



# WORKSHOP ON RIGHTS OF CHILDREN OF PERSECUTED MINORITIES FROM AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN LIVING IN INDIA

Conducted on: 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020  
*at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi*

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR)  
5th floor, Chanderlok Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110001

# A

## TABLE OF CONTENT

| S. NO | CONTENT   | PAGES |
|-------|---|-------|
| 1     | <b>INTRODUCTION</b>   | 3-6   |
| 2     | <b>TECHNICAL SESSION-I</b><br>Challenges faced by Children of persecuted minorities from<br>Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan  | 7-9   |
| 3     | <b>TECHNICAL SESSION- II</b><br>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children<br>(UNCRC) and Children of persecuted minorities from<br>Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan living in India | 10-13 |
| 4     | <b>TECHNICAL SESSION- III</b><br>United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and<br>Children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh<br>& Pakistan living in India               | 14-16 |
| 5     | <b>CONCLUDING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRPERSON</b>  | 17-19 |
| 6     | <b>DISCUSSION &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>   | 20-23 |

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been undertaking several initiatives in the recent years to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups of children of the country; however, organizing a workshop on the “Rights of children of Persecuted Minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India” has been a very special and fulfilling experience. At the very outset, I would like to thank Government of India for bringing Citizen Amendment Act , 2019 for the fact that , though the Commission has been working with this community was in dilemma in giving recommendation to any authority due to lack of any law of the land that could form the base for it.

There are many progressive laws /instruments such as UNCRC for the children world over that are implemented by the nations, however, these children of persecuted minorities were deprived of their every rights for they are stateless. They were growing up with emptiness, hopelessness and aggression - leading towards a dark future. Therefore, this Act will bring positive changes in their lives. It is not a matter about the number of people but the very principle of Bharat being the Bharat was not justified for the fact that they were culturally affiliated to this country but not legally. The Bharat is defined on the basis of its culture and cultural affiliation. The Act has therefore brought the opportunity of translating the culturally affiliated people into legal citizen of this country.

NCPCR would continue working with the children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India to ensure their rights are upheld. In this direction, Commission is going to set up a dedicated Desk to redress their complaints on priority basis.

I would like to thank all the agencies and activists working on the issues of children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India including Shri Prashant Hartalkar, Shri Sudhanshu Singh, HAI international, Shri. Yashodan Kargaokar, Shri Rahul Pawa, and Shri Irshad Shariff, AEHR Forum and all who participated in the workshop. Also thanks to representatives of UNHCR and NACG – EVAC, India -Country level recognised civil society platform of SAIEVAC for their participation.

I take the privilege of acknowledging Shri Yashwant Jain & Ms. Rosy Taba, Members of NCPCR for their visit to the communities living in Delhi and bringing out the core issues faced by the children and communities. I convey my thanks to Smt. Rupali Banerjee, Member Secretary of NCPCR for administrative support to the workshop. I would also put on record the effort made by Ms. Shaista Khan, STE, NCPCR in processing the complaints from the children of the communities. I want to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Madhulika Sharma, Advisor (Education), Shri Rajnikant, Sr. Consultant, Ms. Shweta Sehgal, Technical Expert, Shri Prashant Chauhan, Consultant and Shri. Rajesh, Administrative Assistant, NCPCR to organize this workshop. Also acknowledge the contribution of Shri. Nikhil Thakur, Shri Brijesh and Shri Lalit Mathe, DEOs, NCPCR for their support during the workshop. Last but not the least all the participants especially the children who participated in the workshop shared their views and issues with the Commission.

*Priyank Kanoongo*  
*Chairperson, NCPCR*

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with the Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum and Humanitarian Aid International organized a one-day workshop entitled “Rights of children of Persecuted Minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India” on 24 February 2020 in Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. The workshop was centred around multifarious challenges and opportunities that affect the children of minority community persecuted from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India post the adoption of The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and to ensure that the rights of children are protected and upheld at every stage of this transition.

