



ROLE OF CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS IN REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION- EXPERIENCES OF A CASE STUDY.

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Abstract.

The researcher visited the “Ebenezer Child Care Centre”, near Gottigere. Collected all information about it and to know whether it is registered or not, and whether the facilities provided to these children are same as provided under Juvenile Justice Act 2015.

The need of the present study is to evaluate the functioning of the NGO and whether it abides the rules and regulation as prescribed by Juvenile Justice Act ,2015.

The safe scope of the research paper is limited to the Ebenezer Child Care Centre Gottigere.

Key words: - Ebenezer Child Care Centre Gottigere. Juvenile Justice Act 2015, children in need of care and protection. Facilities provided to these children in this NGO.

Introduction.

Children are our most valuable resource , as quoted by Herbert Hoover .¹Child care centres are the palce offering child care to children. There are several governomet child care institutions and non government organisations also (NGO’s). To understand the present pight of children in child care institution the researcher has attempted to conduct a case stud in a child care centre namely “Ebenzer child care centre “

The researcher visited the NGO named Ebenezer Child Care in Gottigere , Bangalore to evaluate its working in providing rehabilitation and socialisation of children in need of care and protection. To check whether this centre is working on the basis of Juvenile Justice Act ,2015.

Case study of “Ebenzer child care centre”

The “Ebenezer Child Care Centre” was established in the year 2000. The Founder of this NGO was Thomas Abraham and his wife Mrs. Ammini Abraham. Meaning of Ebenezer is “Thus for God led”.

This centre was initiated in order to provide rehabilitation and socialisation to orphan and destitute children. The centre was managed by Father Jacob and Gifty everyone serves this centre one or the other way.

According to Father Jacob Danial the main reason for becoming orphans are second marriage in both the male and female. This leads to children at risk who are in problem to sustain themselves.

Most of the children come to join this centre who attend church also through public contacts through the families of children who reside in this centre. This centre provides food, shelter and education to the orphans. They maintain account and stock Register. Case file is maintained for each child.

There are totally 24 children at present, earlier there were 40 – 45 children but due to covid the single parents took their children to their natives.

The Centre's place was donated by Panchayat the property is 40*25 + by extending another 15*40 the 1st floor was built. There are totally 2 bathrooms in ground floor, outside 3 bathrooms and in 1st floor 3 bathrooms. Each bedroom has cots along with one bathroom each connected by a Geysers.

This centre has only temporary acknowledgement, With registration under JJ act 2015, sec41(1), which provides that notwithstanding with any law for the time being in force all institutions, whether run by state govt or by voluntary/Non-governmental organisations either wholly or partially for housing children in need of care and protection shall be registered under JJ act 2015 in prescribed form/manner within period of 6 months from the date of commencement of this Act regardless of they receiving grants from the central government or state Government.

Objectives of the study.

- To evaluate the working system of Ebenezer Child Care Centre.
- To Check the Ebenezer Child Care Centre fulfils the conditions as laid down by JJ act, 2015.
- To know the facilities provided in Ebenezer are as prescribed by JJ act 2015.

Legal compliances and the benefits in need under JJ act.²

Every Child Care Centre should be registered within 6 months of its Institution.³ Rehabilitation and Reintegration services in institutions registered under this Act and management thereof.⁴ Management and monitoring rules 2016 of Child Care Institution.⁵

The suggested staffing pattern for an institution with a capacity of 100 children may be as below: -

- a) One Person in charge as a Superintendent.
- b) Three Probation Officer/ Child Welfare officer/ Case Workers (NGOs) A Child Welfare Officer may be designed as Rehabilitation Come Placement officer.
- c) Two Counsellors/Psychologists/mental health experts.
- d) Four House Mothers/House Fathers.
- e) Two Part time Educators/Tutors.
- f) One Medical Officer (Physician) on call.
- g) One Para-Medical Staff/Staff Nurse.
- h) One Store Keeper cum Accountant.
- i) One part time Art & Craft teacher.
- j) One part time PT teacher come yoga teacher.
- k) Two Cooks.
- l) Two Helpers
- m) Two House Keeping.
- n) One Driver.
- o) One part time Gardener.

Capacity and infrastructure of child care institution

Physical infrastructure ⁶ – The accommodation in each Institutions shall be as per the following criteria, namely: -

- a) Children's Home.

- i) While children of both sex below 10 years may be kept in the same home, separate bathing and sleeping facilities shall be maintained for boys and girls in the age group of 5 – 10 years;
- ii) Separate children's home for boy's and girl's in the age group of 7 – 11 years and 12 – 18 years;
- iii) Separate facilities for children up to the age of six years with appropriate facilities for infants.

