

REPORT ON LAUNCH AND ORIENTATION OF COMMUNITY LEVEL CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION COMMITTEES IN CUTTACK URBAN SETTLEMENTS OF BRAJABEHARIPUR, VALMIKI NAGAR AND BABA TILKANAGAR IN COLLABORATION WITH CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS – NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA

Cuttack, Odisha | May 5, 2025 — In a significant step towards strengthening grassroots child protection mechanisms, the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO), in collaboration with its flagship community engagement initiative Project Kutumb, successfully conducted the launch cum orientation program for *Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees (CLCWPCs)* on May 5, 2025, at Brajabeharipur (Talasahi), Cuttack. The CLCWPC were launched in the presence of the Mayor of Cuttack Municipality, Subhas Chandra Singh, District Child Protection Officer, Pragati Mohanty, Corporator of Ward No 3, Pradeep Rout and NLUO Vice Chancellor Professor Ved Kumari. Project KUTUMB is led by Dr Akshay Verma from NLUO and Dr Swagatika Samal from NLUO CCR and supported by Durbadala Mantry, Kanishka, Vijay Bhaskar, Dr Pradipta Sarangi, Amulya Swain, Ankit Kumar Keshri and Prof Biraj Swain NLUO.

The orientation program is part of NLUO's commitment to creating Child-Friendly Communities, and it marks a milestone in Project Kutumb's mission to foster safer environments for vulnerable and at-risk children. The event aimed to formally establish the CLCWPC for the neighbouring settlements and to sensitize and train its members—comprising key stakeholders such as local youth groups, Self Help Groups (SHGs), school teachers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), parents and caregivers, community leaders, elected representatives—on their roles and responsibilities in ensuring children's rights, protection and overall well-being.

Project Kutumb, launched in August 2022, is NLUO's flagship outreach programme, implemented with the shared leadership of the CCR. It seeks to holistically transform adopted settlements into aspirational communities with active citizenship and responsive state mechanisms. The project takes a rights-based and community-driven approach by empowering families, children and local institutions to take an active role in child protection. It is being implemented in Braja Beharipur (Upara Sahi and Tala Sahi), Baba Tilkanagar, Valmiki Nagar.

The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Mission Vatsalya mandate of Government of India, which advocates for decentralized and community-led mechanisms to protect children in need of care and protection. Through a combination of awareness-building, capacity enhancement, needs assessment, and vulnerability mapping, Project Kutumb, aims to establish sustainable, locally lead child protection systems with long-term impact.

Founded in 2015, the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) is the oldest research, teaching and advocacy centre at National Law University Odisha. It is also the second oldest CCR in any NLU in India and the only Chair Professorship on Child Rights in India (Law or non-Law Universities included), thanks to the efforts of the Vice Chancellor Prof Ved Kumari. The CCR is committed to advancing child rights through teaching, legal research, policy advocacy, training and community engagement. As one of the key actors of Project Kutumb, CCR has conducted extensive vulnerability mapping and needs assessments in the adopted settlements to ensure that interventions are data-driven and need-sensitive, keep the best interests of the children front and centre. This is per the NITI Ayog mandated indicators.

CLCPC serves as the grassroots mechanisms for monitoring child rights violations, responding to abuse or exploitation and promoting children's safety through community participation. The CLCPCs with their members and mandates were launched at the event. This is in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which India is a signatory to, and it marks the 10th anniversary of SDGs this year.

During the orientation program, members of the newly formed CLCPC were introduced to key child protection issues prevalent in their settlement, about children's rights, existing legal safeguards and services, reporting mechanisms and the responsibilities expected of them as community protectors which include identifying at-risk children, ensuring access to government welfare schemes, reporting violations and fostering a child-sensitive environment. Subash Chandra Singh, Mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation, underscored the municipality's commitment and support for child rights initiatives. Commending the efforts of the community members, NLUO and Project Kutumb, he said: "In spite of the progressive laws, courts and institutions, there are so many children missing, trafficked. This needs the commitment of the state, citizens and the society to reintegrate children back to their family. The state of the child is the metric of the society and its imagination of the future. Not a single child should drop out of education. No child should be harnessed into child labour because of

the poverty of the family members. No settlements/habitats should have liquor shops. Excise duty from liquor should never compete with child welfare. That is not a trade-off we can afford. Every child in conflict with law is a child whose rights have been violated, a child whose need for care and protection has been neglected, hence child protection is of immense importance.” Pradeep Rout, Corporator of Ward No 3, expressed appreciation for the initiative. He committed his own leadership for the issue of child protection and acknowledged the collaboration and leadership of NLUO and pledged to work closely with the community members, CLCPC members and NLUO to transform the Ward No 3 into a child friendly community.

