



STAY SAFE

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



LAUNCH OF STAY SAFE CAMPAIGN

18TH August, 2007

A REPORT

The Stay Safe Campaign against child sexual abuse and exploitation took place on 18th August, 2007. At Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium, Jawahar Balbhavan, Public Gardens, Nampally, Hyderabad at 10 am. The chief guest was Justice Subhashan Reddy, Chairman, State Human Rights commission of Andhra Pradesh, Smt Shanta Sinha, Chairperson, National commission for the Protection of Child Rights, Smt Vasudha Misra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Women and child welfare, Mr Umamathi, IG, CID, from the Police and other dignitaries. Around 1500 children and teachers from various schools, parents, police, and others participated in the launch, The Launch was the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh.

Staff members distributing and explaining the IEC material

Waves Foundation with help from its partner Ankuram women and child development society would cover around 5000 Schools in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It would first check the prevalence of Child abuse in the schools and residential hostels, private and government, crèche centres, anganwadi schools, shortstay homes, shelter homes for girls and boys, juvenile homes etc and would give counseling to the children who are victims of Child abuse provide for care and protection and initiate legal action on the offenders .

The Advisory board consists of Lawyers, Clinical Psychologists, Police officers, teachers child rights activists and others who would like to see the children safe.

The meeting began at 10 am with a Magic show by limca book of world records holder a boy deaf and dumb which had the audience in awe. and then the Guest were invited onto the Dias and the proceeding began with the lighting of the lamp.



Smt Shanta Sinha lighting the lamp, along with Shri Subhashan reddy, Smt Vasudha Misra and Mr.A.M.Sirish



Mr. Umamathi urged the children to be brave and try to fight abuse and the need to be sensitized he asked the children to pledge to take care of other children who are smaller and weaker and more vulnerable

Smt Vasudha Misra also said that their department would go all out for the welfare of the children and she and her department would support the fight against abuse and said that children need to be protected and will be protected.



The Director Mr.A.M. Sirish of Waves Foundation began by thanking all the Guests , dignitaries, schools children, parents and teachers and people from all walks of life who came there in his address he stressed on the protection of children from abuse is the most important issue that the government and the society faces, The parents have to take care and keep the communication between the child and parents alive and not alienate the child and deprive them of parental love and affection which makes them more vulnerable. The Teachers also have to play an important part by observing the children and try to be able to listen to their voices before their talk to look out for signs of abuse as the child spends more time in the school than in the house.



2



Mr. Subhashan Reddy said he loved children and any atrocities against them would not be tolerated and said that their rights would be protected at any cost, he was very emotional and said that strict punishment should be meted out to all offenders and wished that the campaign would protect many children from abuse.



Smt Shanta Sinha was very vocal in her stand for the protection of child rights and education for the children, she also said that the corporal Punishment in schools was not right and said that they intend to see that it is stopped. She said that the children need love, care and protection and the parents, Teachers and all stake holders have the responsibility for the protection of children and wished that waves foundation all the best in their campaign.



The Hall was filled more than its full capacity and there were hundreds of children who could not make it into the auditorium.



500 balloons were released



The Children listen in rapt attention



Parents and their children also took part in large numbers

3



The website of Waves foundation being launched by Smt Shanta Sinha and Justice Subhashan Reddy.



IEC material was released which included pamphlets, a handbook for protection of children, a Sticker and badges with the STAY SAFE logo were handed to all the children and others who participated in the launch



Stickers being put on the Cars of the guests.



Justice Subhashan Reddy the Protect Children Sticker on the car of Smt Shanta Sinha. Mr.Umamathi , Ms Sumitra, Mr. Sirish, look on.



Mr. Umamathi speaking to Mr.Sirish and Ms.Sumitra about the pledge.



There were cultural events which followed the launch in which many schools participated The children and school managements were very enthusiastic and came forward in large numbers to make this a grand Success.



We express our gratitude to all the members of the staff and the people behind the show Geeta, Shyamala, Sarala, Lakshmi, Sambasiva Rao, Rama Rao, Raju, Shankar,Ravi, Krishna and others in their capacities for making this launch a great success.

