

Review of Child Rights in various districts in Madhya Pradesh
Fathers Care Campaign
Quarterly Review Meeting, Gandhi Bhawan, CHSJ Office, Bhopal
24th June, 2013

The review was done by concerned members of the campaign in their respective districts. This review exercise was done to understand the current situation of children and rights implementation in the respective districts. The review points as mentioned by the campaign members can be found district wise.

District- Sidhi; Avinash Mishra, Avadh Kishore Shiksha Samiti

- Children of Dalit families are victims of child labour and violence in Sidhi. Due to poverty conditions, Dalit families (parents) are making their children contribute in the work for income. The children are also being sent to nearby villages or towns for work-labour. Some children are even sent to cities like Meerut, Mumbai, etc. Example: The children are still being made to work in the farms, *bhawans*, hotels/restaurants, and in activities related to providing water and gutkas in the bus stands and as rag pickers. Young girls involved in sweeping and swabbing.
- Children from Dalit and other backward classes(OBCs) are malnourished. The underlined factor here is the unequal and incorrect distribution of nutritional packets at the aaganwadi centres in the villages.
- Child marriage is still prevalent among Dalit and OBCs mainly among communities of Kumbhar, Chamar, Basod, Aheer, Kevat, etc.
- As of today there is lack of education. The schools which have been introduced for child labours are only fulfilling the quorum; they open only one/two days in a month. Children from BPL families are not allowed in in the private schools due to which the children are missing out on quality education.
- Consuming alcohol and marijuana and remaining intoxicated is common among adults in Dalit and Tribal communities. The adults remain intoxicated and make their children work. This has also increased violence especially sexual assault among girl children and children have gone missing.
- There are no toilets/ no use of toilets among the Dalits and economically backward communities due to which children have to go far away to defecate and live in an unhygienic environment. There has been many cases of rape due to this.
- The aaganwadi centre and village health centre there only for namesake, there are no services available for children's health resulting in increase in child mortality.
- There are many departments to ensure Child Rights like Women and Child Development, Health, Public Health Education,etc but the activities under these departments are only to complete their targets. Even after the activities there is no clean drinking water, health services and security in the villages.
- The role of the education department in terms of child rights is not in a good shape. They have limited their responsibilities up till looking into primary and secondary board and midday meal rest is all in papers only.

District- Sahir; Janpad- Budhani; Villages- Napagown, Bhaajat Kui, Bhapdaan, Waayav

- In the district UNICEF has initiated small programmes on creating awareness about education.

- Analysis of current status- As of now in this region there is no awareness regarding Child Rights or on issues of violence. Some awareness has been created regarding child marriages through gatherings/ conference where necessary documents have been asked for. This has created a pressure on the public to not allow child marriages and understand that it is against the law.
- There is nothing else going on in that area except some government schemes being implected on nutritional supplements.
- A training is being organised by Jan Abhiviyakti Sansthan on Panch Parmehswar

District- Rewa; Ramesh Kumar, Manav Vikas Sewa Sansthan

In regard of violence against children, child marriage, discrimination in child care, and relationship with the father.

- It is seen that the above mentioned issues are most common to Dalit and tribal communities. Due to low economic status the families migrate along with their children to Shankargadh in Uttar Pradesh for quarrying stones. Even children participate in making gravels from stones because of which they are not able to go to schools.
- Rate at which child marriages were taking place have come down but is still prevalent among Dalits and tribals.
- Mostly the children of Dalit and tribals take goats fro grazing which occupies their entire day as they leave in the morning and come back by evening.
- Girl child is still restricted to go to schools among Dalit and tribals, their names are registered in the schools but they remain home to take care of their sibilings when parents are out of work.
- It has also been observed that men get drunk and return home and use some form of violence on women and children.
- Children are scared of their father; they are not able to put up what they want to say.
- There are some organisations working on education rights and malnutrition in regard to the child due to which some awareness has been created among communities. This has not been able to bring any significant change among the community.

E.g. If a child is malnourished, the fathers don't send the child to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) saying that there is nobody to accompany the woman.

- As per the RTE Act 25% provision has been made in all private schools but due to lack of awareness about it in the community they are not able to utilise this provision.

District- Bhopal; Anju Singh

- If we talk about the responsibility of fathers in terms of violence, marriage, child rearing it is in a very crucial state. E.g. currently the father's role in parenting is almost zero. Parenting is seen only as the mother's responsibility which also shows the discrimination and its effects.
- Marriage is a societal issue which a father has to take up the responsibility and children have to comply.
- There are certain situations arising these days like children take wrong actions without asking their mother and father because of which their life gets spoilt.
- Parents and children both are not aware about what child rights are. When children are 14-15 years they are very passionate to do something. For girls the situation is very bad, girls are not encouraged to do anything by people at home and outside. The girls are not aware about their rights; they are not given the right even to put across what they think which results in not doing anything.

