

**Minutes of the Meeting on: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION
FOR PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS OF DISPLACED AND MISSING CHILDREN ON
RAILWAY PLATFORMS IN INDIA**

Date: 29th August 2008

Venue: NCPCR

Meeting Time :11:30am -2:00 pm

- **CHAIR** : **Member,NCPCR,
Shmt. Sandhya Bajaj**

- **Meeting with NCPCR Member and Following Delegates:**
 - **Amit Kumar Singh:** NCPCR
 - **Dr.J.Madhavi:** Policy Expert, JNU,Director,Sharda Paryavaran Sanrakshan Kendra
 - **Ms.Mrinalini Rao:** Country Director,Railway Children
 - **Mr.S.Navin:**Programme Officer, Railway Children
- **AGENDA**
 - Protocol For Missing Children
 - Creation of Child Protection Centre (CPU) at Railway Platforms
 - Infrastructural Support of Railway Ministry
 - Formation of Sub-Disciplinary Committee for Inter Ministerial Coordination and NGO Coordination
 - Funding of CPU establishments
 - Monitoring Mechanism of CPU
 - Forming a Curriculum for RPF Trainees on Child Rights Protection on Railway Platforms
 - Advertising Child Rights Awareness by Symbolic Hoardings on Railway Platforms
 - Software Formation
 - Data Collection of Missing Children
 - Capacity Building by Railway Children
 - Child Rights as Election Agenda
 - Culture Training of Displaced Children on Railway Platform
- **ISSUES**
 - PREVENTING PHYSICAL ABUSE OF MISSING AND DISPLACED CHILDREN
 - PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE OF MISSING AND DISPLACED CHILDREN
 - PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING OF MISSING AND DISPLACED CHILDREN ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS
 - HIV/AIDS CONTAMINATION
 - REHABILITATION OF MISSING AND DISPLACED CHILDREN

- **DISCUSSION**

- **NCPCR POLICY MEASURES: Formation of Sub-Disciplinary Committee for Protection of Child Rights of Displaced and Missing Children on Railway Platform by NCPCR**

- **PROTOCOL AGENDA For Missing Children**
 - **WCD Member as NCPCR Representative(Clerical Post to be Created by WCD/Railway Ministry)**
 - **RPF Officer**
 - **GRP Officer**
 - **NGO**
 - **Railway Zonal Officer**

- **GUIDELINES OF NCPCR For Protecting Child Rights on Railway Platforms**
 - **Vision Document**
 - **Journal**

- **GUIDELINES FOR RAILWAY MINISTRY**

- **GUIDELINES FOR VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION ON RAILWAY PLATFORM**

- **GUIDELINES FOR NGO's**

Sandhya Bajaj
(Member,NCPCR)

Minutes of the Meeting for: NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AT RAILWAY PLATFORMS IN INDIA

Date: 06th October 2008

Venue: NCPCR

Meeting Time: 11:30am -1:30 pm

- **CHAIR** : **Member, NCPCR: Shmt. Sandhya Bajaj**
: **Member Secretary, NCPCR: Mr. V.C.Tiwari**
: **Director, NCPCR: R.K.Singh**

- **Delegates From NCPCR** : **Consultant, Shmt. Sushma Dua**
: **Amit Kumar Singh**
: **Dr.J.Madhavi, (Director, Sharda Paryavaran Sanraksahn**
Kendra)

Described below are the contents of the discussion held in the meeting:

1) Member, NCPCR, Shmt. Sandhya Bajaj commenced the meeting by introducing NCPCR and rendering an opening address by welcoming all the participants and expressing the concern about safeguarding the rights of Missing Children on Railway Platforms. She also appreciated the quorum in the meeting declaring that this displays the motivation and commitment of the participants in tandem with NCPCR objective. She introduced MS and Director of NCPCR opening the floor for discussion. The member also stated that NCPCR is ready for collaborating with other Ministries such as Railway Ministry (especially Hon'ble Lalu Prasad Yadav and Health Ministry regarding their support regarding NCPCR's agenda on displaced children at Railway Platform. She also reiterated that on the inputs stated by the participant NGO's working model, a study tour will be conducted after the workshop to study the best successful functioning model for pan-Indian applicability for rehabilitating, repatriating and safeguarding children on railway platforms. She declared that another follow up meeting with the concerned Government officials, Ministries and Department would be organized following a workshop which would consolidate the measures to be implemented by NCPCR for safeguards of children on railway platforms.

2) Member Secretary, NCPCR, Mr.V.C.Tiwari stated that NCPCR is now ready to move ahead aggressively on the Agenda to safeguard rights of children at Railway Platforms. He appealed all the participants for information sharing regarding their curriculum and inputs in writing for safeguarding the children called for a written inputs and appeals to NCPCR. He said that NCPCR will create a follow up mechanism to the Participant NGO's by digitally acknowledging their appeals and take immediate action accordingly. He emphasized that the present system for rehabilitating the children on railway platform is very exhaustive but can only effectively

function with the inputs of participant NGO's. He appealed for information sharing amidst NGOs' and will expand the NCPCR presence accordingly. He also appealed the NGO's to educate NCPCR on various realities both upcoming and ignored at the Railway Platform vis-à-vis their field level experience. He also appealed the NGO's to accordingly suggest and inform NCPCR regarding the difficulties faced by NGO's in addressing the issue of safeguarding the rights of children on railway platforms.

