

JUVENILE JUSTICE DOCUMENTING GOOD PRACTICES

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN IN THE 'JJ' SYSTEM

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FOREWORD

In 2012, HAQ initiated the process of putting together a compendium of initiatives on Juvenile Justice with focus on good practices in dealing with children in conflict with the law as well as children in need of care and protection.

A quick scan of organisations showed that while there are several organisations that focus on children in need of care and protection, the numbers who work with children in conflict with the law is very limited.

In the wake of the ongoing debate and often irresponsible statements on juveniles and their capacity to be 'reformed' or 'not reformed', it became even more important to show case some of the initiatives as a 'good and replicable practice' showing that rehabilitation of child offenders was possible. At the same time it was equally important to work on preventive programmes so that children who may be vulnerable to falling into crime are supported, and their needs addressed.

With the Integrated Child Protection Scheme being rolled out and new actors coming into the field of child protection and juvenile justice, this exercise became even more significant. It enables both government as well as independent agencies to draw upon the experiences and learnings of those who have been in this field longer.

To prepare this compendium, HAQ wrote to 20 organisations with a request to be part of this initiative and sent them a list of guiding questions / topics. Despite repeated efforts, only a few responded and they are part of this compendium – they are ones included here. Most of the organisations covered in this compendium have more than one initiative with children. The compendium only deals with the most important 'innovation', as identified by the concerned organisation.

We are extremely grateful to the organisations that have been part of this journey, sending us information and responding to our endless queries.

We hope that the experiences shared in this compendium will guide further policies and planning on rehabilitation and reintegration of children in contact with the law.

Enakshi Ganguly Thukral
Co-Director

Bharti Ali
Co-Director

INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

EMPOWERMENT OF CHILDREN AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION (ECHO) PROTECTION, REHABILITATION, REPATRIATION AND RESTORATION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAW

Every child irrespective of his/her social background needs nurturing and education, this becomes even the more important for children who are in conflict with law and children who are in need of care and protection. Research shows that children often fall prey to committing crimes or end up on the streets in vulnerable situations because of their anti social background, lack of economical support etc and thus efforts were required to be made to give these children a brighter and safer future by involving them in skill development programmes, rehabilitative programmes to engage them in activities that are rewarding and that keep them away from drugs, crimes etc. Empowerment of Children and Human Rights Organisation (ECHO) came up with a programme for the children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection which is aimed at both crime prevention as well as rehabilitation of those who have offended or come in conflict with the law.

HIGHLIGHTS

ECHO works with children who have been in conflict with the law providing them with a second chance. ECHO doesn't believe children consciously commit crimes. It is their environment, like poor economic background or family situation, which force them to disobey the law. Therefore the children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection undergo rehabilitative programmes to return into society as empowered citizens of the country.

- In order to achieve reformation, the boys follow a structured day programme.
- Education- formal or non formal is a key component
- Specialized counseling to help them with goal motivation and personality development programmes.
- Specialized counseling to help them with goal motivation and personality development programmes
- Vocational training
- Children are encouraged to review their own progress and ways to improve their behavior through a peer review process in Bal Panchayats. The aim of Bala Panchayat is to provide opportunity for them to take responsibility of their actions.

The transformation of these children into successful human beings has been a point of study for some of the State Governments in India and plans are afoot from the Kerala, Goa & Haryana Governments to introduce such Special Home in their States in the model of the unique Special Home set up in Karnataka by ECHO which is the first of its kind in India.

About the organisation

Empowerment of Children and Human Rights Organisation (ECHO) is a non-government organisation working for the children in difficult circumstances in the city of Bangalore, India. The organisation was founded by Dr. Antony Sebastian O. Praem an Advocate in 2000. His master thesis "An Echo of the cry from the streets of Bangalore: a study of the problems of street children - a legal perspective" (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, sponsored by the Government of The Netherlands) threw insights into the

problems that street children face, legal inadequacies concerning them, non-implementation of legal instruments and possible interventions by volunteer agencies. The main aim is to empower children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.

The implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act forms the framework of their activities. ECHO has also been recognized as one of the Fit Institutions where children in conflict with law and children who need care and protection are released.

Vision Mission of ECHO

Vision

“Empowerment of children in difficult circumstances by ensuring human rights and dignity”

Mission

Promotion and protection of the rights of children in difficult circumstances and empowering them through:

- advocacy, reformation, rehabilitation, education and reintegration of children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection
- Prevention and rehabilitation of street and working children from getting into crime.
- Networking with various stakeholders at National and International levels.
- Research and Documentation of Juvenile rights and its violation.
- Lobbying and advocacy for rights of the juveniles.

Traffic Police Assistant Programme (TPAP)- The Innovation

One of the most innovative rehabilitative programmes of ECHO is the Traffic Police Assistant Programme (TPAP). This programme was initiated in cooperation with the Department of Police aiming at metamorphosing juveniles in conflict with law and neglected children into responsible members of society. Through this intervention former law breakers become law enforcers later. Young boys and girls in the age group of 16-20 years assist the traffic police to control and regulate the traffic in the high density areas of Bangalore City. This is a much acclaimed and successful rehabilitation program of ECHO – where hundreds of boys and girls are trained by the police department in traffic management and receive certificates that help them to secure well paying jobs with factories, Educational Institutions and Police Department.

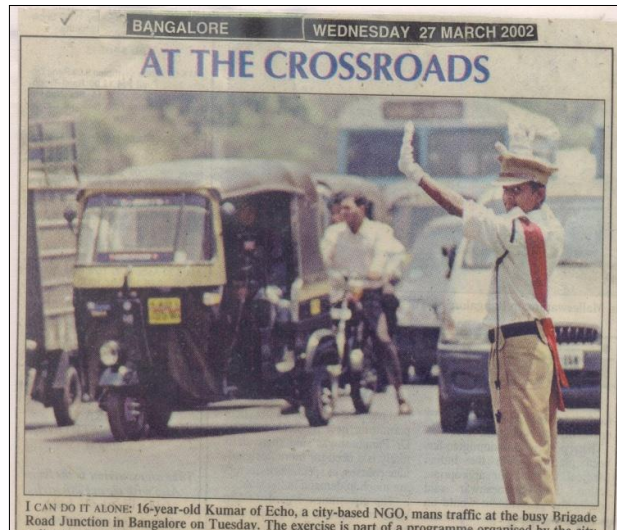
AIM

Juvenile in conflict with law into responsible member of society

Earlier lawbreakers become law enforcers & earn their own living



ECHO's TPAP is a novel initiative as it has made law regulators out of law breakers. 'From street to street with dignity'- was the slogan behind the formation of TPAP. It aimed to bring juveniles back to mainstream society with dignity. This initiative has not only helped the Police Stations but has also changed the lives of many juveniles. The aim was to reduce criminals in and around the city by using the age old proverb "nipping it in the bud".



Children in the age group of 16 to 20 years are given intensive orientation and training in traffic rules and regulations, basic information of the city, first aid and community dynamics. ECHO has trained more than 750 TPA's since the launch of the program in 2002. As Traffic Police Assistants the inmates gain dignity, respect and self-worth next to financial independence.

ECHO trains former juveniles in conflict with law and street children in association with the city traffic police department to give these children a sense of purpose and belonging to the society.

Achievements/ Impact

The Traffic Police Assistant Programme is a ground breaking intervention and more than 700 children have gone through this vocational program. Appreciating the work done by the TPA boys, the Government of Karnataka invited them to participate in the Republic Day's Parade in Bangalore. This was an exalted recognition to the ECHO boys. Another special event in the TPA programme was the Capping Ceremony of the 7th batch of TPAs. For the first time in history the batch included 12 girls from Children's Home to be trained as TPAs. On 26th 2007 ECHO's 40 TPA's took part in the Republic day parade.



Challenges

ECHO faced the following challenges while initiating the TPAP:

- The children were looked upon by suspicion by the general public, police and the Government.
- The non-cooperative attitude of all the concerned people
- The salary was very low and not adequate for a living
- Monitoring was extremely difficult

Learning

The following were the learnings that came through over a period of time:

- The children in conflict with laws were successfully rehabilitated in due course.
- They received good support through Media coverage
- There was adequate support and cooperation from the Police Department
- They were reformed and linked up with re-integration to society
- The juveniles in conflict with law were able to place themselves in better job placements.
- Through this programme their families were well settled

Way Forward

ECHO has managed to give voices to thousands of neglected and delinquent children through legal aid, counselling, and releasing children from Government Observation Home, Reception Centre and Children's Home. The organisation believes that, with proper care, all children can grow into responsible and self-sufficient citizens of our society. And therefore takes pleasure in continuing to implement laws concerning Child Rights through their successful network of NGOs to lobby at Central and State Government level.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF YOUTH & MASSES (SPYM)

HOPE FOR JUVENILES

SPYM through its project Hope for Juveniles works closely with young adults and teenagers who are in conflict with law. Centre was set up in 2010 at the behest of Honourable Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Delhi wherein Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (SPYM), a pioneer non profit organization working in the field of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment since 1986, consented to provide De-addiction Services to Juveniles in Conflict with Law within the OHB complex without any financial liability on Dept. of Women & Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

At present the Sahyog centre is run under mentoring support of Dept. of Women & Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Sahyog first of its kind in India and also, recognized with National Award on 26th June 2014 for best innovative practices for rehabilitation & reintegration of children in conflict with law recovering from substance use disorder.

About the Organisation

SPYM opened its first Drug Treatment Centre in 1985 and at that time it was the first such centre of its kind in North India. A systematic and comprehensive approach towards those who wish to cease drug use has benefited thousands of people over the years. SPYM provides both Inpatient and Outpatient treatment services for Substance Use Disorders among adults in India at various centers across various states namely New Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and West Bengal.

HIGHLIGHTS

SPYM initiated its programme Hope for Juveniles seeing the close link between substance abuse and addictions and juvenile crime. SPYM is currently working with youngsters in conflict with law referred through Juvenile justice Board and those who are on streets and referred through Child Welfare Committee.

- SPYM is consistently working towards engaging juveniles as productive citizens and to give them a safe environment, to lead their new life.
- SPYM works with children who have already come in the law through its centre in Kingsway Camp, Delhi
- SPYM also works with children who are vulnerable to come in conflict with the law by extending outreach and drop in facilities to the homeless and street children
- In order to facilitate long term rehabilitation, Hope for Juveniles provides vocational training programme for juveniles so that they are able to earn their livelihood
- Under this programme, each individual is trained as per his or her talent and facilitated in seeking jobs

Mission

The mission of SPYM is to reach out to the most disadvantaged sections in our society. The main purpose is to enable people to maximize their potential, increase their abilities and enhance human dignity by providing quality services within available resources.

Hope for Juveniles- The innovation

Crimes committed under the influence of drugs are triggered by extreme emotional and psychological feelings, such as anger and pain. Hope for Juveniles programme is working with children in the correctional homes and also extending outreach and drop in facility to bring homeless street based children who have fallen prey to drugs and crime, back to the mainstream society. SPYM believes that given the right support to children who have come into the system, they can be “rehabilitated” and re-integrated into society and through preventive programmes, address children who are vulnerable to come into the system.

From the sociological point of view human behaviour is a learned behaviour, which includes the crime they commit. When these juveniles are introduced to drugs and other illicit substances, they are channeled into the business of drug trafficking, robbery, murder, abduction and many other criminal activities etc.

The Government of India has formulated many policies and schemes for the juveniles under the Juvenile Justice Act. The Government works with NGOs in running shelter homes, observation homes for children in conflict with law. In this endeavour, SPYM is managing the first de-addiction and rehabilitation centre, Sahyog catering especially to the juveniles with the history of drug dependence in collaboration with Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi on the direction of High Court of Delhi.

AIM

Although 50% of the rehabilitated youth relapse, the success rate too is 50%. We as stakeholders of society need to help increase this percentage of permanent rehabilitation. .. Juveniles are voiceless, forgotten sections of society who have lost their childhood to drugs and crime. We as stakeholders of our community could make a big difference. The aim is to help youngsters to stand on their feet for honourable living and thereby bring them back into the mainstream.

The organisation believes that education and literacy can be one of the best ways to tackle one of the major evils in our society i.e. illiteracy. Literacy provides and promotes general awareness on substance abuse and lead to the resolution of many other social and economic problems in their lives that lead them into drugs, such as unemployment, exploitation and domestic violence.

The children come into Sahyog De-addiction cum Rehabilitation centre for juveniles through the orders of the Juvenile Justice Board. This is an initiative that works hand in hand with the government to empower and strive for the bright future of youth in conflict with the law. In collaboration with the Department of Woman & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, this centre was established in 2011 by SPYM.

The programme offers a 50+ bedded facility for adolescent males in conflict with the law under the age of 18 years and assessed to have a history of substance abuse and current substance dependence disorder along with other psychological and behavioural issues. The treatment period at the SPYM Juvenile De-addiction centre requires a minimum of 30 to 90 days. After 90 days, review of the juvenile’s improvement and recovery may indicate the need to extend treatment.

The following are the services offered

- Assessment
- Detoxification & treatment
- Psychotherapy (Individual, Group)

- Family Counselling
- Recreational Therapy
- After Care
- Follow up & Home Visits
- Nutrition Support
- Life Skills Education
- Vocational Skill Training

To run this programme, the SPYM relies on donations from individuals, entrepreneurs and corporations. However, the most important contribution comes from numerous volunteers who work tirelessly with the SPYM throughout the year. The SPYM closely works with partners, such as Police, Juvenile Justice Board, counselors and skill-set-development organizations to empower the marginalized youngsters until they develop into productive citizens in the workforce.

SPYM's ways to reform and rehabilitate juveniles

- **Pump repair training:** Skill training workshops on how to repair motor pumps and build a sustainable future through vocational training.
- **Grassroots Comics:** Facilitates children at the shelter to express issues which are relevant to them or their community.
- **Meditation sessions:** Regular meditation and yoga classes designed keeping in view their psychological and emotional state during the scheduled sessions.
- **Laundry Training:** vocational skill development and enhancement of self esteem as part of rehabilitation.
- **Food production:** Skill training on food making and processing at the centre with support of Fortune Hotel.
- **First aid training:** First Aid training is provided to Children as means of helping them become responsible citizens of the society.
- **Halfway Home:** A space has been procured to serve as a transitional shelter between the drug treatment centre and the community. This 'half way home' is a ladder which promotes self reliance and practice of newly found coping skills before they reintegrate in to their homes.
- **Computer literacy:** This initiative includes an introduction to internet access, along with net surfing of educational and vocational sites.
- **Literacy:** "Padho-Padhao" imparts functional literacy skills every day, such as reading, writing, comprehension, and computation. Sessions are conducted keeping in mind the individual differences of each child, such as different levels of literacy, interests and motivations.
- **Life skills education:** Building life skills among children is the aim of this initiative achieved through participatory activities. A Resource package has been developed comprising of ten modules on various themes.
- **Library:** The library has books for the adolescents with multiple levels of learning and interest. The adolescents also have a chance to read aloud- one to one, one to the group, and listening to the teacher read to the group.

Vocational training is an integral part of the rehabilitation process so that the children in conflict with the law can enhance their skills and are able to move into a sustainable livelihood through productive means.

For this, SPYM, in collaboration with ITI has been providing vocational training since 2014 This training aims at changing lives of many juveniles who were once driven into the potholes of drugs and criminal world by social maladies. With this training they are now socially functional and exhibit interest to be responsible citizens.

The training is for a period of two months to ensure a quick turn around into a livelihood source and includes electrical skills, plumbing, cooking, computer skills and spoken English. The choice of vocational skill is based upon aptitude as well as basic education. After successful training, older boys have been placed in call centers and various retail agencies like Big Bazar, Flip Kart, Pantaloons. etc.

