

From Chairperson's Desk

Another childhood is possible

Few years back, I visited a motivation camp for children rescued from labour at Keonjhar. Enthralled with the experience, when I was returning, suddenly a child came running towards me and hugged me tight, and started crying. Moved by his act I enquired about that child. He used to go to school regularly but was a slow learner, because of which he faced the wrath of his class teacher. With passing time, he stopped going to the school out of fear. He never gathered the courage to share his grief with his parents even, who were poor and illiterate. As a consequence, he was engaged as a labourer. Fortunately he was rescued from this trap, joined the previous year's motivation camp, because of which he was able to continue his education. He was admitted to one ashram school [residential school]. From there he was invited to participate in the present camp. He shared his happiness to be back in school. It is a common misconception among many that eradication of child labour is impossible. But the experience is different. The efforts of many civil society organizations, and Government has brought back millions of children from labour & it is experimented that another childhood is possible. Although child labour is a multi complex issue and linked to illiteracy, ignorance, poor economic condition, attitude of parents & employers, it is the learning that ensuring right to education through full time schooling can be pre requisite for eradication of child labour. The Nation needs to give top priority to ensure right of children to safe & quality education so that we can bring smiles on the face of millions of our young generation. Hope the new National Education Policy will address these issues.



**Ranjan Kumar Mohanty,
Chairperson, NACG-EVAC, India**

Editorial Board - Aditi P.Kaur, D. Roshan Kumar,
Ranjan Panda

**National Consultation on
Draft National Educational Policy -2019**

Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India has released the “**Draft National Education Policy 2019**” and has 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 of India for focusing on the overall well being of the child and upholding all rights due to them. The consultation organized by the NACG EVAC, India in association with PECUC was inaugurated by Professor Mohammad Fakiruddin, Former Vice Chairman, Council of Higher Secondary Education Odisha.



Sj Niranjana Sahoo, IAS Labour Commissioner and Director of Higher Education, Govt of Odisha also gave his valuable inputs on the opening session stating that education is instrumental in shaping a child's mind and imbibing 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, Hyderabad 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 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, Sj Sanjay Misra, Former Member, Jharkhand SCPCR, Dr. P.C. Mohapatra, Former Director, SCERT, Ms Ruby Rout, Country Director, Adoptions Centrum and Sj 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 Odisha Alliance for Child Rights [OACR], PECUC, Terre des Hommes [G], Adoptions Centrum, AEIN organised the National consultation.

News from States

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

Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams. Yet today, 152 million children are still in child labour out of which 73 million are in the hazardous sector. In India, there are more than 10.2 million "economically active" children in the age group of 5 to 14 years – (ILO & UNICEF).



Although child labour occurs in almost every sector, seven out of every ten is in agriculture. On this World Day against Child Labour, we looked forward to the SDG goal 8.7 that calls for an end on child labour in all its forms by 2025. Children are not meant to be labourers. This takes away their childhood. 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.

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 from Ram Mandir Square to Master Canteen. The Rally & Signature Campaign was flagged up by Chairperson of Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, S. Subash Singh in presence of Famous Ollywood Actress and PECUC's Goodwill Ambassador for promotion of Child Rights Bhoomika Dash and Anshika Routray, Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of Right to Play and Anuradha Biswal, Olympian. Other esteemed guests like Kishalaya Sathpathy, Divisional Labour Commissioner, Arun Kumar Behera, ADM, Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director PECUC, Ambika Prasad Mishra, District Labour Officer, Satyanarayan Acharya & Dharashree Mohapatra, Additional Labour Officer, and Kuldeep Prasad, Labour Inspector participated in the rally. Speakers emphasized to stop child labour and give children a safe and secure childhood. There is a need to work together to eradicate child labour and mainstream them through quality education. Though the Government & Civil Society Organisations of Odisha are taking up various steps for eradication of child

labour but it is not sufficient enough to deal with such a big issue. Awareness and participation in the part of every concerned citizen can go a long way to eradicate child labour completely from the society. Every child deserves a safe and secure childhood; it is their most basic right stressed by the speakers. Hundreds of youth participated in this rally.

TOT on Right(s) Way Forward

Open Learning Systems (OLS), an Executive Committee member of the NACG-EVAC India (thematic head of children with disability), organised a TOT on the Right (s) Way Forward from 8th to 10th July, 2019 for Task Force Members (Local Facilitators) and Community Volunteers of 7 Gram Panchayats of Nimapada block in Puri district under its Empowered Communities for Environment Protection and Disaster Preparedness (ECEPDP) project. 21 of Local Facilitators and Community Volunteers were taken through a process where they could understand their rights and the stakeholder-duty bearer relationship and coordination for realization of those rights.



