

## **Little Citizens of Education Group from Face to Face Meet Deputy Director, RVM and Principal Secretary, Primary Education.**

Today 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011 a delegation of Little Citizens from Face to Face led by COVA-ICAN Team, had a good time meeting and interacting with Ms. K. Usha, Deputy Director, Rajiv Vidya Mission (SSA) and Ms. Chandana Khan, IAS., Principal Secretary, Primary Education. The delegation placed before both the officers, observations they experienced during their study and research on the issues and problems being faced by children in schools.

They complained of lack of safe water, clean toilets, and insufficient furniture, fees charged in government schools for providing text books and for conducting examinations. The Deputy Director, RVM advised them to submit application with specific complaint with names of the schools for taking action against them. She said that provision is available with Heads of the schools to meet the immediate requirement of benches etc. Students should approach the School Management Committee for such petty issues and needs. Mandal Resource Persons compulsorily visit each school every fortnight. Students should form a pressure group and submit their grievances to the MRP. She appreciated the initiative and courage of the students and assured them of all possible help.

Listening to the problems in private schools, Ms. Chandana Khan said that private school managements are responsible to take care of all these issues. She advised the delegation to mount a positive pressure on the school managements for getting minimum things done. She admitted of the infrastructural deficiencies in government schools and lack of commitment in teachers. The government has already initiated reformative steps that will take time. In one day things cannot be changed. To a question by A Little Citizen on facilities for handicapped children, she said that there are special schools for handicapped but ideally they should be enrolled with normal children to make them feel that they are not different from normal children. Different children have different potential that need to be encouraged. She said that they are special children of God, we being more capable to pay special attention to them so that they do not feel discriminated that keeps them in high esteem. She said that for every wrong, government is not responsible. Private Schools have a role for welfare of the students which they are not playing. She also appreciated the courage the Little Citizens have shown in interaction and advised them to form students clubs in schools to resolve their issues.

The Little Citizens in the delegation were Mohd. Bilal, 10<sup>th</sup> class, Good Faith High School, Abdul Rahman Anas and Abdul Suboor, 9<sup>th</sup> class, Standard High School, G. Ravi Chandra, M. Vaishnavi and G. Divya, class 9<sup>th</sup>, Geeta High School, Iqra Siddiqua, class 8<sup>th</sup> and G. Sirisha, class 9<sup>th</sup>, Brilliant Grammer High School, Shaista Fatima, class 9<sup>th</sup>, Kilpatrik Mission School, K. Srinivas and Mohd. Amjad, class 8<sup>th</sup>, Government High School, Jangammet