



CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS (CCR) NEWSLETTER NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

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CONTENTS

Inauguration of Centre for Child Rights
Programmes of Centre for Child Rights
Features/ Articles
Law & Policy Updates
Children issues in Media
Forthcoming Programmes

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NLUO Odisha is an exciting new institution and boasts of a young, highly qualified, and dynamic faculty engaged in conducting research that is both cutting-edge and socially relevant. The Centre for Child Rights embodies this spirit optimally. It is engaged in several activities, including empirical research on juvenile justice institutions; documenting case laws on children's rights; preparing a database of juvenile justice institutions; conducting capacity building exercises, and so on.

Many of these activities are being undertaken under the aegis of the "Effective Implementation of Children's Rights" Project conducted in conjunction with UNICEF, a collaboration we are particularly proud of. I am sure that NLUO and CCR will scale remarkable heights in conducting meaningful research and other activities for the benefit of society, particularly its most marginalized sections. I am also certain that this newsletter will go a long way in disseminating information about the Centre's activities. I wish the team all the very best.

Centre for Child Rights (CCR) is pleased to release its first newsletter to inform our readers, all key stakeholders of child rights and persons who have contributed one way or other for the successful endeavors of the centre about major events of the CCR in recent period, law and policy updates in the field of children's rights, media highlights on children issues, and situational analysis of child development indicators for the State of Odisha. This newsletter is a medium through which CCR would like to disseminate outcomes and impact its activities to influence child rights' policy and practice in larger domain.

INAGURAION OF CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

The idea of the National Law University Odisha behind establishing CCR was to strengthen teaching, research and advocacy on children's issues with a view to strengthen, protect and promote child rights in India. The guiding philosophy of the CCR is Ensuring Rights for Children as contemplated in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The vision of the CCR is to ensure justice to children and promote effective implementation of children's laws in the State of Odisha. The mission of the centre is to support and strengthen child protection structure by leveraging knowledge change and policy reforms at the various levels of institutional governance to make juvenile justice system to be more accountable, efficient and effective for protecting and promoting child rights. Research and documentation of implementation of children's laws, Networking and alliance building, capacity building training for various stakeholders of child protection structure, clinical legal education on child rights in law curriculum, evidence based advocacy, and policy dialogues etc are the major strategies being adopted by the CCR to accomplish its child rights programmes.

The activity calendar of the Centre for the Child Rights for the year 2015 has been formulated through extensive consultation with United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF, Odisha) with whom NLU Odisha has entered into a partnership for a period of three years (2015-17) for a project on *Effective Implementation of Children's Laws in Odisha*. CCR began its journey with its formal inauguration on 12th April 2015 in the benign hands of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, Acting Chief Justice, Orissa High Court with august presence of a galaxy judges, legal luminaries, judicial officers, academia, senior bureaucrats, representatives from UNICEF and NGOs.

Centre for Child Rights has undertaken a number of programmes for the research and documentation on the juvenile justice system in Odisha, capacity building of different stakeholders of child protection structures, and for the introduction of clinical legal education on child rights and juvenile justice in the NLUO curriculum. Training programmes have been designed and scheduled for the Presiding Officers of the Juvenile Justice Boards, and for the Legal cum Probation Officers appointed under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for the State of Odisha.



CCR inauguration by Justice .Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court and Visitor of NLUO with Justice pradip Kumar Mohanthy, Justice .Sanju Panda, Yumi Bae, Chief Field Officer UNICEF and Mr. Saswath Mishra IAS

PROGRAMMES OF CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Orientation programme for the presiding officers of JJB in Odisha

The technical sessions was chaired by Prof (Dr.) B.B. Pande, who was accompanied by Ms.MaharukhAdenwalla and Mr.RakeshSenger. The first session involved deliberations on the problems in the procedure followed by the juvenile justice board and innovative disposition options available. The first session includes, the psychological age of children should be considered when the crimes are committed by children between the ages of 16 and 18; the apprehension of the effect of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014 and on the composite nature of the Juvenile Justice Board. In the second technical session, the moderator talked about Juvenile Justice Board being a unique opportunity for magistrates to work on varied cases which they would not be able to do in their normal course of work. Emphasis was laid on the importance of social workers in the Juvenile justice board in providing care and protection for children and also to remind magistrates of the difference in dealing with juveniles. The issues raised and deliberated upon were: reformation and rehabilitation must be the main objective; the child must be positively impacted by the sessions conducted by juvenile Justice Board;. emphasis on the point that the present system is not lenient but age appropriate. Need for change in public opinion about the same. The most important aspect is expediency in handling cases, need for pressurizing police to file charge sheets more expediently. Children must not be forced to plead guilty. Communication of progress to the child is a necessary measure.



Orientation programme for the judicial members of JJB

Orientation programme for legal cum probation officer held on 27 - 28th May, 2015

The programme has had the gracious presence of Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Odisha, and Mrs. Aswathy. S, IAS Director Social Welfare cum Additional Secretary to Government, Women & Child Development Department Government of Odisha, and Ms.Yumi Bae, Chief Field Office, UNICEF Odisha. The entire programme consisted of eight sessions such as: understanding UNCRC and the Best interest principles; basic theoretical understanding of JJ Act and other legislation; understanding the role of LPO in case management; probation Services; probation as a viable alternative care; probation Supervision and Follow-up; child victim of crime & Role of LPOs and model Social Inquiry Report. LPOs raised some issues such as: They were/are sometimes not being given proper recognition; lack of proper cooperation from the police department; In the absence of role clarity they face problems in handling and follow-up of cases pending with JJB; ambiguity in the powers and functions between the Probation Officers under the Probation of Offenders Act,1958 (They under the administrative control of the Prison Department) and Legal-cum-Probation Officers under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).



Orientation programme for Legal cum Probation Officers

Orientation programme for the members of JJB (social workers) in two batches held 31st July and 1st August, 2015.

