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**CARE AND PROTECTION OF DISADVANTAGED  
CHILDREN IN URBAN INDIA**

**Theme Paper**  
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## **Introduction**

India is home of almost 20 per cent of the world's children. More than one third of the country's population, around 400 million, is below 18 years. By 2016, India's child population below 14 years of age is expected to stabilize around 350 million. No other nation in the world including China is likely to enjoy the benefits of having such a large young population in the years to come. It is only by ensuring that India's children are well cared for, well protected and well supported that India can attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and be counted in the league of developed nations. The health and nutrition status of children has been an area of major concern for policy makers, health administrators, child development specialists and the public at large. However, about half of the all Indian children are undernourished, similar proportion escape full immunization. The survival of the child is dependent on maternal health and nutritional status, which is determined by factors such as age at marriage, fertility behaviour, use of antenatal and post natal care, and medical attention at the time of delivery. Importantly, malnutrition of children is one of the biggest public health problems facing the country. It adversely affects the growth and development of children including their learning ability and the capacity to cope with the problems of daily living. Similarly, prevention from abuse, neglect and exploitation of children has been universally recognized as essential for child's well being and for the growth and development of the family, the community, and the nation. However, millions of children are out of schools and engaged in economic activities for sustenance of their families. There are other disadvantaged children in

especially difficult circumstances who need social services for their care, protection, and development.

All children have the right to be protected whatever they are. Their right to protection is intrinsic to their well being, as the right to survival, development and participation. Children deserve to live in an environment where good governance and the full enjoyment of human rights are mutually reinforcing. India has recognized the right to protection for its children through its Constitutional commitments and the laws, policies and programmes. In order to achieve some of the crucial changes that children deserve, protection measures adopted for 2007-12 must be cross sectoral, must significantly enhance attention, investment and efficacy in the standard recognized protection areas of labour, violence, trafficking and sexual abuse, and find ways to intervene in domestic violence and abuse.

Children need access to nutrition, basic social services, such as health, education, protection, and care to improve their welfare and their capacity. Delivery of social services requires increasing financial resources and particularly, the quality of public expenditure in these areas. The governance of social services, particularly care and protection of vulnerable, marginalized, and other disadvantaged children may be improved through public private partnership as well as ensuring administrative reforms and children's centric development approach.

## **Millennium Development Goals**

Ever since the launch of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) at the Millennium Summit in New York in September, 2000, the MDG's have become the most widely accepted yardstick of development efforts by governments, donors and NGO's. MDG's are a set of numerical and time bound targets related to key achievements in human development. They include halving income poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, and gender equality, reducing infant and child mortality by two thirds and maternal mortality by three quarters, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and halving the proportion of people without access to safe water. These targets are to be achieved by 2015, from their levels in 1990 ( Chart 1).

**Chart – 1**

**Millennium Development Goals**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Targets 2015</b>	<b>Implications for Children</b>
Poverty	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Reduce half the proportion of people living on less than a day	Poverty deprives many children's rights – survival, health, nutrition, education, participation, exploitation etc.
Primary Education	Achieve Universal Primary Education	Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling	Majority of the children are out of schools.
Gender Equality	Promote Gender Equality and	Eliminate gender disparity and secondary	Gender parity in primary and secondary education

	Empower Women	education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015	
Child Survival	Reduce Child Mortality	Reduce by two thirds of mortality rate among children under five years	Child mortality is high in developing countries
Families and women	Improve Maternal Health	Reduce by three quarters of the maternal mortality ratio	Majority of the women face complications of pregnancy and are deprived of safe motherhood
Health	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Halt and begin reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS	A large number of children are infected with HIV/AIDS, Children are also deprived of water care and are vulnerable to diseases
Water and Sanitation	Ensure Environmental Sustainability	Reduce by half the proportion of people with some sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation	Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is critical to child survival

Source: UNICEF, 2005

The attainment of MDG's will likely to remain challenging in the poor status of India. There are very large disparities across different states and regions of India in terms of their performance on Millennium

Development indicators. Moreover, many of the millennium development indicators have high levels of geographical conceptualization in India.

Progress is behind schedule for almost all the MDG's. Development agencies, donor agencies, and others have repeatedly voiced their concern that nearly all of the MDG's will not be met unless there is a concerted effort by donors and governments. Failure to achieve the MDG's will have tragic consequences for children particularly those in developing countries. Millions will witness their childhood violated through ill health, and death from preventable diseases. Millions more will see their future compromised because of government's failure to provide them education and number of children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDs will continue to rise.

There are positive links between child protection and the Millennium Development Goals in India too.

## Chart II

### Child Protection and the Millennium Development Goals

Millennium Development Goal	Child Protection Consideration
<b>MDG 1:</b> Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child labour squanders a nation's human capital</li> <li>▪ Armed conflict depletes a nation's physical, economic and human resources and leads to the displacement of populations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accurate and complete birth registration information is a prerequisite for all economic planning to address poverty and hunger issues.</li> <li>▪ Legal systems that do not take into account the child’s age and fail to promote reintegration into the community of children in conflict with the law increase the likelihood of their poverty and marginalization</li> </ul>
<p><b>MDG 2:</b> Achieve universal primary Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Armed conflict disrupts education</li> <li>▪ Child labour prevents children from attending school</li> <li>▪ Violence is an obstruction to a safe and protective learning environment</li> <li>▪ Child marriage leads to the removal of girls from school</li> <li>▪ Children without parental care must be placed in an appropriate family environment to increase the likelihood they will receive an education.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MDG 3:</b> Promote gender equality and empower women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Girls are disproportionately engaged in domestic work, which compromises their school participation.</li> <li>▪ Child marriage leads to the removal of girls from school and may limit their opportunities to participate in the public life of their communities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Violence and harassment in schools are obstacles to gender equality in education. Sexual violence, exploitation and abuse undermine efforts to empower women and girls</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 4:</b> Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Violence against children can lead to child mortality</li> <li>▪ Child marriage and early childbearing lead to higher risks of maternal mortality and morbidity</li> <li>▪ Children separated from their mothers at an early age, especially those who remain in institutional settings for long periods of time, are at greater risk of early death.</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 5:</b> Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child marriage jeopardizes both maternal and infant health</li> <li>▪ Sexual violence can lead to unwanted pregnancies and puts women at risk of HIV/AIDS infection</li> <li>▪ Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting increases the chance of maternal mortality during delivery and complications thereafter</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 6:</b> Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many of the worst forms of child labour are a cause and consequence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic</li> <li>▪ Sexual exploitation, abuse and violence can</li> </ul>

	<p>lead to the infection of girls and boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children in HIV/AIDs affected families are particularly at risk of losing the care and protection of their families</li> <li>▪ Children in detention are vulnerable to HIV infection, given the high rates of transmission in prisons</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 7:</b> Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Armed conflict leads to population displacement and potential over-use of environmental resources</li> <li>▪ Environmental disasters increase household vulnerability and increase the potential for child labour, as well as for sexual exploitation and child marriage</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 8 :</b> Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child protection requires inter-sectoral cooperation at the national and international level to create a protective environment for children</li> </ul>

Source: Planning Commission, Government of India, Delhi, January 2006

Poverty has its implications on child labour, child abuse, and deprivation of basic rights and entitlement of children. Child labour also prevents children from attending schools and millions of children are out of reach to schools. Child marriage also leads to removal of girls from schools as well as health consequences. Girls are discriminated and increasing incidence of trafficking in young women and girls has caused concern.

Even, migration has increased the incidence of child abuse and sexual exploitation of girls. Violence against children may lead to child mortality while child marriage and early child bearing to higher risks of maternal and infant health. Sexual violence, exploitation and forced prostitution lead to unwanted pregnancies and put women at risk of HIV/AIDs infection. Ethnic tension, terrorism, violence, armed conflicts etc. lead to population displacement and violation of child rights.

### **Children's Rights**

Indian people are entitled to the standards and rights guaranteed by the laws that govern our country and the international legal instruments we have accepted by ratifying them. We have an extremely strong legal regime vis-à-vis the rights and protection of children. Certain provisions relating to the protection of children spring from the Constitution itself, and there is a comprehensive umbrella of subsequent strong legislations protecting children's rights. India's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) is a further reiteration of its resolve and commitment towards the development, and well being of its children. The Indian Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, certain basic freedoms in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justiciable. These include Right to Equality, Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression, Right Against Exploitation, Right to Freedom of Religion, Right to Ensure Culture, and the Right to Constitutional Remedies for the Enforcement of Fundamental Rights. The Constitution also lays down certain Directive Principles that the state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by

securing and protecting a social order based on justice, social, economic and political.

