

Juvenile Justice Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter of Activities Concerning Child Protection in Assam

Editorial

The youth have the talent and the capacity to do what seems impossible to common men. The only thing they require is proper platform which they can use as a launch pad. They are a great potential for social change if they are channelized in a proper way under guidance. The governments and the civil societies need to realise the fact and try to tap the immense resources available in our youth.

Child Rights is an issue which the youth can take up with enthusiasm. Youth can voice on the rights of the children as they too have just gone through the same stage, experienced same the vulnerabilities of the children.

This issue carries an article on Mobilizing Youth for Protection of Child Rights. This is an initiative is taken by ASCPCR along with the support of UNICEF Assam. The initiative will be able to use the youth as change agents which would benefit the children in the long run.

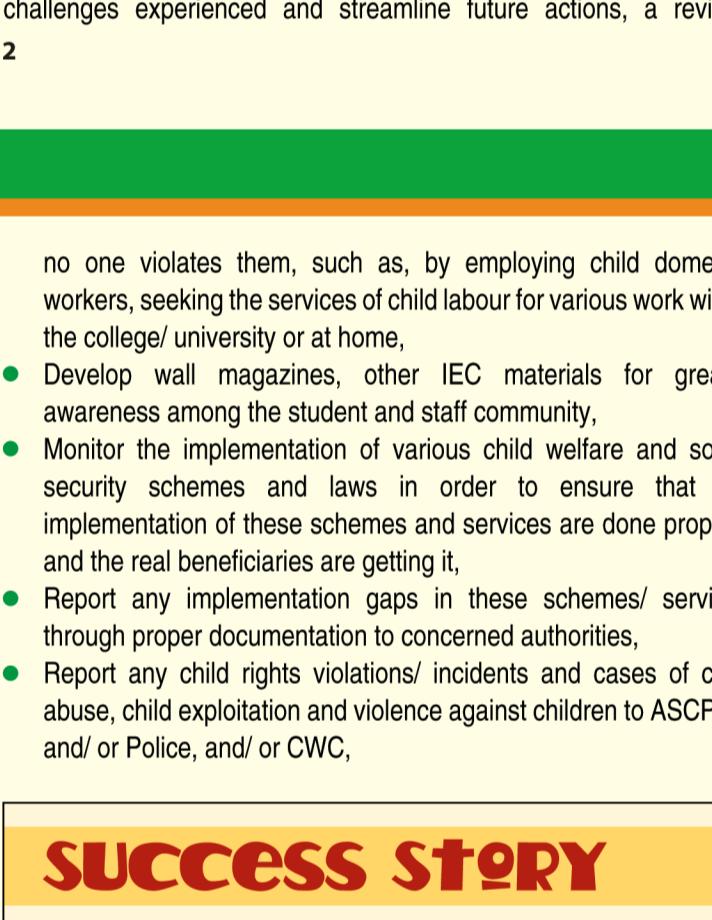
The readers will also read a success story of how four children who parents lost their lives in the floods have been placed for rehabilitation, care and protection at SOS, Guwahati thought the intervention of Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCP).

Editorial Board,

State Child Protection Society, Assam

Mobilizing Youth for Protection of Child Rights

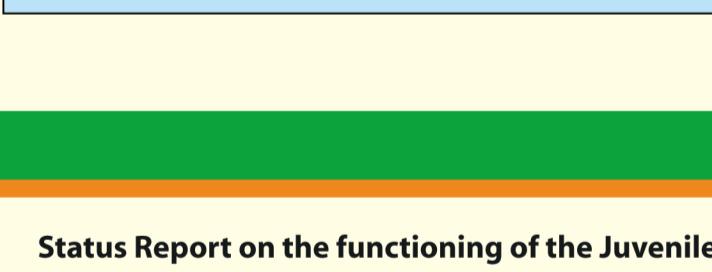
Cases and incidents of child rights violation, child abuse, in-accessibility to services provided under flagship programmes, numerous child protection legislations; has failed to provide protection and an environment for holistic development to a child. The question still ponders, 'why is it so'; even after government consistent endeavour for its commitment to child. It was thought that to ensure a protective environment for children the youths of the society has to be reached out who consist a high populous enabling to bring about change in the mindset of the society at large. This initiative fostered to bring the youth to the forefront by evoking a sense of responsibility in them to stand for child rights in the state of Assam and tap the potential for promoting child rights in the state. The Convention was planned by UNICEF and ASCPCR together which aims to give the youth of the state some fundamental knowledge on different aspects that a child requires to grow as an individual. The International Youth Day on 12th August each year draws the world's attention to the potential of youth in making a difference through their vigour and zeal. It is worthwhile to sensitize the youth to evoke a sense of responsibility towards child rights and to tap the potential in ensuring the same for the state of Assam. With this as the backdrop, it was proactively planned to reach out to the youth of the State in a two day convention on youth for child rights. The theme signifies the importance of youth as change agents in the society and also being the future leaders of the country. The thrust in mobilizing this powerful section of the society lies in the fact that youth are full of energy and demonstrate high level of commitment to a cause they believe in. The Convention is expected to be a platform for exposing the youth of Assam to the basic but critical aspects of child rights with a call to action for them. Child rights encompass aspects of access to education, healthcare and nutrition and play a critical role in ensuring the holistic development of a child and therefore it is important for the youth to understand the significance of each.



