

Organisational Report 2025

THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN





<https://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org>

The Concerned for Working Children (CWC)

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2025 at a Glance...

In 2025, **The Concerned for Working Children (CWC)** deepened its commitment to ensuring that children and adolescents understand their rights, assert their agency and are recognised as rights holders, active citizens and partners in shaping their own futures. Across our local programmes and state, national, regional and global engagements, we strengthened child-responsive systems, influenced policy, and created opportunities for children and adolescents to learn, participate and lead.

Supporting Adolescents: Rights, Wellbeing and Opportunities

Adolescents and their agency continue to form the central focus of all of CWC's work and programming. During 2025, this was reflected in further strengthening of our partnerships with **Bhima Sangha**, the working children's unions in Vijayanagara, and **Makkala Toofan Sangha**, the collective of children from marginalised communities in Udupi including working children, enabling children and adolescents to access their rights and claim their citizenship through engagement with local self-governments, district authorities and civil society organisations. Livelihood and skill-building outreach in Vijayanagara also expanded safe and appropriate work opportunities for adolescents while laying the foundation for the next phase of this work.

Responding to the concerns and demands expressed by adolescents and their communities, we have designed and evolved programmes on remedial education, vocational skills, livelihoods, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, digital wellbeing and disability inclusion. In all of these arenas, CWC has facilitated adolescents to assert their agency, represent themselves and make informed choices.

Through the **State Resource Centre (SRC)**, CWC continued to translate the long-standing demands of young people for **economic empowerment, protection and greater agency** into practical opportunities and support. The SRC provided professional courses, schooling support, short-term skill development, vocational upskilling, and mental health and life-skills support to children in need of care and protection and young people accessing residential vocational training. In response to young people's evolving needs and aspirations, the SRC also strengthened its focus on building pathways towards greater independence, skills and livelihoods. The campus further progressed towards becoming **mobility disability-friendly**, strengthening inclusion and access for children, adolescents and persons with disabilities/diminished abilities.

Strengthening Education and Child Protection

Facilitating children to rejoin and remain in school continued to be one of our priorities, with interventions shaped by children's concerns and recommendations around education, child labour and other vulnerabilities. This included provision of remedial education, scholarships, counselling, teacher and school management capacity enhancement, and support to access Mission Vatsalya Scheme entitlements. All of these serve as an important preventive measure against children being excluded from schools, child labour, child trafficking and early marriages.

With a strong focus on children's citizenship, rights and entitlements, CWC's field programmes and the SRC responded to concerns raised by children around child marriage, migration, protection risks and violations of their rights. Child Protection Committees (Kavilu Samitis) and other child protection mechanisms were revitalised by strengthening the capacities of ASHAs, Village Resource Workers, Self-Help Groups and other community members, while ensuring children's meaningful participation in identifying concerns, seeking support and asserting their agency. Through the Mobile Facilitation Centre, Bhima Bandi, and community programmes, CWC strengthened awareness and preventive action on child sexual abuse, reproductive health, adolescent pregnancy, mental health and wellbeing, digital safety and preventive healthcare, alongside stronger collaboration with government departments, health institutions and the media.

The **State Resource Centre (SRC)** also continued to serve as a fit institution under the Juvenile Justice System, creating a supportive space for children and young people and providing a combination of legal, psychosocial, medical, educational, developmental and vocational support in response to their individual needs and aspirations. Through its collaboration with **Samagra Shikshana Karnataka**, CWC enabled children who might otherwise be excluded from mainstream schooling to continue their education with residential support at the SRC, helping them remain connected to education while also accessing the wider support they need.

Child Responsive Governance and Children's Rights

Child-responsive local governance remained at the heart of CWC's work in 2025, bringing together our work on children's rights, participation, protection, education and livelihoods as interconnected elements of strengthening communities and local governance. Our approach recognises that children and adolescents can be safe, supported and able to exercise their rights only when families, communities and local institutions have the capacities, resources and systems to respond to their needs and aspirations.

Through our partnership with the **Government of Karnataka's Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR)**, we continued to strengthen local governance frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities to become more responsive to children and communities. Through initiatives such as **Children and the Constitution**, children and communities deepened their understanding of constitutional values, rights, duties and

government entitlements, strengthening children's ability to participate and engage with governance processes.

Our work on **livelihoods and economic empowerment** was also part of this larger approach: strengthening the ability of families and communities to support children and adolescents, reduce vulnerabilities and create safer environments in which they can grow and exercise their agency. Similarly, our work on child protection, education, health and wellbeing, and community institutions seeks to build the collective capacity of communities to identify concerns, respond to risks and support children.

In the **Grama Swaraj Abhiyan**, CWC served both as the State Working Group Member and also as the district lead organisation in Vijayanagara. We have been actively involved in a state wide review of **MGNREGA implementation across 50 taluks in Karnataka**. Our collective reflect our integrated approach to **child-responsive governance—strengthening children's agency while building the capacity of families, communities and local institutions to create safer, more inclusive and supportive environments for children and adolescents**.

Collaborations Across Karnataka

At the district level, CWC strengthened collaborations with district authorities, child protection systems and civil society organisations across **Vijayanagara** and **Udupi**, responding to issues raised by children while improving access to protection and services.

At the state level, CWC expanded partnerships through **Rights and Wellbeing through Adolescents' Eyes — A New Path to Policy**, bringing together **200 adolescents from six districts and ten organisations** to develop recommendations influencing state policy on adolescent wellbeing. We also supported the strengthening of the State's **Rural Libraries** as safe learning spaces, and contributed to strategic initiatives influencing literary and cultural narratives on adolescence.

National Agency and Collective Action

Through **Project Ankur**, CWC strengthened adolescent agency and collective leadership across India, with members of Bhima Sangh, Makkala Toofan Sanghas and Children from SRC actively participating in these processes. The **Virtual Peer Learning Sessions** became dynamic platforms where adolescent collectives exchanged achievements, challenges and milestones, while the **Young Agents of Change Capacity Building Workshop** brought together **20 adolescent representatives from ten states** for peer learning including Member representatives from the Bhima Sangha, leadership development and collective action. It also provided a space for the facilitating adults to commence or expand their exploration into attitudes, knowledge and skills required to enable meaningful participation of children and young people.

Responding to requests from other CSOs for organisational capacity strengthening in this area, CWC designed its **Mentoring In Situ** initiative to selected three supporting organisations

to enhance their work geared at translating adolescent agency and citizenship into practice. During the year, mentoring programmes were conducted with and for CSO facilitators in **Telangana and Chhattisgarh , supported by APSA and Chattisgarh Agricon Samiti , respectively.**

At the national level, CWC continued to focus on **strengthening agency of children and adolescent and creating spaces for their concerns, experiences and recommendations to influence policy and public discourse.** CWC supported young people to learn from each other and to articulate issues that affect their lives, connect across geographies and organisations, and engage with decision-makers and national policy processes.

