

### From Chairperson's Desk

With 30th Anniversary of UNCRC, the most ratified treaty, NACG EVAC and all its members are committed to celebrate rights of each and every children every day. We believe that the rights of children needs to be preserved and protected.

Recently, we have been witnessing a global pandemic of COVID-19 outbreak. The health concerns are fatal and high. Though it has widely affected adults, but it also affects children. While the whole world is struggling through it, children need special attention and care. We need to help them cope with the sudden change and motivate them to continue learning in a safe and secure environment. We need to ensure them with best health and state of mind by giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection.

Children and young people are the global citizen, powerful agent of change and any crisis presents the opportunity to help them learn, cultivate compassion increase resilience while building a safer and more caring community. Let us all ensure that our future generation can enjoy their human rights to the fullest.



Ranjan Kumar Mohanty  
Chairperson, NACG EVAC India

### Asian Children's Summit 2019



The year 2019 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history. The UNCRC is considered a landmark treaty that recognises children as human beings who are entitled to a distinct set of fundamental rights. It sets non-discrimination, best interest of the child, right to survival and development and child participation as the guiding principles for the realisation of children rights.

To commemorate the occasion, Asian Children's Summit was organized by the ACWC Thailand, Regional Secretariat of South Asian Initiative for Ending Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) and CRC Asia in partnership with ECPAT International, Girls Advocacy Alliance, International Justice Mission (IJM), Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ), VSO International, We PROTECT Global Alliance, UNICEF, and the Joining Forces, a coalition of six child-focused organizations namely Child Fund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Village, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision, hosted in Bangkok from November 25 to 29, 2019. It was a joint effort to raise a common voice for children of Asia in a child – friendly,

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

inclusive and gender sensitive space. Children from South, Southeast and East Asia came together to voice their opinions and know about their rights. The objective of the Summit was to contribute towards the realisation of the rights of the children that needs to be heard.

The 2019 Asian Children's Summit was participated by 46 child delegates from 21 countries from Southeast Asia (Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Lao PDR; Malaysia; Myanmar; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Timor Leste; and Vietnam), East Asia (Japan, Mongolia, and Taiwan), and South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).



The Summit was based on following thematic areas: Violence against children, Children's rights to a healthy environment, Children in the digital environment, and Children on the move. The cross-cutting themes were Children and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Child participation, and Justice for children. These four (4) key themes served as the guiding structure in designing the learning sessions and workshops.

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 National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence against Children (NACG EVAC), India

through a national level nomination process. They were accompanied by Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC, and 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 venue for cultural exchange. The watchword for the summit was "Justice for Children, Leave No One Behind".

### UNCRC - 30th Anniversary National Children Assembly

The whole world observed the 30th anniversary of UNCRC in special ways to draw attentions of the duty bearers and general public as how far their countries have progressed in realising the rights of children. To commemorate this event in a significant way, World Vision India (WV India) in partnership with NACG EVAC, India and India Alliance for Child Rights (IACR) organised a National Children Assembly in New Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.



**The National Assembly of Children:** More than 150 young child rights advocates from different states in the country 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. This National Assembly of Children provided a platform to the children of different states to voice their rights, present their views and opinions, and shares their issues relating to their rights. The main objective was to hear the voices of children, whether each and every child is entitled to the basic human rights: the right to survival, to develop to the fullest, to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. The major events included Child Parliament, Model United Nations, New Delhi Declaration of Child Rights & 120 Days Child Right Challenge Action Plan. During the event, the children participated, facilitated, presented and performed in the programme. The children came up with recommendations on how to ensure respect and protection of the rights of children. Different key stakeholders like the Government and Commission representatives, UN bodies, CSOs, and Inter-Ministerial bodies were invited to attend the event and hear out the children's opinion and views that would let them gauge the current scenario about the children's rightful space and participation.



After the two day national level event, on the third day, all children visited the Planetarium and Jawaharlal Nehru Museum in Delhi for sightseeing.