In order to help avoid lasting drug abuse and prevent street crime, SPYM aims to provide early intervention to children. By helping children make life saving decisions, it also enhances their own personal growth. An **Outreach & Drop-in centre (ODIC)** was specially set up at Chandni Chowk in partnership with Delhi Police, under their YUVA project. The overall aim was that each child may attain positive attitude & peaceful outlook towards life & future. This centre was set up at a prime location of Delhi which has a large concentration of slum children & street children, many of whom are rag-pickers. They are vulnerable to crime and in need of special care, attention and early intervention, in order to avoid developing chronic addiction related problems.

In 2014, an exclusive facility for drug using street children was set up by SPYM at Delhi Gate which provides treatment and rehabilitation services to street children in the age-range of 8-18 years having substance use disorders. Treatment duration is minimum of 90 days which is extendable based on the progress of the child. Multi-disciplinary approach to treatment intervention is followed and services are extended through trained professionals in an in-house setting having 50 bedded facility.

Achievements/ Impact

Through its comprehensive policy, sound infrastructure, intense resource mobilization and expertise, SPYM has provided a new lease of life to about 800 Juveniles and have helped them settle down with their families.

Challenges

Treatment duration being limited to 3-6 months, at least a year's time is essential for wholesome recovery and building support system.

Lack of financial resources to run and manage the centre activities

Reintegration of children into the community is challenging in absence of employment opportunities for these children given their background.

YUVAEKTA FOUNDATION

THREADS OF HUMANITY: EXPRESSIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS WITH JUVENILE OFFENDERS

The team at YuvaEkta Foundation has been working at the Juvenile Observation Homes in the Sewa Kutir Complex, Kingsway Camp, for 6 years now (Before 2014, they used to work under the banner of Tehelka Foundation). Through a number of Theatre and Art workshops they have broken ground with several young inmates, empathised with their heart- breaking stories and sown the seeds of new life and more meaningful future.

About the Organisation

The Yuva Ekta Foundation is a not-for-profit trust working at the intersection of Youth and Governance, spanning a canvas that integrates young people from different socio economic and geographic backgrounds. Through workshops, conferences, street plays and youth festivals it creates platforms using Theatre and the Arts, enabling them to become sensitised, pro-active and empowered citizens. The young person is seen as an equal partner with the potential to become an agent of positive social change.

VISION

Vision is one of Social Equity. With the core intent as Empowerment, the projects impart a sense of Dignity and Self Respect to each participant, be it juveniles in conflict with law, runaway street children or jaded, well-heeled youth

Threads of Humanity: Expressive Arts Workshops with Juvenile Offenders- The Innovation

THREADS OF HUMANITY was launched in the Sewa Kutir Complex in 2011, with activities in the Waiting Room, for juvenile offenders waiting for their bail plea to be heard by the magistrate. In keeping with Yuva Ekta's Vision of Equity and Social Justice, this was a Community Volunteer programme wherein students from Delhi University were invited to engage with young offenders, and be sensitized in the process. Master Practitioners from different disciplines shared their expertise for the workshops. This The Expressive Arts Programme grew to include the Sahyog de-addiction centre run by SPYM (described above) in February 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS

Yuva Ekta works with young adults using the medium of theatre and the arts to enable them to become sensitised, pro-active and empowered citizens. The young person is seen as an equal partner with the potential to become an agent of positive social change.

- Art and theatre are very powerful mediums to help children who have offended to express themselves, the circumstances that have led to their delinquent behaviour and their aspirations for the future
- These activities help to build self confidence and trust
- It helps to address their violent behavior or anger issues if there is any and heal themselves.
- It is important to follow the children once they are out of the institution into their homes and communities and work with them and their families.

Daily workshops through the week enabled the young offenders to create their own forms of expressions through different mediums like Art, Creative Writing, Music, Drama, Waste Recycling, Puppetry and Physical Movement. June 2012, Kirloskar Brothers were brought in as partner to engage with the boys in the Sahyog Centre to provide vocational training, taking them through pump repair and electrical training during their stay of 3 months.

AIM

Sharing of dreams, aspirations, perspectives and perceptions by the inmates of the Home

And connecting with the Human that lies deep within the heart of every one of them

Yuva Ekta Foundation's Expressive Arts based workshops with the Juveniles includes the following activities:

- WALL PAINTING -Wall painting with the help of artists and volunteers at the home to celebrate Children's day.
- SLACK LINING- Slacklining refers to the use of webbing tensioned between two anchor points to balance and walk. This helps the children to concentrate and build confidence.
- THEATRE WORKSHOP - The theatre workshop aimed at children to explore their dreams and aspirations before and after their term at the juvenile rehabilitation helps to build inner strength and positive thinking. These are spread over two weeks.
- DANCE and THEATRE WORKSHOP – A combination of dance and theatre workshop spread over 15 days to understand better the circumstances the boys come from and the role and responsibility of society in shaping them.



Community Theatre Workshops

Based on the learning over the 6 years through a number of theatre and workshops the facilitators have broken ground with several young inmates, empathised with their heart breaking stories and hoped that the seeds being sown would bear fruit soon, hopefully guiding them towards a more meaningful future. However the time with them inside the the home is too short – barely a month before they are released on bail. What is to be done for a long term impact?



It is this realization that has taken Yuva Ekta to the “source”- to their homes and work with their families. Slowly , despite a lot of blockages from the families, the team of Yuva Ekta had after over 3 months of networking made a breakthrough. It focused on the women, the mothers of the boys they had have worked with in the Observation Home. Following this theatre workshops were held with the mothers of the children. The workshops were held in a small hall in a government school.

Challenges

The biggest impediment to any sustained work with CICLs is the lack of long term financial support, without which the activities remain short-term and time bound. Follow-up is an essential component that gets neglected.

The children are in a home for a very short time. Any intervention that will have long term impact needs to be continued beyond the time that the child spends in the institution. This requires resources- human and financial.

Way Ahead

YuvaEkta Foundation realises that unless the stigma faced by child offenders is not addressed, their reintegration into society will never be successful. Hence the plan is to sensitise students from schools and colleges, and getting them involved actively in debates regarding the age of juveniles and in outreach activities with them. This will be done through the showing of a film made on the life of juvenile offenders.

The Foundation also proposes to build on its art-driven-capacity building programme by:

- Expanding the avenues of Expressive Arts Therapy - This module will include month-long theater and expressive arts workshops in the Aadharshila Home to include more facilitators from different disciplines, on a more regular basis, so that the juvenile starts expressing and healing his own trauma and develops a sense of Self Worth.
- Setting up a Library at the Aadharshila home with the help of the Apeejay Trust.

- Community workshops in the At-Risk areas- These workshops will aim at empowering and sensitizing people living in the at-risk communities through initiating discussions and creating opportunities for young people to make a difference in the community around them.
- Producing a Feature film that traces the journey of a young boy who falls the trap of juvenile crime, and the different milieus it takes him into.

HAQ: CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

A FRESH START- INTERVENTIONS ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights works on recognition, promotion and protection of rights of all children because they are citizens of today. Children are also actors in society and adults in the making. HAQ believes that every child must have a right to equal opportunity. And this is forms the bedrock of its work on juvenile justice.

While children who have offended must be held accountable for their action, every child has the capacity to change for the better and must have a second chance - a right to a fresh start. It is this philosophy that has guided HAQ's interventions with children who have come in conflict with the law.

At the same time all the children who have experienced abuse and exploitation too deserve a fresh start so that they can move on. HAQ also works with children who have experienced abuse and exploitation.

About the organisation

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights was founded in 1998. It was registered under the Societies Registration Act, in June 1999. The recognition, protection and promotion of three rights form the cornerstone of HAQ's work. They are: Right to Survival, Right to Childhood and Right to Equal Opportunity.

HAQ believes that child rights and children's concerns have to be mainstreamed into all developmental planning and action, and must also become a core developmental indicator. HAQ's mission is to strengthen governance for children.

HAQ's strength lies in its capacity to undertake research and documentation, capacity building and advocacy. HAQ's strength also is its capacity to straddle micro as well as macro issues, bringing hands on experience into policy advocacy nationally as well as internationally.

HIGHLIGHTS

- HAQ's sees its role as on that to facilitates the government systems and at best support it, not replace it.
- HAQ sees its role both at the micro level for providing direct support to children as well as at the macro level for policy advocacy (nationally and internationally).
- So HAQ works closely with the state legal aid system, the JJ Committee of the High Court and the government to document and address the gaps.
- HAQ provides legal and counselling to children in contact with the law- both CICL and CNCP.
- Wherever needed, HAQ also steps in to provide immediate assistance and support such as medical support or educational support.
- HAQ with the support of other stakeholders was able to ensure the presence of legal aid lawyers in the Juvenile Justice Boards.
- Apart from being able to provide direct support to the children who require it, HAQ's work on juvenile justice has also been a tool to monitor the role of judiciary in ensuring justice for children.
- HAQ draws upon its micro experiences and learning gained from providing direct support to children and HAQ is able to advocate for macro changes necessary law and policy change as well as more effective implementation of law; as well undertake capacity building.

Mission

In Spirit, HAQ dedicates itself to the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights of all children

In approach, HAQ focuses on children in a holistic way – as Actors in society, as Citizens of today, and as Adults of tomorrow

In Practice, HAQ strives to propel child rights into all mainstream development efforts, governmental and non-governmental, and place it on the centre stage of national debate

A Fresh Start-Working with Juvenile Justice System

- **Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)**

HAQ's work on juvenile justice began in 2005 with providing legal aid to the children in conflict with law. This enabled the organisation to not only provide the much needed legal representation to the children, but also provided insights into the gaps that existed in the system of justice delivery, the condition of the care institutions, the situation of children who came into conflict with the law. It also helped the team to understand the constraints faced by those implementing the law and providing care to the children. Such hands-on direct work has helped HAQ reach out many vulnerable children who come in contact with the law and improve justice delivery.

HAQ works through its two main programmes- *Children and Governance* and *Child Protection*. Its interventions on juvenile justice straddles both these programmes. While the direct interventions with children, both who are in conflict with the law as well as those in need of care and protection are part of its Protection Programme, its work on law and policy change and advocacy based on the research and documentation related to the interventions and the experience gained are part of its Children and Governance programme.

A twin-track approach

Children and Governance

Under its children and governance programme, HAQ monitors the executive, the legislature and the judiciary through budget analysis from a child's rights perspective, examination of the status of India's children, analysis of child rights issues and debates, and engagement with justice delivery systems.

Child Protection

Under the child protection programme, HAQ provides support and legal aid to children, works to build a cadre of child rights lawyers and defenders and undertakes capacity building of service providers and various stakeholders.

HAQ's role is to facilitate the government system and at best support it, not replace it. So HAQ works closely with the state legal aid system, the JJ Committee of the High Court, Police and Judicial Academies and the government to document and address the gaps.

Over the years, HAQ with the support of other stakeholders was able to ensure the presence of legal aid lawyers in the Juvenile Justice Boards. Since then, HAQ's intervention in the Boards has been largely confined to providing counselling to the children in conflict with law. However, when needed it does step in to provide legal assistance.

Counselling CICLs

In the last 10 years, 901 boys and 19 girls in conflict with the law have received counselling support through HAQ to move on. Counselling is done at the JJB, the Observation Homes as well as in the HAQ office. If needed, home visits are made. Based on the nature of the case, family counselling is also undertaken.

Most children in conflict with the law are school drop outs having left the formal system of schooling in class 4 or 5. Their family is unable to understand the child's needs which are often psychological in nature. There is a need in the family to either deny the problems or on the other hand they seem to have given up on the child.

Causes resulting in the offence – What HAQ has learnt

When the parent of a child is dead or not available to parent/protect/guide him/her (missing, alcoholic, too violent, too busy in his/her life, too many financial problems), the absence leads to little accountability to any other. This is where we often see an innate depression which is then acted out in the form of some aggressive move. At times caught up in that moment of impulsivity, these children are not able to curb their aggressive impulses with little thought in their minds at that time about the consequences of their actions. If they have consumed drugs then there is often little ability to process what is happening around, which aggravates the development of a distance from reality as it stands.

Often the first time, the offences seem to have been done with little cognizance of the implications of his/her own behaviour with a need to give in to the impulses governing the person at that given point of time. This sort of lack in the ability to look at their past or their future but to live in the present seems to mark the character of many of the children.

Poverty and lack of adequate living spaces means overcrowding and proximity, and very little space for the individual. Often there is a need to escape these said structures by aligning themselves with friends, those who seem to be similarly 'lost'. There is constant attempt being made to counter this inner sense of vulnerability by taking drugs, getting involved in activities which provide a high, testing of boundaries – all of which give the child a much needed albeit a false sense of being invincible and powerful and of being in control.

Often the family environment has failed them and when they go back to it little has changed or will change. Given such a situation it is easier to go back to the same old patterns as those patterns signify a defence against this environmental failure, with perhaps the offence being a symbolic acting out of the inner wishes, needs (aggressive, violent, sexual) and even seen as a means to grapple with the impinging environment, at an unconscious level.

There is little introspection, reflection about their own actions with not much emotion present except that of anger, with little provision of guilt in some, showing deeper pathology with a huge need to evacuate what is inside them. As they can't make sense of their own emotions, they get into fights and empty their inner chaos outside. Self cutting is another such example of this inner pathology along with an inability to sustain any given vocation.

Other work on CICL

Although, it is not an ongoing activity, sometimes special trainings are made available to children inside the homes. An example of this is the special training on hair styling to the boys in the Observation Home by a Spanish Hair Stylist who was visiting India.

Apart from being able to provide direct support to the children who require it, HAQ's work on juvenile justice has also been a tool to monitor the role of judiciary in ensuring justice for children and using the experience for advocating necessary law and policy change as well as more effective implementation of law. It has also helped HAQ strengthen its Legal Aid and Resource Centre, thus enhancing the availability of information on child related legislation and children's rights so that child victims of crime, CICL, their parents or guardians and the organizations are better equipped to take appropriate legal recourse and have more awareness about their rights.

HAQ's research on Juvenile Justice (Blind Alley by HAQ team and My God is a Juvenile Delinquent authored by a HAQ Volunteer, Ruzbeh Bharucha) have been referred to widely and has impacted implementation of the JJ system in the country. They have been recommended as essential reading for judicial officers in the country by the National Legal Services Authority of India.

HAQ was engaged in the process of law making on juvenile justice since 1999 leading to the enactment of the law in 2000 and was part of the drafting committee set up to draft the rules for implementation of the law on juvenile justice both at the central and the provincial levels.

It was based on its research and the experience gained through its direct interventions that HAQ was able to make interventions in the Supreme Court in the cases that were filed arguing against the age of juvenility to be lowered in 2012 and 2013 leading to judgements upholding the law. It also made submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2014 before the new law was passed in January 2015.

Over the years, HAQ is called upon to develop training materials and also train judicial officers, police and other functionaries in the JJ system.

In April 2013, HAQ organised an international colloquium on Juvenile Justice, the first on this subject in India. The participants included experts from Africa, Europe, Australia, United States of America, South East Asia and South Asia. (The conference report is available on www.haqcrc.org/publications/international-colloquium-juvenile-justice-report).

At the international level, HAQ is a member of the IJJO-Asia Pacific, was represented on the Scientific Committee of the 6th IJJO conference in Brussels in December 2014 and the Thematic Committee of the World Congress on Juvenile Justice in 2015. HAQ has been part of the expert committees for the drafting of the UN Model Law on Juvenile Justice and the "Joint Report on Prevention of and Responses to Violence against Children within the Juvenile Justice System", presented at the Human Rights Council in 2012.

