



NCPCR VISIT TO Sonbhadra: A REPORT

Assessment of the Naxal Affected Areas

**NCPCR Team was led by Dr. Yogesh Dube,
Member NCPCR**



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5th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36- Janpath

New Delhi – 110001

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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 Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh

From 23rd – 26th December 2011.

1. Team Composition

Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) led a team to Sonbhadra 23rd – 26th December 2011. He was accompanied by Mr. Divyakar Pathak (Consultant).

2. Background and Purpose of the Visit

Sonbhadra is a naxal affected and tribal dominated district of Uttar Pradesh. It lies in the extreme southeast of the state, and is bounded by Mirzapur District to the northwest, Chandoli District to the north, Kaimur and Rohtas districts of Bihar state to the northeast, Garhwa district of Jharkhand state to the east, Koriya and Surguja districts of Chhattisgarh state to the south, and Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh state to the west. The district headquarters is in the town of Robertsganj. It is the only district in India which borders four states namely Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Bihar. It is currently a part of the Red Corridor. To bring stability in the lives of children in the process of ensuring that all their entitlements to protection, health, nutrition, sanitation, education and safety, are fulfilled through government action, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights team visit 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.

3. The Tour Itinerary

Visit programme of NCPCR's Team led by Dr. Yogesh Dube, to Sonbhadra from 23rd to 26th December 2011.

Travel Itinerary

Date	Travel Plan/Activity
23.12.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Departure from New Delhi at 11.30 hrs. (By AI-406)• Arrival at Varanasi at 1.30 hrs. and left for Sonbhadra by road.• Arrival and Night stay at Jaypee Guest House, Sonbhadra.
24.12.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1100 hrs. – Meeting with District Administration at Collectorate Conference Room• 1200 hrs. – Meeting with Representatives of Civil Society.• 1300 hrs – Laying down of Foundation Stone of Primary School at Raupa Village.• 1330 hrs. – Visited District Hospital, Sonbhadra.• 1400 hrs. – Inspection of Ashram Schools.• 2000 hrs – Meeting with Civil Society Representatives at Jaypee Guest House.
25.12.2011	Media Interaction
26.12.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00 hrs.— Left for Varanasi by Road to board the flight to Delhi. (AI-405)

4. Meeting with the District Administration

The visiting team met with the district administration to review the situation of the children in the district at the Conference Hall of the District Collector's Office in Sonbhadra. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Dube. Firstly Commission was briefed by District Magistrate about the effect of naxalism in the district. He provided data related to naxal attacks, building occupied, arrests made etc. It was apparent that in last few years the effect of naxalism had gone down. No major incident in last five years had occurred. Briefing about the education facilities in the district, Chief Development Officer told that they are trying to complete the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan survey so that exact number of school less habitation can be indentified and school may be built there on priority basis.

Dr. Dube inquired about the death of children in the Myorpur block where due to unknown reason 24 children died, the news of which was published in a local newspaper. DM, Sonbhadra told that he will inquire in the matter and send a detail report to the commission. Dr. Dube also inquired about children of a naxal who surrendered. District administration told that children are with mother and soon will be shifted to children home.

Commission also discussed about malnutrition and child labor situation in the district. The commission directed that special cluster school on-site wherever children are with their parent on working sites. ICDS center must be strengthen so that all the facilities must be available at these centers.

5. Meeting with representatives of civil society group

Meeting with the Representatives of Civil Society Group on the issue of situation of Children in Naxal Affected areas At Collector 's Office Conference Hall, Sonbhadra on 24.12.2011, 1200 Hrs.

About 50 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 Sonbhadra. 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.