The Convention on youth for child rights was held at Guwahati on 12th and 13th September 2014. The Convention was participated by Student Union Leaders, Deputy Student Union Leaders and one Faculty member from select 60 colleges from 27 districts of Assam comprising almost 180 participants in total.

Objective was to create a platform where the youth of the state can come together to understand the basic aspects related to child rights and defend them eventually. The objectives were categorized as follows:

- To orient the youths on the RMNCH+A (reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health) life cycle approach and mobilize them to promote positive behaviours related to health, hygiene, and nutrition and child protection.
- To create a protective environment for all children at all levels of society by empowering the youth with the knowledge about importance of protecting the rights of children.
- To build an in-depth advocacy for protection and promotion of child rights with all major education institutes of 27 districts of Assam, which are nurturing the future leaders of society.



This convention was the first step towards achieving a focussed goal. There were various knowledge sharing sessions so that the select youths after the consultation could disseminate the same among their fellow fraternity. To analyse the actions undertaken, understand the challenges experienced and streamline future actions, a review

convention will be organized a year later. The convention focused on imparting the different life-cycle approaches of child survival and development and on critical aspects of child rights, such as: Child Rights: basic framework, Health: access to health facilities as a key right for every child, Nutrition: Access to proper nutrition as a key right for every child, Hygiene and Sanitisation: Access to proper Health and Hygiene as a key right for every child, Right to Education, Child Abuse and Exploitation, Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO Act and Sexual Offenses and HIV Prevention.

The thrust of the entire event was on session of 'Youth Speak' where UNICEF and ASCPCR provided a platform to selected youths who have been agents of change themselves. These select youths have put forth their own stories how and when they started to work for a cause and how difficult it was eventually to stand by the cause, one thinks is necessary for betterment of children. This session brought self-confidence within all the participants that, they can also become agents of change themselves and that it is all about believing in a



cause and keep working for the same with a zeal and passion to bring about changes in the society. This session was also about, every individuals responsibility towards working for the betterment of children of the State, nation at large. Mr. Rumi Nayak who works in community radio within tea tribes in Dibrugarh, Mr. Himanshu Bailing-student of Dibrugarh University who teaches underprivileged and dropout children of slum dwellers in his locality and Ms. Deboshree Goswami a committed reporter were the youths and change-agents who shared their endeavours of bringing a change.

Towards the end of the convention a youth charter was drawn out, which specifically mentions few duties youth can take both within their academic institution and outside their institution. The charter is as follows:

- Initiate a club/ group within the college/ university and enroll student members
- Organize various events to deliberate and create awareness on child rights with students and teachers, such as, debate competitions, extempore, drama and skits, poster making etc,
- Organize events like World Handwashing Day, World Aids Day, and International Youth Day etc and bring awareness to the students and teachers,
- Facilitate pledge taking ceremony within the student community and teachers/ staff to ensure everyone is aware of child rights and

no one violates them, such as, by employing child domestic workers, seeking the services of child labour for various work within the college/ university or at home,

