



Effective Implementation of Children's Laws in Odisha

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015

Implementing Partner

Centre for Child Rights
National Law University Odisha

Supported by:

UNICEF

1. BACKGROUND

The National Law University Odisha (NLUO) is implementing a project on 'Effective Implementation of Children's Laws in Odisha' with the support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a period of three years between January 2015 and December 2017. The project aims to strengthen research, teaching, training and advocacy on children's right and juvenile justice in particular. The thrust of the project is for system strengthening, knowledge management, law and policy reforms, and effective implementation of law relating to juvenile justice. Training and capacity building for key stakeholders of child protection structure and juvenile justice mechanism, Research and documentation, Networking and social mobilization, Clinical legal education on child rights, and Advocacy as well as policy dialogues are the major intervention strategies of the project. Key activities of the project are:

- a) **Course Curriculum** to offer Post Graduate Diploma on regular, continuing education and on line courses on child rights, Legal and Psychological counseling and guidance.
- b) **Internship programme** to encourage students to actively involve in legal aid supports, organize symposium, workshop on child protection.
- c) **Research** to gather empirical evidence on the functioning of various institutions and mechanism, prevailing practices and the variation in approach and also on the implementation of legislations.
- d) **Documentation to compile** case laws, and best practices of juvenile justice and to develop a Documentation Centre.
- e) **Data base of Juvenile Justice** to provide complete information of the cases registered, case adjudicated by the JJBs/CWCs annually, profile of the child care institutions containing their legal status, registration, activities, quality standards, and profile of the legal practitioners of children's right
- f) **Toolkits** to bring out Knowledge products in the form of booklets, posters, manual, audio-visual documentary to meet the needs of different stakeholders in the area of child rights.
- g) **Training** to develop child rights perspective among juvenile justice functionaries and to update their legal knowledge.

- h) **Advocacy** to influence policy for reforms and effective implementation of children' laws.

This report presents an overview of activities undertaken by the Centre for Child Rights, NLUO from January to December 2015 for the purpose of the project. The report also summarizes the process followed and the outputs accomplished by the project.

2. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

This project is being operated through the Centre for Child Rights (CCR), the specialized research unit of NLUO, whose primary mandate is to safeguard, protect and promote children's rights. The centre envisions providing integrated support to different layers of institutional governance in the local, state and national level for the protection of child rights. The centre intends to strengthen child protection structure by leveraging knowledge change and policy reforms at the various levels of institutional governance with an objective to make juvenile justice system to be more accountable, efficient and effective for protecting and promoting child rights.

The CCR is managed by two full- time personnel in the designation of Senior Programme Coordinator and Senior Research Associate under the guidance and supervision of the Vice-Chancellor, NLUO. A team is constituted from the law faculty of the university to provide academic support and value addition to the programmes. One Assistant Professor of Law, NLUO has been designated as 'Faculty Coordinator' to oversee overall implementation of the project and ensure linkage between project and academic activities.

3. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

3.1. Introduction of courses on child rights and juvenile justice: As proposed by the project, NLUO would introduce customized course on the juvenile justice and child rights in the ongoing curriculum for law students and to launch offer certificate course or diploma course for juvenile justice practitioners through distance/ on line mode to develop more professionals in the field of child rights. Consultative research process has been adopted by

the NLUO to conceptualize, develop and design course curricula for child rights education. The process began with collection, study and review of child rights curriculum and related course module introduced by other academic institutions including National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIU), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). First consultation with expert committee was held at NLUO Cuttack on 11th April 2015. Experts present in the consultation included Prof. Prof. B.B Pande (Chair Professor in Criminal Law, NLU Delhi), Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao (Vice-Chancellor, NLU Odisha), Ms.Maharukh Adenwalla (Advocate, Supreme Court of India), Dr. V. Kesava Rao (Professor, NLUO), Dr. A.Aruna Sri Lakshmi (Associate Professor, NLUO), Dr.Dolly Jabbal (Associate Professor and Registrar, NLUO), Mr. Ramakrishna Das (Associate Professor, NLUO). A tentative framework for the certificate course was evolved from consultation meet. There would be five units for the certificate course, viz (1) Profiling child: Situational analysis of children in India, (2) Child related international and national policies, (3) Laws relating to children in India, (4) Social and Legal Intervention skills, and (5) Field work and Dissertation.

