



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

One Day Regional Level Consultation on Child Rights –
Gaps & Challenges in North Eastern States in Imphal,
Manipur
10TH Oct 2017



“It is my conviction to bring North-East at par with the other developed regions of the country”

— Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report on the Regional Level Consultation on Child Rights Gaps and Challenges in **Imphal, Manipur on 10th October 2017** contains a summary of proceedings based on the presentations and discussions held at the Consultation.

The report draws on the valuable contributions made by the participants from 8 North-Eastern States SCPCRs, Social Welfare, Judicial Officers and Police Officers and resource persons. Special thanks go out to the representatives from the State Commissions, North East States, who enriched the Consultation by sharing their experiences and good practices.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights would like to convey its gratitude to SCPCR, Manipur and Department of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur for its support.

Commission would like to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work team of Smt. Rajni Chadha and Shri Sudip Chakraborty in organizing this Consultation and making it a success. Sincere thanks also to Shri Santosh Kumar Pal, Account Officer, NCPCR for providing support.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFSPA	Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts (AFSPA)
AHTUs	Anti Human Trafficking Units
CCL	Children in conflict with law
CNCP	Child in need of care & Protection
CSO	Central Statistics Office (CSO)
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
JJ Act,2015	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
KGVB	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCW	National Commission for Women
NEHU	North-Eastern Hill University
NGOs	Non-governmental organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
POCSO Act,2012	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
RSTC	Residential Special Training Center
RTE Act, 2009	Right to Education Act, 2009
SW	Social Welfare
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India said that the Government's focus area and vision is the development of North East States. The Prime Minister said "the government has been focusing on the development of the North



Eastern States through its pro-active Act East Policy. As part of this policy, we are focusing on reducing the isolation of the Region by improving all round connectivity through road, rail, telecom , power and waterways sectors”,

India's North-Eastern States, have been facing different forms of challenges for a long time. A major risk associated with its unique geo-political location is that of cross-border human trafficking.

For the Commission, protection of all children in the 0 to 18 years age group is of great importance and therefore, policies. Therefore, policies contain priority actions for the most vulnerable children. This includes focus on regions that are backward or on communities or children under difficult circumstances, and so on.

Keeping in mind the aforesaid issues relating to children in North East, NE Cell was created in the Commission on 1.12.2011 for the promotion and protection of child rights in all the 8 States of North East. Under Section 13(1) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, NCPCR has inter alia, is mandated to examine and review the safeguards provided by

or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.

It is imperative to look at the whole issue of welfare of children from the Rights perspective and specifically work out ways and means to check crime against children. Hence, a Consultation on Child rights in States of North East was organised to gain some kind of an understanding of the situation of children and implementation of various Child Right Acts. The primary purpose of the proposed consultation was to assess the gaps and challenges in implementation of the Child Right Acts to formulate an action plan for the way forward.

1.2 Objectives of the Consultation.

1. To assess the current situation of implementation of child rights in the States, programs, legislations, judicial interventions at the state and district levels etc.
2. To analyse dimensions of violence against Children in States of North East India.
3. To identify the gaps and challenges in implementation of Child Rights Acts such as POCSO Act 2012 JJ Act 2015 etc.
4. To bring all the stakeholders together and come up with recommendations.

1.3 Executive Summary

- The One Day Regional level Consultation on Child Rights held in Imphal, Manipur on 10th October, 2017 concluded after having identified gaps and challenges in implementation of POCSO Act, 2012, JJ Act, 2015, and Child Labour Act, 2016, etc facing the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) in North-eastern region of India. It brought together 195 persons representing 8 States namely; Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal and Meghalaya, and key stakeholders of several Govt. departments, judiciary, child right activists and civil society members.
- The consultation's objectives of setting up a institutional mechanism to address gaps and challenges underlying the current unresolved child issues pertaining implementation from state to district levels.
- The experts in child rights law and implementing authorities from academia, judiciary, executive, media, National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights discussed and assessed the child rights situation with a focus on violence against child in a day long sessions to identify general and state specific gaps and challenges in implementation in the region. The Chief Guest and Guests of Honour in the opening session stressed on the innocence of children importance of protective mechanism.
- Incidence of crime against children is showing an increasing trend in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya compared to the states of Tripura and Sikkim. In Mizoram, issues of substance abuse, rape, child marriage, separation and HIV/AIDS are

reported among the children and in Assam and Manipur; in Meghalaya child trafficking and issues related to children in conflict with law are reported.

