Dear,

A team of NCPCR comprising Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Tiwari, Sr. Consultant, NCPCR, have made a visit to Satna District, Madhya Pradesh between 25th-27th March, 2011. During this visit, the team reviewed the situation of child rights in Satna District and interacted with District Magistrate along with Sr. officials of District Administration of Satna, member of civil society organizations, members of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Media personnel.

2. We deeply appreciate the facilities provided to our team and all the efforts put in to make this visit fruitful and secure.

3. Based on the interactions and visits of the team the following concerns listed below have been identified that need immediate attention:

4. Issues Raised/Observations on Malnutrition

4.1 Anganwadi Centres:

a. During this visit, the team was informed that after NCPCR's District level public hearing in Majhgawan, Satna and State level public hearing in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in February, 2009 and July, 2010 respectively, there were some positive actions been taken in Majhgawan block (where huge no. of child death were reported, due to malnutrition) by District administration.

b. The team was informed by District Administration that there were a total of 259 Anganwadi/Mini Anganwadi Centres, including 312 Mini Anganwadi Centres that were newly been established.

c. Most of the Anganwadis Centres do not have a physical structure and are operating out of houses of community members. Only 596 Anganwadi Centres are operating in Government buildings.

d. It was informed that there are no weight charts, and list of malnourished children, is not displayed as prescribed way in most of the Anganwadi Centres. District Programme officer (DPO); Department Women and Child Development, informed that only list of children come under grade 4th of malnutrition level is displayed publicly at every Anganwadi Centre.
4.2. Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)

a. It was informed that the Total 07 NRCs (in Satna, Nagaud, Amarpatan, Maiher, Uchepara, Ramnagar and Maghawan blocks) is running in Stana District, the capacity of these 7 NRCs centre is only 80 children, covered total 703 Gram Panchayats of the District. D.M informed that 60 beds have been increased in NRCs during the last one and half year.

b. It was informed that after 15 day of admission in NRC, children are discharged from NRC centres without keeping his/her health status generally. It was informed that most of child deaths were reported after some day of discharging them from NRC.

c. There is no child specialist doctor in any NRC centre. All medical related works are done by the Dietician of concerned Anganwadi Centre.

d. Malnutrition cards have been issued only to the children who come under grade 4.

e. It was informed by District Administration that Malnutrition Funds are being established in all Gram Panchayats. Malnutrition fund is an emergency fund to use in treatment and transportation of malnourished children in emergency situation. In this regard, a bank account has been opened by concerned Panchayat Sachiv (Panchayat Secretary) and Anganwadi Workers jointly. An amount between Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000 has been submitted by District administration in this fund.

f. It was informed that death certificates of children who reportedly died due to malnutrition, is not issued by the concerned department in Satna District.

g. Kalrav Shivir (Health Camp): District Collector informed that District administration has organised total 950 Kalrav Shivir (health Camps) in last year. In these health camps, malnourished children are prioritized for treatment.

4.3. Recommendation:

a. Expand admission criteria in NRCs

The District administration should ensure that all children who require admission in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) shall be granted admission and no one shall be denied. Health staff should not wait for children to reach grade III or IV stage of malnutrition.

b. In addition, the District Administration shall, through a circular, instruct all AWC to admit children of all grades of malnourishment into an NRC since, currently, many AWW believe only grade IV malnourished children warrant admission. AWWs should focus on maintaining the nutrition levels of all children.
c. **Discharging from NRC**
   Ensure that discharge criteria are substantially above the admission criteria.

d. **Capacity of beds in NRCs**
   The District administration, through the health department, shall ensure that the number of NRCs and capacity of beds in NRCs are increased so that more children are benefitted.

e. **Capacity building of grass root level workers**
   The WCD department shall organize training workshops to develop understanding of functionaries at the levels of CDPO, supervisor and AWW regarding child health.

f. **Utilization certificate of Malnutrition fund**
   Utilization certificate of Malnutrition Fund should be prepared and a summary report of utilization certificates may be sent to NCPCR within 3 months by the DM through concerned department.

g. **Issuing Death certificates**
   The District administration, Satna should issue a circular, directing the concerned department to issue the Death certificates of every child, and review the cause of death.

h. **Monitoring Malnutrition**
   The officials of Women and Child Development and NRHM shall ensure that the ICDS project is monitored effectively by conducting a monthly review meeting on the functioning of ICDS, conducting surprise visits to AWC. The District Magistrate shall also conduct surprise visits and hold monthly meetings to take stock of each and every child as well as the AWC.

i. Special initiative is needed to be taken for children of Mawasi tribal community as most of the death cases were reported among from them.

