

Minutes of the 11th PAB Meeting under ICPS held on 13th January, 2010.

The eleventh meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) for ICPS was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary WCD, on 13th January 2011 to consider the financial proposals for release of grants for 2010-11 to the States of Nagaland and Rajasthan. List of participants is annexed.

A. Consultation with Nagaland

2. At the outset, Secretary (WCD) welcomed all the officers present in the meeting and invited Secretary, Nagaland to present the financial proposal for the State. A copy of the presentation is at Annex-A.

3. Society Director, Ms. Keweu Kenye informed that the State has several HIV positive children, with the highest number being in Tuesang district. She also informed that Dimapur has the highest number of child labourers as well as street children. There is a major problem of child prostitution in Dimapur. The population of the State is 20 lakhs and in Dimapur there are about 3.18 lakhs. There is a high population of migrant labour in this region from Bangladesh and Assam as it is located near the border. She added that due to the problem of AIDS in the State there are a high number of orphans, who are being looked after by grandparents or other family members. She said that in these cases the foster care and sponsorship programme will be effective.

4. Secretary, Nagaland informed that situational analysis is being done in Dimapur. They have planned to do an analysis in a phased manner across the State.

5. Status of Structures and Statutory Bodies in the State

5.1 Director, Nagaland informed that the SCPS has been formed and that the Society has been headed by the Secretary. She informed that the JJ rules have been approved by cabinet and are in the process of being notified.

5.2. She also informed that SARA has been set up and staff has been recruited. Secretary, CARA said that LAPAs have not attended the programmes organized by CARA. She also asked the State to send the figures on adoptions in the last year as soon as possible. The State said that inter country adoption is very difficult as the mind set of the people would need to be changed and awareness programmes need to be organized. Secretary CARA also added that Foster Care generally happens in the tribal areas. Secretary, WCD stated that the State needs to prepare a plan of action that addresses the needs of children and specify how many orphan children they are, therefore, how many children require adoption. He said that the government would sanction the funds only on the basis of norms and standards.

5.3 Director, Nagaland informed that all DCPS are formed in the State. The recruitments have been completed. Secretary, WCD has asked for a list of all details of staff appointed. He also suggested that the DCPS should do a survey in all districts for a situational analysis.

5.4 Director, Nagaland informed that all SJPU have been set up and 1 Child Welfare Officer is designated in each SJPU. She said that they have been trained but they will require further training. Training programmes were conducted for the judiciary and for the police officers by NIPCCD.

5.5 She also informed that all CWCs and JJBs have been set up in the State. She said that the members are selected by a Selection Committee that is headed by the ex Law (Retd) Secretary. Secretary, WCD stated that there should be a retired high court judge on the Selection Committee as per the rules.

5.6 Regarding Institutions in the State, it was informed that there are 31 Homes in the State of which 16 are recognized under the JJ Act, and the others are under process. The others were registered under the Women and Child Licensing Act.

The State presented the case of a Home especially for Deaf children where there are 30 girls and 35 boys. They also added that there is a high incidence of disability in the State. Additional Secretary, WCD requested the State to conduct a study through a reputed agency to understand the depth and seriousness of the issue. This will assist in working out a solution on how the situation can be improved. Jt. Secretary, WCD informed the State that regarding a scheme offered under SAA where Rs. 3000 is given per child for special assistance to them for educational purposes and a teacher to visit the children at Home.

5.7 On the issue of missing and street children, Director, Nagaland informed that there is a very high number of missing children. She said that there are a large number of children who migrate from Bangladesh and are living on the streets. She added that 35% of these children are yet to be traced. She also suggested that there is a need for convergence with the Railways as many children use this means to run away from homes and transport drugs etc. She requested the Central Government for help on this. Secretary, WCD suggested that the SCPS should take the initiative for this. Director, Nagaland was informed that Karnataka government has taken the initiative of collaborating with the Railways on this issue in their State. Director, WCD, informed that there is an NGO named Railway Children, who may be able to assist them in this regard. Director, Nagaland also informed that Childline service has become live in the State from February this year and an orientation programme was held

with the police and other functionaries to enable them to understand the working of Childline service.