- After hearing out all the presentations from respective states, participants raised questions and sought clarifications. Chairperson, NCPCR informed the gathering the issues are under consideration and assured that matters will fall into place in due course of time.
- The program came to an end with intense discussions with presentation of mementos to all the NCPCR / SCPCR teams and resource persons and vote of thanks offered by Ch. Nabachandra, member, MCPCR. A cultural program presented for all the invitees from outside the state in the evening.

2. Inaugural Session:

The program began with beautiful performances. Smt. Sumatibala Ningthoujam, Chairperson, MCPCR extended warm welcome to all the dignitaries and invited guest and participants present in the consultation.



While summarizing the objectives of the workshop, she shared her experience from the consultation. The consultation will further enhanced capabilities of the State Commissions in addressing issues of child rights. Smt. Jacintha IAS, Director, Social Welfare Department, Govt of Manipur presented bouquet to the all the dignitaries.

Smt. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson, NCPCR addressing the participants from the North-Eastern States. Expressing great hopes from new Govt. in the State she narrated her meeting with Shri N



Biren, Chief Minister and appreciated his concern of children's issues in the State. The various child rights issues in the State she made particular mention about the increasing trends of cyber crimes targeting the children in the state. She applauded the efforts of the State Police Department which has made great great progress in reducing cyber crimes. Smt.

Stuti Kacker made a PowerPoint presentation describing Constitutional and legal frameworks of rights of children in the country. She briefly outlined the mandate of NCPCR, its composition, functions, roles and activities with particular emphasis on strategies of addressing child rights issues in the country.

Having stressed the fact that children have fundamental right as the children are the future of the country irrespective of gender, age, physical and mental status she invited all to work together to address increasing crimes against the child in the present times. She also highlighted the core concerns of Juvenile Justice that mandates CPCRs to address the child right issues while concluding she appreciated the Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights for exemplary works and encouraged to make Manipur a Child Friendly State in India.

In his speech as Guest of Honour on the occasion, **Shri H Deleep Singh, IAS, Commissioner, Social Welfare Department, Govt of Manipur**, expressed his happiness in having the Acting Chief Justice as the Chief Guest who takes keen interests in child rights issues and others who are equally committed to the cause of child rights. He highlighted that the major challenge of the department is ensuring all the schemes to reach out to the interiors region of the state He also expressed his gratitude to Smt. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson, NCPCR for her appreciations and encouragement. Ending his speech he acknowledged the positive role of state police department towards crimes against children and the active media with global reach out.

Shri Yashwant Jain, Guest of Honour and Member NCPCR pointed out the biggest challenge under POCSO is dealing with children victim as children would not easily speak out.



He mentioned about two POCSO cases on how sensible and child friendly magistrate took sensible and child friendly mechanism. He also observed that different states have different problems like Assam has trafficking issues, Meghalaya has similar issues

including child marriage. However incidences can be prevented if awareness is created on child rights. POCSO Act needs to be disseminated to the common people reaching out to all so people are aware. Government must focus on educating teachers, Communities especially about provision of Mandatory Reporting. He informed the participants about the Cyber crimes related resources developed by NCPCR and suggested to translate into local language. Expressing hope that North Eastern States will respond to their level best on the issues of child rights he said the Central Govt. and the Prime Minister in particular are taking keen interests in the development of North Eastern Region.

Shri N. Kotiswar Singh, Acting Chief Justice, Manipur High Court Chief Guest thanked the organizers for giving him an opportunity to attend conference dealing on child rights. Expressing



his own interests on the issues of child rights he said that the laws relating to children are still evolving gradually. In this process of evolving laws for children he observed that various stakeholders are involved including child rights activists,

parents and Government officials. He felt it was fortunate for him to have had some interactions at the grassroots level and with those who are working on child rights issues. He highlighted the importance of considering the innocence of children in framing the laws for them expressing his happiness to the NCPCR team for the initiative to bringing together all stakeholders for discussions on various issues being faced by children in different states, he highlighted few points and trends in law-making on child for attention and asked to adopt child friendly attitude.

Concluding his speech he said, he valued such initiatives and appreciated the level of awareness already existing in the state while there were also areas for further improvements.