**Chart III**  
**Child Rights Guaranteed by Indian Constitution**

<b>Article</b>	<b>Provision</b>
Article 21 (A)	Right to free and compulsory elementary education for all children in 6-14 years age group
Article 24	Right to be protected from any hazardous employment till the age of 14 years
Article 39 (E)	Right to be protected from being abused and forced by economic necessity to enter occupations unsuited to their age or strength
Article 39 (F)	Right to equal opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and guaranteed protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment
Article 14	Right to equality
Article 15	Right against discrimination
Article 21	Right to personal liberty and due process of law
Article 23	Right to being protected from being trafficked and forced into bonded labour
Article	Right of weaker sections of the people to be protected from social

46	injustice and all forms of exploitation
Article 15(3)	State must make special provisions for women and children
Article 46	State must protect educational interests of weaker sections of the people
Article 29	State must protect interests of minorities
Article 47	State must raise the level of nutrition and standards of living of its people and the improvement of public health

Source: Indian Constitution

They also lay down that the state shall provide opportunities and facilities for all children to develop up to the age of 14 years. There are several constitutional provisions for children, which, among others, Article 21(A) that directs the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6-14 years, Article 23 that prohibits trafficking of human beings and forced labour and Article 24 which prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, or any other hazardous occupations. Article (39) (F) directs the states to ensure that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that the childhood and both are protected against exploitation. The UN convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989 provided a base for children's rights all over the world.

**Chart IV**  
**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Rights</b>
Survival	Right to life Highest attainable standard of health Nutrition Adequate standard of living A name and a nationality
Development	Right to education Support for early childhood care and development Social security Right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities
Protection	Exploitation Abuse Inhuman or degrading treatment Neglect Special protection in special circumstances
Participation	Respect for views of the child Freedom of expression Access to appropriate information Freedom of thought conscience and religion

Source : MOWCD, Government of India

The main principles of convention were reported to be survival, development, protection and participation. The rights included mainly provisions and government's commitment towards protecting children's rights, entitlements and interests. It is noteworthy that in the last three

decades several major policies and actions plans have been announced for improving the status of children. The global milestones in child development include UN Convention on Rights of Children, UN Millennium Development Goals and special Session of UN on Children etc. (Chart V).

**Chart V**  
**Global Milestones in Child Protection**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Milestone</b>
1919	International legal recognition of children’s rights. Eglantine Jebb launched Save the Children Fund
1924	League of National Adopted Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child drafted by International Union of Child Welfare
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which referred ‘entitlement to special care and assistance to children’
1959	UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child
1979	UN Declares 1979 the International Year of the Child
1989	UN General Assembly approved the Convention on the Rights of the Child
1990	World Summit on Children held in New York. World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children
1994	International Year of the Family, including Nurture and Protection of Children
1999	Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of Child Labour
2000	UN Millennium Development Goals, including child care and

	Protection
2002	UN General Assembly held Special Session on Children

Source: WCD, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, 2000

The Indian milestones in child protection include National Policy for Children, National Policy on Child Labour, National Plan of Action for Children and Juvenile Justice Act etc.

### Chart VI

#### Indian Milestones in Child Protection

Year	Milestone
1974	National Policy for Children
1983	National Health Policy
1986	National Policy on Education
1987	National Policy on Child Labour
1991-2000	National Plan for SAARC Decade of the Girl Child
1992	National Plan of Action for Children
1993	National Nutrition Policy
1995	National Plan of Action on Nutrition
1996	Communication Strategy for Child Development
1997	Implementation of Children's Rights Convention
2000	New Juvenile Justice Act

Source: WCD, Government of India, 2006

It is to be noted that all the initiatives and programmes for the development of children have been backed by strong legislative support and political will. There are several legislations for children to ensure protection of their rights, which include the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Children) Act, 2000, Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992, the Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act, 1994, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 etc. Apart from these, there are provisions for children in other legislations, like Indian Penal Code, Factories Act, and Information Technology etc. India has also accepted to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1992 to reiterate its commitment to the cause of children. The National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 is the roadmap of improving the status of children and protecting their rights, entitlements and interests. The Action Plan includes provisions, targets, and strategies for achieving goals and objectives in the field of child survival, development, protection and participation. It is to be noted that National Plan of Action for Children has been drafted in accordance to UN Convention on Rights of Children, 1989. (Chart VII).

### **Chart VII**

#### **Legislative Support for Child Care and Protection**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Legislation</b>
1890	The Guardian and Wards Act
1929	The Child Marriage Restraint Act
1948	The Factories Act
1956	Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act
1958	Probation of Offenders Act
1960	The Orphanage and other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act
1986	Juvenile Justice Act
1986	The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
1992	Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding, Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act
1994	Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse)
1996	The Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act
2000	New Juvenile Justice Act
2004	National Charter for Children
2005	National Plan of Action for Children

Source: WCD, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Delhi, 2005

### **Public Spending on Children**

The future of the country lies in a healthy, protected, educated and well developed child population that will grow up to be productive citizen of

the country. Therefore, it is imperative to invest resources in children proportionate to their huge numbers. An exercise on child budgeting carried out by the Ministry of Women and Child Development revealed that total expenditure on children in 2005-06 in health, education, development and protection together amounted to nearly 3.86 per cent, rising to 4.91 per cent in 2006-07. (Table 1 and 2).

**Table - 1**  
**Budgetary Support for Child Protection in India**

<b>Child Protection (Rs. Crores)</b>	<b>2001- 02</b>	<b>2002- 03</b>	<b>2003- 04</b>	<b>2004- 05</b>	<b>2005- 06</b>	<b>2006- 07</b>
Central Adoption Resource Agency	0.950	1.300	1.200	1.300	1.300	1.500
In Country Adoption	1.578	2.600	2.700	2.650	2.000	3.000
Scheme for Street Children	8.052	11.000	9.900	12.550	10.8000	13.000
Need of Care and Protection	0.000	1.120	1.000	1.000	2.000	3.000
Juvenile Justice	15.188	14.400	14.400	18.900	20.430	25.000
Child Labour Cell	61.809	70.100	67.950	98.120	115.450	127.050
Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for setting of short	6.033	12.840	15.350	14.400	15.000	17.500

stay Homes						
SWADHAR	-	9.000	0.800	3.690	5.500	8.000
Scheme for Rescue of Victims of Trafficking	-	-	-	-	0.250	0.500
Relief and Rehabilitation of Rape victims	-	-	-	-	-	1.000
Total	93.612	122.360	113.300	152.610	172.730	199.550

Source: Demand for Grants-Ministry of Labour, MSJE and HRD for years 2000-01 to 2006-07 Government of India

**Table – 2**

**Expenditure on Child Care and Protection During IXth Plan Period**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>1997- 98</b>	<b>1998- 99</b>	<b>1999- 2000</b>	<b>2000- 01</b>
<b>Juvenile Justice</b>				
1. Expenditure (Rs. Crores)	4.31	11.95	10.46	10.53
2. Institutions/Homes Assisted	306	469	390	522
<b>Street Children</b>				
1. No. of NGO's Assisted	52	81	102	79
2. No. of Beneficiaries	15596	24176	31901	24882
3. Expenditure (Rs. Lakh)	326.01	480.32	694.94	616.32

<b>Child Line Service</b>				
1. No. of organizations Assisted	-	25	45	48
2. Total Grant Released (Rs. Lakhs)	-	34.98	66.69	103.03
<b>Resource Agency</b>				
Expenditure (Rs. Crore)	0.16	0.10	0.48	0.54
<b>Shishu Greha Scheme</b>				
Expenditure (Rs. Crore)	0.77	1.26	1.62	1.88
<b>Voluntary Coordinating Agencies</b>				
1. VCA's Assisted	-	5	5	10
2. Grant Released (Rs. Lakhs)	-	3.94	14.98	37.00

Source: Planning Commission, Delhi, 2001

However, the share of resources for child protection was an abysmal low of 0.034 per cent in 2005-06 and in 2006-07. Thus, there is an urgent case for increasing expenditure on child protection so that right of children in India is protected. (Table 3 and 4).

