

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः



Activity Report-2017

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

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INTRODUCTION

National Law University Odisha (NLUO) was established in the year 2008 by the Government of Odisha under Act IV of 2008. The University offers 5-years Integrated Law in the forms of B.A LL.B and B.B.A, LL.B as well as Master Degree, M.Phil and Ph.D programs in Law. The University has been accredited with “A” grade of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) With a mission of promoting academic excellence in legal education, the University has set up number of research centers to promote research and interdisciplinary studies in contemporary issues of law and justice to allow students and scholars to gain experiential learning about law in theory and law in practice and to collect empirical evidence to influence for law and policy reforms. Centre for Child Rights is one among the research centers of NLU Odisha.

Centre for Child Rights (CCR) was established in 2015 as a specialized research centre to strengthen research, teaching and advocacy in child rights with avowed objective to improve access to justice for children. The Centre aims to work in a right-based



approach to accomplish rights to the children in an integrated manner within the framework of the Constitution of India and various child-centric laws.

NLU Odisha has deeply valued the strong commitment of the Government of India at the international level including ratifying UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which legally oblige the State to protect the rights of the child. Government has formulated various child-centric legislations, policies and programmes as well as institutional and administrative framework to extend and protect child rights. Despite all these developments there are concerns that laws and policies have not been translated into effective action to reduce children’s vulnerability to exploitation, discrimination and abuse.

In the above context, NLU Odisha has entered into a partnership with UNICEF for a project “Effective Implementation of Children’s Laws in Odisha”. The project is being implemented by the Centre for Child Rights with primary objective to provide integrated support to the child protection structures and institutions at various levels to strengthen juvenile justice system in the State of Odisha. The Centre envisages providing technical support to the different line departments and statutory institutions in the State of Odisha for Knowledge Management, Human Resource Development and System Strengthening for child rights paradigm.

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

Activities conducted by the Centre for Child Rights with the support of UNICEF in the year 2017 are presented below.

(1) Course Module on Child Rights: The Centre has developed basic course on child rights in a consultative process involving professionals from field of law, social work and child rights. The course is contained with six modules having 24 chapters. Each of the chapters has been designed with case studies, illustrations, and pictorial presentation for easy understanding of the learners.

(2) Certificate Course on Juvenile Justice for Police Personnel: The course has been developed in a consultative process with diverse set of experts including police, academia, legal experts, public prosecutors, child rights activist. A consultation has been proposed mutli-stakeholders for validation of the course prior to its formal launching.

(3) Basic Course on Psycho-Social Care for Children has been developed with the professional support and experts of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHNS), Bengaluru. Consultation were held at the Department of Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru on 18th August 2017 and 6th November 2017 involving Psychologist, Social Work experts, CWC, JJB and Centre for Child Rights and Law, National Law School of India Univesity, Bangalore for finalization modules and lesion plan of the course. Pilot testing has been proposed for validation of the course.

(4) Certificate Course on Medical and Forensic Evidence to Child Sexual Abuse has been developed under the tutelage of Dr. N.Jagadeesh, Professor of Forensic Medicine.

(5) **Training for the Officers of Special Juvenile Police Units:** CCR organized two-days training for the officials of the Special Juvenile Police Units of Odisha from 9-10 January 2017. The course module for the training has been decided in consultative approval of the Home Department, Government of Odisha to cater the needs of the trainees. As many as 25 police officers from SJPU of various districts of Odisha participated in the training. The training was held with a broad-based objective to make police officers to understand the law and policy framework on juvenile justice in conformity to the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and model rules framed under the Act by Government of India in 2016. It helped police officers to develop their knowledge and skills to deal children in right-based perspective. The training threw light into critical issues of child protection to help participants to understand children's entitlement in law and due process, role of different players in juvenile justice system, and role of police and strategies analysis of the police system with regard to juvenile justice. The resource persons for the training were Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO, Dr. P.M Nair, Retired DG Police & Adjunct Professor, TISS and Ms, Geetanjali Goel, Director, National Legal Service Authority, New Delhi.

(6) **Training and Orientation to the Judges of Children's Courts:** Two days training was organized by CCR for the judges of the special courts under POCSO Act from 11-12 March 2017. The training has been commissioned in and with the knowledge of Hon'ble Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. A total of 27 judicial officers in the rank of Additional District and Session Judge designated judge for the Special Courts under POCSO Act participated in the training. The objectives of the training were to (1) arouse critical



sensitization on issues involved with administration of juvenile justice and POCSO Act, (2) strengthen the technical capacities of the judicial officers towards trial of POCSO cases, (3) reinforce rights-oriented, victim-centric

approach towards trial of crimes against children, (4) share and promote good practices.

Training was delivered by the inter-disciplinary professionals that included Prof. Ved Kumari, Dean Faculty of Law, Delhi University, Prof. B.T Kaul, Chairperson, Delhi Judicial Academy, Dr.N. Jagadeesh, Professor of Forensic Medicine, Prof. Udai Raj Rai, Distinguished Professor, NLU Odisha, and Mr. SRA Rosedar, Addl. Public Prosecutor. Hon'ble Justice Dr. D.P Choudhury, Judge Orissa High Court has made kind presence in the valedictory session to share His Lordship thought and wisdom on effective administration of law and justice to children.

