

From Chairperson's Desk

These are extraordinary times. The corona virus pandemic is creating daily evolving changes with profound impacts on lives of people, especially children. Disruptions in the daily activities of children, their families and community they grow in can pose a threat to their protection, development and overall well-being. Heightened risk of child abuse, at home as well as online, has left behind traces of psychological distress, violence, neglect and exploitation in children.

The pandemic has also led to closing down of Anganwadi centres and schools, thus directly impacting the kids. This is not only pausing the education but also increasing the risk of malnourishment. This can have a long-term effect on children's well being and development, those who are dependent on school meals.

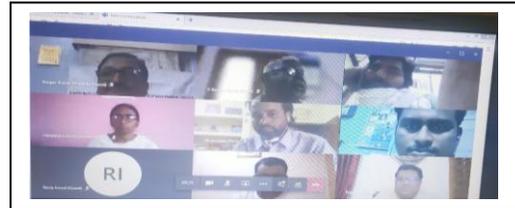
NACG EVAC India and its members need to be together in this along with other key stakeholders, understanding the risk factors and finding solutions to it, to help protect the children. We need to work on the recovery plans by prioritising protection, health and education rights of children to regain the lost ground.



Ranjan Kumar Mohanty
Chairperson, NACG EVAC India

Editorial Board – Aditi P Kaur, D. Roshan Kumar
& Ranjan Kanti Panda

National E-Consultation on "Combating Violence Against Children in COVID-19 Post-Lockdown"



The world has experienced many crises but COVID-19 presents unprecedented challenges. Media coverage indicates an increase in violence against children and women. It is abundantly clear that risk factors for violence, abuse, and neglect are on the rise for children under lockdown. The emerging need for developing a multipronged strategy for actions by all concerned stakeholders to ensure children's safety at home, community, institutions, worksites and at all levels, has been opined by many eminent speakers from different parts of India in a National E-Consultation on "Combating the Violence Against Children in COVID 19 Post lockdown situation". This e-consultation was organised by National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACG-EVAC), India, which is a country level Civil Society platform of South Asian Initiative to Ending Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), an apex body of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The e-consultation was presided by **Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson of NACG EVAC, India** and the consultation focused on the issues relating to child sexual abuse, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, school safety, children with disability and children in difficult circumstances. While inaugurating the e-consultation, Mr. **Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**, has raised grave concern on the online abuse of

children through pornographies as well as possible critical situation of child labour during the post-lockdown situation. He invited all stakeholders from Govt., Non-govt., civil society and from different platforms for a concentrated and coordinated efforts to provide a safe environment for children.

Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General, SAIEVAC has mentioned that during this post lockdown situation, safety and security of children is a concern for all, including the govt, non-govt. civil society members, etc. He recommended taking collective effort to combat this situation.

Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chairperson, NACG EVAC & Chetna, New Delhi, highlighted the plight of street children due to the imposition of lockdown. He stated that it is the right time to facilitate, promote and access right to information for the most vulnerable families. **D. Roshan Kumar, Vice-Chairperson, NACG EVAC & SEEDS, Andhra Pradesh** said that it is an opportunity for all to work together for preventing child marriage and accelerate our efforts to help and change the lives of girls and young women all over the world. In addition, he focused on strengthening the village level Child Protection Committees (CPCs) to create awareness and generate report in a timely manner.

Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Treasurer NACG EVAC, India raised his concern about the online education system as it is affordable for limited children and not all children are benefitted by it due to social and economic causes.

Mr. P. Joseph Victor Raj, NACG National Executive Committee member & Former National Convenor, CACL from HOPE, Puducherry shows his concern about relaxation of labour law by the state government of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Relaxing the labour laws will give power to the employer to hire child labourers at low wages, and reduce/abolish working facility at the project site for workers.

Mr. Mikhael Kumar Pradhan, NACG Executive Committee Member & Head Advocacy, World Vision, India said that mental health and cyber

social health of the children are not balanced and should be taken into consideration. He suggested to make community-based child protection committee functional across the country.

Mr. Manabendranath Mandal, Chairperson, South Asia-ATSEC SLART, spoke about various issues of the children, especially children of health workers, children with disability, children of sex workers, children of construction workers, and children prone to trafficking.

Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty, Director, NESPYM, Assam, spoke about the school safety in post lockdown situation.

Mr. Prakash Rath, CEO, Open Learning System, Bhubaneswar expressed his concern over children with disability and suggested there should be separate fund for the children with disability under CM and PM Fund. He added that disability pension should not be considered as criteria of family income.