The workshop brought together social workers, human rights activists, child rights activists, social activists, NGOs, officials working in the relevant field and children along with their representatives belonging to the minorities fleeing persecution and conflict from their war-



ridden countries and seeking a safe haven in India who exchanged experiences and good practices in strengthening and building an environment for decent living and growth for these children. The workshop was initiated with lighting of the lamp and keynote address by Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The workshop was divided into four technical sessions:

- ❖ **Technical Session-I:** Challenges faced by Children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan living in India
- ❖ **Technical Session-II:** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan living in India.
- ❖ **Technical Session-III:** United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan living in India.

❖ **Technical Session-IV: Valedictory Session & Concluding Remarks/ Outcomes of the workshop.**



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Sh. Priyank Kanoongo at the outset appreciated the work and efforts of Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum, Humanitarian Aid International and child rights activists for highlighting the issues of children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. He started his keynote address by tracing century old tradition of hosting refugees in India. He mentioned about the Parsi community who came to India to save themselves from religious persecution in Persia. On arrival in Gujarat, King Jadhav Rana welcomed the strangers by sending them a bowl of milk to communicate that the land was already filled with people to the brim. The Parsi community immediately understood the message and they wanted to send back a message that they would make the land and community richer and more prosperous by their good values, knowledge and hard work. The Parsis added sugar to the bowl of milk and returned it back. The King Jadhav Rana was so impressed with this gesture that he granted them asylum and welcomed them with open arms and helped them settle in the new land of India. For last 1100 years the Parsi community are integral part of our society and their contribution towards the growth of the society needs no validation. In the present scenario the Hindu minorities who were forced to flee their countries due to religious persecution presented the same situation. It is a fact that children accompanied their parents during this migration and equally faced this persecution at each stage - before migration, during migration and post migration. NCPCR being the foremost governing body for protecting the rights of children decided to organize this workshop which will address multifarious legal, social and procedural challenges and opportunities that affect the children of minority community persecuted from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India post the adoption of The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and discuss the way forward to ensure that the rights of children are protected and upheld at every stage of this transition. Discussions regarding children on the issues they encounter in their day to day lives, on the rights and entitlements of children ensured under United Nations Convention on Child Rights (UNCRC) and finally about inclusion of all the children so that achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be possible. He spoke about his visit to refugee camp in Majnu Ka Tila in which the Commission found that the houses are un-electrified, toilets are non-functional and lack the special provisions for children with special needs. The State Government was not willing to provide electricity to these refugee camps. The Commission had decided to raise this issue to Ministry of Power, GOI.

Similarly, under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) the district should not be declared 100 percent Open Defecation Free (ODF) until the people living in camps get functional toilets. In the end, Chairperson said that the Commission recognizes that children of minority refugees should be granted the same rights as the children who are born in India. If we could ensure that these children receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance and could exercise their rights entitled to them by the United Nations then they would play an important role in our country's development. He assured the audience specially children that the Commission is committed to take adequate measures to remove any form of impediment towards their holistic development.

**Shri Priyank Kanoongo**  
**Chairperson**  
**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

Smt. Rupali Banerjee Singh, Member Secretary, NCPCR delivered vote of thanks to audience, specially to the children who attended the programme, Chairperson, NCPCR for conducting the workshop on the rights of refugee children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan. She appreciated the visit of Chairperson, NCPCR to the refugee camp at Majnu ka Tila and addressed the issues of children who have faced religious persecution from their countries. She appreciated the initiative taken by Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum and Humanitarian Aid International for organising this workshop with NCPCR and providing help to the minority refugees living in camps all over India.

**Smt. Rupali Banerjee Singh**  
**Member Secretary**  
**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

The Technical Session- I focused on challenges faced by Children of Persecuted Minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India.

