

H.L. Gupta Memorial Lecture Organised at MIER

CHALLENGES BEFORE THE SOCIETY AND THE STATE IN PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTED



The prestigious H.L. Gupta memorial lecture for the year 2008 was delivered today at Model Institute of Education & Research by Dr. A.K. Gopal, Director National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) on **“Child Rights: Challenges to the State and the Civil Society”**.

The memorial lecture, attended by prominent citizens, leading educationists and the MIER faculty, was presided over by Dr. Arun K Gupta Director MIER. Earlier, on his arrival Dr. A.K. Gopal was given a warm reception by Dr. Arun K. Gupta, Dr. (Mrs) Renu Gupta Joint Director, Registrar and other senior officers of MIER. Floral tributes were paid on the portrait of Professor H.L. Gupta by all the dignitaries. Mr. Adit Gupta, Principal Model Academy presented a life sketch of Sh. H. L. Gupta the illustrious founder of MIER while Dr. Gopal was formally introduced to the audience by Dr. S. Sapru.

While delivering the lecture Dr. Gopal remembered Late Professor H.L. Gupta (1912-1983) whom he described as a great son of the soil, a teacher par excellence, a great educationist and above all a warm human being who has been responsible for shaping the destinies of his students. He expressed his pleasure in visiting MIER and complimented the untiring efforts of the institution in providing high quality services in the fields of education especially for the empowerment of women and children..

Addressing the gathering, Dr. A.K. Gopal said that history bears testimony to the fact that children, by and large in all cultures and in literature across the world have been loved and treasured but practically the children population was never taken care of seriously either by the state or by the society. Even the parents treated them as objects rather than as subjects in their own rights. Bringing out historical developments in the area of Child Rights Dr. Gopal said that the constitution of India also embodies in it significant pledges to promote the rights of children.

Accordingly, Child Development became a focused activity in India's Five Year Plans but still the children bear the burden of multiple disadvantages as over 50% of our children aged between 1-2 years are not fully immunized and 46% of children under the age of 3 years are malnourished. He also apprised the audience that the analysis of National budget reveals that out of every 100 rupees spent by government, less than 5 rupees were spent on children. Speaking on the National Policy on Protection of Children, Dr. Gopal said that the role of civil society is not only to keep a check on the authority of the state but it has to compel the state to perform its constitutional duty so that the rights of children are secured and their needs fulfilled. He concluded his lecture by saying that as a Nation we need to double our efforts to give ample opportunities to our children for their growth and development so that we see a better tomorrow for them.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries Dr. Arun K. Gupta described Dr. A.K. Gopal as an accomplished author and expert in the field of research concerning growth and development of children population in the country. He further said that there could be no better educationist to deliver a lecture on the topic of child development which was the mission of Sh. H. L. Gupta also. Dr. Arun K. Gupta expressed heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gopal for accepting the invitation to deliver his expert lecture on this important occasion. He also summarized the findings presented by Dr. Gopal and highlighted the role teachers, parents and policy planners need to play for making children aware about their rights so that they could be developed and nurtured as citizens of tomorrow.

Dr. Renu Gupta, Joint Director MIER, presented a formal vote of thanks to all the distinguished guests for having graced the occasion. She also thanked various agencies and the staff members of MIER for making the function a grand success.