

Survey Report of Out of School Children in Cochin, Ernakulam District, Kerala

Introduction

Kochi is the most promising growth oriented development region in the state of Kerala. Developments in the city and surrounding areas have taken a fast stride in the last two decades. The Information Technology Institutions at Kakkanad, the International Airport at Nedumbassery, the new bridge linking Vypeen islands to the main land and the high impact residential and commercial developments in the city and the surrounding areas have caused direct and indirect development impacts in many sectors. The most apparent issues in Kochi City are the increasing traffic congestion and the degradation of urban environment. Ernakulam district has the credit of being the economic nerve centre of the state. It is the industrially advanced and flourishing district of Kerala.

Due to its strategic location, Kochi has long been a centre of trade. For centuries, the city was renowned for its spices, jewellery, apparel and fishing industries. Major industries like Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT), Travancore Cochin Chemicals (TCC), Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT), Indian Rare Earths, Premier Tyres (now Apollo Tyres) etc. located in the adjacent areas of the city have had immense impact on the economy and developments in the city. In recent times, the Cochin Port in its expansion and modernization pace and the tourism industry have also contributed significantly to the local economy.

The significant demographic fact about Kochi is that the city lies in Ernakulam District which is the most urbanized region in the state. In the recent years due to many large scale development projects, especially in the construction sector and information technology, substantial employment opportunities are generated in Kochi and this is a positive factor for the inflow of migration to Kochi from different parts of our country. The migration of labourers and communities has resulted in increase in the number of deprived children in the city of Cochin.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a programme for achieving universal elementary education. Providing elementary education to disadvantaged communities like SC, ST, Minority & Urban deprived children is a major focus area of SSA, Kerala. With due consideration for coverage & bringing the urban deprived children such as street children, domestic girl child, children of construction sites & migrated children etc into the mainstreaming, special strategies have been developed under SSA.

SURVEY

As a first step to identify the unenrolled children, an enrolment campaign was organized in all BRCs in Ernakulam District, Kerala. Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation representatives, NGO representatives, Asha Workers, Police Department, Child Line, ST promoters, Ooru moopanmar, NSS volunteers, labour department, ICDS supervisors, SaksharathaPreraks, Anganwadi teachers, Kudumbasree members, School HMs participated in the meeting. In the meeting various pockets where out of school children are found were collected. Awareness about RTE Act and the importance of Education to each child was imparted in the meeting. If anyone receives any information regarding children of Migrants, Street children and orphans who have not received elementary education are to be informed at District Project Office or BRCs in Ernakulam. The services rendered by SSA to out of school children were conveyed in the meeting. Banners were displayed in prominent junctions in connection with the enrolment of migrant, street and tribal children.



As a result of our survey SSA identified many urban deprived children. As a follow up of the enrollment campaign BRC trainers, Resource teachers, CRC coordinators visited the pockets where out of school children were found. As a result around 537 out of school children were found and enrolled in nearby schools. The BRC wise details of Out of school children identified are as follows:-

| SI No | BRC | No. of children |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | ALUVA | 94 |
| 2 | ANGAMALY | 64 |
| 3 | ERNAKULAM | 103 |
| 4 | KOLENCHERY | 31 |
| 5 | KOTHAMANGALAM | 49 |
| 6 | MATTANCHERY | 8 |

| | | |
|----|--------------|------------|
| 7 | MUVATTUPUZHA | 14 |
| 8 | NORTH PARUR | 3 |
| 9 | PERUMBAVOOR | 92 |
| 10 | PIRAVOM | 3 |
| 11 | TRIPUNITHURA | 27 |
| 12 | VYPIN | 2 |
| 13 | KOOVAPADY | 46 |
| 14 | KALOORKKAD | 1 |
| | TOTAL | 537 |

In Ernakulam district in the year 2016-17, SSA started 10 Special Training Centres for Out of School Children. These centres are functioning in 7 Block Resource centres. The details of Special Training centres are given below:-

| SL No | BRC | Name of the school where special training centre is functioning | No of children | Language in which Special Training is provided |
|-------|-------------|---|----------------|--|
| 1 | Ernakulam | Union LP School Thrikanarvattom | 49 | Hindi |
| 2 | Ernakulam | Little Flower LP School, Kaloor | 27 | Hindi |
| 3 | Kolenchery | GLPS Malayidamthuruth | 46 | Odiya |
| 4 | Koovapady | Nirmala LPS Malamury | 31 | Hindi |
| 5 | Koovapady | GUPS Assamanoor | 14 | Hindi |
| 6 | Koovapady | GUPS Pulluvazhi | 11 | Hindi |
| 7 | Perumbavoor | GUPS Kandanthara | 109 | Bengali |
| 8 | Perumbavoor | GUPS North Vazhakulam | 17 | Bengali |
| 9 | Aluva | GLPS Pallilamkara | 24 | Hindi |
| 10 | Aluva | GHS Binanipuram | 68 | Hindi |
| | | TOTAL | 396 | |