**SPEAKER-I**

Shri Sudhanshu Singh gave a brief background of the speakers and the current problem faced by refugees around the world in general and refugees who fled from their lands because of religious persecution to India in particular. He gave the example of Hindu minority community living in Rohini and Majnu ka Tila, Delhi and other places in India. He also placed emphasis on the fact that children are the worst victims of this persecution due to no fault and added that they should enjoy their rights entitled to them by the UNCRC and UNHRC. He cited example of Switzerland being a “child friendly” nation where children of refugees and children born there are guaranteed right to education and do not face any form of discrimination based on their status in schools.

**Shri Sudanshu Singh**  
**Director**  
**Humanitarian Aid International (HAI)**

**SPEAKER-II**

Dr. Bhagchand Bheel shared some painful memories when he was living in Pakistan where they were subjected to various atrocities and religious and racial discrimination which made them compelled to leave their homes in Pakistan. He also pointed out the initiative taken by his NGO which is currently helping around 20 Lakhs immigrants in India. Secondly, he emphasized on the drawbacks in the Indian laws, which make it really hard for any legal immigrant, in getting Identity proof in India. He further said, that the children living in camps are facing numerous issues like- many are not enrolled in schools because they lack proper documents; shelters are in deplorable conditions and medical facilities are not provided to them in subsidized rates as per the schemes implemented by the State Government because they do not hold Indian documents. In the end he gave recommendations like special education for refugee children, dedicated support system for refugees in India, and recognised rights for refugees before attainment of Nationality and Citizenship.

**Shri Bhagchand Bheel**  
**Activist**



### **SPEAKER-III**

Shri Hanuman spoke about the discrimination faced by him for his name and religion in Pakistan. He discussed about the problems faced by the Hindu minority from Pakistan seeking refuge in India. He said that the people in refugee camps in Delhi do not have proper documents like Aadhar card, ration card which makes it difficult for the people to enrol their children in schools, get subsidized ration, houses are in bad conditions and no permanent place to live, health related issues are severe amongst children. Those who are studying had to face discrimination and abuses from fellow classmates on daily basis about their religion and country they belong.

**Shri Hanuman  
Victim of Persecution in Pakistan  
Now working as Activist among  
Pakistani Hindus living in India**



The session concentrated on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC) and children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan.

### **SPEAKER-I**

Shri Yashwant Jain, Member, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, chaired the second technical session. He sensitized the children about important provisions of UNCRC and laws relating to children implemented in India. He started the session by sensitizing the children about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 which establishes 18 years of age for female and 21 years of age for male as legal age for marriage and anyone performing, participating or abetting child marriage except women will be prosecuted under this Act. After that he spoke about the Right to Education Act, 2009 which provides free and compulsory elementary education to children from six to fourteen years of age. If a child is not attending or not being admitted or enrolled in school by the official, then the Commission will ensure that the children are not deprived of their right to basic education enshrined in Indian Constitution. Under Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 the act of elopement involving minor girl, the boy, minor or not, would be entitled to punishment regardless of the consent given by the girl. In the end, Shri Yashwant Jain made children and their parents took a pledge to stand against child marriages. He requested the people attending the workshop to not lose hope and ensured them that the issues relating to these children will be resolved as soon as possible.

**Shri Yashwant Jain**  
**Member**  
**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

## **SPEAKER-II**

Shri Yashodhan Kargaokar explained the four major categories of child rights of the UNCRC that is Survival, Development, Protection and Participation. They said the convention confers on states who are part of this charter to implement the laws prescribed by the convention and direct its policy towards securing “best interest of the child”. India which is also a signatory to this charter has to cater to the needs of the children through implementing the special laws like- guaranteeing the right to education as a fundamental right, right to proper care, protection and development of children through Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 Child Labour Act and Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012. He further elaborated on the important provision laid down in the charter which addresses the issue of children seeking refuge in host countries. It ensures that states parties with the assistance of civil societies to take appropriate measure to ensure that these children who are accompanied by their parents to receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights. In the end he emphasized that until the citizenship is granted to them it is the moral obligation of Indian Government to ensure that the children seeking refuge in India are given their due rights prescribed in the convention.

