

India's National Policy and Orphan Children

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Abstract

Nationwide, the preamble of the Indian National Policy for Children 2013 of India distinguishes that- A child is any person under the age of eighteen years; Childhood is an integral part of life with a value of its own; Children are not a homogenous group and their different needs, need different responses, especially the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities experienced by children in dissimilar circumstances; An extended term, sustainable, multi-sectorial, integrated and inclusive method is essential for the overall and harmonious development and protection of children.

In India, rights of citizens comprising that of children have been directly or indirectly provided for by the Constitution of India. The country has a well framed Constitutional, Lawful and Policy structure to defend different cross-sections of children which align with specific age-groups issues for specific target groups of children such as, child laborers, children in school education, children in crimes, etc.

A large number of studies have been conducted on the orphan and on the personality development of children and adults. Extensive literature is also available on the fundamentals of the evolution of the social development concept, its various dimensions and their origin. Eminent workers in the field of socio-psychology have contributed their views and theories related to the development of the personality during human life span, their measurement and growth, their possible effect on human behavior and social implications of the different desirable and undesirable personality traits. A vast majority of children live with their parents in familial environment. Another group comprising a large number of the less fortunate, who have no families, do not have this privilege. This is likely to affect the various aspects of their personality. It could, therefore be speculated that the overall development of the deprived children to bring these deprived children into the mainstream of society, it is necessary to identify and evaluate their development with a view to create some essential modifications in their living environment for their healthy growth.

Introduction: 1.1

Orphan and non-orphan Children are responsibility of every Nation. Children can then become socially responsive, worthy citizens. Orphans, who have lost their parents by death at a young age and are required to live in orphanages and the Commercial Sex Workers' (CSWs') children (with single parent – the mother) are examples of the less fortunate children. Available references show that basic environmental differences in their upbringing are likely to result in differential development of distinctive personality traits among them. Several studies have been conducted all across the globe to understand the status of socioeconomic condition and impact of institutionalization on the wholesome development of children.

The study under research is a distinctive topic and very few studies have been undertaken of this kind especially in northern states of India and particularly in the region of Punjab and Chandigarh. The literature under review highlights the various dimensions of children's institutions and children living in them. The role of caregivers and their influence on the lives of institutionalized children is important. The reviews also emphasize on the deprivation of parental love and their presence in the lives of some children living under institutional care. The various studies have been done to examine the various factors responsible for increasing number of children in institutions which varies from place to place and nation to nation. Majority of the studies reveal that institutionalization should be the last resort for the children and family or community-based care should be encouraged in order to provide a better place and favorable environment for the wholesome development of the children.

Materials source: 1.2

The important policies are development sketch as follows:

1. The State Child Protection Society (SCPS) as established under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, shall ensure the implementation including mapping, planning of Mission Vatsalya scheme. The SCPS shall assist the State Child Welfare and Protection Committee, for coordinating and ensuring effective implementation of legislations, policies, and schemes for child welfare & protection in the State viz. the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015; Protection of children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012; The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 (CPCR Act) along with Rules and Regulations made there under; Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) 1956; Guardians and Wards Act (GAWA) 1890

2. National Policy for Children, 1974 as the first policy document concerning the needs and rights of children, recognized children to be a supremely important asset to the country. The goal of the policy had been to take the next step in ensuring the constitutional provisions for children and the UN Declaration of Rights are implemented. It outlines services the state should provide for the complete development of a child, before and after birth and throughout a child's period of growth for their full physical, mental and social development.

3. National Policy on Education, 1986 was called for "special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunity," especially for Indian women, Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. To achieve these, the policy called for expanding scholarships, Annexure 123 adult education, recruiting more teachers from the SCs, incentives for poor families to send their children to school regularly, development of new institutions and providing housing and services. The NPE called for a "child-centered approach" in primary education, and launched "Operation Blackboard" to improve primary schools nationwide.

4. National Policy on child Labor, 1987 contains the action plan for tackling the problem of child labor. It envisaged a legislative action plan focusing and convergence of general development programs for benefiting children wherever possible, and Project-based plan of action for launching of projects for the welfare of working children in areas of high concentration of child labor.

5. National Nutrition policy, 1993 was introduced to combat the problem of under-nutrition. It aims to address this problem by utilizing direct (short term) and indirect (long term) interventions in the area of food production and distribution, health and family welfare, education, rural and urban development, woman and child development etc.

6. National Population Policy, 2000 aims at improvement in the status of Indian children. It emphasized free and compulsory school education up to age 14, universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases, 100% registration of birth, death, marriage and pregnancy, substantial reduction in the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio etc.