**Table - 3**  
**Sectoral Allocation on Children in Budget in India**

Year	Percentage of Child Development in Child Budget	Percentage of Child Health Budget	Percentage of Child Education in Child Budget	Percentage of Child Protection in Child Budget	Percentage of Total Child Budget in Union Budget
2004-05	0.422	0.423	1.567	0.033	2.445
2005-06	0.658	0.527	2.638	0.034	3.857
2006-07	0.830	0.556	3.487	0.034	4.907

Source: Expenditure Budget, 2004-05 to 2006-07 Vol. (1 & 2)

**Table – 4**

**Percentage Share of Various Sectors in the Total Child Budget in India**

Year/Particulars	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total Child Budget (Rs. Crores)	10234.73	11678.02	19459.22
% share of Child Development (DWCD)	21.4	17.3	17.4
% share of Education (Elementary and Secondary Education)	62.9	64.2	67.7
%share of Child Protection (MSJE & Labour)	1.0	1.2	0.9

Source: Planning Commission, Delhi, 2006

Protecting children's rights (health, education, nutrition etc.) requires distribution of resources through state action. The presently insufficient level of public resources allocated to social sector is one of the reasons for this slow rate of progress in children's development. In order to secure children's rights effectively, adequate funding is a necessary. However allocations for children in public budgets are required to reach national development targets and Millennium Development Goals. It is imperative to ensure improved utilization of allocated budget through fiscal decentralization, participation, transparency and accountability. State level exercises on child budgeting, led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in partnership with planning and Finance Departments are being initiated in 2006 across the country. However, the share of child protection in union budget has remained at 0.03 per cent. Over all, the share of child protection in overall budget for children has declined. However, the amount on child protection in India has increased significantly over the period of 2001-02 to 2006-07. Moreover, share of education has significantly increased from 62.9 per cent in 2003-04 to 67.7 per cent in 2005-06.

During the 1990's, government spending on children increased and several innovative centrally sponsored schemes were initiated with external assistance, particularly in the areas of child health, and primary education. But the increase in government spending is only marginal. Despite the increase since the mid-nineties, less than 2 per cent of the union budget is aimed at children. Poor financing has contributed to the poor impact of the

existing interventions. The budget allocation is not enough to reach the needy of Indian children. Moreover, integrated projects are needed to be supported to reach the vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized children of India.

### **Early Childhood Care**

Organizations working in the field of early childhood care have expressed concern over a wide gap between children in metropolitan cities having access to state of art pre-school education while over 11 million children are deprived of pre-school education through *Aganwadi* Centres. According to FORCES, out of 163 million children between the ages of 0-6 years, the Early Child Care and Development Programme, reached out to only 23 million children. And out of this, only 12.5 million children in the age group of 0-3 years get access of preschool services from *Aganwadis*. It is pointed out that there was a shortfall of 10.8 lakhs *Aganwadi* centres in the year 2005-06. There are only 6.49 lakh *Aganwadi* Centres functional against the target of 7.4 lakh centres in 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. It is to be noted that early childhood care and pre-school services is crucial component of the packages of services envisaged under the scheme which aims at universalization and qualitative improvement of primary education in remote and socially backward areas. Though, ICDS is covering nearly 153 lakh children (3-6 years) from disadvantaged groups, there is still a wide gap between the demand and supply of early childhood care services. The World Bank has supported early childhood development efforts in India since 1980 through a number of projects. Integrated Child Development Services II project is currently being implemented in the states of Bihar,

Madhya Pradesh. ICDS III covers 5 states of Kerala, Maharastra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The World Food Programme under its project extended food aid for supplementary nutrition to children below six years of age and to expectant and nursing mothers under ICDS programme. CARE India is also implementing Integrated Nutrition and Health Programme in seven states of India.

### **Juvenile Delinquency**

As per information available from National Crime Records Bureau, there has been a declining trend of Juvenile offenders as percentage of total Indian Penal Code crimes since 1988. The major factor of child delinquency has been reported to be economic. Besides, social factors contribute in the problem while offenders are largely intercepted for cheating, theft, robbery, dacoity, violence, reflecting economic criteria of causation, with the amendment in Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, the offenders in the age group of 16-18 years are also included in Juvenile delinquency. Thus, the member of juvenile delinquents has increased significantly. During 2002, 35779 offenders were reported and out of them, 2228 were girls. However, percentage of girl offenders has been reported to be low i.e. 6.2 only. The proportion of girl offenders was recorded as high as 29.1 per cent in 1999 (Table 5).

### **Table – 5**

**Juveniles Apprehended Under IPC and All Crimes in India by Sex  
(1992-2002)**

Year	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage of Girls
1992	17474	3884	21358	18.2
1993	16391	3676	20067	18.3
1994	13852	3351	17203	19.5
1995	14542	4251	18793	22.6
1996	14068	5030	19098	26.3
1997	14282	3514	17796	19.7
1998	13974	4949	18923	26.2
1999	13088	5372	18460	29.1
2000	13854	4128	17982	23.0
2001*	31295	2333	33628	6.9
2002*	33551	2228	35779	6.2

\*Revised definition of Juvenile Justice Act

Source: Crime In India, 2002, NCRB, Delhi

It shows that child offenders in the age group of 16-18 years are mainly boys. Out of total offenders, about half of the child offenders belong to the age group of 16-18 years while less than two fifth child offenders were belonging to 12-16 year age group. Only 12.5 per cent child offenders were from the age group of 7-12 years (Table 6).

**Table - 6**  
**Juveniles Apprehended under IPC and SLL Crimes in India by Age**  
**Group (1992-2002)**

Year	7-12 years	Percent	12-16 years	Percent	16-18 years	Percent
1992	3435	16.1	14793	69.3	3130	14.7
1993	3929	19.6	13437	67.0	2701	13.5
1994	3694	21.5	11053	64.3	2456	14.3
1995	3490	18.3	11378	59.6	3403	18.1
1996	3490	18.3	11378	59.6	4230	22.1
1997	2747	15.4	12171	68.4	2878	16.2
1998	3336	17.6	11548	61.0	4039	21.3
1999	4039	21.9	10311	55.9	4110	22.3
2000	3292	18.3	11389	63.3	3301	18.4
2001*	3696	11.0	12729	37.9	17203	51.2
2002*	4488	12.5	13864	38.7	17427	48.7
Percentage Change over 2002 over 1992	30.7	-	-6.3	-	456.8	-

Source: Crime in India, 2002, NCRB, New Delhi

\*As per new Definition of JJ Act (As 16-18 years age group has been included)

The proportion of child offenders belonging to age group of 16-18 years has increased group 14.7 per cent in 1992 to 51.2 per cent in 2001 while there has been phenomenon growth of child offenders belonging to this age group. The number of child offenders belonging to age group of 12-

16 years has declined over the period of 1992-2002. Most of the Juvenile delinquents are concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh. (Table 7).

**Table - 7**

**Juveniles Apprehended by Sex for Committing Crime under IPC and Social Local Laws During 1996**

S.No.	State/UTs	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total		
				1996	2002			1996	2002	2000
1.	A.P.	47	334	381	618	698	137	835	1466	872
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	-	16	01	17	132	106
3.	Assam	19	5	24	-	259	03	262	332	247
4.	Bihar	43	44	87	22	1387	558	1942	1384	756
5.	Goa	0	01	01	-	28	06	34	67	87
6.	Gujarat	316	558	874	986	800	284	1084	2349	1109
7.	Haryana	53	06	59	661	149	78	227	1850	471
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	4	49	30	79	117	52
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	02	0	02	3	-
10.	Karnataka	12	76	88	12	270	181	451	731	282
11.	Kerala	2	0	2	27	124	13	137	265	59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	755	194	949	1705	2470	918	3388	8238	3541
13.	Maharashtra	202	280	482	918	1770	614	2384	4461	2161
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-

15.	Meghalaya	6	0	6	5	27	01	28	63	26
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	11	129	08	137	49	33
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	9	25
18.	Orissa	0	0	0	5	134	35	169	187	229
19.	Punjab	2	1	3	20	2	0	2	136	79
20.	Rajasthan	34	22	56	172	565	201	766	1765	908
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	23
22.	Tamil Nadu	2815	281	3096	5450	338	56	394	632	332
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	45	19	19	38	85	80
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0	-	14	0	14	17	89
	Total (States)	4306	1802	6108	10670	9250	3147	12397	23020	11970
	Union Territories									
26.	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	6	6
27.	Chandigarh	1	0	1	5	38	2	40	7	46
28.	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
30.	Delhi	15	21	36	88	440	57	497	1104	2
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	16	16
	Total (UTs)	16	21	37	93	496	60	556	1196	70
	Total (All India)	4322	1823	6145	10763	9746	3207	12953	25016	12040

Source: Crime in India, 2004

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been responsible for the implementation and administration of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 which has since been replaced by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 that has come into force from 1st April, 2001. As per information available, there were 13 institutions (Table 8) with the capacity of 2182 students in borstal schools located in 10 states of the country. (Table 9).