Another round of expert consultation was held at National Law University Delhi on 7th February 2016.The Meeting was anchored by Prof. B.B.Pande, Chair Professor in Criminal Law, NLUO and Co-chaired by Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO, Cuttack. The following experts have participated in the deliberations and discussions

- Ms.Nina Nayak, Former Member, NCPCR
- Ms. Bishnoi Karuna, Child Right Advocate, New Delhi
- Mr. Anant Astana, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi
- Ms. Bharati Ali, Founder Director, HAQ Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi
- Dr. Mrinal Satish, Associate Professor of Law, NLUO, New Delhi
- Dr. Bharati Yadhav, Assistant Professor, Delhi University
- Ms. Nehasinghal, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

The following suggestions were emerged from the discussion.

- ❖ The Child Rights Course should be designed with the objectives and the expected outcome so that the takers shall have clear understanding on the importance and attract them to join the course.
- ❖ The Course shall be divided into three Courses viz. Appreciation, Basic and Advanced Programmes

- ❖ Each Course shall have reference materials
- ❖ The Clinical Course shall be flexible and shall not be insisted upon with time frame. It shall be allowed throughout the course Areas for research shall be suggested and Researcher should maintain daily dairy on their activities, learning process, challenges and report preparation with supportive evidences
- ❖ Awareness Course shall be introduced and subsequently the other two course shall be introduced



3.2. ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND MOBILIZATION

3.2.1. Inauguration of CCR: Launching programme for the Centre for Child Rights was held on April 12, 2015 in a gathering of 300 audience representing from law and justice, government, child rights commission, UNICEF, civil society organizations, media etc. Speakers at the inaugural function included Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Visitor, NLU Odisha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, Acting Chief Justice, Orissa High Court, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sanju Panda, Judge, Orissa High Court & Chairperson, Orissa High Court Committee on Juvenile Justice, Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Odisha, Mr. Saswat Mishra, I.A.S, Secretary, Department of

Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha, and Ms. Yumi Bae, Chief, Field Office UNICEF, Odisha. The programme provided an opportunity for the CCR to reinforce and revalidate its vision, mission and activities based upon the ideas emerged from the deliberations of the speakers. It was unanimously viewed by the speakers that expertise, legal knowledge and scholastic acumen of the university would be harnessed to develop knowledge products on juvenile justice and child rights to help Odisha government to design and conduct capacity building programmes for the functionaries of child protection institutions. The speakers urged to reinforce the importance to develop a pool of resource persons and technical experts for child rights training, document best practices, document case studies and develop module for designing and conducting training programmes for different stakeholders of the juvenile justice system. The programme generated ideas and views about kind of research activities to be undertaken by the university through Centre for Child Rights.



3.2.2. Symposium for Orientation of the Presiding Officers of the Juvenile Justice Boards of

Odisha: One day orientation programme for the presiding officers of JJ Boards was held on April 12, 2015 to further share and update the participants on the latest development of law, policy and other related aspects of the juvenile justice. There were two technical sessions at the programme on the heading of Role of Juvenile Justice Boards in Ensuring

Justice, and Understanding of Institutions and Machineries under Juvenile Justice Act. Sessions were delivered by a panel of resource persons which included Prof. B.B Pande (Chair Professor in Criminal Law, NLU Delhi), Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao (Vice-Chancellor, NLU Odisha), Ms.Maharukh Adenwalla (Advocate, Supreme Court of India), and Mr. Rakesh Sengar (Project Director, Bachapan Bachao Andolan). The programme was designed in such manner so that participants could share knowledge, experience, best practices and issues relating to juvenile justice and child protection. The programme was found to be effective as it received request from the participants to hold an orientation programme for non-judicial members of the JJ Boards.

3.2.3. Network Building: Meeting and constructive dialogue has been held with Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and State Child Protection Unit (SCPU) to foster strategic partnership for knowledge sharing and mutual cooperation. The dialogue in the initial stage has resulted in obtaining cooperation and required support from the DWCD and SCPU at two-days training programme for Legal-cum-Probation Officers (LPOs). On the other side, Department has also solicited technical support from NLUO to organize training programmes for the non-judicial members of the Juvenile Justice Board.

3.2.4. IEC Materials: NLUO has brought out a brochure for the Centre for Child Rights to highlight its vision, mission, goal, thrust areas, strategies and future activities. First issue of half yearly Newsletter of CCR has been prepared. This initiative would help NLUO create wider visibility of the Centre for Child Rights.

