



DCWC Newsclip

Vol. XIX

Issue 9

September 2013



2013

Documentation Centre on Women and Children (DCWC)
**National Institute of Public Cooperation
and Child Development (NIPCCD)**

5, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas
New Delhi - 110016

DCWC Newsclip

About the Document

DCWC receives about daily 21 newspapers (including 9 Hindi newspapers) published from different regions of the country. Important news items, including various schemes and programmes of Government of India focusing on women and children issues are picked and arranged subjectwise under broad heads and sub-heads. These are collated monthly as 'DCWC Newsclip'. Its digital version is posted on the NIPCCD website (www.nipccd.nic.in) on the slot dedicated for Documentation Centre on Women and Children for reference of readers.

CONTENTS

Subject

Page No.

1. Child Welfare

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 1.1 | Child Protection (Child Abuse/Missing Children/Child Rights/Child Labour/Juveniles/Child Adoption/Observation Homes/Juvenile Homes/Reform Home/ Children -Domestic Abuse /Trafficking) | 1 |
| 1.2 | Role of Civil Society/Statutory Bodies/Civil Society Initiative (Initiative-Don Bosco Society/RWA/Ragpickers/Adolescent Boys) | 11 |
| 1.3 | Education/Education System (Inclusive Education/Scholarship/Moral Education/Quality of Education/Special Educator/Guidelines- Child Abuse Monitoring in Schools/ Schools-Sanitation /Pre-schools/Primary Schools/Playschools/RTE/Guidelines-Schools/Parents/School Dropouts) | 13 |
| 1.4 | Girl Child/Child Sex Ratio/Female Foeticide | 22 |
| 1.5 | Child Welfare-other issues (Mother Tongue/Cyber Bullying/Guidelines- Prevention of Child Abuse/Online Safety/Debate-Juvenile Rapist/International Literacy Day) | 24 |

2. Health and Nutrition issues

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.1 | Child/Adolescent Health (Diabetes/HFMD/Polio) | 29 |
| 2.2 | Mental Health/ Behavior Problems | |
| 2.3 | Nutrition/Malnutrition/ Dietary patterns (Junk Foods/Malnutrition) | 31 |
| 2.4 | Women Health/Reproductive Health (Surrogacy) | 33 |
| 2.5 | Health and Nutrition - other issues (B12 Deficiency/Malnutrition-Golden Rice/ Nutritional Garden/Vitamin-D/Cardiovascular Disease-Children /National Nutrition Week) | 34 |

3. Women/Gender issues

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 3.1 | Women Empowerment (Women Education) | 39 |
| 3.2 | Marriage/Dowry/Divorce (Marriage Registration) | 41 |
| 3.3 | Violence and Crime against Women (Domestic Violence/Rape Cases/Acid Victims-Free Treatment) | 42 |
| 3.4 | Women in difficult Circumstances /Women in distress | |
| 3.5 | Women Safety/Support Services (Women Helpline/Safety of Women- Status Check/Online Platform-Sexual Harassment) | 47 |

3.6	Women -other issues (Gender Issues/Widow Pension/Gender Sensitization/Rape Victim-Compensation/Working Women's Hostel/Homeless/Campaign-Safety for Women/Women Toilets Mandatory/Rules -Acid Sale)	50
-----	--	----

4. Demography and Vital Statistics

4.1	Census Data/Evaluation/Survey Reports (Delhi Human Development Report/UN Survey/Literacy Rate/CRY Report-Missing Children)	55
4.2	Birth Rate/ Mortality Rate/ Morbidity Rate (IMR)	61
4.3	Demography and other relevant statistics (Conviction Rate- Rape Cases/UN Survey- Drug Use in India/NCRB Statistics/Delhi Statistical Handbook/Violent Crimes)	63

5. Schemes/ Programmes relating to Women and Children

5.1	Schemes/Programmes (Annshri Yojana/Rajiv Gandhi Anna Yojana/Manodhairya Yojana/ Mid Day Meal/ ICDS/Scheme-Direct Benefit Transfer/Scheme for Girls/Sanitary Scheme-Rural Girls/Scholarship Scheme- Students of SCs/OBCs / Schemes-Labour Class/ Mass Deworming Programme)	67
5.2	Policies (ECCE Policy)	77
5.3	Legislation/Bills/ Court Orders (Juveniles/JJ Act/POCSO Act/Surrogacy/Fast Track Courts/ Rape Laws/ Food Security Bill)	78
5.4	Budget Allocation/Funding (Nirbhaya Fund)	84
5.5	Schemes - Miscellaneous (Flagship Programme 2013-14/ Ahimsa Messenger/CARA/ NRHM Projects)	85

Source

<i>Amar Ujala</i>	<i>Free Press Journal</i>	<i>Pioneer</i>
<i>Asian Age</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Punjab Kesari</i>
<i>Assam Tribune</i>	<i>Hindustan (H)</i>	<i>Rajasthan Patrika</i>
<i>Dainik Jagran (H)</i>	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	<i>Rashtriya Sahara (H)</i>
<i>Deccan Chronicle</i>	<i>Indian Express</i>	<i>Statesman</i>
<i>Deccan Herald</i>	<i>Jansatta (H)</i>	<i>Times of India</i>
<i>Economic Times</i>	<i>Nav Bharat Times (H)</i>	<i>Tribune (H)</i>

1. Child Welfare

1.1 Child Protection (Child Abuse/Missing Children/Child Rights/Child Labour/Juveniles/Child Adoption/Observation Homes/Juvenile Homes/Reform Home/ Children -Domestic Abuse /Trafficking)

Govt comes out with stiffer rules to check child abuse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

SCHOOLS and other institutions need to be more stringent in dealing with cases of child abuse, Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit said on Friday while releasing and notifying guidelines on prevention of child abuse.

"A mere framing of rules to check incidents of child abuse is not enough. Efforts are needed to spread awareness and ensure proper implementation of the guidelines," she said. The Guidelines for Prevention of Child Abuse have been formulated by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR).

"Children are the future and if we abuse and ill-treat them, what would our future society be like? It would be a traumatised one... It is a matter of satisfaction that Delhi has taken the lead in tackling this issue. These guidelines will serve as a model for other states to follow," she said.

So far, there are no comprehensive set of guidelines for the prevention of child abuse at the state or Central level, despite India being a signatory to a host of international covenants focusing on child protection.

The guidelines released by the Delhi government have laid down broad principles of child protection safeguards, with an emphasis on the need for awareness and education regarding the issue not only in homes and schools, but also at the family and community level.

Since Rule-60 (1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, lays down the need for every institution to have systems to prevent abuse, the guidelines have also incorporated a model child protection policy as an annexure.

The guidelines will be implemented by the Delhi government through the departments concerned and the DCPCR will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of its provisions.

The Indian Express, September 7, 2013, P.5 (Child Abuse)

Over 3,000 kids missing from State still untraced

Chethan Kumar

BANGALORE: Several initiatives by the government notwithstanding, as many as 3,218 children have remained untraced in Karnataka between 2009-2012, according to official figures.

Senior police officers, while pointing out that the official figures of 'missing cases' seldom project the reality, say that for every 100 cases that get reported, there are many that go unreported.

"The number we have on hand is based on the complaints lodged. And, we have been able to trace many children," one of them said.

According to statistics with the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), a total of 13,769 children had gone missing from January 2009 to December 2012, of which they have successfully traced 10,551 of them. Of these, 6,073 children were boys while the remaining 7,696 were girls.

While 2010 saw the highest number of missing cases being registered in the State at 4,845, there were 3,996, 3,838 and 1,090 children missing in 2009, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

During the same time (2009-2012), the number of missing children in Tamil Nadu stood at 10,429, of whom, 2,856 have remained untraced.

In Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the same stood at 17,102 and 5,225, and, 4,484 and 1,034, respectively.

Officials said that there are several mechanisms being put in place in the state to bring down the number of such incidents.

"The Centre, in January 2012 has issued a detailed advisory on missing children, which also deals with the steps to be taken for tracing them. The directive throws light on how to use technology (computerisation of records) which is to be sent to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, enhance involvement of NGOs and other organisations, have community awareness programmes, etc," an officer said.

SC order

He also pointed out that the Supreme Court has, in June this year, directed all states and union territories to file an FIR in each of such cases and not treat them lightly.

Another officer said that in majority of the cases involving girls, they are abducted while such incidents are fewer when it comes to boys.

"While many girls also run away from home, in most cases they are kidnapped in an attempt to push them into bonded domestic labour or into flesh trade. Many boys, however, are traced in neighbouring towns or cities working in places after having run away from home," he said.

DH News Service

	REPORTED MISSING	UNTRACED
■ Karnataka	13,769	3,218
■ Kerala	4,484	1,034
■ Tamil Nadu	10,429	2,856
■ Andhra Pradesh	17,102	5,225
■ Maharashtra	57,498	12,491

Where are they?



Deccan Herald, September 3, 2013, P.2 (Missing Children)

राजधानी से 4086 बच्चे लापता, तलाश की कोशिश नहीं

नई दिल्ली, 16 सितंबर (जनसंज्ञा)। लापता बच्चों की तलाश की प्राथमिकता नहीं दी जा रही है। इस बाबत हुई जन सुनवाई में अभिभावकों ने इस समस्या पर अधिक ध्यान दिए जाने की मांग की। राजधानी दिल्ली में लापता बच्चों के बढ़ते मामलों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किए जाने के प्रयास में बाल अधिकार की संस्थाओं की ओर से दिन भर की गई जन सुनवाई में कई चौकाने वाले तथ्य सामने आए।

दिल्ली के 10 जिलों में आरटीआइ के जरिए प्राप्त आंकड़े के मुताबिक 1 जनवरी, 2012 से 31 दिसंबर 2012 के बीच 4086 बच्चे लापता हैं। इसमें साउथ ईस्ट (577), ईस्ट (555), नॉर्थ ईस्ट (502) और बाहरी दिल्ली (747) बच्चे लापता हैं। इसके अलावा 1 जनवरी 2011 से 31 दिसंबर 2011 के बीच लापता बच्चों की कुल संख्या 5004 थी, जबकि 2010 में 1 जनवरी से 31 दिसंबर के बीच लापता बच्चों की संख्या 2161 थी। इसमें लापता बच्चों की बढ़ती संख्या के लिए जिम्मेदार कारकों को सामने लाया गया और उनको तलाश की राह में आने वाली चुनौतियों और समस्याओं पर चर्चा हुई। इसके लिए राज्य के विभिन्न विभागों के बीच समन्वय की कमी को प्रबल कारण माना जा रहा है।

जिन बिंदुओं पर जन सुनवाई में चिंता जताई गई, उनमें ये बच्चे कहाँ गए होंगे? क्या उनका अपहरण किया गया है? क्या उन्हें बेच दिया गया है? क्या वे जिंदा हैं? आदि सवाल शामिल थे। लापता बच्चों की तलाश व्यवस्थित तरीके से किए जाने मांग की गई। दिल्ली से लापता बच्चों के अभिभावकों ने नेशनल कमिशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्ड राइट्स, स्टेट कमिशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्ड राइट्स, इंटीग्रेटेड चाइल्ड प्रोटेक्शन स्कॉम, दिल्ली और दिल्ली पुलिस के अधिकारियों के पैनल के समक्ष अपने मामले पेश किए। आरटीआइ के जरिए प्राप्त आंकड़े को क्राई और एपीआर ने आधार बनाकर इस जन सुनवाई का आयोजन किया।

एनसीपीसीआर में सदस्य नीना नायक ने कहा कि जैसे ही बच्चा खोता है तो बाल सुरक्षा के सभी हितभागियों को फौरन सचेत हो कर उसको प्राथमिकता के आधार पर ढूँढना चाहिए। बच्चे को ढूँढने का काम व्यवसायिक ढंग से करना चाहिए। राज्य के सभी बाल सुरक्षा प्राधिकारियों के बीच समन्वय होना आवश्यक है।

Jansatta (H), September 17, 2013, P.3 (Missing Children)

सरकारों की प्राथमिकता में नहीं है मासूम



आशुतोष झा, नई दिल्ली

बच्चों की मासूमियत सरकारों की प्राथमिकता में नहीं है। दिल्ली और महाराष्ट्र की कोर्टों में सरकारी हानि, मध्य प्रदेश में भाजपा, उत्तर प्रदेश में सपा या फिर पश्चिम बंगाल में तृणमूल कांग्रेस की सरकार, हाल एक सा है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट की लताड़ और जनता की गुहार के बावजूद गुमशुदा बच्चों को मां की आँचलें वापस दिलाने में हर किसी का रिकार्ड बहुत खराब है। अधूरे रिकार्ड के अनुसार भी पिछले डेढ़ साल में गुमशुदा 80 हजार से ज्यादा बच्चों में सरकारें लगभग साठ फीसद को नहीं ढूँढ़ पाई हैं। पुलिस थानों में दर्ज मामलों की ही बात हो तो सालाना लगभग एक लाख बच्चे गुम होते हैं। बल्कि आंकड़े तो यहाँ तक कहते हैं कि हर घंटे छह से

वर्ष 2012 (अंतिम आंकड़े प्रतीक्षित)

राज्य	गुमशुदा	मिले	तापता
दिल्ली	4917	2543	2374
बिहार	1466	310	1156
गुजरात	3798	3350	448
हरियाणा	1211	671	540
मध्यप्रदेश	कोई डाटा नहीं		
महाराष्ट्र	15443	11341	4102
उत्तरप्रदेश	3857	2305	1552
पश्चिम बंगाल	4956	1851	3105

वर्ष 2013 में जुलाई तक (अंतिम आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं)

राज्य	गुमशुदा	मिले	तापता
दिल्ली	2887	832	2055
बिहार	326	130	196
गुजरात	कोई डाटा नहीं		
मध्य प्रदेश	कोई डाटा नहीं		
उत्तर प्रदेश	कोई डाटा नहीं		
हरियाणा	232	116	116
राजस्थान	1148	562	1180
पंजाब	227	40	187

2012 अनुसार भी पिछले डेढ़ साल में 40 और 2013 के अब तक के अधूरे आंकड़ों में कुछ राज्यों को छोड़ दिया जाए तो हर कोई उदासीन है। उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल और मध्य प्रदेश जैसे राज्य तो अब आंकड़े देने से भी कतराने लगे हैं। संभव है कि बचपन बचाओ आंदोलन सुप्रीम कोर्ट में इन राज्यों के खिलाफ शिकायत करे। बहरहाल, जो अधूरे आंकड़े हैं उसके

अनुसार भी पिछले डेढ़ साल में 40 हजार अधिक बच्चों को राज्य सरकारों अब तक घर की सुरक्षित चारदीवारी में वापस नहीं पहुँचा पाई है। इस दौरान राजधानी दिल्ली में लगभग आठ हजार बच्चे गुम हैं। सरकार की शिथिलता का आकलन इससे लगाया जा सकता है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बावजूद देश के थानों में इसके लिए अलग से अधिकारी की नियुक्ति नहीं की गई है।

Dainik Jagran (H), September 1, 2013, P.17 (Missing Children)

गरीबी ने गांव छीना, शहर ने बच्चे

संजीव कुमार मिश्र, नई दिल्ली

किसी जमाने में जमीन उनकी रोजी-रोटी का जरिया हुआ करती थी, लेकिन शहरीकरण के मकड़जाल और गलत सरकारी नीति के कारण खेती करना मुनाफे का काम नहीं रहा। किसानों तक सरकारी योजनाओं का फायदा नहीं पहुँचा। इन्हें गरीबी की वजह से खेत बेच दिल्ली जैसे बड़े शहरों का रख करना पड़ा। यहाँ औद्योगिक इलाकों में रहने के लिए छत मिल गई, लेकिन खुले में रहने के कारण उनके बच्चे गुम होते रहे। तस्करो के लिए ये परिवार सॉफ्ट टारगेट बन गए। बच्चों को अगवाकर बाल मजदूरी और देह व्यापार में लगाए जाने का गोरखधंधा राजधानी में बदस्तूर जारी है। यह खुलासा बच्चों के लिए काम करने वाली संस्था चाइल्ड राइट एंड यू (क्राइ) क्राइ द्वारा सोमवार को जारी रिपोर्ट में हुआ है। क्राइ ने आरटीआइ के जरिए दिल्ली पुलिस से जानकारी मांगी थी कि दिल्ली में गत एक वर्ष में

जिले	बच्चे	बच्चियाँ	कुल
उत्तरी दिल्ली	88	78	166
पश्चिमी दिल्ली	194	189	383
दक्षिण-पश्चिमी दिल्ली	209	205	414
पूर्वी दिल्ली	277	278	555
नई दिल्ली	29	17	46
बाहरी दिल्ली	339	408	747
दक्षिणी दिल्ली	170	192	362
उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली	396	336	732
उत्तर-पश्चिमी दिल्ली	जानकारी नहीं		383
दक्षिण-पूर्वी दिल्ली	260	316	576
कुल	1962	2019	4364

1 जनवरी 2012 से 31 दिसंबर 2012 तक के आंकड़े कितने बच्चे गुम हुए और किन जगहों से। पता चला कि दिल्ली की अवैध कालोनियाँ, दरदरा गाँव, जेजे कॉलोनियाँ बच्चों के लिए सुरक्षित नहीं हैं। संस्था ने रिपोर्ट में छह ऐसे सामान्य स्थानों का पता लगाया है, जहाँ से सबसे ज्यादा बच्चे गुम हुए। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, दिल्ली की 64 प्रतिशत आबादी जेजे कलस्टर, झुग्गियों, अवैध कालोनियों, जेजे पुनर्वास कालोनियों, ग्रामीण गाँव व शहरी गाँव में रहती है। हर साल गुम होने वाले बच्चों में से अधिकतर इन्हीं इलाकों के होते हैं।

राजधानी के अनधिकृत व ग्रामीण इलाकों से लगातार गायब हो रहे बच्चे

आरटीआइ के तहत दिल्ली पुलिस से मिली जानकारी से खुलासा

तस्करो के लिए सॉफ्ट टारगेट बने गरीब परिवारों के बच्चे

स्थान	अनुमानित जनसंख्या	आबादी प्रतिशत
जेजे कलस्टर	40.72	14.8
झुग्गी इलाके	26.64	19.1
जेजे पुनर्वास कॉलोनी	17.76	12.7
शहरी गाँव	8.8	6.4
गाँव	7.40	5.3
अवैध कॉलोनी	7.40	5.3
कुल	88.8	63.6



Dainik Jagran (H), September 18, 2013, P.1 (Missing Children)

Cops indifferent to missing kids'

TEDIOUS TASK Parents allege that the police take too much time in registering cases of missing children, losing crucial time to rescue them quickly

Neelam Pandey
neelam.pandey@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: As if the agony of losing her 12-year-old son, Rahul, was not enough for Lalita Devi, the trauma worsened after she was not even able to register an FIR.

"I don't even remember how many times I had gone to the police station to register my complaint. Finally, 10 months after my son had gone missing, an FIR was registered with the help of an NGO," said Lalita Devi, whose son went missing on September 27, 2012.

The episode casts serious aspersions over the seriousness with which police take action against incidents of missing children, who most often than not, land into the hands of human traffickers.

A public hearing organised on Monday by the NGO, CRY, highlighted how registration of an FIR in such cases was a tedious process.

Several people, whose children had gone missing, participated in the hearing and shared their experiences on how difficult it was to register an FIR.

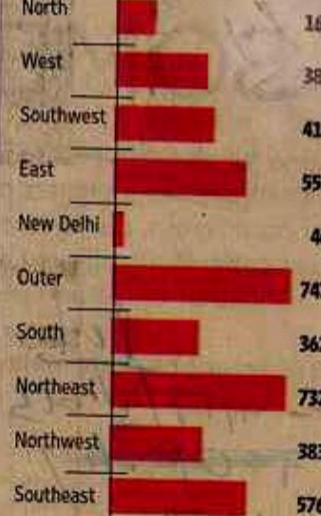
The hearing was also aimed at highlighting the issue of an increasing number of children who go missing from the city as well as the rising number of those who remain untraced.

With the number of untraced children increasing at an alarming rate (nine every day in 2013 from three in 2010), parents want the police to fast-track action in such cases.

According to child rights experts, there is a need to raise awareness in society about child rights. "If a police officer refuses to register an FIR, you can approach the senior officers. If the parents are aware about their rights and are informed about the right procedure to be followed, it will create pressure on the police to fast-track action," said MM Vidhyarthi, member of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

MISSING KIDS IN 2012

Cases across Delhi's districts



According to experts, outer, south-east and east districts of Delhi are the most vulnerable areas for children for the past many years. Nina Nayak, member, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said: "As soon as a child goes missing, all the relevant stakeholders should be alerted for fast-tracking of the case. Inputs of family are paramount in the process of tracing the child and it should be done in a professional manner. There should be convergence of action between all child protection authorities in the state."

"There are no deadlines for police department to trace missing children, which shows the apathy and non-serious approach of the police department in handling these cases," said Sona Moitra, regional director (North) CRY.

Hindustan Times, September 17, 2013, P.4 (Missing Children)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF MISSING CHILDREN

14 children, on an average, go missing daily in Delhi

3519 children went missing in 2012

3395 cases of missing children reported in 2011

38% of missing kids leave home on their own volition, said a Delhi

Police analysis

21% of them leave

home after being scolded by parents while 17% lose their way back home

3% of the total cases were of kidnapping with criminal intention

Hindustan Times, September 3, 2013, P.3 (Missing Children)

Verdict gives minor a chance to reform, say child rights activists

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 31 AUG: While the general populace appears to be disappointed with the decision of the Juvenile Justice Board of sentencing the minor accused in the gang-rape case to a three-year stay in a special reform home, experts and child right activists are of the opinion that there is need to address the 'criminal mind'.

Kailash Satyarthi, founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), said this was the maximum punishment awarded to the juvenile under the current law.

"There is need to redefine the notion of juvenile. The age of a juvenile in India is as per the international laws and it should not be reduced. However, in heinous

crimes like rape and murder, the juvenile should be sent to reform homes for at least a period of five to six years," said Mr Satyarthi.

On the other hand, some activists claimed that a significant number of reform homes in the country do not abide by the required parameters.

"The staff are ill-trained and they do not behave well with the juveniles. Some reform homes are just like other shelter homes where the juveniles just complete their days. There is need to address the 'criminal mind' otherwise, the whole effort will go waste," said Abhilasha Kumari, director of Apne Aap Worldwide, a women's rights organisation.

Many people, however, expressed disap-

pointment over the verdict saying the punishment was too little for the heinous crime the juvenile committed.

"Justice has not been delivered to the victim. If such a lenient verdict is given for such rape and murders, other teenagers will follow suit and land in the reform homes," said an angry protester.

Another protester said he was not in favour of hanging the accused as it is not a permanent solution.

"We should take steps to prevent such crimes. Parents and teachers should play vital roles to educate the younger generation. We should teach them values. India should ensure enforcement of strict laws to protect women, otherwise the situation is not going to change," he said.

The Statesman, September 1, 2013, P.2 (Child Rights)

Concern over high child rights abuse rate in NE

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 4 – The Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC), an independent regional non-governmental organization holding general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, has urged the Human Rights Council to engage in constructive dialogues with the Government of India to ensure that the government take all measures to reduce threats faced by children in conflict zones in India, including the North East.

In its written statement, the ALRC has mentioned that a host of factors, including ethnic conflicts, have affected the future of the children in the region. The ALRC also stated that the different insurgent groups in the North East, including the ULFA, have been recruiting children and teenagers in the region.

The report regretted that though India ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1992 with a declaration on Article 32 and the two optional Protocols to the Convention on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on November 30, 2005 and on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography

on August 16, 2005, yet, children in India face manifold forms of human rights abuses, mostly in regions where armed conflicts exist, like in the north-eastern region of the country.

"Multiple conflicts between armed insurgent groups and between some of these groups and the government dominated the region since the last five decades. Insurgent groups by force recruit children in the region," says the report pointing out that ULFA uses teenagers to ferry explosives and to detonate grenades.

On the other hand, the report also expressed concern over the high school dropout rate in all the eight States in the region.

"The dropout rate of children of age group 6-11 from school is 45.91% for boys and 44.87% for girls. This is way above the national average, which is 31.81% for boys and 25.42% for girls.

For the age group 6-14, the dropout rate is even higher, with the rate of boys leaving school at 60.08% and girls at 59.32% in comparison to the national average 50.84%," the report says.

The report also says that frequent strikes by warring ethnic and political groups have affected the mobility of children and often forced closure of schools. It is common in the region, for schools to remain closed for four to six months due to strikes.

The Assam Tribune, September 5, 2013, P.7

(Child Rights)

800 child workers rescued, rehabbed in State in 2012-13

Chethan Kumar

BANGALORE: Close to 800 children in Karnataka have been rescued, rehabilitated and brought to mainstream by the Labour department under the National Child Labour Project Scheme in 2012-2013.

Sources in the department, while pointing out that the scheme primarily targets children working in hazardous working conditions, said that the problem of child labour continued to exist, especially in districts like Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Koppal, Davangere, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Bellary, Gulbarga, Kolar and Mandya.

"Both Bangalore Urban and Rural districts are plagued by the problem, given that they are regions of prosperity," one of them said.

No. of children mainstreamed

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Karnataka	135	3761	742
Maharashtra	5113	4532	4954
Andhra Pradesh	1858	13202	7840
Tamil Nadu	6325	5127	3537

As part of the project, officials conduct surveys to identify children working in hazardous occupations and processes.

"These children are the target group. Of them, those in the age group of 5-8 years will have to be mainstreamed directly to formal educational system through the SSA, while working children in the age group of 9-14 years will have to be rehabilitated through NCLP schools," the department maintains. At the special schools, the children rescued from haz-

ardous processes/occupations are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, healthcare et al, for a maximum period of three years before being mainstreamed into the formal educational system. At present, the scheme is operational in 266 districts of 20 states in the country.

According to the statistics available with *Deccan Herald*, 742 children have been mainstreamed during 2012-13, while as many as 3,761 and 135 chil-

dren were mainstreamed in 2011-12 and 2010-11, respectively. During the same time, the number of children mainstreamed in Andhra Pradesh stood at 1,858 (2010-11), 13,202 (2011-12) and 7,840 (2012-13), while it was 6,325, 5,127 and 3,537 in Tamil Nadu.

The scheme is not functional in Kerala, and the numbers for Maharashtra stand at 5,113, 4,532 and 4,954.

Another set of documents reveals that the Labour department, not as part of the said scheme, had conducted as many as 13,609, 11,593 and 7,174 inspections in 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

"Following the inspections, 479, 232 and 101 prosecutions were done for the three years, and as many as 112, 48, and 24 people have been convicted under relevant provisions in the law," a source said.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, September 21, 2013, P.7

(Child Labour)

Child workers rescued
Over 3,734 children have been rescued from different districts of Delhi between July 2009 and June 2013, says the labour department. This includes 2,357 children below 14 years and 1,377 children above 14.

