

**Database on Orphanages under
Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956**

Project Design

The concern and commitment for the cause of children is as old as its civilizations in India. We, in India, truly believe that a child is a gift of Gods and must be nurtured with care and affection within family and the society. Several socio-economic and cultural changes in the pre-independence India posed several threats to the well being of children in the form of neglect, abuse and deprivation particularly poverty afflicted sections of the society.

Such a scenario made it imperative to intervene for providing care and protection to children. Therefore, setting up institutions outside family to provide care to the young both in the governmental and voluntary became inevitable. After independence, new era of child welfare and child development emerged and many institutions were emerged for the welfare of children. Adequate provisions were made for care and protection of children in the Constitutions.

There is also a wide range of laws which guarantee to a substantial extent the rights and entitlement as provided in the Constitution and in the UN Convention. The **Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956** is one such Act which provides license to institutions established and maintained for the reception, care, protection and welfare of women and children. The Act extents to the whole of India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

A State-wise list of about 900 institutions/organizations functioning in different states was gathered through Internet which is as follows:

Number of Orphanages in different States

Sl. No.	States	No. of Orphanages	No. of Inmates
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97	
2.	Assam	5	
3.	Arunchal Pradesh	1	
4.	Bihar	5	
5.	Chattisgarh	2	
6.	Goa	2	
7.	Gujarat	17	
8.	Haryana	2	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	
11.	Jharkhand	1	
12.	Karnataka	26	
13.	Kerela	345	32,468
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	
15.	Maharashtra	176	
16.	Manipur	8	
17.	Meghalaya	1	
18.	Mizoram	1	
19.	Nagaland	-	

20	Orissa	79	320
21	Punjab	1	
22	Rajasthan	8	
23	Sikkim	-	
24	Tamil Nadu	89	
25	Tripura	-	
26	Uttranchal	1	
27	Uttar Pradesh	13	
28	West Bengal	17	
29	Pondicherry	2	
30	Chandigarh	1	
31	Delhi	8	
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	
33	Daman and Diu	-	
34	Lakshadweep	-	
35	A& N Islands	-	
	Total		

While gathering information on these institutions/organizations, it was found that there is no such database available to provide information related to these institutions. At that point, it was realized to have a state-wise database on these institutions mentioning briefly their way of (1) functioning, (2) management and scope of activities etc. The database would broadly provide information related to their (a) establishment, (b) functioning, (c) activities and management etc. Such information could be useful

while planning any kind of capacity building programmes for their personnel as well as helpful in referring such children to these institutions, wherever required.

Keeping these factors in view, Institute proposes to prepare a **Database on Institutions under Women and Children Licensing (Act) 1956.**

Objectives :

The objectives of database are as follows :

- 1) To be used as a reference document by other organizations.
- 2) To facilitate the process of building capacities of personnel involved in planning and execution of programmes for the care and protection of these children .
- 3) To facilitate coordination among different institutions with special reference to child protection.

Coverage/ Sample :

As it is a central Act, information would be gathered from all the states on these institutions.

Methodology:

It is proposed to prepare a list of these orphanages under Women and Children (Licensing) Act, 1956 all over India and designing an exhaustive questionnaire which would be mailed to these orphanages. The Questionnaire would contain questions on

different aspects of Institutions/organization's functioning and activities. This information, will, then be compiled in a systematic manner providing information on various facets of their functioning and later can be retained in a printed form or can be preserved electronically in CD's for cheap and wider circulation.