1. **Dr.J.Madhavi from SHARDA PARYAVARAN SANRAKSHAN KENDRA** emphasized on creating a digital meta-database (having an exhaustive list of categories) and organizes a digitally enabled GIS monitoring system lead by NCPCR at a Pan-India level chartering the respective roles for NGO's vis-à-vis their expertise and experience regarding the safeguard of children at Railway Platforms. She emphasized on a vision and action plan must be formulated by NCPCR which is evaluated and assessed at regular intervals such as weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, half-yearly regarding the implementation of NCPCR's objectives.
2. **Ms.Archana Sharma from SMILE FOUNDATION** introduced her organization and expressed that her foundation wants to collaborate with NCPCR in the issues of safeguarding children at Railway Platforms.
3. **Mr.Sanjay Gupta from CHETNA** indicated that many children from neighboring settlements venture into Railway Platforms for livelihood and CHETNA is striving to arrest this migration. He indicated that missing children should be rehabilitated within 15 days .He mentioned that trafficking of children on railway platforms is increasing.
4. **Mr. Subash C.Bose from ANUBHAV** informed that their NGO works on 5 railway platforms in Delhi They pointed out that often missing children do not want to return home.
They mentioned their focus on protection, withdrawal and shelter of children from railway platforms. They provide repatriation with dignity and rehabilitation package apart from having a stake holder committee. They have introduced concepts such as "Zero to Hero and Listen Post ".They provide Night Shelter, Dropping facility and Children In charge for taking charge of displaced children. They have launched Delhi-Jaipur Awareness campaign where any displaced child can approach their volunteers in confidence.
5. **Fr.Monideep Daniel from DELHI BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY** stated their presence of operation in Old Delhi, New Delhi and ISBT.They specialize in providing night Shelters and rehabilitation, Repatriation and Protection of children on railway platforms. During natural calamities many missing children take shelter on Railway Platforms.
6. **Ms.Rakhee from BLESSING SOCIETY** introduced her organization and mentioned that the organization's focus is mainly on children from 13-14 years. They conduct a study of Drug Addiction of children on railway platforms.
7. **Mr.Ramesh Paswan from PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL** mentioned that their organizational presence is in Sewa Puri, New Delhi Railway Station and Nizamuddin Railway Station.On a 24 hour basis, they monitor and focus on drug abused children below 18 years and rehabilitate and repatriate and counsel them. They also provide vocational training to displaced children on railway platforms.
8. **Mr.V.Pathak and Mr.Praveen from SALAM BALAK TRUST** stated their experience on safeguarding Railway Children has been of 20 years and pointed out a new trend that the children on railway platform are increasingly getting addicted to "white fluid" and strongly advocated a ban on this substance abuse. They mentioned that this substance is being sold at the railway platform outlets such as the pan shops at an increased price (upto 50 times) especially during the night time. They also advocated CHILDLINE # 1098 presence at more railway station.

9. **Mr. Naveen from RAILWAY CHILDREN** introduced the NGO stating that its role is financial and technical support to 19 organizations in India that cater to safeguarding children at Railway Platforms. Stating the main focus of Railway Children is on “Early Intervention and Reunification” of the children at the Railway Zonal level with their respective Programme Officers. Their approach is more on Need Based Project Support and Analysis.
10. **Ms. Anjali Agarwal from SAATHI** introduced her NGO presence in 6 states and their focus is on Railway Children since 1992 on Home replacement. She stated that SAATHI has an outreach team which is into counseling children and follows up systematically. SAATHI has replaced around 3000 children. She pointed out in New Delhi there are maximum runaway children. Their recent study has discovered that per day within 18 hours there are 500 missing and children in 3 days there are 725 children on average.

(Tea was served by NCPDR)

11. **AASHIAN** advocated its confederation strength of NGO's regarding rehabilitation, motivation and replacement of missing and displaced children in railway platforms. It caters to the Railway Platforms of Gauhati, Nagpur and Bombay and has 500 NGO's working under it for this cause
12. **Mr. Rakesh from UDAYAAN CARE** stated that they specialize in taking care of “orphaned and abandoned” children at the railway platforms and discussed the issue of providing a single platform for collecting information and how NCPDR can play a vital role in this
13. **Kiran Jyoti from HUMAN RIGHTS CHILD NETWORK** introduced her organization stating that they are a lawyer's consortium and are working specifically for children's rights and are working out a policy to ban the sale of “white fluid” at the railway platform. **Mr. Afsar Ahmad** further elaborated that their organization's focus is on advocacy and intervention measures for providing shelter to girl child, prevention of abuse and fostering enforcement measures for their protection. He discussed the rehabilitation system of railway children and pointed out that the unprotected girl child on railway platforms is prone to multiple marriages, white fluid consumption and drug abuse. He stated that the protection of girl child on railway platform is more needed in Northern Railways.
14. **Ms Komal from CHILDLINE FOUNDATION** introduced their organization stating their presence in 150 centers in 83 cities and they started their venture by looking at the gory situation at Mumbai railway platform. She stated that ChildLine motivates partners. She pointed out cross-border trafficking at Indo-Nepal border. Nepal Traffickers Report upto 50-6000 Nepalese children into India who are exploited into Domestic labor, brothels and services. She reiterated regarding the Police Railway Act and said that RPF should not book the displaced children on railway platforms for petty offences as criminals. She also emphasized on State Government Advocacy for child rights protection. She finally stated that every case is a struggle in itself regarding child protection while giving an example of a case.
15. **HAQ** introduced itself that it is more into parliamentary procedures, budget allocation etc regarding audit and other criteria's related to child protection. They specialize in providing free legal aid to child protection issues.
16. Prashant introduced PAIRVI and stated their strengths in National Campaigning for safeguarding children on railway platforms and that their organization has contributed to the cause by bringing out a Children's Manifesto. They have worked intensively in Madhya Pradesh for juvenile crime issue, in Harahan about child labor etc. They are advocating a fast track course in child protection strategies.
17. **Mr. Indu Prakash Singh from ACTION AID** spoke about its partners who are into child protection issues and that the main focus is inter-organizational networking both on a national and international level. He advocated that medical care and homely shelter homes are exigent issues. He mentioned that ACTION AID provides shelter for homeless people. He also brought forth an interesting aspect that at night, the lives of unprotected children

becomes very gory as organized crime syndicates are more active and organized than NCPCR and venture for their exploitation basically at night.

18. **It was then agreed that the floor was open for providing suggestions and the request for expression of suggestions by the participants was made.**

SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS FOR SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF CHILDREN ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS are as under:

- Banning of the sale of “white fluid” at the Railway Platforms as the children are increasingly getting into this substance abuse.
- Shelter homes must not be like jails rather, they must be more homely in terms of sanitation and treatment of the rehabilitated children
- Medical treatment facility should be readily provided to the physically and sexually abused children at the railway platforms.
- Single window package must be provided by NCPCR for all NGO's for safeguarding the abused children at the railway platforms.
- There should be non-multiplicity of programmes regarding protecting children by NGO's
- Children on railway platforms should be classified into various categories.
- Identification of NGO's that run successful model of being the best shelter homes must be studied such as that of the Bangalore Model.
- The Railway Authorities must acknowledge safeguarding the rights of the children on railway platforms.
- There should be change of perspective and approach towards the children on railway platforms as the rag-pickers are also taking care of the environment by removing plastics from the railway station.
- There should be endorsement of a well organized framework by NCPCR
- The legal presence of the NGO's on Railway platforms must be endorsed as NGO's protecting the children at the railway platforms have the right to be legally present on the Railway Platforms.
- There should be standardized and well coordinated efforts of the NGO regarding the protection of children on railway platforms.
- Successful models of shelter homes should be studied by NCPCR
- Circulars should be issued by NCPCR to RPF
- I-card to be issued by RPF to NGO's protecting children on railway platforms.
- There should be training and retraining base of NGO's in terms of capacity Building.
- There should be a Social Audit of shelter homes
- CWC should be located near the Railway station
- The functioning of shelter homes should be reviewed
- There should be a centralized complaint system of displaced and missing children on railway platforms
- Zero to Hero concept must be incorporated for displaced, missing and abused children on railway platforms
- There should be a centralized database maintained by NCPCR regarding information sharing
- There should be speedy and instant protocol within 10 minutes for the displaced, missing and abused children on railway platforms
- An early intervention system by NCPCR should be generated