5. **Issues Raised/Observations**
   **Status of enquires, conducted by District Administration, on factors that lead to the death of children in cases heard by the NCPCR:**

   a. The District Administration conducted enquires into the factors which lead to the death of children in cases heard by the NCPCR from time to time. It was observed that not a single child death case was found due to malnutrition. It was mentioned in every inquiry report that deaths are due to other health reasons but not due to malnutrition e.g. fever, a piece of grain in his mouth etc.

   b. During meeting with District Administration, it was found that Panchnamas of child deaths was not made properly. Dates along with signatures of witnesses were not mentioned in Panchnamas.
c. It was also found that all inquiries were conducted by DWCD, who has responsibility of running ICDS programme. To ensure transparency, it was informed that Death audit should be done by an independent committee comprising of other Government Departments and representative of civil societies.

5.1. Recommendations

a. The concerned department should not be part of any enquiry committee, but facilitate the enquiry and representatives of civil society organization should find place in such committees.

b. The documents relating to children’s death should be sent to NCPCR within one month.

6. Issues Raised /Observations on Health and Pollution

a. It was informed that Parasmania, Rampur, Unchehara and Maihar areas of the Satna District, have large-scale lime stone mines and quarries as well as large numbers of cement factories. Due to use of machines in crusher plants and cement factories, the entire environment is getting polluted, affecting and causing harm for human health, especially of the children. It is also making the area dark, affecting the air and natural water sources (ponds and ground water etc.), farm land and habitations of the area. The workers as well as the people living in the vicinity are inhaling the dust, leading to severe health hazards such as kidney and respiratory related diseases.

6.1. Recommendations

a. To constitute a committee to look into the matter and suggest measures to prevent water and air pollution affecting children and others and also examine the available water immediately to ensure that it is safe for use by human being and animals.

b. Action taken by NCPCR: A letter was immediately sent to Dr. N.P. Shukla, Chairman, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Madhya Pradesh (Ref. File No.16/2/2011/M.P/NCPCR/CL) for ensuring necessary actions in this regard.

7. Issues Raised /Observations on Child Labour

a. It was informed by District Child Labour Officer that a total of 520 inspections have been conducted under provision of Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 during 2010-2011 by the Department. In the inspection that was conducted, no child labour has been found under section 03 of Child Labour Act, 1986 and action has been taken against 9 employers under section 12 of Child labour Act.

b. Though the District Child Labour Officer informed that there are no child labourers in mines and quarries of dolomite and limestone. But it was brought to the notice that large numbers of children are still engaged in these mines and quarries.
c. It was also informed by District Child Labour officer that NCLP schools were run by District Panchayat instead of Labour department in Satna.

d. Officer of District Panchayat informed that approximately 30 NCLP schools are being run in collaboration with 15 civil society organizations and during last financial year and more than 300 children were enrolled in these NCLP schools. It was also informed that of 60 NCLP schools in the SD Nagar District not a single school is functioning actually.

e. District child labour officer has also informed that the meeting of District child labour task force has not been held since last 2 years. The District child labour task force is headed by District Magistrate and convened by Labour department.

7.1 Recommendations

a. The Labour Department should carry out a fresh survey for identification of children involved as child labour in various sectors including the hazardous occupation and process, (e.g. Mines and quarries of dolomite and limestone, Cable industries, Dhaba and restaurant and domestic help etc) and send a report to NCPCR within 3 months.

b. A detail status report of NCLP schools of the District (child-wise details from last 1 year) to be sent to NCPCR at the earliest. Following information(s) must be furnished this report:

- No. of NCLP Schools, Presentably currently in Satna District;
- Name of the organizations running the NCLP Schools in Satna District;
- No. of children enrolled and actual attendance in these NCLP schools (school wise);
- No. of NCLP school children mainstreamed to the formal schools;
- No. of children benefitted by vocational trainings under NCLP.

c. Reconstitute the District child labour task force under the chairpersonship of District Magistrate/Collector and convene meetings regularly.

