

NATIONAL ALLIANCE
OF GRASSROOTS NGOS
A Butterflies Initiative

Alliance News

May-June 2022

In This Issue

- Initiatives and actions of our NAGN Alliance partners
- SC asks states to ensure children attend school.
- Delhi child rights panel moves SC against JJ Act amendments
- NCPCR issues draft rules for child artists

Dear Friends,

We are happy to share May-June 2022 issue of the NAGN e- newsletter. This bi monthly Newsletter decided to focus on the initiatives taken by our NAGN -Alliance partners and also sharing information on relevant subjects which could help the population we are working with.

Hope you will find the articles selected for the newsletter useful and informative. We are requesting all members to send write-ups on their initiatives, innovations and social actions for publishing in the next issue of e-newsletter. NAGN members' write-ups will enhance our knowledge and facilitate collective learning.

Sincerely yours,

Moushumi Baruah
National Coordinator

Initiatives and actions of our NAGN Alliance partners

Open learning system, Odisha: World Environment Day was celebrated at Balikuda branch, Puri



Pratigya, Jharkhand - Interaction between parents and children always helps in strengthening the bond between them. The young fellows of Pratigya are bringing some wonderful ideas to make this happen where children and their parents play some innovative and interesting games together and develop an effective understanding between them.

Under Acquisition International Award Programmes, this year, *Pratigya*, has been awarded as *The Best Youth Advocacy & Support Initiative 2022 - India* <https://www.acquisition-international.com/winners/pratigya/>



Shreyas, Kerala- A sport activity by the name of 'Chudapaddi' was conducted with the children of Shreyas,



CSCC, Mumbai:

- A beautiful craft & drawing activity was done with the children.
- A life skill activity on the topic “Decision making” was conducted with the children of Dyneshwar Nagar, Teen Bangla centre Mumbai.

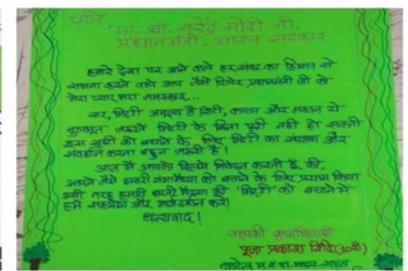


Hamara foundation, Mumbai:

Two of the child leaders participated in a campaign on soil conservation which is led by sadguru, together they draft a letter to the prime minister of India

Cultural performances of the children

Members of children cooperatives of different states (Rajasthan, Mumbai, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Kerala) performed wonderful cultural programmes during the national meet held on Delhi in the month of June 2022



SC asks states to ensure children attend school.

Concerned for students who were forced to drop out of school due to their parents suffering from Covid-19 induced job or livelihood loss, Supreme Court remarked on Monday that all states and union territories are obliged to ensure that children attend schools. NCPCR was further directed by a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai to establish a platform where all states and UTs' actions, in this case, would be uploaded.

NCPCR DIRECTED TO FILE AFFIDAVIT

The top court asked the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to file an affidavit after examining a report from the states and UTs within eight weeks.

STATES DIRECTED TO APPOINT DISTRICT NODAL OFFICER

The Supreme Court also issued directions to states for appointing a district-wise nodal officer from either the Education Department or the Women and Child Department.

The court further directed that these nodal officers would instruct Anganwadi workers to personally inform the parents of drop-out students about steps taken by NCPCR and get them enrolled.

Authorities were further directed by the SC, to provide wide publicity to the orders and measures passed by it.

EARLIER DIRECTIONS BY THE COURT

Previously, all the state governments and UTs were directed by the apex court to implement SOPs for the care and protection of children in street situations that were prepared by the NCPCR.

It had also previously directed states and UTs to link children orphaned because of the Covid-19 pandemic and their family members to various welfare schemes.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/state-govts-and-uts-obliged-to-ensure-children-attend-school-sc-1947611-2022-05-10>

Delhi child rights panel moves SC against JJ Act amendments

The Delhi child rights panel has approached the Supreme Court challenging the amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 (JJ Act) that categorizes certain offences committed against children to be non-cognizable.

Non-cognizable offences cannot be investigated by the police unless directed to do so by a magistrate's court. Some of the offences made non-cognizable carry a maximum punishment of up to seven years imprisonment and include sale and procurement of children, exploitation of child employee, employment of children for child begging,

use of children for any purpose by militant groups, cruelty committed upon children by the staff of Child Care Institutions (CCI), smuggling or trafficking narcotics, and giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug to a child.

The amendments to the 2015 Act were cleared by Parliament last year and received the presidential assent in August 2021. The amendments have not come into operation. In its petition filed, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) said, "There are 29 amendments carried out in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 by the JJ (Amendment) Act, 2021. Section 26 of the Amendment Act categorizes offences with imprisonment for a term of three years and above, but not more than seven years as non-cognizable."

Terming these offences as "serious", the DCPCR petition filed through advocate Prateek K Chadha said that the amendment has resulted in "denuding the police of powers to investigate and arrest the offenders" and places an "undue, unfair and unjustifiable burden on minor victims to come forward and report the commission of a serious offence."

