

REPORT

SEMINAR ON ‘IMPROVING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR ALTERNATIVE CHILD AND YOUTH CARE: SYSTEMS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES’

DATE : 18th and 19th March, 2016

VENUE: Amity University, Noida, India

A. Introduction

An international seminar on ‘Improving Standards of Care for Alternative Child and Youth Care: Systems, Policies and Practices’ organized by Udayan Care, an Indian Non-Profit Organization, was held on 18th and 19th March, 2016 at the Amity University, Noida, India (<http://udayancare.org/uccon2016/index.html>). Mallika Samaranayake, Technical Lead and Hasara Kalubowila, Coordinator of the CPC Learning Network Sri Lanka participated in the seminar.



Udayan Care 2nd Biennial Conference, 2016

In addition to the CPC Learning Network, the Sri Lankan team at the seminar consisted of Dr. Hiranthi Wijemanne, Fellow of the Sri Lanka College of Physicians, Advisor/Consultant on Children's Issues, Mrs. Neetha Dhammachari Ariyaratne of Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka, Ms. Chathuri Jayasooriya of SoS Children's Village, Mr. Indika Kariyawasam and Mr. Moses Akash de Silva of VOICE Foundation and Ms. Nilanthi Hettiarachchi, FRIDSRO-Sri Lanka

B. Objectives, Participants and the Sessions

Udayan Care organized its 2nd Biennial Conference on “Improving Standards of Care for Alternative Child and Youth Care: Systems, Policies and Practices” focused on South Asia believing that the people-centric advocacy is the right way to enable civil society members and organizations to take responsibility and improve the situation of vulnerable sections of the society.

This 2nd Conference aimed at moving in the direction of making the world a better place for children recognizing the current state of the world. A lot of unknown/unexplored areas appear to in the trajectory of the lives of many children who are likely to end up in alternative settings. Through this Conference, Udayan Care aimed at offering a platform through which continuous deliberation/dialogue towards exploring the needs of children, especially those in South Asia, become a reality. This conference addressed the issues of institutionalized children, their aftercare and the transition of institutionalized children and the issues faced by the childcare givers.



Conference Participants

The launch of the 5th issue of the bi-annual journal "Institutionalized Children: Explorations and Beyond" (ICEB) was one of the highlights of the seminar. Experts, both regional and international, have contributed to the journal.



Launch of the 5th ICEB; Udayan Care Journal

The seminar consisted of speeches, plenary sessions, country presentations, best practice presentations, panel discussions and poster presentations. The speakers shared their wide knowledge and experience relating to the subject with a very interactive audience.



Capacity building workshop held for institutionalized young adults.

C. Benefits gained by CPC Learning Network



CPC Learning Network Sri Lanka, Technical Lead, Ms. Mallika R, Samaranayake and the Coordinator Ms. Hasara Kalubowila participated in the Conference and gained knowhow and guidance on familiarizing the CPC Network members working with institutionalized children, about caring for children, planning aftercare programmes and addressing issues faced by child caregivers.

D. Follow up and way forward

The seminar was an excellent platform for learning, knowledge sharing and networking. CPC LN was able to network with other local and international organizations. In addition, maintaining the momentum, Dr. Wijemanne suggested that an initiative should be taken in Sri Lanka with the support of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, India on the lines discussed at the seminar, such as improving the quality of care given in institutions and minimizing institutionalization by supporting children in vulnerable situations. Accordingly Dr. Wijemanne will initiate the process by sharing a concept note and CPC Learning Network and other Sri Lankan participants will consider a collaborative programme.



Minister for Women and Child Development, India and the CPC, LN-Sri Lanka Technical Lead

Prepared by:
Hasara Kalubowila
Coordinator, CPC, Learning Network - Sri Lanka.