EC Members interaction with children at OLS

The trainees did a whole session in small groups on mapping of child protection issues in the communities and made their presentations with suggested methods of overcoming the issues and finding community-based solutions as well as responsibility and accountability of the duty bearers and local elected people's representatives. These Master Trainers will now build the capacity of the larger community members of 35 villages thereby ensuring that the awareness is created among the mass public and they are sensitized. The sessions were conducted by Ms. Priti Sharma, a well known development trainer from Delhi who was earlier with

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State Consultation on “It takes Nagaland to End Child Sexual Abuse”

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.



The Special Guest of the Program, Smt. N. Awan Konyak, Chairperson, Nagaland Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Govt. of Nagaland, and other eminent guests and panelist include Shri. Shranavas C, IAS, Principal Director, School Education & SCERT, Government of Nagaland, Shri. Longshithung Ezung, Member Secretary – Nagaland State Legal Service Authority, Dr. Anjana Purkayastha, Senior Director – World Vision India, Shri. Samuel Therieh, Associate Director – World Vision India, Dr. Anangadev Singh, Campaign Officer, World Vision India, Shri. Subonenba Longkumer, Nodal Director Childline, Nagaland & Governing Member Childline India Foundation.

World Vision India senior director Dr. Anjana Purkayastha shared that in every 155 minute, a child below the age of 16 years is raped in the country, adding an assumption of cases registered under POCSO Act post 2014-2016 to have increased. She also warned that such abuses during childhood have an adverse impact on child's psychology. School education Principal Director, Mr Shanavas C (I.A.S) remarked that although number of cases registered under POCSO Act was high, but there were also many cases that went unreported because of pressure from family members and relatives. As Nagaland has special provision under the Constitution of India, many such cases were settled under customary laws, which was unfortunate. Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) member secretary Mr Longshithung Ezung remarked that incidences of child abuse in the State have been growing at an alarming rate. He said Childline Dimapur, after its establishment in 2011, has intervened in 1,457 cases pertaining to various “child protection risk areas”, including abuse, trafficking, child labour, missing, emotional support and guidance and various other distress situations experienced by children. He said the only way to prevent these abusive incidents was to create awareness about the child rights. Chairperson of Nagaland Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Ms. N Awan Konyak administered the pledge “Let us end child sexual abuse” to the participants. The assertion was to take all efforts to voice for the protection of children and speak up against all forms of violence against children. The consultation also stressed on the need to create awareness among children to speak against the “touch” that hurts them and contact 1098 to report any incidence of child abuse.

The technical session chaired by Ms. N Awan Konyak - Chairperson of Nagaland Commission for Protection of Child Rights the speakers Dr. Anangadev Singh, Campaign Officer, World Vision India stressed, Shri. Subonenba Longkumer, Nodal Director Childline, Nagaland & Governing Member Childline India Foundation and speaker Ms. N. K. Keny – NACG-EVAC – Nagaland State representative states on the important role of Child Line, Convergence Action and Social Accountability of various stakeholders and CSOs to end violence against children.

....Contd. from page 3 – TOT by OLS
 PRIA, Mr. Prakash K Rath, Chief Executive Officer, OLS and Ms. Ruby Rout, Country Representative-India, Adoptions centrum, Sweden.



NACG INDIA EC members visit to OLS



In the development cafe session facilitated by Mr. Mere Nampui, the participants were grouped based on 5 thematic topics, i.e. Role of the civil societies towards the end of Child Sexual Abuse, Role of parents, government, youths and children towards the end of Child Sexual Abuse. In the end, it was found out that it is by the combined efforts of all the stakeholders child abuse can be prevented in the society. The program was closed with vote of thanks presented by Mr. Laltanlien – Manager – Area Program Manager.

Campaign on End Violence against Children



World Vision India, ADP Pauri organized a district level campaign on End Violence against Children (EVAC) on 17th July, 2019 in Pauri district (Uttarakhand). This was a great opportunity for all the stakeholders & partners to be at one platform and to work together, in the better interest of the children. In this campaign, Mr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Mrs.

Sunita Arora, District Probation Officer & ICPS, Mr. B.C. Bahuguna (DEO) Education Department, Mr. Pramod Trivedi, Block Development officer (BDO), Mr. Ganesh, Azim Premji Foundation (NGO), Mrs. GeetaDevi, Child Development Program Officer (CDPO), Mrs. Sasmita Lalit Jena (AD PMO Lucknow), Sr. Manager Mr. Manish Kumar, Teachers, Pradhan’s and other local CBOs participated.

