

CHILD PROTECTION BULLETIN

STATE CHILD
PROTECTION
SOCIETY, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTION IN ASSAM

EDITORIAL

The curriculum in most schools has become vast over the past few decades. Many new subjects of study and books have been introduced. As a result, children's school bags have become extremely heavy. This causes an unnecessary strain on the kids' spine and can lead to serious injury. It has been seen that sometimes children carry bags that are more than half their body weight. It is astonishing to see children, most of them barely four foot tall, carry huge schoolbags to school five/six days a week, carrying them from their homes to the assembly, then to class, and then back home again. The lucky ones have transport to and from school, but even they have to carry their own bags while in the school premises.

On the other hand small kids do not even have time for play. At schools the children have to attend classes and again when they come back home the parents have to force them to do the homework. Is this helping the children anyway.

I hope the recent directives of the Hon'ble Madras High Court will do some justice to the children who are victimized at the very young age.

Editorial Board,
State Child Protection Society,



"Children are moulded as memory chips to store information" High Court observed

In order to prevent burden on young minds by a faulty educational system, Justice N Kirubakaran of the Madras High Court has ordered a prohibition on homework for students in classes I & II, across CBSE as well as other state schools across the country. The order was passed in a writ petition filed by Advocate M Purushothaman, who had raised several concerns pertaining to student welfare, including the prescription of syllabus beyond the rules of the NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training), and concerns that children were made to do homework in violation of NCERT guidelines. Justice Kirubakaran has passed directions aimed at reducing the workload on young students. The directions are oriented to counter the robbing of innocence and creativity of young children between "ambitious" parents, "taskmaster" teachers and "result oriented" school managements. Coming down heavily on this culture, the judge remarked, "Children are moulded as memory chips to store information, due to faulty pattern of educational system and to download them in the examinations to prove their memory capacity which is the yardstick to assess and measure the alleged merits of the children [sic]." Justice Kirubakaran has therefore passed the following directions in the interest of child welfare.

Prohibition on homework for Class I & II students

As far as CBSE schools are concerned, the judge was apprised that the NCERT has already directed that no homework should be given to students in these grades. Therefore, no school affiliated to CBSE can prescribe or give homework to Class I and Class II students. Further, the judge saw it fit to extend this prohibition to schools following other educational curriculum as well, particularly in light of the following concerns: No benefit to imposing homework on young students: The judge went on to observe that expert opinions on a global level indicate that young children aren't appropriately developed for homework to be beneficial for them. It was held, "Therefore, it is unrealistic to expect the KG students, first & second class students to do homework, assignment on their own & homeworks to class I & II children have to be prohibited." The judge has also made note that students in Finland are rarely made to do homework up until their teen years. Despite this, they have performed remarkably well in rounds of International Student Assessment. Homework and unnecessary stress: The judge has raised concerns that imposing homework on young children is also likely to interfere with their sleep patterns. While young children should ideally have an eleven-hour sleep cycle, Justice Kirubakaran was of the view that homework would reduce the sleep hours of growing children. Another concern factored in was that children are made to hold pencil and write, when they are not physically ready. The judge made note that experts are of the opinion that pre-school should not introduce formal writing until the age of five.

Therefore, he specifically directed the state to ensure that children not be allowed/made to hold pencils till they become 5 years old.

Schools cannot extend curriculum beyond the NCERT prescription

It was found that NCERT guidelines were compulsory. The Court emphasised that, "When Government of India and NCERT decide about the curriculum, CBSE and the schools affiliated to CBSE are bound to follow the very same syllabus and books prescribed by NCERT." Hence, the Court ordered for the compliance of an NCERT circular that prescribes the use NCERT books alone for CBSE students. With particular reference to Class I & II students, the Court made note that the syllabus was being extended beyond the NCERT-prescribed curriculum. "It is shocking and surprising to note that grammar and computer science have been prescribed for Class I students. It is not understandable as to how five year



