National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

Report on
Launch of Programme for children in Street situations at Mumbai

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List of Abbreviations

NCPCR............National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
WCD...............Women and Child Department
CPCR..............Commission for Protection of Child Rights
CNCP.............Child in need of Care and Protection
CCL................Child in conflict with law
CWSN...............Children with Special needs
POCSO...........Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
JJ Act, 2018.....Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)
SOP...............Standard Operating Procedure
SCPCR.............State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGO...............Non Governmental Organization
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Launch of Programme for children in Street situations - 7th June, 2017

Maharashtra SCPCR launched the SOP for children in Street Situation along with the mobile app Chirag meant as a helpline for children in distress. State Minister for Women and Child Development graced the occasion along with other dignitaries and launched the app. Ms. Dia Mirza, actress of repute and brand ambassador for Save the Children also graced the occasion with her presence and shared that, “concrete measures need to be taken to address such children and provide them with proper recreational facilities”. Several corporate houses also joined hands with MSCPCR to provide rehabilitative and vocational training support to the children. Several children who have lived in the streets/railway platforms and have realised their dreams were felicitated by the dignitaries. Their stories were also shared to the audience. A powerful play on the lives of the children who run away from homes and take shelter in railway platforms was also showcased by NGO Samatol Foundation.

Cultural programme by children
Meet with MSCPCR

Member NCPCR Ms. Rupa Kapoor met the new team of Chairperson and Members at MSCPCR at their office to discuss the operational plan of implementing the SOP for children in street situations. Ms. Bidisha Pillai and her team from Save the Children shared the modus operandi or the procedure to be followed in implementing the SOP. Chairperson of MSCPCR, shared that they would discuss the matter internally and with their respective stakeholders to finalise the districts wherein the SOP would be implemented. They shared that corporate and NGOs would be involved in the family strengthening programme.

Visit to Aapna Ghar, Adoption Home

Member visited a Children’s Home at Mumbai called ‘Apna Ghar’. The centre was run by the Bal Asha Trust since 1987. Mr. Sunil Arora and Ms. Swaroopa took care as Supervisors in that home. There were 46 children from 0-12 yrs both boys and girls. Most children were either abandoned or surrendered. The children came through CWC to the home. There were 30 staff members with 8hrs circle to watch over the children. A Paediatrician and a Psychologist regularly visited and nurses were present at all times.

Children were sent to schools. There were three identified schools depending on the category of children

- Regular Govt. School
- Special needs school for special children
- Deaf and dumb school
The home also collaborated with various hospitals and medical facilities depending on the need of the child.

Member visited the rooms where children were kept. One room had newborn babies and other two rooms had spaces for children above 5yrs, separate for boys and girls. Children were kept properly and well fed. Nurses took care continuously. Elder children were enjoying their summer holidays and were being given proper meals. Member scrutinised the kitchens and washrooms as well. Diet charts, doctor charts were well maintained.

The home received support from several CSR grants and also private donations. Children had enough recreational spaces and enjoyed their stay. Those who were adopted were also tracked.

Overall the **Apna Ghar** home was a well maintained home for children in Mumbai.