As part of this effort, CWC continued to anchor the **Young Voices National Movement**, a national network of civil society organisations, and entered into a collaboration with the **National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC)**, a coalition of **18 organisations working to advance adolescent rights.** CWC also facilitated opportunities for young people's concerns to reach national platforms, including an appeal to the **President of India** regarding the **Karnataka Child Marriage Amendment Bill, 2025**, support for the **Supreme Court petition, "Saza Nahin, Support"**, and its role as a key technical resource for the **6th National Child Participation Forum Consultation – Learning Together, Progressing Together.** The consultation brought together **90 adolescents from nine states and 20 civil society organisations**, providing a platform for young people to articulate, challenges, achievements and recommendations. .

Regional and Global Collaborations CWC continued to strengthen children's voices beyond India through regional and global leadership. As Chair of the **Community of Practice on Children's Rights** and the **Community of Practice on Children, Mental Health and Wellbeing**, we provided technical guidance and perspective building to organisations across countries.

Through the **South East Asia Alcohol Policy Alliance (SEAAPA)** and the **Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA)**, CWC highlighted adolescents as a distinct group whose rights and wellbeing must be recognised in alcohol policy development and harm prevention.

As a **founding member of the UN International Day of Play** and member of its **Global Advisory Group**, CWC advanced the **Right to Play** through local, state, national and international collaborations while supporting state departments to integrate play into their programmes.

CWC, as a Board member and a partner organisation of the **Child and Youth Friendly Local Governance (CYFLG) programme** contributed to several initiatives and international policy processes led by CYFLG.

CWC critiqued the draft of the **UN General Comment No. 27 on children's right to access to justice and an effective remedy**, reinforcing meaningful child participation in global policy development and submitted to the UN, responding to their call for feedback

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.

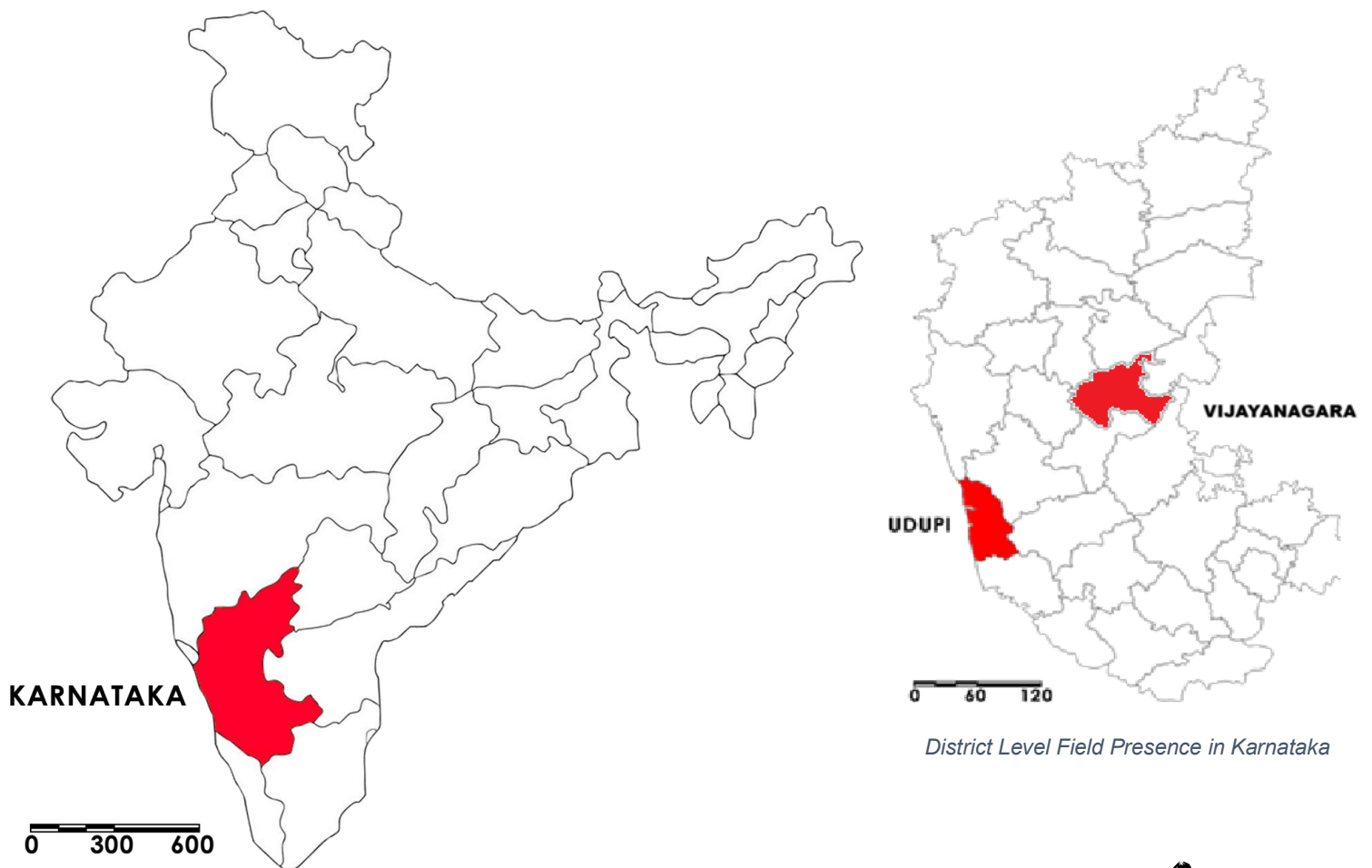
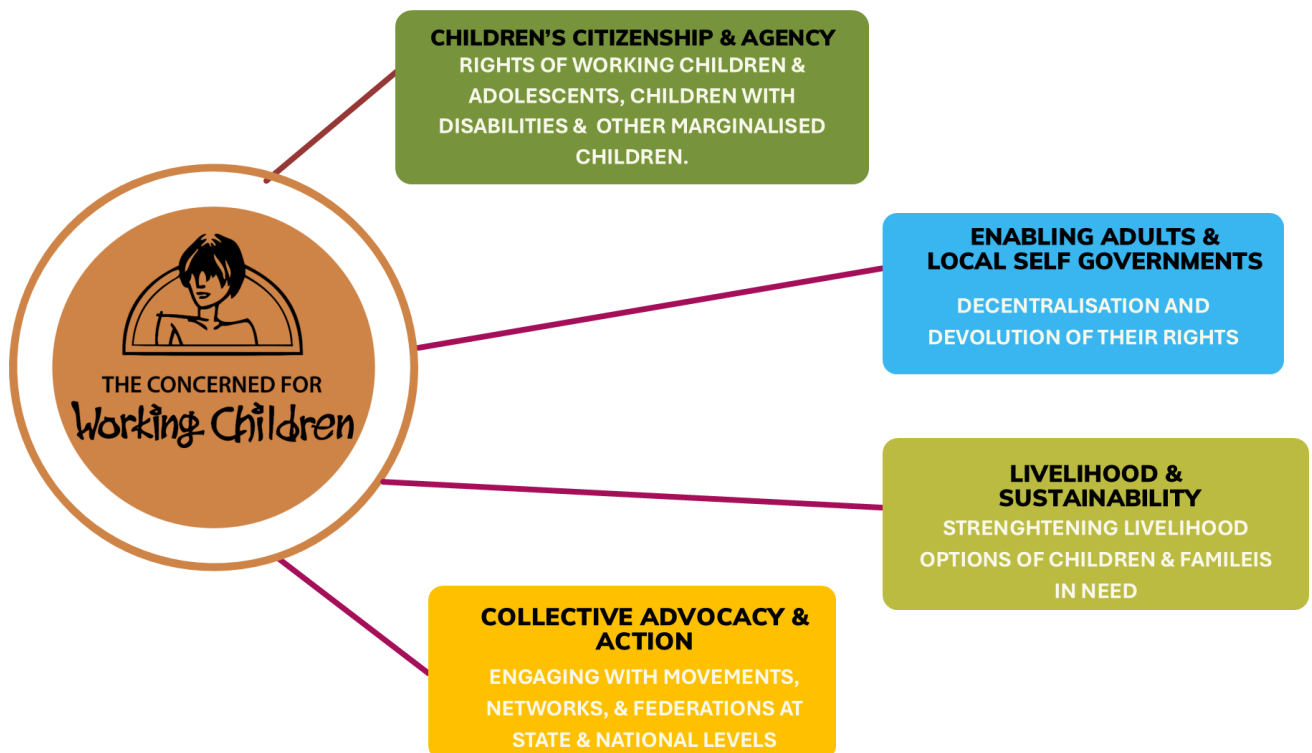


