

Preliminary Observations on the CREATE ComSS in India

Date: May 7th 2008

Time: 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm

Location: National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi

The CREATE team in India held a meeting with the National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights, to share the progress and preliminary observations of the field study conducted in the first quarter of this year. Professor R. Govinda chaired the discussion. In addition to the Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights, Professor Shantha Sinha, the meeting was also attended by representatives from the M.V. Foundation, the American India Foundation and UNICEF. The aim of the discussion was to understand the methodology the CREATE team used to collect field data, particularly with respect to out of school children and children vulnerable to silent exclusion within schools.

Professor R. Govinda outlined the agenda of the discussion and gave a brief introduction about the CREATE project, highlighting the Zones of Exclusion model being used to understand the access and participation of children in the 3-15 years age group. He also indicated the purpose of the Commission's interest in the methodology adopted for the data collection. This was followed by an overview of the field work in the three districts included in the survey. Presentations were made about the tools being administered for data collection and a brief discussion on preliminary findings emerging from field work also took place.

Professor Shantha Sinha emphasized the need for a proper understanding of the reasons for absenteeism and dropouts, and to be able to track potential drop outs. The experiences of the M.V. Foundation (NGO) were also shared during the meeting. Various methods adopted by the Foundation to deal with out of school children were discussed. It was decided that further discussions will be held to evolve an effective methodology that can be used by the Commission to monitor the attendance and drop out of children in other states.

List of Participants:

Prof. R. Govinda	Head, S & NF Department, NUEPA
Prof. Shantha Sinha	Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights
Mr. Raju	M.V. Foundation
Ms. Smita	American India Foundation
Ms. Kiran Bhatti	UNICEF
Prof. J.B.G. Tilak	Head, Educational Finance
Prof. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay	Head, Inclusive Education & Comparative Education and International Cooperation
Dr. Madhumita Bandyopadhyay	NUEPA
Dr. Rashmi Diwan	NUEPA
Dr. Aarti Srivastava	NUEPA
Dr. Mona Sedwal	NUEPA
Ms. Reeta Rajasekhar	CREATE
Ms. Reshmi Chakraborty	CREATE
Ms. Rujuta Deshmukh	CREATE
Dr. Pabitra Mohan Nayak	CREATE
Mr. Ahmed Bhaktiyar	CREATE
Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed	CREATE
Mr. Diptanshu	CREATE