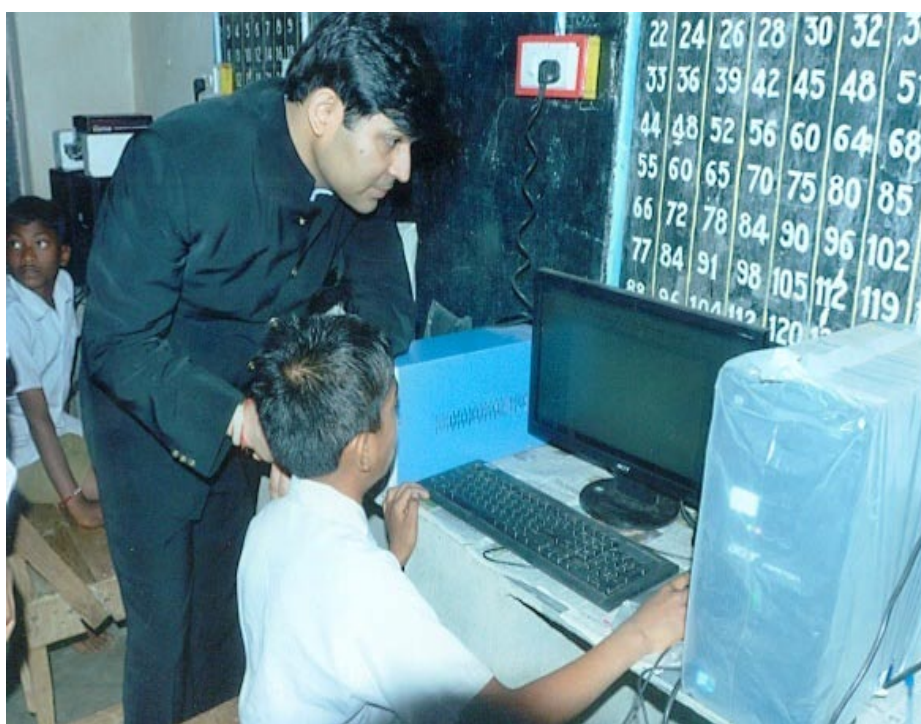




## **Assessment of Child Rights Issues in the Naxal Affected Areas of Gadchiroli VISIT REPORT OF DR.YOGESH DUBE**



**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chandralok Building, 36- Janpath  
New Delhi – 110001  
2012**

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## Abbreviations

ATR -	Action Taken Report
CWC -	Child Welfare Committee
DC -	Deputy Commissioner
ICPS-	Integrated Child Protection of Scheme
JJ Act-	The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
NCPCR-	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGO -	Non-Governmental Organisation
RTE -	Right to Education
SCPCR-	State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

# Visit of NCPCR team to Naxal Affected area of Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra

From 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

## 1. Background and Purpose of the Visit

**Gadchiroli District** of Maharashtra is having its administrative headquarters at Gadchiroli town. Gadchiroli District is situated in the Southeastern corner of Maharashtra, and is bounded by Chandrapur District to the West, Gondia District to the North, Chhattisgarh State to the East, and Andhra Pradesh State to the South and Southwest.

According to the 2011 census Gadchiroli district has a population of 1,071,795 with a population density of 74 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 10.46 %. Gadchiroli has a sex ratio of 975 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 70.55 %.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in the district is 1,08,824 and 3,71,696. The tribal population constitutes 38.3 % of the district. Seven major languages are spoken in the district, namely, Gondi, Madiya, Marathi, Hindi, Telugu, Bengali, Chattisgadi.

The District is categorized as a tribal and underdeveloped district and most of the land is covered with forest and hills. Forests cover more than 79.36 % of the geographical area of the district and the district is famous for bamboo and Tendu leaves. Paddy is the main agricultural product of the district and other agriculture



products are Jowar, Linseed, Tur, and wheat. The main profession of the people is farming.

There is no large scale Industry in the district except the paper mill at Ashti in Chamorshi Taluka, and the paper pulp factory at Desaiganj. There are many rice mills in the district.

**The district is well known for Naxalite activities.** In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Gadchiroli one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the twelve districts in Maharashtra currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF).