Hindustan Times, September 5, 2013, P.5
(Child Labour)

अब भी 1680 लाख बाल श्रमिक



- पिछले साल से आधे बच्चे हुए मुक्त : आइएलओ
- खतरनाक कामों में लगे बाल श्रमिकों में आई खासी कमी

जिनेवा, प्रेट्र : पूरे विश्व में बाल श्रमिकों की संख्या वर्ष 2000 से अब तक एक-तिहाई कम हो चुकी है। हालांकि पिछले साल के मुकाबले अब तक आधे बच्चे मुक्त कराए गए हैं। इसके बावजूद अब भी इस पूरी दुनिया में 1680 लाख बाल श्रमिक हैं।

अगले माह ब्रासिलिया में विश्व बाल श्रम कांफ्रेंस से पहले अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए कहा कि पिछले साल 2460 लाख बाल श्रमिकों के मुकाबले इस साल बाल श्रमिकों की तादाद घटकर 1680 लाख ही रह गई है। हालांकि नाबालिगों के खतरनाक तरीकों के धंधों में लगे होने की तादाद सन 2000 में 1710 लाख थी जो अब घट कर मात्र 850 लाख ही रह गई है। ऐसे कार्यों को करने से बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य, सुरक्षा और नैतिक मूल्यों पर बुरा असर पड़ता था। आइएलओ के महानिदेशक गाय रायडर ने कहा कि वह सही दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं लेकिन इस कार्य में प्रगति बहुत ही धीमे हो रही है। अगर बच्चों के भविष्य के लिए कुछ कारगर करना है तो हर स्तर पर उनकी मदद करनी होगी। ऐसा करने की 1680 लाख वजहें अब भी हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय आइएलओ के प्रमुख कोस्टेंस थामस ने कहा कि विश्व भर के बच्चों के स्कूल ना जाकर काम करने की तादाद में खासी गिरावट आई है। फिर भी दुनिया में अब भी 11 फीसद बच्चे ऐसे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आइएलओ का लक्ष्य है कि वर्ष 2016 तक सभी बच्चों को खतरनाक कामों, कृषि, खनन और निर्माण क्षेत्र समेत सभी प्रकार की मजदूरी से मुक्त कराया जाए। जिनेवा में थामस ने कहा कि अभी जो रफ्तार है उससे ये लक्ष्य हासिल करना आसान नहीं है।

Dainik Jagran (H), September 24, 2013, P.14 (Child Labour)

FAKE ADOPTION 3 months on, CARA yet to bust racket

JAYA SHROFF BHALLA ■
NEW DELHI

It has been three months since the lid was blown off the fake inter-country adoption racket after nine missing children were traced to different countries and the National Commission of Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recommended immediate action, but the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is yet to make a move.

The nine children found missing from their homes over a period of one year were traced to America, Italy, Spain and Denmark, which figure in the list of top five nations adopting from India for the past three years.

The NCPCR has now

once again written to CARA reminding the country's adoption regulator about the nine children. "One missing case was from Tamil Nadu and who was found in Netherlands. Another case which was brought to us was also of a male child from Tamil Nadu who was located in USA. About six months back, we received a complaint from Hyderabad. The father had all documents substantiating his fear that his son was in USA," said an NCPCR member.

"A lot of these cases came to our attention earlier this year during an international meet for Mutual Cooperation on Inter-Country Adoption between India and other countries.

Continued on Page 4

From Page 1

While we sympathise with the parents, we are more worried about these children, who have been sent to foreign lands by these illegal agents, who have been working without any fear of law only for money," said the member.

CARA officials pointed out that as per the procedures followed by them, they traced children in such cases only for the first two years of adoptions. "However, we will look into the matter," they said.

According to the latest data released by CARA, a total of 74 children have been

adopted by foreign nations in the last three months alone.

Of them, the highest number of children have been taken by the USA (21), followed by Italy (15), United Kingdom (6), France (5), and four each by UAE, Belgium and Spain.

Between April 2012 and March 2013, there were 308 international adoptions, where USA adopted 111, which was the highest that year, followed by Italy (59) and Spain (48). In 2011-12, there were a total of 629 foreign adoptions.

NCPCR has been receiv-

ing complaints from NGOs, child rights activists and desperate parents looking for their missing children. In its letter to CARA, it stated that this kind of illegal inter-country adoptions were in complete violation of Article 4 of the Hague Convention according to which "an adoption can take place only if the competent authorities of the state of origin have established that the child is adoptable, consider inter-country adoption to be in child's best interests after considering all possibilities of in-country adoption" apart from obtain-

ing all necessary consent including that of the biological parents, if alive.

"Especially in cases, where children have gone missing and have been traced in foreign lands, it is extremely imperative to study the channels from where these kids were kidnapped and sent to foreign shores," said an official from Women and Child Development Ministry.

"Study of individual cases and their journey will help in identifying the agencies party to the crime and may also help nab culprits," said the official.

The Pioneer, September 2, 2013, P.1+4

(Inter-country Adoption)

Amendment in juvenile act will be counter-productive: Experts

Harish V Nair

harish.v.nair@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Eminent child rights activists termed demands for reducing the age of juvenility from 18 to 16 and to remove minors involved in heinous crimes from the ambit of juvenile justice act purely on the basis of the Delhi gang rape case a "knee-jerk reaction".

They said it would be "counter-productive" and "not a deterrent". Bharti Ali of 'HAQ' centre for child rights said, "Such amendments under public pressure based on one incident will have long-term dangerous consequences on the plight of lakhs of other juveniles."

Lawyer and juvenile justice expert Anant Asthana said the best way to ensure that juveniles do not get involved in horrific crimes like the Delhi gang rape and murder case was by effective

enforcement of various provisions of the act and creating an effective system to deal with children in need of care and protection.

Ved Kumari, eminent expert on juvenile justice law and ex-chairperson of the Delhi judicial academy, said: "While condemning the ghastly gang rape, I want to focus on the child involved in the offence. This boy was all of 13 years when he left home. Why did he leave? What was his home like? What happened to him in the last five years? What all has been responsible for turning him into this beast? Why did the juvenile justice system in place in our country not reach out to him and prevented him from being what he has become today?"

Asthana added, "A child does not turn into a monster on his own in a day. It takes years of apathy and abandonment to make a child go astray in life."

"One incident cannot be

a reason to disturb the well thought-out purpose of the law...it will not only disturb the momentum of efforts to improve protection of children but also open a Pandora's box wherein similar demands will be made for several other offences committed by juveniles considered serious in nature," said Amod Kanth, former chairperson of Delhi Commission for protection of child rights and general secretary of the NGO 'Prayas'.

The experts had written to former C.J.JS Verma, who had headed a panel which suggested changes in the anti-rape law, against making any changes in the approach towards juveniles.

Ministry proposes stricter punishment for juveniles

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Women and Child Welfare has proposed to bring in stricter punishment for juveniles - in the age group of 16-18 years - involved in heinous crime. The Ministry has proposed a quantum jump from a maximum of three years in a correction facility that can be awarded to a juvenile under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 currently to five, ten or even life (in the rarest of rare cases).

Speaking about its rather 'stern' stand on the subject of awarding more severe sentence to juvenile delinquents, Union Minister for Women and Child Welfare Krishna Tirath said: "We understand that there has to be an effective deterrent for children to stay away from crime. We are in the process of consulting with the Home and Law ministries to bring in much stricter punishment which could include life imprisonment."

Stating that juvenile delinquents would not be lodged in adult jails, the Minister said: "We are looking at offering these delinquents a place

where they will be given educational facilities, vocational training and the chance to be able to earn a decent livelihood when they step out into the society."

Stating that the society too has to understand that children form a minuscule number of the total people involved in crimes and even among them, that of juveniles involved in heinous crimes is even smaller, she said: "Juveniles involved in crime are a result of the circumstances they are exposed to when they are children. Harsh and violent circumstances often shape their future. The society too has to play a proactive role in ensuring that children grow up with their right to education and food intact."

The Minister also spoke about self-styled spiritual guru Asaram Bapu and said that blind faith is not advisable. "Spiritual gurus are supposed to guide and protect people, not supposed to rape innocent girls. The things that we associate with a 'saint' cannot be associated with Asaram and his actions now. Also the common man has to understand that blind faith in anything is dangerous," said the Minister.

Hindustan Times, September 10, 2013, P.5

(Juvenile Justice)

The Hindu, September 9, 2013, P.4

(Juvenile Justice)

'Juvenile' killer freed, threatens victim's sister

Police Will Cite Case To Seek Change In Law

Abhinav Garg | TNN

New Delhi: "I have been acquitted," says Vishal (all names changed), standing in front of his modest house in north Delhi's Rohini area. A few hundred metres away lives a family whose six-year-old daughter was raped and cut to pieces by him. The family lives in constant terror because Vishal, earlier this year, allegedly threat-

► 'Law freed killer', P 4

ened to do the same to their younger daughter.

A trial court had sentenced Vishal to death for the 2007 crime. But the Delhi high court held him to be a juvenile at the time of the crime. Since he had already spent five years in prison, Vishal walked free.

Now, Delhi Police says it plans to cite Vishal's case before the Supreme Court to push for reforms in the Juvenile Justice Act. Last amended over a decade ago, the Act makes no distinction on

Times View

This case should give food for thought to those who think the age of juveniles should be fixed irrespective of the nature of the crime. Clearly some of those who are chronologically 'juvenile' may not be so in other ways. In the urge to ensure that the young are treated humanely, we must not lose sight of the fact that the rights of their potential victims cannot be ignored. That is why many countries do not make the distinction between adult and juvenile absolute. They adjust it to the nature and seriousness of the crime. We once again urge our lawmakers to recognise that this is an urgent need in India too.

the nature of crime for those under 18 and allows for a maximum of a three-year term in a reform home.

Vishal brutally raped and murdered the child, chopped her body and threw the parts in two public toilets. A trial court gave him death holding his age to be 20 years. But relying on a bore ossification test — which put his age at 17-20 years at the time of the crime — and statements by his sisters, the high court declared him a "juvenile in conflict with law".

Family can't believe law let the killer roam free

► Continued from P1

The Delhi high court's ruling that Vishal was a juvenile at the time that he committed his crime is a decision whose repercussions are still playing out in the area, because Vishal was released from prison after the HC verdict.

When TOI visits the dirty, crowded neighbourhood, Vishal's demeanor varies from calmness to suspicion. He suddenly turns hostile and stopped talking during the short late-morning interaction. Living just a stone's throw away from his house, the family of the victim express shock that their daughter's killer is free even though he had been awarded the death penalty. Worse, he is back in their neighborhood.

The terrorized family had complained to the police in January, which lodged a case of criminal intimidation and criminal trespass against Vishal. He was released soon after on bail. Since then, locals say, the victim's parents remain tense over the safety of their younger daughter.

When TOI visits their house, it learns just how frag-

ile their existence is. Nager, the girl's father, is battling acute TB in a government hospital and his wife, Kaveri, spends most of her time tending to him. A relative, Manoj, takes care of the minor girl when she is home. But he too has to often step out for long periods for work.

"Our family just can't digest the fact that the killer is living right in our midst and the police and judiciary can't do anything about it," says

FEAR 24/7

Manoj, pointing in the direction of Vishal's house.

At Vishal's house, another layer of reality emerges. "Baree ho kar aaye hain (I've come out after being acquitted)" he says, when asked about his jail term. His elder sister and brother-in-law agree, oblivious of the legal nuances that granted him freedom. "My wife loves her brother madly. She sold off a plot to fund the lawyer's fee," says Arun, who does odd painting jobs for a living.

When TOI asks Arun why Vishal and his sister are getting ready to leave for Haridwar, he opens up a little. "Ev-

er since he returned from jail, Vishal behaves weirdly. He is always scared he will be taken back to prison. Recently, he disappeared for months and we had to file a missing report.

"We learnt that he had injured himself while he was with kawarias in Haridwar. So we lodged a missing report in Haridwar too after searching for him. We found him in a disheveled state and brought him home. But the Haridwar police wants to verify his identity before they close the case," Arun explained.

Both husband and wife insist Vishal suffers from mental illness and is on medication. He even tried to commit suicide, they say. His sister between sobs, kept stressing that he was innocent.

They remain unaware that a special leave petition is being prepared at the highest levels of the Delhi Police. Sources say the SLP will not only challenge the Delhi high court's decision favoring Vishal in November last year, it is also expected to urge the SC to settle questions of law.

The SLP stems from the stand taken earlier this year by the prosecutor in the Richa Kapoor case.

The Times of India, September 6, 2013, P.1+4

(Juveniles)

Juveniles involved in murder, rape may be tried as adults

Finally, Govt Mulls Graded Approach In Heinous Crimes

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: After doggedly turning down arguments for a graded response to crimes by juveniles, depending on the gravity of their crime and the juvenile's age, the government is finally coming around to the view juveniles above 16 years involved in heinous crimes, like murder or gang rape, should be tried as adults under the Indian Penal Code.

The change in the outlook of the women and child development (WCD) ministry has come about after consulta-

► 'Homes not effective', P 18

tions with experts and after looking at the practice in developed societies. Now, the

NO KID GLOVES

No country has a provision for death penalty to juveniles, but sentence is more than 3 years. In India, maximum punishment for a juvenile is three years, irrespective of gravity of offence

IN THE UK	IN THE US	IN FRANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anybody who has attained the age of 17 is an adult. Separate 'youth court' without a jury for those under 18 Person under 17 can be tried as an adult in some serious offences like sexual assault, child sex offences committed by children, sexual activity with a child family member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special juvenile courts to deal with under-18 delinquents Around 20 states allow them to be tried and sentenced as adults to life imprisonment Death penalty discontinued in 2005. In 2012, mandatory life sentence without parole barred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone under 18 can only be tried by special courts A separate Juvenile Assize court tries minors aged 16-18 years who commit serious offences In 2002, law enacted to provide tougher criminal response to juvenile delinquency

WCD ministry has firmed up its view that juveniles in the age bracket of 16 to 18 years

committing heinous crimes should not have the protection of the Juvenile Justice Act.

An official source said, "There is an increasing trend of offenders being arrested for crimes like gang rape and murder seeking lower punishments on the plea that they have not yet reached 18 years of age." The Nirbhaya case apart, Mumbai's Shakti Mills gang rape and a recent gang rape in Guwahati have stood out for the involvement of juveniles in the heinous crime.

Several developed countries, including the UK, US and France, adopt a graded response to heinous crimes by juveniles. Around 20 US states allow them to be tried as adults. In Florida, for instance, a 13-year-old was charged as an adult in 2012 for beating his half-brother to death and sexually abusing another aged five.

The Times of India, September 21, 2013, P.1

Why apex court refused change in age of juvenility

RULING Supreme Court said juvenile act provides for rehabilitation of children in conflict with society: age of 18 fixed after consultation with child psychologists

Satya Prakash

#satya.prakash@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: "There is little doubt that the incident (gang rape) which occurred on the night of December 16, 2012, was not only gruesome, but almost maniacal in its content, wherein one juvenile, whose role is yet to be established, was involved. But such an incident, in comparison to the vast number of crimes occurring in India, makes it an aberration rather than the rule."

This is what the Supreme Court said on July 17 while rejecting a batch of petitions seeking a direction to the Centre to take steps to make changes in the law to ensure that juveniles be tried under normal law in heinous offences such as rape and murder.

"In recent years, there has been a spurt in criminal activities by adults, but not so by juveniles... In the absence of any proper data, it would not be wise on our part to deviate from the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, which represent the collective wisdom of Parliament," a three-judge bench headed by then chief justice of India Altmas Kabir had said.

"If what has come out from the reports of the Crime Records Bureau is true, then the number of crimes committed by juveniles comes to about 2% of the country's crime rate," it had noted.

The bench had said the essence of the Act and the Rules framed under it in 2007, is restorative and not retributive, providing for rehabilitation and re-integration of children in conflict with law into mainstream society.

THE SC BENCH SAID THE ESSENCE OF THE ACT IS REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAW INTO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY

"The age of 18 has been fixed on account of the understanding of experts in child psychology and behavioural patterns that till such an age the children in conflict with law could still be redeemed and restored to mainstream society, instead of becoming hardened criminals in future," it had noted.

While admitting that there could be exceptions where a child in the age group of 16 to 18 may have developed criminal propensities, which would make it virtually impossible for him/her to be reintegrated into mainstream society, the SC had said: "But such examples are not of such proportions as to warrant any change in thinking, since it is probably better to try and reintegrate children with criminal propensities into mainstream society, rather than to allow them to develop into hardened criminals, which does not augur well for the future."

But the SC on August 22 admitted a petition by former MP Subramanian Swami seeking interpretation of the definition of "juvenile" under the Juvenile Justice Act.

NOT AN ACCUSED BUT A JUVENILE IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

HT Correspondent

#htcorrespondent@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Under the Juvenile Justice Act, the terms used to describe the accused, the victim and other legal nuances of the case are different from cases of crime by adult persons.

According to the law for juveniles, a child involved in a crime is not called an accused and referred as Juvenile in Conflict with Law (JCL).

If the victim is a minor, then he/she is referred as juvenile in need of care and protection.

"The arrest is referred as apprehension, trial is called inquiry and conviction is disposition. During the course of inquiry, social investigation report is given more credence than the evidence in deciding the quantum of punishment," said Amod Kanth, who runs an NGO called Prayas.

The social investigation report takes into account family history, past record, attitude towards religion and ethical code of the home, social and economic status, delinquency record of members of family, living conditions and the relationship between parents. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, there is no provision for conviction.

गंभीर अपराधों में नाबालिग की सुनवाई आईपीसी में हो



जस्टिस विजयेंद्र जैन सेवानिवृत्त मुख्य न्यायाधीश, पंजाब व हरियाणा हाईकोर्ट।

16 दिसंबर की झकझोर देने वाली घटना से संसद को सबक लेते हुए बालिग और नाबालिग के मुद्दे पर चल रही बहस को विराम देने के लिए कानून में तत्काल में बदलाव कर देना चाहिए। शनिवार को आए इस घटना से जुड़े पहले फैसले ने इस जरूरत को और भी मजबूती से उठाया है।

मौजूदा माहौल में जिस तरह से किशोरों की कम उम्र में ही शारीरिक परिपक्वता हकीकत के रूप में सामने आ रही है उसके मद्देनजर कानून में बदलाव भी समय की जरूरत है। मेरी समझ से

हत्या, दुष्कर्म, डकैती जैसे गंभीर अपराधों के लिए किशोर उम्र के आरोपियों के मामले बाल-न्याय (संरक्षण एवं देखरेख) अधिनियम के बजाए भारतीय दंड संहिता के तहत निपटाने चाहिए।

आज के फैसले से साफ हो गया है कि दिल्ली सामूहिक दुष्कर्म मामले में भी नाबालिग अपराधी ने ही सबसे अधिक बर्बरता की हदों को पारी किया था लेकिन कानून की हद के कारण उसे महज तीन साल की सजा मिल सकी। बाल-न्याय कानून के मुताबिक यह अधिकतम सजा थी। मेरा मानना है कि इस मामले में बाल-न्यायालय ने अपना काम किया है और अधिकतम सजा दे है। हां, सरकार और संसद को इससे सबक लेकर कानून में तत्काल बदलाव करना ताकि भविष्य में कोई भी गंभीर अपराध को अंजाम देने के बाद कानून की कमजोरी का फायदा न उठा सके।

(प्रभात कुमार से बातचीत पर आधारित)

Hindustan Times, September 1, 2013, P.3

बच्चों का यौन शोषण रोकने के लिए दिशा-निर्देश जारी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। राजधानी में बाल शोषण की रोकथाम के लिए दिल्ली बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग द्वारा तैयार किये गये दिशा-निर्देश शुक्रवार को मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने जारी किये। मुख्यमंत्री ने आयोग से दिशा-निर्देश का सरांश जारी करने तथा बाल अधिकार के क्षेत्र में कार्य कर रही एजेंसियों तक यह दिशा-निर्देश पहुंचाने को कहा।

दिल्ली सचिवालय में आयोजित समारोह के दौरान मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि बाल संरक्षण व अधिकार आयोग ने बाल अधिकारों के क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे विशेषज्ञों के साथ मिलकर बाल यौन शोषण को रोकने के लिए व्यापक दिशा-निर्देश तैयार किए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि बच्चे हमारे उल्लास और

खुशी का सबब बनते हैं। हम ऐसे समाज की अपेक्षा करते हैं जिसमें बच्चों का न तो शोषण और न ही उनके साथ कोई दुर्व्यवहार हो। इस मौके पर महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री प्रोफेसर किरण वालिया ने कहा कि इस मामले में बाल अधिकार विशेषज्ञों के समूह ने लम्बे समय तक समस्या के विभिन्न आयामों पर गहन चर्चा की और स्पष्ट दिशा-निर्देश विकसित किए हैं जो यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि सभी हितधारक एक सुरक्षित और निवारक प्रणाली का हिस्सा बनें। दिल्ली बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के अध्यक्ष अरुण माधुर ने कहा कि ये दिशा-निर्देश गहन जांच प्रक्रिया के बाद बनाए गए हैं और यह भी प्रयास किया गया है कि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि विद्यमान कानून से गतिरोध न रहे।

Rashtriya Sahara (H), September 7, 2013, P.3

'किशोर' की व्याख्या करेगा सुप्रीम कोर्ट

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

किशोर न्याय बोर्ड ने भले ही किशोर को मौजूदा कानूनों के अनुसार सुधार गृह में भेज दिया हो, लेकिन सुप्रीम कोर्ट से किशोर शब्द की वैज्ञानिक व्याख्या आनी है। इसमें कोर्ट यह तय करेगा कि 16 से 18 वर्ष के आरोपियों को सामान्य अपराधी माना जाए या नहीं।

शीर्ष अदालत में यह मामला माजपा नेता सुब्रहमण्यम स्वामी ने उठाया है। उन्होंने कहा है कि अपराध तय करते

समय किशोर शब्द को कानून में 18 साल की आयु सीमा की बजाव मानसिक और बौद्धिक परिपक्वता के आधार पर परिभाषित किया जाए। दो दशकों से मोबाइल, फिल्म, टीवी और आधुनिक तकनीकों के जीवन पर पड़ रहे प्रभाव के कारण बच्चे समय से पहले वयस्क हो रहे हैं या वयस्कों जैसा व्यवहार कर रहे हैं। वह अपराधों को वयस्कों की तरह अंजाम दे रहे हैं। खासकर रेप में किशोर ज्यादा शामिल हैं। ऐसे में उन्हें किशोर मानकर समाज में खुला छोड़ देना उचित नहीं है।

1986 के किशोर न्याय कानून में किशोर की आयु 16 वर्ष ही थी, लेकिन साल 2000 में इसमें संशोधन कर आयु 18 वर्ष कर दी गई।

याचिका को विचार के लिए स्वीकार करते हुए कोर्ट ने गत सप्ताह केंद्र सरकार और अन्य संबंधित पक्षों को नोटिस जारी किया है। गैररेप के बाद गठित वर्मा कमेटी के सनह भी यह मामला उठा था, लेकिन कमेटी ने किशोर न्याय कानून, 2000 में 18 वर्ष तक के लोगों को किशोर मानते हुए उन्हें सामान्य अपराधियों की श्रेणी में

रखने से इनकार दिया था। इसके बाद सरकार ने भी वर्मा कमेटी की सिफारिशों को मानते हुए रेप के कानूनों में सख्त सजा का प्रावधान कर दिया था, लेकिन किशोर के मामले को नहीं छेड़ा था।

कमेटी का कहना था कि यदि 18 वर्ष की सीमा को छोड़ा गया तो इसका दुरुपयोग होगा और कई किशोर जेल में सामान्य अपराधियों के साथ रहकर पक्के अपराधी बन जाएंगे। जेल में रखने से किशोरों के सुधरने की उम्मीद ही खत्म हो जाएगी।

कौन होता है जुवेनाइल

जुवेनाइल जस्टिस (केयर एंड प्रोटेक्शन) एक्ट के तहत कोई भी किशोर जिसकी उम्र 18 साल से कम हो उसे जुवेनाइल यानी नाबालिग माना जाता है।

जुवेनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड:

जुवेनाइल एक्ट के तहत गठित जुवेनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड का प्रधान दंडाधिकारी मेट्रोपोलिटन मजिस्ट्रेट होता है। बोर्ड अपराध में दोषी पाए जाने पर नाबालिग को तीन साल तक सुधार गृह में रखने का आदेश दे सकता है। बोर्ड को बच्चों में सुधार होने पर उसे पहले भी रिहा करने का आदेश देने का अधिकार है।

Hindustan (H), September 1, 2013, P.3

Nagaland to set up 5 observation homes for children

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Sept 25 - While juvenile crimes are very low in Nagaland compared to other parts of the region, the number of Observation Homes and Special Homes for Children in conflict with law or in contact with law have increased over the years.

Delivering the key-note address at the inaugural function of the two-day orientation training on management of Child Care Institution at Zonal Council Hall in Kohima, Secretary for Social Welfare T Kibeto Sema said except for child trafficking, Nagaland does not have other child crime problems.

He said earlier even though children were sent to jail, the government now does not want to send any children behind the bars but their cases would be dealt by Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

In this connection, he said the State presently has five Observation Homes and two Special Homes for children in conflict or in contact with law. Another three observation homes have already been approved while proposals for Zunheboto, Kiphire and Longleng districts have been put up with the Ministry this year.

Observation Homes and Special Homes will be opened in all the districts, he asserted adding that a Special Home will also be opened at Chozuba sub-division, under Phek district on September 25.

Pointing out the importance of child care institution, Sema said any case relating to children below 18 years ought to be taken care by JJBs, CWCs, Law and Justice department, Social Welfare JCPS and administration.

He also urged the participants to know

the legal procedure as to how the children should be treated and dealt in different circumstances while also encouraging the staff to know and prepare themselves to face any situation that may arise.

Assistant Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (NIPCCD), Guwahati Dr. Sanghamitra Barik dwelling on the objective of the training said it would not possible to provide quality care to children without training on juvenile justice victim, and encouraged the State government to impart more training to the counselors.

Maintaining that children in conflict with law or in contact with law have emotional and behavioral problems, she said it is the duty of the Observation Homes to ensure protection to such children.

She also stressed the importance of training the employees of Observation Home and Special Home to enable them to provide minimum standard health to the children as per the Juvenile Justice Board.

She expressed her appreciation to the department of Social Welfare for being the first State in the Northeastern region and India to sign the MoU for Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) implementation. She was also happy to note that Nagaland was the first State which has recruited all the officials of ICPS and has registered 100 per cent child care institutions under Social Welfare department.