old children could comprehend the concept of computer or understand 'General Knowledge'." On the other hand, the only prescribed subjects for these classes were language and mathematics. Justice Kirubakaran noted, "...it is evident that CBSE schools are unnecessarily pressurizing the children by teaching irrelevant subjects which haven't been prescribed by NCERT or by CBSE." Therefore, the Court has ordered that the authorities be directed, "Not to prescribe any other subjects except language & Mathematics for Class I & II students & language EVS and mathematics for classes III to V." Children should not be made to carry heavy school bags. Another notable direction passed is a mandate on the state to ensure that children should not be made to carry heavy school bags at risk to their health. Referring to The Children School Bags (Limitation on Weight) Bill, 2006, the Court has also directed the state and union governments to formulate policy in this area. The issued directions are to take effect from this academic year onwards i.e. 2018-19 onwards. Before parting with the order, the Court also emphasised that any attempt to violate the directions would be viewed very seriously, since it affects the young children & the nation. Compliance reports are expected to be furnished when the High Court takes the matter up in 4 weeks.

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.

Be the Change you want to see

If you want to change the situation, you should be the first one to take initiative. Stop complaining about everything and start working. Change yourself first and then expect from others. The attitude of a person is determined by psychological factors like ideas, values, beliefs, perception, etc. All these have a complex role in determining a person's attitude. Values are ideals, guiding principles in one's life, or overarching goals that people strive to obtain. Beliefs are cognitions about the world—subjective probabilities that an object has a particular attribute or that an action will lead to a particular outcome. Beliefs can be patently and unequivocally false. It was found that beliefs like these are tenaciously held and highly resistant to change. Another important factor that affects attitude is symbolic interactionism, these are rife with powerful symbols and charged with affect which can lead to a selective perception. Persuasion theories says that in politics, successful persuaders convince its message recipients into a selective perception or attitude polarization for turning against the opposite candidate through a repetitive process that they are in a noncommittal state and it is unacceptable and doesn't have any

moral basis for it and for this they only require to chain the persuading message into a realm of plausibility. Some choices we make that don't seem like choices at all. These generally fall into two categories: habits and normative behaviors. Habits are choices that we make so regularly that over time they demand less and less executive control. As a consequence, they start to seem automatic. But they aren't. When it comes to bad habits, we may even be motivated to cede control to automaticity. That is, we may tell ourselves that the choice was made long ago and that we are now at the mercy of the automaticity that has emerged in its wake. An example: Riding the elevator instead of taking the stairs. After years of riding the elevator to his office on the third floor, a middle-aged man may find it nearly impossible to drag his body to the stairwell. His body seems to almost pull him to the elevator button instead. But the sooner the man acknowledges that he is choosing to take the elevator, the sooner he can begin looking for tricks to help him choose the stairs over the elevator—tricks like seeing if he can make it to the first, second, or third floor without breathing heavily.

SHARING OF EXPERIENCE BY PARENTS AFTER ADOPTION



Here to introduce that I and my husband were married for 6 yrs and we had no children. Due to our high pressured job and family emergencies we did not give much attention also. Later we got motivated to see some of our friends going through adoption and living a blissful life. So we also became ready for the same but the process was much simpler by their time. When we enrolled in the system of CARA, we were initially little perplexed with the lengthy process and the total digital involvement, coz, neither we could select the babies.. nor we could judge our ability to adjust with her. We were though positive about it. The process of home visit, submitting the documents and checking our serial no. was a routine work for us very day. However, 18 months passed and our serial was still at 147 when a sudden referral came with a baby image one after noon. All hidden emotions poured out and we did not know how to react and decision was to be taken in next 48 hrs. Still in dilemma with the baby photo we asked for some more pics and later we said yes. There after our life changed. Here came the role of SAA