The district is divided into three sub-divisions- Gadchiroli, Aheri and Desaiganj- which are further divided into 12 talukas. Each sub-division has four talukas. Gadchiroli sub-division consists of Gadchiroli, Dhanora, Chamorshi and Mulchera talukas, Aheri sub-division consists of Aheri, Sironcha, Etapalli and Bhamragad talukas and Desaiganj (Wadsa) sub-division consists of Wadsa, Armori, Kurkheda and Korchi talukas. There are 467 Gram Panchayats and 1688 Revenue Villages. The district has 12 Panchayat Samitis. The District has two municipalities, i.e., Gadchiroli and Wadsa (Desaiganj).

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the situation of children in distress with various stakeholders including Government officials of Gadchiroli district, NGOs working in the area for the protection of child rights, Child Welfare Committee. Also to assess the functioning of **Bal Bandhu Scheme** in the district and to reflect the same practice in the proposed pilot project for the Nagwa Block.

Dr. Yogesh Dube visited the area to get the ground situation and review the situation of children in the district. The purpose was to enhance democracy through community participation and action and renew hope in harmonizing the society and stabilizing their lives while a child's well-being becomes the focus of all action in the area.

## 2. The Tour Itinerary

**Visit programme of Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR to Gadchiroli, Maharashtra from 14 to 17 March 2012.**

### **Travel Itinerary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Travel Plan/Activity</b>
14.03.2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Departure from New Delhi at 05.50 a.m. (AI-469)</li><li>• Arrival at Nagpur Airport at 08.40 a.m.</li><li>• 09.00 – Departure for Gadchiroli by road.</li><li>• 03.00 pm – Meeting with Bal Bandhus (arranged by District Administration).</li><li>• Night stay at Gadchiroli.</li></ul>
15.03.2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 09.00 am – Field visit to schools in Gadchiroli District.</li><li>• Night stay at Gadchiroli.</li></ul>
16.03.2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.00 am – Interaction with NGOs working on the issue of human rights, child rights and Members of CWC.</li><li>• 11.30 am – Meeting with District officials (Women &amp; Child Development, Labour, Education, Tribal, Home &amp; Health Department, etc.)</li><li>• 02.00 pm – Departure for Nagpur after Lunch and night stay at Nagpur.</li></ul>
17.3.2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 09.10 am – Departure for Delhi by AI-469.</li><li>• 12.00 pm – Arrival at Delhi.</li></ul>

## 5. Visit to Primary School and Anganwadi Centre in Heiti Village of Dhanora Block in Gadchiroli



The NCPCR team led by Dr. Dube visited the Primary School of Heiti village in Dhanora block. There are altogether 98 students enrolled in the school. Total 6 teachers were present, including 4 lady teachers. The school has well equipped computer room and it is well maintained. Mr.

Gannuji Bade, Headmaster, briefed about the functioning of the school. He told that in last one year the number of enrollment has increased. The team interacted with the children and asked them about their daily routine, the facilities available to them, behaviour of teachers towards them and their problems, etc.

The team also visited the Anganwadi centre (Gram Bal Vikash Kendra, Heiti, Sl. No.12) which is in the same campus. This has been established under Rajmata Jajau Kupashan Mukta Gram Abhiyan, run by ICDS, Dhanora. There were altogether 65 children including 15 moderate under weight (MUW), 6 severe under weight (SUW) and 43 normal weight children. Dr. Dube checked the growth chart which is as per the new norms of the World Health Organisation. The team found to be satisfied with other basic



facilities available at the centre. The team also tasted the meal given at the Anganwadi centre. Mrs. Kausalya, ANW, briefed the team about the number of children enrolled, their growth plans, etc.

The team also interacted with the Support team of the village constituted under BBS and discussed issues and concerns of children of the village and inquired about the functioning of School and Anganwadi Centre, besides checking the mid-day meal provided to the children. The team was told that the meal was being prepared at the school only. Dr. Dube also visited the Panchayat Bhawan of Heiti village.