Advocate GHC and president Nagaland Voluntary Consumer Organisation Kezhokhoto Savi dwelt on the topic "child rights and various legislations for children and salient features of JJ Act 2000.

Society Director, SCPS Nagaland, Kheho to Sema chaired the programme.

The Assam Tribune, September 26, 2013, P.10

(Observation Homes-Nagaland)

Govt stops short of action, cites poll code

Ambika Pandit & Richi Verma | TNN

New Delhi: A day after the third escape from state-run juvenile homes in the city within 40 days, the Delhi government thought about setting up yet another committee to formulate safety protocol but stopped short of issuing any direction for the same citing the code of conduct for the assembly polls.

At least 33 juveniles escaped from the Sewa Kutir observatory home in Mukherjee Nagar after a night-long violence on Saturday.

The women and child development department has been trying to grapple with the current situation. A clean-up of the home complex has been set in motion to accommodate the boys in the dormitories of the ransacked complex in north Delhi.

Chief minister Sheila Dikshit and the minister in charge of the women and child development department, Kiran Wallia, however, cited the code of conduct to explain their reluctance to announce any concrete measure to deal with the mess. Dikshit told TOI that she had made it clear to Wallia that the situation had to be set right in the homes. "The fact that this has happened shows we have gone wrong

somewhere. These children need care and protection. On announcements about action plans, I am not sure whether that can be done as the code of conduct has come into effect," she said.

Wallia refused to comment, again citing the code of conduct, while senior officials confirmed the minister had convened a meeting in the wake of the recent crisis. A safety protocol, which would take into account the views of juveniles lodged at homes, is likely to look into matters linked to co-ordination among various departments, agencies, the judicial system and Delhi Police.

The government is also planning to pitch for segregating juveniles who are between 16-18 years from the younger lot. Wallia had earlier said she was in favour of reducing the age of juveniles from 18 to 16 years but backtracked later, citing the code of conduct.

The government, however, has been sticking to its stand that the state-run juvenile homes are in a good condition. The claim contradicts the recent findings of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights that the condition of juvenile homes is nothing short of "deplorable".

The Times of India, September 8, 2013, P.9

(Observation Homes)

Pent-up frustration behind violence at juvenile home, says report

RECOMMENDATIONS



- Immediately renovate the Adharshila Observation Institution and Special Institution for Juveniles.
- Provide designated, safe, secure outdoor play area.
- Strengthen partnership with civil society organisations.
- Segregate juveniles according to their age and gravity of offence, and provide them with individual care plans and engagement with families.
- Improve condition of confinement and provide cognitive behaviour therapy while making formal education compulsory and focus on skill building among the inmates.

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: What forced over 22 juveniles and some young men housed in the Adharshila Observation Institution and Special Institution for Juveniles at Magazine Road here to get unruly and destructive on the night of August 7? The premise houses three separate institutions – a Place of Safety, a Special Home for Juveniles and an Observation Home.

A joint report by the National and Delhi Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) submitted to the Delhi Government recently has noted that the 'violence' was a result of 'pent-up frustration' of having to live in dilapidated, dimly-lit rooms, sleeping on dirty mattress/floor, using Indian toilets filled with faeces and having no doors, having little access to medical care and, worse, never having good quality or enough food to eat.

"They have no activity timetable, no access to a playground or recreational facility. There is one TV which is on virtually round-the-clock. Teachers appoint-

ed for the juveniles are irregular. The 15 boys [involved in the incident] that we spoke to complained about their trials taking a long time, no formal education being provided to them and their having nothing constructive to do throughout the day. The boys were clearly frustrated," said NCPDR's Dipa Dixit.

She said the Delhi Government has to immediately take concrete action to overhaul the living conditions for the juveniles here so that a positive difference can be made to their lives.

The report also stated that the juveniles speaking about the night/morning of the incident said that it was triggered after "a juvenile who was sleeping at the Place of Safety was beaten up by some juveniles and staff members who had entered there from the Observation Home Annex".

"The seizure of mobile phones from the juveniles was also an immediate precursor as the boys mentioned that such seized mobile phones were never deposited with the JJB and returned to the boys at the time of discharge," noted the report.

"It was the unwarranted assault on the boys that triggered the unrest which lasted for several hours and led to ransacking of rooms, arson, vandalism and destruction of property and documents by the boys," said the statement recorded by the juveniles before the joint team.

During their interaction with the centre welfare officer, the members were told that the juveniles show little interest in the various activities offered at the centre. The officer also attributed the incident to the disobedient and violent behaviour displayed by 'so-called juveniles' who were young adults transferred from Tihar Jail and who succeeded in instigating others.

"The juveniles had broken the interconnecting doors to sneak into the adjacent institutions and even tried to dig a tunnel from the Place of Safety to the Observation Home Annex. They, we were told, also exhibited feelings of animosity towards one juvenile at the Special Home who was under 24-hour surveillance and had tried to attack him on the night of the incident."

'Juvenile homes not effective'

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: The women and child development ministry has come around to the view that there could be a graded response to heinous crimes by juveniles and that the offenders could be tried as adults under the IPC. Several developed societies have such a response to heinous crimes by juveniles. In the UK, a person under 17 (the cut-off for juveniles there) can be tried as an adult in serious offences. France has a separate Juvenile Assize court to deal with serious offences committed by minors in the 16-18 age bracket.

In India, the juvenile, irrespective of the nature of his crime, is protected by the Juvenile Justice Act under which heinous crimes like murder and gang rape attracts a maximum punishment of a three-year term in a reformatory. In its study, the WCD ministry has also found that a term in reformation homes doesn't necessarily lead to behavioural correction.

In July, in the wake of a 17-year-old's involvement in the Nirbhaya case, the Supreme Court had nixed pleas for lowering the age of juvenility. However, the SC recently said that it would examine whether juvenility should be considered on a case to case basis keeping in view the maturity of the offender and the heinousness of the crime.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

The Hindu, September 24, 2013, P.4

(Juvenile Homes)

The Times of India, September 21, 2013, P.18
(Juvenile Homes)

Juvenile's reform home in 'deplorable state'

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The Juvenile Justice Board on Saturday ordered the teenager convicted in the Nirbhaya gang rape case, who turned 18 in June, to be lodged in the Place of Safety reformatory at Majnu ka Tila to complete a sentence of three years.

But this state-run institution itself has come under fire from child rights bodies and has even been termed

'unfit to be a reformatory facility for juveniles in conflict with law'.

A joint inspection team of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights has delivered a hard hitting report on the 'deplorable state' of the three homes located at the Adharshila Home complex at Majnu Ka Tila. The inspection was carried out after extensive vandalism

early last month at the complex. They pointed out that the institution does not offer regular counselling, a mental health care plan or vocational training to the inmates.

Other activists have also expressed concerns. Bharti Ali from Haq who is on the high court-appointed supervisory committee for observation homes says the state needs to create systems to benefit juveniles lodged there. "The boy has already

suffered due to a faulty system and failed to benefit from the government's facilities for the poor as a child. He never went to school, was driven to child labour and if now the system does not work to reform him, this will be another failure on the part of the governance and justice system," Ali said.

Sanjay Gupta from the NGO, Childhood Enhancement Through Training & Action (CHETNA), said the

real challenge begins now. "To reform the juvenile, the authorities must proactively work to put systems in place for proper counselling and activities for development of these boys so that when they come out they can be mainstreamed."

Sources say the juvenile has been kept segregated at the complex for his safety. He remains quiet and a television set is what keeps him occupied through the day.

The Times of India, September 1, 2013, P.6

(Reform Home)

Sex predators, traffickers target kids at will

ALARMING Delhi has the highest rate of crime against minors in the country. While half of rape victims in the city are minors, at least nine children remain untraced daily

TRAFFICKERS AT WORK
Police said a majority of these missing children, who were later rescued, were found working as labourers or domestic helps.

SEXUAL PREDATORS
Half of the rape victims in Delhi are minors (below 18 years of age), say police. Cases of sexual assault on children in

MOST KIDS WHO GO MISSING IN DELHI END UP WITH TRAFFICKERS. CHILDREN BELOW EIGHT YEARS ARE FORCED INTO BEGGING, OLDER ONES ARE PUSHED INTO CHILD LABOUR.

RAKESH SENGER, national secretary, Bachpan Bachao Andolan

THIS IS NO CITY FOR CHILDREN

22.3% The rate of crime against minors (per lakh population) in Delhi in 2012 is the highest across the country, as per National Crime Records Bureau data. It was 9% in 2004. The national average in 2012 was 5.2% (per lakh population) against 3.3% in 2004.

4,462

Number of crime against children in Delhi in 2012

11.69%

Contribution to all India crime against children in 2012

Crime in 2012

Crime	Incidents
Rape	415
Murder	39
Kidnapping/abduction	3,686
Abandonment	68

No. of untraced has grown steadily



Hindustan Times, September 16, 2013, P.4
(Trafficking)

Rising cases of domestic abuse of children shocks Kerala

Dateline

Thiruvananthapuram

Krishna Kumar R

A random recap on some of Kerala's newspaper reports from the past couple of weeks unfolds in a flash, among other things, a sordid story of shame. A four-year-old girl physically tortured by her father, ends up in hospital with bruises all over her body and a serious eye injury. A minor Muslim girl married by force to a UAE national in yet another 'Arabi Kalyanam.' A two-and-a-half year-old girl beaten up by her aunt over a property dispute involving adults in the family. Kerala, a state that has stayed ahead of the rest in its social development indices and citizen empowerment initiatives, is increasingly being exposed on the abject treatment of its children. The figures tracking incidence of crime against children - with a rise in reported domestic violence cases - don't make it look any better. The National Crime Records Bureau

(NCRB) puts the state in the sixth spot on its 2012 list based on the rate (number of incidents per a lakh population of children) of cognizable crimes committed against children. Kerala's rate is 13.84, against a national rate of 7.95. The state is behind Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim on the list. For long, the line of defence has been that Kerala, in parts due to its high levels of awareness on human rights and a strong presence of social activists, was reporting more cases than the other states. For child welfare activists who work closely with abuse victims and track socio-economic dynamics of the modern Kerala family, the argument is wearing thin. They state that it's time the State ensured effective implementation of existing laws, fast-track punishment of offenders and more critically, better understanding of issues that plague the institutions of marriage and family. "It has to work like a cycle. When we ensure confidentiality of the abuse victim more victims come out and in turn, more offenders are exposed that act as a deterrent. But clearly, the first priority has to be

on minimising abuse itself," says Thomas Joseph, co-ordinator of Childline in the district of Kottayam. Childline - the child protection initiative by the Union ministry of women and child development - in Kerala deals with a host of problems, the most recurring being physical abuse and turmoil due to conflict between parents. Child protection workers have initiated counselling for parents and are an emerging presence in the meetings of Parent Teacher Associations at schools across the state. The police force, while instrumental in taking the activists' interventions forward, has also faced flak for apathy and a tendency to bracket child abuse cases as NGO material that's outside the scope of criminal justice. That the government shelter homes have themselves come under the scanner over their mode of functioning points to the sloppy implementation of child welfare policies. Activists requesting anonymity confirm reports of abuse by caretakers in juvenile homes run by the government.

Rising figures

Figures with the Kerala police show a jump on last year in incidence of crimes against children. Last year, 1,324 cases were registered for various crimes against children. In 2013, in the first five months, the figure stands at 739 including 12 murder and 246 rape cases. In 2012, Kerala registered 34 child-murder and 455 child-rape cases. This year, till May, 418 cases have been registered under the category of Other Crimes Against Children that include domestic torture cases. Initiatives including the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) have broadly charted the way forward but special courts for fast-track justice and wider counselling reach to address the issues of dysfunctional families could be the decisive measures, according to some of the Childline workers. The NCRB figures are, again, pointers to the angst and simmering depression that shape the formative years of many children. A total of 8,490 cases of suicide were registered in Kerala in 2012 with 44.1 per cent of the deceased having had to deal with

problems within the family. The figure is the highest in India. According to a recent study by the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi done for the Kerala Police, 51.4 per cent of crimes against women in the state are committed at home exposing children to domestic violence from an early age. Adithi S Namboothiri, a seven-year-old girl who died after torture by her step-mother in Kozhikode, was a startling reminder of what could be wrong with our families. Shafeeq, a five-year-old boy brutally tortured by his father and step-mother recently in Idukki district, has found himself projected as the face of Kerala's battered childhoods. The boy who suffered a 75 per cent brain damage in the assaults has shown first signs of recovery. His survival and possible inclusion into a more accommodative society is also likely to be celebrated. Childline workers maintain that these recurring reminders could end up pointless if they don't translate to administrative measures that go beyond announcements of relief and constitution of committees. Over the past three months, Childline units in many districts have seen a jump of 20 per cent and more in the number of cases that required intervention. In the wake of the Idukki incident, the state government had proposed a panel to check domestic abuse of children. The Childline workers feel that while the state waits for action on the ground, it could also pursue a long-term objective: getting its adults to take up individual responsibility of the welfare of their children; getting some of them to move on from their own bitter childhoods and ensure that their children have decidedly better childhoods and lives.

Deccan Herald, September 3, 2013, P.11
(Children-Domestic Abuse)

1.2 Role of Civil Society/Statutory Bodies/Civil Society Initiative (Initiative-Don Bosco Society/RWA/Ragpickers/Adolescent Boys)

New children's centre opened

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 15 – The Rotary Club of Guwahati in collaboration with Don Bosco Society inaugurated a new centre, 'Child Friendly Guwahati' (CFG), on Saturday. It is located at Rotary Multi-Service Centre, Rotary Lane, beside Hotel Brahma Putra Ashok at Uzanbazar.

'Child Friendly Guwahati' is a project initiative of Don Bosco Society in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Guwahati, church bodies of Guwahati, like-minded NGOs, State Government departments and other civil society groups with the objective of creating a movement in the city to champion the cause of its less privileged children, especially those out of school.

On the occasion, some 500 children from the various CFG centres in and around Guwahati arrived at Don Bosco headquarters at Panbazar where the children presented music and dance besides interacting with mind power experts. Then they moved to the venue, where about 150 people, including 30 Rotarians, 25 CFG staff, 20 volunteers and around 70 guests and invitees awaited them.

The inaugural programme started off with a prayer song *There's a Candle* performed by Montfort Inclusive School Children.

The chief guest, PP Varma, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, lauded the efforts of DBS in providing a helping hand to the underprivileged children. "I myself had the lovely experience of helping an underprivileged girl from SOS village, near Borjhar. Now I can proudly say that this girl is doing very well in her life. I congratulate the Rotary Club as well as the Don Bosco Society under Fr VM Thomas on taking up such a noble initiative to help the poor and underprivileged children, especially those deprived of school education," he added.

Rajnish Kumar, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, said that the noble initiative was going to uplift underprivileged children and change their lives for the better.

Chancellor of Down Town University and MD of Down Town Hospital Dr NN Dutta assured free health check-up and treatment for all CFG health card holders. He also assured free education in the paramedical course and other courses in the university, and the participation of social work students in the CFG programme, as well as outings and meals to all CFG children visiting the university campus.

The CFG chairman, Fr VM Thomas, quoted the UN Commission for Human Rights as saying that the progress of nations is measured not by the strength of the army, by the buildings or scientific advancement, and much less by its nuclear weaponry, but by the care, protection and development given to its most vulnerable population – women and children.

The centre for the visually impaired run by Venerini Sisters, Jyoti Niketan, presented a thematic dance and a well choreographed dance titled *Freedom* (from hunger, violence, hatred and corruption).

Among those present were Prabhat Kedia, past district governor, Rotary Clubs of Guwahati; and Parthapratin Phukan, president, Rotary Club of Guwahati.

The Assam Tribune, September 16, 2013, P.7
(Initiative-Don Bosco Society)

VK waste division helps ragpickers

RWA Initiative Reduces Dump, Collectors Prepare Manure Out Of Garbage

Risha Chitlangia | TNN

New Delhi: Till a few months ago, the garbage dump near a park in B4 Vasant Kunj used to overflow with waste. Residents used to avoid the park as the stench was unbearable. But a small initiative by residents has not only transformed the area but also helped ragpickers earn a decent livelihood.

In March, the residents welfare association provided each participating household a pair of different colour dustbins to segregate waste. "We asked them to segregate dry and wet waste. The ragpickers, engaged by the RWA, were asked to collect the waste from every house in different trolleys," said Anjana Dutta, the RWA president.

Close to 60% households in this upscale colony are participating in the initiative, and the RWA is optimistic that by the end of the year all houses will be part of it. "We are aggressively promoting it. Through this we can achieve dual targets: do our bit for the environment and help rehabilitate ragpickers," said Aparna Verma, its secretary.

This simple exercise has made a big difference. The load at the dump has come down considerably and residents say it doesn't stink even if corporation trucks don't come for a week. With the help of Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM),



THE PROJECT

Residents are given bins of two different colours to segregate dry and wet waste at source

Dry waste includes paper, cardboard, bottles and plastic bags. It's sold in market by ragpickers

The biodegradable waste is used to prepare manure through vermicomposting & natural composting

Ragpickers, roped in for door-to-door collection of garbage, separately collect biodegradable and dry waste

The NGO is helping ragpickers set up a nursery in the residential society in which they will grow chillies, aubergines, tomatoes and mint

KNOW YOUR WASTE'S WORTH

With municipal corporations having failed to ensure segregation of waste at source, residents of Vasant Kunj, along with an NGO, started a unique project for effective utilization of local waste

Ragpickers earn **Rs 80 per month per household for collecting waste**

Number of households participating in this project: **85-90** (SPYM started this project in B4 colony of Vasant Kunj which has close to 170-180 houses)

BENEFITS OF THIS INITIATIVE

Less than **45-50%** of total waste generated per day is dumped at the dhalao

The dhalao **doesn't stink** as it doesn't have putrefying waste

This helps ragpickers stay away from drugs and crime

Ragpickers trained in gardening

Earthworms reared for sale

Residents get **four potted vegetable plants**. They can buy manure from the nursery at low cost

Income of ragpickers **has almost doubled**

an NGO which works for rehabilitation of drug addicts, residents are now preparing manure through vermicomposting and have set up a small nursery—managed by ragpickers—where they are growing chillies, aubergines, tomatoes and mint in pots. These plants will be given to residents taking part in the initiative.

Rajesh Kumar, executive director, SPYM, said through this initiative, ragpickers didn't have to spend hours segregating waste and are able to get good money by selling dry waste. They are also given skill-based training.

For Ramzan (35), a ragpicker, life has changed completely in the last few months. Earlier, he used to spend al-

most the entire day segregating waste. "Now I have a team involved in waste collection and management. Our income has increased and we have learnt something new like vermicomposting. We also grow worms here," he said.

For long, various civil society groups have been trying to bring ragpickers into mainstream. But due to stringent

rules and civic agencies' half-hearted approach towards waste segregation, it could never be done. Kumar said a majority of ragpickers, mostly boys, are often victims of drug abuse and get involved in petty crimes.

The initiative has got support from other RWAs in Vasant Kunj which are ready to replicate the model.

The Times of India, September 12, 2013, P.5
(Initiative RWA/ Ragpickers)

SMALL IDEA, BIG DIFFERENCE*Boys will not be boys*

Some NGOs working with the youth in Mumbai slums are now paying attention to adolescent boys, a demographic in the news for the wrong reasons

BY SHAI VENKATRAMAN

Inside a dimly-lit community centre in Ghatkopar, Mumbai, a group of young boys are swapping notes on, among other things, what makes a man. Many of them aren't even old enough to shave. Their voices, though, ring loud with conviction.

"A man takes decisions at home as he is the head of the family," pipes up a 14-year-old. "Men work outside and earn, so they don't work at home," says his companion. As they get comfortable, the conversation turns towards girls.

"If a boy teases a girl and she does not respond, it shows that she is a good girl. If she retorts, she is acting smart," says a Class VII student. Another boy joins in. "If after marriage, the husband lives at the wife's place, she becomes powerful. And if the woman moves to the man's place after marriage, he becomes powerful. He can beat her, insult her in front of others, use her."

The boys, residents of Amrut Nagar, a slum colony of low-income migrants, are participating in a session on gender equality, part of a youth empowerment programme started by the Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action (SNEHA) in 2009. Since early last year, the programme, "Adolescents Gaining Ground", has also started reaching out to young boys. "The original avatar of the initiative, called 'Girls Gaining Ground', was started in these areas in 2009. Initially we focused solely on adolescent girls. Over time, we realized that to empower girls, we had to involve boys as well because they are future partners," says Garima Deveshwar Bahl, programme director, sexual and reproductive health, SNEHA. "These girls were telling us about issues like eve-teasing and we were not talking to the boys at all."

At around 243 million, India is home to the largest number of adolescents in the world, says Unicef's *Progress for Children: A Report Card On Adolescents*, released in 2012. A group that, according to a 2008 study *Youth in India: Situations and Needs Study* by non-profit organization Population Council, makes up 30% of India's population. The Unicef report highlights the critical need to invest in adolescents. In India, however, government programmes have usually targeted girls. Not enough, say experts, who add there is an urgent need for large-scale interventions among adolescent boys. They point to the recent incidents of rape that have generated huge outrage. In both cases, that of the assault on a young student in Delhi in December and the more recent one on a Mumbai journalist, some of the accused are between 16-24 years, coming from a milieu much like Amrut Nagar.

"In India, the whole focus of adolescent programmes has been on early marriage and early pregnancy, which targeted girls," says Neha Madiwala, founder trustee of Sahyog Chetak, a non-governmental organization (NGO), which works for the empowerment of adolescent girls. "We haven't found a good methodology to address boys. The usual approach to hold talks tends to work better with girls because they are looking for opportunities to get out of the house. Boys have more social freedom."

SNEHA uses a mix of interventions, like group meetings, vocational training and life-skills education. Communicating these messages are facilitators drawn from the community. Although boys and girls are placed in separate groups, reaching out is a challenge.

"Parents never speak to girls or boys about puberty or sexuality," says Sanjeevani Borude, 39, peer coordinator in Amrut Nagar. "One mother stopped sending her daughter when we held a session on puberty.

We explained to the mother that her daughter has questions and she may get the answers the wrong way or from the wrong source. It is the same with boys. Parents don't have a problem if their sons watch porn at a video parlour but when we explain it in the context of health, they get upset. It takes a while but eventually they listen."

"Earlier I would never listen to anything my mother said," says Rishikesh Shankar Karale, 15, who enrolled in the programme last year. He was reluctant at first because many of his friends would mock him. Now he regularly attends with his younger brother. "I have come to understand how hard my mother works at home. I help her now."

An impact report, done six months after the intervention started, is showing encouraging results, especially when it comes to health matters like puberty and HIV; not so much when it comes to changing gender attitudes and perceptions. Clearly that will take longer. Over 70% of boys and girls agreed that both girls and boys are entitled to equal freedom; nearly a 20% improvement. When it comes to educating girls and sexual harassment, however, the improvement reported is not as significant. "What this shows is that we need to focus on gender very strongly," says Bahl.

Pranita Acharya, gender, poverty and HIV/AIDS specialist, International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), agrees. In 2008, ICRW, along with CORO (Committee of Resource Organizations) for Literacy and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, initiated the Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) programme in Mumbai, which, specifically addresses gender-related issues. The initiative is in place in 45 municipal schools and reaches out to over 8,000 children between 12-14 years from low-income groups.

Through role playing, comic strips and interactive activities, students are encouraged to rethink social norms and question gender biases. Led by facilitators, children discuss what makes for healthy relationships. "Classroom discussions help students think about and question social norms. Facilitators encourage them to challenge stereotypical ideas about men and women," says Acharya.

At the start of the GEMS programme in 2008, little over 20% of boys and girls supported gender equality. A year later, this grew to 53% of girls and 39% of the boys. There was greater support for girls pursuing higher education and marrying later and of boys helping in household work. The initiative is now being scaled up by the Maharashtra government.

"Evidence shows that reaching out to boys, even as early as of 8-10 years, is critical," says Rema Nanda, founder, NGO Jagruti Trust, which conducts youth leadership programmes in rural Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. "This is what we are seeing in different parts of the world. And you have to reiterate the message over and over again to get men to change their behaviour."

The big picture, Nanda goes on to add, will not change unless violence against women ceases to be an individual problem. "In most of the successful interventions in South Africa and Latin America, men and women have agreed violence against women is a community's problem. Unless that happens here, we cannot progress."

Shai Venkatraman is a journalist, teacher and blogger with a special interest in issues related to health and gender rights.

Write to us at businessoflife@livemint.com

Hindustan Times, September 10, 2013, P.12

(Initiative-Adolescent Boys)

1.3 Education/Education System (Inclusive Education/Scholarship/Moral Education/Quality of Education/Special Educator/Guidelines- Child Abuse Monitoring in Schools/ Schools-Sanitation /Pre-schools/Primary Schools/Playschools/RTE/Guidelines-Schools/Parents/School Dropouts)

Fault lines at the frontlines

Sarita Brara

It is a government high school in Hamirpur Siddar village under Sainth gram panchayat. Hamirpur Siddar is a border village over two hours' drive from Jammu. There is no headmaster, nine posts of teachers are lying vacant out of the 13 sanctioned posts. The school has a number of computers provided by the Department of Education and the Army, but there is no computer teacher.

There are 200 students, 70 of them girls, but no toilet or sanitation facilities. The girls have no other choice but to step into a dilapidated structure littered with dirt and soiled pieces of cloth to relieve themselves. The only female teacher in the school, who comes all the way from Jammu, says despite repeated pleas, nothing has been done. The children and the staff bring water from their homes because there is no facility for potable water. The school is spread over almost three acres.

Not very far from this school is the government middle school at Garar village. Out of the nine sanctioned posts, five are lying vacant. For over a year, there was no Mathematics teacher; so if the children of Class VI are unable to do simple sums of division, they cannot be blamed.

The primary school at Sainth has only seven students. The school building is dilapidated; so Kuldeep, one of the teachers, got another room constructed, because he couldn't risk the life of the children. Kuldeep, who studied in the same school, says that the strength of students used to vary between 100 and 200. But now with private schools around the village, no one wants to send their children to this school.

There are ten sanctioned posts of teachers in Larokar high school, eight of which are lying vacant. Munir Husain, a teacher in this border village, says that the Army had constructed four classrooms, a playground and a computer lab. It also provided with nine computers. However, there is no one to teach or operate computers in this school too.

The sarpanch of Sawni gram panchayat says that the government high school in Sawni village has a computer teacher but the school with 250 odd students does not have any computer. Five schools fall under his panchayat: three primary

Both students and teachers keep away from most government schools in Jammu's border villages

schools, one middle and one high school. Furniture, library, hand pumps as well as toilets have all been set up by the Army here. Being a water scarce area, the schools have no facility for drinking water.

