

Organisational Report 2024



2024 at a Glance

Dear Friends,

As we look back at 2024, we are grateful for the many milestones in our journey. It was a year when children's voices became stronger, clearer, and more widely heard – in their local rural communities, in state-level engagements, and even in global platforms.

Our efforts have been guided by our conviction – 'children and adolescents are equal partners in shaping their present and future trajectories' and that it is 'our role to ensure their meaningful participation'. 2024 year proved once again that when we partner with children to facilitate opportunities, and spaces to participate and assert their entitlements, they are able significantly transform their communities.

Strengthening Children's Participation

In 2024, we focused on making local governance even more child-responsive. From supporting local governments to make Makkala Grama Sabhas more accessible to children through the Makkala Habba (Children's Festival Model), to creating opportunities for children to engage with decision-makers at the local, district, state, and national levels, our aim has been to ensure that children's issues are discussed where decisions are made.

We also signed a multi-year MoU with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka, to build Child Responsive Local Governance models across the state. This step strengthens our long-term vision that child and youth participation should not be event based, but be embedded in local governance. .

A Commitment to Vulnerable Rural Children

In 2024, CWC gave special attention to children facing mental health challenges, disabilities, in addition to working children and adolescents. With inputs from children and subject experts, we reviewed the existing gaps in ground outreach, policies and programmes. Children and community members were part of our efforts to demand entitlements. A major step was starting the phased upgradation of our State Resource Centre into a mobility disability-friendly campus, ensuring access for children with physical challenges. We also supported 212 adolescents and youth through vocational training, education, and outreach, helping them build skills and improve livelihoods. These efforts reflect our commitment to create inclusive spaces where every child can grow and thrive with dignity.

Global Recognition and Continued Advocacy

In 2024, our global advocacy reached a historic milestone with the United Nations declaring 11th June as the International Day of Play (IDOP). This achievement gives us a strong platform to promote children's right to play in state, national, and global processes. Our partnership with the Child and Youth Friendly Governance Project in Geneva, and our role as a founding member of the IDOP campaign, were key to this success. With support from 140 countries, the resolution showed worldwide commitment. Children from Udipi and Vijayanagara contributed to the global Call to Action, making their voices heard internationally, with five young peer nominated young people joining as members of the Global Child and Youth Advisory group.

Empowering Children as Ambassadors of Change

Empowering children as changemakers is core of our mission. In 2024, through initiatives like Young Voices National Movement, young people were enabled to exercise agency and engage in systemic decision-making processes. Many children stepped up to advocate their citizenship at local and national levels, proving their powerful ability to lead change. We also worked on children's digital safety, partnering with Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), UNICEF, and Karnataka Judiciary Academy to initiate strategies for online protection and participation. Children carried out surveys and discussions prior to the event and CWC made the plenary presentation to set the overall framework for the event. This was one of the first state-level efforts on children's digital wellbeing. These initiatives not only protected children but also gave them the confidence and tools to speak, act, and be recognised as leaders in shaping their peer communities to respond to technological changes.

Advocacy for Livelihood and Capacity Building

Another focus in 2024 was on sustainable livelihoods. As a founding member of Grama Swaraj Abhiyan, a network of 50 organisations, we worked to ensure marginalised communities could access their livelihood rights. Together with the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Azim Premji Foundation, we have supported the capacity building of Mates, who play a vital role in implementing MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). This has facilitated sustainable income opportunities, benefitting families and children. These efforts show that when communities gain stable livelihoods, children too have better opportunities for growth and wellbeing. Livelihood and child rights are deeply linked in our work.

Learning and Growing

At CWC, we believe learning never stops. In 2024, our team took part in many internal learning sessions and exposure visits to other organisations. These experiences helped us understand important issues like mental health, adolescence, addiction, digital safety, and community-based livelihoods more deeply. Working closely with experts in disability and mental health further strengthened our knowledge and shaped our work with children.

Looking back, we feel a sense of fulfilment. . From advancing children's influence in governance to supporting their voices on global platforms, every step has ensured that children's voices are heard and acted upon. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and most of all , the trust of the children and communities who walk with us. As we move forward, we remain committed to ensuring that every child has the chance to thrive, to be heard, and to take part in shaping at their future

Thank you for your unwavering support.

