

**INTRODUCTION**

The child is a soul with a being, a nature and capacities of its own, who must be helped to find them, to grow into the maturity, into fullness on physical and vital energy and most breadth, depth, height, of its emotional, intellectual and spiritual being. Children need special care and protection just because of their tender age and immature mind. They have few rights and legal entitlements that are being acknowledged nationally and internationally. Several articles dealing with their liberty, livelihood, and development of childhood are included in the Constitution. Article 21 A of the Constitution states that right to education – “the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6-14 years in such a manner as the state may, by law determine. Article 23 states that prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour. Article 24 – “prohibition of employment of children in factories etc. no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or be engaged in any hazardous employment. THE CHILD LABOUR (PROHIBITION AND REGULATION ACT 1986, bans on the employment of children ie those who have not completed the age of fourteen years, in specified occupations. Regulate the conditions of work of children in employment where they are not prohibited from working. In spite of these Children right violation is always major concern and challenge before process of development.

**FORMS OF CHILDREN RIGHT VIOLATION IN INDIA TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN, PARTICULARLY FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

With instances where children just disappear overnight in few areas of India, as very as 1 in every 8 min. There are three reasons behind child trafficking: a) Extreme poverty and lack of opportunities b) Child trafficking as a highly profitable business and c) Lack of enforcement of child rights.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, INCLUDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Biggest reason for unreported and unaddressed incidence of violence against children is a social stigma. 2012 saw 9500 child and adolescent murders, making India the third largest contributor to child homicide (WHO 2014, Global Health Estimates), while 1 in 3 adolescent girls between 15 to 19 years experience violence (physical, sexual or emotional), from their significant others. Child abuse is often unreported when

it involves family members or by people in areas such as schools or government homes, due to the classic family structure practiced in rural India. According to the ‘UN Special Rapporteur On Violence Against Women’, there has been a 336% increase of child rape cases from 2001 to 2011. Neglect and carelessness are the important components of emotional violence, and it occurs when children are not given enough attention, food, or recreation or leisure time.

**CHILD LABOUR, INCLUDING WORKING IN HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS**

It is not rare to find thousands of children working in the fields for 14-16 hours a day, in labour intensive professions like farming, stone cutting sector, mining industry, embroidery. This is being worsened by the entry of multinational companies into India, to exploit the lack of accountability in labour law and cheap labour. Child labour is reportedly highest among Scheduled tribes, Muslims, Schedule castes and OBC children. Forced displacement, caused by 'development' projects migration to urban areas, farmer suicides, and armed conflict is also another cause of child labour. This often results in children being exploited into bonded child labour. These children become psychologically and mentally disturbed, they thus become dependent on their 'owners'.

**DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS IN EDUCATION AND IN ACCESS TO FOOD**

Girls are to be the future mothers besides future political makers and leaders. There is a saying in Andhra Pradesh "Bringing up a daughter is like watering a plant in another's courtyard." While there is extensive research about the socio-economic impact of gender discrimination, the biggest effect is on the mind of tomorrow's women, Indian girls, who are deeply influenced by the myth of female inferiority. This translates to a generation of women unconscious and unaware of their rights and capabilities. Even at birth, India's masses prefer a boy over a girl. Girls in India are given less food (including access to breastfeeding), less healthcare consultations, making anaemia and mineral deficiency common. Despite high female literacy, Delhi, Gujarat and Rajasthan etc still show discrimination against girls. This is seen in the high dropout rate of girls, who are expected to help with household work and taking care of younger siblings. This worsens the rural gender gap in female and male equality, as girls underperform in school even they are talented. Depriving

a child of their basic rights, just because they are a girl, is a gross violation of child rights.

## **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE BASIS OF CASTE, TRIBE OR INDIGENOUS BACKGROUND**

People belonging to scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs) have faced discrimination throughout generations from the very beginning, and this trend is famous even to this day. According to Parliamentary findings, violence against the SC/ST community has increased over the years. An upward graph emerges when seeing the number of cases lodged under the SCs/STs Prevention of Atrocities Act in 1999 (34,799), and 2001 (39,157 cases) a large number of cases of violence against SC/ST are reported in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh has the largest number of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes. Child abuse is prevalent in Dalit and other tribal communities, and summary of violence, rape, and torture are common. These acts are executed not only by high caste Hindus but also separatists and insurgents. Literacy among SC/ST population is incredibly low, and states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have the lowest SC enrolment.