The technical sessions was chaired by Sasikanth Mishra, Member Secretary,OSLSA, Adv. S.S. Das, High Court of Odisha, Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Odisha, Mr.Ramakrishna Das, Assistant Professor, NLU Odisha, Mr. S. Kannayiram, Senior Programme Coordinator, Centre for Child Rights, NLUO and Mr. Pramoda Kishor Acharya, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Child Rights, NLUO. Broadly the programme was classified into two viz; understanding juvenile justice mechanism and enhancing Professional competency. The pre lunch session discussed various issues such as responsibilities of social worker, time bound dispositions; accountabilities of social worker and application of international standards and inconformity to law and justice.

The second session was about the practical aspects of writing of disposal orders, recording of witness and bail orders. Besides the members also expressed their challenges and suggestions.



Orientation programme for non judicial members of JJB

Summary of recommendations the Supreme Court Committee on Effective Implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000

Ramakrishna Das. P.R

The effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 (JJA) is a matter of concern to the Supreme Court and a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Hon'ble justice Mr. *Madan.B.Lokur* in August, 2013. The committee held a review meeting with the state level Juvenile Justice Committee of the High Courts on 22nd February, 2014. The Round Table Conference identified four major themes such as:

- a. Challenges and solutions for the effective functioning of Juvenile justice Board and Child Welfare Committees
- b. Challenges and solutions for the effective management of Homes
- c. Challenges and solutions for the effective provision of legal services to children
- d. Short Term and Long Term Goals

Challenges and solutions for the effective functioning of Juvenile justice Board and Child Welfare Committees

Some of the major challenges and solutions with respect to Juvenile justice Boards are :

- a. Problems in Selection and appointments: Lack of transparency in selection.
Solutions: selection committee should be constituted in every state as per the rules. Advertisement should be given in the local and national print media. Social work members should be included from the locality in which JJB is functioning. No political appointments and it should be on the basis of merit.
- b. High pendency of cases: Cases before the JJB is pending due which juveniles are not traceable once sent on bail, delay in age determination, lengthy cross examinations, high case loads in some district, social investigation reports are not being submitted on time etc.

¹Assistant Professor of Law, NLUO and Faculty Co-ordinator for Centre for Child Rights

Solutions: The Act allows the creation of one or more JJBs and this must be done in districts with a high case load. *Bal Lok Adalats* should be held on a quarterly basis to dispose petty cases. Additional Pos must be recruited and attached to homes/JJBs to expedite Social Investigation Reports. JJB should categories the trivial offences and shall dispose of expeditiously where allegations are unfounded after due interaction with the child and other stake holder.

- c. **Infrastructural concerns and deficiencies:** there is lack of adequate number of observation homes and special homes. Some inappropriate cases JJB is granting bail to juveniles due to inadequacy of observation homes

Solutions: observation homes and special homes should be established in every district, with facilities to accommodate boys and girls. Alternative place of safety should be set up in every district for easy accessibility of justice. Increase in monthly allowance provided for maintenance of JJBs.

- d. **Need for trained personnel with relevant skill:** lack of skilled probation officers, professional counsellors, child psychiatrists

Solutions: Every district should have a maximum of three legal cum probation officers on the basis of geographical spread and child population of the district. Need for dedicated cadre of ICPS staff. DCPU social workers must be available at JJBs to provide counseling, etc. Support of local NGOs must be mobilised. Clinical psychologist should be appointed and available at the observation home and special homes and his service should be from the time presentation of child to the conclusion.

- e. **Lack of monitoring mechanisms for JJBs:** No system of performance appraisal to assess the performance or review of the functioning of JJB member. There is also an absence of focus on the quality of disposal.

Solutions:- Performance appraisal should be done by District and sessions judge. Members appointed have no accountability under the JJ Act. Hence, there is a need for review of the functioning of JJB members by the State Governments on periodical basis either through selection committee or the principle magistrate.

- f. **Rehabilitation and reform of child in conflict with the law:** Lack of sufficient emphasis on rehabilitation and reform due to failure to prepare individual care plan for each individual, employing adequate skills and trained human resources.

Solutions: Need to focus on non-institutional forms of rehabilitation and avoid overreliance on institutional forms of care. High Court could seek monthly support on rehabilitation outcomes for juveniles entering the systems.

- g. **Assessment of needs:** Absence of an assessment and evaluation of the needs of juveniles

Solutions: Formation of Juvenile Assessment Centre in same model being followed in Mumbai. Further, Juvenile Guidance Centre should be established with the objective of screening and diagnosing the assessing the personality of the children. SIR format has to be formulated.

- h. **Working methods and procedural delays:** granting of Bail is not in compliance with JJ Act. JJB members not attending proceedings regularly. There is no proper maintenance and consignment of files. Probation officers hold additional charges and this causes delay in submissions of reports. Delay in serving summons. No regular special public prosecutor. Social investigation report is not exhaustive.

Solutions: Bail should be the rule and nature and gravity of offence should not be considered while granting bail. Regular presence of members should be ensured. The staff should be properly trained for maintaining case files. State government should appoint exclusive APPs for the JJBs and Special Public Prosecutor for every JJB to help the board in speedy adjudication. Besides, the state government should appoint exclusive PIOs for JJBs. The involvement of the NGOs can be sought to obtain the SIR and individual care Plan of juveniles. Standard form for SIR is much required for maintaining the standard.

- I. **Role of police:** Police officials are not dedicated and constant violations of child rights by the police. **Solutions:** JJB must invoke accountability of police u/s 13(a) and (b). periodical training is the need of the hour. List of designated officers/members should be displayed on the website of the Police

Department/ Ministry of Home Affairs, also at every concerned Police station. Training should be imparted to sensitize them about their role under the Act.