Learning- How to intervene in cases of CICL through Counselling

Based on our experiences of dealing with children in conflict with law we find that during sessions with such children we should concentrate on:

- Getting an idea of the child's emotional reality with an attempt made to find the congruence or disparity between the child's stated reality and the expressions and the demeanours and the verbal slips which could tell us about his/her phenomenological reality.
- Getting a sense of the child's routine, interests, aspirations and how they were earlier and if they have changed in the aftermath of the trauma/ event.
- Crosschecking some of the details we received from the family members and/or any other person to get a broader idea of things as they stand.
- Taking into account the fact that rapport is formed over time, which means that it becomes imperative that we allow the child to tell his/her initial story till he/she trusts us to give us some more details about himself/herself, his/her fantasies and his/her life. Creating a comfortable environment for the child by making an adequate rapport and by making a genuine attempt to come closer to his reality. Noting the non-verbal behaviour such as the body language, facial expressions, predominant emotions such as fear, anxiety, restlessness etc.
- In order to get a clearer sense of a particular event, we could hypothesize before hand and then ask detailed questions related to a particular event/events.
- Perhaps also look into the gaps in the story as they emerged this time, identify them and go back to them the next time wanting to acquire greater clarification around those issues.
- Explore the child's familial reality, his/her relations with his mother, father, and siblings; if he/she has any friends, what do they do/talk about? How the parental figures are represented in his/her head? i.e. how does he/she view them? What are the child's perceptions of them and his/her understanding of how they see him/her?
- Try and explore when does the child have arguments with the family or friends and about what issues? What is the difference between his projected image of his/her self and the reality as we understand it?
- Are there any bruises on the child? How has his/her health been? Are there signs of alcohol/drug use? Is he/she unkempt in his/her appearance?
- What is his/her predominant emotion? Are there other, more fleeting emotions which point to a different reality, which represent the child's reality as it stands?
- Without being too insensitive, inquire about the said event.
- Get a clear sense of the child's thinking about what happened vis-à-vis the event and what rationalizations/defences he/she is presenting to himself/herself? Often when he/she talks about what a significant other said to him/her, we need to keep in mind that it could be the voice of the internalized imago as represented in the child's internal reality which may/may not be the real other. We need to keep on exploring to get a real, deeper understanding of the same.
- Understand that the experiences do vary and it is not for us to judge the child but try and understand as to where he/she is coming from without condoning his offence yet our work does not involve a lopsided view of things and we need to balance things quite actively in our dealings with the children.
- Get a holistic understanding of the child's reality and help him/her address the problems/issues which hinder a fuller development and lead to a pattern of causing and/or suffering trauma which keeps on being acted out time and again.

Based on what the above information about the child one could:

- Get closer to the self of the person as the self is determined by his/her familial/social/sexual/emotional/physical/social-cultural/cognitive/internal and external milieus and then to help the individuals dealing with him/her to understand the same so that when decisions are being made about his/her placement, social rehabilitation and reintegration, a proper, tailor made program can be formulated which caters to the child's interests and way of being and is not too removed from the needs and reality of the child.

- Try linking up the child with other organizations and resources after having come to a better understanding of the child's needs and aspirations and the lack of opportunities he/she could have faced and work towards bridging this gap
- Help the family understand the child's needs and personality better and to see how both the family and the child feed into each other's conflicts and issues, in order to enable them to understand these said patterns which can then be then looked at in a different way if not altogether addressed.
- Having formed a fuller understanding of the child's reality and the circumstances which propelled him/her to reach the system, actively work towards communicating this to the Juvenile Justice Board and in some cases the Child Welfare Committee or the Welfare officer/Probation officer or the Superintendent to try and help them form a comprehensive and deeper understanding of the child and not just reduce him/her to a repository of a particular pattern of behaviour and nothing beyond that.
- On realising that the child who has committed some sort of an offence is actually a child in need of care and protection given his/her circumstances work towards addressing this if the possibility exists. The best way is to encourage the Board to declare the child as one who needs care and protection and order that he/she be produced before the Child Welfare Committee

- **Support to Victims of Abuse**

Since 2002, HAQ began supporting individual cases of abuse and exploitation when called upon to provide support. However, as the number of requests increased, since 2005, HAQ began providing legal support to children who were victims of child abuse as well as children who were in conflict with the law. With the enactment of the POCSO Act, HAQ intensified its initiatives on child sexual abuse. Till 2015, 268 child victims of abuse had been directly supported. Several children are supported through referral services when called upon for advice and referral from individuals, organizations, police and even the judiciary.

Legal Aid and Counselling

HAQ provides legal aid and counselling support to child victims in a focused manner, based on a needs assessment and this support cuts across class and gender. Children and their families' are supported to access emergency medical care and treatment, monetary compensation and long term educational support if needed

Other support

HAQ helps children and their families access emergency medical care and treatment, monetary compensation and long term educational support if needed. The support persons from HAQ maintain regular contact with the child and family and help in their preparation for the testimony, be with them during the court testimony, contact the investigation officers and get an update, share the update from the police with the child's family and provide any other support required either directly or through referrals.

While working for the rights of the victims, HAQ also realised that victim's families were sometimes targeted/threatened by the accused or his family. In a few cases therefore, HAQ has also had to provide legal support to the parents of the victims receiving such threats. Complaints were made to the concerned police station followed by registration of an FIR where necessary, and pursuing the case in the court.

Support Group of Parents of Survivors of CSA

An attempt was made to facilitate the setting up of a support group of parents of survivors. Several meetings were also held. On 18th May 2014, both children and their families gathered at the Children's Park to tell each other that LIFE MUST GO ON! Both children and adults enjoyed the evening with some fun activities and refreshments and felt rejuvenated. The group is still an informal group, and HAQ is involved in building their capacities to act like a support group for others and initiate awareness programmes in their neighbourhood if they can. Frequent meetings have not been possible as all parents are working, but the enthusiasm in the group continues to high.

Learning

- Working on child abuse needs interventions both with the family and the child.
 - The child must be prepared at each stage (assisted to understand and not tutored) for what is required in the legal process- speaking to the police; medical check up; speaking to the CWC if produced before it; statements in different courts.
 - The child must not be rushed into filing complaint or give statements. They are often not ready and the organisations must assess the readiness of the child before launching into the legal process.
 - Immediate assistance in the form of medical and psychological support may be necessary.
 - Often one case of sexual abuse can disrupt the mental health of many other members of the family and the entire family needs mental health support.
 - Many a times child victims and their families face threats and intimidation. Legal and other support is needed by such families.
-
- **Creating an enabling environment for children in institutional care - Working with the Girls Nirmal Chhaya**

HAQ's visits to Nirmal Chhaya revealed that girls did not have much to do for a large part of time and needed to be equipped during the day meaningfully as also should be equipped with knowledge and skills that can be used when they go out of the home. HAQ has thus been undertaking various art, craft and other life-skill classes with girls at Nirmal Chhaya since 2009.

At Nirmal Chhaya the HAQ team interacts with children who have not had the opportunity to come in contact with the best situations needed to foster these skills. A lack of financial resources, unstable family environments etc have caused inconsistencies and challenges. At the children's home for girls in the Nirmal Chhaya complex, HAQ understands that its interventions need to be specifically planned keeping in mind these goals.

HAQ's initiative employs methods that complement each other while fostering optimal development, such as bi-monthly art and craft activities along with one on one interaction as well as group interaction. The effort is to emphasise positive attitudes, skills and behaviour and encourage even the smallest level of participation, as it is an important tool in building self confidence and ensuring a sense of capability.

In every visit, an attempt is made to draw on the children's memories, interests and experiences to help shape the discussions and explore the themes that emerge. This has led to positive results giving children the necessary tools they need, to explore their potential.

Learning

Children's futures are shaped largely by their past experiences with their environment, and their different developmental domains, including physical/motor, cognitive, social, emotional and communicative/language, are all woven together by certain developmental processes. The transition from childhood to adulthood can be a turbulent and confusing one- as children construct an identity for themselves. This transition consists of broad patterns of cognitive, emotional, interpersonal, and physical development, developing social competency, building supportive relationships, engaging in the community etc are an important key to becoming compassionate, self sufficient and contributing adults and members of society.

Impact

HAQ has been able to help some children understand their selves and situations better thereby enabling them to be aware of their emotional responses to certain events/patterns. These children are able to move ahead and where there has been a break in their lives, now that can be overcome and a newer path searched for and found and followed. On an average, recidivism among CICLs in Delhi has been around 10 per cent in the last decade. With a little effort at counselling, of all the cases dealt by HAQ during this period, the rate of recidivism has been only 3.8 percent less than half the state as well as the national average. Indeed counselling along with drug de-addiction treatment and rehabilitation and different educational/vocational resources for the child, would ensure a holistic intervention and can bring a sea change in the situation.

The child victims of abuse supported by HAQ have moved on in their lives, continuing education. Some have entered or finished college.

Challenges

The biggest challenge facing HAQ and all others working on JJ is the uncertainty that surrounds the implementation of the new law, especially since nothing has changed in terms of investment into the system for the required infrastructure, human resources or financial resources.

HAQ's intervention is dependent upon the JJ Board referring cases. Once term of counselling is over and the reports are submitted, HAQ's role within the JJ system ends. As a result it is very difficult to keep a follow-up contact with the children to keep a track of where they are. This is sometimes done informally.

Since the JJ system is entirely dependent upon individuals, constant changes in the key stakeholders – the Magistrates, the members of the Board, the police the other officials and service providers breaks continuity and often even leads to breaks in the quality of services that the children receive.

Way Forward

Children who have been in conflict with law are brought before the juvenile justice system. The basic philosophy behind the creation of a separate Juvenile Justice System is to ensure their reform and re-integration into society. This is only possible if these children are given appropriate psychological and mental support combined with education, mentorship and training that enables them to be gainfully employed as adults and live with dignity.

In the context of the above, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights wants to work closely with the Corporate Sector to design a joint initiative for the children who are in conflict with law. The objective of such a joint initiative is to provide vocational skills, counselling and mentoring services to the children in the Observation Homes for Boys – I & II, Delhi, while they are inside the institution as also once they are released.

BAL SAKHA

SETTING UP OF JUVENILE AID CELL (JAC)

Bal Sakha, since its inception over 25 years ago have primarily been concentrating on providing legal assistance to the children, especially to those who come in conflict with Law throughout the two states – Bihar and Jharkhand. Even the journey of Bal Sakha started with intervention in government run institution in Chaibasa (now in bifurcated state, Jharkhand). The study of home made by Bal Sakha, the then, found the inhuman living conditions of different government run institutions of united Bihar – a sheer violence of the then existing Bihar Children Act 1982. Bal Sakha knocked the door of Judiciary and concerned government departments to get children their due rights. A long legal battle was fought, and finally the verdict of the honourable Supreme Court came in favour of the children. As a result of this several judicial orders were passed with severe strictures against the Government for its callous attitude. The big achievement of this effort about 1055 cases of Juvenile was quashed which were pending since long time, violating the provisions of the law meant for children. This was the beginning of Bal Sakha's work on the JJ system.

An analysis of the situation and dynamics of the problems of the detained Juvenile found that they experienced detachment from family/society which was the main cause of their offending. For many, their journey started from the street, where they first land up after dissociating himself / herself from the family. Bal Sakha felt it was their moral and professional responsibility to check this growing phenomenon.

Hence, a Delinquency Prevention Programme emerged as street children programme in 1992 with a single objective, i.e. Rehabilitation and mainstreaming of street/ working children. Emphasis was on to link these children up to their respective families/ communities

About the Organisation

Bal Sakha, a voluntary non-profit was registered in the year 1988 working with Homeless, Helpless, street, Laboring/working and delinquent(Juvenile) children of the state of Bihar & Jharkand since 1984. The main objective of the organisation is the rehabilitation and mainstreaming of children in distress with a vision to create a child friendly environment.

Another important objective of the organization is to strengthening and practically applying the Juvenile Justice Law made for the children and also to work together with the judiciary and other duty bearers for the proper functioning of the same. Bal Sakha is working together with the Government, Police force, other Non-Governmental Organization and optimistic people having positive thoughts for the protection of the rights and welfare of the children.

The vision

To create child friendly environment followed by three working goals:

- (a) Rehabilitation and mainstreaming of children in detention and at street and working children.
- (b) Proper implementation of the (then) Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, [Now JJ Act 2006(amended)].
- (c) Development of community owned child protection mechanism.

The Innovation- Juvenile Aid Cell

The innovative concept of Juvenile Aid Cell (JAC) was emerged from the discussions and consultations conducted with the district and High court Judges and higher police officials like SPs and IGs of the Bihar and Jharkhand, lawyers and NGOs, with several allied stakeholders in the juvenile Justice system in order to ensure proper justice to children in 2001.

The discussions with different stakeholders led to the conclusion that there should be an arrangement of local person / association to help the actors involved directly or indirectly in the Juvenile justice system. As a result Bal Sakha Juvenile Aid Cells (JAC) have been constituted in the major districts of Bihar and Jharkhand, particularly where Government run Homes exist.

Objective of Juvenile Aid Cell (JAC) -

- To protect the social and legal rights of children at district level.
- To sensitize the concerned authorities and stakeholders to minimize the gaps under the Juvenile Justice System.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bal Sakha works for the Child Rights & Child Protection in the mentioned districts, especially for the children in conflict with law
- Juvenile Aid Cells (JAC) have been constituted in the major districts of Bihar and Jharkhand, particularly where Government run Homes exist.
- Presently Bal Sakha is providing technical and necessary support to Juvenile Aid Cell in 17 districts (14 districts in Bihar and 7 in Jharkhand).
- It also works to minimize the gaps in the JJ System.
- It is aimed at breaking adult mindset routines and dominant ways of thinking, introducing new things and behaviours, launching new standards.
- JACs assist the JJBs
- JAC tries to link the civil society with different government run institutions meant for children for its services
- Bal Sakha has also set up a number of Child Protection Center (CPC) –a concept was derived from the ancient consuetude of Chaupal (a public place in a village where villagers gather for meeting, etc.). These CPCs, basically caters to non-schooling children to prevent children from falling into abuse and exploitation or into offending

With the concept of JAC, Bal Sakha also means breaking adult mindset routines and dominant ways of thinking, introducing new things and behaviours, launching new standards. Focused by a creative orientation, it arises from dissatisfaction with the current state of art, by leveraging technological and social new opportunities. It is together an individual stance, an organizational process, a social movement.

Bal Sakha expanded its activities in some other vulnerable areas of both the states – Bihar and Jharkhand by appointing Juvenile Aid Cells in various districts.

To set up the JAC, Bal Sakha brought on board lawyers who voluntarily offered their services to protect the social and legal rights of children/Juvenile at district level. These lawyers were provided training on the child rights and Juvenile justice Act by Bal Sakha's trained staff and resource persons from outside the organisation.

JAC tries to link the civil society with different government run institutions meant for children for its services like Vocational Training, Yoga, Moral Education, etc. JAC studies the cases of Juveniles in the Juvenile Justice Board and assists the Board in routine and Bal Samwad cases in the best interest of the children. It also sends the reports to the Child Right Centre monthly for further analysis.

Child Protection Center (CPC) – Basically the concept was derived from the ancient consuetude of Chaupal (a public place in a village where villagers gather for meeting, etc.). These CPCs, basically caters to non-schooling children, who otherwise loiter around the village aimlessly and thus become highly vulnerable and soft target of traffickers. At the same time, other villagers also utilize the centre - the womenfolk gather there and discuss problems of their siblings; senior citizen too gather there, and above all youth segments of the area voluntarily involve themselves in the functioning of the CPCs and ideally play the role of watchdog in the village – keeping a vigil on new intruder in the village or any atypical activity in the village.

Presently Bal Sakha is providing technical and necessary support to Juvenile Aid Cell in 17 districts (14 districts in Bihar and 7 in Jharkhand). It works for the Child Rights & Child Protection in the mentioned districts, especially for the children in conflict with law. It also works to minimize the gaps in the JJ System. It also sends the reports to Bal Sakha's Child Right Centre monthly for further analysis.

