

r. Ranjit Singh
INT. SECRETARY (P & A)



राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग
मानव अधिकार मंत्रालय की ब्लॉक जीपीसी
कम्प्लेक्स, मण्डलाय नई दिल्ली 110 023 भारत
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Manav Adhikar Bhawan, C Block, GPO Complex, INA
New Delhi 110 023 India

07th October 2016

D.O. No. 1/5/2008-PRP&P

आयोजित जिलाधिकारी 24-10-16
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Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, NHRC visited Champawat District, Uttarakhand from 1-3 June 2016 in connection with Human Rights Awareness Programme at District Level Administration. He was accompanied by Shri A.K. Jain, Special Rapporteur and Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director, NHRC.

2. The Commission considered the observations/ recommendations of the report submitted by Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, NHRC and desired that the report to be sent to the concerned Authority for follow up action.

3. It is, therefore, requested that the observation/recommendations contained in the report may be implemented by the concerned Departments and the action taken report sent to the Commission within 6 weeks so as to enable us to place the matter before the Commission. Important recommendations of the Special Rapporteur and the copy of the report are also enclosed.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Dr. Ranjit Singh)

Encl: As above

Shri Dr. Ahmed Iqbal
District Magistrate, Champawat District
Collectorate Compound, Srikhand Chaur,
Champawat, Uttarakhand - 262 523

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Review Visit of NHRC to
Châmpawat District in Uttarakhand
Under 28 Districts Human Rights Awareness Programme

The Champawat visit was conducted in a total of three days which comprised of two days of field visits (1st June-2nd June, 2016) and one day of workshop (3rd June, 2016). The visit was conducted under the leadership of Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Hon'ble Member of NHRC. The Hon'ble Member accompanied by Mr. A.K Jain, Special Rapporteur, NHRC and Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director, NHRC visited different places in the District of Champawat, Uttarakhand and made various observations. The details of the visit are stated hereinafter.

Field Visits on 1st June, 2016

Mr. A.K. Jain – Special Rapporteur, NHRC for North Zone-1 and Dr. Sanjay Dubey – Director, NHRC accompanied by Mr. Durgapal – Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tanakpur and Mr. Rautela – Circle Officer of Police, along with other concerned officials, made the following visits in Tankapur in the district of Champawat, Uttarakhand.

5. Visit to the Orphanage, Lepers' Home and School run by the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission, Banbasa:

The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission is a self funded, non-profitting Mission established in 1948 by Australian citizen Rev. Maxton Strong and his wife Shirley. It also serves as a one-roofed multi-activity centre. The main compound of the GSAM is on approximately 78 acres of land at Banbasa, Uttarakhand. It comprises an orphanage, a school, lepers' colony, workshop, dairy and agriculture farm etc. It is being managed by a Board of Directors. The present director, Mr. Warwick Shipway is the son of the founder and the present Deputy

Director Mr. Clifton Shipway is his grandson. Mr. Warwick Shipway came to India in 1976 and donated clothes and dairy cows shipped in from Australia to the poor; although he finally settled down in India later in 2004 after the passing of his father. The primary function of this mission is to look after needy children, particularly orphans, widows, lepers and those challenged with disabilities. The activities of the mission are undertaken on self sustaining basis. The main sources of income are donations from donors in India and abroad, income from the agriculture and dairy farm, income from other activities, school fee etc. It is registered under FCRA. Mr. Shipway informed that they undertake only those many activities which they can manage within their resources. They do not depend on any aid from the Government.

The primary function of the mission is to take care of orphaned, abandoned and destitute children ranging from new born infants to young adults. The mission has an orphanage built into it which accommodates children, providing food, education, clothing, vocational training etc. The Orphanage has approximately 100 children in different age groups. All facilities such as accommodation, clothing, education, skill development etc. are provided to the children free of charge. Children are looked after till the time they leave the institution themselves finding some reasonable means of livelihood. Those who want to stay are engaged by the institution for looking after other children. Three ladies brought up in the orphanage are continuing to stay and are looking after the children.

The children live in five different hostel blocks. One hostel block is for toddlers (Nursery block) in which boys & girls live together. Two separate blocks for girls and boys in the age group of 8 to 18 years are there. For boys & girls in the age group of above 18 years also there are separate blocks. The rooms in the hostels are well ventilated with sufficient light. Fans are provided in each room. An adequate number of bunk beds have been provided in each room in the Nursery block and the blocks for small children. Mattresses and linens are in fairly good condition. Space has also been provided for keeping the clothing and other belongings of the children. Separate toilets & bathroom units are there in each hostel block. The number of toilets and bathrooms is sufficient. Washing machines are provided in each hostel block for daily wash of clothes. Another heavy duty washing machine has also been installed for washing bed sheets and bigger clothes once in a week. Washing soap is provided by the Mission. Facility



There is a central kitchen and multipurpose hall which is used for dining as well as for other activities including daily prayers. In the kitchen separate platforms have been provided for cleaning and cutting vegetables as also for kneading. Cooking is done on gas stoves. There is also gas oven for making the bread. The gas supply is from a *Gobar* Gas Plant which the Mission owns. A separate store is there for keeping ration and other provisions. Children are provided with non vegetarian meal twice in a week. Eggs are also provided twice in a week. Milk is supplied through their own dairy farm. The Agricultural Mission houses 50 cows, two large fish tanks and an array of 130 fruits trees. Vegetables and grains like wheat, paddy, soy bean, lentils, vegetables etc are also grown on the land additional quantity, if required, is bought from the market. Most of the produce is consumed in-house and the surplus is sold.

To assist the agricultural work, the Mission runs a large work shop. It is used to maintain tractors/vehicles as well as for fabrication of various agricultural equipment and furniture etc. There is a variety of tools in the workshop. In-house maintenance substantially reduces cost to the mission.

There is a swimming pool which has three parts divided according to depth based on the age group of children. For recreation, facilities of indoor and outdoor games are available. Children also learn music and other fine arts depending on their choice.

Vocational training is imparted to children in some selected fields. This includes computer training, stitching, repair of electrical items etc. The mission has plans of expanding vocational training in some other vocations. Vocational training is also provided to local women of the village through sewing training centers which enable them to secure regular income.

The Mission runs an English medium school called Maxton Strong School established in 2010 and affiliated to the Uttarakhand board (affiliation with CBSE is underway) which provides education to children as well as acts as a fund raising body. Classes are from Nursery to High School and the children from the orphanage are also students of the school.

The Mission which also looks after victims of leprosy has accommodated five families with permanent disabilities (presently not infectious) who are provided with free rations, security, electricity and water as well as medical care.

Volunteers from the mission actively participated in relief work during the aftermath of the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

The orphanage is run like a family and children staying there are quite happy. The Director as well as his family lives in the mission to ensure smooth running of the premises.

Recommendations:

- i. The mission is doing a commendable job. It serves an example for other NGOs running orphanage/children home. The effort should be duly recognized by the Government.
- ii. It is recommended to CBSE that the process of affiliation which is underway be approved. (Action: Office of NHRC)