

Workshop on Developing Child Protection Policy

IMAGE & Children GOOD

24th to 26th April 2019, SCM House, Bengaluru

Introduction

We are now in the era of Child Rights. The basic component of child rights stems from the principles of no discrimination, in the best interest of the child, survival protection and development of children are inherent rights and respect to the opinion of the children. It is now inevitable that any individual or groups or departments working in the field of children and child rights get oriented about these above four basic child rights principles.

For the implementation of any component pertaining to child rights, child education, child health, rescue of child labourers, prevention of child marriages or child sexual abuse, etc., or advocacy and lobbying for child rights the need for organized work arises. Any organized work also requires human resources who are sensitized towards child rights issues for a smooth and healthy implementation of programmes and projects. The IMAGE – Initiatives for Married Adolescent Girls’ Empowerment and Children GOOD (Getting Out of Devadasi System) are two projects with the partnership of TdH NL who are directly working with the children and the communities in the field of child protection and child empowerment. The work involves day to day interaction with children and their families in groups and at individual level. In this situation, it becomes very necessary that every individual in the projects are aware of and made sensitized about the child protection policy.

After becoming a signatory to UNRC in 1992, India has brought in significant changes in various national Acts and policies which are identified as child centric and child friendly. It can be observed in the passing of Juvenile Justice Act in 2000 (later changed in 2015); Prohibition of Child Marriages Act 2006; RTE Act 2009, POCSO 2012, formation of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights through an act in 2005 and the passing of the National Policy for Children in 2013. All the provisions framed in these Acts are expected to be implemented by the existing Government machinery – various departments and the police with the able support of the judiciary. NGOs which are normally recognized as the civil society has a major role in the implementation of these Acts and programmes as well as educating the masses and monitoring the various systems and agencies in upholding the rights of the children.

In this background NGOs have two roles, one, knowing the provisions of these Acts and programmes very well and secondly to implement the same in our own systems and see that we practice what we preach.

Thus, the need for having well defined Child Protection policy and adhering to the same was discussed among the IMAGE and children GOOD project organisations with TdH NL. To keep up

ourselves abreast with the changing needs, it was decided to conduct a workshop with the partners in developing Child Protection Policy and CRT took the responsibility of conducting the workshop in developing the CPP.

The programme involved participatory method with sharing of experiences, group discussions, games, PPT presentations, theoretical inputs, legal inputs, problem solving, case studies, listing of Do's and Don'ts, relating the child protection issues to child rights, National Child Protections Policy and developing a CPP that suits our organizations and the interventions that we are involved in. Several formats, theoretical inputs and appropriate reading material were distributed to the participants along with a model CPP for study.

Participants

38 participants from 14 organisations from across Karnataka took part in the three days programme held at SCM House, Bengaluru from 24th to 26th April 2019.

Objectives

- Understand the link between child rights and child protection in the context of IMAGE and Children GOOD projects
- Trace the development of the child protection measures in India in the background of constitution of India, various laws and the current need for adhering to PCMA 2006, NPC 2013 POCSO 2012 and related statues.
- Get introduced about the new Draft State Child Protection Policy
- Understand the salient aspects of POCSO Act 2013
- Appreciate the role of NGOs and Government in receiving complaint/information, filing reports to the police, the CWC
- Develop a draft Child Protection Policy

The Process

1. While setting the context for the workshop it was shared that we are working together to develop basic skills of the IMAGE and GOOD project teams in identifying child protection issues in work situation. It was informed that it is required to guard the children and also to guard ourselves while intervening with the children, that too children in need of care and protection. Finally, it was shared that having a child protection policy in the organization is like preparing ourselves to prevent any possible child abuse by us, stakeholders of the project including every individual who comes across the project process – families, Govt., media, supporters, consultants, suppliers, instructors, trainers, etc.
2. In an initial survey discussion, it was found that most of the participants are not aware about CPP but are aware of the fact that there are several incidents of child abuse in institutions and in the community. The participants also shared that most of the cases of child abuse go unreported and largely people are not aware of what cases should be

reported and mostly they are not aware of the fact that which kind of cases should be reported to the police or other authorities. Although all are working in the field of children and child rights it was found that some are not aware of how to identify child abuse or situations where children are in danger. Participants wanted to know about various instruments and Acts which govern child protection. Largely all were interested in knowing in detail about the importance and need for developing a Child Protection Policy and their role in the same.

3. An introduction to Indian Constitution from fundamental Rights perspective was given while highlighting that children are citizens with rights. Simultaneously the role of duty bearers towards children as protectors, providers and care takers was highlighted. In the context of UNCRC it was discussed that in most of the situation, it was brought to the notice of the participants that it is the service providers who omit from their duties, resulting in crimes against children. The listing of such service providers was made, that included US also -NGOs.
4. Various situations of possible child abuse were discussed with the help of case studies and animated participatory exercise to identify areas where policy interventions towards child protection was identified.
5. Salient features in the National Policy for Children 2013 was shared specifically from child protection point of view. Most participants felt that no such interventions are efforts are seen in their work area from NPC perspective. The participants were also given an orientation about the child protection issues from child marriage, child sexual abuse, child pornography and child trafficking that are highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2010.
6. Using a template with a matrix on identifying areas for child protection the participants in their groups worked to locate their status. The colouring exercise while recalling various situations from their experiences also worked as a catharsis for the participants to reflect themselves and their own attitudes. Many felt that the exercise pushed the to change their attitude and behavior. It was found that there are several gaps from child protection perspective in the organisations, e.g., NGO do not have a written child protection policy or the team is not oriented about child protection, or the NGO has not taken copies of the driving licenses of the staff members or not having done background verification of staff members, etc. It was clearly stated later that most of the issues raised in the matrix are very sensitive and are required to be adhered to. But at the same time some felt that the issues raised in the matrix are too high and very difficult to achieve.
7. In the next stage the participants listed most of the Acts that they are aware of pertaining to children while linking to the issues raised in the matrix. Most participants were not aware of the intricacies of the laws that are directly related to their work. Issues like kidnap, physical and sexual abuse, kinds of abuse, offences listed in POCSO and IPC, complain mechanism, etc., were discussed at length. As a follow up of this a long list of DO's and DON'Ts were made that are relevant to every individual working in the field of children and child rights. The same was used in discussing about the logic of developing a child protection policy.

