
NACG EVAC INDIA

**National Action & Coordination Group for
Ending Violence Against Children, INDIA**

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019- March 2020



National Action & Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC), India is the civil society forum of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), an apex body of South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).



National Consultation on Draft National Educational Policy -2019

After Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India released the “Draft National Education Policy 2019” and invited for comments & suggestions from all stakeholders across the country. On this backdrop, NACG-EVAC (National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children), India organized a national consultation on “Draft National Education Policy 2019” on 28th June, 2019 at Panthanivas Convention Hall, Bhubaneswar. Many civil society representatives, academics, educationists, teacher’s association

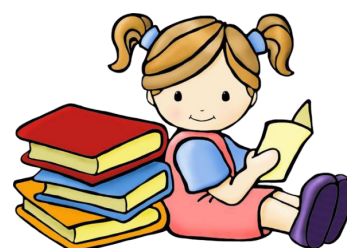
representatives and experts from different parts of India participated in this consultation and gave their valuable recommendations and suggestions which shall be submitted to the Ministry. Participants stressed on quality, inclusive and safe education for every child. The consultation ended with suggestions to the Government for focusing on the overall well being of the child and upholding all rights due to them. The consultation organized by the NACG in association with PECUC was inaugurated by Prof. Mohammad Fakiruddin, Former Vice Chairman, CHSE Odisha. Sj Niranjana Sahoo, IAS Labour Commissioner and Director of Higher Education, Govt of Odisha gave his valuable inputs on the opening session stating that education is instrumental in shaping a child's mind and imbuing in him a learning characteristic.

The inaugural session was chaired by Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson NACG India & D. Roshan Kumar, Vice Chairperson offered the vote of thanks. Dr Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Former Additional Director, Higher Education, Odisha & National Convenor of Joint Forum for movement on Education, Ambarish Rai, National Convenor, Right to Education Forum, Delhi P. Joseph Victor Raj, National Convenor, Campaign Against Child Labour Razia Ismail, Head, India Alliance for Child Rights, Y. Rajendra Prasad, Coordinator, MV Foundation, gave their opinion on the Draft National Education Policy 2019 were some of the dignitaries who spoke on various aspects of Draft New Education Policy. This session was presided over by Mr C.J.George, Former Regional Coordinator, South Asia Terre Des Hommes [G]. The various nuances of the policy were discussed in the plenary. In the second plenary on addressing Safety and Security of Children in Schools within New Education Policy, the discussants highlighted the need for measures which ensures overall security and safety of children in school, family & community. Ms Kasturi Mohapatra, Former Chairperson, OSCPCR, S.J. Sanjay Misra, Former Member, Jharkhand SCPCR, Dr. P.C. Mohapatra, Former Director, SCERT, Ms Ruby Rout, Country Director, Adoptions Centrum and S.J. Suryakant Kulkarni, Former Member Maharashtra SCPCR made their presentations.

This session was presided by Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, National Head- Advocacy, World Vision, India. Parallel sessions were conducted on School Education facilitated by Dr Chiranjeeb Kakoty, NEYSPM, Assam, Higher Education by Prof. Mohammad Fakiruddin and Manabendra Nath Mandal, SLARTC, West Bengal, Technology in Education, Vocational Education by Bibekananda Das, General Secretary, AIFEA and Anil Pradhan, RTE Forum Odisha and Transforming Education by C.J. George, Former Regional Coordinator South Asia, TDH[G] and Ruby Rout, Country Director Adoptions Centurms came out with recommendations for onward forwarding to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Ms Aditi P. Kaur, MCF, Uttarakhand and Parul Seth, Shaishav, Gujarat also spoke on the occasion.

Ms Sandhyabati Pradhan, Chairperson, Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights graced the concluding session of the consultation as the Chief Guest.

NACG-EVAC, India, in collaboration with PECUC, Adoptions Centrum, AEIN organised the National consultation. This National Consultation was participated by 117 no of participants from 12 states of India. The recommendations were submitted to Ministry of HRD.