The child care institutions for children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection shall function from separate premises as per the criteria elaborated.⁷

The suggested norms for building or accommodation in each institution with 50 children may be as under:

- a) 2 Dormitories each of 1000Sq.ft. for 25 children i.e.2000 Sq. ft.
- b) 2 Class rooms measuring 300 Sq. ft for 25 children i.e. 600 Sq. ft.
- c) Sickroom/First aid room measuring 75 Sq.ft.per children for 10 i.e. 750 Sq.ft.
- d) Kitchen measuring 250 Sq. ft.
- e) Dining Hall measuring 800 Sq. ft.
- f) Store measuring 250 Sq. ft.
- g) Recreation Room measuring 300 Sq. ft.
- h) Library measuring 500 Sq. ft.
- i) 5 – Bathrooms measuring 25 Sq. ft. each i. e. 125 Sq. ft.
- j) 8 Toilets measuring 25 Sq. ft. 200 Sq. ft.
- k) Office rooms measuring 300 Sq. ft.
- l) Counselling and guidance room measuring 120 Sq. ft.
- m) Workshop measuring 1125 Sq. ft. for 15 children @ of 75 Sq. ft. per trainee.
- n) Residence for person in charge measuring 2 rooms of 250 Sq. ft., Kitchen 75 Sq. ft., Bathroom Cum Toilet measuring 50 Sq. ft
- o) 2 Rooms for juvenile justice Board or Child welfare measuring 300 Sq. ft. each i.e. 600 Sq. ft.
- p) Play ground sufficient area according to total number of children
- q) In Total 8495 Sq. Ft. ⁸

There shall be proper and non-slippery flooring for preventing accidents.⁹There shall be adequate lighting, heating, and cooling arrangements, ventilation, safe drinking water, clean and accessible gender and age appropriate and disabled friendly toilets and high walks with barbed wire fencing.¹⁰

All institutions under the act shall make provisions of first-aid-kit, fire extinguishers in kitchen, recreation room, vocational training room, dormitories, store rooms and counselling room,Conduct periodic inspection of electrical installations, Ensure proper storage and inspection of food. Ensure stand-by arrangements for water storage and emergency lighting.¹¹

Clothing, Bedding, Toiletries and other Articles.

- a) Skirts and blouse or Salwar Kameez or Half Sari with Blouse and petticoat.¹²
- b) Age-appropriate undergarments.¹³
- c) Sanitary Towels.¹⁴
- d) Woollen sweaters (Full sleeves).¹⁵
- e) Woollen sweaters (Half sleeves).¹⁶
- f) Woollen Shawls.¹⁷
- g) Nightwear.¹⁸

Clothing for Boys.

- a) Two shorts at the time of admission and subsequently 1 after every 6 months.
- b) Two Shoes at the time of admission and subsequently 1 after every 6 months.
- c) Two Pants at the time of admission and subsequently 1 after every 6 months for older boys.
- d) Three sets every quarter age-appropriate undergarments.
- e) One Woollen Jersey (full sleeves) per 2 years.
- f) One Woollen Jersey (half sleeves) per 2 years.
- g) One Woollen Cap in one year.
- h) One Kurta Pyjama for night wear.

Miscellaneous Articles

- a) 1 pair of Slippers at the time of admission and subsequently after every 6 months.
- b) 1 pair of Sports shoes at the time of admission and subsequently after every 1 year.
- c) 2 sets of School uniform every six months for children attending schools
- d) 1 School bag every year for children attending schools
- e) 1 pair of school shoes at the time of admission in school and subsequently 1 pair after every 6 months.
- f) 2 Handkerchiefs at the time of admission and subsequently 2 after every 2 months.
- g) 3 pairs of socks every six months.
- h) Stationery as per need.

Toiletry: Every resident of the child care institution shall be issued oil, soap and other material as per the following scale:

- a) 100 ml of Hair oil for grooming the hair.
- b) 2 toilet soap / hand wash bars of 100gms per month.
- c) 1 toothbrush in every three months.
- d) 100gm of tooth paste (a tube) per month.
- e) 1 comb in every 3-month.
- f) 8 shampoo sachets in a month (10ml/per sachet).
- g) 2 bathing soap bars of 125 gm per month.
- h) 2 hairclips/ bands in 3 months.
- i) 250 ml of Moisturiser or cold cream (during winters) in a month. ¹⁹

31. Sanitation and Hygiene. – (1) Every Child Care Institutions shall have the following facilities, namely:

- (i) Sufficient treated drinking water; water filters or RO shall be installed at multiple locations in the premises for easy access such as kitchen, dormitory, recreational rooms etc.;
- (ii) Sufficient water including hot water for bathing and washing clothes, maintenance and cleanliness of the premises;
- (iii) Proper drainage system with regular maintenance;
- (iv) Arrangements for disposal of garbage;
- (v) Protection from mosquitoes by providing mosquito nets or repellents;
- (vi) Annual pest control;
- (vii) Sufficient number of well lit and airy toilets with proper fittings in the proportion of at least one toilet for seven children;
- (viii) Sufficient number of well lit and airy bathrooms with proper fittings in the proportion of at least one bath room for ten children;