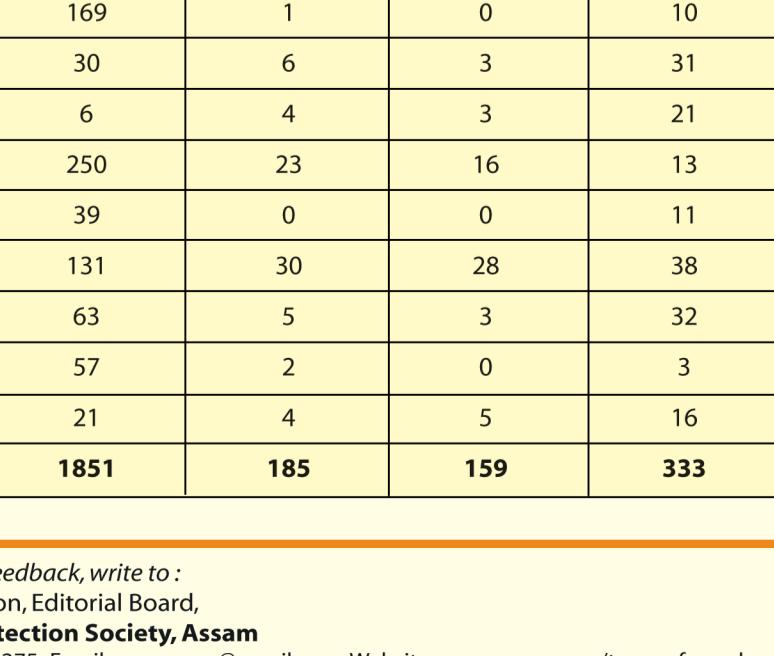
- Develop wall magazines, other IEC materials for greater awareness among the student and staff community,
- Monitor the implementation of various child welfare and social security schemes and laws in order to ensure that the implementation of these schemes and services are done properly and the real beneficiaries are getting it,
- Report any implementation gaps in these schemes/ services through proper documentation to concerned authorities,
- Report any child rights violations/ incidents and cases of child abuse, child exploitation and violence against children to ASCPCR and/ or Police, and/ or CWC,

This convention was the first ever step towards encapsulating the huge potential of youths and to channelize the same towards ensuring a protective environment for the children's of the state. A similar consultation will be organised after a year to understand the challenges faced by the youths while working for child rights and child protection as an individual or an institution, so that the same could be mitigated and resolved so that this section of the populace continues their commitment towards children.

SUCCESS STORY

ICPS reaches to disaster affected Areas

Midnight of 22nd September, PO cum DCPO of Kamrup – Rural receives a warning call that, flood has struck Boko block of the District. Without any further delay DCPO contacted the Block Level Child Protection Committee of Boko and asked to visit the place with the police personnel and to take immediate necessary action to protect children from the wrath of this calamity. BLCP-Boko very promptly went to the flood affected area and did a vulnerability mapping of children in all the makeshift camps by the people. Eventually when water had fallen down many children couldn't find their parents. For couple of days BLCP Boko, DCPO Kamrup-Rural and Social workers of DCPO vigorously worked to reunite various children with their parents. Lives were lost, but due to early warning people could evacuate to higher grounds. But not everyone was lucky. Rupam is 13 years old and Bhanita aged about 8 years are siblings, who lost their parents during this flood. Similarly Nayan 12 years and his sister Namita - 8 years also old lost their parents. BLCP-Boko produced these children's before CWC and also ensured that the siblings stay together in a Children Home to avoid further trauma of separation. Both the siblings are institutionalized in SOS Children Village, Guwahati.



Source: MIS Cell, SCPS, Assam

For any feedback, write to :

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DSW, Government of Assam

Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of September 2014

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			7	7	17
2	BONGAIGAON	6	6	41	3	1	8
3	BARPETA	8	5	93	1	1	2
4	CACHAR	3	3	69	2	6	2
5	CHIRANG	2	0	30	0	0	0
6	DARRANG	2	5	146	6	1	14
7	DHEMAMI	1	5	18	0	0	6
8	DHUBRI	6	11	186	3	3	8
9	DIBRUGARH	7	6	50	19	17	4
10	DIMA HASAO	0	0	3	0	0	0
11	GOALPARA	4	4	112	7	7	2
12	GOLAGHAT	10	6	27	1	1	6
13	HAILAKANDI	0	2	8	0	0	1
14	JORHAT	6	3	41	4	1	5
15	KAMRUP (M)	0	8	160	53	49	61
16	KAMRUP (R)	Cases are jointly dealt with Kamrup (M) JJB			4	3	18
17	KARBI ANGLONG	4	4	51	0	4	0
18	KARIMGANJ	1	1	50	0	0	4
19	KOKRAJHAR	5	2	169	1	0	10
20	LAKHIMPUR	7	15	30	6	3	31
21	MORIGAON	1	1	6	4	3	21
22	NAGAON	5	3	250	23	16	13
23	NALBARI	5	2	39	0	0	11
24	SONITPUR	5	7	131	30	28	38
25	SIBSAGAR	11	3	63	5	3	32
26	TINSUKIA	3	2	57	2	0	3
27	UDALGURI	1	0	21	4	5	16
Total		103	104	1851	185	159	333

Source: MIS Cell, SCPS, Assam