5.8 Regarding the Grant in Aid for the State they informed that it was to be used for creating sustainable livelihood for the children through various vocational training programmes including, soap making, poultry farming and mud brick making.

5.9 The State informed that they are collaborating with Anganwadis and exposure visits were conducted for the ICPS functionaries as a part of their orientation programme.

6. Decisions taken by the Board

The Board decided that as the State was required to prepare their Plan of Action for the year under ICPS, they were requested to complete the proposal and present the fresh proposal before the Board. The Board also suggested to the State to ensure that all the Support Structures were functioning as per their mandate and that the Service Delivery Mechanisms were in place.

B. Consultation with Rajasthan

At the outset, Secretary (WCD) welcomed all the officers present in the meeting and invited Commissioner, Rajasthan to present the financial proposal for the State. A copy of the presentation is at Annex-B

7. Mr. Madhukar Gupta, Commissioner, Rajasthan informed that the population of Rajasthan is 5.5 crore as per the 2001 census, of which 2.62 crores are children. Secretary, WCD asked who are the children in need of care and protection in the State and what is the situation of children of orphaned and abandoned children? Commissioner, Rajasthan said that some of the main issues affecting children are child labour, especially in the brick kilns, transport, and begging, child marriage and child trafficking. Due to tourism, there is a serious problem of child abuse and risk to HIV/AIDS. He also informed that there is a system of 'Natha Pratha' which is especially in the Schedule tribe communities, like the Meena community, where they have a system of polygamy. As a result, the children are left to fend for themselves. He added that most tribal communities are polygamous. He also said that many families go as migrant labour to other States including Punjab, Haryana etc. and the children are at risk. He added that there is also the problem of female foeticide, especially in the districts of Jaipur, Hanumangarh and areas near the Haryana border. He said that

female infanticide is also high. As the tribal population of Rajasthan is high (50 Lakh tribal population), awareness building is a major requirement. He informed that the incidence of child trafficking is high here due to using them for BT Cotton seed picking and other such forms of labour. He said that the J.J. Rules are with the cabinet and are expected to be approved within a few days.

8. Commissioner, Rajasthan informed that the education department is carrying out Child Tracking with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

9. He also stated that a survey was conducted where camps were held in each block for settlement of land issues. At this time it was found that there are 4 lakh disabled persons. Secretary, WCD asked the State to identify how many of these are children.

10. Commissioner, Rajasthan informed that under the Palanhar Scheme the number of beneficiaries has increased from 28000 to 69000 as after the survey, 31000 children were identified who could benefit from this scheme.

11. He also added that Rajasthan has culturally a close knit society and they are more receptive to the idea of foster care and kinship care or sponsorship, rather than giving their children into adoption or sending them away to hostels.

12. On the issue of Street children, Commissioner, Rajasthan said that the State has prepared a document for plan of action for Street children and this issue will be dealt with in a systematic manner. Secretary, WCD said that as there is a major problem of children entering Delhi for work, it is requested that States make adequate facilities to arrest this migration so that children stay within the State. It was also discussed that many families have migrated to Delhi in search of work but are living on the streets and begging. Secretary, WCD said that this issue could be dealt with using Palanhar or NREGA. He added that there could be a multiple convergence plan with other departments to tackle this issue. He said that the Government was willing to sponsor a study on how and why people migrate and converge to Delhi. He said that Childline can also contribute to this. Commissioner, Rajasthan said that data had been collected through the Panchayats and Asha Sahyogini on abandoned, street children, children into begging and drug addiction. Secretary, WCD said that this was a good idea but it was important to collect the data in a controlled environment and that the data should be validated and understood appropriately. He added that it could be validated by the Gram Sabha.