8. Issues Raised/Observations on Education

a. It was informed that the educational infrastructure is of low standard and there are no initiatives to propagate and strengthen the RTE Act.

b. It was also informed that State Rule on RTE Act, 2009 is yet to be notified in Madhya Pradesh.

c. During meeting with District administration, District education officer shared about many schemes related to student, implementing in the District e.g., Cycle Vitran Yojana, and various scholarships.
d. It was informed that a total of 11 residential schools are operational in Satna District in which 07 are for Girl students.

e. It was found that all there were many out of school children in the District.

8.1. Recommendations

a. To do the following regarding implementation of RTE Act.
   ✓ Awareness programme
   ✓ Formation of School Management Committees
   ✓ Compulsory and age appropriate admission.

9. Issues Raised/Observations on Juvenile Justice System

a. It was informed that status of implementation of Juvenile Justice Act is very poor in Stana District.

b. It was informed that Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Satna has been formed and is going to reconstitute

c. CWC is sitting twice in a week but most of the stakeholders, who deal with children, are not aware about the CWC and it functions.

d. There is not a single Children/Juvenile Home in the District.

e. There is no home for children in category of special need, or any alternative arrangement in this regard.

f. The Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) is not formed yet in the District even though the State Government has claimed that it is formed.

g. It was observed by the NCPCR’s Team that the role of CWC is not clear with regard to adoption process.

9.1. Recommendations

a. A circular is to be issued to different Departments, e.g., WCD, Health, Education and Police by District authority about role and responsibility of Child Welfare Committee along with details of address, sitting time and contact details of Chairperson and members of CWC.

b. Capacity building of the members of the Child Welfare Committee of the District to make them more child-friendly to deal with the children in need of care and protection. Ensure that CWC meets regularly.
c. The District Magistrate should ensure that a direct interface between CWC and member of civil society organization is organized at earliest through DWCD.

d. Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) must be formed as per the provisions of JJ Act without further delay and organise sensitization and training programme for the members of SJPU.

e. Organize awareness programme and publicity drive for popularizing the concept of JJ system.

f. There should be efforts to establish Children’s Homes for Girls and Boys, Home for Children in Special Need under JJ Act with immediate effect.

10. Other recommendations

- To establish a District level coordinating committee under the chairpersonship of the DM on child rights, comprising of all concerned departments/authorities and members of civil society. The committee will review the child rights issue in District on monthly basis and will send a report to NCPCR.

- The Director of Women and Child Development shall immediately initiate a sensitization programme on rights of children. The programme will particularly focus on health, nutrition and development rights of children and will be provided to all functionaries of the ICDS department.

We therefore request you to please look into the recommendations and ensure the same are implemented at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(LoV Verma)
Member Secretary
NCPCR

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Copy to:
- The Principal Secretary, Department of WCD & Social Justice, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Block No.2, 4th Floor, Paryavas Bhawan, Bhopal.
• The Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Room No. 82, Mantralaya, (Vallabh Bhawan), Arera Hills, Bhopal-462004.
• The Principal Secretary, Department of School Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, (Vallabh Bhawan), Arera Hills, Bhopal-462004.
• The Principal Secretary, Department of Home Affairs, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
• The Chairperson, Madhya Pradesh Child Rights Protection Commission, 59, Narmada Bhawan, 3rd Floor, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, Madhya Pradesh.
• Secretary, Labour Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Vallabh Bhawan, Room No. 240, II Floor, Bhopal.
• The Secretary, Department of Tribal Affairs, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
• The Mission Director, Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Pustak Bhawan, B – Wing, Area Hills, Bhopal – 462011.
• Sh. Sukhveer Singh, District Magistrate (DM), Collectorate Campus, Satna-485001, Madhya Pradesh, Phone: 0767-222911(O), 222920(R)

(Luv Verma)
Member Secretary
NCPCR