The esteemed guests who graced the occasion included 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, Hon'ble Judge of Supreme Court, Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat, Deputy Representative- Programmes, India Country Office, UNICEF, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC India, members of NACG EVAC India, Razia Ismail, Convener, IACR, Mr Deepak Bose, Member, Indian Alliance for Child Rights (IACR), Mr Shankar Chaudhary, Member, IACR, Mr. Mikahel Kumar Pradhan, Head, Advocacy, World Vision India, Mr. Sanjaya Mishra, Ex Member, Child Labour, SCPCR, and Mr. Sony Thomas, Officer In-charge National Director. Other esteemed guests from different NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and government officials were also present in the event.

**Balaknama:** Balaknama (Voices of Children) is an eight page quarterly newspaper prepared by CHETNA Street Children, a group of street children from Delhi. The newspaper focuses on children living and working in the streets, and the hardships they face in their day to day life. The children journalists write articles out of their experience and true facts, the children editorial team edit these articles and publish the soft and hard copy version of the quarterly newspaper. The Balaknama team consists of three children Jyoti, Kisan and Apsana who also participated in the National Children Assembly and shared their experience and challenges they faced while starting this initiative. They also shared the ways in which they overcame the issues.

Cultural programmes and talent nights were also organised where children showcased their talents in front of the august audience.

### **National Level Seminar on Humane/Green Brick Kilns (BKs) in India organized by Brooke India, NACG and SAIEVAC**

One-day national level seminar was organized in New Delhi on the topic of “Moving towards Green Bricks” on 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.



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.

## News from States

### Child Protection Programme in MICA mining areas of Jharkhand.

Jharkhand/Bihar is the third largest source of Mica production in India. But unfortunately only 10% of the mica from this area originates from legal mines with strict supervision of working condition. The rest 90% comes from illegal mines where large number of children work, often with their entire family. The working condition here is hazardous and unhealthy with the constant danger of collapse and continues inhalation of dust. It is one of the worst forms of child labour. The children have to work for long hours and do not go to school.

**Bhartiya Kisan Sangh (BKS)** with support of Terre des Hommes- Netherlands took action to prevent the exploitation of children in the production of mica in Koderma & Giridih areas of Jharkhand.

The objective of this project is 'to exclusively address the issues to improve conditions of children and the communities in order to access quality education, skill development through strengthening community level systems, and convergence with government.

#### Major Achievements of the project:

- Model AWC's created in 10 villages
- 4500 trees planted by the BALMANCH for Water Conversation
- Stopped 12 Child Labour cases & 14 Child Marriage cases
- Water testing in the villages
- Advocacy and sensitization meetings with District and Block level govt. officials on child rights and protection issues.
- Video learning and awareness programme through distribution of Projector in villages- an attractive model.

- Direct dialogues and discussion of children with the government officials proved as a high value learning and communication base.
- Income generation activities- financial and technical support to the MICA mining families.
- 148 children received computer-based education from 10 different villages.
- 336 children are given digital learning classes per day before and after school (3 hours)
- 273 children are getting benefited by mobile library initiative.



- Child protection training has been provided to the children of the 10 villages under this initiative. A total of 284 children have been trained so far.
- 84 SMC members were given training on RTE 2009 and after this training 93 irregular/dropout children were re-admitted in school.
- Training on child protection mechanism was given to 50 VLCPC members and Anganwadi workers and they were trained on how to maintain the governmental registers.
- 117 adolescent children have been provided with preventive and social medicine training.
- 215 adolescent children have been provided with drinking water quality audit training.

### Stories of Change: A child marriage stopped

8 km far from the dist. town of Koderma in a place called Ambatand, a girl named Laxmi is living with her family in a small mud house with her 3 siblings, a sister and two little brothers. Laxmi is the eldest child in the family. According to Laxmi's mother, she is a brilliant student but due to poverty Laxmi could not continue her study and had to drop-out from school when she was in class 5th. As she was growing with her age her parents thought about her marriage and they fixed her marriage with a man of Nawada District and gave him a dowry of Rs. 1,000,00.

When this information reached the project area representative during the field visit, the representative went to Laxmi's house and convinced her parents to stop her marriage as she was below 18 years of age. When her parents came to know that child marriage is illegal they assured the team members that they will not marry their daughter before 18 years and thus her marriage was stopped.

