

## INTERVENTION LEVEL BY CPO TEAM LEADERS ON RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

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### Abstract

This descriptive study covered the team leaders of selected CPOs (Child Protection Organization) in Tamilnadu State, India; on their perception about the level of measurement on intervention on development rights through their programmes. It has been found out that 69.4% CPOs had promoted vocational education for their target adolescent children at a high degree. A vast majority of the CPOs (93.1%) provided space for children's recreation. It could be inferred that from the above analysis that most of the CPOs had activated to a high extent in the promotion of right to development. Further it is recommended that CPOs need to focus more upon development rights involving various stakeholders.

### Key Words

Right to Development, Team leaders, CPOs, Intervention, logistics and programmes

### Introduction

The United Nations Commission Human Rights has defined a child in the draft on the Convention on the rights of the child, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in November, 1989. The 2001 Census of India estimated projection for 2006 on total child population in the age group of 0 to 14 years is 32.1 million; this data revealed that there is a decline in population, when compared with the figures of 1991 and 2001. Around 25 to 30 million children in India spend their lives on the streets in a poisonous environment. Street children suffer neglect and are often abused and exploited. They suffer from ill-health and become victims of infectious diseases.

The UNICEF report says that 26 million children in the world suffer from brain damage due to iodine deficiency. In India, there are 6.6 million children having a damaged brain from iodine deficiency (Azad India Foundation, 2007). As observed by (Singh et. al., 2017) little is objectively known about what strategies are the most effective, when implemented, in infant and child feeding and counseling programs, Recovery was poor, and the majority of children

demonstrated poor weight gain, with severe wasting and underweight reported in 52 and 83% of the children respectively at the completion of the community-based phase of the MTC program (Chaturvedi et. al., 2018).

Among children 19% of the world's children live in India. There are 42% of India's total population are aged below eighteen years. India is home to almost 19 percent of the world's children. Child protection has remained largely unaddressed. The crucial statistics on children observed that: Every fifth child in the world lives in India, Every third malnourished child in the world lives in India, Every second Indian child is underweight, Three out of four children in India are anaemic, Every second new born has reduced learning capacity due to iodine deficiency, Decline in female/male ratio is maximum in 0-6 years: 927 females per 1000 males, Birth registration is just 62%, Retention rate at Primary level is 71.01% , Girls' enrolment in schools at primary level is 47.79% , 1104 lakh child labour in the country (SRO 2000), Children born with low birth weight are 46% , Children under 3 with anemia are 79% and Immunization coverage is very low (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2007).

The agencies involved in child protection trying to address these issues through their programmes and approaches. Both Government and Child Protecting Organizations (CPOs) through their resources and personnel are focusing upon children to promote welfare among them. Garilao (1987) assessed CPOs on their strategic institutions and as such to describe their interaction with governments and the private sector (with specific reference to the situation in Asia). In their relationship with governments, CPOs are called upon to demonstrate more clearly their use to the poor, to better utilize governments for broader impact and to move more readily into the policymaking.

Mehta (2003) had done a focused study on Education for all in India and explains about free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of fourteen years is the Constitutional commitment in India. At the time of adoption of the Constitution in 1950, the aim was to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) within the next ten years i.e. by 1960. And positively young children could be made to play the role as agents through an exploration of the strategies they use to gain control and produce social life in early childhood centres (Ebrahim, 2011)

The child rights and more specifically development rights adopted by India direct and guide the various agencies to uphold the rights of children. The development rights include the resources, skills and contributions necessary for the survival and full development of the child. They include rights to adequate food, shelter, clean water, formal education, primary health care, leisure and recreation, cultural activities and information about their rights.

These rights require not only the existence of the means to fulfill the rights but also access to them. Specific articles address the needs of child refugees, children with disabilities and children of minority or indigenous groups. With these backdrop a study is initiated among the team

leaders of CPOs to measure their initiatives on the development rights of children and hence this exercise aims at to observe the various programmes initiated by the selected CPOs, logistic available and to measure the level of intervention on development rights through their programmes.

## Methodology

CPOs belong to Eight Southern districts are covered on the basis of selection criteria where in CPOs that works purely for children were selected from each district (FCP), CPOs, which have child protection as one of the prime activities (PCP), CPOs with child protection as one of the activities along with other activities (ACP) were selected from each district, thus, overall, 72 CPOs were selected and the team leaders of these CPOs were interviewed using interview schedule. The study is descriptive in nature. This article is the part of a major study conducted.