### **WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD (SOLUTIONS)**

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Early Childhood Development is a care from pregnancy to early childhood (0-6 years). There are around 158.7 million children under the age of six years. The proportion of underweight children under 5 years is still as high as 30%. Also around 38% of children are stunted out of which 17.4% are severely stunted. (RSOC 2013-14). Poor nutrition of the woman during adolescence and then at later stage of pregnancy, lack of social security, absence of maternity benefits leads to malnutrition in women and subsequently to infants. Learning begins at birth and it often continues through all age groups. By 5 years 90% of the brain development takes place. First five years (especially the period of birth to 3 years) is where the brain growth takes place. Lack of proper nutrition, safe drinking water facilities and sanitation, repeated infections are few aspects which if not addressed have a potential to cause irreversible damage to child's growth and development.

#### **ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MALNUTRITION:**

Early childhood, spanning from birth to the age of six years, is the crucial period when the foundations of cognitive, physical and socio-emotional development, mentality, language and personality are laid. It is also the phase of maximum vulnerability as deprivation can seriously impact a child's health, growth and learning potential. Therefore, we need to ensure that children in

this age group get the best of nutrition, health and learning. Malnutrition is a complex child rights issue which requires intervention both at policy level as well as micro level individual growth monitoring plan. India has not been very successful in achieving its set targets under the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2015 in decreasing the level of under nutrition in the country. There needs to be a systemic change in the way our government reacts to this national emergency of malnutrition, especially in the marginalised communities. Proper implementation of schemes, rigorous follow ups and fresh surveys are absolutely imperative in looking at solutions.

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:**

Learning begins from birth even in the womb of mother and it seamlessly continues through all age groups. It has been scientifically established that early infant stimulation is the first step in the education tree. Early stimulation can be successfully addressed through home based stimulation techniques where trained front line workers can be enabled and they can train parents and guardians for early infant stimulation.

"Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education". It is important to work on the system of trained workforce in crèches and day care centers and address the issues in the non-formal work setting. Provisions for primary education should be made. Every scheme made by government should be implemented.

#### **NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP):**

After few years, India's education policy is yet again up for revision. India is home to 400 million children, the New Education Policy (NEP) has tremendous potential to directly affect a large percentage of India's population. Hence, it is extremely important that decision makers across all levels, work together to ensure that a robust structure and mechanism is created for our children to learn, develop and flourish. Policy which addresses various existing challenges will be a positive step in ensuring that all children enjoy their right to education. Duty bearers for children should take a promise that the childhood of our country's children shouldn't be spent begging on streets or working in agricultural fields or construction sites, but in well-equipped classrooms. According to the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2014-15 data, although 197.66 million children were enrolled in schools, 7.4 million children did not see the doors of any school. So even today, students at the lower strata of society are struggling to attend schools on a daily basis. The NEP therefore has to carve a pathway to ensure that children who are poor and marginalised get an education that they deserve. The policy needs to create an equitable and quality education system so that the educational

experiences of the child aren't merely dependent upon their socio-economical profile, or geographical presence. Universalisation of education must be checked and followed so that dropout rates will be less. Inclusive education should be strictly implemented in every area so that no child remains far from education.

#### **ESTABLISHING STRONG PROTECTION MECHANISM:**

Stimulation of infants must be the first step in the educational ladder. Infant Stimulation is to be addressed through : Home-based stimulation programmes where trained front line workers train parents for infant stimulation. Trained workforce should be provided in crèches and day care centres.

#### **ENABLING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION:**

Inclusion integrates all children into mainstream classrooms. Inclusion in education means two things- To reduce exclusion from and within education. To approach towards the diversity of learning needs of students. All Indicators of Education show that children from disadvantaged groups, girls, have higher dropout rates, lower transition rates as well as lower learning achievements, and are more forced to child labor, trafficking, and child marriage

#### **CONCLUSION**

Children are and will be future of our society. In the changing and complex situation where world society facing several problems caring child for future is the first most concern for nation builders. Though India have highest population of children in the world, children's life in the country is at very risk reported by many organizations time to time. Many reports on children rights violation says that India is the country where maximum recorded crime is done against children in the world. With the span of child rights violation in

India, it is clear that this is an issue which needs to be addressed at many levels, via a comprehensive program. For that –strong protective mechanism, comprehensive educational and developmental policy, awareness programme, strict legal provisions have to made. In spite of these strong monitoring system is very much important to ensure security and quality life for every children in the country. All children deserve a chance at a happy childhood and together we can help them by getting one and by taking some steps for them.

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