National Executive Committee Meetings of NACG EVAC, India

The National Executive Committee Meeting was held at Prasar Bharati, NABM Training Centre, Bhubaneswar on 29th June, 2019. All the 11 members attended the meeting. Dr Rinchon Chophel, Director General SAIEVAC joined through Skype call. Dr Chophel spoke on strengthening NACG India, observation of CRC@30 and proposed regional children consultation, future programmes of SAIVAC including proposed 8th Governing Body meeting etc. During the National Executive Meeting on 29th June 2019 Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakotty handed over the documents of the NACG EVAC India on

soft copy available with NESPYM, the former Secretariat to the new Secretariat at PECUC. And the handing over process completed in presence of the EC Members. A National Executive Committee Meeting was held at CHETNA Office, Delhi on 12th February 2020. 8 members attended the meeting. Dr. Rinchon Chophel, DG, SAIEVAC, attended the meeting & gave his valuable inputs. The most important decision was finalisation of Charter of NACG EVAC, India, based on few suggestions & approval by National Board on circulation by Mail. One National Executive Committee meeting was held on virtual platform on 19th February 2020 in which 7 members participated. The meeting focused on the project - Child Protection Workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India, in collaboration with World Vision India, World Vision Germany & BMZ, and Federal Republic of Germany.



Children's Participatory Audit of Rights & Realities of Childhood in India using Score-Card: 2019

World Vision India In partnership with NACG EVAC, India and the We Can Women Coalition Trust, India Alliance for Child Rights (IACR) conducted a national level Child Rights Assessment by using a score-card tool. The tool was used to collate views, perception, opinions and recommendations of children, parents/caregivers and service providers on realisation of child rights in India. It was shared with different stakeholders in a children assembly held at Delhi.

30th Anniversary UNCRC: National Children Assembly at New Delhi from 16th to 18th December 2019

World Vision India (WVIndia) in partnership with NACG EVAC, India and India Alliance for Child Rights (IACR) organised a National Children Assembly in New Delhi from 16th to 18th December 2019.

More than 150 young child rights advocates from different states of India participated in the UNCRC 30th Anniversary- National Children Assembly.

The theme of the event was: "The Voices of Children". Girls and boys below 18 years, accompanied by chaperons, participated in the event.



Girls and boys below 18 years, accompanied by chaperons, participated in the event. Amongst others the assembly was addressed by WCD Minister Sheetal Khushi, Delhi, Mr. P. Wilson, Honourable Member of Rajya Sabha, Dr Rinchen Chopel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), Shri Yashwant Jain, Hon'ble Member, NCPCR, Hon'ble member of DCPCR, Justice Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat, Deputy Representative- Programmes, India Country Office, UNICEF, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC India, Mr Deepak Bose, Member, IACR, Mr Shankar Chaudhary, Member, IACR, Mr. Mikahel Kumar Pradhan, Head, Advocacy, World Vision India, Mr. Sanjaya Mishra, former Member, SCPCR, Jharkhand & Treasurer, NACG and Mr. Sony Thomas, Officer In-charge National Director.

Other guests from different NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and government officials were also present in the event. Children presented their findings & views in front of the guests & other stakeholders.





National Seminar on “Moving towards Green Bricks”

A National Seminar on Moving Towards Green Bricks was held on 13th February 2020 by Brooke India, NACG India and SAIEVAC at YWCA, New Delhi.

One-day national level seminar was organized in New Delhi on the topic of “Moving towards Green Bricks” on 13th February 2020 by Brooke India, NACG and SAIEVAC. The main aim of this seminar was to discuss and prepare a two-year road map with actionable long-term goal of a “Humane/Green Brick” standard in BK manufacturing in India. The concept of the “Humane/Green Brick” involves manufacturing of the

