

FROM THE LAPTOP OF THE MEMBER OF THE JJ COMMITTEE

FRIENDS,

While penning to write this second e-letter for the month of February 2018, as my memory goes down the lane, it was one afternoon that I received a call from Nadira Patherya, J., who in her usual eloquence, commanded me to be part of Juvenile Justice Committee. Initially, I was perplexed for the reason whether I would be able to come up to her expectation and the trust reposed upon me, but the second thought overshadowed my scepticism for betterment of the un-privileged children of the society.

The Chairperson took lot of pain to uphold the purpose and object for which the Juvenile Justice Committee was constituted. During my interaction with the administration, stakeholders and various other government and non-government organizations, my heart bled and I pledged to myself to see to it that such children are brought to the mainstream and are able to avail all the benefits at par with the privileged children. As the time passed, and on demitting office by one of the Members, Prasenjit Mandal, J. the Committee was reconstituted by introducing Soumen Sen, J. The concern for the children and the zeal to do something for them got impetus with the addition of Soumen Sen, J. and the Committee under the Chairperson decided to visit various

districts of the State, more particularly the Homes, to find out the shortcomings, facilities and amenities provided to their child-inmates, and to uplift their standard of living.

Apart from the same, the Committee also took up the task of recommending various programmes to be organized with the help of administration and the schemes floated by the State Government extended to them. Over the period, the Committee could only visit nine districts and have an agenda to visit several others.

One of the major challenges, which, I think, is the trafficking of child within and outside the State and sometimes from the neighbouring countries. Because of the geographical location, the State shares common boundaries with Bhutan and Bangladesh, which largely differs on socio-economic aspect. The human trafficking is brooding and the children are the most favoured victims. The trafficked children have no choice of their own and loose the aspiration to become a most privileged member of the society.

Recently, Justice and Care, a non-government organization, conducted a survey and published a report with the co-partner Border Security Force. The object of conducting such survey was to check the trafficking from the neighbouring country at the borderline. It was highlighted therein that if

the trafficking is intercepted at the borderline it may achieve the twin objects, namely, prevention of child-exploitation and child-trafficking.

There is another startling fact, which the Committee noticed over the period of time, the rampant child trafficking from various districts of the State to the neighbouring State. The Purulia district has close proximity with the State of Jharkhand and is connected by road to two industrial hubs, namely, Dhanbad and Jamshepdpur. The Purulia district is home to a high tribal population, which justifiably seeks to continue their age-old ties and cultural bonds with their brethren in the adjacent districts of Jharkhand. The children of such tribes can be easily trafficked because of the similarity in culture with the tribes of the neighbouring State. Such children often fall prey to a child-trafficker, being lured for better employment and quality life and lands into a child-labour, which is forbidden under the law. They are not nor can be destined for such future as they have a right to live with dignity. The Committee visited various Homes and gave suggestions for their upliftment and better living including the formal education as well as vocational training so that they would be able to be good citizens of the country. Various initiatives are taken for the children of the neighbouring country for



their repatriation. There have been several success stories in this regard. I end with the enlightening words of Rabindra Nath Tagore "Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man."

Harish Tandon

Member of the Juvenile Justice Committee .

Calcutta High Court.

Activities at Home

School at Home Campus



Kitchen garden at Home



Health Check Up at Home



Children attending School



Vocational Training

Tailoring



Block Printing



Yoga Training at Home



Bakery



Cultural & Recreational Activities at Home

Nijolay



Child Care Home



Kishlaya



Kishlaya



Child Friendly Police Station, Belghoria PS



Home Orientation Camp at Kishlaya



3 Home Orientation Camps had been organised in Kishlaya Home by SAITHI NGO, in 2013, 2016 and in 2017.

By this camp 50 children are reunited with their families.



Children watching Under 17 World Cup at Vidyasagar Yuva Varati Kriangan

Aadhaar enrolment in camp mode in CCI in North 24 Parganas and trace out of family address of children.

- Aadhaar enrolment camps are organised in CCI in North 24 Parganas. 16 camps have been organised and 90 % children have been enrolled through these.

Facilities Available	Dhrubashram	Kishalaya	Sukanya	Nijolaya	Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission	Child Care	Bodhana (MR Home)
Camps for Aadhaar Card	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

SUCCESS STORY : CASE OF KISH KUMAR

6 boys five of whom are CWSN (Child with Special Need) in hearing impaired category and one boy who could not give proper address during several counselling session through these Aadhaar camp, family address of these children were found as they had already been enrolled in Aadhaar from their native place.

Home verification of these children is being going on and one child (Kish Kumar) had been restored to his family on 15.02.2018.

Special AADHAAR Camps
in the Home in regular
intervals



ACHIEVEMENTS

I. **Formal schooling at home through Second Campus of Primary school, 100% children's enrolment to school, Midday Meal, and Vocational engagement to Kishalaya and Dhruvashram Boys and Sukanya girls.**

- 3 Zero or near zero enrolment schools are providing formal education support to Kishalaya, Sukanya and Dhruvashram on and from 7th September as a second campus in the home premises.
- All home boys/girls are enrolled to formal education through this second campus from pre primary (shishu class) to class IV.
- Class rooms are decorated with child friendly paintings and new teaching learning tools.
- Mid day meals are given to the children enrolled in school. more over quality nutritious food is given like boiled egg, milk and fruit in evening refreshment as surplus cost Rs. 4.16 per day per child.
- Vocational training courses like computer training, electrical, plumbing, handicrafts, tailoring are going on.

Facilities Available	Dhruvashram	Kishalaya	Sukanya	Nijolaya	Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission	Child Care	Bodhana (MR Home)	Bodhipect (MR Home)
Formal Education from Home Premises	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Mid Day Meal (School Edn)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Different types of Vocational training	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scope of Recreational & Cultural activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

II. **Orientation Camp for improvement of moral teaching /behavioural changes (reform) Tracing out Home Address of Children in home.**

- Restoration of missing children who cannot recall their family address is a big challenge. SATHI, an NGO organised month long camps for tracing out family address through motivational class, motivational videos, magical show, art & craft to encourage the children to open up before the teacher in a complete isolated manner from other children in home.
- Last camp was organised on and from 15th November to 26 December and out of 23 children 15's address have been traced out and 13 already handed over to their parents/family members. Presently in Sukanya Home this camp is going on from 1st February 18 and 25 participants are in the camp.