The list of schools in the border area in Jammu region which are short of teaching

staff and lack proper infrastructure facilities is long. S.K. Gandotra, Jammu's Joint Director of Education, says that 600 teachers have been promoted to master grade and the process of selection to fill vacant posts of teachers is in progress. He points out that the problem of staffing new primary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has reached such an extent that it is being resolved through a scheme under which educated local persons are appointed as *Rehbar e Taleem*.

Another problem is that outsiders find it difficult to work in schools in border areas because of lack of transport and housing facilities. Instead of getting extra remuneration, the teachers get reduced HRA and on top of it they have to spend money on private transport. They not only lose financially but also

in terms of energy and time consumed in reaching the remote villages.

The Army under its Sadbhavana programme has tried to fill the gap by opening schools in the area and also providing infrastructure. It has opened seven schools and nearly 17,000 students are studying in them. The Army has also sponsored the education of 600 students belonging to BPL families in the area. But then there are limits to which the Army can extend help.

With no industries and hardly any other avenue of employment because of lack of skilled man power, cultivation is the only source of income in this region; most parents can't afford to send their children to boarding schools away from their villages.

Incentives for teachers who come from far-off places and improved infrastructure could perhaps help in providing quality education to students living in Jammu's border villages.

The Hindu, September 25, 2013, P.8

(Schools-Border Villages)

A school whose practice defies its lofty ideals

The institution makes children clean toilets, mop up staff room

Shruthi H M

BANGALORE: This special residential school for deprived children at Talaghatapura in the City was meant to be an example of "inclusive education". Ironically, it has turned into a reinforcement of discrimination.

Located in the premises of the government school, the hostel (for boys and girls) has about 60 students. It is the only such hostel in the City managed by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Eleven other hostels of SSA are run by NGOs.

When this reporter visited the hostel, teachers were asking students to mop up the staff room and sweep the premises ahead of the school assembly. The discrimination against these students begins in the smallest of tasks. Students at the hostel told this newspaper how they were made to do chores other day scholars were exempted from. The school has more than 300 day scholars apart from those staying on the campus.

"We have to clean the toilets. Other students are never asked to do it. There are just five toilets for all of us put together," Spandana (name changed) complained. "Children who come during the day dirty the place and we get blamed for not maintaining the toilets."

The students also complained how the staff use foul language against them.

Not comfortable

"They always tell us that we are staying here for free. We do not feel comfortable here at all," said another boy. The children said most of them hailed from north Karnataka where their parents worked as labourers.

The students also said they were expected to look "as neat as other students" but were given a tiny bar of soap that should last an entire month. "We are scared that if the soap crumbles, we will not look neat like the rest of them," Harsha (name changed) said. "They always say we 'spoil the atmosphere for the rest of the students.'"

The television set at the hostel had been missing for an entire year. The students alleged the teachers took it home. The school has been given nine computers which are all locked in a room.

'Better facilities'

When asked, school principal Arase Gowda said the computers could not be used as there were no teachers. He maintained the hostel students were provided better facilities com-

pared with others. On his part, he said he was unable to take classes, look after hostel students and do all the administrative work.

"The government has not appointed any staff to take care of the hostel children. It is impossible for one person to manage all these tasks."

Despite being managed by the SSA, the school depends on donors for many facilities. The government provides it fabric for uniforms but the stitching costs are higher. For white-colour uniform, it has to depend on donors. Same is the case with shoes. Not all students have school bags.

Things to do

The SSA Deputy Project Coordinator, Kodandaramaiah, told *Deccan Herald* he also inspected the school recently and identified the areas that need improvement. "We have sent them a memo. From installing bulbs to maintaining hygiene, I have given them a list of things to take care of," he said.

Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights, an NGO, said teachers should treat the children as their own. "The problem would persist as long as the government burdens teachers with looking after the children. These teachers are not adequately sensitised towards their problems," he added.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, September 5, 2013, P.2

(Inclusive Education)

NCERT reinforces commitment to inclusive education

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: On its 53rd Foundation Day, the National Council of Education Research and Training reinforced its commitment towards inclusion of all in education irrespective of barriers of disability, gender, language and socio-economic background.

Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Jitin Prasada on Sunday inaugurated the celebrations, which were based on the theme of "Inclusion of All in Education". He also released a volume of training material for teacher educators on gender equality and empowerment.

While addressing the gathering of NCERT staff, schoolchildren, teachers, NGO workers, and teacher educators, Mr. Prasada stressed the urgency of teacher training and sensitisation of all teachers towards inclusive education.

Harnessing technology

He highlighted the need to properly harness all new technological advancements for meeting the challenges of inclusion of all, especially rural children, in education.

"We aim to create awareness about the need to include and retain all children in education through educational programmes and practices that value diversity and

enable all children to experience dignity and confidence while learning," said the NCERT.

On this occasion, the NCERT organised exhibitions, film screenings, workshops, street plays on various issues related to inclusion and exclusion.

The various programmes and exhibits also highlighted that inclusion does not mean inclusion of only differently-abled children but also those who are marginalised because of various socio-economic reasons.

Children with various kinds of special needs performed during the programme.

Their performances underlined various issues such as child labour, foeticide, marginalisation of girls in education and drug addiction. An exhibition on tribal life and culture showcased different kinds of educational material created in tribal languages. There were workshops focussed on specific learning difficulties, developing sensitivity towards autistic children, and teaching-learning for inclusive education.

Message

The performances used puppet shows, street plays, dances and quizzes to get the message across. Puppet shows on environmental issues and corporal punishment; a role play on peer pressure; a quiz competition on social sciences; and a folk dance on adolescent issues were a part of the programme.

The Hindu, September 2, 2013, P.2

(Inclusive Education)

स्कूलों में दी जाएगी एड्स से बचाव की जानकारी

एड्स कंट्रोल फाउण्डेशन की तैयारी

भीलवाड़ा. एड्स व एचआईवी से बचाव के सम्बन्ध में अब स्कूलों में जागरूकता लाई जाएगी। बच्चों को आँदियों और वीडियो के माध्यम से एड्स के कारण और उनसे बचाव के उपाय समझाए जाएंगे। इसके तहत स्वयंसेवी संस्था एड्स कंट्रोल फाउण्डेशन नई दिल्ली की ओर से सरकारी और निजी विद्यालयों में सेमिनार, कार्यशाला और स्वास्थ्य शिविर,

रैलियाँ और कई प्रकार के शो आयोजित किए जाएंगे।

संस्था द्वारा इससे पूर्व यह अभियान कार्यक्रम दिल्ली के कई सरकारी कार्यालयों में किए गए हैं। कई राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में भी आयोजन करवाए गए हैं।

संस्था की ओर से दिल्ली और मुम्बई के रेलवे, पुलिस, कर्नाटक और आन्ध्रप्रदेश में भी ऐसे कार्यक्रम करवाए गए हैं। अब राजस्थान, छत्तीसगढ़, असम, हरियाणा, पंजाब, उत्तराखण्ड व गुजरात और

इनका कहना है..

शिक्षण विभाग के विद्यालयों तक प्रसारित किया गया है। संस्था के प्रतिनिधि आने पर इसकी शुरुआत की जा सकेगी। विद्यालयों से इसे लेकर पीडीबीक लेना बाकी है।

महावीरकुमार वर्मा
अतिरिक्त शिक्षा अधिकारी
(माध्यमिक विद्यालय)

पश्चिम बंगाल में भी ऐसे आयोजन करवाए जाएंगे।

Rajasthan Patrika (H), September 23, 2013, P.4

Scholarship for govt schoolchildren

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 25 – The Assam Government has entered into an agreement with Pupifriend Organisation, an educational assessment organisation, to run a scholarship examination in the Government schools across the State, covering the students from Class-I to Class-XII. The name of this examination is Eastern India Scholarship Examination for Excellence (EISEE) and the next examinations under this scholarship scheme are scheduled for October 5 and 6.

According to a press release mailed to this newspaper, students appearing in the examinations on October 5 and 6 are to sit for Science and Mathematics papers.

This will be followed by an examination on General Knowledge on October 19 and 20 this year, covering the students from Class-I to Class-XII. This examination is named Mental Ability Test (MAT).

After the scholarship examinations, all participating candidates will be given certificates and the principals and participating schools will also be given certificates. Students securing good score will be en-

titled to prizes, trophies, etc.

The best principal or most coordinating teacher will be rewarded with a gift or trophy. After the scholarship examinations, educational seminars/conventions or workshops will be held for the students and teachers. The best teacher or coordinator will be given 'Shiksha Samman Award'.

Along with Assam, the other States participating in the examinations are West Bengal, Meghalaya, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, among others, said the press release.

The Assam Tribune, September 26, 2013, P.5(Scholarship)

स्कूलों में पढ़ाएंगे नैतिक शिक्षा का पाठ

2 अक्टूबर से होगा लागू

माध्यमिक शिक्षा के स्कूलों में लागू होगा 'नैतिक शिक्षा कार्यक्रम'

जागतिक दर्जा © इंदी

kota@patrika.com

शिक्षा विभाग ने विद्यार्थियों में घटते नैतिक मूल्यों को बरकरार रखे जाने के प्रयास शुरू किए हैं। छात्र-छात्राओं में नैतिक व उत्तम संस्कारों के बीजारोपण के उद्देश्य से प्रदेश में माध्यमिक शिक्षा के स्कूलों में अब नैतिक शिक्षा का पाठ पढ़ाया जाएगा।

यह कार्यक्रम 2 अक्टूबर 'गांधी जयंती' को राज्य के सभी विद्यालयों में विशेष प्राथना सभाओं के साथ लागू होगा। इस सम्बन्ध में शुरुवार को माध्यमिक शिक्षा निदेशक डॉ. वीणा प्रधान ने आदेश जारी किए हैं। कार्यक्रम के प्रभावी संचालन के लिए संस्कृत, हिंदी विषय के शिक्षक प्रभारी रहेंगे।

शिक्षण अधिगम की भांति होगा

'नैतिक शिक्षा कार्यक्रम' सामान्य शिक्षण अधिगम की भांति प्रत्येक माध्यमिक एवं उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय का एक अंक होगा। प्रतिदिन प्राथना सभा में अध्यापकों द्वारा किसी न किसी नैतिक विषय पर छात्र-छात्राओं को संबोधित किया जाएगा। शनिवार को बाल सभा में भी इस

प्रकार का कार्यक्रम होगा जो विद्यार्थियों को नैतिक शिक्षा देने वाला होगा। इस कार्यक्रम का प्रत्येक स्कूल में रजिस्टर संचारित किया जाएगा। निरीक्षण पर आने वाले अधिकारी इसका अवलोकन करेंगे। इसके लिए विभाग नैतिक शिक्षा विशेषांक जारी करेगा।

पहले दिन बड़ी शुरुआत

2 अक्टूबर को प्रदेश में प्रत्येक जिले के एक विद्यालय में प्राथना सभा के दौरान कार्यक्रम का श्रोगणेश होगा। इस में स्थानीय स्काउट एवं गाइड संगठन का सहयोग लिया जाएगा। प्राथना सभा में शिक्षक एवं विद्यार्थियों के अलावा अभिभावक, नागरिक, दानदाता और अधिकारी आमंत्रित किए जाएंगे।

जरूरी है नैतिक शिक्षा

विभाग जुलाई माह से इसकी तैयारी कर रहा था। अब आदेश जारी हो गए। स्कूलों में बच्चों को नैतिक शिक्षा की भी महती आवश्यकता है। इस संबंध में संस्था प्रानों को जल्द आदेश जारी करेंगे।

परस चंय जैन,

शिक्षा अधिकारी (मा.), इंदी

अधिक फोटोवाफ एवं जानकारी के लिए लॉगऑन करें...

www.patrika.com

Rajasthan Patrika (H), September 30, 2013, P.4 (Moral Education)

Poor quality of education worries India

Chetan Chauhan

chetan@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India has one of the world's biggest public-funded school education systems with around 5.8 million teachers in 1.3 million schools, but the quality of education is falling as enrollment is shifting from public to

private schools.

The last decade witnessed the biggest school expansion since independence but it has compromised on quality of teachers impacting students' overall learning ability.

A study by NGO Pratham this year found that 53% of class V students were unable to read

class II level text in 2012 as compared to 47% in 2010. "The decline in reading levels is more visible among children in government schools as compared to those in private," the study said, recording a similar trend in learning levels in mathematics.

The years when learning levels fell also witnessed a fall in

number of trained teachers in schools. Around 86% of teachers in schools were trained as compared to just 75% in 2012, HRD ministry data shows. In 2007-08, around 90% of the teachers were trained. "There are 8.1 lakh untrained teachers in the country with four states — Bihar, Uttar Pradesh,

Jharkhand and West Bengal — accounting for 72% of them," a Planning Commission report for the 12th five-year-plan said.

Experts say the government needs to make senior secondary schools as training ground for primary school teachers. Also, better salaries and permanent job could motivate young teachers.

Hindustan Times, September 5, 2013, P.9 (Quality of Education)

Form committee for school dropouts: HC

BANGALORE: The High Court on Wednesday directed the State government to constitute a high power committee to look into the issue of school dropouts in the State.

Hearing a suo motu petition, the Division Bench comprising Chief Justice D H Waghela and Justice B V Nagarathna said that this committee will look into all aspects of dropouts and implementation of government schemes for school students.

This committee will include members from various departments and parties who have impleaded themselves in the petitions.

"The committee will convene a meeting where people like Kathayini Chamaraj, trustee Civic Bangalore, Jayna Kothari, counsel for Azim Premji University, will be invitees to make suggestions on reforms to ensure proper implementation of Right to Education and to ensure that schemes meant for students reach them on time," the Bench said.

During the hearing, State government counsel R Devdas mentioned the steps taken to address several issues and efforts being made to compile data regarding the number of dropouts.

He submitted that collection of data had begun and would be compiled by November 2013. He submitted that the State government was planning to extend government schemes to unaided schools to encourage parents to send their wards to schools.

He said the dropout phenomenon is mainly because not many parents are aware of the schemes offered by the government.

He submitted that the government is planning to set up a committee to disseminate information in this regard.

KPSC scam

The High Court took the State government to task over the de-

lay in initiating action against those who got into government service by fraudulent means.

"The government wants to use KPSC as a shield. If someone enters into service by fraud and is being prosecuted, are you willing to continue him in service? If you want to continue him in service, there will be no action. If you do not want him there will be at least some action. You are just dilly dallying here," Chief Justice D H Waghela observed during the hearing of a petition pertaining to irregularities in KPSC appointments during 1998, 1999 and 2004.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice D H Waghela and Justice B V Nagarathna directed the KPSC to submit data of scaling and moderation in the selection of gazetted probationers, by September 20.

'Govt flayed'

When the Additional Advocate General S Kantharaja stated that the KPSC has sought more time for moderation of nine more answer scripts, the Bench lashed out at the government saying that it was not interested in initiating action on the basis of the CID report.

Sanjeev Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, who was present in the court submitted that the CID report pertaining to 1998 batch of recruits requires a scrutiny and they were in the process of revising it and preparing a fresh list.

When the Additional Advocate General pointed out that the KPSC started co-operating only after the High Court issued directions, the Chief Justice said: "The government seems to be helpless. One side you are saying KPSC is not co-operating and other side you are doubting the CID report itself. You don't even have guts to question the people who entered into the service by means of fraud."

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, September 19, 2013, P.4
(Committee- School Dropouts)

नर्सरी और प्री-प्राइमरी बच्चों के विकास में बाधक

नई दिल्ली | बरिष्ठ संवाददाता

निजी स्कूलों में चल रही नर्सरी और प्री-प्राइमरी कक्षाओं पर केंद्र सरकार ने हाईकोर्ट में कड़ा पेटराज जताया है। केंद्र सरकार ने कहा है कि 6 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों को औपचारिक स्कूली शिक्षा देने से उनका स्वास्थ्य एवं मानसिक विकास प्रभावित होता है। केंद्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को हाईकोर्ट में हलफनामा दाखिल कर यह जानकारी दी है।

हाईकोर्ट में दाखिल हलफनामे में राजधानी के निजी स्कूलों में चल रही नर्सरी और प्री-प्राइमरी कक्षा की चर्चा करते हुए कहा गया है कि मंत्रालय कभी भी 6 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों स्कूल भेजने के पक्ष में नहीं रहा है। चीफ जस्टिस एन. वी. रमन और जस्टिस मनमोहन की पीठ के समक्ष मंत्रालय ने अधिवक्ता अशोक अग्रवाल द्वारा राजधानी के सभी सरकारी एवं नगर निगम की स्कूलों में नर्सरी व प्री-प्राइमरी कक्षा शुरू करने की मांग को लेकर

आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र पर भेजे

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि छह साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों को समग्र विकास के लिए आंगनवाड़ी योजना के तहत चलाए जा रहे आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र पर ही भेजा जाना चाहिए। मंत्रालय ने सरकारी व निगम स्कूलों में नर्सरी व प्री-प्राइमरी शुरू करने की मांग को खारिज कर दिया है।

हलफनामे से लगता है कि सरकार बच्चों को शिक्षा देने के प्रति गंभीर नहीं है। - अशोक अग्रवाल, अधिवक्ता संगठन के अधिवक्ता

दाखिल ज नहित याचिका के जवाब में हलफनामा दाखिल किया है। केंद्र सरकार का यह हलफनामा इस मसले पर दिल्ली सरकार की नीतियों के विपरीत है। दिल्ली के निजी स्कूलों को दिल्ली सरकार ने नर्सरी और प्री-प्राइमरी कक्षा चलाने की अनुमति दी है। इस मामले पर हाईकोर्ट बुधवार को सुनवाई करेगा।

Hindustan (H), September 25, 2013, P.3
(Pre-schools/Primary Schools)

Only 62 special educators for capital's 18,000 special children

SHIKHA SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

IT has been four months since she went to school. Every time the 11-year-old turns up at her municipal school in Nehru Park, the principal sends her back, saying the school doesn't have special educators to teach her. The 11-year-old is a challenged child.

But she isn't the only one forced to stay at home because of a lack of specialist teachers. Her's is the story of more than 18,000 differently abled children studying in the city's many government and municipal schools, who, in the absence of special education teachers, are either not allowed to enter the schools or refused admission.

A report submitted by the Education department in the Delhi Assembly identified 18,000 such kids in 2009. The number of teachers qualified to teach these students, though, stands at only 62.

Around 250 teachers hired on contract under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) were teaching in the city's many schools until May. But their contracts were not renewed once they expired. "So barring the 62 teachers engaged by the government recently, there are no teachers in both MCD and government schools now," said SC Bimal, component coordinator (special education), SSA.

In September 2009, the High Court, noting the serious paucity of special educators, directed the government and local bodies to ensure each school had at least two

special educators within six months.

Following the order, the Delhi government created 927 permanent teacher posts in Directorate of Education (DoE) schools and 1,610 in MCD schools through the Delhi Subordinate State Services Board (DSSSB). But little seems to have come of it.

"For the 927 posts, 450 teachers were called for counselling and we are expecting some to join soon. With 62 guest teachers already working, the situation will improve as the second round of recruiting guest teachers and fresh recruitment of contract teachers is underway," said Amit Singla, Director, DoE.

"We have created 695 posts for special educators. As soon as the DSSSB recruits for these posts, we will fill them up," said Mukesh Yadav, PRO, South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Only nine out of 8,789 teachers shortlisted by DSSSB, though, have qualified for the job.

The quality of education, also, stands to question. "Where the Rehabilitation Council of India prescribes one teacher for every eight differently abled children, most teachers appointed on contract are given 20 schools to handle. Principals in most MCD schools refuse to admit children with disabilities. In some cases, we see a child only once a month. We may call them children with special needs but the truth is, they are the most ignored," said Ramgopal, a special educator working on contract.

The Indian Express, September 5, 2013, P.1
(Special Educator)

3 years after RTE, 1.3L schools have no toilets

61,000 Institutes Lack Drinking Water Facilities

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: More than three years after the implementation of the RTE Act and an expenditure of over Rs 46,282.11 crore on school infrastructure, around 1.28 lakh out of 10,75,407 government elementary schools across the country still don't have toilets and over 61,000 lack drinking water facilities.

According to the District Information System for Education 2011-12, Bihar has 18,169 schools without lavatories, the highest among states. Andhra Pradesh follows with 18,092 such schools, while Chhattisgarh (14,897), Jammu & Kashmir (12,341), Odisha (10,579) and Uttar Pradesh (12,104) are others with more than 10,000 schools lacking the facility. Jharkhand has 8,494 such schools and West Bengal 7,561.

Among schools without drinking water facility, Andhra Pradesh suffers the worst with 11,461 such institutions. Maharashtra, Assam, J&K, Bihar and Jharkhand have more than 3,000 such schools each.

This is in spite of Rs 28,171.6 crores (cumulative figure for all states and UTs) being released during 2010-11 and 2011-12 for boosting infrastructure in schools. The RTE Act was passed by the Parliament in 2009 and was notified as law on August 25, 2009 guaranteeing free

and compulsory education for children between six to 14 years of age. The law came into effect from April 1, 2010 across all states barring J&K. As per the provisions of the law under the "norms and standards" category, schools have to provide separate toilets for boys and girls and safe and adequate drinking water facility for all children.

Even the Elementary Education in India report's Educational Development Index 2011-12 of National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) says that infrastructure includes student-classroom ratio, classroom-teacher ratio, drinking water facility, boys' and girls' toilets, ramps

and kitchen-sheds.

If this is not bad enough, the NEUPA's report, based on DISE data, says that many of the schools which have toilets and drinking water facility, the infrastructure is as good as non-existent as they are non-functional.

For example, 74.63% of schools in Andhra Pradesh have separate boys' toilets, but only 21.57% are functional. Same is the case with girls' toilets, with just 61.38% of them functional.

Across the country, says the report, 81.14% schools have boys' toilets of which only 65.87% are functional, and of the 72.16% schools which have girls' toilets, only 84.68% are functional.

LEARN NO LESSONS

Total funds released for providing infrastructural facilities in schools from 2010 to June 2013: 46,282 cr

No. of schools lacking in toilets: 1,28,781

No. of gov't elementary schools: 10,78,407

No. of schools lacking in drinking water facilities:

5 Best performing states in terms of infrastructure at primary schools: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand & West Bengal (in descending order)

6 Worse performing states in terms of infrastructure at primary schools: Meghalaya, Arunachal, J&K, Nagaland, Assam and Delhi (in order of rank 35 to 30)

% of schools having: Boys functional toilets: 65.87% | Girls functional toilets: 84.68%

The Times of India, September 20, 2013, P.17
(Schools-Sanitation)

देखभाल के लिए स्कूलों में बनेंगी समितियां

राजधानी में स्कूली बच्चों को यौन हिंसा से बचाने के लिए जारी किए गए दिशा-निर्देश

विदेशी कानूनों का अध्ययन कर तैयार किए दिशा-निर्देश

भावनार्थक उत्पीड़न एवं यौन शोषण की नियमानुसार व्याख्या की गई है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति जो बच्चों के उत्तरदायित्व को जिम्मेदारी रखता है इस दिशा-निर्देशों के दायरे में आएगा। यह अध्यापक, ट्यूशन टीचर, माता-पिता, रिश्तेदार, अस्पताल में बच्चा वाई का अधिकारी भी हो सकता है। इन दिशा-निर्देशों में सभी सरकारी और गैर सरकारी संस्थान समाहित हैं। नियुक्ति से पहले सत्यापन जरूरी स्कूल में ऐसे किसी भी व्यक्ति को नियुक्त नहीं होगा, जिसके खिलाफ जेजे एक्ट, पाकिंग एक्ट के तहत मामला दर्ज है। संस्था में नौकरी के लिए आवेदन करने वाले प्रतिभागी को शपथपत्र जमा करना पड़ेगा। कमेटी रखेगी बच्चों पर नजर स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ रैंगिंग व बच्चों के व्यवहार में बदलाव पर नजर रखने के लिए स्टैंडर्ड टोचर ट्रेनिंग माइयूएल कमेटी बनानी पड़ेगी, जिसमें स्कूल के सीनियर पदाधिकारी और एक 'पैरकार्डसलर' होगा। पैरकार्डसलर संस्थान का कोई भी सीनियर पदाधिकारी हो सकता है। काउंसिलिंग केंद्र बनाना अनिवार्य प्रत्येक शैक्षणिक संस्थान को काउंसिलिंग केंद्र बनाना होगा। काउंसिलिंग केंद्र का माहौल इस

कदर बनाया जाएगा कि बच्चा बेझीक होकर अपनी शिकायत रख सके। उत्पीड़न या फिर यौन शोषण की शिकायत आने पर कमेटी एक मनोवैज्ञानिक को जरूर बुलाएगी। जबकि चैप्टर सात के अनुसार दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करवाने के लिए स्कूल को अपने यहां मैनेजमेंट कमेटी एवं चाइल्ड एब्यूज मॉनिटरिंग कमेटी बनाना अनिवार्य होगा। महिला सुरक्षाकर्मी रहेगी तैनात स्कूली वाहन में अब कम से कम एक महिला सुरक्षाकर्मी को तैनात करना अनिवार्य होगा। स्कूली वाहन में तैनात अध्यापक, सुरक्षाकर्मी को प्रत्येक बच्चे के अभिभावक का मोबाइल नंबर भी रखना अनिवार्य होगा। यही नहीं प्रत्येक स्कूल को बच्चों को दूर पर भेजने से पहले अभिभावक से लिखित अनुमति लेनी पड़ेगी। बेवजह फोन नहीं करेंगे अध्यापक अध्यापक बेवजह किसी भी बच्चे को फोन या ईमेल नहीं करेंगे। छात्र को भेजा जाने वाला प्रत्येक ईमेल अभिभावक को भी भेजा जाएगा। अध्यापक सोशल मीडिया के जरिए छात्रों से नहीं जुड़ सकेंगे।

Dainik Jagran (H), September 8, 2013, P.4
(Guidelines-Child Abuse Monitoring in Schools)

Delhi gets 3 months to decide on nursery rules

CHANGE Petition seeks amendment in rules to get it under RTE Act

Press Trust of India
#htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday gave the Delhi government three months to decide on a plea seeking an amendment in the admission procedure for nursery classes to bring it in line with the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which prohibits screening of children for admissions.

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and justice Manmohan disposed of a PIL while directing the government and the Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) to take a decision on the representation by Social Jurist, a civil rights group.

According to the PIL, the Delhi government had, in its 2007 order, given freedom to private unaided recognised schools to frame their own guidelines for

nursery admissions.

Ashok Agarwal, the petitioner's counsel, argued that by giving a free hand to private schools to formulate their own guidelines, the government had violated Section 13 of the RTE Act.

The lawyer argued that the high court had in its February 19, 2013, judgment on another petition had said "though we have held that the RTE Act is not applicable to nursery schools, in our opinion there cannot be any different yardstick to be adopted for education to children up to

THE COUNSEL ARGUED THAT GIVING A FREE HAND TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO MAKE THEIR OWN GUIDELINES IS VIOLATION OF RTE ACT

the age of 14 years irrespective of the fact that it applies to only elementary education".