**Table - 8**

**Number of Borstal Schools, Their Capacity and Daily Average Population (During the year 1994-95)**

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Institutions	Total capacity	Daily average population
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	303	64
2.	Bihar	1	100	68
3.	Haryana	1	160	NA
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	30	5
5.	Karnataka	1	183	1.5
6.	Kerala	2	150	23
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1	408	150
8.	Maharashtra	1	143	32

9.	Punjab	1	300	NA
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	405	28
	Total	13	2182	NA

NA - Not available

Source: Social Defence Vol. 38, April 1996  
National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi

**Table - 9**

**Number of Inmates Admitted in and Discharged from Borstal Schools  
(During the year 1994-95)**

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Inmates at beginning of the year	No. of inmates admitted during the year	Total	No. of inmates released during the year	No. of inmates at the end of the year
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62	32	94	32	62
2.	Bihar	65	201	266	211	55
3.	Haryana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Himachal Pradesh	5	NA	5	5	NA
5.	Karnataka	3	NA	3	2	1
6.	Kerala	20	16	36	12	24
7.	Madhya Pradesh	149	78	227	86	141

8.	Maharashtra	26	6	32	8	24
9.	Punjab	214	201	415	202	213
10.	Tamil Nadu	28	24	52	16	36
	Total	572	558	1130	574	556

NA - Not available

Source: Social Defence Vol. 38, April 1996  
National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi

During 1994-95, 1130 students were admitted these schools. As per information available for the year 1999, there were 662 Juvenile homes in the country for rehabilitation of child offenders. The state wise number of juvenile homes shows that most of the homes are situated in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. (Table 10).

**Table - 10**  
**Number of Juvenile Homes, Observation Homes, Special Homes and After Care Institutions (1997-98)**

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Observation Homes	Juvenile Homes	Special Homes	After Care Institutions	Total
1.	A.P.	9	5	2	1	17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	-	2
3.	Assam	7	25	1	1	34
4.	Bihar	10	8	5	2	25
5.	Goa	2	2	2	-	6
6.	Gujarat	25	5	2	14	46

7.	Haryana	3	3	1	1	8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1	1	-	2
9.	Karnataka	22	19	-	11	52
10.	Kerala	12	5	2	-	19
11.	Madhya Pradesh	22	2	3	1	28
12.	Maharashtra	45	101	3	3	152
13.	Manipur	1	2	1	-	4
14.	Meghalaya	1	-	-	-	1
15.	Mizoram	3	3	-	-	6
16.	Nagaland	-	1	1	-	2
17.	Orissa	12	2	-	-	14
18.	Punjab	7	2	1	2	12
19.	Rajasthan	11	1	1	-	16
20.	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	1
21.	Tamil Nadu	14	17	3	3	37
22.	Tripura	1	1	-	-	2
23.	Uttar Pradesh	59	10	1	-	70
24.	West Bengal	7	19	4	6	36
	Union Territories					
25.	A&N Islands	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Chandigarh	1	1	1	-	3
27.	D&N Haveli	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Daman &	-	-	-	-	-

	Diu					
29.	Delhi	3	11	-	-	14
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	1	1	1	1	4
	Total	280	251	36	46	613

Source: Annual Report, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,  
1997-98

It is to be noted that incidence of crimes and violence against children has increased in the recent past (Table 11).

**Table - 11**  
**Incidence of Crimes Against Children**

Heads	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child Rape (upto 16 years)	3113	3393	3986	4067	4083	4414	4153	3153	3112	2113	2532
Kidnapping & Abduction	521	485	864	726	571	620	699	791	711	2845	2322
Procuration of Minor Girls	-	-	206	107	94	87	171	172	147	138	124
Selling of Girls for Prostitution	-	-	34	17	6	9	11	13	15	8	5

Buying of Girls for Prostitution	-	-	4	19	22	13	13	5	53	6	9
Abetment of Suicide	-	-	7	9	11	13	28	24	18	26	24
Exposure and Abandonment	-	-	491	570	554	582	575	593	660	678	644
Infanticide	-	-	131	139	113	107	114	87	104	133	115
Foeticide	-	-	45	38	39	57	62	61	91	55	84
Child Marriage Restraint Act	-	-	53	57	89	78	56	58	92	85	113
Total	-	-	-	-	-	5980	5882	4957	5023	10814	10469

Source: Crime in India, 2002, National Crime Record Bureau, New Delhi

The crimes against children have doubled over the period of 1996 to 2002. Though, there has been decline in the cases of child rape and procurement of minor girls, however, the cases of kidnapping and abduction, exposure and abandonment and foeticide have increased significantly over the period. It is to be noted that girl child within all categories is more vulnerable. The domestic violence against children has increased over the period while children are abused physically at many places.

### **Working Children**

Children living in poverty face deprivation of many of their rights: survival, health, and nutrition, education, participation and protection from harm, exploitation and discrimination. The phenomenon of working children is invariably associated with poverty and is usually considered to be a by product of under development. The highest incidence of child labour is said to be in the poorest countries of the world, and in the poorest regions of those countries. Globalization, indebtedness and the widening gap between the rich and the poor countries may also exacerbate the problem. Child labour in India is a complex problem and is rooted in poverty. As per 2001 census, there are 13.99 million working children in India. (Table 12).

**Table - 12**  
**Estimates of Child Labour in India**

Source	Year	Magnitude of Child Labour (in million)
Census	1971	10.74
	1981	13.60
	1991	11.29
	2001*	13.99
ILO	1975	15.10
	1996	23.17
NSSO	1987-88	17.60
	1993-94	13.13
	1999-2000	10.23

Planning Commission	1983	17.36
ORG	1983	44.0
Commission on Labour Standards	1998	25.0

\*Projected

Source : India Social Development Report, OUP, Delhi, 2006

Over 85 per cent of this child labour is in the country's rural areas and the number has risen significantly over the last decade. Though, India has passed over nine Acts prohibiting and limiting child labour, however, the number of children in the work force has not-diminished. Moreover, 18 million children live or work on the streets of India. Majority of these children are involved in crime, prostitution, gang related violence and drug trafficking. The estimates of child labour vary from source to source. As per 2001 census, there are 13.99 million child labour in India while ILO estimated the figure to be 23.17 million in 1996. Child labour is concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mahrastra and Karnataka. (Table 13)

**Table - 13**  
**Percentage of Child Workers (5-14 years) by Industrial Categories in**  
**India**

State	Cultivators	Agricultural Labour	Livestock	Manufacturing	Construction	Trade	Household
A.P.	13.63	43.09	8.42	1.80	17.23	2.0	13.23
Assam	11.57	-	6.61	3.31	23.97	9.92	43.80
Bihar	13.23	12.47	25.95	4.83	26.97	4.07	11.70
Goa	10.53	-	5.26	-	26.32	15.79	42.11
Gujarat	30.91	32.18	8.52	1.58	10.73	3.79	11.99
Haryana	22.0	18.0	-	4.0	22.0	10.0	22.00
Himachal Pradesh	7.69	-	-	-	7.69	-	76.92
Jammu & Kashmir	6.37	0.64	3.18	42.68	3.18	7.01	32.48
Karnataka	15.04	44.61	8.52	2.76	12.53	3.76	12.53
Kerala	-	20.0	-	-	-	10.0	70.00
Madhya Pradesh	57.30	22.28	0.75	1.69	9.18	1.50	6.55
Maharashtra	29.63	22.22	1.06	0.53	15.87	5.29	23.81
Orissa	20.12	7.69	4.14	3.55	31.95	10.65	19.53
Punjab	13.64	15.91	2.27	4.55	18.18	6.82	38.64
Rajasthan	71.57	4.31	0.39	1.96	10.59	3.33	7.25
Tamil Nadu	8.44	17.53	1.95	10.39	21.43	12.99	26.62
West Bengal	6.96	10.13	9.49	8.23	13.29	13.29	37.34
Uttar Pradesh	29.93	4.01	0.73	10.22	26.28	7.66	19.34
Delhi	2.22	-	2.22	9.67	4.44	13.33	60.00

NER	40.88	0.94	1.57	1.86	9.43	3.14	40.88
India	30.19	18.66	5.97	4.83	15.55	5.01	18.64

Source: NFHS II, 1998-99

Again, most of the children are engaged in agriculture sector, agriculture labour and household activities. The proportion of child labour in domestic sector has been reported significantly high in Delhi, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Bihar.

