

NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
CARE AND PROTECTION OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN
URBAN INDIA
(November 17 & 18, 2006)

A REPORT

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Introduction

A two-day National Seminar on Care & Protection of Disadvantaged Children in Urban India was organised by Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow on 17th & 18th November, 2006 at RCUES Conference Hall, Lucknow University, Lucknow. The Seminar was sponsored by Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi.

The principal objectives of the Seminar were:

- To review programmes, policies, projects and schemes oriented towards care, protection and empowerment of disadvantaged children in India
- To examine the status of disadvantaged children in urban India
- To review the enforcement of Children's Rights Acts and other legal provisions in India
- To examine the impact of Juvenile Justice Act and other legal provisions related to disadvantaged children
- To examine the implementation of various programmes, schemes and projects for care and protection of disadvantaged children in urban India
- To examine the compliance of the recommendations of UN Committee on Child's Rights in India and particularly to assess the progress in India in the context of Millennium Development Goals
- To suggest policy measures for proper implementation, delivery of services and administration of Children's Rights Acts, legal provisions, programmes and schemes in India

Inaugural Session

The Seminar was inaugurated by Sri R.Ramani, IAS, Director General, (Training), Government of Uttar Pradesh. In his inaugural address Sri Ramani said that 'love and affection' to children is the most important issue. There is a need to protect the social, economic and legal rights of a child. He categorically

stated that exploitation of children is an act of vengeance, and must be avoided in totality

Delivering the Key Note Address, Mrs. Jayati Chandra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Deptt. of Horticulture & Food Processing, Government of U.P. and Former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi explained the power of childhood. She is of the opinion that there is not much difference between an 'advantaged' and 'disadvantaged' child and both can be inter-changed according to the situation. The Children's Act gives certain rights - economic and social to children. There is a legal obligation on adults to provide care and protection to disadvantaged children, especially those afflicted by diseases and disability. The child also has the right to be protected by a loving couple. Besides, economic conditions generally determine the disadvantage, e.g. the increasing crime of female foeticide. It is the duty of every urban citizen to help in the prevention of abetment of crime towards the child, in the form of pressure groups, NGOs and individuals. Being a natural guardian of the child it has also been provided in the Indian Penal Code that female foeticide is a crime liable to be punished under law.

Abandonment of a child is a social stigma which has widespread ramifications. Both responsible and responsive parenting is imperative and need of the hour. Crime against children or forcing them to indulge in crime, or induce them into beggary must also be tackled by government and non-government sectors. Juvenile justice homes reflect the pathetic situations faced by juvenile children and there are no opportunities for social interaction. It has also been observed that they cannot even take the right decisions when they are let off at the age of 18, and the thinkers, planners and intellectuals need to give serious thought to this problem. Trafficking of girl child is a very serious problem and there is no effective system to restore them to their families. There should be sincere efforts to evolve a mechanism to restore 'missing' and 'lost children' also.

In his presidential remarks Prof. R.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University, Lucknow, pointed out the pathetic way in which deprived children are forced to work and earn their livelihood and support their families. There are so many problems that they have to face due to lack of education and proper facilities. The Government has launched many programmes from time to time for the upliftment of such children, but they have failed to produce the desired effects. The country lacks in providing this vulnerable group the necessary facilities for their upliftment and the educational and health standards are lacking. He

mentioned the efforts of the Lucknow University in educating the poor children living in slums, child labour and street children. He requested the government machinery and the various sections of society to help in contributing towards removing the vices which are being faced by this vulnerable section of our society.

Earlier, Prof. Nishith Rai, Director, RCUES, Lucknow, welcoming the Chief Guest and other distinguished participants. In his welcome address he spelt out the significant role of the Centre in training quality managers in the field of urban government. He said that almost 20% of the world's children population is present in India, and they naturally play a very important role in nation building and the need of the hour is to focus on the integrated development of children as a whole.

Dr. U.B. Singh outlined the Seminar objectives as well as the other details of the Seminar. Dr. Padma Iyer, presented vote of thanks to the chief guest and learned participants. Dr. Richa Varmani, Joint Director was the Rapporteur for the session.

Duration & Dates

The two-day National Seminar was organised on November 17th & 18th, 2006.

Venue

The Seminar was organised in the conference hall of the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow.