Some of the major challenges and solutions with respect to Child Welfare Committee are:

- a. **Problems in Selection and appointments:** Lack of transparency in selection.
Solutions: Selection committee should be constituted in accordance with the JJ model Rules. Selection committee should consult civil society groups for CWC appointments. Advertisement should be given in the local and national print media. Person who runs homes for children should be removed and disqualified from candidature ship. CWC members shall not appoint from NGOs or families which runs shelter homes. No political appointments and it should be on the basis of merit.
- b. **Inadequate resources and infrastructure:** It lacks basic infrastructural support such as separate office space, computer systems, furnishings, travel allowance, secretarial support, etc.
Solutions: State should provide adequate infrastructural facilities to ensure smooth functioning of CWCs. Child friendly environment should be created. Logistics support should be provided. Trained staff as per JJ rules such as counselor, probation officer, peon, data entry operator should be employed. Dedicated land lines should be provided to the CWC members. Government should adequately release funds for the payment of honorarium. CWCs must be sanctioned a reasonable amount of money from the JJ fund. Training and orienting DCPUs to support CWCs, JJBS, and SJPU as per the job description. Appointment of one PO in every CWCs must be implemented. In case the CWC has a heavy case load, the state government can appointment one full time Protection officer to the committee. Transport facilities should be provided to CWCs. DCPU/police should help CWC reach places of high vulnerability that are not easily accessible. States needs to facilitate the establishment of a larger number of shelters for interim care and protection.
- c. **Convergence and coordination:** No coordination between JJB and CWC, Law enforcement authorities and other stake holders. JJBs, DCPU and CWCs sitting in different places. Lack of coordination between the members of CWC and NGOs.
Solutions: Need to institutionalize mechanisms for regular interactions between the two statutory bodies such as at quarterly District Advisory Committee Meetings. Place of sitting of CWCs and child care facilities could be preferably be under one roof. In order to avoid disagreements proper demarcation of roles between the members should be laid down. Police need to work collectively with CWCs to protect the interest of Child in need of Care and Protection. There is a need for clarifying the role of DCPUs and their accountability to the CWCs.
- d. **Working methods and procedural delays:** Irregular sittings and sittings for very limited hours leading to poor disposals. Poor documentation of cases. Recording of attendance of CWC members is not followed. Delay in submission of SIR by the PO.
Solutions: CWC should sit on full time basis five times a week where there is a high case load to ensure early disposal of cases. Additional financial allotment must also be made to facilitate additional sittings. Working hours of CWC should be 10.00 am to 05.00 pm. Proper training to staff for documentation of cases. Installation of biometrics system will ensure the attendance. Juvenile welfare fund and Victim compensation fund to be made available and guidelines prescribed for disbursement of the same to child victims. The number of Pos should be on the basis of case loads so that they can submit SIR on time. More effective coordination between CWCs and other stakeholders like Child Lines, Police Labour Departments, and NGOs within the state for the rescue operations of children who are being exploited is an immediate necessity.
- e. **Information Gap:** Non-availability of Resource Directory which hampers networking with the existing service to promote the interest of ht children presented before CWCs. Lack of data on children in need of care and protection. Information about missing children, child victims of crimes is not shared by police with the CWC. Lack of uniformity in systems to record and manage data, inadequate data and documentation.

Solutions: Each district should ascertain that there is a Comprehensive Resource Directory is prepared and is made available to CWC. It should have contain the detailed information of hospitals, schools, nursing homes, govt departments, police stations etc so that they can readily contacted for the support of children. Police must be held responsible to share information's pertaining to missing children and child victims. Tracking system is necessary at the village level and ward level and several points of Contact should be established for speedy information flow and response. Centre and state should ensure that there is uniformity in data collection and have systems in place for updating data and documentation.

- f. **Restoration of Child in need of Care and Protection:** Delay in restoration of children due to late submission of Pos report. Poor follow-up of children placed in CCHs or repatriated to families. Slow pace of inter-country and inter-state repatriation.

Solutions: Capacities of probation officers should be built. Need to mobilize support from DCPUs, District Inspection Committee and involve Panchayat/block/village level Child Protection Committee to improve follow-up. Ministry of External Affairs should liaise with other countries and finalize such repatriation agreements which would improve coordination and expedite repatriation. States should through holding dialogues work out inter-state protocols to expedite repatriation.

- g. **Rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection:** There is no monitoring of rehabilitation outcomes after children have been resorted. Shortage of homes and hence inability to find homes for children with special needs. JJBs fail to refer cases to CWCs for further rehabilitation and support. Non institutional care like adoption, foster-care, and sponsorship not available.

Solutions: CWC to ascertain proper rehabilitation through follow-up action after the restoration program. Vocational training should be instituted for children beyond 14 years of age to make them independent once they reach majority. Special homes for disabled and mentally challenged children based on needs to be established by government. Channel of communication between JJBs with CWCs must be open and on disposal of cases, JJBs must be advised to refer them to the CWCs for their rehabilitations and follow-up. Non institutional care like adoption, foster-care, and sponsorship have to be strengthened and promoted.

- h. **Monitoring of CWCs :** At present no proper monitoring mechanism exists and this affects the level of functioning of various CWCs. Lack of review, guidance and administrative supervisions of CWC cases.

Solutions: There should be a mechanism in place to monitor the functioning of CWCs. JJ committee should consider monitoring the working of CWCs. Quarterly reviews must be undertaken by an appropriate authority. CWCs should have a grievance redressal mechanism for presenting their problems and seeking guidance in difficult cases.

Some of the challenges and solutions for the effective management of Homes

- a. **Rights and entitled services for children living in homes:** Rampant failure to provide educational services in homes leading to violation of the Right to Education Act. Lack of entertainment leads to destruction of property and other negative behaviors. No specific services for differently abled children.

Solution: Counseling should be given to children to create interest towards education. Amendment of RTE Act to include 'children in homes'. Technical institutions should be connected to homes for vocational training. Indoor and out door games and television may be provided. Link homes with National Health Mission. Full Time Para medical staff must be employed in the homes. Translators can be appointed through resource centre.

- b. **Condition within homes:** Absence of age wise classification system. Environment within the homes is not child friendly. Observation homes are overcrowded.

Solutions: Age wise classification is mandatory. Up gradation of environment as per ICPS guidelines and possible consultation with experts to promote child friendly environment. Child protection policy for the homes is essential. Necessary counseling to be given for the escaped children.

- c. **Infrastructure:** Enough space is not available for children in Homes. Lack of shelter homes.

Solutions: Reduce the number of children in homes through deinstitutionalization and application of the

principle of institutionalization as measure of last resort. Government needs to construct new homes in all districts. Use of video conferencing must become the norm to interact with children in conflict with the law housed in distant homes.