As Myron Weiner has argued, 'modern states regard education as a legal duty' and compulsory primary education is the policy instrument by which the state effectively removed children from the workforce. However, in India, child labour persists on a significant scale. Child labour is neither illegal nor is schooling compulsory. In 2001, there were 12.6 million child workers in the country, if we consider the age group of 5-14 years. However, considering international definition of children i.e. persons below the age group of 18 years, the number of child workers would be quite high. We have more child workers than the entire population of Belgium. More than 50 per cent of the child workers (6.7 million) are concentrated in the five states of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Almost 80 per cent of the estimated child workers are employed in the agriculture sector. However, child labour is concentrated in specific industries such as gem polishing in Jaipur, slate work in Mankapur, and silk weaving in Varanasi. While the government estimates that around 2.56 lakh children are involved in domestic sector and hospitality services. Non

government sources put the figure at 20 million with one million children estimated to be working in these sectors in Delhi alone.

The current legislation in India does not ban all forms of child labour. The Child Labour (Prohibition And Regulation) Act, 1986 is concerned only with the engagement of children in certain employment and accordingly lists specific occupations in which the employment of children is banned or is to be regulated. On August 1, 2006, Ministry of Labour, Government of India added the following occupations to the list of hazardous occupations: domestic servants, workers in dhabas, restaurants, hotels, motels, tea shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centres. It is to be noted that the implementation of child labour Act, 1986 has ensured reduction in number of child labour, violation of laws, prosecutions and commotions (Table - 14)

**Table - 14**  
**Status of Child Labour (Prohibitions and Regulations) Act, 1986 in**  
**India**

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Violations	No. of Prosecutions	No. of Convictions
1992-93	28,183	1890	1869	163
1993-94	16,904	1826	1308	265
1994-95	63,728	2496	4961	1532
1995-96	23,349	3146	543	18
1996-97	35,886	1868	458	18
1997-98	842,497	2329	1749	743
1998-99	222,856	11263	6469	4125

1999-2000	242,269	7598	3972	1333
2000-01	10,823	31	40	5
2001-02	14,162	25	59	99

Source: National Law Institute (2003)  
 Child Labour: Challenges and Response, NOIDA, U.P.

Under the project based action plan, 12 National Child Labour Projects were started in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The Projects aimed at withdrawing children from hazardous employment and ensuring their rehabilitation through education in special schools. There are 249 districts covered under National Child Labour Project. Most of the districts fall in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Orissa. As per information available, 3740 schools were functioning under 100 projects, benefiting about 191 lakh children in India (Table 15).

**Table - 15**

**State wise Coverage of Districts under National Child Labour Project**

S.No.	Name of States	No. of Districts	Name of the Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	Anantpur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Medak, Nalgonda, Khammam, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam,

			Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Warangal, West Godavari, Mehbubnagar, Adilabad and krishna
2.	Assam	3	Nagaon, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur
3.	Bihar	24	Nalanda, Saharsa, Jamui, Katihar, Araria, Gaya, East Champaran, West Champaran, Madhepura, Patna, Supaul, Samastipur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Kageria, Sitamarhi, Kishanganj, Begusarai, Banka, Saran, Purnia and Bhagalpur
4.	Chattisgarh	8	Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandagaon, Surguja, Raigarh, Dantewada, Raipur and Korba
5.	Goa	1	Goa
6.	Gujarat	9	Surat, Panchamahals, Bhuj, Banas, Kantha, Dahod, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Rajkot
7.	Haryana	3	Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panipat
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Jammu, Srinagar and Udhampur
9.	Jharkhand	9	Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Gumla, Palamu, Ranchi and Hazaribagh
10.	Karnataka	17	Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urbn, Belgaum, Koppal, Tumkur, Devangere, Haveri, Mysore,

			Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Bellary, Kolar and Mandya
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17	Mandsaur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Barwani, Rewa, Dhar, East Nimar (Khargon) and Jhabua
12.	Maharashtra	13	Solapur, Thane, Pune, Ahmadnagar, Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nanded, Nasik, Yavatmal, Dhule and Beed
13.	Mizoram	1	Aizawl
14.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
15.	Orissa	18	Angul, Bargarh, Balangir, Deogarh, Gajapati (Udayagiri), Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonapur, Cuttack and Balasore
16.	Punjab	3	Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar
17.	Rajasthan	23	Jaipur, Udaipur, Tonk, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Alwar, Jalor, Churu, Nagaur, Chittaurgarh, Bnsware, Dhaulpur, Sikar, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Bundi, Jhalawar, Pali, Bhilwara, Ganganagar and Barmer
18.	Tamil Nadu	13	Chidambaranar (Tuticorin), Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Pudukkottai, Salem,

			Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiril, Chennai, Erode, Dindigul and Theni
19.	Uttar Pradesh	41	Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bulandshahar, Saharanpur, Azamgarh, Muzaffarnagar, Gonda, Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Hardoi, Barabanki, Sitapur, Faizabad, Badaun, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Rae Bareili, Unnao, Sultanpur, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Pratapgarh, Basti, Sonebhadra, Mau, Deoria, Banda, Ghaziabad, Jaunpur, Rampur, Bareilly, Lucknow, Meerut, Etawah, Agra, Ghazipur and Mathura
20.	Uttaranchal	1	Dehradun
21.	West Bengal	18	Burdwan, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Murshidabad, Midnapore Maldah, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Nadia, Hugli, Howrah, Jalpaipuri, Cooch Bihar and East Mdinapur
	Total	249	

Source: Ministry of, Government of India, Delhi, 2005

The number of street children in the urban areas is increasing rapidly. There are about 18 million children who live in streets or work in urban

areas. The number of street children in metropolitan cities is higher. (Table - 16 and 17)

**Table - 16**  
**Coverage under National Child Labour Project (As on March 2002)**

State	No. of Districts Covered	Coverage Sanctioned		Actual Coverage	
		No. of Schools	No. of Children	No. of Schools	No. of Children
A.P.	22	1033	51650	1021	51820
Bihar	8	199	12200	198	11916
Karnataka	5	190	9500	141	6689
Madhya Pradesh	8	227	14500	182	7461
Maharashtra	2	74	3700	69	3570
Orissa	18	696	39550	628	34855
Punjab	3	107	5350	107	5350
Rajasthan	6	180	9000	161	8050
Tamil Nadu	9	425	21900	414	21411
Uttar Pradesh	11	524	27000	520	25067
West Bengal	8	347	17350	299	14950
India	100	4002	211700	3740	191139

Source: Annual Report, Ministry of Labour, Government of India

**Table - 17**  
**Estimated Number of Street Children in India**

State	City	Year	No. of Street Children	Remark
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	1991	100,000	Working Group
		1992	30,000	60 per cent boys
Delhi	Delhi	1991	100,000	Working Group
		1993	100,000	UNDP, 1993
Karnataka	Bangalore	1991	25,000	Working Group
		1993	45,000	UNDP, 1993
Maharashtra	Mumbai	1991	100,000	Working Group
		1993	100,000	UNDP, 1993
Tamil Nadu	Madras	1991	25,000	Working Group
		1992	25,000	-
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	1991	6,249	Based on 1981 Census
		1991	70,000	Working Group
		1991	70,000	-
		1991	200,000	Working Group
West Bengal	Calcutta	1991	200,000	-
		1992	75,000-100,000	-
		1993	100,000	UNDP, 1993

Source: The Indian Child: A Profile 2002, Department of Women Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, Delhi.

