

EveryChild

ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2012

India

03

RELEASE OF THE
RESEARCH ON ACCESSIBILITY
AND IMPACT OF SPONSORSHIP

06

"IF SOMEONE HELPS ME,
I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO
SCHOOL. I LIKE STUDYING."



New Year Greetings to all our readers!

From the time I have joined EveryChild in September last year I was very impressed, inspired and learning so many new things from our dedicated staff, partners and children. I believe more people need to know and learn about our work, share expertise, challenge and join hands in supporting our global vision to make sure that every child enjoys the right to a childhood in a safe and caring family, free from poverty, violence and exploitation. Added to this, the 'theory of change' of EveryChild has inspired me to wake up every morning with the mission in mind to bring a small change to the life of a child through whatever I do the rest of the day and I invite you to be part of that mission. Happy New Year!

Mr William Gali
Country Director
EveryChild India

EveryChild is an international development charity working to stop children growing up vulnerable and alone. More than 24 million children worldwide grow up without parental care, their survival often threatened by greater risk of malnutrition, violence and exploitation; their future lost by missing out on school, and their childhood. Working with local partners EveryChild keeps children safe when they are alone and at risk. EveryChild protect children in danger of ending up on their own by keeping families together and get children back to a safe and caring family, wherever possible.

EveryChild in India implements programmes in partnership with community based organisations/NGOs in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu focusing on the most marginalised dalit children at risk of losing parental care or without parental care- specifically the Madiga and the Devadasi children in North Karnataka and Arunthathiyar children in Tamil Nadu.

Strengthening community based child protection systems, getting children back to schools, promoting creative learning and psycho social care assistance for vulnerable children and their families and getting missing, run-away children back to their families are some of the key programme interventions. The primary mandate for EveryChild is to ensure care and protection of each child in his/her family and community and ensure effective implementation of child protection mechanism in the state.

EveryChild
India

EveryChild India Liason Office
No 9, 7th Road, Nandidurga Extension, Bangalore 560046
Karnataka, India | email: communications@everychildindia.org
Tel: +91 80 23338928/32
Web: www.everychildindia.org

Highlights for the Next month:

District level Consultation on issues of children working in textile industries on 17 February 2012 at Salem, Tamil Nadu.

EveryChild India's visits Youth Council for Development Alternatives (YCDA) in February 2012 and other key stakeholders in Orissa to understand the model of kinship care. <http://www.ycda.org/>

FROM THE EVERYCHILD INDIA DESK:

This is our first newsletter. It is an attempt to share our work and reach out more to our partners, friends and most importantly children. We are constantly striving to improve, learn and share and in this journey we would very much appreciate your suggestions, feedback to find newer ways to interact discuss and engage with all of you.

EVERYCHILD INDIA TEAM

RELEASE OF THE RESEARCH ON ACCESSIBILITY AND IMPACT OF SPONSORSHIP

(alternative care provision for children) in Karnataka under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 on 13 January 2012, Bangalore

“If someone helps me, i would like to go to school. I like studying.”

A collaborative study by EveryChild India & Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) was released on 13 January 2012 at Bangalore. The study was undertaken to understand the accessibility and impact of sponsorship (alternative care provision in Juvenile Justice Act 2000) on children in Karnataka. Currently in Karnataka the Department of Women and Child is implementing a scheme (since 2006) focusing on this provision to de-institutionalise children and enable them to access education, health care while living with their families.

The study was conducted in three districts of Karnataka-Bagalkote, Mysore & Bangalore during 2010-11. The key findings and recommendations were shared on 13 January with distinguished chief guests namely Ms Nina Nayak, Chairperson - Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Rights of the Child (KSCPCR); Mr Vasudeva Sharma-Member KSCPCR and Ms Shashikala Shetty, Project Director - Integrated Child Protection Scheme (Karnataka Department of Women and Child Development-DWCD). The participants for the programme included Asstt. Deputy Director from DWCD (2), District-Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU-2), Academic Institutions (2), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) across six districts of Karnataka and around 25 Child Rights NGOs focusing on alternative care/strengthening the JJ System in Karnataka.