Smt. Nemcha Kipgen, Minister, SW & Cooperatives, Govt. of Manipur addressed the gathering as the functional president of the occasion. Feeling honored and inspired by the



presence of Acting Chief Justice, Manipur High Court; the Chairperson, NCPCR, MCPCR and SCPCRs from other states of Northeastern region; the Commissioner, SW, she called upon the gathering to taking a pledge together for protection all children in the state. She said, *Children are our happiness and future of the country*. Every child has right to information, expression, participation and involvement in making decisions that affect them. Stressing that children's participation is critical in understanding and addressing all the gaps and challenging that are preventing full delivery of justice to them. She appreciated MCPCR, NGOs, Govt. Depts for their tireless works to addressing child rights issues in the state and the region and encouraged everyone to contribute their experiences and knowledge in addressing all issues.

Smt. Sumatibala Ningthoujam, in her capacity as the Chairperson, MCPCR extended her gratitude to Smt. Nemcha Kipgen, Minister Social Welfare and Cooperatives; Shri N. Kotiswar Singh, Acting Chief Justice, Manipur High Court, Smt. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson, NCPCR, all dignitaries and organizers of the one Day consultation and appreciated the efforts made by MCPCR in addressing child rights issues in difficult conditions in Manipur. She hoped that during her tenure as the Chairperson of MCPCR the commission will put in all efforts together to

improve child right standards in the state and invited all stakeholders to extend mutual supports and solidarity.

In conclusion, the speeches provided a rich set of ideas and challenges to ponder on and develop strategies based on the discussion in the consultation. Member, MCPCR extended vote of thanks to all dignitaries on dais and participants for their inputs.

3. Technical sessions

Session began with discussion with all the officials and expert who participated in this conference from eight (8) North Eastern States.

Session-1: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

Prof (Dr) Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Odisha spoke on **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** and Smt. Meena Kharkongor, Hon'ble Chairperson, SCPCR, Meghalaya, Dr. Sunita Changkakati, Hon'ble Chairperson, SCPCR, Assam and Shri Keisam Pradipkumar, SCPCR, Manipur moderated the session as a team.

DR. Rao spoke on Juvenile justice system in India and contrasted two criminal justice systems existing in India: the Adult Criminal Justice system and child/Juvenile Justice or 'Tender Justice' or a child friendly justice system for clarity on the differences. He



lamented that children have been victim of circumstances or stigmatized under the adult criminal justice until issues of child rights began to occupy international attention since 1986 which culminated into framing an international Convention on Rights to Child (CRC) 1992 and continuing through the year 2000. The philosophy behind CRC/Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act is the understanding of Care and Protection needs of the child. JJ Act came into being in 2008 in India but Govt. of India felt it still needed further improvements in the provisions for 'Care and

protection'. He also stressed that JJ Act is a tender justice system and therefore **maintaining the innocence** is very critical by recalling what the Chief Justice said in the inaugural session.

Session-2: Protection of children from sexual offences (POCSO, 2012): Gaps and challenges

Shri M. Manoj kumar Singh, District & Session Judge spoke on “Protection of children from sexual offences (POCSO, 2012): Gaps and challenges” and Smt. Deekila Bhutia, Hon’ble Chairperson, SCPCR, Sikkim, Smt. Sumatibala Ningthoujam, Hon’ble Chairperson, MCPCR and Shri Yashwant Jain, Hon’ble member, NCPCR moderated the session as a team.

What is POCSO Act 2012 ?

- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 is applicable to the whole of India. The POCSO Act 2012 defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years and provides protection to all children under the age of 18 years from sexual abuse. It also intends to protect the child through all stages of judicial process and gives paramount importance to the principle of “best interest of the child”.

Shri. Manoj kumar spoke on POCSO Act, 2012 and types of crimes against children including physical and sexual abuse, pornography, abetments and associated punishments, and reporting offences, etc. As practitioner the field, at the end of session, he highlighted several gaps and challenges in the existing justice delivery systems and mechanism in the state. His highlights included “**Victim is Gender Neutral**” which makes POCSO Act 2012 different from other Acts dealing with sexual offences.

Session-3: Child labour (Prohibition and regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and child trafficking – important provisions

Dr. Ch. Narendra Singh, Advocate & Lecturer, LMS Law College, Imphal delivered his speech with the Preamble of the Constitution India. Children between 14 and 18 years of age are considered as “Adolescence”. If some child could access elementary education up to the age of 14 years the remaining years provide him/her opportunity to do the same. A child who works as

artist are exception provided under the laws which says, if the work is non-hazardous for children between the age 14 and 18 such employment opportunities needs to be notified. However, if child taken for non-hazardous work is actually found to be engaged in hazardous works then the parents are punishable under the Act. He said knowing the rights alone does not work unless people also do their duties that come along those rights. Citizen's duty is never talked about while there so much about 'Rights'. Since, realization of rights is critical to responding to the duties, he suggested the gathering to observe an annual day for 'Fundamental Duties of Citizens'.

