

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY NE CELL POST IT'S REVIVAL DURING
(JULY 2013 TO January 2014)

 **Visit to Assam:**

- a. The Member I/c NE and STE visited the State of Assam, Guwahati to participate in a State level consultation on “Cross Border Trafficking and Missing Children Alert” organized by an NGO called Shakti Vaahini.

The consultation was Chaired by Member I/c NE, NCPCR as Chief Guest. The said consultation was attended by participants from UNICEF, Dept. of Social Welfare, SJPU, AHTUs, CID, Civil Society Networks, CWCs, Victims and Survivors of Child Trafficking in Assam.

- b. Member I/c NE and STE NE visited a State run Home for women in Jhalukbari, Assam. Children in Observation, rescued from trafficking and in conflict with law were also kept in this home. Also, there were women and children with disability viz. Mental Retardation, Epilepsy, Schizophrenia and other emotional disturbances kept under one roof. The conditions of toilets were horrid and in a bad shape. The superintendent was absent during the visit of the NCPCR team. The State Commission has subsequently taken up the matter with highest authority within the State and this Home was visited by the Minister, Dept. of Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam recently, as informed by Chairperson of SCPCR, Assam.

- c. The NCPCR team visited the Registrar, HOD Dept. of Psychology and senior faculty member from Dept. of Psychology to discuss various issues related to Child Rights violation and potential collaboration in research pursuits and volunteering work of the Commission. This was accepted in principal by the mentioned members from the Guwahati University.

- d. Member I/c NE& STE NE met with the Chief Secretary of Assam and discussed the gross violations prevalent in the State of Assam w.r.t issues of Child Rights. An official letter from the Commission with observations and recommendation post this visit was sent to Shri Prem Prasad Varma, then Chief Secretary of Assam.

Meeting with Ministry of DONER

Mr. Paresh Shah, STE, NE Cell visited the Ministry of DONER, Development of North Eastern Region at Vigyan Bhavan Annexe to have a discussion meeting with Shri Vijay Bhushan Pathak, Joint Secretary and Shri K. Guite, Director, DONER regarding the activities of North East cell and the proposed North East Action Plan created by the NCPCR. The JS gave a quick overview of activities of DONER and informed the verbal consent of collaboration on capacity building initiatives in NE Region. He said DONER could fund any requirement emerging from the State towards capacity Building on issues of Child Rights.

- e. The STE, NE addressed a group of Tier-I Private School Principals, Teachers and Counselors meet called “Gyanodaya” as Chief Guest of Honor on issue of

Internet abuse & Child abuse and educated the group regarding NCPCR's role as a monitoring agency on violation of Child Rights.

IEC Materials on POCSO AND Substance Abuse

The NE Cell team STE and JTE under the Guidance of Member in-charge created IEC material (FAQs) on Substance Abuse among Children and POCSO Act 2012, both in English and Hindi, for distribution in relevant forums by NCPCR.

Workshop on Substance Abuse in Manipur

A State Level workshop was organised on "Substance Abuse among Children and other issues related to Child Rights" in collaboration with Dept. of Social Welfare Govt. Of Manipur.

The workshop was attended by multiple stakeholders with Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur as Chief Guest and Hon'ble Minister, Dept. of Social Welfare, Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Govt. of Manipur as Guest of Honor. Other officials from Central Govt., State Govt. of Manipur, Civil Society Networks, senior faculties from Academia viz. HOD Dept. of Psychiatry, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Manipur, Dean of Social Sciences, Manipur University, Department of Aids Control Society (DACS)-NACO, MSACS, Senior Professors from NDDTC, All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Dept. of Social Work, University of Mizoram, Senior Personnel from the Law Enforcement of Manipur, Chairpersons and Members of Manipur State Commission for

Protection of Child Rights and CWCs, Media Personnel both Electronic and Print media, representative from Assam Rifles and person/s who have been in Substance Use for long period and who have successfully come out of addiction participated in the said workshop. The workshop had four technical sessions followed by open house discussions and finally the recommendations for the State.

Meeting with Minister of Labour and Employment, Govt. of Manipur

Shri Vinod Kumar Tikoo Member I/C NE Cell and Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR visited the Minister, Labor and Em[ployment, Govt. of Manipur to discuss the issues concerning child labour situation in the state. As a follow up to the meeting the Manipur State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has sent a proposal to NCPCR requesting to organize a state level workshop on issue of Child Labor in Manipur.