At CWC, we work in close partnership with children, their communities, and many stakeholders – from local panchayats in Udupi and Vijayanagara districts to state governments, and from national to international agencies – to create practical and inclusive solutions to the challenges and young people children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

Our Work and Reach



District Level Field Presence in Karnataka

Pan National Agency Building Presence & Field Presence in Karnataka

Supporting Adolescents: Multi-pronged approach to Rights, Wellbeing and Opportunities

Adolescents' agency and citizenship remained at the heart of CWC's focus in 2025. Across our programmes, we responded to concerns and demands expressed by children and adolescents, translating these into opportunities to facilitate deepened understanding, agency to claim their rights, make informed choices, represent themselves and participate in decisions affecting their lives.

Our work with **Bhima Sangha** - the working children's union in Vijayanagara and **Makkala Toofan Sanghas** – collectives of vulnerable school going and school excluded children in Udupi continued to create spaces for children and adolescents to engage with Panchayats, local, state and global duty bearers and community members, district authorities and civil society organisations.

CHILDREN LEADING CHANGE, RIGHTS & AGENCY

Empowering adolescents, strengthening systems, and ensuring every child knows their rights and has a voice.



44

VILLAGE LEVEL CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES

with adolescents' active participation, actively reviewing their own concerns and larger community children's issues



127

AWARENESS SESSIONS

on their child rights, trafficking, mental health, exam stress, online safety, and safe/unsafe touch reached

13,237

Children & Adolescents



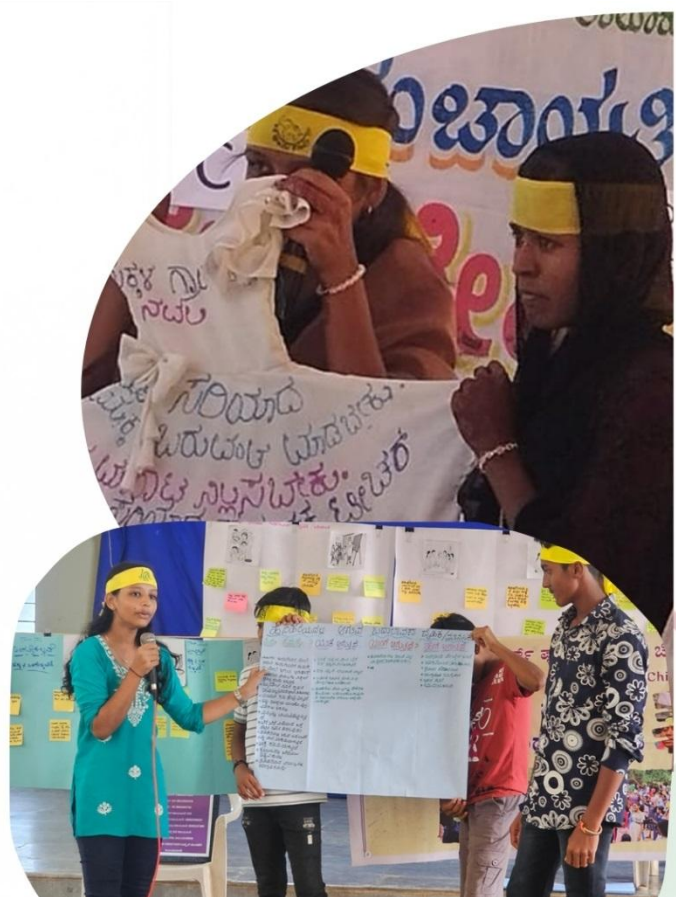
495+

CLAIMING CITIZENSHIP: MAKKALA GRAM SABHA MODEL

Across 51 panchayats in Udupi & Vijayanagara, adolescents actively raised 495+ issues in Makkala Gram Sabhas; 146 resolved

PLAY-BASED TOOLS: (SNAKES & LADDERS, TREASURE HUNT)

strengthened awareness on their rights & entitlements



The year marked a significant expansion of CWC's work in its field programme areas of Udupi and Vijayanagara districts. Across these regions, children and adolescents continued to demonstrate remarkable engagement, confidently expressing their views and articulating their rights and aspirations. We are happy to note that through our strategic engagements, Adolescent' and Children's Collectives have grown stronger in the way they articulate their issues, while the panchayats, and community institutions have become more responsive, and increasingly child-rights oriented.

Outreach Professional Education in Vijayanagara: A community-based Model for Safe and Enabling Adolescent Work

In Vijayanagara, CWC supported a community-based model for vocational training that helps adolescents transition into safe, regulated and enabling work while remaining with their families. The Vijayanagara initiative demonstrated how localised, decentralised, culturally aligned skill training can rapidly empower adolescents and transform negative social norms. By establishing centres within villages, offering stipends, and teaching in familiar dialects, barriers of caste, gender, and mobility which adolescents had faced were effectively addressed.

Through participatory facilitation, adolescents engaged directly with Panchayats, negotiated with officials, and built peer networks of members of Bhima Sangha in different panchayats. This approach not only provided safe working options for the young people, it also strengthened their economic independence, delayed child marriages, increased confidence, enhanced their respect within the family, and positioned them as active contributors to community development. The programme ended with a collective review in which 60 of the trainees conveyed their appreciation as well as provided suggestions for further improvement. These form the basis for the next phase of the project.

- **60 adolescents** participated in the vocational training programmes in Vijayanagara

90% have supplemented their income or commenced small scale enterprises

- **600 adolescents** were actively involved in awareness initiatives related to skills, rights, and community engagement



SKILLS



Building practical and employable competencies

RIGHTS



about socio-economic empowerment and agency to shape the same

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Positioning adolescents as active contributors to community development

State Resource Centre: Building Pathways to Socio-Economic Empowerment and Citizenship

Through the **State Resource Centre (SRC)**, CWC continued to respond to young people's aspirations for **economic empowerment, greater independence, holistic protection and expression of agency** by creating pathways to gain meaningful livelihoods and experience active citizenship. The SRC provided professional and vocational courses, short-term skill development and vocational upskilling, **market-readiness training, life skills education, mental health and wellbeing support.** **These facilitate** young people to build the skills, confidence and resilience needed to enter the world of work, to become citizens who are equipped to participate meaningfully in society.