The participation of local leaders highlighted the growing recognition of child protection as an essential component of development and as a shared responsibility. The presence of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), ASHA and Anganwadi workers, school staff, and Self Help Group (SHG) members added strength to the diverse, community-rooted approach envisioned by Project Kutumb. The community members of Brajabeharipur Tala Sahi voluntarily contributed infrastructural and electrical accessories as a mark of their ownership and commitment to child protection.

Regular review meetings, refresher training programs, linkages with Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), and feedback mechanisms have been planned to ensure the CLCPCs remains active and effective foregrounding children, their voice, agency, safety and progress.

In this context, the Vice-Chancellor of NLUO, Prof Ved Kumari, who conceptualised Project Kutumb, noted that substantive progress in child protection is possible only when there is consistent collaboration between community and the state instruments and children have a voice and agency in shaping their own and their community’s futures. She further added, “It is the responsibility of premier educational institutions to contribute to the life and aspirations of the society, especially the neighbourhoods around them. NLUO is not just an institution to churn out legal professionals, NLUO is also committed to the agenda of justice and enabling the under-privileged children and communities in the neighbourhood for better lives and life-chances, is a core ambition of KUTUMB and NLUO. Children need to be listened to, not just be made members in planning committees pro forma. The inter-generational dialogue, the conversations between children and the elders need to happen meaningfully.”

The CLCPC will be the first port of call, the platform for community and the state child protection machinery, ensuring timely reporting, service delivery and grievance redressal. Highlighting the importance of this critical link in safeguarding children from adverse experiences, Pragati Mohanty, the District Child Protection Officer, Cuttack said, it is as much the responsibility of the parents, society and the elected representatives.

Towards this goal, as the CLCPC begins functioning in the settlements of Braja Beharipur (Upara Sahi and Tala Sahi), Valmiki Nagar and Baba Tilkanagar. NLUO's CCR and Project Kutumb will continue to provide technical and institutional support, enabling members to make their communities child friendly where every child is protected and thrives.

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Centre for Child Rights (CCR) and Project KUTUMB

National Law University Odisha (NLUO)

PHOTOS













List of Participants participated in the Programme:

Sl. No.	Members	Name and Designation	Address
1	-	Shri Subash Chandra Singh Mayor, Cuttack Municipal Corporation	Cuttack
2	-	Prof Ved Kumari Vice Chancellor, NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
3	-	Shri Pradeep Kumar Rout Corporator, Ward no. -3, CMC	CDA-10, Cuttack
4	-	Mrs Pragati Mohanty DCPO	District Child Protection Unit, Cuttack
5	-	Mr Congress Ku Rout Social Worker- DCPU, Cuttack	Cuttack
6	-	Prof Biraj Swain CM's Chair Professor and Director, CCR – NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
7	-	Dr Akshay Verma Asst. Prof of Law, NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
8	-	Dr M. Vijay Bhaskar Asst. Prof of Law, NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
9	-	Mr. Kaniska Asst. Prof of Law, NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
10	-	Dr Swagatika Samal Researcher, CCR-NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
11	-	Dr Pradipta Kumar Sarangi Researcher, CCR-NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
12	-	Mr Ankit Kumar Keshri UNICEF Consultant CCR-NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
13	-	Mr Amulya Kumar Swain OA, CCR-NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
14	-	Mr Durbadala Mantry Special Officer, Legal Aid Clinic, NLUO	NLUO, Cuttack
15	AWW of the community	Smt Bidyulata Rout (AWW, Uparsahi)	Brajbehariapur (Uparsahi)

