



CHILD RIGHTS



Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. Today's youngsters are tomorrow's elders. The future of our society depends on the children. Their thoughts are boundless. The Indian Constitution has given a few rights to all its citizens. Similarly, children also have many rights. Parents, teachers, neighbours and the society should be kind and affectionate to children. Everyone should think about their development. Elders expect the children to be recognized and flourished in life and take efforts to achieve their objectives. But, is it right to do so? Are the different activities done in the name of children's development acceptable?

All the children are provided with the right to education, better life standards, right to participate in the games with freedom, protection against exploitation and express opinions freely etc.,

Children! You must be happy.

Record some incidents that make you happy

Name the people who make / keep you happy

What are the places that make you happy

What are the activities that keep you happy

Children! Now you know when you feel happy. You also feel unhappy, now and then. Try to remember the occasions, the people, the things and places that make you unhappy.

Situations that make you unhappy

What are the incidents that make you unhappy

Name the people who make / keep you unhappy

What are some of the places that make you unhappy

What are some of the activities that keep you unhappy

Do you know?

Helen Keller was born in America. When she was 19 months old, she had viral fever and lost both her vision and speech. She lost the ability to hear also. But her parents did not lose hope. They neither ridiculed the girl nor her disabilities. They tried to keep her happy. Helen Keller learnt the Braille script at the age of 8. She learnt to speak under the supervision of her teacher, 'Saraputter'. She learnt language by placing her fingers on the lips and throat of the speakers. She started giving speeches about the 'people with special needs' from the age of 33. Inspired by her determination, many parents of children with disabilities, shifted them back homes and started paying personal attention. Helen Keller inspired many people in various ways. She died at the age of 88.

The children who are happy and healthy grow up as good citizens and strive for the development and pride of India.

Now, let us know the different rights you have.

16.1. Child Rights

Children have four main Rights.

1. Right to Survival
2. Right to Protection
3. Right to Development
4. Right to Participation

As part of the above, children have many rights.

Look at the pictures on Child Rights



Right to have complete health



Right to have pure drinking water



Right to have parental protection



Right to conduct associations



Right to have the name wanted



Right to get nutritious food



Right to survival



Right to be protected from sexual, mental and physical exploitation



Right to adopt any nationality



Right to social safety



Right to have fun



Right to free and quality education



Right to relaxation



Right to participate in cultural programmes



Right to receive love and affection



Right to play

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Right against physical and economical exploitation

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Right to get protection from humility

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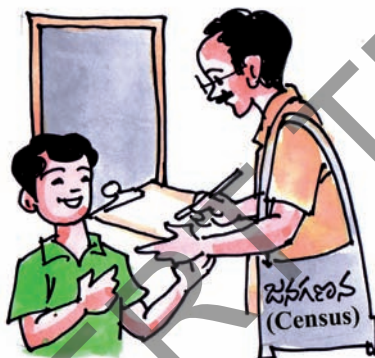
Right to appreciation

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Right to freedom of expression

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Right to be identified as citizen

22



Right to protection from violence

23



Right to express one's feelings

24



Right to be honoured

25



Right to protection from wars

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Right to information

27



Right to freedom of thought

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Right to have love and friendship

29



Right to freedom of religion

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Right to behave with self-consciousness

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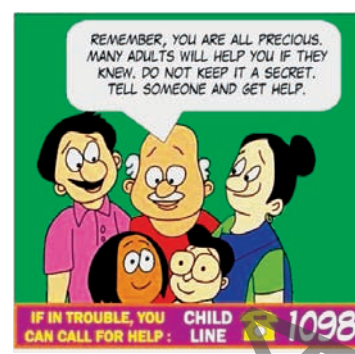


Right to social equality

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Right to relief from discrimination



Group work



- ◆ Which of the above mentioned child rights do you enjoy?
- ◆ What are the rights you want to enjoy now, which are not already being provided to you?
- ◆ All the children are not able to enjoy all their rights? Why?
- ◆ Who should enable you to enjoy your rights and how?
- ◆ What discriminations are you facing? How?

16.2. What should be done at home?

No one should consider the children as workers or sources for earning money. Some children are made to work and are forced to do whatever is told to them. Sometimes, they don't even get proper food to eat and they have to fulfil all the demands of the adults. But, everyone should recognize their rights and act.

Free environment should be created for their growth. Children's opinions should be honoured. Decisions related to them should be taken after consulting them. Their likes and dislikes should be respected. They should be sent to school. Do not fix any targets for them. They should not be punished in the name of discipline. Write down what else should be done.