Visit to Children Home and Aanganwadi Centers

NCPCR team headed by Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member along with Ms. PreetVerma, Advisor to Chairperson, NCPCR and members of civil society visited a State run Children's Home cum Observation at Takyel, Imphal, Manipur. Gross violations/gaps observed have been shared. The report of the same has been shared with the Dept. of Social Welfare. Ku. A.K. Merabai, Hon'ble Minister, Dept. of Social Welfare was apprised of the same and so was the Principle Secretary, Dept. of Social Welfare during the NCPCR visit to Manipur. The corrective actions were assured by the State to be put in place. The NCPCR team also visited 3 anganwari centres at Golapati, Palace Gate, LeimajamLeikai,

Manipur under City ICDS Project. The gaps emerging from the said visit to these Anganwari Centres have been communicated to the Principal Secretary, Dept. of Social Welfare, Govt. of Manipur.

A NCPCR team headed by Shri Vinod Kumar Tikoo, Member NE, Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member-NCPCR comprising of member viz. Ms. Preet Varma, Advisor to CP, Shri Paresh Shah, STE North East Cell, Shri Chandan Barman, JTE NE along with Member of civil society visited a Children's Home Home called Glory Children Home in Moirang, Bishnupur District run by New Life Foundation, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act. There were 24 children in the Children Home between the age group of 4 to 18 years as against the capacity of 50 children. The other observations requiring immediate attention and action by the State Govt. have been conveyed to the Dept. of Social Welfare, Manipur.

Visit to Arunachal Pradesh and Assam

- a. A team led by Shri Paresh Shah, STE NE and Shri Chandan Barman, JTE NE under the guidance of Member I/c NE visited State of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar. During the said visit the team paid visits to Govt. run Middle Schools for children in D Sector, Naharlagun and Govt. Middle School NitiVihar, Itanagar. It was observed that there were many core violations of RTE Norms viz. poor quality/no MDMs, Irregular meetings of SMC, SMC not active and functional, school building & infrastructure gaps, no potable drinking water, poor sanitation, extremely unhygienic and dysfunctional toilets, 10th to 12th pass Teachers qualification, no boundary wall, display board, play materials and play

grounds were noted by the team. There was a complete lack of grievance redressal system at the school level.

- b.* The Two member NCPCR team along with Joint Director Social welfare visited the Directorate of Elementary Education and interacted with the Director EE cum Chairperson REPA. The team also visited office of SPD SSA cum Secretary Technical Education.
- c.* The team also visited Green Valley Pvt. Residential School in West Siang Dist. Likabali along with the CDPO of Itanagar where 14 children were sexually abused by hostel warden in August 2013. The team interacted with the SDO and CDPO of Block- Likabali along with member of State Commission for Women and other Civil Society Members. The records pertaining to the case were examined in the office of SDO. Pursuant to the letter of the NCPCR, the DC of Aaloe submitted the action taken report to the commission. The SDO also appraised that the charge sheet has been filed in the court against the accused. It has also been learnt that school has been running without any registration for last three years. It was informed by the SDO that an ex gratia amount of rupees one lakh forty thousand has been announced from Chief Ministers fund for the victims. An additional 10 lakh rupees as compensation for the victims has been announced, but not yet been disbursed to the victims.
- d.* The NCPCR team interacted with the State Coordinator of Human Rights Law Network in Itanagar to understand the burning issues on child rights violations in the State from the perspective of Civil Society. Subsequently the team had a meeting with a larger gathering of Civil Society networks in presence the

Director, Social Welfare, joint director, social Welfare, Chairperson , State Commission for Women, representatives of Child line and other officials. During the discussions following issues emerged viz. a) issue child trafficking, b) functioning of JJBs d) AHTUs e) CWCs f) ICPS g) Domestic Child Labour and h) need for capacity building across various levels within govt. system, civil society and community.

- e. During the State visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the NCPCR team also visited Donyi Polo Mission School for Hearing Impaired children in Chimpu, Itanagar. It was found that total 92 hearing impaired children were staying in that residential school. It was observed by the team that the school was well managed and children were kept in very clean and hygienic condition with all the facilities required including recreation, play, study materials, adequate special teachers and clean drinking water facility etc. This school is only one of its kind within the entire state as reported by the superintendent and the community members.
- f. The team visited Guwahati, Assam from 1st to 3rd October 2013 to discuss with ASCPCR regarding creation of NE Hub and a proposed Public Hearing in the month of November 2013.
- g. During this visit the team had a discussion with all the CDPOs of NE States at NIPCCD to understand the ground situation on issues pertaining to child rights violations in their respective states.
- h. The NE Cell team of NCPCR interacted with Civil Society networks viz. LCHR and addressed a Capacity Building workshop organized by the said organization. Approximately 50 participants' from various districts of Assam interacted with

the NCPCR team. The participants were primarily from the Districts having Tea plantations. Various issues pertaining to Child Labour, RTE, Trafficking and provisions of POCSO Act 2012 emerged. The participants were potential resource persons for their community/villages to further promote issues on child rights violations. It was a Training of Trainers (ToT) program.