Session-4: Role and responsibility of media on Child Rights

Shri Lambem Laba, Former Chairperson (I/C), Manipur Human Rights Commission & Representatives of Statesmen, spoke on the topic in the post-lunch session. Shri. Laba began by reminding the gathering that Manipur has been undergoing disturbed conditions over 30 years.



Talking about Child rights he said, it has to really strike roots in our society and also seriously consider impacts on child rights. Briefly sharing some of the challenges while at the SHRC and how he tried to overcome those with help of media, he mentioned three cases where with media played a major role in changing the life of children. He took up sou motto case and solved the problem with the help of Media.

Concluding his sharing he advised using the power of sou motto and media by any commission for quick redressal of many problems.

4. Summary and Discussion

Summary of State-wise presentations

State representatives made presentations on status of implementation of Child Right Acts, Gaps and Challenges being faced by children in their respective States.

Operationally, the common implementation challenge reported by each state is lack of significant budget for development of infrastructure; facilities and services including; engagement of dedicated personnel including women police; necessary capacity building for handling child in conflict with law and increasing cyber crimes involving children, and lack of inter-departmental /agency coordination for effective performance.

Gaps

Some of the gaps identified from presentations made by respective State SCPCR and representatives included lack of adequate funding; capacity, dedicated personnel and posts, infrastructure and institutional facilities and necessary rules and policies in alignment with the laws, and level of awareness at grass-roots levels.

Funding:

Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland reported lack of adequate funding for necessary infrastructure and facilities including internet connectivity (Mizoram) forensic laboratories for investigation, judicial and rehabilitation services

Trained and dedicated personnel and post:

Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur reported lack of dedicated trained personnel and staff to handle increasing number of crimes against children in respective States

Infrastructure and facilities

Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam reported lack of necessary coordination between legal and other institutional services in Govt. and Non-Govt. sectors.

State Policies & Rules

In Tripura and Meghalaya State rules for POCSO Act and policies in alignment with JJ Act, 2012 and RTE, 2009 needed to be framed.

There exist a huge gap between the rights related acts in place and level of awareness among the people, especially, in linguistically diverse ethnic communities in rural areas.

Challenges

The other operational challenges under JJ Act and POCSO Acts pertaining to cultural tradition and practices towards children in the traditional societies. These included among others;

- Traditional (Village) Authorities in the scheduled areas (6th Schedule in Meghalaya and Tribal Autonomous District Council in hill areas of Manipur) preventing in delivery of

juvenile justice as these traditional authorities address those issues under the customary laws and practices within the community.

- Many unregistered orphanage and children homes being run by private institutions and bodies often escape legal oversights in Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland
- Even when Juvenile justice requires family supports and parental care for proper rehabilitation the parents' perceptions towards their children in conflict with law are often adversarial.
- While POCSO Act 2012 prohibits marriage below 18 years of age the traditional practices of marriages by ways of voluntary elopement of under the age conflicts with the law in Manipur.
- In Assam and other States, lack of awareness on Child rights laws in the community leads to child right violations. Most parents whose daughters under 18 years left home to find work outside their home do not know that it would lead to case of child trafficking
- Lack of forensic laboratories in the States of Assam, Manipur and Tripura delays justice to juvenile victims
- Lack of policies and State Rules under JJ Act in Tripura and Meghalaya hinders juvenile justice delivery
- Rapid advancements in information technological environment increases crimes against children.
- The rise in the number of children needing financial assistance / sponsorships in most State do not match the available resources and existing judicial services resulting into delays and overburdened duties at district session judge level

- Child trafficking through porous international boundaries in Assam, substance abuse among children in conflict with law and HIV/AIDS infection among sexually abused children in Mizoram and qualified people not being available at the State SCPCR in Sikkim are throwing up newer challenges to handle in these States.