"It is the right time for the government to consider the applicability of the RTE Act to the nursery classes as well, as in many states admissions are made right from the nursery classes and the children so admitted are automatically allowed to continue from Class I...", the bench had stated.

The lawyer said the high court had stated that the petitioner was asked to give a representation to the LG for making an appropriate amendment in the government order granting autonomy to unaided schools to frame guidelines for nursery admission.

Claiming that a representation was made to the LG, the counsel said there was no response from the government so far.

Hindustan Times, September 26, 2013, P.4 (RTE)

शिक्षा का उजाला: दिखने लगा आरटीई का असर, कई मानकों पर पर्याप्त सुधार

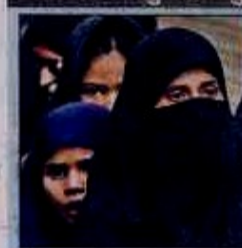
बढ़ रहे लड़कियों-मुस्लिम बच्चों के दाखिले

राजकेश्वर सिंह, नई दिल्ली

वैसा तो नहीं हुआ जैसा होना था। शिक्षा का अधिकार कानून (आरटीई) बनने के तीन वर्ष बाद भी बच्चे पढ़ाई से महरूम हैं। लाखों शिक्षकों की कमी भी है। बावजूद इसके कानून का ही असर है कि जमीन पर बहुत कुछ बदल भी रहा है। बुनियादी सुविधाएं सुधरी हैं। नतीजतन स्कूलों में लड़कियों और मुस्लिम समुदाय के बच्चों का दाखिला बढ़ा है। साथ ही स्कूली पढ़ाई के ज्यादातर मोर्चों पर सुधार के संकेत मिल रहे हैं।

प्राथमिक और उच्च प्राथमिक में लड़कियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है। वर्ष 2011-12 के दौरान उच्च प्राथमिक में 48.39 प्रतिशत लड़कियों ने दाखिला लिया। वहीं, 2012-13 में यह संख्या 48.67 फीसद तक पहुंच गई। हालांकि, प्राथमिक में मामूली वृद्धि हुई। इसका आंकड़ा 48.35 से बढ़कर 48.36 फीसद तक ही पहुंच

छात्र-कक्षा अनुपात में सुधार, कक्षा में अब ज्यादा रुक रहे बच्चे



बुनियादी सुविधाओं में सुधार	
लड़कियों के लिए शौचालय	
राष्ट्रीय औसत	72.16 से बढ़कर 88.32%
उत्तर प्रदेश	81 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 98%
बिहार	52 से बढ़कर 76%
विद्युतीकरण	राष्ट्रीय औसत 47 से बढ़ 49%
बाउंड्री वाल	58.16 से 59.48%

सका। मुस्लिम समुदाय के छात्रों ने स्कूलों की तरफ तेजी से रुख किया है। एक साल के भीतर स्कूली पढ़ाई में उनका दाखिला 12.79 से बढ़कर 13.52 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच गया। दिल्ली में यह आंकड़ा 12.5 से बढ़कर 15.5 प्रतिशत, यूपी में 9.6 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 13.2 प्रतिशत हो गया, जबकि बिहार में 14.7 से घटकर 14.5 प्रतिशत रह गया।

जिला सूचना शिक्षा प्रणाली की सालाना रिपोर्ट कुछ ऐसे ही संकेत दे

रही है। हालांकि, यह रिपोर्ट अभी सार्वजनिक होना बाकी है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, रिपोर्ट यह इशारा भी करती है कि एक ही कक्षा में बार-बार फेल होने वाले छात्रों की स्थिति भी पहले जैसी नहीं है। प्राथमिक में 2009-10 में औसतन 5.08 प्रतिशत बच्चे फेल हो जाते थे। वर्ष 2012-13 के दौरान यह आंकड़ा घटकर 0.71 प्रतिशत हो रह गया है। स्कूलों में पढ़ाई के लिए बच्चे पहले के मुकाबले ज्यादा रुकने लगे हैं। बिहार में यह प्रतिशत 59 से

61 और गुजरात में 87 से 95 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच गया है, जबकि पश्चिम बंगाल में यह 81 प्रतिशत से घटकर 63 प्रतिशत रह गया है। एक कक्षा में बच्चों की संख्या (छात्र-कक्षा अनुपात) में भी सुधार आया है। बिहार में यह 79 से घटकर 65, झारखंड में 33 से 30, यूपी में 34 से 32 तक पहुंच गया है।

हालांकि, दिल्ली में स्थिति बिगड़ी है। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में 2011-12 के दौरान जहां एक कक्षा में 36 बच्चे पढ़ते थे, वहीं 2012-13 में यह 41 तक पहुंच गया। बच्चों ने स्कूलों की तरफ मुंह किया है। लिहाजा, पिछले साल से प्राथमिक कक्षा की दाखिला दर दो प्रतिशत तक कम हुई है, जबकि बीते एक साल में उच्च प्राथमिक में 4.8 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ी है। इस मामले में यूपी में 13 प्रतिशत, हरियाणा में आठ प्रतिशत और बिहार में छह प्रतिशत तक इजाफा हुआ है।

Dainik Jagran (H), September 23, 2013, P.1 (RTE)

DILEMMA Schools say yes to the Act in principle, but not in spirit. Why is it our burden, they ask



Zehra Kazmi
#zhrkazmi@hindustantimes.com

The Right to Education Act, the landmark piece of legislation passed in 2009, has met with resistance from private schools which are required to reserve 25% of their seats for students from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). Most private schools in Delhi have now rolled out the welcome mat for RTE, and out of the 25,000 seats available, 10,000 have been filled.

In the National Capital Region, where the Act has not been fully implemented yet, private schools are still apprehensive about it. Schools don't deny the importance of providing free and compulsory elementary education to underprivileged children - the mainstay of the Act - but are unhappy at being asked to shoulder the burden.

Their main grouse is the financial stress that the reservation will put on schools. The government had announced compensation for schools implementing RTE norms (the Delhi government is providing ₹1,190 per child per month as compensation), but private schools argue that it is too low. "After the 6th Pay Commission, the entire tuition fee goes into paying salaries and maintenance. Where will we find the funds?" asks Nalini Arul Raj, principal, Somerville School, Noida. Many have coped with the added cost by raising their fee.

Before the RTE, many schools ran charitable institutions or separate schools for the underprivileged. If it ain't broke, why fix it, they ask. "The way RTE is implemented needs to change. There is a system already in place - of having separate schools or classes after school and that should continue," said J.P. Gaur, principal, Modern Vidya Niketan, Faridabad. After the RTE was implemented, many charitable schools such as the Shiksha Kendra schools run by the Delhi Public School society shut

shop. However, many others continue till this day. But lawyer and RTE activist Ashok Aggarwal argues that such informal schools have no validity in the eyes of the law. And they still keep the underprivileged at the periphery, while the Act aims to integrate them into the mainstream.

The RTE Act may be an attempt to erase differences, but schools fear that it may end up throwing them into sharp relief. Schools worry how students from the EWS background will integrate with others. "As adolescents, they will feel the difference. They know what a good tiffin box or bag is and if poorer students can't afford them, they may develop a complex and turn to stealing," said Anita Malhar, principal, DAV Public School, Gurgaon.

To overcome such problems, schools are undertaking sensitisation programmes. They have also instituted remedial classes to help these first-generation learners cope with the syllabus, especially the English language, which is their main stumbling block. "But with no one to help them at home, we can't work wonders," said Raj.

Not all schools, however, see RTE as an onerous imposition, but as a step which was long due. "Good schools should do something for those unable to access quality education. Students from EWS category may need extra efforts, but given the proper training they can do well," said Anju Sharma, principal, Ryan International School, Faridabad. As for concerns regarding mixing students from different backgrounds, Simran Arora, a Class 11 student at Eicher School, Faridabad believes it is possible. "At our school, there are students from all backgrounds and we study together, eat and play together. There isn't any discrimination of any kind," she says confidently.

Schools will need to work hard to resolve the challenges of RTE, but as Sharmila Raheja, principal of Ghaziabad's Uttam School for Girls sums up, "I believe if we don't start now, we will never make a beginning."

Hindustan Times, September 10, 2013, P.9 (RTE)

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आरटीआई के तहत दी जानकारी

आरटीई पर तीन साल में 1.13 लाख करोड़ खर्च

नई दिल्ली | माघ

छह से चौदह साल के बच्चों को अनिवार्य और निःशुल्क शिक्षा का अधिकार (आरटीई) लागू करने में पिछले तीन साल के दौरान देश भर में 1.13 लाख करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए गए हैं। सूचना के अधिकार के तहत यह जानकारी मिली है।

आरटीई पर देश भर में कुल खर्च एवं लाभार्थियों की संख्या पर अगर गौर किया जाए तो 2010-11 में यह प्रति छात्र 2384 रुपये था जो कि 2011-12 में बढ़कर यह प्रति छात्र 2861 रुपये हो गया। शिक्षा के अधिकार पर होने वाले खर्च की हिस्सेदारी केंद्र और

शिक्षकों की मारी कमी

देश भर में सरकार, स्थानीय निकाय एवं सहायता प्राप्त स्कूलों में शिक्षकों के 45 लाख पद हैं। शिक्षा के अधिकार कानून के तहत 2012-13 में सर्व शिक्षा अभियान के तहत 19.82 लाख पद मंजूर किए गए और 31 दिसंबर 2012 तक 12.86 लाख पद भरे गए। अभी 6.96 लाख पद खाली हैं। इनमें से तीन लाख पद प्राथमिक शिक्षा स्तर पर हैं। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से जुड़ी स्थायी समिति की रिपोर्ट में शिक्षकों की कमी पर गंभीर विचार व्यक्त की गई है।

राज्य के बीच 68:32 के अनुपात में होती है जबकि पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों के लिए यह अनुपात 90:10 है। मुंबई के आरटीआई कार्यकर्ता सलीम बेग ने मानव संसाधन विकास

मंत्रालय से शिक्षा का अधिकार कानून लागू होने के बाद अब तक देश में हुए कुल खर्च, स्वीकृत बजट, लाभार्थियों की संख्या आदि का ब्योरा मांगा था। मंत्रालय के स्कूल शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता

विभाग से प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार वर्ष 2010-11 में आरटीई के लिए देश भर में 37.24 हजार करोड़ रुपये उपलब्ध कराए गए जिसमें से 31.35 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुए। इस अवधि में आरटीई के लाभार्थियों की संख्या 13 करोड़ के करीब थी। इसी तरह 2011-12 में आरटीई में देश भर में 42.43 हजार करोड़ रुपये उपलब्ध कराए गए और इसमें से 37.83 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुए। इस अवधि में आरटीई के लाभार्थियों की संख्या 12.93 करोड़ थी। 2012-13 में 47.96 हजार करोड़ रुपये उपलब्ध कराए गए जिसमें से 44.08 हजार करोड़ खर्च हुए।

Hindustan (H), September 9, 2013, P.15 (RTE)

Know your RTE

A one-stop portal for information and grievance redressal on the Right to Education Act was launched recently

Hansika Chopra

Parents across the country rejoiced when the Right to Education Act came into effect in April, 2010. However, many realised that there were still lot of bumps on the road ahead. Attempting to fill the information gap between the system and parents, and within the system, Centre for Civil Society (CCS) and Central Square Foundation (CSF), think tanks on education, have launched an online portal (www.righttoeducation.in) which is a one-stop source for all information on the Act.

Work began on the e-portal in March 2010, almost shoulder to shoulder with the progression of the Act. It is equipped with all the latest developments on the subject, including the Act itself, rules and notifications on it, information on parliamentary debates, criteria for eligibility of schools to be enlisted under the RTE, comparison of the status of the Act in different states, 25 per cent reservations in private schools for children under the EWS category and the like.

The portal was formally launched last week at FICCI. Prior to which, the team at CCS was taking its queries on its helpline number wherein they received almost 10-12 calls per day from across the country from parents, schools wanting to comply with the Act and also from government bodies which wanted to implement the Act in the schools under its jurisdiction.

According to Abhishek

Bhattacharya (policy expert at CCS), most of the recent queries have been about the 25 per cent reservation in private schools for children belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category. "A woman from Pune called us to inquire about how to admit her maid's son in a private school under the 25 per cent quota. We helped her with the procedure and informed her about the redressal mechanism in case of harassment. Today the child is admitted in one of Pune's best private schools. As the news about the child's admission spread in the neighbourhood, she helped many others with the procedure to get their children admitted to private schools", said Abhishek.

Many State bodies have already aligned themselves to the website, and are sharing their data with them. Although Ashish Dhawan (CEO, CSF) admitted it may be because "they (State authorities) thought that it was a Government of India site".

The portal and the helpline also advise parents and schools on where to file complaints, and also help government bodies on how to best address the complaints. The portal has a section for grievance redressal wherein anyone can register a complaint with them regarding the Act. The team compiles these complaints and formally registers them at the right office, department, which is in-charge of addressing the issue and decides whether to involve the NCPDR (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) or the State Commission (SCPCR). This facility can avoid parents and schools from getting lost in the huge bureaucratic vortex.

The portal seeks to instill better governance in schools and increase information among schools and parents. For instance, many schools are not aware of the grants that they are entitled to, which is reflective of information gaps within the system.

Going forward, the portal plans to become a wholesome platform for organisations, aided and non-government, which are working in the education sector to interact and discuss how to best employ concentrated efforts in the direction of quality education for all. It also plans to put up best teaching practices that can be employed in schools to better teach the students, suggest ways for parents to effectively be a part of Schools Management Committees and participate in the functioning of schools.

The Hindu, September 4, 2013, P.8

(RTE)

Govt clears play school draft policy

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 20

The Union government on Friday cleared a proposal for regulating and monitoring the quality of care and education provided to children at play schools and crèches across the country.

The Cabinet approved the draft policy of the National Early Childhood Care and Education (NECCE) for setting up of a national council to establish guidelines for the standardisation of teaching and learning aids, trained manpower, sanitation and hygiene norms etc. in play schools and day care centres. "The new policy proposes to set standards for the care givers which will follow a set curriculum framework. It will move towards self registration to regulation," a senior official in the ministry said.

बच्चे बचपन में पढ़ाई के दौरान छोटे बच्चों के आराम को सरकार की नई नीति

प्ले स्कूलों में खिलवाड़ नहीं

विशेष संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

क्या हैं खास बातें

अब देशभर के प्ले स्कूलों और क्रेच में बच्चों को घर जैसी सुविधाएं देना जरूरी होगा। छोटे बच्चों को तनावपूर्ण माहौल से दूर रखने और क्वालिटी बेसिक एजुकेशन के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने शुक्रवार को नई नीति को मंजूरी दे दी। इसके अंतर्गत न सिर्फ बच्चों की सुविधाओं का ध्यान रखा गया है, बल्कि उनके क्लासरूम और आउटडोर स्पेस का साइज तय करने जैसे कदम भी उठाए गए हैं।

■ बच्चों पर इंग्लिश नहीं थोपी जाएगी, पढ़ाई का माध्यम उनकी मातृभाषा या स्थानीय भाषा होगी।

■ 3-6 साल के 20 बच्चों पर/3 साल से कम के 10 बच्चों पर एक आया रखनी होगी।

■ बच्चों के खाने-पीने, मेडिकल, टॉयलेट और सोने के लिए खास इंतजाम होंगे।

■ मॉनिटरिंग सेल इनकी क्वालिटी पर नज़र रखेगी और शिकायतें सुनेगी। यह सेल 3 महीने में बना दी जाएगी।

■ इन स्कूलों में पढ़ाई और सिखाने के तौर-तरीके एक जैसे हों, इस पर एक साल के अंदर गाइडलाइंस आ जाएगी। टीचर्स के लिए न्यूनतम योग्यता तय की जाएगी।

■ एक क्लास में 30 से ज्यादा बच्चे नहीं होंगे।

■ 30 बच्चों के क्लासरूम का साइज 35 स्क्वायर मीटर से कम नहीं होगा।

■ इससे बाहर भी कम से कम 30 स्क्वायर मीटर की खुली जगह होगी।

15.87
करोड़ बच्चों (6 साल से कम) को होगा नए नियम से फायदा



Nav Bharat Times (H), September 21, 2013, P.5

Amar Ujala (H),
September 21, 2013, P.5
(Playschools-Draft Policy Guidelines)

Delhi government guidelines for schools

- Schools to display child and women helpline numbers in bus.
- While going on a picnic, the parents and police must be informed about the route.
- No trip should be compulsory.
- There should be adequate security on school campus and hostels.

Guidelines for parents

- Parents must interact regularly with children to make sure they are not facing any kind of abuse.
- All precautions should be taken to ensure that they don't face abuse at home.
- Parents must verify credentials of school bus driver
- Children must be trained to recognize predatory and suspicious behaviour and abuse.

Hindustan Times,
September 16, 2013, P.4
(Guidelines-Schools/Parents)

Govt fixes size, language, nap time for playschools

Meals, Ratio Of Caregivers Also Specified

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

New Delhi: Government has proposed standards for playschools that include the size of the classroom and outdoor space, mandatory use of mother tongue or vernacular language as medium of instruction and student-caregiver ratio.

These conditions are part of the early childhood care and education (ECCE) formulated by the women and child development (WCD) ministry slated to be discussed by the Union Cabinet on Friday.



Among the "base standards" that are "non-negotiable" are an ECCE programme for three-four hours, one classroom for a group of 30 children measuring at least 35 sq m and with the availability of a minimum outdoor space of 30 sq m, separate space for cooking nutritionally balanced meals and nap time for children, a caregiver-student ratio of 1:20 for children between three and six years of age and 1:10 for kids younger than three. The primary medium of in-

The norms formulated by the women and child development ministry will be discussed by the Union Cabinet on Friday

struction will be the mother tongue or local language.

Other conditions include age and a developmentally appropriate and child-centric curriculum, first aid services, adequate and safe drinking water, separate child-friendly toilets. Playschools will be monitored by the National ECCE Council, which is expected to be set up within three months of the policy being ratified. The policy also mandates that the council create a regulatory frame-

work within a year and state councils within 18 months.

India has 158.7 million children between 0-6 years. The WCD ministry reaches out to 80 million children through its ICDS programme and provides care and education for kids of working mothers through 23,785 crèches.

The ministry plans to advise all states to notify ECCE as a subject. The ministry is so likely to bring a legislation that will "promote integrated and comprehensive child development detailing age-appropriate interventions to address various facets of care, education, survival, protection and development of all children under 6... assuring the right of the child in early childhood to integrated child development," the draft policy said.

The Times of India, September 20, 2013, P.9
(Playschools)

Survey on dropouts nears completion

BANGALORE: The just-concluded Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) pilot survey of out-of-school children (OOSC) has found that a large number of them, identified at Channasandra in Bangalore, are from outside the State.

The consolidation of the findings of the survey is likely to be completed in the next few days. The SSA began the pilot survey last week to get a clear picture of the number of children who are out of school. The survey was also conducted in one cluster in Chikkaballapur. The officials aim to identify three different categories of children: dropouts, schoolgoing and those who have never enrolled themselves in schools.

"There exists a sizeable floating population in Channasandra and most of these children who are out of school belong to states like West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Those from the state make up a very small part of the total figure and mainly come from the northern districts like Raichur, Gulbarga and Bijapur," said Block Resource Coordinator (BRC), South-4, M S Krishnappa.

According to officials, out of the 18,306 families that were surveyed in this cluster, as many as 411 children were found to be either out of school or those that have never been enrolled in one. The large migrant population in the area mainly work as construction labourers in the fast developing real estate sector, according to officials. They pointed out a case of a construction site near Kadugondanahalli in the area where there are around 80 labourer sheds.

"A total of 20 children fit to go to school have been found here. However, only five to seven children were found to be going to school," said Manjunath Naik, Cluster Resource Person (CRP), Channasandra.

In a number of cases, officials found that one of the main reasons for children of these migrant families not enrolling in schools is that the children had to stay at home to take care of their siblings and the household, while their parents were out working.

"There are as many as six 'tent schools' in Channasandra and each caters to 20 to 120 children. Had it not been for these schools, the number of out-of-school children would have been higher," said Krishnappa.

The data collected for the survey is based on both school records as well as field survey of families and households. So far as the former is concerned, officials found 265 OOSC between 2011 to 2013. Based on the household survey, officials discovered that there are 146 children who were out of school. A total of 29 schools - 16 government and 13 private schools each - were surveyed.

The survey also found that there were 9,038 children who were in school - government and private - with most of them coming from more well to do backgrounds. The pilot survey was conducted at Channasandra as well as in Chikkaballapur between September 2 to September 10 as part of the Education department's effort to determine the exact number of OOSC in the State.

The last survey in the area was conducted three years ago in those areas that were "projected to have a presence" of OOSC like slums.

Migrant families

Teachers involved in the survey opined that the tricky part was to identify the floating population.

"Whitefield and Kadugodi areas in Bangalore have a lot of construction work going on. Migrant families leave the place after the construction work is complete. They would

have enrolled their children in school during their stay here and would have left without transfer certificates. It is difficult to track them." However, more data would emerge once the findings are consolidated.
DH News Service

Lack of girls' hostels cause for increase in dropout rates

More students bid bye to school after primary level

Anil Sinha

NEW DELHI: With barely 87 permanent hostels in 3,479 Educationally Backward Blocks, Indian bureaucrats hope in vain to retain adolescent girls in secondary and higher secondary schools (classes 1X-XII) despite knowing well that they drop out in droves after elementary education "due to distance of schools, ill-affording parents and other societal factors."

Data reveal that the dropout rate sharply rises after primary level and peaks at the higher secondary level. Girls enrolled in schools are suddenly banished to the security of their homes before they reach adolescence.

This all too common pattern has led the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women to express "apprehension" about the implementation of the central government-sponsored girls hostel scheme.

According to government data for 2010-11, the dropout rate of girls during Class I-V is 25 per cent. It rises to 41 per cent from I-VIII and 48 per cent from I-X. Over the years, government efforts to peg the exodus have not paid off. The dropout figures for these categories for the previous year (2009-10) are worse - 27, 44, and 52 per cent respectively.

The dropout rate in many

states is much higher than the national average. For example Assam has 78 per cent, Jharkhand 68 and Bihar 58 per cent.

In this backdrop, the bureaucratic strategy to bring girls out of their homes to the open space of learning and the playful environment of a hostel and school seems rather incongruous. The disillusioned Parliamentary Panel has summarised the trends as: "The Committee members are dismayed to note that the physical performance under this centrally sponsored scheme is not encouraging in view of the fact that against the target of 1,999 girls hostels approved way back in 2009-10, only 4.35 per cent hostels have been completed and made functional; 17 per cent of hostels are functional in temporary locations and a massive 78 per cent hostels are either under construction or yet to start," says the panel report.

The panel has expressed its misgivings about the ministry being able to meet its target by the 2015-16 deadline.

The statement of objects of the scheme launched in 2008 states: "The main objective of the scheme is to improve access to and retain the girl child in secondary and higher secondary classes (IX-XII) so that the girls students are not denied the opportunity to continue their study due to distance from schools, parents' financial affordability and other connected societal factors."

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, September 12, 2013, P.6

(School Dropouts)

Deccan Herald, September 7, 2013, P.12

(School Dropouts)

Survey to identify school dropouts planned 'in haste'

Teachers say one person cannot visit 500 houses in a week

Shruthi HM

BANGALORE: The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's (SSA) ambitious week-long pilot survey to identify 'Out Of School Children' (OOSC) began on Monday but critics have found faults with the way it is being undertaken.

The programme aims to ascertain the number of out of school children in two selected educational clusters — Channasandra in the City and Dibbur in Chikkaballapur.

The survey commenced with an orientation to schoolteachers and NGO representatives. The manner in which the survey has been planned has invited much criticism from participants who are sceptic about its outcome. They felt the entire programme was planned in "haste".

Giving an overview of how the pilot survey is going to be carried out, BEO South (Zone IV) told *Deccan Herald* the task began by collecting information from all schools in the cluster about students enrolled (and those who have dropped out) between 2011 and the ongoing academic year.

In the Channasandra cluster, there are 28 schools. According to the BEO, as many as 64 teams are working on it. A door-to-door census, which includes visits to hotels, bars and restaurants, is part of the survey. The SSA officials estimate there are 20,000 houses that



LESS THAN ROSY Students enjoy their midday meals at the Kadugodi government school. The school, which is a part of the survey, has a high incidence of student dropouts. DH photo

fall under this cluster which is surrounded by industrial areas like Whitefield and ITPL and has large number of migrant labour settlements.

"Most students in our school belong to migrant families from Bihar and West Bengal. We find that many of our children who have dropped out work in hotels and bars. In case of girls, they are married off," said the Headmaster of Kadugodi Government School, Mohan Modali.

'Wrong estimate'

Schoolteachers taking part in the survey said the flaws in the planning began with the wrong estimate of the number. "No official has visited this cluster before. There are more than

20,000 houses here. The task just cannot be accomplished in a week," said a government schoolteacher in Kadugodi.

Besides, the SSA had promised to form teams of four teachers each, which include an NGO representative and an anganwadi worker.

Teachers said no anganwadi workers had been deployed and there were very few NGO representatives. In effect, there is only one person in many of the teams expected to visit nearly 500 houses and compile the data. NGOs, on their part, said the SSA's paltry remuneration — Rs 50 per day — was discouraging them.

'No info to pvt schools'

Many private schools have not

been intimated about the survey. Some schools that are aware of the survey have failed to cooperate with the census as they felt it was too short a notice.

"The entire survey is planned for a week. Private schools have sought at least three days' time to provide their student records. After this, we have to follow up children who have quit school. This does not seem to be practical at all," said another school-teacher at Kadugodi, requesting anonymity.

No entry in places

Teachers also mentioned several apartment buildings which do not even allow them inside the entrance. Others who are being let in complained of "so much suspicion" about them that they were being asked not to use the elevators and forced to climb six or seven floors.

Female teachers said they had no security and were afraid of going alone to desolate places in the cluster. "Unless they visit migrant labour settlements and slums, they cannot find out about school-children. They have begun by focusing on residential localities.

"We hope the rest of the survey will look into the vulnerable areas," said Gopi, a member of Sparsha Trust in the City.

Kathyayani Chamaraj, the executive director of CIVIC, an NGO, felt such surveys had become "mere rhetoric".

"Surveys are done but no systemic change is ensured. What is the point in conducting one more survey for the same cause without implementing the findings?"

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, September 4, 2013, P.5

(School Dropouts)

Don't be sorry, just be a friend

Paramita Ghosh
paramitaghosh@hindustantimes.com

Despite India's attempts at inclusive education, schooling for special needs children has usually been a story of lack — of will, infrastructure and personnel.