For the monitoring, evaluation, supervision and strengthening of the JAC team, the Child Right Centre visits various JACs facilitating the entire process of the Juvenile Justice System thus ensure social and legal rights of children without any hassle and delay. The visit also helps them to build up a strong bondage with concern stakeholders like police, judiciary, institutional and non-institutional

The following are the roles and responsibilities of the Juvenile Aid Cell (JAC)

1. Building rapport with following:-
 - JJB members
 - CWC Members
 - Judges -District Judge / C. J. M. / A. C. J. M.
2. Sharing concept of problem of children in conflict with law and J J Act with:-
 - Lawyers
 - Police Station
 - Media
 - Children
 - NGO
 - Ward counselor
 - Other stake holder
3. Assist Juvenile Justice Board for early disposal of cases
4. Regular visit of govt. home and prison with the permission and involvement of concerned person.
5. Establish advisory committee consisting of sensitize judicial officer, police, administration, Media, corporate sector and professional like doctor
6. Writing protest letters, media advocacy with relevant cases.
7. Working with Panchayati raj and local bodies for spreading awareness.
8. Networking with local NGO & like minded people
9. Regularly visiting to police station and motivate them on child issue.
10. Establishing partnership relation with district Bar association
11. to mobilize the other legal service providers for the benefit of juvenile
12. Locating parents of the juvenile whose cases are pending for disposal
13. Development of resource directory.

staffs, district administrative officials and district legal services authorities in making the work environment positive and child friendly. These visits are prioritized as per the periodic assessment of performance of JACs. The visits were mainly for the strengthening of JAC and to work out their limitations and challenges faced in the field.

Outcome of Bal Sakha- JAC's effort –during 2011-2012

Following are the services and deliveries given by the JAC since April, 11-March,12

Numbers	Description
1166	Cases studied by JAC for further required Action accordingly.
426	Children released from Observation Home by the consistent efforts of JACs
1246	Juvenile cases disposed through regular board by the repeated regular assistance of JACs
1179	juvenile released on Bail through regular board by the repeated assistance of JACs
847	Parents of Juveniles were contacted through letters.
155	Cases disposed through Bal Samvad Adalat
875	Children interaction with JAC in Home
108	Protest / Request letters to different stake holders like judiciary, lawyers, district administration etc.

BUTTERFLIES

EMPOWERING STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN

Disintegrating rural environment, landlessness, migration, urban poverty, unemployment, inadequacy of infrastructure, development opportunities, domestic violence, abuse within and outside the home, and erosion of traditional social support systems force young people out of the social security and protective nets.¹ These young vulnerable people throng the streets of cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai. Estimates vary from 5 lakh to 50 thousand in Delhi alone. They have to compete with adults for their share of basic services, development and income generating opportunities².

As Butterflies, a Delhi based NGO puts it, “street children have limited access to education and health care and experience harassment and exploitation at work; they are often victims of substance abuse, exposed to unscrupulous drug traffickers and vulnerable to sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Unfortunately, street children are also often victims of police harassment. They make a living by rag picking, shoe shining, street-vending or as domestic and casual workers in shops/restaurants. They work between 4-10 hours a day and earn on an average Rs.20 a day of which 60-70% is spent on food. They are denied education, basic health care, adequate nutrition, leisure time and the safety and security of their homes, families and communities. But, above all, they are denied their right to build their own future”³.

Several NGOs have been aware of issues confronting street children and have made significant contributions to improving their lives, reducing their vulnerability and empowering them with skills that equip them to survive and sustain themselves with dignity. Butterflies is one of them.

About the Organisation

Butterflies, an NGO dedicated to protecting the rights of street and working children was registered in 1989 as a voluntary organization in Delhi. However, since then, Butterflies has expanded its work to tsunami affected children and their families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 2005 and reaching out to more than 400 street children in Uttarakhand since December 2010 through mobile learning centres.

¹ Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action for Women & Children (SNEHA), Making health care accessible to Street children, The ‘Hospital on Wheels’ Project (2000- 2006). Available at http://www.snehamumbai.org/documents/hospital_on_wheels_report.pdf

² Ibid.

³ Butterflies. Situation of Street and Working Children in Delhi [online]. Available at <http://www.butterflieschildrights.org/working.php>

Approach

- Butterflies believes in the right of every child to have a full-fledged childhood where she/he has the right to protection, respect, opportunities and participation in his/her growth and development. Rights of street and working children are no exception.
- Butterflies believes that institutionalising children should be the last resort in the importance of strengthening families and communities to protect and take care of children is strongly advocated as families are the first line of defense for children.
- Butterflies' emphasis is on supporting children to continue schooling, impart life skills education so that they can exit from generational poverty.
- Butterflies' core belief is children have a right to be heard, to be consulted, to take their views seriously in all decisions that concern them.

The main programmes are Education, Children's Development Khazana (life skills programme teaching financial management), Child Health Cooperative (CHC), Children's Media (radio, video, newspaper and theatre), Resilience Centre & Childline (1098, 24 hour helpline for children in crisis), and vocational training (includes Butterflies School Of Culinary & Catering and computer education). Butterflies also has a research, advocacy and training wing that works to support mobilization of civil society and influences policies at all levels. It is an active participant in national and international networks for advocating and promoting policies, programmes and actions to protect rights of children.

The Programme with Street and Working Children

With a mission to ensure a world where every child is free to be a child and has hope for the future, through its 'Programme with Street and Working Children', Butterflies is in contact with more than

HIGHLIGHTS

- The main aim of the organization is to empower street and working children with skills and knowledge to protect their rights, provide them necessary support for re-instatement in their families wherever possible and help them develop as respected and productive citizens.
- Butterflies' first response is to build a rapport and encourage a child to return to his/her family.
- In case this is not possible due to the child being an orphan, or belonging to a dysfunctional family, rejected by step parents, Butterflies encourages the child to get associated with its programme.
- Every child is encouraged to go to a formal school or get enrolled in the National Institute of Open School (NIOS), where Butterflies is accredited. Mobile Education is the "Gateway of Knowledge" that reaches out to children in remotest areas through a personalized human touch
- The child is supported according to the choice she/he makes and is also linked to other services provided by the Butterflies' programme, such as healthcare, media access, legal aid, counselling, cultural activities, art workshops, sport, vocational training and the Children's Development Bank.
- The focus of the vocational programme is to fulfill adolescents' need for future and to give them a practical set of skills to fulfill their dreams and build their own lives in the way they want it.
- While being trained in a particular life-skill, the adolescents have to be encouraged to become independent citizens. This is the reason why Butterflies decided to give a Fellowship to the students of BSFPC.
- Ongoing counselling support beyond training and placement

1500 street and working children on a regular basis through 20 contact points in Delhi.

A dignified job is the first step for each human being, not only to reach economical independence, but also to feel integrated part of a society. For a child in difficult circumstances, the opportunity of becoming an independent citizen and standing on their own feet when they grow up is the most effective measure towards their rehabilitation and in reducing their vulnerability.

The vocational programme of Butterflies has been designed exactly to fulfill adolescents' need for future and to give them a practical set of skills to fulfill their dreams and build their own lives in the way they want it.

School of Food Preparation & Catering (BSFPC) -The Innovation

In 2003, a *Community Kitchen*, programme was designed as a platform for street and working adolescents to learn a new trade, which was supplying nutritious and subsidized meals to children in the night shelters run by the organisation. It was a complete initiative of adolescents who ran and managed the kitchen on their own. It proved to be a great institution wherein adolescents learned the skills of decision-making, leadership, teamwork, management, entrepreneurship, communication, etiquette and discipline.



"Get to know the Chef and you will start to enjoy dining out even more."

Based on the success and experience of the *Community Kitchen*, the Butterflies School of Food Preparation and Catering (BSFPC) was started in April, 2009. The school imparts vocational training in food preparation and catering to adolescent boys from various contact points.

Objectives of BSFPC:

- To impart vocational training to adolescents, *15 years and above*, in food preparation and catering;
- To *provide life skill* – work discipline, time management, team work and personality development support as part of the curriculum;
- To *support the trainees to find employment in the industry*;
- Ensure that the trainees who are enrolled in the NIOS *pass Class VIII and Class X*.

In 2009 the Community Kitchen was professionalized in the School, for running a *One Year Certificate Course in Food Preparation and Catering* (the course can be extended to 17 or even 24 months, on the basis of individual needs).



I always had a fantasy of being a chef, because I like kitchen life." Geoffrey Rush

Human Resources:

The BSFPC has a multi-skilled professional team which includes one Coordinator, Professional Nutritionists, Chefs from registered hotel management institutes, a Supervisor/instructor and a NIOS director. International chefs might be contacted for special workshops (in 2010 BSFPC had a Korean volunteer, who taught South Korean cuisine to the trainees). The Team teaches a class of maximum 20 students (at the moment 16 are enrolled in the programme).

Traineeship Partners:

The BSFPC provides its students training in the following places, thanks to relations built with the corporate sector:

- ITC Maurya, Delhi
- ITC Sheraton, New Delhi Hotel
- Taj Palace, New Delhi
- Institute of Hotel Management, Catering & Nutrition, Pusa, New Delhi

Financial Resources:

The initiative is in a way financially self-sustaining. Priced meals are provided to offices such as Butterflies, other NGOs, hospitals, Corporate houses, and for meetings / workshops in academic institutions, to people at Nizamuddin East outlet, near Sarai Kale Khan and ISBT, to Government organized programmes and fairs for children. During the years 2010 and 2011, BSFPC catered 1500 lunches to IGSSS, a voluntary organization, and it got assignments from UNICEF, Care India, Population First, CBGA and AEMTC.

Butterflies invites people who wish to support the initiative in the following ways:

- 1) Sponsoring the Vocational Training Center with a donation of Rs. 2000/ month
- 2) Teaching the skill
- 3) Helping the Community Kitchen with a donation of Rs. 2000/- per month or dry rations, rice, wheat, sugar, lentils, cereal, milk, utensils etc.
- 4) Sponsoring snacks for children during Butterflies' events like Sports Day, Cultural Evening, educational trip etc.
- 5) Giving the adolescents of Community Kitchen and BSFPC a chance to serve.

A "Good Practice" to be expanded and replicated ***Achievements***

The success of the Butterflies School of Food Preparation and Catering in improving the lives of adolescents is visible to all. During 2011, three trainees from the School were selected by



Catering orders are placed for seminars, conferences, meetings, melas (fairs), parties etc. The possibility of catering to for people with diet restrictions widens the spread of such an initiative.

The first challenge, when conducting life-skill programmes for adolescents, is not to set education apart and to build a theoretical, as well as practical, curriculum. This is the reason why Butterflies fast-tracks the adolescents up to Class VIII and makes them complete Class X while alongside the training at BSFPC.

While being trained in a particular life-skill, the adolescents have to be encouraged to become independent citizens. This is the reason why Butterflies decided to give a Fellowship to the students of BSFPC. This includes accommodation and a scholarship of Rs. 500 a month. Rs.250 out of this kept in a Bank account opened for the student.

Meanwhile, experience has taught the organization that all the trainees who complete the course would like to work for the Taj Palace, fascinated by the management of the big chain of hotels, but, naturally, only few get selected. It is important to encourage all the students to pick up possibilities of internship and work also in less prestigious places, where they can anyway learn and improve their skills, as well as build a good network.

Even after the BSFPC trainees have completed the course and found a regular job, Butterflies continues to support them with counselling, since working life and relations can be difficult to deal with, especially in a hectic environment such as the one of culinary and catering services.



Way Forward

Considering the success of the project, Butterflies decided to develop the same course for girls. The choice of keeping boys and girls separate has been taken after an overall evaluation of the human resources available. Adolescence is a very delicate phase of life for all human beings and a more attentive support is required by volunteers and educators to deal with the issues brought by interactions with the opposite sex. A mixed class, even if it is a more effective means of education, is definitely a more exhausting and time consuming task for the human resources of an NGO.

Even though the collaboration with the corporate sector is bringing very good results, Butterflies is keen in diversifying its objectives, encouraging the trainees in initiating their own business/ activity in case they would like to. Basic business tips are part of the course and the financial part of the curriculum must be reinforced.

CHILDREN
IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION
(PREVENTING THEM FROM FALLING INTO CRIME)

RAJAGIRI OUTREACH

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMMES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Kerala stands unique among Indian States with a consistently higher level of human development compared to that of many advanced countries but with a much lower per capita income. All over the State, one can see people, especially among the poor, belonging to all castes and religions, proclaiming the prime reason behind their everyday toil: the education of their children, the one factor that often gets priority over almost all other needs. Sponsorship schemes can help children and families in need to rise above their poverty. Such schemes aim at development of children by providing them with education leading to a better future for them. Sponsorship is one of the key components of the Juvenile Justice Act.

About the Organization

RAJAGIRI outREACH is the acronym of Rajagiri Educational Alternatives and Community Health (outREACH) Service Society, which is the professional service wing of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences. RAJAGIRI outREACH is an NGO based at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery Kochi Kerala.

The organization believes in engaging in Community based partnership programmes and has piloted a host of community linked services all over Kerala namely - Child Centered Development Programmes, Community Development Programmes, Community Health Initiatives, Natural Resource Management, Training and Corporate Social Responsibility. The focal segments of the organization are children, women and community health.

Sponsorship for children in difficult circumstances

In Kerala one can find children in the age group of 6-14 years in schools, rather than in places of hazardous/ menial occupations. In spite of widespread poverty and the growing gap between the rich and the poor, Kerala has a very low incidence of child labour. Yet there are children pushed into work situations and destitution. Many drop out of school at different levels. The process of drop-out has increased at high school and higher secondary level. Kerala's low incidence of child labour undoubtedly presents a lesson on how an entire society can be tuned to send its children to school even though it may still be struggling with poverty and relatively low family incomes. It is here that the space for the interventions such as sponsorship schemes which support not only the children, but the whole family have a significant role to play.

The idea behind the organizations sponsorship scheme offering help to such children was to reduce the dropout rate of the students in the higher classes, also to prevent the children from being sent to institutions like children's homes or other institutions.

Evolution of the programme

People were thinking of charity at the time when the organization was talking about the basic principles of social work i.e. helping people to help themselves. Like most interventions, plunging into a sponsorship scheme required some careful thinking and a clear strategy. The major challenge for the sponsorship scheme was to find sponsors. The first phase of the programme was initiated with the help of Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme, (CASP) Pune in the year 1982. Following this RAJAGIRI outREACH adopted different strategies to link with individual partners, other institutions, corporate sector etc.

Elements of a successful sponsorship programme

RAJAGIRI outREACH's sponsorship scheme in many ways is a success because the main objective of this scheme was to provide developmental support to deserving and needy children. The scheme values the rights of children and respects the basic principle of professional social work. A Total of 5326 children are studying under the sponsorship scheme. The organization is also focusing on extending the service to sponsor children for higher education.

Sponsorship programme at a glance

- 10 districts
- 5326 children
- 25 staff for sponsorship project
- 60 centres
- 25 corporate partners
- 350 individual sponsors

The three basic elements of the scheme are:

- Financial support to children for continuing their education
- Supportive services for their health needs
- Counseling and guidance.

The sponsorship package thus includes:

Study Kit: Each sponsored child is provided study materials during the school opening

House Visits: Twice every year, the Social Workers / Development Promoters of RAJAGIRI outREACH visit the child and his/her family at their home.

School Visit: Regular school visits by the social worker are undertaken to assess the performance of the sponsored child at school. It includes meeting the respective teachers and arranging special attention to the sponsored students if required.

Medical Assistance: Each sponsored student is eligible to claim Rs.3000 for hospitalization/ treatment in a year. The scheme was initiated by the organisation and is also maintained independently by it. Rs. 70 /child are deducted from the sponsorship amount as the annual premium. For any kind of hospitalization, the parents of the child submit an application through the concerned village development committee along with the supporting bills. The medical assistance committee of outREACH scrutinizes the application and recommends for the release of an amount not exceeding Rs.3000/-. In cases where children require more amount for treatment, they forward the application to other benevolent donors and link them with hospitals which provide discount for the treatment.

Tuition Facility: A Community teaching programme is organized for the sponsored children with the help of volunteers in their locality. Utilization of voluntarism among youth is the uniqueness of this initiative.



Library & Sports Club: Children are provided this facility to develop their extra-curricular skills. This programme takes place on holidays.



Nutrition: A provision for nutritious food (milk, egg etc.) during the weekly/monthly meetings is maintained under the scheme.