Such categorization, the DCPCR said, violates the rights of children under Article 14 (right to equality) and Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution of India and contrary to the scheme of the JJ Act which seeks to protect children against all forms of exploitation. The petition, which was filed on May 11, also said that only offences punishable with imprisonment up to three years are categorized as non-cognizable under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). "There is no reasonable justification or rational nexus sought to be achieved by reclassifying the cognizable offences as non-cognizable offences," the Delhi child rights panel said.

On April 8, the DCPCR wrote to the Centre registering its strong protest against the amendments in question but received no response for over a month. The Delhi rights panel has received support in this regard from five other state rights panel, namely Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Union Territory of Chandigarh. These commissions have requested the government to withdraw the amendments. *Source link: <https://thesquadron.in/delhi-child-rights-panel-moves-sc-against-jj-act-amendments/>*



NCPCR issues draft rules for child artists

To protect child artistes in the entertainment industry, the NCPCR has come up with draft guidelines stating that no minor should work for more than 27 consecutive days and 20 per cent of the child's income has to be deposited in a fixed deposit account.

The draft 'Regulatory Guidelines for Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry' covers television programmes, including reality shows, TV serials, news and informative media, movies, content on OTT platforms and social media, performing arts, advertising, or any other kind of involvement of children in commercial entertainment activities.

The draft guidelines by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) aims to protect child artistes from physical and psychological stress while ensuring a healthy work environment for them.

It requires the producers to obtain permission to involve a child in a shooting from a district magistrate where it is to be held and put a disclaimer of the steps taken to ensure the child has not been subjected to abuse or exploitation.

The draft specifies that no child should be allowed to work for more than 27 consecutive days. The child shall participate in one shift each day with a break after every three hours and not be made to enter into an agreement for rendering any service as a bonded labourer under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

The producer must ensure that the school education of children engaged in the shooting will not get affected. A child excused from school attendance because of engagement in the entertainment industry shall be taught by a private tutor appointed by the producer, the draft guideline states. At least 20 per cent of the child's income from the production or event has to be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank in the name of the child to be credited on becoming an adult.

The guidelines also bar a child from being cast in a role or situation that is inappropriate or causes distress while stating that age, maturity, emotional or psychological development and sensitivity must be kept into consideration.

Production units must ensure that the work environment is safe, and the children are not exposed to harmful lighting, irritating or contaminated cosmetics. It must be ensured that facilities are appropriate to the age and needs of each child and they should not be made to share dressing spaces or rooms with adults, especially of the opposite sex. The children should not be exposed to ridicule or behaviour that could affect their emotional health. Children should not be shown imbibing alcohol, smoking, or indulging in any anti-social activity and delinquent behaviour, the draft guidelines stated. According to it, no child should be engaged in any situation involving nudity and programmes based on victims of child abuse should be sensitively handled. "Media and production houses shall ensure that child victims of rape, other sexual offences, trafficking, drug abuse, elopement, organized crimes, and children used in armed conflicts... Are guaranteed anonymity for life."

The draft mentions strict penal provisions, including fines and imprisonments in case of violation of the guidelines. "In the absence of any monitoring mechanism, the children in the industry are at grave risk of exploitation because they lack the legal right to the earnings they generate, or safe working conditions and adequate protection via labour laws. "Participating in an adult-oriented industry, children are often exposed to unsuitable, anxiety-inducing, and at times, dangerous operational hazards and situations," the draft said. Although several laws are in place, there are no specific regulations or rules for the protection of child artists in the adult-dominated industry. "Hence, the NCPCR has observed the need to frame guidelines, especially for children involved in films, TV, reality shows, OTT platforms, news and content creation for social media websites so that there may be some sort of easily comprehensible procedure for all stakeholders involved to make them aware of the repercussions of violating any right of the child," the document said. Since the last guidelines issued by the panel in 2011, there have been many amendments to related laws. Also, some new laws have been enacted protecting children from crimes under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. "Therefore, the need to bring other platforms under the ambit of these guidelines has been realised," the draft stated.

Source: <https://www.dnaindia.com/entertainment/report-20-income-to-be-deposited-in-fd-account-ncpcr-issues-draft-guidelines-for-child-artists-2963480>

NAGN Members

Assam- Snehalaya Centre for Child Rights	Kerala- SHREYAS Social Service Centre
Gujarat- Centre for Development	West Bengal- Hope Kolkata Foundation
Bihar- Mahila Development Centre, Sarthi, Amar Trishala Seva Ashram	Orissa- Open Learning Systems, UNNAYAN, Sadbhabana
Delhi- Butterflies, Don Bosco Ashalayam, Salaam Baalak Trust, Alamb, Udayan Care	Uttar Pradesh- Diocesan Development and Welfare Society (DDWS), J.N. Bal Nikunj Samiti, Satyakam Manav Seva Samiti
Maharashtra- People's Institute of Rural Development, Salaam Baalak Trust, Hamara Foundation	Jharkhand- Adarsh Sewa Sansthan, Pratigya
Jammu & Kashmir- Leh Nutrition Project, Koshish	Rajasthan- Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sanstha
Karnataka- Echo Centre of Juvenile Justice	

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions, Do write to us at-

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