## **Child Trafficking**

Children are being trafficked for their exploitation, sexual abuse, prostitution, illegal activities - begging, organ trade, drug peddling smugglings, labour and forced marriage. Child trafficking has become an organized crime. It is difficult to estimate the number of girl children living in the brothels of cities and towns because the adults who control these children are aware of the significance of their crime and thus keep the children hidden. Trafficking of young women and children for flesh trade has emerged as one of the most profitable illegal trades next to illegal trade in arms and narcotics. It is estimated that 4 million people mainly young women and children are trafficked through out the world and one million children are trafficked into local and international sex industries. Selling of young women is one of the fastest growing organized crime making the traffickers richer by \$6 billion every year. It is estimated that 2 lakh Nepalese women and girls are trafficked to work as prostitutes world wide and about 12000 are trafficked to India each year. Nepal and Bangladesh are the two main suppliers of trafficked victims for India. There have been new reports that disintegration of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, women from Russia and other CIS countries, like Uzbekistan, are being trafficked into India. Once trafficked women entered India, they are generally kept in West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar and are

graded to sell them to pimp or sent to Middle East metropolitan cities and brothel owners of tourist of destinations.

According to 1992 estimates of the Indian Association for Rescue of Fallen Women, there are 8 million prostitutes in India and another 7.5 million call girls. Most of them are concentrated in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Bihar. *Patita Uddhar Sabha*, Delhi, estimated in 2004 that prostitutes in India are about 22.88 lakh with 42.49 their children. Most of the prostitutes are reported to be minor girls (less than 20 years of age). Increasing incidence of trafficking has threatened the social fabric of the country. Girls under 18 are being lured from Nepal, Bangladesh to Indian metropolitan cities. Traffickers also lure girls and young women from Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. The false promises of jobs and better living standards push these girls and young women into prostitution. Poverty, unemployment, social discrimination and cultural practices encourage the sex trade. The economic reasons among tribes and communities like *Bedias, Jahats, Kanjars, Nat, Kolta, Banjara, Mahar, Matang and Sansi* also promote sex trade. *Tawaif, Paturia and Muzare Wali* in U.P. is also engaged in sex trade. Children are preferred as they are more likely to accept practices which older prostitutes may refuse. It is believed that sexually transmitted disease, including HIV infections, can be cured and virility can be increased by having sex with young girls. Younger girls are also preferred because they can put in more years of work as prostitutes. Moreover, the growth of the tourism industry has contributed to the increase in the sexual exploitation of children, which often assumes

intolerable forms. Sex tourism involves travel agencies, tour operators, hotels and others in the tourism industry.

The National Action Plan formulated by Ministry of Women and Child Development covers various aspects such as prevention, awareness raising, economic empowerment, rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked women and children. The *Swadhar* scheme is targeted at women in difficult circumstances, including rescue trafficking victims. International agencies such as UNIFEM, USAID and others have launched programmes for prevention, reuse and rehabilitation of trafficked victims through establishing CBATN (Cross Border Anti Trafficking Network) in collaboration with NGO's in India too.

Child sexual abuse has caused concern in India. India has the dubious distinction of having the world's largest number of sexually abused children. It is one of the worst violations of the rights of children having long term negative impacts on the child victims and even their families. While girls are more vulnerable to being sexually abused, boys too are victims. Children with mental and physical disabilities are indeed at greater risk of abuse due to their vulnerability. Cultural and social factors have been noted as contributing to sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and women. The child may be abused in the following form: (i) sexual intercourse through penish penetration or use of objects or other parts of body; (ii) exposing children to pornography and using them for producing pornographic materials; (iii) directly or indirectly touching any part of the body of a child with a abject or with a part of body for sexual gratification; (iv) exposing or flashing genital organs or other parts of the body with sexual intent; (v)

deriving voyeuristic pleasure by showing sexual activity or forcing two or more children to have sex with each other; (vi) passing sexually coloured remarks or variably abusing a child using vulgar and obscene language or actions. Sexual abuse is any kind of sexual behaviour, which is unwanted or forced. It includes rape, sodomy, harassment and molestation. The law recognizes certain kinds of sexual abuse as an offense; however, there are lacunae in the legal system.

### **Child Disability**

Physically and mentally challenged persons are most marginalized and suffer from social deviance, stigma and social exclusion and expression. As it is estimated that 600 million persons with disabilities are all over the globe, while in India about 70 million disabled live. The prevalence of disability is increasing as globalization, liberalization and modern life style have promoted accidents rate causing impairments and disabilities. There is no systematic, scientific and precise information available on the prevalence degree and kind of disability. The estimates of WHO indicates that about 10 per cent of world's 600 millions disabled are in India. NSSO revealed that 1.9 per cent of total population of India i.e. 16.1 million had physical or sensory disabilities in 1991, which included visual, speech, hearing and locomotor disabilities. Disability is more pronounced in rural areas than urban areas. Similarly, the rate of disability is higher in rural areas (16.75/1000). Out of total disabled 12.3 per cent are multiple disabled. It is estimated that more than 40 per cent disabled are children. Out of total disabled, 42.26 per cent disabled were handicapped, while 37.63 per cent were blinds. Deaf and dumb accounted for 10.95 per cent while mentally

retorted persons were 4.52 per cent. The 2001 census reported the number of disabled persons in India to be 21.9 million. This shows a wide gap between NSSO's estimates and census figures. NSSO found that among children up to 14 years of age, the incidence of delayed mental development was 3 per cent in 1991. About 2.5 per cent children are mildly and moderately retarded and 0.5 per cent is severely retarded. It reported that 2.9 per cent in rural areas and 0.9 per cent in urban areas children had developmental delays in 1991. NSSO also estimated that 0.25 million fresh cases of disability are added every year. Services reach only an estimated 5 per cent of the disabled population. Again, then services are mainly concentrated in urban areas. A study of UNICEF (1987-1993) reported that out of total disabled children, about half of them were locomotor while one fourth were hearing impaired. Mentally retarded children were reported to be 12.34 per cent while 14.65 per cent disabled children were visually impaired Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment is the nodal Ministry for disability sector even though rehabilitation of persons with disability is a multi sectoral process involving a package of services and activities. In India, efforts to rehabilitate physically and mentally challenged are marked with policy shifts from the regime of treating them in isolation and exclusion to towards empowering them to participate effectively in the development process and main streams of national life.

### **Children of Prisoners**

Development in the recent past has led to conflict, violence, chaos and disparities. Unplanned and unconcerned pursuits of development have caused chaos and disorders in the society. Much of the crime in the country

can be attributed to the issues and problems thrown up by the implications of development. Deprivations of the benefits and fruits of development pursuits generally led to disparities, resulting in the criminality and unrestness. Moreover, the denial of the justice to the poor has led to the growth of agrarian agitation. Imprisonment of mother with dependent young child is a problematic issue. The effects of incarceration can be catastrophic on the children and costly to the state in terms of providing for their care. Children should not be allowed to stay in jails because jails are not the place to bring up children. The children of women prisoners living with them in jails are being deprived of their basic rights, entitlements and amenities for their development. Though, female criminality in India has been low, however, the incidence of female criminality in India is increasing. There are two categories of children of women prisoners; one children who are left behind in the family when their mother is imprisoned and two, children who accompany their mother when she is in prison, or those who are born in prison because the mother was imprisoned when she was pregnant. A study by National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, Delhi, 2000 stated that 885 children were living with their mother prisoners in jails during 1997. Most of the mothers were from U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Delhi. There were no suitable programmes in operation for the bio-psycho-social development of children who were being looked after mostly by their mothers as no trained staff was found in any jail to take care of these children. With the intervention of Supreme Court on view of public interest litigation in 2002, state governments were asked for formulating proper guidelines for the protection and welfare of children prisoners. Though, facilities were provided to woman prisoners within the limited resources, however, a study conducted

by G.B. Pant Institute of Studies in Rural Development, Lucknow (2006) highlighted that 3.03 per cent women prisoners delivered the babies in jails while 135 children were living with 297 women prisoners in 21 jails of U.P. The facilities for education recreation, health, nutrition, rehabilitation etc. were also found to be poor while proper development of young children in jails is always doubtful.

### **Vulnerability by HIV/AIDS**

HIV/AIDS is tearing at the very fabric of childhood. Around 15 million children under the age of 18 had been orphaned by the pandemic by the end of 2003. Eight out of 10 of these children live in Sub Saharan Africa. It is estimated that in 2010, over 18 million African children under the age of 18 will have lost one or both parents to due to HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS is depriving children of their rights and deepening child poverty. It has also breakdowns the protective environment. In Asia, India has the largest number of people with HIV/AIDSs, 0.16 million children in the 0-14 year's age group are infected with HIV/AIDS in India. It is estimated that currently 5.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in India. UNICEF has estimated that about 30,000 babies are born HIV positive each year. Even though, the percentage of the Indian population infected with HIV/AIDS is low i.e. 0.9 per cent, it has the second largest number in the world, the first being South Africa. India has the largest number of AIDS orphans of any country and this number is expected to double in the next five years. Out of 55,764 identified AIDS cases in India, 2112 are children. It is estimated that 14 per cent of the 4.2 million HIV/AIDS cases were

children below the age of 14 years. Again, a significant proportion of child sex workers are reported to be HIV positive in India.

