

Status Report On Re-Opening Of Schools And Orphanages.

India is racing towards second ranking in the world for covid-19 infection and Tamil Nadu is racing towards second ranking among Indian States. The infection numbers are increasing and multiplying day by day. Amidst all these serious infection race the government has opened up the lockdown and again we witness people crowding as usual in market places, train stations, bus stations, shopping malls and on the city roads. We are indeed living in great risk and fear not only for ourselves but also for our orphan children. In all our orphanages and handicapped centres the inmates are living inside the campus like a gated community thus protecting our children.

Infection in one of the Orphanages in Chennai:

It is reported few days back that seventeen children out of the twenty three inmates of an orphanage was tested positive for covid-19. This is a very shocking and painful news for all of us. You can very well understand what we mean when we have more children and that too small children and handicapped in our campuses. The government is working on stringent rules for schools and orphanages and we expect government to lay down more demands of spacing and staff structure.

Exams and Commencing of Schools:

As I informed you earlier the 10th and left out exams of 11th and 12th process were scheduled by the 2nd week of June. Now they scraped all exams and all children are declared promoted to the next class. You can imagine the joy and happiness of our children. When the exam dates were announced everyone of our children were very sad and gloomy. It also gave us a very painful responsibility of pressurising them to sit and study instead of watching movies which they love so much. Now that the exams are cancelled and all children are automatically promoted to the next class and so the children are extremely happy and we too are very happy.

Now the next big question is when the schools will restart:

From different sources we get an indication that the schools will reopen only in August, if everything goes well. The daily increase of covid-19 infections cases doesn't support this assumption. However we will be very pleased if the schools start so that the children can get their education which is essential for their future developments.

Status of Children:

The noble prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi recently declared based on a study that after the lockdown we will witness a considerable spike in child trafficking for child labour and child prostitution. The lockdown spelt catastrophe for the poor. The economic crisis unemployment, increased insecurity, poverty and marginalization would see the poorest try to clutch on to the lost straws for their survival. They may be forced to push their children into the hands of child traffickers. The most affected will be the rural poor agricultural families which already face starvation.

The most consoling news is that many countries have successfully flattened the infection curve and New Zealand has totally come out of covid-19 infection. We all earnestly hope and desire that one day India will achieve this. In the meanwhile we express our sincere prayers and wishes that all of you including our sponsors and donors keep safe and in good health.

Yours Fraternaly in Christ

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