(7) **Symposium for Inter-University Dialogue on Child Rights** was held on 29th March 2017. Academia and students in the discipline of Law, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Medicine, Management, Mass media & Communication, and Technology from various universities and educational institutions of Odisha participated. The objective of the symposium was to discuss and collate ideas for developing strategies on systemic convergence between the allied disciplines for evidence-based advocacy to improve the quality of law implementation in the State of Odisha. The deliberation and dialogue held in the symposium provided an outline for formulating policy to expand academic partnership and to promote students volunteerism for promotion of child rights practices.

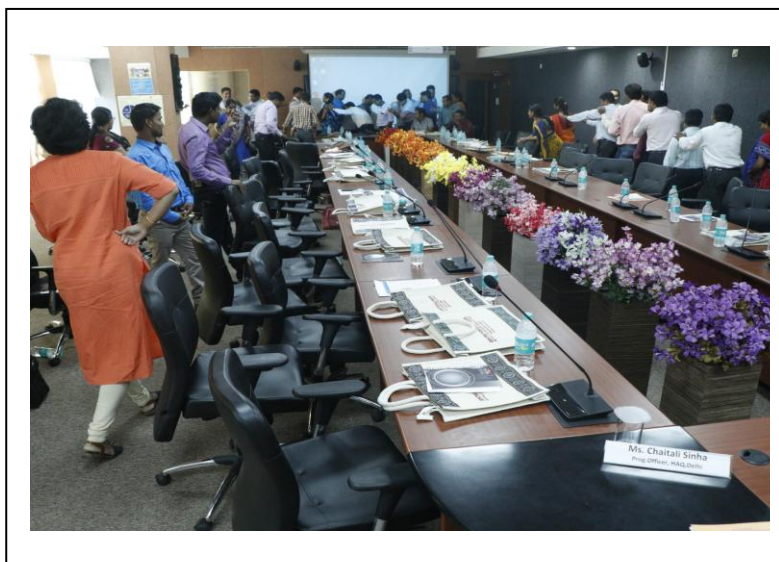
(8) **Refresher Training for Legal –Cum- Probation Officers** was held in two days on 5th & 6th September 2017 in partnering with Odisha State Child Protection Society, DWCD, Government of Odisha . The key objective was to develop critical skills



and knowledge for Effective Probation, Social Investigation, Individual Care

Plan and Strategizing Rehabilitation. As many as 28 LPOs participated in the programme.

(9) Refresher Programme for Social Workers was held in two days on 14th & 15th September 2017 on Enhancing Social Works Skills on Juvenile Justice in partnering with Odisha State Child Protection Society, Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha. Training was attended by the social workers of the District Child Protection Unit of all 30 districts of Odisha State. Key objective of



the training was to impart knowledge on the social work professionalism and to inculcate a right-based attitude and understanding among the social workers in dealing children. The training helped to improve skills and competency for effective social work, individual care plan, social inquiry, and rehabilitation plan for children in the perspective of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

(10) Refresher Training for the Protection Officer-Institutional Care was held in two days from 12-13 October 2017 in partnering with OSCPS, DWCD, and Government of Odisha. The programme aimed to enhance skills for quality and effective management of institutional services to children. A total of 28 Protection Officer- IC participated.

(11) Refresher Training for the Protection Officers- Non-Institutional Care was held in two days from 23-24 November 2017 on Enhancing Skills for Effective Management of Non-Institutional Services. The Protection Officers-NIC from 28 district participated in the programme.

(12) Study and Research: CCR has undertaken a research to study case pendency in the JJ Boards with a view to bring status report of pending cases against juveniles. The study has been designed to understand and analyze case load, disposal rate and case pendency JJ Boards of all 30 districts of Odisha. Data has been collected from 22 districts. In this pursuit, CCR has brought out Report on Effective Disposal of Cases in Juvenile Justice Boards of Odisha. The report analyses registration, disposal, pendency of cases in 10 districts of Odisha and identifies challenges that impede effective disposal of cases in Juvenile Justice Board.

(13) Technical Support to DCPUs: During this reporting period, CCR has provided technical and handholding support to the DCPUs of Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Khurda, Gajapati, Balangir, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Raygada and Puri for the capacity building training to various functionaries on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and POCSO Act.

Centre has also provided support to the Juvenile Justice Committee of Orissa High Court in preparation of Newsletter.

Publications: Following publication has been brought in 2017.

(i) Effective Disposal of Cases in Juvenile Justice Boards in Odisha: The report combines analysis of reporting, disposal and pendency of juvenile cases and identification of challenges that impede effective disposal of cases in Juvenile Justice Boards in Odisha.

(ii) Journal of Rights of the Child (Volume-II, Issue-1): This issue especially focuses on Child Labour. It contains 12 articles providing research based arguments and academic discourse on law, policy and practice on the elimination of child labour in Indian context and international perspectives.

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