



Department of Laws
Himachal Pradesh University
NAAC Accredited "A" Grade University
Summerr Hill, Shimla



E-SOUVENIR

National Seminar

on

**Human Rights of
Children : Emerging
Issues and Concerns**

12 MARCH, 2025



**Department of Laws
Himachal Pradesh University
NAAC Accredited “A” Grade University
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12 March, 2025



HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University)
SUMMER HILL, SHIMLA-171005

Prof. (Dr.) S. P. Bansal

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

Message

It is a matter of immense pleasure to learn that the Department of Laws, H.P. University, Shimla is organizing a one day National Seminar on the topic “Human Rights of Children: Emerging Issues and Concerns” on 12th March, 2025, wherein a good number of academicians, legal luminaries, research scholars, students, members of Government and Non-Governmental organisations are expected to participate in the academic deliberations of this event. In my opinion, such type of events would be a great platform for intellect sharing and further augment the existing pool of knowledge. I am also happy to know that Department has decided to bring out a souvenir on this occasion.

The future of any country depends on the healthy growth and development of its children. The betterment of the child is the betterment of the society because child is the future leader. As rightly observed by Milton, ‘child shows the man as morning shows the day’. For the promotion, protection and harmonious growth of children, India has framed a wide range of laws, schemes and policies. Despite the progress made, challenges persist, necessitating a multi-pronged approach involving legislative reforms, awareness campaigns, and community engagement. It will ensure that all children grow up safe, healthy, and free from exploitation and abuse.

I compliment Department of Laws, H.P. University, Shimla for organizing one day National Seminar and I am confident that the deliberations in the same will bring out innovative and useful ideas and pragmatic suggestions, which will go a long way in meeting the desired objectives.

I extend my warm greetings to the organisers and the participants and wish the seminar every success.

Prof. (Dr.) S. P. Bansal



HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University)
SUMMER HILL, SHIMLA-171005

Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Verma

Hon'ble Pro Vice Chancellor-cum-
Dean and Chairman
Faculty of Laws, H.P.U. Shimla

Message

It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride that Department of Laws, H.P. University, Shimla is going to organise one day National Seminar on “ Human Rights of Children : Emerging Issues and Concerns” on 12th March,2025 at H.P. University Auditorium and coming out with seminar souvenir to commemorate the occasion.

Children's rights are an integral part of human rights, and safeguarding these rights is essential for the holistic development of any society. India has developed its own jurisprudence concerning children and the recognition of their rights which are evident through various legislations, schemes and policies. But unfortunately despite having laws, policies and schemes millions of children face many challenges that threaten their safety, well-being, and development. The issue of child rights in India is a complex and multi-faceted one. It is one of the most pressing issues that the country faces and it is essential that all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and families, come together to ensure that the rights of all children in India are respected and protected. I personally believe that practical measures such as strengthening laws and policies, improving access to education and healthcare, enforcing strict regulations, and promoting child-friendly justice systems and awareness can play a crucial role in preventing the violation of child rights.

I would like to congratulate Seminar Coordinator, Convenor as well the entire Committee members for such a good initiative. I hope that this seminar will provide a healthy platform for all the participants including research scholars, academicians, lawyers, civil society members etc. to deliberate upon emerging issues and concerns. While extending heartfelt greetings to the organisers and participants, I pray for the great success of the event.

My good wishes for the success of the event

Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Verma



HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University)
SUMMER HILL, SHIMLA-171005

Prof. (Dr.) Lalit Dadwal

(Seminar Coordinator)

Dr. Sasha Chauhan Kanwar

(Seminar Convenor)

Message

Every child is a unique thread, woven into the fabric of society with equal significance regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or religious affiliation. As agents of a collective future, children inherently possess the right to live, the right to protection, the right to development, and to actively participate in shaping the world around them, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Indeed, childhood is the most precious gift bestowed upon humanity, representing an important and formative stage that holds the promise of a brighter tomorrow for any society. However, in the Indian context, the sanctity of childhood faces a daunting challenge. The surge in crimes against children, marked by instances of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, paints a grim future for childhood in our otherwise developed country.

Children in India deal with a variety of problems, such as child labour, child marriage, child abuse, child trafficking, starvation, access to school, and a lack of essential amenities including healthcare and basic services. Poverty, cultural norms, lack of awareness, poor implementation of laws, limited access to services are only a few of the causes of these problems. The issue of child rights in India is a complex and multi-faceted one. It is one of the most pressing issues that the country faces and it is essential that all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and families, come together to ensure that the rights of all children in India are respected and protected.

In organizing this one day National Seminar on “Human Rights of Children : Emerging Issues and Concerns”, we received guidelines and exuberant cooperation from Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Verma, Hon’ble Pro Vice Chancellor, H.P.U. cum Dean and Chairman, Department of Laws, H.P.U., Shimla and Prof. (Dr.) Joginder Dhiman, Dean Planning and Teacher Matters, H.P.U., Shimla.

We are considering this seminar as a platform to initiate a Right discourse, expecting thought provoking, multidisciplinary, quality research papers. We look forward to make this endeavor very meaningful and successful.

With Best Wishes

Prof. (Dr.) Lalit Dadwal

Dr. Sasha Chauhan Kanwar

ABOUT HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

Himachal Pradesh University was established by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh on 22nd July, 1970 as a response to the needs and aspirations of the Union Territory, poised for full statehood in the Union of India on 25th January, 1971. It is the first multi-faculty residential and affiliating university in the State that provides higher education to urban, rural and tribal areas through formal and distant modes. The headquarters of the University is located at Summer Hill, the picturesque suburb of Shimla. The University has a total area of 241.11 bighas with stately buildings set among rhododendron, silver oak, pine and deodar trees. It affords a salubrious climate and congenial atmosphere for reflection, study and research. The prime objective of the University is to disseminate knowledge, advance learning and understanding through research, training and extension programmes. It instills in its students and teachers a conscious awareness regarding the social and economic needs, cultural ethos, and future requirements of the state and the country. Himachal Pradesh University is a multi-faculty and affiliating University. It stands for knowledge, learning, progress, humanity, tolerance, intellect, morality, determination, thought, and discernment. It is a grade 'A' accredited university by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. It enjoys the National and International repute.



ABOUT FACULTY OF LAW

The Department of Laws came into existence in 1970 when the University was established. Initially it was housed in D.A.V. School, Middle Bazar, Shimla. Later it was shifted to Avalodge, Chaura Maidan where it remained functional for some years. The Department was relocated in the University campus in 1984 and finally shifted to its own building in 1993. Since its inception the department has been actively engaged in imparting legal education, training and legal research benefiting to the students desirous of pursuing their career in law. The Department has a distinction of producing best Professionals, Statesmen and officers rendering useful service to the Nation. Its Alumni include Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, Union Cabinet Ministers, State Cabinet Ministers, Senior Bureaucrats, Police Officers, officers of subordinate Judiciary, Law officers, Civil Servants and members of the legal Profession. Law graduates from this Department are serving all over the country in the District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court.



ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Children are the nation's most important asset and future resource of manpower for the development of the country. They constitute the core of human society. It is their development, which sustains the society. Their development with dignity is a matter of great concern throughout the world. The younger the children, the more vulnerable they are physically and psychologically and the less they are able to fend for themselves. On account of their weakness, vulnerability and dependence; they are being exploited, ill-treated and forced into undesirable paths by anti-social elements. India has a substantial number of schemes and legislations designed specifically for the promotion and protection of child rights. However, despite such schemes and legislations, there seem to be inadequacies in implementation, as a result of which, a large number of children often fail to access the benefits and continue to stay without any rights.

The very unfortunate part is that even after 77 years of independence, we fail to provide a fulfilling childhood to all children and a substantial number of children in India continue to stay outside the realm of development. It is universally recognised that children have rights that are inalienable and indivisible. The United Nations through its Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - adopted in 1989, affirmed an expansive set of rights for children. It is this human rights treaty, ratified by 192 nations that explicitly recognized children as holders of rights. India too is a signatory to the UNCRC and upholds child rights through various State and national legislations. India is one of the countries who give utmost importance to the rights of child. However, despite having innumerable legislations, Programmes, Policies and schemes the situation is grim. Given the gravity of the situation, it is essential that the government, civil society, and other stakeholders work together to address child rights issues in India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

Though there are various legislations, Schemes and programmes, the ambit of protection available to a child in India is still debatable. Since India is a country where the number of underprivileged children is very high it is necessary to identify the scope of existing legislations for the protection of rights of children. It is in this context, Department of Laws, H.P. University, Shimla wish to organize National Seminar on Human Rights of Children. This one-day seminar is dedicated to explore the current state of rights of the child and prospects for the future. Some of the key objectives of the seminar are:

1. To provide a platform for sharing knowledge, research, and best practices related to child rights; to raise awareness of the importance of child rights and the challenges facing children globally and nationally ; to promote collaboration and networking among stakeholders working on child rights, and to identify strategies and recommendations for advancing child rights.
2. To provide a platform for stakeholders like organizations working at the national and international level, legislatures, civil societies, researchers, practitioners, academicians, activists, and policymakers to deliberate and discuss the emerging issues and concerns on human rights of children.