- d. Rehabilitation: Need of aftercare programme.
Solutions: After care programmes may be done through ICPS. A provision for employment as well as follow up study of the children after he/she exits the institution should be in place. Alternative care plan for children in orphanages should be encouraged.
- e. Registration of Homes
Solutions: Registration and fit institution approval should be at district level. Minimum standards for registration should be prescribed. Formation of registration authority as in UK and Ireland and other countries. Unrecognized homes to be prohibited from functioning unless approved under some other department.
- f. Monitoring and Funding: Poor monitoring and evaluation mechanism and inadequacy of funds.
Solutions: CCTVs may be installed in all homes for this purpose. All homes should be inspected at least once in a year. Public must be able to contribute the JJ fund with tax exemption incentives. Allocation for sponsorship or foster care should be enhanced.

Challenges and solutions for the effective provision of legal services to children

- a. Lack of access to legal aid: Legal services not made available to the child from the time of apprehension. Legal aid lawyers of JJBs/ CWCs are not available in child care homes.
Solutions: Establishment of legal services clinics specifically for children. Engage para legal volunteers from law schools, NGOs etc in observation homes and police stations. Legal service cell should be set up in each JJB. Every SJPU who comes across a juvenile in conflict with law must intimate the nearest legal services institution. The directions in the *Bachpan Bachao Antholan v. Union of India* with respect to the role of para legal services should be complied.
- b. Functional Challenges: The delay in allocation of funds for JJBs panel lawyers affects their functioning. Existence of non uniform legal services fee structure across the country.
Solutions: separate funds should be sanctioned and timely payment of honorariums to panel lawyers. State Legal Services Authority should workout and implements a uniform legal service fee structure. Adequate budgetary support to ensure the utilization of para legal volunteers.
- c. Lack of legal awareness: Families and children are not informed about free legal aid. The children who are the victims of sexual assault or other criminal act suffer physically, mentally and emotionally.
Solutions: “child rights” should be included in the school curriculum of all school to enable children to know their rights. The officers of SJPU must be given proper training in this respect. Mobile awareness campaign, legal literacy posters, display boards at police stations, use of mass media for effective legal awareness. Legal training on relevant Acts, i.e. JJ Act, POCSO, LSA etc

CHILD RIGHTS IN INDIA – MAKING IT A REALITY

Dr. A. Aruna Sri Lakshmi

‘Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give’² but mankind has never been kind to the child. Children occupy an important place in the development of nation and the fact cannot be underestimated. The life cycle of a child begins with human rights violation, foeticide and if the child survives it is subject to infanticide, then to neglect, if it survives even then, the child is exposed to exploitation resulting in child labour, human trafficking and child abuse.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959 pledged for the ‘best interest of the child’ and the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, 1989 represents a turning point in the International Movement on behalf of Child Rights. These rights are summarized as three Ps – Provision, Protection and Participation.³

Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

The Convention recognised Children's basic human rights which include civil, economic, social, cultural and political rights. They are grouped into the following classes –

- *Right to Survival* – This includes the right to life, the highest attainable standard of health and nutrition, and adequate standards of living and it also includes the right to name and nationality.
- *Right to Protection* – This includes freedom from all kinds of exploitation, abuse inhuman or degrading treatment and neglect, including the right to special protection in situation of emergency and armed conflicts.
- *Right to Development* – This right includes the right to education, support for early childhood development, and care, social security and the right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities.
- *Right to Participation* – This includes respect for the views of the child, freedom of expression, access to appropriate information and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Thus, the Convention states that the rights shall be extended to all children without discrimination of any kind.

Thus, there is a policy shift from a welfare-based approach to rights-based approach, in line with UNCRC. The policy has identified survival, health, nutrition, education, development, protection and participation as the undeniable rights of every child and declared as the key priority areas.

India, home to one fifth of the world's children, ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1992. Since then, swift economic growth, averaging 4.5 per cent annually between 1990 and 2007, has lifted millions out of poverty and combined with government action to improve trends in child survival and development. According to national sources, the national under-five mortality rate fell sharply from 117 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 72 in 2007. Primary school attendance rates for girls 6–10 years old climbed from 61 to 81 per cent over the same period, helping lift the gender parity rate for primary education from 0.82% to 0.96%.

Over the last few years, the government has taken a number of initiatives related to children. The most significant one has been the setting up of a full-fledged Ministry of Women and Child Development as against the Department of Women and Development that used to function as part of the Human Resource Development Ministry. Among the policy and law initiatives that were undertaken was the formulation of the National Charter for Children 2003, the National Plan of Action for Children 2005, and implementation of the National Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2006, which provided for the power to uphold child rights and take suo moto cognizance of child rights violation. The passing of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and the setting up child friendly juvenile justice system in recognition of the vulnerabilities of children is a move to protect the child rights. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000 was amended in 2006 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Bill, 2014 is awaiting the assent of the President. The initiative to make right to education as a fundamental right under Article 21-A of the Constitution and enacting the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 are laudable. The amendment effected to the present law on child marriage in 2006 has been a welcome measure protecting children. But a matter of grave concern is the fact that in India the forces of liberalization and market economy are pushing more and more children into work. Children are employed in many more sectors and industries. And since the fallacious distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous occupations continue to exist in law, their employment is not illegal. It is observed that an estimated 150 million worldwide are engaged in child labour.¹ India continues to have a declaration on Article 32 of the UNCRC, and this has been commented upon by the UN committee on the rights of the child in their concluding observations.² However, the Cabinet, in 2015, has approved the proposal to introduce amendments in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which has been criticized by the social activists.³

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² Declaration of the Rights of the child, 1924

³ Asha Bajpai, Child Rights in India, Oxford University Press, p 16 (2006)

⁴ UNICEF Data, 2014.

Concerted efforts are yielding results

Thus, the Government of India, its allies and a multitude of non-governmental organizations have made firm efforts to reduce child deaths, increase access to health care and get children into primary school. The country is also making progress towards identifying child protection violations and creating legal means of redress. It is beginning to address material discrepancies by targeting essential services towards marginalized groups like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes (the indigenous peoples, or Adivasis) and others who suffer entrenched discrimination. In addition, a wide-ranging plan called the Integrated Child Protection Scheme has been set up to safeguard vulnerable children. Correspondingly, non-governmental organizations and voluntary groups have for decades been among the nation's most energetic advocates for child rights. Young people are showing the way to overcoming some of the key impediments to fulfilling child rights. In 1990, child laborers involved with the Concerned for Working Children organization launched their own association.

