

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः

Activity Report April- October 2016



For the Project:
Effective Implementation of Children's Laws in Odisha

unicef 
unite for children



Centre for Child Rights, National Law University Odisha
Kathajodi Campus, Sector-13, CDA, Cuttack-753014
Telephone: 0671-2338011, Web: www.nluo.ac.in

Our Vision

To ensure justice to children and promote effective implementation of children's laws in the State of Odisha

Our Mission

To support and strengthen child protection structures by leveraging knowledge change and policy reforms at various levels of institutional governance to make juvenile justice system more accountable, efficient and effective for protecting and promoting child rights.

Our Objectives

- To improve access to justice for children in areas of juvenile justice, child labour, gender justice, education and trafficking.
- To strengthen law, policy and governance to improve child rights situation.
- To make juvenile justice system and child protection structures accountable and child friendly.
- To evolve collaborative approach among different stakeholders on the issues of child rights.
- To enhance experiential learning by conducting extensive field work and research for evidence-based advocacy.

The Centre for Child Rights (CCR) is a specialized research unit of the National Law University Odisha. The opening of the CCR was inaugurated on April 12, 2015 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Judge Supreme Court of India and Visitor, NLUO in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Chairperson, Orissa High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha, and Chief of the UNICEF Odisha Office. The Centre strives to promote research, advanced learning, and advocacy to support and strengthen child rights policy and practice. The Centre receives support from UNICEF to work for system strengthening, knowledge management, law and policy reforms for the promotion and protection of child rights under the project "Effective Implementation of Children's Laws in Odisha". The Centre, in its short period of journey, has made successful endeavour to harness academic engagement, foster empirical studies, and promote policy dialogues, and share information and knowledge in the field of child rights. The implementation of the project has provided new kind of learning and experience for the centre and to the NLU Odisha as well. In this background, this report is brought in to present the summary of the activities conducted and success accomplished by the Centre for Child Right during the period between April and October 2016.

Activities of the CCR: The following activities were conducted by the Centre for Child Rights, NLU Odisha during the period between April and October 2016.

Training of Public Prosecutors: Centre for Child Rights has conducted two-days training on the 'Roles and Accountability of the Public Prosecutors in Ensuring Justice to Children'. Training was held from 27th June to 2nd July 2016 in three batches. Altogether ninety-four Public Prosecutors from 30 district of Odisha participated. Training helped public prosecutors to understand their roles and accountability in dealing issues related to children in conflict with law, victims of abuse and sexual exploitation, victim's assistance and prosecution. Public Prosecutors were given orientation to deal the cases relating to juvenile justice or sexual offences against children with higher sensitivity to respect right to privacy and confidentiality of the child, and to respect and protect rights, interests and privacy of the survivors and witness. The training offered a discourse on the newly enacted children related laws especially the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 as well as the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 to help public prosecutors to envisage their roles to ensure justice to children. Mrs. Asha Menon, Judge, Family Court, New Delhi, Ms. Geetanjali Goel, Director, National Legal Services Authority, Mr. Gajendra Mohapatra, Director, Public Prosecution, Government of Odisha, Prof. Uday Raj Rai, NLUO, Mr. A.Dhanraj, Former Deputy Director, Public Prosecution, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Geeta Sahoo, Associate Professor, Forensic, S.C.B Medical College & Hospital, Odisha were the resource persons for the training.

Consultation on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act for 2015 Act: Soon after the notification of Government of India to promulgation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Centre for Child Rights prepared draft rules for 2015 Act for the State of Odisha and shared it with government and other policy influencing institutions including Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Orissa High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Chairperson of Central Rule making Drafting Committee, Women and Child Development Department of Odisha Government to initiate dialogue and consultation for formulating central rules and Odisha State rules as well.

A consultation was organized by CCR on June 7, 2016 in collaboration with Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPR) to review the Draft Model Rules 2016 formulated by central government under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The consultation involved wide range of stakeholders representing Government, Commission, Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units, Civil Society Organizations, and Child

Care Institutions. Recommendations emerged from the consultation has been shared to the MWCD for consideration and necessary change in the rules.

Regional Conference on Human Trafficking: CCR has organized Eastern Regional Conference on Human Trafficking on 9-10 April 2016 in collaboration with International Justice Mission-India, and AHRC, Hongkong. The conference represented participation from the State of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Odisha, and West Bengal. The participants for the conference were: Anti-Human Trafficking Experts, Officers of Anti-Human Trafficking Units, Public Prosecutors and NGOs. The conference held discussion on the issues and challenges relating to Anti-Human Trafficking and ways and means to curb the menace more effectively. The conference deliberated upon international and national laws, policies and best practices on Anti-Human Trafficking with special emphasis to migration, commercial sexual exploitation and child rights violation. The conference emphasized on the need for enacting stringent Anti- Human Trafficking laws in conformity with international protocols and collective determination of all stakeholders to perform their roles and responsibilities with diligence and a sense of mission.

Consultation on Child Rights Course: NLUO is planning to launch child rights course for the service providers and activists working on children issues to expand and deepen their knowledge on Child Rights Law, Policy and Practice. The course intends to improve professionalism among the child rights practitioners and thereby quality of service to children would be strengthened. NLUO has persisted with a consultative approach to develop a viable, context- specific and replicable curriculum and pedagogy on child rights. As decided at the second expert consultation held at the National Law University, Delhi, the Centre for Child Rights has constituted course development team comprising of a senior consultant, content writers and review committee to develop three customized courses namely Appreciation, Basic and Advanced Course on Child Rights. The entire work including the content writing, course materials development and illustration is progressively going on as per the agreed TOR between consultants and CCR.

Technical Support to DCPUs: The CCR provides technical and handholding support to the District Child Protection Units in designing and conducting training and capacity building programmes for various stakeholders. During this period, CCR provided resource persons to the training organized by the District Child Protection Units of Angul, Gajpati, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Keonjhar district for various stakeholders.

Dialogue with Government: The Centre for Child Rights has initiated dialogue with Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha to foster partnership and cooperation for developing holistic child development and protection structures at the district level. This has resulted to receive government nod enabling CCR

to undertake research and evaluation on the working child protection institutions and to formulate Integrated Action Plan for the DCPUs in eight districts namely Ganjam, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur and Sundergarh on pilot basis. In this context, CCR has formulated draft action plan and hold meeting with District Magistrate, DCPUs and District level officials of Keonjhar and Nayagarh district.

Networking with Universities: CCR has started to develop network with other National Law Universities of India to strengthen scholastic participation in law and policy discourse on children's rights. In this process, CCR was invited and represented in the child rights conference organized by the National Law School of India, Bangalore, and West Bengal National Law University of Juridical Science, Kolakatta during this reporting period.

Knowledge Products: During this reporting period CCR has brought out three numbers of publications namely: (i) Policy Paper on the Working of Juvenile Justice System in Odisha, and (ii) Frequently Asked Question on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and (iii) Journal on the Rights of the Child.