**Shri Yashodhan Kargaokar**  
**Social Activist**

## **SPEAKER-III**

Mr. Irshad Shariff shared his experience on working with the Hindu minorities situated in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and spoke about their ordeal of insecurity and discrimination in these states. He said that the minorities especially Hindus are targeted based on their religion and are robbed of their fundamental rights. He said the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 recently passed by the Government of India has given hope to not just Hindus but other minority communities seeking asylum in India to claim their rights in India.

**Mr. Irshad Shariff**  
**Representative**  
**Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum**

## **SPEAKER-IV**

Shri Ranjan Mohanty recapitulated the major outline of previous technical session which addressed the problems of children of Hindu minorities who are taking refuge in India due to ethnic persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. He also highlighted the session on the significance of UNCRC which protects and preserves the rights of these children. He said children in their formative years with no fault of their own are forced to abandon their homes as the states in question had completely failed in their task to provide these children their due rights. He also raised the issue of the children are facing in India like- lack of proper medical treatment, denial of admission to Government schools as they lack proper documents, high rate of out of school children, children involved in labour etc. He explained the responsibilities and duties of the host nation prescribed in the Convention towards these children. He appreciated the step taken by the Indian Government by implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 which provides them citizenship to the refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan as it will help them forge a new identity in India where they can live with dignity without the fear of being denied their social, cultural and economic rights and where children could enjoy all the basic rights entitled to them. In the end, he acknowledged the initiative taken by the Commission in raising the concerns of these children and requested the Chairperson, NCPCR to address their concerns till the time they get their citizenship.

**Shri Ranjan Mohanty**  
**Chairperson**

**NACG-EVAC, India (National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence against Children), Country level recognised Civil society platform of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) SAIEVAC is the inter Governmental apex body of SAARC for ensuring Child protection in South Asia**



The third and the last session focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically the ones dealing with these children that included SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10.

### **SPEAKER-I**

Dr. R. G. Anand, Member, NCPCR gave a brief background on the Sustainable Development Goals, which was adopted by all the member states of United Nations in 2015. The objective of SDGs was to provide similar developmental opportunities to everyone in sustainable manner focusing on eradicating poverty in all forms; providing better health and nutritional facilities to everyone by reducing child mortality rate and improve maternal health; promote gender equality; achieve universal primary education and so on. He further added that India is fully committed to achieve these developmental goals within 2030. Out of these 17 goals two goals - education and health plays a significant role in eradicating poverty. After discussing the importance of SDGs, he deliberated on the fact that being a minority in any nation should not be an impediment to the growth of children. He cited Article 30 of UNCRC which states that “States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language” (article 36 of UNCRC). He added that India provides refuge to 50 lakhs migrant from neighbouring countries and out of the those around 4,80,000 are children below 18 years of age and the Commission is determined to reach out to each and every child living in India and ensure that none of them are deprived of their basic rights.

**Dr. R.G. Anand**  
**Member**  
**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

## **SPEAKER-II**

Dr. Ashok Maheshwari congratulated the Chairperson, National Commission for protection of Child Rights for his personal commitment and efforts to the cause of children of persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who at present are seeking asylum in India. In his address he highlighted major issue that children in particular had to face in India which were- Inaccessibility to school and higher studies; inadequate health care facilities because the family lack valid ID proof or proper legal documents and face discrimination in school by their classmates. He also spoke about the lack of basic amenities such as- functional toilets, clean drinking water and sanitation in refugee camps. He also brought into notice the language barrier in educational institutions which is proving to be major hindrance in their education. In the end he thanked the Government of India, NCPCR and NGOs- Humanitarian Aid International and for conducting this workshop and putting all their efforts in redressing the issues of our children.