Boarding & Lodging

The boarding & lodging facilities to the outside participants were made available in the Trainees Hostel-cum-Guest House. All the participants were served working lunch besides two time mid-session tea/coffee and refreshments.

In order to have thread-bare deliberations and discussions on specific issues, a theme paper was developed in joint efforts of Prof. Nishith Rai and Dr. A.K. Singh. The paper was a comprehensive document covering various aspects of care and protection of disadvantaged children in Urban India. A copy of the theme paper is appended at Annexure A. For better appreciation of specific issues, the duration was divided into different sessions. Three Technical Sessions and one Plenary Session with beginning and a Discussion Session at the end were planned

besides inaugural, and valedictory sessions. A copy of the Schedule of Programme is furnished at Annexure B.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Plenary Session

In this session the theme paper was presented by Dr.A.K.Singh. Prof.G.R.Krishnamurthy, Director, Transformational Institute for Managerial Excellence, Mangalore chaired the session. Dr. Singh analyzed the current situation, emerging trends and patterns delineating the rationale, objectives and issues of the Seminar. He also discussed in detail various programmes and schemes oriented towards care & protection of disadvantaged children. He also talked about the social problems and concerns through depicting statistics. Prof.Krishnamurthy in his remarks appreciated the contents of the theme paper.

Technical Session I

The Session was devoted to **Disadvantaged Children : Legal Protection, Plans, Policies, Programmes etc.** It was chaired by **Prof. Balraj Chauhan**, Director, National Law Institute University, Bhopal. Prof. Balraj Chauhan, the Chairman of the session remarked that poverty is the main reason responsible for child labour. Some empirical survey statistics would have been analyzed in the support of the arguments. In the session in all seven papers were presented. The rapporteurs of the session were Dr.Urmila Bagga, Joint Director and Dr.K.K.Singh, Research Asstt., RCUES, Lucknow.

Prof. S.C. Arora in his paper on *Children's Rights and Their Plight* conceptualized child labour and described measures for combating child labour. According to him the European Social Charter of 1961 and Convention on Rights of Children, 1989 made obligatory on the part of the state to ensure the production of all rights in the best interest of the child. He was of the view that quality education will reduce the proportion of child labour.

Dr. R. V.P. Singh in his paper titled *Child Care and Protection During Plan Periods in India* said that there are about 120 schemes and programmes for women and children run by 13 Depts.and Ministries, however, there is lack of coordination and integration among these Depts. and Ministries. The draft policy on Integrated Child Protection Scheme is likely to provide a policy frame and action plan for child development in a holistic way.

Prof. G.S. Bajpai in his paper on *Making It Work : Juvenile Justice in India* mentioned that about 30 million children in India belonged to families living in conditions of extreme distress and deprivation. According to Prof. Bajpai violence against girls, child labour, children living on the threats, trafficking, violence in schools, and violence in conflict situations have all been reportedly on the rise. He primarily concentrated on the problems and issues affecting the effective enforcement of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.

Prof. Ravindra Sharma and **Ms. Veena Mehra** in their joint paper titled *Juvenile Delinquency and The Implementation of Act* mentioned that most of the child offenders belong to the age group of 14-16 years and are illiterate and from lower strata of the society. The number of girl delinquents is negligible as compared to boys. Prof. Sharma lamented upon the poor implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 in Rajasthan State.

Mr. Kelvin Symon in his paper on *Child Protection in the Eleventh Plan :Inputs for 11th Plan* highlighted the role of Childline India Foundation in Child line services. Childline looks at the development of children within the system of relationship that forms their environment. He stated that Government should define minimum level of basket of goods and services that a child is entitled to until 14 years of age. Cross sectoral convergence and the need for joint action for building capacity and encouraging dialogues on children's rights are called for. He also called for the need to integrate the juvenile justice mechanism with the police, and residential services to create a national tracking system for missing children.

Mr. Rajendra P. Mishra et al. in their paper on *Community Based Child Survival Programme in India* discussed health situation in India. He maintained that about 26 million infants are born in India and around 10 percent of them do not even survive to five years of age. India contributes to 25 percent of the 10 million under five deaths occurring world wide every year. The community based child survival programmes are likely to promote child health and reduce neo-natal mortality rates.

Technical Session II

The session was devoted to **Disadvantaged Children : Social Protection**. The Session was chaired by Prof. S.C. Arora and Co-chaired by Prof. A.N. Singh. The rapporteur of the session was Dr. Padma Iyer. In all 19 papers were presented.