Sponsored schoolkids do not drop out: Study

DC CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU, JAN. 13

A study by EveryChild and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has found that children from vulnerable backgrounds, under the sponsorship programme, never drop out of schools but lack awareness about the programme. Thus, a lot of children do not avail of its benefits.

On Friday, the sponsorship study programme was released in the presence of officials from Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), Department of Women and Child Development and EveryChild.

The sponsorship pro-

gramme in Karnataka was launched in 2006, by the department of Women and Child Development. However, even after six years, the study states that there is a complete lack of awareness about the programme.

"In the first place, there is a huge gap in the review mechanism of the programme. There is an utter lack of coordination between the child welfare committees and juvenile justice board. So the programme is not reaching many children," said Mr P.P. Baburaj, an independent consultant who conducted the study.

The study that was conducted in Mysore, Bagalkot and Bengaluru Urban, specifically notes that once children are

sponsored, they never drop out of schools. "Often, these children come from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, where they also have the added responsibility of taking care of siblings," added Mr Baburaj.

Recommendations have been made to increase awareness about the programme by training the Department of Women and Child Development officials, including the various district level staff. Under the sponsorship programme, 1308 children in the state have benefited so far.

However, to extend the programme across Karnataka, the study has recommended increasing the fund allocation.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

'Sponsorship schemes need to improve reach'

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: A study on the impact of the Government's sponsorship scheme for deprived children - to ensure access to education without institutionalisation outside families - has recommended that the scheme be extended throughout the year to all vulnerable children till 18.

Under the current norms, two vulnerable children from a family are eligible for sponsorship by the Department of Women and Child Development - ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 500 a month - for a maximum period of three years.

The study, conducted by the voluntary organisation EveryChild in Bangalore Urban, Mysore and Bagalkot districts, and commissioned by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, was released here on Friday. The study said that the scheme had succeeded in ensuring that children did not drop out of school, but it needed to be strengthened by increasing budgetary allocation, providing better training to officials and by achieving coordination between various departments.



IMPROVING CHILDREN'S LOT: (From left) Project Director of ICPS Shashikala, Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Nina Nayak, commission member Vasudev Sharma and country director of EveryChild India William Gull during the release of the study on the impact of the Government's sponsorship scheme for deprived children, in Bangalore on Friday.

PHOTO: K. GOPINATHAN

Speaking at the release of the study, KSCPCR Chairperson Nina Nayak said that while there was no dearth of schemes, the crucial part was keeping constant vigil on their implementation.

She said that while the focus had, over a period of time, shifted from institutionalisation to family-based support for deprived children, there was a need to focus attention on personalised care.

"There should be greater coordination between the child and the administration," she said. Schemes should be seen as means to build trust into the families and address the multiple problems within, which impact the lives of children, she added. Ms. Nayak said that there is a need to build a cadre of experts who can provide personalised care to children in need.

During the study release programme, we developed a plan of action in consultation with key stakeholders to take forward recommendations specifically towards increased budgetary allocations for the scheme, awareness and training to officials and enabling coordination between various departments.

The proposed recommendations from the research study, including the participants' responses *(sub-points) consolidated from the 13 January discussions are as follows:

- Through this study EveryChild found that all sponsored children under this scheme did not drop out of schools due to the support provided to them. Hence it is an important support for the most vulnerable children to ensure children do not drop out of schools and do not end up being trafficked for labour or other forms of exploitation.
- Need for a large scale awareness amongst families and children on sponsorship scheme as an effective provision to support vulnerable children and their families in their districts.
- Sponsorship is an enabling care and protection provision under Section 43 of JJA and therefore, it needs to be made available throughout the year for all vulnerable children upto the age of 18 years.
 - The current scheme only supports two children per family and this need to be reviewed and made available for all children per family.
- Procedure to apply for sponsorship to be simplified and make documentation non-burdensome for children and families
 - The existing procedures to apply for sponsorship are burdensome for families. There are many certificates (Death of parent if one of the parents is not alive; School going certificate, Income certificate etc) which are required. The current procedures and documentation required needs to be reviewed to make this process simple and child friendly.
- DWCD needs to lead on initiatives to impart training on sponsorship to its staff, from DD to CDPOs, Supervisors, and AWs who work in the villages at Block level.
 - Large scale awareness for DWCD officials and ICPS functionaries is required. The CWC members' capacity needs to be enhanced to ensure implementation of this scheme.