Sub Themes

Child Rights - International, Regional and National Framework

Child Rights and Criminal Justice Administration

Child Rights and Role of Judiciary

Social and Cultural Issues Affecting Children

Children with Special Needs

Child Protection Laws and Role of NHRC, NCPCR and other Agencies

Child Rights and Cyber Space

Child Rights and Sexual Abuse

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Strategies under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

Child Rights and Personal Laws

Child Rights and Assisted Human Reproductive Technologies

Child Rights and Human Trafficking

Child Labour and Exploitation

Effectiveness of Legal Remedies and Enforcement Mechanisms in Protecting Children's Rights.

Children's Participation and Empowerment

Health, Education and Nutritional Rights for the Children

Role of NGOs towards Promotion and Protection of Child Rights

Rights of Children in Armed Conflict

Above mentioned topics are not exhaustive, but other topics can also be accommodated if it's in line with Human Rights of Children.

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Prof. (Dr.) S.P. Bansal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

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LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR RIGHTS UNDER PERSONAL LAWS IN INDIA

Prof. (Dr.) P.B. Pankaja, Professor, Faculty of Law, Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute, Chennai. Former Professor, Law Centre 1, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, Delhi

Dr. A. Aswini, Assistant Professor, Dr. Ambedkar Global Law Institute, Affiliated to Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

ABSTRACT

It is an international obligation of world nations to recognise that every child is entitled to right to life, protection, development and participation, to take steps to protect these inalienable rights and to prevent abuse, exploitation, deprivation and discrimination. The idea is that all children have these rights, no matter who they are, what their religion is, who their parents are and what their parents' choice are and no child should be treated unfairly for any reason whatsoever and are not to be discriminated against in getting protection of their rights legally. Being so, personal laws distinguish children on the basis of the validity of marriage of their parents and determine their rights in the property, maintenance, custody and guardianship accordingly. The laws, uncodified and even codified, draw a line of legitimacy between children born to same parents and bestow differential treatment. The social branding of illegitimacy being legally acknowledged in national laws calls for a critical assessment of nation's commitment to international obligation. Now a days, new voices are coming out to address this concern and judicial voice is very prominent. The discussion gains greater significance in the light of contemporary changes in relationship patterns and how the adults' freedom of choice to live as they wish impact the children's rights within the family structure.

This paper is an attempt to make a critical analysis of the over-all legal status of children within the family law sphere and their right to property, maintenance, adoption, care and custody. It also brings out how these rights are being interpreted by the judiciary in different contexts. It calls for a judicious deliberation on the children's legitimacy related issues and as to whether the tag of illegitimacy should continue to remain in the enjoyment of rights by innocent children.

Keywords: legal status, legal rights, legitimacy, illegitimacy, relationship patterns, inheritance, care and custody, and judicial progressivism.

CHILD RIGHTS IN INDIA: UNDERSTANDING CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Sanjeev K. Bragta, Associate Professor, Political Science, HPU, Department of Evening Studies, The Mall-Shimla-171001

ABSTRACT

Child rights in India have attained greater ascendancy in the present century with a focus on theoretical perspectives, emerging issues, and challenges in policy framework. Whereas, Child rights are deeply embedded in the philosophy of India, since the ancient Vedic era. The equal rights to men, women and children were given, bears testament in the ancient Veda's, Upanishads and the arthashashtras. However, it was in the twentieth century that children rights evolved and emerged on the forefront of policy makers and law-making body. The issue of children rights is many-sided and concerns for the right of children are universal but the strategies to protect them varies from state to state across the globe.

The exercise for rights of child has experienced substantial changes during in the last century. Though, the main objectives of policy formulation and laws in India is to protect child rights and equal treatment for their welfare depends on the specific implementation of rights and values deeply rooted in the society. Henceforth, a critical inquiry is important for the protection of child welfare by the state to make substantial change in the existing structure through understanding and knowledge on protection of child rights.

It is against this wider framework, the present study put forth and argues the evolution and understanding of child rights and their protection in India. The main purpose of the study will be discussing theoretical perspective of child rights in India with certain roadblocks that marginalise child issue in India and to evaluate the issues and challenges that emanates from government and civil society action for children in India.

Keywords: Child rights, Civil Society, Laws, Protection of Rights, Government

WAR CRIMES: A SEVERE VIOLATION ON THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Dr. Joginder Singh Saklani, Associate Professor, Political Science ICDEOL HPU Shimla

ABSTRACT

Violence against children represents a significant global concern, recognized universally as a breach of their rights in various contexts, including interpersonal, community, societal, and international environments. This issue encompasses both physical and psychological harm directed at children or their guardians. Armed conflict is particularly notable as a primary factor in the violation of children's fundamental human rights. Children in war-torn regions endure traumatic events, such as the loss of family members, disruption of social networks, forced displacement, and the deprivation of basic necessities. The acute lack of essential resources and opportunities, combined with the pressures of conflict, poses a serious risk to the emotional and cognitive growth of children, heightening the likelihood of physical and mental health issues, disabilities, social challenges, and repercussions that may affect future generations. This article seeks to highlight this pressing issue and calls for the establishment of relevant academic and post-academic educational programs and training initiatives.

Keywords: War, Crimes. Violation, Infringement

ORPHANED CHILDREN AND ROLE OF CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Kusum Chauhan, Associate Professor, H.P. University Institute of Legal Studies,
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ABSTRACT

Children are of paramount importance in our global community as they represent hope for a better future. It is of utmost importance that their well-being and rights be safeguarded and upheld. Orphans in particular are vulnerable members of society who require special attention and protection. A comprehensive legal framework that fortifies their rights is necessary to

ensure their holistic development and security. An orphan child is a human being first and then anything else. In India, orphans are provided with various legal protections aimed at ensuring their well-being, education, and overall care, especially in the absence of their biological parents. These protections are enshrined under Constitution of India and several national laws, government policies, and child welfare schemes that focus on safeguarding the rights of orphans and vulnerable children.

Though the orphans enjoy most rights enjoyed by any other child in India and also are protected from exploitation and discrimination by various statutes, the situation of orphans remains pitiable. The Juvenile Justice Act and The Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960 contain provisions relating to care and safe environment in the CCIs, but the administrative failures, lack of monitoring by State, the Ministry of Women and Child Development and fewer stakeholders leads to inhumane conditions prevailing in CCIs where guidelines and provisions being overlooked in day-to-day operations. Hence the hour requires strict checks and balances to oversee the working of these CCIs and ensure the rights of orphaned children are not compromised. The absence of meaningful discussions about their well-being makes safeguarding their rights even more challenging. Certainly, without a discourse centered on their needs and requests, the endeavor to shield orphaned children from harm remains an uphill battle. Only through proactive engagement and advocacy can we pave the way for a more equitable and secure future for these precious lives, ensuring that their rights are recognized and protected.

Keywords: Orphaned Children. Child Care Institutions. Rights

TECHNOLOGY, E-COMMERCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Dr. Manoj Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

ABSTRACT

The rapid growth of technology and e-commerce has transformed global trade, consumer behavior, and business operations, but it also raises critical human rights concerns. This paper explores the intersection of technology, e-commerce, and human rights, focusing on issues

such as digital privacy, data security, labor rights, and ethical AI usage. With the increasing collection of personal data by e-commerce platforms, concerns over data protection and consumer privacy have intensified. Additionally, the rise of automation and artificial intelligence has reshaped labor markets, potentially leading to job displacement. Furthermore, ethical concerns arise regarding algorithmic biases and discriminatory practices in digital commerce. While technological advancements provide opportunities for economic inclusion, bridging the digital divide remains a significant challenge, as marginalized communities often lack access to the benefits of e-commerce. This study highlights the role of regulatory frameworks, corporate responsibility and international policies in ensuring that technological progress aligns with human rights principles. Addressing these challenges requires a balanced approach that fosters innovation, while safeguarding fundamental rights in the digital economy.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

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ABSTRACT

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, with children being among the most vulnerable victims. Trafficked children are subjected to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse, depriving them of their fundamental rights to safety, education, and a dignified life.

Legal representation of child trafficking victims presents unique ethical challenges that require a careful balance between legal obligations and the best interests of the child. Victims of child trafficking often suffer severe trauma, making their legal needs complex and requiring a compassionate, rights-based approach. Ethical considerations in such cases involve ensuring confidentiality, obtaining informed consent, prioritizing the child's best interests, and avoiding further victimization during legal proceedings.

