

Greater Kashmir

Srinagar, Saturday, 16 Ramadhan 1436 AH; 04 July 2015 CE

'Physically challenged children possess special talents'

Guv inaugurates 2-day workshop on mental retardation

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Greater Kashmir / GK NEWS NETWORK

Publish Date: Sep 4 2011 12:00PM

Srinagar, Sep 3: The Governor N N Vohra on Saturday emphasized the need for making collaborative efforts by the Government agencies, NGOs and parents of differently abled children for the development of physically challenged to enable them to lead productive lives.

The Governor while addressing the inaugural session of the 2-day Workshop on "Mental Retardation" organized by "PARIVAAR," the National Confederation of Parents' Organizations for Persons with Intellectual and Development Disabilities and sponsored by the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, here said, "There have been opportunities to invite groups of such children to the Raj Bhavan and he has observed that they possess special talents which need to be optimally developed."

The Governor, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion said, due to difficult terrain and geography of Jammu and Kashmir, and the people living in far-flung and remote areas, significant efforts were required to be made by the concerned governmental functionaries to reach out to the physically challenged children, residing in such areas.

He hoped that this Workshop would help in generating greater awareness among all the stakeholders and society at large about the issues faced by these children. He also emphasized the need for most effective utilization of all the available resources for the welfare, education and vocational training of such children. Referring to the suggestions made by various speakers on the occasion for implementation of the provisions of the National Trust Act 1999 in Jammu and Kashmir, he observed that he would discuss this matter with Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Ittoo, and later with the Chief Minister, so that the State has adequate legal, administrative and financial provisions for the development, growth and proper care of the physically challenged.

Sakina Ittoo who presided over the function, said that such Workshops need to be organized at the district levels for engendering greater awareness among the people. She said that there is a need

for conducting a special survey for ascertaining the number of physically challenged children to devise appropriate strategies for their holistic growth.

Ittoo thanked the Governor for taking keen interest in the welfare, development and empowerment of differently abled children. She also called upon the NGOs, parents and the civil society to come forward in a big way in supplementing the efforts of the Government being made in this regard.

H A Parrey, Director Social Welfare, Kashmir, gave details of the various schemes being implemented by the Government for such children.

Dr R K Hora, Coordinator, National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped gave details of the activities of his organization and courses run for differently abled children.

J P Gadkari, Director Projects and Development, PARIVAAR, dwelt on the aims and objects of organizing this Workshop. He also spoke about the self-help groups set up by his organization to impart vocational training to these children for making them self-reliant in their lives.

In his welcome address, Javaid A Tak, Chairman, Humanity Welfare Organization HELPLINE NGO, gave details of the topics being discussed during the Workshop. He said that the rights of the differently abled children need to be ensured so that they lead a productive life.

Sajjad, Coordinator, Humanity Welfare Organization HELPLINE NGO, presented a Vote of Thanks. Among those present on the occasion were M A Kakroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Ashiq Hussain Bukhari, SSP, Srinagar, senior officers and representatives of various NGOs.