

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

Summary:

Dr. Rachel, MSSW addressed the gathering and greeted the guests.

Dr. Raja Samuel, Principal, MSSW greeted the audience and welcomed the chief guests, various NGO's and stakeholders. He has started his speech by appreciating all the people who are striving hard for making the world a better place for children. He felt very bad for the increase in crime rates against children. He spoke about the tragic death of two children due to hunger in recent days and due to the bad condition of infrastructure in schools. This kind of incident is questioning our moral conscience. He mentioned a poem written by Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean poet, he once said "his/her name is today" and society is known for not taking care of children and abandoning children. He also said, "children before everything".

He shared an experience in which one of his students raised a question to an assistant collector during a rural camp, "how sustainable is the dry ration that the government providing the people?" and he answered, " the government has all the resources to provide dry rations to all the people across the nation". With his answer, we can understand that the government has enough resources to provide rations to all the people, there is a problem with the intention. Towards the reformation in the society, MSSW, and World Vision India are about to release content regarding children's entitlements. So, the book "Ready Reckoner" will help the people who are willing to work on children's entitlements and it also helps the children to claim their entitlements on their own. He appreciated the MSW shift-II department for working on the book. He ended his speech by thanking Smt. Saraswathi Rangasamy who is Chairperson from TNCPCR and other chief guests for gracing the occasion with their presence and he thanked World Vision India for partnering with MSSW in the book release.



Speaker: Mr. Anil Joseph,

Mr. Anil Joseph, Director-Operations of World Vision India addressed the gathering and appreciated world vision India and MSSW for taking such an initiative. Then, he said that the states in south India are much progressive in protecting children and their rights when compared to north India. He stated that India has so many wonderful schemes for children such as mid-day meals. Not many countries have amazing plans as India does. Execution, corruption, and ignorance in people are the main problems in India.

He shared his experience at a conference in Australia regarding malnourished children and famine in underdeveloped countries. He shared his thoughts on the book which is about to be released on that day and it will help vulnerable people and NGOs. He also explained the basic objectives and aims of NGOs which are working hard to bridge the gap between the children and the vulnerable and the government and their schemes. He stated that child marriage is the main problem, in some cases, even the children are the reason for child marriage to happen. He ended his speech by thanking every NGO who contributed to the release of the book "Ready Reckoner".



After Mr. Anil Joseph's speech, Ms. Damen Queen, head of the department spoke about the book "Ready Reckoner" which provides several details regarding various entitlements, objectives of the schemes, etc for the children. She said, "we hope this book would help the NGOs and people who are ready to work for the children's rights, availability of the resource".



Speaker: Saraswathi Rangaswamy

Saraswathi Rangaswamy who works in Human Rights Commission greeted the audience and stated the basic children's rights.

She said that the parents should be given the proper awareness about child rights. Parents having a healthy relationship with their children, spending quality time with their children, being friendly with them, and supporting them can be the solution to most of the crimes against children. Parents should realize that they have to protect their children. Worldwide, 12 crores child marriage has been recorded and 10 crores child marriages have happened in India. Child marriage rates have increased by 33% due to corona and the main reason for the increase in rates are 316 children lost both their parents and 9696 lost at least one parent in Tamil Nadu.

Then, she shared a real-life incident where a schoolgirl is sexually abused by a teacher through social media and how the parents of the girl supported her and helped her to solve the problem without blaming the victim. She shared another story, in which a girl who is just 17 years old was forced to marry a man who is 40 years old by her parents and she reached out to Ms. Saraswathi Rangaswamy to solve it. She requested both the parents and children in the

gathering to have a healthy relationship and cooperate. She ended her speech by saying that people can approach the district child protection office when they witness crimes against children.