During the year, the SRC supported **children in need of care and protection** and **young people accessing residential vocational training or academic education**, enabling them to continue their studies, develop employable skills and prepare for greater economic and social independence. This integrated approach recognises that socio-economic empowerment is about building **confidence, resilience, sense of wellbeing, decision-making abilities and the agency to make informed choices about one's own future.**

Vocational Education Outcomes | January – December 2025

Six month comprehensive courses - vocational
skilling, market compliance,
empowerment education

79 Total Students

57 Female / 22 Male

Gender Breakdown

46.8%

Awaiting Graduation

27.8%

Started Micro Business

17.7%

Pursuing Higher Education

7.5%

Seeking Employment

Short Term Computer and Life Skill Education

33 Total Students

13 Female / 20 Male

Gender Breakdown



Carpentry & Woodwork



Garments & Tailoring



Beautician & Grooming



Electrical & Plumbing



Disability Inclusion and mainstreaming: Beyond Access to Participation

CWC continued to work towards ensuring that **children with disabilities are visible, included and able to participate meaningfully in community and Panchayat-level processes**. Children's Sanghas along with Village Resource Workers (VRWs) and ASHAs identified children with disabilities (and families in need ??), supported their applications for and access to their legal entitlements.

Children with Disabilities: Inclusion & Entitlements

-  107 children supported to access UDID cards, pensions, mobility aids and other entitlements
-  Gender Ratio: 48 girls | 59 boys
-  22 children referred for disability or mental health assessments
-  Children's Collectives created safe, inclusive spaces for children with disabilities to participate in play, storytelling and creative activities
-  Agency based facilitation strengthened access, participation and support systems at community level
-  Rights based inclusive programming to reduce stigma and affirm every child's right to participate in community life and decision-making



Supporting Children and their Communities' Right to Mental Health and Wellbeing

CWC supported children and adolescents from **SRC, Bhima Sangha and Makkala Toofan Sanghas** to engage and collaborate with Panchayat representatives and officials, community duty bearers and support experts to support their mental health and wellness needs.

Reach and Engagement

- 500**  children participated in mental health sessions.
- 90**  ASHAs were trained in mental health literacy.
- 190**  women participated in Mental Wellbeing Awareness Sessions
- 106**  duty bearers including mental health experts, community officials and physical health officials, engaged in mental health and wellbeing processes.

Bhima Bandi CWC's Mobile Facilitation Centre runs child-friendly videos and interactive discussions on mental health into communities.



Learning with Agency: Supporting Children to Stay, Return and Thrive in Education

CWC's education related work goes far beyond **enrolment and retention**—it creates opportunities for children to build confidence, develop life skills and exercise their **agency and citizenship**. Through the **SRC** and community programmes, vulnerable and marginalised children, including those who lost one or both parents, were supported to continue their education. Children received inputs related to empowerment and citizenship strengthening their **sense of identity and agency within their communities**.

Keeping Children Connected to Learning

✓ Children in the SRC were supported to enrol in nearby schools up to Class, with additional support for those facing learning gaps.

✓ 34 children in Udupi were re-enrolled or supported to continue schooling through the vigilance and action of Children's Sanghas.

✓ 79 children in Udupi received educational materials, uniforms or fee support through Panchayat facilitation.

✓ Special tuition supported learning and preparation for the SSLC examination, including children appearing as external candidates.

✓ Interns and subject volunteers supported children's learning and academic progress.



Children and Adolescents Identifying and Overcoming Barriers

Children's Sanghas in the communities and Makkala Panchayat (Children's panchayat) in SRC and the SRC Child Protection Committee – in partnership with CWC's facilitators - played an important role in identifying children at risk of being excluded from education **due to various vulnerabilities** and helped them to access appropriate support. Through its collaboration with **Samagra Shikshana Karnataka**, CWC enabled children who might otherwise be excluded from mainstream schooling to continue their education with residential support at the SRC, helping them remain connected to education while also accessing the wider support they need.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Through the **Bhima Bandi**, our mobile facilitation center, **400+ books** reached communities. Over **4,000 children** participated in storytelling, theatre & creative learning activities, including **501 children who took part in Summer Camps, 1,809 Sangha members and 4,188 school going children**. These spaces enabled children to learn through play & creativity, while strengthening their **confidence, expression and joy in learning**.



Children as Citizens: Participation, Protection and Agency

CWC's work on **children's citizenship and protection** combines prevention, early intervention and remedial support to address exclusion from school, child labour, trafficking, child marriage and other protection risks. Across field programmes and the **State Resource Centre (SRC)**, children were supported to understand their rights and entitlements, raise concerns, seek support and participate in decisions affecting their lives.

Strengthening Community-Based Child Protection

✓ **44 Village Level Child Protection Committees (Kavilu Samitis)** were revitalised and actively reviewed issues affecting children.

✓ **22 cases of children requiring protection were identified and supported to be safe, including in situations of harassment, threats in unsafe spaces and danger due to infrastructural gaps.**

✓ **127 awareness sessions** reached **13,237 children**. **Topics covered included** child protection, education, health, safety and wellbeing.

✓ Children raised **495+ issues** through **Makkala Gram Sabhas**. Of them **146 were resolved**, strengthening children's role in local governance and ensuring the accountability of local governments to children.



State Resource Centre: Providing protection and opening doors to new possibilities

The **State Resource Centre (SRC)** continued to function as a **fit institution under the Juvenile Justice System**, providing children and young people with legal, psychosocial, medical, educational, developmental and vocational support based on their individual needs and aspirations. The SRC and community platforms aimed to ensure that protection was not simply about responding to violations, but about creating **safe spaces where children can learn, participate, develop agency, equip themselves for life ahead while experiencing joy and a strong sense of belonging.**

Children as Active Citizens

CWC strengthened children's participation through Makkala Gram Sabhas, Makkala Panchayat, Makkala Anchige Petige (Children's Post Box), the Child Protection Committee and other platforms in SRC and in the community. These mechanisms enabled children to raise concerns, access support and engage with duty bearers, while building their confidence, life skills and understanding of citizenship.



Prevention, Awareness and Early Response

Through the **Bhima Bandi**, **Mobile Facilitation Centre** and community programmes, CWC facilitated awareness and preventive action on **child sexual abuse, reproductive health, adolescent pregnancy, mental health and wellbeing, digital safety and preventive healthcare.** These efforts were supported by collaborations with government departments, health institutions and the media.



Making Rights Accessible and Engaging

Play-based approaches, including repurposed tools like **Snakes and Ladders linked to children's rights** and **Constitution-themed Treasure Hunts**, helped children explore rights, responsibilities and protection issues in ways that were accessible, engaging and rooted in their everyday experiences.

Right to Play: From Declaration to Action:

Building on CWC's work in 2024 towards the recognition and declaration of the **International Day of Play (IDOP)**, 2025 focused on **actualising the Right to Play** at local, state, national and international levels.

