2010.
- 1.3. Orientation of the Resource Persons to the BB Scheme was carried out in the first week of December 2010 for days. 20 Resource Persons and the Project Coordinator participated in the orientation program. Representatives from the Ministries of: Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Health, Food and Civil Supply and Minority Affairs, provided an overview about various Central and State Governments regarding Schemes for the protection and development of children. Most of the representatives were from the ranks of Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary.
- 1.4. Empanelment of Consultants: Systems and processes for empanelment of consultants as per the Guidelines have been set up. A search committee has been constituted to carry out the task of empanelment.
- 1.5. Identification and Selection of Bal Bandhus: 166 Bal Bandhus have been identified and engaged under the Scheme.

## 2. Introduction of the BB Scheme in Five States:

Currently, the BB Scheme is being implemented as per the Guidelines in the following States:

- **Andhra Pradesh** (District: Khammam-**Cherla** Block) ,
- **Assam** (Districts: Chirang-**Sidli** Block)
- **Bihar** (Districts: East Champaran – **Patahi** Block, Rohtas – **Rohtas** Block, Sheohar –**Tariyani** Block and Jamui-Khaira Block)
- **Chattisgarh** (District: Dantewada-**Sukma** Block) and
- **Maharashtra** (District:Gadchiroli-**Dhanora** Block).

Resource Persons have been deputed to designated States in December 2010. Finalization of blocks for implementation of the BB Scheme at district level, has taken place in all the States. Consultations with the district collectors/chief executive officers have been done while finalizing blocks

**3. State Visit** – In order to ground the BB Scheme at State level, introductory meetings have been held with government officials at State and District level by the Member Secretary, who is the nodal officer under the BB Project. The Project Coordinator assisted the Member Secretary in State visits. Between December 2010 and February 2011, visits to the following States have been undertaken:

- **Bihar** (December 2010)
- **Chhattisgarh** (January 2011)
- **Assam** (January 2011)
- **Andhra Pradesh** (February 2011)
- **Maharashtra** (February 2011)

**During the visits**, meetings were held with the following persons:

**(a)At District level:** the Principal Secretary Bodo Land Territorial Council (BTC), District Collectors of Chirang and Kokhrajhar in Assam and with Collector, SP and SDMs in Dantewada, Khammam, Sheohar, Jamui, Rohtas and Gadchiroli districts. Officers from the department of rural development, education, SSA, health, water and sanitation, women and child development, social welfare, and Panchayati Raj attended. In Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee was also present.

**(b) At Block level:** Bal Bandhus, members of Panchayati Raj, district representatives and community members.

**(c)At State level:** the Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary; Principal Secretary, Secretary and directors from the department of rural development, education, SSA, health, water and sanitation, women and child development, social welfare, and Panchayat Raj were also represented in the meeting. In Assam, the Chairperson of the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was also present.

At the meetings with Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary, the objectives of the BB program and the role of the State were discussed. The issue of vacation of schools and other educational institutions occupied by the security forces was also discussed. The State Governments in Chhattisgarh and Assam have assured the NCPCR that the vacation of these institutions in line with the directives of the Honorable Supreme Court of India, will be ensured.

**Media** coverage of the visits has been very wide and good. Leading news papers at the local level including "The Hindu" have carried news about the implementation of the BB Scheme during the visit of the Member Secretary to the States.

#### 4. Implementation of the BB Scheme

**4.1. Identification and Selection of Bal Bandhus:** By end February, 166 Bal Bandhus were identified and selected in all the States. They have been oriented about the BB Scheme and also about their responsibilities under the Guidelines. The State-wise and district-wise break-up is as under:

State and Districts	Bal Bandhus Engaged
<b>Bihar State</b>	
East Champaran	11
Rohtas	20
Jamui	20
Sheohar	20
<b>Assam State</b>	
Chirang	20
Kokrajhar	17
NC Hills ( <i>Program is currently on hold</i> )	
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
Khammam	19
<b>Maharashtra</b>	
Gadchiroli	20
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	
Dantewada	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>

**4.2 Mobilization of Community:** Resource Persons and Bal Bandhus have begun the process of social mobilization - interacting with local youth, women's self help groups, parent teachers associations, anganwadi workers, gram panchayats, VCDS, Bodo Student Union and teachers. As part of social mobilization and identification of Bal Bandhus, extensive field work in the block has been undertaken by the Resource Persons, and they have completed visiting 40% of the administrative area of the blocks chosen for implementation of the BB Scheme.

**4.2. Involvement of Gram Panchayats/VCDCs and community on child rights:** Resource Persons and Bal Bandhus have been holding meetings with the members of community, specifically youth, and women towards mobilization of community to seek Government response to address issues of non functional schools, hospitals, anganwadis due to the civil unrest situation.

**5. Constitution of the Advisory Committee under the Scheme:** At the national level an Advisory Committee has been constituted. The said Committee is chaired by the Honorable Chairperson, NCPCR Prof Shantha Sinha. Smt Dipa Dixit, Member NCPCR and representatives from the Ministries of: Women and Child Development, Human Resource Development, Tribal Affairs and Home Affairs, have been appointed as Members. Member Secretary, NCPCR is the Convenor of the Committee. It has been decided to hold the meeting of the Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011. At the district level, reporting to the District Collector and other functionaries on a monthly basis has begun on a regular basis.