Child Right: Survival, Protection, Development and Participation

State	Issues /Gaps	Challenges
Meghalaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funds for research and study works • Paucity of fund & RTE, 2009 implementation in lagging behind • Most Police Stations do not have women police personnel • Absence of Forensic laboratory delays process of investigation and so the justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under staffed Commission with mounting responsibilities • No child protection policy in all schools • Lack of coordination and communication among key enforcement agencies for time-bound response • In absence of women police, male police have to deal with cases relating to women • Traditional authorities intervening/preventing in justice delivery systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Commission takes up suo moto cases. • In another case, a JNV school was running without proper infrastructure and facilities. A PIL taken up in the High Court. Time limit has been set for fixing all required infrastructure in coordination with CWC, Police and Court • Regular training for police personnel by the Commission. • Human trafficking cases spreading all over the States • There has been improvement in investigating the cases while efforts are being made to assist in writing a Handbook on Human Trafficking • 30 CCTVs have been set up in Shillong city which helping in prevention of POCSO incidents. 40 CCTVs are being installed in West Garo Hills • Cyber Crime wing of CID is issuing ‘Dos and Don’ts’ and has helped victims of cybercrime. • A research study is being taken up at NEHU on ‘Crime on women and children’ 	

Assam

- A special cell for women and children is strengthened and funded by NCW. Cases of domestic violence, immoral trafficking and cyber crimes against women and children being attended
- A special unit for drug abuse involving children being set up. Child friendly environment created in police station for proper investigation of cases
- Partnership with NGO (IMPULSE) working very effectively
- Basic parameters for taking charge-sheet has been adopted
- Street theatre group for effective awareness creation
- Best Police station award instituted for proper handling of women and children related cases
- Post-judgment support services to victims being taken up with Social welfare Department

- Significant gaps between law and institutional mechanisms
- Rise in crime graph: 236 crimes in 2011 increased to 392 in 2012
- AHTUs yet to be notified as police station
- Unavailability of proper infrastructure and logistics
- Low charge sheet and conviction rates compared to national average
- Most child abuse incidences go unreported
- Unavailability of requisite funds
- Trafficking, a raising crime in Assam. International border areas are most vulnerable.
- Traffickers enter through unmonitored border areas to allure girls.
- Low representation of women in Police Stations
- Lack of proper coordination among stakeholders
- Viral spread of porn films involving small children.
- Children committing minor offences face resistance from own parents in reintegration efforts

- Untrained staff to deal with Cyber Crime . Absence of non-institutional support system like foster care, sponsorship, etc exploring PPP model institutional facilities on experimental basis
- Need to empower AHTUSs and SJPUSs
- Orphanage growing like mushrooms but girls' home do not have basic facilities, mostly run by religious institutions
- Lack of female trainers to impart vocational training to girls.
- Most homes are not registered under JJ Act. Don't want to register especially those managed by religious institutions
- POCSO cases are increasing including rape by religious leaders
- Juvenile homes have limited time of stay and so Rehabilitation is a serious issue
- Difficult to trace the origin in social network reported many porn films to the Assam police

Efforts made in Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOPs guidelines of SC NHRC, MHA, NCPCR circulated to all concern and uploaded in CCTVS • Creation of juvenile friendly corner in 5 police stations • Visited more than 20 districts, STC, KGVB, hospitals, Juvenile homes, etc • KGVBs are in good conditions/ RSTC are like cowshed and bad conditions. Superintendent and teacher do not like to stay in the campus
Mizoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of sexual abuse increasing specially after implementation of POCSO Act, 2012. • Substance abuse and HIV are becoming major issue among children population • 1/3 of the total children population are BPL • 1.2% are of school dropouts • 442 children were found married including divorcee, widow/widower, etc • 1.36% of them use substance • 5.36% were physically abused by parents and teachers • 11474 children tested HIV+ • Mizoram has highest minor rape reported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate Staff (Data entry operator/office assistant) • No social security for staff who works with inadequate/low salary • Poor internet connectivity • Fund sanctioned as per the number of children on 31st March, but the number of children keeps changing throughout the year • Wrong perception of child rights among the teachers and parents
Efforts made in Mizoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) has not been set up yet. However, State Child Protection society with mechanisms to address issues of child rights has been formed and functioning from state to district levels • Nodal teachers appointed in 1825 schools; convergence with World Vision programs; collaboration with All Mizoram schools on mission to stop child sexual abuse; online reporting system in place, linkages with SCERT and NIOH;(translation of POCSO Act, 2012 in local languages and service of child guide Poor transportation especially during the monsoon season) • POCSO Act, 2012 translated into local language
Nagaland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Awareness and Training and so, lack of coordination with Social Welfare Department • Lack of Forensic laboratory facilities • Many young Naga boys and girls working in different cities in India apprehended on sexual crimes are brought back to the state for rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many non-juvenile and protection homes are established without proper registration • Insufficient fund • Enhancing cyber crime branch as against increasing enticement of technology savvy young people towards cyber crimes