One of the foremost ethical concerns is informed consent. Given their age and psychological state, child victims may struggle to understand legal procedures. Lawyers must communicate

in an age-appropriate manner, ensuring that children fully comprehend their rights, the legal process, and the potential consequences of their decisions.

Confidentiality and privacy are also crucial. Revealing a child's identity or sensitive case details can expose them to stigma, retaliation, or further harm. Legal professionals must safeguard the child's information while ensuring transparency in legal proceedings.

Another key ethical principle is **non-revictimization**. Courtroom procedures can be intimidating and retraumatizing for child victims. Lawyers must advocate for child-friendly legal processes, including specialized interview techniques, closed hearings, and the use of trauma-informed practices to reduce stress.

Best interest advocacy is central to legal representation. Lawyers must act as both legal advocates and protectors, ensuring that the child's welfare remains the primary concern. This includes seeking safe shelter, psychological support, and long-term rehabilitation alongside legal remedies.

In conclusion, ethical representation of child trafficking victims requires a multidimensional approach that respects their rights, minimizes harm, and promotes justice. By adhering to ethical guidelines and child-centered legal practices, legal professionals can play a vital role in protecting and empowering trafficking survivors.

ANTI-RAGGING LAWS IN INDIA: THE URGENT NEED TO REASSESS IMPLEMENTATION IN SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

Ragging, a persistent issue in Indian educational institutions, has long-lasting psychological, emotional, and social impacts on students. To combat this menace, India introduced anti-ragging laws and guidelines, supported by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Supreme Court's directives. While these measures aim to create a safe and inclusive learning environment, their implementation, particularly in schools, remains inconsistent and inadequate, necessitating a comprehensive reassessment.

This paper critically examines the anti-ragging framework in India, focusing on its implementation challenges in schools. Despite the legal provisions and institutional guidelines, ragging incidents continue to surface, highlighting gaps in enforcement and oversight. The study identifies key issues such as lack of awareness among stakeholders, token compliance by educational institutions, fear of retaliation among victims, and inadequate grievance redressal mechanisms. Moreover, the absence of robust mental health support for victims and insufficient training for faculty and staff further exacerbate the problem.

Keywords: *Anti Ragging laws, bullying in school, student mental health, education policy,*

EXAMINING THE VIOLATIONS OF CHILD RIGHTS, TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION

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ABSTRACT

Children born to prostitutes live on the margins of legal and social legitimacy, subject to systemic exploitation, institutional abandonment, and heightened risk of trafficking. This research paper critically analyzes the nexus of child rights and human trafficking in the context of such marginalized children, identifying the legal, socio-economic, and psychological obstacles they face. In spite of strong global instruments like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and national laws like the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, enforcement loopholes continue to render them vulnerable. The research investigates the exploitative cycle in which these children are deprived of their fundamental rights of education, health, and legal identity, which exposes them to forced labor, sexual slavery, and organized trafficking rings. Using a doctrinal approach, the paper examines flagship cases, human rights reports, and legislative inefficiencies and suggests policy reforms to end this cycle. Through examining state accountability, rehabilitation schemes, and the impact of social stigma, this study underscores the imperative of victim-centricity in policy-making. The results seek to add to the debate on child protection, calling

on legal and social institutions to acknowledge and strengthen the rights of this invisible population.

Keywords: Child Rights, Human Trafficking, Prostitutes' Children, Legal Protection, Social Stigma, Institutional Neglect.

CHILDREN AT WAR: LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND CHALLENGES IN ARMED CONFLICTS

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ABSTRACT

Armed conflicts disproportionately affect children, exposing them to violence, displacement, recruitment as child soldiers, and severe human rights violations. Despite international legal frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC), as well as the Geneva Conventions, the protection of children in war zones remains a significant challenge. This paper explores the legal protections available for children affected by armed conflicts and the gaps in their enforcement. It examines how international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law intersect to safeguard children from recruitment, sexual exploitation, and forced displacement. However, weak enforcement mechanisms, non-state armed groups, and political instability hinder the effectiveness of these legal protections. The research highlights the role of international courts, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), in prosecuting war crimes against children, while also addressing the need for stronger accountability measures. Additionally, the paper discusses the challenges of rehabilitating and reintegrating child soldiers into society, emphasizing the necessity of education, psychological support, and community engagement. Through case studies, it identifies best practices and policy recommendations to enhance the legal and institutional responses to the plight of children in conflict zones. Strengthening global cooperation and ensuring stricter compliance with

international laws are essential steps toward protecting the most vulnerable victims of war and securing their future.

Keywords: child soldiers, armed conflict, international humanitarian law, human rights, war crimes.

CHILD RIGHTS – ROLE OF JUDICIARY

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ABSTRACT

“The best way to protect the rights of children is to ensure that they have the opportunity to live in peace and dignity”. – **Malala Yousafzai**

Children are ideally considered as the centre of love and source of pleasure for parents and at the same time valuable asset of the nation. The welfare of the children leads to the healthy child and by that the foundation stone of the future development is laid. During the period of childhood, children should be protected and well looked after which help them to prosper in all spheres of human activities in future life. Because of their tender age and ignorance, they are vulnerable. It is the duty of the State to see that they are protected against exploitation and ensure their holistic development.

General Assembly has adopted United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child in 1989. This Convention is a mile stone in protection of child rights. The rights guaranteed under the convention can be categorized into : Right to Survival, Right to Protection, Right to Development, Right to Participation.

India is a signatory to this Convention and so it has incorporated the various provisions of the Convention in National Laws. Indian Constitution under Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy is protecting the child against exploitation and ensures development of child through free and compulsory education between 6-14 years.

Judiciary is also playing a vital role in protecting the child rights. Supreme Court has given monumental decisions in protecting the Child Rights. Welfare of the Child is the paramount consideration in decision making. Judiciary is taking Atavistic approach in protection of child rights.

Keywords: Child Rights, Protection, Convention, Judiciary

BEGGING IN THE AGE OF BOOKS AND TOYS: A LEGAL IMPERATIVE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

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ABSTRACT

One of the most serious social issues prevailing in the country nowadays is begging by children. When we go out somewhere with our family, we used to see lot of children begging on the road with feeble faces, mucky hair, barefooted and torn clothes. Sometimes, due to generosity and sometimes to get rid off them, we give some money to them. But did we ever think, why do they beg and what are the reasons behind it? Do they have any identity in our society? I would say it is not only about their identities but also about how they came in the world of begging and under what laws they be can prohibited and protected from this menace. In India, we have number of legislations for the welfare of children which contains various provisions to prevent begging by children but we do not have a conclusive legislation that's why most of the States in India have to adopt the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act,1959 as a derivative in the absence of any Central Act. Many States intended to ban and to criminalize begging. In present time, child begging is becoming a source of livelihood to many persons and also paves the way for increased number of cases of abduction, kidnapping and even maiming of children to push them into the so called industry of beggary. For the purpose of prohibiting such kind of activities, the government authorities along with some non-government organizations have taken various initiatives and launched a number of schemes and laws for the betterment of such under privileged children. This paper will

provide the comprehensive overview about the reasons, issues and challenges of child begging and it also talk about existing laws, schemes and suggestions to put a bar on such kind of activities in India.

Keywords: Child Begging, Laws, Criminalizing, Eradication.

LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AND PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE JJ ACT, 2015

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ABSTRACT

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, is a landmark legislation designed to safeguard the rights and well-being of children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection. This Act emphasizes a child-friendly approach, ensuring that legal processes align with the principles of justice, dignity, and reformation. Legal safeguards and procedural fairness enshrined in the Act, focusing on how they protect the best interests of children while maintaining accountability and due process. It explores the roles and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in providing a fair, compassionate, and effective justice mechanism.

The study analyzes key provisions related to legal representation, age determination, preliminary assessment, and the principle of non-discrimination. It also addresses the challenges faced in implementing these safeguards, including procedural delays, lack of specialized infrastructure, and gaps in coordination between various stakeholders.

Furthermore, it highlights the importance of psychosocial support, timely intervention, and comprehensive rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism and promoting reintegration into society.

Despite the progressive intent of the JJ Act, 2015, practical challenges often undermine its effectiveness. It calls for strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing training for legal

and welfare professionals, and fostering a more integrated approach to child protection. By addressing these issues, the juvenile justice system can better fulfill its mandate of balancing reformatory justice with procedural fairness, ensuring that every child's rights and future are safeguarded.

Keywords: Juvenile Justice, Procedural Fairness, Child Protection, Legal Safeguards, JJ Act 2015

MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Often we are told children are the custodians of the future, the future belongs to them, they are the caretakers and also the Nation builders etc. What we leave behind for them however the onus of that lies with us. Since the digital boom we, the adults, have been grappling with coming to terms with the fast moving and evolving "world", assuming that for the children it's easy because they are born in to Or used to the advanced technological setup.