Attendance sheet

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Organisation	Contact no. and E-mail Id	Signature
1	प्रमोद कुमार शर्मा (संयोजक)	अंगणवाडी समाज (अंगणवाडी)	9919877974	Prm
2	सुनील कुमार शर्मा	शिवहरि मंदिर अंगणवाडी	05839368464	Shiv
3	डॉ. अर्जुन शर्मा	लोकवाणशोधक कम्पान, पटना	9450778597	Arjun
4	राजेश्वर सिंह	युके युवा मंच	9838929959	Rajesh
5	डा. रामशरण सिंह	युवा मंच	9452868280	Ram
6	विष्णु कुमार तिवारी (सचिव)	सर्वोपयोगी संस्थान रावहरीगंज - सीतापुर	9451633932 9616375556	Vishnu
7	मोहन कुमार तिवारी (को-ऑर्डिनेटर)	वायस आफ फरल इण्डिया सोसाइटी रावहरीगंज - सीतापुर	9336878340 9336878348	Mohan
8	सचिन कुमार तिवारी (मैनेजर - कोऑर्डिनेटर)	मनवापिका मनवापिका सामाजिक (MCHR)	9936441058	Sachin
9	विमल कुमार तिवारी (सहसचिव)	भारतीय सेवा आनंद सेवा संस्थान	9994274936	Vimal
10	Mirupam Singh (Project manager)	Children Welfare Society, Ghorawal	9453349816	Mirupam
11	Abhushan Brahma President (C.M.S)	Children Welfare Society, Ghorawal	9918497914	Abhushan
12	Yogesh Kumar Provincial Vice President Rashtriya Sampradaya (Judge)	Manawa Shiksha		Yogesh
13	Munam Lal Accountant	Children Welfare Society	9454089853	Munam Lal
14	महेश कुमार	DEHAT	9986991980	Mahesh
15	राजेश कुमार	लोकवाणशोधक कम्पनि	9450161801	Rajesh

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Organisation	Contact no. and E-mail Id	Signature
17	अरुण कुमार जिला समन्वयक	कृषि जिला विद्यालय शिक्षा	9450061801	
18	जगन् नारायण विरवारण	गणना सेवा केंद्र	9450166333	
19	विमल कुमार खिंडे	" "	9452159552	V.R. Singh
20	Aswini Singh	" "	9415375955	
21	शैलेश कुमार शर्मा	देहात	9198424787	Su
22	डॉ. कमला कान्त शिंदे	अंतरा लोग्य	9336013138	
23	पुष्प एनीक	आदिवासी विकास सेवा केंद्र	9695596279	
24	Sneha Jiripathi	विकास विकास संस्थान, सोनभद्र	9415257893	Sneha Jiripathi
25	Koushina namd Pandey F. Animator	देहात सेवा धीरावल, सोनभद्र	9452790317	Krfandey
26	Rashmi mishra F.A	देहात संस्था धीरावल सोनभद्र	7376895770	Rm
27	Vinod Gupta F.A	देहात संस्था धीरावल, सोनभद्र	9795262037	
28	अनिल शर्मा (F.A)	देहात संस्था धीरावल लोग्य	9005638888 9415957683	Anil Sharma
29	ASHOK KUMAR	देहात संस्था धीरावल सोनभद्र	7376108150	
30	Rajkumar Sharma	SPACE Society BBT	9453820684	R. Kumar
	पिनू उषा	PLC HR	9956353232	पिनू उषा
	अनिल शर्मा	अनिल शर्मा कमिशन		

