

**NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
CHILD RIGHTS: SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
DIMENSIONS**

15 February 2020

Organized by

**University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab
University Chandigarh
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Policy law and practice of child welfare have undergone a significant change from a historical perspective. Before 1839, there was a concept of authority and control. It was an established common law doctrine that the father had absolute rights over his children. After this the welfare principle was reflected in the dominant ideology of the family. The Indian Traditional view of welfare is based on *daya*, *dana*, *dakshina*, *bhiksha* *ahimsa*, *samya-bhava*, *swadharma* and *taiga*, the essence of which were self discipline, self sacrifices and consideration for others. It was believed that the well being of children depend on these values. Children were recipient of welfare measure. It was only during the twentieth century that the concept of children rights emerged. This shift in focus from “welfare” to the “rights” approach is significant. Rights are entitlements. They also imply obligations and goals. The rights approach is primarily concerned with issues of social justice, non discrimination, equity and empowerment. The rights perspective is embodied in the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child 1989, which is a landmark in international human rights legislation.

India has the largest child population in the world. As per 2011 Census, India has 158.7 million children in the age group of 0-6 years, comprising about 16 percent of the total Indian population. In the period 2008-13, 43 percent of India’s children fewer than 5 years were underweight and 48 percent had stunted growth. According to a World Bank report published in 2013, the mortality rate of children under 5 years of age is 53per 1000 live births and according to a 2013 United Nations Children’s Fund Report, more than 60 million children under 5 years are stunted, India ranked at the 112th position in 2012 in the child development index.

All cultures share the view that the younger the children, the more vulnerable they are physically and psychologically and the less they are able to fend for themselves. Age limits are a formal reflection of society’s judgement about the evolution of children capacities and responsibilities, almost everywhere, age limits formally regulate children’s activities such as when they can leave to school, when they can marry, when they can be treated as adults by the criminal justice system, when they can join the armed forces and when they can work. But age limits differ from activity to activity and from country to country. According to Article 1,of the UNCRC, 1989, “a chid means every human being below the age of eighteen years

unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.

The Indian Constitution has a framework within which ample provisions exist for the protection, development and welfare for children. There are a wide range of laws that guarantee children their rights and entitlement as provided in the Constitution and in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. As part of the various five year plans numerous programmes have been launched by the Government aimed at providing services to child in the areas of Health, Nutrition and Education.

In the year 1974 the Government of India adopted a National Policy for Children deciding the nation's child as supremely important assets. The Department of women and child Development was set up in the Ministry of Human Resource development in 1985. The National Plan for Children was adopted in 1992 and the Government of India ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child on 12th November 1992. Most of the rights detailed in the Convention are guaranteed in the Constitution of India. The rights have been expanded through the process of judicial interpretations and review.

In spite of that children are facing various forms of exploitations, abuse and crimes. There is a need to raise awareness and create a mindset in the society in respecting the rights of the children in the Indian society. We need to empower the younger generation to assert their basic rights in order to realize their full potential.

If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."

– Mahatma Gandhi.

"Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."-

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa.

The way we treat our children reflects our moral system. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace."

In the present context the vision for the future has to be an India where all children have all the chances they need for optimal development. The emerging question is, despite significant investments and a conducive policy

framework why is the status of Indian children far from satisfactory? What is the way forward to achieve this vision? It is with the objective of finding answers to the above questions the University Institute of Legal Studies, Punjab University, proposes to organize a National Seminar on Child Rights: Social, Cultural and Economic Dimensions. The seminar shall provide a useful platform for the academicians, Advocates, Officials from various departments, Research Scholars NGOs, policy makers; Child Rights Activists, and others to address the challenges in protecting the rights of the children.

SUB THEMES:

1. Child Rights Monitoring and Governance –National and International Perspectives
2. Policy and legislative frameworks providing protection and rehabilitation to children
3. Health, Education and Nutritional rights for the children
4. Protection of children under the criminal justice system
5. Child Abuse – Sexual abuse and Trafficking
6. Cyber Crimes and child rights
7. Child Labour – issues and concerns
8. Refugee children – protection
9. Personal Laws and children
10. Role of judiciary in protecting child right

CALL FOR PAPERS

Research papers are invited from the academicians, practitioners, research scholars and students on the issues related to the themes. The quality based selected paper will be published in the book. Only full papers submitted on or before the deadline shall be considered for publication. The authors of selected abstracts will be given an opportunity to present their papers during various sessions on the days of the conference.

GUIDELINES FOR SEMINAR PAPER

The abstract should not contain more than 200-300 words along with the particulars of the author indicating his email id, contact number and address for correspondence. A paper cannot have more than two co- authors.

The maximum limit of a paper is 4000 words (excluding footnotes). The format is Times New Roman, Font Size 12, 1.5 line spacing, on an A4 sheet with 1" margin on all sides, to be sent in .doc/.docx format. A uniform style of citation must be strictly adhered to while submitting the paper. The abstracts and papers should be sent to: crsced2020@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date of Submission of the Abstract	15 January, 2020
Full Paper Submission (Soft Copy)	31 January, 2020

REGISTRATION DETAILS

The Registration fee for the Conference is Rs. 1500/-, (for Academician). For students - Rs.1000/- each and for coauthor - Rs.500/- each.

Send the registration fee by way of demand draft in favor of Director, UIILS on or before 31 January 2020.

Quality papers, selected by editorial committee will be published in seminar book.

- **No TA/DA will be provided to delegates.**
- **Delegates have to arrange their own accommodation.**
- **No paper shall be deemed to be read.**

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“CHILD RIGHTS: SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS”
AT
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF LEGAL STUDIES (UILS)
PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH**

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