3.2.5: Symposium on Child Rights Policy and Practice: On the sideline of the Foundation Day of NLUO on 7th November, Shri Kailash Statyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Founder, Bachapan Bachao Andolan was invited to give a lecture on Child Rights Policy and Practice. The programme was graced with gracious presence of Hon'ble Justice Shri Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Hon'ble Justice Shri D.H Waghela, Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. The programme was attended by the Judges of Orissa High Court, Director, State Judicial Academy, District Judges, Judicial Officer, government officers, State Bar Council, Senior Advocates, Academia and students.

3.3. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

3.3.1 Orientation Programme for Legal cum Probation Officers: A two-day programme was held on 27-28 May 2015 to sensitize Legal cum Probation Officers about *Juvenile Justice and its interconnectivity with other child protection laws*. Thirty Legal cum Probation Officers (LPOs) working at the District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) were the participants for the orientation programme. The programme was designed with eight technical sessions to provide an essential knowledge to the participants about UN CRC, Juvenile Justice System, Probation Services and Social Investigation Report. Individual sessions were conducted by Prof. N.K Chakrabarti (Director, KIIT Law School), Prof. P. Madhava Soma Sundaram (HOD, School of Criminal Justice, Manomanmum Sundaranar University, Tamilnadu), Mrs. Aswathy. S (Additional Secretary to Government, Department of Women & Child Development, Odisha), and Mr.S.Kannayiram (Senior Programme Coordinator, Centre for Child Rights).



3.3.2. Orientation Programme for the Social Workers of Juvenile Justice Boards:

CCR organized an orientation programme for the social worker members of the Juvenile Justice Boards of Odisha State on 31 July and 01 August 2015 in collaboration with the

Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha and the State Child Protection Society (OSCPS). The programme was held at the campus of the National Law University Odisha, Cuttack in two batches with members of the Juvenile Justice Boards of fifteen districts in each day. As many as forty-seven members from 30 JJ Boards participated in the programme. The key objective of the programme was to critically sensitize the members of the JJ Board about juvenile justice law and its interrelationship with other legislations and their roles thereto with a view to develop their functional competencies to discharge their judicial responsibilities effectively and efficiently. Apart from introductory and concluding session, there were two technical sessions at the programme. First technical session was on 'Understanding Justice Mechanism' to provide participants the essential of juvenile justice system and the responsibilities of social worker members in rendering accesses to justice to children, Rights of the juveniles and accountabilities of members, Processing of initial hearing, bail and recording of finding and observations, and Time bound disposition and legal supports. The second technical session was devoted on 'Enhancing professional competency to perform judicial function' to give insight on the recording of statements, report examination, disposition of inquiry, processing bail applications, writing orders, and appeal and revision.

3.3.3. Orientation Programme on Child Rights and Juvenile Justice for District Level Officials:

Ten numbers of two day orientation programmes has been organized by the CCR between August and December 2015 for District Level Officials working in the field of child rights and juvenile justice. Three districts were included in each programme to cover all 30 districts of Odisha in ten programmes. Key objectives of the programme were:

- a) To empower the district officials on the Juvenile Justice mechanisms and its interconnectivity with other children related laws
- b) To ensure their level of understanding on obligations, accountabilities and responsibilities towards child protection
- c) To evolve strategic cooperation and networking amongst district officials to address the core issues of child development and child protection in an integrated manner.

The programme was attended by the functionaries and key officers of Juvenile Justice Institutions and allied system including District Child Protection Unit, District Social Welfare Officers, Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, Child Welfare Committees, Special Juvenile Police Unit, District Legal Services Authorities, and District Education Officers etc. A total of 408 nos. of persons participated in the programme.

Dates	Venue	Districts Covered	No. of Participants Attended
25-26 August 2015	National Law University Odisha, Cuttack	Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara	32
27-28 August 2015	NLUO, Cuttack	Khurda, Nayagarh & Puri	27
15-16 September 2015	Sadbhavana Sabha Gruha (Collectorate Office), Balasore	Balasore, Bhadrak & Mayurbhanj	48
21-22 September 2015	Sub-Collector' Conference Hall, Berhampur	Ganjam, Gajapati & Kandhamal	53
6-7 October 2015	Collectorate Conference Hall, Angul	Angul, Dhenkanal & Jajpur	42
13-14 October 2015	DRDA Conference Hall, Sambalpur	Baragarh, Jharsuguda & Sambalpur	41
23-24 November 2015	District Watershed Office' Conference Hall, Deogarh	Deogarh, Keonjhar, & Sundergarh	33
27-28 November 2015	DRDA Conference Hall, Bolangir	Bolangir, Boudh & Sonepur	36
9-10 December 2015	District Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission, Koraput	Koraput, Malkangiri & Nawarangpur	49
15-16 December 2015	Collectortate Conference Hall, Bhawanipatana	Kalahandi, Nuapada & Rayagada	47

