

State Level Consultation on Role of NGOs in making SMC's effective and School Nurturing was organized on 16<sup>th</sup> February at SCERT Gurgaon. 47 representatives from NGO's from all over the State including State Program Officer –RTE, (SPO) Directorate of Elementary Education (DEE), Coordinator, Inclusive Education, Program for Children with Special Needs (CWSN), RTE Forum and NCPCR participated. Copy of SMC module followed in Haryana and State Rules were made available to all the participants. List of the participants is also attached.

The consultation started with welcome address by the State Representative of NCPCR for Haryana and introduction on role of NCPCR as monitoring body for implementation of RTE Act 2009 by Sh. Paresh Shah, Program Officer, RTE Division, NCPCR. Before giving opportunity to representatives from NGO's to express their views on functioning of School Management Committees (SMC), the SPO explained what DEE has done to make SMC's effective. The SPO informed the participants that SMC's were formed on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 in all the 15014 schools of Haryana, celebrates annual function on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 and all the SMC's shall be reconstituted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 as the term of SMC is two years.

The SMC's are formed in true spirit of the RTE Act with 75% participants from the parents of students, the parents member heads SMC, 50% women and one member from the parents of the children with special needs. Mr. Pramod Kumar (SPO) also informed that DEE is conducting trainings of members of SMC's all over the state quarterly, at cluster level by Master trainers appointed by DEE for the purpose and officials of DEE monitoring these trainings. He is visiting these trainings personally also on many occasions and the State Representative of NCPCR is invited to these trainings on many occasions.

All the 15014 schools across the country are celebrating Independence day and Republic Day in the schools and the flag hoisting is done by the head of SMC on the instructions of DEE. To make the SMC's functions transparent, the DEE is advertising the events in the local newspapers all over the State inviting parents to participate in the celebrations.

All the NGO representatives were then invited to express their views about the functioning of SMC's in the schools they are associated with. There were mixed reactions. It is well known fact that some schools do not have functional SMC's to which the SPO admitted that they agree that 60% SMC's are functioning satisfactorily, 20% are average and 20% need more attention and monitoring. It was suggested that the SMC's are to be reconstituted again on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 and all the NGO's are invited to participate in the process of reconstitution and help in capacity building, educating and strengthening the SMC's. The DEE will extend full support to the NGO's willing to participate in the SMC's as an educationist member.

Some suggestions came from NGO representatives are:

1. Preparation of School Development Plan is a complex matter and a proper and extensive training is required for the members.
2. The schools are not sharing the financial transactions with the members of SMC's in most of the schools. The schools may be instructed to make the financial transactions transparent and may be displayed on walls of schools.

3. Some teachers feel that the SMC members are not capable of managing the schools and are not cooperating. Something can be done about changing mindset of teachers.
4. Separate training program for women members of SMC will help in articulation as many women do not speak when sitting along the men of the village.
5. Mr. Rajneesh, Coordinator Inclusive Education informed that it is mandatory to include parents of CWSN in the SMC and Haryana Government is working on one school in every block (total 119) in the State which shall be developed as a Hub for CWSN with all the facilities like accessibility, special teachers, needed equipment and transport made available.
6. NGO's may be involved in the SMC training programs being organized by DEE to which the SPO informed that NGO's are always welcome to actively attend the trainings. The training programs are announced one week in advance in every cluster. The NGO representatives can also participate in trainings as observers in case they want to.
7. NGO's can have a role in capacity building of SMC members, making SDP, writing proceedings of SMC meetings etc. NGO representatives can be invited to SMC meetings as experts also.
8. NGO's may be allowed to organize After School Activities in schools for holistic development of children.
9. The letters, circulars and communications from DEE, DEO and BEO may be made available on website of DEE so that the schemes and programs of DEE reach the NGO's and they can contribute in making parents aware about the schemes and programs and monitor the implementation.
10. Exposure to the Model SMC's and schools improved after intervention of SMC be organized for members, teachers and parents.

The post lunch session was dedicated to School nurture policy of Haryana Government and RTE Forum. Mr. Pramod elaborated on School Nurture Policy through a presentation and the NGO's who are willing to participate in development of schools through contribution in cash and kind or even capacity building of teachers and SMC's can intervene and become partner with government. This policy is answer to many questions raised by NGO's expressing concern over not being allowed to enter the school without permission from the authorities and how some people with intellectual capacities can contribute in development of school using their skills for the benefits of children in schools.

School Nurture Policy is an innovative idea of Government of Haryana and is being launched soon. The participants were informed in details through an impressive presentation and the NGO's and individuals were asked to partner with the government by adopting one or more schools depending on their capabilities and develop the schools. The policy offers wide range of programs and activities and the best thing is that this policy allows equal opportunity to an individual, a group, NGO or a big corporate house to contribute in whatever manner the donor can become partner in school development.

#### RTE Forum

White Lotus Trust is already a partner in RTE Forum and is participating in its programs for last two years. To expand the participation of more NGO's from Haryana, Mr. Ambrish Rai,

Convener RTE Forum joined the consultation and shared his views about the RTE Act 2009, quality of education, equality in schools and National Curriculum Framework. Mr. Rai talked about the objectives of RTE Forum in details and how the forum seeks to ensure quality education to each and every child in this country. The right to education and development should be ensured by the government not only to the children in the age group 6 to 14 but to zero to 18 at least. We are demolishing our schools which will give an opportunity to the government to hand over the education to businessmen like telecom and health is already gone out of hands of government.

Mr. Rai invited all the participants to join RTE Forum and strengthen the movement in the interest of each and every child of this country.

Again our whole hearted thanks to all the participants, Mr. Rai from RTE Forum, Mr. Pramod Kumar, SPO-RTE Haryana, Mr. Rajnish from Directorate School Education, RTE division team from NCPDR for their contribution in organizing and conducting this seminar, Mr. Paresh Shah and Dr. Smita Singh.

Warm regards

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National Commission for Protection of Child Rights  
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