

Annexure - I 16/236/CR  
2018

SD/CR 2018

2/8

**Lack of Basic Facilities in Schools in Karaikudi for the Differently Abled  
Students, a Gross Violation of Human Rights of the Disabled**

(Dr K R Shyamsundar, NHRC Special Rapporteur, SZ - I)

I paid a visit to Karaikudi in Sivaganga District (Tamil Nadu) on 1<sup>st</sup> August and conducted a meeting of Head Masters of some schools at Sakkottai that have admitted differently abled children to find out the special facilities extended to them. Smt. A. Vasanthi, Additional Chief Education Officer and Shri. A.M. Karunakara Pandian, District Differently Abled Welfare Officer were present.

2) Smt. Vasanthi, Additional Chief Education Officer has informed that there are 1589 schools with 1115 Government schools; 234 aided schools and the remaining 240 unaided schools in Sivaganga District and that in as many as 1040 schools 3188 differently abled children are admitted (Sivaganga School details file sent by email). Of the 3188 differently abled children as many as 1081 children (33.9% of the differently abled) are affected by Low vision and 1040 (32.6%) suffer due to mental retardation. Other forms of sufferings are Orthopaedically Impaired – 320 (10.04%); Multiple Disability – 241 (7.56%); Hearing Impaired – 178 (5.58%); Speech Impaired – 158 (4.96%); Cerebral Palsy – 85 (2.67%); Totally Blind – 70(2.2%); Learning Disability – 36 (1.1%) & Autism – 14 (0.44%)

3) My interaction with District Differently Abled Officer, Additional Chief Education Officer, other officials and 13 Head Masters of schools that have admitted differently children in their school reveals that almost all single or double or triple storied schools do not have ramp for stairs - either 1<sup>st</sup> Floor or 2<sup>nd</sup>

Floor or 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. In about 10% of schools even ramp in the Ground floor has not been erected. Absence of handicapped friendly special toilets, which is rather shocking. Unfortunately, no school has

4) Special Educational Tools: Notwithstanding the fact that as many 3188 differently abled children suffering from various ailments viz. Orthopaedically Impaired; visual impairment with partial blindness to total blindness; Hearing Impaired – partial to total deafness; Mental retardation of varying degrees and other ailments; learning disability to multiple disability, it is shocking to find that the schools have not been supplied even with basic kits to cater to the special children of various impediments. There is an urgent need not only to form a Committee to attend to the requirements for the children of various categories but also to supply them expeditiously. Otherwise, it will serve only the limited purpose of integrating the differently abled children with normal children that too to some extent but the absence of basic educational and technological tools, which is a gross violation of their basic human rights, is disservice to the special children not only in their education but also in their total personality development.

5) The following are the suggestions emerged during discussion with 13 Head Masters and officials in the interest of education and welfare of the differently abled students:

- i. Scholarship and monthly grant for children with special needs may be increased.

- ii. School readiness programme (Formerly Day Care Centre) and resources rooms may be opened in more places
- iii. One special educator & Physiotherapist may be appointed in each school so that regular teaching and therapy may be provided to children with special needs.
- iv. Teaching learning materials and therapy equipments may be provided to each & every school.
- v. Special nutritious foods such as healthy drinks, dates, nuts, fruits may be provided to the children with special needs along with
- vi. Special care takers may be appointed in each & every school for the special children.
- vii. School children health camp programmes may be increased from existing two to 4 in a year)
- viii. Congenital (from birth) defects corrective surgeries may be done at super specialty hospitals.



12-08-15

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NIRMAL SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

I paid a visit to Nirmal Special School for mentally retarded children that is, situated in Amaravathi-Puthur, Sankarabathi-Kaadu, Devakottai-Taluk, Sivagangai District in a sprawling campus of three acres and it is run by St. Anne's Church, Tiruchirappalli from 06.08.2007.

2) This institution is registered under PWD Act Section 52 of 1995 and is recognized by the State Commissioner of Differently Abled, Chennai-78, vide Pro.Roc.No.5237/RD-II/2013 Dated: 22.08.2013 from the period 01.08.2013 to 21.08.2015. Now the institution has applied for renewal and registration from the State Government for three years from 22.08.2015 to 21.08.2018 through District Differently Abled Welfare Officer, Sivagangai district on 07.08.2015. It is recommended to initiate renewal well ahead of time at least 3 months prior to the license expiry date as more than 3 departments are involved

3) Staff Strength:

Teaching Staff: 5

Non Teaching Staff: 3

No. of posts covered under State Government Grant: 2 Special Educators and 1 Physiotherapist

1009/21/08/2015  
1143/2015/15

#### 4) Students in various Classes:

S.No.	Classification	M	F
1	Pre-Primary	8	1
2	Primary I	7	1
3	Primary II	2	8
4	Secondary	7	5
5	Pre Vocational	3	5
	Total – 47	27	20

5) 40 beneficiaries benefitted during the previous year and in the current year beneficiaries increased to 47.

6) Infrastructure: The constructed area is about 3000 sq.ft and the State Government have sanctioned Rs.5,00,000/- for additional building in the financial year 2010-2011, which should be properly and professionally utilized to extend the facilities to cater to the special children. There are 5 toilets and 7 bathrooms that are sufficient to cater to the strength. However, it is suggested that toilets should be made disabled friendly.

7) Training Facility: The special teachers are trained to engage the children in extra-curricular activities like sports, painting, colouring and cultural events like dancing, singing.

  
12-08-15

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The following Important Observations/Actionable Points of the Visit Report :

- I. Scholarship and monthly grant for children with special needs may be increased.
  - II. School readiness programme (formerly day care centre) and resources rooms may be opened in more places.
  - III. One special Educator & physiotherapist may be appointed in each school so that regular teaching and therapy may be provided to children with special needs.
  - IV. Teaching learning materials and therapy equipments may be provided to each & every school.
  - V. Special nutritious foods such as healthy drinks, dates, nuts, fruits may be provided to the children with special needs along with.
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- VI. Special care takers may be appointed in each & every school for the special children.
  - VII. School children health camp programmes may be increased from existing two to 4 in year.
  - VIII. Congenital (from birth) defects corrective surgeries may be done at super specialty hospitals.
  - IX. Toilets may be made disabled friendly.
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