

In this message I would like to think aloud with you of the future with regard to our Orphanage Children Program.

Children's Exams Promotions Are Starting Of Next Academic Year.

As you may be aware that the public exams for the 10th, 11th and 12th were scheduled in the month of March. And infact 11th and 12th exams were almost completed except one exam. The 10th exams were about to start when the covid-19 lockdown was imposed. Now education department has announced that all children other than 10th, 11th and 12th standard will automatically move to the next grade. 11th and 12th grade children will be promoted as per the exam results. The exams for the left out subjects of 11th standard and for all the subjects for 10th standard is scheduled to be held from 15th of June. The proposed dates are restarting of the next academic year is temporarily scheduled for July 15th.

Challenges Of Next Academic Year.

In the meanwhile we are now conducting a SWOT analysis regarding running of our orphanages in the context of covid-19 lockdown next year. We foresee the following challenges we may have to face next year.

The government departments especially health department and children welfare departments have already initiated a process of preparing stringent guidelines of space, social distance, staff requirements, list of records to be maintained, etc. In addition health care and covid-19 protection policies and practices will be stringently worked out by the government and enforced with strict legal action.

Our critical challenge will be to protect children from school infection and subsequently spread of infection in our institution. All the schools are places of extraordinary overcrowding. For example on class room at time will have upto sixty children, cramp like sardines. I don't know how government is going to handle this. However the home based children from the school will form almost 98% of the school population will come from different location. The schools have no way of monitoring the infection status. So there is a great danger and possibility that the infection can spread like wild fire and in turn our orphanage also will get infected. We need to take extraordinary efforts to prevent our children getting infected.

Finally the parents/guardians side problems side problems. The parents/guardians entrust the children to us and so we are totally accountable to them as well as to the government as per us our children are concern. It is SJDT's responsibility to provide health care protection, shelter, nutrition and education. Now we also have a very big responsibility of protecting them from covid-19.

In our brain storming the above all challenges we foresee to face in the coming year. As of now the government has not come out with clear guidelines regarding the management of orphanages the restarting of the school academic year and the standard operating procedure (SOP) regarding our orphanages. However we are preparing ourselves mentally as well as physically to face the above challenges. We are also preparing our campuses for different requirements of covid-19 preventive measures such as social distancing, regular handwash facilities and providing sanitizers, mask, etc. We are also gearing up for regular spraying of disinfectant as well as other hygiene practices.

Children are our purpose of existence and so we will live upto any challenges for their welfare. We also appeal to your continued patronage especially in these difficult times.

Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., M.B.A.
Executive Director
St. Joseph's Development Trust