## **6. Visit to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Dhanora Block in Gadchiroli**

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in Dhanora is running in a rented house. The visiting team was welcomed by the children of the school. A total of 108 students are enrolled in the school and 14 teachers are working there. The facilities at the school needs to be revamped as the space available is not at all sufficient



to cater 108 students' requirements. The accommodation and sanitation facilities are not as per the Government parameters. Dr. Dube instructed the concerned authority to improve the situation on priority basis.

The visiting team was informed that besides the education the school imparts extracurricular activities for the children. Children of the school presented Martial Art and dance and showed their enthusiasm and expertise. Dr. Dube interacted with children with regard to their education, curriculum/syllabus, facilities available to them, etc.



## **7. Visit to Primary Health Center in Karwafa Panchayat, Dhanora Block Gadchiroli**

Dr. Yogesh Dube visited the Primary Health Centre (Prathamik Upchar Kendra) in Karwafa Panchayat. The team did not find any doctor present there and came to know that the doctor visits the health centre once in a month. On interaction one of the health workers present there briefed about the type of facilities available in the health centre there and number of cases usually comes to the center. The centre has the basic minimum facilities available there.

## **8. Visit to Balwadi Centre, Shivaji Prathamikshala, Gadchiroli**

The NCPCR team visited the Balwadi centre (No. 30 Rampuri, Ward No. 8 at Nagar Parishad, Shivaji Prathamik Shala). After interaction with the Worker present there (Ms. Vaishali Khande), the team found 12 children against 35 children enrolled. Dr. Dube found the worker very committed and appreciated for her



efforts to run the centre regularly despite the fact that the material is not supplied on time and having no building of its own. The team too tasted the food served and was happy with the quality and quantity.

## **9. Visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonapur, Gadchiroli**

Dr. Yogesh Dube visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonapur, which is being funded by the Krishi Vidyapith. Appreciating the objective of establishing a centre, the team felt that it needs to be popularized and gets more publicity. The team also suggested that there should be continuous collaboration and

interaction of the centre with other institutions so as to tap the knowledge for the development of agriculture in this region. Dr. Dube was of the opinion that the children of the district should be brought to the Kendra for exposure visits so that they can understand their surroundings in a better way.

## 10. Visit to Ashram School of Charmosi, Gadchiroli



Rajmata Kunwar Bai Prathamik Evam Madhyamik Ashramshala School in Charmosi is about 25 km from district headquarters of Gadchiroli. The strength of the co-ed school is 380. It is a partially funded school. The team interacted with the children. The facilities available in the school were found to be very poor and not

up to satisfactory. Abysmally it lacked beds, lighting facilities, proper sanitation and drinking water facilities. The school building was also found to be in bad shape. Dr. Dube asked for the attendance register from the staff. He then took attendance of students of Class IV, Class VI, and Class IX.

During the checking of the attendance it came into the notice of the Commission that many students whose name are in the register are missing in the assembly. When inquired about their absence staff told that they all went to their respective home because of holidays.

However, there is no practice of keeping the record of the movement of children or asking for the leave application by the staff from the children going home. Also discrepancy found in the way girl children were send with their parents/guardians. There was no woman superintendent for the girl students. The officials were instructed to keep a regular updates on the movement of children and proper monitoring is needed by the district administration officials.

## 11. Participation in “Shikshan Mahotsava”, Charmosi, Gadchiroli



Dr. Yogesh dube participated in the Taluka level ‘Shikshan Mahotasav’ at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose High School, Vikrampur, Charmosi, organized by the Education Department in which Science Exhibition was organized. The team interacted with the participating teachers and discussed about the situation of education, problem and

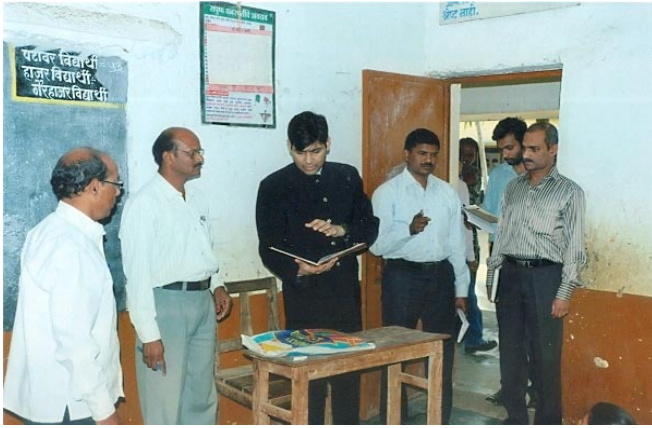
challenges faced by them while working in the district.