Prof. S.A.A. Jafari and **Ms. Barkha Srivastava** in their joint paper on *Child Labour and Education in Slums of Lucknow* highlighted the empirical research findings. They maintained that children contribute about 40 percent of slum population, while children suffer from malnutrition due to poor and unhygienic living conditions. Most of the slum children are also deprived of their right to education and health. She is of the view that a humanitarian approach is required so that problems of slums can be tackled and solved.

Dr. Fahimuddin and **Ms. Atika Khatoon** in their joint paper on *National Child Labour Project: Awareness and Opinion* highlighted the coverage and impact of National Child Labour Project in India. Presenting the paper, Dr. Fahimuddin discussed the rehabilitation of child labour in the State of Uttar Pradesh. According to them the effective implementation of National Child Labour Project is likely to reduce the exploitation of children in the tender age.

Dr. Sanjay Pandey in his paper on *Socio-economic Status of Women Offenders and Their Young Children* maintained that imprisonment of mother with dependent young children is a problematic issue. He feels that the effects of incarceration can be catastrophic on the children and costly to the state in terms of providing for their care, and because of the social problems arising from early separation. According to Dr. Pandey children's should not be allowed to stay in jails, because jails are not place to bring up children. He is of the view that young children of women prisoners may be included in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 so that these neglected children can derive benefits of the Act for their care, protection, development & rehabilitation.

Dr. O.P. Shukla in his paper on *Nutritional and Health Determinants in India* stated that nutrition and health status of children have several dimensions that can not be adequately captured by indicators currently in vogue; namely, calorie intake, mortality rates, literacy, doctor-population ratio, etc. He said that socio-cultural values and indicators are to be explored to measure nutritional and health status of children.

Prof. S.S.A. Jafari in his paper on *Health and Hygiene Among Children Belonging to Urban Slums of Uttar Pradesh* maintained that about one fourth urban population of Uttar Pradesh lives in slums. He said that children are brought up in unhygienic and dilapidated, shanties located in dump areas, in which there is hardly any provision of toilet, bathroom, electricity and street light.

Dr. S.P. Pandey and Ajay Kumar Pandey in their paper on *Educational Development Among Muslim Girls* highlighted the educational status of Muslim girls in India. Dr. Pandey on his presentation said that the economic prosperity does not seem to have made positive impact on the Muslim female education. According to Dr. Pandey the centrally sponsored scheme for education has empowered Muslim girls in their educational achievements. He felt that Madarsas and Maktabas are also providing education to Muslim girls, along with religious teaching to them. Under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Madarsas have been supported, while Urdu medium schools are promoting Urdu and Islamic culture among girls.

Dr. A.K. Singh and Dr. Nimesh Gupta in their paper on *Social Rehabilitation of Disabled Children in India* said that physically and mentally challenged persons are most marginalized and suffer from social deviance, stigma and social exclusion and oppression. According to authors there are about 70 million disabled persons in India and roughly 40 percent of them are children. Out of total physically and mentally challenged children only 5 percent have access to social welfare services. Thus, according to them it is imperative to enlarge the reach of disabled children to the programmes and schemes of social rehabilitation.

Dr. S.P. Pandey, Mr. Saurabh Pandey, and Ms. Preeti Yadav in their joint paper on *Reproductive Health Status of Married Adolescent Girls* maintained that one fifth of the world's population is of adolescents. In India too there are about 230 million adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years. The adolescent girls suffer the problems of early marriage, pregnancy, child birth, high fertility, maternal mortality etc. Thus the adolescent girls need specific policies to address their problems.

Ms. Amrita Rai and Dr. D. K. Singh in their paper on *Female foeticide India* highlighted the issue of declining sex ratio due to sex related abortions. Presenting the paper Ms. Amrita Rai maintained that modern technology and cultural preference for sons rather than daughters have led to the mushrooming of neo-natal clinics across India where parents may check the gender of their unborn child. The developed states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Western Uttar Pradesh have witnessed a large scale of female infanticides. This has resulted in decline in child sex ratio. This is violation of human rights and a serious crime. The implementation of Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention) Act, 2002 is to be enforced in order to prevent sex determination and female foeticides.