Ms. Laxmi was near to reach the age of 18 when she was rescued from child marriage. But now as she has completed her 18 years and BKS encouraged her to learn some skills by which she can earn money. Laxmi was enrolled in a skill training program of security guard provided by BKS at Ranchi to improve the livelihood conditions of vulnerable girls. At present she is pursuing her training and is happy in the training environment.

### Changes in the Project Area due to Project Intervention:

- Children are aware on child rights and regularly going to school.
- Children are vocally raising their voices for their rights before their duty bearers and govt. officials due to their capacity building.
- Children have stopped going to pick mica in mines along with their parents.
- Drop-out rate has decreased in Anganwadi centres and primary schools.

- Parents and community people are sensitised about child rights and RTE 2009.
- Community people are willingly supporting for the development of teaching and learning materials in Anganwadi Centres and Primary Schools with the use of waste materials.
- There has been an increase in income level due to support through income generation activities.
- Parents are happily sending their children to schools instead of taking or sending them to work.

### **"Child-led child rights situation analysis and campaign to promote child rights culture" across the state of Odisha.**

With the objective to observe the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Odisha, UNICEF-India Odisha Office and Odisha Alliance for Child Rights (OACR), an alliance of 62 member organisations and 212 associate partner organisations, together took the initiative of undertaking a focused child-led research study titled **"Child led child rights situation analysis and campaign to promote child rights culture"** across the State of Odisha.

The key objective of the study was to undertake child led child rights situation analysis in Odisha on the occasion of CRC@30, to facilitate strategic & critical reflections through interface of children with duty bearers at Gram Panchayat, District & State level, to undertake social media & IEC campaigns.





### Activities under the Projects

- Capacity building of 35 adult facilitators named as SAATHI and developing a resource group
- Capacity building of 210 child researchers (Age group between 14-18 years)
- Survey and data collection by children through focus group discussion (FGD) with children & individual interviews with adult stakeholders
- Compiling case studies with a focus on four major issues, i.e. Water and Sanitation, Nutrition, Education and Child Protection in their village/gram panchayat.
- Data compilation and analysis at State, Gram Panchyat and District levels
- Gram Panchayat, District, Municipality /MC/Urban local body interface workshops - with GP CPC (Gram Panchayat Child Protection Committee), DCPC (District Child Protection Committee), Elected Panchayat functionaries, Block, District administration, Line Govt. , Depts., CSOs in coordination and with support of District Child protection Unit.
- Documentation of the commitments by duty bearers at Village/Panchayat, District and State level - Follow up by Odisha Child Rights Alliance on the commitments and actions by duty bearers every quarter to ensure the fulfillment of children's rights.
- State level Convention – Commemoration of CRC@30 - Report sharing at state level with key stakeholders – Govt. Departments, legislature, media, CSOs, university & research institutions, corporate houses, etc.
- Social media campaign through Facebook and Instagram page on various aspects of child rights –focus on ending violence against children, online safety of children, right to education, child trafficking, and nutrition, and so on.
- Development of IEC materials (poster campaign) and One booklet for children on child rights [Bilingual English & Odia Languages)

### Key Outcomes of the Study

- Child researchers as active participants are capacitated & empowered to act as peer educators & play the role of protagonist in a sustained manner for realisation of child rights.
- 11953 children sensitized on child rights and are able to express their opinions, voices and choices
- Children collectively draw up their demands based on their research.
- Key duty bearers including Government and Non-Govt. organisations commit to prioritise children's agenda & take action to fulfill their commitments.
- Information shared through coverage in social media & IEC campaign; build a better environment for children to promote practices for a proactive child rights culture in the society.



### Coverage of the Study

- a. A total of 11953 children (Rural – 9967 with 5440 girls & 4527 boys; Urban – 1986 with 1192 girls and 794 boys) participated in the FGD across 30 districts; 32 blocks, 91 gram panchayats; 19 wards.
- b. A total of 273 FGDs were conducted at the village/GP level and a total of 55 FGDs were conducted at the ULB level.
- c. The total no. of child researchers (CRs) were 217{6 from each district, 180+2(for the 91st GP) =182 from 30 districts + 6 from each ULB, 30 from the 5 ULBs+5 from the central coordination committee}
- d. 182 CRs conducted FGDs and individual interviews at the district level, the rest 35 CRs conducted FGDs in the ULBs
- e. The total no. of key stakeholders

interviewed by child researchers was 782.