- There should be the formation of a TASK FORCE COMMITTEE
- NCPCR must raise the issue of social audit and formulate a social audit process of NGO's catering to rehabilitation centers and shelter homes for displaced, missing and abused children on railway platforms

19. After this Director, NCPCR, Mr. R.K.Singh rendered Vote of Thanks and the meeting was concluded by the refreshments served by NCPCR.

NCPCR REQUESTS THAT THE PARTICIPANT NGO'S SHOULD SEND THEIR FEEDBACK WITHIN 7 DAYS.

1) CHALLENGES FACED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTS RELATED TO JUVENILE JUSTICE, CHILD LABOUR, CHILD TRAFFICKING etc.

2) KEY SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COORDINATION AND LINKAGES OF WORK.

This information would prove vital for the purpose of evolving a guideline to protect the rights of children living at and around the railway stations.

MINUTES OF NCPCR WORKING GROUP (PART-II) PREPARATORY MEETING WITH RAILWAY OFFICERS FOR NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AT RAILWAY PLATFORMS

Date: 21-10-2008

Venue: NCPCR

Meeting Time: 11:30am-01:00 pm

• **CHAIRPERSON** :Member, NCPCR: Smt. Sandhya Bajaj

: Director, NCPCR: Mr. R.K. Singh

• **Delegates** From NCPCR : Consultant, NCPCR, Smt Sushma
Dua

: **Resource Person**, Amit kumar Singh

: **Resource Person**, Dr. J.Madhavi

(Director,Sharda Paryavaran
Kendra)

Sanrakshan

Described below are the contents of the discussion held in the meeting:

Background: The NCPCR Working Group Meeting was conducted by NCPCR with the Railway Officers and Nodal NGO delegation of Railway Children on 21-10-2008 at NCPCR office at New Delhi. This meeting was a preparatory meeting for the upcoming National Workshop for safeguarding the rights of children at Railway Platforms. This meeting was organized after the NCPCR Part-I meeting on 06-October-2008 at NCPCR with the NGO's who are already safeguarding the rights of children at railway platforms at their level and in their capacity. Both the meetings were organized in order to formalize pragmatic and issue based guidelines for protecting the rights of children at Railway Platforms.

1) Smt Sandhya Bajaj Member, NCPCR, commenced the meeting with an opening address by mentioning that NCPCR has taken up a serious role in safeguarding the children at Railway Platforms by working group meeting and this meeting is Part-II meeting with the Railway Officials from the Railway Ministry after an initial meeting with nodal NGO's which are actively taking part in safeguarding the rights of children at the Railway platforms. She mentioned that this meeting's focus was on the GRP and RPF's experience in safeguarding the rights of children at the railway Platforms. She requested the Railway RPF and GRP officers to feel free and mention the common problems faced by the officers in handling children at the Railway Platforms and to render suggestions to NCPCR without any pressure in order to form respective guidelines based on their valuable suggestions. She reiterated that NCPCR would imbibe the suggestions of RPF+GRP and would ensure its implementation effectively. She also informed and enquired the role of RPF and GRP in banning the abuse of "white fluid" by displaced

children at the Railway Platforms. She stated that the role of Railway Ministry is extremely important in cooperating with NCPCR regarding the safeguard and protection of children on Railway Platforms. She mentioned and updated all the findings of NCPCR's Part-I Working Group meeting with the entire participant NGO's safeguarding the rights of children held on 6th October 2008.

Smt. Sandhya Bajaj also asked the Railway officers whether they were following any protocol regarding the protection, rescuing and reunification of children at railway platforms and how their petty offences are treated by GRP and RPF. She also requested GRP and RPF officials from Railway Ministry to put forth their expectations from NCPCR.

2) Mr. R.K. Singh Director, NCPCR, had suggested the Railway Officers to involve nodal NGO's actively in order to participate in the task of safeguarding the children at Railway Platforms. He reiterated that rehabilitating these children was a major issue and has to be addressed subsequently.

3) Mr. Bhairav Singh Gujjar Additional DCP, representing **GRP**, mentioned the most exigent problem in safeguarding the children at the Railway Platforms faced by GRP and RPF at the Railway Platforms is their **identification**. His main concern on behalf of GRP was how to identify and protect these children in Railway Platforms such as New Delhi Railway Station? He mentioned that implementing the implementing the **J.J. Act** for children at the Railway Platforms by the GRP is a routine exercise where the medical examination of children is always conducted. He pointed out that one of the major challenges is that the CWC members at the Railway Platforms are not available after 4pm and hence to accommodate missing children for an overnight stay is a major issue often faced by GRP officers and there is no provision of a separate transit room space for children for an overnight stay.

He also mentioned the challenge GRP faces regarding the NGO's are that the GRP cannot assign children to NGO's rather they reunify the children directly where if needed, the intervention of District Collector and his office is taken. He mentioned that drug trafficking is done by adults mostly but they mainly use children for peddling of drugs. He also informed NCPCR that maximum children that are missing, displaced or run-away are from the Eastern India such as from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Regarding Protocol for children at the Railway platforms, he said that till now there has been no such protocol agenda formulated by NCPCR and Mr. Gujjar made many suggestions to NCPCR accordingly.