Efforts made in Nagaland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagaland state has separate DIG for Human Rights & Social justice responsible for Juvenile Justice • Statistics on Crime against Juvenile maintained based on the period 2015-2017 • 84 cases registered – lowest compared to all other states • Only 13 cases are under POCSO Act,2012 and rests are related to kidnapping, murder, theft. • Women cell established in the state. All cases related to women are taken up by Women Police Station
Sikkim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of staff at State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
Efforts being made in Sikkim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases under POCSO Act,2012 are successfully addressed and disposed • 2 POCSO Units; one in South and one in North have been established with necessary manpower and facilities • Students Against Abuse and Trafficking are organized in educational institutes preventing crimes against children and women • Child friendly police stations are being set up and more such facilities are being created
Tripura	<p>▶ Juvenile homes and protection shelters are running well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate infrastructure and facilities • Lack of proper systems for authentication of documents for child age • State Rules of POCSO Act,2012 needs to be framed • Lack of interpreters when cases are reported from Tribal communities • Many cases remain incomplete without final judgment due to lack of supporting infrastructure and facilities such as forensic laboratory • District and Session Judges dealing with POCSO Act are already over loaded with other judicial duties
Manipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate support staffs and dedicated councillors • Lack of separate homes for POCSO / JJ Acts • Lack of coordination with training institutes on specific programs • Insufficient number of Women Police • POCSO Act 2012 in conflict with Traditional marriage practices (Elopement) involving many boys and girls who elope under 18 years • In the hill areas, the customary judicial institutions are subverting POCSO judgment especially on cases of rape

	stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate social rehabilitation homes in the state: 3 homes in Imphal East & West and Churachandpur only • Acute under budgeting for training of Govt functionaries far short of actual costs 	and violence against women and girls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of children seeking sponsorship much higher than the existing budget capacities
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Questions and answers session

After the technical session, participants raised questions and sought their clarifications. One of the participants asked for clarification on the registration of Short Stay Home where CNCP/CCL are kept. Chairperson, NCPCR clarified that registration of all homes and shelter keeping CNCP/CCL children is compulsory but she also clarified that so far hostels are not required to be registered. Another question raised in context of security of children home under POCSO ACT. The National Commission clarified that in specific cases where security of the children home is threatened, security can be provided as temporary arrangement but should not be for longer period or permanent feature as the policy is to make environment and institutions 'child friendly'.

The conflict between POCSO Act and the age and traditional practice of elopement was brought up during the discussion to which Shri. Yambem Laba said lowering the age must be avoided at all costs.

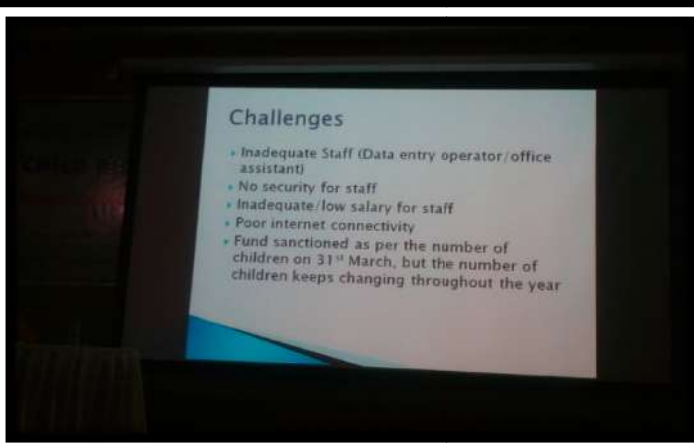
Another child right activist raised questions over delay in delivery of justice to children. To this issue, Chairperson, NCPCR informed the gathering, that the issue is being discussed at many levels and assured that things will fall into place in due course of time.

Vote of Thanks

The program came to an end with intense discussions and presentation of mementos to all the NCPCR / SCPCR teams and resource persons and vote of thanks offered by Ch. Nabachandra, member, MCPCR.

