



CHILDHOOD MEANS SCHOOLING

PREAMBLE

The feeder workshop on *Citizens' Voice* as a precursor to the G20 summit in Germany during July'17 took place on 30.05.2017 in the KKID (Karl Kübel Institute for Development Education) campus. The meet was organised by KKF (Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family), India in cooperation with KKS (Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und familie), Germany. 38 delegates (*see annex-1 for the list of delegates*) participated in the workshop. Dr.T.K.Nathan, the Chairperson of KKF, India moderated the sessions (*see annex-2 for the agenda of the workshop*).

PROCESS

At the outset, the plan to have both video graphic and photographic documentation was shared and the consent of the delegates, especially the children was sought. Also the sessions were in trilingual through out: Tamil, Kanada, English.

Stage 1

Dr.Nathan introduced to the delegates the purpose and the objectives of the workshop. (*see annex-3 & annex-4 – power point presentations*).

The delegates discussed further to have a joint understanding on the FOUR factors – *Social Balance, Equal Opportunity, Growth and Sustainability*. The plenary that followed led the group to a consensus to have the discussions focus on ***Education – that will have an unrestricted access, that will be affordable and importantly that will be in the local Vernacular disadvantaged children, especially girls from the 'dalit and tribal communities'***).

During the first round of discussions some key words emerged and they are – *tolerance, acceptance, empathy, persuasion, collectivism, culture, traditions, vulnerability, wellbeing, peer experience, oppression and activism*.

The delegates further took up for discussion the 'ways and means' to realise optimal results and agreed to using '*digital technology*' and enlisted a possible construct as follows – a *Positive, Productive and*

Progressive (PPP) mechanism that will enable the children to have Education, Skills, Networking and Business (ENSB).

The moderator emphasized the need for micro solutions for any macro challenges/problems to further have a sharper focus not only from the point of qualitative discussion but also from the point of view of time in the plenary.

A joint understanding that the 3 guiding questions (as outlined here below in stage 2) will be discussed keeping the perspectives of *PPP* and *ENSB* on **EDUCATION** to realise *Social Balance, Equal Opportunity, Growth and Sustainability*.

In the plenary it was also urged to remember that any such construct is designed with TAG system (Transparency, Accountability and Governance) as a mechanism to measure the process.

Stage 2

The delegates were prepared to move into the phase where they discussed 3 major questions. They were:

QUESTION 1 - Which measures need to be taken by the G20 in order to both 'fostering growth' while also meeting 'social and ecological needs'?

QUESTION 2 - How can we take advantage of stronger international cooperation while respecting cultural and regional identity and diversity?

QUESTION 3 - What should G20 political leaders do to ensure that everyone stands to benefit from global development?

The challenges and solutions were discussed by the delegates in sub-groups. The way the preparatory stages evolved the key issue of 'education' in such a way that the final deliberation reflected the need for a common understanding among the international, national, state and the local stakes to ensure compliance to the joint agreements.

Stage 3

The delegates converged back in the plenary to share their discussions. Annex-5 contains the important elements of the discussions.

RESULTS

Finally the delegates presented the SIX most important recommendations (according to their discussions) in the plenary. They are:

1. Create/Establish 'tent schools' and residential 'bridge schools'.
2. Conduct awareness programmes on education to the disadvantaged communities.
3. G20 should ensure that childhood means schooling up till '17 years, 11 months and 27 days'. No compromise globally.
4. Establish universities/Digitalization centers exclusively for the disadvantaged.
5. Enable the locals to become skilled with global IT to achieve the PPP-ENSB where in ensure that the child dreams drive the globe rather than the market demands sabotaging child dreams.
6. Voices of the NGOs/CSOs should be considered in the policy/legislative matters towards the fulfilment of the countries' obligations made through international conventions/treaties/Sustainable Development Goals.

The workshop concluded

- with all the delegates consenting to have the appeal *ÇHILDHOOD MEANS SCHOOLING* scribed in the appeal banner and affixed their signatures (see the appeal banner annex-6).
- with all the delegates *sans* children, thanking the children present in the workshop for their contributions and took a pledge to protect, nurture and ensure support to realise their rights.

We are grateful to all those who made this workshop possible especially IFOK

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