Dr. Dube in his address to the participating teachers in the Mahotsava, emphasized the role of teachers in building a civilized society and their utmost importance in normalizing the lives of children in area of civil unrest. He also emphasized the active participation of teachers in the protection of rights of the children and educating them to understand their well beings.

He told that working in such adverse condition is commendable and they set example in front of the entire country through their dedication and commitment to serve the country. Dr. Dube urged the teachers for cordial dialogue with children so that the school environment should be more child friendly and children must be motivated on regular basis to complete their education.

## 12. Inspection of Ashramshala School of Adyal in Gadchiroli

Ashram School in Adyal is about 35 km from District headquarters of Gadchiroli, which is being run by an NGO (*Bahu Udyesh Adivasi Vikash Mandal*, Gadchiroli) with partial aid from the Government. The strength of the school is 491. The school largely depends on the donation received from various sources. The team interacted with the students and met the teachers present. The facilities available there is not at all satisfactory. There were no beds available for the children. They sleep on the floor. The school is for boys



and girls both. When interacted with the girls, team was surprised to know that 126 girls live in two rooms. This is gross violation of child rights. Dr. Dube ordered the District administration to make necessary arrangement as soon as possible for proper accommodation of these girls. The children complained about

unavailability of books and shortage of teachers which is hampering their studies.

There is no proper clothing and other facilities for the children. The children were made to clean their utensils and cloths. The visiting team thoroughly inspected the hostel, kitchen and dining of the school. The toilets were very dirty and sanitation condition in the hostel was in bad shape. The District administration hardly monitors the working of such schools. The Commission took a serious note on this and informed the administration to do the needful at the earliest.

### **13. Inspection of Observation/Children Home in Gadchiroli**

The NCPCR team inspected the Observation/Children Home for Boys (Shasakiya Mulanche Nirikshan Griha) in Gadchiroli, which are running in the same building. The Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare Committee also sit in the same building. District Social Welfare officer told that due to less number of children, both the Homes are running in the same building. The capacity of the Observation/Children Home is for 20 children and there were 6 children when the team visited the home. Out of the 6 children, 3 were juvenile in conflict with law and another 3 were children in need of care and protection. Interacting with them the team discovered that the 3 children who are juvenile in conflict with law had committed petty crimes. Reminding the provisions under Section 12 of JJ Act, Dr. Dube instructed the concerned authority that the children should be granted bail as soon as possible. There are no women members in the CWC although it is mandatory as per Section 29 (2) of the JJ Act.

Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) is in place but comprises of only 2 members, including the Chairperson. It should be a full-bench as envisaged under Section 4 (2) of JJ Act which reads as:

*JJB shall consist of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a judicial Magistrate of a first class as the case may be, and 2 social workers of whom at least one shall be a woman.*

#### **14. Meeting with the District Administration in Gadchiroli**

The meeting with the District administration was chaired by Dr. Yogesh Dube in which Mr. Avishek Krishna, District Magistrate along with Mr. Sudhir Hemlete, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mr. Sumant Bhorge, CEO, Jilla Parishad were present among others. The introduction and purpose of the meeting was briefed by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Tiwari, Senior Consultant, NCPCR. Initially the Labour Department briefed about the steps taken by them to curb child labour in the District. They told that only two children were rescued and after medical determination they were found above the age of 14. It is quite interesting that there is no child labour survey in the District since 2000. Labour Department informed that recently they had a meeting to develop an action plan to curb child labour. They also told that they had no fund for survey and there is no NCLP school in the district.



With regard to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), the Additional Superintendent of Police informed that SJPUs are in place in all the police districts. However, Dr. Dube stressed that the department must conduct regular training programmes for the personnel. **(Detailed Report in Annexure I).**

The Social Welfare Department gave a detailed report about the functioning of ICDS programme, number of children in different categories of malnutrition and other related details (**Detailed Report in Annexure II**). They stated that at District Hospital there is a Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre where severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases are being referred. The Department told that all the urban Anganwadi centres are running in rented houses though most of the rural Anganwadi have their own building. Dr. Dube instructed that all the Anganwadi centres should have their own building and should be functional as per the government norms.