Claiming the Right to Play 2025: By Children, With Communities : Local to International

**Atta Melas (Play Days):**
Fun and play-based activities with children, families and local government teams.

**Community ownership:**
Parents, other significant adults, community members and local authorities took ownership of actions for children and together with children creating play-friendly spaces.

**Local partnerships:**
Facilitated children and their community members to initiate dialogues with local, and district duty bearers to strengthen partnerships for child-friendly spaces.

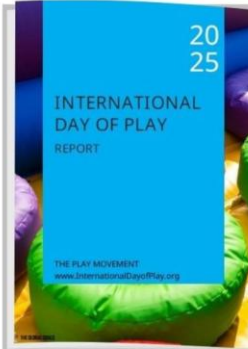
**State Activation:**
Through CWC's facilitation, State departments including Integrated Child Protection Services, Disabilities, Primary Education & Literacy and the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, issued state circulars, thus committed to supporting children's Right to Play.



**National Facilitation** - Project Ankur: The 6th Young Persons' Virtual Peer Learning Session, "Power of Play: Kicking Out Gender Norms & Child Marriage through Sports", showcased children leading change through play and participation. Led by the Ajmer Football Girls' Collective, Technology-Enabled Girls' Alliance and 'Hum Ladke Badal Rahe Hain' boys from Rajasthan, facilitated by MJAs, it brought a powerful children-led call to action into practice



**Global collaborations** - Core organisation partner in UNICEF's Global Right To Play Campaign - Choose Play Everyday with a focus on strengthening children's global and national agency on play as their right, not a privilege.





CWC worked alongside children and adolescents, supporting them to become active advocates for play and to engage duty bearers in taking ownership of this right. Through these interventions, play moved from a declaration to a shared responsibility, with **children and adolescents at the forefront of shaping, advocating for and institutionalising their Right to Play.**

Child-Responsive Governance: Making Children's Rights Integral to Democracy

Child-responsive local governance remained at the heart of CWC's work in 2025, bringing together children's rights, participation, protection, education and livelihoods as interconnected elements of stronger communities and more responsive local institutions. Our approach recognises that children and adolescents can exercise their rights meaningfully only when **families, communities and local governments have the capacity, resources and systems listen to and respond to their needs and aspirations.**

Children and the Constitution: Rights as Everyday Practice

Through partnership with the **Government of Karnataka's Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR)**, CWC continued to strengthen local governance frameworks, institutional mechanisms and their capacities to become increasingly responsive to children and communities.

The **Children and the Constitution** initiative made constitutional values accessible and relevant to children. Through **games, stories, discussions and creative activities**, children explored rights, duties, equality, justice and democratic values, connecting these ideas to their everyday lives and to the functioning of local government.

Rights ⇒ Participation ⇒ Local Governance

Constitutional literacy is not an end in itself—

It is a pathway from understanding rights to exercising agency and participating in democracy.



From Knowledge to Voice. From Voice to Change.

Strengthening Communities & Local Governance: From Participation to Action

CWC's work on **livelihoods, child protection, education, health and wellbeing** forms part of an integrated approach to child-responsive governance—strengthening children's agency while building the capacity of families, communities and local institutions to create safer, more inclusive and supportive environments.

Through the **Grama Swaraj Abhiyan**, CWC served as a **State Working Group Member** and **district lead organisation in Vijayanagara**.



Making Local Governance More Inclusive

CWC worked with Local Self-Governments to promote **issue-based Special Gram Sabhas** for women, SC/ST communities, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), MGNREGA workers & children.

✓ **26 Panchayats** integrated safety, welfare and wellbeing priorities into local decision-making.

✓ **26 Special Gram Sabhas** were conducted across Udupi and Vijayanagara.

✓ **509 women and 1,484 child members of collectives** participated.

✓ **350 marginalised families** received support with social welfare registrations, employment demands and referrals.

✓ Women's groups, children's collectives, raised concerns around safety, harassment, disability inclusion, illicit alcohol, entitlements & community infrastructure.

These processes strengthened follow-up on Panchayat-level concerns, improved access to **MGNREGA and social protection schemes**, and supported action on safety and public hazards. They also marked a shift towards **more accountable, inclusive, child- and gender-responsive local governance**, with communities and children increasingly contributing to decisions that affect their lives.

State Activation: Collaborating for Adolescent Agency and Collective Impact

CWC's collaborations across Karnataka continued to create stronger platforms for **adolescents to organise, articulate their concerns and influence decisions that affect their lives**. At the district level, partnerships with authorities, child protection systems and civil society organisations in **Vijayanagara and Udupi** helped strengthen responses to issues raised by children and adolescents and improve access to protection and services.



At state level, **Rights and Wellbeing through Adolescents' Eyes — A New Path to Policy** amplified the voice of **200 adolescents from six districts and nine organisations** to develop and present recommendations on **Adolescents with Disabilities — Rights and Inclusion; Education, Skilling and Employability; Reproductive Rights and links to physical and mental health, child marriage, early motherhood and relationships; Adolescents in Child Care Institutions (CCIs); and Adolescents and Digital Wellbeing**. Going beyond identifying concerns, adolescents identified **themselves and key duty bearers—including parents, communities, schools, CSOs and government policy makers and enforcers from local to state level**—and directed specific recommendations to each, creating a clear pathway from adolescent voices to collective responsibility and action.

Adolescent Agency & Participation - State

THE EVENT A collaborative State Consultation standing alongside 28 adolescents from nine organisations across Karnataka.	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP APSA BOSCO The Concerned for Working Children India Literacy Project KHPT
THE VOICE These young representatives voiced the insights and recommendations of 200+ of their peers	A collage of images showing adolescents participating in a consultation event. The top image shows a large group of adolescents standing together. The bottom images show individuals working on projects, including a group of adolescents sitting around a table and a person working on a project.
THE GOAL Facilitating State level collective engagement and agency with the focus of collective adolescent agency shaping responsive policies.	

Together, these collaborations helped move adolescent participation from individual voices to **collective agency, shared learning and wider policy and community impact**.

National Facilitation: Amplifying Adolescent Agency

Through national-level engagements in 2025, CWC strengthened **adolescent agency, peer learning and collective leadership**, with active participation from **Bhima Sangha, Makkala Toofan Sanghas and SRC children**.