members, especially Sahin who constantly kept in touch and replied back all our queries in odd hours as well and took care of our visit till Morigaon. He is very polite and made the whole process very comfortable. Technically everything was happening according to the rules but still there were few questions lurking in our mind about the baby's health, test reports and her total well-being since she was too tender to carry out all the adequate lab tests. SAA has send her many test reports which given some confidence to us. We were very surprised to see the organisation Morigaon Mahila Mehfil, far from the city working beautifully for this adoption process within its means. On 26th April with lots of excitement and palpitations we reached "SAA" the care room for the babies and there we got introduced to baby Gitumoni. She was given in my lap and she connected immediately. Her million dollar smile won us so easily that all our dilemmas and confusion erased in a second. We were so comfortable that rest of the work became very easy. The staffs really took care of the babies very nicely and the cleanliness as well as the gentle environment of this place was really appreciable. It may also be mentioned that we wanted to go through thalassemia test for baby gitumoni to say our final yes, but since the baby's age could not give the confirmatory result, we did not wait to say our final yes though the test was performed. At last the committee interviewed us and given her responsibility. We were very happy. The moment was very emotional from both sides. We were grateful to God that we got our priceless gift from Morigaon, Assam. Thank you for everything. We really cherished every moment there and never forget the last 2 hrs. with tears of joy as well as sorrow, we took adieu with our Gitumoni alias "Moana".

Partha Pratim Mandal & Supra Paul Mandal

TIMELINE FOR AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND AGENCIES RELATING TO ADOPTION PROCESS

A. Timeline for the processes relating to children :

Sl. No.	Regulation	Action	Time
1	6(2)	Specialised Adoption Agency to produce an abandoned child before the Child Welfare Committee along with a report containing his photograph and particulars.	Within 24 hours (excluding journey period).
2	6(5) and 7(10)	Specialised Adoption Agency to enter the details of the child along with his photograph online in the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System.	Within three working days from the time of receiving the child.
3	6(6)	District Child Protection Unit to advertise the particulars and photograph of an abandoned child in a state level newspaper having wide circulation and local cable networks, wherever existing.	Within three working days from the time of receiving the child.
4	6(9)	District Child Protection Unit to submit a report to the Child Welfare Committee on the efforts made by it for tracing out the biological parents/legal guardian of an abandoned child, including the outcome of the particulars and photograph of the child in the newspapers.	Within 30 days from the date of production of the child before the Child Welfare Committee for the same.
5	6(10)	Specialised Adoption Agency to submit a report to the Child Welfare Committee regarding the efforts made by it to trace the biological parent(s) or legal guardian of the abandoned child.	Immediately after 30 days from the date of production of the child before the Child Welfare Committee.

6	7(17)	The reconsideration period/reclaiming of the surrendered child by the biological parent/legal guardian.	60 days of the date of surrender.
7	7(18)	Specialised Adoption Agency to upload the Child Study Report and Medical Examination Report along with latest photograph of the child.	Within ten days from the date of declaration of the child as legally free for adoption by Child Welfare Committee.
8	8(a)	A normal child up to 05 years of age to be available for adoption by a Resident Indian (RI) and NRI prospective adoptive parents.	For 60 days from the date the child is declared legally free for adoption by the Child Welfare Committee.
9	8(b)	An older child above 5 years of age and siblings to be available for inter-country adoption.	After 30 days from the date the child is declared legally free for adoption by the Child Welfare Committee.
10	8(c)	A mentally and physically challenged child to be available for inter-country adoption.	After 15 days from the date the child is declared legally free for adoption by the Child Welfare Committee.

B. Timeline for Adoption by Resident Indians as well as Overseas Citizens of India/Foreigner living in India

Sl. No.	Regulation	Action	Time
1	9(5)	The prospective adoptive parents should upload documents after their registration.	Within a stipulated period of thirty days.
2	9(10)	Home Study Report of the prospective adoptive parents to be completed by the social worker.	Within 30 days from the date of submission of required documents in Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System.

