



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

**THE COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES
ON
INDIAN RAILWAYS**

REPORT

Part I

JULY 1986

NEW DELHI

The Department of Railways (Railway Board) constituted a one-man Expert Committee to review the educational facilities on Indian Railways by Order No. ERB-I/86/21/20 dated 5.5.1986. The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :

- a) To review the existing educational facilities provided to the Railway Employees;
- b) To consider expansion/contraction of railway schools vis-a-vis facilities provided by State Governments;
- c) To consider grant of financial assistance to non-railway schools serving the cause of railway employees;
- d) To consider provision of subsidised hostels;
- e) To consider affiliation of railway schools with the Central Board of Secondary Education;
- f) To consider matters relating to establishment of Central Schools on Railways;
- g) To consider feasibility of adoption of ideals and objectives of model schools being set up by the Government of India on the Railways;
- h) To consider introduction of vocational training and courses on Computer Sciences, Electronics, I.T.I., etc., in Railway schools;
- i) To consider conversion of Austerity Type Primary Schools to fulfilled Primary Schools;

- j) To consider all other matters incidental to or connected with the provision of educational facilities on the Railways.
2. To facilitate consideration of different aspects connected with educational facilities on Railways, it is proposed to give a series of reports each dealing with a different facet of the problem.
3. During the discussion of the draft National Policy on Education 1986 in the Monsoon Session of Parliament and in the National Development Council it was stressed that our children should be provided meaningful opportunities to develop leadership qualities, a spirit of self-reliance and a deep interest in the acquisition of knowledge as a life long pursuit of excellence.
4. Having regard to sub-paras (a) and (j) of the terms of reference a short report setting out in outline a pilot project to encourage leadership qualities amongst Railway children is enclosed.

(Avtar Singh Rikhy)
Chairman, Committee on
Educational Facilities
on Indian Railways

30TH JULY, 1986.

In Holiday Home Pahalgam we have good facilities of dormitory, kitchen and other infrastructure for running holiday camps for children of Railway employees. In fact the facilities at Pahalgam were being extensively used by Railway school children drawn from Zonal Railways & Projects but for the unfortunate disturbed conditions which have prevailed during the last two years. These holiday camps largely comprise outings and excursions without any core plan for development of spirit of adventure, cultivation of hobbies, extra-curricular activities, disciplined community living, leadership qualities etc. etc. At a distance of nearly a kilometre from the Railway Holiday Home at Pahalgam the Northern Command of the Army run Adventure Training Camps called "Chinnar" for children of the age group 11 - 17 years and for 8 - 10 years. The camp is for two weeks for the age group 11 - 17 years (120 in each batch - 2 batches in all) and for 7 days for the children of the age group 8 - 10 years (one batch of 80 children). The students are generally children of Officers and others working in the Defence Forces and come voluntarily from all parts of India because of the excellent training facilities provided.

2. The Adventure Training course comprises broadly the following activities :

- a) Trekking ;
- b) Skill of out-door living, group cooking, camping excursions ;
- c) Yoga ;
- d) Judo, Karate and Unarmed Combat ;
- e) Rock Climbing ;
- f) Familiarisation with local flora and fauna ;
- g) Team games ;
- h) Group recreational activities like community singing and folk dances ;

- i) Encouraging hobbies like bird watching, photography and pony riding.

3. The activities stretch from 6.30 hrs to 21.30 hrs as outlined below :

6.30 hrs		-	Bugle call
7.30 hrs	-	8.00 hrs	- Yoga/Judo/Karate/ Pony Riding
8.05 hrs	-	8.55 hrs	- Breakfast
9.00 hrs	-	13.00 hrs	- Lecture Demons- trations, Practice of skills
13.00 hrs	-	14.30 hrs	- Lunch
14.35 hrs	-	15.25 hrs	- Rest
15.30 hrs	-	16.30 hrs	- Games/Pony Riding
16.35 hrs	-	18.30 hrs	- Personal Administration
18.35 hrs	-	20.00 hrs	- Social
20.00 hrs	-	21.00 hrs	- Dinner
21.30 hrs			- Lights out

4. Although it is under the direct charge of an Officer of the rank of Major, the Brigadier of the area (Brig. Uban), who was deeply interested in the development of spirit of adventure in the youngsters, was camping there practically throughout the duration of the camp along with his wife. Defence Officer's wives are hand picked to work as Counsellors for each House from volunteers who are known for taking deep interest in the well being and allround development of the youngsters and have experience of teaching and handling students and are prepared to stay in the camp all the time.

5. The Defence Forces provide excellent back up facilities including services of experienced Instructors in Rock Climbing, Pony Riding, Judo, Trekking, Out-door living etc. General Khanna, G-O-C-in-C of Kashmir has been taking personal interest in running the scheme.

6. It is felt that we could learn a great deal from the experience of Defence authorities in running such Adventure Training Camps for Railway children. For details of the Northern Command Adventure Camp held at Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir State) in June, 1986, please see Annexure I.

It may be worthwhile to get in touch with the Defence authorities and work out a programme for training of Railway Instructors who could in turn organise the Courses for Railway children at Pahalgam.

7. If this pilot project is a success, it could be extended to other well-known Railway Holiday Homes all over the country which have adequate facilities.

NORTHERN COMMAND ADVENTURE CAMPS

Northern Command run Adventure Training Camps for children of the age group 11 - 17 years for a duration of 14 days and one course of 7 days duration for the children of the age group 8 -10 years.

