

NACG-EVAC India

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

Message from Director General SAIEVAC

Dear Colleagues of the NACG-EVAC India,

I am very happy that NACG-EVAC India is coming out with this E-News Letter which is expected to be circulated by the end of March 2019. I congratulate the NACG India leadership for taking this initiative which will not only have significant impact on promoting the mission and mandate of the NACG but also in advancing the SAIEVAC movement.

Since this is the first issue I believe a few lines on SAIEVAC may be crucial. SAIEVAC's journey started as early as 2005 in Islamabad, Pakistan, as the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF) during a Regional Consultation on the Global Study on Violence Against Children. Discussions on the need for a definitive and institutionalized response to end VaC in the SAARC Region was on the table and consultative processes initiated with key stakeholders including the SAARC Social Affairs Division. However it was the "Colombo Statement on Children of South Asia" of the Children's Ministerial Meeting of the SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation) in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 10 July 2009 that ultimately paved the way for the political commitment for the establishment of SAIEVAC as a regional intergovernmental body comprising of 8 SAARC countries with the mission to effectively drive a movement to end all forms of violence against children in 2010 following the 3rd SAF/SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal. The 3rd Ministerial Meeting also approved the governance structure of SAIEVAC that provides for participation of Civil Society and Children in the SAIEVAC Governing Board making SAIEVAC a very unique Intergovernmental body.

SAIEVAC was ultimately registered in Maldives through a Cabinet Decree on 21 June 2011 and on 8 November 2011, the Thirty Fourth Session

of the Council of Ministers of the Seventeenth SAARC Summit held in Maldives granted SAIEVAC the status of a SAARC Apex Body. The Apex Body status ensures that



commitments made by the different SAARC mechanisms are translated into appropriate actions at the regional and at the country level with due political cognizance.

The NACGs form the backbone of the SAIEVAC Movement with close and legitimate linkages and partnership with the SAIEVAC Government mechanisms of all SAARC Member States. NACGs also represent the Civil Society entities working for children in South Asia in the SAIEVAC Governing Board.

NACG- EVAC India has come a long way since its institution in 2014 and from the time it was showcased as a good model during the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting in May 2016 hosted by the Government of India. I am hopeful that all members of the NACG will continue to invest efforts to strengthen this most important platform.

With my very best wishes!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Chopel".

Dr. Rinchon Chopel 28 March 2019
Director General
South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against
Children [SAIEVAC]
SAARC Apex Body- "In Solidarity with the
Children of SAARC"

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

From Chairperson's Desk

A safe and secure childhood is the birth right of every child. They need protection, adequate care, education, guidance and love from their parents, guardians, families and community as a whole to grow up as a responsible human being. Children are like wet cement whatever falls on them makes an impression. Seeing today's scenario where violence against children has become a circadian affair, laying the foundation of a child-friendly society where every child feels safe and secured is need of the hour. This can only be achieved when we have a collaborative response from family, community, society, civil society Organisations, Government bodies, elected people's representatives, media, faith leaders, business houses, international community and all other key stakeholders. NACG EVAC, India, a country level civil society platform recognized by SAIEVAC, is taking forward the responsibilities to create an environment for ending all forms of violence against the children and commits to work towards providing every child a safe and secure childhood. The road ahead is challenging but for sake of our children, this challenge is worth taking.

Taking a hint from the prefix, this quarterly newsletter publication is a step further with the purpose of sharing the generative ideas of the members and key stakeholders, which will play an instrumental role in communicating the message of NACG-EVAC India across the states through the wide spectrum of audiences.

Let's work together for ending violence against children.



Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty,
Chairperson, NACG-EVAC, India

NACG-EVAC's, India's Secretariat shifted from NESPYM, Guwahati to People's Cultural Centre (PECUC), Odisha during January, 2019. PECUC is a leading child rights focused organisation working since 29 years.