✓ **Virtual Peer Learning Sessions:** Building on the legacy established in **2024**, the Virtual Peer Learning Sessions continued to amplify the collective power of children's collectives. With **live translation into five languages**, the sessions connected adolescent collectives across geographies, languages and cultures, creating spaces to share achievements, challenges, milestones and ideas, and learn from one another. In 2025, the sessions drew an **average interactive audience of 400 children, young people and adults**. Powerful presentations included:

- **Bhima Sangha, Karnataka:** *Working children asserting their citizenship and rights in governance*
- **Shakti Sanyog, West Bengal:** *Children leading celebrations of change to end gender inequalities and violence*
- **Ajmer Football Girls' Collective – Technology Enabled Girls Alliance – Hum Ladke Badal Rahe Hain, Rajasthan:** *Kicking out gender norms and child marriage through sports for development*

Adolescent Agency & Participation - Peer Learning Sessions

Empowering Children, Enabling Adults

Project Ankur's Young Persons' Peer Learning Session #4

Working Children:

Asserting Their Citizenship & Rights in Governance

Demanding Children's Citizenship to Claim Accountability to Children in Governance

By Bhima Sangha

facilitated by The Concerned For Working Children, Karnataka

Date:- Wednesday, January 22, 2025 Time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92540711341?pwd=S1ZwHb9aaUZFtHajU5Rvdz9BbVQvZ.1>

Meeting ID: 925 4071 1341 Passcode: 936781



Empowering Children, Enabling Adults

Project Ankur's Young Persons' Peer Learning Session #5

Cycle of Celebration

Children Leading the Celebrations of Change to End Gender Inequities and Violence

By Shakti Sanyog

facilitated by Praajak, West Bengal

Date:- Tuesday, May 13, 2025 Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92123667040?pwd=v0tk7Ltl121bvtYdPCyXvsLcgglQ.1>

Meeting ID: 921 2366 7040 Passcode: 383897

Interactive Session!... Please bring a pencil and 2 sheets of paper



Empowering Children, Enabling Adults

CWC's Project Ankur's 6th Young Persons' Peer Learning Session

Power of Play

Kicking Out Gender Norms & Child Marriage through Sports for Development

By The Ajmer Football Girls' Collective, The Technology-Enabled Girls' Alliance & 'Hum Ladke Badal Rahe Hain' boys

facilitated by Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti (MJAS), Rajasthan

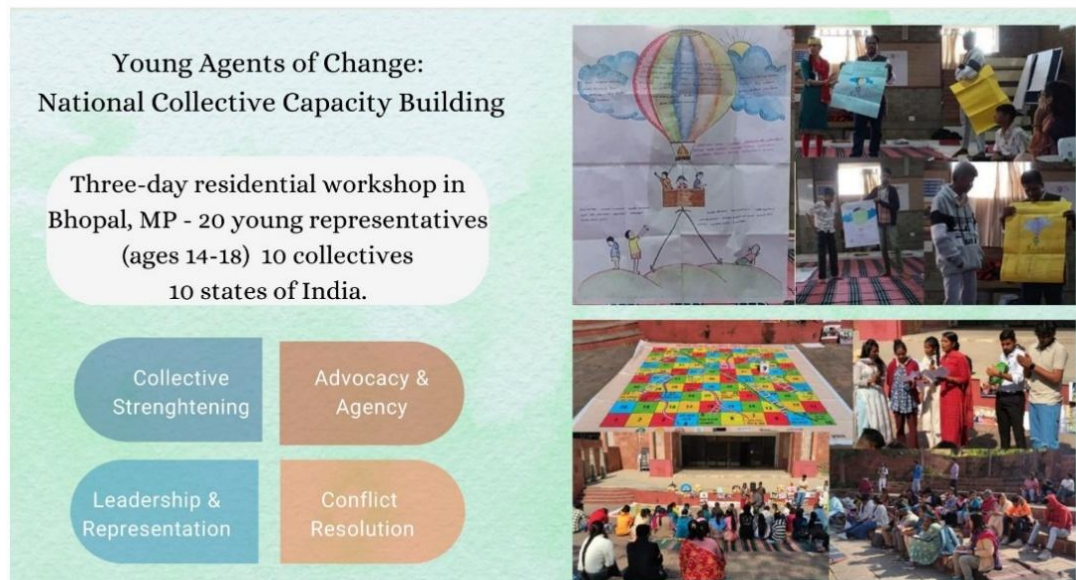
Date:- Thursday, June 26, 2025 Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97067347505?pwd=nTO2hltITGaRdV46C23fEN3Pnd4b.1>

Meeting ID: 970 673 4750 Passcode: 980018



✓ The **Young Agents of Change Capacity Building Workshop** brought together **adolescent representatives from 10 states**, including Bhima Sangha representatives, for leadership development, peer learning and collective action. The workshop also enabled facilitating adults to reflect on the **attitudes, knowledge and skills needed to support meaningful adolescent participation**.



✓ In response to CSO application for capacity strengthening, CWC facilitators shortlisted two organisations on the basis of urgent need, namely Chhattisgarh Agricon Foundation, Chattisgarh, & Indra Dhanussu Balalala Sangha -APSA, Telengana.

Mentoring In Situ - Enabling Facilitating Adults to support Adolescent Agency

Chhattisgarh Agricon Foundation



Three-day in-person workshop - perspective & capacity building of management & field to design and strengthen their praxis with Adolescents and Agency

Mentoring on personhood of adolescents, representation & collective building, empowerment framework, adult roles in enabling participation,