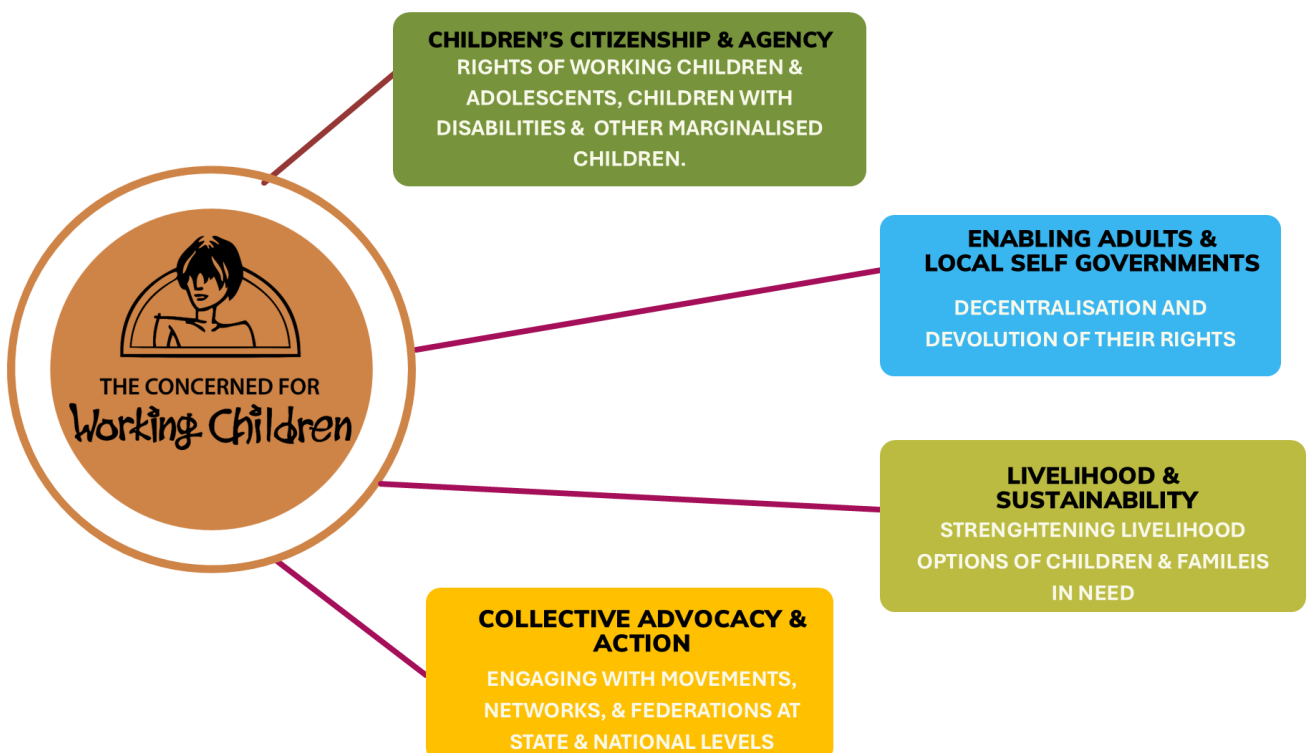
The CWC Team

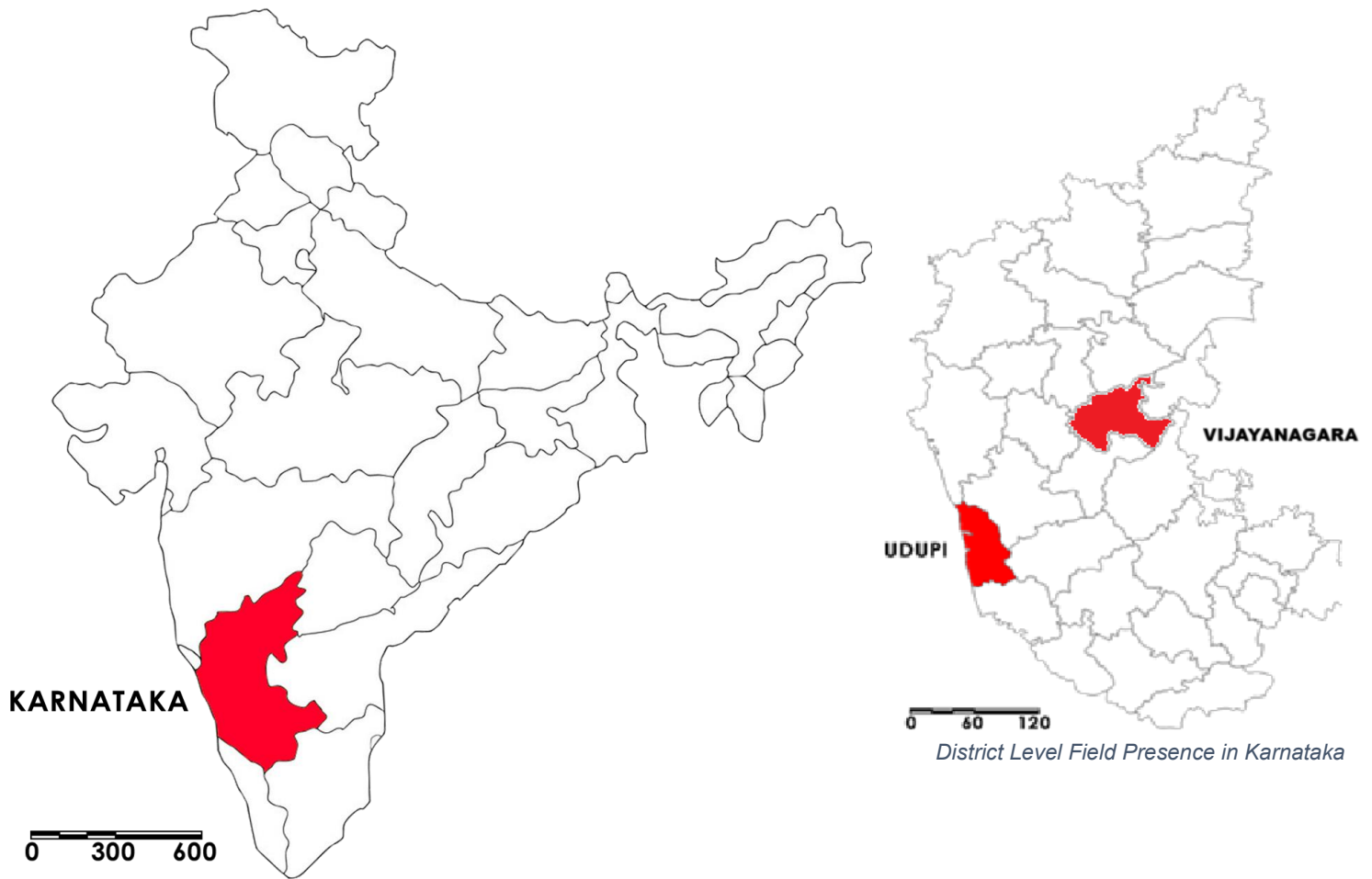
The Concerned for Work Children (CWC)'s vision

A sustainable and ecologically balanced world where all children are respected as citizens and able protagonists, who realise, experience and practice all their rights through their participation in equitable partnership with adults to establish and maintain together a secular, equitable, just, non-discriminatory world.



Our Work and Reach





Pan National Agency Building Presence & Field Presence in Karnataka

At CWC, we work in close partnership with children, their communities, and many stakeholders – from local panchayats in Udupi and Vijayanagara districts to state governments, and from national to international agencies – to create practical and inclusive solutions to the challenges and young people children face.

Our focus is on empowering children and young people, especially girls, by making sure they can take part in decisions that affect their lives. We support them to come together, share experiences, and engage with peers, experts, and decision-makers at local, district, state, and national levels.

Through these partnerships, we help children and youth build the confidence and skills to access knowledge, organise themselves, and claim their rights to protection, provision, and participation. Together, we believe they can become strong leaders who bring fair and lasting change in their communities.

Empowering Children, Communities & Local Governments

The Rural Field Programme in Udupi and Vijayanagara

This year, we continued to strengthen and expand our affirmative Makkala Grama Sabha model, while also showing its potential for replication. We supported children to advocate for their Right to Play at global platforms, and helped working children, adolescents and other marginalised young people to claim their rights to provision, protection and participation. Our efforts also reached some of the most vulnerable children, including those with disabilities and psychological challenges. At the community level, we worked with Panchayats to promote child- and socially-responsive governance, while also enabling marginalised communities to realise their right to survival and strengthen their citizenship by accessing their due entitlements.

Evolving the affirmative Makkala Grama Sabha Model

In 2024, efforts were made to strengthen the Makkala Gram Sabhaⁱⁱ as a space that is celebratory, inviting, affirmative and respectful of children’s voices. Attention to the participation of the most vulnerable and excluded of children has been the core of our engagement with this model – which we created for the first time in Karnataka in 2002






Highlights

- ✓ Created child-friendly platforms for open discussion, free from adult control.
- ✓ Supported children to lead conversations and prioritise issues of Protection, Provision and Participation.
- ✓ Successfully implemented in 18 Gram Panchayats of Udupi District, proving flexible and adaptable across communities.
- ✓ Recognition at the state level, leading to Capacity building of Panchayat Members Panchayat officials and Librarians as part of the Child-Responsive Local Governance Project of the Dept. of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj - GoK.

Processes: Celebratory • Child-led • Inclusive

- 1  Established dynamic platforms that facilitate child friendly environments
- 2  Organised Children’s Ward Sabhas to enable safe & open spaces for children to take part in discussions & share their concerns in their own locality.
- 3  Facilitated expression through creative mediums like song & storytelling, problem bags & children’s post boxes
- 4  Space to exhibit their talents and skills - facilitating self expression & confidence
- 5  Ensuring inclusive participation of children from diverse backgrounds

Empowering Young Voices: Heralding Change with Rights to Protection, Provision & Participation

 Protection	 Provision	 Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support & Protection for 12 Survivors of Abuse • Prevention of 6 Child Marriages • Awareness initiatives on digital safety & wellbeing prevention from sexual abuse, trafficking, child marriage, • Danger zone mapping & orientation on safety viz-a-viz identified dangerous spots. . • Physical and Mental Health and Well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations with 13+ Panchayats & academic volunteers - Remedial Classes to bridge learning gaps & continue education • 185 children facilitated with individual donor & Panchayat support to continue education • 17 children enrolled in CWC's State Resource Center for vocational training, 119 children supported in community-based vocational trainings • Supporting Rural Libraries to transform into creative, safe learning spaces • Health Camps & orientations on mental & physical health & well-being. Facilitation to access health facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering children to participate in decision-making, advocate for their rights, and strengthen their agency in spaces they are part of such as school, home, grama panchayats. • Advocating for stronger children's representation in the Panchayats' Child Rights Committees to enhance their agency • Supporting children's active participation in relevant local, district, state, national & international platforms to amplify their concerns & recommendations