Children are natural mimics who memorized and act like their parents despite every effort to teach them good manners

3	10(3)	Prospective adoptive parents to reserve one child	Within 48 hours from the date and time of referral.
4	10(6) and 10(7)	Process of matching of the reserved child by the Specialised Adoption Agency and acceptance by prospective adoptive parents	Within 20 days from the date of reserving the child.
5	12(1)	Specialised Adoption Agency to file application in the Court for obtaining adoption order from the Court	Within ten working days from the date of matching of the child by the prospective adoptive parents.
6	12(6)	Disposal of the adoption petition by the Court	Within two months from the date of filing of the petition.
7	12(8)	Specialised Adoption Agency to obtain a certified copy of the adoption order from the Court, to forward the same to the prospective adoptive parents and also to post the same in the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System.	Within ten days from the date of adoption order.
8	12(10)	Specialised Adoption Agency shall apply for the birth certificate and obtain the birth certificate of the child from the issuing authority.	Specialised Adoption Agency shall apply within 3 days from the date of issuance of the adoption order and it shall be issued by the authority within five days.

C. Timeline for Adoption from India by Non-Resident Indian/Overseas Citizen of India/Foreign prospective adoptive parents:

Sl. No.	Regulation	Action	Time
1	15(7)	Reservation of one child by the prospective adoptive parents from Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System through the Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency / Central Authority / Government department/Indian Mission	Within 96 hours

2	15(10)	Acceptance of the child by the prospective adoptive parents	Within 30 days
3	16(1)	No Objection Certificate by CARA	Within ten days from the date of receipt of requisite documents including acceptance of the child by the prospective adoptive parents and approval of the Central Authority (CA).
4	12(1) & 17(1)	Specialised Adoption Agency to file adoption petition in the Court	Within ten days from the date of receipt of No Objection Certificate from Central Adoption Resource Authority
5	12(6)	Disposal of the adoption petition by the Court	Within two months from the date of filing of the petition.
6	12(8)	Specialised Adoption Agency to obtain a certified copy of the adoption order from the Court, to forward the same to the prospective adoptive parents and also to post the same in the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System.	Within ten days from the date of adoption order.
7	18(1)	CARA shall issue conformity certificate under Article 23 of the Hague Adoption Convention.	Within three working days from the date of availability of adoption order.
8	18(3)	Specialised Adoption Agency to submit application to the Regional Passport Officer (RPO) for the passport to the child.	Within three working days from the date of availability of adoption order.
9	18(4)	Regional Passport Officer to issue the passport to the child	Within ten days from the date of receipt of application for the same.
10	18(5)	The Specialised Adoption Agency shall approach the birth certificate issuing authority for birth certificate of the adopted child	Within a period of three days of obtaining of the certified copy of the adoption order.

Glimpse of Awareness Campaign on Child Protection Issues organized by District Child Protection Unit Supported by State Child Protection Society, Assam



A child without a family is the greatest form of poverty

Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of April 2018

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			4	4	0
2	BONGAIGAON	4	2	20	6	1	23
3	BARPETA	1	3	115	23	34	182
4	CACHAR	0	3	11	5	11	11
5	CHIRANG	3	2	26	5	3	9
6	DARRANG	2	3	69	4	2	19
7	DHEMAJI	2	4	20	3	1	5
8	DHUBRI	13	21	84	1	3	8
9	DIBRUGARH	3	3	26	20	19	5
10	DIMA HASAO	2	0	23	8	0	17
11	GOALPARA	2	4	54	11	8	15
12	GOLAGHAT	9	4	14	0	0	13
13	HAILAKANDI	3	3	18	5	3	3
14	JORHAT	0	4	39	7	6	18
15	KAMRUP (M)	22	19	88	75	48	326
16	KAMRUP (R)	10	3	42	62	66	37
17	KARBI ANGLONG	2	1	36	2	2	3
18	KARIMGANJ	6	1	46	7	2	18
19	KOKRAJHAR	6	9	156	16	9	29
20	LAKHIMPUR	7	2	41	13	12	8
21	MORIGAON	3	8	35	9	13	17
22	NAGAON	5	1	179	16	20	19
23	NALBARI	1	1	12	9	1	82
24	SONITPUR	4	3	64	6	6	24
25	SIVASAGAR	7	12	23	17	12	26
26	TINSUKIA	14	1	94	6	10	52
27	UDALGURI	0	5	10	12	4	48
	Total	131	122	1345	352	300	1017

For any feedback, write to :

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DSW, Government of Assam