Schools, both private and government, would avoid admitting children with disability. Since the Persons With Disabilities Act of 1995, and the RTE Act of 2009, there has, however, been an improvement in the record of disability education, in terms of its awareness and seeing it as a matter of right for a large section of young India.

Approximately more than 200,000 children in Delhi suffer from some disability or the other. Schools that cater to such children usually follow a mixed model of inclusion. As Anita Makkar, principal, DAV Gurgaon, puts it: "Wherever possible, inclusion does take place, and wherever required, we do take them out and give them special training. For example, an eight year-old can sit with Class 1 students for an English class, but for other subjects they have to be educated separately."

Good practices have to start in the classroom and in this, the teacher plays an important role. "We ask students to read in class so that all children can participate," said Saudamini Tipra, PGT,

political science, Salwan Public School, Pusa Road. Ajit Singh, a Class XI visually impaired student, who is going to the US on a youth exchange programme, is, for example a student who has benefited from his school's care. "I use a laptop and Jaws software. We have extra schedules, notes and other students help me with dictation," he said.

Indeed, what special needs children most need in a school environment is a sense of acceptance and support from their peers. That is, 'help and support' that comes from the spirit of fellow-feeling, not charity. Schools that integrate such children and do not keep them separate from other children help them better. "We haven't faced any problem in integration. For example, in one of the classes, there is a hearing-impaired child and the entire class understands how to talk to her," said Nidhi Sirohi, principal, Kothari International School, Noida.

The daily life challenges of a special

BOTH PARENTS & TEACHERS NEED COUNSELLING AND MUST WORK TOGETHER. SOMETIMES, FAMILIES DON'T ACCEPT THAT THEIR CHILD HAS A DISABILITY

needs student goes beyond textbook learning. Springdales, Pusa Road, for example, which has 120 special needs students, has been requesting the MCD for permission to build a lift but to no avail, said principal Ameeta Wattal.

Unlike physical disability, learning disability goes undetected in formal teaching. "Parents and teachers need equal counselling. Sometimes, families don't accept that their child has a disability," said Sharmila Raheja, principal, Uttam School for Girls, Ghaziabad.

The interventions by the Delhi high court and publicity of such interventions by media has sensitised authorities, said advocate Ashok Aggarwal who has fought disability cases in Delhi for

years. "A parent of a disabled child has recently won a case against Mother's International School. The school had denied admission to the child with disability on the ground that he was not covered within the 25% RTE EWS quota," said the advocate.

What protection do children have against discrimination? So far as the legal provisions are concerned, there is no dearth of laws. However, the question still is when will the authorities wake up to the right to education of children with disabilities, asked Aggarwal.

Parents also have to deal with some schools charging a higher fee for special needs children. Step by Step school has one of the most comprehensive special

care infrastructure in Delhi. It has 160 children with special needs and 56 special educators including counsellors. "The difference in the education fee between mainstream and children with special educational needs is ₹1,315 per month as tuition fee. There is an addition of ₹1,800 per month for therapies — speech, occupational and physiotherapy. We charge higher fees. But we provide good facilities to these children," said Reena Gupta, the school's educational therapist

Hindustan Times, September 9, 2013, P.8

1.4 Girl Child/Child Sex Ratio/Female Foeticide

Sex ratio falls with age

Subodh Varma | TNN

Among children up to 15 years old, there are 1.8 crore fewer girls than boys — the sex ratio at 914 girls per 1,000 boys remaining the same as a decade ago. This is the chilling picture of the fate of girls emerging from age-wise data of India's population in 2011, released by Census authorities on Friday.

Usually, discrimination against girls is measured by the child sex ratio, that is, the difference in populations of the two sexes between zero and six years of age. Among infants less than a year old, boys outnumber girls by over 9 lakh. But by six years, the difference is nearly 60 lakh. In other words, a sex ratio of about 920 girls per 1,000 boys.

The story doesn't end here. There is an appalling drop in the population of girls after that. The difference in the population of boys and girls in the 7-15 age group rises to nearly 1.1 crore. That's a sex ratio of 911.

While female feticide is responsible for the skewed sex ratio at birth, the skew among living children is driven by gross neglect of the girl child, says Rajni Palriwala, professor of sociology at Delhi University. "Our field studies in several north Indian states in the mid-2000s showed discrimination against the girl child in distribution of food and in times of sickness. She is also given much more domestic work. It is a daughter aversion — in some cases it is deliberate and in others it is unconscious," she says.

Limited resources in families, as found in a very large number of poor families in India, sets up the context for this fatal discrimination. If resources are limited, sons get preferential treatment over daughters. But the Census 2011 data shows that the sex ratio in the 0-15 age group is 920 in rural areas, compared to just 900 in urban areas. This would imply that the discrimination against girls — which begins as sex-selective abortion in urban or more prosperous areas — continues even after birth.

A decade earlier, Census 2001 had shown a similar skew. In the 0-15 age group, the difference between the populations of boys and girls was some 17.3 million, at a lower population base. The sex ratio for this age group was 914, around the same as this time round. In other words, all the measures for special incentives for the girl child — conditional cash transfers, nutritional supplements, family incentives — have failed to make a dent in the prevailing mentality of son-preference.

Girls face stiffer health challenges once they enter puberty because of blood loss in menstruation. Any shortfall in nutrition in these years can damage her health, with anemia the most likely outcome.

This compromises her health further and makes her susceptible to infections. The Census 2011 data reflects this starkly: for the age group 14-18 years, the difference between the boys' and girls' populations is a 77 lakh.

In lakhs	Boys	Girls	Girls per 1000 boys
Below 1 year	106	97	910
1-6 years	751	691	920
7-15 years	1,223	1,115	911
0-15 years	2,080	1,902	914

Source: Census 2011

Nav Bharat Times (H), September 12, 2013, P.11

429 districts see steep dip in child sex ratio

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With child sex ratio witnessing a steep decline in 67 per cent of the country's total districts, the Woman and Child Development Ministry has proposed a National Plan of Action focusing on the 100 worst performing districts. There has been an alarming decline in child sex ratio between the ages 0-6 years in 429 of 640 districts in the country.

In fact, eight districts saw over a 100 point decline, 17 saw between 50-99 point decline and 261 districts saw between 1-19 point decline.

Besides developing more girl-child specific policies, which will include strengthening conditional cash incentive schemes, the Ministry is also aiming to improve the nutrition status of girls - by reducing the number of underweight and anaemic girls under five by 50 per cent. The aim is to improve the national sex ratio from the existing child sex ratio from 905 to 921 per 1000 by 2017.

The WCD Ministry has decided to partner with Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Panchayati Raj, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and local NGOs to fight the menace.

"The situation is very worrisome. So far, all efforts of the Government to check falling child sex ratio have gone in vain. Only 204 districts have shown a positive trend, which is just 31 per cent. Almost two-thirds districts in the country have miserably failed in their efforts," said the official from WCD.

"We will have block level officers and panchayat heads to closely monitor all on-goings in the block and village level- this will help in micro-managing the situation," he said. The Twelfth Five Plan identified the declining CSR as one of the major issues requiring immediate action.

The Ministry is planning on training and sensitisation of sarpanches, Government officials, frontline workers including Ahimsa messengers on the effective implementation of Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, other legal issues, undertaking advocacy measures for valuing girl children and creating child-women friendly panchayats.

The Ministry is also working with Health Ministry to expedite the review of PCP-NDT Act, with necessary amendments.

The Pioneer, September 13, 2013, P.5
(Child Sex Ratio)

Sex ratio skew worsens with age

Girls Lose Out On Food, Healthcare

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

Among children up to 15 years old, there are 1.8 crore fewer girls than boys — the sex ratio at 914 girls per 1,000 boys remaining the same as a decade ago. This is the chilling picture of the fate of girls emerging from age-wise data of India's population in 2011 released by Census authorities on Friday.

Usually, discrimination against girls is measured by the child sex ratio, that is, the difference in populations of the two sexes between zero and six years of age. Among infants who are less than a year old, boys outnumber girls by about 9.55 lakh. But by six years, the difference increases to nearly 69 lakh. In other words, a sex ratio of about 919 girls per 1,000 boys. The story doesn't end here. The difference in the population of boys and girls in the 7-15 age group rises to nearly 1.1 crore. That's a sex ratio of 911 for this age group.

In lakhs	Boys	Girls	Girls per 1000 boys
Below 1 year	106	97	910
1-6 years	751	691	920
7-15 years	1,223	1,115	911
0-15 years	2,080	1,902	914

The Times of India, September 8, 2013, P.1
(Child Sex Ratio)

सांसदों ने की सरकार से मददगार की भूमिका निभाने की अपील

भारत में कन्या भ्रूण हत्या पर अमेरिका चिंतित

वाशिंगटन, प्रेटर : अमेरिकी सांसदों और विशेषज्ञों ने भारत में कन्या भ्रूण हत्या के बढ़ते मामलों पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। उन्होंने अमेरिकी सरकार से लड़कियों और महिलाओं के खिलाफ जारी इस कुरीति पर अंकुश लगाने में मददगार की भूमिका निभाने को कहा है।

'भारत की लापता लड़कियाँ' विषय पर कांग्रेस नेशनल सुनवाई के दौरान उन्होंने अपनी यह चिंता प्रकट की। भारतीय मूल के अमेरिकी सांसद अमी बेरा ने कहा कि भारत अपने नियमों को सख्ती से लागू करे। उन्होंने इस कुरप्रथा के लिए सामाजिक-आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक कारकों की जटिल बनावट को जिम्मेदार ठहराते हुए इसके प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाए जाने पर जोर दिया। हाल में ही भारत यात्रा से लौटे बेरा ने कहा कि महिला सशक्तीकरण के लिए उन्हें अधिकार और निर्णय लेने की आजादी दिलाने में अमेरिका विश्व समुदाय में महत्वपूर्ण समर्थक की भूमिका निभा सकता है। सुनवाई की अध्यक्षता कर रहे सांसद क्रिस्टोफर स्मिथ ने कहा कि समस्या की जड़ केवल सांस्कृतिक ही नहीं हैं। अमेरिका में तैयार



जनसंख्या नियंत्रण की नीतियों और नीतिगत फैसलों का भारत की महिलाओं पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ा। उन्होंने आशा व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि यह सुनवाई यह समझने में हमारी मदद करेगी कि आखिर लड़कियों और महिलाओं के खिलाफ

इस कुरप्रथा पर अंकुश लगाने में हमारी क्या भूमिका हो सकती है। एक स्वतंत्र शोधकर्ता साबू जार्ज ने सांसदों से अपील करते हुए कहा कि अमेरिकी सहयोग में भारतीय कानून का ख्याल रखा जाए।

बच्चों के लिंगानुपात में गिरावट

वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार, भारत में लिंगानुपात प्रति एक हजार पुरुषों की तुलना में 940 महिलाओं का है। हालांकि इसमें मामूली वृद्धि हुई है, लेकिन बच्चों के लिंगानुपात (0 से 6 वर्ष) में गिरावट आई है। 2011 में एक हजार लड़कों की तुलना में महज 914 लड़कियाँ थीं। 2001 की जनगणना में यह आंकड़ा 927 का था, जबकि 1991 में 945 लड़कियाँ थीं।

Dainik Jagran (H), September 12, 2013, P.14

(Female Foeticide)

WCD plans to act upon improving child sex ratio

TEENA THACKER
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5

Massive social mobilisation campaign similar on the lines of polio eradication campaign, community level celebrations on the birth of the girl child, awards on the lines of Nirmal gram puruskar for those where the child sex ratio improves are some of the initiatives outlined in the newly drafted National Plan of action for improving the child-sex ratio (Ananyashakti-care and protection of the girl child) by the ministry of women and child development (WCD).

With an aim to improve sex ratio at birth from 905 to 921 by 2017, the multi-sectoral actions for improving the child sex ratio will be initiated in 100 gender critical districts to start with. With the problem of low child sex ratio crippling the urban areas too, selected urban areas have also been included in the first phase to develop urban demon-

stration models.

Headed by the Prime Minister, the National Mission Authority will comprise of ministers from the key ministries and two chief ministers would be the highest body for providing policy direction for effective implementation of the plan. "In these districts and cities there will be an intensive process of decentralised village/ward level planning, community mobilisation, capacity development, peer support and counselling to change societal norms and community based monitoring by panchayatsat village level. Similarly, in cities there will be strong process of planning at ward level," reads the document.

The plan has come into being with as many as 27 states and Union Territories registering a fall in the child sex ratio in the last decade. Sharp decline in the range of 22-82 points have been reported in child sex ratios in many states, including Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Sikkim. The decline in the ratio has been the highest in Lakshadweep (-51 points), followed by Orissa (-19), Andhra Pradesh (-18) and Kerala (-1). The ₹100 crore scheme will have an effective monitoring system to track the progress on monitorable targets, outcomes and process indicators. Through concrete steps, the document proposes to reduce gender differentials in under five child mortality rate from 8 points in 2011 to 4 points by 2017. To improve the situation, it has also been proposed to include gender equality and child sex ratio related concerns in education curricula at different levels.

The comprehensive action plan being proposed by women and child development ministry will have support of health, human resource development, drinking water and sanitation ministries and will address many issues.

The Asian Age, September 6, 2013, P.5

(Child Sex Ratio)

1.5 Child Welfare -other issues (Mother Tongue/Cyber Bullying/Guidelines- Prevention of Child Abuse/Online Safety/Debate-Juvenile Rapist/International Literacy Day)



Jansatta (H), September 21, 2013, P.3



The Indian Express, September 25, 2013, P.6 (Mother Tongue)

School's the new stomping ground for cyberbullies

Experts say it starts as early as age eight, and peaks around 16; in cases where it's serious, they recommend parents take legal action

Kim Arora | TNN

In J K Rowling's 'The Casual Vacancy', teenage schoolgirl Sukhwinder Jawanda receives regular Facebook messages from a class bully. Through words and images, he mocks her appearance, calls her nasty names, and often devolves into racism. Sukhwinder retreats into a shell and ends up cutting her arms several times, trying to deal with it all.

What happens to Sukhwinder in a fictionalized, suburban school is similar to a disturbing trend in Indian schools. Earlier this month, a Bangalore school asked parents of class 1 to 10 students to have their children disable their Facebook accounts, as the principal is receiving a growing number of complaints from students being bullied online. Experts too say it is on the rise among schoolchildren today. A 2012 survey on Global Online Youth Behaviour found that 53 per cent of eight to 17-year-olds in India had been bullied online, while 50 per cent admitted to have bullied online. The National Crime Records Bureau report of 2012 says that 50 offenders under the age of 18 were booked under the Information Technology Act (IT Act) in four states: Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. And Delhi-based cyber lawyer Pavan Duggal says that he has dealt with about 150 cases of cyber bullying, more than half of which involved children, over the last three years.

Cyberbullying, per se, is not defined under the IT Act. It is, however, widely held that it constitutes consistent hostile behaviour against an individual online. Lawyers say that bullying can be considered an offence under the controversial Section 66 A of the IT Act. Under this, one can be booked for "grossly offensive" messages and for "causing inconvenience."

Duggal says that cyberbullying starts as early as at the age of eight, and peaks around ages 16-17. It cannot be compared to riding roughshod on someone in the schoolyard. "Offline bullying is far more innocuous. It tends to disap-

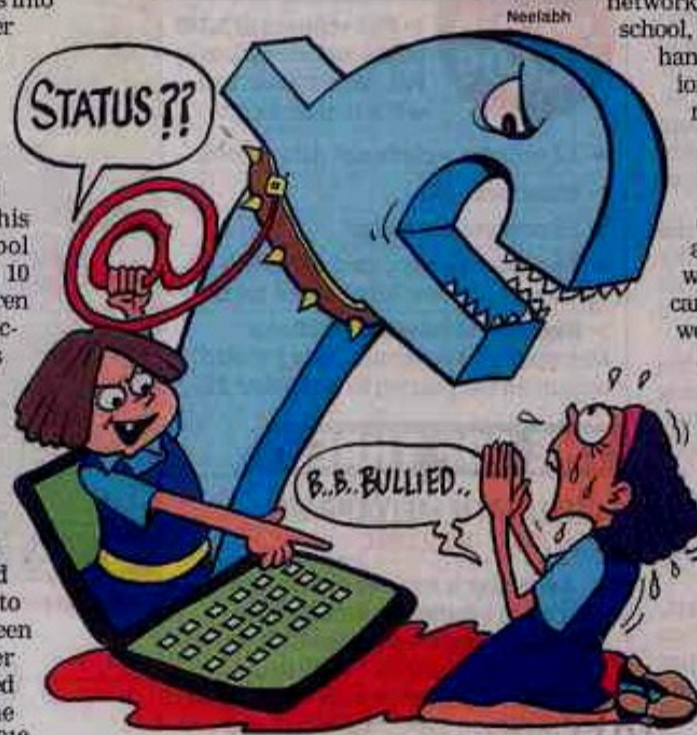
pear after the incidence of it. Online, it leaves a permanent residue. Removing content becomes a challenge," says Duggal, revealing that such cases have increased with the spurt in image and video enabled mobile communication apps. Facebook Confession groups — a recent trend of pages with anonymous posts — is a common hunting ground

school teacher who had recently joined an NCR school, and discovered a student discussion thread containing sexual remarks about her on a social networking website. She had a nervous breakdown and had to go to rehab.

When Aarti Manchanda (name changed) discovered that her 13-year-old daughter was being bullied on a social network by a senior in a south Delhi school, she initially encouraged her to handle it herself. But when the senior began to supplement abusive messages with schoolground bullying, she intervened. "This senior girl in school asked her to stop talking to a boy my daughter was friendly with. She abused her and threatened her with 'making her life difficult'. I can't even bring myself to say the words she used in those messages. My daughter cried for two days. But because we had been very open about it from the beginning, we could handle it. I finally messaged that girl saying that I would go to the principal with this if she continued. She stopped harassing my daughter after that," says Manchanda.

In the capital's Springdales School, principal Ameeta Watal says she has a strict system of dealing with cyberbullies. Errants write a journal about what is bothering them and submit it to her every Friday. "Bullies are essentially afraid, and some have low self-esteem. We have to deal with them at multiple levels, make them accountable for their behaviour and also develop their self-image," says Watal, who has school teachers monitor students' behaviour on online forums.

But for cases of extensive bullying, where a rap on the knuckles is not enough, counselor Debarati Halder encourages parents to consider legal action. "Parents usually refrain from legal action, as they are afraid of publicity. Unless there is some action, no one will know about the consequences of such behaviour. It proliferates because of low awareness," says Halder, who runs the Centre for Cyber Victim Counseling in Chennai. "Students must realize if someone files a case against them, it can have far reaching implications on their admission and job prospects later in life," he says.



Even teachers are not spared. In one case, a teacher discovered an online discussion thread containing sexual remarks about her. She had a nervous breakdown and had to go to rehab

for cyberbullies. Sample this printable example from the confessions page of a south Delhi school — "[Name Withheld] is a sad fat wannabe who thinks her fat ass will make her hot. Big Loser: Fatso!"

More than half the cases that Duggal talks about are those of schoolchildren bullying their classmates, or even their teachers and principals, online. He even recalls the case of a high

The Times of India, September 22, 2013, P.9
(Cyber Bullying)

Hindustan Times, September 6, 2013, P.2
(Guidelines- Prevention of Child Abuse)

Fight child abuse, stay safe online

In A First, DCPCR Guidelines Include Chapter On Cyber Crime

Ambika Pandit | TNN

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

- ▶ People applying for jobs in institutions working with children should swear on affidavit that they do not have a record of sexual abuse or violence, and submit a character certificate with two references
- ▶ All institutions must have a child protection policy; qualified counsellors to whom children can report suspicious behavior, and child abuse monitoring committees to prevent incidents
- ▶ At least one female ward or guard should be present in school vehicle. Numbers of child and women helplines, and police station must be displayed
- ▶ Written consent of parents/guardians must for taking children out of the institution for picnics and outings
- ▶ Internet safety protocols must be established and implemented in schools
- ▶ Teachers and staff should email or call children only for school-related work. Teachers must not engage with students on social media
- ▶ Residential institutions must have CCTV cameras in public spaces and child abuse monitoring committees in hostels

Review & Monitoring	Clauses to ensure regular review of guideline implementation	State government primarily responsible for implementation	Institutions to be assessed on the basis of guidelines for registration
--------------------------------	---	--	--

Teachers and staff should not be allowed to email or call children except and unless it is related to school work. All emails sent to children by teachers and staff should be copied to the parent

Violence by no one can be tolerated: CM

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: At a time when crime against children and cases of juveniles involved in heinous crime have become a major concern, chief minister Sheila Dikshit joined the debate saying "whatever the age of a person—whether an adult or a juvenile, abuse and violence by anyone cannot be tolerated". She, however, steered clear of entering the debate over reducing the age bar for juveniles in conflict with law from 18 years to 16 years.

Releasing the DCPCR guidelines on prevention of child abuse, the Delhi CM said, "This guidelines come as a wake-up call. But they are not enough. To prevent abuse we as a society have rise and protect our children. No child will be able to himself or herself take these guidelines and approach the police or the DCPCR. It is we as a society who are responsible for ensuring that we help children develop into healthy individuals."

The Delhi CM said that there are laws, guidelines and a legal framework in place but in case of children these cannot be seen as the solution to the problem. "Why all this abuse?... These are questions that are major concerns and we need to address them. We cannot allow things that will build a traumatized society as the children are the future of the country," the CM said.

Review & Monitoring

Describing internet and cyber crime as growing threats to children, the guidelines state that children are enticed by criminals on internet through a process of "grooming". "Hence certain checks have been put in place to ensure that all internet-related activity is monitored carefully," the guidelines say.

The DCPCR document also cites the union ministry of home affairs advisory of 2012 to all states on preventing and combating cyber crime against children to drive the urgent need for establishing and implementing internet safety protocols in schools.

"Teachers and staff should not be allowed to email or call children except and unless it is related to school work. All emails sent to children by teachers and staff should be copied to the parent, guardian or caregiver unless a teacher or staff member is suspicious

that a parent, guardian or caregiver is abusing the child," the guidelines state in the chapter on online safety.

The norms prevent teachers from engaging in any relationship with students on social media platforms unless in officially approved group settings. It is also emphasized

of the MHA last year raised an alarm over cyber crime against children. "It was laid down that parents, teachers and children should be encouraged to play an active role by reporting suspicious behaviours and give information regarding websites hosting exploitative images, videos and gender and identity is mitigated," says the advisory.

Even chief minister Sheila Dikshit raised concerns over how the information boom is both a boon and bane as it is impacting the minds of children in ways both good and bad. "What we see today is a flood of information. It is a strange problem where one asks oneself if the information is becoming a curse. We really need to think how to regulate the flow of information," Dikshit said.

The Delhi government sees schools as the primary beneficiaries of these guidelines as it is here that the child spends a major part of the day learning and communicating. The guidelines also seek to equip the institutions with information about the basic aspects on how to proceed in case an incident of abuse occurs.

that no child must be recorded in any manner that makes them uncomfortable and the permission of children must always be asked before taking any photographs and recording videos.

The cyber crime advisory efforts to recruit or groom children for sexual abuse," the MHA had asserted. "Parents, teachers and owners of online computing facilities should be trained to implement parental control software in such a manner that spoofing of age,

The Times of India, September 7, 2013, P.6(Online Safety)

■ DC debates if the punishment given to the juvenile rapist is justified

Is pain less if rapist is minor? Juveniles must be given chance

The verdict: Three years in special juvenile home for the fifth Delhi rapist, is a complete mockery of all the pain and agony suffered by the victim.

Crime is a crime, whether it is a minor or a major who commits it. The impact of the crime on the victim cannot be negated or diluted by the age of the perpetrators.

Will a victim say that 'I have been raped by a minor, so the pain is less or the humiliation was not too much?' The basic point is, when a crime is committed, the victim needs justice. She has the right to it, for all the humiliation she has gone through, irrespective of the profile of the accused.

India does not have a victim-friendly justice system, unlike abroad. The system needs to ensure that the punishment is proportionate to the enormity of the crime, for when a person is raped or murdered a life is lost, and it cannot be revived if the accused is a minor.

The punishment should be equivalent to the victim's trauma, and not less just because the perpetrator is a minor. My question is: Who will compensate for the injustice done to the victim? How do we create a deterrent for such horrific crimes? Our judiciary has taken no step to deter crime against women, that is why such perverted men fearlessly attack women.

In case of theft or robbery, a correctional facility can help change the mind-set of the criminal, but when it comes to dreadful life-taking crimes like murder and rape, in my view, there should be no relief.

Awarding a three-year correctional facility is nothing but a derision of the hurt and pain of

DR SUNITHA KRISHNAN
SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND CO-FOUNDER, PRAJWALA



Crime is a crime, whether it is a minor or a major who commits it. The impact of the crime on the victim cannot be negated or diluted by the age of the perpetrators.

the victim and the trauma her family has gone through. Also, let us not forget the whole nation that stood up for her 'in one voice'.

And, therefore, we as a community, believe that there should be zero tolerance to such crimes. The punishment should instill fear and deter the perpetrators and the message has to go out loud and clear that this will not be tolerated. I hope the judicial system is listening.

— At the age of 15, the writer was gangraped by eight men. This event served as an impetus to what she does today.

V. PADMAVATHI
CHAIRMAN, CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, RR DIST.



The juvenile accused may or may not be a threat to society. We will have to take that risk. But we cannot take away the one chance that he has of correcting himself and leading a better life.

The eagerly awaited Delhi rape case judgement has come at last. Everyone was curious about the punishment that would be meted out to the juvenile accused.

Many people have been of the opinion that the nature of the crime committed by the juvenile is so gruesome and "adult" in nature that he should be judged as an adult and not as a juvenile.

But the court, in all its wisdom, has treated the juvenile accused as a minor and given him the maximum punishment of three years in a correctional

home under the Juvenile Justice Act.

I support this judgement for the following reasons:

- Each case is unique and each case must be judged on its own merits.
- The juvenile accused is a minor and below the age of 18. He has his entire life before him. Yes, his crime is unpardonable, yet one should take into consideration the fact that the crime was committed while in a group and not personally. So there must have been group pressure.
- The rest of the group being adult, the group pressure must have been that much greater.

People have demanded that the age of juveniles be reduced to 18. That again would not be right as many children would be affected who may have committed minor felonies, not necessarily because they are criminals but because of circumstances.

In fact, instead of correcting them, we would be doing them, as well as our society, a great disservice because when these young adolescents are treated as adults and lodged along with hardened adult criminals, they too will become like them.

The juvenile accused in the Delhi rape case is 17 years old, just a year away from being treated as an adult. People may ask if one year will make a difference in the maturity of a human being. It is said that even six months can make a difference. Every juvenile, however big a crime he or she may have committed, should be given the opportunity to correct himself/herself.