Further Progress to be made

In spite of this marked progress, many challenges for realizing child rights in India remain to be acted upon. Partly because of its enormity, India experiences child rights deprivations in larger numbers than any other country. As per the UN reports, each year a million newborns die during the first month of life; another million die between 29 days and five years. Almost 55 million children under five are malnourished for their age. In excess of 20 million children of primary school age are not attending school. More than 40 per cent of the population currently lives on less than \$1.25 per day, 128 million people have no access to better-quality drinking-water sources, and a stunning 665 million defecate in the open. Rising incomes have been accompanied by widening discrepancies in income, education, access to health care and development outcomes.

Challenges ahead

Widespread and entrenched exploitation, gender discrimination, caste bias and other social problems in India will not be overcome overnight. The continued participation of youth and leadership is crucial to achieving continued human progress in India during the years to come. The Government and all other stakeholders should join hands and work collectively towards fulfilling child rights, making it a reality for, we cannot afford to lose this valuable asset- the children.

Origin and Development of Juvenile Justice
Mr.S.Kannayiram, & Mr. Pramoda Kishore Acharya*

Introduction

It would be hard to improve upon the sense of values which made ancient India so great. Our old sages judged the greatness of a state not by the extent of its empire or by the size of its wealth, but by the degree of righteousness and justice which marked the public administration and the private lives of citizens (N.A.Palkiwala 1983.38)

Ancient India's justice delivery was based on "Dharma" and the concept of Dharma is the part of heritage. Righteousness and justice are the inherent in the concept, and dharma is the combinations of law, morality, duty and justice. All these components are inter-related and inseparable. But over a period of time and the invasion of Moguls, Arabians, English people and the like have changed the concept of justice delivery based on their own faiths and conveniences. But, so far as the justice delivery to children has not been viewed as separate entity till the British invaded and captured the power. A proper justice delivery mechanism was evolved by British based on their experiences with justice delivery. However, the concept of Juvenile Justice was really emerged from United States.

Status of Children in India, 2005, p. 167, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi. (CRC/C/15/Add. 228 30 Jan, 2005)

*Proposed amendments to Child Labour Act slammed, The Hindu, Vellore, May 17, 2015. www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/proposed-amendments-to-child-labour-act-slammed/article7216114.ece

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Chicago experience and the origin of Juvenile Court

The concept of juvenile justice was mooted by Thomas Eddy who came up with the idea that the children in danger of growing up to be paupers and criminals could be taken away from their parents (even though they had not committed any offence) and placed in institutions and would be trained in hard-working, God-fearing and law-abiding citizen (Thomas Eddy, 1800). This was favoured by many of the prominent and powerful people in Illinois State and especially in Chicago. The concept of Thomas Eddy was a preventive strategy and the same had paved the way for the establishment of Juvenile Court in Chicago.

According to the idea of formulating the Juvenile Court, children in difficult circumstances or in the status of vulnerabilities could be brought to the juvenile court where their troubles or problems could be diagnosed and the services that they required could be provided either by the juvenile court or obtained from other services. Therefore, the juvenile court or not the junior criminal court but the central processing unit of the issues of children in difficult circumstances and functioned as a social welfare agency. The first House of Refugees was established in New York.

Origin and development of juvenile justice movement.

During 1840, Chicago was a village with 50,000 populations and the same emerged as a metropolis of 1.5 million people in 1890. During that time, 70% of the population were the migrants and were born in foreign countries. The rest of them were the first generation Americans whose parents had been born in abroad. In the city, a few percentages of people were in the city for several generations and who could be viewed as “natives” and they controlled the politics and business establishments. Because of their rich and power they viewed themselves as superior to the rest of the people and considered as highly evolved than the majority who were viewed as biologically inferior. The inferiority complex coupled with the disparities and discrimination. The caustic factors were classified as weak and criminal parents, the manifold temptations of the streets and the peculiar weakness of the juvenile’s moral natures.

Though the men formulated the juvenile institution, the juvenile court movement was from the women in Chicago who were the wives of these rich and politically and economically powerful and controlling the business establishments. The conventional and conservative theories of women to look after the house chores and the men should engage in economic activities was not adopted in the cases of the wives of these elite people, as their houses were filled with servants to attend many household activities and the women who were well educated, enthusiastic and full of energy viewed that they could return something to the society through public service. They started to work with the children in Chicago slums directly. They advocated with the city council and the state legislature on the need for policy changes in handling juvenile offenders. The concept of taking children in vulnerabilities and brought them before the court system was stalled by O’Council which declared the practice as illegal.

The judges believed that the system of removing children from the weak and criminal parents and also from the manifold temptations of streets. Julia Lathrop who was later the Chief of Children’s Bureau analyzed the children in juvenile institutions prior to the establishment of juvenile court, found that among the 332 juveniles in the age group of 6-16, there were 320 children were brought up for disorderly behaviours from trivial to fairly serious. Further about one third of them were pardoned by the Mayor who came as repeaters because they were sent back to the same environments. Therefore, handling juveniles indulging in crime separately was advocated. His advocacy for the exclusive juvenile court and the women’s active propagation for policy changes ended with the recommendation of the formation of a separate court for juveniles at the annual meetings of the Illinois Conference of Charities. The Illinois Legislature passed unanimously on January 1, 1899, the formation of

juvenile court and the same was given effect six months later.

The Illinois legislature raised the age of criminal responsibility as 16 in 1899, and after eight years the age was fixed 17 for boys and 18 for girls and hence the persons less than the prescribed age could not be charged for criminal actions as the view was that the action could not consist of *actus rea* (the behavior itself) and *mens rea* (the criminal intent). In the English common law the criminal responsibility was less than 7 years of age. The new juvenile court has jurisdiction over youth for an offence committed. Further the Illinois legislatures brought the children in vulnerable situations and in difficult circumstances without adult supports and supervision or the adult are unfit to handle children etc., into the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Juvenile Justice in India

The ancient justice system did not have exclusive system of handling children. But, the cultural and ethical consideration of handling children was left to the families and these families were no-entry zone for other. The invasion of British and their justice administration in England was reflected in juvenile justice movement and was mostly influenced by the systems prevailed in England. English Common law formed the shape in 1300 and was summarized by Sir William Blackstone in 1769. According to English Common law, no person under years was liable with criminal responsibility and those who in the category of 7-14 were presumed to lack responsibility; but prosecution could argue. In the case of those in the age group of 14-21 were considered or presumed as responsible but the defence can argue for no punishment. But, after 21 every one is responsible. This was the base and the same was little modification found in the Indian penal Code formulated in 1878. According to Section 82 of Indian Penal Code nothing is an offence if it is committed by a person less than 7 years of age, in the case of children in the age group of more than 7 and less than 12 years of age, it could be presumed that the person responsible for the action whose mental ability to understand the consequences of such actions.