- i.* STE (PS) along with Chairperson and Member of ASCPCR visited two government run schools in Guwahati on 2nd October 2013 celebrating Gandhi Jayanti. As an NCPCR representative the STE addressed the Children of the school, interacted with SMC members and Head master of the School. STE also distributed prizes to the students who had stood out in various competitions in these schools.
- j.* The STE represented NCPCR along with Chairperson of ASCPCR and Consultant to the interiors of BTD area to visit an orphanage home run by a religious institution in Udalgudi Dist. There were children kept in that ashram without any registration of home under JJ Act. Two children were reported to be missing and found on the railway station according to the Chairperson of ASCPCR. The state Commission is looking into the matter now.
- k.* The STE NE Cell, NCPCR also visited Govt. run schools in Bodo Land area. The school was found to be in very bad condition with no boundary wall, poor drinking water and extremely poor quality of MDM. There were no uniforms for students, play materials etc. Children were sitting in open area under the trees for studying and three sections were running under one room.
- l.* The STE NE Cell, NCPCR visited one Jail in Udalgudi district and interacted with the inmates. Only two children, small babies were found in the jail. They were

with their mothers. The jail was very clean and tidy since it was a newly constructed place in September 2013.

- J. NCPCR team headed by Shri Vinod Kumar Tikoo, Member (I/c North East Cell) along with Shri Paresh Shah, Senior Technical Expert (N E Cell) of the Commission visited the State of Tripura from 25th to 27th October 2013 to assess the status on child rights violations and entitlements due to the children. During this visit Shri V.K.Tikoo travelled to the interiors of North Tripura and interacted with the displaced Bru Community members and children from Mizoram, now settled in six relief camps .

The basic complaint related to non-issuance of Birth Certificates and non availability of neighbourhood formal schools. The NCPCR team visited two such Camps viz. Naisingpara Relief Camp in Kanchanpur Sub Division and Kaskaw Relief Camp in Panisagar Sub Division. The NCPCR team was accompanied by Shri Prashant Goel, DM, North Tripura and Shri Vikas Singh, SDM Kanchanpur along with Shri Biplab Chakraborty, SDM, Panisagar. The NCPCR team visited two such Camps viz. Naisingpara Relief Camp in Kanchanpur Sub Division and Kaskaw Relief Camp in Panisagar Sub Division. The NCPCR team was accompanied by Shri Prashant Goel, DM, North Tripura and Shri Vikas Singh, SDM Kanchanpur along with Shri Biplab Chakraborty, SDM, Panisagar.

It was observed by the NCPCR team that many Children of these camps were denied of the basic provisions and entitlements under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which is a constitutionally fundamental right of any child of this country within the age group of 6 to 14 years. The Commission was surprised and disappointed to note the plight of the children living in these camps. Commission pointed out that admissions to most of the students of these

Camps are being denied in formal schools on the pretext of lack of birth certificates even now, after so many years of their stay in these Camps at Tripura. A list of 481 children presented to the SDM Panisagar by the Mizoram BRU Displaced People's Forum (MBPDF) which the DM assured to address immediately after the list with proper verification of the names of the children parents for issuance of birth certificates and the reason for the delay was reported to be the lack of stationery. On taking up with the DM, it was assured that the problem will be sorted out immediately on submission of the list with due verification of names, parentage and the date. MBPDF agreed to provide the list for doing the needful.

The issue of non-distribution of refreshments in the Alternate Innovative Education centres (AIE) now renamed as Non Residential Special Training Centre (NRSTC) an educational centre in absence of a formal primary school was also sorted out by all present agreeing that the MBPDF will take the responsibility of ensuring distribution after coordinating it with the local district administration. The DM agreed to this arrangement and agreed to put the system in place with effect from 1st Nov,2013. The delayed payment of honorarium to the teachers of NRSTCs called Education Volunteers (EVs), was resolved by calling upon the local admn to get the accounts of EVs opened in the Bank under the No Frills Account under the Inclusive Banking and effecting direct transfer of the honorarium on due dates.