Joint Director of TN Child Protection Mr. A N Raj Saravanakumar

Mr. A N Raj Saravanakumar who is a Joint Director, TNCPCR greeted the audience. He started his speech by saying that role clarity is important in child protection. Prevention of Child Marriage is the most concerned nowadays because rates of child marriage have tremendously increased. Biological parents are the most responsible person when it comes to the protection of children. If child marriages have increased, crimes against children have increased parents are the only people to be blamed. Even though children's rights are in existence for many decades, but the schemes and rights did not reach the children properly. Due to the indifference of many people in society, the stakeholders have hectic work when it comes to the protection of children. He also said the Tamil Nadu government has initiated so many good projects for the people and children. Tamil Nadu government working hard not only in designing schemes but also in implementing them effectively. Tamil Nadu holds first place in providing protection to children among the whole nation. He stated that 25% of the budget for protection and schemes for children has been allocated for Tamil Nadu based on the trust they have in TN and the officials.

Later, he shared two of his real-life experience with a delinquent person who has complete data on the drugs combinations, quantities that even a doctor doesn't know. Another experience was with two girls from 10th grade who arranged mercenaries to kill a college student. Protecting children from other children has become a problem nowadays. The increase in crimes among the children and against the children put everyone in shock.

He said that children and society are interrelated, when a child commits a crime it affects the society and other children around them and when society fails to protect the child, it affects other children. Not only children from a poor background, but children from rich families are also vulnerable and are in danger. He said, "we are forced for social reform, changes in values and attitude". It is also important to rehabilitate severely the children who commit crimes against other children. He ended his speech by saying that every person in society should take a pledge to protect children and this cannot be achieved without everyone's cooperation.



Speaker: Kural Amudhan

Kural Amuthan addressed the gathering and appreciated World vision and Madras school of social work for their effective initiative. He mentioned that he has worked in so many states and that Tamil Nadu has crossed so many milestones than any other state in India. He further appreciated our government for all their initiative and implementation. He further gave an example where four children were rescued from bonded labour in Thanjavur. He was proud that the childline number was one of the student social worker's pilot schemes which is efficiently used all over India. He ended his session by thanking one and all.

The next session was the main mime performance consisted and comprised of child marriage, sexual abuse, child labour, and bonded labour and how intense it affects a child.

The next session Was an interactive session where children asked all their doubts and questions to the resource persons Regarding child marriage, POCSO, child labour, and Cinema depiction of love scenes in school. And all the year questions were answered.

Followed by that Jennila from world vision delivered oath.

The whole session was ended by a vote of thanks by Samson and he thanked everyone who was gathered.

Shamala Dhevi:

Ms. Shamala Dhevi addressed the gathering and started her speech by explaining the cause of child marriage and also said few examples that she encountered on Puliyanthopu village where the main causes were:

- custom and culture
- considering female child as a burden
- Lack of awareness
- Illegal intimacy

And she stressed that in cities most of the sexual harassment are happening through well known persons like family, friends, neighbors.

Later she briefly explained about POCSO Act And what all applies in POCSO act.

On continuation she also mentioned about SOS Kaavalan app And gave few ChildLine numbers. And requested every student to have Kaavalan app on their mobile phones. She further explained that when the call gets to the control room there will be a call back within five seconds on reach of the call Where is the control room will also be receiving the location of the person calling.

She was proud that Tamil Nadu is the first state to receive the Scotch award.

She further explained that how parents play major role in these aspects And how much parenting is important to every girl child as well as and boy child. She kept a request that parents should stop accusing a girl for her dressing and mannerism So that victim should never feel shame of any assaults. She also stressed that sexual abuse will never end until parenting changes in our society And how much influence of cinema and it's negative impacts affects the society For example stalking Which is an offence but every popular heroes are even following it and people are getting influenced through it.

She appreciated Tamil Nadu government and our CM for introducing the propaganda vehicle which is to monitor the beneficiaries and the awareness provided to people And its ultimate aim is for safer Chennai and they are working for it.

The session ended with Principal facilitating her.

Following that the video was released which had a compilation of importance of female education and how child marriage affects life of a girl child and various factors that are affecting the upliftment of girl child.



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