Amongst others, Ms. Razia Ismail, Head, India Alliance for Child Rights, Ms. Anuradha Vidyasankar, Head SRRC, Childline India Foundation, Ms. NK Keny, Love Care Home, Nagaland, Ms. Aditi P Kaur, MCF, Uttarakhand, Parul Seth, Shaishab, Gujarat, Ms. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC, Ms. Nirmal Pandey, Mr. Ajay Mahajan, WVI, Mr. Swaraman, PMSSS and Mr. Bhupinder from Chetna presented their views on various issues like child labour, child trafficking, online safety of children, etc. There were around 90 participants in the E-consultation and all agreed to submit their recommendations to the govt. on combating the child abuse during the post lockdown situation.

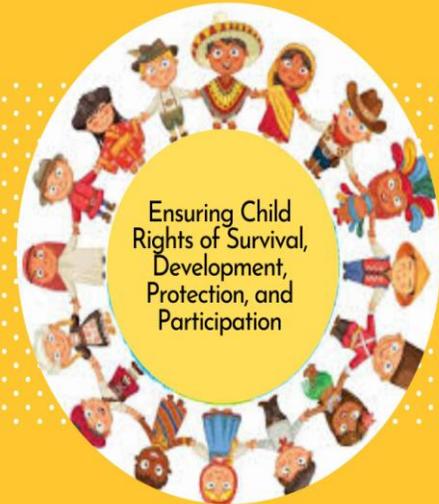
Online Campaign by NACG EVAC, India

COVID-19 pandemic has generated a very unprecedented situation for children. With schools closed, they are forced to stay at home without any outside activities. This leads to stress building. Meanwhile, online activities of children have increased due to online classes, coaching, etc. The crime rate against children

has also increased, with increase in screen time of the children. Seeing these developments an online campaign has been launched by NACG EVAC, India to raise awareness, stop child rights violation and ensure their online safety.

COVID-19 AND CHILD RIGHTS

What could be the best way to protect children at home for 24*7 than to aware a concerned **INDIVIDUAL** in the community.
SO. LETS REACH THEM



Ensuring Child Rights of Survival, Development, Protection, and Participation

GOOD NEWS: ALL THE CHILD PROTECTION UNITS ARE WORKING
CALL ON 100/1098 FOR ISSUES RELATED TO CHILDREN

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/NACGIndia/>

Positive Parenting during Covid-19 Lockdown

01 Distance the family from Social Media/TV for a while

04 Open-up, listen to them and be supportive

02 Use positive words instead of harsh words

05 Involve them in household works

03 Prepare daily schedule with them

06 Monitor their behavior and direct them in a positive way

NACG INDIA
SAIEVAC

Some of the Online Campaign Posters

NEWS FROM STATES

REACHING TO UNREACHED DURING LOCKDOWN

Dr. A.V. Baliga Memorial Trust, Delhi

The majority of the communities of various project areas of Baliga Trust are slum dwellers of Delhi. During the lockdown, the daily wage earners and migrant workers living in these slums were unable to afford even a two times meal in a day. Baliga Trust came forward to support those who were in urgent need. They formed a Special Task force of 9 team leaders for Emergency Response with defined responsibilities. Some of the glimpses of their support system are as follows:

Baliga Trust distributed Dry Ration for 7-15 days and for two months to over 4000 families (Over 24,000 people) till 5th June 2020 in their project areas. A call system was developed to provide ration and medicine to the needy people.



Baliga Trust distributed cooked food to over 12000 people. They are also associated with Delhi Govt. for cooked food distribution and Ration supply to the people in various locations. They also partnered with SWIGGY and I-PAC to provide food to 1000 people. They ensured cooked meals for over 140 people till 30th June 2020. They provided dry ration support to 201 migrant labourers and access to Govt. services as well.

Their intervention supported all vulnerable communities including the old age people, sick, physically challenged (or disabled), woman

headed families with young children and also assisted them in linkage with the Govt. schemes and services. They also provided livelihood opportunities to SHG women or petty vendors.

Over 5000 awareness sessions were conducted by involving staff members. 500 people were linked with social protection schemes, such as Public distribution, pension, immediate relief, emergency fund, etc.

To protect children, the frontline workers organised various activities including teaching, painting, and song and dance. They were encouraged to raise voices against any abuse. Posters on Aao Chuppi Tode aur Hinsa Ke Khilaaf Awaj Uthayen (Break the silence and raise voice against Violence) were pasted at several places. Counselling sessions were organised for children and parents.



Online counselling was organised by Family Counselling Centre and Mahila Panchayat to support victims of domestic violence.

200 youths were given online Vocational Training and 24 of them are in job placements. 350 children through WhatsApp group Call were engaged in Remedial Education Centres in Narela, Holambikalan and Mangolpuri.

Awareness during the Pandemic

Mandra Lions Club, West Bengal

The outbreak of COVID-19 crisis has a long-term negative impact on children around the world. This is a universal crisis and for some children, the impact will be life-long. In such critical situation, Mandra Lions Club has undertaken awareness generation through wall painting, mike campaign and leaflet distribution.