Ms.Rolly Mishra in her paper on *Giving Hope- Enabling the Disabled* talked about the status of disabled persons and role of state in prevention and rehabilitation of disabled in India. She said that about 10 percent of children suffer from some impairment or disability. Thus institutional and non-institutional services are to be promoted in order to ensure proper rehabilitation of disabled children in India.

Ms.Akansha Srivastava, Mr.Rajendra P. Mishra and Mr.Saroj K. Mohanty in their paper on *Child Health in U.P.* maintained that the meeting the MDG's for reducing child mortality becomes imperative and National Rural Health Mission envisages reduction in infant mortality, maternal mortality, access to integrated primary health care and revitalizing local health traditions and mainstreaming AYUSH.

Mr.Saroj Mohanty, Mr.Rajendra P. Mishra, Ms.Akansha Srivastava, Ms.Nupur Mishra and Ms.Kanchan Srivastava in their paper on *Urban Child Health in Uttar Pradesh* highlighted Government initiatives for promoting child health. Ms.Nupur Mishra presenting the paper said that in U.P., mortality rates among children are higher than the national average. The need of hour is to focus on the specific intervention to reduce these mortality rates.

Dr. Aishwarya Awasthi and Dr. U.P.Singh in their paper titled *An Evaluation of Nutritional Status of ICDS Children in Lucknow City* focused the research findings of his survey conducted in Lucknow city. Dr. Awasthi while presenting the paper lamented upon the poor nutritional status of non-institutional children. She said that ICDS programme is significantly contributing in the nutritional development of disadvantaged children.

Dr. Ravindra Sharma, Mrs Kamal Tiwari and Mr. Ashok Sharma in their paper on *Bharat Me Wiklang Balakon Ki Pramukh Samasyae* maintained that accidents, disasters, conflicts etc. have caused the increasing trend of disability in India. They also discussed the main problems of disabled children and the prospects for their rehabilitation.

Dr. A.K.Singh and Dr. Sonika Khanna in their paper on *Trafficking of Young Women and Children in India: Emerging Perspective and Remedial Measures* maintained that trafficking of young women and children for flesh trade has emerged as one of the most profitable illegal trades, next to illegal trades in arms and narcotics. According to authors a large number of young women and children are being trafficked from Nepal, Bangladesh and former Soviet Republics

to India and they are thrown into brothels, situated in metropolitan cities and towns. They assess that there are about 8 million prostitutes in India and most of them are less than 20 years of age. Authors find that socio-cultural values prevailing in specific castes and communities such as **Matang, Mahar, Bedia, Kolta, Sansi, and Nut** etc. also promote trafficking and child prostitution. The **Devdasi** system has also exploited sexually the neglected and deprived women.

Prof. K.S.Padhy in his paper on *Child Abuse: An Affront to Humanity* said that child abuse is a threat to human dignity. He attempted to analyze the dimensions and dynamics of child abuse in India. He was of the view that education is most important instrument for promoting development of children.

Dr. M.M.Verma in his paper on *Planning Social Work Intervention for the Children in the Slum Area of Varanasi* maintained that sweepers are the most disadvantaged communities in India and their children are even more vulnerable. Illiteracy, poverty, low health status and consumption of liquor and other narcotics etc. add the vulnerability of slum children. The children have low access to child health care, education and recreation. Therefore, a strong need is felt for planning for the care, protection and development of slum children.

Ms. Amina Khan in her paper on *Child Trafficking: Causes and Concerns* highlighted the causes, dimensions, consequences and concerns for child trafficking in India. She was of the view that economic deprivation is the main cause of child trafficking, however, social factors, like illiteracy, low education, marital discord, dysfunctional home, physical abuse, drug abuse, porous borders, corruption etc. are also responsible for child trafficking. According to her most of trafficked children are from backward classes and hail from poverty stricken areas. She feels that the sex tourism, pornography and sexual exploitation of children have caused concern to policy makers and social activists.

Technical Session III

The session was devoted to **Disadvantaged Children : Economic Protection**. The session was chaired by Prof.Ravindra Sharma and Co-chaired by Dr.Hymawati Devi. The Rapporteurs were Dr.Anjuli Mishra & Dr.A.K.Singh. In all 6 papers were presented in the session.

Prof.G.R.Krishnamurthy in his paper on *Child Labour : An Exploited Segment* said that India is the biggest child population country in the world. There are about 14 million child labours working mainly in unorganised sector of economy. According to

Prof. Krishnamurthy poverty population explosion, chronic unemployment, unplanned and unchecked urbanization, ineffective implementation of labour laws etc. have caused the increasing trend of child labour in India. Therefore, integrated efforts for eliminating child labour along with strict enforcement of labour laws are imperative.