In the present case, the juvenile accused has been remanded to a correctional home for three years and he is to be put under close supervision of an expert panel of doctors, psychiatrists, etc. to monitor the changes in him. At the end of three years, this expert panel must evaluate him to see if he is fit to be set free in society. And even after setting him free he should be under close observation for any errant behavior. If there is any recurrence of criminal behavior he should be arrested.


The juvenile accused may or may not be a threat to society. We will have to take that risk. But we cannot take away the one chance that he has of correcting himself and leading a normal life.



What happens to the JUVENILE next?

- The juvenile accused in the Delhi gangrape incident has to be put under close supervision of an expert panel of doctors, psychiatrists etc. to monitor the changes in him.
- At the end of 3 years, this expert panel must evaluate him to see if he is fit to be set free in society.
- And even after setting him free, he should be under close observation for errant behaviour. If there is any recurrence of criminal behaviour he should be arrested.

Deccan Chronicle, September 1, 2013, P.2 (Debate-Juvenile Rapist)



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

8 September, 2013

SAAKSHAR BHARAT - Launched on 8 September, 2009

2.13 crore Adults certified as literate	1.48 lakh Lok Shiksha Kendras set up	15.5 lakh Voluntary Teachers mobilised	18.5 lakh Adults skilled in different vocations
---	--	--	---

Literacy rate increased from 64.8% in 2001 to 73% in 2011

State Literacy Mission Authority

- ◆ Chhattisgarh
- Zilla Lok Shiksha Samities**
- ◆ Koriya (Chhattisgarh)
- ◆ Ariyalur (Tamil Nadu)

AWARDEES

Gram Panchayats

- ◆ Patna (Koriya District, Chhattisgarh)
- ◆ Ajani (Begusarai District, Bihar)
- ◆ Kuppandampalayam (Erode Distt, Tamil Nadu)

Resource Support Organizations

- ◆ State Resource Centre, Shillong (Meghalaya)
- ◆ Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Anantapur (A.P)

LAUNCH OF BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME & CONFERRING OF SAAKSHARTA AWARDS 2013

Shri Pranab Mukherjee
Hon'ble President of India
will be the Chief Guest

at 12.00 noon on Sunday, 8 September, 2013
at Vigyan Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi - 110011

Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju
Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development
will preside over the function

Shri Jitin Prasada & Dr. Shashi Tharoor
Hon'ble Ministers of State for Human Resource Development
will be the Guests of Honour

National Literacy Mission Authority
Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

NATIONAL LITERACY MISSION AUTHORITY (NLMA)

- ◆ Working with Gram Panchayats and Village Communities to achieve 100% female literacy.
- ◆ Lok Shiksha Kendras set up with Library and Reading Room facilities in 1.48 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- ◆ Mobilizing rural adults, especially women, to become functionally literate and empowered by creating Electoral, Legal and Financial Literacy.

NLMA AWARDED THE UNESCO KING SEJONG LITERACY PRIZE 2013
in appreciation of the programme's determination to establish a fully literate society through improved quality standards of Literacy and Adult Education.

Hindustan Times, September 8, 2013, P.9
(International Literacy Day)

2. Health and Nutrition issues

2.1 Child/Adolescent Health (Diabetes/HFMD/Polio)

Second phase of de-worming programme launched

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Health Minister A. K. Walia has formally launched the second mass de-worming programme for school age and pre-school children.

He also released a report on the first round of mass de-worming carried out in February this year.

The first round of de-worming covered 2.7 million children while the second round is expected to cover 3.6 million children in anganwadis, government, municipal and cantonment schools. Both rounds have been provided technical support by the global non-profit De-worm the World Initiative (DtWI) and its Indian partner Action Foundation for Social Services (AFSS).

Over 4,000 government, municipal, New Delhi Municipal Council and canton-

The programme is expected to cover 3.6 million children in anganwadis, government, municipal and cantonment schools

ment schools will participate in the programme covering about 3.6 million children. Over 11,000 anganwadi centres will cover another one million pre-school children.

This is a coordinated programme of the Delhi Government involving the Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Education, Social Welfare, the three municipal corporations and the NDMC.

De-worming tablets/syrups will be given to pre-school children in anganwa-

dis and school age children in government, municipal and cantonment schools on the De-worming Day, which has been fixed for October 3. October 5 will be the mop up day for those who missed the medicine on the first day.

The de-worming programme of the Delhi Government was launched in 2012 under the Chaché Nehru Sehat Yojana (CNSY) and was aimed at providing free and comprehensive health services to all school age children in the Capital.

Soil-transmitted worms are the commonest infestations in pre-school and school age children from poor communities.

These infestations lead to anaemia, malnutrition, retarded physical and mental development, reduced educational achievement, and reduced productivity as adults.

The Hindu, September 26, 2013, P.4
(De-worming Programme)

स्कूली बच्चे भी हैं मधुमेह के शिकार

नागौर (कास). केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम के तहत मधुमेह व हाइपरटेंशन रोगियों की स्क्रीनिंग की जा रही है। राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम एनपीसीडीएस/एनपीएचसीई (एनपीसीडी) के तहत जिले में डाइबिटीज व हाइपरटेंशन स्क्रीनिंग की जांच पिछले दो माह से की जा रही है। इस स्क्रीनिंग के तहत नए रोगियों की पहचान की गई। एनपीसीडी के प्रभारी अधिकारी एवं सौनियर फ़िजिशियन डॉ. अपूर्व निधि कौशिक ने बताया कि लोगों के खान-पान में आए परिवर्तन के कारण अधिकांश लोग हाइपरटेंशन व डाइबिटीज के शिकार हो रहे हैं। इसकी जानकारी उनको समय रहते नहीं होती है और बीमारी बढ़ती रहती है। इसी के मद्देनजर शहर के बस स्टैंड, रेलवे स्टेशन, गांधी चौक, मेलों, स्कूल व कॉलेजों में डाइबिटीज की स्क्रीनिंग का कार्य किया जा रहा है। इस स्क्रीनिंग में नए रोगियों की पहचान की गई एवं उनको सही मार्गदर्शन दिया गया तथा उनको डाइबिटीज को कंट्रोल करने की सलाह दी गई। कई स्कूलों में भी डाइबिटीज के नए रोगी बच्चों की पहचान की गई। डॉ. कौशिक ने बताया कि उक्त राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम 30 सितंबर तक चलेगा।

Rajasthan Patrika (H),
September 29, 2013, P.3
(Diabetes)

स्कूली बच्चों पर नए वायरस एंट्रो का अटैक

■ नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

स्कूली बच्चों को एक नया वायरस एंट्रो अपना शिकार बना रहा है। इस वायरस की वजह से बच्चों के हाथ, पैर, मुंह पर छाले बन जा रहे हैं, जिसकी वजह से ये बच्चे परेशान हो रहे हैं। एक-दूसरे में फैलने वाला यह वायरस बहुत जल्द दूसरे को भी शिकार बना लेता है। यही वजह है कि सरदार पटेल स्कूल ने अपने यहां नर्सरी क्लास को 16 अक्टूबर तक बंद करने का फैसला किया है। रॉकलैंड अस्पताल की पीडिएट्रिक्स की सौनियर कंसल्टेंट डॉ. वंदना केंट ने बताया कि पिछले कुछ सालों से यह वायरस भारत में भी दिख रहा है। इस साल अब तक उनके पास इस वायरस के शिकार 30 से ज्यादा बच्चे पहुंचे चुके हैं। डॉक्टर केंट ने कहा कि मौनसून का सीजन जब खत्म होने की ओर बढ़ता है, तब यह वायरस एक्टिव हो जाता है और बच्चों को अपना शिकार बनाता है।

शॉक सिंड्रोम भी हो सकता है

डॉक्टर का कहना है कि आमतौर पर ऐसे बच्चे को ओपीडी में देखने के बाद सुटी दे दी जाती है, क्योंकि इसका इलाज है कि बॉडी को फ्लूइड मिलते रहना चाहिए। ऑरली जो बच्चा खाने की स्थिति में नहीं होता है, उसे एडमिट करके फ्लूइड चलाया जाता है। लेकिन कई बार जब बीपी लो हो जाता है और बॉडी डीहाइड्रेट हो जाती है तब हार्ट पर भी इसका असर पड़ सकता है। पीडिएट्रिक को कार्डियोमायोपैथी का अटैक



कई स्कूलों ने अडवाइजरी जारी कर कहा है कि अगर आपके बच्चे में कोई ऐसे सिम्प्टम हों, तो उन्हें स्कूल न भेजें।

हैंड फुट माउथ डिजीज

इस बीमारी को हैंड फुट माउथ डिजीज कहा जाता है। इसके असर से मुंह, हाथ और पैर पर छाले बन जाते हैं। ये छाले बहुत दर्द देते हैं। छाले के अंदर पानी होता है। इसकी वजह से बच्चे दर्द से परेशान हो जाते हैं। कई बार बच्चे छाले फोड़ देते हैं जिससे जख्म बनने का खतरा रहता है। बच्चे इसकी वजह से खा नहीं पाते हैं और वे डीहाइड्रेट हो जाते हैं।

हो सकता है। लेकिन यह खतरा सभी को नहीं होता है।

स्कूलों के पास प्रोटोकॉल नहीं

डॉक्टर केंट ने बताया कि विदेशों में ऐसे डिजीज को लेकर सभी स्कूल प्रोटोकॉल को फॉलो करते हैं। लेकिन अपने देश में ऐसा नहीं है। बच्चों के माता-पिता भी नहीं चाहते हैं कि उनका बच्चा बीमार होने के बाद भी स्कूल नहीं जाए। जबकि यह गलत है। ऐसे मामले में बच्चों को स्कूल जाने की इजाजत नहीं देनी चाहिए और स्कूल के साथ-साथ पैरेंट्स को भी इस बात पर अमल करना चाहिए।

नहीं है घबराने की जरूरत

डॉक्टर का कहना है कि अपने देश में अभी जो पेशेंट सामने आ रहे हैं उन्हें ओपीडी में देखने के बाद घर जाने दिया जाता है। घर पर रहकर ही इलाज किया जाता है। लोगों को ऐसे इन्फेक्टेड बच्चों के करीब जाने से बचना चाहिए। कई स्कूलों में भी पैनिफैल गया है। इसे देखते हुए कई स्कूलों ने अडवाइजरी जारी कर कहा है कि अगर आपके बच्चे में कोई ऐसे सिम्प्टम हों, तो उन्हें स्कूल न भेजें।

Nav Bharat Times (H), September 26, 2013, P.2
(Hand Foot Mouth Disease/HFMD)

'It's scary, but is just a viral infection'

ANIC Patients of hand, foot & mouth disease can recover within a week, say doctors.

What is hand, foot and mouth disease?
It's a common viral illness that usually infects babies and children less than five years old. The illness is usually mild that causes sores in the mouth, hands, feet and legs. The illness usually doesn't last more than a week or so. It is not the same as foot-and-mouth disease or mad cow disease, both of which are animal diseases and very rarely infect humans.

What causes it?
It's caused by an enterovirus virus that spreads through coughing and sneezing, infected blister fluid and faeces. It takes three to six days for an infected person to get symptoms.

How does the virus spread?
By direct contact with nose and throat discharges and faeces of infected persons. The virus is also present in the blister-like lesions.

What are the symptoms of HFMD?
Tiredness, sore throat and fever (101-103 degrees Fahrenheit), followed by sores or blisters in or on the mouth and on the hands and feet. The blisters, which may break open and crust over but usually don't itch, subside in a week or so.

How is it treated?
Diagnosis is symptomatic and tests are usually not needed. The illness is typically mild, and nearly all patients recover in 7 to 10 days without medical treatment. You can relieve symptoms at home by having cool fluids and ice cream to soothe the throat; avoiding acidic or spicy foods and drinks — such as orange juice or curries — that make mouth sores pain, treating fever with paracetamol or ibuprofen, and washing your hands often, especially after being in and around the patient.

Hindustan Times,
September 30, 2013, P.9
(Hand Foot Mouth Disease/HFMD)

Govt fears polio import, to screen carriers

Health Min to ask MEA to seek polio shot papers from afflicted nations' passengers

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Widespread resurgence of the deadly polio virus in Egypt, Israel and many African countries like Ethiopia, Chad, Kenya and Somalia, where the disease was wiped out some years ago, is giving sleepless night to the Indian Government.

New Delhi fears that the outbreak of the disease in other parts of the globe would cast a shadow on India's polio-eradication efforts, on which the nation has spent a whopping Rs 14,000-crores.

Significantly, India is on the

verge of being declared as polio-free country by the World Health Organisation (WHO), as no polio outbreaks have been reported in the last two years.

As a precautionary measure, a wary Union Health Ministry has decided to approach the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to seek polio vaccination certificates from all passengers coming to India from these polio-hit countries.

"We will discuss the matter with the MEA and ask it to direct its Missions in these countries to issue polio vaccine certificates to tourists before they are allowed to visit India," said a senior Health Ministry official. The move, if implemented, would mean that people travelling to India from these polio-hit nations will have to get certificates from a doctor certifying that they have been given polio vaccine.

As per reports, the strain of polio virus recently discovered

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE

■ New Delhi fears that the outbreak of the disease in other parts of the globe would cast a shadow on India's polio-eradication efforts, on which the nation has spent a whopping ₹14,000 crores.

■ Significantly, India is on the verge of being declared as polio-free country by the World Health Organisation, as no polio case has been reported in the last two years.

■ The move, if implemented, would mean that people travelling to India from these polio-hit nations will have to get certificates from a doctor certifying that they have been given polio vaccine

■ The official said India has increased surveillance against polio along the Line of Control bordering Pakistan which has recorded a major spurt in polio cases

■ The Government is thinking of vaccinating Indian adults as well



in southern Israel is exactly the type of virus that is prevalent in Pakistan, and which existed exclusively in Pakistan until recently. Nigeria and Afghanistan were also

known to harbour the polio virus before the disease spread to other nations.

The official said India has increased surveillance against polio along the Line of Control

(LOC), bordering Pakistan which has recorded a major spurt in polio cases. Vaccination booths have been set up at Poonch and Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir, Munabao railway station in Rajasthan's Barmer district and at Wagah border and Attari railway station in Punjab to administer polio drops to all children below five years coming in from Pakistan.

The Government is thinking of vaccinating Indian adults as well. "We have to ensure that indigenous polio does not rear its head next year too, so that we can get the WHO certificate," the official added.

However, seeking polio vaccine certificates from these countries will not be an easy affair, he admitted as India never asked polio-endemic nations like Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan to produce certificates because of diplomatic reasons.

Continued on Page 4

Govt fears...

From Page 1

Also, way back in 2006 when India had a large number of polio cases, it had opposed such a move proposed by polio-free nations like the Gulf,

Europe and the American continent, which had asked Indians to carry polio vaccination certificates of their children.

India had recorded 741 cases of polio in 2009, nearly half the number of global cases. But in a remarkable turn of events, India reported just one case of the crippling disease in 2011.

Since then, India has not reported a

single polio case, prompting the WHO to strike it off from the list of polio endemic nations in 2012.

However, the comeback of the contagious and paralytic disease in Israel, Egypt, Somalia and Ethiopia among a few others, has worried global health agencies with the WHO issuing a warning that the "risk to neighboring countries is deemed very high, due to large-scale population movements across the Horn of Africa and persistent immunity gaps in some areas." The worry about immunity gaps is serious.

The last outbreak of polio in Israel occurred in 1988 and 15 infected patients became paralyzed. In Somalia and Kenya, there have been 81 cases, more than the 59 cases in the three polio-endemic countries. In Pakistan, while polio has not been stamped out in violence-hit areas, in poverty-hit Somalia, there are concerns about the inability to extend the eradication efforts to those in need. On its part, Israel has now embarked on an emergency inoculation campaign to protect some 200,000 children from polio.

The Pioneer, September 3, 2013, P.1+4

Polio

2.3 Nutrition/Malnutrition/ Dietary Patterns (Junk Food)

Committee to finalise rules on junk food

HEALTH MATTERS Health ministry tells Delhi High Court expert committee to finalise guidelines to stop sale of junk food in schools

Harish V Nair
harish.nair@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry told the Delhi High Court on Wednesday that it has formed a seven-member expert committee to finalise guidelines on regulating the sale of junk food in and around schools.

Food processing majors such as Coca Cola and Britannia had challenged the draft guidelines to ban the sale of sandwiches, burgers, fries and noodles in school canteens. They claimed the guidelines had been framed by AC Nielsen — a firm that has no expertise in handling such a task.

The consumer research company had said that "junk food contained no proteins or vitamins but were rich in salt, sugar and high in calories that can cause obesity and hypertension".

Additional Solicitor General Rajeev Mehra said the expert panel would have four members from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and one representative each from the human resource development ministry, health Ministry and the National Institute of Nutrition.



Food processing companies like Coca Cola and Britannia had challenged draft guidelines banning sale of burgers, fries and noodles in school canteens. RAJ K RAJ/HT FILE PHOTO

The court is hearing a PIL filed by social activist Rahul Verma of the NGO Uday Foundation, demanding a ban on the sale of junk food in schools.

"If the guidelines are strictly implemented, children will have access only to healthy food and not those that cause obesity and other dangerous diseases".

The panel will hold discussions with the All India Food Processors Association (AIFPA) and Restaurant Association.

The AIFPA had questioned the credentials of Nielsen to

frame the draft guidelines.

"AC Nielsen is neither a scientific body nor does it have relevant expertise to advise in framing food laws. It is a consumer market research company which has no qualification to develop scientific guidelines for improvement in safety and quality of food served to school children," the AIFPA said.

AIFPA said the health ministry guidelines failed to take into account crucial aspects related to food, nutrition, eating habits and lifestyle and they lacked 'scientific rationale'.

Hindustan Times, September 5, 2013, P.6 (Junk Foods)

Junk food should not become habit: Court

Harish V Nair
harish.nair@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to ensure that junk food did not make up a major portion of a school student's diet as it may lead to health risks.

The court, however, also said a student cannot be asked to give up junk food completely.

"No food is without some nutritional value. If a child has junk food once in a while, it is fine but only when it becomes a dietary habit does the problem begin," a bench of Chief Justice Venkat Ramana and Justice Pradeep Nandrajog said.

The National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has urged directions to a seven-member committee appointed by the Centre to hold consultation with panel of experts and scientists working in the field of nutrition and also with all stake holders like food processors and associations representing restaurants. The committee will

finalise guidelines on regulating the sale of junk food in and around school premises.

The health ministry had on September 4 told the court it has formed the committee to finalise the guidelines. The panel will comprise four members of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India — advisor S Dave, product approval director Pradeep Chakraborty, quality director K Sandhya, scientist Meenakshi Singh and one official each from the HRD ministry, health ministry and the National Institute of Nutrition.

Global marketing research firm AC Nielsen — which was tasked with drafting the guidelines — had suggested banning of sandwiches, pizzas, chips, burgers, noodles, french fries and aerated soft drinks in schools across the country.

The court is hearing a PIL filed by social activist Rahul Verma of the NGO Uday Foundation demanding a ban on the sale of junk food in schools.

कुपोषण में कमी के लिए कार्ययोजना बनाए सरकार

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : सरकार के पास कुपोषण संबंधित ताजा आंकड़ा नहीं रहने पर आश्चर्य जताते हुए एक संसदीय समिति ने सरकार को कुपोषण में कमी लाने के लिए एक समयबद्ध कार्ययोजना बनाने को कहा। साथ ही यह भी कहा कि उचित निगरानी के लिए सरकार निर्बाध रूप से ताजा सूचनाएं पाना सुनिश्चित करे।

'शिशुओं और माताओं में कुपोषण' शीर्षक से इस हफ्ते संसद में पेश आकलन समिति की रिपोर्ट में बाल स्वास्थ्य से जुड़े ताजा आंकड़ों के अभाव का विशेष उल्लेख किया गया है। इसमें कहा गया है, 'हमें यह देखकर आश्चर्य हो रहा है कि सूचना तकनीक के इस आधुनिक युग में कुपोषण पर सरकार का कोई ताजा आधिकारिक आंकड़ा नहीं है। उस उपलब्ध है वह सात साल पुराना राष्ट्रीय फैमिली हेल्थ सर्वे तीन वर्ष 2005-2006 का आंकड़ा है।'

समिति ने आगे कहा है कि कुपोषण को सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक विकास के लिए एक बड़े खतरे के रूप में माना गया है। यह बच्चों, युवाओं और महिलाओं और देश के सारे कार्यबल पर प्रतिकूल असर डालता है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (एनएफएचएस) कम अंतराल पर करना चाहिए। यह अभी हर छह साल पर कराया जाता

- कुपोषण के पुनः आंकड़े पर संसदीय समिति ने की सरकार की खिंचाई
- निगरानी के लिए ताजा आंकड़े मिलना सुनिश्चित करने को कहा

है। मंत्रालय ने अब तीन साल पर एनएफएचएस कराने का प्रस्ताव किया है। समिति ने गांवों के आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों और घरों का ब्राड बैंड और इंटरनेट के जरिये कंप्यूटरीकरण नहीं करने और देश भर से पोषण की निगरानी के लिए अद्यतन आंकड़े मिलना सुनिश्चित नहीं कर पाने के लिए खिंचाई की है।

रिपोर्ट में लिखा गया है, 'यह कहना निराशाजनक है कि संग्रह सरकार के मुख्य कार्यक्रम राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के वर्ष 2011-12 तक प्रति एक हजार जन्म पर शिशु मृत्युदर को 30 से कम करने के लक्ष्य को अब तक हासिल नहीं किया जा सका है। यह वर्ष 2012 के अक्टूबर तक प्रति एक हजार नवजात शिशुओं में 44 की मृत पर कायम था।'

Hindustan Times, September 19, 2013, P.3

(Junk Foods)

Dainik Jagran (H), September 9, 2013, P.3

(Malnutrition)

Nourishing hopes of a malnourishment-free society

Born Learning Centres provide healthy food, basic education to poor workers' children

Niveditha Jain

BANGALORE: The parents of Shoab, five, and Imran, three, got worried when the staff of a Born Learning Centre (BLC), who visited their house at Hennur in the City five months ago, told them that the brothers were malnourished.

While Imran weighed only nine kg, Shoab was just about 10 kg. The parents told the BLC staff that the children fell ill often due to their constant migration. While the father is a labourer, the mother is a homemaker. They had migrated from Mysore to Hennur eight months ago and had not enrolled their sons in a school.

The children were immediately enrolled at the BLC at Kogilu Bande. Their nutrition level is being monitored and the parents are being guided on altering their home diet.

Several such BLCs in the City are working to address malnutrition and the malnourished children are becoming

normal, thanks to their efforts. Their focus area is children of construction, migrant and quarry workers. Functioning since September 2012, the nine BLCs in and around Hennur have, till date, been able to address educational requirements and improve the nutritional quality of 240 children in the zero to six age group.

The BLCs are functioning under United Way of Bengaluru (UWBe), a not-for-profit organisation. The staff at the BLCs are informed about the condition of children by smaller NGOs in the area and sometimes by the anganwadis themselves.

"Bangalore attracts lakhs of migrants. Due to this, the government's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Public Distribution System (PDS) do not reach everyone of them. Also, the workers' children are not provided wholesome/nutritious food and early education by their parents. To address this, BLCs were started with support from volunteers.



Born Learning Centre monitors nutritional quality and education of migrant workers' children. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

We chose to open BLCs at Hennur as this area has the highest number of construction sites and is developing rapidly," said Suresh Nair, Executive Director of UWBe.

At BLCs, the children, besides being given nutritional diet are also taught motor, sensory, cognitive, social, linguistic

and personal skills appropriate to their age. They are kept at the BLCs till they regain normal weight. Usually, the children are encouraged to stay there till they turn six. Charts are maintained at the BLCs to record and monitor height, weight and general progress in health of the children. Each of

the BLCs has two caretakers, a cook, a nutritionist and a couple of volunteers to teach the kids.

Food technologist K C Raghu, a nutritionist at one of the BLCs, said: "Malnourishment can lead to severe immune deficiencies if not treated properly. Most of the children who enrol at BLCs come from very poor backgrounds. A nutrition chart has been prepared wherein for each day, we have designed a particular menu comprising healthy food. We also have a kitchen garden at each BLC, wherein children are made familiar with the basic vegetables being grown."

"We aim to open 500 BLCs by 2016 in the City and thereby, have a working model in place to mainstream the BLCs with the government anganwadis. We are reaching out to children in areas where there are no anganwadi services and they are missing out on learning opportunities and holistic nutrition," said Nair.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, September 12, 2013, P.4 (Malnutrition)

दो सौ जिलों में कुपोषण से निपटेंगे केंद्र व राज्य

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। मातृत्व और बाल कुपोषण से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने बहुस्तरीय कार्यक्रम चलाने की मंजूरी दी है। इस कार्यक्रम को देश में सर्वाधिक कुपोषण प्रभावित दो सौ जिलों में चलाया जाएगा। केंद्र और राज्यों के सहयोग से चलाए जाने वाले इस कार्यक्रम पर सरकार चालू आरहवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान 1213.19 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करेगी।

प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह की अध्यक्षता में मंगलवार को हुई केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में मातृत्व और बाल कुपोषण से निपटने के लिए बहु-स्तरीय कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी गई। स्वीकृति दे दी। यह प्रस्ताव 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान उन दो सौ जिलों के लिए है जहां उच्च कुपोषण की समस्या अधिक गंभीर है। यह कार्यक्रम इन क्षेत्रों में राज्य, जिला, ब्लॉक और ग्रामीण स्तर पर चलाया जाएगा। इस कार्यक्रम पर 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना (2012-17) के दौरान 1213.19 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जाएंगे। योजना पर

केंद्र ने दी बहुस्तरीय कार्यक्रम को मंजूरी
कार्यक्रम पर खर्च होंगे 1213.19 करोड़ रुपये

होने वाले खर्च का 90 फीसदी केंद्र और 10 फीसदी राज्य सरकारें वहन करेंगी। लेकिन दस फीसदी की हिस्सेदारी वालों में पूर्वोत्तर और विशेष दर्जा प्राप्त राज्य ही शामिल हैं। जबकि, इस योजना के तहत देश के अन्य राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को खर्च का 25 फीसदी वहन करना होगा। इसमें केंद्र की हिस्सेदारी 75 फीसदी रहेगी। इस तरह से कुपोषण से निपटने के लिए प्रस्तावित कार्यक्रम पर केंद्र सरकार 944.39 करोड़ और राज्य 268.80 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करेंगे। इस कार्यक्रम के तहत सरकार का उद्देश्य तीन वर्ष तक आयु वाले बच्चों के कम वजन पर रोकथाम, बच्चों, किशोरियों और महिलाओं में होने वाली खून की कमी को दूर करना प्रमुख है।

Parl panel pulls up govt for 'outdated' malnutrition data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 8 September

Expressing surprise on the absence of latest official data on malnutrition, a Parliamentary panel has asked the government to come up with a time-bound action plan to reduce under-nutrition and ensure real time flow of information for proper monitoring.