- (ix) Sufficient space for washing and drying of clothes;
- (x) Washing machine wherever possible;
- (xi) Clean and fly proof kitchen and separate area for washing utensils;
- (xii) Sunning of bedding twice every month and clothing on regular basis;
- (xiii) Maintenance of cleanliness in the medical centre;
- (xiv) Daily sweeping and wiping of all floors in the home;
- (xv) Cleaning or washing of the toilets and bathrooms twice every day;
- (xvi) Proper washing of toilets and bathrooms twice every day;
- (xvii) Cleaning kitchen slabs, floors and gas after every meal;
- (xviii) Clean and pest proof store for maintain food articles and other supplies;
- (xix) Disinfection of the beddings at once a year;
- (xx) Fumigation of a sick room or isolation room after every discharge in case of contagious or infectious disease; and
- (xxi) Cleanliness in medical centre.

34. Medical Care – (1) In all Child care Institutions, a medical officer shall be made available on call whenever necessary for regular medical check up and treatment of children.

(2) A nurse or a para medic shall be available round the clock in all child care institutions.

(v) Have facilities for quarterly medical check-ups including dental check-ups, eye testing and screening for skin problems and for treatment of children.

35. Mental health. – (1) The environment in an institution shall be free from abuse, allowing children to cope with their situation and regain confidence.

(7) No child shall be administered medication for mental health problems without a psychological evaluation and diagnosis by trained mental health professionals.

(8) Medicines should be administered to the children only by trained medical staff and not by any other staff of the home.

38. Recreational Facilities. (1) Recreational facilities may include indoor and outdoor games, yoga and meditation, music, television, picnic and outings, cultural programmes, gardening and library, etc.

(5) Library shall have child friendly environment. There shall be books in regional language, newspapers, children's magazines, puzzle books, picture books, books in braille, audio and video devices, etc.

Reality Countdown.

1. The Researcher visited Ebenezer Child Care Centre to find out whether this centre follows all the norms as prescribed by JJ act 2015.
2. The ECCC had got only temporary registration.
3. The file was maintained for each child which lacked individual childcare plan.
4. There were 24 children out of them 22 children went to government school by walk was far away from the centre. The children felt very hard during rainy seasons.
5. There was no vehicle to commute is this centre. The children who did not study used to stay in the centre and cook food.
6. Afternoon food was given to children in the government school itself. Evening snacks like – tea, juice, fruits were served, weekly twice non-veg food is being served. No proper menu card is there. It was given when asked by writing.
7. The water on floor was also seen where no one would clean it. There was repair to be made which is pending. The Aquaquad facility was also under repair.

8. The road heading to the centre was also in very bad condition and found it difficult to commute. There is no sick room in the centre, school uniform was provided by govt schools but again found it difficult to stitch them due to shortage of funds.
9. 50% of fund was released by the founder say 50,000/- per year and 40% donations and yet 10% of fund needed to be fulfilled. There was no reading room/ library facility in the centre.
10. If any child falls sick, they are taken to nearby government hospital or Jayashree clinic. There were no doctor visits frequently to the children. Once in 6 month a dental doctor would visit the centre.

Findings and Suggestions:

1. According to JJ Model Rules 2016, there should at least one counsellor / psychologist, time Art and craft and activity by teachers and PT instructor – yoga instructor should also come and a gardener which is lacked by this centre.
2. This institution lacks all these facilities mentioned in JJ model rules 2016.
3. According to Sec 29 for accommodation of 50 children, there should be at least 2 dormitories each 1000sqft, 2 classrooms 360sqft for 25 children, library room 500sqft, counselling and guidance room 120sqft, 2 rooms for JJB or CWC 300sqft each and a playground for children which was lacking in this Ebenezer Child Care Centre.
4. Nutrition and diet scale as prescribed in the model rules, 2016 are to be followed. There was no educational training in ECCC. There is no PT instructor, therefore no sports.
5. Proper Menu card is to be maintained.

Conclusion

Though there are several rules and regulations for the protection of children in need of care yet its implementation is to be checked in NGOs and it is to be seen that it meets the needs of these children such as basic facility of food, cloth, shelter and Education. A report is to be submitted by these NGOs to the Child welfare committees monthly which in turn should be uploaded in the websites for the general public usage at large which acts as a check upon the facilities provided by NGOs in Child care centres.

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4. Sec 53 Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
5. Rule 26 Model rules of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
6. Rule 29, Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.
7. Rule 29(5) Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.
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9. Rule 29(8) Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.
10. Rule 29(9) Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.
11. Rule 29(10) Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.
12. 5 sets per year for girls depending on age and regional preferences, Rule 30 Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.
13. 3 sets every quarter, *ibid*.
14. 12 packs per year for older girls, *ibid*.
15. 2 sweaters yearly, *ibid*.
16. 2 sweaters yearly, *ibid*.
17. 1 per year, *ibid*.
18. 2 sets every 6 months, *ibid*.
19. Rule 30 Mode Rules of 2016 of Juvenile justice Act, 2015.