Dr. Padma Iyer in her paper on *Street Children of India* raised the problems of street children in India. She also presented a brief profile of street children. She was of the view that community based programmes for rehabilitation of street children are essential.

Ms.Surbhi Agrawal in her paper on *Child Labour in Industries* lamented upon the plight of child labour in Industries. According to her poverty, unemployment, migration, illiteracy, inadequate education facilities etc. are some of the reasons of child labour. She finds child labour is concentrated in specific industries such as carpet weaving, silk weaving, gem polishing, diamond cutting, match work, glass work, zary, zardaurgi, Chikan, brassware, Beedi making, brick making etc. The child labour may be checked through creating economic opportunities for the parents of child workers while compulsory education to children is imperative.

Mr.Neeraj Kumar Singh and **Mr.Apoorva Joshi** in their paper on *Bal Deh Vyapar* maintained that prostitution in India is an age old trade while trafficking has increased the social problem of children. Child prostitution has caused concern in India while the proportion of missing girls in cities is gradually increasing. Thus they feel adoption of an integrated and holistic approach for combating the child trafficking. Similarly, strict enforcement of laws is to be ensured.

Prof.A.N.Singh in his paper on *Socio-economic Profile and Intervention for Improving the Working Life Child Rag Pickers* said that slums have disastrous consequences on family, society and community. The slum children are being deprived of their basic rights and entitlements. The rag pickers face problems of health, education and also suffer from behavioral problems. According to Prof. Singh the income generation programmes to raise economic standards of poor families may be instrumental in tackling the issue.

Dr. S.N.Singh in his paper on *Poverty and its Implications on Children: With Special Reference to Andhra Pradesh* said that child labour is the result of poverty and backwardness. In order to rehabilitate child labour, income generating activity based on micro finance may be promoted in the backward and poverty stricken areas.

Discussion Session

This session was chaired by Prof.G.S.Bajpai. In this session the rapporteurs presented their reports and discussions were held. After an in depth discussion, the recommendations were given a shape.

Valedictory Session

The Seminar ended with the valedictory session. The chief guest of the session was **Sri Anil Kumar Sagar, Director of Urban Local Bodies, Government of U.P.** Speaking about the disadvantaged children Sri Sagar described the plight of children in the ICDS programmes and juvenile homes. He also mentioned that education in the urban areas is extremely important. There should be a separate body to administer and monitor it so that poor children can get educated and become good citizens of the country. Commenting on the seminar he said that he was glad that all the stakeholders were involved in the seminar.

Earlier Prof. Nishith Rai, Director of the Centre welcomed the chief guest and Dr. U.B. Singh, Joint Director in brief about the Seminar. Dr.A.K.Singh gave feedback of the proceedings to the chief guest. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Padma Iyer, Deputy Director. The seminar ended with refreshment.

Media Coverage

The Seminar was widely covered by electronic and print media. All the news papers in English and Hindi provided coverage for all the days. Doordarshan, Lucknow in its National Channel and F.M. Radio provided the coverage of the programme in their news broad cast.

Coordination

The two-day National Seminar was jointly coordinated by Dr.U.B.Singh, Joint Director, Dr.Padma Iyer, Deputy Director and Dr.A.K.Singh, Asstt.Director.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Principal

- In order to ensure effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, a separate Juvenile Judicial System comprising need based procedures, juvenile judicial services, juvenile police and juvenile lawyers etc. should be created.

- The minimum age for a child for all programmes and child development should be 18 years uniformly.
- In order to create a comprehensive data base and child care and protection, as well as child development, the mechanism for data collection by National Sample Survey Organisation and the Census operation mechanism and other agencies should collect more data and information for different age groups of children obtained.
- A separate nodal agency for child development, care & protection be established at the national level with its regional branches so that major research studies, reports, surveys, and other documents may be available at one point to the researchers, policy makers and other development activists.
- In order to promote public- private partnership in child care & protection, involvement of public, private, civil societies and other stakeholders be made statutory. The role and scope for partnerships with civil societies private and corporate sector in children's development needs to be recognized and creative ways of public private partnership in realization of Child Rights should be ensured.
- The proposed draft policy of Integrated Child Protection Scheme should incorporate the role of family, technology loaded solutions, and involvement of corporate sector.
- A professional approach to the child related problems should be followed. Hence, it is imperative to provide for capacity building of all those who deal directly with children or are accountable for ensuring the right to protection of all children including police, teachers, representatives of local bodies and panchayats, bureaucrats, judicial magistrates etc.
- Child protection has to be facilitated through child participation with reference to expression of views, communication of information, freedom and decision making. Involvement and participation of children in committees, commissions and boards etc. may be made statutory.