The advent of Covid-19, not only changed our lives and lifestyles but also that of the children around us. From online classes, lack of outdoor access, play and playmates to an increased use of multimedia- be it used of television, Smart phones, lap tops, tablets and other gadgets, they escaped into the digital world. We the adults, have Now with end COVID-19 for the better part, in spite of all the short comings we encountered, moved on or with these help of some professional are still trying to move on and face the "New world order". In all this movement and hustle-bustle, what about the children? Have we even stopped to look at their standing in all of this? Where are they? Comfortable with the changes. Living with the constant company of snide remarks from all, yes all, people around them regarding their over use of the digital blessing they were born with. They are told how it was in the olden days, when people were always out and playing and meeting others and what not.

Having said all this to a child have we stopped to consider the hit on the psyche of the children? Have we stopped to consider this impact on the Mental health of the "future torch

bearers”. There seems to be an apathy in children now-Is it an indicator towards their lack of interest in us and our world. Is it the escape mechanism in them which is blurring lines between reality and make belief (a.k.a digital world).Is it an indicator for us to see mental health issues for them and if it is what do we plan to do about it?

Core words: Mental-health, Children, Digitisation, Apathy

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN UNDER INDIAN CONSTITUTION

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we are going to discuss about the rights of the children under the constitution of India. We are going to discuss about many sub topics under this theme. First of all we will discuss about the childrens or in other words about the minors. And then we will come to know about the meaning of the minors rights under the Indian Constitution. The constitution of India for the welfare of children protects and promotes many rights under the Indian Constitution. These rights ensure the dignity and safeguard of a children life. And these rights are necessary for the growth and survival of the childrens. By way of these rights children can be protected from the danger and also help them to develop their identity in this world. The main aim or in other words we can say that objective of these rights is to provide a healthy and safe environment and surrounding to develop their identity in this world. In simple words, we can say that to protect and promote the well being of the children and for enhancing the overall development of the children these rights are made. And also we are going to discuss about the commissions, NGOs and others policies of the government made for the welfare of the children. So, this means that the overview crucks is that we are going to discuss about the overall rights of the children in India.

Keywords: Children Rights, Child Welfare, Fundamental Rights, Child and Law.

THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWS IN PROTECTION OF TRANSGENDER CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Transgender children in India continue to face discrimination and exclusion across various spheres of life, including education, healthcare, family environments, and public spaces. Despite notable legal advancements, such as the landmark *Nalsa v. Union of India* judgment in 2014 and the enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, there remain critical gaps in the implementation and enforcement of these laws. This research paper examines the role of human rights laws in protecting the rights of transgender children in India, evaluating both the existing legal frameworks and their practical effectiveness. The study investigates how the Supreme Court's recognition of transgender identities has shaped policy formulation and influenced societal attitudes. It provides a detailed analysis of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, focusing on its key provisions, such as the right to self-identification and protection against discrimination. However, the paper also highlights the Act's limitations, including the absence of explicit mechanisms for gender-affirming healthcare, the

lack of clear guidelines for inclusive education, and inadequate child-specific protections. These reforms should include gender-sensitization training for educators and healthcare professionals, the establishment of accessible grievance redressal mechanisms, and the creation of community support networks. This paper underscores the urgent need for a holistic approach that combines legal reform with societal transformation. Strengthening the human rights legal framework and fostering inclusive practices are vital steps toward ensuring that transgender children in India can lead lives of dignity, free from discrimination and violence. By aligning its domestic laws with international human rights obligations, India can move closer to realizing the promise of equality and justice for all children, regardless of their gender identity.

Keywords: Transgender, Human Rights, Discrimination, Laws etc.

EDUCATION OF TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND EXPLORING SOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION

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ABSTRACT

The education of transgender individuals is a significant yet often overlooked issue in the quest for educational equality and inclusion. This research paper delves into the status of transgender individuals in India, with a specific focus on their right to education and the challenges they face in accessing quality education.

The paper begins by examining the legal framework governing the education of transgender individuals, including the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, assessing their impact on transgender inclusion in schools. It explores the social and structural barriers that transgender students face and highlights the psychological and emotional toll these challenges take on transgender students.

Further, the research explores the current educational status of transgender individuals, focusing on their access to schools, colleges, and vocational training. It also investigates how transgender people are marginalized in educational spaces and the practical difficulties they encounter in enrolling, participating, and succeeding in educational institutions. The paper also investigates the role of various stakeholders—educational institutions, teachers, policymakers, and civil society organizations—in creating a supportive and safe learning atmosphere. It examines best practices, that promote a more inclusive education system.

In addition to identifying the problems transgender individuals face, the paper proposes solutions and strategies to enhance their educational inclusion. By offering a comprehensive overview of transgender education, this paper aims to provide actionable recommendations to ensure equal educational opportunities for transgender individuals in India.

Keywords: Education, Transgender, Human Right, Inclusion,

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED MOTHERS: A LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND WELFARE UNDER INDIAN LAW

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ABSTRACT

The incarceration of mothers has profound consequences for their children, affecting their emotional, social, and legal well-being. In India, children living in prisons with their incarcerated mothers face numerous challenges, including inadequate healthcare, lack of educational opportunities, and social stigma. The absence of a well-defined legal framework further exacerbates their vulnerability. This study aims to analyse the legal rights and welfare provisions available to such children under Indian law, examining existing statutes, judicial precedents, and policy measures. The research adopts a doctrinal methodology, focusing on legal analysis of statutes, case laws, and policy documents. It will assess key Indian laws such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Prisons Act, 1894, and the Model Prison Manual, 2016, which outline provisions for children residing in prisons. Additionally, constitutional protections under Articles 21, 39, and 45 will be examined to determine the extent of state responsibility in ensuring child welfare. Judicial decisions by the Supreme Court and High Courts will be analysed to assess how courts have interpreted and enforced these rights. This study aims to identify deficiencies in existing laws and policies to recommend legislative and administrative reforms. By highlighting the gaps in legal protection and implementation, the research will contribute to the discourse on child rights and criminal justice, advocating for a legal system that prioritizes the well-being of children of incarcerated mothers. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the urgency of immediate policy overhaul and collaboration among government bodies, civil society, and international organizations to secure a just and supportive future for these children.

Keywords: Children of incarcerated mothers, Prison laws in India, Juvenile Justice Act and Human rights.

CHILD RIGHTS AND LEGAL SAFEGUARDS: THE FUNCTION AND IMPORTANCE OF SPECIAL COURTS

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ABSTRACT

The protection of children's rights is a cornerstone of modern legal systems, emphasizing the need for specialized mechanisms to safeguard vulnerable young individuals. "Child Rights and Legal Safeguards: The Function and Importance of Special Courts" explores the critical role that special courts play in upholding child rights, addressing the gaps and challenges faced by traditional legal frameworks. These courts, designed to handle cases involving minors, provide a focused approach to issues such as child abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and neglect. This paper delves into the legal safeguards available to children, with an emphasis on the legislation and judicial procedures that prioritize their well-being, ensuring that justice is both swift and child-sensitive.

The research examines the structure and operational processes of special courts, highlighting their capacity to create environments conducive to fair hearings and protection of children's dignity. Special courts also facilitate the training of judges and court personnel, equipping them with the necessary tools to address the unique needs of children involved in legal proceedings. Furthermore, the paper investigates the challenges these courts face, such as inadequate resources, slow processing times, and societal barriers that undermine the full realization of child rights.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that special courts are essential in strengthening child protection systems, advocating for reforms to enhance their effectiveness. The findings emphasize the importance of continued legal innovation, resource allocation, and international cooperation to ensure that children's rights are consistently protected in the face of emerging challenges.

Keywords: Child Rights, Special Courts, Legal Safeguards, Child Protection.

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK, VIOLATIONS AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the international human rights framework addressing the plight of children in armed conflict, examining the violations they face and the mechanisms in place for their protection. Despite international legal frameworks, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UN resolutions, millions of children still face severe human rights violations in conflict zones. This research identifies six major abuses against children in armed conflicts: recruitment as soldiers, killing and maiming, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction, and denial of humanitarian aid, highlighting the urgent need for intervention. By analyzing monitoring mechanisms, accountability frameworks, and implementation challenges, the paper highlights significant discrepancies between established standards and actual conditions on the ground. The research assesses the intricate interactions of political, social, and economic elements that weaken the protection of children's rights in conflicted areas.

The study examines best practices in rights-based approaches for preventing, protecting, and recovering from violations, emphasizing the significance of child participation and localized protection strategies. It concludes that although considerable progress has been achieved in creating international legal frameworks, significant challenges persist in enforcement, accountability, and addressing the root causes. The recommendations highlight the need to strengthen implementation mechanisms, improve coordination among entities involved in child protection, and integrate children's rights into peace and security agendas to ensure effective protection for the most vulnerable victims of armed conflict.