4) Mr. Ratan Chand, Sr. Commandant, RPF informed NCPCR that he represented the following officers of **RPF** in Railway Ministry:

- **Mr. Rajeev Mathur**, Additional Director General, RPF
- **Mr. Lalit (charge)**, Senior Commandant ,RPF
- **Mr. B.K. Singh**, Assistant Commandant Security, RPF
- **S.S.Sudhakar**, Assistant Commandant Security, RPF

Mr. Ratan Chand commenced RPF's stance on safeguarding the rights of children at Railway Platforms in tandem with the UN Convention. He stated that guidelines and assessment of the rights of children on Railway Platforms should be formulated by NCPCR regarding the safeguard of children at Railway Platforms. Regarding juvenile children on Railway Platforms, he requested NCPCR to form guidelines on the following:

- a) How RPF should treat the juvenile children?
- b) What has to be done by RPF while dealing with juvenile children?
- c) How RPF should act while dealing with juvenile children?
- d) How to sensitize RPF in dealing with juvenile children?

Regarding the issue of Rehabilitation, he addressed the issue of many children arriving in Delhi from other states and these children should also be specifically categorized. He informed NCPCR that many displaced and missing children on Railway Platforms are becoming criminals. They not only consume drugs but also peddle drugs.

He pointed out that specifically Railway Platform is not the site that they are usually found but these children peddle drugs in secluded areas around the Railway Station. He gave an example of an operation conducted by RPF at Lahori Gate slums that have been removed regarding peddling of drugs. He mentioned that in Shahadra, an old shed has been given to nodal NGO's (such as Salam Balak Trust, Playas etc) and a cabin has been created for their work in order to safeguard the children at Railway Platforms.

(Tea was served by NCPCR)

An interesting aspect brought to light by Mr. Ratan Chand to NCPCR is that the degree and level of motivation of juvenile children is so high that when identified by RPF, the children risk their life extent and go even under a moving train to escape arrest!! In most cases according to him, pick pocketing is the repeated offence committed by these children. He pointed out that there is no awareness generated by NCPCR in the issue of safeguarding the rights of children at Railway Platforms.

He reiterated that RPF has been diligent in producing the missing, run-away and displaced children on Railway Platforms to CWC apart from giving them legal protection and reunification with their family members.

Apart from rendering many suggestions, Mr. Ratan Chand also mentioned the successful role of RPF in safeguarding the rights of children at the Railway Platforms in line with the UN Convention.

4)Dr J. Madhavi, (Director, SHARDAPARYAVARAN SANRAKSHAN KENDRA) from NCPCR mentioned a dire need to collect and collate data regarding the number of children being rescued by RPF and GRP that very necessary to digitally monitor and access the situation of safeguarding the rights of children at the Railway Platforms by GRP and RPF. She also stated the need to refurbish the curriculum for the training manual of RPF and GRP officers to sensitize the officers from their training itself in the issue of child right protection and safeguard at the Railway Platforms.

5) Smt. Sushma Dua Consultant, NCPCR, had suggested that the data collected by NCPCR from GRP and RPF would be useful and can be assessed by taking out an average and this can

be done on a monthly basis in order to quantify and qualitatively assess the situation regarding the safeguard of children at the Railway Platforms. This would bring out the real picture of the degree and status of children whose rights have been/to be safeguarded so far.

6) Mr. Sanjay Tiwari from RAILWAY CHILDREN critically questioned the role of RPF and GRP vis-à-vis the J-J-Act from his professional experience and stated that there have been many instances and cases where RPF and GRP didn't usually practice what they preach and there is definitely a need to monitor RPF and GRP's role in safeguarding the rights of children at the Railway platforms. He mentioned that medical examination of children is done when RPF hands over children to GRP but not when handed over to NGO's. He mentioned the IPC sections of 23-28 and JJ Act provisions regarding this. He also mentioned the issue of cross-border runaway children on Indian Railway Platforms and mentioned 2 cases on example regarding runaway children from Pakistan into India.

7) Mr. Navin from RAILWAY CHILDREN mentioned that around 1511 children have been referred to Railway Children NGO by RPF and about 90% have been reunified subsequently and that the runaway children need reunification because they are otherwise prone to trafficking. Mr. Navin also advocated that the training curriculum for RPF module should be refurbished regarding the safeguard of children at the Railway Platform with respect to the inputs from nodal NGO's experience in counseling these children. He also mentioned the trafficking issue of the displaced children at the Railway Platforms is increasing momentum.

8) Mr. Amit brought to attention the issue of the displaced children and the Rag-picking racket the railway platforms to the RPF and GRP at the railway platforms. A discussion cum debate was followed extensively on this issue. He also mentioned that run away children make Railway Platforms their home and also these children indulge into polygamy.

6) Mr. Sohan Lal S.I. represented SHO Mr. Anil, New Delhi Railway Station and maintained quorum.

7) It was then agreed that the floor was open for providing suggestions and the request for expression of suggestions by the participants was made.

SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANT RAILWAY OFFICERS FOR SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF RAILWAY CHILDREN AT RAILWAY PLATFORMS areas under:

- A methodology of identification of missing and displaced children at the railway platforms must be created by NCPCR.
- RPF volunteers must be deployed within the train itself to identify the identification of missing and displaced children at the Railway Platforms must be created by NCPCR.
- A vigilance cell must be created by RPF+GRP+Nodal NGO volunteers to identify missing, run away and displaced children at the Railway Platforms.
- An action plan must be created by NCPCR to handle juvenile children at the Railway Platforms.
- Care and protection modules for the rehabilitation of missing and displaced children must be formulated by NCPCR.
- A separate CWC room space must be provided at Railway Platforms having the following facilities:

a) This would be a neat and clean space at the Railway Station.