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Organisation	Contact no. and E-mail Id	Signature
31	Manoj Kumar Namdev	Sai Jyoti Sanstha Duddhi Sonbhadra	09506150541 manoj.namdev@jyoti.com	Manoj
32	Pradip Srivastava	Gram Sewa Samiti, Dudhi	9452564976 dpskumar0@gmail.com	Pradip
33	JANARDAN SINGH	SAI JYOTI SAN- STHAN, DUDHI SONBHADRA	9648939971 janardan.sw@gmail.com	Janardan
34	C.S. Singh	C.S.S.	9415233694	C.Singh
35	Ravindra Kumar Srivastava	DEHAT	9935410884	R.K.S.
36	Vinod Kumar Choubey F.A	Dehat	9919581539	Vinod
37	केशव कुमार शर्मा	देहात	9198424187	Sharma
38	Arunal Kumar Sharma	DEHAT		
39	Rajesh Singh	Dehat	9452634433	Rajesh
40	विमल कुमार शर्मा	देहात	9454074925	Vimal
41	Dhanraj Tarbathi	Sonebhadra Vikas Samiti	9454181167	Dhanraj
42	अशोक कुमार शर्मा	सायबुधिया ग्राम पंचायत	9889888045	Ashok
43	राजेश कुमार शर्मा	चरकपुर देहात		Rajesh
44	Nesha Akh	ग्राम पंचायत	9453005418	Nesha
45	Smriti Singh	देहात	8726318165	Smriti
46	Anuradha Shukla	Dehat	9451998446	Anuradha

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



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR in a meeting with the representatives of civil society groups in Sonbhadra

issues relating to child rights violations continuously 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.

The shortage of schools and teachers was the major cause of concern among the civil society groups. They have given the list of panchayats and villages where there are no schools or lack of teachers. The issue of scholarship is also raised by the civil society representatives. They informed that students are not getting scholarships. There is need to streamline this so that eligible candidates must get the benefit of the scheme.

They also raised the issue of protecting the art, music, crafts and skills of the tribal in the area and arrangement must be done so that their children could learn the art. Facility of safe drinking water is also raised. They told the commission that there is severe shortage of safe drinking water in the area. At many places children are drinking contaminated water and no alternative arrangements had been done to ensure them safe water. The central government schemes must be expedited so that alternative water sources can

be ensured. There is also need of generating awareness among the people about sanitation and hygiene habits for which a campaign must be launched.

6. Laying foundation stone of Primary School at Raupa village in Robertsganj, Sonbhadra.



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, laying foundation stone of Primary School in Raupa village

It is due to NCPCR intervention dreams of many children of education in Raupa village of Roberstsganj block fulfilled. Dr. Dube laid the foundation stone of Primary school in this village in the presence of villagers, district officials and representatives of civil society. The majority population in the village are SCs and STs. This school will ensure the fulfillment of provision of neighborhood school as per the RTE Act.

7. Visit to District Hospital, Robertsganj, Sonbhadra

The NCPCR team led by its member Dr. Yogesh Dube visited the District Hospital, at Robertsganj in Sonbhadra. Dr. Akhilesh Kumar is Chief Medical Superintendent of the hospital. Mainly the patients



in the hospital are suffering from typhoid and malaria. Hospital had ART center and there are approx 10-12 children who are HIV positive are regular to the center.

The superintendent in-charge stated that this hospital is also well equipped and can provide equal service, except ventilator facility. Besides ventilator there is no pediatric ward and no gynecologist in the hospital. Chief Medical Superintendent advocated for adequate numbers of doctors, supporting staff and medicine.

8. Inspection visit to Ashram School for Girls, Uramaura.

The Team visited the Ashram school for girls at Uramaura in Sonbhadra. The nodal department is Social Welfare department. Ms. Rashmi Singh who is Social Welfare Officer of the district also accompanied the



team for inspection of school. The total strength of the school is 400. All the students greeted the team as they all assembled in the ground of school with some of the staff. The school is from Class 1 to 12. The present number of girls in the school is 378 as per the records.

The team interacted with the children and asked about their daily routine, their classes and the facilities available. Dr. Dube asked for the attendance register from the staffs. He then took attendance of students of Class I, Class V, Class IX and Class XI. During 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 staffs told that they all went to their respective home for holidays. But when asked for the leave applications the staff did not have any application and irregularities found in the way girls were send with their parents/guardians. This is a serious cause of concern as the girls whereabouts were not known to the staffs. The Social Welfare Officer also found to be least concerned about the situation of the children.