Keywords: Children's rights, armed conflict, international humanitarian law, human rights

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND REHABILITATION STRATEGIES UNDER THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015

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ABSTRACT

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, commonly known as the JJ Act is a cardinal legislative framework in India designed to preserve the rights and welfare of the children. It mainly addresses two categories: children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection. The Act was initially enacted in 1986 and was later revised in 2000 and 2015 to align with emerging societal needs and international standards such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). One of the Act's key features is its child-friendly approach, emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment. It establishes Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) to handle juvenile cases separately from the adult criminal justice system. The 2015 amendment introduced a controversial provision allowing children aged 16 to 18 accused of heinous offences to be tried as adults, sparking debates on juvenile culpability versus the need for rehabilitation. The Juvenile Justice Act also lays down comprehensive guidelines for adoption, foster care, and childcare institutions while addressing issues like child abuse, trafficking, and neglect. Despite its progressive framework, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained personnel, and delays in case disposal hinder its effective implementation. In conclusion, while the Juvenile Justice Act is a remarkable step toward child welfare and justice, its victory depends on proper execution, continuous reforms, and enhanced institutional support. Strengthening judicial mechanisms and increasing awareness are essential for achieving the Act's goals, ensuring justice and rehabilitation for all children in need.

Keywords: Juvenile Justice, child welfare, heinous crime.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN IN POLYANDROUS MARRIAGES: CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Marriages as an institution is present everywhere. Polyandry is a form of marriage in which one woman is married to several men. It is a practiced custom in different parts of the world. Fraternal polyandry or Adelpic polyandry is a form of marriage in which a woman is married to two or more brothers. It is practiced in the Kinnaura tribe of Himachal Pradesh, Jaunsar Bawar tribe of Uttar Pradesh, Toda of Southern India, Nayars of Kerala etc. In a polyandrous family, the wife and the children belong to the brothers jointly. The situation of children in polyandrous marriage is quite contrary; having more than one father often complicates the family dynamics and affects the social and psychological well being of children. Legal issues such as Inheritance, Custody, and Parental rights could be complex. This paper will examine how polyandrous marriages might affect children, emphasizing their rights, social standing, and potential challenges they may encounter. It will also focus on the concept, instances, Human rights of children and various social implications regarding the practice of polyandry and examine whether international human rights organizations have taken a stance on polyandry, especially regarding the treatment of children.

Keywords: Marriage; Polyandry; Children; Human Rights of Children.

BEYOND PHYSICAL HEALTH: PRIORITIZING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The child's Right to Development, in our dynamic world, demands a holistic perspective, extending beyond physical health to encompass the crucial domains of mental, emotional, and social well-being. While historically, physical health received primary focus, a paradigm

shift acknowledges mental health as fundamental to a child's capacity for learning, relationship building, and resilience. This article explores the intricate link between mental health and overall development, examining the impact of socio-economic factors like poverty, violence, trauma, and social isolation. It advocates for a comprehensive approach within child development programs and policies, emphasizing early intervention, education, accessible services, and robust policy advocacy. Addressing stigma and resource limitations is paramount. Recognizing the pivotal role of families and communities, the article proposes multi-faceted strategies to foster supportive environments that nurture mental well-being, enabling children to achieve their full potential. Prioritizing mental health is not merely a moral obligation but a pragmatic necessity for building a healthier and more equitable future for all children.

Keywords: Mental health, Child's Right to Development, Socio-economic factors, Holistic Growth, Resilience.

PROTECTING THE INNOCENT: COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING THROUGH LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

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ABSTRACT

Child rights and human trafficking are pressing global issues that undermine human dignity and justice. This paper examines the factors contributing to child trafficking, the legal frameworks designed to combat it, and the challenges in enforcement. Despite international agreements like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Palermo Protocol, trafficking persists due to poverty, conflict, lack of education, and weak law enforcement. Many children are subjected to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse, highlighting gaps in protective mechanisms. The study assesses the effectiveness of existing policies and the role of government and non-governmental organizations in preventing trafficking, rescuing victims, and supporting rehabilitation. It emphasizes the need for a multi-faceted approach, including legal reforms, stricter penalties for traffickers, and enhanced victim support systems. Strengthening institutional responses,

fostering international cooperation, and promoting community awareness are crucial to safeguarding children's rights. This research contributes to policy discussions by recommending strategies to improve prevention, enforcement, and recovery efforts. A collective global response is essential to eliminating child trafficking and ensuring a safer future for vulnerable children.

Keywords: Child Rights, Human Trafficking, Exploitation, Legal Frameworks, Rehabilitation, Policy Recommendations

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND REHABILITATION: ARE WE PROTECTING OR PUNISHING?

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ABSTRACT

The juvenile justice system in India aims to balance rehabilitation and deterrence, yet concerns persist regarding whether it sufficiently protects young offenders or leans toward punitive measures. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) introduced key reforms, including the controversial provision allowing juveniles aged 16-18 to be tried as adults for heinous crimes. Section 3 of the JJ Act outlines essential principles, including the presumption of innocence until the age of 18. However, the 2015 amendment appears to infringe upon this principle by permitting adult trials in certain cases. Additionally, the lack of clear guidelines for mental assessment creates ambiguity in determining a child's culpability, leading to inconsistencies in implementation. Research in child psychology suggests that adolescent brains are still developing, making them more impulsive and less capable of long-term decision-making (Steinberg, 2013). This scientific understanding underscores the need for a rehabilitative approach rather than punitive measures, as harsh sentencing may lead to greater criminal tendencies rather than reform. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mandates that juvenile justice systems should focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution, reinforcing the importance of restorative justice models. Rehabilitation ensures that young offenders are guided back into society rather than stigmatized by criminalization. International obligations and rehabilitation models suggest a necessary shift toward restorative justice and alternative

sentencing. The introduction of community service provisions in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 presents an opportunity for non-custodial measures that align with global best practices. This study highlights the urgent need for a child-centric justice system that prioritizes reformation over retribution, ensuring a structured reintegration process for juveniles in conflict with law.

Keywords: Juvenile Justice; Rehabilitation; Restorative Justice; Child Rights; Juvenile Delinquency

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING: EMPOWERING CHILDREN AS PROTECTORS OF THEIR OWN RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

The means of child trafficking which includes the employment and exploitation of children for trade and sexual activities is still a global phenomenon today. Ensuring these children do not fall prey to these malice human activities is extremely challenging, but education can significantly reduce the risk through imparting knowledge and skills that empower a child to combat the risks of human trafficking. This article seeks to analyse the need for education as a vital ingredient to equip children with skills to help them in self-advocacy to ensure their rights and welfare. By exposing children to human trafficking and its associated risk factors, as well as the methods that can be employed to curb it, children can be made intelligent enough to get out of risky situations and proactively defend themselves. Moreover, schooling enables children to build resilience and self-esteem, leading to a lower susceptibility to human trafficking. The families, teachers, and members of the community have equal responsibility in creating a safe environment for children. This paper reviews the measures and achievements of particular educational programs developed all over the world, the challenges they face, and offers an appropriate Plan for the development of anti-trafficking education at all levels. Education provides the means to combat child trafficking globally by reaching out to both children and communities, creating a more informed and protected generation.

Keywords: child protection, education, human trafficking awareness, prevention

RIGHTS OF CHILD IN GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERIES

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ABSTRACT

Gender reassignment surgery on children is an invasion of rights enshrined in the constitution. This was the observation of the Kerala High Court while hearing a petition of the parents seeking permission for the gender reassignment surgery on their four-year daughter. Unlike adults, gender reassignment or gender affirming surgeries becomes a contentious issue in case of minors, the obvious reason of which is lack of consent. But the lack of consent or knowledge in case of children is not applied uniformly. For instance, in many countries including India children above the age of 7 can be held guilty of crimes for they are considered mature enough to have “mens rea”. As such, proponents of gender affirming surgeries argue denial of such surgeries amounts to denial of right of autonomy or choice to children. On the other end of the spectrum is the invasive nature of the treatment, primarily involving use of drugs that are collectively known as puberty blockers. Many of these drugs are also used for chemical castration of hardened sexual offenders. In many cases, the use of such drugs has a long lasting and irreversible effects. In this respect, Article 19 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child is noteworthy that mandates state parties to take appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation. There is no denying that gender identity is one of the key attributes of human expression, the denial of which significantly diminishes one’s confidence or physical worth. At the same time, there needs to be more research into the notions of children’s understanding of sex or gender identity without which the whole debate is fruitless.

