



## Stakeholder Consultation on Ensuring Easy Govt Service to Vulnerable and Street Children-Problem, Solutions and Collaboration

Stakeholders' consultation was organized with financial support from Toybox Charity via Childhood Enhancement through Training and Action (CHETNA), National Secretariat, National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children India, (NACG EVAC India), at Doon Library and Research Centre in Dehradun. In this consultation, 74 participants from different departments of state government and organizations, which are working for children in different districts of Uttarakhand participated. The main objective of this consultation was to discuss with different associated departments how children in need can get benefits from various policies of the government.

The consultation started with lightening diyas by Dr Geeta Khanna, Chairperson SCPCR, Ms P. Renuka Devi DIG law and Order, Mr Shiv Uniyal Program Manager UIDAI, Mr. Sanjay Gupta Chairperson NACG-EVAC India, Aditi P Kaur State Convenor NACG, Uttarakhand Chapter. After that video presentation of videos of children from different organizations was done in children from different villages of Uttarakhand. In which they shared their and their societies' issues.

These issues are enlisted below:

Name of Village	District	Issue
Sarkhet	Raipur Dehradun	Their village's government school has been demolished in the natural calamity of 2022. That's why they are facing problems in their education. So, they requested help in building a new school in their village.
Chhamrauli	Raipur Dehradun	There is only one teacher in their village's government primary school. Because of that, it's difficult for him to get time for each child in classes 1 to 5. They requested to appoint one more teacher to their school.
Gadagaon	Pithoragarh	There is no Anganwadi building for small kids in the village.
Bhagichaura	Pithoragarh	There is no Primary Health Centre in their village. For medical support, they have to go 15km to another village. There are some children in their village who are in the habit of some substance abuse. They asked for help to make them understand about effects of this habit.
Badaabe	Pithoragarh	One child shared that his school is so far from his residence, he has books but doesn't have notebooks. He shared that his house condition is very bad.

Rudrapur	Vikas Nagar Dehradun	One child shared that it's been 6 years of Anganwadi building but it's not operative yet. He requested help in the proper functioning of Angan Wadi in his village.
Ambaadi	Vikas Nagar Dehradun	She said that the sanitary pads which she is getting from Angan Wadi are very small in size. She requested help in providing the appropriate size of sanitary pads to all girls and ladies of their village.
Dhakowala	Vikas Nagar Dehradun	They shared that building and roof of the primary school in their village are damaged because of which they cannot sit inside the school during classes and they have to sit in the open for getting an education. During summer and monsoon season the condition gets worsen. So they requested help in the renovation of their school building.
Mangwala	Vikas Nagar Dehradun	Their village is very big and dense and there is only one Angan wadi in that village which is unable to cover the whole village. And
Pasouli	Vikas Nagar Dehradun	She is studying in government inter college Langha. There is one sanitary pad vending machine in their village but that is not functional. So, she requested the repair of that machine.

After that Mountain Children's Foundation director and NACG-EVAC Uttarakhand chapter's state convenor explained about NACG-EVAC, India in detail. She explained that SAIEVAC, The **South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children** is a **SAARC Apex body** which is an inter-governmental body with a vision that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination. Eight SAARC countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India are working to ensure a strong child protection system and to make a violence-free environment.

After that, Mr. Sanjay Gupta NACG-EVAC, India Chair Person informed everybody about the functioning of NACG-EVAC, India. He said that National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence against Children (NACG EVAC) India, is a country-level civil society platform of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), an apex body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The director of the Ministry of Women & Children Development is the Nodal officer for SAIEVAC NACG EVAC India presently has a total membership of 563 member organizations in 25 states of India with a strong 64 National Board Members, Executive Committee, and State Conveners. He included that NACG EVAC focuses on 5 critical thematic issues, Child Labor, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Corporal Punishment, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, and two cross-cutting thematic issues Children with Disability and Child Participation.