National Board Meeting of NACG-EVAC

Two days National Board Meeting of NACG-EVAC, India was held at Panthanivas, Bhubaneswar on 1st and 2nd Nov, 2018. The meeting started under the chairmanship of Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty, Chairperson of NACG-EVAC India. Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General of SAIEVAC, in his keynote shared about the mandate of SAIEVAC and the journey of NACG-EVAC India and emphasised on the essence to have a strategic plan for NACG-India based on the learning and challenges of the recent past. He acknowledged the concerted efforts made by the existing executive committee in furthering the agenda of SAIEVAC, at the national level through NACG initiatives. In this meeting, few concrete decisions were made. A Charter of NACG EVAC India would be drafted by a team and it will be placed in the next National Board Meeting for approval. A five years operational strategy shall be developed in alignment with the SAIEVAC regional strategy. Strengthening existing State Chapters and opening new Chapters shall be given priority.

Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairman of Odisha Alliance for Child Rights (OACR) was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of NACG-India. Roshan Kumar, Chief functionary of SEEDS, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh and Sanjay Gupta, Chief functionary of CHETNA, New Delhi were elected as the Vice-Chairpersons. Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Head of BKS & the Former Member of Jharkhand State Commission for Child Rights continued to be the treasurer of NACG India.



NACG – Board Meeting Contd....

Newly Elected National Executive Committee Members:

Chair	Odisha Alliance for Child Rights (OACR) /People's Cultural Centre(PECUC),Odisha - New Secretariat of NACG-EVAC,India	Ranjan Kumar Mohanty Mobile : 9437013723 Email: nacgevac.india@gmail.com pecucindia@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Social Educational and Economic Development Society (SEEDS)	D. Roshan Kumar Email: seedsorg@yahoo.com
Vice Chair	CHETNA	Sanjay Gupta Email: sg1098@gmail.com
Treasurer	BhartiyaKisanSangh(BKS)	Sanjay K Mishra Email: ksanjaymishra@rediffmail.com
Member	World Vision India (WVI)	Mikhael Kr Pradhan Email: mikhael1301@gmail.com Mikhael_Pradhan@wvi.org
Member	Child in Need Institute (CINI)	Ranjan Panda Email: ranjan@cinindia.org
Member	Holistic Approach for People's Empowerment (HOPE)	P. Victor Raj Email: hopepuducherry@gmail.com
Member	Mountain Children's Foundation	Aditi P Kaur Email: aditipkaur@gmail.com
Member	Open Learning System (OLS)	PrakashRath Email: ceo@olsbbsr.org
Member	North East Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses (NESPYM)	Dr ChiranjeebKakoty Email: ckakoty@gmail.com
Member	Socio Legal Aid Research and Training Centre (SLART)	ManabendraNathMandal Email: manabendranathmandal@gmail.com



NACG India National Executive Committee meeting on 28th November 2018 at CHETNA, NewDelhi

Children's issues will find place in poll manifestos'

Children's issues will find place in the manifestos of the political parties. Priorities shall be given to children's issues in education, health and safety while preparing the manifestos as has been promised by the major political parties during an interface with children representatives from all corners of Odisha. Children drawn from various districts presented their own charter of demands to political parties in Bhubaneswar, what they call it as Children's Manifesto for the Elections 2019. The interface was organised by Odisha Alliance for Child Rights (OACR) in collaboration with NACG EVAC, Odisha, AdoptionsCentrum, BGVS, CYSD, OLS, PECUC, PLAN India, RARE, SANYOG, TDH(G)IP, World Vision, YCDA.



A-30 point charter of demands prepared by these children was presented by the children to the leaders of various political parties. The interface was chaired by Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairman of Odisha Alliance for Child Rights and Chairperson of NACG-EVAC, India, who focused on making children's agenda a national priority. BJD general secretary and spokesperson Sulata Deo, former Minister and chief of the Congress Manifesto Committee, Ganeshwar Behera, BJP Manifesto Committee member and State vice president Aiswarya Biswal, Jayant Das of CPI, Santosh Das from CPI(M) and BSP's Sudarsan Pradhan appreciated the demands made by the children and assured to give them a place in their respective manifestoes in the coming general and Assembly elections.