The team then interacted with some of the girls separately and talked with them about the facilities and behavior of the staffs. The girls then told about the irregularities in the school. They told that the food is bad and most of the time insects are found in the food. The food is also no given on time and when asked for extra food the staff scold them. The clothes are not sufficient enough for the student to cope the cold. They were given winter clothes only two days back and the winter had started month back. They are also told by the staff not to wear the winter clothes after the classes get over. The staff also behave in obscene manner with the girls. The Commission found male staff in the girls schools which are contradictory to the norms.

The team then visited hostel, kitchen and dining of the school. The toilets are very dirty and sanitation condition in the hostel is in bad shape. Dining room had been turned into dump yard. There is also shortage of books, stationary and teachers. The scholarship had not been also given to the eligible children. There was need of changing the staffs at the earliest at this school so that the girls can get education in the environment which will be free of fear and can utilize the resources available to its fullest. The commission took a serious note on this and informed the administration to do the needful at the earliest.

9. Inspection visit to Ashram School for Boys, Ghorawal.

Ashram school for boys is in Ghorawal about 35 km from district head-quarter Robertsganj. The strength of the school is 480 but at present there are 397 students enrolled. There are only 2 permanent teachers and 9 contractual teachers. Mr. Ram Shanker Shastri is the warden of the hostel. The team interacted with the students and met the teachers who were present there. When team conducted the attendance many of the boys were found missing. There were no application with the managing staff and they also don't know about their whereabouts. When inquired they told that the boys come and go. There is serious lack of monitoring in the hostel about the movement of the children. The children complained about unavailability of books, teachers of maths, hindi and English which is hampering their studies.

The winter clothes were also given to them on the day team reached there. Children were instructed by the authority to wear the warm clothes only during the school hours. They also complained about the quality of food and irregularity in the timings of food.



10. Meeting with of civil society groups in Sonbhadra at Jaypee Guest House.

Some of the representative of civil society came to meet the team to give their complaints and representations. They briefed the team about the working of civil society in the district, situation of children and the effect of naxals. In their discussion the most important issue that came up was lack of educational facilities in the district. The absence of schools and shortage of teachers.

11. Recommendations

Recommendations:

Health:

- 1) District administration shall send a detailed report on cause of deaths of Children in the Myorpur block as told by the civil society and reported by the media of the district. Immediate steps must be taken to stop the deaths and for prevention of such fatal diseases. Rehabilitation of the affected families must be given priority. The district hospital and the Community Health Centers must be strengthened. Action taken report of the steps taken by the administration to stop the deaths must be sent to Commission within 15 working days;
- 2) There is no dedicated pediatrics ward in the district hospital at Roberstganj in Sonbhadra. Also there is no gynecologist in the hospital. So immediate arrangements must be done to ensure a pediatric ward and a gynecologist must be available;
- 3) Routine immunization must be carried out on timely basis;
- 4) Report on Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate must be sent to the Commission within 15 days;

Education:

- 1) The condition of children in the Ashram Schools of Girls and Boys at Urmaura and Ghorawal in the district is cause of concern. Children

complained about the lack of basic amenities, misbehavior by the staffs, girls specially complained about obscene behavior by the staffs. There are no facilities available as per the norms. The facilities as per the norms must be made available to the children on priority basis. Staffs must be changed so that the situation can be improved. Child friendly officials who are trained in the child rights issues must be placed in the schools. Immediate protection must be provided to the children to protect them from harassment. Stern action must be taken on officials responsible for such a bad condition in the schools. No men staff must be posted in the girls schools. Water and sanitation facilities must be improved on priority basis. The children name whose name where struck off from the register must be re-admitted and steps must be taken to motivate them to come back to school. Steps must be taken to make the schools child friendly. Recreation facilities must be made available. Also inquiry must be undertaken on why the name has been struck off and action must be taken against the responsible staffs. District Social Welfare officer appeared to be least bothered about the children. She must be immediately sent for training and sensitization program related to child rights issues and her duties;