Keywords: Gender affirming surgeries, Children, Puberty blockers, Gender identity

CHALLENGES FACED BY MISSING AND ORPHANED CHILDREN DURING ARMED CONFLICT: A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

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ABSTRACT

Children are among the most vulnerable sections during armed conflict. Many children unfortunately get orphaned and a number of them go missing. The violence that shapes their life leads to psychological trauma, and when coupled with deprivation of basic needs like food, shelter, education, and health care, further increases their exploitation. Furthermore, children are faced by numerous issues such as forced recruitment into the armed forces, displacement and various human rights abuses. Their lack of guardianship and legal identity exposes them to even greater risk of trafficking and abuse. Although certain international frameworks such as the Geneva Conventions and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) exist, they are not practically implemented due to the ongoing conflict, poor institutional framework, and limited humanitarian aid. This paper analyzes the multifaceted problems of children who go missing or orphaned in armed conflicts and the gaps in international laws and state obligations, as well as policy framework. It highlights the necessity for greater international collaboration, the need for strong, proactive laws, and comprehensive policies such as community-centered rehabilitation and restorative justice. It is crucial to resolve this issue to ensure the protection of human rights of children living in conflict areas.

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL RISKS ON CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the numerous challenges faced by children in India, which threaten their basic human rights in both traditional and modern contexts. Issues such as poverty, child labor, and lack of education continue to violate children's rights to protection, safety, and

development. Children living in poverty are deprived of essential resources such as proper nutrition, healthcare, and safe living conditions, hindering their overall development. Many children, particularly in rural areas, are forced into child labor, denying them their right to education and exposing them to hazardous work conditions that affect their health. Along with these persistent challenges, the rise of digital technology has introduced new risks, such as cyber bullying, online sexual exploitation, identity theft, and cyber stalking. The growing use of the internet and smart phones has made children more vulnerable to cyber crimes. The anonymity provided by the digital world allows criminals to target children more easily, causing psychological harm through cyber bullying or exposing them to online sexual abuse, including child pornography. These threats violate children's rights to privacy, security, and protection from harm. This paper emphasizes the urgent need for stronger legal frameworks, increased public awareness, and improved online safety measures to protect children's rights in both the physical and digital spaces, ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being.

Keywords: Children's rights, poverty, child protection, digital safety, online abuse.

REHABILITATION OVER RETRIBUTION: EVALUATING JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGIES UNDER THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT, 2015

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ABSTRACT

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, (JJ Act, 2015) marks a significant shift in India's approach to juvenile justice by prioritizing rehabilitation over punitive measures. This paper examines the Act's key provisions and their role in reforming children in conflict with the law through a child-centric, rehabilitative framework. The Act integrates various rehabilitation strategies, including individualized counselling, education, vocational training, mental health support, and community-based reintegration programs, ensuring a holistic development approach for juvenile offenders. Despite its progressive intent, the implementation of these rehabilitation measures faces challenges such as resource constraints, regional disparities, and social stigma, which hinder the effective reintegration of

juveniles into mainstream society. By analyzing case studies and implementation outcomes, this study evaluates the successes and gaps in the current system, emphasizing the need for a multi-stakeholder approach involving legal, social, and educational institutions.

To enhance the effectiveness of juvenile justice reforms, the study advocates for continuous policy evaluation, capacity building of stakeholders, and adaptive reforms that address emerging societal and psychological needs. By fostering an environment focused on rehabilitation rather than retribution, the Act not only upholds children's rights but also contributes to long-term societal well-being. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and child welfare advocates, reinforcing the importance of a compassionate, evidence-based approach to juvenile justice.

Keywords: Juvenile Justice Act, Child rights, Rehabilitation strategies, Restorative Justice.

CHILD RIGHTS AND CYBER SPACE: A CRITICAL STUDY OF LEGAL PROTECTION AND PRIVACY UNDER INDIAN LAW

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ABSTRACT

Children and adolescents are the future of any nation, and their safety, well-being, and development are shared responsibilities of families, society, and the government. The rapid growth of digital technology and the internet has transformed the way children learn, communicate, and explore the world. While digital platforms offer many benefits, such as better education and social connections, they also expose children to serious risks like cyberbullying, online grooming, identity theft, child pornography, and other forms of digital exploitation. Since children form a large part of internet users worldwide, ensuring their online safety, privacy, and protection has become an urgent global concern. International laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), emphasize the need to safeguard children's rights in the digital world. In India, laws such as the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

Act, 2012, aim to protect children from cyber threats. However, many challenges remain, such as the rise of new cybercrimes, difficulties in enforcing laws in the online space, and a lack of digital awareness among children and parents. This paper explores the relationship between children's rights and digital technology, focusing on how India's legal system addresses issues of child safety, privacy, and protection online. It examines existing laws, identifies gaps in policies, and discusses challenges in making the internet a safer place for children. The study also looks at global best practices and suggests ways to improve child protection in cyberspace while promoting responsible and safe digital use. The goal of this paper is to highlight the need for stronger laws, better implementation, and greater awareness to ensure children can benefit from digital advancements without compromising their safety and rights.

Keywords: Children's Digital Rights, Cyber Threats, Online Safety, UNCRC, Indian Cyber Laws, Child Protection, Digital Awareness, Internet Privacy.

CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION

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ABSTRACT

Child Rights and Child protection is an area that is often neglected as children are at times considered as lesser human beings in the society. Children are not given a chance to speak before adults and are expected to obey without question whatever the adults decide for them. There is also seemingly a lot of ignorance among the populace on various child rights and ways and means of protecting the children from various forms of abuse and neglect. To strongly agitate for child rights, one needs to be conversant with the historical evolution of the child rights to this moment. This paper therefore seeks to explore the historical evolution of child rights, various rights of children, various forms of child abuse and ways and means of preventing child abuse to ensure children have a holistic development.

Keywords: Child Rights, Child Protection

CHILD RIGHTS AND CYBER SPACE

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ABSTRACT

The world is progressively changing with technology improvements. Children are now able to obtain information, communicate and engage with the world in a completely different manner than before. While cyberspace provides an expanded scope for learning, creativity, and social engagement, it can also be harmful to a child's right of privacy, protection from cyber bullying, online exploitation, and even exposure to dangerous materials. Children, at the very least, have rights at an international level, particularly from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which outlines the priorities children have in the protection, participation, and provision spheres at the very least in digital environments. To that effect, governments, tech companies, educators, and parents have specific mandates to fulfill in order to ensure children have a safe, democratic, inclusive, and empowering online space. Some of the measures focuses towards younger audiences are combating attempts at cyberbullying, providing digital literacy education, enforcing stricter policies regarding parental guidance and cyber-security for children, boarding ethical AI policies, and working on supra-national legislations addressing cyber crimes against minors. The children's freedom to use the Internet must be no matter how great be guarded in a manner which gives comfort and protection to the child. This abstract outlines the difference between need for child protection in cyberspace and overprotection issues as well as problems which might result from misuse of technological devices.

CHILD RIGHT AND SEXUAL ABUSE

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ABSTRACT

Child sexual abuse is a major child rights violation that impacts millions globally. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child identifies the right of children to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse. The situation is, however, that 1 in 5 children are

sexually abused, resulting in emotional trauma, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Child sexual abuse contravenes the rights to protection, freedom from violence, and dignity. Prevention and intervention efforts involve education, enhancing child protection systems, and offering support services. Reporting suspected cases and prosecuting perpetrators are key. Prevention, protection, and support must be prioritized to ensure children's safety, well-being, and dignity. Action must be effectively taken to prevent this serious violation of child rights.

Keywords: Child Right, Protected, Violation, Sexually abused

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POCSO ACT IN COMBATING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: A STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE OF INTERNET REGULATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, was enacted in India to combat the increasing incidences of child sexual abuse. Though it has strong legal provisions for protection and rehabilitation of the victim, the Act has not yet fully operated because of such inadequacies as weak law enforcement, no victim support systems, and a lack of awareness among citizens. Further on, the increasing threat of online child sex abuse calls for increased control of the net to safeguard children against cyber abuse. The research points out that although the POCSO Act has been a milestone legislation, it has not yet been implemented very unevenly, especially in rural regions. Lack of awareness and sensitization among judicial officers and police officials is an impediment to the implementation of the Act. A study emphasizes the need for concerted efforts on the part of government departments, schools, and NGOs towards expeditious action and justice for child victims.

In the cyber world, research identifies cyber abuse, including exploitation and grooming, to be among the sectors with extreme issues the existing legal framework cannot handle. The

call for increased regulation of the internet and an integrated system of child protection is growing stronger.

Also, the absence of rehabilitation and counselling of the victims of psychological abuse under the POCSO Act is an issue that persists with limited resources and experts to assist in the process of recovery. Further empirical studies are also pointed out to be carried out in the effectiveness of the Act on ground and how it intersects with digital transformation. To ensure the strengthening of the enforcement of the POCSO Act, there must be a concerted effort with enhanced awareness, police training, regulation of the virtual space, and coordination of NGOs to provide a secure environment for children.