Photo Gallery





NAME OF DIGNITARIES FROM OUTSIDE MANIPUR

**“One Day Regional Consultation on Child Rights-Gap & Challenges
in North Eastern States” on 10th October, 2017
at Imperial Hall, The Classic Grande, Imphal, Manipur**

Sl.	Name of the Dignitaries	State
01.	Smt. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson, NCPCR	New Delhi
02.	Shri. Yashwant Jain, Member, NCPCR	New Delhi
03.	Mr. Santosh Kumar Pal, Account officer	New Delhi
04.	Mr. Sudip Chakraborty, Consultant (North East Cell)	New Delhi
05.	Ms. Rajni Chadha, JTE (North East Cell)	New Delhi
06.	Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao National Law University	Odisha
07.	Shri. Sabyasachi Datta Purkayastha, District & Sessions Judge	Tripura
08.	Shri. A.R. Mawthoh Dy. IGP	Meghalaya
09.	Meena Kharkongor, Chairperson	Meghalaya SCPCR
10.	Ms. Deekila Bhutia, Chairperson	Sikkim SCPCR
11.	Dushyant Pariyar, Director, ICPS-Cum-Member Secy.	Sikkim SCPCR
12.	Roji Pradhan, Member	Sikkim SCPCR
13.	Ms. Lalmuanpuii Chhakchhuak Programme Manager, State Adoption Resource	Mizoram
14.	Mr. James Lalthangmawia DCPO, Aizawl	Mizoram
15.	C. Lalremruati, Protection Officer (NIC), Aizawl	Mizoram
16.	Shri. Rounak Ali Hazarika, IPS DIG (CID)	Assam
17.	Shri. Richard Yimto, IPS DIG (CID/INT)	Nagaland
18.	Dr. Sunita Changkakati, Chairperson	Assam SCPCR
19.	Dr. Pilu Hazarika, Member	Assam SCPCR

Media Gallery

<p>54- Leishram Naason Singh</p>	<p>General Secretary Jiboi Aom, NLFY Organisation Secretary Sachin Borok, RFF/FLA's</p>	<p>Various leaders spoke of the ways of strengthening the liberation struggle as well.</p>	<p>quarters belong to him and he has been selling them for lakhs of rupees per unit along with the</p>	<p>unpopular but controversial Manasobh / Manasobh movement). He became KMO</p>	<p>siphoned off for the ambitious and speedy Manasobh movement activities.</p>	<p>effectively act and right the wrong in the best interest of the people and the state.</p>
<p>Name correction I, the undersigned, Leishram Naason Singh aged about 28 years S/O Leishram Babu Singh of Nanglam Haidon Assang Laika, P.O. Thoubal P.S. Yairipok, District Thoubal, Manipur do hereby declare that, My father's name Leishram Babu Singh and my mother's name Leishram Kamini Devi has been wrongly recorded as Babu Leishram and Kamini Leishram in my HSLC Examination conducted by BOEM. That I do desire to rectify the correct name of my father and mother in the above mentioned Certificate by the concerned authority to avoid conspiracy in future.</p> <p>54- Leishram Naason Singh</p>	<h2>One-day Regional Consultation on 'Child Rights – Gaps & Challenges in NE States' held</h2>					
<p>DIPR Imphal, October 10: A One-day Regional Consultation on 'Child Rights – Gaps & Challenges in North Eastern States' was held today at Imperial Hall. The Classic Grande with focus on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2016. The inaugural session of the consultation was graced by Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Sri N. Kotwar Singh, Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister Smt.</p>	<p>Nemcha Kipgen, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Smt. Suni Kacker, Member, NSPCR, Sri Yashwant Jam, Chairperson, Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR), Smt. Sumatibala Ningthoujam, Commissioner of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur, Sri H. Doleep Singh, IAS as Chief Guest, President and Guests of Honour respectively. Delegates from the Eight (8) States of North East India, participants from various departments of Manipur Government, Civil Societies, NGOs were also part</p>	<p>of this consultation. Addressing the gatherings, Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice N. Kotwar said that the law relating to children are evolving slowly and gradually and is taking shape in which various organizations and stakeholder are involved. Various areas and development are taking place related to this. Quoting the poem – 'On the Seashore' by the great poet Rabindranath Tagore, he draws the attention of all present to preserve the innocence of the children at all cost. It is the sole purpose of all the stakeholders to return their innocence.</p>	<p>"Members of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and CWCs need to acquaint themselves with the evolving and developing role relating to child and should developed child friendly nature to work for the welfare of them," he asserted. He also appealed for concerted efforts to various institutions working for the welfare of the children as far as it is related with the issues of the children. "Child Rights – Gaps and Challenges in North Eastern States of India" is indeed a very relevant topic at present" stated Social Welfare Minister Nemcha Kipgen while</p>	<p>delivering a Presidential speech. Minister draws the attention of the gatherings to pledge for the protection of our children today as without the welfare of the children, there will be no future for the society at large. Our times will be doomed without the welfare of our children because they are the happiness and strength of the society and of home, as well as of the future of the country, she added. Minister Nemcha opined that every child has the right to information, the right to express his or her views and has the right to be involved in decision making affecting him</p>	<p>or her. So, she urged all the parents and concerned people that children have the right to participate in the family, in schools, at child welfare institutions, orphanages, in the community and at National & International levels, as their active participation in the society has a profound impact on all. Chairperson, NCPCR, Smt. Suni Kacker lauded Chief Minister Sri N. Biren Singh for his distinctive knowledge of the problem where children are targeted and expressed that children of Manipur are in safe hands under the dynamic leader like him.</p>	