The programme aims at sensitizing government officials and other key stakeholders engaged at the district level for children related programme about children's laws and role of multi stakeholders in juvenile justice programme. The programme helped officials to strengthen knowledge on children's related legislations and their interconnectivity, to ensure multilayer accountability towards child protection and to bring convergence and

coordination among government stakeholders for effective implementation of juvenile justice programme. The programme strives to evolve inter and intra-departmental networking and formulate convergence to ensure holistic development of children and protect them from harmful practices, abuse and exploitation.



In addition to the Inaugural and Valedictory session, there were eight technical sessions at the programme, viz.

- 1) Situational analysis of children in Odisha and multi-stakeholders approach to reducing children's vulnerabilities.
- 2) Understanding Child Rights in Human Rights Perspective- obligations and accountabilities of duty bearers.
- 3) Child rights practices: Challenges of public service delivery mechanisms
- 4) Child Development- Holistic and convergent approach- Juvenile Justice Mechanisms- Obligations under law.
- 5) Ensuring child rights practices- Monitoring mechanisms- Functions and responsibilities.
- 6) Child Development and protection issues- Dimension of problems- preventive strategies.
- 7) Legal safeguarding towards child development and protection- Obligations and accountabilities of stakeholders.
- 8) Trafficking and Missing children- Dimensions and Challenges

Centre for Child Rights invited resource persons from outside Odisha and faculties from the NLUO who have experience and expertise to deliberate the subjects through participatory learning methods and activity based teaching. The resource persons were:

1. Prof. (Dr) Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO
2. Prof.(Dr) Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice-Chancellor, Berhampur University, Odisha
3. Prof. (Dr) Babu Mathews, Professor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore
4. Ms. Nina Nayak, Former Member, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi
5. Dr. Mahesh Menon, Assistant Professor, West Bengal National Law University Juridical Science, Kolkatta
6. Mr. George Kollanshy, Social Worker
7. Mr. Aravind Shanubhogue, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Bangaluru
8. Dr. Madhav Somasunderam, Professor & HOD of Criminology, Manomanium Sunderam University, Tamilnadu

9. Dr. Aruna Srilakhmi, Associate Professor, NLUO
10. Mr. Ramakrishna Das, Assistant Professor, NLUO
11. Mr. S. Kannayiram, Senior Programme Coordinator, Centre for Child Rights, NLUO
12. Mr. Pramoda Kishore Acharya, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Child Rights, NLUO

The following issues were flagged by the participants at the above four programmes.

- ❖ Field level officials are not adequately familiar with updated development of children's laws and policies because training and orientation programmes are not held regularly develop their knowledge, skills and attitude to maximize their capacities to address the challenges that they are facing at the operational level to implement any children related law or programme.
- ❖ Lack of convergence among key stakeholders and absence of coordination among CWCs, JJBs, police, child line, District Child Protection Unit, Legal services authorities is the key issue to challenge effective implementation of juvenile justice law.
- ❖ There is acute lack of adequate, skilled human resources and failure to build a community linkage to facilitate reform, rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles.
- ❖ Child Development Programme Officers (CDPOs) who have been designated as Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO) are overburdened with implementation of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICDS) which hardly permit them to undertake additional responsibilities as required for the CMPO under Child Marriage Prohibition Act and Odisha Rules thereto. Further proper training and orientation are not provided to the CMPOs to sensitize them about their roles and responsibilities towards prevention, protection and prosecution of child marriage.
- ❖ The JJ Act prescribes for after-care programme for 18-21 years children after they leave special homes or children homes with objective to facilitate their transition from an institution based life to mainstream society for social reintegration. But there is a tardy implementation of after-care programme due to absence of systems to plan for pre-release to ensure effective reintegration, little participation of civil society organizations in the programme, and failure on the part of the government to provide life skills vocational training to the children and juveniles.