8. A sample Child Protection Policy was studied by all the participants keeping in mind how they can adopt and develop a CPP for their own organisations. The teams discussed and developed a draft and presented the same to the larger group.
9. The programme concluded by deciding that each and every organization would complete the exercise of preparing the CPP and share with TdH NL at the earliest. The CPPs to be presented in their Board/Committee of the Trust or Society and adopted in the organizations and followed up in every activity of the NGOs.

Training on Child Protection Policy Development

Module

| Session No. | Main area of discussion | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | Initial survey | Use of the format |
| 1. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction● Contract | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Expectations,● Objectives |
| 2. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Children?● Our stake holders● Child Protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Indian Constitution● CRC● Crimes on children and Response by the society |
| 3. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Group exercise | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Need for CPP● What is CPP? |
| 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Indian Laws and CPP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Brain storm and discussions |
| 5. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Child Protection detailing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Abuse, reporting and interface● Do's Don'ts● Complaint mechanism |
| 6. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Employee duties | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A frame work for CPP |

- Each session may take about 30 minutes with little overlapping. All put together about 2.5 days.
- Presentation will be in English but the discussion can happen in both Kannada and English.

Material shared with the participants

1. If we want our schools to be safe...
2. Case studies to identify child protection areas
3. Child – a definition and a social analysis
4. Child Protection is a current day emergency
5. Karnataka State Policy for Children (Draft)
6. Matrix for Child Protection identification
7. Child Safeguarding standards

IMAGE - Initiatives for Married Adolescent Girls' Empowerment

And

Children GOOD - Getting Out Of Devadasi system

Workshop on Developing Child Protection Policy

List of participants

| Sl.No | Designation | Name of the participant | Gender | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| | IMAGE | | | | | |
| | Vidyaniketan | | | (Accomodation) | | |
| 1 | Director | Nagaraj | M | | | |
| 2 | Co-ordinator | Sunitha | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 3 | Counselor | Sridevi | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 4 | Accountant | Yohan | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | SEVAK | | | | | |
| 5 | Director | Anand Lobo | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 6 | Coordinator | Bharama Gudumkeri | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | PMSR | | | | | |
| 7 | Director | Fr. Adiss Arnold | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 8 | Coordinator | Siddaraju N | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 9 | Field Facilitator | Siddaraju L | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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|----|--|---------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| | TdH-NL Chikkaballapur | | | | | |
| 10 | Coordinator | Ashok | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 11 | Project officer | Flora | F | | | |
| | Bagalkot | | | | | |
| 12 | Director | G.N Simha | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 13 | Coordinator | G.N Kumar | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 14 | Field Facilitator | Sharada | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | GOOD | | | | | |
| | Sneha, Bellary | | | | | |
| 15 | Director | Ramanjaneya | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | SEVAK, Belagavi | | | | | |
| 16 | CVA Coordinator | Vimalakshi Hiremath | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | Jagruthi Sangha, Vijayapur | | | | | |
| 17 | President | Madhavi Hullur | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 18 | Coordinator | Gururaj Karadi | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | Chaitanya Mahila Sangha, Mudhol | | | | | |
| 19 | Kishori Group Facilitator | Shrikant Kadam | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 20 | Coordinator | Kalpana | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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|----|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| | Amma Foundation, Belagavi | | | | | |
| 21 | Coordinator | Yallappa | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 22 | Kishori Group Facilitator | Kanchana Mithri | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | Muktha, Bellary | | | | | |
| 23 | Network mentor | Sarojamma | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 24 | Kishori Group Facilitator | N Radha | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | Muktha, Koppal | | | | | |
| 25 | Network mentor | Shobha | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 26 | Kishori Group Facilitator | Lalithamma | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | CRT, Bangalore | | | | | |
| 27 | Resource Person | Nagasimha G Rao | M | | | |
| 28 | Project Director | Vasudeva Sharma N V | M | | | |
| 29 | Coordinator | Rajashree Vadli | F | | | |
| 30 | Coordinator | Venkatesh | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 31 | Program Assistant | Praveena | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 32 | MSW students | Roopa | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 33 | MSW students | Chandrika | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 34 | MSW students | Sachin | M | Yes | Yes | Yes |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 35 | MSW students | Shobha | F | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TdH NL | | | | | | |
| 36 | Programme Officer | Ezekiel Kanavalli | M | | | |
| 37 | Project Officer | Anne Priya | F | | | |

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| | Male | Female | Total |
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| Training | 19 | 18 | 37 |
| With Accommodation | 15 | 15 | 30 |

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