

State level Consultation of Hamara Bachpan Campaign Conducted on 7th July 2015

The state level consultation of Hamara Bachpan Campaign was conducted on 7 August 2015 at Pooram International from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm. The consultation was hosted by ESAF for Hamara Bachpan Campaign. Hon. District Collector, Smt.M.S.Jaya, Mr.Paul Thomas (Executive Director, ESAF) and Ms. Preeti Prada Panigrahi (National Head, Hamara Bachpan Campaign) and Mr. Mohammed Arif (ACP, Crime Detachment Cell, Thrissur) were some of the dignitaries present for the program.

The program began with the welcome speech by Mr. Vijeesh Saraswati (South India Regional Coordinator, Hamara Bachpan Campaign). The presidential address was given by Mr. Paul Thomas (Executive Director, ESAF). Smt.M.S.Jaya, the Hon. District Collector of Thrissur gave out the inaugural address by applauding ESAF for doing such a commendable work among women and children. Mr. Mohammed Arif (ACP Crime Detachment Cell, Thrissur) felicitated the program and assured his whole hearted support for the campaign. Memento was given to Smt. M.S Jaya and Mr. Mohammed Arif by Mr. Paul Thomas and Ms. Preeti Prada Panigrahi respectively. The session winded up for the tea break.

The next session began with a presentation by Mr. Jacob Samuel giving out a brief presentation about ESAF's programs in women and child empowerment. After that Ms. Preethi Prada Panigrahi (National Head, Hamara Bachpan Campaign) gave an overview about Hamara Bachpan Campaign. The video on 'Big Cities Small Children' was well received by everyone and was discussed very well among the participants. Ms. Bhavana.M of RAY explained about the current projects and activities of RAY. Then the floor was opened for discussion.

The key discussion points are –

Mr.P.Rajan, UNICEF Chennai

- UNICEF debating on moving to sustainable development
- Focus on youth engagements
- Youth in colleges as the advocates of child rights
- Tamil Nadu government published a guideline for doctors for the care of child rape victims
- Support of UNICEF for HBC through KeCRO

Fr.Joye James SJ, Chairman CWC Trivandrum

- Only a minority are working for child rights

- Knowledge is not lacking but awareness is needed in people
- Important to be in touch with children who are affected to get a real understanding about their plight
- Children needs space for discussion (balasabha is a platform for children).Let children ask questions and discuss themselves. Their participation is important
- We need facilitators not teachers in the present day scenario
- People need to reflect and criticize on themselves and focus must be given on the mental,social and spiritual health of children
- Lot of services by government for children are there but there is no access to it. Adolescent Health Clinic is an example for it.
- We should start to demand for services. Create a forum where people can demand for services. For that a team of people is needed
- Changes happen in Kerala when we put it on campaign mode

Mr.Shashikumar.V.K, Padashala - a child empowerment intitutive

- Train children to acquire skills to live in the present day world. Give them guidelines
- Awareness creation among children is important
- Introduce activity based awareness creation
- Put child engagement and participation into practice

Mr.C.R Das, Pulari Children's World

- Universities are not concerned with children
- 'My child 'concept should be changed to 'our child' concept
- There is a lack of awareness about CWC among the people
- Strengthen support and cooperation among stakeholders
- Should focus on physical and mental uplifting of children

Mr.Sebastian Britto, KeCRO – Media Officer

- KeCRO aims to create a network of people all over Kerala. In all districts there are active groups of people to discuss upon the child issues
- Childline can involve only in intervention due to the large number of cases

Adv.Seena Rajagopal, CWC Thrissur

- CWC has limitations on out reach but JJB can do a lot in this area
- There must be a check in child abuses. Protection and participation of children should be given great priority
- Protection and development of migrant children should be focused

Mr.Phebi, KeCRO Kottayam

- Focus must be put on CBSE and ICSE schools for the awareness creation among students
- Strategical approach is needed to address the problems
- Awareness must be created among elders about the quality of life of children
- Life skill education must be given to all children

Mr. George Thomas, ESAF

- A resource centre is needed to record information regarding the work done by different people
- Child development resource bank should be formed
- Should see the child categorization in Kerala – need different programs to address the needs of different group of children
- Take one issue per quarter and should put concentrated effort in that

Mr.P.N Bhaskaran, Pulari Children’s World

- Most of the schools in Thrissur corporation doesn’t have safe drinking water facilities
- Lack of adequate playgrounds in schools
- Should retain the childhood in children

Mr.Alexander Jacob, KeCRO Kollam

- Should bring up the rights of the disabled children
- Anganwadis doesn’t have their own rooms and space to play

Adv. Sunilkumar , Jananeethi

- Counselors go to schools and identifies the problems among the children
- Those who do (child in conflict with law) and affected should be treated as victim

Mr.Midhun, Social work student

- Problems of the family must also be addressed while focusing on the child issues for effectiveness
- Protect space for playground for children in cities

Ms.Simmy Jijo, St.Mary’s College Thrissur

- Adopted Kolazhi panchayath – conducted surveys – no toilets ,parks or libraries for children in schools
- Involving CSR funds for the construction of facilities in schools
- Children’s views and opinion is also incorporated for the designing of the facilities
- Strengthening of bala panchayaths and balasabhas

Ms.Vaidehi .K.R, DCPO Thrissur

- Migrant children's problems should be addressed
- Lack of awareness about CWC and JJB
- Gender discrimination is prominent in schools in terms of using playgrounds
- Child participation should be there in meetings for children
- Volunteer ship should be promoted for the work among children

Mr.Pathmakumar, ESAF

- Child problems should be addressed with well planned strategies
- For any system to do good there should be a institutional mechanism
- Should consolidate the efforts of different agencies

Ms. Bhavana, RAY Trivandrum

- RAY will suport HBC in according to its capacity.

Dr. Siva Prasad E.R, Teacher –G.H.S.S Cheruthuruthy

- We need a three dimensional view – prevention,protection and rehabilitation
- Should subject funds allocated for child welfare to social audit
- CSR can be linked with rehabilitation
- Child Rights Protection Force Units in all schools – schools as peace unit
- Should form local networking
- Categorization of kids is important

Mr.Bhaskaran Anchath, Pulari Children's World

- Lack of protection of law for children
- Should think about changing the attitude of elders

Conclusion

Ms Beena George (ESAF)

- No need of new network since there is KeCRO
- KeCRO can link with CRPF
- Resource mapping should be done by KeCRO
- College students should be linked with children's clubs

- Recreational need of girl children must be addressed – whole strata of awareness – mothers,parents,teachers etc
- Kids for kids project – linking KeCRO with this can solve the hunger issues in children

To conclude, the consultation saw the coming together of many of the prominent faces who have made a mark in the area of child rights. This is bound to give HBC a head-start in the state. The support from RAY and other organisations will accelerate the campaign in the state.



Hon.District Collector, Smt.M.S.Jaya inaugurating the consultation by lightening the lamp



Mr. Paul Thomas (Executive Director, ESAF) delivering the presidential address



Mr.Vigeesh Saraswati (South India Regional Cordinato, Hamara Bachpan Campaign) welcoming participants to the consultation.



Ms.Preethi Prada Panigrahi (National Head, Humara Bachpan Campaign) presenting an overview about Hamara Bachpan Campaign



Mr. George Thomas (Director Operations,ESAF) presenting the memento to Ms.Preethi Prada Panigrahi (National Head,Hamara Bachpan Campaign)