## Analysis and interpretation

### CPO - CHILDREN PROGRAMMES

Child Protection Organizations promote various children care and rights programmes for vulnerable and marginalized children. The study observed various programmes for children promoted by Child Protection Organisations, which is shown in Table 1

**Table 1** Programmes for Children Promoted by CPOs

Activities	Programmes of the CPOs		
	Promoted	NotPromoted	Total
Health care services	42 (58.3%)	30 (41.7%)	72 (100%)
Nutritional services	<b>55</b> <b>(76.4%)</b>	17 (23.6%)	72 (100%)
Shelter	45 (62.5%)	27 (37.5%)	72 (100%)
Uniforms/Clothes	47 (65.3%)	25 (34.7%)	72 (100%)
Education	<b>50</b> <b>(69.4%)</b>	22 (30.6%)	72 (100%)
Vocational Training	24 (33.3%)	48 (66.7%)	72 (100%)
Counselling	<b>54</b> <b>(75.0%)</b>	18 (25.0%)	72 (100%)
Rehabilitation	35 (48.6%)	37 (51.4%)	72 (100%)
Awareness programme	41	31	72

	(56.9%)	(43.1%)	(100%)
Career guidance	17 (23.6%)	<b>55</b> <b>(76.4%)</b>	72 (100%)
Right based education	42 (58.3%)	30 (41.7%)	72 (100%)
Value education	8 (11.1%)	<b>64</b> <b>(88.9%)</b>	72 (100%)
Recreation	24 (33.3%)	48 (66.7%)	72 (100%)
Sports & Cultural Events	23 (31.9%)	49 (68.1%)	72 (100%)

Of the 72 CPOs, most of the CPOs (58.3%) had promoted health care services and 41.7% of the CPOs had not promoted health care services. A distinct proportion of the CPOs (76.4%) had provided nutritional support to the children and 23.6% of the CPOs had not engaged in nutritional services. More than three fifth (62.5%) of the CPOs had promoted shelter programmes for protecting the children and 37.5% of the CPOs had not engaged in shelter programme.

Most of the CPOs (65.3%) had supplied uniforms and clothes for the children and 34.7% of the CPOs had not supplied uniforms and clothes. Majority of the CPOs (69.4%) had involved in educational supports for the children and 30.6% of the CPOs had not involved in educational support programme. Most of the CPOs (66.7%) had not engaged in promotion of vocational education and 33.3% of the CPOs had promoted vocational education programmes. Three fourth of the CPOs had provided counseling to the children and two fifth of the CPOs had not provided counseling services. More than half of the CPOs had rehabilitated the children and 48.6% of the CPOs had not engaged in rehabilitation programme for children.

Many CPOs (56.9%) had raised awareness programme on child protection and a considerable proportion of the CPOs (43.1%) had not raised awareness programmes on child protection. More than three fifth of the CPOs had not carried out career guidance programme for children and less than two fifth of the CPOs had carried out career guidance programme.

Most of the CPOs (58.3%) had promoted rights based education and a quite number of CPOs (41.7%) had not promoted rights based education. A large proportion of the CPOs (88.9%) had not involved in promotion of value education but 11.1% of the CPOs had promoted value education. Many CPOs (66.7%) had not preferred recreational activities for children but 33.3% of the CPOs had promoted recreational programmes for children. Majority of the CPOs (68.1%) had not engaged in promotion of sports and cultural events for the children and 31.9% of the CPOs had promoted sports and cultural activities for the children.

It could be inferred from the above analysis that most of the CPOs (76.4%) had provided nutritional supports to children. Three fifth of the CPOs counseled the victimized and traumatized children. A substantial proportion of the CPOs (69.4%) had promoted educational

programme. A large majority of the CPOs had not promoted value education to children. More than three fifths of the CPOs had not carried out a career guidance programme.

### CPO – Logistic facilities Availability

Various facilities rendered by the CPOs enable the children to have better growth. The existing structures available with the CPOs are assessed. Table 2 shows existing structures of the Child Protection Organisations.