He said that we have launched a series of state consultations, and are trying to create a common interest group that will work consistently on child protection & welfare.

**Mrs. Renu Thakur Arpan's organization, Pithoragarh has been invited, she shared the following issues of her area's children:**

1. There is no Anganwadi for children of the age group of 3-6 years of the Raji tribe. To avail of the Anganwadi facility these kids have to walk around 5-6 km.
2. During monsoons these children face difficulties in reaching school that's why lack behind in education.
3. In Chakarpur village for reaching school children have to cross the railway crossing and walk for 2-3 kilometres.

**Issues shared by Mr Rizwan Ali from Latika Roy Foundation:**

1. He shared that children with special needs and mentally disabled children are facing difficulty in getting Adhar cards. These children have to wait for a long time and they get hyper during that time and sometimes it's difficult to handle them. Sometimes it's become difficult to match these kid's eye retinas so they didn't get Adhar cards. If the child doesn't have a hand, then he is unable to get an Adhar card because he cannot give the fingerprint.
2. These children have to wait in long queues to get disability certificates. Sometimes it makes them restless.
3. There is no facility or shelter for abandoned special children and physically disabled children.

**Issues shared by Shri Mati Priyo Lal**

There are no special educators for special children in government schools. In some schools this facility is available but if the teacher gets absent then they tell children to not come to school.

1. Their organization has opened a center in Jakholi block, Devprayag, and Uttarkashi. There they give special training to children but because of lack of transportation facilities, they are unable to use these facilities.

In continuation of the discussion, Mr.Rizwan shared that under Section 17 of the Disability Act 2016, there is a facility for screening of school-going children, which has to be done within 5 years. It's the responsibility of schools. But this work has not started yet. As per United Nations Convention on Child Rights, children with special needs have the right to live with dignity, joyfulness, and self-reliance. But the present situation is the same as earlier. Even laws have not changed anything.

**Issues shared by Mrs Kanchan Bhandari from Vimarsh, Nainital**

1. There are no proper facilities for abandoned special children. If we keep these special children in normal-shelter homes then there is no medical facility for children's immediate check-ups.
2. If they produce child labor to the child welfare committee, they hand over children to their families back. And we saw many of these children involve in child labour again.
3. There is no medical or shelter facility for children with substance abuse or any type of addiction.

4. There is no ANM in many villages of the Nainital district. Because of these villagers are deprived of medical facilities.

**Issues shared by Suresh Uniyal from Bachpan Bachao Andolan NGO:**

1. For the POCSO cases, it is mandatory that the police has to inform the child welfare committee as soon as possible so that they can arrange compensation and other care and protection for the victim immediately. Presently is not in practice that's why many victims are not getting help properly.
2. Till now rescued child labourers have not gotten any benefits. The labor department has gotten recovery from their employers but no compensation has been given to these children.
3. There is no facility for children to indulge in begging. Every concerned department is working on this issue but no result is seen till now. Their families live on roads only. There is a need for a special policy for their rehabilitation.

Sub Chief Inspecting Officer Mrs Anjana Gupta shared that the government is preparing a portal for these children which may help in solving many problems.

UIDAI, Uttarakhand Policy Manager Mr Shiv Uniyal shared that for children from 0-5 years, there is no need for biometrics for their Adhar Card. With the help of parents' Adhar cards, their ward's Adhar card can be made. For disabled children's Adhar cards, there is a need to send an email to UIDAI. After that, their Adhar Card can be made. For this work, responsibility has been given to the ICDS department. Arrangements have been done in schools too for making Adhar Cards. We are trying to make centres for Adhar Cards in interior areas too, so that can help all needy people.

In continuation of this discussion, the CWC chairperson shared that her household help is faced a lot of problems in making their children's Adhar Card. She only helped her when they were unable to make it by themselves.