**Dr. Ashok Maheshwari**  
**Anaesthesiologist, Victim of Persecution in Pakistan**  
**Now working as Activist among**  
**Pakistani Hindus living in India**

## **SPEAKER-III**

Mr. Muddasir Hassan stated that before going into details of SDGs it is imperative to understand the significance of these two terms separately. He defined sustainable development as making progress/growth without causing damage to the natural resources. He stated that the children are the most vulnerable population all over the world and severely affected by violence, abuse, lack of proper nutritional care and health services, poverty. United Nations through Sustainable Development Goals have ensured that children are able to enjoy their basic fundamental rights. He further explained the Sustainable Development Goals in depth to children. While addressing the children who are living as refugee in India, he stated that these are your inalienable rights and nobody can deny these rights to you in any scenario. In the end he sensitized children about the working of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and asked them to raise their concerns to the Commission.

**Mr. Muddasir Hassan**  
**Child Rights Activist**



#### **SPEAKER-IV**

Ms. Shreya Bharatiya, appreciated the initiative taken by the Commission in conducting one day workshop for children of persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. She discussed India's rank on the Happiness Index and exclusion of refugees. She also highlighted the implementation problems in the existing laws in India and most of these children are still deprived of their rights described in UNCRC. She also emphasized the role of community which plays a significant role by acknowledging their presence and help these family especially the children by constantly engaging with them. She further highlighted the lack of coordination between the nodal departments working at the state and central level in addressing the issues of these children and suggested that the concerned departments should come together to resolve their problems in a more holistic way.

**Ms. Shreya Bharatiya**  
**Child Rights Activist**



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, NCPCR concluded the workshop with the closing remarks followed by a plenary discussion on the subject matter. He highlighted and assured the community that all the problems and recommendations noted down in the workshop would be submitted as a report to the Central Government for their implementation. He reminded the audience that Constitution of India grants fundamental rights to every citizen but there also exists wide range of moral duties that one must perform which is important for the progress, peace, and prosperity of the country. He assured the parents that the Commission is committed towards securing the rights of these children by making them self-dependent. He asserted that families must inculcate values of self-dependence in their children at an early age which will help them in shaping up their confidence levels and develop a sense of bearing responsibilities in life. Like the Parsi community who were persecuted from their homeland and arrived at the shores of India for refuge and today we could see their remarkable contributions to the history and development of our country. In the end, the Chairperson promised the children belonging to persecuted minority community to constitute a dedicated desk for them in NCPCR which will address issues that are affecting them.

The workshop was well received by the participants, who discussed several concrete solutions to the problems being faced by refugees in India. The workshop sessions generated a rich debate in terms of possible solutions to key practical challenges faced by children of persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India.



## DISCUSSION

The workshop not just documented the challenges but also narrated the hardship faced by minority community, especially children, had faced during their stay in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. As a result of ethnic and religious persecution millions of refugees along with their families have been migrating to India since 1947 in the hope of living a dignified life, getting equal opportunities and exercising their rights without any constraints and fear. Children who were accompanied with their families are the greatest victims of this forced migration. Exposure to violence and discrimination in their homeland and trying to adjust to the new realities in host countries often affects their overall development, sometimes with irreparable long-term consequences. Children who participated in this workshop highlighted numerous issues encountered by them during their stay in India. Below are the experiences shared by the children.

*I reside in Majnu Ka Tila camp. We do not have cooking stove in our home so I have to venture outside to fetch dry wood for cooking. One day a police officer apprehended me while collecting some wood near signature bridge. He started asking questions and accused me of engaging in illegal activities. He, later, brought me to police station for further questioning. I explained them about my presence at signature bridge but they did not pay heed to my request. They humiliated me by calling me 'Pakistani' and asked to leave India.*

***Yash Kumar (changed name)***

*We are living in India for more than five years and till date our visas are not extended. We have not received our Aadhar cards due to which, we are not able to get admission in nearby schools. Many adolescents want to pursue their education but various factors like- unavailability of proper documents and different education system in Pakistan had made our degrees redundant in India. Those who are going to schools are facing discrimination in schools by their classmates.*