Mike Campaign has been done in Arsha, Balarampur, Jhalda I, Jhalda II, Purulia I Blocks, and Jhalda and Purulia Municipality areas about how to behave during lockdown period. The organisation printed 50,000 leaflets and they were also supported with various printed materials provided by the Baghmundi block administration.

Mandra Lions Club distributed essential commodities like rice, pulses, potatoes, onion, and soap in the villages of the Bagmundi Block:



Milk distribution to preprimary children

Sukridova, Bagmundi, Susnidi, Saramchaki, Hatinada, Usuldugri, Pardi, Nischintapur, Ghorabandha, Haridi, Shrabandi and Hikimdi. For ensuring nutrition of children of the pre-primary centre run by Mandra Lions Club, they also distributed milk to the children by maintaining social distance of the children.

Humanitarian response during COVID-19

Chetna Vikas, Jharkhand

Chetna Vikas in collaboration with District administration distributed food items among 570 needy families and provided food grain to 1200 migrant labour families.



Chetna Vikas decided to support community in its intervention area of Madhupur and Deoghar blocks of Deoghar district and Saraiyahat block of Dumka district.



Distribution of Personal protection Kit to field workers of Nagar Nigam:

Chetna Vikas with support of Gram Jyoti, Usha group of Institute, Baba Bailyase and Dr.Chetna Bharti distributed 360 PPE kits among corona warriors of



Deoghar nagar nigan in coordination with district administration. Safety kits included soap, hand gloves, masks and hand sanitizer. District vice Mayor, Nitu Devi, Rita Chaurasia, Ajay pandit of nagar nigam and others were distinguished guest present on the occasion. Chetna Vikas is campaigning, to aware community against COVID-19 since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Chetna Vikas provided Online Education to about 119 disabled Children. With a aim to reach out maximum number of CWVI who have been provided with ICT devices by Sightsavers, online classes started in Dumka, Hazaribag, Deoghar and Jamtara district CVIs Children’s during the period. **It also provided education kit support to 245 children.**

Chetna Vikas distributed dry ration and cooked food among 68 members of Kusht Ashram in Deoghar. 150 Masks were distributed among the needy persons.

Fighting COVID19

The Mountain Children’s Foundation, Uttarakhand

Dealing with something as pervasive and fast spreading as a pandemic is particularly challenging in mountainous and rural regions.



The MCF team was out in the community sharing information about the virus and hygiene practice when COVID19 was gathering force in March. They published a full article on COVID19 in their Magazine PABAM describing about all safety norms and its necessities to prevent COVID19. The children became the agent of change and they taught their parents and grandparents regarding proper hand washing method. MCF also collected field data, prepared list of the needy families and connected them with other members of the community and with the village *Pradhan* (Headman). More than 50 families were supported this way.

MCF CHILDLINE program was able to facilitate support to over 45 families with dry rations and by further connecting them with their respective Pradhans. They have reached

over 102 families and over 450 people in distress.

They are also actively dealing with the anxiety that some children feel because of the loss of a school schedule. While most children initially enjoyed the fact that they didn't have school or homework, they soon felt the burden of missing school, not being able to meet their friends, to play or study together, some of the older children were concerned about their parents not being able to work and earn. The MCF team members are even now reaching out to the children and their communities via telephone. The team is also working to provide information, reassurance and resources to the children, as well as helping them to understand the need for physical distancing and hygiene, while cultivating positive mental health. Among many activities, the children were encouraged to express their emotions during the lockdown, through drawing and painting and letter writing.

Supporting Lives in Pandemic

Jan Lok Kalyan Parishad, Jharkhand



Jan Lok Kalyan Parishad are working relentlessly with the Cooperation of District Administration in the different district of Santhal Pragna Region of Jharkhand state. The COVID situation has



created very unprecedented situation in that area. The communities are suffering as there is no job due to lockdown situation. JLKP is undertaking activities like generating awareness at the grass root level and hard to reach areas, hand Wash Training to the communities, distribution of dry ration and sanitation kit to the needy, poor and migrant worker besides it is also providing Psychosocial support for the women and children.

Participation in ICI2020: Milonee Mishra from Odisha shared her experiences



This was a great initiative by team Bredrin to connect children from across the world to know the threats and opportunities during and after the covid 19. It was conducted on 12th of June 2020 via zoom meeting. The theme of this conference was "connecting child of different minds".

This conference was done with the collaboration with Asian Youth Committee and in coordination with consortium Nepal. There were 12 delegates from 7 countries and I feel honoured to be a part of it. There were three topics chosen namely:
 *Threats and opportunities during covid 19.
 *Ways to overcome the problem of children.
 *Rights of children mentioned in the constitution
 All the speakers presented brilliant ideas. It was really a productive forum for the children with full of inspiration, motivation, ideas and innovative thoughts to understand issues.