She said that ordinary peoples have to face a lot of difficulties to make their Adhar Card. At every place, they need some sources to help. These government facilities should be easily accessible to the public. She also shared that children involved in begging and selling balloons don't have Adhar cards.

UIDAI Policy Manager added that if anyone is not able to make their Adhar Cards then they can get in writing from their area's Gram Pradhan or Parshad (Counsellor). Based on this they can get Adhar Card.

Ms Deepa from Astitva Organization shared that their area's Parshad doesn't sign easily. UIDAI officials said that it may be some personal matter of that person, but this procedure is necessary for Adhar Card.

Mr. Girish Dimri from the SBMA organization asked what is the procedure for making Adhar Cards for abandoned, orphans or children living in shelter homes.

On this, District Probation Officer Mrs Meena Bisht replied that in such cases Institutional Director can support these children in making Adhar Cards. In Dehradun, they are already in the practice of that.

Mr Shubham Tyagi added that since January 2023, as per new guidelines, it's necessary to have valid identity proof for making an Adhar Card. Identity proof should be attested by a gazetted officer.

Mr Rizwan added that if Adhar Card centre personnel required training regarding special needs children, then their organization can give them training for the smooth running of the procedure.

CWC chairperson shared that people from Nepal are also making their Adhar Cards in India, and become citizens of India. UIDAI's Mr Shiv Uniyal added that Adhar Card is only your identity proof it cannot describe your nationality.

Ms Kanchan from the Vimarsh organization shared that it's necessary to provide permanent documents to each person. Politicians are helping people to make voter id cards just to get their votes. There is a need to work on this issue too.

Ms Renu Thakur from the Arpan organization shared that the Raji Tribe people have to live in the forest only. They don't have Adhar cards that's why it is very difficult to make Adhar Cards for their children. On this Mr Sanjay Gupta added that Supreme Court has issued an order that in every district, the District Magistrate can give the order to make Adhar card for the children living on the streets.

In last it has been requested to the UIDAI director to initiate an awareness program on the updation of Adhar Card in rural areas with the help of civil society

#### **Issues shared by Mr Sudhir Bhatt from Hill's Children Forum:**

1. Whenever there is any case of a child police take a very long time to make DD entry.
2. Police don't give receiving of complaint letters.
3. Police delays in taking statements under the act of IPC section 164. Which sometimes creates pressure on victims and they are forced to change their statements.
4. For child labourers, it is very difficult to get admission to schools. It's very difficult for them to attend school regularly even if they get admission.
5. In their state forest stop centres are not working properly. Some of them are closed, and because of this Ladies and their dependent children are not getting shelter.
6. CWC doesn't have shelter, rehabilitation, or counselling facility for children in substance abuse.
7. There is no education facility for children of Mangwala village, Dehradun after class 5<sup>th</sup>. So, there are many dropout cases after class 5<sup>th</sup>. Recently 12 children passed their class 5<sup>th</sup> but because of no option of Junior High School, they have dropped out from education and now sitting at home. Their nearest school is 6-7 km from their house.

#### **Issues shared by Mr Amit Balodi from Asra Trust:**

1. They help children from different communities to get admission to government schools but in those schools, there are no teachers.
2. We have to make a coordination group for the children who are victims of misbehaviour so that we can help them immediately.
3. At various construction sites, there is no facility for education for children.
4. It is very difficult for getting birth certificates for children of home delivery.

### **Issues shared by Mr Ranjit Bar from Building Dreams Foundation:**

Their organization is working in Lakshmi Pur, Sahaspur Block. They are giving informal education to children and helping them in getting admission to government schools. At that place four-lane highway construction is undergoing, and because of that they are removing the slum area of that place. There are some children in contact with their organization and residing in those slums. If their family will get shifted from that place then their education will get affected and they have to leave their education.