Juvenile related legislations and juvenile justice

During 19th Century “Youthful Offenders” were kept in District and Central Prisons. As soon as the Reformatory School Act was enacted, the then Madras Provincial Government established the Reformatory School at Chengalpattu with the consent of the then Central Government on 15th October 1887 as notified in page 881 of Gazette number 487 dated 18th October 1887. The Reformatory School first of its kind in Asia was started with 20 Youthful Offenders transferred from the Central Prison, Chennai converting the then District Jail at Chengalpattu as Reformatory School.

The first Indian Jail Committee 1919-20 emphasized the need for separate treatment of youthful offenders. Following these recommendations Madras, Bombay and Bengal enacted Children Acts in 1920, 1922 and 1924 respectively. Though Tamil Nadu (the then Provincial Government of Madras) enacted the first children legislation in India, the first State that implemented the legislation was Maharashtra. The main objective of these Acts was to provide for custody, protection and treatment of young offenders and children in need of supports and guidance, and regulations. The provision of Section 562 of Criminal Code procedure (now Section 360) was further took the shape of evolving a probation system and in this context, a probation bill was drafted. However, the bill did not take the shape of a law and hence the provincial Governments initiated the enactment of Probation of Offenders Act. The Madras Province enacted the Probation of Offenders Act in 1936 and the same was in operation till it was replaced by the enactment of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. In Tamil Nadu the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 was come into force in 1962.

The Provinces of Madras, Bengal and Bombay have exclusive legislations to deal with children and youthful offenders. After independence, the subject came within the State list and many States undertook special legislation for children e.g., Hyderabad, Mysore, Saurashtra, West Bengal etc. The Government of India passed the Children Act, 1960 meant for the Union Territories which was further amended in 1978. The Central Act introduced some new features such as establishment of Child Welfare Boards for dealing with neglected children. During the year 1969 the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan enacted their Children Act. Thus the broad principle

that children and juveniles below certain age limit should not be dealt with by criminal.

The contemporary developments globally on justice delivery mechanisms has triggered the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Act in 1986 by Government of India and ensured the uniform legislations on handling children infringing criminal laws and the Children in difficult circumstances. The Act classified children as delinquent and neglected children and the age of upper limit was prescribed as 16 years in the case of boys and 18 years in the case of girls. The Act ensures the enquires of delinquent juveniles by the Juvenile Court as enshrined in Section 5 or by the Judicial Magistrate/Metropolitan Magistrate of First Class or Sub-Divisional Judicial magistrate or the District Magistrate till such time the Juvenile Court is constituted. Handling neglected children was entrusted to the Juvenile Welfare Board comprises of members from civil society and constituted as per Section 4 of the Act of 1986.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Children, 1989 was ratified by Government of India on December 11, 1992 and was instrumental in the enactment of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act in 2000 repealing the 1986 Act. The Act of 2000 was also further amended in 2006, 2011 and also in 2012. According to this Act, Delinquent juveniles have been nomenclature as juveniles in conflict with law and the neglected children as children in need of care and protection. This Act ensures that the juveniles shall be handled by Juvenile Justice Boards and Children in need of care and protection by the Child Welfare Committee. Both the adjudication agencies are form a bench of Magistrate and conferred the power by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on a Metropolitan/Judicial magistrate of the First Class.

Recent trend

Government of India has presented a bill in 2013 for replacing the Act of 2000 as there were cue and cry that there are alarming increases in the juvenile crimes.

Conclusion

The earlier movement of preventing children from conflicting with law has now taken the different dimension of punishing children for their action. But, those who view the juveniles committing cry is a cry for help from neglect, abuse and ill-treatment in home environments etc. Instead of adapting the punishment model, the concept of medical and social work model could be developed as advocated by Thomas Eddy.

Existing legal space and role of statutory institutions in addressing issue of child marriage

Mr. Pramoda Kishiore Acharya

Child marriage is longstanding issue in India. Legislation forbidding child marriage was put in place in India in pre-independence period with enactment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. Despite the existence of the Child Marriage Restraint Act which primarily focused on restraining the solemnization of marriage before legal age, child marriage remained unabated. Girls are disproportionately affected by child marriage as it causes increased risks of maternal and child mortality, low levels of education, and exposure to violence, isolation and confinement. As per the National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-06), it is estimated that 47.4% of women in the group of 20-24 were married before reaching the legal age of 18 years. In order to prevent child marriage, the central government brought into force a more stringent legislation namely the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 repealing the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 which prohibits child marriages rather than restraining them.

International Legal Framework:

Several international legal conventions outlaw child marriage. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) that India has ratified lays down in Article 23 (3) that 'no marriage shall be entered into without free and full consent of the intending spouses'. India has also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), several provisions of which are relevant to the issues of child marriage, including:

Article 3: The right to have best interests of the child as the primary consideration in all actions concerning that child;

Article-19: The right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of the parents, guardian or any other person.

Article 24: The right to health and access to health services to be protected from traditional practices;

Article 34: The right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; and

Article 36: The right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspect of the child's welfare.

In addition, India has ratified CEDAW, which provides in article 16 that 'state parties shall take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations.

Legal Framework in India:

Marriage in India is regulated under the personal laws. Hindu follows the Hindu Marriage Act, Muslims follow the Shariat law, Christians follow the Christian Marriage Act, and Parsis follows the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act. The personal laws uniformly lays down conditions of a valid marriage and also enumerate the consequences of violation of this rule, Under the Hindu Marriage Act, the Christian Marriage Act, Parsi Marriage Act and Divorce Act and the Special Marriage Act, one of the conditions of a valid marriage is that girl should have at least 18 years old and boy 21 years old. Child Marriage is void under the Special Marriage Act (section-24), the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (section 60 (1), and the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 (section 3).