- b) This would be kept separately from the GRP Police Station and Police Station such that the children do not face a system shock and that they must not get the feeling of treated like criminals.
 - c) This room would have first aid and medical checkup facilities for 24 hour CWC operation and monitoring the missing and displaced children at the Railway Platforms.
 - d) This CWC unit would be specifically for children where adults would not be allowed strictly to enter the premises.
- Political Parties must be sensitized about the issue of protection of safeguarding the rights of children at the Railway Platforms.
 - Issue of I-Cards by Railway Ministry to Nodal NGO volunteers involved in protection and safeguarding the rights of children at the Railway Platforms.
 - NCPDR to assign CWC officers on night duty as well.
 - The slums around the railway station should be removed as they are prime locations for drug peddling and trafficking of children.
 - NCPDR must developed a system where the role of **TT's** in the train itself and **TC's** at the Railway Station becomes important in identifying whether the children are being brought for trafficking.
 - A training curriculum cum module for RPF and GRP officers must be developed by NCPDR with the help of Nodal NGO's to sensitize the issue of child protection at the Railway Platforms.
 - Experts and academicians relating to child rights protection must render lectures in the RPF and GRP training centers.
 - Railway ministry must do preliminary work in assigning roles to RPF and GRP.
 - Nodal NGO's should be assigned to prohibit and check the issue of rag-picking of displaced children at Railway Platforms.
 - Should have proper manpower and functioning supported by Railway Ministry.
 - District Collectors should take active participation regarding the safeguard and protection of children at the Railway Platforms in their district.
 - The rescued children should be rehabilitated as soon as possible to save manpower and man-hours of GRP and RPF.
 - There should be the presence of at least 2-3 hoardings at Railway Platforms in order to create awareness of the protection and safeguard of children at railway platforms. Railway ministry must support this NCPDR venture through their respective departments.
 - NCPDR should form a sub-committee for RPF+GRP consultations.
 - NCPDR must collect data on missing and displaced children at Railway Platforms.
 - TT's and TC's must be given training regarding how to identify children that are being trafficked or run-away or missing in the trains and Railway Platforms and Stations.
 - NCPDR must take the rehabilitation of trafficked or run-away or missing children in the trains and railway platforms and stations as a serious issue.
 - NCPDR must take up aggressive nation wide campaigns for creating awareness of protection and safeguard children on railway platforms.
 - NCPDR should establish a monitoring agency for RPF and GRP regarding their role towards the safeguards and protection of children on railway platforms.
 - Nodal NGO's and other Child Right Protection Agencies must actively be involved by NCPDR in the implementation of NCPDR guidelines.
 - NCPDR must deploy J.J.Act into RPF Act as well.

- Every PS should have a Child Protection Officer at district and regional levels.
- A separate GRP police station and Special Juvenile Cell must be formed by NCPCR at a pan India level.
- Senior level GRP and RPF of Railway Officers from Railway Ministry must be deputed as Nodal and Zonal Officers at the Railway junctions regarding the protection and safeguard of the rights of children at the Railway Platforms.

8) After this, Director NCPCR, Mr. R. K. Singh rendered Vote of Thanks while stating that many ideas have come forth in this meeting and NCPCR will make guidelines accordingly for safeguarding the rights of children. He mentioned that NCPCR will be in touch with the Railway Ministry vis-à-vis RPF and GRP and hoped that with the cooperation from Railway Ministry support will be given to NGO's regarding the safeguard of children at the Railway Platforms. Finally he assured Railway Ministry officials that NCPCR will always cooperate with RPF and GRP in this current issue and the meeting was concluded by the refreshments served by NCPCR.

**Minutes of the meeting between
National Commission for Protections of Child Rights (NCPCR) and Forum for Child
Rights (FCR) -A Vijayawada Networking model to work with children alone and at risk in
and around transport terminals.**

Date : 11th November 2008
Time : 12.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs
Venue : Conference hall, Dilkhush Guest House, Near Raj Bhawan,
Somajiguda, Hyderabad

Participants :

- **Chairperson : Ms. Sandhya Bajaj, Hon'ble Member, NCPCR, New Delhi**
- **Ms. Sushma Dua, Consultant, NCPCR, New Delhi.**
- **Father Thomas Koshy, Executive Director, Navjeevan Bal Bhavan & Vice President, FCR-Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Mr. BS Koteswar Rao, Treasurer, FCR-Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Programme Coordinator MV foundation, Hyderabad**
- **Mr. Prabhakar, Member, FCR-Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Mr. Krishna Prasad, Project Coordinator, Sri Krishna Chaitanya Vihar (SKCV), Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Mr. Sreedhar Mether, Programme Officer, Railway Children – India.**
- **Mr. Sanjay Tiwari, Programme Officer – Advocacy & Networking, Railway Children – India.**

Mr. Sreedhar Mether on the behalf of Forum of Child Rights (FCR) warm welcomed to Ms. Sandhya Bajaj, Hon'ble Member of National Commission for protection of child rights (NCPCR) and her college Ms. Susma Dua, Consultant, NCPCR.

After a brief introduction of participants, Hon' able **Ms. Dua** briefed about the objective of the meeting and the agenda scheduled to be discussed in the meeting

Ms. Sandhya Bajaj addressed to the participants about the mandate of NCPCR and its activities. This is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 (4 of 2006) to protect, promote and defend child rights in the country and the mandate is to examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation of these safeguards.

She added , NCPCR also looks into the matters relating to children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures.

Father Thomas Koshy ,vice president , Forum for child rights briefed the participants about the origin and functioning of Child Right Forum at Vijayawada. He shared that initially all the organizations working for the welfare of street children were functioning independently. These organizations felt a need to have a common platform so that there can be a better collaboration between the stake holders leading to improvement in the quality of services and improved

impact in the lives of the children. As a result, FORUM FOR CHILD RIGHTS was set up on August 14, 1997 with the then Mayor of the city as its Ex-Officio President.

Ms. Bajaj appreciated and asked him about the functions of the FCR

Father Thomas Koshy explained, The Forum includes NGOs working for the cause of the children at risk, activists, well-wishers and philanthropists in the city along with Municipal Corporation and Police Department.

He added further, The Mayor is the president of the Forum and Police Commissioner, Municipal Commissioner, Deputy Mayor and the Asst. Labour Commissioner are the Vice presidents of the Forum. President and Vice presidents posts will be filled up by Position the Secretary and Treasurer will be elected from NGO sector and child rights activists respectively. The mission of the forum is to make Vijayawada a friendly city for the children. This structure helps in bringing more cohesion amongst the state authorities and help in gaining more assistance from them.

Mr. Koteswar Rao, treasurer of FCR shared that that since all these officials are involved, FCR could get a plot of land to construct the office. FCR has also been successful in obtaining a space for child assistance booth on Platform No. 1 at the Railway Station from Divisional Railway Manager of Vijayawada Division. This **Child Assistance Booth is a 24 hrs booth** being supported by Railway Children India.

Mr. Sreedhar Mether said that the organizations working at Vijayawada document the details of children contacted in a register at this booth before referring them to the shelter. This register is an excellent centralized document and vital as it contains all the children contacted by the organizations at the Railway station. This means that the movement of a child contacted can be easily tracked within the city from the time he/she is contacted to the referral made. This document will also help the police and the parents of missing children to know the whereabouts of their children in the city. Further, if this register is synchronized with the data of missing complaints registered at police stations, it will definitely be useful in tracing the children.