Indra Dhanussu Balala Sangha , Telangana

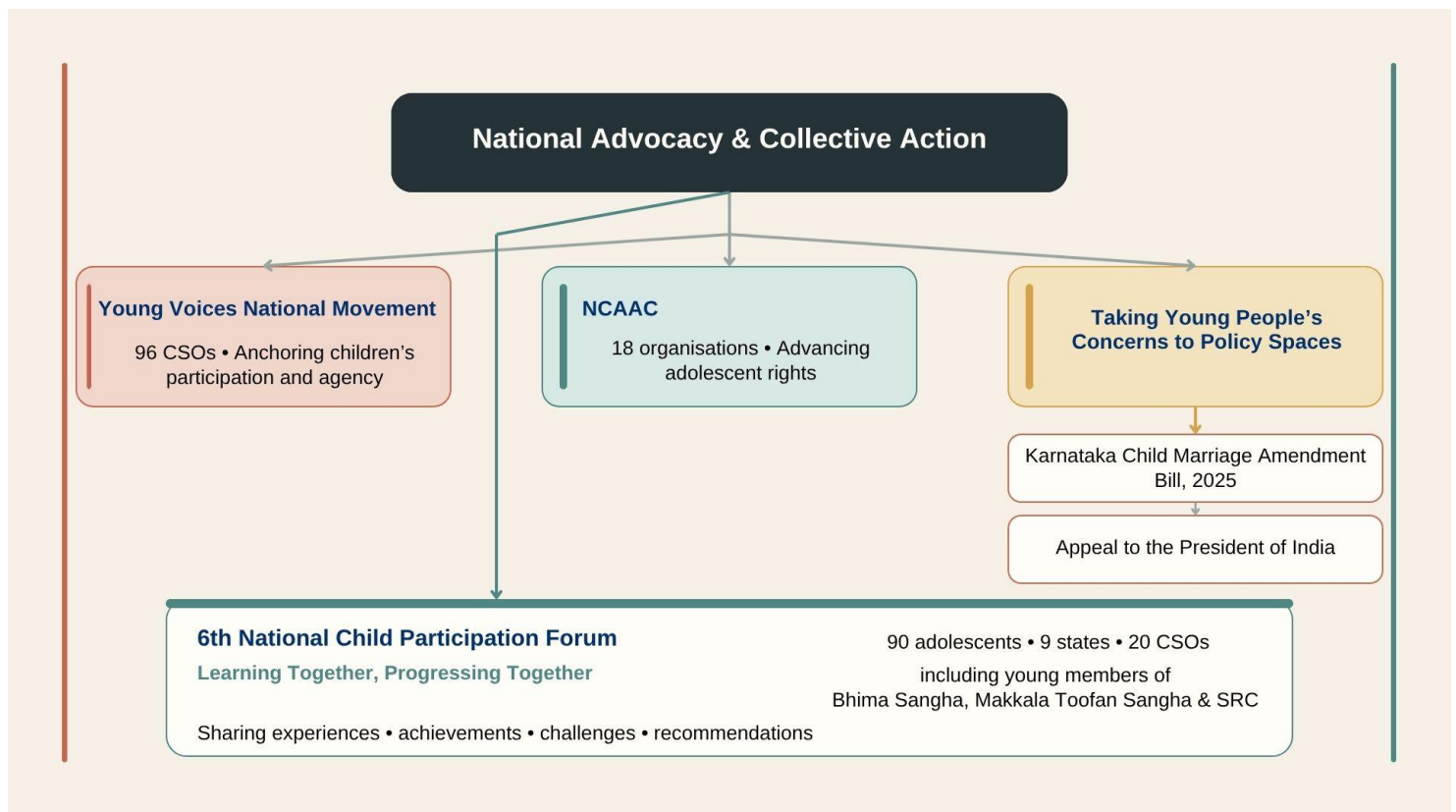


Three-day in-person workshop focusing on adult facilitators supporting representational leadership - Culminated in a city consultation where children's collectives engaged directly with civic & law enforcement authorities.

Mentoring on children's rights, collective participation, representational leadership, citizenship and agency.

In series of pre-consultations with these organisations CWC experts designed and implemented **Mentoring In Situ programmes**, supporting these organisations to translate **adolescent agency and citizenship into practice**.

CWC continued to focus on **strengthening children's and adolescents' agency**, facilitating spaces where their experiences, concerns and recommendations could influence policy & public discourse.



Global - Critical Review & Perspective Building

UN General Comment No. 27

Topic: Children's right to access to justice and effective remedy

Action: Global perspective building submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

THREE CRITICAL AREAS:

- **Against Reservations:** Advocating against reservations on UNCRC ratification.
- **Complaints Mechanisms:** Focus on UN Optional Protocol 3
- **Adolescence:** Recognizing adolescents as a unique group requiring special attention.

Alcohol Policy Alliance

Invited members and think-tank partners in **SEAAPA** (South East Asia) & **APAPA** (Asia & Pacific) within WHO Regions.

CWC'S STRATEGIC THRUST:

- **Center Stage:** Putting children and youth at the center not just as secondary victims, but as *users*.
- **Agency:** Emphasising children's agency in highlighting these concerns.

Global Goal:

Ensuring direct representation of children in Global Alcohol Policy Alliance discussions.

CWC continued to bring children's and adolescents' perspectives into **regional and global platforms**, connecting field experience with policy engagement and collective learning.



Community of Practice (COP) on Children's Rights & Mental Health & Wellbeing:

CWC as Chair of the Global CoP

- Provided technical guidance and perspective-building
- Supported shared learning and cross-country exchange
- Strengthened understanding of children's and adolescents' rights
- Advanced collective thinking on mental health and wellbeing

Governance

CHILD & YOUTH FRIENDLY LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Facilitating the **Child and Youth Advisory Board** to drive and guide strategic campaigns.



UN Long-Term Agreement (2025-2027)

CWC has jointly entered this agreement as an official **Resource Organization**.

Global Health

PERSPECTIVE BUILDING

Engaging with global platforms to shift narratives and policy focus.

Target Demographic:

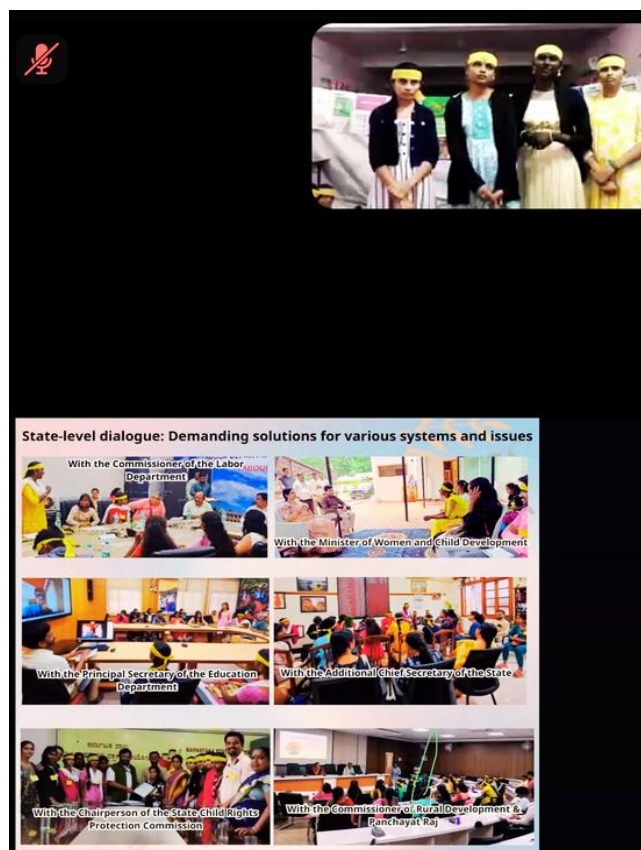
BMJ - Specific focus on health issues related to **working children and adolescents**.

Objective:

Highlighting occupational health hazards and developmental impacts within medical discourse.

Together, these processes strengthened **adolescent leadership, collective thinking and the capacity of organisations to enable meaningful participation and action**. They also strengthened organisations' ability to **support and facilitate children, adolescents and young people to identify, articulate and represent their own concerns, issues and responses**.

Importantly, these processes – from state to global - supported **collective agency-building**, enabling young people to learn from one another, build shared narratives and carry their perspectives into wider policy and public spaces.



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

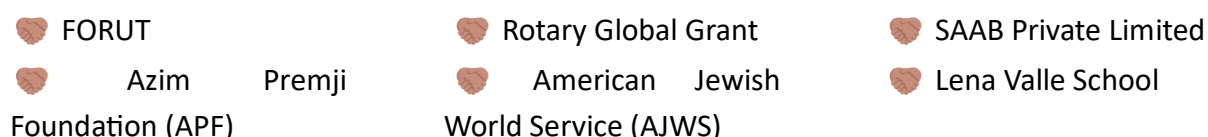
CWC invested in strengthening its own teams to deepen knowledge, sharpen perspectives, and build collective leadership. These efforts ensured that staff are better equipped to address complex child rights issues with skill and confidence.



Partnerships that Power Change: Resource & Support Partnerships

CWC's work in 2025 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.