Mrs. Sunita Arora shared the ICPS scheme, vulnerability criteria and the work where crime was reported individually for boys & girls with help of other department or NGOs. Mr. B.C. Bahuguna discussed on RTE and child protection. BDO, Mr. Pramod Trivedi highlighted their department’s endeavor towards safety of the children. Mr. Ganesh Ji shared the criteria of the children. The children participated in the campaign and presented the chart of demands and shared their views and opinion. Mr Sandeep Kumar Tiwari (DLSA) threw some lights on the different laws for the protection of children. Mrs. Sasmita Lalit Jena (AD PMO LKO) emphasized on creating a safe environment for all the children of Pauri (Uttarakhand), so that the children could enjoy good health, education and be protected. The program was co-ordinated by Mr. Sunand Singh (Campaign, Co-coordinator). In this campaign, 400 people participated.

World Vision is the NACG INDIA Thematic Head for Child Sexual Abuse



A view of National Consultation on Draft National Education Policy at Bhubaneswar

National Executive Committee Meeting NACG-EVAC, India

The National Executive Committee Meeting of NACG-EVAC, India was held at Prasar Bharati, NABM Training Centre, Bhubaneswar on 29th June, 2019. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG-EVAC, India presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Roshan Kumar, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Treasurer, Mr. Manabendra Mandal, Mr. P. Joseph Victor Raj, Ms. Aditi P Kaur, Mr. Prakash Rath, Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty & Mr. Ranjan Panda, Members of National Executive Committee.



Dr Rinchen Chopel, Director General SAIEVAC joined through Skype call. Dr Chopel spoke on strengthening NACG India, observation of CRC@30 and proposed regional children consultation ,future programmes of SAIIVAC including proposed 8th Governing Body meeting etc.

The National Executive Committee discussed the draft charter of NACG India & suggested few corrections & modifications & it is decided that the draft shall be reformulated based on suggestions & circulated to National Board Members for approval. The National Executive committee also discussed on NACG Membership, collection of membership fees from existing members, observation of CRC@30 & brining out report card on the present status with World vision & IACR & release the report card in November .Also it is discussed to organize joint campaign on CRC@30 with CACL.

The members also discussed about the possibilities of holding a National Convention on Ending Violence against Children during November/December in Delhi.

The members also interacted with the representative of MAMTA health institute for mother and child on

its programme - Strengthening Multi-Sectoral and Convergent Approach in South Asia to Address Child Marriage with Evidence Building in Nepal and India. The National Executive Committee resolved to take various steps for strengthening the State Chapters for which each Executive committee Member took responsibility of different state[s].

For NACG EVAC Membership

Write to NACG INDIA Secretariat for Membership Enrollment Form

1. Fill the form and send it back to nacgevac.india@gmail.com
2. Send us the joining fee amount of Rs.500/- through a Cheque/ Draft/ MO in the following A/c holder's name: "People's Cultural Centre", A/C No- 006101052987, IFSC- ICIC0000061
3. Send the Cheque/ Draft/ MO to the following address:
4. NACG India Secretariat,
People's Cultural Centre (PECUC),
Plot No.: 63, Phase-II, Appolo-Indraprastha,
Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar-751020, Odisha,
India
Phone: +91-674-2382175/2352278
Fax: +91-674-2352232
E-Mail: nacgevac.india@gmail.com

After depositing membership fee please inform through pecucindia@gmail.com/nacgevac.india@gmail.com

The Members are requested to pay annual Membership Fee for 2019-20 [if not yet paid] to the above mentioned bank account.

Stories of Change

Sangharash-Fight for Justice

In spite of policies, laws and several schemes and programs, child marriage remains widespread in Odisha, rooted in cultural tradition, religion and poverty, the practice has been disproportionately affecting girls and endangering their lives and livelihoods.

Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) is implementing Marriage No Child's Play (MNCP) - a comprehensive programme to address Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights issues in District Ganjam, Odisha with the support from Simavi, Netherlands. VHAI is a part of the "More than Brides" Alliance that works towards the '*Integrated Response to reduce prevalence of Child Marriages in India*' programme.



Broadly, the programme has following outcome areas: Young people empowerment through comprehensive SRHR education; SRHR access and utilization; Economic empowerment; Increased Child Protection Systems; Enhanced Collective Actions; and Supportive rights based legal environment.

MNCP programme recognizes that child marriage is embedded within the traditional social set up and targets the root causes of the issue. The method is to address all underlying factors that influence child marriage through a 'theory of change' model that ensures working on education, sexual reproductive health access and utilisation, livelihood and by creation of an enabling environment. The approach has been to create a cadre of 'informed adolescents' who take the agenda forward. The programme targets both 'in' and 'out' school adolescents by working with key stakeholders, such as parents, education institutes, community leaders and groups, civil society organisations and influencers. The focus is on influencing individuals and their community to drop

negative social norms and embrace & promote positive norms and changes. The programme works with multiple community groups through various strategies and the focus is on connecting voices to galvanise actions for gender equality and equity.