***Shilpa Singh (changed name)***

*I want to highlight that the camps where we are living lack adequate sanitation facilities, insufficient access to appropriate food, clean water and other basic facilities. A major issue is that we do not have electricity supply in our camps as a result of children cannot complete their homework and suffer during dry and sultry weather without electricity.*

***Bhanu Raj (changed name)***

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In 1992, India ratified the UNCRC treaty which covers all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. Since then India has enacted various progressive legislations and schemes like- Right to Education, 2009; The Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012; Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (CLPRA), Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram Scheme; promoting rights of children in every sphere. The recent outbreak of Covid-19 has disrupted the progress of Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 by putting a temporary halt on its implementation. During these perilous times the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) strongly recommended the State Governments to ensure that the rights described under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are provided to them and benefits of the Government sponsored schemes and programmes are extended to these children.

### EDUCATION

Article 28 of UNCRC states that “every child has the right to education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights”. On the similar lines the Article 21 (a) of the Indian Constitution uphold the children's right to free and compulsory education between the age of 6-14 years. In addition to this the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued specific guidelines for persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan living in India in which children of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals staying in India on Long Term Visa (LTV) are allowed to take admission in schools, colleges, Universities, technical professional institution etc.<sup>1</sup> State Government must ensure: -

- Every child between the age of 6-14 years are enrolled in nearby Government schools and no charge/expenses are levied on them which may prevent these children from pursuing and completing the elementary education (**Section 3, RTE Act, 2009**).
- These children shall not be denied admission in a school due to lack of age proof (**Section 14, RTE Act, 2009**).

---

<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines  
[https://www.mha.gov.in/PDF\\_Other/AnnexVI\\_01022018.pdf](https://www.mha.gov.in/PDF_Other/AnnexVI_01022018.pdf)

- Children who are out of school (OoS) must enrol in subject-specific bridge courses for different classes for mainstreaming through special training centres (STCs) and this should be translated in the language familiar to them. **(Section 4, RTE Act, 2009)**
- If schools do not exist within the area or limits of neighbourhood, the appropriate State Government shall make adequate arrangements such as- free transportation, for providing elementary education in a school **(Rule 6 (4), RTE Rules, 2010)**.

## **CHILD HEALTH**

Article 24 of UNCRC states “every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy” whereas Article 39 (f) states that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. State Governments must ensure: -

- The benefits under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) scheme rolled out by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) which aims at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 ‘D’s viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability<sup>2</sup> are extended to these children.
- Children of persecuted minorities should be enrolled in local Anganwadi centres so that they may enjoy the benefits of early childhood care and education as per National ECCE Policy 2013 and pre-school education under Section 11, RTE Act. Appropriate nutritional support provided to children between the age of six months to six years under Section 5 (1) (a) of National Food Security Act, 2013.

## **OTHERS**

In 2014, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued certain guidelines for persons belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan seeking settlement in India. As a part of that guideline which extend additional benefits like- opening of bank accounts, Issuance of important Government documents like- Aadhar card, Pan card and Driving License.

---

<sup>2</sup>About Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)  
<https://rbsk.gov.in/RBSKLive/>

State Government must ensure: -

- Bank accounts of all the children are opened.
- Important Government documents are provided.
- To ensure that the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for persecuted minorities seeking permanent settlement in India with a view to acquire Indian citizenship for Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals<sup>3</sup> are followed.

The State Governments should provide basic amenities to the families and also ensure: -

- The adult members of families may be given jobs under MNREGA
- They may also be covered under Deendayal Antodaya Yojna- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).
- Children should get benefit of protection services provided under Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).
- The younger generation of the community should be linked with various skill development scheme and programmes.
- Children with special needs should be issued certificates and enjoy the benefits of pension, equipment and treatment as equivalent to all children of India.

---

<sup>3</sup>MHA guidelines  
[https://www.mha.gov.in/PDF\\_Other/AnnexVI\\_01022018.pdf](https://www.mha.gov.in/PDF_Other/AnnexVI_01022018.pdf)