Subsidiary

- A proper system of identification, investigation, reporting, follow up and referral of children at risk should be developed, strengthened and supported by government.
- The out reach of all care, protection, and programmes and schemes for destitute, neglected and exploited children should be ensured. Special programmes for withdrawal of child beggars from street, abandoned and orphan children should be initiated.
- Rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection and in vulnerable situations through collaboration with civil societies and convergence of all government and non-government services is imperative.
- The civil societies may be encouraged, supported and strengthened by government to provide care and protection services to destitute, disadvantaged and vulnerable children through preventing destitution, exploitation and neglect of disadvantaged children
- In order to combat and prevent the use of children in illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, efforts are to be made in collaboration with civil societies, government organizations and other service providers.
- A comprehensive framework based on rights, equity and justice should form basis for the planning with a holistic view to address issues of disadvantaged children.
- Neglect of vulnerable children must be addressed through increased budgetary support, multi sectoral and multi pronged strategy, coverage and resources.
- It is imperative to enhance the quality and effectiveness of ICDS programmes. Inter- sectoral coordination and strengthening of nutritional programmes creating nutritional awareness, improving monitoring in implementation of the programme etc.is required.

- There is imperative need to deploy a fully trained community based child health care provider in every settlement so that child survival and child health care may be addressed.
- The role of civil societies and other stake holders in child health need to be strengthened. Similarly the space of private sector health provisions needs to be recognized.
- Strengthening existing systems for child protection including welfare and health measures are necessary condition for addressing vulnerability of children and reducing the and mitigation of marginalization of children due to development induced displacement, natural disasters, pandemic of HIV/AIDS, trafficking, etc.
- Girl's education should remain the focus of the government and the emphasis on addressing issues that affect girls participation in education.
- It is imperative to undertake an assessment of the impact of urbanization on children and its resultant threats to child protection. It is also called for an assessment of the existing basket of services available to children.
- In order to provide standardized rehabilitate services within governmental and non governmental institutions priority and focus to child protection should be ensured.
- Insuring protection of children at all levels, including home, family and community and also raising public awareness of Child Rights, the risk children face in the family and society, at large, policies and programmes available to promote child protection.
- Decentralization and conceptualization of child protection programmes are necessary at the state and local self government level. Mapping of area specific problems for area specific programme planning is essential.
- Programmes and policies supported by external development agencies must be part of mainstream programme responses of the central and state governments, and be part of government audit exercise and government annual reports.

- There is need for convergence of all child protection services with single window facility. Child protection services including interventions for elimination of child labour should be shifted to the Ministry of Women and Child Development as a Nodal Agency for all child related activities and programmes.
- Implementation of all programmes relating to child care and protection should be monitored by local self governments and for that they should be provided with adequate infrastructure and support.
- Rehabilitation of all children in need of care and protection and in vulnerable situations through collaborative and convergence and all government and non government services is called for.
- The young children along with their mothers should be provided basic facilities, food and nutrition, while staying in jails. Basic facilities like crèches, aganwadi, primary education, recreation, health care etc. should be ensured by the jail administrators.
- The scope and coverage of social rehabilitation of physically and mentally challenged children should be widened with multi sectoral approach and providing financial support.
- Sub-regional strategies and programmes for curbing trafficking of young women and children and reducing poverty as well as vulnerability should be evolved in collaboration with NGO's, private sector, donor agencies and the government.
- Strict enforcement of existing laws, with associated penalties for those connected with trafficking young women and children, and prostitution should be ensured.
- Child Marriage Restraint Act should be affectively enforced to prevent early marriage by the government.
- Adolescent girls need specific policies to address specific issues like education, reproductive and sexual health, HIV/AIDS, nutrition etc. are required to be implemented vigorously. An integrated and holistic development programme for empowerment adolescent girls is needed to be framed.