Impact and Reach – 2024

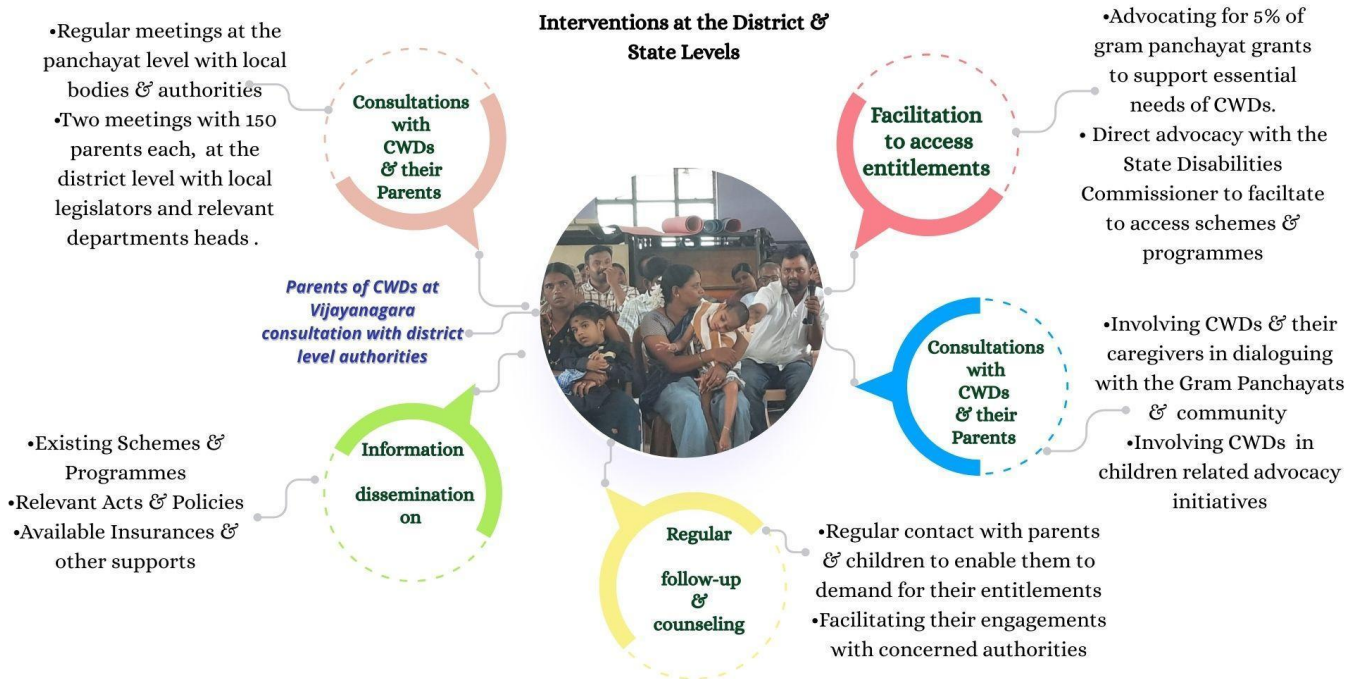
This year, our initiatives created meaningful spaces for children to learn, express, and take action on issues that matter to them. The impact has been wide and deep across Udupi and Vijayanagara districts.



Highlights:

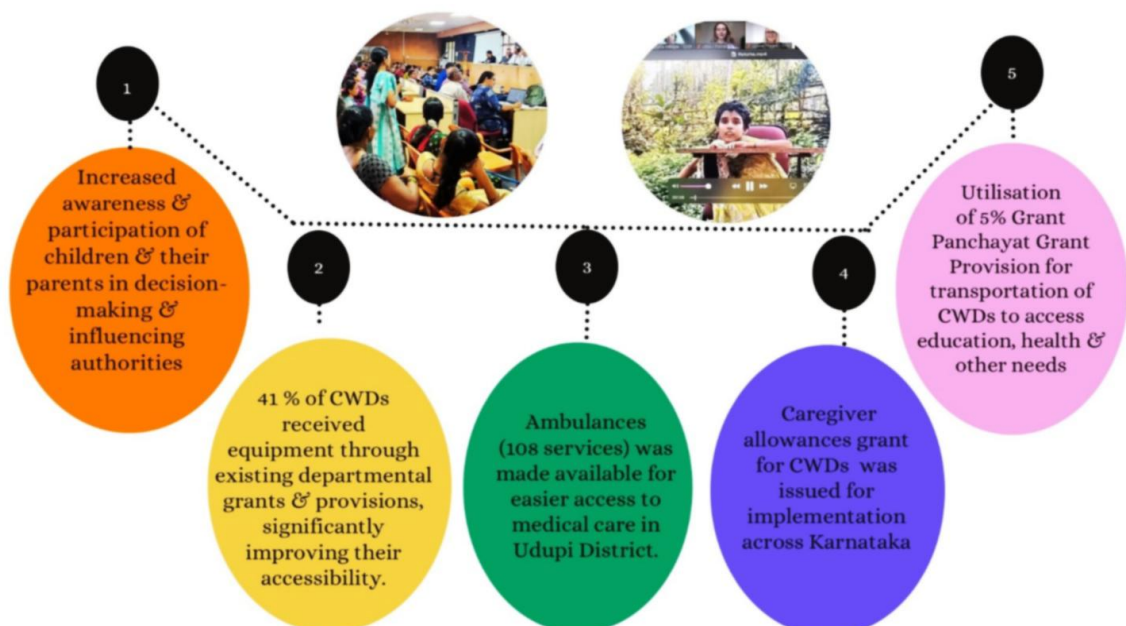
- ✓ **700+ children** from **70+ Makkala Sanghas and Bhima Sanghas** actively participated in transformative programmes.
- ✓ **1,500+ children**, outside Sanghas, joined in education and awareness initiatives.
- ✓ **Safe and creative learning spaces** helped children blend learning with expression for holistic growth.
- ✓ **Suchi Sanitary Pad Scheme Revived** – Advocacy by Bhima Sangha and CSOs led to the state restarting sanitary pad distribution for **out-of-school girls**. In Hagari Bommanahalli taluk, **34 children from 4 panchayats** received pads via the taluk hospital. Efforts continue to expand this to all Panchayats.
- ✓ **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Awareness** – **300 children** took part in sessions on alcoholism, drug use and mental health, gaining strategies to safeguard their well-being.

Reaching the Highly Vulnerable: Children with Disabilities (CWDs) & Mental Health Needs



CWC’s facilitation of CWDs & their parents to influence relevant district & state authorities, gain information on government schemes, ensured that they could access psycho social support, therapy & special education, medical support, reserved grants & other entitlements. Since mid-2024, CWC partnered with APDⁱⁱⁱ to strengthen support for children with disabilities through technical guidance & mobilisation of resources. This collaboration also seeks to integrate disability inclusion into governance initiatives in Karnataka.

2024 Achievements in the Communities: CWC supports CWDs & Parents to lead change!



Empowering Children to Assert their Agency: Bhima Bandi & Bhima Patrike and other platforms

Bhima Bhandi



The Bhima Bandi, CWC's Mobile Facilitation Centre, is our customised van that takes child rights and empowerment directly to the doorsteps of children in remote and marginalised areas. This innovative model has become a bridge between young people and opportunities for learning, dialogue, and collective action. In 2024

Outreach in 2024

Reaching villages in Udupi and Vijayanagara districts, it brought varied experiences such as a library, empowerment-based topics, contextual environmental exhibits etc to extremely remote and inaccessible communities

Children Empowered

Engaged with 1952 children and 16,315 community members, enabling them to raise their voices, share concerns, and actively participate in shaping solutions.