## **Child Marriage**

Child marriage has always been prevalent in India and is rampant in large parts of the country. In northern India children are married on '*Akshaya Tritiya*' as it is considered to be an auspicious day while in other parts of the country, marriage of children is solemnized on *Ramnavmi*, *Shivratri*, *Basant Panchami*, and other festive occasions, depending upon the customs, beliefs and traditions practiced in the society. Marriage at early age deprives the children their right to childhood. It has serious repercussions on the child's health, physical and mental. Child birth amongst physically immature girls is a further threat to their health. Child brides often end up as young widows with a number of children to take care. As per National Family health Survey (1998-99), 30 per cent of adolescents in the age group of 15-19 years are married and 94 per cent are married in the age group of 25 to 29 years. The age at marriage is about two and half years lower in rural areas compared to urban areas. The medium age at first birth for women (20 to 49 years) is 19.6. The percentage of adolescents married before they are 18 is 68.3 per cent in Rajasthan, and 71 per cent in Bihar as against 17 per cent in Kerala and 11.6 per cent in Punjab. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 defines a child as a male below 21 years age, and if a female, below 18 years of age. However, the enforcement of the Act in India is not effective to check the increasing incidence of child marriages.

## **Adoption**

It is a well known fact that full fledged emotional, physical and intellectual development of a child depends largely on the environment in which it grows up. Love and affection of parents is an ideal impetus for such growth. However, there is a large number of children who find themselves in orphanages and other such institutions due to various circumstances. In India, adoption of children is permitted under legal procedure. In order to ensure the child's rights and interests, it is of crucial importance for the agency to ensure that the legal procedure is completed by the couple. In order to ensure the best interests of the child, guidelines have been brought out by the Central Adoption Resource Agency, a statutory body of Government of India. The guidelines provide adequate instructions to adoption agencies for proper implementation of the programme. During 1995 to 2000, 16866 children were adopted in India through Central Adoption Resource Agency. Out of total adopted children, 9551 children were in the country adoptions. (Table 18)

**Table - 18**  
**Children Placed in Adoption**

State	Within country			Foreign		
	1995	1996	1999	1995	1996	1999
Andhra Pradesh	35	99	77	44	87	105
Delhi	229	241	254	355	161	225
Goa	17	5	4	2	3	3
Gujarat	44	40	112	18	26	70
Haryana	3	5	4	-	3	4
Karnataka	134	154	117	86	71	76
Kerala	87	107	120	36	36	36
Maharashtra	563	590	560	324	180	417
Orissa	29	30	32	32	30	57
Pondicherry	4	12	24	4	2	6
Punjab	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tamil Nadu	100	81	116	78	72	37
Uttar Pradesh	2	4	8	8	-	8
West Bengal	201	255	199	298	319	336
India	1448	1623	1627	1286	990	1380

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Delhi

It is to be noted that a child integrates best within the country of his/her own origin because of the identification with the cultural milieu closest to his/her roots. Therefore, efforts are made by adoption agencies to motivate Indian Parents to adopt so that a climate is created in the country

for rehabilitation of destitute children. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment grants recognition to both Indian and foreign agencies which are engaged in sporeboring Indian children for adoption abroad. About 77 agencies in the country have been recognized enlisted to sponsor inter country adoption on Indian children.

### **Programmes and Schemes**

The care and protection of children in need of special care had to be given the highest priority in the planning of programmes for social deviants and other disadvantaged groups. Though a comprehensive scheme for the prevention and control of juvenile social maladjustment had been implemented by the government since the VIIth Plan, there were wide gaps between cherished standards and actual practice. In view of existing gaps between the desired goals and achievements, Government of India has also drafted a policy for Integrated Child Protection Scheme to be launched in 2007. Child protection is about protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, their identity and childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and protecting them in harmful situations while protection is a right of every child. Some children are more vulnerable than others and need special attention. (Chart VIII)

**Chart - VIII**  
**Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children**

S.No.	Children
1.	Homeless children (Pavement dwellers, displaced, evicted refugees etc.)
2.	Migrant children
3.	Street children and runaway children
4.	Working children
5.	Orphaned or abandoned children
6.	Children of Prostitutes and Sex Workers
7.	Child Prostitutes
8.	Trafficked Children
9.	Children in jails/prisons
10.	Children of Prisoners
11.	Children affected by war and conflict, terrorism etc.
12.	Children affected by natural disasters
13.	Children affected by HIV/AIDS
14.	Children suffering from terminal diseases
15.	Children infected by HIV/AIDS
16.	Disabled children
17.	Children belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, OBC; and Other Backward Classes
18.	Abused (domestic violence, rape, sexual etc. children)
19.	Child delinquents
20.	Malnourished children

Source: MOWCD, Delhi, 2006

The Government recognizes these children as children in difficult circumstances, characterized by their specific social, economic, and geopolitical situations. The existing child protection mechanisms primarily flow from the provisions under the Juvenile Justice (care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Plan of Action for Children, 2005. These comprised several programmes and schemes implemented by different ministries and departments addressing child protection issues.

These programmes includes (i) Juvenile Justice for Children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law; (ii) integrated programme for street children without homes and family ties; (iii) child line service for children in distress, especially children in need of care and protection so as to provide them medical services, shelter, rescue from abuse, counseling and recreation; (iv) *Shishu Grih* Scheme for care and protection of orphans, abandoned and destitute infants or children up to 6 years and promote in country adoption for rehabilitating them; (v) scheme for working children in need of care and protection for children working as domestic help at roadsides *dhabas*, mechanic shops, etc.; (vi) Rajiv Gandhi National Scheme for children of working mothers in the age group of 0-6 years for providing comprehensive day care services like food, shelter, medical, recreation etc.; (vii) combating the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation for providing care and protection to trafficked and sexually abused women and children; (viii) Central Adoption Resource Agency for providing in country and inter country adoption of destitute and orphan children; (ix) National Child Labour Project for rehabilitation of child labour. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has also launched schemes of *Swadhar*, Short Stay

Homes, and scheme for Rescue of Victims of Trafficking; Relief and Rehabilitation of Rape Victims, and *Kishori Shakti Yojana*. There are some schemes for the disabled persons under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The following key principles of child protection approach are underlined by the government; (i) child protection is a shared responsibility; (ii) reducing child vulnerability; (iii) strengthening of family; (iv) promoting non-institutional care; (v) establishing inter-school linkages and responsibilities; (vi) creating a network of services at community level; (vii) establishing standards for care and protection; (viii) building capabilities; (ix) providing child protection professional services at all levels; (x) strengthening crisis management system at all levels; (xi) reintegration with family and community; (xii) addressing protection of children in urban poverty; (xiii) initiating child impact monitoring programmes.

The government of India is implementing about 120 schemes and programmes for the welfare and development of children and women through more than 13 government Ministries and Departments. The Integrated Child Development Services Programme (ICDS) represents one of the world's largest and most unique programme for early childhood development, an initiatives unparallel in history. A network of Anganwadi Centres, literally courtyard play Centres, provide basic health, nutrition and early childhood care and development services to address the interrelated needs of children below the age of six, adolescent girls and expectant and nursing mothers from disadvantaged communities. From a modest beginning in 1975, the ICDS now reaches out 64.52 million children and

mothers through India. There are 5413 ICDS Projects while 692225 Aganwadi Centres are functional in India. (Table 19)

**Table - 19**

**State-wise Operation of ICDS Projects (As on December 2004)**

State	No. of ICDS Projects Sanctioned		No. of Operational Projects	No. of Aganwadi Centres	
	Urban	Total		Sanctioned	Operational
<b>India</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>5652</b>	<b>5413</b>	<b>747388</b>	<b>692225</b>
Andhra Pradesh	33	363	351	54312	53564
Arunachal Pradesh	-	58	57	2359	2286
Assam	3	196	195	25416	25302
Bihar	22	394	249	60813	32047
Jharkhand	3	204	152	15505	14467
Goa	0	11	11	1012	1012
Gujarat	12	227	227	37961	35441
Haryana	5	116	116	13546	13546
Himachal Pradesh	0	72	72	7354	7354
Jammu & Kashmir	2	121	120	11821	10227
Karnataka	12	185	185	40301	40301
Kerala	10	163	163	25393	24415

Madhya Pradesh	22	336	336	49784	48824
Chattisgarh	5	152	152	20289	20277
Maharashtra	73	372	371	62176	61558
Manipur	1	34	34	4501	4499
Meghalaya	0	32	32	2218	2217
Mizoram	1	21	21	1361	1341
Nagaland	2	54	54	2770	2770
Orissa	12	326	326	34201	34201
Punjab	5	142	142	15829	14016
Rajasthan	18	257	257	35821	35686
Sikkim	1	5	5	500	500
Tamil Nadu	36	434	434	42677	42677
Tripura	5	40	39	3786	3692
Uttar Pradesh	19	834	819	106059	94680
Uttaranchal	4	99	96	6378	5929
West Bengal	22	358	352	57540	53354

Source: Annual Report, 2004-5, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Delhi.