Mr. Krishna Prasad, Project Coordinator, Sri Krishna Chaitanya Vihar (SKCV), Vijayawada stressed the importance of the proximity of the drop in shelter to the Railway Station. He said that about 95% of children contacted at Vijayawada Railway station are going to the shelter as Navjeevan Shelter is very close to the Railway Station. He requested to NCPCR to recommend Indian Railways to provide the organizations with a shelter and booth spaces in all the railway stations. In this connection, he shared the success stories of Railway Children partners in Lucknow and Ahmedabad where the railway authorities have provided the staff quarters for the purpose of a drop in shelter.

Mrs. Dua opined that instead of giving the space to one NGO, all the organizations in the location can form into a collective body and that body be provided with the space on the platform. This will also bring in more collaboration between the NGOs working and make the model sustainable without leading to domination by one particular NGO.

Mr. Krishna Prasad also expressed the need of having an authorized identity card to the outreach workers doing outreach at the railway stations. This would not only give them security but also a sense of responsibility.

Mrs. Dua responded that if the local authorities issue the card, it will also bring more involvement of the local authorities and their support to the programme.

Mr. B.S. Koteswara Rao, Treasurer of CRF shared that he is a businessman and was encouraged to participate in service activities due to the good work underway by FCR. He is currently serving as Treasurer in FCR and has contributed monetarily. He **has also mobilized financial support to FCR** from his NRI friends in USA. Due to his efforts, TANA has supported the construction of a building in Vijayawada that is currently being used as FCR office and also Childline is being operated from this premise.

Mr. Koteswar Rao said that now FCR is intending to replicate this model in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh. Already similar forum has been initiated in Guntur, the district adjacent district to Vijayawada. Ms. Bajaj appreciated this effort and said that this replication will be beneficial for the children in need of care and protection.

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Responding to Mrs. Sandhya Bajaj's query of software on Missing children,

Father Koshy informed that Don Bosco has already developed **Home link software** that is being used by 70 organizations across the country. The country is divided into 5 hubs with the main server at Delhi.

Mr. Krishna Prasad said that this is excellent software to track the mobility of the children and he also informed honorable member on the missing children website **www.missingchildsearch.net**. Mrs. Bajaj wanted to get further orientation on this software

Mr. Sreedhar Mether said that a meeting with Father George Kollashany who is coordinating Home Link would be organized at Delhi in this regard.

Mr. Sanjay Tiwari informed to Ms. Bajaj that he knows him and would facilitate a meeting. In this regards.

Ms. Bajaj agreed that NCPCC will take this issue and will take necessary action if required.

, it was decided that CRF will be send further suggestions to NCPCC as soon as possible.

Ms. Bajaj appreciated the activities done by CRF and expressed that it a good model of collective worki..

Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Programme Coordinator MV foundation concluded the meeting by thanking

Mrs Sandhya Bajaj for agreeing to this meeting and thanking.

The meeting was also covered by media.

Ms. Sushma Dua invites to all of participants for dinner

MINUTES OF NCPCR SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN AND AROUND RAILWAY STATIONS

S.No	CONTENTS	MEETING DETAILS	
1	DATE	18-02-2009	
2	TIME:	11.30am to 02 pm	
3	VENUE:	NCPCR,5 th Floor,Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110001	
4	CHAIRPERSON:	Shmt.Sandhya Bajaj , <i>Member, NCPCR</i>	
5	NCPCR Team	NAME	DESIGNATION
a)		Ms. Deepa Dixit	Member
b)		Mr. R. K. Singh	Director
c)		Ms.Sushma Dua	Consultant
d)		Mr. Amit Kumar	Consultant

1) CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROTECTING OF CHILD RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN AND AROUND RAILWAY STATIONS **Shmt. Sandhya Bajaj**, *Member, NCPCR* welcomed the Sub-Committee Members and addressed the quorum with respect to the NCPCR mission, objective, mandate and motive (Speech Attached). She stated that this meeting was the fourth meeting in the series one of the measures taken by NCPCR towards protecting the rights of children on the Railway Platforms was the decision to form the Sub-Committee which was after holding the initial meetings namely on:

- **06-10-2008:** 1st meeting of Working/Core Group at NCPCR.
- **21-10-2008:** 2nd meeting of Railway Officers at NCPCR.
- **11-11-2008:** 3rd meeting with Child Rights Forum's Vijaywada Networking Model in Hyderabad.

She reiterated that the issue of the protection of child rights of children in and around railway stations is a National Issue and that the issues would be addressed at the National Level. She assured the Sub-Committee that the recommendations and views put forth in the meeting would be fulfilled by NCPCR and that these recommendations must be made with a holistic approach. She pointed out her concern of physically and mentally challenged children's rehabilitation towards NCPCR stating that how to grip such issues with solutions and how within 24 hours, such children should be rehabilitated. She also stated her observation that day by day, more and more children are increasingly finding Railway Stations, their abode. This is due to the fact that these children think that it's easy to reside at Railway station. They get everything at the Railway Stations just like it is at home. Towards GRP and RPF, the Chairperson of sub-committee made it clear on the behalf of NCPCR that GRP and RPF must consider NCPCR as their power enhancing body rather than a controlling or inhibiting body and how all should collectively brainstorm to arrive at a solution to enhance the protection of child rights at the Railway Stations.

For NGO's she said that how much rights should they exercise in dealing independently and approaching these issues, is something that has to be considered. She emphasized that all should try to identify the most exigent and priority issue regarding child rights protection of children at the Railway platforms in India. The Chairperson of Sub- Committee gave the

example of Vijayawada Networking Model where one person from Nagar Palika was also present apart from having the treasurer who was the richest person in town. She stated that 1098, the children Helpline facility should be visible on Railway Platforms.

She presented her view that all the efforts of the Railway Officials and that of the NGO's should get the credit for their role and commitment for the protection of child rights in the Railway Stations. She mentioned that the presence of CWC should be there at the Pan Indian Level. She also mentioned that NCPDR would take special inspections at the Railway Stations regarding the plight of victimized children on the railway platforms. She then requested the floor to be open for free discussion for presenting their views and suggestions from the members of the Sub-Committee. The Chairperson of sub-committee clarified all the queries addressed to her from all the members regarding the role of Sub-Committee and the reason of its formation.

2) Mr. Sanjay Gupta (CHETNA) introduced CHETNA's mission which primary deals with the rehabilitation of children and that CHETNA is playing a major role in bringing out a refurbished manual for JJ ACT He enquired regarding the role of this Sub-Committee formation and whether this meeting was called to develop the role and responsibilities of each member for working on the NCPDR agenda as per individuals in particular and what would be the work area? He pointed out that the issue of mentally challenged children on the railway platforms cannot be ignored. He suggested to bring about 2 lists, one highlighting the "Issues faced by the children on Railway Platforms and second being the Good Practices list being practiced to combat the issues.