Children's representatives Snigdha, Dillip, Sashi, Barsharani, Doli, Indramani, Ahalya, Priti, Jadumani, Surya, Lipsa, Saripili, Pritimayee, Jyotirmayee, Sumati, Bhaskar presented their manifesto to the

political parties to include various needs and aspirations of children.

The demands include protection of children, safe drinking water, birth registrations at panchayat level, free health check up in schools, keeping no detention policy in Right to Education Act, a concrete action plan with appropriate rehabilitation package for total eradication of child labour, quality and safe education etc..

Children of different category, different sectors and settings joined together before the interface to discuss their issues and problems, their expectations from political parties and came out with a children manifesto.

Assam's kids submitted demands to political Parties

In Assam, future voters, as young as 12, are not shying away from voicing their demands this Lok Sabha election. ACRN — a platform that works with different issues with regard to children and adolescents — held several workshops from kids in Tezpur, Guwahati, Jorhat, Kokrajhar to come up with a booklet of demands. A process started in 2016 wherein organizations working on adolescents and children issues got together in series of workshops to discuss about the status of their rights in the state. Almost simultaneously, children and adolescents also got together to deliberate upon the status of their rights and what they wish should be done in this process. The adolescent and Child Rights Network, Assam was established formally on April 6,



2017 and the adolescents and children prepared the “Children and Adolescent Agenda for Assam” which was also released on that day. The process continued since then and the adolescents presently prepared and submitted an appeal to the political parties wherein they have requested the political parties to include issues which affects their lives and wellbeing, primarily in five focus areas- health, nutrition, protection, education and water-sanitation-hygiene.

The appeal was presented to the politicians of Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Assam Gana Parisad, All India United Democratic Front and Bodoland’s People’s Front. This was presented on March 4 2019-the Assam State Child Protection Day. Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty, Coordinator ACRNA and Former Chair of NACG-EVAC, India along with NESPYM and ACRNA team facilitated the whole process.

News in Brief: Excerpts from the Meetings

NACG-India Meets Chairperson, NCPCR

NACG-EVAC India team met Mr. Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights on 29th



November, 2018. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC, India, Mr. D. Roshan Kumar, Vice Chairperson, NACG, Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice Chairperson, NACG, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Treasurer, NACG, Mr. Aditi P



Kaur, EC Member, NACG, Mr. Prakash Rath, EC Member, NACG, Mr. Manavendra Mandal, EC Member, NACG were part of the NACG delegation.

The discussions circumerenced around the possibilities of collaboration for consultations at the state level on different thematic areas for sharing of good practices, working together to develop preventive strategy to combat child trafficking, collaborate in sharing information, helping in rescue operations, monitoring implementation of Rights of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, and monitoring implementation of POSCO Act. NCPCR would work collaboratively with NACG India for developing models aiming at preventing Child Marriage.

Ministry of WCD and NACG-India cooperation for taking forward SAIEVAC agenda

NACG-EVAC India met Ashtha Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of WCD on 18th January, 2019. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Treasurer of NACG-EVAC, India, Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, EC member participated in the meeting with the Joint Secretary. The discussion focused on meaningful cooperation and coordination between NACG India and the Ministry to take forward SAIEVAC agenda as well as India’s commitment to end violence against children.

The discussions highlighted the possible collaborative approach of NACG India and Ministry of WCD in safe neighbourhood campaign, an initiative of the Ministry, sharing

of gaps in policy implementation, sharing of good practices, model intervention on prevention of violence against children at the community level, positive engagement with children, regional POCSO seminar as per the Ministerial meeting decision, and holding 8th Governing Body meeting as India is taking Chairmanship from Bhutan.

