

NATIONAL-LEVEL ORIENTATION PROGRAM ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

On March 14th, 2023, a national-level orientation program on children with disabilities was conducted online. Distinguished speakers including Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson NACG EVAC India; Ms. Gitika Dutta Sharma, Vice Chairperson NACG EVAC; Mr. Prakash Rath, theme lead Children with Disability from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India; Mr. Rajesh Tiwari, Former Deputy Secretary Government of Chhattisgarh; Ms. Tulika Das, Director Sanchar; and Mr.

Sannyashai Kumar Behera, President Orissa Association for the Blind, along with several other civil society representatives, actively participated in the event.

The discourse primarily focused on the myriad challenges encountered by children with disabilities and explored strategies through which the NACG EVAC India Chapter could extend support and propose solutions to mitigate these challenges.

During the discussion, participants highlighted a variety of challenges encountered by children with disabilities, including:

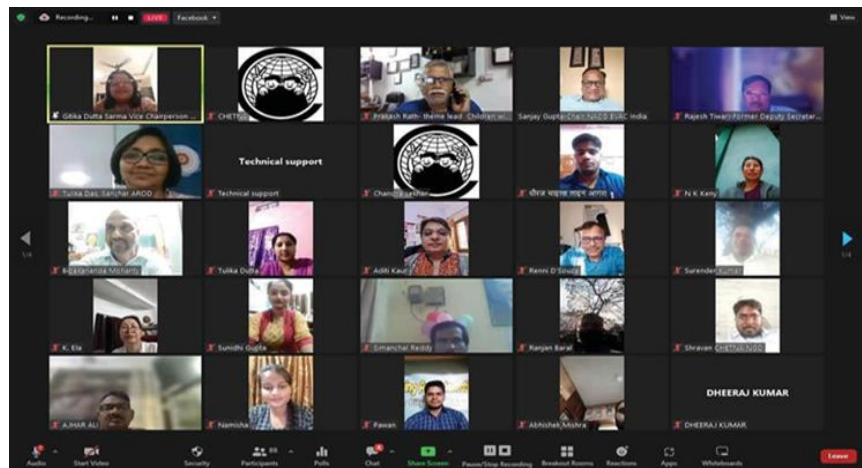
- Educational institutions often lack the necessary resources or willingness to accommodate the unique needs of children with disabilities, resulting in limited educational opportunities for these children.
- Access to specialized medical care and rehabilitation services is often inadequate, particularly in low-resource settings.
- Insufficient infrastructure, such as the absence of ramps or accessible transportation, restricts the mobility and access of children with disabilities.
- Children with disabilities are frequently excluded from decision-making processes that affect their lives.

In the latter part of the meeting, NACG EVAC India presented and sought support from governmental entities and civil society for various initiatives, including:

- Implementing inclusive education practices that cater to children with diverse disabilities and ensure they receive quality education alongside their peers.
- Ensuring healthcare services are accessible, affordable, and tailored to meet the needs of children with disabilities.



- Conducting community outreach and awareness campaigns to challenge societal perceptions and biases.



- Advocating for the enactment and enforcement of laws that safeguard the rights of children with disabilities and promote their inclusion in all sectors of society.
- Empowering children with disabilities and their families through education, skills development, and support networks to enhance their confidence and participation in society.

The national-level online orientation program successfully convened a diverse array of stakeholders to address the complex challenges faced by children with disabilities. By fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and highlighting best practices, the program contributed to ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all children, irrespective of their abilities.