THE INTERSECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

Child rights are a fundamental subset of human rights, ensuring special protection and care for minors as outlined in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). These rights include access to education, healthcare, protection from abuse and exploitation, and freedom from discrimination. However, child trafficking remains a severe global crisis, violating these rights on an alarming scale. It is a form of modern slavery that subjects children to forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, child soldiering, and other forms of abuse. In 2020 alone, nearly 20,000 children were identified as trafficking victims worldwide, though the actual numbers are likely much higher due to underreporting. Over the past 15 years, the proportion of children among detected trafficking victims has tripled, with one in three victims being a child. The nature of exploitation varies by gender—girls are primarily trafficked for sexual exploitation, while boys are more often subjected to forced labor. Many trafficked children face severe psychological, physical, and emotional trauma, with limited access to justice and rehabilitation services.

Child trafficking is a grave human rights violation and a serious criminal offense, where consent is legally irrelevant, particularly when coercion, deception, or abuse of vulnerability

is involved. The crime thrives due to poverty, conflict, weak law enforcement, and high demand for exploitative labor and commercial sexual services. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive legal, policy, and enforcement framework, alongside international cooperation, stricter border controls, victim rehabilitation, and grassroots initiatives. This paper explores the legal dimensions of child trafficking, examines its global trends, and highlights effective strategies for combating this growing crisis while ensuring justice and protection for affected children.

Keywords: Child Rights, Human Trafficking, International Cooperation Juvenile Justice, Exploitation.

PROTECTING CHILDREN: LAWS AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

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ABSTRACT

Protecting children from the devastating impact of sexual abuse is a pressing global concern, and India has taken significant strides in addressing this issue through a robust legal framework. At the heart of this effort is the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012, a landmark legislation that shields individuals under 18 from sexual assault, harassment, exploitation, and child pornography. This gender-neutral law categorizes and imposes stringent penalties that escalate in severity for more heinous crimes, particularly when the victim is fewer than sixteen. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, emphasizing the rehabilitation and care of minors in conflict with the law. However, despite its noble objectives, instances of child sexual abuse have been reported in juvenile justice homes, highlighting the need for better implementation. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1987, targets commercial sexual exploitation, while the Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956, restricts the dissemination of material harmful to children.

In recent years, India has further strengthened its legal architecture with new statutes aimed at improving prevention and detection mechanisms, incorporating advanced digital forensic tools to address online and offline instances of child sexual abuse. These efforts prioritize

victim support by establishing comprehensive rehabilitation measures and ensuring that legal processes remain sensitive to the needs and well-being of child victims.

Despite these robust legal measures, challenges persist. Limited resources, cultural sensitivities, and inadequate coordination among enforcement agencies often impede effective implementation. Moreover, while mandatory reporting is essential for ensuring accountability, it has also raised concerns about potentially compromising the autonomy of minors and criminalizing consensual relationships among adolescents.

Keywords: Child Protection, Commercial Exploitation, POCSO, Juvenile Justice, Digital Forensics,

REDEFINING CHILDHOOD: CHILD RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF AL AND DIGITAL EVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

When in a world where child abuse still isn't resolved, we still hear those children's screams. Now the big question is—who is behind that mobile screen? This research paper explores how childhood is changing in the digital age, where artificial intelligence, social media, and online anonymity shape children's upbringing. With unrestricted access to digital platforms, many encounter content beyond their understanding, create fake profiles, and lose their innocence prematurely.

Gaming addiction is a major concern, with the World Health Organization classifying "gaming disorder" as a mental health issue in 2019. Research shows children between 8 and 17 spend 1.5 to 2 hours daily gaming, leading to anxiety, aggression, and depression. Similarly, cyberbullying is rising, with nearly 3,000 valid complaints reported in 2024, mostly involving children aged 12-134. Many also fall victim to online scams and unknowingly promote risky products.

The digital divide is widening, as fast internet determines learning opportunities. While AI revolutionizes education, slow government digital services hinder students. This paper raises critical questions—how do we define innocence in the digital world, protect children, and verify who is truly behind the screen?

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN DURING ARMED CONFLICT

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ABSTRACT

Armed conflicts have devastating effects on children exposing them to violence, exploitation, and grave human rights violations. This article examines the legal frameworks made to protect children in war zones, including international treaties such as the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Despite these legal protections, violations against children - such as recruitment as child soldiers, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, and attacks on schools and hospitals continue to increase. The United Nations (UN) has identified and documented these violations through mechanisms like the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) but challenges persist in ensuring compliance and accountability.

This study employs a doctrinal research methodology, analyzing international legal instruments, case studies, and statistical trends to assess the effectiveness of child protection measures. A comparative analysis of enforcement practices across jurisdictions highlights existing gaps in policy implementation and the urgent need for reform.

The key objectives of this research are to emphasize the prevalence of violations against children, advocate for stricter adherence to international legal norms and propose strategies to strengthen child protection mechanisms. The findings underscore the importance of engaging with state and non-state actors through Action Plans, enhancing monitoring and reporting systems, and improving legal and humanitarian responses to protect children in armed conflict. Despite progress in international advocacy, much work remains to be done. The

study concludes with recommendations for governments, humanitarian organizations, and international bodies to reinforce accountability measures, invest in rehabilitation programs, and promote policy initiatives that prioritize children's rights. Protecting children in armed conflict is a collective responsibility, and urgent global action is required to uphold their safety, dignity, and future.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN: EMERGING ISSUES AND CONCERNS

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ABSTRACT

The human rights of children are a crucial aspect of international human rights law, requiring continuous attention and action. Children represent one of the most vulnerable groups in society, facing numerous threats such as child labor, trafficking, abuse, and deprivation of education. This paper aims to analyze the emerging issues and concerns related to children's rights by examining historical developments, current legal frameworks, and challenges faced at both national and international levels. Special emphasis is given to the situation in India, assessing the effectiveness of existing child protection laws and policies. Additionally, this research explores significant case studies that highlight both the progress and persistent gaps in child rights enforcement worldwide. The study concludes by recommending policy reforms and collaborative strategies to enhance child protection mechanisms and ensure a safer future for children globally. The aim is to analyze the emerging issues and concerns related to children's rights, focusing on historical developments, legal frameworks, and challenges at both national (India) and international levels. The research also highlights significant case studies to assess progress and gaps in child rights enforcement. The goal is to provide policy recommendations and collaborative strategies to enhance child protection globally. Which covers various aspects of child rights, including historical evolution, legal provisions, major challenges like child labor and trafficking, an analysis of India's child protection mechanisms, international comparisons, and key case studies.

CHILD LABOUR AND EXPLOITATION

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ABSTRACT

Child labor and exploitation refers to the practice of working children, denying them their childhood, education, and opportunities for a better future. Imagine if you had to spend your days in a factory instead of playing or going to school. That's what child labour is. Exploitation goes beyond just making kids work; it includes bad treatment, low pay (if any), and dangerous working conditions. It's like someone taking advantage of kids because they're vulnerable and can't stand up for themselves. It's a big no-no in most countries because we believe kids should be kids and have a bright, carefree childhood. Let's make sure we support policies and practices that keep kids safe and give them a fighting chance to thrive!

CHILD RIGHTS AND CYBERSPACE

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ABSTRACT

The nature, extent and parameters of juvenile justice (children's rights and juvenile delinquency) have always remained a much debated subject among the academicians, practitioners and other legal fraternity members. On the contrary, with the fast development of information and networking technologies, the 21st century has seen the emergence of a new virtual world "Cyber Space"; which calls for framing a set of cyber rules and regulations ensuring Cyber Justice (e-Rights and e-duties of individuals concerned) in the cyber space. Even though the Juvenile Jurisprudence also suffers from many problems with the advent of the cyber space, the basics thereof haven't changed – 'a child can exercise her juvenile rights in her home, school and wherever else she may find herself, including the cyber space'. The intangible nature of the cyber space as differentiated from the tangible and real world does not ipso facto put the juvenile rights in the cyber space on hold. This essay does address some

of the different aspects of the juvenile rights in cyber space and the related issues. The essay is about the rights of a child to express, associate, communicate, obtain free access, obtain protected and enjoy and utilize new technologies for learning, inter alia. Further, where so ever needed, the essay tends to advocate for desired change in the socio-legal and political fronts as well, because it would be beneficial for the children.

Keywords: Cyber Justice, Children's Rights, Children in Cyber space, Child Rights, Cyber safety.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AMIDST THE ADVANCEMENTS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The rapid advancements in digital technology have significantly transformed the lives of children in India, creating a landscape filled with both opportunities and challenges. As internet access and digital platforms become increasingly integrated into everyday life, the protection of children's rights in this new digital landscape has become a pressing concern.