CHILD MARRIAGE FREE VILLAGES

Giving Her Wings to Fly

Rashmita Pallei is the seventh child of a minority farmer in Aitipur village under Khallikote block, Ganjam District, Odisha. She has five brothers and all are working as migrant labourers in Mumbai and Gujarat. She is the third girl child in her family. Rashmita has witnessed the marriages of her elder sisters when they turned 16 and 17 and has seen her elder sister Rita loose her first child during her delivery at the age of 17 and the other sister Reema, also suffered two miscarriages. Her parents tried to convince her to get married as she had already completed her class tenth. Rashmita tried her best to convince her parents but they were not convinced.

Rashmita with the support of her Adolescents group members along VHAI field staff convened a meeting comprising of ASHA, Anganwadi workers, PRI member and women SHG leaders to discuss the concerns of early child marriage. This village group along with VHAI field team not only helped to convince Rashmita's parents to delay her marriage by explain the physical, social and legal consequences of child marriage but also took pledge to make their VILLAGE CHILD MARRIAGE FREE. Role of Gram Panchayat Child Protection Committee & VHNSC, PRI members, ASHA, AWW, CBO, caste Panchayat leaders, adolescent groups at the village and of course local community at large along with VHAI field team played a significant role in declaring Aitipur and many other villages CHILD MARRIAGE FREE. The village that has not reported child marriage since last 2 years and has a prominent sign board at the entry of the village "This Village has been declared as Child Marriage Free Village." This collective action by the local community has given opportunity to many girls of Khallikote block to continue their studies and become financially independent.

VHAI is a member of NACG INDIA

2021 declared as International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

The UN General Assembly has urged the international community to step up efforts to eradicate forced labour and child labour, and declared 2021 as the Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. GENEVA (ILO News) – The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has unanimously adopted a resolution declaring 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and has asked the International Labour Organization to take the lead in its implementation.

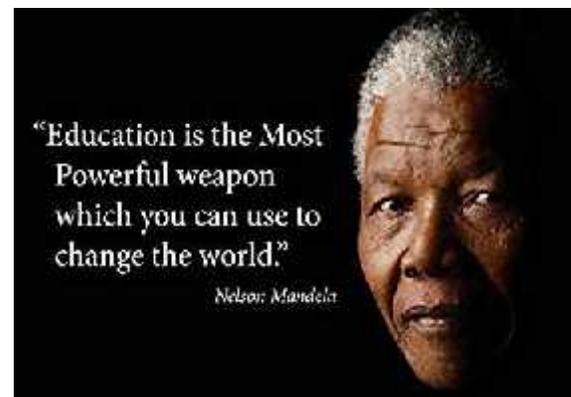
The resolution highlights the member States' commitments "to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."

The UNGA acknowledged the importance of the ILO's Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) – which is close to universal ratification by the ILO's 187 member States – as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It also recognized the importance of "revitalized global partnerships to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the implementation of the goals and targets related to the elimination of child labour." Argentina took a lead role in advocating for this global commitment, as a follow up to the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, which took place in Buenos Aires in November, 2017. Seventy-eight countries co-sponsored the resolution. "We hope that this will be one more step to redouble our efforts and our progress to advance, day by day, towards a world in which no child is subjected to child labour or exploitation and a world where decent work for all will be a reality," said Martin Garcia Moritán, Argentina's representative to the UN. The ILO has been working for the abolition of child labour throughout its 100 year-history, and one of the

first Conventions it adopted was on Minimum Age in Industry (No.5, 1919).

The organization is a partner in Alliance 8.7 and serves as the secretariat of this global partnership for eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour around the world. Substantial progress has been achieved in recent years, largely because of intense advocacy and national mobilization backed by legislative and practical action. Between 2000 and 2016 alone, there was a 38 per cent decrease in child labour globally. "The struggle against child labour has gained extraordinary momentum over the past two decades," said Beate Andrees, Chief of the ILO's Fundamentals Principles and Rights at Work Branch. "Yet, 152 million children across the world are still in child labour. We obviously need to scale up action further, and the decision by the General Assembly to declare 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour will be a great help in focusing attention on the millions of girls and boys still toiling in the fields, in the mines and in factories" [Source: ILO News].



NACG EVAC India is the country level civil society forum of SAIEVAC, an Inter Governmental Apex body of SAARC.

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