### **Issues shared by Ms Nitu from Nitu Beginning Foundation:**

1. They are running Balwadis at different places. Can their organization help to make Adhar cards for these children by writing a letter on their letterhead?  
Mr. Subham Tyagi from UIDAI answered that as per new guidelines of January 2023 they have to produce some valid proof of their identity for Adhar Card. It is necessary to get attested by a gazetted officer. They have to follow these guidelines for making Adhar Card.
2. Children living in these communities don't have facilities of Sulabh Sauchalaya (toilets) so they have to go to open areas.

### **Ms P. Renuka Devi, DIG Law, and Order Uttarakhand explained various points regarding the Police department:**

Since the time of birth, Uttarakhand police helps children a lot.

1. For helping children there is a facility for child welfare police officers and a help desk in each police station.
2. Police are directly working for human welfare so sometimes there may be delay in some work. For reducing that senior officers are doing meetings.
3. Illegal immigrants are getting checked by police officials on borders.
4. Resue is not an issue but all departments need to work together for the rehabilitation of these children.
5. She shared that sexual abuse in children increased in the last two years and there were 942 cases of POCSO.
6. Cases of child pornography increased too.
7. She also included that the government is developing border area villages as vibrant villages so that they can provide facilities to villagers and can reduce immigration.

She has also suggested that if the police personnel are not receiving complaints, then they can do online complaints. She included that sometimes because of behavioural issues, police may get delayed to take statements under section 164. She also shared successful stories of Operation Mukti and operation smile.

At the end of the consultation **CWC chairperson Ms Geeta Khanna** shared her ideas, she appreciated NACG-EVAC functioning and said these types of events help a lot in resolving issues.

She shared her experience of a girl who was physically challenged and was unable to get admission to reputed schools in Dehradun. Even though she talked to many schools but

nobody agreed to give that girl admission. In last her parents helped her in getting admission to some school in Banglore where all the facilities were available for children with special needs.

She also shared about children's participation, and about children's assemblies organized this month only. She said that in this children's assembly, there are a total of 70 children's members of the legislative assembly (MLAs). All child MLAs got identity cards from the committee. With the help of this, they can easily meet their district's DMs and senior police officers to discuss their issues. She also explained Child MLA's active functioning in which they have rescued 16 child labourers and stopped 3 child marriages.

She has appreciated the work of the district task force on child labour and said that they have to work regularly to rescue child labourers.

There is a rise in cases against children in Uttarakhand. In this courts have also helped them sensitively to reduce these kinds of cases.

She included the rescue of children takes a long process and during which children may have to face some difficulties. She wants that there should be one particular place where children can get all facilities in a single building.

The situation of rehabilitation centres in the state is very bad so for counselling there should be some arrangement in shelter homes only.

She added that there are many national child health programs in schools and Anganwadis. If there is any problem with that anybody can share it. She said that the national youth program is also a good starting in which they can get information regarding different issues related to children.

She was upset that no person from the education department or health department participated in this consultation.

After that, some advice was given and decisions have been taken for future actions:

1. UKPCR will issue a circular to the education/health department to ensure action on all the points raised by children and participants.
2. UKSCPCR will issue a circular to DWCD to initiate an assessment of existing CICs and special homes for children in terms of utilization of facilities, accessibility, etc.
3. Circular issued by CPO for all DPOs to organize half-day 'Samaya Samashaan Camp', especially around children's issues in each district.
4. Requested DIG law & order to issue circulars on using form B, and will organize an interface of police with civil society members
5. Requested UIDAI director to initiate awareness program on updation of Adhar Card in rural areas with the help of civil society

In the last directors of Mountain Children's Foundation (Hill's Children Forum) and chairperson of NACG-EVAC greeted and thanked all the participants for participating in this consultation.

