

PRESS RELEASE

Webinar on “Rights of children – protection and safety – challenges, priorities and partnerships”

The State Development Policy Council (SDPC) (erstwhile State Planning Commission) conducted a Webinar on “Rights of children – protection and safety – challenges, priorities and partnerships” under the Chairmanship of Thiru. C. Ponnaiyan, Hon’ble Vice-Chairman, SDPC on 30.09.2020 with stakeholder departments viz. Social Defence, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme, Health, School Education, Labour Welfare, State Crime Records Bureau, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Commissionerate of Welfare of Differently Abled, Transport, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNSCPCR), Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), UNICEF etc. and domain experts.

The main objective of the Webinar was to focus on the gaps to be addressed in the implementation of schemes, programmes, social legislations and policies to protect and promote the welfare of children at the optimum level and to address immediate and long term needs of children through child-friendly approach keeping in mind the best interest of children.

Issues regarding Children in Conflict with Law, Girl Child Protection and Safety, Child Adoption and current process in GoI & TN, Prevention of Child Abuse and Girl Child Protection and Needs of children in Institutional Care – Role of the State were the topics discussed at the workshop. Presentations were made by the officials of Social Defence & Social Welfare Department and domain experts which includes various path breaking schemes implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu for strengthening and fulfilling the social , economical and safety needs of the children .

Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council in his Presidential address remarked that Tamil Nadu is a pioneer State in formulating integral society for children and has brought the necessary changes. The Government has had the foresight in seeing the needs of the children and has made valuable progress in providing equal opportunities for children in all aspects of living. He also stated that the unanimous key recommendation of the webinar that, Children's rights need to be respected, protected and promoted in all areas of programme implementation by reaching even those who are at the farthest end would be taken forward to Government for policy interventions.

Thiru Anil Meshram, IAS, Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council remarked that specific Strategies and Action plan need to be developed for the protection and safety of the most vulnerable groups of children. i.e. children of commercial sex workers, migrant labours, prisoners and life convicts, children in woman headed families etc.

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