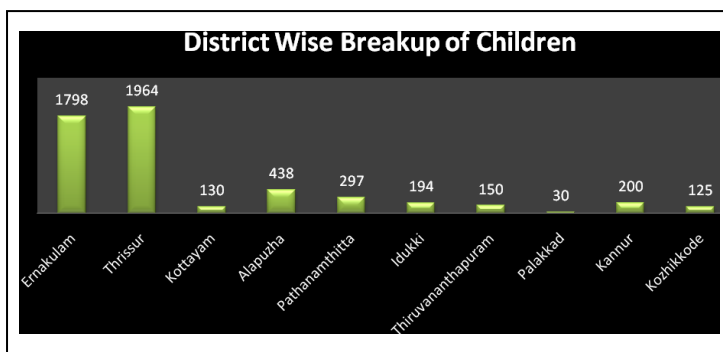
Innovative Fund: Solar lanterns for houses without electricity, table and chair for the sponsored child, cycle for conveyance to school etc. are supplied to children on rotation basis. The tenure of sponsorship programme is 8 years and 15 % of the sponsorship amount is reserved as innovative fund. Approximately Rs.3000 is accumulated by the end of 8 years for every child. The organization's approach is that if 100 children are sponsored from a village every year 15 children will get the benefit of the innovative fund. Thus all the children will be covered after 8 years. Usually the item/service is finalized in the committee. They evaluate the advantage of the item considering its importance on their education.



Vacation Camps: Every year vacation camps are organized by involving the local volunteers and neighbouring children. When sponsored children reach 10th standard, a 3 days career guidance camp is also arranged for them. The camps are based on the principle of ensuring children their right to participation.



The camp activities include group games and songs, chilly talk which is a session in the camps where children can come together to discuss certain issues and problems which affect them directly or the society in general. Facilitators of the camps create platforms for dialogues and discussions. Sometimes the field action programmes are evolved out of such discussion.



Counseling: Children under the scheme are given guidance and counseling. The siblings and parents of the sponsored children are also encouraged to utilize the facility.

Parents Empowerment: Parents are given sessions on parenting, child rights, vocational training, job opportunities etc.

Parents are also encouraged to save and be economical.

The success story

A child centered development initiative has far greater output compared to an institutional care programme. Not only does it help provide care for children and prevent destitution, it also helps their nurturance and upbringing in a family environment.

The scheme has helped children in realizing their full potential and achieving breakthroughs despite limitations and difficulties of the family and the surrounding environment. It has enabled many children in improving the quality of their life and fulfilling their basic needs of education and health.



RAJAGIRI's sponsorship programme is not a new one indeed in the field of child welfare and child development. But its uniqueness lies in the way it is implemented. Their sponsorship project aims at rights based approach rather than welfare based. All the programmes are for promoting the family based interventions. RAJAGIRI OutREACH believes in children's right to families rather than placing them in the institutions. A CHILD-FAMILY-COMMUNITY approach makes the programme more participatory to bring about a holistic development for the child. It also leads to child centered community development initiatives at community level. The involvement of community volunteers in community teaching programme, holiday camps, observation of important days, utilization of public amenities for the benefit of the disadvantaged children etc are some of the unique features of Rajagiri's scheme.



Child, family and community become stakeholders in the initiative as the approach is partnership oriented and child rights centered. It's all about the principles of community organization. Starting up with need assessment studies, and then prioritizing the needs, forming the grassroots level institutions and building the capacity of these institutions for the sustainability, mobilizing the resources and addressing the

issue. In all these process all the stakeholders are partners. OutREACH is imparting the concept of rights

& responsibilities of all the cross sections in the society, either they are in the contributor's end or in the receivers end. The united effort of accepting the principles of partnership and participation really contributes a lot in the empowerment of the disadvantaged communities with the help of professional agency like RAJAGIRI outREACH. The credibility of Rajagiri is an added advantage.

The sponsorship programme creates a bond between the sponsor and the sponsored child. Counseling and guidance to the children and the families has helped them cope with their difficult situation better. The scheme not only benefits the child and the family but also influences neighbouring children and families.

It helps in the process of deinstitutionalization. Interventions such as sponsorship are also more cost effective compared to institutional care. In the case of RAJAGIRI outREACH's sponsorship programme we are only facilitators providing very basic infrastructure requirement for education. A small portion of the cost is adequate for placing a social worker to look after the programmes. If we look at the situation of the institutions set up for children, the need for providing accommodation (infrastructure) Number of Staffs, Food, Clothing, maintenance and other related expenses for the maintenance of upbringing children. In our scheme, the children stay with their own family or extended family depending on their situation. We provide support for meeting educational requirements and moral support to the family head or guardian to take care of their children. Our work with the family gives them a feeling that there are people around to support them in their difficulties.

Challenges

Among the many challenges RAJAGIRI outREACH faces, the major one is that of getting sufficient funds. Interest of agencies and individuals in such kind of services is on a decline and sustaining this interest requires yet another set of skills and intervention.

The sponsorship amount is operated locally through a common account; if a group of children are sponsored in a particular locality such amount is given directly to the child or the family. Delivering a set of services through schemes like medical insurance, community teaching, innovative fund etc. are in a way to avoid the chances of handling the money by the community directly. There is a grassroot level system monitoring, and it ensures that no money is misused, other than the control and monitoring of the local committee, there is also an internal audit system followed by the agency.

The organisation through its past experiences has been adding and subtracting different components according to the need of the concerned society. The programmes like Community teaching, Career Guidance camps, Souhrudam Camps and Arts, Sports & library are all being introduced years after the sponsorship programme started.

The organisation feels that sponsorship programmes become successful only if the stakeholders are keen on the implementation strategies, the components of the sponsorship programme must be treated as a preventive strategy in child protection. Financial support to a child must be considered as a link to connect the child and his/her family with the professional agency. If the sponsor can become an active partner in the scheme, it would make the professional agency more alert. The support to the family members by way of skill development or livelihood programme support would be appreciable in making the family self reliant. Gifts to children by sponsors sometimes lead to discrimination. It is

advisable to avoid such practices. If the donor wishes to contribute substantially for a family they can do so through the professional agency. The process and support shall be transparent.

Learning

RAJAGIRI outREACH has learnt the following through its years of experience:

- Child centered development initiative is more futuristic than other initiatives.
- Child being the centre of activities, all efforts should be around the child/children
- Include the siblings of the children as well as neighboring children in the common programmes like community teachings, holiday camps etc will make the sponsorship programme more children centric.
- The attitude of the social workers/ field coordinators is very important. They should approach the programme from a child rights perspective.
- If anybody behaves indifferently with the children, it would make the programme a failure
- The child should be given opportunities to become experienced in doing things rather than a passive listener to the directions of parents, teachers, and community volunteers. There shall be efforts to utilize the resources of the community including governmental sources for the benefit of the sponsored children as well as children of the neighbourhood.

Way Forward

The state government has initiated similar programmes and as an agency interested in seeing the positive results of such programmes, the organisation wishes to involve in that. The organisation also plans to volunteer to undertake such programmes, if the government is willing to associate the professional agency (GO-NGO Partnership). Their agency is willing to do Advocacy Campaigns, involve in awareness building and social auditing on acceptance by the government. Rajagiri is also interested in promoting 'child parliaments' by including all the children of the region/locality. Their experiment of 'Key children programme' which is nothing but an evening care plan for children of working parents which include partly community teaching programme, extracurricular activities, refreshment etc initiated in Kalamassery would be spread to other regions, which is possible with the cooperation of the donors.

SANLAAP

DEDICATION TOWARDS PROTECTION, REHABILITATION, REPATRIATION AND RESTORATION OF TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

Sex trafficking industry is the third largest illicit industry after the drugs and arms trafficking industry and affects a million worldwide. Among the affected are the young and vulnerable children and women. In India there are about 10 million women in prostitution, 400,000 children forced into prostitution. 100,000 women are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation in Kolkata (40% of which are children below the age of 18 years). Universal human rights cannot be achieved until the sexual exploitation of women and children is stopped. The women and children need to be looked at as survivors and not victims; they need to be empowered just like any other individual. The society today thus, calls for organizations like Sanlaap that speak for the unspoken, that work towards empowering those that are exploited.

About the organisation

Sanlaap formed in the year 1987 is a developmental organization that works towards correction of social imbalances which manifest in the form of gender injustice and violence against women and children, in the year 1989 the organization with the support from NORAD conducted a study of sexually abused girl children in the red light areas of Kolkata, South and North 24 Paraganas. At Sanlaap they aim to make the world a safer place for women and children by protecting their rights. The organization works against trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and prostitution.

Child protection being the overall aim, Sanlaap also works towards the following four main objectives:-

- Prevention of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children
- Prevention of Second Generation prostitution
- Reintegration and mainstreaming of survivors
- Advocacy on issues related to the rights of the child

Sanlaap does not believe in departmentalized approach of its functioning because the interdepartmental flow of knowledge helps it to be transparent and answerable to its cause and objective. Their core areas of work are, Institutional Care and Psychological Rehabilitation for survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation, Legal Aid Programme, Youth Empowerment & Leadership Programme, District Advocacy & Campaign Programme, Community Based Rehabilitation Programme, Research & Documentation.

Description of the Intervention

Sanlaap's shelter home- Sneha is the intervention that comes to mind when we consider good practices in the field of juvenile justice. The shelter home programme is the core programme of Sanlaap. Sneha meaning 'Affection' was established in the year 1993 at Narendrapur with the aim to provide a safe environment for minor girls rescued from trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, girl children of women in prostitution. There are 4 SNEHA Shelter Homes in and around

Kolkata. Apart from providing a safe environment the home also helps reintegrate and rehabilitate the victims to the mainstream society. Today, Sneha is a safe haven for more than 150 girls. Sneha is not just a shelter home, wherein children are provided with basic education and facilities of food and accommodation, it is in fact a complex inter-related multi-disciplinary psychosocial and economic rehabilitation programme in itself.

Sanlaap walks through the life of a victim to her being a survivor of trafficking through the mechanism of institutional care and protection. The journey thus starts from the time of her 'rescue' to her 'reintegration within the community' through the stages of psychosocial rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration. The process of restoration / reintegration is a multi pronged approach. It includes a full range of services, most of which are directly provided by Sanlaap as it is the primary organization facilitating the reintegration. However many services are likely to be carried out through linkages with CBOs, local government, family and the community in general. After restoring a girl into her family, a follow up is done from Sanlaap's behalf for a year in order to keep a track of their livelihood and also to verify whether the girl or her family have been threatened or harassed.

Intervention- A Good Practice

The shelter home programme- Sneha is an example of good practice following the Juvenile Justice Act and the Rights of the Child under the UNCRC. It is a holistic programme encompassing Education, Mental Health Interventions, Vocational Training and Economic Initiatives, Dance Movement Therapy (Sanved) and Legal Aid (Salah). Sneha reflects how the processes of rescue, rehabilitation, restoration, repatriation and reintegration are intertwined. The programmes being implemented at Sneha are versatile. The following activities make this intervention different:

- Mental health intervention Programme

The programme concentrates on the emotional and mental wellbeing of the victims and also attempts to empower the individuals in order to ensure successful reintegration in the society. It focuses on mainstreaming by healing, capacity building and providing psycho-social support, these are achieved in the following manner:

- Issues and conflicts specific to an individual are handled confidentially in Individual counselling sessions.
- Issues like Gender and Sexuality which are related to trafficking are addressed through Group Intervention.

Broader issues concerning all the girls are handled by forming and conducting sessions through the following groups:

- ***Prefect group***
This group addresses issues of Child Participation, developing ownership at the shelter, helping the survivors take control of their own lives by building qualities of leadership, responsibility, confidence etc.
- ***HIV support group***

It addresses issues of HIV/AIDS, what it is, how it affects a person's body and issues of health care. This group has also created a space of support wherein they have learnt to deal with the trauma of being positive, the fear of death and rejection.

➤ **Advocacy group**

The advocacy group provides a platform for creating youth advocates from amongst the residents through imparting and sharing of information, generating awareness on issues related to gender, sexuality, violence etc.

➤ **Issue addressal group**

This group is a common ground for conflict resolution. When something significant happens between 2 girls or likewise between a girl and a staff member, it is discussed during the sessions and the girls try to solve it amongst themselves. Through the issue based group Sanlaap tries to inculcate positive self-image and self-confidence among the survivors.

➤ **Captain System**

A Captain system has been devised to ensure the efficient running of the shelter home. Captains are selected based on their leadership qualities, co-operative nature and ability to handle difficult situations. This group of girls is responsible for running the shelter home. They are involved in taking decisions pertaining to Home Policy and Home Activities, organizing functions, seminars and workshops at the shelter home.

- **Education Programme**

By way of the education programme education is reached to the child survivors when they come to Sneha. Some join formal schooling and others who have legal restrictions on their mobility join the school within the premises, inputs are taken periodically to incorporate innovative teaching methods in the design of the curriculum from a group of eminent formal schoolteacher. Computer training is also being imparted to those who have shown interest to learn the same. The principles of Touch therapy are playing a significant role in this training.

- **Life Skill Education**

The life skill education has been developed by the Sanlaap staff with help from National and International Consultants who worked with them for a period of six to eight years. The life skill education helps one in decision making, developing communication skills, solving problems on their own etc.

- **Vocational Training**

For those, who do not take formal education, vocational training is a must. There seven streams of vocational training that is offered within the shelter- tailoring, block printing, batik on textiles, weaving, zari embroidery/ Kantha stitch, but not all of them assure jobs when, hence, several other trainings like beautician course, computer course, candle making, chocolate making, jewellery making etc. are also offered with the help of NGOs working around Sanlaap.

- **Recreational Activities**

The recreational activities play an important role in reducing the trauma of the survivors. These activities include music classes, dance therapy and group discussion. The social support network is

maintained by celebrating various festivals inside the home premises. Cultural programmes are also organized on certain occasions.

- **Legal Wing (Salah)**

The legal wing of Sanlaap is not only concerned with the rescue of girls from the red light areas and other vulnerable situations but is also responsible for Prosecution of the accused and the restoration and repatriation of the survivors. The role of the legal department varies depending on the legal status of the victim. Sanlaap provides legal assistance to the victims of the trafficking. It plays a major role in sensitizing, orienting and influencing the policy makers and other stakeholders through advocacy and campaign.

- **Income Generation Programme**

Sonia, a girl in the shelter home shared her experience about how she enjoyed her days at Sanlaap.

“2011 has been a memorable year. We were taken to buy clothes and shoes. We chose our own stuff. We wore new clothes in Durga puja and in other celebrations. We had lots of fun. And now I will go back to my home in Bangladesh. I am happy, yet sad. I will miss Sanlaap and all my friends here.”

Sneha runs the income generation programme (IGP) that helps in furnishing the girl's vocational skills, which would eventually help in the process of their rehabilitation and economic empowerment. Sanlaap tries to engage girls above 18 years of age to jobs where they can use their skills and trainings and earn their livelihood.

Achievements/Impact

Sanlaap has had many achievements, but the essential ones are as follows:

- Building network consisting of the police, local administrative bodies, the civil society and the community at large to check the steady outflow of vulnerable girl children on the pretext of marriages and jobs from their rural bases.

- Lobbying with the policy makers for incorporation and enforcement of provisions in the Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Convention on

Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989).

3 Bangladeshi girls were repatriated in March and 9 girls in August. 1 Nepali girl was repatriated in March and 1 in September. The girl who was repatriated to Nepal in March was in the shelter home for the last 10 years. She was unable to give her proper address. But only last year she gave the same. Both the Nepali girls are now staying in the shelter home of their partner organisation in Nepal, Shakti Samuha. The accused traffickers in case of the other Nepali girl, have been convicted for 10 years with a fine of Rs. 2000/-. All these girls repatriated to the 2 countries were provided with cash assistance as an aspect of strengthening their reintegration in the mainstream community. Some of them have also taken training in different vocations which they can utilize in future.