Department of Education briefed about the number of functional schools and the students enrolled.



They also gave report on the funds available (**Report at Annexure III**).

Dr. Dube inquired about the number of schools under the control of Security Forces. In response the Department informed that none of the schools in the district are occupied by security forces.

Tribal Department briefed about the number of schools and programme

they are running. They told that the average expenditure per child per month is Rs. 900. They reported that a total of 50 Government and 51 Government-aided Ashram Schools are running in the District. Under NRHM they told that 4 teams had been deputed for regular check up of the children in the Ashram Schools. Dr. Dube instructed that proper guidelines must be issued to all the Ashram Schools for maintenance of attendance register and proper monitoring of children's movements. He ordered for the immediate intervention of the Government to improve the condition of aided Ashram School in the District and a detailed report must be sent to the Commission.

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Organisation	Contact no. and E-mail Id	Signature
1	Dashrath Kulkarni APO	ITDP Gadchiroli	9765726589	
2	Ravindra Chavan	DWCDO gadchiroli	9921961783 dwcdgadchiroli@gmail.com	
3	Chhandak Lokhande A.P.O.	I.T.D.P. Gadchiroli	8275814445	 15.03.12
4	Lakshkumar W. Ramteke	C.D.P.O. ICDS Dhaman	9422906101	 15/3/12
5	Ashok M. Illuskar	C.D.P.O. ICDS Bhamragad	9421735041	 15.3.
6	Smt S.T. Chawhan	C.D.P.O., ICDS Desaiganj	9423621295	
7	T. B. Gumpkar	C.D.P.O. ICDS Murtcheri	9420845569	
8	S. P. Kamble	C.D.P.O. ICDS Armasi	9423645875	 15.3.12
9	S. T. Puran	C.D.P.O. ICDS Kunkhedga	9421712647	 15/3/12
10	V. K. Zingare	C.D.P.O. ICDS Eterpali	9423915155	
11	K.N. Pimple	ICDS cell 2.P. Gadchiroli	9960104613 pimpleicds@gmail.com	
12	Ku. S. R. Syer	GNM SH office	9378497377	
13	S.D. Pawar	S.P. Office Gadchiroli	888857178	
14	M. T. Chatur	B.E.O. Dhaman	942120798	
15	H. R. Ramteke	Dy EO. Gadchiroli	9021337307	
16	M.S. Madani	EOS, ICDS Kerchi	8275310298	

## **15. Meeting with the Non Government Organisations working in Gadchiroli**

### **Meeting with the Representatives of Civil Society Group on the issue of situation of Children in Naxal Affected areas**

About 25 members of various civil society groups, who are actively working on the child rights issue, highlighted various issues, concerns, gaps and anomalies in tackling the Child rights issues in the Naxal affected Gadchiroli. They were of the view that Government claims that it was able to bring down naxalism is partially true because nothing much had been done for rehabilitation of children who got affected by this. They told that there is serious lack in the facilities available for the protection of child rights in the District. They all demanded their involvement in various activities of the Government to maintain transparency.

Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR thanked all the representatives of the civil society groups for flagging off the issues and concerns on child rights issues. He urged them to inform the Commission on issues relating to child rights violations on regular basis and promised that Commission would take it to its logical conclusion for the



betterment of the children in the region. He assured that the issues raised by them would be brought to the attention of the Government. Child welfare committee informed that they were not taken in confidence by the district administration in child rights issues which is hampering their work. In order to ensure the rights of the children in the district, NCPCR team emphasized on the role of Child Welfare Committee, which is functional since last one year. As informed, the members have not received any induction training. Dr. Dube suggested that CWC Chairperson and members must play proactive role in safeguarding the interest of the children and a bridge between the Government and the community.