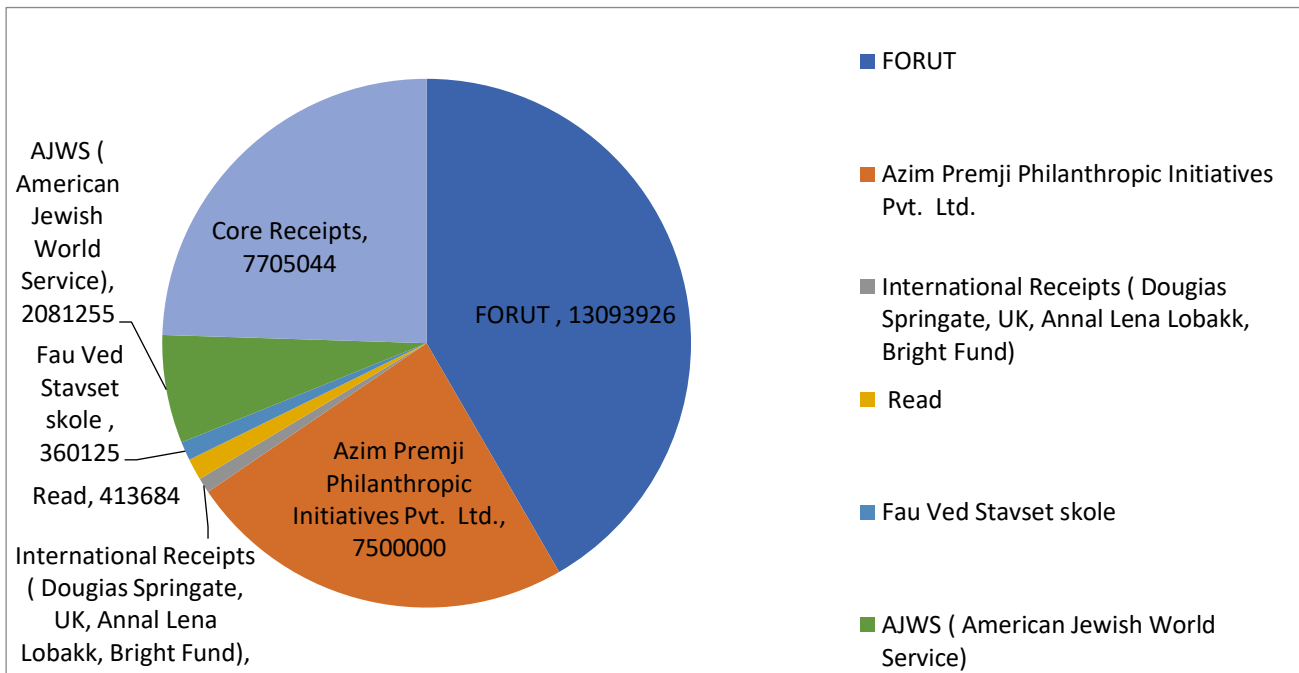
CWC deeply appreciates its partnerships with:



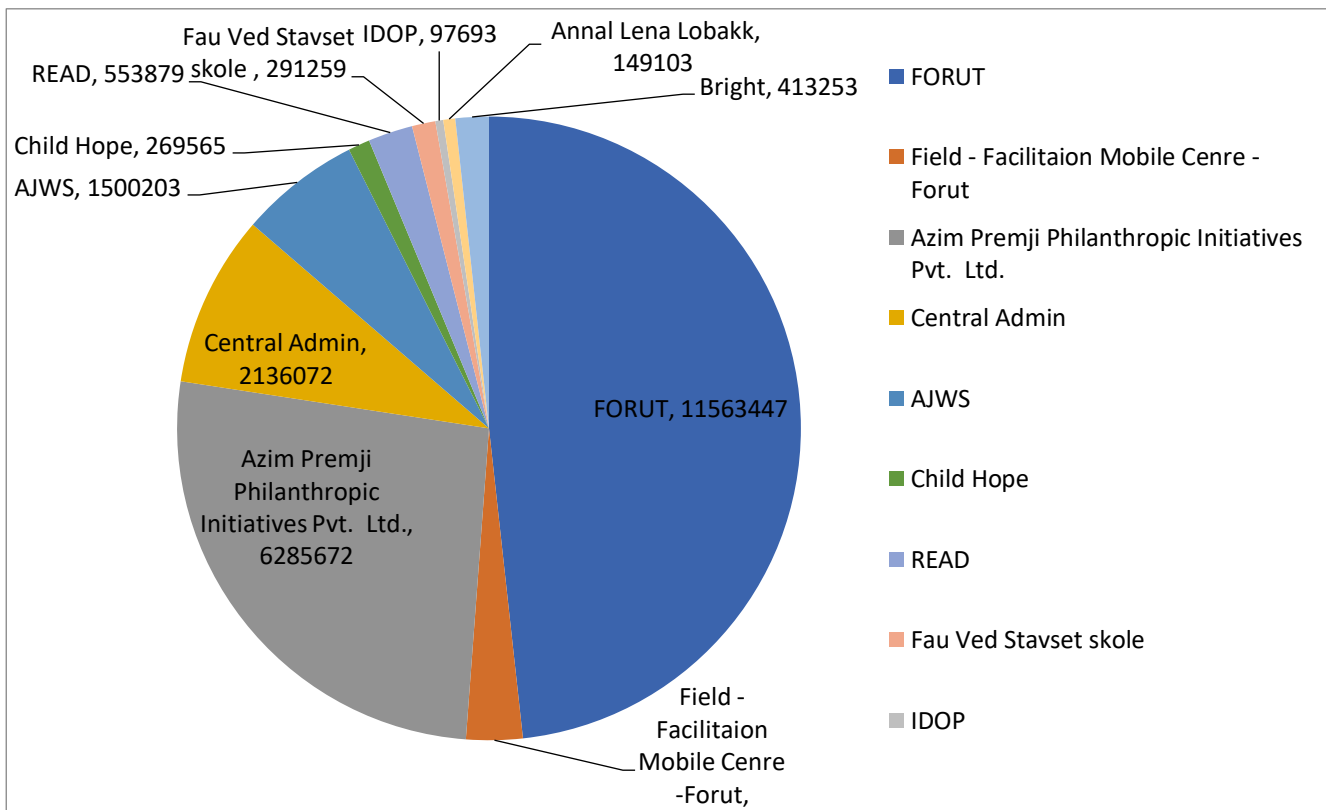
Alongside financial support, CWC greatly benefited from non-financial partnerships, dedicated volunteers and interns. Their time, knowledge, and solidarity added immense value to CWC's efforts, reinforcing the collective journey towards ensuring children's rights.

2025 Financial overview

Income of 2025



Expenditure Of 2025



Our Journey Ahead: Opportunities and Challenges

The journey towards realising **children's rights, grassroots democracy and meaningful decentralisation** continues to unfold in a complex and uncertain environment. Socio-political and geo-political shifts, economic pressures and the continuing effects of the pandemic are placing growing strains on children and families. These challenges affect access to livelihoods, essential services and entitlements, while also contributing to increasing concerns around mental health and wellbeing.

Yet, these challenges also present opportunities to learn, adapt and strengthen what works. In 2025, CWC continued to build on its experience in amplifying adolescent agency and citizenship, work with children with vulnerabilities and marginalisation and efforts to make our campuses more inclusive. Together, these processes have strengthened child-responsive systems, deepened community participation and created pathways for influencing policy and institutional change. These initiatives have further expanded opportunities for children and young people to connect, learn, lead and shape wider conversations.

As we look ahead, our focus will be on consolidating these gains, strengthening our models and creating greater space for children and young people to exercise their agency and citizenship. We recognise that meaningful and lasting change requires patience, partnership and continued learning.

CWC remains committed to walking this journey alongside children, young people, communities and duty bearers—strengthening their capacities, amplifying their voices and working together towards a future that is more equitable, inclusive and responsive to every child.



Connect With Us!



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