16	AWW of the community	Smt Sumitra Swain (AWW, Talasahi)	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
17	Community Leader	Shri Nishakara Das	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
18	ASHA of the community	Smt Rituna Rout (Uparsahi)	Brajbehariपुर (Uparsahi)
19	ASHA of the community	Smt Kamini Maharana (Talasahi)	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
20	ANM	Ms Subarna Nayak	Ward no. 3, Shandhapur PHC, Cuttack
21	ANM	Smt Rashmi Manjari Sahoo	Berhampur PHC Athagarh Block
22	President or Secretary of SHGs of the community	Smt Pranati Behera President, Phasi Banadurha SHG	Brajbehariपुर (Uparsahi)
23	President or Secretary of SHGs of the community	Smt Swarnaprava Sahoo, President, SHG	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
24	Representative of Youth Club in the community	Mr Chandrasekhar Behera (Raja), Raja Youth Club	Brajbehariपुर (Uparsahi)
25	Representative of CBO in the community	Shri Sushanta Barala, Vice-President, Maa Gouri Unnayan Committee, Brajbehariपुर	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
26	Male child from the community (12-18 yrs.)	Bikash Das (Class - 10)	Brajbehariपुर (Uparsahi)
27	Female child from the community (12-18 yrs.)	Pranjal Priyadarshini Behera (Class-7)	Brajbehariपुर (Uparsahi)
28	Local teacher	Smt Sanjukta Mohanty	Head Mistress, Brajbehariपुर Govt. UP School
29	Parent	Mr. Prashanta Behera (SMC Chairperson)	Brajbehariपुर (Uparsahi)
30	Parent	Smt. Swarnaprava Das	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
31	AWW of the community	Smt. Jamuna Murmu (AWW)	Balmikinagar
32	Community Leader	Shri Rabindra Soren	Balmikinagar

33	ASHA of the community	Smt Dangi Murmu	Balmikinagar
34	President or Secretary of SHGs of the community	Jasmita Hembram	Balmikinagar
35	Representative of Youth Club in the community	Shri Subas Kisku President, Baba Pilchu Youth Club	Balmikinagar
36	Male child from the community (12-18 yrs.)	Singhray Baskey (Class - 8)	Balmikinagar
37	Female child from the community (12-18 yrs.)	Champa Beshra (12th)	Balmikinagar
38	Local teacher	Smt. Hilari Lenka Head Mistress, Ratha Sahoo Govt. Primary School, Balmikinagar	Head Mistress, Ratha Sahoo Govt. Primary School, Balmikinagar
39	SMC President	Shri Somnath Marandi (Mitu Babu) Secretary, Youth Club	Balmikinagar
40	Parent	Shri Sukulu Baskey	Balmikinagar
41	Parent	Shri Khetramohan Hansdah	Balmikinagar
42	AWW of the community	Smt. Pinky Soy (AWW, Nua Mundasahi)	Baba Tilkanagar
43	Community Leader	Shri Durga Charan Singh	Baba Tilkanagar
44	ASHA of the community	Smt. Jhansirani Behera	Baba Tilkanagar
45	President or Secretary of SHGs of the community	Smt. Sushama rani Subuddhi, President, SHG	Baba Tilkanagar
46	Representative of Youth Club in the community	Mr. Prashant Kumar Nayak, Secretary, BTM Youth Club	Baba Tilkanagar
47	Representative of CBO in the community	Smt. Masuri Munduy, President, Slum Development Association, Baba Tilkanagar	Baba Tilkanagar
48	Male child from the community (12-18 yrs.)	Dhaneswar Baskey (Class 10)	Baba Tilkanagar

49	Female child from the community (12-18 yrs.)	Sunita Hansdah (Class 10)	Baba Tilkanagar
50	Parent	Smt Birang Badra	Baba Tilkanagar
51	Parent	Shri Abhimayu Pradhan	Baba Tilkanagar
52	Community Member	Shri Sukant Kumar Sahu HM, Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Sec-9, CDA	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
53	Community Member	Adwaita Ch. Bada	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
54	Community Member	Pradip Rath	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
55	Community Member	Sandhya Rani Gagarai	Baba Tilkanagar
56	Community Member	Utsab Mishra	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
57	Community Member	Sandhyarani Murmu	Baba Tilkanagar
58	Community Member	Sumati Naik	Baba Tilkanagar
59	Community Member	Madhabilata Chatter	Baba Tilkanagar
60	Community Member	Nagendra Kumar Rath	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
61	Community Member	Debraj Sahoo	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
62	Community Member	Balabhadra Mishra	Brajbehariपुर (Talasahi)
