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300 panchayats declared child-friendly

CHENNAI: About 300 panchayats in Tamil Nadu have been declared and certified "Child Friendly Panchayats" by an NGO Hand in Hand. In a function on Thursday, the NGO honoured the elected representatives, school head masters and child rights protection committees in Kancheepuram.

The NGO has successfully made 10 per cent of the 12, 600 panchayats throughout the State attain the childfriendly tag.

The criteria for declaring any panchayat child-friendly is that it should have 100 per cent enrolment in schools and retention of all children between six and 14 years of age.

The schools in the area should function with at least a desirable teacher ratio of 1:30.

Besides, the schools should have adequate infrastructure and drinking water facilities.

Also there are some other requirements like regular PTA meetings, formation of child rights protection committees and village education committees.

Hand in Hand is a development organization that works in the area of poverty eradication and integrated development.

With regard to the child panchayats, the organization has been working with the elected representatives at the panchayat and block levels to spread the message of universal education.

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