7. National Health Policy, 2002: The main objective of this policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. The approach is to increase access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. Overriding importance is given to ensuring a more equitable access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country.

8. National Charter for children (NCC), 2003 highlights the Constitutional provisions towards the cause of the children and the role of civil society, communities and families and their obligations in satisfying children's basic needs. It secures for every child its inherent right to be a child and enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, to address the root causes that negate the healthy growth and development of children, and to awaken the conscience of the community in the wider societal context to protect children from all forms of abuse, while strengthening the family, society and the Nation.

9. National Plan of Action for Children (NPA), 2005 was adopted by Government of India in the pursuit of well-being of children. NPA has a significant number of key areas of thrust out of which the one's relating to child protection are: Complete abolition of female feticide, female infanticide and child marriage and ensuring the survival, development and protection of the girl child, Securing for all children legal and social protection from all kinds of abuse, exploitation and neglect.

10. The National Policy for Children, 2013 adheres to the Constitutional mandate and guiding principles of UNCRC and identifies rights of children under 4 key priority areas, namely, Survival, Health and Nutrition; Education and Development, Protection and Participation. The policy recognized that a child is any person below the age group of eighteen years. Childhood is an integral part of life with a value of its own. Children are not a homogenous group and their different needs, need different responses, especially the multi vulnerabilities experienced by children in different circumstances. A long term, sustainable multi-sectorial, integrated and inclusive approach is necessary for the overall and harmonious development and protection of children. The National Policy for Children, 2013, reaffirmed that every child is unique and a supremely important national asset. Special measures and affirmative action are required to diminish or eliminate conditions that cause discrimination. All children have the right to grow in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Families are to be supported by a strong social safety net in caring for and nurturing their children. National ECCE Curriculum Framework has been

framed to promote quality and excellence in early childhood education by providing guidelines for practices that would promote optimum learning and development of all young children.

11. National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for survival, growth and development of child with focus on care and early learning for every child. It recognizes the synergistic and interdependent relationship between the health, nutrition, psycho-social and emotional needs of the child. This would add impetus to the ECCE activities mentioned in the revised service package of ICDS.

12. The National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 was launched in the pursuit of well-being of children to provide a roadmap that links the Policy objectives to actionable strategies under the 4 key priority areas. It aims at establishing effective coordination and convergence among all stakeholders, including Ministries and Departments of Government of India and civil society organizations to address key issues pertaining to rights of children. It is an initiative to further strengthen and activate the implementation and monitoring of national, constitutional and policy commitments and the UN Convention on the Rights of the child.

Results: 1.3

* It's a complete plan to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;

* Its made the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;

* It condenses the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;

*It is an achieve operative co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and

* It improves the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

• It promote In-Country adoptions and to facilitate inter-State adoptions in coordination with State Agencies. • Regulate Inter-Country adoptions.

• It helps to frames regulations on adoption and related matters from time to time, as may be necessary.

Discussion: 1.4

The orphan children development justify under the light of Mission Vatsalya Savdhanta Sanrakshnam Implementation Guidelines Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India D.O. No. CW-II-22/6/2022-CW-II (e-99580) 05" July, 2022.

In this approach, a maternal Orphan is a child whose mother has died, a paternal Orphan is a child whose father has died and a double Orphan is a Child /Teen/ Infant who has lost both parents .This contrast with the older use of half –Orphan to describe Children who had lost only one parents.

UNICEF (2013) defines an “orphan” as a child who has lost one or both parents. An abandoned child is defined as one who does not live with either his/her mother or father. India has a growing proportion of orphan and abandoned children (OAC) due to factors such as HIV/AIDs, poverty and illness of parents. There are more than 25 million OAC in India.

1.The alignment with the National Policy for Children 2013, the NPAC .

i. Ensure equitable access to comprehensive and essential preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care of the highest standard, for all children before, during and after birth, and throughout the period of their growth and development.

ii. Secure the right of every child to learning, knowledge, education, and development opportunity, with due regard for special needs, through access, provision and promotion of required environment, information, infrastructure, services and supports, for the development of the child’s fullest potential.

iii. Create a caring, protective and safe environment for all children, to reduce their vulnerability in all situations and to keep them safe at all places, especially public spaces.

iv. Enable children to be actively involved in their own development and in all matters concerning and affecting them. Child Budgeting Public expenditure meant for the development of the general population can be expected to have some benefits for children as well.

2. ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) is being implemented in 162 high malnutrition burdened districts with the following objectives: The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the world’s largest and unique programs for early childhood care and development representing country’s commitment to its children and nursing mothers towards providing pre-school non-formal education, breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity and mortality on the other.