# CWC / NGO MEETING WITH NCPER TEAM.

16/03/2012

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Organisation	Contact no. and E-mail Id	Signature
1	Dr. S. M. Aikhare	Gondwana University	9049311366 gondwanaeset@rediffmail.com	
2	Adv. Ratnaghash Thakure	Lokamangal Suth Ghat. 218 Ghat	9421728523	
3	DR. V. M. Patve.	Gondwana University	8275786651	
4	Ramesh. M. Dongare Secretary	Mai Ramani Balkrishna Gad.	8888190072	
5	Pooshant P. Joshi	C. W. C. Member	9423670415	
6	Arvind P. Takale	C. W. C. Member	9421731001	
7	N S Tharayil	Member Juvani Jagadeband. Lokmangal Sanda		
8	Kamblesh Uke	Chairman CWC Gad	9422150923	
9	Shasati G. Upachyay.	NGO. Ghat Sanskare Balaidan.	9420418363	
10	Annes Parappilly	Lokmangal Sanskari Ghat.	9421854755	
11	Shorad S. Koletiwar	S. K. Shikshan Santha Chaudampali.	9422839816	
12	Bijesh Z. Dewari	Rama mulachi Balanashram Mulchasa	9404555776	
13	Dr. Gurudas P. Semaskar M.T. Sankar M.T. Jitendra	GANDESH Gadchiroli	9421732317	
14	Sutekha K. Barsageode Secretary	Lumbini Bahadan Vikas Mahila Mandal Gadchiroli	07132-232563 9405940826	
15	Yogesh L. Kapkar Secretary	Vidya Niketan Shikshan Sanskri Aramoi	9405336729	

#### 4. Meeting with the Bal Bandhus working in Dhanora, Gadchiroli

The visiting team of NCPDR met with all the Bal Bandhus working in the Dhanora Block of the district along with two Resource Persons. They interacted with four girls who are working as Bal Bandhus (child defenders) in the project area “Dhanora block” of the district. The Bal Bandhus and Resource Persons shared their experiences, problems and challenges with the visiting team, besides explaining the ground situation of the area and how Government machinery is working there.

#### 16. Visit to Government Ashram School of Markanda in Gadchiroli

Ashram school in Markanda is about 40 km from district headquarter Gadchiroli. This Ashram School is fully funded by the Government. A total of 235 students are enrolled in the school and out of which 170 reside in hostel. Total 12 teachers are engaged in teaching and one post is vacant. The visiting team



interacted with the children. The team inspected the hostel and dining of the hostel and was found satisfactory. They were informed that the children were provided mattresses to sleep although no cots are provided to any child.

The quality of food was good. Team also interacted with the children who are in receipt of scholarship from the State Government this year. Children shared their experiences with regard to their school and hostel with the visiting team.

## 17. visit to Gondwana University in Gadchiroli

Dr. Yogesh Dube (Member-NCPCR) visited the Gondwana University and interacted with the Vice-chancellor Dr. V.S. Ainchwar. They discussed about the child rights issues and explored how the University can help in protection and promotion of the child rights in the District. On Dr. Dube's request the Vice-Chancellor promised for



the full cooperation from the university to NCPCR in all its initiatives in the District to protect child rights. The University has also given a written letter (**Annexure IV**) for extending its support to the Commission in ensuring rights of the children in the District.

## 8. Visit to District Hospital and Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre in Gadchiroli



The team made a surprise visit to District Hospital of Gadchiroli. The team visited the pediatric ward of the hospital and interacted with the children admitted there. It is a 25 bedded ward. Most of the children were suffering from malaria. The hospital is equipped with pediatric ventilators. The team visited Neonatal



Intensive Care unit and interacted with the parents of children who were admitted there. Parents told that all the facilities are made available to them and proper care has been taken by the hospital authorities.

The team later visited the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre.

It is a model NRC and is equipped with all the modern facilities. At the time of visit 14 children were admitted in the NRC and are at different stages of recovery from malnutrition. Dr. Dube asked about the reports and case study of two children who were admitted there for last 10 days. Usually after two weeks the children get discharged once they reach to normal nutrition level. The doctors' team also gave a power point presentation to the

visiting team and briefed about the procedure adopted in curing children from malnutrition. Dr. Dube praised the team of doctors and staff for their good work and told them that the District administration should be trained by them so that proper training and



sensitization of concerned officials must be carried out. Civil surgeon told that they usually give training to the District administration and other medical practioners from the nearby Districts.

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