[Link to watch the video](#)





## Media Coverage of Consultation



## बच्चों के लिए सभी संस्थाओं को आना होगा साथ : गीता

**उत्तराखंड बाल आयोग ने दिया इटीग्रेटेड व्यवस्था पर जोर**

देहरादून, 8 जून (ब्यूरो) : बच्चों की विभिन्न समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए विभिन्न संस्थाओं को एक साथ आना होगा। उत्तराखंड बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग ने इसके लिए संस्थाओं को एक मजबूत कार्ययोजना तैयार करने को कहा है।

बच्चों के क्षेत्र में कार्य कर रहे प्रदेश के विभिन्न संगठन वीरवार को दून लाइब्रेरी में एक कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन नेशनल एक्शन एंड कर्डिनेशन ग्रुप द्वारा किया गया। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता करते हुए बाल आयोग की अध्यक्ष डा. गीता खन्ना ने कहा कि बच्चों का शोषण एवं यौन शोषण, बाल

विवाह, बाल व्यापार, शारीरिक दण्ड व बाल श्रम को लेकर लगातार काम करने की आवश्यकता है।

बैठक में विभिन्न संगठनों ने बच्चों का स्कूल में एडमिशन न होने, आधार कार्ड बनाने में समस्या, जन्म प्रमाणपत्र, स्पान्सरशिप योजना, बाल श्रम से मुक्त बच्चों का पुनर्वास करना आदि विषयों पर चर्चा की गई। डीआईजी पी रेणुका देवी, शिव उनियाल, अंजना गुप्ता, संजय गुप्ता, अदिती पी कौर ने प्रतिभागियों के सवालों के जवाब दिए। बैठक में पर्वतीय बाल मंच, विमर्श नैनीताल, अर्पण पिथौरागढ़, लतिका रॉय फाउंडेशन, आसरा ट्रस्ट आदि के प्रतिनिधि सुधीर भट्ट, द्वारिका प्रसाद नौनी, रेनु ठाकुर, रिजवान अली आदि शामिल हुए।

## हिन्दुस्तान

### बच्चों को छोटे-छोटे काम के लिए सता रहा सिस्टम

देहरादून। कार्यरत संस्थाएँ बच्चों को विभिन्न विषयों में मुक्याओं के शिक्षा प्रकल्प करते हैं। आधार कार्ड बनाने से लेकर स्कूलों में दाखिले तक में परेशानी आ रही है। पर्वतीय बाल मंच एवं एनएसीजी एवैक इंडिया की ओर से आयोजित संरक्षण कार्यक्रम में कई संगठनों ने विद्यार्थियों को पोल खोली। उत्तराखंड बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग अध्यक्ष डा. गीता खन्ना ने बच्चों को छोटे-छोटे कामों से सताने के बजाय बच्चों को बड़े कामों में शामिल करने का आग्रह किया।



देहरादून स्थित दून लाइब्रेरी में हुए कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित लोग।

के प्रमुख अंशकारों के रूप में शामिल रहे। मौके पर न्यूअर्वाइजमेंट्स प्रबंधक शिव उनियाल, उप परिवीक्षा अधिकारी अंजना गुप्ता, एनएसीजी एवैक के चेयरपर्सन संजय गुप्ता मौजूद रहे।

**शिफारिश से नहीं, जनता के काम होने ही चाहिए : खन्ना**

बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग की अध्यक्ष डा. गीता खन्ना ने कहा कि उनके घर में काम करने वाले बच्चों की विद्यार्थी वर्ग तक को आधार कार्ड बनाने में परेशानी आई। एक कक्षा की बैठक की रही में शिक्षक अपने घर की परीक्षा नहीं लिया। छोटे-छोटे कार्यों के लिए फोन करना पड़ता है। शिक्षार्थियों से नहीं, आम जनता का ध्यान होना चाहिए। बच्चों की समस्याओं का एक काम के नीचे समाधान को एक विद्यार्थी को। शिक्षार्थियों को दूर अंतर में रखना देवी ने परिवीक्षा के माध्यम से देवी जयसंखरी दी। बच्चों परीक्षाओं के माध्यम से जवाबदायें करने को कहा।