- ❖ Information about missing children, child victim of crime is not shared by police with CWCs as soon as matter is reported at the police station to enable CWC to initiate timely action for the protection of such children.
- ❖ The overarching role of DCPOs to support and monitor implementation of ICPS is not properly digested by the CWCs, SJPU and Child Line to allow DCPU to have any control in their domain.
- ❖ District Legal Services Authorities are confronted with acute infrastructure challenge, shortage of staffs, and insufficient budgetary allocation for promoting legal awareness campaign.
- ❖ CWCs are lacked with professionals like trained counselor, psychologists to assist committee to deal the Children of Special Needs.
- ❖ There is a huge gap in knowledge and awareness about juveniles in conflict with law, and the legal provisions governing them. This includes the limited knowledge regarding provisions of the JJ Act amongst the investigating authorities, lack of clarity on the 'place of safety'.
- ❖ Reinforcing education to the child labour is a challenging task. Children who are rescued from the situation of labour are either 'never school going children' or they are 'dropout children' or 'first generation learner'. Therefore, it is difficult to bring such children back to school due to their de-motivation and insensitivity of parents towards education of children.
- ❖ Low literacy and lack of importance of education in the life of a child by parents is the major challenge to enrich the ethos of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
- ❖ There are many instances where orders/ direction issued by the Child Welfare Committees are not complied by the Child Care Institutions to create confusion and negative perception among people on the authority of CWC.
- ❖ The probability to prosecute the errant employer of child labour is very little due to absence of cooperation from the parents and community to substantiate evidence.
- ❖ Absence of shared understanding of children laws especially the interconnectivity between Juvenile Justice Act and other legislations like Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulations) Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act etc among the key stakeholders creates challenges for the effective implementation of laws.

- ❖ Lack of required numbers staffs at the police stations makes difficult to exclusively use Child Welfare Officers of SJPU to deal only children cases. More often Police officers of SJPU are deployed to address law and order situation or maoist menace.
- ❖ Sexual offence against girl children by the Maoist/ Naxalite groups is rampant in this region, but many of the cases go unreported due to fear and threat.
- ❖ The practical challenge before police to ensure timely recording of statements before magistrate u/s 164 of Cr PC and medical examination of victim particularly the cases related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences due to lack of support from court and the medical officers.
- ❖ CWC does not have resources at its dispensation to cover any costs incurred by children presented before them.
- ❖ Universal retention for completion of elementary education as envisaged by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 is a major challenge at the tribal pockets due to lack of critical sensitization among parents and communities towards child education.
- ❖ Girl children studying at SC & ST Residential Schools are at high risk for sexual abuse either due to unsafe school environment or negligence of school staffs.
- ❖ The presence of District Child Protection Units is underestimated by other officials of district administration as staffs appointed at DCPU are contractual. Many times communication made by DCPO relating the issues of children are not seriously viewed or expediently taken up by the officials of other line departments like police, social welfare, labour, legal services authority either due to sheer ego of being permanent government staffs or their lack of understating about critical roles of DCPUs to strengthen child protection structure at the district level.
- ❖ Lack of overall infrastructure, absence of trained human resources, inadequate financial grants are the major concern for CCIs to provide quality child care services.
- ❖ District Labour Offices are lacked with proper infrastructure facilities (i.e vehicle, IEC materials, Training Learning Materials) to create mass sensitization and social mobilization against child labour.

- ❖ Poverty, Illiteracy and Traditional Social Practices has enormously impacted to build negative behavioral attitude and mindset among the community which detriment child rights sensitization process.
- ❖ Many of the officers who are at the helm of child affairs like Child Marriage Prohibition Officer, District Child Protection Officers, District Labour Officers, and Education Officers do not have law education or they are not adequately sensitized about law, legal system and legal process to facilitate legal intervention in the event of child rights violation.
- ❖ In majority of the schools, legal education programme is not held to orient school students about child rights, and its protection mechanisms. And where legal education programmes are held, they are either unstructured or improper to help students to gain sustainable knowledge on child rights education.
- ❖ Compensation dueable under the Victim Compensation Scheme to the survivors of child sexual offences is invariably delayed due to non-availability of adequate funds at the hands of the District Legal Services Authority at due time.