In the year 1929, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929(CMRA) was enacted with a view to restraining solemnization of child marriage. The Act was subsequently amended in 1974 and 1978 in order to raise the age limit of the male and female persons for the purpose of marriage. The CMRA criminalizes the aiding and abetting of child marriage. The only remedy available under this law is to take criminal action against the accused. The law did not look at the issue of child marriage from a 'right perspective'. And law was circumspect in nature as under this law the girl cannot claim any relief (divorce, maintenance) other than filing case against her father, groom, the groom's family and others who are involved in conducting the marriage.

The current law governing child marriage in India is the Prohibition of Child Marriage, 2006 which was enacted to overcome the failure of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 to effectively deal with the issue. The PCMA overrides all provisions in Indian Personal Laws relating to child marriage, and defines a child as any male under the age of 21 years or any female under the age of 18 years. The offences under the PCMA are both cognizable and non-bailable. The Act allows child marriage to be made void at the option of the contracting party, who was a child at the time of the marriage up-to two years after obtaining adulthood, and maintenance to the female contracting party until her re-marriage. It has enhanced the punishment quantum for male adults marrying a child and for persons performing, abetting, promoting or attending a child marriage. The Act has the following punishment provisions:

- The violation of the order of injunction, stopping a child marriage, is punishable with 2 years' imprisonment and with a fine of Rupees One Lakh, or with both.
- Any adult male being above 18 years can be punished with simple imprisonment for 2 years and/or a fine to Rupees One Lakh, or both
- Parents and guardians can be punished with simple imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of up to Rupees One Lakh
- People who conduct, direct and abet a marriage can be punished with simple imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of up to Rupees One Lakh.

According to the Act, any person who was married as a child can file a petition within 2 years of the person

attaining the age of majority before the District Court asking the Court to annul the marriage. Upon the application made by the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer or by an informer having any information about a child marriage about to take place, the Judicial Magistrate First Class has the power to issue injunction order to prevent this marriage. If a child marriage takes place by disobeying the injunction such a marriage is void.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 along-with statutory provisions for Registration of Marriages and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 reinforce India's legal framework against child marriage. Other laws that can provide protection to a child bride include the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

The PCMA being the special law is having overriding effect over the personal laws as far as legal age of marriage is concerned. In a judgment Karnataka High Court ruled that PCMA has overriding effect over the provision of Muslims personal law where the marriage of a girl child is allowed once she attains puberty. Section 3 of PCMA would have overriding effect on the Hindu Marriage Act and the marriage of a minor child would not be valid but voidable and would become valid if within two years from the date of attaining 18 years in case of female and 21 years in case of male, a petition is not filed before the District Court u/s 3 (1) of the PCM Act for annulling the marriage.

Notwithstanding the enactment of improved legislation to prohibit child marriage, ambiguity still persists within the legal framework to favor child marriage. Legal confusion as to marital rape within prohibited child marriage remains confusing. Marital rape per se is not a crime in India, but the position with regard to children is confusing. The exception under 375 of IPC lays down that sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape, whereas a newly enacted progressive legislation the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 disallows any such sexual relationship and puts such crimes with marriages as an aggravated offence.

Child Marriage in Odisha:

The sources from which child marriage related data would be generated are National Family Health Survey (NFHS), District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS), and Census of India. As far as Odisha is concerned, the data from NFHS portrays an increasing trend of child marriage in rural Odisha. As per the NFHS-3 (2005-06) data, 37.2% women age 20-24 years were getting married before the age of 18 years. The latest round of DLHS (2007-08) presents slightly different data with the percentage of child brides being 37.5%. There is more child marriage in rural Odisha. As per DLHS (2007-08) data, 38.7% of currently married women in the age group of 20-24 years in rural areas and 29.2% in urban areas got married before 18 years of age. The highest prevalence rates, commonly measured by the percentage of women aged 20-24 years who have married before 18 years are found in south-western parts and tribal belts of Odisha. Malkangiri has the highest incidence of child marriage at 78.1% followed by Nabarangpur (72.5%), Koraput (62.1%) and Rayagada (58.3%). As per census-2001, out of the 7041155 of girl children of below 18 years of age in the State of Odisha, 90531 were married.

Statutory Institutions:

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 is the enabling legal framework to prevent and protect child marriage in India. Odisha government has framed Orissa Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules, 2009 in that extent. The Act envisages a critical role for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers to address the issue of child marriage through legal intervention in the court of law. In the event of the solemnization of any child marriage, the concerned Child Marriage Prohibition Officer may be approached who shall file petition before the District Court for annulling a child marriage, maintenance to the female contracting party until her remarriage, and/ or for the custody and maintenance of the children of the child. On any information about a child marriage about to take place, the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer shall make application to the Judicial Magistrate First Class to issue injunction order to prevent the marriage.

In addition to the legal remedies available under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the issue of child marriage can be invoked, redressed and protected through child protection mechanisms, legal service institution and Human Rights Institutions.

The Child Welfare Committees being created as the statutory institutions under the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2000 is the competent authority to deal the case relating to care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection. The question to be pondered whether a child victimized of child marriage does come under the category of 'Child in Need of Care and Protection' as defined u/s 2(d) of the JJ Act, 2000. In that light a recent judgment of the Madras High Court may be referred here wherein a full Bench of the High Court deciding the legal status of a marriage solemnized in contravention with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 if the minor girl expresses her desire not to go with her parents, the court may order her to be kept in a children home set up for children in need of care and protection under the provision of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2000. It is also noteworthy to mention that new juvenile law (Juvenile Justice Act, 2014) which is on anvil covers the child 'who is at imminent risk of marriage before attaining the age of marriage and whose parents, family members, guardian and other persons are likely to be responsible for solemnization of such marriage' under the category of children in need of care and protection.

Children are entitled for free legal services as per u/s 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act. The avenues available at the Legal Services Institutions can be explored and availed for accessing justice in the matter of child marriage cases.