- f. The total no. of GP level interface workshops held was 91, ULB level interface workshops were 5 and district level interface workshops were 30.

The uniqueness of the study was 30 districts, 30 blocks & 90 Gram Panchayats & 5 urban local bodies of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Berhampur and Sambalpur was covered within 3 months (October 2019 – December 2019). The study was done by the children with the help and support of adult facilitators.

### News in Brief: Excerpts from Meeting

#### National Executive Committee Meeting, NACG EVAC, India

National Executive Committee Meeting of NACG EVAC, India was held at CHETNA Office Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC, India presided over this meeting. The meeting was attended by Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Roshan Kumar, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Treasurer, Mr. Manabendra Mandal, Mr. Prakash Ratha, Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, Aditi P Kaur, Members of National Executive committee. Director General of SAIEVAC Dr. Rinchen Chopel was also present in this meeting.

Discussion was mainly focused on status of Charter and future actions for final approval and circulation, strengthening the coordination between the Government and NACG EVAC India, Project – Child Protection Workforce Capacity building to End Sexual Abuse in India (World Vision – NACG Project), Approval of a two years project submission to donors, National Consultation on “Ending Violence Against Children in India”, NACG News Letter etc.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Roshan Kumar to the Chairperson and all the EC members for their active participation

and especially to Dr Rinchen Chopel for his participation and observations. He also thanked CHETNA for hosting the NACG EVAC India Executive Board meeting.

#### Launching of “Child Protection workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India” programme by NACG EVAC, India



A programme “Child Protection Workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India” was launched by NACG EVAC, India in collaboration with BMZ, Germany and World Vision, India through a three days’ workshop from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in New Delhi.

The purpose of the programme is to contribute towards ending Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSEA) of Children in India. It aims at reaching different stakeholders like Children, Parents and caregivers, formal and informal Child Protection (CP) stakeholders, Civil Society Organizations through capacity building and advocacy to demonstrate behaviours that provide a protective environment for all girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable. Under the programme consultations and interface shall be held at national level with key stakeholders and with focus on capacity building of key stakeholders in the states of Delhi and Odisha.

The workshop was facilitated by World Vision India (WVI). There were participants from WV India, NACG-EVAC, INDIA, People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC), WV Germany. Ms. Kerstin, Head Operation and Matthias, Head Finance of WV Germany had facilitated the sessions along with Mr. Mikhael Kumar Pradhan, Head



Advocacy, WV India. Mr. Ranjan Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG-EVAC, INDIA, Mr. Prakash Rath, Vice-Chairman, NACG-EVAC, India and Ms. Aditi Kaur, Member, NACG-EVAC, INDIA also participated in the workshop on behalf of the NACG-EVAC, India. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC, Mr. Ajay Mahajan, Project Manager, Dr. Mitali Mohanty, MIS Coordinator, Mr. Dharmananda Sundaray, Project Coordinator, Odisha, Ms. Zeba Khan, Project Coordinator, Delhi Mr. Satya Sundar Mohapatra, Finance and Supply Chain Coordinator, Mr. Bhupinder Shandilya, Head Advocacy, Chetna, New Delhi also participated in the workshop.

The programme will be implemented in 10 districts i.e. 6 districts of Odisha (Khurda, Balasore, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Koraput & Kandhamal), and 4 districts of Delhi (North East, North West, South east and Central Delhi) with 30 blocks, 300 Villages in Odisha and 6 subdivisions and 30 wards in Delhi.



Ranjan kumar Mohanty, Secretary, PECUC and Chairperson, NACG EVAC India participated and spoke in a workshop organized by **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, NCPCR** in a technical session **UNCRC and rights of children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India** at Constitution club of India New Delhi, the session was chaired by Sj Yashwant Jain, Member NCPCR.

Published by: NACG EVAC India,  
NACG Secretariat, PECUC Coordination Office,  
House No.-63, Phase-2, Indraprastha,  
Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar,  
Odisha, India, Pin-751020.  
Telephone No-+91-674 2382175/2352278,  
Tel. Fax: +91-6742352232.  
E- mail: nacgevac.india@gmail.com  
*For private circulation only*