- 2) The proposals of opening of four new ashram schools in the district must be sanctioned as soon as possible so that more children can avail the facilities;
- 3) It came into the notice of the Commission that there are no schools in many panchayats which in violation of Right To Education Act, 2009. Immediate steps must be taken for the survey of such panchayats where there are no schools. The state government must sanction school in all such panchayats where there is no school in the district;

- 4) There is acute shortage of teachers in the Nagwa block of the district. The administration should take necessary steps in this direction and send a action taken report to the Commission;
- 5) Scholarships are not being distributed among the eligible students. Commission found irregularity in distribution of scholarship. So district administration must ensure timely distribution of scholarships to the eligible students. A special drive must be carried out in this regard;
- 6) Mapping of the drop out students must be carried out and the administration must ensure no child is out of school;
- 7) Special cluster school and NCLP school must be provides on-site in the blocks where child labour is found mainly in quarrying, mining and handloom industries site;
- 8) Mid-day meal distribution and quality must be ensure as per the norms. Safe drinking water facilities must be made available in each and every school of the district;

Sanitation and Drinking water:

- 1) Under the government scheme arrangements must be done to ensure that hand pumps must be placed as per the government norms;
- 2) Special sanitation drive must be started and Village Water and Sanitation Committee must be activated;
- 3) Contaminated water sources must be tested and marked dangerous and alternative arrangement must be done for drinking water;

- 4) Myorpur and Dudhi blocks are found to be having maximum number of contaminated water sources. Special drive must be carried out in these two blocks and alternative safe drinking water facilities must be provided in these two blocks under various Government schemes like Swajaldhara etc.

Child Labour:

- 1) It was found that there is child labour in many blocks of the district and occupations mainly mining and quarrying industries. Immediate action must be taken for rescue and rehabilitation of child labour. As discussed with Chief Development Officer of the district education facilities must be made available to these children so that after rescue they can be put in the schools. Child labour survey must be completed on priority basis;
- 2) District must be developed as Model Child Labour free and action plan must be prepared to achieve this goal;

Malnutrition:

- 1) It came into Commission notice that the number of malnourished children in the district is high. The ICDS centers must be given special focus and must be made functional. Information about the facilities at these centers must be put on the notice board of all the ICDS centers. Survey of the malnourished children must be done immediately and a report in this regard must be sent to the commission within 3 months;

Miscellaneous:

- 1) Special rehabilitation program must be initiated for the children of the naxal who had surrendered or in jails. Protection of these children and their mainstreaming must be given priority in all the programs and schemes;
- 2) Childline must be started with the help of NGOs in the district at the earliest;
- 3) Differently able children and the children with HIV must be given special attention and special efforts must be made to ensure their rights and entitlements;
- 4) A training program must be conducted for the officials of the district to sensitize them about child rights issues and schemes;
- 5) Special Juvenile Police Unit as per Juvenile Justice Act must be strengthen;
- 6) Special focus must be given to the children in the naxal affected block of the district;
- 7) The action plan of Sonbhadra district as directed by the commission must be prepared and get sanctioned on priority basis. A copy of action plan must be sent to the Commission;
- 8) Special focus must be given to the tribal families who got displaced due to various projects in the district. A action plan for their rehabilitation must be made and special package must be given to the children;

- 9) The ancient arts and crafts of the district must be preserved and the children must be motivated to learn the skills for which a special program must be planned;
- 10) Non Government Organisations must be roped in all the development programs;
- 11) Children homes and Observation homes must be established in the district on the priority basis and they must function as per the J.J Act.
- 12) The commission found that there is high pollution in the district due to quarries and mines in the districts. District administration must ensure that the pollution must be controlled and instruction must be issued to the companies to decrease the pollution as per norms;

Ensure that the same are implemented at the earliest. An Action Taken Report may be furnished to the Commission within 15 working days from the receipt of this letter.

Welcoming the suggestions and foregoing issues and concerns flagged off by the visiting team, the Commissioner promised to address the same and sent an action taken report (ATR) to the Commission.

XXXX