The Human Rights Institutions including the Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Women Commission are the other statutory institutions to play critical role to influence law, policy and practice of child marriage. Among others, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been entrusted with powers and responsibilities to review the safeguards provided by law for the protection of child rights, recommend measures for effective implementation of law, spread child rights literacy to promote awareness of the legal safeguards available for children, inquire into complaints in the matter relating to deprivation and violation of child rights and non-implementation of law

Law and Policy Updates

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014: On April 22, 2015, the Union cabinet had approved the introduction of Amendment to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014. The proposed law, which would replace the existing Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, has defined and classified offences as petty, serious and heinous and prescribed different processes for each category. The proposed Act provides that in case a heinous crime has been committed by a person in the age group of 16-18 years, it will be first examined by the Juvenile Justice Board to assess whether crime has been committed by such person as a 'child' or as an 'adult'. The trial of the case will accordingly take place as a juvenile or as

an adult on the basis of assessment of the JJ Board. The new

educational institutions that include government school or government aided school or a private school or an institution offering education up-to primary or secondary or senior secondary level.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme: Launched on 22 January 2015 as a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The objectives of the scheme are: Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, Ensuring survival and protection of girl child, and Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

New Education Policy: Government of India has initiated the consultative process to formulate New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation, research aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science,

Technology, academics and industry.

legislation proposed to streamline adoption procedures for orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children. The new legislation proposed several rehabilitation and social integration measures. New offences including illegal adoption, corporal punishment in child care institutions, the use of children by militant groups, and offence against disable children are Incorporated in the proposed legislation. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on May 7, 2015.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill, 2014: The Bill has been approved by the Union Cabinet on April 14, 2015 with official amendment. The new legislation proposes complete prohibition of employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes except the family occupation and in an audio-visual entertainment industry which does not affect the school education of the child. The proposed legislation prescribes stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act. Offence of employing any child or adolescent in contravention of the Act by an employer has been made cognizable in the new law. Constitution of Child and Adolescent Labour Rehabilitation Fund for the rehabilitation of the

child or adolescent rescued has been incorporated in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2012

The Children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes (Reservation and Compulsory Displays of Seats by Educational Institutions) Bill, 2015: This has been introduced as a private member bill in the Rajya Sabha on April 24, 2015. The proposed law proposes reservation of seats for children belonging to scheduled castes and schedule tribes, and compulsory displays of seats reserved for them in educational institutions that include government school or government aided school or a private school or an institution offering education up-to primary or secondary or senior secondary level.

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Children Issue in Media

- A central government backed survey has revealed that in the six years since RTE Act, over 60 lakh children between ages 6 to 13 years remains unschooled in India. 49% of them are from SC/ST; 36% from OBC, 25% from Muslims. Furthermore, 77% unschooled children were from rural areas. (*TOI, 27th July, 2015*)
- UNICEF data shows 33% of the children in the state of Gujarat is underweight. (*The Hindu, 20th July*).
- 49 child labourers rescued in Ganjam and Gajapati district (*The Times of India, Bhubaneswar, Friday, 26 June 2015*)
- Mid Day Meal scheme needs revamp: A third party evaluation of the MDM in schools in Odisha revealed that 61% of the schools have kitchen cum store rooms while 59% of schools adhere to safety norms, only 48% schools are implementing the school health programme and most schools do not have contingency plan for mid day meals (*The Times of India, Bhubaneswar, Friday, 26 June 2015*)
- Minor girl raped twice at the short stay homes (*The Times of India, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, 17 June 2015*)
- Survey of Child Labourers on government agenda. (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Monday, 15 June 2015*)
- Baby sold by mother rescued (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Monday, 15 June 2015*)
- Task Force on Education to shape Vision 2020 formed (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Saturday, 13 June 2015*)
- Odisha government to launch Biju Bal Bikas Yojana to resettle homeless kids (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Thursday, 4 June 2015*)
- Under-age Marriage Rife in Odisha: There are 99.41 males and 1.02 crore females in the State who are currently married. Of them 28.26 lakh men got married before the age of 21 years while 28.86 lakhs females got married before the age of 18 years. (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Monday, 23 May 2015*)
- Odisha Government announced increase of Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students. (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Saturday, 23 May 2015*)
- Mother Tongue Education for Tribal Kids by July: Odisha Government set to roll out mother tongue based pre-school curriculum in Anganwadi Centres across 12 Tribal districts. (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, 19 May 2015*)
- Principal arrested for impregnating minor. (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, 20 May 2015*)
- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to ban employment of children under 14

years in all kinds of commercial enterprises. (The Hindu, 13th May, 2015)

- 15 children who were working in hotels and forced into begging were rescued by a joint team led by Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority. (*The Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, Saturday, 9 May 2015*)
- State fails to stop trafficking of girls, says CAG report: From 2009 to 2013 at least 8,246 minor girls have gone missing from the state, but only 36% have rescued (*The Times of India, Bhubaneswar, Sunday, 19 April 2015*), 11,000 girls in State are mothers before 15: Of the 59.09 girls below 15 years, 41,729 girls were married. Around one-fourth of the married girls (10,685) in the same age group had delivered before celebrating their 15th birthday (*The Times of India, Bhubaneswar, 10 April 2015*)

Inauguration of CCR by Justice Deepak Misra, Judge supreme Court and the Visitor of NLUO Forthcoming Programmes in 2015

1. Two day orientation programme to the police personals, Special Juvenile Police Unit,, Railway police and the persons from anti- traffic wing
2. Two day orientation programme to the officials DCPU, DCLTF, CMPOS, SSA officials, DLSA, CEO/DEO etc.
3. Two day orientation programme to the personnel under POCSO Act, 2015 viz; Judge, Special Court, Public Prosecutor, Women Police and SJPU, Medical authorities etc.
4. Symposium on Legal Aid services to children SJPU, Anti-Trafficking Wing, Railway 5. Police, WCD Officials, DSWO, CDPOs etc
6. Annual juvenile justice conference in close association with High Court Juvenile Justice Committee.
7. Two day Capacity development programme for JJB members and CWC - Juvenile Justice Case Analysis (Reference 2012-2014)
8. Inter/intra university dialogue for promotion of child rights

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