Building Partnership and Cooperation

The NACG-EVAC India team met Mr. Aguilar Javier, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF, India and Nirmala Pandey, UNICEF on 17th January, Mohammed Asif, Director, Programme Implementation, Plan India on 19th January, and

Tushar Anchal, Senior Technical Advisor, Child Protection, Plan India on 3rd March.

The discussions focused on preventing all forms of violence against children in schools & community, engaging with children, media advocacy, developing database on SDG & tracking violence against children, Research & database creation, capacity building of key stakeholders and NACG members, and possibility of cooperation to strengthen NACG process in India and actions by NACG for ending violence against children. The NACG team also met Razia Ismail, IACR on 19th January and discussed the active participation of interim working group members and strengthening Delhi Chapter.

News from States

General Body Meeting, Odisha

The General Body Meeting of NACG-EVAC, Odisha was held on 28th February 2019 under the Chairmanship of Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Convenor. The meeting focused on constitution of new Executive Committee/Nomination of Thematic Heads, Election of State Convener, Election of National Board member, Strengthening of NACG-EVAC, Odisha Chapter/Future course of action. Mr. Prakash Rath, OLS was elected as New State Convener. Mr. K K Swain, OVHA and Mrs. Puspita Pradhan, LKBK were elected as Co-convenors. Other newly elected Executive Committee



Newly elected executive committee members of NACG Odisha

members are Mr Prasana Mishra, RRO (thematic head-Child Labour), Mr. PabitraMohanaPradhan, SRUSTI (Child marriage), Mr. Umesh Purohit, YSC (Child Trafficking), Ms. Usharani Behera, BGVS (Corporal punishment), Ms. AnuradhaMohanty, PECUC (Child sexual Abuse and Exploitation), Mr. Gaurishyam Panda, RARE (Child with

Disability), Mr. Sukant Nayak, SAHARA (Children Participation), Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, OACR, and Mr. Bijaylal Mohanta, CREFTDA.

NACG India, Delhi NCR Chapter

The Delhi NCR Chapter meet was held on 5th March at YWCA of India, Conference hall. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General SAIEVAC, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG-EVAC, Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice- Chairperson, NACG, Ms. Razia Ismail, Convener, IACR, Ms. Madhavi Samson, Convener NACG, Delhi, and many others. During the round table discussions the issues for NACG that were flagged: Violence against children in the form of bullying, ragging etc., the issue of minimum wages, issue of



online abuse and online safety, children with disability, NACG Delhi NCR as a knowledge hub, developing an action plan, etc.

Regional Round up

Nepal National Consultation on Child Sexual abuse, Exploitation and Online Safety

The consultation was held on 27th–29th December at Pokhara, NEPAL organised by SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and SAIEVAC National Mechanisms (Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens and NACG Nepal), in Collaboration with Key Stakeholders (NACG/CSO Project, TDH NL, CWIN, ECPAT, VSO International & SOS). Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG India was invited to share experiences from India.



**National Executive Committee Meeting
at Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

SAIEVAC Interfaith Platform Meeting

The meeting was held on 11th-12th March, 2019 at Bangkok. The meeting was held with the objective to develop common understanding and commitment to address the violence against children, develop criteria to identify faith based organisation/ actors in working with SAIEVAC to address violence against children, to develop road map, institutional mechanism including roles and responsibilities for a SAIEVAC Interfaith Network/Platform to address violence against children regionally and in member states, thus targeting the on-going efforts to end child sexual exploitation and abuse including online safety.



**“To every child – I dream of a world
where you can laugh, dance, sing, learn,
live in peace and be happy –
Malala Yousafzai”**

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NACG EVAC India Secretariat, PECUC Coordination Office, House No.-63, Phase-2, Indraprastha, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India, Pin-751020. Telephone No-+91-674 - 2382175/2352278, Tel. Fax: +91-674- 2352232. E- mail: nacevac.india@gmail.com