The immunization programme and the healthcare to the children was an important issue flagged by the children and the DM agreed to initiate action on the same within November 2013.

It was also brought to the notice of the Commission that most of the schools running in the periphery of these Camps are not regular schools and Alternative & Innovative Education Schools (AIEs) now called as NRSPC the means of imparting non formal education to students belonging to these Camps. These schools have multiple issues viz. text books not reaching children in time, the teachers, mostly voluntary teachers are not getting paid their honorarium on time and certain other infrastructural gaps viz. classrooms not constructed yet are hampering the educational cycle of the children and depriving them of their fundamental right to education. There were stories narrated by children from the Bru camps to the Commission regarding the difficulties faced by them in achieving formal education. It was also informed by the members of these relief camps to the Commission that most of the NRSPC have four divisions for class rooms instead of five and the class rooms have not been constructed yet. The Commission also enquired into the Health and Nutrition of the Children of these Camps, it was informed to the Commission that currently, in these camps, the "Scale of Rice" given to the minors (i.e. seven years and below) is 300 gms per child per day and 600 gms per adult (i.e. above seven) per day, The "Scale of Salt" is 12.5 gms for a minor per child per day and 25 gms for an adult per day and the "Cash Dole" given currently is Rs. 2.50 pasie per child per day for a minor and Rs 5/- per adult per day. Shri V.K.Tikoo, Member expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the current provisioning of the Cash Dole provided for the displaced migrant children as too less and mentioned that he would this issue at higher level with MHA after ascertaining the facts. The NCPCR team also observed that currently there was no proper system being followed for ascertaining the malnourishment in children. Aso, the Commission pointed out

the pressing need for Doctors visiting these camps, since there is insufficient number of qualified and trained doctors and the one's who are present do not visit the camps frequently. The medicine stalks are not received in time and they are limited when they arrive. Also, there are no ambulances coming to these camps to cater to emergency and the available ambulance is used for different purposes like conducting meetings etc. There is no potable drinking water available within these Camps, often the water is high on iron content which adversely affects the health of the persons inhabiting in these camps including the children. The NCPCR team also noted that there were no proper kitchens in many anganwari centres, which should have been there.

Later in a discussion on Child Rights issues with the NCPCR team and Govt. officials and Civil Society members/ NGOs on the 26th October, Saturday organised by SW&SE at Pragna Bhaban, hall No.1, Agartala, attended by the Secretary SW&E, Principal Secretary, SW & E, Secretary Law Department, Inspector General of Police, Secretary, Labour, Director, SW &SE, JJBs, Chairperson CWCs, members from legal fraternity,& the Civil Society and NGOs, Member, Shri V.K Tikoo first congratulated the state of Tripura for all the good work done so far towards ensuring rights of children within the state, particularly their ICDS and ICPS schemes which are working well and almost negligible child trafficking and child labour cases reported. The Member flagged all the issues and observations made at the Bru relief camp areas with the concerned officials present. He also mentioned that the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has not been set up in Tripura, inspite of the deadline given to the Govt. He further added that NCPCR would be filling a contempt petition in the Court if the TSCPCR is not formed by 15th November 2013.

The Member on behalf of the Commission finally thanked the State for extending the courtesies and cooperation in making arrangements available to the NCPCR team to visit these relief camps.

- J. 29th and 30th October 2013*, Chairperson NCPCR attended a State Level Consultation on “Ending Violence against Children” jointly organised by Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and UNICEF. Member I/c NE Cell presented on “Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools” and presented on other issues w.r.t violation of child rights. STE (NE Cell) also attended the said workshop and gave recommendations during panel discussions.
- I. 23rd December 2013* : A first of its kind state level workshop on “Teacher’s Sensitization on Child Rights and Child Protection” was conducted in Darrang Dist. of Assam which was attended by more than 750 participants from 3 blocks. The participants were primarily Teachers and Presidents of SMCs. Ms. Preet Verma, Adviser to Chairperson NCPCR and Shri Paresh Shah, Senior Technical Expert RTE and NE Cell attended the said workshop as representatives of NCPCR and presented on Child Rights and Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools respectively.
- J. 31st January 2014*. Second state level workshop on “Teacher’s Sensitization on Child Rights and Child Protection” was conducted in Darrang Dist. of Assam which was attended by close to 800 participants. The participants were primarily Teachers and Presidents of SMCs.