Ms Nina Nayak, Chairperson – Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights stated, “Schemes such as Sponsorship should be seen as means to build inroads into families and address the multiple problems that impact the lives of children”.



Mr P. Baburaj, Research Consultant, speaking about the Sponsorship research during the release event

- The budgetary allocation for the effective implementation of the scheme needs to be reviewed and enhanced in view of the required increase in the quantum and duration of sponsorship for all needy children.
 - Budgetary allocations need to be increased for sponsorship. At present the allocation is only 0.014% of the total DWCD budget (2010-11). The resource allocations have been more for other programmes and the alternative care provisions like sponsorship are resourced less.
- Coordination with various departments (Deptt. of Labour, Education, Health) at the district level is essential to reach the needy children.
- Sponsorship should be routed through schools and the payment should be made from the child's school with a view to make it more accessible for children and parents.
 - Schools could ensure timely cash transfers and become places for children and their families to discuss their problems in pursuing education.
- CWCs should undertake initiatives to identify foster families for foster care for which sponsorship support can be provided.
- NGOs and CBOs should liaise with CWCs and JJBs in their concerned districts to ensure effective functioning of the sponsorship programmes and effective implementation of the JJ Act in their districts.
- Effective monitoring and follow-up of sponsored children and parents provided guidance and support

to ensure benefits of the scheme for their children.

- There is a provision for NGOs to be voluntary Probationary Officers within the JJ act. This provision needs to be explored for NGOs to undertake responsibilities of assessment and accessibility of the sponsorship scheme for vulnerable children.
- There is also a need to have a cadre of skilled social workers to assist the CWCs and DWCD in the effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme on a permanent basis.
- Additionally there needs to be a mechanism in place to assess the impact of the scheme on the sponsored children.

These recommendations are being shared with all participants and in meetings with DWCD and other agencies. As per the action plan, specific lobbying and advocacy efforts to ensure the effectiveness of this scheme in the state would be undertaken in collaboration with other groups and organisations.

Ms Payal Saxena
 Manager: Communications & Advocacy-EveryChild India
payal@everychildindia.org

The research document is available under the Research section at www.everychildindia.org

“If someone helps me, I would like to go to school. I like studying.”

Rekha is only ten years old and must take care of her grandmother and household after her mother, a devadasi passed away six years ago.

Rekha is a ten year old dalit girl living in a village in Belgaum, Karnataka. Her mother Laxmi passed away six years ago, she was a devadasi. Rekha lives with her grandmother, around 85 years old, in a small house made of mud. They are very poor. Rekha does not go to school and looks after her old grandmother who has cataract in both her eyes and can barely see.

Rekha's grandmother unable to cope with fading eyesight, old age and no livelihood apart from the old age pension of Rs.400/ month,(around 5 GBP) which was mostly delayed, was compelled to pull Rekha out of the government school where she was studying in Class 2. The grandmother needed Rekha to care for her and tend to the household chores. She told Rekha to look after her till she died after which Rekha would have to go and live with her cousin brother's family.

Rekha looks after her grandmother on a daily basis. Her daily routine begins early in the morning at 5 am every day. She gets up and makes tea for her grandmother. She then bathes, gives her grandmother a bath and makes breakfast – a dish called aulakki (puffed rice dish). Thereafter she mops and cleans the house and washes hers and her grandmother's clothes. In the afternoon, Rekha prepares lunch, making chapattis and a curry dish. On very few occasions when she had finished all her household work, and while her grandmother rests in the afternoon, Rekha goes out to play with her best friend Rohini who lives nearby. She likes playing ball. On such occasions, she sometimes goes with Rohini to the market. Rekha wants to spend more time with Rohini but she is unable to do so since she has to go and collect firewood for the evening and complete the remaining chores. This is her everyday routine. Sometimes her cousin brother's son who lives nearby comes and helps her to get things from the market. This is however not often.

It is children like Rekha who would greatly benefit from a scheme like Sponsorship as an effective and holistic care provision for vulnerable children within the *Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000* and the *Amendment Act 2006*.