He then narrated the experiences of CHETNA in this context namely:

- a) The RPF cards issued by NCPDR frontline workers at certain railway stations proved to be very useful to protect children at the railway platforms.
- b) CHETNA in Agra is carrying police Training to sensitize the issue of child rights protection for example. He suggested that the sitting RPF and GRP commandant at the Railway Stations should be sensitive towards this issue and particularly; the senior level officers should be more sensitized and that the child sensitization training should be held every six months.
- c) The successful and popular Media awareness experiment conducted by CHETNA made a positive impact to the locals as it created awareness of sensitive citizens who are taking self-motivated initiatives for protecting the child rights. This experiment also revealed that citizens who took initiatives in protecting child rights around the railways felt very encouraged after media coverage as the awareness and publicity impact was large especially regarding the person who rescued and rehabilitated 300 children.
- d) Agra experience where CHETNA rescued and reunified missing children without DD entry.
- e) Delhi experience of closing cases of 3 reunified and found children from Bhajanpura at the Railway Stations.

Mr.Sanjay suggestions:

- Recognition should be given by NCPDR after 1 year of performance evaluation to SHOs who have made visible efforts on their part regarding child rights protection and would prove to be an example to encourage the NCPDRs objectives as such. This is because according to CHETNA's experience, SHO at any railway station is very powerful and influencing authority

- SHO to coordinate a meeting once in two months by constituting 20 members each of coolies, TT, railway platform vendors etc. He also stated an incident when a case of child-trafficking detected by CHETNA's workers was backfired and the workers were victimized because the trafficker was an influential person. He suggested that the Police station should be made children friendly for children to feel it as their safety haven.
- The "child rights protection awareness" aspect must be undertaken by the Railway Commercial Department.
- Railway Officers Wives Association (ROWA) to play an active role in child rights protection.
- NCPCR to function in a systematic way
- .Medical or shelter facilities especially during night for female missing, victimized and destitute children.
- Data base should be created regarding the rescued children at the Railway Platforms.

3) Mr.Pramod Kulkarni(SATHI-BANGLORE) introduced SATHI stating that it is involved in the protection of child rights in 22 station across India right from Gorakhpur, MugalSarai in Uttar Pradesh to Banglore, the modus-operandi being early rescue of children by locating them on platforms and rehabilitate them with their families and that every year around 4000 children are rescued by Sathi per year from Railway Platforms. He pointed out that the number of children working on the Railway platforms is very large in India and there is a pattern formed regarding the number of children located at the railway stations for example there are about 130- 150 children working in New Delhi Railway station on an average and around 30-40 children working in Nizamuddin Railway Station and Agra Railway station respectively. He pointed out to closely examine the procedures regarding the rescue of children from the Railway Stations by the government authorities from Railway Department. He stated that the method of intervention regarding the issue (such as gender), rescue and sanctification of children from the Railway Platform varies. For example, in small number of cases, large and high level intervention is required and in many cases, the issue can be resolved locally and by minimal rescue procedures. He stated that child rights protection has many levels and sub-issues and each issue has a different methodology and procedure to be dealt which again is issue specific.

Mr.Pramod Kulkarni suggested:

- NCPCR must consider this aspect while making guidelines on this issue. He suggested that NCPCR must provide a back-up facility to RPF and GRP officials and support their child rights rescue and protection of operations.
- NCPCR must develop a network consortium with all child right protecting organizations (such as Don Bosco), which deal with the rescue of victimized children at the Railway Stations.

(Tea was served)

4)Mrinalini Rao(RAILWAY CHILDREN) introduced Railway Children by stating that it partners with 16 organizations such as SATHI Mumbai and Bangalore in 9 states of India and that it has a Pan Indian presence. She conveyed her gratitude to NCPCR for the formation of Sub-Committee regarding the protection of children around Railways. She pointed out that JJ Act has its jurisdiction all over India in a practical level and that in terms of statutory obligations; GRP takes the responsibility to reunify the children. She pointed out that in 2008, there were a large number of children brought by RPF have been handed over to NGO's and CWC for their rehabilitation. She expressed her chief concern that there is an overlap regarding RPF and GRP

and that there are many grey areas in RPF Act as regarding child right protection methods, there is no mention of:

SAFE PLACES
SAFE PEOPLE
SAFE PROCEDURES

Ms Mrinalini suggestions:

- NCPCR Sub-Committee must play an active role in mitigating the grey areas.
- NCPCR must have an approach of multi-stakeholder cooperation in tandem with Railway Authorities regarding the safeguarding child rights protection at Railway stations
- The railway stations should have a “**safe space**” for the victimized children at the Railway Stations.
- NCPCR must collate with all the suggestion of the Sub-committee members.
- NCPCR must help RAILWAY CHILDREN generate data in 6 months time by conducting surveys across 6 months time in 40 locations of India as according to RAILWAY CHILDREN estimates around 1,50,000 children are missing every year from railway stations.

5) Mr.Mansoor Qadri (SAATHI-RAICHUR) introduced himself stating that it is not to be confused with “SATHI” though the names and modus operandi of both the organizations are very similar. He stated that SAATHI is a 10 year old organization heading from Mumbai and addresses the issues pertaining to youth and children and basically caters to run-away children located mainly at the Railway Stations of Dadar, Mumbai and Bombay Central. SAATHI has reunified 1200 children so far and they undergo a process of convincing the families of the run-away children to take the responsibility of the child and educate the families’ primary role in the protection of their child. Mr.Qadri suggested NCPCR the following:

- To Whom It May Concern: be punctual in framing the guidelines.
- To Whom It May Concern: maintain a “**definite focus**” regarding protecting the children found at Railway Stations.
- To Whom It May Concern: get and collate data on the destitute children found at the Railway Stations
- To study the data in-order to find out volume, nexus, trends and direction of these children.
- To identify the problems which violates the basic rights of children
- To identify the stakeholders to protect the rights of children
- To address the issue of how and who to take the responsibility of these children
- To come out with recommendations at a National level such as HELP BOOTH for children especially those who are trafficked.
- To deliberate with the Railway Ministry to start a structure of Temporary Dropping facilities to reunify the lost children found at Railway Platforms such that the child should gain the confidence that the Railway Station are a rescue place for them.
- To deliberate on the procedure to rescue /rehabilitation of children from Railway Station specially insuring safety of the girl child rescue.
- To deliberate on the issues as in where are the SAFE SPACES, what are the PROCEDURES and who are the people involved in the protection of children on the Railway Stations.
- To deliberate on the issues of how children are protected on the Railway Platforms and what are the mechanisms involved to protect them