13. Status of Service Delivery Mechanisms and Statutory Bodies in the State

13.1 Institutional Care: Commissioner, Rajasthan informed that 105 Homes are registered under the JJ Act of which 42 are Government run Homes. He said that the State has asked for grants for 38 of these under ICPS as the others are Homes for children with special needs. He added that there is a need for Homes in the regions of Udaipur, Kota, and tribal and backward areas, but applications were mainly from NGOs in other districts as they are more aware. Jt. Secretary, WCD, said that Observation homes were needed as distances are large and districts are big so Homes are far away from each other. Secretary, WCD requested the State to look into the status of Homes closely and rationalize the need for more Homes as the occupancy in the Homes is low. Also the capacity of NGO Homes is high which needs to be validated. He said that the State should identify those Homes that were running like Hostels. Commissioner, Rajasthan informed that earlier the CWCs and JJBs were not working efficiently and so the police used to send the children directly into NGO Homes. However, now that they are functioning well, this problem would be sorted. He said that all the NGO Homes are registered under the JJ Act.

13.2 CWCS and JJBs: Commissioner Rajasthan informed that currently the CWCs and JJBs have been set up and are functioning well. He said that the Chairperson of the JJBs are the Chief Judicial Magistrates. He said that they are not facing a problem with this and there is no issue on pendency of cases. Secretary, WCD asked the State to check this issue and see that there is no pendency of cases.

13.3 SAAs: The State informed that 31 Homes have been granted the license for adoption for children in the age group of 6 to 18 years. However, they have not asked for grants for these. It was discussed here, that the state needs to focus on adoption for children in the age group for 0 to 6 years instead. As there are no RIPAs in Rajasthan, Secretary, CARA suggested that at least 2 to 3 of these be set up at the earliest. She suggested that there should be 1 SAA in each district. She also added that the 2 existing shishu grehas and 4 LAPAs be converted into SAAs. She also asked them to find out the type of children living in the orphanages. It was recommended to the State to use Palanhar to its maximum. Secretary, WCD suggested that there is a need to make a District plan to identify the number of children who require care and of these how many can be assisted through Palanhar and how many free for adoption. This study could be done once the DCPS is in place.

14. Decisions taken by the Board

14.1 State Project Support Unit (SPSU): As the SPSU would only be set up by March, PAB decided that grant could be given from March 2011.

14.2 State Child Protection Society (SCPS): The State informed that SCPS will be set up by February; hence the Board approved the grant from February 2011.

14.3 District Child Protection Society (DCPS): It was decided by PAB that as DCPS is still in the process of being set up, and staff has not been appointed, the grant for salary would be given from March 2011. PAB decided that grant for all other activities under DCPS would be given from February, 2011.

14.3 State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA): As SARA has not yet been set up PAB decided that grant would be given from 1st March 2011, i.e. after SARA has been set up.

14.4 Adoption Co-ordination Agency (ACA): In view of the fact that SARA will be established in the State, PAB decided that ACA will not be required.

14.5 Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA): PAB decided that the 2 existing NGO run SAAs would be given grant for the entire year and for the 3 new NGO run SAAs from the date of sanction.

14.6 Institutional Care: It was decided by the board that the State would need to rationalize the Homes and revert to the PAB for approval.

14.7 Open Shelter: The Board approved grants for 2 existing shelters with the 4 units for the full year.

14.8 Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Welfare Boards: PAB approved grants for 24 CWCs for the complete year and for 9 new CWCs from March 2011. PAB also approved grants for 23 JJBs for the full year and for 10 JJBs from February 2011 as they are being reconstituted.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair

List of Participants:

1. Sh. D.K. Sikri, Secretary, (WCD) – Chairperson
2. Sh. Sudhir Kumar, Additional Secretary (WCD)
3. Mrs. Preeti Madan. Jt. Secretary, (WCD)
4. Sh. Madhukar Gupta, Commissioner, Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of Rajasthan
5. Sh. Neihu C. Thur Secretary, Nagaland
6. Mrs. Anu. J. Singh, Secretary, CARA
7. Sh. P.K.Thakur, Director Finance, (WCD)
7. Mrs. Kalyani Chadha, Director, (CW-II) (WCD)
8. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Jt. Director, NIPCCD
9. Ms. Keweu Kenye, Society Director, Govt. of Nagaland
10. Ms. Raitalei Ziliay, Programme Officer, IEC
11. Mr. Govind Beniwal, Consultant, Govt. of Rajasthan