In the year 2011, 2 traffickers were convicted in a cross border trafficking case. They have been sentenced with 10 year rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 2000/. The same year nearly 35 children were rescued from Kolkata and its adjacent districts of West Bengal. 7 cases have been lodged under various provisions of ITPA.

Challenges

Over the past 25 years Sanlaap has seen many problems and crisis in the home and overcoming them becomes a challenge of one of a kind. A major challenge that Sanlaap faces has been that the girls who stay in Shelter Home are trained in different vocations, but when the court passes order to restore them, a gap is created. This is the reason that they fail to deliver orders on time. At the same time, when the judicial process delays justice, girls are unable to move on in life smoothly.

Learning

It is easy to address problems as challenges nevertheless through all the challenges faced by Sanlaap they have learnt that in order to ensure justice to the survivors of trafficking and to re-establish their fundamental rights, it is important to look into the issues of their 'care' and 'protection'. Sanlaap recognizes that every survivor is unique and requires individual attention and assistance. The continuous and close interaction with the victims has given tremendous force and inspiration to the organization to continue working for its cause.

Way Forward

Keeping the initiative and success in mind, the shelter home programme can definitely be an example of Good Practice following the Juvenile Justice Act and the Rights of The Child under UNCRC. Sanlaap aims towards building child protection units run by the rural community and the local grass root organizations to identify children in need of special protection and protect children from being trafficked. Sanlaap is also conducting awareness generation camps / trainings, sensitization programme for stakeholders like CBOs, like minded NGOs, government officials, law enforcing agencies, legal personnel etc. in order to bring attitudinal change amongst them towards the survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, who live in the custody of the state and NGO run homes.

UDAYAN CARE

A UNIQUE MODEL FOR PROTECTION, REHABILITATION, REPATRIATION AND RESTORATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The society today is in an unfortunate situation where children who are considered as the “future of tomorrow” are denied their right to a family ‘today’. About 37% of our population consists of children of which a shocking 31 million are orphans. A small percentage of these children are adopted or taken into permanent families. And only another 1.4 % receives any sort of formal care, be it in a foster home or shelter. In Delhi alone, there are about 5 lakh orphans, of which about 75% live in shelters and the rest are on the streets.

Many children are deprived of a healthy future due to reasons manifold, for many children who are lost, are lost because while travelling with their parents they would be left behind, for many who are abandoned, are generally abandoned by their fathers/ extended family after the demise of their mother/both parents; or due to being poor, the parent/s could not take care of them; the children who run away from homes, are children who escape because of the abuse being met at home. The care and protection of these children is a big challenge and thus, we require institutions like Udayan Care to create suitable models for the protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and restoration of the children.

About the Organisation

Understanding the need for children to be a part of a family in order to become future contributing citizens to society, Udayan Care developed a Group Foster Care Model which works on a strategy called L.I.F.E.: Living in Family Environment. It focuses on the long-term residential care of orphaned and/or abandoned children above 6 years of age. These homes are called “LIFE Udayan Ghars” which recreate the warmth and security of a home and family, where LIFE is an acronym of “Living In Family Environment”. Udayan Care is a not for profit organization working on the issue of child rights since 18 years. Their vision is to regenerate the rhythm of life of the disadvantaged. They believed that in the absence of a family for a child, the best they could do is providing a simulated family environment, with focused and individualized attention to a child. Udayan Ghar was developed as a model of Group Foster Care, which was a cross between the traditional orphanage system and the foster family system of the west. The primary objective of the organization is to:

- i. Create residences for orphaned, abandoned and abused children in a 'family-like-environment' to promote family bonding, physical and mental well-being and social integration;
- ii. Enabling people of vision to join hands with them to set up and manage Life Udayan Ghars voluntarily, and become parent figures, under their Group Foster Care Model;
- iii. Educate children in the best tradition of learning, so that they become self-sustaining and responsible members of society;
- iv. Instill human values in children, which will enable them to make a positive difference to society when they assume their place in life;

v. promote social, individual and legal initiatives to set up new homes in different parts of India for the purpose of being able to cater for the rehabilitation and development needs of the growing number of Indian children in need of care and protection.

It is Udayan Care's mission to provide for every orphaned child a nurturing home, an opportunity for higher education for every girl and for every adult, the dignity of self-reliance and the desire to give back to society.

Description of the intervention

Udayan Care's interventions are channeled towards addressing the issues faced by children in their day to day life. The foundations for all their initiatives are uniqueness and innovative model of mentorship. Udayan Ghar (children's homes) is a model for group foster care. The first home was set up in 1996 on the idea that every child has a right to a loving family and home and consequently the idea took shape in the form of L.I.F.E. It is in this model home that orphan and abandoned children are brought up, in a loving family environment. There are mentor parents to look after the children, these parents are a group of socially committed, civil society members, who voluntarily commit to groom the children like their own. Udayan Care's policies with regard to its homes revolve around social integration, community involvement and self reliance.

Intervention- a good practice

The interventions or initiatives of Udayan Care are different compared to the other organizations because of its innovative response towards the need for quality shelters and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection. Udayan Care adopted the model of Group Foster Care because Children in shelter homes or orphanages remain in a very institutional set up. The closed-door policy especially in Government run homes gives those children fewer opportunities for community integration or learning about family bonding and family values. Their interventions also ensure that each child receives individual attention because due to overcrowding in the homes, children lack such attention, moreover, they are not able to bond with the caretakers which leads to them being deprived of the learning's they would otherwise receive.

The strategy for the interventions that Udayan Care follows is simple, because, most of the children who come to an institutional set up come with their emotional baggage hence, the aim is to deal with the day to day issues and challenges. Apart from providing healthy food, clothing, hygienic living condition Udayan Care's Intervention strategies are guided by principles such as:

- **Small Homes**

Udayan Care adopts a Group Foster Care model consisting of 10 to 12 children, in this way the children are provided with a home that creates the experience of a foster family rather than an institution.

- **Mentoring**

At Udayan Care there are voluntary Mentor Parents, this creates a strong foundation for the homes. By creating a family-like environment, the Mentors become integral in gaining the trust of the children and also in their successful development.

- Community Involvement

Udayan Care has its homes amidst middle class neighbourhoods, the purpose behind this is that children must not grow in isolation and so support and strength of local communities are drawn for the children.

- Opportunities for social interaction

Children at the Udayan Ghar are encouraged and given the opportunity to participate in various competitive and non-competitive forums. It is through such platforms that the children get to interact with their peers, the outside world and the community which helps them in building their inter-personal skills and developing a perspective.

- Mental Health Programme

A well-researched mental health programme helps the children out of their initial traumatic phase and helps develop a positive outlook in them for their lives ahead.

- Formal Schooling

Another very important strategy for social integration that Udayan Care follows is that the children are encouraged to study and are therefore enrolled in best schools and institutions. Its girls and boys finish their education in its aftercare programmes, even after they attain adulthood.

- Long term involvement with its beneficiaries

Udayan Care helps its young adults to integrate in society by getting them married and/or settled in jobs. Family relationships are maintained even after its young adults go out of the beneficiary status.

The various case studies and stories show how Udayan Care has been successful in its interventions.

Achievements/Impact

The interventions of Udayan Care resulted in many success but some of the crucial achievements are:

Academic Achievements:

One of the girls from the Udayan Ghar pursuing 2nd year BCA Bachelors in Computer Application from a reputed Institute for Information and Technology gained 2nd position in her final examinations.

Another girl bagged a state rank of 196 in the International Mathematics Olympiad Examination.

Two other children from the Udayan family received the Geetanjali Scholarship of Rs. 10, 000/- each towards their

- A significant change was seen among the children at the Udayan Ghar. They demonstrated enhanced confidence in their personality, there was a change in their academic performance.

- Udayan Care has been able to reach out to nearly 280 children. Currently 179 children are residing in their 13 homes, in 4 states of north India, out of these 156 are studying in public & government schools, 8 are studying in the Open School or being home tutored, getting readied for formal schooling; 1 in vocational and 14 in colleges. Out of the rehabilitated ones, 13 are married; 14 are in jobs.
- The organization managed to locate the families and extended families of 46 children and restored them after following the due diligence.

Challenges

In the past 18 years Udayan Care has faced many challenges relating to children, the civil society and the programmes, some of the challenges are listed below:

- Since each child is unique, his/her need is unique; therefore there is no common formula that always works. Also, the intervention with the same child at different stages of growth is different.
- Making the child adjust to a new environment becomes difficult owing to the traumatizing experience he/she has undergone.
- Relatives of the children as on paper are at times found to be the parents unwilling to take responsibility of their children.
- Children are enrolled in classes that are not appropriate as per the age due to wrong age in papers.
- Helping the child to accept that he/she does not have parents is often very challenging.
- Breaking the stigma among the society about children homes.
- Legislative requirements and lack of clarity in JJ Act and Rules, as well as different implementations by the Child Welfare Committees is a big challenge.

Learning

Since the time of its inception Udayan Care has been constantly learning from the challenges it has faced and continues to face. Some of the essential learning's are:-

- Coordination, Cooperation and Communication is essential at every level of the organization.
- Policies that are developed and implemented must reflect the best spirit of UNCRC, Indian Constitution and JJ Act.
- Developing co-branding for the homes with sponsors, like Sat Krishna Udayan Ghar, GreenPly Udayan Ghar, Vatika Udayan Ghar for sustained branding and funding.
- Strengthening the Udayan Care Brand to attract donors & volunteers by a strongly spelt out communication strategy.

- Constant need for training staff and volunteers in different aspects of Childcare

Way forward

Udayan Ghar is a model that shows effective results for children in need of care and protection and so, many homes including state run homes could adopt from this model as it is a sustainable model. It is expensive, yet sustainable. We must recognise that philanthropy also identifies with quality. The voluntary sector has to participate and partner with civil society (and the corporate world) to sustain itself. The emphasis that Udayan Care places on quality, especially in education and the positive mental health of the children, coupled with high-quality physical and cultural activities, attracts philanthropists and corporates to it. As a way forward Udayan Care is looking at the possibilities of replication of the intervention, by setting up more Udayan Ghars, establishing different Aftercare Programmes for its young adults, boys and girls; and a post Aftercare Programme.

Young at Risk (YaR)

SAFETY NET FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION

Everyday thousands of children are reported missing, many are not found. Many of the kidnappings/abductions end tragically in rape, assault and death. Missing children are exposed to high-risk situations; they are vulnerable and fall prey to exploitation, abuse and human trafficking. As many as 14 kids go missing in the Capital daily, which is an alarming eight per cent of the national total for such cases. The Union Home Ministry's data says 5,111 children disappeared from the city in 2011. There is no end to the acts of children disappearing as 1,146 children have already gone missing up until April 15th 2012. The government's figures are three times higher than the 1,575 missing children for 2011 as claimed by Bachpan Bachao Andolan. Time lapse, insufficient information database and an ineffective tracking system minimizes missing children's chances of ever coming back home.

Today child development is one of the important areas which need attention and care. Many children are reported to be missing but at the same time there is no effective strategy designed so far at the National level in this regard. Though some independent efforts have been tried by law enforcing agencies and social welfare institutions, there is still a lacuna of organizing and interlinking efforts to trace the missing children. To identify the missing children a concerted multi-pronged effort is required. Hence, Homelink Network System was conceived to answer such call.

About the Organisation

YaR (Young at Risk) Forum India (registered as Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk) is an organization for reflection, sharing and coordination among those involved in the youth ministry for the Young at Risk in South Asia, to network with likeminded persons and organizations on behalf of YaR, to influence policies related to the Young at Risk at the state, national and international levels. Challenged by the marginalization of the people, especially of the young, they strive by their attitudes, way of life and actions, to empower the young at risk and to create a just and humane society by joining hands with socially responsible citizens and groups.

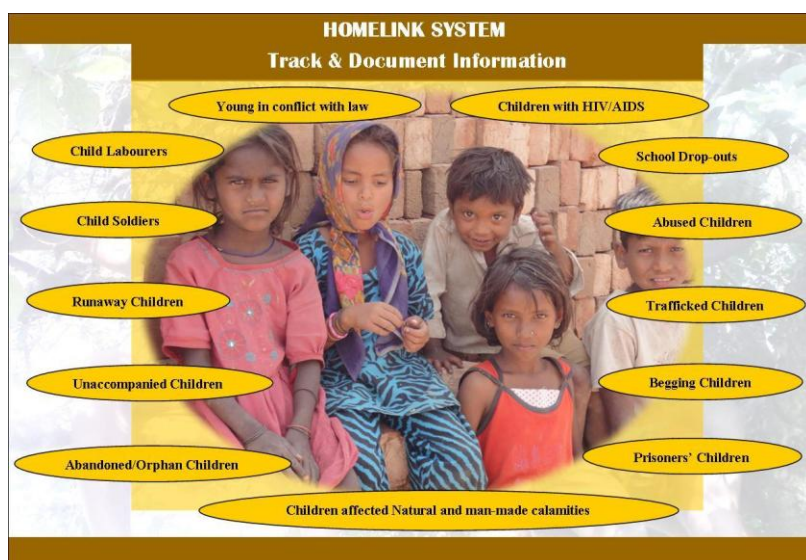
Young at Risk (YaR) Forum has its presence in 73 centers of 19 States & Union Territories, reaching out to children on the street, trafficked, abused, abandoned, orphans, child labourers, school drop-outs, children in conflict with law, young substance abusers, children in war areas, refugee children, children affected by diseases etc. On an average in a year YaR Forum through its partners reaches out to over 2, 00, 000 (Two lakhs) children/youth at risk across India. YaR Partners provide quality education to thousands of orphans and poor children through shelter homes, children's homes and youth hostels, irrespective of their caste and creed. YaR Partners give vocational skills to school dropouts and unemployed youth. YaR centers care for women and children with HIV/AIDS, TB, and leprosy. YaR centers sponsor thousands of Self-Help Groups to establish a viable income generation activities.

Homelink- Innovation

The philosophy of the Homelink (HLK) - Missing Child Search (MCS) Network aims to meet every vulnerable child, whether they are lost, abandoned, run away, orphaned or destitute, at the earliest moment of their separation or loneliness, at locations where they land and follow them up until alternate community is established. The concept of Homelink Network System is developed keeping in mind certain needs and they are:

- Speed in tackling problems related to children;
- Online data and flow of information which will help in research and policy-making
- Systems and structures in place to address the rights of the child

The fundamental idea is to create a nation-wide information management system and related services dedicated to the welfare of children. This concept highlights the importance of tracking system to monitor the growth and development of children coming into the care and protection of Government and Non government organizations.



Since the Government has very little information on how children at risk are developing in Institutional and Non-institutional Care (this includes children who come before the CWC and are either placed in institutions or in non institutional, family based, state regulated schemes and programmes for care and rehabilitation). The need for such an intervention became a necessity. The Homelink

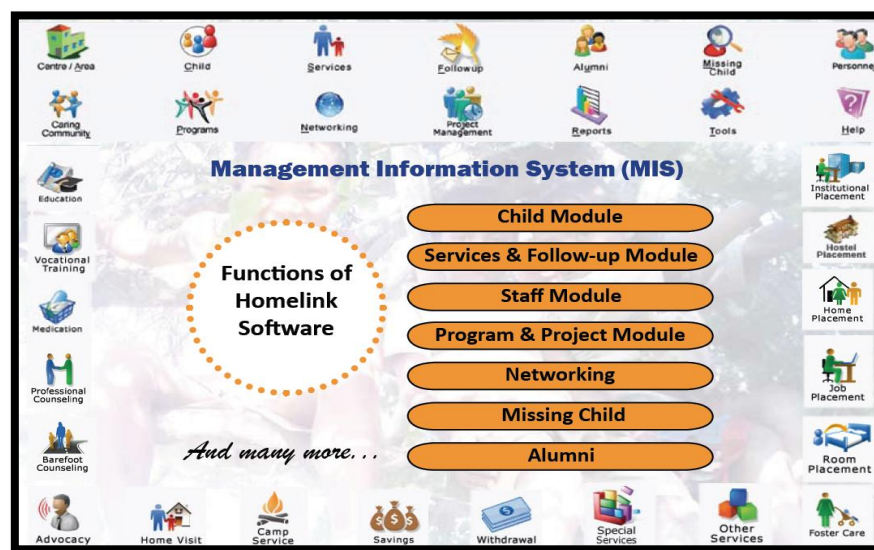
Network System serves as a good practice because there is a need to standardize information that is collected and maintained by the different stakeholders/ organizations at different levels and bring it to the requirement of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 amended in 2006 and the JJ Rules, 2007. Also, standardization is required both in the nature of data collected and the manner in which it is collected.