Bhima Patrike

The Bhima Patrike, CWC's quarterly magazine, brings children timely information, inspiring stories, and empowerment-focused articles in a simple, accessible format. It is shared widely across communities and child care institutions in Karnataka, enabling children to stay informed, build awareness, and strengthen their voices, while informing duty bearers, community members and families, of the issues that are of relevance to children.

Building Resilient Children and Communities Through Mental Health Awareness

In our programme areas, mental health is still one of the most ignored and least understood issues. Stigma, wrong beliefs, and poor access to services stop children and families from getting the help they need. Adolescents, especially, go through many emotional changes and pressures that remain unnoticed, leaving them in distress and isolation. Recognising this serious gap, CWC developed a clear strategy this year to address mental health as a priority.

CWC's 2024 Interventions on Mental Health and Wellbeing



Strengthening Panchayats to practice child and socially responsive governance

CWC has worked consistently to make local governance more democratic and responsive to the members of Grama Sabhas - consisting of children and their communities. In 2024 our focus has continued to be on empowering elected members of the Gram Panchayats (GPs), strengthening Gram Sabhas, and ensuring that together with the members of the community, they actively safeguard the rights of children and access their entitlements.

Strengthening Panchayats

- ✓ Continued advocacy to enable Gram Panchayats to access the rights and powers mandated to them in the Gram Swaraj Act of Karnataka.
- ✓ Organised a consultation in Udupi with all Gram Panchayat members along with MLAs, and MPs of the jurisdiction to address local issues and advocate - for state-level responses for matters that require state level interventions.

Inclusive Gram Sabhas

- ✓ Promoted active participation of women, SC/ST, and other marginalised groups in Gram Sabhas.
- ✓ Engage with local officials to tackle their cynicism and neglect, which undermine the role, power and responsibilities of the Gram Sabhas.
- ✓ 2,000+ people took part in 18 Gram Sabha meetings, influencing decisions on health, learning, and vocational training favourably.



Protecting Children's Rights

- ✓ Strengthened Child Rights Protection Committees at Gram Panchayat level.
- ✓ Trained community members and local leaders to act as guardians of children's rights.
- ✓ Involved more children as members, giving them safe spaces to voice concerns.
- ✓ Actively engaged in Taluk and District Committees on child marriage prevention, child protection, and POCSO vigilance.

Spreading Awareness of Rights

- ✓ Conducted awareness campaigns, distributed simple information, and held workshops.
- ✓ Helped families access social benefits and ensured entitlements were respected.

Enabling Marginalised Communities to Access Rights & Entitlements

In 2024, our main focus was to resolve the problems faced by MGNREGA workers which include - abrupt removal from the jobs, lack of continuous work, poor access to information regarding their entitlements and limited access to mechanisms to address their concerns.

✓ **Direct Participation of Workers**

Over 1,000 workers from several Gram Panchayats in Vijayanagar took part in discussions and problem-solving. Phone consultations helped share key information, enabling workers to better use the MGNREGA system and claim their entitlements.



✓ **State-Level Advocacy and Policy Engagement**

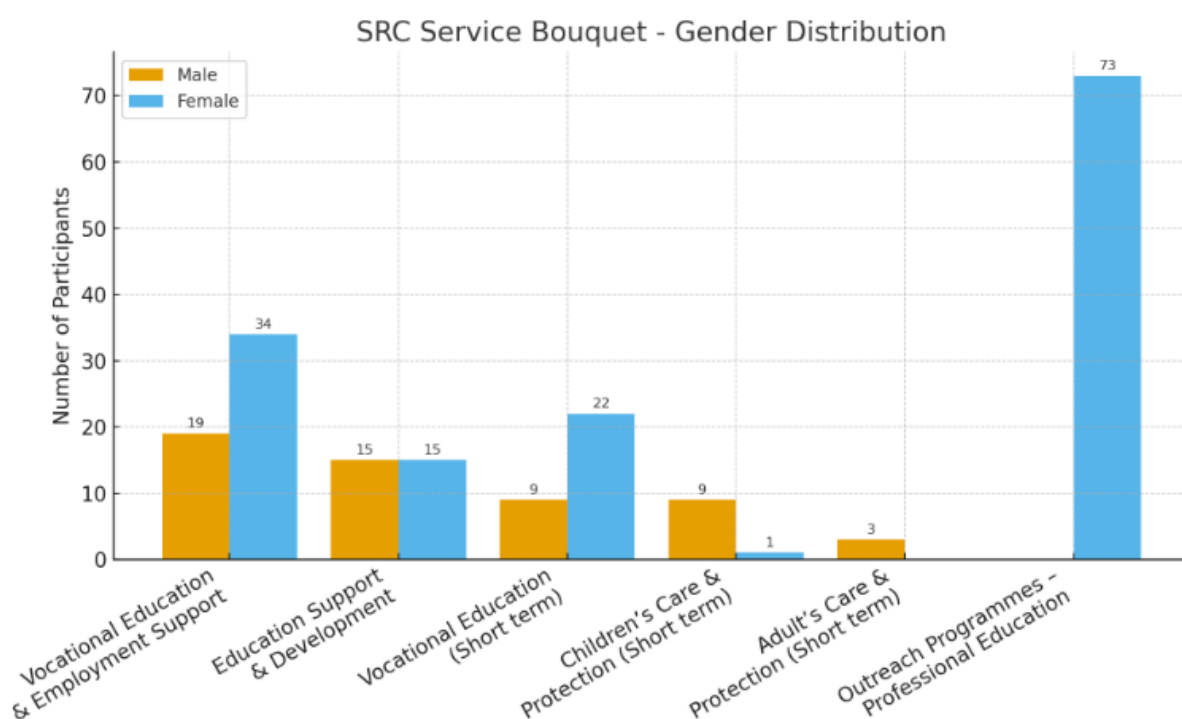
At the state level, we actively joined policy discussions and strongly advocated for the rights of MGNREGA workers. Our focus was on protecting their rights as Gram Sabha members, ensuring their right to survival,



and challenging systemic barriers such as narrow legal interpretations that limit their entitlements. We stressed the importance of regular information-sharing and capacity building for both workers and mates, so they are better equipped to defend their rights. These efforts have helped address many of the challenges faced by workers, while also laying the groundwork for comprehensive training programmes for mates across Karnataka. This work is being carried out in partnership with Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, a consortium of organisations, where we continue to play an active role as members of the state committee.

State Resource Centre (SRC)
Partnering with Children- Building Confidence, Creativity and Hope

The State Resource Centre has emerged as a strong foundation for children’s learning and growth. Even with complex family and social challenges, children are encouraged to dream and aspire. Its varied teaching and learning methods have built resilience, confidence, and creativity. SRC stands recognised as a best practice model for holistic child development and empowerment.



Vocational Education and Employment Support

At the State Resource Centre (SRC), young people continued to be guided into both academic and professional education based on their needs. The centre gave special focus to adolescent girls, linking them with earning opportunities and marketing awareness through Nammangadi – CWC’s fair trade and collective marketing platform for young artisans and craftspersons.

- 🌱 124 adolescents (52 boys, 72 girls) were enrolled for vocational and formal education.
- 👛 66 trainees secured jobs post trainings, many through campus interviews.
- 🔧 48 children took part in apprenticeship training in their chosen trades.
- 🏠 SRC introduced the ‘earn and learn’ model – trainees earned even while they trained.
- 🚗 Exposure visits were organised for all 124 trainees in their respective trades.
- 🌟 A small-scale entrepreneurship programme was conducted collaboration with RUDSETTI^{iv}.
- 🍲 2 children and 1 adult attended RUDSETTI training on traditional dry food processing.