PARTICIPANT LIST OF MANIPUR

1. High Court of Manipur
 - Registrar General
2. Manipur State Commission for Women
 - Chairperson
 - Members
3. Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MASLSA)
 - Member Secretary
4. State Judicial Academy
 - Director
5. Home Department
 - DIG – 3 nos.
6. Social Welfare Department
 - Director
 - Deputy Director
 - Programme Officers
 - ICPS Staffs
 - SARA
 - SAA
7. Labour Department
 - Deputy Labour Commissioner
8. Law Department
 - Secretary
9. Health & Family Welfare Department
 - Deputy Director
10. Education Department
 - Representatives
11. State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities
 - Commissioner
12. Child Welfare Committee (9 District)
 - Chairpersons
 - Members
13. DIPR

- Representatives
- 14. All Manipur Bar Association
 - Representatives
- 15. High Court Bar Association
 - Representatives
- 16. Juvenile Justice Board (9 Districts)
 - Members
- 17. Manipur State Social Welfare Board
 - Representatives
- 18. Various NGOs
- 19. Media Personnel
- 20. Indira Gandhi National Tribal University – (Regional Campus Manipur)
 - Students
- 21. Childline
 - State Coordinator
 - Coordinator, Bishnupur
 - Coordinator, Thoubal
 - Coordinator, Imphal

(Total number of participant altogether from Manipur and outside Manipur according to the registration sheet record is 195)



**One Day Regional Consultation
On
Child Rights – Gaps & Challenges in North Eastern States**

**Focus on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, POCSO Act, 2012
& The child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016**

**Venue : Classic Grande, Imphal, Manipur
Date : 10th October, 2017.
Time : 09:00 am**

Organized by:
*Manipur Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
(MCPCR)*

Sponsored by:
*National Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
(NCPCR)*

Technical Support from:
*Social Welfare Department
Government of Manipur*

A G E N D A

9:00 am - 09:30 am	Registration
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Inaugural Session
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Child Rights issues and the role of the NCPCR <i>Ms. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson, NCPCR</i>
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Break for TEA
10:45 am - 11:25 am	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) J J Act, 2015 <i>Prof. (Dr) Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Odisha</i>
11:25 am - 12:05 pm	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 <i>Aribam Guneshwar Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Manipur</i>

12:05 pm – 12:35 pm	The Child Labour (prohibition and regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and Child Trafficking important provisions. <i>Deputy Commissioner, Labour Department, Government of Manipur</i>
12:35 pm – 01:30 pm	Discussions on best practices and challenges in the implementation of JJ Act, POCSO Act & Child Labour (prohibition and regulation) Amendment Act, 2016
01:30 pm – 02:00 pm	Break for LUNCH
02:00 pm – 02:30 pm	Role and responsibility of media in child rights <i>Director, Information and Public Relation, Government of Manipur</i>
02:30 pm – 04:30 pm	Presentation of State specific issue related to Child rights (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura) (15 mins time from each State)
04:30 pm – 04:45 pm	Break for TEA
04:45 pm – 05:30 pm	Valedictory and way forward by NCPCR Preparation of Action Plan on Child Rights of NE States
05:30 pm – 05:45 pm	Vote of Thanks by MCPCR
05:45 pm – 07:00 pm	Cultural Programme <i>Hosted by MCPCR</i>