3.3.4. Orientation Programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012:

The Protection of Child from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 is one of the recently enacted legislations in our country to protect children from sexual violence. Though the Law has come into force from November 14, 2012, the implementation of the legislation requires the stakeholders' understanding the spirit behind the legislation and approaching the issues in an integrated manner. Though various measures have been taken to implement the law effectively, there were issues require intensive discussions and work out multidisciplinary approach to address the issues of prevention, prosecution and victim assistance, and social reintegration. In order to generate critical sensitization among the key stakeholders, the Centre for Child Rights organized one day orientation programme on POCSO Act in three batches on 19, 20 and 21 December 2015 at NLUO, Cuttack. The programme was participated by the officials from SJPU, DCPU, Medical Services and Special Public Prosecutors from 30 district of Odisha.

The programme was designed in such a manner enabling the participants to aware of the dimensions and problems of child sexual abuses and its inner connectivity with trafficking.

The participants were oriented on Law, policy and practices on trafficking in persons and child sexual abuses. The following resource persons were invited to handle the sessions

1. Dr. P.M. Nair, Former Director General of Police, Bihar. He served as Prime Investigator on the Research on Trafficking in Persons the study conducted by National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi. He has served with CRPF and familiarized with the problems and issues of migration and trafficking, and as Director General of Disaster Management at the National level. Because of his rich experiences as Police Officer in addressing the issues of Trafficking in person and migration that have been resulting in child sexual abuses and exploitation, he was considered as the appropriate resource person to handle the topics on Law, Policy and Practices and Trafficking in persons.
2. Dr. Mrinal Satish, Associate Professor of Law, Delhi University, New Delhi. He has rich experiences in policy issues on child sexual abuses. He was associated with Justice Varma Commission and good law teacher on law.
3. Ms. Nancy Vernocia Thomas, Programme Manager, Tulir –Centre for the prevention of Child sexual abuses, Chennai. The organization is pioneer in advocacy, community education including school based sensitization programme on child sexual abuses. Therefore, she was invited to share her organization’s experiences in addressing the issues of child sexual abuses.
4. Prof. P.V Kesava Rao, Professor of Law, NLUO. He is an expert in evidence Law and therefore he was invited to address the gathering on Evidence based issues and the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
5. Mr. S.Kannayiram, Senior Programme Coordinator, Centre for Child Rights, NLUO. He has handled the issues of inter-linkage between various legislations and the POCSO Act.

3.4. DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

3.4.1 Study and Documentation: Rapid assessment of status of implementation of various guidelines issued in last five years by the Department of Women and Child Development regarding juvenile justice/ ICPS was on the project agenda. In this regard, guidelines

amenable for study are collected, and action plan containing methodology, check list for field investigation and report framework has been developed.

3.4.2. Research: An action research to study implementation status of Juvenile Justice Law in Odisha is on underway. Three law students were placed as interns to undertake field research to gain practical knowledge on the working of the juvenile justice system in Odisha. Semi-structured questionnaire and interview schedule are administered to generate information about working of JJ institutions such as JJB, CWC, SJPU, DCPU, Children Homes, Observation Homes, and DLSA etc. Based on their field research, Centre for Child Rights has brought out a Brief Position Paper on the working of juvenile justice system in Odisha.

3.4.3 Draft Rules on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: The Centre for Child Rights has prepared the draft rules of the newly enacted Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The rules has been shared with government and other policy influencing institutions including Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Orissa High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Chairperson of Central Rule making Drafting Committee, Women and Child Development Department of Odisha Government to initiate dialogue and consultation for formulating central rules and Odisha State rules as well.

3.4.4. The Centre for Child Rights has received support from Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) to undertake a research on Exploring Changing Dynamics of Children's Laws in India in Post-Liberalization. This research is based on the broad premises that the international development in the field of child rights in the post-liberalization era has influenced India to bring reforms in children's laws and policies in the right-based perspective but no longitudinal research is made to document and critically evaluate the impact of new legal, policy and institutional regime on the changing situation of children of our country. Therefore this research would attempt to explore the following in order to unravel changing dynamics of children's laws in India in the aftermath of adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by UN General Assembly on 18th November 1989 i.e. the period when liberalization of India's economy was about to begin.

- a) Changing perception of law, legal system and justice delivery towards rights of children.
- b) Changing trend of child rights practice
- c) Pattern of changes in the life situation of children
- d) Gaps and challenges in the implementation of laws
- e) Advocacy agenda to strengthen law, policy and practice relating to children's rights.