- Training component should be institutionalized and then using the mechanisms a SPECIAL JUVINILE PROTECTION UNIT must be constituted on the Railway Platforms and that RPF AND GRP must denote Railway Children to this unit
- Manuals by GRP-PRF to classify the children into different categories and how investigations should be conducted which should be easy to operate and how to address the victims more than the accused.
- Railway Officers Wives Association to play an active role to support NCPCR's objectives
- There should be 2-3 definite directives given to Missing Person's Bureau, as it does not include children found missing in the Railway Stations. For example There should also be a found person's bureau
- Multiple rescue services should be activated for children found at the Railway Stations such as the CHILD HELPLINE etc
- To put CWC under pressure to function effectively and it make popular.
- To collect data, both informal and that from NCRB in order to estimate the magnitude of the problem of children found at railway stations.
- To issue directive letter to all RPF officials to make DD entry of all the children found lost in the Railway Stations
- To create intelligent public awareness Media Packages such as repeated public announcements or by installing CCTV's at the Railway Stations
- To sensitize the citizens and passengers for safeguarding the rights of children on Railway Platforms.

6) Mr.S.Navin SellaRaju (RAILWAY CHILDREN) stated that it's a UK based funded agency and in Delhi the number of children coming to the platforms is huge and the issue needs to be recognized as large.

He suggested NCPCR:

- To bring expertise in the protection resource for children. He reiterated that towards the Child Protection Unit, JJ Act should have a foolproof and comprehensive framework across the country.
- To develop interlink ages between departments of Government
- To protect children at the state level
- To fix up responsibilities amongst and between various Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies

6) Mr.Ratan Chand (SENIOR COMMANDANT, RPF) mentioned the successful role of RPF that within 24 hours identified abandoned children are produced in CWC or normal railway courts or children courts. He also informed NCPCR that RPF has no specific power. The RPF role is limited as in the Railway Act, there are some lenient sections. RPF ensures that children found on Railway Stations are not prosecuted. Only such cases of delinquent children below 7 years of age are prescribed. RPF has handed many children to PRAYAS and has also allotted office space to KAM NGO and that RPF is hopeful that it will be given a building for child rehabilitation.

He suggested that:

- RPF has no special cell for the protection of child rights and though RPF Act has the provision but such but this aspect has to implement on the ground level on the practical level.

7) Mr.AMOD KANTH (PRAYAS) commenced that it was coincidental that the Navbharat Times newspaper headlines highlighted with Police data that the case of missing children is very grave in India and from North East 800-900 children go missing at random per month .In that regard,

he gave notice to the Commissioner of Police. He pointed out that the origin of entire problem starts from railways. He gave the example of PRAYAS that it was started for missing children. Delhi police's Missing Persons squad was connected to Missing children and in 1986-1987, upto 40-50 children were collected in the Police station and there was no shelter for non custodial children were not rehabilitated. And hence PRAYAS took up that cause. He narrated his experience that in 1985-1990 when he was Deputy Commissioner of Police, Railways, he gave office place above the Police Station to SALAM BALAK TRUST to cater to the missing children and there was stiff opposition from the department. This was because; Railway authorities were miser in giving office space in the context of safeguarding the rights of children on the Railway Platforms. He pointed out that around 80% of the children are out from the Railway Stations. He stated:"The answer does not lie with any one of us. We have to collectively use our contacts to put pressure on authorities as our outreach is very limited as individuals." He assured all his support and influence to generate a data bank for NCPCR regarding missing and found children at the Railway Stations.

He complimented NCPCR and the Chairperson for taking the issue of protecting child rights on the Railway Stations very seriously at the National level. He pointed out that the Railways and Government's acceptance of this issue is very important. He informed that the Railway Department is ready for moving at tandem with NCPCR regarding the protection of children. He identified that historically NCPCR is now getting recognition, RPF is now taking active role more than GRP regarding child rights protection, and CWC is slowly becoming a system.

His suggestions were:

- NCPCR must create a network amongst us regarding the protection of children on railways.
- In 10-15 locations, active organizations to be identified and the network should be created in and around the centers of work and at the ground level.
- 20-25 organizations team to have a discussion on this issue.
- Interception points to be created and projects should be planted.
- NCPCR To create permanent partners in this issue as NGO's have their own limitations as they are always associating, changing or collecting partners and institutionalize them by analyzing that what are the basic conditions of institutionalization that need to be identified in this process
- To break the steel frame structure of Railway and make it more flexible for addressing this issue of NCPCR
- National exercise has to be carried out to safeguard and protect the rights of children.
- NCRB, SCRB.PCRB must take the case of children missing and found on Railway Stations as high priority.
- All NGO's associated to missing and found children on Railway Platforms must collect data and link it to NCRB.RAILWAY CHILDREN data must be shared with NCRB as tentative Data on children lost and found on Railway Stations.
- 1098 should be officially linked with NCRB
- NGO's to help make documentation for RPF
- RPF must not be put under pressure until and unless NCPCR is more organized in the issue of child rights protection on Railway Platforms.
- DG, NCRB to provide all information and data to NCPCR Sub-Committee regarding missing and found children from railway Stations.
- NCPCR to collect people and organize data
- There should be compulsory medical checkup for the children found missing and abandoned or victimized on the Railway Stations.

- Police and Government should be involved for the protection of child rights on Railway Stations.
- To have a National level workshop to highlight and discuss the issues of child rights protection on Railway Stations.

Dr.J.Madhavi from SHARDA PARYAVARAN SANRAKSHAN KENDRA had also stressed the importance of Data Acquisition and Data Compilation of Missing Children on Railway Platforms on a National Level by considering the Missing Children on Railway Stations to be incorporated as a separate section in Missing Persons Bureau. For this a separate CPU= Child Protection Unit has to be formed at every Railway Platform and should have office space at each and every Railway Platforms and should be operational continuously even at night at all hours and must also contain a medical officer(a doctor) for medical examination of children instantly on the Railway Platforms. This CPU would be independently responsible to collect all data and send it to a centralized department to NCPCR.

Sandhya Bajaj expressed her view regarding software installation on missing and found children like the Vijayawada model

The Meeting ended with Vote of Thanks given by Mr. R. K. Singh, Director NCPCR

(Sandhya Bajaj)
Member, NCPCR