

CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO SURVIVAL, PROTECTION & TO GET THE QUALITY EDUCATION

Through the Interface Programmes PADI, Mangalore strives to protect the children's rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, caste, color, religion or abilities. The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children's basic needs and help them reach their full potential. Central to this is the acknowledgment that every child has basic fundamental rights. These include the right to:

- Life & survival, be raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents
- Protection from violence, abuse or neglect
- The right to participate, education that enables children to fulfil their potential
- Express their opinions and be listened to

All countries that sign up to the UNCRC are bound by international law to ensure it is implemented on November 20, 1989. This is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. India too signed and ratified the UNCRC, on 11th December 1992 agreed to Protect Children's Rights.

Later, India enacts a number of progressive legislations and formulated policies to address the imperative child rights issues. Some of the key legislations that have been enacted to protect rights of children

- The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005
- Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- National Food Security Act, 2013 for provisioning of food grains
- Juvenile Justice Act (Amendment) 2015
- Child Labour Prohibition & Adolescent Act (Amendment) 2015

And some Policies & Guidelines: –

- Child Right Grama Sabha Order (Karnataka) 2006
- Circulars on Child Rights Club 2007/2009/2011.
- NCPCR guidelines on Corporal Punishment in Schools 2015
- National Children Policy in 2013
- Karnataka Child Protection guidelines of -2016
- National Education Policy 2019

There is a need to ensure voice of children in decision-making to promote active citizenship among them and also to improve system's accountability. Children should be made aware of the processes through which they can participate in the decision-making processes. They also have the right to organize themselves into groups that can represent them at various forums.

Along with the realization of Nations rules and acts to keep respect children, since 2006 Karnataka government too validates the children participation through implementing Child Right Grama

Sabha. This is a great opportunity for children in participating Gramasabha with all respective Government Officials where they can raise their issues. Initially, this Child Right Grama Sabha were taken place for name sake, it was observed most of taluk level Government officials in the Grama Sabha were absent, but on behalf of them they send their subordinates who are not decision makers. This caused the raised issues of children were on records and not been given respect to their voices.

Children can raise issues affecting not only them but also to the Society to strive for a better world. So the INTERFACE programme of PADI really provided a platform for CHILDREN & to Government OFFICIALS, People's Representatives and Development thinkers too.

2018-19 INTERFACE programme selected Children of various categories of UDUPI & Dakshina Kannada Districts. Here the children raised many issues,

- 1. Undulation electricity provision for the villages which hampers their studies Power cut Electricity low Voltage – which*
- 2. KSRTC Bus facility in rural Area*
- 3. Road Facility*
- 4. Water Facility in schools Utilize the toilets, midday meal and safe drinking water*
- 5. Teachers Appointments low quality of education*
- 6. Dilapidated condition of School Building in the sense of life security and protection of children*
- 7. Lack of School infrastructure, effected child friendly and joyful atmosphere*
- 8. Insufficient Play Materials and Play ground & Physical Teachers, effected with physical education*
- 9. Computers, Science lab & Library, to develop their skills*
- 10. School Uniforms and Books in time*
- 11. Low quality of bicycles*

In this Interface, Government Department Personnel and the representatives of Child Protection Authorities, viz., Taluk Panchayath Executive Officers, Panchayath raj Department, Block Education Officer, Education Department, District Child Protection Units, Police Department, Health Department, Labour Department, Child Welfare Committee, Social Welfare Department, CHILDLINE, Karnataka state Road Transport Corporation, Public Welfare Department, Women & Children Development Department, Forest Department, Revenue Department, MESCOM/Karnataka Electricity Board were presented.

Community owned Education Resource Centres and its Federations of 2 districts will take follow up of the issues, resolutions, and advocate the issues to the Taluk Panchayaths to discuss in the Karnataka Development Programme Agenda, wherein all the elected representatives of Zilla and taluk panchayath, taluk level officials will be there in the meetings.

PADI will monitor the Federation and ERCs effort on this and give guidance whenever necessary and keep the keen track to give respect to children's voices.

Some of the photos