16.3. What should be done at the school?

As per the child rights, the children should not be subjected to violence either physically or mentally. They should not be punished for not doing homework, nor for not being able to read and write or not getting the 1st rank etc. They should be called by their names. They should not be scolded. Everyone should be friendly with them. Healthy atmosphere for growth should be created. Write down what else should be done.

16.4. What should be done in the society?

Society should respect the future citizens. As elders our rights are recognised, children's rights also should be recognized and respected. They should be given preference in every thing. They should be identified as growing people. Equal opportunities should be provided. Children should be respected and their opinions should be valued.

Children's rights should be protected every where. At home, school, in society and wherever they participate. Their rights should be understood and protected. Elders should know the child rights and act accordingly.

16.5. Parliament of children

A child parliament is formed with 30 children in the age group of 6 years to 19 years. The children of that area become members. They can discuss the issues of education, health, problems of children, denial of child rights etc., Every week they can conduct meetings and try to protect the children's rights. They can work with the organizations who work for the protection of child rights. In Kerala, there are 6 lakh child members in 2722 child parliaments. Think about the children who lost their rights working as bonded labour all over the world. What can you do to bring justice to them? Think... and participate in the preparation of such programmes. Let us all work together to protect the child rights with the confidence of achieving success.



Do This



- ◆ Establish a Child Rights Protection Club at your school. Conduct programmes in full swing.
- ◆ Meet people who work for the protection of child rights. and be a part of their programmes.
- ◆ Form a children's parliament. Work for the protection of child rights through the child parliament.

16.6. Who cooperates for the protection of child rights?

16.6.1. Centre for the Protection of Child Rights

Centre for the Protection of Child Rights takes action against the persons who violate child rights and torture the children physically or mentally. They take measures according to Right to Compulsory and Free Education Act 2009 (R.T.E.). Punishing children for not paying the fee, not studying properly, not attending to domestic work is a crime according to Law. When child rights are violated, you can call the number **18004253525** and give details. Proper action will be taken. This is a free service. This office is situated at Samagra Shiksha in Hyderabad.



16.6.2. Child Rights Protection Club

Child Rights Protection Clubs should be started in each and every school. Children should become the members of this club. They should help in the protection of child rights. They should meet every month and review the proceedings. The important activities of this club are to ensure that child rights are not violated and to fulfil the needs of the children.

- Children should- Always be happy. Play games. Ask and find out about things without fear. Participate in every thing. Follow their likes. Honour the rights of other children. Act freely.

16.6.3. Special help centre for children - Child Line



To Whom?

It is centre for child labourers, street children, children subjected to discrimination, children habituated to drugs, victims of child marriages, H.I.V. / AIDS infected children.

How does it function?

The children or the persons who want to help such children can dial the toll free number 1098. Then the information is passed to the officials on child line. They respond immediately and take proper action to protect the children. They unite the children with their parents when it is needed; otherwise, send the children to children's rehabilitation centres and provide free accommodation and education. To protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation in 2012, the Government of India made Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act-2012 (POCSO). Government also developed a toll free number 1098 to help children from atrocities and exploitation sexually.

Think and Answer

- ♦ What should we do for the implementation of child rights in school?
- ♦ Why should we establish Child Rights Protection Club? What are its programmes?
- ♦ When can the services of child line be used and how?

Keywords

child rights	right to development	child parliament
right to survival	right to participation	Centre for Protection of Child Rights
right to protection	healthy atmosphere	Child Rights Protection Club



What we have learnt?



1. Conceptual Understanding

- What are the different rights of children?
- What is right to participation? What should the children participate in?
- Why are the children losing their rights?

2. Questioning and Hypothesis

- ♦ Write 5 questions on child rights.

3. Experiments - Field Observations

- ♦ Observe the children of your village/city and write down what rights they are losing.

4. Information Skills, Projects

- ♦ Collect the following particulars from your class. How many children are healthy? How many children play games every day? How many children take Mid-day-meal? How many children ask questions freely? How many children are called by their names?

5. Communication through Mapping Skills, Drawing Pictures and Making Models

- ♦ Draw pictures to show how the children look like when they play and sing happily.

6. Appreciation, Values and Creating Awareness towards Bio-diversity

- Some children go to work without attending school. These children lose their childhood. They don't enjoy their rights. What can you do to readmit them into school?
- Write some slogans on child rights keeping in view what parents and teachers should do. Exhibit them in the classroom.
- Join as a member of Child Rights Protection Club in your school. Inform your problems to your headmaster.

I can do this

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. I can explain about child rights. | Yes / No |
| 2. I can ask questions about child rights. | Yes / No |
| 3. I can collect the details on child rights. | Yes / No |
| 4. I can help the children who do not go to school and see that the child rights are implemented. | Yes / No |