Transforming Lives During COVID 19

People's Cultural Centre (PECUC), Odisha

PECUC is taking the following strategies:

- Awareness on safety measures at Community level
- Staff safety measures - Preparing guidelines & orientation to staffs & volunteers on safety measures for COVID19.
- Information sharing on Govt. guide lines / safety measures at community level.
- Psycho social counselling support to children, adolescents, youths, women, older persons at door step /Online
- Engagement of Children in creative activities
- Handling cases at community level – children & women
- Social Media Campaign
- Relief Operation
- Support to service providers - Masks, sanitizers, PPE kits, etc.
- Linkage & convergence with Govt. provisioning.
- Coordination with Govt at each level, coordination with Local self Governance system i.e. Panchayati raj institutions.
- Support for income generation through supporting producing mask with persons with disability and women groups
- Networking & alliance building with likeminded groups
- IEC material development & dissemination
- Honouring COVID19 warriors- Doctors/health professionals / Police/CSOs & Own staffs too

PECUC distributed dry ration for one month to 700 migrant labourers for other states: West Bengal, Maharastra, Jharkhand and different districts of Odisha. It supported dry ration and hygiene kit to 3800 families of daily wage labourers, migrant labourers, single women, older persons, disabled persons, left out, persons with disability, adolescent girls, etc.

PECUC provided 4882 masks, 700 gloves and sanitizers to service providers of 3 districts. PECUC provided psycho-social counselling support to 4500 HHs through telephonic interaction and door to door Meeting.

Engagement of Children

PECUC engaged children through creative ways to lessen their mental stress. They were counselled about online safety measures, taught to maintain the safety norms, provided support and guidance in their study, and engaged in activities, i.e. drawing, painting, short poem writing, poster making, etc.



Bhoomika Dash, Eminent Cine Artist and PECUC's Goodwill ambassador for promotion of Child rights, and Anshika Routray, National Level sports person & PECUC Goodwill Ambassador for promotion of Right to Play, send their video message for the children by encouraging them to stay safe at home while engaging themselves in various creative ways.



Webinar on Implementation of Juvenile Justice Act in Covid-19: Role of CWPOs/Police Officials

On 29th of June, 2020 a webinar on Juvenile Justice Act implementation was held in which 45 people participated including Addl. DCP of South-East Delhi. The webinar was held with Child Welfare Police Officers/Police Officers organized by National Action & coordination group to end child sexual abuse (NACG-EVAC), India. Zeba Khan (Delhi programme co-ordinator NACG EVAC India) was moderating the webinar.

The webinar was inaugurated by Addl. DCP of South-east Delhi, Mr. Shri Dhal Singh. He put forward the concern of child protection and invited the panel Mr. Ranjan Mohanty, Mr. Sanjay, and Mr. Mikhael Pradhan.

Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty (Chair of NACG-EVAC, India & Secretary of PECUC) appreciated the work of Police officials during Covid-19. Then, he briefed the participants about the group. NACG is an intergovernmental apex body of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In India, the NACG was formed on 28th Nov 2014 and adopted the title "The National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children" (NACG EVAC India). The NACG EVAC India development has brought together 536 members organizations in 20 States and Union Territories.

Mr. Sanjay Gupta (Chair of NACG-EVAC, India & Director of CHETNA) also appreciated the efforts of police during Covid-19. He raised the concern of children exposing more towards child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking during and after Covid-19. He also raised concern about the children coming back on the streets in Delhi are more vulnerable in this pandemic.

Mr. Mikhael Pradhan (Executive committee member of NACG-EVAC, India &

Advocacy Head, World Vision India) saluted the police officers for their work and dedication during Covid-19. He briefed the audience about the project "Child Protection workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India" supported by World Vision India, World Vision Germany & BMZ, Germany and implemented by NACG EVAC India through its National Secretariat, PECUC. The project has been initiated in 4 districts (South-East, Central, North-East, North-West District) of Delhi and 6 districts of Odisha. The project aims at Community, including parents and caregivers demonstrating behaviours that provide a protective environment for all girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable.

Mr. Varun Pathak (Advocate and Member District Task Force constituted by the order of Delhi High Court) took the session on Juvenile Justice Act. He shared the status of Crimes in different states in India and districts of Delhi. He precisely gave information about the roles of Police Officials in JJ Act and how a District Special Juvenile Police Unit works for children in need of care and Protection and children in conflict with law. He talked about the Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, Child Care Institution, CARA, and gave practical examples while talking about the Sections in JJ Act.

After the session, the participants asked their queries they faced during intervention. Some of the participants sent their queries to Ms. Tripti Joshi (SJPO South-east) which was answered by the resource person.

Mr. Ajay Mahajan (Project Manager NACG-EVAC India) gave a way-forward of the session and how this is going to benefit the children. He also asked for feedback and suggestions from the participants.

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