The Child Tracking System has its use at six levels:

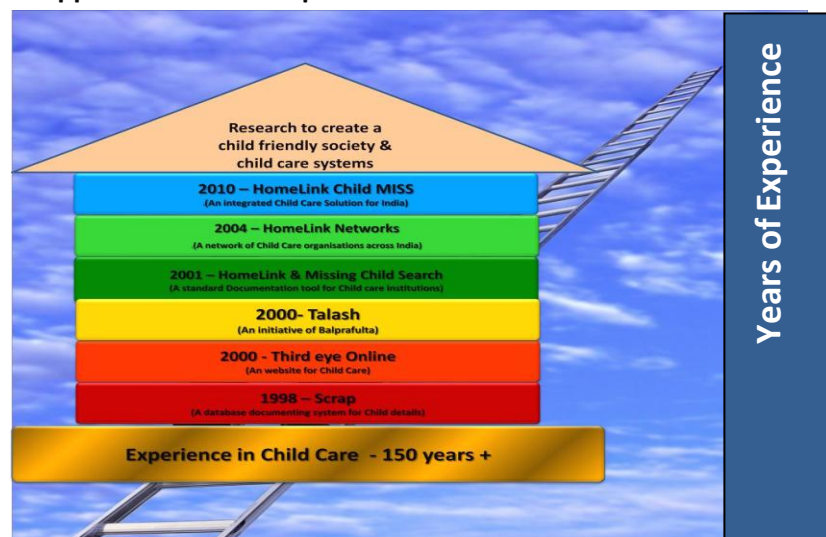
- Individual child
- Institutional / Organizational level
- Village (Gram Panchayat) / Block level
- District level
- State level
- National level

Clarity is required about the kind of data that is required at different levels e.g. for the use of the CWC to make decisions in relation to every child, but currently information collected is not used for taking decisions. The Child Tracking System facilitates the use of data for taking decisions and action. This System also helps to develop information and action linkages between all the child protection stakeholders at the local, district, state and national level. It brings coordination and interface with other state and civil society stakeholders that link with the child.

This initiative of YaR Forum India is in line with an integrated, live, web based database on Child Tracking System with a Management Information System and a website for Missing Children. The existing Homelink Network System plays a great advantage to develop a nationwide Child Tracking System.



Homelink System - Approach and Development



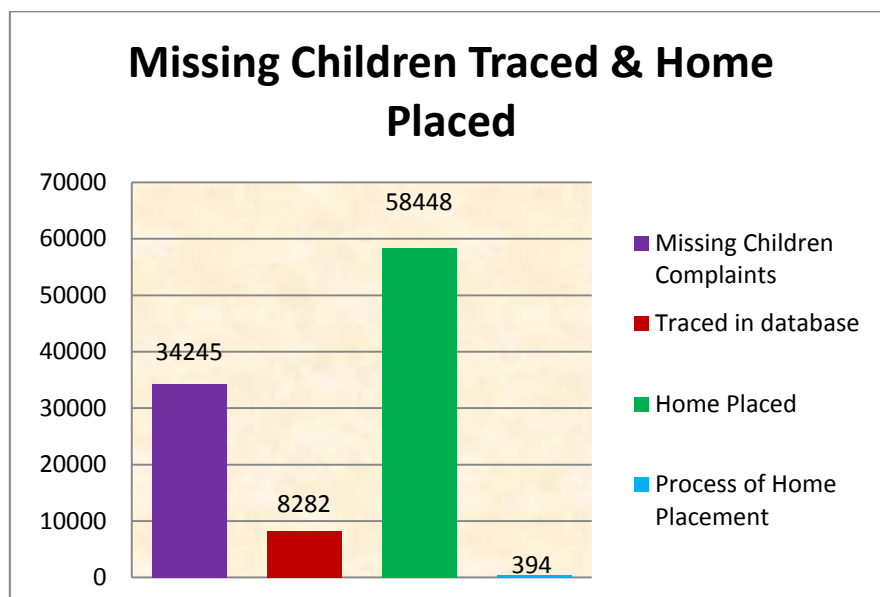
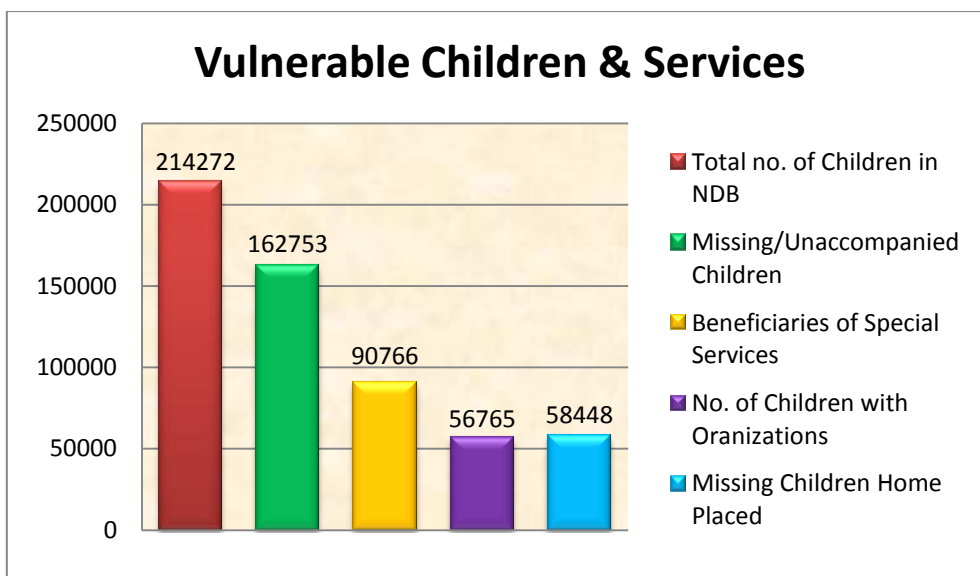
The Department of Women and Child Development, New Delhi, UNICEF, TCS Mumbai and Don Bosco YaR Forum came together in the year 2004, to search for a software that could be used at the National level. Later, the Ministry of Women and Child Development focused its attention to provide

better services for children in difficult circumstances under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and to monitor them through the web-based Child Tracking System. Considering the objectives of JJ Act & ICPS, in 2007, YaR Forum took a leap from a welfare and development approach of rehabilitation of the children at risk to Rights Approach. These factors triggered the YaR Forum to upgrade HLK/MCS to a new web portal known as Child MISS (Management Information System & Services). The development and effective implementation of network system is an important and crucial initiative that will enable the Government to track the progress of every child and their progress and development from the time they enter the JJ System until they exit it, including a follow up of their reintegration into the family/community. Thus it implements the standards of care and protection as specified in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000, its amendment in 2006 and JJ Rules, 2007. The Child Tracking System (CTS) sets parameters that define practice; CTS as a result influences the manner in which the various stakeholders must conduct themselves, while providing care and protection to children that result in achievement of the above goals.

The JJ Act has expanded the scope for rehabilitation of the child in need of care and protection to include non institutional options like family and community based alternative care apart from placing the child in an institution. The Homelink Network System has a module to monitor the progress and development of the child in institutional and non institutional alternative care programmes and their impact on rehabilitation of the child.

Achievements/ Impact

Homelink Network System is the World Wide Web and proprietary software that captures the information of children at risk across India to assist and restore them to the safety of a Home. This web based service maintained by YaR Forum India facilitates their work for the young at risk, enabling them to maintain and share up to date information on child related issues, across the country. The system has generated instant reports based on child profile, missing children, staff centre, sub-centre and various analyses of reports at local and national level. The following chart highlights Homelink Network National Status report from www.homelink.in, as on 31st December 2012:



Challenges

The organization primarily faces three challenges:

- The qualitative and the quantitative data/information must flow through a collaborative network of various stakeholders through an online web-based solution for proper documentation and accountability.
- The usage of data for advocacy to defend child rights through awareness campaign and research to influence child policy and standardize child care by networking partners.
- The establishment of a National Child Protection Network (NCPN) and include the MWCD, NCPCR, NCRB, Police, Childline, NGO Representatives, YaR Forum-Homelink/Missing Child Search Network, any other lead website holders of missing children, etc. It will strengthen NCPN, **to** join together, think together and act together, to end all forms of violence against children in India and to be a unified voice for the safety of childhood in India.

Way Forward / Learning

From the lessons learned from Homelink experience, the organization could conclude that Consolidation and Strategization of Homelink Programme through Campaign is important. They believe that to continue this important journey on behalf of the children they have to consolidate the efforts of Government Bodies, NGOs and Civil Society.

As way forward the organization looks at the following:

- To create a uniform nationwide parameter for developing database on missing and found children
- To carry out preliminary inquiry and effective recording of sufficient information of missing and found children
- To provide an alert system for fast track and trace of the missing children through a constant online update on status of the missing and found child / parents to concerned-authorities
- To create a software to integrate bio-metric (finger-print) of child to verify with UID database for speedy recovery of the child to parents

CHILDLINEINDIA FOUNDATION
AWARENESS RAISING AND SENSITIZATION VENTURES
THE NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

The society today consists of many children who are vulnerable and in need of care and protection. It was therefore, essential to get a system in place to understand the needs of the children on the streets of India, to figuring out how to reach them effectively and of putting in place the structure that could take the child in distress and mainstream his or her life. It was also imperative to create a one point window to connect these children with various NGO'S working for child related issues in order to protect the interests of these children. CHILDLINE INDIA was an initiative in this regard.

About the organisation

CHILDLINE stands for a friendly 'didi' or a sympathetic 'bhaiya' who is always there for vulnerable children 24 hours of the day, 365 days of the year. CHILDLINE was founded by Ms. Jeroo Billimoria, who was then a professor at the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai. Initiated in June 1996 as an experimental project of the department of Family and Child Welfare of TISS, CHILDLINE has come a long way today, to becoming a nationwide emergency helpline for children in distress. CHILDLINE is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. Whether one is a concerned adult or a child, they can dial 1098, the toll free number to access their services. They not only respond to the emergency needs of children but also link them to services for their long-term care and rehabilitation. The vision that molded CHILDLINE is a child - friendly nation that guarantees the rights and protection of all children. The objectives of CHILDLINE are as follows:

- To reach out every child in need of care and protection by responding to emergencies on 1098.
- Creating awareness about CHILDLINE 1098 amongst every Indian child.
- To provide a platform for networking amongst organizations and to provide linkages to support systems that facilitates the rehabilitation of child in need of care and protection.
- To work with allied systems to create a child friendly systems.
- To advocate services for children that are inaccessible.
- To create a body of NGO's and government organizations working within the national framework and policy for children.
- To be a nodal child protection agency in the country providing child protection services for children in need of care and protection.
- To contribute and work towards strengthening and participating in a global movement that addresses issues related to child protection and ensures that children's voices are heard.

Description of the Intervention

CHILDLINE has always believed in partnership and recognized that it cannot work in isolation. Thus, from its inception, it sought to involve various systems such as the Department of Telecommunications, the Health care System, the Police, the Juvenile Welfare Boards, Government residential institutions and the Transport systems to ensure that every child receives help and protection. The key to creating a child-friendly environment, whether at a police station or a hospital ward, at a remand home or in a school, is the systematic training and sensitization of the staff. In a meet with CHILDLINE partners (1999), the

concept of a training programme for Allied Systems organizations was mooted and accepted. In 2000, the resultant plan was presented to the then Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE). The MSJE agreed to provide funding and support to the program and thus was born the National Initiative for Child Protection (NICP).

Intervention- A Good Practice

NICP is a campaign initiative with the aim of building partnerships with Allied Systems such as the Police, the health care system, the judicial system, the juvenile justice system, the labour department, the media, the telecom department, etc. The goal was to build these partnerships by training people who work within the Allied systems. The model on which NICP is built emphasizes that:

- Allied systems must be sensitized to issues of children, and to respect the special needs of marginalized children
- A Rights based approach to children must be adopted rather than a welfare based approach

The National Initiative for Child Protection is a good practice because it aims at attainment of the following objectives:

- To facilitate a clear understanding of and commitment to Child Rights (CR) and Child Protection (CP) and create a child-friendly environment among the Allied systems.
- To enhance in the Allied Systems and understanding of Child Rights and the law.
- To evolve a more child-friendly approach and intervention by the Allied Systems both at organisation and individual levels.
- To determine avenues of collaboration between Allied Systems and CHILDLINE resulting in the development of various programmes and services for Child Protection.
- To advocate on issues related to the protection of Child Rights.
- To encourage the systems to elicit children's participation in all processes.

The NICP programme is implemented through various awareness workshops among allied systems and institutions in all CHILDLINE cities. These workshops are conducted in close deliberations with Resource Persons. These Resource Persons are experts in the field of Child Labour, Child Sexual Abuse and issues pertaining to children. These workshops address various issues impacting children and processes and protocols for intervention. They provide rights based perspectives on child protection and sensitize personnel of allied system organizations on dealing with affected children.

These programmes are multi-layered and responsive to the target groups at which they are aimed. The same programme cannot be used for the Commissioner of Police and a constable. Yet both must be sensitized. For example: - The dean (or the Commissioner) lays down policy, but the constable (or the ward boy) is the face of the system that the child first encounters. Sensitization must therefore work across the hierarchies of the various systems that are already in place for the child.

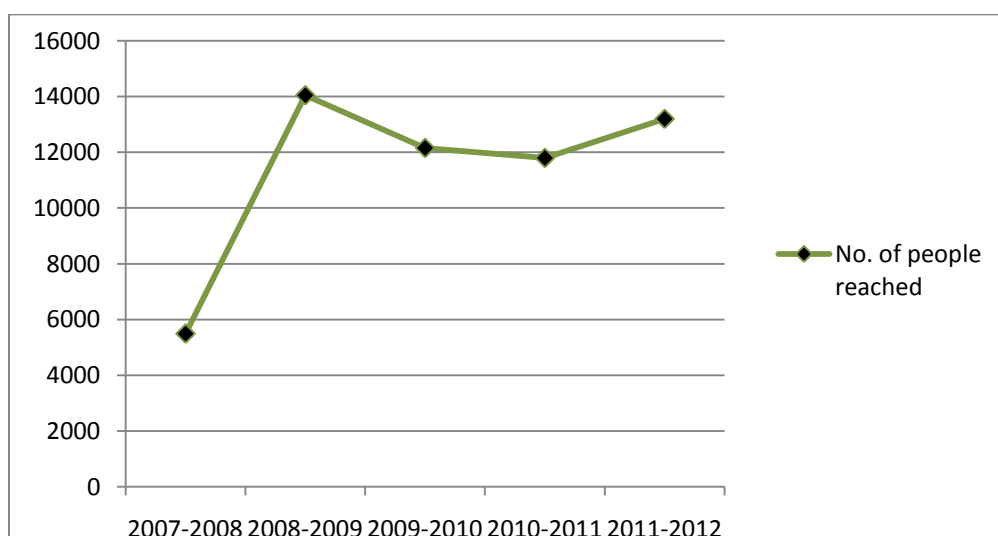
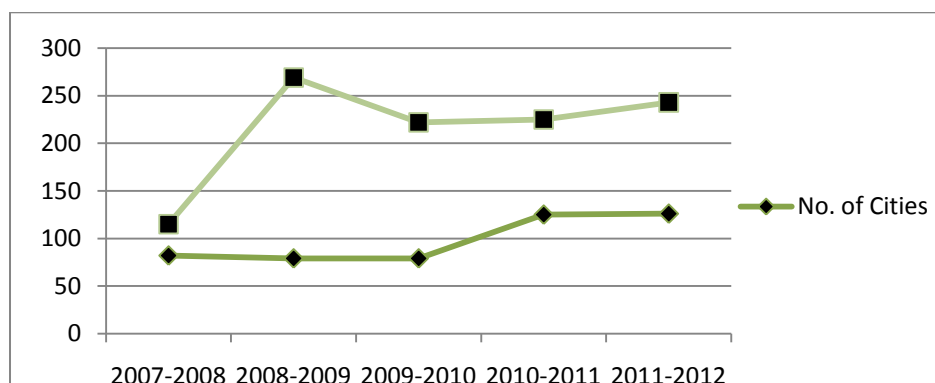


An NICP workshop with Mumbai Police on the issue of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) was held on 12th of November 2011 at Nirmala Niketan. The workshop saw 50 officers take a day out from their busy schedule to participate. The Resource persons were from diverse professions like law, counselling and medicine and they took the participants through the basics of the three pillars of Child Protection. With a rampant increase in the cases of child sexual abuse, this workshop was an attempt to sensitize policemen about the psychological, legal and medical aspects related to child sexual abuse. Naina Athale, Faculty Member, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) highlighted the myths and realities of CSA. The resource persons stressed on the long term effects of abuse on children and their inability to give exact descriptions of abusers to law enforcement agencies and difficulties in remembering sequence of events. The workshop was inaugurated with the tying of 'Suraksha Bandhans' on the wrists of all the policemen, as a gesture of CHILDLINE's appreciation for their continued commitment to protecting children.

