



## Raipur : TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON 'INNOVATING FOR CHILDREN' COMMENCES TODAY

Chhattisgarh Government is working rigorously towards rehabilitation of children from LWE-hit areas and developing inclusive policies to facilitate every to them: Mr. Vivek Dhand

Providing healthy and secured environment to children today is necessary, for they are the future of Nation: Mrs. Ramsheela Sahu

Increasing risk and vulnerability of children is alarming, calling for effective consolidated efforts to solve child issues across the Nation: Mr. Ajay Ti

Raipur, 21 Septe

Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, in association with UNICEF Chhattisgarh and State Planning Comr Chhattisgarh, have organized a two-day consultation on 'Innovating for Children' at hotel Courtyard Marriott today. First day of the consultation was m: in depth discussion on topics such as Child Survival, Child Development and Child Protection.

Following the formal inauguration with lamp-lighting at hands of dignitaries, the welcome address was presented by Dr M Geetha, Secretary of Women Development Department. She threw light on the objectives and importance of this consultation. "The aim of this consultation is to explore and innovative ideas, solutions for the well-being of children and initiate dialogue towards enhancing access to children's entitlements particularly in health, education, child protection, water, sanitation, skills and early childhood development" she commented.

While speaking to the esteemed gathering, Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Vivek Dhand expressed that Chhattisgarh Government has take initiatives and measures for child welfare, development and rehabilitation. The very recent award bagged by the state for being the Best Performing Substantial Reduction in Stunting awarded at the National Conference on Mission Mode to Address under-nutrition is the proof of it. Further he drew for other enterprising initiatives like 'Asha', 'Mitandin' and the PDS model launched by the state that has went on to garner widespread appreciation and se for others. "The government of Chhattisgarh is also working rigorously towards rehabilitating the children from the insurgency hit areas and is c inclusive policies to facilitate every amenity to them. The state government had arranged for porta cabins for a massive number of 23,000 thousand from LWE violence affected areas. Notably, 23 students studying at the Prayas School run by the government have been selected for the prestigious inst NIT and IIT. Further, Chhattisgarh Government has developed Education City in naxal affected Dantewada, where 4000 children avail academic faci primary to higher education in one campus. Community led total sanitation is adjudged as one of the best in the country. We have also won awa Shuchita Scheme for installing Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines in Schools. All these initiatives directly benefit specially girl child," stated Mr. Dhand.

Women and Child Development Minister, Mrs. Ramsheela Sahu said in his address as Chief Guest that providing a healthy and secured environment to necessary, for they are the future of Nation. Chhattisgarh Government's Women and Child Development Department has made consistent efforts for o being of children in state. It is due to these efforts the malnutrition level has declined from 52% to 30%. Schemes like 'Mahtari Jatan Yojana', 'Noni Yojana', 'Sakhi One Stop Center' are some of the schemes that ensure the nutritional and social security women and children.

Mr. Ajay Tirkey, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, in his keynote address during the inaugura: quoted numerous statistics related to children to put their issues into correct perspective. He said that there are nearly 47 crore children in India, ai reveal that 69% of the children have suffered physical abuse, 53% have encountered sexual abuse and 48% of the children have gone through emotio Strikingly, in 60% of the abuse cases, the perpetrator was a person known to the child. 80% of the child abuse cases are not reported. Every second c country is suffering from emotional abuse, and 48% of girl children wished they were boys. He referred this data as disturbing and called for effi consolidated action for well being of children across the nation. He said that children are vulnerable pertaining to the risks to their right to survival, dev protection and participation. The need to protect some children is even more challenging, where the socio-economic and political circumstances are i cope. Mr. Tirkey also talked about various innovative health practices underway in different parts of the country. He lauded Chhattisgarh Governi adopting the most innovative approach towards over-all well-being of children. 'Asha' is the product of Chhattisgarh, which is nationally acclaimed an for ensuring healthcare of pregnant mothers and infants. The innovative 'Mitainin' model, which builds knowledge and capacities of village w addressing first level of community healthcare, has evolved at present into a voluntary workforce of 60,000 village women, covering all of 54,000 hamlet to rural healthcare needs, which is commendable, opined Mr. Tirkey. He also talked about the initiatives and childcare practices which have halved the also the ICDS leadership program for the midlevel functionaries of DWCD, which has changed the face of Anganbadi centres he said.

Inaugural session was also addressed by Ms Henriette Ahrens, Deputy Representative, UNICEF India. In her address, Ms. Ahrens said that Government the National Plan of Action (2015) following the National Policy for Children in 2013 aims to keep children safe and ensure happy childhood. The action to further strengthen implementation of policies for children and uphold constitutional obligation and UN Convention on Rights of Children. The acti aligned with Sustainable Development Goals which aims to end preventable deaths, hunger, ensure children's access to nutrition, promote learning a children live without fear of violence, and UNICEF aims to empower these initiatives of government for betterment of children. She further sa Governments are elaborating on SDGs and targets for the new development agenda, innovation and the role of partnerships across sectors are in important to accelerate progress on the most pressing issues especially related to children. In adapting to the complexity of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the st dynamic solutions to ensure it remains relevant and responsive. 'Leaving No Child Behind' is both a moral imperative and strategic priority for develi inclusive, sustainable and stable societies.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson NCPCR Delhi Ms Stuti Kacker in her address emphasized on importance of human resources for progress of any coi congratulated Chhattisgarh Government for organizing the event. She underlined that people need to understand the concept of 'rights'. There are 2 children rights but still the serious issues and concerns regarding child protection and child well-being continue to exist in the country. She lauded Chl for being the better performing state in terms of improved sex-ratio, prevention of child marriage, declining IMR-MMR, in comparison to other sta country. She threw light on the activities and initiatives of NCPCR, which includes development of tools for effective implementation of childcare schi prevention of cyber crime against children.

On the occasion in the esteemed presence of dignitaries, book named 'Pahal' was released. This book contains detailed information about parenting a mental health. A mobile app was also launched using which children may report their complaints and seek help. An audio/visual named 'Voice of Chil also screened in which children from rural areas were featured communicating their basic needs. Further, an adoption guidebook for service provider released. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mr. PP Sotti. In this National Consultation, Chhattisgarh Cooperative Election Commissioner Mr. DS Mishra Secretary Health Department Govt of Chhattisgarh Mr. Subhrat Sahu, Mr. Ajay Tirkey, Chief of Health UNICEF India Mr. Yaron Wolman were the paneli first session 'Child Survival', Special Secretary Social Welfare Department Govt of Jammu-Kashmir Ms Rifat Ali, President of National Institute of Ecology and Member State Planning Commission of Chhattisgarh Prof DK Marothiya, Dr Mridula Bajaj of Child Development Department, Lady Irwin College were the panelists for second session of day one of the consultation on 'Child Development', and Ms Stuti Kacker, Mr. Ajay Tirkey, Chief of Field Servic India Mr. Foroogh Foyouzat, Chief Child Protection UNICEF Inida Mr. Aguilar Javier, Senior Advocate of Supreme Court Mr. Ravi Kant and Ms Enaksh HAQ Centre for Child Rights were the panelists for the last session of day one. Representatives of NGOs, Ideators and Innovators from different sta country presented their ideas, initiatives and impact in form of presentations, during the sessions.

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