The SRC team actively supported 30 children to continue their education, including those who will appear for 10th grade government exams in 2025. Children achieved recognition through Block-level awards in sports, which boosted their confidence and motivation. Additionally, 31 children from government schools in Kundapur and Byndoor taluks completed short-term basic computer courses, enhancing their practical skills. Through these efforts, SRC helped actualise children’s right to education, providing academic support, skill-building opportunities, and platforms for achievement, resulting in empowered, confident, and better-prepared young learners.



Children and Citizenship



SRC’s *Makkala Panchayat*, a model of local self-governance designed to facilitate children’s citizenship and teach democratic values, leadership, and civic responsibility, is fully elected and led by children. It gives them a real stake in managing the SRC, while actively involving them in decisions affecting their lives, including seasonal and nutritious menu planning.

In 2024, elections were held for the Panchayat, which also set up *Makkala Anche Pettige* (Children’s Post-box)– which is a complaints / suggestion tool at two locations, providing a safe and anonymous grievance redressal mechanism; all 48 submissions were successfully resolved. Further Children, along with adult facilitators, were active members of the *Child Protection Committees* in SRC, that deliberated on care, protection issues & recommendations that arose. Through this platform, SRC has empowered children as active citizens, strengthening their voice, responsibility& decision-making skills.



Care and Protection



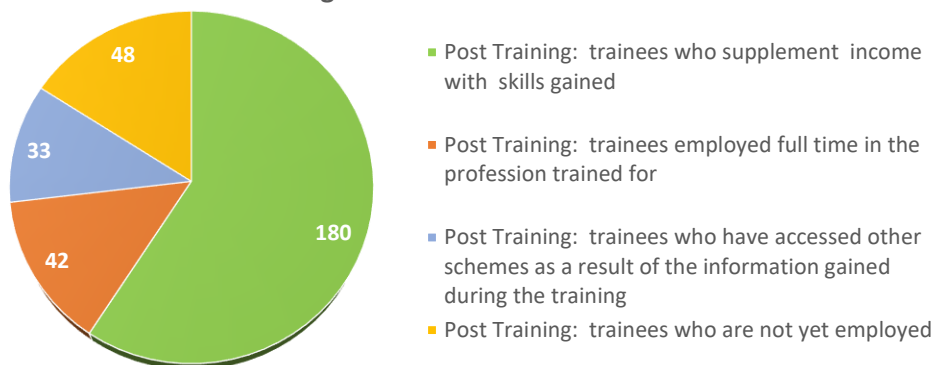
In 2024, SRC continued to provide *temporary care and protection* for 28 children and women from across India, ensuring their overall health, safety, and wellbeing. Children with mental and emotional disabilities received specialised support. SRC promotes *nutrition and life skills* by involving children in growing and cooking their own food, fostering respect for both labour and sustenance. The centre is supported by a full-time caretaker, an on-site clinic, and access to *medical treatment and psychological counselling* in collaboration with Manipal Academy of Higher Education. Through these efforts, SRC has demonstrated its commitment to safeguarding vulnerable children, ensuring not just protection but also holistic development, resilience, and empowerment.

Professional Education Outreach – Adolescent Girls & Women

In 2024, SRC facilitators visited various Panchayats in Udupi district, engaging community members and stakeholders to raise awareness about SRC’s programmes. Through professional education outreach, adolescent girls and women have become economically stronger and self-reliant, joining collectives like Makkala Sanghas, self-help groups, and savings programmes. Participants have gained knowledge of government schemes, collaborated with SRC and local administration to access services, and adopted banking practices once unfamiliar to them. Some women have even progressed to become trainers, sharing skills and empowering others. SRC’s programme has thus strengthened women’s agency, financial independence, and leadership, creating sustainable pathways for empowerment



Professional Outreach Programmes in Udupi & Vijayanagara
303 adolescent girls & women trained in 2024



Facilitating Children Asserting Their Agency & Global Citizenship

In 2024, SRC actively facilitated children’s right to participation, empowering them to assert their views and influence decision-making. Children submitted recommendations on digital wellbeing to a panel of experts commissioned by KSCPCR and UNICEF; their insights were so compelling that they were invited to present at the State consultation on Digital Wellbeing of Children, receiving strong recognition from judicial and executive authorities. SRC children also joined Makkala Sanghas to represent their issues to the Udupi district Administration on Children’s Day 2024. Through these platforms, SRC has strengthened children’s agency, voice, and citizenship, enabling them to engage meaningfully in governance and societal decision-making.



Partnering with Children to Claim their Citizenship State, National and International Policy Impact

In 2024, CWC continued its efforts at the state, national, and international levels to strengthen grassroots work, build solidarity among its constituencies, and connect with wider movements, networks, and federations. These efforts amplified the concerns of children and communities and advocated for their rights to protection, provision, and participation. CWC also played a key role in facilitating and supporting collective processes at national and international levels, often anchoring solidarity with groups like working adolescents, children with disabilities, vulnerable rural communities, and civil society organisations.

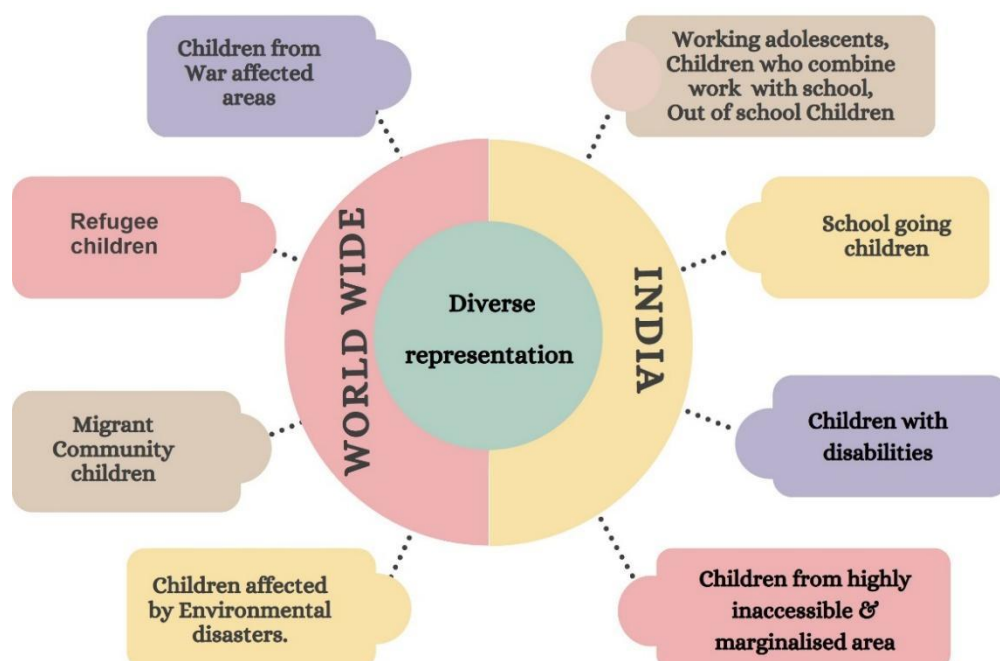
Realising the Right to Play – International Day of Play (IDOP)



The Concerned for Working Children (CWC) is proud to be a founding member of the International Day of Play (IDOP) campaign, which led to the United Nations General Assembly declaring June 11th as the International Day of Play in March 2024. This global recognition is a historic step towards acknowledging what children everywhere have been saying very clearly – that play has the power to transform their lives and the lives of their communities.