Achievements/ Impact

The following facts and figures show the impact of the National Initiative for Child Protection. In the last 5 years, CHILDLINE India Foundation has conducted over 1000 trainings in 126 cities across the country. The total trained persons are 61831 at the senior, middle and grassroot level.

Year	No. of cities	No. of NICP workshops	People reached through training
2006-2007	76	22	5149
2007-2008	82	115	5491
2008-2009	79	269	14045
2009-2010	79	222	12153
2010-2011	125	225	11795
2011-12	126	243	13198



Way Forward

Working on the future is the most important activity that CHILDLINE INDIA looks at. Keeping this in view they have chalked out few things that they wish to achieve in the coming years.

- To make NICP the most comprehensive initiative in the country for mainstreaming Child Protection.
- Enhance service excellence and move from being activity oriented to being goal oriented.

- Prioritize CHILDLINE launch to the most under represented and under reached thematic child right areas.
- Make CHILDLINE the most recognized reference point for Child Rights.

AWARENESS RAISING AND ADVOCACY

NAVAJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN & THE AP JUVENILE JUSTICE DESK ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND CAMPAIGN FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

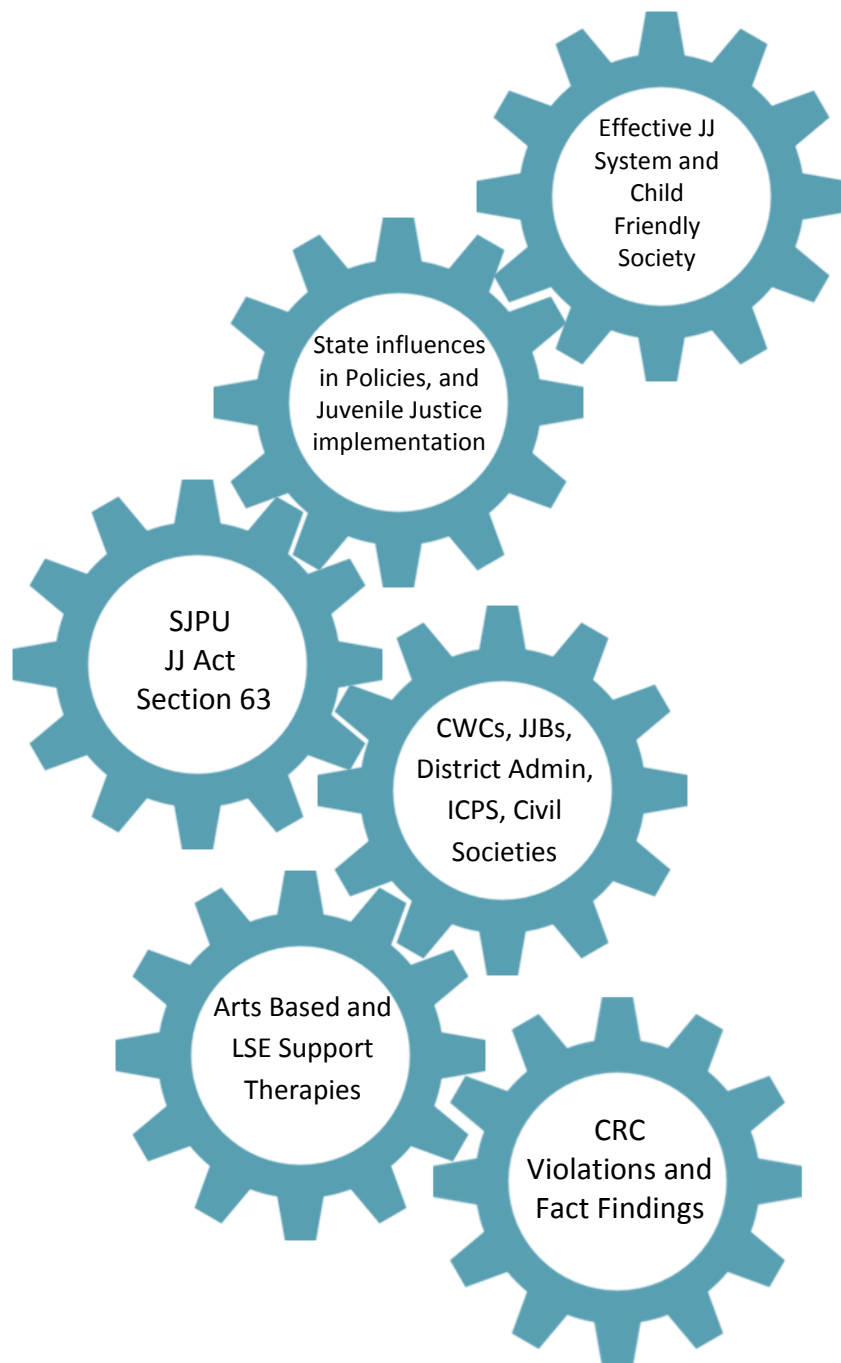
Hundreds of children today are suffering due to the negative aspects of globalization. Most of them sever from their families to come to the cities and eventually end up on the streets. The largest numbers come to Vijayawada, on transit into the cities of Hyderabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi. These children often fall prey to people who make use of them or abuse them. The city has very little time and resources for them. On average 27 new children land up each day at the railway station alone, adding to the hundreds of children already on the streets of Vijayawada. These children make their living by working as underpaid labourers and as domestic helps. This is the situation that Navajeevan Bala Bhavan (NJBB) wants to address in Vijayawada because the number of the young at risk is rising at a rapid pace.

About the organisation

The rehabilitation of street children was started by the Salesians when the Corporation of Vijayawada along with UNICEF approached Fr. Johnson Moyalan, the then Director of Don Bosco, Pezzonipet, to begin a collaborative venture, in the beginning of 1988. The project was formally registered as a Society in 1994 under the present name 'Navajeevan Bala Bhavan' by Fr. Thomas Koshy, who is its Executive Director since 1990. Since 1993, it started to extend its initiatives with a lot more rehabilitative initiatives such as non-formal and formal education, training and skills development, etc. In 1997, the Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized Navajeevan Bala Bhavan as a Fit Institution. Since 1993, as on 20th July 2011, Navajeevan has rescued and registered 37,529 children. Out of these, 20,180 had been home-integrated. Among their initiatives like- round the clock shelter for street children & one night shelter, counseling, re-orientation camps for children of various age groups, de-addiction programme for children addicted to psychotropic substances, facilitating the effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act through its State level 'JJ Desk', with special emphasis on government run Observation Homes and Children's Homes is one that is imperative. The objective of Navajeevan Bala Bhavan is to reach out to the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law facilitating the implementation of juvenile justice system in various Child Care Institutions (CCI's) especially of the Government, in the state of Andhra Pradesh through the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and its amendments.

Description of the Intervention

The JJ Desk was established in March 2010, the strategy that is followed by the organization for this intervention is, to bring together the individuals and organizations on a single platform from across the state of Andhra Pradesh committed for the children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law. The Andhra Pradesh Juvenile Justice Desk intervention system is as follows:



The Andhra Pradesh Juvenile Justice Desk (APJJDESK) facilitates reviews and recommendations to various policies, acts, rules and implementation schemes of Central and State Governments and District Administration in consultation with all the stakeholders. The APJJDESK provided recommendations to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in framing Rules for Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000 and Amendment Act 2006. The APJJDESK as a resource center for many organizations, forums, and bodies working in the area of Juvenile Justice in the state of Andhra Pradesh provides vital information on child related Acts, Policies, Schemes and Government orders. It facilitates and provides training to NGOs and GOs under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act.

Intervention- A Good Practice

Navajeevan Bala Bhavan's intervention of the Juvenile Justice Desk was initiated with the aim to reach out to children in Government Homes with local community participation, and this is being materialized through district Child Justice Forums consisting of NGO's, child rights activists, Balamithra's (trained JJ counselors). This intervention is crucial because it was initiated due to the lack of coordination of the available resources and the lack of collective attempts to deal with the Juvenile Justice issues on a single platform. Presently, the JJ Desk is working in 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh, especially in the 11 primary target districts (Krishna, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Medak, Nizamabad, Mehaboobnagar, Adilabad, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Ananthapur and kadapa). This intervention is a good practice as it addresses issues like:

- Lack of effective mechanisms at the district and state level
- To fact find the cases of child rights violations
- To render the required socio-economical-psychological-legal support to the child victims and their families.

The Child Rights Monitoring Committee (CRMC) in the district of Krishna works with the authorization of the district Child Welfare Committees to fact find the cases of child rights violations and the success of the same has led to the launching of CRMC's in other primary districts. This CRMC is a model for the other district CRMCs. During the year 2011-2012 JJ Desk focused its efforts in developing the desk as a State Level Child Rights Resource Center for strengthening and assisting the district level Child Justice Forum partners and district level Child Rights Monitoring Committee.

Navajeevan Bala Bhavan through its intervention has also conducted a number of trainings and convergence meetings to bring about legal awareness and also to enhance quality care in Child rights institutions. Some of them being:

District Level Convergence Meeting in Medak District

A Workshop on District Convergence for an effective juvenile justice system was organized at Medak District Voluntary Agencies Network (MEDVAN) Office, Sangareddy by Methuku Seema Child Rights and Justice Forum along with District Child Welfare Committee on 24th March 2012. Mr. Krishna Prasad from the APJJDESK provided a brief presentation on the structure and functioning of present Juvenile Justice System in India including Salient Features of JJ Act, the constitution of CWC & JJB and prescribed movement of Children in Conflict with Law and Children in need of Care and Protection and Mr. Balaraju gave a presentation on convergence to protect child rights in the district between various departments of government.



Training for Special Juvenile Police Unit in Kadapa District

A training workshop on “The Role of Special Juvenile Police Unit in implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Amendment Act 2006” was organized for Child Welfare Officers in Kadapa District on 4th April 2012. This training programme was organized by Forum for Child Rights- Kadapa in collaboration with District Police Department, Child Welfare Committee- Kadapa and Andhra Pradesh Juvenile Justice Desk (APJJDESK). Speaking to the gathering Mr. Lourdu Prasad (State Coordinator - APJJDESK) explained the effect of trauma that children go through, if they are not treated properly while being apprehended by the police through clear examples.



Mr. Rajendar, ACP, encouraged them to learn more about the Act and role of Special Juvenile Police Unit and urged that every officer must understand the rights of the child and should be always ready to protect the children.

National Training of Trainers

A training of trainers programme on Psychosocial Support through Life Skills and Arts Based Tools for Well-being of Vulnerable Children was held at Don Bosco Navajeevan Rehabilitation Centre, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad from 2nd July to 5th July 2012. Speaking to the participants Fr. Thomas Koshy stressed the importance of art-based tools in expression and communication in vulnerable children. During the four days training, the participants familiarized with using multimodalities of art forms to facilitate free flow of expression among children.



SJPU Poster Release- Dos and Don'ts

On 2nd July 2012 a poster was released on the Dos and Don'ts of Police under JJ (C&P) Act 2000 and Amendment Act, 2006 efforts are also being undertaken for the distribution of posters in all the Police Stations of Andhra Pradesh. Smt. Sabitha Indrareddy, Honourable Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh, released the poster.



Achievements/ Impact

Over the last 18 years, Navajeevan Bala Bhavan has reached out to more than 60,000 young at risk and rehabilitated more than 30,000 of them. In this process, it has involved the young - both from the young at risk themselves (peer group) and from the more privileged communities and nations (volunteers). It has also demonstrated replication / scaling by taking the work to several municipalities and corporations of AP. Krishna District CRMC organized 31 fact findings of various types of child rights violations in the district.

Cases Dealt by CRMC	
Child Rights Violations	No. of Cases
Sexual Abuse / Rape	13
Corporal Punishment in Schools	7
Care and Protection	5
Torture and Harassment	3
Child Marriage	2
Trafficking	1
Total	31

Challenges

The challenges faced by Navajeevan Bala Bhavan are as follows:

- The prescribed qualifications of the members of JJB or CWCs are not being implemented to the core.
- The functioning of Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) as prescribed in the Act and Rules is still a long shot.
- No sufficient and active awareness among public regarding alternative care- Foster Care.
- Though the Act speaks the matter of convergence between CWCs, JJBs, SJPU, media and allied systems, no grass root efforts are done in this regard.

Learning

Navajeevan Bala Bhavan has discovered the following through its 18 years of experience:

- To Bring out District level Child Rights Forums and watchdogs (Child Rights Violations Monitoring Cells) and make the members accountable for the functioning of JJBs and CWCs.
- To lobby with the State Government to depute qualified members.
- To lobby with District Police Departments to organize a focused capacity building session of Juvenile Justice and functioning of SJPU.
- Undertake efforts to promote Life Skills Education in Child Care Institutions (CCIs), especially in government homes.
- Promotion of different forms of Alternative Care – kinship/foster care, group care homes, etc.
- There is a necessity of having a safety net or supportive network in the communities that could assist the young people when leaving a care institution

Way Forward

Navajeevan Bala Bhavan has developed interventions that are scalable and sustainable. The organisation wishes to take this intervention forward in the following manner:

- ***Monitoring/ facilitating the improvement of standards of care in 27 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) directly maintained by the government:***
 - the plan is to give emphasis, in the context of JJ Act, on improving the standards of care and infrastructure, with special focus on building psycho-social coping strategies for the children accommodated in 27 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) directly maintained by the government – for the children in conflict with law as well as in need of care and protection.
 - As part of providing psycho-social support to the inmates of these homes, special training programme, including Life Skill Education, is planned. This programme is being designed towards developing positive thinking, preparing children to set goals and take charge of their lives once they are out of these homes. Accordingly, Training of Trainers (ToT) are being organized for a team of counselors.

Emphasis is being given to strengthen the activities of Child Rights Monitoring Committee (CRMC), and the plan is to extend the activities of Child Welfare Committee in the district of Krishna, the home district of Navajeevan JJ Desk :

- The plan is to extend the activities of CWC to all the 4 divisional head quarters of the Krishna district, with the support of CRMC team members, and thereby, making CWC and CRMC more accessible to more number of families of the interior villages, especially the child victims and neglected children of the marginalized communities.
- By extending the activities of CRMC and CWC to divisional head quarters and other mandals, more child victims and neglected children, especially of the socially and economically marginalized communities/families, will be reached out in a year, with increased CWC sittings (at least 4 days in a week at different places) and fact finding of the cases of child rights violations by CRMCs with CWC's authorization.