India has also achieved considerable progress in its campaign to eradicate polio. Importantly, the vaccination of children against six serious but preventable diseases, diphtheria, polio, measles, tetanus and tuberculosis has been a cornerstone of the child care system in India. The universal Immunization Programme was launched in 1995-96 for this purpose. Pulse

Polio Immunization programme was also launched in 1996 to eradicate pulse polio from the country. In order to improve the status of malnourished children, nutrition and food security programmes were introduced with the help of international agencies. Moreover, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* was launched to improve the quality of education, removing the gender bias, and to create a gender sensitive educational system. The incentives (mid-day meal, free school bags, books, scholarship etc.) have also improved the enrolment, retention, and quality education to the children of disadvantaged classes.

A nationwide popular scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Caste students extended its scope for enhancing the income ceiling of parents of the beneficiaries and for extending some additional benefits to persons with disabilities amongst Scheduled Castes. The scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations introduced in 1977-78 aims to motivate the children of scavengers, sweepers, flyers and tanners to pursue education and also for controlling school dropouts amongst them and thereby weaning them away from the obnoxious practice of scavenging. Hostel facility for scheduled caste boys and girls launched in 1961-62 provides hostel facilities to boys and girls studying in middle, secondary and higher secondary schools, colleges and universities. Special educational development programmes for Scheduled Caste girls belonging to very low literacy level districts introduced during 1996-97 aims to establish special residential schools for Scheduled Caste girls who are first generation learners in low literacy pockets where the traditions and environment are not conducive to learning. The book bank scheme for scheduled caste students launched in 1978-79

aims to supply text books to scheduled castes students for pursuing medical, engineering, veterinary, agriculture, polytechnic, chartered accountancy, MBA, Law and Bio-Sciences courses. Up-gradation of merit of scheduled castes students launched in 1987-88 aims to provide remedial and special coaching to scheduled castes students studying in classes X to XIII. Coaching and Allied Scheme for scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes students was launched in 1960-61 for improving the knowledge and aptitude amongst scheduled castes/tribes students by providing special coaching to them through pre-examination training centres and thus for preparing them to compete with others in the civil services and other competitive examinations. In order to ensure educational development amongst OBC's, schemes for providing scholarships for pursuing both post matric and pre matric as well as for other higher education, supported with hostel facilities, were introduced. Besides, children belonging to OBC's were also allowed to enjoy the existing hostel facilities for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes boys and girls. Pre-examination Coaching centres were also set-up for them.

The interventions of the government in human relationships can be best being catalytic in bringing about a change in the environment for children and women. Recognizing the unique contribution of the holistic approach of ICDS and to work towards its effective universalization, emphasis is given on the consolidation and content enrichment to enhance programme quality impact and sustainability. However, universalization of the ICDS should be a priority to safeguard the child's right to nutrition, health, and pre-school education.

While dealing with the complex dimensions of child rights both in terms of numbers and in quality we observe that the situation regarding education, literacy, immunization and food security is somewhat satisfactory. However, certain other critical indicators such as infant mortality, malnutrition, regional disparity in education and literacy etc. are showing dismal position in certain parts of the country. In the recent past, India has witnessed the generation of political will and commitment towards the cause of children and much government and voluntary action has taken place to improve survival, health, education and protection of children. There has been progress on some child development parameters, such as overall decline in childhood mortality, incidence of preventable diseases and increase in enrolments in primary schools but in comparison to other developing countries, progress in India has been slower particularly on the Millennium Development Goals. It is clear that the Indian child urgently needs better interventions.

Against this backdrop, the national seminar is proposed to have threadbare discussions and deliberations on the issues of care and protection of disadvantaged children in urban India. The functioning or various programmes, schemes and projects oriented towards empowerment, development and welfare and protection of disadvantaged children in urban India also need to be discussed and the drawbacks involved in the proper functioning and implementation of such programmes and schemes are to be examined so that effective and efficient administration of such programmes and schemes may be ensured.

## **Objectives of the Seminar**

The national seminar has the following main objectives:

- To review programmes, policies, projects and schemes oriented towards care, protection and empowerment of disadvantaged children in India
- To examine the status of disadvantaged children in urban India
- To review the enforcement of Children's Rights Acts and other legal provisions in India
- To examine the impact of Juvenile Justice Act and other legal provisions related to disadvantaged children
- To examine the implementation of various programmes, schemes and projects for care and protection of disadvantaged children in urban India
- To examine the compliance of the recommendations of UN Committee on Child's Rights in India and particularly to assess the progress in India in the context of Millennium Development Goals
- To suggest policy measures for proper implementation, delivery of services and administration of Children's Rights Acts, legal provisions, programmes and schemes in India

## Issues for the Seminar

- What could be the reasons for the limited impact of existing provisions for children?
- How to improve accountability of service providers to the poor communities?
- Is financing addressing children's needs holistically?
- How to fill up the gaps in child protection schemes?
- How to enlarge the coverage, outreach services and infrastructure set up for children?
- How to enforce the existing laws and legislations for child protection?
- How to strengthen and build capacities of human resources engaged in child protection programmes?
- How to reduce child vulnerability?
- How to promote non-institutional care for children?
- How to address protection of children in urban poverty?
- How to develop and promote Government-Civil Society Partnership in child care and protection?
- How to address strategies for preventing destitution and exploitation of children through care, protection and development programmes?
- How to ensure enforcement of child Marriage Restraint Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Child Labour Act?

- How to make aware, mobilize and sensitize parents, care givers, community and other civil society?
- How to develop a system of identification, investigation, reporting, follow-up, and referral of children at risk within and outside home and institutional care?
- How to develop data base for all categories of children in difficult circumstances?
- How to improve the reporting and redressal mechanism for children care and protection services?
- How to improve and strengthen networking and liasoning with various state holders in delivery of child care and protection services?
- How to improve the system of training of capacity building of service providers?
- How to improve the mechanism for life skill education for children?
- How to enhance the role of urban local bodies in policy advocacy as well as child care and protection services?
- How to discourage socio cultural values adversely affecting child care and protection?
- How to ensure social rehabilitation of disadvantaged, destitute and disabled children?
- How to improve reproductive and child care and reduce all forms of malnutrition amongst adolescent girls and children?
- How to enforce ban on sex selective abortion and female infanticide?

- How long poverty alone can be held accountable for every malaise that exists in the society?
- Why is child marriage a violation of child rights?
- Can a child marriage be stopped?
- What can the elected members of local governments, *panchayats* and local bodies do for prevention of violation of children's rights?
- What does child labour hold for children?
- What is the impact of sexual abuse on children?
- Why child trafficking as an organized business is growing?
- What is the impact of child trafficking on children, family and society?
- How to check gender, caste discrimination and HIV/AIDs infected children?
- How to check violence against children in the education system?
- How to discourage sex tourism at major tourism destinations?
- How to improve the access and quality of health care services for children?
- How to train health personnel in integrated management of childhood illness?
- How to universalize the Integrated Child Development Services Programme for overall development of young children?
- How to make use of available resources and infrastructure for supplementary nutrition to children and adolescent girls?

- How to mobilize and involve people who can lead the cause of child rights at all levels?
- How to operationalize the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for elementary education to children?
- How to mobilize opinion leaders, influential members of the civil society and people's association towards child rights?

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