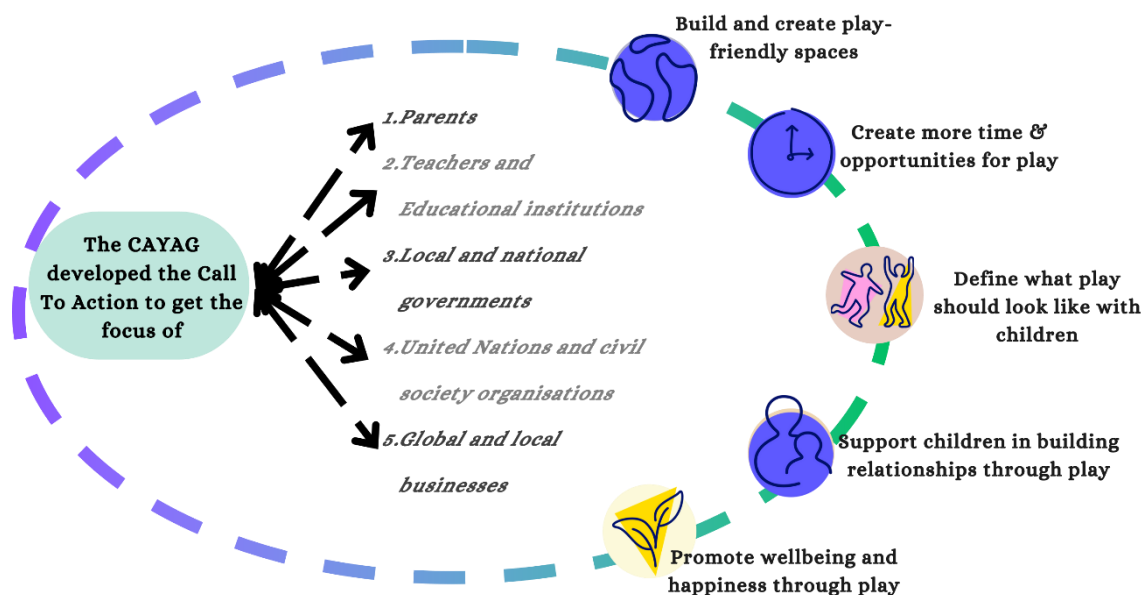
Collective Action to Put Play on the Global Agenda: Children leading change

Children from Udupi and Vijayanagara districts of Karnataka, in partnership with CWC, played a leading role in shaping the direction of the campaign, by sharing their concerns and



recommendations on the Right to play in a global survey. Their voices joined over 10,000 children worldwide, who took part in online consultations and focus group discussions.

Five children from CWC’s partner areas were nominated by their peers to the Children and Youth Advisory Group (CAYAG). With the inputs from the global survey with children, and the support of NGOs including CWC, they prepared the Call to Action. Their insights stressed the vital role of Play in children’s holistic development- from improving learning, creativity, problem-solving to strengthening mental health, social skills, & community bonds.



Outcome of CWC’s Initiatives: Igniting IDOP Momentum Post-Declaration

Policy Influence

The RDPR^v, issued a circular to decentralise play as a right and tool of empowerment through rural libraries, focusing on vulnerable children in panchayats.

The DWCD^{vi} issued a circular directing all Child Care Institutions, hostels, observation homes, and state homes to celebrate IDOP

Government Commitments

The Udupi District Administration collaborated with CWC to helm IDOP celebrations in Udupi with 500+ children.

The Udupi District Administration assured children that their recommendations & demands would be reviewed & acted upon through suitable action plans.

National Initiatives

CWC organised the inaugural Young Person’s Peer Learning Session: Right to Play – Play Together, Stay Together, marking both the launch of Project Ankur and the first International Day of Play.

This interactive session, involving children and youth from across India, highlighted the role of play in fostering inclusivity and combating discrimination.

The event, featuring multilingual interpretation in five Indian languages, attracted 100 registrations, with plans to expand its reach further.



Media Engagement

Radio and podcast broadcasts amplified awareness. AIR Rainbow hosted a session on the origins and impact of the International Day of Play, while a podcast titled ‘Play Is My Right’ highlighted its significance to children and communities alike! The processes by CWC and CAYAG and children’s involvement in the campaign effectively covered by state and national print media



The International Day of Play successfully mobilised efforts at local, national, and international levels to highlight the essential role of play in child development. CWC served as a core group member of the IDOP campaign, contributing significantly to its global design and the development of international mission engagement plans. It also played a key role in creating spaces for the participation of children and young people, ensuring their voices were integral to the campaign's initiatives. Moving forward, CWC is committed to work as an active member of the global collaboration, to ensure that the transformative power of play continues to enrich the lives of children locally, nationally and globally.

Young Voices Network – Defending Adolescent Rights to Agency and Freedom of Choice

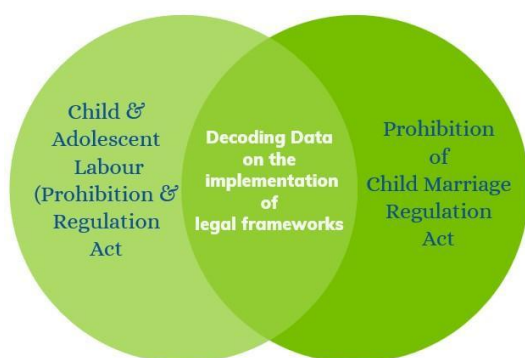
With the continued strategic aim to counter the proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for girls from 18 to 21 years, and instead highlight that true empowerment comes from expanding education and welfare opportunities, not adding restrictions, In September 2024, the Young Voices Working Group (YVWG) and the National Coalition for



Advocating Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC) submitted an appeal to the President of India. The appeal was forwarded to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC). Later, in November 2024, youth representatives met with the PSC, MWCD, the National Commission for Women (NCW), and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to present alternative solutions that focused on education and welfare support for adolescent girls.

The PSC and the national commissions aligned with the recommendations that welfare and education-based measures would be more effective than legal changes. The process also opened doors for continued dialogue on adolescent rights if the government revisits amendments to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA). Thus, this advocacy shifted the debate from one of control and restriction to a rights-based approach centred on welfare, education, and empowerment. It highlighted that protecting girls means expanding their opportunities rather than limiting their freedoms.

Representing Concerns of Adolescent Working Children



In July 2024, CWC joined a panel organised by Enfold Trust on addressing child and adolescent labour through criminal laws. CWC presented “Adolescent Working Children – Unseen and Misunderstood”, powerfully highlighting the struggles of adolescent workers and the urgent need for recognition of their realities. A child marriage survivor, activist, and member of the Young Voices National Movement (YVNM) also

shared her journey, showing how collective action can challenge child marriage. The event became an important platform to question the limits of existing laws and to examine whether they truly protect children or push their issues into invisibility. It reinforced the need for laws that are not punitive, but enabling children's rights and dignity.