bricks conforming to the environmental needs, welfare of equines and humane working conditions of the labour force. Speaking at the inaugural session, Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General, Governing Board Member & Member Secretary, SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat, said that “This national level seminar is a culmination of our efforts to collectively resolve issues of brick kiln sector in South Asia which began way back in 2015”. He was quite hopeful that SAIEVAC, NACG and Brooke India’s partnership will open up opportunity for bringing in all the key stakeholders involved in the brick kiln sectors under one roof at the national level and evolve mechanism to move towards abiding to minimum standards for BK industry. Mr. Vijay Kumar Goel, General Secretary, All India Bricks & Tiles Manufacturers Federation (AIBTMF) while addressing the gathering, highlighted the

contribution of brick kiln manufacturers in providing employment to 3-4 crore unorganised/unskilled labour force in the country, along with lakhs of donkeys and mules. On behalf of the Federation, he assured all the participants that brick kiln manufacturers are ready to provide better facilities to labours and working animals; however, he also requested participating NGOs not to label brick kilns as source of bonded labour and exploitation, which actually is not true, according to him. Dr Sujit Kumar Dutta, Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India, shared his perspective on need for better animal welfare and proper implementation of provisions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. He further emphasised on the need for better veterinary care of animals working in brick kilns and monitoring framework for Glanders, to ensure that cross country transmission of disease is contained. He complimented Brooke India on the extensive involvement in addressing the issue of glanders and creating awareness in the rural areas and amongst the equine owners. In light of the recent government regulations on the BK industry, the Indian BK manufacturers have been trying to evolve and invest in better technologies. Yet, there is still ample scope for further improvements.

Hence, BI along with all the like-minded stakeholders wants to work with BK industry manufacturers / experts to achieve the Humane/Green Brick” standard in brick manufacturing. Amongst others Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India spoke on this occasion.

The seminar was able to enlist some of the major areas of intervention in the BK industry and chalk out practical solutions to address them, and also able to get commitment from organisations to work collectively towards the common solutions. The august gathering decided to jointly work on a national level working group and become a link between the policy makers and implementers. This seminar witnessed 40 participants from several leading organizations championing the cause of labour, animal welfare and environment, like SEEDS, Mountain Children’s Foundation, ICIMOD, World Vision India, CEC, to name a few.





India takes up the chairmanship of SAIEVAC Governing Body

The 8th Governing Board Meeting (GBM) of South Asian Initiative to End Violence against children (SAIEVAC), an apex body of SAARC, held in Maldives from 17th to 19th October 2019 being organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Government of Maldives and Key Partners. The inaugural session of the 8th GBM was held in an open Forum & witnessed the handing over ceremony of the Chair, Governing Board, SAIEVAC from Bhutan to India. Ms. Astha Saxena Khatwani, IAS, Joint Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development was felicitated on this occasion and took over the Chairmanship for India.

Mr. Ravindra Pratap Singh, IAS, Deputy Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of WCD and SAIEVAC Coordinator of India and Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson NACG EVAC, India were also present on the occasion.

Pre-technical Session on SRHR at MALE



Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC India spoke in pre technical session on: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in relation to the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia 2018 – 2023 on 16 Oct 2019, highlighting the experience in India, Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat in Collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family, Government of Maldives in partnership with Key Partners on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.



Asian Children Summit 2019 at Bangkok

Asian Children's Summit on the occasion of CRC@30 was organized by SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (SRS), CRC Asia and ACWC Thailand for ASIAN Region, held at Bangkok from 25th Nov to 30th Nov 2019. Four child representatives namely Preetimayee Sahoo, Milonee Mishra, Pratihit Singh and Sasha Agrawal from India participated in it. They were accompanied by three adult chaperones. In this summit, India was represented by 4 child participants, of which two girls were from Odisha, Preetimayee Sahoo and Milonee Mishra. The other two, Prathit Singh and Sasha Agrawal, were from West Bengal. The child delegates were nominated by the NACG EVAC, India through a national level nomination process.

They were accompanied by Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC, and Mr. Sisir Thanikal & Ms. Agnes Aloka Toppo of International Justice Mission, Kolkata. The specific aim of the summit was to build the children's advocacy capacity and to provide a platform for cultural exchange.