**Table 2** Existing Structures of the Child Protection Organisations

Existing Structures	Availability		Total
	Available	Not Available	
Home for children	39 (54.2%)	33 (45.8%)	72 (100%)
Evening Centres	54 (74.0%)	18 (25.0%)	72 (100%)
Vocational Training Centre	20 (27.8%)	52 (72.2%)	72 (100%)
Teaching aids	<b>67</b> <b>(93.1%)</b>	5 (6.9%)	72 (100%)
Learning materials	56 (77.8%)	16 (22.2%)	72 (100%)
Transport facility	47 (65.3%)	25 (34.7%)	72 (100%)
Manpower	<b>58</b> <b>(80.6%)</b>	14 (19.4%)	72 (100%)
Funds allocation	46 (63.9%)	26 (36.1%)	72 (100%)
Other physical allocation	37 (51.4%)	35 (48.6%)	72 (100%)
Computer sources	<b>58</b> <b>(80.6%)</b>	14 (19.4%)	72 (100%)
Others	3 (4.2%)	69 (95.8%)	72 (100%)

A good majority of the CPOs (93.1%) had teaching aid materials. More than one fifth of the CPOs had human resources. More than one fifth of the CPOS had computer facilities. More than 70% of the CPOs had evening centers and learning materials available to the children. More than 60% of the CPOs had transport facility and allocated funds. Over 50% of the CPOs had Home

building and other physical allocation. It could be inferred from above analysed data that more than half of the CPOs have sufficient structures.

### Child Right to Development - Level of Intervention

Right to development includes education, care, leisure and recreation for children (Child Rights and You, 2006). Table 3 displays level of intervention on child right to development responded by the CPO team leaders.

**Table -3** Level of Intervention on Child Right to Development &CPO team leaders

Variables	Level of Intervention			Total
	Low	Moderate	High	
Promotes higher education among the target children	4 (5.6%)	0	68 (94.4%)	72 (100%)
Promotes education to ensure compulsory primary education	3 (4.2%)	0	69 (95.8%)	72 (100%)
Promotes vocational education for the target adolescent children	22 (30.6%)	0	50 (69.4%)	72 (100%)
Care and supports the target children for better growth	11 (15.3%)	0	61 (84.7%)	72 (100%)
Provides space for recreation of the target children	5 (6.9%)	0	67 (93.1%)	72 (100%)

The level of intervention on child right to development was categorised as low, moderate and high based on the values of mean and standard deviation, which is shown table 4. The coefficient of variation for all the measured variables showed a value closer to 0, signifying that the data had a greater uniformity with respect to the mean and there was a general consensus among the samples.

**Table -4** Mean and Standard Deviation for Weighing Scores for  
Intervention on Child Right to Development by team leaders

<b>Variables</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>CV</b>	<b>M-SD</b>	<b>M+SD</b>
Promotes higher education among the target children	72	1.94	0.60	0.31	1.34	2.55
Promotes education to ensure compulsory primary education	72	1.88	0.33	0.18	1.54	2.21
Promotes vocational education for the target adolescent children	72	1.96	0.54	0.28	1.42	2.50
Care and supports the target children for better growth	72	2.14	0.61	0.29	1.53	2.75
Provides space for recreation of the target children	72	7.83	2.06	0.26	5.78	9.89

**Note:** = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; CV = Coefficient of Variation

From the table 14, it is observable that a vast majority of the CPOs (94.4%) promoted higher education among their target children at a high extent and only 5.6% of the CPOs promoted higher education among their target children to a low degree.

Of the 72 CPOs, a good majority of the CPOs (95.8%) had promoted educational programmes to ensure compulsory primary education to moderate extent and just 4.2% of the CPOs had carried out the same action to a low degree. Most of the CPOs (69.4%) had promoted vocational education for their target adolescent children at a high degree and 30.6% of the CPOs had promoted the same activity to a low level. A majority of the CPOs had cared and supported the targeted children to a high level and 15.3% of the CPOs had executed the same programme to a low extent. A vast majority of the CPOs (93.1%) provided space for children's recreation and 6.9% of the CPOs provided recreation to a low extent. It could be observed from the above analysis that most of the CPOs had activated to a high extent in the promotion of right to development.

## Conclusion

Protecting children from various forms of exploitation and promoting their wellbeing is the mission of CPOs. There are number of initiatives done by the various CPOs have paved way for the development of the risky children and their level of intervention as perceived by team leaders is at the higher level. Though this is part of the observation done only by the team leaders and it would be matched with the observations of various stakeholders could give us the real picture and more intervention and approaches are very much required.

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