2. The camps are organised at Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir State), Khajiyar, near Dalhousie (H.P.) and Bhadrawaht (Kishtwar District of J & K). This year these camps were organised during May and June, 1986. I had an occasion to visit one of the camps for youngsters of the age group 8 - 10 years at Pahalgam in the first week of June, 1986. The aim of these Camps is to offer young boys and girls an opportunity of living close to nature in the Himalayas and follow a healthy outdoor recreational activity programme during their vacations with a view to developing a spirit of adventure and love of nature.

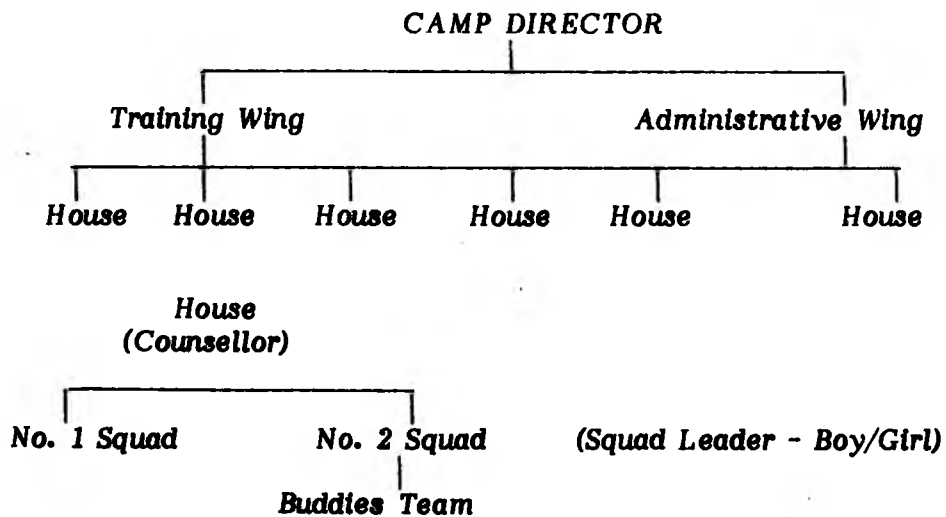
3. The capacity of each of the senior courses is 120 children and that of the junior course is 80 children. (Two senior courses and one junior course are run at each location). Thus a total of 320 children make use of this training at each location. The camps for the boys and girls are arranged at a distance from one another and they have independent facilities for toilet, bathing etc. There is however, a common Dining Hall where they take meals together.

4. PARTICIPATION

Applications are invited from parents who are desirous of sending their children for the camps in the prescribed proforma. Children must be unaccompanied. Children must be medically fit and mentally prepared to undergo moderately strenuous physical exertion. A child pays Rs. 15/- per day for board and lodging- the rest of the expenditure is met by Defence authorities.

5. **ORGANISATION OF THE CAMP**

The organisation of the camp is on the following lines :



6. **HOUSE SYSTEM**

The participants are divided into 6 Houses. Twenty boys/girls form a 'House'. Each House comprises two squads of 10 boys/girls each. Further, within the squad, a 'Buddy' system is organised.

7. The Counsellors are drawn from wives of officers of Defence Forces, who have experience of working as Teachers in Schools and volunteer their services and are prepared to stay at the Camp site for the entire duration of the course.

8. On the first day of the camp, a flag hoisting ceremony is held in which the National Flag, Camp Flag and the House Flags are hoisted. The ceremony is followed by a 'Camper's pledge', which is taken by all the campers which reads as follows :

" ON MY HONOUR, I WILL TRY TO SERVE MY COUNTRY AND MANKIND. TO DO MY BEST, TO BE HONEST : TO BE FAIR, TO BE HELPFUL WHERE I AM NEEDED: TO BE CHEERFUL: TO BE FRIENDLY AND CONSIDERATE: TO RESPECT MY PARENTS AND FELLOW BEINGS THROUGH MY WORDS AND ACTION"

9. On the last day of the camp, camp-fire is organised on an elaborate basis where children are given full opportunity to entertain the invited guests with skits, songs, dances, fancy dress etc.

10. Debate is held for the senior camp on a topical subject of national importance. Those adjudged the best and second best are given suitable prizes.

11. An essay writing competition is also organised on a theme of national importance. The first prize awarded is for Rs. 450/-, while the second and third prizes carry Rs. 350/- and Rs. 250/- respectively. Children are also encouraged to share frankly their impressions of the camp so as to learn first hand from their experience and effect the necessary improvements.

12. Guest Speakers/Instructors who have distinguished themselves in the following fields are invited to address the campers :

- a) Mountaineering and Skiing
- b) Yoga
- c) Photography
- d) Sports

(To encourage hobbies, films for camera etc. are supplied at subsidised rates).

13. Training films are also screened on the following subjects :

- a) Mountaineering
- b) Sports
- c) Flora and Fauna
- d) J & K State
- e) Wild Life
- f) Other Outdoor Activities

14. Chief Wildlife Conservator of J & K, Mr. Inayatullah was invited to address the children about wildlife in J & K. Children were encouraged to do bird watching.

15. They had elaborate arrangements for imparting instruction in Rock Climbing under expert guidance. The Children were encouraged to do angling for fish in the snowfed stream which passes by the side of the camp.

16. They were also taken out into forest area, issued raw rations and asked to cook for themselves so as to encourage in them qualities of leadership and self-reliance.