3. PradhanMantriMatruVandanaYojana .The scheme has been launched in 2017 to provide partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child. The cash incentive provided would lead to improved health seeking behaviour amongst the Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).

4.Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme (RGNCS)- The Central Sector Scheme was launched to provide crèche facility to the children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who is employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month or 6 month in a year.

5. Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) -A comprehensive scheme for the holistic development of adolescent girls called Scheme for Adolescent Girls is being implemented in 205 selected districts across the country, using the ICDS platform. Scheme for Adolescent Girls,it aims at an all-round development of Adolescent Girls (AGs) of 11- 18 years by making them self-reliant through facilitating access to learning in the matter of health and nutrition through the cost effective interventions.

6. Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) - This is a scheme with the objectives to improve the nutritional and health status of girls in the age group of 11-18 years as well as to equip them to improve and upgrade their home-based and vocational 128 Children In India-2018 skills; and to promote their overall development including awareness about their health, personal hygiene, nutrition, family welfare and management.

7. National Nutrition Mission (NNM)-A National Nutrition Mission (NNM) has been setup from 2017-18 to work as an apex body to monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries. The program through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth weight babies. It aims to create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue alerts for timely action to achieve the targeted goals. NNM would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

8. Child Rehabilitation through Non- Institutional Care of Children Adoption Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been setup as a Statutory Body as per the provisions under Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (Act No. 2 of 2016) to function as a nodal body at the National level for promoting and regulating adoption of Indian children. The Act has adequate safeguards mechanisms for the children to ensure their best interest and provides for reporting of all adoptions in the country including relative adoptions.

9. Integrated Child Protection Scheme-The objectives of the Scheme are to contribute to the improvement in the wellbeing of children in difficult circumstances, as well as reduction of vulnerabilities to situation and actions that leads to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from parent. A Track Child portal has been developed for tracking missing and recovered children all over the country. Information of missing & recovered children is uploaded by the Police and information of children residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) is uploaded by Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and functionaries of CCIs.

10. Khoya-Paya Portal which integrated as citizen's corner in the TrackChild portal with the objective of creating a citizen centric platform was to enable citizens to report missing children as well as sightings of their whereabouts without losing much time. Found children can also be reported. Any citizen can register on KhoyaPaya by using an Indian Mobile number. Child line services: The Child line service is a free 24x7 phone outreach service. This is a preventive initiative to provide care and protection to children who come in contact with Railways so that as far as possible children are rescued as soon as they fall out of safety net and repeated missing. This initiative is currently operating at 33 railway stations.

11. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save girl child, educate a girl child) is a programme that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girl child. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development. The objectives of the Scheme are prevent gender biased sex selective elimination to ensure survival and protection of the girl child to ensure education and participation of the girl child

Ujjawala Scheme for Combating Trafficking Ujjawala is a comprehensive scheme to combat trafficking. The Scheme was launched with the objective to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, to facilitate rescue of victims and placing them in safe custody, to provide rehabilitation services by providing basic amenities, to facilitate reintegration of victims into the family and society and to facilitate repatriation of cross border victims.

Conclusion:1.5

As per the National Survey on extent and pattern of Substance Abuse towards Protecting Vulnerable Sections - The Ministry of Home Affairs (Women Safety Division) issued an advisory in May 2021 to all States and UTs to review their existing facilities for the protection of vulnerable groups affected by the Covid-19 such as children orphaned after losing their Parents.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana: Within 48 hours of announcement of the Lockdown in the year 2020, the Scheme was launched to provide free food grain, cooking gas, direct cash transfer to more than 800 million farmers, women, elderly, the poor and marginalized sections of the society. - 'One Nation, One Ration Card': To address the plight of the migrant workers, those move from one place to another in search of work and daily-wages, 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC), a welfare measure driven by technology, has been launched to ensure that poor gets his allocated share of free ration wherever he is. Honorable Supreme Court has now set a deadline for all States to implement the ONORC by 31 July 2021.

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Abbreviation: 1.8

- One Nation, One Ration Card - (ONORC)
- Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative - (OPHI)
- United Nations Development Program's - (UNDP)
- United Nation Children Fund - (UNICEF)

- Child Sex Ratio - (CSR)
- Child Care Institutions -(CCI)
- National Early Childhood Care and Education - (ECCE)
- Commercial Sex Workers - (CSW)
- The State Child Protection Society -(SCPS)
- National Policy for Children 2013- (NPAC)

Keywords: 1.9

- Indian National Policy for Children
- Children Legal rights
- National Schemes
- Childhood Care
- Orphan orvulnerable groups