CWC's National Project Ankur: Empowering Children Enabling Adults

In June 2024, CWC launched Project Ankur. This 18-month initiative seeks to strengthen the agency of adolescents and young people by working with children's unions, adolescent clubs, and organisations committed to children's rights. The project focuses on enhancing their knowledge, skills, and organisational competence while encouraging peer learning and collaboration. By doing so, it not only empowers young people to actively shape decisions affecting their lives but also catalyses wider state and national-level alliances. With plans for several initiatives, following were set in motion in 2024:

The Young Persons' Peer Learning Sessions (PLS) are a key part of CWC's focus on enabling children's right to agency and participation. The "We are Part of the Solution" series is organised through bi-monthly national webinars, led by young people, with discussions between children and young people from various collectives and contexts. This initiative, with an average participation of around 100 sign-ins and 300 persons, fosters equitable and meaningful participation for children and young people. CWC's resource persons also offer pre-session mentoring to guide the planning of these events. In total, 10 sessions are planned, with 3 successful sessions highlighting the power of children's agency.

National Virtual Peer Learning Sessions

Play together Stay Together
presented by Balsena and Tarunsena from Gujarat, facilitated by Saishav, involving children and youth from across India, highlighted the role of play in fostering inclusivity and combating discrimination.

Co-living & Co-thriving: Friends of Nature
presented by the children of the Bal Sangathans from Uttarakhand facilitated by The Mountain Children's foundation. The members of Bal Sanghathans showcased how their children's initiative is championing child rights & environmental conservation.

Power of Art – Advocating for Child Rights and Social Justice
presented by members of the Vidiyal Child Rights Movement, Tamil Nadu, facilitated by Sakthi – Vidiyal, showcasing how they employ creative expressions processes such as performing art and digital medium to collectively advocate for Child Rights, Social Inclusion and Social Justice.

State Level Capacity Building for Children & Youth of Vijayanagar - The initiative aimed to empower adolescents and youth from Vijayanagar District - among the most disadvantaged in Karnataka based on the HDI and per capita income. The focus was on enhancing their skills through experiential learning and systemic engagement. It included youth collectives from three organisations working with marginalised communities, who face challenges balancing work and education, are victims of the devdasi system, displacement, and the impacts of mining. These collectives included Bhima Sangha (CWC), Yuva Dhvani Federation (Sakhi Trust), and Kishori Sangha (Sneha).

Process and Activities:

District Level Consultation

A one-day consultation in Hospet, Vijayanagar on August 7, 2024, brought together 40 children and young people to identify local issues and develop a list of concerns requiring state-level attention.



Levels of Governance - Circle meeting

State level Capacity Building - Bangalore

Informing and Influencing Policy Makers and Enforcers



20 young representatives from the district consultation were nominated by their peers for further capacity building and experiential learning through active agency.

These representatives attended a four-day capacity building programme in Bangalore in September 2024. The focus was on priority mapping, collective agency, and stakeholder engagement, providing the youth an opportunity to assert their agency and solidarity around shared and unique concerns. On the basis of the above inputs, the child and youth representatives presented their issues and recommendations to state-level decision-makers, including:

- Smt. Laxmi Hebbalkar, Hon'ble Minister of Women, Child Development, Disabled & Senior-Citizens Empowerment-GOK,^{vii}
- Principal Secretary Department of School Education & Literacy - GOK, Shri Ritesh Kumar Singh
- Chairperson, KSCPCR^{viii}, Sri. Nagannagowda
- Labour Commissioner, Shri H.N Gopalakrishna
- Development Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka (GOK), Smt. Uma Mahadevan Das Gupta
- Director, Directorate of Child Protection, GOK, Dr. M.R Ravi
- Commissioner- Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissionerate, Dr. Arundhathi Chandrashekar

The ongoing processes in CWC's Project Ankur, lay the foundation for future initiatives and efforts, aimed at creating a scalable and replicable model to solidify children and young people's 'Informed, Equitable, and Meaningful Participation.

Supporting Children’s right to Agency, Citizenship and Participation

CWC partnered with children and young people with them in multiple forums to amplify their active citizens with the right to shape society, challenge adult perceptions, and affirm their agency in policy and practice.



#RightsAware Campaign

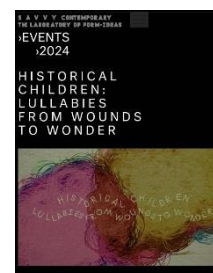
During World Children’s Day 2024, Bhima Sangha, SRC, and CWC leaders featured in global video messages demanding children’s participation in governance. The campaign reinforced that decisions are stronger and more just when children are heard.

Yuva Samvad 2024

At the Yuva Samvad in New Delhi, adolescents and youth spoke openly on education, gender, and sexuality, demanding inclusion in decision-making. CWC pushed for challenging adult biases and ensuring safe spaces where young people’s voices shape learning and society.

Historical Children: Lullabies from Wounds to Wonder Exhibition

In Berlin, Germany, CWC contributed films and insights to an international exhibition exploring memory, decolonisation, and children’s visions of the future. It showcased how children reimagine home, community, and justice through creativity and resilience.



ISEC–UNICEF Policy Dialogue

At a key policy dialogue on disaster management, CWC pressed for child protection protocols rooted in children’s lived experiences. By sharing district-level models, CWC advocated for institutionalising children’s voices in disaster response.



Constitution and Citizenship

In collaboration with the organisation ‘ReclaimConstitution’, CWC promoted children’s engagement with constitutional values. Further, from a CWC developed, state-recognised treasure hunt^{ix} to children’s theatre on the Preamble – tools developed by the children and facilitators - these creative actions deepened civic understanding and provoked thought in officials and communities alike.

Equipping Teams to Champion Children’s Rights: Internal Capacity Building

CWC invested in strengthening its own teams to deepen knowledge, sharpen perspectives, and build collective leadership. These efforts ensured that staff are better equipped to address complex child rights issues with skill and confidence.

In 2024, 38 CWC team members visited 20 leading organisations across four states, learning from 26 themes. The exposure fostered fresh insights, strong team bonding, and practical strategies, all achieved with efficient planning and minimal costs.



CWC also joined FORUT’s South Asian partners in a six-day training on mental health, gender-based violence, and rights in November 2024. The learning was cascaded internally, with CWC trainers rolling out sessions for teams, keeping child mental health at the centre.