This paper explores the multifaceted issue of children's rights in the digital age, focusing on the unique risks posed by online environments, such as cyberbullying, data privacy breaches, online exploitation, and exposure to harmful content. Additionally, it examines the digital divide, which exacerbates inequalities in access to technology and information, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Furthermore, the paper discusses the importance of digital literacy programs and the collaborative efforts of government agencies, tech companies, and civil society in ensuring children's safety and rights in the digital space. With a significant youth demographic and rising internet penetration, India is compelled to address several critical issues concerning children's rights in the digital sphere.

Keywords: Children's rights, Digital age, Youth demographic, Health etc.

ROLE OF THE INDIAN JUDICIARY IN PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

Child rights in India are safeguarded through constitutional provisions, legislative frameworks, and international commitments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rights encompass education, health, protection from exploitation, and freedom from abuse. The judiciary plays a crucial role in upholding these rights by interpreting laws, enforcing protections, and ensuring justice for children. Landmark judgments by the Supreme Court and High Courts have strengthened child welfare, addressing issues like child labour, juvenile justice, and the right to education. Judicial activism and Public Interest Litigations (PILs) have been instrumental in bridging legislative gaps and ensuring effective implementation of child rights in India. In recent years several landmark judgments of Supreme Court has protected and uphold the rights of children. Supreme Court In November 2024 set aside an order of Allahabad High Court and “Overturned Uttar Prades’s Ban on Islamic Schools” hence allowed approximately 25,000 madrasas to continue operating in Uttar Pradesh, benefiting 2.7 million students and 10,000 teachers. Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud emphasized the state’s obligation to ensure children receive adequate education. In the case of Shazia Aman Khan v. State of Orissa, (2024) the Supreme Court decided the “Custody Determination Based on Child’s Welfare.” The Court upheld the custody arrangement favouring the appellants, emphasizing that the child’s preference and well-being supersede statutory provisions and personal laws. Again Supreme Court, in Somprabha Rana v. State of Madhya Pradesh, (2024) “Prioritized Child’s Welfare in Custody Disputes.” These judgments reflect the Supreme Court’s commitment to safeguarding child rights in India, addressing issues ranging from educational access and custody disputes to the eradication of harmful practices like child marriage.

Keywords: Child rights, judicial activism, safeguards of rights, custody & welfare

SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN IN INDIA AND CRIMINAL CODE

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ABSTRACT

The Constitution of India under Directive Principles of State Policy vide Article 39 (f) mandates states to formulate policies to ensure that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and with dignity. Additionally, our Constitution protects children from maltreatment and from being coerced into jobs that are inappropriate for their age or strength due to financial necessity.

Since the Indian government is extremely concerned about child abuse, it would advise state and union territory administrations to take action to effectively prevent, discover, register, investigate, and prosecute all child abuse crimes. On May 10, 2013, the Hon'ble Supreme Court issued an advice on missing children in *Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India*, during the hearing of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 75 of 2012. In order to better address the nation's child sexual abuse cases and curb the growing number of horrific and heartbreaking crimes against children, the POCSO Act, which is overseen by M/o Women & Child Development, has also been modified. The Amendment Act additionally stipulates harsher sanctions, including a longer jail sentence and the possibility of the death penalty in severe cases of aggravated penetrative sexual assault, depending on the seriousness of the offense. According to the advisory of government of India on crime against children, develop training programs that are well-structured to raise awareness of crime against children among the police and other criminal justice system personnel. In every police station, set up a dedicated & quot; Crime against Women/Children Desk. & quot; FIRs should be filed as soon as possible in any case involving a crime against children. Crimes against children should be examined in detail, and charge sheets against the perpetrators should be submitted within three months after the incident without sacrificing the standard of the investigation.

THE ORIGINS, CONSEQUENCES, AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDIA: A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION

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ABSTRACT

Whether the child is a boy or a girl, child marriage is one of the main issues in the twenty-first century as a violation of the child's rights. These kinds of activities prevent people from exercising their fundamental rights to equality, freedom, health, and education. This practice unfortunately has a greater negative effect on girls lives than on boys due to a variety of social, historical, and economic considerations, and it lays the groundwork for many other social problems aimed at them. Even Nevertheless, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and UNISEF's effort at the global level limit child marriage and establish the legal age for consenting sexual interactions in India. The unfortunate reality of child marriage in India is a severe human rights violation that diminishes childhood innocence, jeopardizes young girls physical and mental well-being, and perpetuates the cycle of poverty and oppression. Despite being against the law, this immoral behaviour is nevertheless common because of the harsh social sanctions that encourage and support it. There is a need for grassroots level reorganization, which requires revisiting deeply ingrained gender and social prejudices.

The problem of child marriage in India is seen to be successfully handled and finally eliminate with a comprehensive and persistent strategy, pave the way for a day when all children can grow up, learn, and succeed without being constrained by early marriage. An important step to see any progress in these suggestions would be changing the mindsets of the communities and making the lives of girls a priority as a part of the development discourse.

Keywords: Child Marriage, Human Rights, Impact on Children, Social Stigma, Grassroot level, Rural India etc.

CHILD RIGHTS AND PERSONAL LAWS

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ABSTRACT

The civilizational development of a society or nation can be easily measured by the fact how much children of it is protected, to ensure their protection legal system must made efforts. So, keeping these things in mind, in this paper, author has made efforts to discuss, child rights under different set of personal laws, Hindu law, Muslim law, Christian law and Parsi laws, in reference to legitimate and illegitimate child, natural born and adopted child. These personal laws mainly governed by customary practices and codified laws. Since child rights are given paramount importance under Constitution as provided by Article 14, Article 15(3), Article 21A, Article 23, Article 24, Article 29, Article 51A clauses (K) and (j) and there are certain directive principles, providing for child protection in Articles 39(e), 39 (f), 41, 42, 45 and 47, so there are different supreme court and high courts judgements which has interpreted these laws in light of constitutional principles, though personal laws are considered as outside the scope of law as given in Article 13. These judgements of constitutional courts will also be covered under this paper. The areas mainly covered under this paper are child right in relation to Maintenance, Custody right of parents and third persons for child in reference of both his person and property, Inheritance, Succession, Marriage of child under different personal laws, Adoption of children, issue of guardianship. Different personal laws have their own set of rules regarding these issues instead there are certain secular laws which applied through all system of personal laws irrespective of their different standings on these matters, these are made for the benefit of child and in consonance of constitutional values and aspirations of modern society, the relevant provisions of these laws will also be discussed in appropriate extent.

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015

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ABSTRACT

The juvenile justice system in India is specifically structured to offer care, protection, and rehabilitation to those who are minors and have become involved in conflicts of law. The juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, is a legislative framework that seeks to establish a court system that is sensitive to the needs and rights of children, lining up with the principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The effectiveness of the juvenile justice system in India has been a topic of much discussion, despite the presence of a legislative framework in place. A prominent critique of the system revolves around its perceived inefficacy in rehabilitating adolescent offenders. The juvenile justice system's inadequate facilities and resources have drawn criticism. Therefore, conditions have led to an overcrowding situation in juvenile residential facilities and a deficiency of amenities and resources necessary for successful rehabilitation. Moreover, there have been documented cases in which minors have been subjected to instances of abuse and ill treatment inside the juvenile justice system. This circumstance raises questions about how well the system protects the rights of juveniles involved in conflicts of law. This paper examines the notion of juvenile justice as well as its evaluation and regulation. The system has recently exhibited an increased emphasis on restorative justice and diversion programs, with the objective of addressing the underlying factors contributing to juvenile justice and offering assistance to young individuals in order to deter engagement in criminal activities.

Keywords: Juvenile Justice, Delinquency, Rehabilitation, Offence, Adolescent

CHILD RIGHT AND SEXUAL ABUSE: PROTECTING INNOCENCE

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ABSTRACT

Child rights are fundamental human rights that ensure children receive protection, education, healthcare, and a safe environment. However, child sexual abuse (CSA) remains a grave violation affecting millions worldwide. International agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), along with national laws in various countries, aim to combat CSA through strict legal frameworks.

India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), the U.S. Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and the U.K.'s Sexual Offences Act, among others, define and penalize offenses related to CSA. Recent landmark cases, such as *Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish* (2024) in India, reinforce legal measures by criminalizing mere possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Additionally, NGOs like UNICEF, ECPAT International, and Arpan play a crucial role in protecting children through advocacy, rehabilitation, and prevention programs.

This article explores the legal frameworks, key judicial rulings, and the collective responsibility of society in preventing CSA. Ensuring the safety and well-being of children requires stringent laws, public awareness, and proactive intervention to create a world where every child is protected from harm.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, child right, Statistic and effect, Legal framework.

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