"We are surprised to note that in this modern era of information technology, there is no recent official data on malnutrition." "What is available is seven years old and outdated... National Family Health Survey III data of 2005-2006," the panel said.

The Committee on Estimates tabled its report titled 'Malnutrition and Infants in Mothers' in Parliament this week, in which it highlighted the absence of latest data on child health. "Malnutrition has been recognised as a major threat to social and economic development and casts an adverse impact on children, adults, women and the entire workforce of the country," the panel has said.

It said the Ministry of Health should have reduced periodicity of NFHS, which used to be held at a gap of six

years, much earlier.

"It is only now that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed to conduct NFHS IV and also decided to slash the periodicity of NFHS to three years," the panel said. It also pulled up the government for not computerising anganwadi centres in villages and habitation connected by broadband and internet and ensure real time data flow for nutrition monitoring across India.

The panel said it was disappointed to note that the aim of the UPA's flagship National Rural Health Mission to bring down infant mortality rate to less than 30 per 1000 live births by 2011-12 has not yet been achieved. The IMR remains high at 44 per 1000 live births as of October 2012, it said.

Based on the available data, the committee has expressed concern that 59 per cent children under the age of five years are stunted and 3.3 per cent face severe wasting in the 100 focus districts which ranked the lowest on childhood development index in six states.

These states are Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Amar Ujala (H), September 25, 2013, P.10

The Statesman, September 9, 2013, P.7

2.4 Women Health/Reproductive Health (Surrogacy)

Allow surrogacy for all: Ministry

TEENA THACKER
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3

The women and child development (WCD) ministry has proposed to the health ministry to allow surrogacy to everyone, including unmarried couples and those in live-in relationships etc. In its comments sent to the health ministry on the proposed

Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) bill, 2013, the WCD has opined that surrogacy should be allowed to everyone, irrespective of marriage.

Calling the definition of "couple" (as stated by health ministry) narrow, the WCD has suggested that the definition of "couple should include everyone who wants to avail ARTs and surrogacy, irrespective of marriage."

Contrary to the health ministry's draft bill that says that no women shall act as surrogate for more than "three" successful births including their own children, the WCD has proposed to extend the same provision to four births (live and still births), including her own children with not less than 2 year interval between two deliveries.

The WCD is also of the view that women above 21 years with conditions like height below 140 cm, women with low Body Mass Index (BMI) and with high risk conditions

● **Calling definition of 'couple' narrow, WCD ministry suggests it should include everyone, including those in live-in relationships**

like cardio-vascular diseases, thyroid problem should be excluded from the process. It has also proposed that the contravention to this stipulation should attract a fine to an offence punishable under the proposed act.

Considering the health risks that a surrogate entails, the WCD has said that the draft bill should "incorporate provisions of compensation to the surrogate and her family in cases of any health complications or death." Also, according to the WCD, there should be some provision in case the child born due to some deficiency needs to be with the surrogate mother till the baby is handed over to the surrogate parents.

The women and child development ministry has also proposed that the minimum compensation to be paid to the surrogate should be paid to her once an embryo has been transferred in her, irrespective of whether she was able to deliver the child or not or had to terminate her pregnancy due to medical complications.

The Asian Age, September 4, 2013, P.3
(Surrogacy)

2.5 Health and Nutrition -other issues (B12 Deficiency/Malnutrition-Golden Rice/ Nutritional Garden/Vitamin-D/Cardiovascular Disease-Children /National Nutrition Week)

This vitamin a must for vegetarians

Rise In B12 Deficiency Spurs Research On Its Role, Mainly In Brain Functions

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: The alarming increase in vitamin B12 deficiency among Indians and its health implications—notably anaemia and cognitive decline—has now become a subject of research.

The central government's department of biotechnology has called in experts and scientists working in the field of public health to create a road map for understanding the burden of the disease and pinpointing alternative sources of vitamin B12, which can cater to the large vegetarian population of the country.

Vitamin B12, also called cobalamin, is a water-soluble vitamin. It plays a key role in the normal functioning of the brain and nervous system and the formation of blood.

"In India, approximately 60-70% of the population is believed to be having low vitamin B12 levels, with nearly 80% of urban middle class risk of low vitamin B12 concentrations," said Swati Bhargava, senior research officer (Nutrition), Diabetes Foundation of India.

According to the DBT, recent evidence indicates that deficiency of vitamin B12 has profound implications for human health, notably anaemia and cognitive decline, particularly in elderly.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Vitamin B12 is an essential macronutrient needed by the body to make **red blood cells, nerves and DNA**, and carry out other functions. Like most vitamins, B12 can't be made by the body. Instead, it must be obtained from food or supplements

The average adult should get 2.4 micrograms B12 daily

Symptoms of B12 deficiency
Anaemia | Cognitive decline | Memory loss | Weakness | Fatigue

PREVENTION
One can reduce the risk of B12 deficiency by eating products rich in the vitamin such as

Meat Poultry Seafood Milk Cheese Eggs

➤ If you don't eat animal products or have a medical condition that limits your absorption of nutrients, taking a B12-containing multivitamin may be advised

"Deficiency of this micronutrient may have some role in development of neural tube defects, adiposity, coronary artery disease, and autism spectrum disorders," said a DBT official.

Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-Doc Centre of Excellence for Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology, said till five years ago diagnosis of vitamin B12 deficiency was not stressed upon.

"There was little awareness about it and the tests were costlier. We used to prescribe multivitamins to patients. But now with increasing evidence of the complications that deficiency of this micronutrient can cause, we are getting patients tested for it and prescribing specific supplements," he said. Diabetics, he added, are at higher risk for deficiency of vitamin B12 because metformin—one of the drugs prescribed to such patients—has the tendency to reduce its absorption.

A recent study published in *Journal of Clinical Biochemistry and Nutrition* found that adequate folic acid and vitamin B12 intake could help reduce vascular disease risk. It was found that plasma homocysteine concentrations, responsible for plaque formation leading to blockage of arteries, have a significant, negative correlation with vitamin B12 levels in patients with cerebrovascular (stroke) and peripheral vascular disease (deep vein thrombosis).

"Large scale corrective measures like food fortification or dietary supplementation with folate and B12 might benefit the Indian population and reduce the incidence and morbidity of vascular disease," Dr Seema Bhargava, lead author of the study, and senior consultant, department of biochemistry at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said.

The Times of India, September 24, 2013, P.5 (B12 Deficiency)

Govt pulled up over malnutrition data

NEW DELHI, Sept 8 – Expressing surprise on the absence of latest official data on malnutrition, a Parliamentary panel has asked the government to come up with a time-bound action plan to reduce under-nutrition and ensure real time flow of information for proper monitoring.

"We are surprised to note that in this modern era of information technology, there is no recent official data on malnutrition. What is available is seven years old and outdated...National Family Health Survey III data of 2005-2006," the panel said.

The Committee on Estimates tabled its report titled 'Malnutrition and Infants in Mothers' in Parliament this week, in which it highlighted the absence of latest data on child health.

"Malnutrition has been recognised as a major threat to social and economic development and casts an adverse impact on children, adults, women and the entire workforce of the country," the panel has said. – PTI

The Assam Tribune, September 9, 2013, P.10 (Malnutrition Data)

Nutrition initiative to curb malnutrition

NEW DELHI: The cabinet on Tuesday is likely to approve a multi-sectoral initiative to curb India's high child malnutrition rate, described as a "national shame" by Manmohan Singh.

India has one of the highest — 42% — number of malnourished children in the world. According to government data every second child under the age of three is malnourished in India, a reflection of how poorly various schemes/programmes launched over the years to tackle the issue have fared.

As part of the nutrition initiative, the government has proposed to set up nutrition councils at state and district level which will focus on incorporating specific pro-nutrition elements in different schemes of the government and ensure that they reach targeted beneficiaries. **HTC**

Hindustan Times, September 24, 2013, P.1 (Malnutrition)

कुपोषण दूर करेगा 'गोल्डन' चावल

रणविजय सिंह, नई दिल्ली

खाद्य धनुषों में सबसे ज्यादा इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले चावल का रंग बदलकर कृषि वैज्ञानिकों ने सुनहरा (गोल्डन) कर दिया है। इस गोल्डन रंग के जरिए वैज्ञानिकों ने चावल में विटामिन 'ए' पोषक तत्व डाला है। यह संभव हुआ है मक्के के जीन से। वैज्ञानिकों ने अमेरिकी चावल से मक्के का जीन लेने के बाद उसे भारतीय चावल से क्रॉस करके नई गोल्डन चावल की किस्म विकसित की है। भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान (आइएआरआई), पूसा के वैज्ञानिकों का दावा है कि विटामिन 'ए' की मौजूदगी से यह किस्म देश में कुपोषण व लोगों में विटामिन 'ए' की कमी दूर करने में मददगार होगी।

आइएआरआई के कृषि वैज्ञानिक कहते हैं कि देश में चावल का इस्तेमाल लोग ज्यादा करते हैं। बावजूद इसके चावल में पोषक तत्वों के नाम पर काबोहाइड्रेट ही होता है। इसमें कोई विटामिन नहीं होने से लोगों को जरूरी पोषक तत्व नहीं मिल पाता। विटामिन ए शारीरिक विकास व रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए जरूरी है। इसलिए केंद्र सरकार के जैव प्रौद्योगिकी

• मक्के का जीन लेकर तैयार किया गोल्डन चावल

CC गोल्डन चावल से शरीर में विटामिन ए की 50 फीसद जरूरत पूरी हो जाएगी। शेष 50 प्रतिशत जरूरत दूसरी खाद्य धनुषों से हासिल की जा सकती है। इससे हव्वा में कुपोषण जैसी बड़ी समस्या दूर करने में मदद मिलेगी। - डॉ. ए.के. सिंह, वैज्ञानिक जेनेटिक विभाग, आइएआरआई

विभाग से मंजूरी मिलने के बाद आइएआरआई, तमिलनाडु कृषि विश्वविद्यालय व हैदराबाद स्थित चावल अनुसंधान निदेशालय ने 2006 में इस पर शोध शुरू किया। वैज्ञानिकों ने पांच भारतीय चावल की किस्मों का जीन परिवर्तित कर उसमें विटामिन ए डालने में कामयाबी हासिल कर ली है। पर जीन मोडिफाइड फसलों के खिलाफ विरोध के कारण इन किस्मों का फील्ड ट्रायल नहीं हो पा रहा है।

फील्ड ट्रायल का है इंतजार

आइएआरआई के निदेशक डॉ. एचके कार ने कहा कि सरकार से इन किस्मों के

फील्ड ट्रायल की अनुमति मिलने का इंतजार कर रहे हैं। इस किस्म में विटामिन ए होने से आंखों की बीमारी रतौंधी भी नहीं होगी।

अमेरिकी चावल से निकाला जीन

आइएआरआई के जेनेटिक विभाग के वैज्ञानिक डॉ. एके सिंह ने बताया कि अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिकों ने मक्के से बीटा कैरोटिन का जीन निकालकर अमेरिकी चावल की दो किस्मों कोकोई और केबोनेट की किस्मों में डालकर गोल्डन चावल बनाया था। बीटा कैरोटिन से ही विटामिन ए का निर्माण होता है। अमेरिका की दोनों किस्मों भारत में उत्पादन के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं हैं। इसलिए शोध के लिए उन किस्मों को यहाँ लाया गया। आइएआरआई, पूसा ने उन किस्मों से मक्का का जीन लेकर चावल के स्वर्ण किस्म में डालकर नई गोल्डन चावल विकसित करने में सफलता हासिल की। तमिलनाडु कृषि विश्वविद्यालय व चावल अनुसंधान निदेशालय ने आइआर-36, 64, एडीटी-43 व मंसुरी पर शोध किया है। इन किस्मों की खेती पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड, उड़ीसा, पश्चिम बंगाल व तमिलनाडु में होती है।

Dainik Jagran (H), September 2, 2013, P.6
(Malnutrition-Golden Rice)

Nutritional gardens in schools

CORRESPONDENT

GOALPARA, Sept 8 – A separate scheme under the Assam State plan for development of nutritional gardens in schools for children was ceremonially inaugurated by chief guest SZ Hazarika at the PR Govt HS School here in the presence of school officials, dignitaries and students recently with the planting of more than 100 fruit saplings in the school campus recently.

Talking to this correspondent, Abdul Jolil, SDO, (Horticulture), District agriculture office said that a total of 160 schools covering 40 from each LAC have been identified under the scheme where each identified school will receive planting materials and some small implements to develop a nutritional garden in their respective schools with a view to provide additional nutrition to the school children. Official sources said that they were finding it difficult for transporting these saplings from the office store yard to these designated schools across the district as no extra funds were given for carriage.

A teacher while commenting on "protection of these planted saplings" in the school also resented the haphazard manner in which the scheme is being implemented by the government and expressed serious reservation as to how many trees will actually bear fruits and provide nutrition to school children in the long run.

The Assam Tribune, September 9, 2013, P.8 (Nutritional Garden)

कहीं विटामिन-डी की कमी तो नहीं !

कई बार शरीर में किसी एक पोषक तत्व की कमी भी कई बीमारियों का कारण बन जाती है। इस मामले में विटामिन-डी इसलिए अहम है क्योंकि हमारी जीवनशैली इसके सबसे बड़े स्रोत यानी सूरज के प्रकाश से हमें दूर करती जा रही है। इसका सेहत पर दुष्प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

क्यों जरूरी है

- इम्यून सिस्टम को नियमित रखता है।
- यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कोलोराडो डेनवर स्कूल ऑफ मेडिसिन, मैसाच्युसेट्स जनरल हॉस्पिटल और बोस्टन चिल्ड्रन हॉस्पिटल के वैज्ञानिकों के मुताबिक सर्दी, जुकाम के लक्षणों को दूर करने में भी यह कारगर है।
- अमेरिका की ओरेगन हेल्थ एंड साइंस यूनिवर्सिटी के न्यूरोइम्यूनोलॉजी सेंटर में चेयरमैन डेनिस बोर्डे के अनुसार यह मल्टीपल स्केलरोसिस के खतरे को भी कम करता है।
- एक शोध के मुताबिक विटामिन-डी पांस्तिक की कार्यप्रणाली को सुचारु रखने में भी अहम भूमिका निभाता है।
- जॉर्जिया के मेडिकल कॉलेज में किए गए एक शोध की मानें तो शरीर के वजन को संतुलित रखने में भी इसकी अहम भूमिका है।
- अस्थमा के लक्षणों को कम करने में भी विटामिन-डी लाभदायक है।
- 2012 में सामने आई प्रोसिडिंग्स ऑफ द नेशनल अकेडमी ऑफ साइंसेज की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक विटामिन-डी की पर्याप्त मात्रा ट्यूबरोकुलोसिस के मरीजों को जल्द राहत देने में कारगर है।

विटामिन-डी

अल्ट्रावायलेट (यूवी)

इनका करें सेवन



यूवी के दो प्रकार

UVA UVB



क्या है विटामिन-डी

विटामिन-डी वसा में घुलनशील प्रो-हार्मोन्स का एक समूह होता है। यह एक स्टेरॉइड (खास रासायनिक) विटामिन है, जो आंतों से कैल्शियम को सोखकर हड्डियों में पहुंचाता है। शरीर में इसका निर्माण हाइड्रॉक्सी कोलेस्ट्रॉल और अल्ट्रावायलेट किरणों की मदद से होता है। इसके अलावा शरीर में रसायन कॉलिकल कैल्सिरोल पाया जाता है, जो खाने के साथ मिलकर विटामिन-डी बनाता है।
विटामिन-डी पांच प्रकार का होता है।

विटामिन-डी1, विटामिन-डी2, विटामिन-डी3, विटामिन-डी4, विटामिन-डी5

मानव शरीर के लिए विटामिन-डी2 और डी-3 बेहद जरूरी हैं।

दुनिया भर में फैलता खतरा

यदि आप प्रतिदिन कम से कम 15 मिनट का समय सूरज के प्रकाश में नहीं रहते हैं तो यह विटामिन-डी की कमी पैदा कर सकता है। दुनिया भर में लगभग 1 बिलियन लोग विटामिन-डी की कमी से ग्रस्त हैं। पिछले कुछ सालों के दौरान किए गए शोध बताते हैं कि विटामिन-डी कई बीमारियों को दूर करने में अहम भूमिका निभाता है। इसी वजह से विटामिन-डी की कमी कई गंभीर बीमारियों को दावत दे देती है, जैसे ऑस्टियोपोरोसिस, हृदय रोग, कैंसर, मल्टीपल स्केलरोसिस और इन्फेक्शन से जुड़ी बीमारियां जैसे ट्यूबरोकुलोसिस या फिर मौसमी बुखार।



विटामिन-डी टेस्ट

यह टेस्ट मुख्यतः 25 हाइड्रॉक्सी विटामिन-डी के रूप में किया जाता है, जो कि विटामिन-डी मापने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका माना जाता है। इसके लिए रक्त का नमूना नस से लिया जाता है और एलिसा या कैलिफ्लूरोमिसेंसनस तकनीक से टेस्ट लगाया जाता है। विटामिन-डी अन्य विटामिनो से भिन्न है। यह हारमोन सूर्य की किरणों के प्रभाव से त्वचा द्वारा उत्पादित होता है। विटामिन-डी के उत्पादन के लिए गोरी त्वचा को 20 मिनट धूप की जरूरत होती है और गहरे रंग की त्वचा के लिए इससे कुछ अधिक समय की जरूरत होती है।



विटामिन-डी की कमी के विभिन्न स्तर

- अपर्याप्त 20-40 एमजी/एमएल
- न्यून 10-20 एमजी/एमएल
- न्यूनतम 5 मिलीग्राम/प्रति मिलीलीटर से भी कम



लक्षण

- थकान महसूस होना।
- बच्चों की हड्डियों का टेढ़ा हो जाना।
- हड्डियों और मांसपेशियों में दर्द रहना।
- कमर में अक्सर दर्द की शिकायत रहना।

विटामिन-डी की पर्याप्त मात्रा के लिए प्रतिदिन सूर्य की टोहनी लेनी चाहिए।



Amar Ujala (H), September 17, 2013, P.14

(Vitamin-D)

• DR. R. N. KALRA

Cardiovascular diseases in WOMEN & CHILDREN

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the number one cause of deaths worldwide, accounting for 17.3 million deaths. Over 80% of these deaths take place in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). By 2030, 23.6 million people are predicted to die from CVD which places a burden on national economies.

Women have an important role to play as gatekeepers of the family and guardians of health, especially in lower and middle-income countries, where eight out of 10 CVD-related deaths occur. We are urging all women to adopt heart-healthy behaviours. Taking action to prevent exposure to risk factors will have a positive impact on children, as they learn by example.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women and more than 8.6 million women die of CVD including heart disease and stroke around the world each year. Heart attacks claim the lives of 3.3 million women every year, with another 3.2 million women dying from stroke and the remaining 2.1 million women succumbing to rheumatic heart disease, heart failure, hypertensive heart disease, inflammatory heart disease, and other CVDs.

This is more than the total

**SEPTEMBER 29
WORLD HEART DAY**

number of women who die from all cancers, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria combined and represents one-third of all deaths among women.

Risk factors in women

Age and family history play a role but it is estimated that the majority of CVD deaths are due to modifiable risk factors such as smoking, high cholesterol, unhealthy diet, high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes.

Women, like men, need to take preventive action to manage their risk factors. These include monitoring blood pressure and taking appropriate steps to control it; monitoring blood glucose levels; eating healthily; avoiding tobacco; and participating in regular physical activity.

Types of heart disease observed in children

Children who have a birth weight less than 2.5 kg have approximately double the risk of dying prematurely from coronary heart disease.

Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the type of heart disease that a baby is born with. In reality, it is a defect or abnormality of the heart or blood vessels near the heart, and not a disease, so many people use the term "congenital heart defect." A majority of the children born today with CHD will survive and with proper treatment be able to lead a normal or near-normal life.

Acquired heart disease

This type of heart disease is not present at birth. Two major types of acquired heart disease in children are rheumatic heart disease and Kawasaki disease.

Rheumatic heart disease

Rheumatic fever is caused by the streptococcal bacteria, and usually begins as a consequence of strep throat in children who were undiagnosed or were not treated or undertreated.

The global burden of disease caused by rheumatic fever and RHD currently falls disproportionately on children and young adults living in low-income countries and is responsible for about 2,33,000 deaths annually. Primary prevention of acute rheumatic fever (the prevention of initial attack) is achieved by treatment of acute throat infections, caused by group A strepto-

coccus for up to 10 days with an oral antibiotic (usually penicillin) or single intramuscular penicillin injection. Surgery is often required to repair or replace heart valves in patients with severely damaged valves, the cost of which is very high and a drain on the limited health resources of poor countries.

Kawasaki disease

Kawasaki disease is characterised by fever, rash, swollen hands and feet, bloodshot eyes, swollen lymph nodes, a strawberry appearance to the tongue, and acute inflammation of blood vessels, especially coronary arteries. Its cause is unknown but maybe some kind of infectious agent occurs in young children—80% or more are less than 5 years old, and occurs more in boys than in girls. In some children, especially those who are undiagnosed or untreated or not

treated soon enough, serious heart damage can occur.

Other heart diseases observed in children, include:

Chagas disease — a parasite-borne infection that primarily affects rural populations in low-income countries — cardiomyopathy and infectious endocarditis. Children can also develop abnormal heart rhythms, especially those with certain kinds of CHD.

Childhood overweight/obesity can lead to heart disease risk in later life. The problem is global and steadily affecting many low and middle-income countries, particularly in urban settings. Globally, the number of overweight children under 5 is estimated to be over 42 million. Close to 35 million of these are living in developing countries.

Societal changes associated with economic growth, modernisation and globalisation, as well as changes in nutrition habits across the world, are driving the obesity epidemic. Cities in developing countries are urbanising at a rapid rate without much foresight.

This has led to the creation of cities with unequal distribution of goods, with some areas having insubstantial housing conditions and low access to health-care services, healthy foods and safe, green places for outdoor activity that are free of environmental toxins and pollutants.

Children in cities may be particularly susceptible to second-hand smoke, given the number of smokers in urban areas, along with crowded living conditions.

First-hand use of tobacco by children is on the rise and those residing in cities may be more vulnerable due to increased access to cigarettes and increased exposure to ads that encourage smoking.

On World Heart Day, September 29, the World Heart Federation is calling on people — specifically mothers who are gatekeepers to the home — to take action now to protect their own heart health, as well as that of their children and families to safeguard future generations.

(The writer is Medical Director & CEO, Kalra Hospital, New Delhi. Email: dr_rnk@hotmail.com)



CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

account for

17.3

million deaths in the world

80%

of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries

By 2030 almost 23.6 million people are predicted to die from Cardiovascular Diseases

WOMEN

- Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk by 15 per cent
- Women with high blood pressure have 3.5 times the risk

CHILDREN

- Children who have a birth weight of less than 2.5 kg have double the risk
- Childhood overweight/obesity can lead to risk in later life

Hindustan Times, September 29, 2013, P.16

(Cardiovascular Disease-Children)

Ministry of Women & Child Development
Food and Nutrition Board

Government of Karnataka

ICDS

National Nutrition Week

1-7 September, 2013

“Food Security for Healthy Life”

In Karnataka State there are **64,518** Anganwadi Centers, **39,54,292** children in the age group of 0-6 years, **9,90,458** pregnant and nursing mothers are provided complete nutritional food supplements at **Rs. 6/-, Rs. 7/- and Rs. 9/-** respectively. In addition, anganwadi children from 6 months to 6 years are provided with 150 ml of milk thrice a week from 01.08.2013. Severely malnourished children are given eggs for 4 days additionally. Free emergency treatment for 18 identified diseases is offered to anganwadi children at selected 20 hospitals under “Balasanjeevini” programme.

During Pregnancy and Lactation

- Nutritious food is essential for overall growth of the child
- More nutritious food is required to pregnant and lactating mother to breastfeed the child
- Consume more green leaves, vegetables, milk and milk products, cereals, dal, malted grains. If non-vegetarian, meat, fish and eggs can be consumed
- Consume iron tablets every day for 100 days to prevent Anemia

Start breast feeding within one hour of birth only breastfeed until the child completes six months

- It is complete food and includes all nutrients required for the child
- It is clean and safe
- It protects the child from allergy and other infections
- Reduces infant mortality rate
- Enhances the mother and child relationship

After six months give supplementary food along with Breastfeeding

- According to age, semi-solid foods along with breastfeeding
- Home made foods such as Rice, Raveganji, Kheer, Dhal, Curds and Seasonal Fruits can be included to a child's diet
- Slowly increase the child's food volume
- For more strength a spoon of oil and for iron, vitamins, green leaves, vegetables to be added in the child's diet
- Child must be fed 3 to 4 times a day
- Utilize all services like supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, immunisation, health checks, pre-school activities provided through Anganwadi Centers under Integrated Child Development Scheme

Women and Child Development Department

Deccan Herald, September 3, 2013, P.18 (National Nutrition Week)

राष्ट्रीय पोषण सप्ताह
1 से 7 सितम्बर, 2013

प्रदेश सरकार बाल्य मृत्यु दर में कमी एवं कुपोषण मुक्त करने हेतु 0 से 8 वर्ष तक के बच्चों, किशोरी बालिकाओं, गर्भवती तथा धात्री महिलाओं को अनुसूक्त पोषाहार, पोषण व स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा, टीकाकरण, स्वास्थ्य जांच, संदर्भ सेवाएं तथा स्कूल-पूर्व शिक्षा अतिमबाड़ी केन्द्र पर उपलब्ध कराने हेतु सतत प्रयासरत है। इसलिए प्रत्येक आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्र पर 1 से 7 सितम्बर तक 'राष्ट्रीय पोषण सप्ताह' मनाया जायेगा। आइये, इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लीजिए तथा पोषण सम्बन्धी सही जानकारी के साथ अपने बच्चों को कुपोषण मुक्त जीवन का उपहार दीजिए।

- बच्चों को माँ का पहला दूध (सीस) ही समुचित आहार।
- बच्चों का नियमित वजन ग्रोथ चार्ट में अंकन करें।
- शिशु का समस्त टीकाकरण करावें।
- विटामिन-ए सम्पूरण, आयोडीनयुक्त नमक एवं शिशु आहार भी अवश्य दें।
- कुपोषण को दूर करने हेतु राज्य पोषण मिशन का गठन।

निदेशालय: बाल विकास सेवा एवं पुष्पाहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, तृतीय तल, इन्दिरा भवन, लखनऊ।

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

<http://information.up.nic.in>

Jansatta (H), September 1, 2013, P.12