Partnerships that Power Change: Resource & Support Partnerships

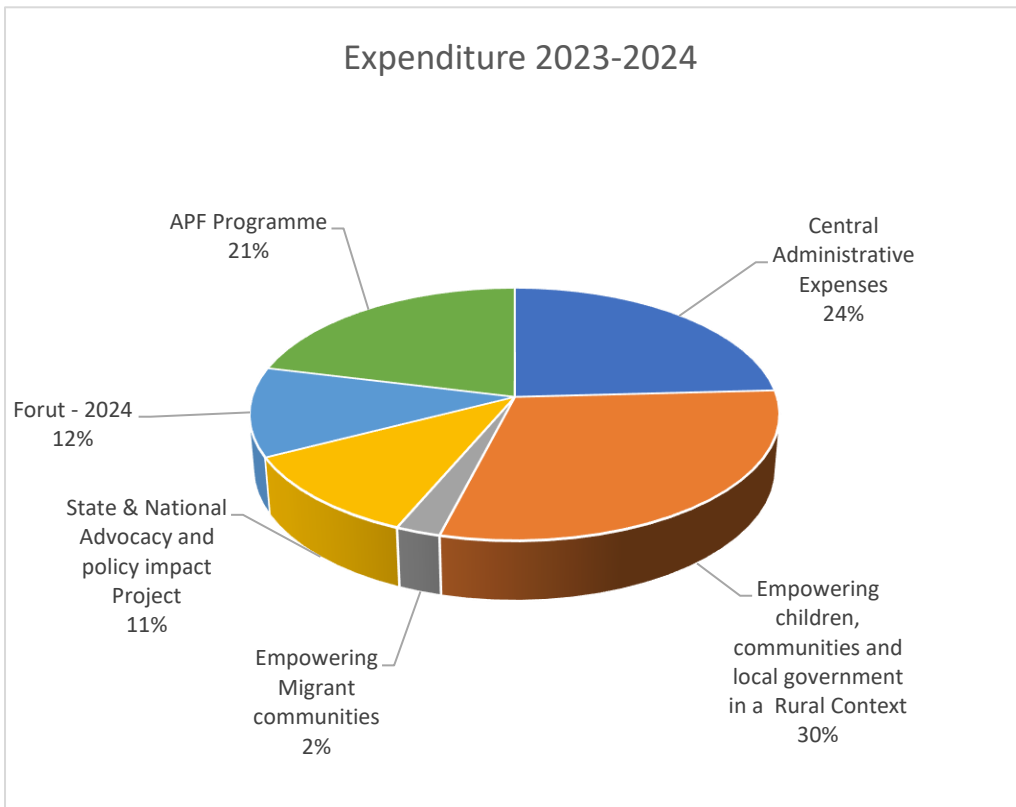
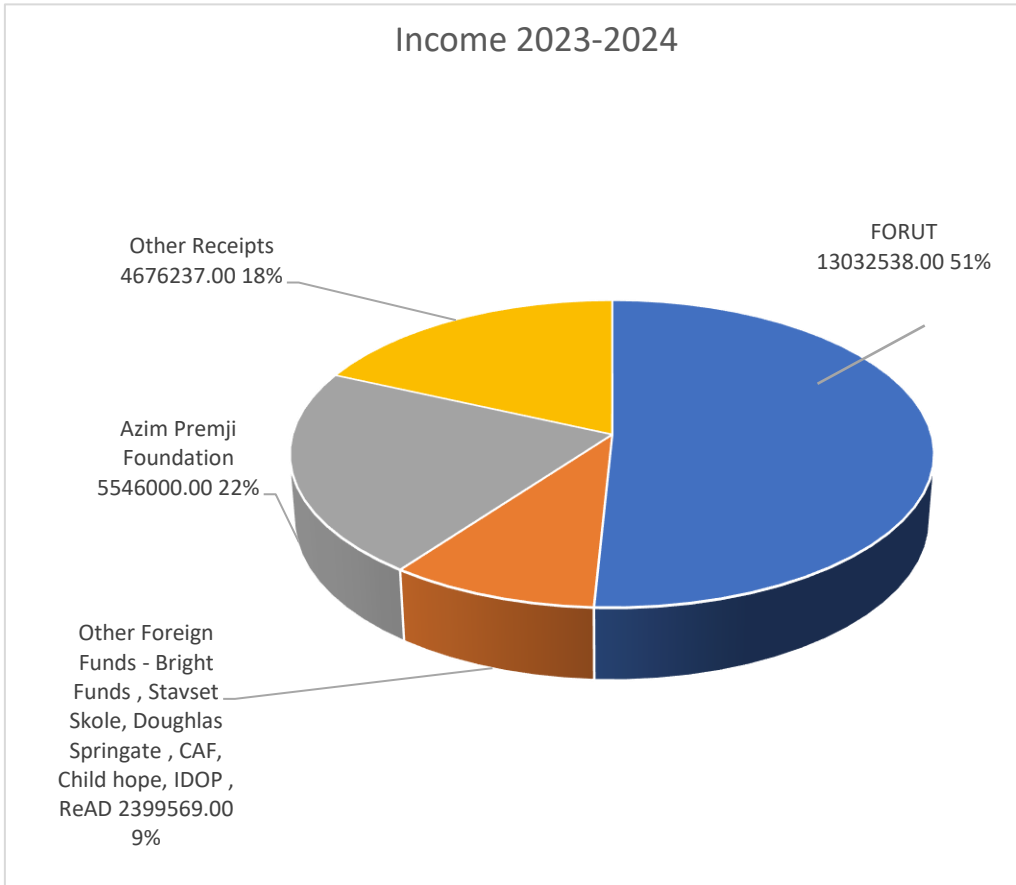
CWC’s work in 2024 was strengthened through diverse resource partnerships, including organisational grants, CSR contributions, and institutional collaborations. These partnerships enabled CWC to sustain grassroots action, expand innovations, and deepen its impact on children’s rights.

CWC deeply appreciates its partnerships with:

- FORUT
- Rotary Global Grant
- SAAB Private Limited
- Azim Premji Foundation (APF)
- American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
- Lena Valle School

Alongside financial support, CWC greatly benefited from non-financial partnerships, dedicated volunteers and interns. Their time, knowledge, and solidarity added immense value to CWC’s efforts, reinforcing the collective journey towards ensuring children’s rights.

Financial Overview



Our Journey Ahead: Opportunities and Challenges

The path to realising children's rights, grassroots democracy, and decentralisation remains full of challenges, from socio-political and geo-political instability to economic uncertainties and the lingering effects of the pandemic. These pressures continue to affect children and families, limiting access to livelihoods, essential services, and entitlements, while deepening psychological and mental health concerns.

Despite these hurdles, we at CWC have shown resilience and adaptability. Through initiatives like Makkala Grama Sabhas, Oorundu Shaale (Village as a school), Rural Library Programmes, our work with children with disabilities, and our concerted effort to make our campuses inclusive, we have strengthened our child responsive systems and our capabilities to influence important policy reforms. Processes such as IDOP, Project Ankur, and the Young Voices network further highlight our commitment to systemic and community-led change.

Even in a challenging environment, we remain resolute. By working hand in hand with children, young people, communities and duty bearers, we continue to advance our mission to uphold the rights of marginalised children, and build a more equitable and inclusive future.



Endnotes:

ii Makkala Gram Sabha (MGS)– Literally meaning "children's village meeting". MGS is a platform for children in rural areas to discuss & engage with their local government (Gram Panchayat) on issues relevant to them and to plan for holistically approach.

iii APD – Association For People With Disabilities

<https://www.apd-india.org>

iv RUDSETTI - Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute.

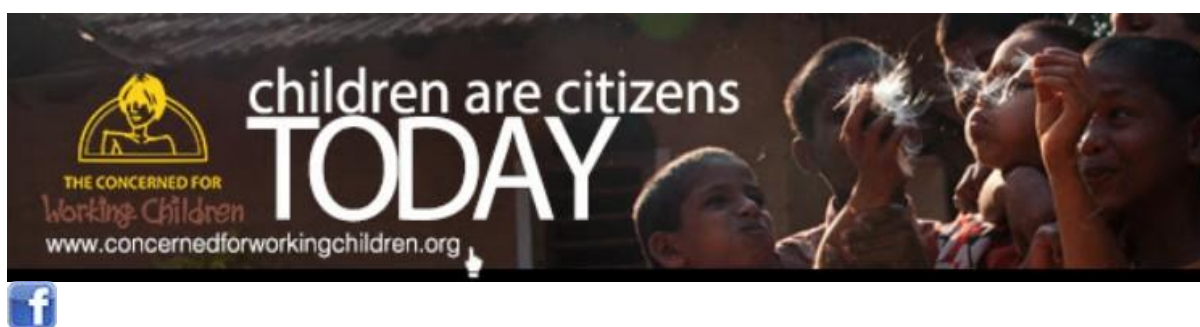
v RDPR – Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka

vi DWCD – Department of Women and Child Development & Person with Disabilities & Senior Citizens, Government of Karnataka

viii KSCPCR - Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

ix The CWC Team designed a 'treasure hunt' game on the theme of the Constitution of India which has received acclaim. All the librarians of the Rural Libraries Programme of Karnataka have received training on how they may make use the game in their respective communities.

Connect With Us!



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