Launching of “Child Protection Workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India”

Three days’ Roll out workshop from 3rd to 5th March 2020 in New Delhi

The project “Child Protection Workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India” supported by BMZ, German through WV Germany and WVI, is concerning CSEA to focus on developing the capacities of local stakeholders to take ownership of the development activities in their region to ensure effective implementation of the child protection policies, laws, services

etc. at National level and in the States of Odisha & Delhi.

The stakeholders include government institution and frontline staffs e.g. Police, Child helpline, Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Teachers, frontline Medical Practitioners and health service providers etc. Stakeholders are also the local agencies, local NGOs and staff. While at the micro level, such measures should aim to work with the children and village level protection mechanisms, at a higher level it should attempt to reach out to institutions like police and judiciary to impact on their attitude and behaviour to support the prevention, protection and prosecution in case of CSEA. The most appropriate response to combat sexual violence against children is to conduct trainings and build capacities for these identified stakeholders to



acquire appropriate knowledge, skill and competency to handle CSAE cases with due diligence and appropriate measures. There is need of regular trainings of stakeholders due to complexity in the Indian legal systems and procedures. There is inadequacy in training and capacity building of the government officials to receive induction or in-service trainings on CSEA. These trainings will be able to orient these stakeholders towards their roles and responsibilities and will help in changing their attitude towards children and their issues. Through these trainings, the response mechanism of these stakeholders and institutions will improve which will eventually help in reducing CSEA.

Participation in Different Forums & Programmes

'Consultative Workshop on Rights of Children of Persecuted Minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India' by NCPCR in collaboration with AEHR & HAI

Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC India spoke on "UNCRC and rights of children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India" in a technical session of this workshop, which was held on 24th February 2020 at Constitution club of India, New Delhi. The session was chaired by Sj. Yashwant Jain, Member, NCPCR.



NACGs Meetings & Donors Meeting at Nepal- 26th-27th Sept 2019

Children as Zones of Peace (CZOP) & NACG Nepal collaborately conducted a meeting of NACGS and Donor Meeting at Nepal on 26-27th Sept 2019.

From NACG EVAC India Chairperson Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Vice Chair D. Roshan Kumar attended the meeting.



Regional training on Child Protection System by Plan ARO from Oct 15th- 16 at Bangkok

Plan International's Asia Regional Office (PlanARO) held a two-day regional training on Child Protection Systems: Key components, functions and actors from October 15-16 in Bangkok, Thailand. The training brought together 22 participants from 13 Asian countries, including representatives of CRC Asia and NACG from ASEAN and SAARC countries. Representative countries were: Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos PDR, The Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, The Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand. Ms Aditi P. Kaur, EC Member of NACG EVAC India participated on behalf of NACG EVAC India.

State Consultation on “It takes Nagaland to End Child Sexual Abuse” - 10th July 2019 at Kohima, Nagaland

World Vision India in partnership with Child Protection Services, Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Nagaland, Child Line and NACG-EVAC India organized a State Level consultation on “It takes Nagaland to End Child Sexual Abuse” on 10th July 2019, at Hotel Japfu, Kohima, where more than 100 participants including children, teachers, CBOs, Civil Society members, media personnel, attended the meet. Ms. N. K. Keny – NACG-EVAC – Nagaland State representative to National Board of NACG EVAC India states on the important role of Child Line, Convergence Action and Social Accountability of various stakeholders and CSOs to end violence against children.

Newsletter

3 issues of E-News letter published & circulated during the year.

Social Media Campaign

Facebook page of NACG India has been opened & campaign on different issues has been taken up.

Youth Against Child Labour - Public Awareness Rally & Signature Campaign in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

On the occasion of World Day against Child Labour 2019 People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC), a leading child rights organization organized a Youth against Child Labour – Public Awareness Rally & Signature Campaign in collaboration with Labour and ESI department of Government of Odisha on 12th June 2019. Every child must be stopped from stepping in to any form of labour – this is hazardous for any child, anywhere. This issue should be addressed in all spheres and on priority basis as told by Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India while addressing the Public Awareness Rally.





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