District- Guna, Morena, Shivpuri

- Violence- Female foeticide are taking place. Sexual exploitation of children in schools. Child trafficking. At homes the children are being physically beaten made to do child labour. Physical exploitation of children at their workplaces.
- Child marriage- More than 50% (in rural areas) of the girls are married off before the age of 18yrs. After high school only 3% of the girls are able to get admission for higher secondary schooling whereas 50-60% boys are sent outside the village school whereas girls remain in the village.
- In the three districts 54% children are malnourished. There is a right rate of admission of children in the government nutrition rehabilitation centres and girl children are more in number.
- Girls are other family's property and boys are the successors of the family who will look after the parents during old age. More money is required for the girl's wedding hence investing on the girl is not appropriate.
- A lot of effort is made for a boy child to be born hence they are loved more but this idea is changing.
- In Guna and Shivpuri there is a childline.
- There is a behaviour change programme going on under UNICEF.
- Right to Food campaign
- Save the Girl Child campaign
- Campaign against female foeticide

District- Vidisha (Ganjbaasoda); Prasoan Organisation

- In 25 villages the organisation is working with communities working in the mining areas.
- Prasoan is working in the areas of education, health, malnutrition, VAW, etc.
- Through the fathers care campaign, meetings are taking place with fathers and brothers on discrimination and encouraging change in the form of bringing equality and to participate in child rearing and household work.
- The campaign was new to all. Most people including sarpanch, panch, doctor, teacher participated in the campaign and offered help.
- Fathers are providing equal opportunities in education, nurturing to both girls and boys for their growth and development.
- Other organisations exist in this area but they are working on the issues of HIV/AIDS, de-addiction, education rights, old age, health issues, VAW, land/water/ forest rights, etc
- Under child rights education rights can be seen in the government schemes like student hostels, midday meal, and can be seen in other programmes like control of malnutrition, aaganwadis and balwadis.
- Status of education in the villages- All children are being promoted to the next class, but they do not know to read, write or do any maths.
- Attendance of children is around 50-60%, rest out of school children are either doing some form of labour or are just loitering around.

District- Chhindwada; Ashok Mandre, Satyakaam Jankalyan Samiti

- There are incidences of foeticide and abortion in the state. (I am not clear if they are taking of female foeticide/ sex selection/ sex selective abortion. I think this is a very sensitive issue and understanding of all group members in the campaign is very necessary)
- After birth the children are discarded by the parents or killed.(reason not specified)
- Child marriages is till common in the rural areas(A lot of corruption going on among government officials)
- Among all religions/ castes there is a lot of discrimination in nurturing, education, diet, workload, health and marriage of children.

- The fathers also discriminate between girl and boy child. Patriarchy and orthodox systems exist both in rural and urban areas.
- There is a need to intervene at the ongoing corruption going on at the government level regarding issues under child rights.
- There is an increase in children getting involved in drug/substance abuse.
- Discrimination based on caste.

Ongoing work on child rights

- There are government schemes for children but these are only on paper.
- Some organisations are working on health and education issues.

District- Shahdol-Annupur:

- This is a tribal area which has people mostly from Baiga, Kol, Maria, etc. Communities.
- In the remote villages there is a lack of education and health system and any other basic services which has led to violation of child rights. This has also resulted in malnutrition among children and is the greatest violence done by the state.
- The girls and tribal youth are trafficked to other major cities.
- Child marriage is still prevalent.
- There is discrimination among child care and nurturing among girls and boys. The girls are deprived of nutritious food and education.
- The father is not able to give time to their children because they spend time in doing labour work or in the jungle, resulting in a vacant relationship between father and children.

Ongoing work on child rights

- Child development department is doing some work at their level but no other organisation is working on the issue of child rights.
- In some places in people have become aware about right to education campaign and exploitation of child rights.

District- Satna

- Child marriage- Still prevalent mainly in Tribal community. Due to poor economic status the children are married off early. Impact- early marriage leads to early child bearing, weak mother gives birth to a weak baby. There is no access to health services and Janani Surakhsha Yojana, and nutrition from ICDC.
- Child care- No man helps or participates in child rearing, the entire responsibility is of the mother. There is discrimination done in provision of nourishment between girls and boys. The malnutrition rate among the Tribals is 80%.
- Child labour- Young children are given heavy workload and no account of it is kept.
- Violence- The children have to face beating and verbal abuse for no reason. Violence against children occurs in schools too.
- Status of the schools- All children are registered in the schools but only 10% of them attend schools. The quality of education given to the children is very poor. Midday meal is also not provided in the schools. The budget for the midday meal comes as per the number of children registered but the food given is very irregular.
- The funds for reading/ study material do not come.
- Infant foeticide is taking place which has led to skewed sex ratio. Satna sex ratio is 907/1000.

Ongoing work on child rights

- CRY AHSAS organisation is working in villages- Majhigaon, Ucheharaa- on child malnutrition.

- Childline is run by Samreetan Sanstha
- A Child Welfare Committee has been formed
- Work is being done by women and child development department
- National Child Labour Scheme
- Nutrition Rehabilitation centres for malnourished children

District- Baghelkhand

- Child marriage
- Immunisation
- Nutritional supplements/packets
- Midday meal
- Registering of all drop out children
- Child business- prostitution, child labour, sexual exploitation
- Rape
- Child sex ratio is getting skewed